

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-44841-2025  
Reserved on: 01.10.2025  
Pronounced on: 31.10.2025

HARPREET SINGH ALIAS HAPPY BHULLAR ...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB ...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Bipan Ghai, Senior Advocate with  
Mr. Nikhil Ghai, Advocate,  
Mr. Joban Singh Dhaliwal, Advocate and  
Mr. Malini Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. I.P.S. Sabharwal, D.A.G., Punjab.

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ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

| FIR No. | Dated      | Police Station              | Sections                                                                                |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 77      | 08.08.2022 | Dhakoli, District SAS Nagar | 21/22/29 of NDPS Act and Section 25 of the Arms Act and Section 473,120-B, 411, 379 IPC |

1. The petitioner incarcerated in the FIR captioned above had come up before this Court second time under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, [BNSS], seeking regular bail.
2. As per paragraph 12 of the bail application and as per paragraph 6-E of the reply, the petitioner has the following criminal antecedents:

| Sr. No. | FIR No. | Dated      | Offenses                                    | Police Station             |
|---------|---------|------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.      | 256     | 08.11.2019 | 302, 120-B, 34 IPC & 25, 54, 59 of Arms Act | City Khanna                |
| 2.      | 48      | 06.03.2021 | 302, 148, 149 IPC & 25, 27 Arms Act         | Division No. 8, Jalandhar  |
| 3.      | 206     | 31.10.2021 | 307 IPC & 25, 27, 54, 59 of Arms Act        | East Sector 26, Chandigarh |
| 4.      | 21      | 30.05.2021 | 25, 54, 59 of Arms Act                      | City Kurali                |
| 5.      | 05      | 05.01.2023 | 52 A of the Prison Act                      | Tripuri District Patiala   |

3. The facts and allegations are taken from the reply filed by the State, which reads as follows:

*“2) That initially the FIR no.77 dated 08.08.2022 (Annexure P-1) under sections 21, 22, 29 of NDPS Act, section 25 of Arms Act and sections 473, 120B of IPC (section 379, 411 added later on) was registered against the*

*accused Harpreet Singh alias Happy. That on 08.08.2022, on the basis of secret information accused Harpreet Singh alias Happy was arrested by the police party after the recovery of, 200 grams of Heroin, Rs.10 lakhs drug money from his Skoda car having fake number plate PB-65-AK 0811 and 1 pistol of 30 bore, one spare magazine and total 10 live cartridges from his personal search. During the investigation of the case accused Harpreet Singh @ Happy suffered a disclosure statement and disclosed that he was in business of Heroin and he taken the supply of the same from Rajvinder Singh and present petitioner Harpreet Singh.*

*3) That during the interrogation of the petitioner he suffered a disclosure statement to the investigating officer and he disclosed that he received 310 grams of Heroine from the other side of the international border on the demand of other accused and from that consignment of Heroine, 310 grams of Heroine was taken by the accused Harpreet Singh and some of the heroine has been sold by him to the local customers and rest of the Heroine can be got recovered by him along with the illegal Arms. As per his disclosure statement dated 09.08.2022 petitioner got recovered 310 grams of Heroine from a secret box in the cupboard of his house Dristi homes-2 (Kharar) Mohali. Apart from it he also got recovered Two 7.65MM (Made in USA) Bore pistol, 4 live cartridges, and Rs. 5 lac Indian currency note got recovered from the present accused. In That case FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY Report dated (30.11.2022) also sport the case. As per report MK parcel no. 3 and 4 were alleged to be seized from accused Harpreet Singh and each was sealed with one seal of RC.*

4. The petitioner's counsel seeks bail on the grounds of prolonged pretrial custody.

5. The petitioner's counsel submits that the petitioner would have no objection whatsoever to any stringent conditions that this Court may impose, including that if the petitioner repeats the offense, the State may file an application to revoke this bail before the concerned Court having jurisdiction over this FIR, which shall have the authority to cancel this bail, and may do so at their discretion, to which the petitioner shall have no objection.

