

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



**CRM-M-43820-2025 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 24.03.2026**

**CHARANJIT SINGH ALIAS RANJIT SINGH ALIAS RANA
... PETITIONER
VERSUS
STATE OF PUNJAB ... RESPONDENT**

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE H.S.GREWAL

Present:- Mr. D.S.Virk, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Rishabh Singla, A.A.G., Punjab.

H.S. GREWAL, J. (ORAL)

1. The petitioner is seeking regular bail under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C. in FIR No.12 dated 06.02.2024 registered under Section 18 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (Section 29 of NDPS Act added later on) at Police Station Khalchian, District Amritsar.
2. The case of the prosecution is that on 06.02.2024, on the basis of secret information the police party apprehended the petitioner along with co-accused Varinder Singh and 2 Kgs and 600 grams of opium was recovered from the petitioner while 400 grams of opium was recovered from the co-accused.
3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. Moreover, co-accused has already been granted bail by the Co-Ordinate Bench of this Court vide order dated 22.05.2024 passed in CRM-M-21123-2024. He further submits that the petitioner is in custody for the last 02 years, 01

month and 14 days. He, thus, prays for grant of bail to the petitioner.

4. Per contra, learned State counsel vehemently opposes the prayer for grant of regular bail to the petitioner on the ground of gravity of allegations. Learned State counsel has filed the custody certificate in Court, which is taken on record. He further submits that as per the custody certificate, the petitioner is in custody for the last 02 years, 01 month and 14 days and out of total cited 13 prosecution witnesses, none has been examined so far. The petitioner is involved in three more cases.

5. I have heard the learned counsel for the parties and perused the record.

6. After hearing the rival contentions of the learned counsel for the parties and keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case that the petitioner is in custody for the last 02 years, 01 month and 14 days; though challan was presented on 01.08.2024, out of total cited 13 prosecution witnesses, none has been examined so far; the police officials are not appearing to depose against the petitioner and causing delay in the trial; the conclusion of trial is likely to take time and continuous detention of the petitioner would not serve the ends of justice, this Court has no option but to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner during the pendency of the trial. Moreover, *'bail is rule and jail is exception'*.

7. Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bail bonds, surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate/Chief Judicial Magistrate concerned.

8. Nothing discussed hereinabove shall be construed as an

expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

9. It is clarified that while on bail so granted through the instant order the petitioner is found indulging in any other criminal case, it shall be open to the State to seek cancellation of his bail.

24.03.2026
Janki

(H.S.GREWAL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No