PD: 04-11-2026 E: Rajkot E: 1 U: pravin.parmar@timesofindia.com 01-03-2026 21:14

HC junks HIV+ man's suicide abetment case

Instigation By Him Not Established, Says Court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Ahmedabad: Gujarat High Court quashed a case of abetment of suicide against a man accused of transmitting HIV to his homosexual partner and sending him threatening messages. The court observed that the allegations, even if accepted at face value, did not make out an offence of abetment of suicide.

The case dates back to Jan 21, 2022, when a 25-year-old man from Surat's Varachha area was found hanged at his residence. On the morning of his death, he had told his parents that he was HIV-positive. His family had learnt about a week earlier that he was suffering from depression, had suicidal tendencies and was involved in a same-sex relationship.

After his death, his father lodged an FIR with Varachha police, accusing his son's partner of abetting the suicide. He alleged that his son had contracted HIV through the relationship and that the accused had threatened him. The father also cited messages found on his son's mobile phone, which purportedly contained threats from the accused.

2022 CASE

The police booked the partner for abetment of suicide under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Seeking quashing of the FIR, the accused told the high court that he had neither instigated nor done anything to drive his former partner to suicide. He argued that the deceased had been living in a fantasy, portraying himself as the son of a wealthy builder and telling his parents that he was engaged in a lucrative business. Unable to reconcile his claims with reality, the deceased might have taken the extreme step, the accused contended.

Four years after the incident, the victim's father filed an affidavit stating that he had no objection to quashing the criminal proceedings against the accused. The state govt, however, opposed the petition and urged the HC to reject the compromise at the threshold.

Justice P M Raval, after considering the allegations and the investigation, stated, "If the facts on hand are considered, more particularly if the allegations in the FIR are taken on the face of it, no case of abetment is made out, inasmuch as the deceased was a homosexual and had contracted HIV and has thus committed suicide."

The court also noted that the investigating agency had acknowledged that the threatening messages had been sent by the deceased himself between two mobile phones linked to him. The deceased had used different names while communicating.

HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVE

What patients and families should know about living with PAH

Most people are familiar with high blood pressure, or hypertension—it is so common that nearly everyone knows someone living with the condition or may have it themselves. What is far less known is pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a distinct condition affecting the blood vessels of the lungs that affects the lungs and the heart. Even though it is categorised as rare, PAH is actually more common than many might assume. Underdiagnosis and late diagnosis remain major obstacles today because early symptoms often mimic common conditions like asthma, making it essential to help families better understand this disease.



Dr Sameer I. Dani
Director, Cardiology Services, Apollo CVHF Heart Institute, Ahmedabad and Apollo Hospitals International, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

WHAT HAPPENS IN PAH?

To grasp what happens in PAH, compare the blood supply from the heart to the lungs to a flexible garden hose attached to a powerful pump (heart). In a healthy person, the hose (pulmonary artery) is wide open, allowing blood to flow easily from the pump (heart) to the lungs. However, in patients with PAH, the walls of this hose become thick and narrowed. This restricts blood flow and creates a dangerous buildup of pressure inside the lungs. Consequently, the heart must work harder to force blood through these narrow pathways. Over time, this constant strain weakens the heart muscle, eventually leading to heart failure.

Families must also understand the difference between Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) and PAH. PH is an umbrella term describing high blood pressure within the arteries of the lungs and heart. PAH is a specific, severe form of PH where blood vessels in the lungs are narrowed, blocked, and stiffened.

PAH DISEASE BURDEN

Because PAH is difficult to diagnose, accurately capturing its impact can be challenging. According to the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021, India bears the second-largest PAH disease burden in Asia. While the condition can affect anyone, it typically affects women between the ages of 30 and 60 years.

In the early stages, PAH may not present any noticeable symptoms, which can lead to late diagnosis. As the disease progresses, patients begin to experience signs that closely resemble other lung conditions. It is critical not to ignore these symptoms. Common indicators include increased shortness of breath and profound fatigue, along with dizziness, fainting spells, and chest pain. Additional signs include swelling of the feet, legs, and eventually the abdomen, as well as heart palpitations (rapid heartbeats), blue-tinted lips and fingers, and hoarseness.

Although PAH is considered a rare condition, its true burden is likely under-recognised. Early diagnosis and timely medical care can help improve health outcomes. Because PAH can affect each individual differently, recognising symptoms early remains one of the most important factors in managing the condition effectively. If you or a loved one experience persistent or unexplained breathlessness, seeking prompt medical attention is essential.

