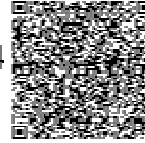


2025:PHHC:052004



**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

318

CRM-M-57824-2024 (O&M)
Date of decision : 24.04.2025

Ranjit Singh**...Petitioner****Versus****State of Punjab****...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Rajiv Kumar Saini, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Swati Batra, Deputy Advocate General, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case arising out of FIR No. 177 dated 02.10.2021, registered under Sections 22 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (*for short 'NDPS Act'*) at Police Station Kathunangal, Amritsar.

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the disposal of the present petition are that on 02.10.2021, co-accused Karamjit Singh @ Kaka was apprehended by the police party and recovery of 100 intoxicant tablets of Alprazolam was effected from him. On interrogation, he disclosed that he had purchased the tablets from Bhullar Medical Store owned by Kirpal Singh. On arrest of Kirpal Singh, 780 tablets were recovered. He further named Sunny Tarzan and Rohit as the suppliers. Rohit was arrested and he named Navin Gupta. On arrest of Navin Gupta, 13539 tablets were recovered. Navin Gupta named Manish Kumar and Vivek Mahajan, on arrest, at their instance 180000 and 15900 tablets respectively were

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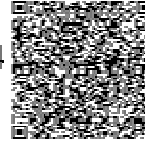


recovered. Some other persons were also nominated in this case. The name of the petitioner surfaced in the disclosure statement of co-accused Parvesh Arora recorded on 12.10.2021. However, the petitioner was arrested on 27.08.2024 and since then he is in custody.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He has been nominated in this case on the basis of a series of disclosure statements made by the co-accused, which are not admissible in evidence against him. No recovery has been effected from him. Although, the disclosure nominating him was made by co-accused Parvesh Arora in the year 2021 but the petitioner was arrested in this case after a period of about three years on 27.08.2024, which establishes the factum of his false implication. Even otherwise, investigation has since been completed and *challan* has been presented. Conclusion of trial is likely to take time. Co-accused Ankush Mahajan @ Manna, Vivek Mahajan @ Monu, Rohit Kumar, Karamjit Singh @ Kaka and several other co-accused have already been granted concession of regular bail by the learned trial Court. On the grounds of parity, the petitioner too deserves the same benefit as no useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody anymore. Therefore, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed and the petitioner deserves to be released on regular bail.

4. Reply has been filed by the respondent-State. It is submitted therein and learned Deputy Advocate General, Punjab has argued that the petitioner is not entitled to get benefit of bail as he along with co-accused was involved in sale/purchase of intoxicant drugs. He is involved in one more case of similar nature. Hence, it is urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

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5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have also perused the material placed on record.

6. The petitioner has been nominated in this case on the basis of a series of disclosure statements suffered by co-accused. The name of the petitioner had surfaced in this case in the year 2021 but he had been arrested after a long gap of about three years. In the meanwhile, several co-accused have been granted concession of regular bail by the learned trial Court, which reflects in the reply as well. A perusal of the reply also shows that there are total 34 cited witnesses but none has been examined so far, which means that the trial is substantially delayed and in this regard, even some departmental action has been taken against the erring police officials. The petitioner is in judicial custody since 27.08.2024. Keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that no useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody anymore. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned. However, it will be open for the prosecution to apply for cancellation of bail in case the petitioner is found involved in any other subsequent case.

7. It is made clear that any observation made herein above is only for the purpose of deciding the present petition and the same shall have no bearing on the merits of the case.

24.04.2025*Wassem Ansari***(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE***Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable**Yes/No
Yes/No*