

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

201

**CRM-M-23481-2021
Decided on : 25.06.2021**

Ranjit Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.S. SANDHAWALIA

Present: Mr. Joginder Pal Devgan, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Joginder Pal Ratra, DAG, Punjab.

(The proceedings are being conducted through video conferencing, as per instructions.)

G.S. Sandhawal, J. (Oral)

The petitioner in the present petition filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C., seeks concession of anticipatory bail in FIR No.124 dated 14.10.2020 under Sections 61, 1, 14 of Excise Act, 1914 and Section 24 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974, registered at Police Station Chohla Sahib, District Tarn Taran. (Annexure P-1).

A perusal of the FIR would go on to show that the petitioner has been named alongwith other co-accused who have indulged in the business of illicit liquor on a large scale in the boats in the river area. The waste Lahan has been thrown in the river, causing damage to the river.

The order dated 16.04.2021 (Annexure P-2) whereby the anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the Additional Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran would go on to show that 1,10,000 liters of lahan, 10 drums, 25 tarpaulin sheets and other utensils used to distill illicit liquor were recovered.

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It is apparent that on a commercial scale, the distilling of illicit liquor had been done and, therefore, custodial interrogation is required in such cases to find out the number of persons involved and kingpin as such behind the same. The same would not be possible if the petitioner is armed with an order of interim protection by this Court. The trade of illicit liquor has led to a large scale deaths in the rural areas of Punjab.

Mr. Ratra, has pointed out that other co-accused namely Kulbir Singh, Kaptan Singh and Kuldeep Singh have been released on regular bail and, therefore, the petitioner cannot as such claim any extra-ordinary benefit of anticipatory bail.

Resultantly, no case is made out for grant of anticipatory bail and the same is dismissed.

June 25, 2021
Naveen

(G.S. SANDHAWALIA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether Reportable:

Yes/No