

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL MISCELLANEOUS No.87521 of 2025

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-78 Year-2024 Thana- AGRER District- Rohtas

Anuj Kumar Chauhan, Male, Aged about 33 years, Son of Ram Prakash Ray @ Ram Pravesh Ray, resident of Village - Gotapa, P.S. - Agrer, Distt. - Rohtas.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar
2. Nidhi Singh Wife of Anuj Kumar Chauhan R/o Village - Madan Semaria,
P.S. - Kochas, Distt. - Rohtas.

... .. Opposite Party/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Vikram Singh, Advocate
For the Opposite Party/s : Mr. Anil Kumar Singh No. 1, A.P.P.

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PURNENDU SINGH
ORAL ORDER

2 28-01-2026 Heard Mr. Vikram Singh, learned counsel
appearing on behalf of the petitioner and Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
No. 1, learned APP appearing on behalf of the State.

2. The petitioner seeks pre-arrest bail in connection with Agrer P.S. Case No. 78 of 2024 registered for the offence(s) punishable under Sections 126(2), 115(2), 85, 351(2), 352, 3(5) of the BNS and Sections 3/4 of the D.P. Act.

3. As per the allegation made in the FIR, the marriage of the informant/O.P. No. 2 was solemnized to the petitioner on 03.06.2023. After few days of marriage, the informant (O.P. No. 2) came to know that her husband is having illicit relationship with another woman and when she had protested the same, the



petitioner and his other family members had started torturing the informant physically and mentally and had also taken her jewellery and other ornaments. A Panchayati took place on 01.07.2024, in which, the petitioners' side had assaulted the brother of the informant.

4. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submitted that considering the nature of allegation alleged against the petitioner, who is husband of the O.P. No. 2, an attempt was made to settle their matrimonial dispute outside the Court by way of mediation, however, the mediation was failed because the O.P. No. 2 didn't attend the proceeding of mediation leading to filing of the present application for grant of pre-arrest bail after refusal by the learned District Court. Learned counsel further submitted that marriage is a sacred ceremony but little matrimonial skirmish suddenly erupts into hatred and the parties ponder to reconcile their dispute outside the court.

5. Learned APP appearing on behalf of the State submitted that one more chance be given to the parties for amicable settlement outside the court.

6. However, at this stage, the petitioner's counsel, on instruction, submitted that the petitioner has agreed to appear



before the learned District Court at 10:30 A.M. on 17.02.2026 for resolving the dispute by way of mediation.

7. Heard the parties.

8. The matrimonial dispute is not an offense against the society rather a matrimonial dispute is a private conflict between spouses and does not inherently constitute an offence against society. However, a false case can have a disastrous consequence in absence of any criminal content. The personal dispute cannot call for a criminal offence. In such situation, continuation of the proceeding would amount to abuse of process of law leading to vexatious proceeding against the petitioner.

9. In this regard, the Apex Court in the case of **B.S. Joshi v. State of Haryana**, reported in, **(2003) 4 SCC 675**, in paragraph nos. 12 and 13 has held as under:-

“12. The special features in such matrimonial matters are evident. It becomes the duty of the court to encourage genuine settlements of matrimonial disputes.

13. The observations made by this Court, though in a slightly different context, in G.V. Rao v. L.H.V. Prasad [(2000) 3 SCC 693 : 2000 SCC (Cri) 733] are very apt for determining the approach required to be kept in view in a matrimonial dispute by the courts. It was said that there has been an outburst of matrimonial disputes in recent times. Marriage is a sacred ceremony, the main purpose of which is to enable the young couple to settle down in life and live peacefully. But little matrimonial skirmishes suddenly erupt which often assume serious proportions resulting in commission of heinous crimes in which elders of the family are also involved with the result that those who could have counselled and brought about rapprochement are rendered helpless on their being arrayed as accused in the criminal case. There are many other reasons which need not be mentioned here



for not encouraging matrimonial litigation so that the parties may ponder over their defaults and terminate their disputes amicably by mutual agreement instead of fighting it out in a court of law where it takes years and years to conclude and in that process the parties lose their “young” days in chasing their “cases” in different courts.”

10. The petitioner has willingly desired to appear before the learned District Court on 17.02.2026, so that the matter can be referred to the District Mediation Centre.

11. Learned District Court is directed to take necessary steps to issue notices to the respective parties and upon their appearance, refer the matter before the learned Mediator of the District Mediation Center by fixing a date for appearance of the parties so as to give effect to Mediation 2.0.

12. Learned Mediator of the District Mediation Center concerned upon appearance of the parties on the fixed date shall make his/her best efforts to settle the dispute amicably and thereafter submit his/her report before the concerned learned District Court, well within a period of three months, till then, no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioner in connection with the aforesaid case.

13. In case, the parties resolve their dispute amicably or arrive at a mutual settlement, in light of the law laid down by the Apex Court, the petitioner is required to be released on pre-arrest bail on such terms and conditions as the learned District



Court deems it fit and proper.

14. In case of failure on the part of the petitioner to appear on 17.02.2026 before the learned District Court or any date fixed by the learned Mediator, the interim protection granted to the petitioner shall automatically lose its force.

15. In case, it is deliberate on the part of the opposite party no.2 to reconcile, then in that case, the interim protection granted to the petitioner shall continue and the trial shall proceed in accordance with law.

16. In case, the parties fail to reconcile, then in that case, parties may avail appropriate remedy. Then also, petitioner is directed to be released on pre-arrest bail on such terms and conditions as the learned District Court deems it fit and proper.

17. With aforesaid direction and observation, the present application stands disposed of.

(Purnendu Singh, J)

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