

2026:PHHC:066577



CRM-M-18089-2026

::1::

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

CRM-M-18089-2026 (O & M)

Reserved on: 29.04.2026

Date of Pronouncement: 30.04.2026

Date of Uploading: 30.04.2026

Karam Chand

... Petitioner

Versus

Union of India

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASJIT SINGH BEDI

Present: Ms. Kritika Kumari, Advocate for
Mr. H.S. Multani, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Rajiv Sharma (Hisar Wale), Advocate,
(Special Public Prosecutor) with
Ms. Indu Bala Sharma, Advocate and
Mr. Vinayak Attri, Advocate, for the respondent.

JASJIT SINGH BEDI, J.

The prayer in this second petition under Section 483 of BNSS, 2023 is for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case bearing Crime No.24 dated 20.10.2023 under Sections 8, 18, 29, 60 of the NDPS Act, 1985 registered at NCB, Chandigarh.

2. The brief facts of the case are that Jagjit Singh (since granted the concession of bail vide order dated 14.10.2025, Annexure P-5), Gulzar Singh (since granted the concession of bail vide order dated 12.02.2026, Annexure P-6) and Amarjit Kaur (since granted the concession of bail vide order dated 15.10.2025, Annexure P-7) were apprehended with 02 kgs. 380 grams of

2026:PHHC:066577



CRM-M-18089-2026

::2::

opium. They disclosed that the aforesaid opium was supplied to them by Karam Chand Sahu (petitioner). He was arrested on 16.10.2024. Thereafter, other persons came to be nominated as accused as well.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. She contends that the name of the petitioner figures in the disclosure statement of the arrested co-accused. Pursuant to his arrest, no recovery whatsoever had been effected. Reliance is placed on the judgments in the cases of Tofan Singh Versus State of Tamil Nadu, 2020 AIR (Supreme Court) 5592, Rakesh Kumar Singla Versus Union of India, 2021(1) RCR (Criminal) 704, Surinder Kumar Khanna Versus Intelligence Officer Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, 2018(3) RCR (Criminal) 954, State by (NCB) Bengaluru Versus Pallulabid Ahmad Arimutta & Anr. 2022(1) RCR (Criminal) 762, Sanjeev Chandra Agarwal & Anr. Versus Union of India 2021(4) RCR (Criminal) 590, Vijay Singh Versus The State of Haryana, bearing Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No. (s).1266/2023 decided on 17.05.2023, State of Haryana versus Samarth Kumar 2022 (3) RCR (Criminal) 991 and Vikrant Singh Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-39657-2020 decided on 06.04.2022.”, wherein it has been held that the accused can be granted the concession of bail where he has been named in the disclosure statement of his co-accused and there is no other corroborative evidence against the accused. As the petitioner is in custody since 18.10.2024 but only 04 of the 15 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far, the Trial of the present case is not likely to be concluded anytime soon and therefore, he is entitled to the concession of bail even

2026:PHHC:066577



CRM-M-18089-2026

::3::

though there are four other cases under the NDPS Act registered against him, moreso, when three co-accused, namely, Jagjit Singh, Gulzar Singh and Amarjit Kaur have been granted the concession of bail vide orders Annexures P-5 to P-7 respectively.

4. The learned counsel for the respondent-UOI, on the other hand, contends that in view of the serious allegations levelled against the petitioner of being a trafficker in drugs, he is not entitled to the grant of bail. In fact, the petitioner is an accused in four other cases bearing FIR No.08/2022 dated 02.05.2022 under Sections 18 and 25 of the NDPS, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa) (read with Police Station Tebo), FIR No.117 dated 02.08.2023 under Sections 18, 29, 61, 85 of the NDPS Act, 1985, Police Station Sadar Barnala, District Barnala, Crime No.02 dated 15.01.2024 under Sections 8, 18, 25, 29, 60 of the NDPS Act, 1985, NCB, Chandigarh and NCB Crime No.05 dated 11.04.2024 under Sections 8, 18 and 29 of the NDPS Act, 1985, Police Station Narcotics Control Bureau, Chandigarh Zone. The petitioner has purchased 07 plots from the proceeds of crime. There is a phone recording of a conversation between the petitioner and one of the arrested accused-Gulzar Singh regarding drug trafficking. Therefore, other than the disclosure statement of the arrested accused, there is other corroborative evidence inculcating the petitioner. Even otherwise, there are no change in circumstances warranting the grant of bail when the first bail application of the petitioner came to be dismissed on merits vide order dated 29.10.2025 (Annexure P-4). He, however, concedes that the petitioner has been in custody since 18.10.2024, only 04 of the 15 prosecution witnesses have been

2026:PHHC:066577



CRM-M-18089-2026

::4::

examined so far and that three co-accused have been granted the concession of regular bail.

