HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. - 38338 of 2026

Smt Sheela Devi

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

State of U.P.

.....Opposite Party(s)

Counsel for Applicant(s)	:	Giri Ram Rawat, Indra Deo Mishra, Sangeeta Yadav, Shri Ram (Rawat), Sofia Khan
Counsel for Opposite Party(s)	:	G.A.

Court No. - 66

HON'BLE ARUN KUMAR SINGH DESHWAL, J.

1. Heard Sri Indra Deo Mishra, learned counsel for the applicant, Sri Roshan Kumar Singh, learned A.G.A. for the State and perused the record.

2. The instant bail application has been filed with a prayer to release the applicant on bail during the trial in Case Crime No. 105 of 2025, under Sections 85, 80 (2), 115(2) BNS and Section 3/4 of D.P. Act, Police Station-Fatehpur Sikri, District Agra.

3. Contention of learned counsel for the applicant is that the applicant is mother-in-law of the deceased, who committed suicide by jumping into a 'Well' because of the reason that she was mentally disturbed and she was also under medical treatment. It is further submitted that the above fact is duly substantiated by the statements of independent witnesses i.e. Om prakash and Kripal. The applicant has been falsely implicated by making general allegation merely being the mother-in-law of the deceased, though there is no sufficient material against her to show that she harassed the deceased for non-fulfillment of demand of dowry prior to death. The applicant has been falsely implicated by making general and vague allegations along with other family members. It is further submitted that for invoking presumption of dowry death in case of death under unnatural circumstances within 7 years of marriage, there must be sufficient material to show that the deceased was subjected to cruelty soon before the death, but there is no such material. It is further submitted that co-accused Bheekam

(father-in-law of the deceased) has already been released on bail by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in Criminal Misc. Bail Application No. 41252 of 2025 vide order dated 24.11.2025. Therefore, the applicant is also entitled to be released on bail on the ground of parity. It is lastly submitted that charge sheet has been filed by the police, therefore, there is no requirement for custodial interrogation. The applicant has no criminal history and she is languishing in jail since 18.08.2026. In case, she is granted bail, she will not misuse the liberty of bail and would cooperate in the trial proceedings.

4. *Per contra*, learned A.G.A. has vehemently opposed the prayer for bail but could not dispute the aforesaid facts.

5. Considering the entire facts and circumstances of the case, submissions of learned counsel for the parties and taking into account the fact that applicant is a **lady;** also taking into account that the co-accused Bheekam (father-in-law of the deceased) has already been released on bail by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court; and also keeping in view the nature of offence, evidence, complicity of the accused and also taking into account overcrowded jails and heavy pendency of criminal cases before the trial courts as well as considering the mandate of the judgement of the Apex Court in the case of **Kapil Wadhawan vs. Central Bureau of Investigation** reported in **2025 SCC OnLine SC 3038** and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, I am of the opinion that the applicant is entitled to be enlarged on bail. Accordingly, the bail application is **allowed**.

6. Let the applicant - **Smt. Sheela Devi** involved in the aforementioned crime be released on bail, on her furnishing a personal bond and two sureties each in the like amount, to the satisfaction of the court concerned, with the following conditions:-

i. The applicant shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence.

ii. The applicant shall cooperate in the trial/investigation sincerely without seeking any adjournment.

iii. The applicant shall not indulge in any criminal activity or commission of any crime after being released on bail.

iv. The applicant shall attend in accordance with the conditions of the bond executed by her.

7. In case of breach of any of the above conditions, it shall be a ground for cancellation of bail.

8. Identity, status and residence proof of the applicant and sureties be verified by the court concerned before the bonds are accepted.

9. It is made clear that the applicant shall be released on the basis of computer generated copy of this order, downloaded from the official website of High Court Allahabad and verified by the concerned counsel with the undertaking that the certified copy will be filed within 15 days.

10. It is further directed that the trial court shall send the release order to the concerned jail through Bail Order Management System (BOMS) to ensure early release of the applicant.

11. Office is directed to send a copy of this order to the applicant through concerned Jail Superintendent via e-mail or on e-prison portal and Trial Court via e-mode within 24 hours in compliance of the order of the Apex Court in the case of **Policy Strategy for Grant of Bail, In Re: Suo Motu Writ Petition (Crl.) No.4 of 2021** decided on 31.01.2023 reported in **(2024) 10 SCC 685** as well as **Pila Pahan @ Peela Pahan and others Vs. State of Jharkhand and another**, in **Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 169 of 2025**, decided on 29.05.2026.

(Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal,J.)

October 28, 2026
CS/-

Digitally signed by :-
CHANDAN SINGH
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad