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CRM-M-64377-2025 (O&M)

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2026 PHHC 016832



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-64377-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 04.02.2026

BALJEET SINGH

....Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF HARYANA

....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL

Present:- Mr. Anuj Balian, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Shaveta Sanghi, DAG Haryana.

.....

RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the instant petition filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.66 dated 19.03.2024 registered under Sections 15(b), 18(b), 29, 61, 85 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (Section 201 IPC added later on) at Police Station Babain, District Kurukshetra.

2. Brief facts of the present case as per the prosecution are that on 19.03.2024, SI Gurnam Singh, along with his fellow police officials acting on a secret information laid a *Naka* and stopped a Canter. The police party apprehended co-accused Gurjinder Singh whereas the petitioner managed to flee from the spot. Thereafter, upon search of the Canter, Opium weighing 4 Kg 50 grams and Poppy-husk (Chura-post) weighing 3.8 kg were recovered.

Hence, the present FIR.



3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case and he has no concern with the said offence. He argued that the petitioner was neither present at the spot nor was named in the FIR. No recovery is to be effected from him. The petitioner is in custody since 21.03.2024 He further contends that co-accused Gurjinder Singh has already been granted concession of bail by this Court vide order dated 15.10.2025. The investigation in the case is complete; challan stands presented; charges have been framed; out of 21 prosecution witnesses only 11 have been examined, as such trial will take a long time to conclude and no useful purpose would be served by keeping him behind bars. Therefore, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. Learned State counsel has filed the custody certificate of the petitioner, which is taken on record. Status report has already been filed and she relying upon the same has vehemently opposed the prayer for grant of bail by submitting that the offence committed by the petitioner is serious in nature and that the contraband recovered is commercial in nature. However, she has not controverted the fact that the petitioner is first time offender as he is not involved in any other case.

5. Having heard learned counsel for the parties at length and after perusing the record of the case, it is evident that the petitioner is in custody for the last more than 01 year and 10 months; investigation is complete; challan stands filed; charges have been framed; out of 21 prosecution witnesses only 11 have been examined; co-accused has already been granted concession of bail by this Court and the fact that trial may take a long time to conclude, no useful purpose would be served by detaining him in further



the trial being concluded in the near future would be violative of his rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

6. Reliance is placed upon in *Dataram Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh & Anr. 2018(2) R.C.R. (Criminal) 131*, wherein Hon'ble Apex Court has held that keeping somebody behind the bars, till his guilt is proved, for an indefinite period amounts to infringement of her right to life and liberty, as enshrined under Article 21 of Constitution of India and is against the principle "*bail is a rule*" and "*jail is an exception*".

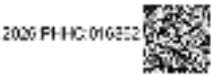
7. A two-Judge Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in *Nandlal Mondal @ Abhay Mondal v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.12788/2023, granted bail to the accused after 18 months of incarceration on the ground of delay in trial in an NDPS matter involving commercial quantity of contraband. Similar relief has been granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a series of judgments, namely: *Md. Aliul Islam @ Aliul Islam @ Alius v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No. 736/2024; *Debrata Mondal v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.14970/2023; *Santarul Islam @ Santa v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.13169/2023; *Indrajit Mondal @ Piglu v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.8512/2023; *Narjul Islam @ Najbul Hoque v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.14172/2023; *Subhashri Das @ Rana @ Subhoshree v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.15284/2023; *Mithun Sk. & Anr. v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.16598/2023; *Sk. Nasiruddin @ Nasirddin Sk. v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.3402/2024; *Indadul Shah v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.12670/2023; *Hanef Kharsani @ Hanef Sheikh v. Union of India*; *Ripon Seikh & Ors. v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.16663/2023; *Moidul*



Sarkar v. State of West Bengal, SLP (Crl.) No.15668/2023; *Saniya Bibi @ Soniya Bibi v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.2354/2024; *Saddam Hossain v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.15496/2023; *Bijon Sk. @ Golam Murselim v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.6046/2024; and *Subhas v. State of West Bengal*, SLP (Crl.) No.8823/2019.

8. Moreover, prolonged detention of the petitioner, without any likelihood of the trial being concluded in the near future, would amount to a violation of their fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in ***Mohd. Muslim @ Hussain v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, 2023 AIR SC 1648**, while dealing with an NDPS case, held that the principles of fairness embodied under Article 21 override the statutory restrictions on grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act. Speaking through Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, the Court observed:

"20. The standard to be considered therefore, is one, where the court would look at the material in a broad manner, and reasonably see whether the accused's guilt may be proved. The judgments of this court have, therefore, emphasized that the satisfaction which courts are expected to record, i.e., that the accused may not be guilty, is only prima facie, based on a reasonable reading, which does not call for meticulous examination of the materials collected during investigation (as held in Union of India v. Rattan Malik). Grant of bail on ground of undue delay in trial, cannot be said to be fettered by Section 37 of the Act, given the imperative of Section 436A which is applicable to offences under the NDPS Act too (ref. Satender Kumar Antil supra). Having regard to these factors the court is of the opinion that in the facts of this case, the appellant deserves to be enlarged on bail.



21. Before parting, it would be important to reflect that laws which impose stringent conditions for grant of bail, may be necessary in public interest; yet, if trials are not concluded in time, the injustice wrecked on the individual is immeasurable . Jails are overcrowded and their living conditions, more often than not, appalling."

9. In view of the above, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate/CJM concerned. It is clarified that nothing stated herein shall be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

04.02.2026
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(RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL)
JUDGE

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| i) | Whether speaking/reasoned? | Yes/No |
| ii) | Whether reportable? | Yes/No |