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

\# **CNR No. DLHC010446302026**

\+ CRL.M.C. 6962/2026

LAKHAN SAHU & ORS. .....Petitioners

Through: Mr. Atul Aggarwal, Adv. (Through VC)
Petitioners in person (Through VC)

versus

GOVERMENT OF NCT OF DELHI THROUGH SHO & ANR.
.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Raj Kumar, APP for the State
SI Mitthan Lal, PS Sarita Vihar
Mob: 8800868695
Mr. Rajan Kumar Prasad, Adv. along with R-2 in person (Through VC)

CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA

O R D E R

% 19.11.2026

1. The present petition has been filed 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 the First Information Report ("FIR") being *FIR No. 508/2022* dated 20th October, 2022, registered at Police Station ("PS") Sarita Vihar, South East District, Delhi, under Sections 498A/406/34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("IPC"), on the ground of settlement.

2. Issue notice. Notice is accepted by learned Additional Public Prosecutor ("APP") appearing for the State, i.e., respondent no. 1, as well as

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by learned counsel appearing for respondent no. 2.

3. The petitioners and respondent no. 2 are present before this Court through Video Conferencing ("VC"). They are duly identified by their respective counsels as well as the Investigating Officer ("IO"), who is present before this Court.

4. The present petition is taken up for disposal with the consent of the parties.

5. As per the material on record, the relevant facts for adjudication of the present petition are as under:

5.1. The marriage between petitioner no. 1 and respondent no. 2 was solemnized on 28th February, 2016, and a female child was born out of the wedlock on 23rd July, 2019.

5.2. Due to matrimonial differences, the parties started living separately from May 2022.

5.3. *FIR No. 508/2022* came to be registered at the instance of respondent no. 2 against petitioner no. 1 and his parents. Petitioner no. 2 is her father-in-law and petitioner no. 3 is her mother-in-law.

5.4. Respondent No. 2 has alleged that the petitioners subjected her to physical and mental harassment pertaining to unlawful demands of dowry, including by beating her, abusing her, and taking her jewellery from her possession.

6. Learned counsels appearing for the petitioners and respondent no. 2 jointly inform this Court that the parties have already settled the matter by executing a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") dated 21st September, 2026.

7. In terms of the said MOU, a sum of Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen

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Lacs Only) is due and payable by the petitioners to respondent no. 2, which already stands paid to her.

8. Upon interaction with respondent no. 2, she submits that she has settled the matter of her own volition and does not wish to pursue the present matter any further.

9. She further confirms the fact that she has received the settlement sum of Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Only) from the petitioners.

10. This Court is also informed that the marriage between petitioner no. 1 and respondent no. 2 already stands dissolved, as they have obtained a decree of divorce by mutual consent dated 30th March, 2026, passed by the Principal Judge, Family Court, South East District, Saket Courts, Delhi, in *HMA 1582/2025*.

11. In light of the aforesaid, the parties seek quashing of the present FIR.

12. Learned APP appearing for the State submits that in view of the facts of the present case, the State has no serious objection to the present petition.

13. Having heard learned counsels appearing for the parties, this Court notes that the parties have arrived at a settlement in respect of the present matter.

14. It is well settled that the High Courts may exercise their inherent powers under Section 528 of the BNSS to quash criminal proceedings, even with respect to non-compoundable offences, if the concerned parties have arrived at a compromise or settlement, and particularly when no overarching public interest is adversely affected by quashing the same.

15. Since the present case concerns a matrimonial dispute, reference may be made to the case of ***Jitendra Raghuvanshi and Others Versus Babita Raghuvanshi and Another, (2013) 4 SCC 58***, wherein, the Supreme Court

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has held that the High Courts are empowered to quash an FIR in cases involving matrimonial disputes to foster genuine settlements, even when the offences involved are non-compoundable in nature. The relevant portion of the said judgment reads as under:

> *"xxx xxx xxx*
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> ***14. The inherent powers of the High Court under Section 482 of the Code are wide and unfettered. In B.S. Joshi [(2003) 4 SCC 675 : 2003 SCC (Cri) 848] , this Court has upheld the powers of the High Court under Section 482 to quash criminal proceedings where dispute is of a private nature and a compromise is entered into between the parties who are willing to settle their differences amicably.*** *We are satisfied that the said decision is directly applicable to the case on hand and the High Court ought to have quashed the criminal proceedings by accepting the settlement arrived at.*
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> ***15. In our view, it is the duty of the courts to encourage genuine settlements of matrimonial disputes, particularly, when the same are on considerable increase. Even if the offences are non-compoundable, if they relate to matrimonial disputes and the Court is satisfied that the parties have settled the same amicably and without any pressure, we hold that for the purpose of securing ends of justice, Section 320 of the Code would not be a bar to the exercise of power of quashing of FIR, complaint or the subsequent criminal proceedings.***
>
> *xxx xxx xxx"*
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> *(Emphasis Supplied)*

16. Accordingly, considering the submissions made before this Court, and the facts and circumstances of the present case, *FIR No. 508/2022* dated 20th October, 2022, registered at PS Sarita Vihar, South East District, Delhi, under Sections 498A/406/34 of the IPC, along with the consequential proceedings arising therefrom, is hereby quashed.

17. However, the rights of the minor child are kept open and reserved. The rights of the minor child shall not be affected by the settlement between the

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parties, in any manner whatsoever.

18. The present petition is allowed and disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

NOVEMBER 19, 2026/SK

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