

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

103

2026.PHHC.028111



CRM-M-55820-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 23.02.2026.

SUKHCHAIN SINGH @ CHANNA

...Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent(s)

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present :- Mr. Gurjinder Singh, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Saurav Verma, Addl. A.G. Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for grant of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner in case bearing FIR No.0095 dated 23.08.2025, under Section(s) 61/1/14 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, registered at Police Station Bhindi Saidan, Police District Amritsar Rural, District Amritsar.

2 As per the case set up by the prosecution, the police on receipt of a secret information regarding the petitioner indulging in distilling illicit

liquor, conducted a raid at his house and a recovery of 360 kgs of lahan was made. The petitioner made good his escape and hence, filed the present petition for grant of anticipatory bail.

3 Counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. He contends that the compliance of Section 100 Cr.P.C. before carrying out a raid has not been made, hence, the seizure and recovery from the house is illegal and as such, benefit ought to be extended to the petitioner. He further contends that the petitioner is a labourer and in the event he is sent behind bars, the same would seriously impede the life and livelihood of the members of his family.

4 State counsel, on the other hand, contends that 360 kgs of lahan was recovered from the house of the petitioner contained in two drums of 180 kgs. each which was taken into possession by the police vide recovery memo dated 23.08.2025. He further submits that the petitioner is involved in 08 other similar cases under Section 61 of the Excise Act, 1914. The details thereof is extracted as under: -

“i.) FIR No. 31 dated 09.04.2017 under section 61 Excise Act, PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

ii.) FIR No. 102 dated 31.10.2017 under section 61 Excise Act, PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

iii.) FIR No. 02 dated 06.01.2018 under section 61 Excise Act, PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

iv.) FIR No. 42 dated 07.05.2018 under section 61 Excise Act, PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

v.) FIR No. 41 dated 31.05.2021 under section 61 Excise Act, PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

vi.) FIR No. 09 dated 26.01.2022 under section 61 Excise Act,

PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

vii.) FIR No. 140 dated 01.12.2022 under section 61 Excise Act,

PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural);

viii.) FIR No. 148 dated 22.10.2020 under section 61 Excise Act,

PS Bhindi Saidan, Amritsar (Rural).”

5 Having heard the counsel for the parties and taking into consideration the criminal antecedents of the petitioner, his regular involvement in similar offences and the fact that the contraband has been recovered from the house of the petitioner, the contention of the petitioner being falsely implicated does not prima facie inspire confidence. The present petition is accordingly dismissed at this stage.

February 23, 2026.
raj arora

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No