Issued in public interest by MSD Pharmaceuticals Private Limited for awareness purposes.

Disclaimer: This feature is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice. Consult your medical practitioner before acting upon the information.

Amul hikes ghee, butter prices ahead of Diwali

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Vadodara: With Diwali around the corner, households preparing festive sweets will have to shell out more for two essential dairy products —ghee and butter. Dairy major Amul has raised prices amid a seasonal surge in demand, while supply constraints have made some of its products increasingly difficult to find in the market.

The latest price revision comes as demand for branded ghee has surged following a crackdown on adulterated products in Gujarat and neighbouring Rajasthan.

The increase also erodes much of the relief consumers received from the GST reduction in September 2025, when the tax on dairy products was cut from 12% to 5%.

Sources said a 1-kg carton of Amul ghee now costs Rs 680, up from Rs 630, while a 500-gm pouch of pure ghee has become costlier from Rs 325 to Rs 345. The price of a 100-gm butter pack has increased from Rs 63 to Rs 66, while that of a 500-gm pack has risen from Rs 310 to Rs 325, according to revised maximum retail prices (MRPs).

Amul's online platform lists cow ghee at Rs 740 per litre, Sagar ghee at Rs 710, pure ghee at Rs 700 and buffalo ghee at Rs 720. Several varieties, including pure ghee, buffalo ghee and a combo pack, were marked as sold out.

The price hike comes at a time when ghee is in high demand as an ingredient in festive sweets, while butter remains a staple in households.

Following the GST cut last year, Amul had reduced prices of 700 dairy products.

A one-litre carton of ghee had become cheaper from Rs 650 to Rs 610, while a five-litre tin was reduced from Rs 3,275 to Rs 3,075. Similarly, a 100-gm butter pack had dropped from Rs 62 to Rs 58, while a 500-gm pack was reduced from Rs 305 to Rs 285.

Cow ghee scarce since Sep, outlets allege supply squeeze

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



The price increase, however, is only part of the problem. Retailers in Vadodara and Ahmedabad say stocks of ghee, particularly Amul cow ghee, have been running low since the Ganesh festival, when demand rose sharply. On Tuesday, a D-Mart outlet in Ahmedabad's Satellite area had no stocks of Amul ghee or butter.

The shortage appears to extend beyond Gujarat, with supply disruptions reported in Pune and Kolkata in July and September. Similar complaints have emerged from Jammu and Kashmir.

The precise reasons behind the wider supply disruption remain unclear. Attempts to seek a response from the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets Amul products, did not elicit a response.

A cooperative leader closely associated with Amul said demand for branded ghee had surged following the crackdown on adulterated products.

"In the last six months, around 2 lakh kg of duplicate ghee has been seized in different parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan. After the crackdown, which was a welcome step, demand has shifted to trusted brands like Amul," he said, adding that nearly 45% of annual ghee consumption typically takes place during the festive season, putting additional pressure on supplies.

Parlour operators in Vadodara said the shortage had persisted despite efforts to streamline distribution.

"We receive only a fraction of our usual requirements. In fact, I have not received Amul cow ghee since the Ganpati festival," said a parlour operator in Vadodara.

Sources said parlour operators recently met distributors to raise concerns over the availability of ghee. Distribution channels were subsequently streamlined, but the shortage of cow ghee continues, the operator said.

Diamond artisan who went to Russia missing for 3 months

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Ramnik Sakhwala

Surat: Uncertainty over work pushed diamond artisan Ramnik Sakhwala (39) to Russia in search of better job opportunities. But his job hunt has now turned into a desperate search by his family, which has been without any contact with him for the past three months.

Sakhwala went to Russia with a friend in June 2025, hoping to explore employment opportunities. He took up odd jobs to earn money to meet his living expenses and airfare. "He went there on a visitor visa for three months and started working to manage his daily expenses. He extended his stay, initially planning to return in April as he was not comfortable there, but later decided to stay a little longer," said his wife, Rina. She has now taken up stitching work to support herself and their 16-year-old son, Hemil.

"We last spoke to him on June 24, when he informed us that he was going to the border to work with the armed forces. He told us his phone would not work for at least 15 days and that he would call once he had network connectivity. But that call never came," Rina said.

