

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

2026:PHHC:060476



212

CRM-M-14684-2026 (O&M)

Reserved on: 20.04.2026

Pronounced on:22.04.2026

Uploaded on:22.04.2026

Rahul Rai

..Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL

Present: Mr. Inderpreet Singh Kooner, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, DAG Punjab.

SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL, J.

Petitioner seeks regular bail in case vide FIR No.0229 dated 21.09.2025, under Section 108 of BNS 2023 (earlier Section 306 IPC, 1860), Police Station Model Town, District Hoshiarpur. This is the first petition for regular bail.

Ek Bahadur Thapa reported to the police that his daughter Sunita Thapa performed love marriage with Rahul Rai s/o Deepak Rai in June 2023. Thereafter, she was happily residing in the matrimonial home. Four months ago, she told his wife Asmita over the phone that her husband was not providing her maintenance and was harassing and beating her. On 20.09.2025 at about 09/10 a.m. his elder daughter Subina spoke with Sunita. She told Subina that Rahul Rai fought with her the night before, had given her beatings and requested them to come and take her along. Thereafter,

several times Subina spoke to Sunita on phone but she did not take the call. Thereafter Sunita called up Subina and told that her phone was taken away by her husband and her mother-in-law. Mother-in-law of his daughter Sunita called him and asked him to come to Civil Hospital, Hoshiarpur, on account of some emergency. He along with his wife was going to hospital when he received telephonic call of Sunita's mother-in-law to come to their house. On reaching the house, they learnt that Sunita had ended her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan. The dead body was kept in Mortuary of Civil Hospital, Hoshiarpur. It was claimed that Sunita put an end to her life by hanging being harassed by her husband and mother-in-law. Legal action was prayed for.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the mother-in-law had already been released on regular bail vide order of this Court dated 24.02.2026. Petitioner was in custody for the last more than seven months. He had been falsely implicated on baseless allegations. There was no suicide note left behind by the deceased nor any complaint prior in time regarding the alleged harassment. Challan had been presented and completion of trial would taken long, therefore, petitioner deserved to be enlarged on regular bail.

Learned State counsel has opposed the prayer for regular bail on the ground of serious natures of allegations and relationship of the petitioner with the deceased. It was urged that petitioner being the main accused could not claim parity with the mother-in-law, who was on bail. It was, however, conceded that investigation was complete and final report has been presented.

Petitioner is in custody for the last about seven months.

Whether the alleged harassment of the deceased by the petitioner would amount to instigation and abetment to suicide within the meaning of Section 306 IPC would be moot point during the trial. Investigation of the case is complete and trial is likely to take sometime to conclude. Truth of the allegations against the petitioner can be determined only on conclusion of trial. Petitioner has clean antecedents and is not stated to be involved in any other case. In the facts and circumstances of the case but without commenting on merits, 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.

All the pending miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

22.04.2026

reema

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes

Whether reportable : No