

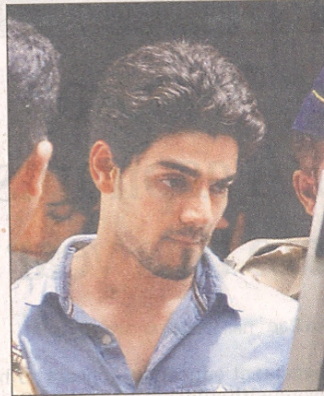
Suraj innocent, hope he will come home soon, says mother Zarina

Bharati Dubey | TNN

Mumbai: With lawyers interpreting the Andheri court's decision to deny police further custody of **Suraj Pancholi** as a positive development, the 22-year-old aspiring actor's family is feeling vindicated. They are keeping their fingers crossed and hoping to see him back home on bail on Friday.

"I wish that happens and I am praying to God. I know my son is innocent and has not done anything wrong. My heart sank when the police asked for three more days of his remand," Suraj's mother Zarina Wahab told TOI. A tense Zarina and her family were present at the Andheri magistrate court on Thursday morning for the custody hearing.

Suraj was arrested on Monday after 25-year-old actor Jiah Khan's family filed an FIR blaming him for her suicide exactly a week ago on June 3.



Zarina is now worried about her son having to spend the night at Arthur Road jail. "The police did not allow me to speak to him. He only took a bottle of water from me and waved. I know there was a storm inside waiting to burst," she said.

Sources said Suraj muttered to his mother that he does not believe that the six-page purported suicide note found among Jiah's belong-

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Zarina Wahab
SURAJ'S MOM

ings and handed over to the police by her family was written by her. "Nafisa cannot write rude things about me," a close friend quoted him as saying. Jiah was a name Bollywood gave the actor Nafisa.

Experts said the handwriting in the six-page letter and those found in Suraj's house appear to have been written by the same person. "There are indications that

the handwriting on exhibit A is similar to the handwriting on exhibit B, suggesting both the letters are... written by the same person," Helik Advisory's Titiksha Desai, also a former assistant professor of the Institute of Forensic Science, said. There were several similarities, including in the formation of individual letters and the connecting strokes between them and "pen-lifting habits", added former Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories director Rukmani Krishnamurthy.

Jiah's family maintained a stoic front. "Let Suraj come out of jail tomorrow. I am not going to get my daughter back," said Rabiya Khan, Jiah's mother.

"Let them do anything. What I have done is played the role of mother... (I) wanted the world to know the truth. I am not on a revenge spree but I will definitely get justice for my daughter."