5. I have heard the learned counsel for both the parties at length.

6. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **State of Haryana Versus Samarth Kumar 2022 (3) RCR (Criminal) 991**, held as under:-

“4. The High Court decided to grant pre-arrest bail to the respondents on the only ground that no recovery was effected from the respondents and that they had been implicated only on the basis of the disclosure statement of the main accused Dinesh Kumar. Therefore, reliance was placed by the High Court in the majority judgment of this Court in Tofan Singh v. State of Tamil Nadu reported in (2021) 4 SCC 1.

5. But, it is contended by the learned Additional Advocate General appearing on behalf of the State of Haryana that on the basis of the anticipatory bail granted to the respondents, the Special Court was constrained to grant regular bail even to the main accused-Dinesh Kumar and he jumped bail. Fortunately, the main accused-Dinesh Kumar has again been apprehended. According to the learned Additional Advocate General, the respondent in the second of these appeals is also a habitual offender.

6. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent in the first of these Appeals contends that the State is guilty of suppression of the vital fact that the respondent was granted regular bail after the charge-sheet was filed and that therefore, nothing survives in the appeal. But, we do not agree.

7. The order of the Special Court granting regular bail to the respondents shows that the said order was passed in pursuance of the anticipatory bail granted by the High



Court. Therefore, the same cannot be a ground to hold that the present appeals have become infructuous.

8. In cases of this nature, the respondents may be able to take advantage of the decision in Tofan Singh v. State of Tamil Nadu (supra), perhaps at the time of arguing the regular bail application or at the time of final hearing after conclusion of the trial.

9. To grant anticipatory bail in a case of this nature is not really warranted. Therefore, we are of the view that the High Court fell into an error in granting anticipatory bail to the respondents.

10. In view of the above, the appeals are allowed. The impugned orders are set-aside. As a consequence, the Appellant-State is entitled to take steps, in accordance with law.

[emphasis supplied]

7. In *Vijay Singh Versus The State of Haryana, bearing Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No.(s).1266/2023 decided on 17.05.2023*, it was held as under:-

“The petitioner is alleged to have committed offences under Sections 15 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (hereinafter called the NDPS Act”. His application for anticipatory bail was rejected by the High Court. The allegations in the FIR are that 1.7 Kg of Poppy Straw (Doda Post) was recovered from the co-accused. The petitioner concededly was not present at the spot but was named by the co-accused. That apart there is no other material to implicate the petitioner. The prosecution urges that another case with allegations of commission of offence under the NDPS Act are pending against the petitioner. It is not denied that in those proceedings he was granted bail.

2026:PHHC:066577



CRM-M-18089-2026

::6::

Having regard to these circumstances, the petitioner is directed to the enlarged on anticipatory bail, subject to such terms and conditions as the trial Court may impose.

The petition is allowed.

All pending applications are disposed of.”

(emphasis supplied)

8. This Court in the case of **Vikrant Singh Versus State of Punjab,**

CRM-M-39657-2020 decided on 06.04.2022, held as under:-

“It is not in dispute that the petitioners have not been named in the FIR. No recovery has been effected from the petitioners and the alleged recovery has been effected from two co-accused Rakesh Sharma and Ravdeep Singh alias Sheru. The petitioners are sought to be implicated solely on the basis of the disclosure statement made by the co-accused Rakesh Sharma and Ravdeep Singh @ Sheru and even after the petitioners were arrayed as accused in pursuance of the disclosure statements, no recovery had been made from the petitioners.

