

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/SPECIAL CRIMINAL APPLICATION (HABEAS CORPUS) NO. 7423 of
2026**

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PRANAV PRABHUDAS CHANDARANA
Versus
STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.

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Appearance:
MR. AUM M KOTWAL(7320) for the Applicant(s) No. 1
MS. MAITHILI MEHTA, ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR for the
Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE D.N.RAY**Date : 25/05/2026****ORAL ORDER**

It is the specific case of the petitioner that in connection with FIR No. 11203025260323 of 2026 registered with Junagadh Taluka Police Station, District Junagadh, he has been detained on 24.05.2026 whereas, the election is slated to be held today at 11:00 A.M.

The matter was mentioned at 9:30 A.M. in the morning and this Court had directed the Registry to send the file forthwith. In-spite of such direction, the file arrived only at 11.45 A.M. i.e. after 2 Hours and 15 Minutes.

Ms. Maithili Mehta learned APP has vehemently opposed the petition stating that the FIR has been lodged on

22.05.2026 and therefore, the petition is filed belatedly only to stall the election process. It is the further stand of Ms. Mehta that the offences are such that no leniency whatsoever needs to be shown to the present petitioner and merely because there is an election which is being held today, it cannot be said that the petitioner has been arrested/detained for the purpose of denying the petitioner his right to vote in the said election.

However, given the fact that the election is for the post of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Junagadh Taluka Panchayat which is an important position where even a single vote may swing the contest one way or the other, the ends of justice will be subserved, for the time being, if this Court passes the following order:-

By way of an interim order, I hereby direct the detenu to be escorted to the venue of the election for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Junagadh Taluka Panchayat by way of Police arrangement/escort (Japta) at the petitioner's cost. It is further directed that the petitioner will arrive directly at the venue from the detention center, cast his vote and will return

forthwith to the detention center. Till the process is undertaken, the election will remain open.

The Registry is directed to issue a copy of this order by all means necessary to the parties and it is further directed that Ms. Maithili Mehta, learned Additional Public Prosecutor may inform the concerned T.D.O. and D.D.O. of this order, telephonically, so as to ensure that this order is complied with in true letter and spirit.

List the matter on 10.06.2026.

Direct service is permitted.

VARSHA DESAI

(D.N.RAY,J)