Sakhwala had also informed his family that he had been issued a Russian passport as he was joining the armed forces. He sent images of the passport to his family. Hemil, along with his uncle Mahesh and grandfather Kalu, has been trying to trace his father through emails and calls to authorities in New Delhi and Moscow. However, their efforts have yielded no clarity on his whereabouts or status.

Originally from Pratapgadh village in Amreli district, the family has been settled in Surat, the Diamond City, for the past 35 years. Sakhwala's father, Kalu, a farmer, said he was initially not informed that his son was missing.

"I was not informed initially by my family members that Ramnik was missing. We have not shared any details with my wife, Mukta, as she has health complications and this information could cause her a lot of pain," he said.

The family wrote to the PMO seeking help to locate Ramnik and also contacted the Russian embassy in India. "We were told by the Russian embassy that they do not have exact information about Ramnik's status. But we fear that he may have died in the war, as we have not been able to contact him," Mahesh said.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch : 1st Floor, SBI Gymkhana Road Branch, Jawahar Road, Nr. Trikon Baug, Rajkot - 360 001, Ph. : 0281-2991380

SALE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT APPENDIX IV-A (SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6))

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE DATE : 24.11.2026

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002). Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (S) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/ Charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India** "The Secured Creditor", will be sold in **" As is Where is ", As is What is ", and "Whatever is there is"** basis on **24.11.2026** for recovery of dues to Secured Creditor.

Sr. No.	Details of Property	Amt. to be Recovered	Possession Type / Date	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Title Deed Holder	Reserve Price / EMD/BID Increase	Date & Time of Inspection
1	Residential Land and construction thereon of Plot No. 36 to 39, Total 4 Plots, Total land Sq. Mtr. 300-00 of N.A. Land R.S. No. 32 and 362 of Village : Bhalpara, Ta. Veraval, Dist. Gir Somnath in the name of Late Jitin Joseph Antony **(Property ID : SBIN2000688312)**	**As per Demand Notice dated 03.08.2018 for Rs. 92,62,803.00 plus interest thereon, cost and expenses etc. thereafter Less : Recovery, if any**	Physical Possession 17.06.2019	Late Jitin Joseph Antony	Late Jitin Joseph Antony	Rs. 60,09,000/- ----- Rs. 6,00,900/- ----- Rs. 10,000/-	13.11.2026 From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 24.11.2026 at 11:00 AM To 04:00 PM - WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 10 MINUTES EACH. DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LETTER OF PARTICIPATION/KYC DOCUMENTS/PROOF OF EMD "Interested bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with BAANKNET.COM (PSB Alliance) before the close of e-Auction. Credit of Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in BAANKNET.COM Bank account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.".
AUTHORISED OFFICERS FOR ALL THE PROPERTIES : SHRI ARVIND KUMAR OJHA : MOBILE NO. 90063 81236
CONTACT PERSONS FOR DETAILS : SHRI JAYANT MARATHE : MOBILE NO. 70287 89982

TERMS & CONDITION : THE AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED ON LINE THROUGH OUR at **BAANKNET.COM** Portal, E-Auction service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited** having its Registered Office at 4th Floor, Metro House, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Dhobi Talao, Near New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020 (Helpdesk Numbers : +91 8291 2 20220) at the web portal **https://baanknet.com**
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others**

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

(1) The Borrower Guarantors are hereby noticed to pay the sums mentioned above before the date of Auction, failing which the propertyies will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost by legal avenues. (2) It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS as applicable u/s 194 1-A if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 lakhs or more. TDS Should be filed online by filling form 26QB & TDS certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government accounts within 15 days of e-auction. (3) GST applicable if any will be borne by the bidder

Date : 04.11.2026, Place : Rajkot **Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Rajkot**

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch : 1st Floor, SBI Gymkhana Road Branch, Jawahar Road, Nr. Trikon Baug, Rajkot - 360 001, Ph. : 0281-2991380

SALE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT APPENDIX IV-A (SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6))

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE DATE : 30.11.2026

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002). Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (S) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/ Charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India** "The Secured Creditor", will be sold in **" As is What is ", as is Where is ", and "Whatever is there is"** basis on **30.11.2026** for recovery of dues to Secured Creditor.