The petitioners have been in custody since 06.11.2020 (Vikrant Singh), 05.12.2020 (Subash Chander) and 23.04.2021 (Davinder Singh) and challan in the present case has already been presented and there are 32 witnesses, out of whom only one has been examined and thus, the trial is likely to take time on account of Covid-19 Pandemic. The petitioners are not involved in any other case. With respect to the call details, suffice to say that no dates on which the said calls had been allegedly made by the coaccused, Rakesh Sharma and Ravdeep Singh alias Sheru to the petitioners or vice-versa have been mentioned in the affidavit or in the report under Section 173 Cr.P.C. Moreover, even the transcript of the said conversations are not a part of the record under Section 173 Cr.P.C. A Division Bench of this



Court in Narcotics Control Bureau's case (supra), was pleased to observe as under:-

Still further, no conversation detail between accused Ramesh Kumar Patil and accused Sandeep has been produced by the prosecution. Mere call details is not sufficient to prove that Sandeep accused was also involved in the business of narcotic drugs or he had any connected with Ramesh Kumar Patil.

In view of the above, no case is made out for grant of leave to appeal against the acquittal of Sandeep accused.”

In judgment of the Gujarat High Court in Yash Jayeshbhai Champaklal Shah's case (supra), it has been observed as under:-

“Having heard learned advocates for the appearing parties, it emerges on record that the applicant is not found in possession of any contraband article. Over and above that, the call data records may reveal that in an around the time of incident, he was in contact with the co-accused who were found in possession of contraband. Since there is no recording of conversation in between the accused, mere contacts with the co-accused who were found in possession cannot be treated to be a corroborative material in absence of substantive material found against the accused.”

A perusal of the above judgment would show that without the transcript of the conversations exchanged between the co-accused, mere call details would not be considered to be corroborative material in absence of substantive material found against the accused. In the present case, there is no other material against the petitioners.

2026:PHHC:066577



CRM-M-18089-2026

::8::

Keeping in view the above-said facts and circumstances, as well as law laid down in the judgments noticed hereinabove, the present petitions are allowed and the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail on their furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate and subject to their not being required in any other case.

(emphasis supplied)

9. This Court in Soni Singh @ Chamkaur Sahib, CRM-M-31645-2022, decided on 20.10.2022, held as under:-

“The Counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is not named in the FIR nor in the secret information. He has been named only in the disclosure statement of his co-accused which is inadmissible in evidence and even otherwise since the recovery effected from him of 3 Kgs of Poppy Husk is of non commercial quantity, therefore the rigors of Section 37 of NDPS Act did not apply to the petitioner. Since the petitioner was in custody since 26.05.2022 and the trial was not likely to be concluded in the near future, he deserved the concession of bail.

The Counsel for the State on the other hand contends that the petitioner is a trafficker along with his co-accused. As per the disclosure statement 200 Kgs of Poppy Husk was to be supplied to the petitioner. Further he is involved in two other cases under the NDPS Act as also one case under the Excise Act and, therefore, did not deserve the concession of bail in view of his antecedents.

I have heard counsel for both the sides at length.

Admittedly, the petitioner in the present case is named in the disclosure statement of the arrested accused. Subsequently thereto 3Kgs of Poppy Husk was recovered at his instance which is a non commercial quantity. It may be



relevant to mention here that limitations to the grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act are in addition to those prescribed under Cr.PC or any other law in force on the grant of bail as has been set out by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Satpal Singh Vs. State of Punjab 2018(5) RCR (Criminal) 152. In the present case, the petitioner is involved in two other cases under the NDPS Act. Thus, as he is a habitual offender, he is not entitled to the grant of bail even under Section 439 Cr.PC keeping in view his antecedents. Even otherwise, assuming that the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act did not apply to the petitioner, that by itself would not ipso facto lead to the grant of bail to the petitioner.

In view of the above discussion, I find no merit in the present petition and the same is therefore dismissed.

(emphasis supplied)

10. This Court in the case of **Ranjit Singh Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-25526-2023, decided on 17.07.2023**, held as under:-

“8. Coming back to the facts of the present case, it is pertinent to note here that other than the instant FIR in which the petitioner has been nominated as an accused on the basis of the disclosure statement of the arrested accused, the petitioner is also an accused in two other cases under the NDPS Act. In addition, he had been an accused in three other cases, though he has been acquitted in the said cases. It is highly unlikely that the petitioner would have been implicated in multiple FIRs at the whims and fancies of the Investigating Agency.