6. The State's counsel opposes bail and refers to the reply. It would be appropriate to refer to the following portions of the reply, which reads as follows:

*“ C. The evidence against the petitioner, that during the interrogation of the petitioner he suffered a disclosure statement to the investigating officer and he disclosed that he received 310 grams of Heroine from the other side of the international border on the demand of other accused and from that consignment of Heroine, 310 grams of Heroine was taken by the accused Harpreet Singh and some of the heroine has been sold by him to the local customers and rest of the Heroine can be got recovered by him along with the illegal Arms. As per his disclosure statement dated 09.08.2022 petitioner got recovered 310 grams of Heroine from a secret box in the cupboard of his house Dristi homes-2 (Kharar) Mohali. Apart from it he also got recovered Two 7.65MM (Made in USA) Bore pistol, 4 live cartridges, and Rs. 5 lac Indian currency note got recovered from the present accused. In That case FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY Report dated(30.11.2022) also sport the case. As per report MK parcel no. 3 and 4 were alleged to be seized from accused Harpreet Singh and each was sealed with one seal of RC.*

*D. The role of the petitioner, That during the interrogation of the petitioner he suffered a disclosure statement to the investigating officer and he disclosed that he received 310 grams of Heroine from the other side of the*

*international border on the demand of other accused and from that consignment of Heroine, 310 grams of Heroine was taken by the accused Harpreet Singh and some of the heroin has been sold by him to the local customers.”*

REASONING:

7. As per paragraph 6-A of the reply, the name of the contraband is heroin and its weight is 310 grams, and it constitutes an offense under the following provisions and notifications:

|                                                          |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Substance Name                                           | Heroin/ Chitta/ Smack/ Brown Sugar/ Diacetylmorphine |
| Quantity detained                                        | 310 Gram                                             |
| Quantity type                                            | Commercial                                           |
| <i>Drug Quantity in % to upper limit of Intermediate</i> | 112.00%                                              |

|                                                                         |                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Drug's Small &amp; Commercial Qty. suggested by Committee report</i> |                                                                              |
| Notification No. & date                                                 | Expert Committee Report dated 24.03.1995 & 23.08.2001 (Small and Commercial) |
| Punishable U/s                                                          | S.21(c) of NDPS Act, 1985                                                    |

|                                                                                                            |                  |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <i>Specified as small &amp; Commercial in S.2(viia) &amp; 2(xxiii) NDPS Act, 1985</i>                      |                  |            |
| Notification No. & dated                                                                                   | S.O.1055(E)      | 10/19/2001 |
|                                                                                                            |                  |            |
| Sr. No.                                                                                                    | 56               |            |
| Common Name<br>(Name of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance (International non-proprietary name (INN) | Heroin           |            |
| Other non-proprietary name                                                                                 | *****            |            |
| Chemical Name                                                                                              | Diacetylmorphine |            |
| Small Quantity                                                                                             | < 5 Gram         |            |
| Commercial Quantity                                                                                        | > 250 Gram       |            |

|                                                                                                        |                                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Declared as punishable under NDPS Act and as per schedule defined in S.2(xi) & 2(xxiii) NDPS Act, 1985 |                                                      |            |
| Notification No. & dated                                                                               | S.(xvi)(d) NDPS Act, 1985 (61 of 1985), S.O. 821 (E) | 11/14/1985 |

|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sr. No.                                                                                                    | 2(xvi)(d)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Name<br>(Name of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance (International non-proprietary name (INN) | *****                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Other non-proprietary name                                                                                 | *****                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Chemical Name                                                                                              | <p>2(xvi)(d) diacetylmorphine, that is, the alkaloid also known as dia-morphine or heroin and its salts;</p> <p>Explanation.-- For the purposes of clauses (v) (vi), (xv) and (xvi) the percentages in the case of liquid preparations shall be calculated on the basis that</p> <p>a preparation containing one per cent. of a substance means a preparation in which one gram of substance, if solid, or one mililitre of substance, if liquid, is contained in every one hundred mililitre of the preparation and so on in proportion for any greater or less percentage:</p> <p>Provided that the Central Government may, having regard to the developments in the field of methods of calculating percentages in liquid preparations prescribed, by rules, any other basis which it may deem appropriate for such calculation.</p> |

