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

+ CRL.M.C. 5601/2025 & CRL.M.A. 24030/2025
HAROON@ HARUN KHAN AND OTHERSPetitioners
Through: Mr. Devender Kumar, Advocate.

versus

THE STATE NCT OF DELHI AND ANRRespondents
Through: Mr. Aashneet Singh, APP with SI
Rahul, PS Burari.
Mr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Advocate.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRATEEK JALAN

ORDER
27.03.2026

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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. 454/2015 dated 14.04.2015, registered at Police Station Burari, District North, New Delhi, under Sections 420/120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ["IPC"], and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 ["the DP Act"], and all consequential proceedings emanating therefrom, on the ground of settlement.

2. Issue notice. Mr. Aashneet Singh, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, accepts notice on behalf of the State. Mr. Sanjeev Ranjan, learned counsel, accepts notice on behalf of respondent No. 2 – complainant.



3. The petition is taken up for disposal with the consent of learned counsel for the parties.

4. The impugned FIR was registered at the instance of respondent No.2 against three accused persons [petitioners herein]. The facts, as emerging therefrom, are that respondent No. 2 and her husband, while seeking a suitable matrimonial alliance for their daughter, were introduced to the petitioners. Pursuant thereto, an engagement ceremony was solemnised between respondent No. 2's daughter and petitioner No.1, at which time cash and gifts are stated to have been given by respondent No. 2 to the petitioners. It is alleged that the petitioners had misrepresented their financial standing, as also the educational qualifications of petitioner No. 1, which came to light subsequently, resulting in the engagement being called off. Thereafter, respondent No. 2 and her husband requested the petitioners to return the monies expended; however, the petitioners allegedly refused to do so.

5. Upon completion of investigation, a chargesheet was filed.

6. The parties have since entered into a settlement, recorded in a Memorandum of Understanding dated 22.08.2025. In light of the aforesaid, they seek quashing of the impugned FIR.

7. The petitioners are present in Court, and have been identified by their learned counsel, as well as by the Investigating Officer. Respondent No. 2 is also present in person, and is identified by her learned counsel and the Investigating Officer.

8. The Memorandum of Understanding dated 22.08.2024 contemplates payment of a sum of Rs. 60,000/- to respondent No. 2 by the petitioners. Respondent No. 2, who is present in person and



represented by counsel, confirms that she has received a sum of Rs.30,000/- in terms of the settlement. The remaining amount of Rs.30,000/- has been paid to her today.

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

10. Although the offences under Section 120B of the IPC and Section 4 of the DP Act are non-compoundable, the Supreme Court has clearly held that, in certain circumstances, the High Courts, in exercise of their powers under Section 482 of the CrPC [corresponding to Section 528 of the BNSS], 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.

11. The Supreme Court, in *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab and Anr.* [(2012) 10 SCC 303], 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.”

[Emphasis supplied.]

Further, in *Narinder Singh and Ors. v. State of Punjab and Anr.* [(2014) 6 SCC 466], the Supreme Court has also laid down guidelines for High Courts while accepting settlement deeds between parties and quashing the proceedings. 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 and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal cases.”*

[Emphasis supplied.]

12. In the present case, the proceedings between the parties arise out of a failed matrimonial alliance, which was broken off at the stage of engagement. Applying the tests laid down by the Supreme Court, it may be observed that 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.

13. As noted above, the settlement amount of Rs. 60,000/- has been received by respondent No. 2. There is, therefore, no impediment to the grant of the relief sought.

14. Having regard to the above discussion, the petition is allowed, and FIR No. 454/2015 dated 14.04.2015, registered at Police Station Burari,



District North, New Delhi, under Sections 420/120B of the IPC, and Section 4 of the DP Act, alongwith all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, is hereby quashed.

15. The petition, alongwith pending application, accordingly stands disposed of.

PRATEEK JALAN, J

MARCH 27, 2026

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