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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **CRL.M.C. 6622/2025 & CRL.M.A. 27857/2025**

KAPTAN SINGH SEHRAWATPetitioner

Through: Mr. Narender Kumar
Verma, Mr. Shivendra
Singh & Ms. Prakriti
Rastogi, Advs.

versus

**STATE NCT OF DELHI
& ORS.**

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Raj Kumar, APP for
the State
SI Annu, PS- Neb Sarai
Mr. Jitendra Kumar Singh
Adv. for R2 & R3
(through VC)
R2 & R3 in person

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT MAHAJAN

ORDER

% **29.10.2025**

1. The present petition is filed seeking quashing of FIR No. 224/2019 dated 30.06.2019, registered at Police Station Neb Sarai, for offence under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ('**IPC**') and Section 10 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 ('**POCSO Act**'). Chargesheet has already been filed in the present case.
2. Briefly stated, Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 are the daughters of the petitioner. It is alleged that on 30.06.2019, when Respondent No. 2 went to call the petitioner from his room the petitioner touched her inappropriately. It is further alleged that when Respondent No.3, was sleeping with him and her mother, the petitioner touched her inappropriately and also tried to kiss her.
3. The present petition is filed on the ground that the matter



has amicably been settled between the parties by way of a Compromise Agreement dated 26.07.2025, out of their own free will, without any undue influence or duress.

4. The victims are present in person and have been duly identified by the Investigating Officer.

5. The victims, on being asked, state that the complaint was made on the instigation of their mother. They state that no such incident had ever happened and the statement today is given in Court without any threat, influence or pressure. They further state that they have since realised their mistake and have no objection if all the proceedings arising out of the present FIR are quashed.

6. Offences under Section 354 of the IPC and Section 10 of the POCSO Act are non-compoundable.

7. It is well settled that the High Court while exercising its powers under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ('BNSS') (erstwhile Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973) can compound offences which are non-compoundable on the ground that there is a compromise between the accused and the complainant. The Hon'ble Apex Court has laid down parameters and guidelines for High Court while accepting settlement and quashing the proceedings.

8. In **Narinder Singh & Ors. v. State of Punjab & Anr. : (2014) 6 SCC 466**, the Hon'ble Apex Court has observed as under :-

"29. In view of the aforesaid discussion, we sum up and lay down the following principles by which the High Court would be guided in giving adequate treatment to the settlement between the parties and exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code while accepting the settlement and quashing the



proceedings or refusing to accept the settlement with direction to continue with the criminal proceedings:

29.1. Power conferred under Section 482 of the Code is to be distinguished from the power which lies in the Court to compound the offences under Section 320 of the Code. No doubt, under Section 482 of the Code, the High Court has inherent power to quash the criminal proceedings even in those cases which are not compoundable, where the parties have settled the matter between themselves. However, this power is to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

29.2. When the parties have reached the settlement and on that basis petition for quashing the criminal proceedings is filed, the guiding factor in such cases would be to secure:

- (i) ends of justice, or**
- (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court.**

While exercising the power the High Court is to form an opinion on either of the aforesaid two objectives.

29.3. Such a power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involve heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, for the offences alleged to have been committed under special statute like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity are not to be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the victim and the offender.

29.4. On the other hand, those criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominantly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes should be quashed when the parties have resolved their entire disputes among themselves.

29.5. While exercising its powers, the High Court is to examine as to whether the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal cases would put the accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal cases.”



(emphasis supplied)

9. Similarly, in ***Parbatbhai Aahir & Ors v. State of Gujarat & Anr. : (2017) 9 SCC 641***, the Hon'ble Apex Court has observed as under :-

“16. The broad principles which emerge from the precedents on the subject, may be summarised in the following propositions:

16.1. Section 482 preserves the inherent powers of the High Court to prevent an abuse of the process of any court or to secure the ends of justice. The provision does not confer new powers. It only recognises and preserves powers which inhere in the High Court.

16.2. The invocation of the jurisdiction of the High Court to quash a first information report or a criminal proceeding on the ground that a settlement has been arrived at between the offender and the victim is not the same as the invocation of jurisdiction for the purpose of compounding an offence. While compounding an offence, the power of the court is governed by the provisions of Section 320 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The power to quash under Section 482 is attracted even if the offence is non-compoundable.

