

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL No. _____/2026
@ SLP (CRIMINAL) No(s). 9697/2026

HARDEEP SINGH & ANR.

Appellant (s)

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

O R D E R

1. Leave granted. Heard learned Counsel for the appellants and the respondent-State.
2. Despite service of notice on the second respondent, as is reported by the office *vide* Office Report dated 23.09.2026, no one has entered appearance on her behalf.
3. The appellants were made accused by a First Information Report (for short 'FIR') dated 06.01.2022 lodged by the second respondent at Women Police Station, District Kurukshetra, Haryana for offences punishable under Sections 323, 406, 498-A and 506 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (for short 'IPC'). The FIR was investigated and a police report was submitted based on which proceedings were initiated and charges were framed. The

appellants applied for quashing of the proceedings by invoking the inherent powers of the High Court based on a compromise dated 29.11.2024 which indicated that the allegations were in the context of matrimonial disputes between the parties which have been settled by mutual consent as also a mutual divorce where under alimony etc. was paid by the husband to the respondent.

4. There was no dispute regarding such settlement having been arrived at between parties. However, the High Court declined the prayer to quash the proceedings on the ground that the first appellant (Hardeep Singh) i.e. the husband had obtained bail in connection with the present case but had jumped the bail by not appearing before the court and was declared a proclaimed absconder. The High Court took the view that since the first appellant had misused the concession of bail and had left the country, he was not entitled to the discretionary relief available to him under the inherent powers of the High Court.

5. The submission on behalf of the

appellants is that there is no dispute that parties have settled their differences and have obtained divorce by mutual consent. In such circumstances, having already applied for quashing of the proceedings, if he had left for Canada being employed there, there was no justification to deny him relief. It has also been submitted that the law is settled that where criminal proceedings emanate from matrimonial disputes and parties resolve their differences and pray for quashing of the proceedings based on a compromise, those proceedings even if they relate to non compoundable offences can be quashed under the inherent powers of the High Court¹.

6. The learned counsel for the respondent-State has submitted that the State has no objection if the parties have already resolved their differences and have entered into a settlement.

7. Having regard to the facts of the case and the submissions made before us, while taking into account that there is a settlement between parties and despite service of notice,

1 *B.S Joshi vs. State of Haryana and Anr.:* (2003) 4 SCC 675

the second respondent has not entered an appearance to refute the settlement which has been annexed with the appeal paperbook, we are of the view that the proceedings are liable to be quashed on the basis of mutual settlement between the parties more so when those proceedings have emanated from matrimonial differences.

8. Accordingly, the appeal is allowed. The order of the High Court dated 13.03.2026 is set aside. The criminal proceedings emanating from FIR No. 3/2022 at Women Police Station, District Kurukshetra, Haryana and all consequential proceedings are hereby quashed.

9. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

..... J
[MANOJ MISRA]

..... J
[VIJAY BISHNOI]

New Delhi;
September 24, 2026

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

CRIMINAL APPEAL No. /2026
@ SLP (CRIMINAL) No(s). 9697/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 13-03-2026 in CRM-M No. 2123/2025 passed by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh]

HARDEEP SINGH & ANR.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 159470/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT

IA No. 159472/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

IA No. 159468/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 24-09-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIJAY BISHNOI

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Varun Dev Mishra, AOR
Mr. Pawan Attri, Adv.
Ms. Kirti Lal, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Shekhar Raj Sharma, Addl. AG
Ms. Nidhi Narwal, Adv.
Mr. Anurag Kulharia, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Leave granted.
2. The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order placed on the file.
3. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(CHETAN ARORA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(SAPNA BANSAL)
COURT MASTER (NSH)