

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

CRM-M-24644-2020 (O&M)

Date of decision: 27.08.2020

Gurdeep Singh

... Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA.

Present:- Mr. L.S. Mann, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. A.S. Sandhu, Additional Advocate General, Punjab.

....

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA, J.(ORAL).

Matter has been taken up through Video Conferencing via Webex facility in the light of the Pandemic Covid-19 situation and as per instructions.

Petitioner seeks concession of pre-arrest bail in case FIR No.78, dated 02.08.2020, under Sections 6/1/14 of the Excise Act, 1914, registered at Police Station Ladhawal, District Ludhiana.

Counsel argues that almost eight FIRs have been lodged at Police Station Ladhawal, District Ludhiana on the same very allegations. It is further argued that it is a case of false implication and the FIR has been registered only on the basis of secret information. Yet another submission put forth by counsel is that the petitioner is not involved in any other FIR under the Excise Act.

Having heard counsel at length and upon perusing the pleadings on record, this Court is of the considered view that the prayer in the instant petition cannot be accepted.

As per prosecution version, based on secret information, raid was conducted and a recovery of 50,000 litres lahan and 45 litres illicit liquor was effected. Name of the present petitioner figured along with other co-accused in the secret information itself.

Mr. A.S. Sandhu, learned Additional Advocate General, Punjab upon instructions from ASI Dalbir Singh has informed the Court that the petitioner was involved in one more FIR i.e. FIR No.122, dated 07.04.2001, under Section 61 of the Excise Act, registered at Police Station Sadar Ludhiana.

This Court cannot proceed oblivious of the fact that in the recent past, more than 120 lives have been lost in the State of Punjab on account of consumption of illicit liquor. These are matters would require a thorough and deep probe and which may well entail custodial interrogation of the petitioner herein.

Petitioner otherwise also does not possess clean antecedents.

For the reasons recorded above, prayer made in the instant petition seeking concession of pre-arrest bail is declined.

Petition is dismissed.

27.08.2020

harjeet

**(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE**

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