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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **CRL.M.C. 1455/2026**

SH KAMALJEET AND ANR

.....Petitioners

Through: Ms. Anuradha Yadav, Advocate
with Petitioners in person

versus

THE STATE NCT OF DELHI AND ANR

.....Respondents

Through: Mr.Hitesh Vali, APP for State with
with SI Amit Rathee, P.S.Lahori
Gate
Mr. Sanjay Soni, Advocate with
Respondent No.2 in person

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRATEEK JALAN

ORDER

% **20.02.2026**

CRL.M.A. 5854/2026 (exemption)

Exemption allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

The application stands disposed of.

CRL.M.C. No. 1455/2026

1. The petitioners have filed this petition under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ["BNSS"] (corresponding to Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 ["CrPC"]) seeking quashing of FIR No. 51/2020 dated 28.02.2020, registered at Police Station Lahori Gate, District North, Delhi, under Sections 498A/406/34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ["IPC"] and all proceedings emanating therefrom, on the ground of settlement.

2. Issue notice. Mr. Hitesh Vali, learned Additional Public



Prosecutor, accepts notice on behalf of the State. Notice is accepted by Mr. Sanjay Soni, learned counsel, on behalf of respondent No. 2.

3. The petitioner No. 1 and respondent No. 2 were married on 28.02.2017. Due to matrimonial discord and temperamental differences between the parties, they have been living separately since 03.11.2018. One male child has been born from the wedlock on 13.11.2017.

4. Respondent No. 2 filed a complaint before the Crime Against Women Cell, Rani Bagh, against petitioner No. 1 and his mother, petitioner No. 2, on 13.02.2019, alleging cruelty, dowry demands, and misappropriation of stridhan. On the basis of the said complaint, the present FIR was registered on 28.02.2020.

5. Upon completion of investigation, a chargesheet has been subsequently filed on 18.09.2021. The case [Cr. Case 11525/2021] is pending before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (Mahila Court), District Central, Tis Hazari, and is next listed on 15.04.2026 for “Misc. cases/purpose”.

6. The disputes between petitioner No.1 and respondent No.2 were referred to mediation. The parties have settled all their disputes before the Mediation Centre, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi, and executed a Settlement Agreement dated 13.02.2025, whereby they agreed to dissolve their marriage by mutual consent. Respondent No. 2 waived all claims of maintenance/alimony, petitioner No. 1 agreed to execute a Gift Deed of the specified property in favour of the minor child, and both parties undertook to cooperate in quashing the present FIR.

7. The settlement agreement contemplates dissolution of the marriage by mutual consent. Pursuant thereto, the marriage has been dissolved by a



decree of divorce [in HMA No. 1844/2025] by mutual consent by the Judge, Family Courts, Central District, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi, on 29.11.2025.

8. In terms of an Affidavit dated 20.02.2026 handed over today in Court (which is taken on record), it has been agreed that petitioner No. 1/father shall be entitled to meet the minor child once every month on weekend days.

9. Mr. Soni, on instructions from respondent No. 2, who is present in Court, submits that although the settlement has been arrived at without any monetary consideration in her favour, she is satisfied with the terms thereof and has affirmed the same voluntarily.

10. The parties therefore seek quashing of the FIR and all consequential proceedings emanating therefrom.

11. The petitioners are present in Court, and are identified by their learned counsel, as well as by the Investigating Officer ["IO"]. Respondent No. 2 is identified by Mr. Soni and the IO.

12. Learned counsel for the parties confirm that the settlement has been entered into voluntarily and without any coercion or undue pressure.

13. Although the offence under Section 498A of IPC is non-compoundable, the Supreme Court has clearly held that, in certain circumstances, the High Courts, in exercise of their powers under Section 528 of BNSS (corresponding to Section 482 of CrPC), can quash criminal proceedings, even with respect to non-compoundable offences, on the ground that there is a compromise between the accused and the complainant, especially when no overarching public interest is adversely affected.



