

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/CRIMINAL MISC.APPLICATION (FOR REGULAR BAIL - AFTER
CHARGESHEET) NO. 4923 of 2026**

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RAKESHKUMAR PANCHABHAI JOSHI
Versus
STATE OF GUJARAT

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Appearance:

MR VIRAT G POPAT(3710) for the Applicant(s) No. 1

MR HARDIK MEHTA, ADDL. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR for the Respondent(s)
No. 1

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE NIKHIL S. KARIEL

Date : 05/05/2026**ORAL ORDER**

1. Heard learned advocate Mr.Virat Popat appearing on behalf of the applicant and learned Additional Public Prosecutor Mr.Hardik Mehta appearing on behalf of the respondent-State.

2. **Rule.** Learned APP waives service of rule on behalf of the respondent-State.

3. The applicant has filed this application under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for enlarging the applicant on Regular Bail in connection with FIR being C.R. No. 11201018250037/2025 registered with CID Cybercrime Police Station, Gandhinagar for the offence

punishable under Sections 318(4), 61(2), 317(2) of the BNS.

4. Learned advocate for the applicant would submit that considering the role attributed to the applicant, and nature of the allegation levelled, the applicant may be enlarged on regular bail. It is further submitted that since the charge-sheet is filed no useful purpose would be served by keeping the applicant in jail for indefinite period. It is further contended that the applicant is ready and willing to abide by all the conditions that may be imposed by this Court if released on bail.

5. As against the same, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent - State has vehemently objected to the grant of regular bail. Learned APP has submitted that looking to the nature of offence and the role attributed to the present applicant as coming out from the charge-sheet, this Court may not exercise the discretion in favour of the applicant and the application may be dismissed.

6. I have heard learned advocates appearing on behalf of the respective parties and perused the papers. Following aspects are considered:-

- i. The allegation being that the accused had transacted through the medium of mule accounts more particularly the amount in question being proceeds of cyber offence.
- ii. Insofar as the present applicant is concerned, it would appear that while the applicant is stated to be mule account holder, having given three accounts to co-accused, in which a total of Rs.3,77,190 in first account, Rs.1,21,481/- in the second account and Rs.2,535/- in the third account, as per the chart submitted by the Investigating Officer to learned APP, have come in the accounts in question.
- iii. Considering the comparatively nominal amounts which have travelled to the accounts of the present applicant and also considering the fact that the applicant is in custody since 28.11.2025, the charge-sheet having been filed and the applicant not having any antecedents, this Court is inclined to consider this application.

This Court has taken into consideration the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of **Sanjay Chandra v. Central Bureau of Investigation reported in [2012] 1 SCC 40.**

7. In the facts and circumstances of the case and considering the nature of the allegations made against the applicant in the First Information Report, 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.

8. Hence, the present application is allowed. The applicant is ordered to be released on bail in connection with F.I.R. registered as C.R. No. 11201018250037/2025 registered with CID Cybercrime Police Station, Gandhinagar, on executing a bond of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) with one surety 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;

[c] surrender passport, if any, to the lower court within a week;

[d] not leave the State of Gujarat without prior permission of the Sessions Court concerned;

[e] furnish the present address of residence to the I.O. and

also to the Court at the time of execution of the bond and shall not change the residence without prior intimation to the I.O.;

[f] mark presence once a month for a period of six months before the concerned police station.

9. 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 Court concerned will be free to take appropriate action in the matter.

10. 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. At the stage of trial, the trial court shall not be influenced by any observations of this Court which are of preliminary nature made at this stage, only for the purpose of considering the application of the applicant for being released on regular bail.

12. The application is allowed in the aforesaid terms. Rule is made absolute to the aforesaid extent. Direct service is permitted.

Bhoomi

(NIKHIL S. KARIEL,J)