

**CRM-M-60779-2025****1****IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH****119****CRM-M-60779-2025****Decided on :07.04.2026**

Mangaljit Singh alias Manga

. . . Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab

. . . Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Akash Manocha, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

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SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

1. Present petition has been filed under Section 483 of BNSS (corresponding Section 439 Cr.P.C.) seeking regular bail in case FIR No.0174 dated 02.09.2024, under Sections 21/29 of NDPS Act, registered at Police Station City Tarn Taran, District Tarn Taran.

2. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that, as per the case of the prosecution, the alleged recovery in the present case is 270 grams of heroin, which is only 20 grams more than the maximum quantity considered non-commercial. Counsel further submits that the petitioner is a young boy, aged 20 years, who has been in custody for the past 1 year and 7 months, and has clean antecedents, having never been involved in any similar activity.

Counsel for the petitioner further submits that co-accused of the petitioner, namely Lovejit Singh @ Labhu, has already been granted the concession of regular bail by this Court vide order dated 16.02.2026

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in CRM-M-8636-2025. To substantiate his submission, Counsel for the petitioner has filed copy of the order dated 16.02.2026 in Court today. Same is taken on record.

Counsel further refers the zimni orders P-2 to P-13 and submits that, despite granting several opportunities, no prosecution witness has been examined so far and now the case is listed for 04.05.2026, and therefore, Counsel submits that the trial would take considerable time to conclude. Accordingly, Counsel prays for the grant of regular bail.

3. On the other hand, learned State Counsel submits that charges in the present case were framed on 21.01.2025, and out of a total of 12 prosecution witnesses, only one witness has been examined, 02 witnesses have been given up, and 09 witnesses are yet to be examined. Counsel further submits that the alleged recovery of 270 grams of heroin is a serious offence, exceeding the non-commercial quantity, and the matter involves multiple accused, indicating a larger criminal nexus, therefore, prays for dismissal of present petition.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the paper-book alongwith the appended documents.

5. Considering the fact that the petitioner has clean antecedents and is in custody for a period of last 01 year and 07 months, and noticing that co-accused has already been granted the concession of regular bail, and further observing that the trial is likely to take considerable time to conclude, this Court is of the view that no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner in further custody.

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Accordingly, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/ Chief Judicial Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case.

6. Any of the discussion done and recorded hereabove, shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the facts of the case. Therefore, trial Court is expected to decide the case by taking an independent view, on the basis of evidence available on record, as expeditiously as possible in accordance with law.

7. It is further made clear that if, in future, the petitioner is found to be directly involved in similar activities, the prosecution would be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail.

8. Petition stands disposed of.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

07.04.2026***Rashmi***

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether Reportable: Yes/No