

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/CRIMINAL REVISION APPLICATION (AGAINST CONVICTION -
NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT ACT) NO. 393 of 2026**

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SATISHKUMAR C. RATHOD
Versus
STATE OF GUJARAT & ANR.

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Appearance:
MR DIPESH D SONI(9996) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
ROHAN RAVAL APP for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P. M. RAVAL

Date : 24/02/2026

ORAL ORDER

1. Heard, learned advocate for the applicant.
2. By way of present Criminal Revision Application, the applicant has assailed the concurrent findings of the learned Courts below *i.e.* judgment and order dated 128.01.2026 passed in Criminal Appeal No. 69/2019 by the Court of learned 15th Additinal Sessions Judge, Surat confirming the order dated 23.01.2019 passed by the Court of the learned 9th Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat in Criminal Case No. 37475/2014, whereby, the applicant is convicted for the offence under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (for short "NI Act") and sentenced to imprisonment.
3. This revision application is filed mainly on the ground that both the Courts below have committed error in not appreciating the evidence as regards that the fact that there

was no legally enforceable debt on the present applicant and applicant was having an arguable case. Even, keeping aside the aforesaid submissions, learned advocate for the applicant, under the instructions from the applicant, has stated that applicant is ready and willing to deposit 20% of the cheque amount with the trial Court concerned. It is submitted that the Original Complainant has also filed Revision before the Session Court challenging the legality and validity of the order dated 23.01.2019 passed by the Court of the learned 9th Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat in Criminal Case No. 37475/2014, whereby, no compensation granted to the original complainant. Be that as it may, the fact remains that the Applicant is in jail since 28.01.2026. Accordingly, it is urged that pending present revision application, sentence imposed upon the applicant may be suspended and the applicant may be enlarged on bail.

4. Considering the above, issue *Rule*, returnable on 10.03.2026. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor waives service on behalf of respondent – State.

4.1 Subject to the applicant depositing 20% of the cheque amount within a period of two weeks from the date of his actual release with the trial Court concerned, the sentence imposed upon the applicant herein *vide* judgment and orders impugned in this revision application is suspended pending present revision application. The applicant be released on bail by executing a personal bond of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten

Thousand) with one surety of the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial Court concerned, on the conditions that applicant:

- (a) shall not take undue advantage of liberty or misuse liberty;
- (b) shall not leave India without prior permission of this Court;
- (c) shall furnish the present address of his residence with documentary evidence to the Court concerned at the time of execution of the bond;
- (d) shall proceed with the Criminal Revision Application as and when listed and shall not prolong the hearing of the same.

5. Needless to observe that in case of non-deposit of the aforesaid amount, the interim protection of suspending the sentence of imprisonment shall stand automatically withdrawn without reference to this Court.

6. Direct service is permitted.

MMP

(P. M. RAVAL, J)