



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

CRMP No. 729 of 2026

Luturam Verma **Versus** State Of Chhattisgarh

Order Sheet

13.03.2026	Heard Mr. Roop Ram Naik, learned counsel for the petitioner. Also heard Mr. Nitansh Jaiswal, learned Deputy Government Advocate, appearing for respondent No.1/State and perused the FIR as well as material brought on record. I.A. No. 02/2026 i.e. application for amendment in the petition is allowed. The amendment shall be carried out during the course of the day. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that there is a matrimonial dispute between petitioner No.7 / husband and respondent No. 2 / wife and marriage between them was solemnized on 09.04.2023 and the present FIR has been lodged by

	respondent No. 2 against the petitioners for harassment on 07.03.2025. He further submits that the impugned FIR dated 07.03.2025, the consequential charge-sheet and the entire criminal proceedings initiated against the petitioners are arbitrary, malafide and based on vague and omnibus allegations, and are therefore liable to be quashed. The petitioners are innocent persons having no criminal antecedents and have been falsely implicated on account of matrimonial discord and as a counter-blast to the incident dated 06.03.2024, wherein petitioner Nos.2 and 4 were allegedly assaulted by the family members of respondent No.2 and had pursued legal remedies in that regard. It is further submitted that the FIR and charge-sheet do not disclose the essential ingredients of the alleged offences under Sections 498-A, 294 and 34 IPC, as no specific instances of cruelty or overt acts have been attributed to the petitioners, and the allegations have been levelled only to harass the husband's
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family. It is also submitted that there is an unexplained delay of about 14 months in lodging the FIR after the respondent No.2 left the matrimonial home, which indicates that the complaint is an afterthought and retaliatory in nature. The legal notice dated 24.01.2025 further shows that criminal proceedings were threatened for recovery of alleged stridhan, thereby suggesting misuse of criminal law for civil purposes. Moreover, petitioner No.3 resides separately being a serving Police Constable and petitioner Nos.4 to 6 are students staying away for studies, yet they have been implicated without any specific allegations. In such circumstances, no prima facie case is made out against the petitioners and continuation of the criminal proceedings would amount to abuse of the process of law. He lastly submits that the present matter be referred to the Mediation & Conciliation Centre of this Court being matrimonial in nature as there may be chances of compromise between the parties.

Considering the fact that the dispute arrived between the parties *i.e.* petitioner No.7 / husband and respondent No. 2 / wife is matrimonial in nature, we deem it appropriate to make an effort to get the said dispute settled by way of mediation.

In view of the above, petitioners shall deposit **Rs. 50,000/-** with the Mediation Centre of this Court and the same shall be paid to respondent No. 2 on her appearance before the Mediation Centre.

The matter is remitted to the Mediation Centre with the direction that the Mediation Centre shall conclude the mediation and conciliation proceedings expeditiously, after giving notices to both the parties.

Parties are directed to appear before the Mediation Centre of this Court on **19.03.2026**.

Learned State counsel is directed to inform the private respondent No.2 about passing of this order, so that she may appear before the Mediation Centre of the aforesaid date.

List this matter along with report of Mediation

Centre before this Court on **10.04.2026**.

Till the next date of listing, further proceedings against the petitioners in relation to Criminal Case No. 1966/2025, pending before the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Sarangarh, District- Sarangarh-Bilaigarh (C.G.) arising out of the FIR as well as charge-sheet No. 120/2025 dated 09.06.2025 registered in Crime No. 73/2025 dated 07.02.2025 under Sections 294, 498A & 34 of the IPC at Police Station- Kosir, District- Sarangarh-Bilaigarh (C.G.), shall remain stayed.

After depositing the amount as aforesaid, notice shall be issued to the parties.

It is made clear that in case the aforesaid amount is not deposited within the aforesaid period, the interim protection granted as above shall automatically be vacated and this petition shall stand dismissed without further reference to any Bench of this Court.

The petitioner is directed to produce the copy of the receipt before the trial Court concerned regarding

payment of the said money before the Mediation Centre of this Court in pursuance of this Court's order, then only this order shall be given into effect.

It is also made clear that if any final settlement is arrived at between the parties, the aforesaid amount so deposited, shall be adjusted.

**Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge**

**Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice**