



2026:PHHC:127227

CNR No: PHHC011081002028
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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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CRM-M-36598-2026 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 09.09.2026

Neeraj Rana @ Rana

...Petitioner

V/s

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM AGGARWAL

Present: Mr. Vikas Dahiya, Advocate for
Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta, Advocate, for the petitioner.
Mr. Rahul Jindal, AAG, Punjab.

VIKRAM AGGARWAL, J (ORAL)

This is the fourth petition preferred under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short, 'the BNSS') praying for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.166, dated 27.09.2025 registered at Police Station City Khanna 2, District Ludhiana under Sections 25 of the Arms Act, 1959, his first petition having been withdrawn on 05.12.2025, the second petition having been dismissed at that stage on 10.02.2026 since there was no change in the circumstances and the third having been withdrawn on 24.04.2026.

2. Status report by way of affidavit of Sh. Vinod Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Police District Khanna, District as also custody certificate dated 08.09.2026 filed in Court today are taken on record.

3. On 27.09.2025, on the basis of a secret information, the petitioner Neeraj Rana and one Gurpreet Singh were apprehended. 4 country made 32 bore pistols along with 9 magazines are alleged to have been recovered from them, for which, no license or permit was produced.



4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that even after the withdrawal of the third petition, no witness has been examined. He submits that the petitioner is in custody for almost one year now, he having been arrested on 27.09.2025. Learned counsel submits that co-accused Gurpreet Singh was released on regular bail by the Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Ludhiana on 28.11.2025. Learned counsel submits that trial will take a sufficiently long time, therefore, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner in custody any longer.

5. *Per contra*, learned State counsel has opposed the bail application, stating that the petitioner is a habitual offender and 8 more cases stand registered against him out of which 2 are under the IPC and the Arms Act and remaining are under the NDPS Act and Prisons Act. He submits that if the petitioner is released on bail, he may abscond.

6. I have considered the submissions made by learned counsel for the parties.

7. The petitioner is in custody for the almost 1 year now, he having been arrested on 27.09.2025. Co-accused Gurpreet Singh, who had also been arrested along with the petitioner, was bailed out by the Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Ludhiana vide order dated 28.11.2025. The trial is still at the initial stage since out of 10 witnesses, only 2 have been partly examined. After the withdrawal of the third petition on 10.04.2026, no witness is stated to have been examined. This in itself would be a circumstance for the petitioner to file and maintain the present petition for the grant of regular bail. No doubt, he is involved in other cases but keeping in view his custody of 1 year, the said cases do not dissuade this Court from granting regular bail to the petitioner. Since the trial will take a sufficiently long time, in the considered



opinion of this Court, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner in custody any longer.

8. In view of the aforementioned facts and circumstances, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate.

9. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

(VIKRAM AGGARWAL)
JUDGE

September 09, 2026

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Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No