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In the Court of Deepak Kumar, Principal Sessions Judge, Sheohar
Sessions Trial No. -120/2025

(Sheohar PS Case No.-289/2024)

CNR No. -BRS001-001917-2025

State Vrs. Vikas Kumar & Others

FORM-A

<p style="text-align: center;">In the Court of Principal Sessions Judge, Sheohar Present:- Sri Deepak Kumar, Principal Sessions Judge, Sheohar, Sessions Trial No. -120/2025 (Sheohar PS Case No.-289/2024) GR No.-703/2025 CNR No. -BRS001-001917-2025 State Vrs. Vikas Kumar & Ors. Offence:- U/s-80(2), 3(5) & 103(1), 3(5) of BNS. (Date of Judgment:-15-04-2026)</p>	
COMPLAINANT/INFORMANT	Navin Kumar Shahi, S/o Rambabu Shahi, R/o village+post- Jahangirpur, PS- Shyampur Bhataha, District-Sheohar.
ACCUSED	1. Vikas Kumar, S/o Kailash Rai, aged about- 34 years 2. Kailash Rai, S/o Late Ramchalitar Rai, aged about- 68 years 3. Maina Devi @ Naina Devi, W/o Kailash Rai, aged about- 60 years 4. Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari, W/o Vikas Kumar, aged about- 35 years All are R/o village- Kasturiya, PS- Tariyani, District-Sheohar.
REPRESENTED BY COMPLAINANT/ INFORMANT	Sri Suresh Roy, Ld. P.P.
REPRESENTED BY ACCUSED PERSON	Sri Dinesh Kumar, Ld. Advocate

FORM-B

Date of Offence	05.10.2024
Date of F. I. R.	10.10.2024
Date of Charge sheet	Charge Sheet No.-179/2025, dated 30.05.2025
Date of Cognizance	16.06.2025

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Date of Framing Charges	07.10.2025
Date of Commencement of Evidence	13.11.2025
Date on which judgment is reserved	16.03.2026
Date of judgment	15.04.2026
Date of the Sentencing order, if any	NA

Accused Details

Rank of the Accused	Name of Accused	Date of Arrest	Date of Release on Bail	Offence Charged with	Whether Acquitted or convicted	Sentence imposed	Period of Detention during Trial for purpose of section 428 of Cr.P.C.
01.	Vikas Kumar	07.05.2025	Till Date	U/s-80(2), 3(5) & 103(1), 3(5) of BNS.	Acquitted		
02.	Kailash Rai	-	-				
03.	Maina Devi @ Naina Devi	-	-				
04.	Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari	-	-				

FORM-C

LIST OF PROSECUTION/DEFENCE/COURT WITNESS-

A. PROSECUTION :

RANK	NAME	NATURE OF EVIDENCE (EYE WITNESS, POLICE WITNESS, EXPERT WITNESS, MEDICAL WITNESS, PANCH WITNESS, OTHER WITNESS)
01.	Nagendra Prasad Shahi @ Narendra Prasad Shahi	Prosecution Witness -01
02.	Rahul Kumar Shahi	Prosecution Witness -02
03.	Navin Kumar Shahi (Informant)	Prosecution Witness -03

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04.	Rakesh Kumar Shahi	Prosecution Witness –04
05.	Sunil Rai	Prosecution Witness –05
06.	Dr. Rizwan Rashid	Prosecution Witness –06
07.	Anamika Kumari (I.O.)	Prosecution Witness –07

B. DEFENCE WITNESS, if any ; -

RANK	NAME	NATURE OF EVIDENCE (EYE WITNESS, POLICE WITNESS, EXPERT WITNESS, MEDICAL WITNESS, PANCH WITNESS, OTHER WITNESS)
-	-	-

C. COURT WITNESS, if any ; -NIL

RANK	NAME	NATURE OF EVIDENCE (EYE WITNESS, POLICE WITNESS, EXPERT WITNESS, MEDICAL WITNESS, PANCH WITNESS, OTHER WITNESS)
-	-	-

LIST OF PROSECUTION/DEFENCE/COURTS EXHIBITS

A. PROSECUTION;-

Sr. No.	EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
01.	Exhibit–01	Signature of the informant witness on the written application
02.	Exhibit–01/1	Endorsement on the Fard-beyan
03.	Exhibit–02	Handwriting and signature of the witness on the Post-mortem Report of the deceased, Chandani Kumari (entire P.M. report).
04.	Exhibit–03	Entire computerized formal First Information Report (F.I.R.).
05.	Exhibit–04	Complete charge-sheet.
06.	Exhibit–X	For the purpose of identifying the signature of witness Rakesh Kumar Shahi appearing on the photocopy of the death review report.
07.	Exhibit-X1	For the purpose of identifying the signature made by witness Sunil Rai on the photocopy of the death review report.

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B. DEFENCE ;

Sl. No.	EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
-	-	-

C. COURT EXHIBITS ; NIL

Sl. No.	EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
-	-	-

D. MATERIAL OBJECTS ;

Sl. No.	MATERIAL OBJECT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
-	-	-

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Present: Deepak Kumar
Principal Sessions Judge,
Sheohar

Sheohar Dated-15th April, 2026.

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Charge framed under Section-
80(2), 3(5) & 103(1), 3(5) of
BNS.

Learned Lawyer for the State:- Sri Suresh Roy, Ld. P.P.

Learned Lawyer for the Defence:- Sri Dinesh Kumar,

JUDGMENT

1. In the instant case, total four accused persons, namely, Vikas Kumar, Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari, and Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari, have been put on trial for offence punishable under Sections-

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80(2), 3(5) & 103(1), 3(5) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (herein after referred to as BNS).

2. The prosecution case, in brief is that the informant Naveen Kumar Shahi submitted a written complaint at Sheohar Police Station stating that he had solemnized the marriage of his daughter Chandni Kumari with Vikas Kumar. The marriage was performed on 13.08.2024 according to Hindu rituals and customs at Adarsh Vivah Gauri Shankar Math, Dekuli Dham. After a few days of the marriage, the informant's son-in-law Vikas Kumar, along with his father Kailash Rai, mother Maina Devi and his previous living wife Usha Devi, collectively demanded from his daughter that she should bring Rs. 10,00,000/- (Ten lakhs) and one motorcycle from her father. They told her that only then she would be allowed to stay in the matrimonial house, otherwise she would be beaten and driven out of the house. When his daughter Chandni Kumari opposed the said demand of money and articles, all the accused persons jointly assaulted her mercilessly and drove her out of the house. Thereafter, the informant's daughter and his son-in-law Vikas Kumar started pressurizing him to allow them to live in his residential house situated at Ward No. 17, Sheohar. However, after some time, his son-in-law Vikas Kumar, being instigated by his parents and his previous wife, again started

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subjecting his daughter to cruelty in connection with the demand of the said amount and articles as dowry. When his daughter protested against this demand, she was again mercilessly assaulted and threatened that if within one or two days she did not bring the demanded money and articles from her father, she would be killed or permanently separated from him. On 05.10.2024, at about 03:00 PM, the informant received information from his son Rahul Kumar that his sister had been found hanging from the ceiling fan in the house. On receiving this information, the informant immediately rushed to Sheohar and informed the incident through mobile phone to Emergency No. 112 and to Sheohar Police Station. After some time, police officers arrived at the spot, brought the dead body down from the fan, prepared the inquest report (panchanama) and sent the body to Sheohar Sadar Hospital for further examination.

3. Thereafter, of F.I.R. was registered as Sheohar PS. Case No. 289/2024, dated 10-10-2024, under Sections 80(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and the investigation was initiated. After completion of the investigation, the Investigating Officer, as per the directions of the senior officer, submitted Charge-sheet No. 179/2025 dated 30-05-2025 before the court under Sections 80(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the four accused persons named

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in the FIR, namely, Vikas Kumar, Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari, Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari. After examining the FIR, the charge-sheet, and the case diary, the Learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sheohar, on 16-06-2025 found prima facie evidence against all the above-named accused persons Vikas Kumar, Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari, and Usha Devi alias Usha Kumari and accordingly took cognizance of the offence under Sections 80(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

4. In this case, charge were framed on 07.10.2025, against all four Vikas Kumar, Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari and Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari. under Sections-80(2), 103(1) and 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) . The charges were read over and explained to them in Hindi, after which all the accused denied the charges and claimed to be tried.

05. The statement of four accused namely, Vikas Kumar, Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari and Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari were recorded under Section-313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on 09.02.2026. In the statement, the aforesaid four accused denied the occurrence and claimed to be tried.

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06. The main issue for consideration before the court is whether the prosecution has succeeded in proving all the charges framed against the accused beyond all reasonable doubt or not?

07. In support of its case, the prosecution, apart from total six witnesses mentioned in Column-13 of the charge sheet, has produced one additional witness, making the total number of witnesses seven. PW-01 – Nagendra Prasad Shahi @ Narendra Prasad Shahi, PW-02 – Rahul Kumar Shahi, PW-03 – Navin Kumar Shahi (informant), PW-04 – Rakesh Kumar Shahi, PW-05 – Sunil Rai, PW-06 – Dr. Rizwan Rashid (medical witness), PW-07 – Anamika Kumari (investigating officer).

08. In order to prove its case, the prosecution has exhibited the following documents, which are marked as under:

A. PROSECUTION:-

Sr. No.	EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
01.	Exhibit-01	Signature of the informant witness on the written application
02.	Exhibit-01/1	Endorsement on the Fard-beyan
03.	Exhibit-02	Handwriting and signature of the witness on the Post-mortem Report of the deceased, Chandani Kumari (entire P.M. report).
04.	Exhibit-03	Entire computerized formal First Information Report (F.I.R.).
05.	Exhibit-04	Complete charge-sheet.

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06.	Exhibit-X	For the purpose of identifying the signature of witness Rakesh Kumar Shahi appearing on the photocopy of the death review report.
07.	Exhibit-X1	For the purpose of identifying the signature made by witness Sunil Rai on the photocopy of the death review report.

No oral or documentary evidence has been adduced on behalf of the defence.

Now this court would like to discuss the prosecution witnesses evidence.

09. PW-1 – Nagendra Prasad @ Narendra Prasad Shahi, has stated that he does not know anything about the incident. He further stated that the investigating officer had not recorded his statement. On the request of the prosecution, this witness was declared hostile. During cross-examination by the prosecution, this witness stated that it is not correct that in the statement given to the police he had said that the daughter of his neighbor Navin Kumar Shahi was married to Vikas Kumar on 13-08-2024 at Dekuli Dham. Earlier, Vikas Kumar had been married to Chandni Kumari, but that marriage had broken down, and Vikas Kumar was also already married. His wife was not able to conceive a child, and therefore he wanted to marry again. For a few days, the girl stayed well, but later Vikas Kumar, his previous wife Usha Devi, his father Kailash Rai, and his mother Naina Devi started

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harassing her for dowry money and a motorcycle. He further denied that under the influence of family members, he also used to beat Chandni Kumari and demand dowry. On 05-10-2024, it was discovered that Chandni Kumari's dead body was found hanging from a ceiling fan with a noose around her neck. When we hurried to the spot, we saw that Chandni was hanging from the fan. The police were informed. The authorities arrived at the spot and sent the body to the Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination. The witness stated that he does not recognize the accused persons. During cross-examination by the defense, the witness stated that the distance from his house to Sheohar Police Station is about 13–14 kilometers.

10. PW-2 – Rahul Kumar Shahi, has stated that he does not know anything about the incident. The police officer had not recorded his statement. Upon the request of the prosecution, this witness was declared hostile. During the cross-examination by the prosecution, the witness stated that it is not correct that he had given statement to the police and stated that his sister, Chandni Kumari, was married to Vikas Kumar on 13.08.2024. After the marriage, Chandni Kumari went to her matrimonial home and started living there. Thereafter, the first wife of Vikas Kumar began assaulting his sister and the child and said that she should bring Rs.10,00,000/- and a motorcycle from her

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father, otherwise she would not be allowed to stay in the house. His sister informed their father about everything, upon which their father told her to come and stay at Sheohar, and thereafter they started living in Sheohar. His brother-in-law had married his sister because he did not have a child from his first wife. His brother-in-law, under the influence of his first wife and his parents, started torturing his sister for money and a vehicle. On the 3rd of the month he again assaulted her and demanded Rs.10,00,000/- and also threatened to kill her if the demand was not fulfilled. He further denied that on the 5th of the month, when they went in afternoon to give her breakfast, she did not respond when called. On looking through the window, they saw that she was hanging from the ceiling fan with a noose around her neck. Thereafter, he informed his father through mobile phone. His father came to the house and also called number 112 and Sheohar Police Station. The authorities reached the spot, prepared the inquest report of the dead body, and sent it to Sadar Hospital. He can identify the accused persons. In Court, he identified accused Vikas Kumar and another person. During the cross-examination by the defence, the witness stated that the deceased Chandni Kumari was his sister. Her mental condition had not been good for a long time. She often used to leave the house and wander here and there. The in-laws of his sister

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never subjected her to any cruelty. They took proper care of her. The in-laws never demanded any article as dowry. His sister had never complained to him about any dowry demand. The accused Vikas Kumar present in Court today is the husband of his sister and therefore he recognizes him.

11. PW-3 – Navin Kumar Shahi, has stated that the incident occurred on 05.10.2024 at about 3:00 PM. At that time, he was present in his village Jahangirpur. Someone informed him over the phone that his daughter had committed suicide in his house at Sheohar. After receiving this information, he called number 112 from his village. Thereafter, he came from his village to Sheohar. Subsequently, the administration arrived and broke open the lock of the room and took the dead body out. Thereafter, the police took the body for post-mortem examination. He identified the signature on the written report. He further stated that the investigating officer did not record his statement. On the request of the prosecution, this witness was declared hostile. During cross-examination by the prosecution, the witness stated that it is not correct that he had told the police in his earlier statement that on 13.08.2024 he solemnized the marriage of his daughter Chandni Kumari with Vikas Kumar at Dekuli Dham. After the marriage, when his daughter went to her matrimonial home, Vikas

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Kumar, his first wife Usha Devi, and his parents began to torture his daughter demanding Rs. 10 lakh and a motorcycle as dowry. Vikas Kumar already had a first wife, but they had no children, and he had been undergoing treatment for about ten years. He had stated that he was marrying again in order to have a child. His daughter informed him about these matters through her mobile phone and said that those people would not allow her to live peacefully. He then advised his daughter to come to Sheohar and live with her husband there. Accordingly, she came to Sheohar and started living with her husband there. He has his own house at Ward No. 17, Sheohar, but despite living there, Vikas Kumar, influenced by his first wife and parents, continued to torture his daughter for money and a motorcycle. On the 3rd, his son had gone to Jahangirpur after closing his shop in the evening. He further denied that in that night Vikas Kumar came and severely assaulted his daughter and threatened that if she did not bring Rs. 10 lakh and a motorcycle from her father, he would kill her. On the 4th, when his son Rahul Kumar came to Sheohar, his sister informed him about the incident. Rahul called him on his mobile phone and told him everything, saying that the brother-in-law was threatening his sister and had beaten her the previous night. Thereafter he, alongwith his relatives and his brother Arvind, came to Sheohar

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and called his son-in-law on the phone, telling him they wanted to meet him. He replied that he can not come that day as he was in Shivnagar. However, he did not come the next day. Thereafter, on 05.10.2024, when Rahul went in the afternoon to take breakfast and called his sister to serve it, she did not respond. Then he looked through the window and saw that she was hanging from the ceiling fan with a noose around her neck. He then informed him over the phone. Upon receiving the information, he immediately came to Sheohar and saw that his daughter was hanging. Thereafter he informed 112 and the Sheohar Police Station about the incident. The inquest of the dead body was conducted at the spot and the body was taken to the Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination. He further denied that it is not correct that he is concealing the truth of the incident after coming to terms with the accused persons. During cross-examination by the defence, the witness stated that his daughter Chandni Kumari was mentally unstable even before the incident. She used to frequently leave the house and wander here and there. The accused persons never demanded dowry from his daughter, nor did they ever assault or torture her, nor did they ever drive her out of the house. The in-laws of Chandni Kumari took good care of her and fulfilled all her needs. They never demanded Rs. 10 lakh or a motorcycle as dowry. His

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daughter never complained to him about any dowry demand by her in-laws. Neither Chandni Kumari nor his son-in-law Vikas Kumar ever pressured him to allow them to live in his Sheohar house; rather, they were living there by their own choice. He does not remember the name of the person who informed him about the incident over the phone. He did not enter the room where the incident occurred. When he went behind the officials, he saw the dead body lying on the floor. The written application given at the police station was written by some other person, and he was only asked to sign on a blank paper. The contents of the application were neither read over nor explained to him. According to him, Chandni Kumari committed suicide due to her mental illness. The accused persons are innocent. He is giving his statement voluntarily without any external pressure.

12. PW-4 – Rakesh Kumar Shahi, has deposed that the inquest report of the deceased Chandni Kumari was prepared in his presence. The inquest report of Chandni Kumari, which is a photocopy, bears his signature. He stated that he does not identify the accused persons. In the cross-examination conducted on behalf of the defence, this witness stated that the inquest report was not prepared in his presence. He has no knowledge about the facts mentioned therein. He further stated that only his signature was obtained on it.

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13. PW-5 – Sunil Kumar, has stated in his examination-in-chief that the inquest report of the deceased Chandni Kumari was prepared in his presence. The photocopy of the inquest report of Chandni Kumari bears his signature. He further stated that he does not identify the accused persons. In the cross-examination conducted on behalf of the defence, this witness stated that the inquest report was not prepared in his presence. He has no knowledge of the facts stated therein.

14. PW-06 – Dr. Rizwan Rashid, has deposed that on 06.10.2024, he was posted as a Medical Officer in Sitaram Sadar Hospital, Sheohar and on that day at about 03:00 P.M. he conducted postmortem of Chandni Kumar, and recorded the following findings:-

External Findings :- Around the neck V-Shaped ligature mark present blackish discoloration was present around the neck Rigor Mortis was present in all four limbs

Internal Findings :- All viscera intact the specimen of all viscera, heart, liver, spleen, kidney, lungs and stomach was preserved for forensic lab test.

Opinion- Reserved till the forensic lab test of viscera report receipt from higher center.

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The postmortem report is in his handwriting which is bearing his signature. In Cross-examination on behalf of accused person he deposed that the dead body was brought for post-mortem by watchman Hori Lal Raut (4/2). The body was brought for post-mortem at 06:30 AM on 06-10-2024. The post-mortem examination started at 03:00 PM on 06-10-2024 and was completed at 04:10 PM. During the post-mortem, no injury was found in the internal parts of the body. The neck bone was also found to be intact and normal.

In the post-mortem, he did not record in the report whether the eyes of the deceased were open or closed. He also did not mention in the report whether the tongue was outside the mouth or was between the teeth. He did not find any saliva coming out from the mouth. All the circumstances described in the post-mortem can also occur in a case where a person hangs himself. In the post-mortem report, under External findings, he mentioned Rigor Mortis, which usually begins about 4–6 hours after death. It spreads throughout the body within 10–12 hours, and after about 48 hours the stiffness of the body (rigor mortis) begins to disappear due to decomposition.

15. PW-07 – Anamika Kumari, has deposed that on 10.10.2024, she was posted as Sub-Inspector of Police at Sheohar Police Station. The FIR bears the signature of the then S.H.O. Abhay Kumar Singh,

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which she identifies. On the written application of the informant Naveen Kumar Shahi, the endorsement made by the then Station House Officer Abhay Kumar Singh is in his handwriting and bears his signature, which she identifies. The charge-sheet No. 179/2025 dated 30.05.2025 in this case is in the handwriting and signature of Sub-Inspector Ramayan Kumar, and it also bears the signature of the then Station House Officer Randhir Kumar, which she identifies. On 10.10.2024, she took charge of the investigation of the case and commenced the investigation. On 05.10.2024, the Station House Officer of Shivhar Police Station received secret information that a woman had committed suicide in a house near Jagdamba Traders lane in Ward No. 17 of Sheohar. Upon verification of the said information and for necessary action, she proceeded to the place of occurrence along with Sub-Inspector Lakhindra Mahto and police force. Upon information regarding the incident, the Senior Scientific Assistant of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Shantanu Chakravarti arrived at the place of occurrence, inspected the scene and submitted the report. The dead body of the deceased was found hanging from a ceiling fan, foam was coming out of her nose, the tongue was pressed between both teeth, and both eyes were closed. The inquest report of the deceased Chandni Kumari, the dead body challan, and the documents

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for constitution of the medical team for conducting post-mortem were prepared and the body was sent to Sadar Hospital, Sheohar for post-mortem examination. The inquest report of the deceased Chandni Kumari was prepared by her. The report bears the signatures of two witnesses Sunil Rai and Rakesh Kumar Shahi as witnesses, in whose presence it was prepared. The inquest report bears her signature, which she identifies. She further deposed that she took charge of the investigation on 10.10.2024 and began the investigation. During the course of investigation, she recorded the further statement of the informant Navin Kumar Shahi and entered it in the case diary. The place of occurrence of the case is the two-storey house of the informant situated in Ganesh Tola, Ward No. 17, within Sheohar Police Station, whose entrance faces south. In the third room on the southern side of the same house, the daughter of the informant, Chandni Kumari, was found hanging from a fan. During investigation, she recorded the statements of witnesses Rahul Kumar Shahi and Nagendra Kumar Shahi and entered the same in the case diary. On 26.10.2024, the post-mortem report of the deceased Chandni Kumari was received from Sadar Hospital, Sheohar, and the same was entered in the case diary. By District Order No. 984/2024 dated 25.10.2024 issued by the Superintendent of Police, Sheohar, she was transferred

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to the post of Woman Police Station In-charge, and thereafter the investigation of the case was handed over to the SHO, Sheohar. In cross-examination by the defence, she deposed that during investigation, she reached the place of occurrence on 10.10.2024 at about 16:30 hours. She did not prepare a site map of the place of occurrence. She attempted to record the statements of neighbouring witnesses around the place of occurrence, but none came forward. During investigation she examined three witnesses, out of whom one was the neighbour Nagendra Prasad Shahi, while the other two were relatives of the informant. The incident occurred on 05.10.2024, whereas the FIR was registered on 10.10.2024. The specific reason for this delay was not mentioned in the case diary. When she reached the place of occurrence, the witnesses were already present there. The inquest report was prepared by her on 05.10.2024 at about 17:45 hours in the third room of the one-storey house of Navin Kumar Shahi located in Ward No. 17 under Sheohar Police Station. At the time when she was preparing the inquest report, there was a cut mark caused by a nail near the elbow of the left hand of the deceased. The witnesses to the inquest report signed voluntarily of their own free will. Witness Sunil Rai, a witness to the inquest report, is a resident of village Sumahauti, P.S. Tariyani, which is about 5–6 km from the

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place of occurrence. Witness Rakesh Kumar Shahi, another witness to the inquest report, is a resident of Jahangirpur, P.S. Shyampur Bhatha, which is about 10–12 km from the place of occurrence.

16. After closure of prosecution evidence and statement of accused under Section 313 of Code of Criminal Procedure the case was fixed for defence evidence. Defence did not produce any evidence as such defence evidence was closed on 09.03.2026 and the case was fixed for argument. In examination under Section 313 of Code of Criminal Procedure on 09.02.2026, the accused persons have said that they have heard the evidence of witnesses and it is false to say that their were involved in the occurrence. In defence they have said that they are innocent.

FINDING

17. From the above mentioned evidence which has come on record during the course of trial now it is to be decided whether the accused persons have committed the offence and the prosecution has been also to prove its case against all accused persons beyond all reasonable doubt.

18. On behalf of the prosecution, the learned Public Prosecutor stated that it is not in dispute that the deceased died unnatural death in her matrimonial home, as such it is for the accused persons to show

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that she did not die unlawful death. It is special fact which is within their knowledge.

19. During the course of argument in the present case, the learned counsel for the defence submitted that the prosecution has examined total seven witnesses before the Court, including the informant. Out of these, three witnesses including the informant have been declared hostile. Two other witnesses, who merely identified their signatures on the inquest report, have also stated that they could neither identify the accused persons nor was it prepared in their presence. The remaining two witnesses are the doctor and the investigating officer. Thus, the prosecution has failed to prove the charges leveled against the accused persons. Therefore, giving the benefit of doubt to the accused, it is requested that they be acquitted of the charges framed against them.

20. After hearing the arguments of both sides and upon perusal of the evidence available on record as well as the statements of the witnesses produced by the prosecution, it appears that out of the total seven witnesses examined before the Court by the prosecution, three witnesses, namely P.W.-01 Nagendra Prasad Shahi @ Narendra Prasad Shahi, P.W.-02 Rahul Kumar Shahi (brother of the deceased of the present case), and P.W.-03 Navin Kumar Shahi, have been declared hostile by the prosecution, and none of these three witnesses have

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supported the prosecution case. P.W.-04 Rakesh Kumar Shahi and P.W.-05 Sunil Rai are witnesses who, in their respective examination-in-chief, stated that the inquest report of the deceased Chandni Kumari was prepared in their presence, on which their signatures were obtained. However, during their cross-examination, both these witnesses deposed that the inquest report was not prepared in their presence and they had no knowledge regarding the facts mentioned therein, and that only their signatures were obtained on the document. Thus, from the testimony of these two witnesses also, contradictions arise. P.W.-06 Dr. Rizwan Rashid is the doctor who conducted the post-mortem examination of the deceased in the present case, and P.W.-07 Anamika Kumari is the Investigating Officer of the present case.

