

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/CRIMINAL MISC.APPLICATION (FOR SUCCESSIVE REGULAR BAIL -
AFTER CHARGESHEET) NO. 1016 of 2026**

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RAHULBHAI JAGDISHBHAI RAGDE

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

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Appearance:

MR A S TIMBALIA(7372) for the Applicant(s) No. 1

MR ADITYA T PANCHOLI(13067) for the Respondent(s) No. 1

MR JK SHAH ADDL. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR for the Respondent(s) No. 1

RAFIK LOKHANDWALA(5590) for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NIKHIL S. KARIEL

Date : 16/03/2026

ORAL ORDER

1. Heard learned advocate Mr. A.S.Timbalia for the applicant, learned APP Mr.J.K.Shah for the respondent-State and learned advocate Mr. Aditya Pancholi for the original complainant.

2. While the complaint *inter alia* alleges that the applicant, an employee of the complainant Company, had blackmailed the owners of the Company and had extorted an amount of Rs.60 Lakhs and whereas, further allegation of having private videos of two of the employees, is also been reflected in the

complaint with which the applicant was blackmailing the complainant and others.

3. This Court has perused the FIR as well as the investigation papers and while the FIR states about around Rs.60 Lakhs having been extorted by the present applicant of which, according to learned advocate Mr.Pancholi around Rs.50 lakhs have gone in the bank account of the present applicant, the investigation is very conspicuous by its absence in stating the exact amount, which has come to the bank account of the present applicant. The police official present in the Court, having perused the bank account details would submit that around Rs.60,000/- has come to the bank account of the present applicant. It would be worth while to note that as per the FIR itself, the salary of the present applicant was Rs.30,000/-. Thus, an amount Rs.60,000/- coming to the bank account of the present applicant by no stretch of imagination, could be corresponding to the allegation of blackmail, wherein around Rs.60 Lakhs has been allegedly received by the applicant. Further, this Court has also gone to the statement of one of the employee of the Company, whose private video had been allegedly recorded by the present applicant and whereas, in her statement the said witness states that another co-employee, that is a lady employee, whose private video had

been allegedly recorded by the present applicant, had left her job since she could not tolerate the harassment by the present applicant.

4. As against the same, having perused the Whatsapp chat between the parties, more particularly, the applicant and the said witness, as well as the employee who had left the office, it would, *prima facie*, appear that the person who had recorded the statement and the present applicant, were having very cordial relationship. It also appears from the Whatsapp chat between the parties that the employee who had left the employment of the complainant, had left the employment since her request for increase in salary had not been acceded to by the complainant.

5. *Prima faice*, having perused the investigation papers, correlating the same with the FIR and the manner in which the investigation has proceeded, this Court is of the opinion that the investigation has not been satisfactory at all. While the FIR alleges that the applicant had been paid around Rs.60 Lakhs which amount was blackmailed by the applicant, there is nothing in the investigation, which would show the amount which had been paid by the complainant to the present applicant. It is also not clear as to why the applicant, would

be paid Rs.60 Lakhs as amount of blackmail but for the fact that the complainant may have some skeletons in his cupboard which he did not want to come out.

6. Under such circumstances, let the entire investigation papers be analyzed by the DCP concerned, and whereas a report regarding the genuineness of the investigation be placed before the Court by the next date i.e. **27.03.2026**. It is observed that this Court expects that the DCP concerned to give an absolutely unbiased report.

7. At this stage, it also needs to be observed that the applicant also claims that he has a recording, which shows the nature of dispute with the complainant and whereas, let a copy of the transcript as well as the recording be submitted to the DCP on behalf of the application who shall examine the same and take an appropriate decision as regards the investigation, as above and further steps, if any required to be taken.

(NIKHIL S. KARIEL,J)

NAIR SMITA V./12-DB-I

Original copy of this order has been signed by the Hon'ble Judge.
Digitally signed by: SMITA VINU NAIR(HC00186), PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY, at High Court of Gujarat on 17/03/2026 11:01:44