Sr. No.	Details of Property	Amt. to be Recovered	Possession Type / Date	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Title Deed Holder	Reserve Price / EMD/BID Increase	Date & Time of Inspection
1	4 BHK Flat No. B-301, Area 180.32 Sq. Mtrs., 3rd Floor, B Building, "Vasant Kunj", Pushkar Dham Main Road, Off. Kalawad Road, Nana Mava, Rajkot 360005 **(Property ID : SBIN2000684999568)**	**As per Demand Notice dated 02.05.2025 for Rs. 1,65,19,188.00 plus interest thereon, cost and expenses etc. thereafter Less : Recovery, if any**	Physical Possession 09.12.2025	Payal Siddharthbhai Rawal Bhasabiniben Bhupendra Rawal	Payal Siddharthbhai Rawal Bhasabiniben Bhupendra Rawal	Rs. 1,45,00,000/- ----- Rs. 14,50,000/- ----- Rs. 50,000/-	21.11.2026 From 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM
2	Flat No. 402 (3BHK), 4th floor, "Rudra Prayag Appartment", Paradise Hall Raod, Raiya Rajkot, having built up area admeasuring 110.49 Sq. Mtrs., situated on Plot No. 4,5,6,7,18,19,20 & 21 of Revenue Survey No. 120 Paiki Village Raiya, F.P. No. 635-Paiki, of T.P. Scheme No. 4 (Raiya). **(Property ID : SBIN2000506682865)**	**As per Demand Notice dated 19.01.2024 for Rs. 75,60,450.99 plus interest thereon, cost and expenses etc. thereafter Less : Recovery, if any**	Physical Possession 22.07.2024	Mansukhbhai Raghavjibhai Sorathiya Legal heirs of Mansukhbhai Sorathiya 1. Nirmalaben Mansukhbhai Sorathiya, 2. Rushabh Mansukhbhai Sorathiya, 3. Twinkle Mansukhbhai Sorathiya	Mansukhbhai Raghavjibhai Sorathiya	Rs. 60,00,000/- ----- Rs. 6,00,000/- ----- Rs. 10,000/-	17.11.2026 From 04:00 PM to 05:00 PM

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 30.11.2026 at 11:00 AM To 04:00 PM - WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 10 MINUTES EACH. DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LETTER OF PARTICIPATION/KYC DOCUMENTS/PROOF OF EMD "Interested bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with BAANKNET.COM (PSB Alliance) before the close of e-Auction. Credit of Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in BAANKNET.COM Bank account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.".
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Date : 04.11.2026, Place : Rajkot **Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Rajkot**

White Rann, Road to Heaven declared no-spitting zones

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



The 'Road to Heaven'

Rajkot: Recognising the ecological vulnerability of the salt desert, the Kutch district administration has introduced a series of stringent restrictions across major tourist destinations, including Dhordo and the iconic Road to Heaven, ahead of the annual Rann Utsav.

The administration has announced four key prohibitions covering spitting, plastic waste, unregistered animal rides and private vehicular access to sensitive areas.

Kutch is gearing up for the annual Rann Utsav, which draws nearly 10 lakh tourists to Dhordo and Dholavira between November and February.

The administration has designated the White Rann, the Dhordo festival area and the Road to Heaven as no-spitting zones. Consumption and public spitting of tobacco, gutka and pan masala have been prohibited in these areas.

The restrictions cover the stretch from Sabras Bus Stand to the Watch Tower within the Dhordo Rann Utsav perimeter, extending two km on either side of the road, as well as the surrounding desert. The Road to Heaven stretch from Kadhvand in Bhuj taluka to the Dholavira entry point is also covered.

To prevent environmental degradation caused by littering, the entire belt has additionally been declared a plastic-free zone. Dumping single-use plastics, plastic bottles and carry bags in the open desert and the waterlogged flats along the Road to Heaven has been prohibited. The move aims to curb tourist litter that threatens local habitats and damages the region's scenic landscape.

The administration has also restricted private vehicular access to sensitive areas after taking note of incidents in which tourists inadvertently drove onto desert flats, got their vehicles stuck and required rescue operations. Such incidents not only necessitate emergency intervention but also damage the fragile salt crust and the desert's natural beauty.

Accordingly, the route from Sabras Bus Stand to the Watch Tower and the adjoining White Rann have been declared restricted zones for private vehicles.

In another measure aimed at ensuring tourist safety and regulating animal rides, unregistered horse and camel rides across the Dhordo Rann Utsav grounds have been prohibited. Operators will have to obtain formal registration from the designated committee before offering rides to visitors.