8. The quantity allegedly involved in this case is commercial. Given this, the rigors of S. 37 of the NDPS Act apply in the present case. The petitioner must satisfy the twin conditions set forth by the Legislature under Section 37 of the NDPS Act.
9. The petitioner is entitled to bail because, in somewhat similar cases where the quantity involved was either greater than or close to the amount seized in the current FIR, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has granted bail after prolonged custody, as demonstrated by the following judicial precedent.
10. In Sabat Mehtab Khan v. The State of Maharashtra, decided on 03 Sep 2024, SLP (Crl) 8557-2024, Hon’ble Supreme Court holds,

The petitioner is an accused for the offences punishable under Sections 21(c) and 29 of the of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and allegation is that 275 gms. and 50.01 gms of heroine has been recovered from him. His regular bail application was dismissed by the High Court. He has already undergone about 1 year six months in jail.

Heard learned senior counsel/counsel for the parties.

Considering the quantity of the contraband articles and the period of his incarceration, we are of the opinion that a case of bail is made out for the petitioner.

11. In Ramlal v. The State of Rajasthan, decided on 17 Sep 2024, SLP (Crl) 9510-2024, wherein Hon'ble Supreme Court granted bail to a first offender after one year and six months of custody who possessed 450 grams of smack (Heroin), and the holds as follows:

The petitioner and the other accused persons are accused for the offences punishable under Sections 8/21 & 8/29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and allegation is that 450 gram of smack has been recovered from them. The bail application of the petitioner was dismissed by the High Court. Hence, he approached this Court. He has already undergone about 1 year and 6 months in jail.

Heard learned counsel for the petitioner. As per office report dated 13.09.2024, the service is deemed complete on the sole respondent-State but no one has appeared for the State.

Considering the period of incarceration of the petitioner and the fact that the petitioner has no criminal antecedents, we are of the opinion that a case of bail is made out for the petitioner.

12. As per the custody certificate dated 10.01.2025, the petitioner's custody in this FIR is of 03 years, 01 month and 12 days.

13. The prolonged incarceration, generally militates against the most precious fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution and in such a situation, the conditional liberty must override the statutory embargo created under Section 37(1) (b)(ii) of the NDPS Act<sup>1</sup>.

14. Following the judicial precedent mentioned above, without commenting on the case's merits, and considering the petitioner's pre-trial custody, the weight of the drugs, absence of criminal antecedents relating to drugs, coupled with the other factors peculiar to this case, further pre-trial incarceration is not justified at this stage.

**CONDITIONS:**

15. Given above, provided the petitioner is not required in any other case, the petitioner shall be released on bail in the FIR captioned above, subject to furnishing bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned Court and due to unavailability before any nearest Ilqa Magistrate or duty Magistrate. Before accepting the surety, the concerned Court must be satisfied that if the accused fails to appear, such surety can produce the accused.

16. While furnishing a personal bond, the petitioner shall mention the following personal identification details:

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<sup>1</sup> Supreme Court of India, in Rabi Prakash v. The State of Odisha, SLP (Crl) 4169-2023, Para 4, decided on 13 July 2023

|    |                                                                                                                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | AADHAR number                                                                                                                        |
| 2. | Passport number (If available) and when the attesting officer/court considers it appropriate or considers the accused a flight risk. |
| 3. | Mobile number (If available)                                                                                                         |
| 4. | E-Mail id (If available)                                                                                                             |

17. This order is subject to the petitioner’s complying with the following terms.

18. The petitioner shall abide by all statutory bond conditions and appear before the concerned Court(s) on all dates. The petitioner shall not tamper with the evidence, influence, browbeat, pressurize, induce, threaten, or promise, directly or indirectly, any witnesses, Police officials, or any other person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case or dissuade them from disclosing such facts to the Police or the Court.

