Redacted by NyayVidhan (private matrimonial dispute): the first appellant's name (the appellants are shown as M.S.K. & Ors. on nyayvidhan.in), the date of the marriage, the dates of the incidents in paragraph 3, the city of the husband's business, the FIR number and the town of the police station and courts are withheld. Text otherwise as issued by the Court.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. OF 2026
(Arising out of SLP (Crl) No.17041 of 2026)

& Ors. ...Appellants

Versus

The State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors. ...Respondents

O R D E R

Leave granted.

2. A broken marriage has led to the filing of an FIR alleging offences under Sections 498A, 294 and 506 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. In the present case, there is an additional ground as raised by the appellants herein, the father-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law of the 2nd respondent; complainant, that the husband; the son of 1st and 2nd appellants, had filed an application for declaring the marriage *null and void* under Section 12 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, which stood dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

3. According to the appellants, it was the recalcitrant attitude of the 2nd respondent which led to the breakdown of marriage. It is alleged that when the 1st appellant's father died, the relatives of the 2nd respondent came to his house and created ruckus on and again on . Complaints

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by CHANDRESH
Date: 2026.01.19 19:40:27 IST
Reason:

were made with respect to the trouble created by the relatives of the 2nd respondent which led to the retaliatory FIR filed *inter alia* under Section 498A, is the contention. An application to quash the proceedings before the High Court turned futile, against which, the appellants have come before this Court. The husband, who was a party before the High Court, has not challenged the order.

4. We have gone through the FIR and the statements made by the witnesses. The wife, the 2nd respondent, alleged that the marriage was solemnized on with all pomp and ceremony and her family had given a number of household articles and a car, in addition to cash. Though for a period, the marital life went on smoothly, taunts started regarding the insufficiency of dowry. It is also alleged that the marriage proposal itself was accepted since the bridegroom was said to have a big business in . Despite repeated requests, the wife was not taken to ; which the appellants submit, was only due to Covid. The fairly long First Information Statement, however, makes repeated bland allegations. The statements of the wife and the other witnesses, produced as Annexures P6-P9, also repeat the allegations verbatim, which itself creates a suspicion.

5. Admittedly, there was an estrangement of the husband and the wife. The allegations made are quite bland and are not specific. Despite the allegation of physical assault, there is no injury caused, no hospitalization or a medical certificate to support the same.

6. We find absolutely no reason to continue the proceedings against the appellants herein who are the father-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. We quash the chargesheet produced as Annexure P10 pursuant to FIR No. of 2022 at the Mahila Thana, . The proceedings before the Judicial Magistrate of the First Class Court, , shall stand quashed as against the appellants herein. We make it clear that we have not made any observations regarding the culpability or otherwise of the husband.

7. The appeal is allowed.

8. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand rejected.

..... J.
(J. B. PARDIWALA)

..... J.
(K. VINOD CHANDRAN)

NEW DELHI;
NOVEMBER 16, 2026.

ITEM NO.44 COURT NO.5 SECTION II-E

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No.17041/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 11-02-2026 in MCRC No. 31658/2022 passed by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at]

& ORS. Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH & ORS. Respondent(s)

[MEDIATION REPORT RECEIVED]
IA No. 236526/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 16-11-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Abhishek Usha Singh, Adv.
Ms. Deeksha Saggi, Adv.
Mr. Varun Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Adamya Uniyal, Adv.
Ms. Anupma Jyoti, Adv.
Mr. Rituparn Uniyal- 4135, AOR
Mr. Kumar Anil Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Abhimanyu Singh G.a, Adv.
Mr. Yashraj Singh Bundela- 3281, AOR
Mr. Pshpinder Singh, Adv.

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

1. Leave granted.

2. The appeal stands allowed in terms of the signed order.

3. The relevant part of the order is as under:-

> ***"6. We find absolutely no reason to continue the proceedings against the appellants herein who are the father-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. We quash the chargesheet produced as Annexure P10 pursuant to FIR No. of 2022 at the Mahila Thana, . The proceedings before the Judicial Magistrate of the First Class Court, , shall stand quashed as against the appellants herein. We make it clear that we have not made any observations regarding the culpability or otherwise of the husband."***

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

(CHANDRESH) **(POOJA SHARMA)**
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS **COURT MASTER (NSH)**

(Signed order is placed on the file)