



CRM-M-12796-2026 (O&M)

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**IN THE PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT AT
CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-12796-2026 (O&M)

Reserved on: 13.03.2026

Pronounced on: 16.03.2026

Uploaded on: 16.03.2026

KHUSHI RAM

...Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL

Present: Mr. Rajesh Nain, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kshitij Bharti, Assistant Advocate General, Haryana.

SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Petitioner seeks regular bail in FIR No.120 dated 26.05.2023 under Sections 302, 34 Indian Penal Code, Police Station Uchana, District Jind, Haryana. Section 302 IPC was deleted and Section 304-B IPC was added in the FIR during investigation. This is the first petition for regular bail.

2. Prosecution was initiated by Raj Kumar s/o Dana Ram who lodged a complaint stating that his niece Manju, aged 22 years was married with Rakesh s/o Chandi Ram, resident of Kharak Bura on 23.05.2021 as per Hindu rites and rituals. 20-25 days after the marriage, Manju was harassed by her in-laws for dowry. His niece visited them and used to share that her in-laws tortured her for dowry. On 2-3 occasions, they visited the house of the in-laws with *Panchayat* to prevail over them, yet Rakesh, Chandi Ram (father of Rakesh), Saroj (mother of Rakesh), Khushi Ram and Sushil (brothers of



Rakesh) paid no heed. Manju was four months pregnant and all of them used to harass her saying that the child was illegitimate. They also quarreled with Manju. His niece-Poonam telephonically informed them that day to reach Kharak Bura and they had gone to the house of Rakesh to prevail over them. He received another call from Poonam at about 04.00 P.M. informing that Manju had been strangled and killed by Rakesh, Chandi Ram (father of Rakesh), Saroj (mother of Rakesh), Khushi Ram and Sushil (brothers of Rakesh). He along with Gangadhar, Shishpal and other family members reached Civil Hospital Uchana, where they found Manju dead. Legal action was prayed.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner was brother-in-law of the deceased and allegations against him were vague and general in nature. No overt act was attributed to the petitioner and before the occurrence, no complaint was ever lodged either by the deceased or her family members before any competent authority. He further submits that co-accused of petitioner namely Chandi Ram and Sushil were allowed regular bail by this Court vide orders dated 27.10.2025 and 19.02.2026 respectively. Petitioner was in judicial custody in the case for the last more than 02 years and 09 months. It was further submitted that the marriage was simple and dowry-less. No date, time or other details were given in the FIR regarding the alleged demand of dowry and acts of harassment. Petitioner had been dragged in the criminal case only to harass him and had nothing to do with the offence. Investigation of the case was complete, challan had already been filed and trial would take time to conclude. Therefore, considering his clean antecedents and on the ground of parity, petitioner deserved to be enlarged on regular bail.



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4. Learned State counsel has opposed the prayer for regular bail. He submits that out of 17 witnesses, 13 witnesses have been examined. He further submits that it was a case of dowry death within seven years of marriage and petitioner was joined as accused under Section 304-B, with the aid of Section 34 IPC. Considering the seriousness and gravity of allegations, he did not deserve to be enlarged on regular bail.

5. Antecedents of the petitioner, undisputedly, are clean. He is not stated to be involved in any other case. He is in custody since 30.05.2023 i.e. for the last 02 years and 09 months. Out of 17 witnesses, 13 witnesses have been examined. Examination of remaining witnesses may take some time. In the given facts and circumstances of the case and on the ground of parity but without expressing any opinion on merits, the petition is allowed. Petitioner-Khushi Ram 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 miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of.

MARCH 16, 2026

Ajay Goswami

**(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE***Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable**: Yes/No
: Yes/No*