16.3. In forming an opinion whether a criminal proceeding or complaint should be quashed in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482, the High Court must evaluate whether the ends of justice would justify the exercise of the inherent power.

16.4. While the inherent power of the High Court has a wide ambit and plenitude it has to be exercised (i) to secure the ends of justice, or (ii) to prevent an abuse of the process of any court.

16.5. The decision as to whether a complaint or first information report should be quashed on the ground that the offender and victim have settled the dispute, revolves ultimately on the facts and circumstances of each case and no exhaustive elaboration of principles can be formulated.

16.6. In the exercise of the power under Section 482 and while dealing with a plea that the dispute has been settled, the High Court must have due regard to



the nature and gravity of the offence. Heinous and serious offences involving mental depravity or offences such as murder, rape and dacoity cannot appropriately be quashed though the victim or the family of the victim have settled the dispute. Such offences are, truly speaking, not private in nature but have a serious impact upon society. The decision to continue with the trial in such cases is founded on the overriding element of public interest in punishing persons for serious offences.

16.7. As distinguished from serious offences, there may be criminal cases which have an overwhelming or predominant element of a civil dispute. They stand on a distinct footing insofar as the exercise of the inherent power to quash is concerned.

16.8. Criminal cases involving offences which arise from commercial, financial, mercantile, partnership or similar transactions with an essentially civil flavour may in appropriate situations fall for quashing where parties have settled the dispute.

16.9. In such a case, the High Court may quash the criminal proceeding if in view of the compromise between the disputants, the possibility of a conviction is remote and the continuation of a criminal proceeding would cause oppression and prejudice; and

16.10. There is yet an exception to the principle set out in propositions 16.8. and 16.9. above. Economic offences involving the financial and economic well-being of the State have implications which lie beyond the domain of a mere dispute between private disputants. The High Court would be justified in declining to quash where the offender is involved in an activity akin to a financial or economic fraud or misdemeanour. The consequences of the act complained of upon the financial or economic system will weigh in the balance.”

(emphasis supplied)

10. The Hon'ble Apex Court, in **Kapil Gupta: 2022 SCC Online SC 1030**, while quashing an FIR under Section 376 of the IPC, had observed as under:

“12. It can thus be seen that this Court has clearly held that though the Court should be



*slow in quashing the proceedings wherein heinous and serious offences are involved, the High Court is not foreclosed from examining as to whether there exists material for incorporation of such an offence or as to whether there is sufficient evidence which if proved would lead to proving the charge for the offence charged with. **The Court has also to take into consideration as to whether the settlement between the parties is going to result into harmony between them which may improve their mutual relationship.***

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*15. In both the cases, though the charge-sheets have been filed, the charges are yet to be framed and as such, the trial has not yet commenced. **It is further to be noted that since Respondent 2 herself is not supporting the prosecution case, even if the criminal trial is permitted to go ahead, it will end in nothing else than an acquittal. If the request of the parties is denied, it will be amounting to only adding one more criminal case to the already overburdened criminal courts.***

(emphasis supplied)

11. Undisputedly, the offence under Section 10 of the POCSO Act is heinous in nature and involves mental depravity. Offences of such nature cannot be quashed merely because the victim has settled the dispute. Such offences, in true sense, cannot be said to be offences in personam as the same are crimes against the society.

12. In the present case, as noted above, Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 categorically stated before this Court that their mother pressurised them into giving the present complaint. They further stated no incident of such nature had ever happened and the complaint was given solely on being instigated by their mother.

13. Even though the FIR was registered way back in the year 2019 and the chargesheet has already been filed, but keeping in



view the facts of the case this Court feels that no useful purpose will be served by keeping the dispute alive and continuance of the proceedings would amount to abuse of the process of Court. Even otherwise, when the victims have categorically denied the incident, the conviction of the petitioner is unlikely in the absence of any other evidence. This Court has interacted with the victims and is satisfied with their voluntary statement.

14. The parties have a long life ahead, thus, a humanitarian approach is required to be taken in such peculiar facts. I am of the considered opinion that this is a fit case to exercise extraordinary discretionary jurisdiction under Section 528 of BNSS.

15. In view of the above, FIR No. 224/2019 and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom are quashed.

16. The present petition is allowed in the aforesaid terms.

17. Pending application(s) also stand disposed of.

AMIT MAHAJAN, J

OCTOBER 29, 2025

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