



CRM-M-883-2025 (O&M) -1-

246

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-883-2025 (O&M)

Date of Decision:- 22.08.2025

**KUNAL CHHABRA**

...Petitioner

Vs.

**STATE OF PUNJAB**

...Respondent

**CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE AMARJOT BHATTI**

Present:- Mr. Ish Mahajan, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Manjot Kaur, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. V.K. Kaushal, Advocate for the complainant.

**AMARJOT BHATTI, J.**

1. Petitioner has filed instant second petition under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Erstwhile Section 438 Cr.P.C.) for grant of anticipatory bail in FIR No.131 dated 18.11.2024 under Sections 316 (2) and 85 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 registered at Women Police Station, District Police Commissionerate, Jalandhar (Annexure P-1).

2. As per facts of the case, complainant Keerti Pathak filed written complaint against her husband Kunal Chhabra and others alleging that her marriage was performed with Kunal Chhabra on 07.05.2021. Her parents had spent huge money on her marriage and they had given costly gifts in the shape of gold ornaments, etc. Soon after marriage, she realized that her



**CRM-M-883-2025 (O&M) -2-**

husband and in-laws were greedy for dowry. They were expecting more money and dowry articles. She was harassed and humiliated in the matrimonial home. Accused persons pressurized the complainant and her father to handover either cash of Rs.2 lakhs or prepare FDR of the same. Their demand could not be satisfied, as a result the harassment continued. On 22.08.2021, cash of Rs.51,000/- was handed over to accused Nos.1 to 3. On Diwali festival again there was demand for gold items. Her husband and in-laws family were always unhappy with her family members as they could not satisfy their demand. Finally, cash of Rs.2 lakhs were given to the accused persons for purchasing a car. Loan was also raised to purchase a car and the monthly EMI was Rs.14,534/-. It was done to satisfy their demand. All her dowry articles were in possession of accused persons. She was not permitted to use her articles. Finally there was demand for cash of Rs.11 lakhs to rehabilitate the complainant. Complainant requested to return her dowry articles but they refused. Finally, complaint was filed on the basis of which present FIR has been registered.

3. Counsel for petitioner argued that petitioner was granted interim bail vide order dated 13.01.2025 passed by Coordinate Bench. Matter was also referred to Mediation and Conciliation Centre but no compromise could be effected. At present, the dowry articles have been returned which are taken into police possession. Petitioner is still ready to join the investigation as and when required.

4. Bail petition is opposed by learned counsel representing State assisted by learned counsel for the complainant. It is pointed out that all dowry articles are not returned by the petitioner. Some of the dowry articles



**CRM-M-883-2025 (O&M) -3-**

consisting of gold ornaments are yet to be recovered. Complainant faced continuous harassment in matrimonial home on account of their demand for dowry. Therefore, petitioner is not entitled to be released on anticipatory bail.

5. I have considered the arguments and have gone through the record carefully. Earlier, petitioner had filed anticipatory bail bearing CRM-M-62449-2024 which was dismissed as withdrawn on 12.12.2024 (Annexure P-5), thereafter present anticipatory bail petition has been filed in which petitioner was granted interim relief vide order dated 13.01.2025. There was effort to effect the compromise and case was referred to Mediation and Conciliation but no fruitful result could be achieved. As per status report, there is list of dowry articles (Annexure R-1/T). There are two recovery memos dated 03.01.2025 and 06.02.2025 (Annexures R2/T and R3/T) vide which dowry articles have been recovered.

It is pointed out that still some of the dowry articles are yet to be recovered. The entrustment of remaining dowry articles and misappropriation thereof is matter of trial. No purpose would be served by sending the petitioner behind the bars. Therefore, interim bail already granted to petitioner vide order dated 13.01.2025 stands confirmed subject to the conditions envisaged under Section 482 (2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

6. Bail petition is accordingly allowed.



**CRM-M-883-2025 (O&M) -4-**

7. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stand disposed of accordingly as well.

**(AMARJOT BHATTI)  
JUDGE**

**22.08.2025**

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Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No.  
Whether reportable : Yes/No