

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/CRIMINAL MISC.APPLICATION (FOR REGULAR BAIL - AFTER
CHARGESHEET) NO. 10099 of 2026**

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PAYALBA PRADIPSINH CHAUHAN

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT

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Appearance:

MR VATSAL M PATEL(13752) for the Applicant(s) No. 1

MR ADITYA JADEJA, APP for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:**HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HASMUKH D. SUTHAR****Date : 30/06/2026****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.11201018250038 of 2025** registered with **CID Cyber Crime Police Station, Gandhinagar** for the offences punishable under Sections 3(5), 61(2), 127(4), 143(3), 144, 145 and 146 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short "BNS") and 66(d) of the IT 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. Investigation is over and charge-sheet has been filed. The applicant is arrested on 23.11.2025. Nothing is required to be recovered or discovered from the applicant. There are no past antecedents. The allegation against the present applicant is that she has along with co-accused Sonalben and Sanjaybhai who happens to be husband and wife sent 14 people to abroad, Vietnam and Malaysia and in this regard, offence has been committed. The specific role against the present

applicant is that in the account of present applicant, Rs.75,000/- towards commission has been received however, said two co-accused Sonalben and Sanjaybhai are already released on bail. The prosecution is going to examine 38 witnesses. The commencement of trial will take its own time. Hence, on the ground of parity also, applicant may be enlarged on bail. 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 present applicant is very much involved in the offence of the human trafficking and in Southern and Eastern Asian region the accused have sent the people by playing the role of the sub-agent in collusion of accused no.1. Further, the applicant has received Rs.3,32,485/- towards commission to perform his duty as a sub-agent. She has therefore played the active role. Considering the aforesaid fact, if the applicant is released on bail, possibility cannot be ruled out that the applicant will flee from justice. Present applicant is not entitled to claim parity as co-accused Sonalben is released on bail on the ground that she was a lady accused. 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) Investigation is over and charge-sheet is filed;
- (2) Applicant is lady accused and is behind the bar since 23.11.2025;
- (3) There is nothing to be recovered or discovered from the applicant;
- (4) Offence is triable by JMFC Court and none of the offence alleged is punishable with life sentence or death penalty;
- (5) The applicant is not named in the FIR but based on the statement of co-accused, subsequently, she has been arraigned as an accused;
- (6) Co-accused having similarly situated role are enlarged on regular bail and therefore, on the ground of parity also (Rameshbhai Batubhai Dhabhi Vs. State of Gujarat reported in 2011 (3) GLR 1999);
- (7) Role of the applicant is that she has received Rs.75,000/- towards commission in her bank account;
- (8) The prosecution is going to examine 38 witnesses and therefore, obviously commencement and conclusion of trial will take its own time.

[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.11201018250038 of 2025** registered with **CID Cyber Crime Police Station, Gandhinagar** 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 every

month for a period of six months between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.;

- (f) furnish the Aadhaar card, email ID/present address of her 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 she 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.)

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