P.W.-01- Nagendra Prasad @ Narendra Prasad Shahi, has clearly stated that he does not know anything about the occurrence, that his statement was not recorded by the police officer; and that he does not identify the accused persons. Therefore, from the testimony of this witness, no such fact emerges which would indicate that the accused persons committed the alleged occurrence or that they were involved therein.

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PW-02 – Rahul Kumar Shahi, has stated that he had no knowledge about the incident. He further stated that the Investigating Officer had not recorded his statement. In cross-examination by the defence, the witness stated that the deceased was his sister and that her mental condition had not been good for a long time. He further stated that she used to leave the house and wander here and there frequently. He also deposed that his sister was never subjected to cruelty by her in-laws, they used to take good care of her, and no demand for dowry was ever made. He further stated that his sister had never complained to him about any such matter. Thus, even from the testimony of this very important witness, who had first seen the dead body of his sister (the deceased of the present case) hanging from the ceiling fan, contradictions emerge. From the testimony of this witness, no such fact comes on record which would indicate that the accused persons committed the charged offence in the present case or that they were involved in it.

PW-03 – Navin Kumar Shahi, (informant) has stated that at the time of the incident he was in his village. He further stated that someone informed him over the phone that his daughter had committed suicide at her house in Sheohar. Thereafter, he called number 112 from the village, came from the village to Sheohar, and

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the administration arrived, broke open the lock of the room, and took out the dead body. The police then took the body for post-mortem examination. In cross-examination by the defence, he deposed that the mental condition of his daughter (the deceased in the present case) had not been good for a long time, and that she often used to leave the house and wander around. He also stated that the accused persons had never subjected her to cruelty or assault, and that the in-laws used to take good care of his daughter and fulfill all her needs. He further stated that the in-laws had never demanded dowry of Rs 10 lakh and a motorcycle, and his daughter Chandni Kumari (the deceased) had never complained to him about any dowry demand by her in-laws. He also further deposed that the application submitted at the police station had been written by some other person, and that he had merely signed on a blank paper. He further deposed that the contents of the application were neither read over nor explained to him. He further deposed that his daughter Chandni Kumari (the deceased) had committed suicide due to her disturbed mental condition. Thus, from the testimony of this informant witness as well, no such fact comes on record which would indicate that the accused persons committed the offence alleged in the present case or that they were involved in it.

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21. After evaluating the evidence and witnesses, the Court reaches the conclusion that the four accused persons in the present case Vikas Kumar, Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari, Usha Devi alias Usha Kumari did not commit the alleged incident. The prosecution has failed to prove the charges levelled against all four accused beyond all reasonable doubt. Neither the informant nor his son have supported the charged offence against the charged accused persons. Prosecution has failed to connect with the charged offence.

Therefore, accused Kailash Rai, Priyanka Kumari and Usha Devi @ Usha Kumari are hereby acquitted by the Court for charged offence under Sections 80(2), 3(5), and 103(1) of the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) due to lack of sufficient prosecution evidence. Accordingly, they and their sureties are discharged from the liabilities of their bail bonds.

Accused Vikash Kumar is in judicial custody. As such he is directed to be released from jail in connection with this case. The office clerk is directed to issue release order at once to prison concerned.

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The judgment having been dictated, corrected and signed by me
is pronounced in the open Court today on 15.04.2026.

Dictated and corrected by me.

(Deepak Kumar)
Principal Sessions Judge,
Sheohar
Dated: 15.04.2026

(Deepak Kumar)
Principal Sessions Judge,
Sheohar
Dated: 15.04.2026

Date of Judgment	15.04.2026
Date of Reserving Judgment	16.03.2026
Uploading Date	15.04.2026
Uploaded By	Sanjeev Kumar, (Steno)