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

+ CRL.M.C. 8209/2025, CRL.M.A. 34270/2025

NITIN KUMAR SINGH ALIAS NITIN AND ORS.Petitioners

Through: Ms. Vinita Singh and Mr. Faraz
Khan, Advocates along with all
Petitioners.

versus

STATE (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI) AND ANRRespondents

Through: Mr. Satinder Singh Bawa, APP for
State with SI K.P. Singh, PS-New
Ashok Nagar.
Mr. Himanshu Sharna Advocate for
R-2 with R-2 in person.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJEEV NARULA

ORDER

% **19.11.2025**

1. This petition filed under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023¹ (corresponding to Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973²) seeks quashing of FIR No. 85/2022 dated 16th January, 2022, registered under Sections 498A/406/34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860³ at P.S. New Ashok Nagar, and all other proceedings emanating therefrom.

2. Petitioner No. 1 is the husband and Petitioners No. 2 to 10 are the in-laws of Respondent No. 2. The marriage between Petitioner No. 1 and

¹ "BNSS"

² "Cr.P.C."

³ "IPC"



Respondent No. 2 was solemnized on 11th December, 2020, as per Hindu rites and ceremonies. Parties have no child from the said marriage. Due to matrimonial discord and temperamental differences, the relationship between the parties deteriorated and parties have been living separately since 19th February, 2021. Several efforts for reconciliation were made but to no avail.

3. Subsequently, Respondent No. 2 lodged a complaint against Petitioners, alleging that she was subjected to cruelty, which later culminated into the impugned FIR.

4. The parties of their own free will, without any coercion, pressure or undue influence have amicably resolved all their disputes and differences before the Mediation Centre, Karkardooma Courts and Petitioner No. 1 and Respondent No. 2 have executed a Settlement Deed dated 20th August, 2024, whereby Petitioner No. 1 agreed to pay a total sum of INR 70,000/- to Respondent No. 2. As per the terms of the settlement, Respondent No. 2 has agreed to withdraw all proceedings pending before various Courts. Pursuant to the settlement, Petitioner No. 1 and Respondent No.2 have obtained a decree of divorce by mutual consent through order dated 12th March, 2025 passed by the Principal Judge, Family Court, District East, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.

5. Respondent No. 2, who appears before the Court in person and is duly identified by the Investigating Officer, confirms the settlement and gives her no objection to the quashing of the impugned FIR. She confirms that in terms of the Settlement Agreement, she has received a sum of INR 70,000/- The same has been duly received and acknowledged by Respondent no. 2. In light of the foregoing, counsel for the parties jointly pray for the quashing of



the impugned FIR.

6. Mr. Satinder Singh Bawa, APP for the State, points out that the FIR contains allegations under Section 376 IPC against the brother-in-law. The Court has interacted with the complainant in open Court. She clarifies that the allegations relating to Section 376 IPC are incorrect and were made under mistaken legal advice. She states that the misunderstanding has since been resolved, she regrets having levelled those allegations, and wishes to close the proceedings.

7. The Court has considered the afore-noted facts. Notably, the offences under Section 498A and 376 of IPC are non-compoundable, while the offence under Section 406 of IPC is compoundable in certain cases.

8. It is well-established that the High Courts, in exercise of their powers under Section 528 of BNSS (corresponding to Section 482 of CrPC), can compound offences which are non-compoundable on the ground that there is a compromise between the accused and the complainant. In **Narinder Singh & Ors. v. State of Punjab & Anr.**,⁴ the Supreme Court laid down guidelines for High Courts while accepting settlement deeds between parties and quashing the proceedings. The relevant observations in the said decision read 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

⁴ (2014) 6 SCC 466



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 the case of ***Parbatbhai Aahir & Ors. v. State of Gujarat & Anr.***,⁵ the Supreme Court had 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

⁵ (2017) 9 SCC 641



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. Although the offence under Section 376 of the IPC cannot be treated as strictly ‘*in personam*’, and it touches upon public concerns rather than being confined to individual grievances, the Court must also account for the practical realities of securing a conviction in the present case. The Supreme has consistently held that in cases where the complainant has entered into a voluntary and bona fide settlement, and is no longer inclined to support the prosecution, the prospect of securing a conviction becomes exceedingly remote. In such circumstances, continuing the prosecution may not only prove futile, but would also serve no worthwhile public interest.

11. The Complainant has categorically stated that the allegations of sexual assault in the FIR were incorrect and were made under mistaken legal advice. She has further confirmed her unwillingness to pursue the matter and has affirmed that the settlement between the parties is voluntary and free from coercion. In this backdrop, the continuation of criminal proceedings would serve no useful purpose and would only result in an unnecessary burden on the justice system. Having regard to the overall circumstances,



and in light of the principles settled by the Supreme Court, this Court is of the view that the present case is a fit one for exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. as no purpose would be served by keeping the dispute alive and continuance of the proceedings would amount to abuse of the process of Court.

12. In view of the above, the impugned FIR No. 85/2022 registered at P.S. New Ashok Nagar and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom are hereby quashed.

13. The parties shall abide by the terms of settlement.

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

SANJEEV NARULA, J

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

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