9. When there are multiple FIRs against a person over a significant period of time (in this case 18 years), then even though he may have been acquitted in some of those cases, the twin conditions as envisaged under Section 37 of the NDPS Act that he has not committed an offence and was not likely to commit an offence cannot be satisfied.



10. Keeping in view the conduct of the petitioner and his criminal antecedents, his custodial interrogation would certainly be necessary to effect necessary recoveries and to take the investigation to its logical conclusion.

11. In view of the above, I find no merit in the present petition. Therefore, the same stands dismissed.

(emphasized supplied)

11. In **Samarth Kumar** (supra) the Hon'ble Supreme Court had clearly held that an accused who had been named in the disclosure statement of a co-accused was not entitled to the grant of anticipatory bail but could be granted regular bail. However, in **Vijay Singh** (supra) a somewhat contrary view was taken and the accused therein was granted the concession of anticipatory bail even though he had been an accused in another case under the NDPS Act in which he was on bail. In **Vikrant Singh** (supra) this Court held that where an accused had been named in the disclosure statement of his co-accused and there were CDRs/WhatsApp calls/chats between the arrested accused and the person named in a disclosure statement then in the absence of the contents of the conversation/chats bail could not be denied to the said accused. In **Soni Singh @ Chamkaur Sahib** (supra) and **Ranjit Singh** (supra) it has been held by this Court that where there were multiple FIRs against an accused over a period of time then, even though he had been named in a disclosure statement, he was not entitled to the concession of bail.

12. Coming back to the facts and circumstances of the present case, other than the disclosure statement of the arrested accused, the investigating agency has recorded the phone conversations pertaining to drug trafficking between the petitioner and Gulzar Singh. The petitioner and his brother have



CRM-M-18089-2026

::11::

purchased 07 plots from the proceeds of drug trafficking which is apparent from a bare reading of the complaint and goes to show that the petitioner is a serial offender and a notorious drug trafficker.

13. Other than the present FIR, the petitioner is an accused in four other cases under the NDPS Act. It is highly unlikely that the petitioner would have been implicated in multiple FIRs at the whims and fancies of the investigating agency. The details of the aforesaid cases registered against the petitioner are as under:-

Sr. No.	FIR No.	Dated	Under Sections	Police Station	Status
1.	08/2022	02.05.2022	18 and 25 NDPS Act	West Singhbhum (Chaibasa) (read with P.S. Tebo)	Undertrial
2.	117	02.08.2023	18, 29, 61, 85 of the NDPS Act	Sadar Barnala, Distt. Barnala	Undertrial
3.	Crime No.02	15.01.2024	8, 18, 25, 29, 60 of the NDPS Act	NCB, Chandigarh	Undertrial
4.	Crime No.05	11.04.2024	8, 18 and 29 of the NDPS Act	NCB, Chandigarh Zone	Undertrial

14. In fact, when there are multiple FIRs against an accused over a significant period of time, then the twin conditions as envisaged under Section 37 of the NDPS Act that he has not committed the offence and was not likely to commit one in future cannot be satisfied. Further, the limitation to the grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act is in addition to those



CRM-M-18089-2026

::12::

limitations prescribed under the Cr.P.C. or any other law in force on the grant of bail. Thus, a habitual offender is not entitled to the grant of bail even under the provisions of the Cr.P.C. keeping in view his criminal antecedents even though, his co-accused who are similarly situated may have been granted the concession of either anticipatory bail or regular bail.

15. Further, this is the 2nd bail application on behalf of the petitioner.

The detail of his earlier bail application is as under:-

Sr. No.	Bail Application	Date of Decision
1.	CRM-M-44944-2025	Dismissed on merits on 29.10.2025, Annexure P-4

The present bail application has been preferred without any change in material circumstances warranting grant of bail.

16. In view of the above, I find no merit in the present petition.

Therefore, the same stands dismissed.

17. The pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of accordingly.

(JASJIT SINGH BEDI)
JUDGE

30.04.2026

sukhpreet

Whether speaking/reasoned:- Yes/No

Whether reportable:- Yes/No