



CRM-M-9868-2026 (O&M)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-9868-2026 (O&M)
Reserved on: 25.02.2026
Pronounced on: 05.03.2026
Uploaded on: 05.03.2026

ASHOK

PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL

Argued by: Mr. Loveleen Nanda, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, AAG Punjab.

Mr. Sahil Parmar, Advocate
for the complainant.

Shalini Singh Nagpal, J.

1. Petitioner seeks regular bail in FIR No.232 dated 25.10.2024 under Sections 108 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (B.N.S.), 2023, Police Station Balongi, District SAS Nagar. This is the first petition for regular bail.
2. Complainant Arvind stated that 12 years ago, his sister Preeti was married with Ashok s/o Shiv Dayala. She had two boys aged 08 years and 05 years out of the said wedlock. On 21.10.2024 at 01:45 P.M., his sister-in-law, Rajni received a phone call from the mobile phone of Preeti who told her to look after her children. When Rajni called Preeti, she did not take the call. At about 02:00 P.M., Rajni again received call from her mobile phone and the caller informed that Preeti was found hanging from the ceiling fan. He stated that his brother-in-law Ashok had been harassing his sister and was always quarrelling with her. He used to beat up Preeti under the influence of liquor and always demanded dowry from her. In this regard, his sister filed



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application in January, 2024 against her husband in Women Police Station SAS Nagar, but the matter was compromised. She was sent back with Ashok, but Ashok started harassing her even more. His sister told them about it and also said that she would commit suicide on account of harassment and would leave her children with them.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner was behind bars for the last more than 05 months. There was a delay of 05 days in registration of FIR. Initially, Rahul s/o Lekh Raj, brother of the deceased lodged DDR No. 28 dated 21.10.2024, stating that Preeti committed suicide by hanging herself with ceiling fan out of depression and that neither he nor his family members wanted to take any action. It was further submitted that there was no suicide note left behind by the deceased and petitioner, who was quite innocent, deserved to be enlarged on regular bail.

4. Learned State counsel assisted by learned counsel for the complainant has opposed the prayer for regular bail submitting that audio recording of conversation between the deceased and petitioner one day before the occurrence, was handed over to the police indicating that they had quarreled on 20.10.2024. Complaint was also made by deceased to Principal of the school of her children regarding physical assault by the petitioner. It was argued that petitioner was habitual of thrashing the deceased and his children. Petitioner's prayer for anticipatory bail had been declined by this Court and considering the grave nature of allegations, he did not deserve to be enlarged on bail.

5. Petitioner is behind bars for the last more than 05 months. As per first version of the incident recorded on statement of brother of deceased, she ended her life by suicide on account of depression. Whether the quarrels between the deceased and petitioner prior to the occurrence would amount to



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abetment or instigation of her suicide within the meaning of Section 306 would be moot point during the Trial, which would take long to conclude. Petitioner has a permanent abode and there is no reason to suspect that he would evade the process of law. In the facts and circumstances of the case but without commenting on merits, the petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to his furnishing adequate bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

6. Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

05.03.2026
HS.CHAUHAN

Whether Speaking/Reasoned :	Yes/No
Whether Reportable :	Yes/No