IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

R/CRIMINAL MISC.APPLICATION (FOR SUCCESSIVE REGULAR BAIL - AFTER CHARGESHEET) NO. 21804 of 2026

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MANJULABEN @MANJU CHANDRAKANTBHAI SHAH

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

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Appearance:
MR SAHEEL S KADRI(11239) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
MR. UTKARSH SHARMA, APP for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:**HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HASMUKH D. SUTHAR**

Date : 27/10/2026

ORDER

[1.0] **RULE.** Learned APP waives service of rule for the respondent-State.

[2.0] The present application is filed under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short "BNSS") for regular bail in connection with **FIR being C.R. No.11994002260118 of 2026 registered with Bhavnagar Railway Police Station, Bhavnagar**, for the offence under Sections 8(c), 20(B),(ii)(B) and 29 of the NDPS Act.

[3.0] Learned advocate appearing on behalf of the applicant submits that applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the offence. The muddamal is of intermediate quantity, therefore, rigor of Section 37 of the NDPS would not be applicable. He therefore submits that, considering the nature of the offence, the applicant may be enlarged on regular bail on the ground of parity by imposing suitable conditions.

[4.0] Learned APP appearing on behalf of the respondent-State has opposed the present application on the ground that the present applicant is involved in another offence. Hence, she has requested to dismiss the present application.

[5.0] While granting bail, the Court has to consider the involvement of the accused in the alleged offence, the jurisdiction to grant bail has to be exercised on the basis of the well settled principles having regard to the facts and circumstances of each case and the following factors are to be taken into consideration while considering an application for bail: (i) the nature of accusation and the severity of the punishment and the nature of the materials relied upon by the prosecution; (ii) reasonable apprehension of tampering with the witnesses and threat to the complainant or the witnesses; (iii) reasonable possibility of securing the presence of the accused at the time of trial or the likelihood of his abscondence; (iv) character behaviour and standing of the accused and the circumstances which are peculiar to the accused; (v) larger interest of the public or the State and similar other considerations are required to be considered.

[6.0] I have heard the learned advocates appearing on behalf of the respective parties and perused the investigation papers. Following aspects have been considered:

(1) Investigation is over and charge-sheet is filed ;

(2) None of the offence alleged is punishable with life sentence or death penalty;

(3) Applicant is behind the bars since 09.07.2026;

(4)There is nothing to be recovered or discovered from the applicant;

(5) It is alleged that Present applicant is proposed receiver of 16.977 kg of Ganja, which admittedly falls within the intermediate quantity. Therefore, the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act are not attracted.

(6) Present applicant is proposed receiver and was conscious

(7) conclusion and commencement of trial will take its own time;

(8) Though the applicant is having one past antecedent of similar nature, he is presumed to be innocent till proven guilty;.

[7.0] This Court has also taken into consideration the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of **Sanjay Chandra vs. Central Bureau of Investigation** reported in **[2012]1 SCC 40** as well as in the case of **Gudikanti Narasimhulu And Ors vs. Public Prosecutor, High Court of Andhra Pradesh** reported in **(1978)1 SCC 240.** Obviously, the conclusion of trial will take time and keeping the accused behind the bars is nothing but amounts to pre-trial conviction and therefore, considering the celebrated principle of bail jurisprudence is that "bail is a rule and jail is exception" as well as the concept of personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, present application deserves consideration.

[8.0] In the facts and circumstances of the case and considering the nature of the allegations made against the applicant in the FIR, without discussing the evidence in detail, prima facie, this Court is of the opinion that this is a fit case to exercise the discretion and enlarge the applicant on regular bail. Hence, the present application is allowed. The applicant is ordered to be released on regular bail in connection with **FIR being C.R. No.11994002260118 of 2026 registered with Bhavnagar Railway**

Police Station, Bhavnagar, on executing a personal bond of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand) of the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial Court and subject to the conditions that he shall;

(a) not take undue advantage of liberty or misuse liberty;

(b) not act in a manner injurious to the interest of the prosecution & shall not obstruct or hamper the police investigation and shall not to play mischief with the evidence collected or yet to be collected by the police;

(c) surrender passport, if any, to the Trial Court within a week;

(d) not to leave India till trial is over, without prior permission of the Trial Court concerned;

(e) mark presence before the concerned police station once in a month for a period of six months;

(f) furnish the Aadhar card, email ID/present address of his residence to the Investigating Officer and also to the Court at the time of execution of the bond and shall not change the residence/contact number, SIM number without prior permission of Trial Court;

(g) if the applicant is found to be indulged in any illegal activities in future, the trial Court concerned will be free to issue warrant and cancel the bail granted to the applicant.

(h) not to enter into District- Bhavnagar for a period of six months except for marking presence before the concerned police station and/or for attending Court;

[9.0] The authorities will release the applicant only if he is not required in connection with any other offence for the time being. If breach of any of the above conditions is committed, the Sessions Judge concerned will

be free to issue warrant or take appropriate action in the matter.

[10.0] Bail bond to be executed before the lower Court having jurisdiction to try the case. It will be open for the concerned Court to delete, modify and/or relax any of the above conditions, in accordance with law.

[11.0] At the trial, the trial Court shall not be influenced by the observations of preliminary nature qua the evidence at this stage made by this Court while enlarging the applicant on bail.

[12.0] Rule is made absolute to the aforesaid extent. Direct service is permitted.

(HASMUKH D. SUTHAR,J)

PARESH SOMPURA

Original copy of this order has been signed by the Hon'ble Judge.
Digitally signed by: PARESHKUMAR SOMPURA(HC00451), Principal Pvt Secretary, at High Court of Gujarat on 27/10/2026 14:51:54