



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

126

CRM-M-71055-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 10.03.2026

Gurpal Singh @ Gurbhal

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. G.S. Bhullar, Advocate for the petitioner

Ms. Gagandeep Kaur, DAG Punjab

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 483 BNSS is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.96 dated 17.07.2018, registered under Section 22/61/85 of NDPS Act at Police Station Sarhali, District Tarn Taran.

2. Learned counsel contends that the petitioner was initially granted bail on 17.09.2018 and rearrested on 20.07.2024 and now has been in custody for 1 year, 9 months and 17 days. The mandatory provisions of Sections 40 & 52 of NDPS Act were not complied with. Charges have been framed on 20.07.2024, however, out of 9 prosecution witnesses, only 3 have been examined. The petitioner is not involved in any other case under NDPS Act.

3. The custody certificate dated 09.03.2026, filed by the learned State counsel is taken on record. As per the same, the petitioner is behind bars for 1 year, 9 months & 17 days.

4. Learned State counsel opposes the bail on the ground that the



commercial quantity of contraband was recovered from the petitioner, who was apprehended at the spot. However, he is unable to controvert the submissions with regard to stage and the petitioner being not involved in any other case.

5. Heard.

6. Hon'ble The Supreme Court in **Shariful Islam @ Sarif versus The State of West Bengal** SLP (Crl.) No.4173/2022, decided on 04.08.2022, granted bail to the petitioner in a case of recovery of commercial quantity of contraband, considering incarceration for over 1 year and 6 months and there being no likelihood of completion of trial in the near future, while the Division Bench of this Court in **Bhupender Singh vs. Narcotic Control Bureau** (2022) 2 RCR (Crl.) 706, observed with regard to achieving balance between right to speedy trial guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and rigors of Section 37 of NDPS Act.

7. This Court in the case of **Balraj Singh vs. State of Punjab** CRM-M-57386-2022, on 14.12.2022 has followed the dictum laid down by Hon'ble The Supreme Court and granted the bail to the petitioner therein after he had undergone total custody of 1 year and 6 months and in **Munasi Masih vs. State of Punjab**, CRM-M-31504-2022, on 06.2.2023, wherein commercial quantity of contraband had been recovered but only 2 out of 13 PWs had been examined, allowed bail.

8. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for the last 1 year, 9 months and 17 days; not involved in any other case; charges have been framed on 20.07.2024, however, 6 more prosecution witnesses still remain to be examined, the trial is likely to take a considerable time, further incarceration of the petitioner would be violative of



his right enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act can be diluted bearing in mind the right to a speedy trial, the present petition is allowed.

9. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case and shall abide by the following conditions:-

- (i) The petitioner will not tamper with the evidence during the trial.
- (ii) The petitioner will not pressurize/ intimidate the prosecution witnesses.
- (iii) The petitioner will appear before the trial Court on each and every date fixed, unless is exempted by a specific order of Court.
- (iv) The petitioner shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which, he is an accused, or for commission of which he is suspected of.
- (v) The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly coerce, induce, threaten or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/ her from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence in any manner.
- (vi) The petitioner shall not in any manner misuse his liberty.
- (vii) The petitioner shall furnish his address and mobile number by way of an affidavit to the trial Court and not change the same till conclusion of trial and if for any reasons, he seeks to change either of the aforesaid, it shall be done only with prior information to the learned trial Court.
- (viii) The petitioner shall not leave the country without prior permission of the trial Court.
- (ix) The trial Court/Duty Magistrate may impose any other condition, as deemed appropriate while releasing the petitioner.

10. It is made abundantly clear that in case there is any breach of the aforesaid conditions, the State shall be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail as



granted to the petitioner by this order.

11. In view of the above, it is clarified that the observations made herein above are limited for the purpose of present proceedings and would not be construed as any opinion on the merits of the case and the trial would proceed independently of the aforesaid observations.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

10.03.2026

M.Kamra

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes / No

Whether reportable : Yes / No