CGHC010358062026 2026:CGHC:45300

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 8546 of 2026

1 - Shishuma Kaushik W/o Ghanshyam, Aged About 41 Years R/o Sendhwar Para Bhanpuri, Police Station - Khamtarai, District - Raipur, Chhattisgarh. (Wrongly Mentioned As Sushama Kaushik In The Order Of The Court Below)

2 - Surekha Rangari W/o Arvind Rangari, Aged About 46 Years R/o New Anand Nagar Bhanpuri. Police Station - Khamtarai, District - Raipur, Chhattisgarh. (Wrongly Mentioned As Surekha Rangare, Name Of The Husband Also Wrongly Mentioned As Arun Rangare)

3 - Laxmi Nishad @ Neelam Nishad W/o Lekhram Nishad, Aged About 32 Years R/o Sindhwar Talab Bhanpuri, P.S. Khamtarai, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh (Correct Name Mentioned). **... Applicants**

versus

State Of Chhattisgarh Through Police Station - Khamtarai District - Raipur (C.G.). **... Non-Applicant**

For Applicants	**:**	Mr. Kishore Narayan, Advocate
For Non-Applicant	**:**	Mrs. Smriti Shrivastava, Panel Lawyer

Hon'ble Shri Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey

Order on Board

27/10/2026

1. This is the first bail application filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail to the applicants, who have been arrested in connection with Crime No. 872/2026 registered at Police Station Khamtarai, District Raipur (C.G.) for offences punishable under Sections 299, 302, and 3(5) of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) and Section 16(1) of the Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Act.

2. As per the case of the prosecution, on 22.08.2026, complainant Narendra Kumar Verma lodged a report alleging that the applicants, who were his neighbours frequently visited his mobile shop, disparaged Hindu deities, and induced/lured him to convert to Christianity with assurances of curing ailments and divine relief. It was further alleged that on 21.08.2026 at about 02:30 p.m., the complainant went near the residence of applicant Sushma Kaushik, where the applicants along with 20–25 women were assembled for prayers and allegedly made derogatory remarks against Hindu deities to persuade him to convert. On the basis of said allegations, the aforesaid crime was registered and the applicants were arrested on 22.08.2026.

3. Learned counsel for the applicants submits that the applicants are women, they are innocent, and have falsely been implicated in the crime without any justifiable basis. It is submitted that the applicants were merely participating in peaceful prayers and religious discussions inside a private residence. It is further submitted that the applicants have no previous criminal antecedents, the investigation is complete, the charge-sheet has already been filed, the applicants have been languishing in jail since 22.08.2026, and trial is likely to take some time, therefore, the applicants may be enlarged on bail.

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the bail application and submitted that the applicants deliberately and maliciously insulted religious beliefs and induced members of the public to convert into another religion; thus, looking to the seriousness of the offence, they may not be enlarged on bail. However, learned State counsel does not dispute the fact that the charge-sheet has already been filed and that the applicants have no criminal antecedents.

5. I have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the case diary as well as the charge-sheet.

6. Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature of allegations, the fact that the applicants are women, investigation is complete and charge-sheet has already been filed, there are no criminal antecedents reported against the applicants, and they have been in custody since 22.08.2026, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this Court is inclined to release the applicants on regular bail. Accordingly, the application filed under Section 483 of BNSS is **allowed**.

7. It is directed that in the event of the applicants executing their personal bond for a sum of Rs.50,000/- each with one surety in the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court, they shall be released on bail on the following conditions:-

> **(i)** they shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such fact to the Court;
>
> **(ii)** they shall not act in any manner which will be prejudicial to fair and expeditious trial, &
>
> (iii) they shall appear before the trial Court on each and every date given to them by the said Court till disposal of the trial.

Sd/-

Rakesh Mohan Pandey

JUDGE

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