14. The Supreme Court, in *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab & Anr.*¹ has held as follows:

“58. Where the High Court quashes a criminal proceeding having regard to the fact that the dispute between the offender and the victim has been settled although the offences are not compoundable, it does so as in its opinion, continuation of criminal proceedings will be an exercise in futility and justice in the case demands that the dispute between the parties is put to an end and peace is restored; securing the ends of justice being the ultimate guiding factor. No doubt, crimes are acts which have harmful effect on the public and consist in wrongdoing that seriously endangers and threatens the well-being of the society and it is not safe to leave the crime-doer only because he and the victim have settled the dispute amicably or that the victim has been paid compensation, yet certain crimes have been made compoundable in law, with or without the permission of the court. In respect of serious offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc., or other offences of mental depravity under IPC or offences of moral turpitude under special statutes, like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity, the settlement between the offender and the victim can have no legal sanction at all. However, certain offences which overwhelmingly and predominantly bear civil flavour having arisen out of civil, mercantile, commercial, financial, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony, particularly relating to dowry, etc. or the family dispute, where the wrong is basically to the victim and the offender and the victim have settled all disputes between them amicably, irrespective of the fact that such offences have not been made compoundable, the High Court may within the framework of its inherent power, quash the criminal proceeding or criminal complaint or FIR if it is satisfied that on the face of such settlement, there is hardly any likelihood of the offender being convicted and by not quashing the criminal proceedings, justice shall be casualty and ends of justice shall be defeated. The above list is illustrative and not exhaustive. Each case will depend on its own facts and no hard-and-fast category can be prescribed.”²

Further, in *Narinder Singh & Ors. v. State of Punjab & Anr.*³, the Supreme Court has also laid down guidelines for High Courts while accepting settlement deeds between parties and quashing the proceedings.

¹ (2012) 10 SCC 303.

² Emphasis supplied.



The relevant observations in the said decision read as under:

“29. In view of the aforesaid discussion, we sum up and lay down the following principles by which the High Court would be guided in giving adequate treatment to the settlement between the parties and exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code while accepting the settlement and quashing the proceedings or refusing to accept the settlement with direction to continue with the criminal proceedings:

29.1. Power conferred under Section 482 of the Code is to be distinguished from the power which lies in the Court to compound the offences under Section 320 of the Code. No doubt, under Section 482 of the Code, the High Court has inherent power to quash the criminal proceedings even in those cases which are not compoundable, where the parties have settled the matter between themselves. However, this power is to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

29.2. When the parties have reached the settlement and on that basis petition for quashing the criminal proceedings is filed, the guiding factor in such cases would be to secure:

(i) ends of justice, or

(ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court.

While exercising the power the High Court is to form an opinion on either of the aforesaid two objectives.

29.3. Such a power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involve heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, for the offences alleged to have been committed under special statute like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity are not to be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the victim and the offender.

29.4. On the other hand, those criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominantly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes should be quashed when the parties have resolved their entire disputes among themselves.

29.5. While exercising its powers, the High Court is to examine as to whether the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal cases would put the accused to great oppression

³ (2014) 6 SCC 466.



and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal cases.”⁴

15. In the present case, the proceedings between the parties arise out of a matrimonial relationship, which has already culminated in a decree of divorce. Applying the tests laid down by the Supreme Court, it may be observed that the respondent No. 2 has also categorically affirmed the voluntary nature of the settlement before the Court. In these circumstances, the criminal proceedings are unlikely to result in conviction, and its continuation would be an empty formality, adding to the burden of the justice system and consuming public resources unnecessarily.

16. Having regard to the above discussion, the petition is allowed, and FIR No. 51/2020 dated 28.02.2020, registered at Police Station Lahori Gate, District North, Delhi, under Sections 498A/406/34 of the IPC, alongwith all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, is hereby quashed.

17. The parties will remain bound by the terms of the settlement.

18. It is, however, made clear that the settlement and the present order will not, in any way, affect the rights of the minor child, whose custody remains with respondent No. 2.

19. The petition accordingly stands disposed of.

PRATEEK JALAN, J

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

‘SV/JM’/

⁴ Emphasis supplied.