IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

R/CRIMINAL MISC.APPLICATION (FOR REGULAR BAIL - BEFORE CHARGESHEET) NO. 25860 of 2026

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VILAS SADASHIV SHIVRAM BHARGUDE

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

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Appearance:
MR. MOHD.ABRAR A. SAIYED(16369) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
MR ROHAN SHAH, APP for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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

Date : 30/10/2026

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.11185004261162 of 2026 registered with Jam Khambhaliya Police Station, District: Devbhoomi Dwarka** for the offences under Sections 316, 318, 336, 338 and 61 of the B.N.S. and sections 18 & 27 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

[3.0] Learned advocate appearing on behalf of the applicant submits that the applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the offence. The main allegation against the applicant is that the applicant, along with the co-accused, had hatched a conspiracy for trading-in with a medicine named "Pregabalin" in breach of the regulations issued by the Government of India. It is submitted that the applicant has not been shown as manufacturer or exporter of the said drug in the impugned FIR. Substantial part of investigation is over. Nothing is required to be recovered or discovered. The applicant has no past antecedent. He, therefore, submits that considering the nature of the offence, the

applicant may be enlarged on regular bail by imposing suitable conditions.

[4.0] Learned APP appearing on behalf of the respondent-State has opposed the present application and requested to dismiss the present application for regular bail on the ground that the applicant is very much involved in the present offence and considering the gravity of offence, no case is made out to entertain present bail application. The charge-sheet is yet to be filed and if the applicant is released on bail, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the applicant will flee from justice and tamper with the evidence. Therefore, present application does not deserve consideration.

[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) In the Notification issued by the Government of India, the drug in question is mentioned under the category of "Schedule H-1" and hence, it is not a 'prohibited' drug or a psychotropic substance.

(2) The role attributed to the applicant is of preparing bills / invoice of the drug in question. The number of drugs mentioned in such bills appears to be over-valued or under-valued. Further, the number of boxes containing the said drug appear to have been mentioned incorrectly. Except the above, no overt act is attributed to him.

(3) Even if the allegations are taken at its face-value, at the most, it would amount of breach of the conditions of Licence and prima facie, no offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is made out against the applicant.

(4) The applicant is the Director of Vipra Pharmaceuticals and there is nothing to be recovered or discovered from him;

(5) The applicant is having one past antecedent under NDPS Act, however, the accused is governed by presumption of innocence unless and until proved guilty;

(6) Substantial part of the investigation is over;

(7) Obviously, the commencement and conclusion of trial will take its own time.

(8) Co-accused having similarly situated role is enlarged on regular bail and therefore, on the ground of parity also ***(Rameshbhai Batubhai Dhabi Vs. State of Gujarat*** *reported in* ***2011 (3) GLR 1999)***, present application deserves consideration.

[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.11185004261162 of 2026 registered with Jam Khambhaliya Police Station, District: Devbhoomi Dwarka** on executing a personal bond of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-five Thousand only) with one surety of the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial Court and subject to the conditions that he/she 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 leave the State of Gujarat without prior permission of the Trial Court concerned;

(e) mark presence before the concerned Police Station once in a week till filing of the chargesheet and after filing of the chargesheet, mark presence before the concerned police station once in a month for a period of six months;

(f) furnish the ***Aadhaar 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*** without prior permission of Trial Court;

(g) not to indulge in any illegal activity failing which learned trial

Court shall issue warrant and cancel the bail of the applicant.

(h) Not to contact or try to contact directly or indirectly the complainant/victim/witnesses connected with the offence.

[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)

ANKIT JANSARI

Original copy of this order has been signed by the Hon'ble Judge.
Digitally signed by: ANKIT YOGESHBHAI JANSARI(HCW0109), ENGLISH STENOGRAPHER GRADE ONE, at High Court of Gujarat on 30/10/2026 14:27:37