

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

2026:PHHC:045175



(117)

CRM-M-58635-2025

Date of Decision: 23.03.2026

Harwinder Singh Grewal

--Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

--Respondent

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

Present:- Mr. M.S. Dhaliwal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Mohit Kapoor, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ.J (Oral)

The instant first petition is for seeking concession of regular bail in case bearing FIR No.178 dated 30.08.2025 under Sections 341(1), 341(2), 318(4) of BNS and Sections 61, 78(2) of the Punjab Excise Act, registered at Police Station Baghapurana, District Moga.

2. The translated version of the FIR in question is extracted as under:-

"To the Station House Officer, Police Station Bagha Purana, Jai Hind, Today, I, ASI Gurjit Singh along with ASI Lovejit Singh Number: 765/Moga, SC Gurjit Singh Number 385/Moga, SC Jaskaran Singh Number 65/Moga, PHG Ranjit Singh 21745, PHG Gurdit Singh Number 11354, were aboard government Bolero vehicle number PB-65-BE-7442 (which already contains a printer and laptop, and is being driven by SC Jaskaran Singh Number 65/Moga) for a patrol in search of suspicious persons. We were on route from CIA Staff Moga Camp at Mehena to Police Station Bagha Purana and other areas. When the police party was patrolling and present at Main chowk Bagha Purana, special informer

came and privately informed me, ASI, that Harwinder Singh son of Baljeet Singh, resident of Nathoke, District Moga, is involved in the business of bringing contract liquor from other districts of Punjab, removing the hologram affixed by the Punjab Government on the bottles, and selling the liquor in Moga district. The informer stated that today as well, the said Harwinder Singh, using a white DUSTER car with a fake license plate number DL-11-FC-7849, has loaded a large quantity of liquor brought from another district of Punjab from whose bottles the hologram has been removed, and is currently standing at the Canal Bridge, Main Road Bagha Purana-Nihal Singh Wala, near Village Nathoke, waiting for someone to supply it further. If a raid is conducted immediately, the said Harwinder Singh can be apprehended with the liquor. Since the information is concrete and reliable, the act of the said Harwinder Singh removing the hologram placed by the Punjab Government on liquor bottles, selling the liquor in another district, committing fraud and using fake number plates on the car constitutes an offense under sections 341 (1) (2), 318 (4), BNS 2023, 61/1/14, 78 (2) Ex Act. Therefore, this report is written against Harwinder Singh son of Baljeet Singh, resident of Nathoke, District Moga, under the aforementioned sections, and is being sent to Police Station Bagha Purana through PHG Ranjit Singh 21745 for the purpose of registering a case. Please register the case and inform us of the case number. The senior officers and PCR Moga should be informed. I, ASI, along with my fellow employees, are proceeding on the road towards the location specified by the informer. Sd/- Gurjit Singh ASI CIA Staff Moga.”

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner was apprehended on 30.08.2025 and 60 cases, each containing 12 bottles of country made liquor, were recovered. He contends that the petitioner has undergone an actual custody of nearly 07 months. He contends that the investigation is complete and charges have been framed. He further

contends that as per the allegations, petitioner used to purchase liquor from different States and then remove the holograms so as to sell the same. It is contended that the conclusion of trial shall take a long time.

4. Counsel for the respondent-State has not disputed the facts noticed as above.

5. I have heard learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respective parties.

6. In view of the facts noticed above and taking into consideration, the nature of the allegations, the period of custody already undergone by the petitioner, the stage of trial and that the conclusion of the trial is likely to take a long time, I deem it appropriate to allow the instant petition.

7. Accordingly, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bail bond/surety bond to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

8. It is made clear that the petitioner shall not extend any threat and shall not influence any prosecution witnesses in any manner directly or indirectly.

9. The observation made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression on the merits of the case and the Trial Court shall decide the case on the basis of available material.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

23.03.2026

lucky

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
Whether Reportable: Yes/No