19. Given the background of allegations against the petitioner, it becomes paramount to protect the members of society, detection squad and incapacitating the accused would be one of the primary options until the filing of the closure report or discharge, or acquittal. Consequently, it would be appropriate to restrict the possession of firearms. [This restriction is being imposed based on the preponderance of the evidence of probability and not of evidence of certainty, i.e., beyond a reasonable doubt; and as such, it is not to be construed as an intermediate sanction]. Given the nature of the allegations and the other circumstances peculiar to this case, the petitioner shall surrender all weapons, firearms, and ammunition, if any, along with the arms license to the concerned authority within fifteen days of release from prison and inform the Investigator of the compliance. However, subject to the Indian Arms Act, 1959, the petitioner shall be entitled to renew and reclaim them in case of acquittal in this case, provided otherwise permissible under the concerned rules. Restricting firearms would instill confidence in society; it would also restrain the accused from influencing the witnesses and repeating the offense.

20. The conditions mentioned above imposed by this court are to endeavor to reform and ensure the accused does not repeat the offense and also to block the menace of drug abuse. In Mohammed Zubair v. State of NCT of Delhi, 2022:INSC:735 [Para 28], Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 279 of 2022, Para 29, decided on July 20, 2022, A Three-Judge bench of the Hon’ble Supreme Court held that “The bail conditions imposed by the Court must not only have a nexus to the purpose that they seek to serve but must also be proportional to the purpose of imposing them. The courts, while imposing bail conditions must balance the liberty of the accused and the necessity of a fair trial. While doing so, conditions that would result in the deprivation of rights and liberties must be eschewed.”

21. In Md. Tajiur Rahaman v. The State of West Bengal, decided on 08-Nov-2024, SLP (Crl) 12225-2024, the Hon’ble Supreme Court holds in Para 7, “It goes without saying that if the petitioner is found involved in such like offence in future, the concession of

bail granted to him today will liable to be withdrawn and the petitioner is bound to face the necessary consequences.”

22. The significant consideration for granting bail is that the Court aims to give the petitioner another chance to course-correct, reform, and reintegrate into the community as an ideal citizen. To ensure that the petitioner also abides by the assurance made on the petitioner’s behalf by not repeating the offence or indulging in any crime, it shall be desirable to impose the following additional condition.

23. This bail is conditional, with the foundational condition being that if the petitioner repeats the offense, the State shall file an application to revoke this bail before the concerned Court having jurisdiction over this FIR, which shall have the authority to cancel this bail, and as per their discretion, they may cancel this bail.

24. Any observation made hereinabove is neither an expression of opinion on the case's merits nor shall the trial Court advert to these comments.

25. In Amit Rana v. State of Haryana, CRM-18469-2025 [in CRA-D-123-2020, decided on 05.08.2025], a Division Bench of Punjab and Haryana High Court in paragraph 13, holds that “To ensure that every person in judicial custody who has been granted bail or whose sentence has been suspended gets back their liberty without any delay, it is appropriate that whenever the bail order or the orders of suspension of sentence are not immediately sent by the Registry, computer systems, or Public Prosecutor, then in such a situation, to facilitate the immediate restoration of the liberty granted by any Court, the downloaded copies of all such orders, subject to verification, must be accepted by the Court before whom the bail bonds are furnished.”

26. **Petition allowed** in terms mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, are disposed of.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)  
JUDGE

31.10.2025  
Jyoti-II

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Whether speaking/reasoned: | Yes |
| Whether reportable:        | No. |