



CRM-M-69669-2025 (O&M)

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

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Reserved on: 10.02.2026

Pronounced on: 12.02.2026

Uploaded on: 12.02.2026

SHANKAR LAL**PETITIONER****VERSUS****STATE OF PUNJAB****RESPONDENT****CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL**

Argued by: Mr. Keshav Pratap Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kunwarbir Singh, AAG Punjab.

Mr. Vikas S. Chawra, Advocate
for the complainant.

Shalini Singh Nagpal, J.

1. Petitioner seeks regular bail in FIR No.96 dated 13.06.2025 under Sections 108, 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (B.N.S.), 2023, Police Station Sardulgarh, District Mansa. Section 3(5) BNS has been added in the FIR during investigation. This is his first petition for regular bail.

2. Mother of the deceased lodged the FIR on the averments that her husband, who was in the army, died on duty 20 years ago. Her daughter Priyanka solemnized love marriage with Suresh Kumar in the year 2013. Priyanka was living in the matrimonial home along with her husband, brother-in-law Dholu, Mother-in-law Saroj and Father-in-law Bhala Ram. She had a son aged 10 years. Her son-in-law Suresh Kumar was habitual of consuming alcohol and had been harassing and torturing Priyanka from the very beginning. His uncle Shankar Lal gave him money to purchase alcohol. After



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drinking, Suresh used to beat up and harass Priyanka, who narrated her woes to her on phone. Many a times, they convened panchayats in the village. The day before, on 12.06.2025 at about 06.00 PM, her daughter called on her mobile phone to inform that Suresh Kumar had gone missing and had not returned. The same evening, at about 8.00 PM, she again called to inform that Suresh Kumar harassed and humiliated her in drunk condition. On 13.06.2025, at about 3.00 AM in the morning, someone informed her that Priyanka was serious and was admitted in Sanjivini Hospital. They arranged vehicle and reached Sanjivini Hospital where the doctor informed that Priyanka had consumed poison. That day at about 10.00 AM, Priyanka died during treatment on account of harassment and humiliation by Suresh Kumar, who forced her to die and consume poison.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner was uncle-in-law of the deceased. In the first version of the complaint, allegations were levelled primarily against the husband, who was alleged to have been thrashing the deceased under the influence of liquor. Later on, supplementary statement of the complainant was recorded after 22 days wherein she changed her version to allege that petitioner had been giving money to her son-in-law to purchase liquor. It was argued that brother-in-law of deceased, Dholu Ram had already been allowed regular bail by this Court. Petitioner too was entitled to bail on the ground of parity. Moreover, parties had duly compromised the matter and resolved their dispute.

4. Learned State counsel submits that petitioner was later on involved in the case, on supplementary statement of the complainant, indicating that he had been giving liquor to the husband of the deceased.

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Considering the role attributed to the petitioner, he did not deserve to be released on bail. Custody certificate of the petitioner was placed on record.

5. Petitioner is uncle-in-law of deceased, who is in judicial custody in the case for the last 06 months 18 days. Attribution in the FIR is mainly against the husband. The only allegation against the petitioner is that he had been giving money to the husband of the deceased to consume liquor whereafter, he used to thrash the deceased and harass her. Antecedents of the petitioner are clean. He is not stated to be involved in any other case. Brother-in-law of deceased, Dholu Ram has since been allowed regular bail. Whether the allegations against the petitioner would amount to abetment to suicide of deceased would be moot point during the trial. There is no reason to suspect that petitioner would obstruct the process of law. In the facts and circumstances of the case, but without commenting on merits, the petition for regular bail 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 miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of.

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

(SHALINI SINGH NAGPAL)
JUDGE

12.02.2026
HS.CHAUHAN

Whether Speaking/Reasoned :
Whether Reportable :

Yes/No
Yes/No