



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY,
NAGPUR BENCH, NAGPUR.**

CRIMINAL APPLICATION (ABA) NO. 70 OF 2026

Maroti @ Gabbar Raju Malvande and others

Vs.

State of Maharashtra and another

Office Notes, Office Memoranda of
Coram, appearances, Court's Orders
or directions and Registrar's order

Court's or Judge's Order

Shri A. V. Karnavat, Advocate for applicant.
Shri C. A. Lokhande, APP for non-applicant no. 1/State.
Ms. Aastha Sharma, Advocate (appointed) for non-applicant no. 2.

CORAM :- M. W. CHANDWANI, J.

DATED :- 12.03.2026

The applicants seek anticipatory bail in connection with Crime No. 313/2025 registered with Police Station Shegaon Gramin, Buldhana for the offences punishable under Sections 87, 64(2), 69, 137(2), 249(b) r/w. 3(5) of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Sections 6, 12, 17 and 21 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the applicants as well as the learned APP. I have gone through the case-diary.

3. It appears that the father of the victim lodged a missing complaint with the Police. Later on, it was revealed that main accused- Om Jagtap and the victim were in a love relationship and both of them were found in Gujarat in a rented house. Thereafter, the victim was brought to Shegaon. The allegation against the present applicants are

that they aided the main accused by providing assistance and their rented house during their stay in Gujarat.

4. The applicants were protected by *ad-interim* order of this Court with a direction to attend the concerned Police Station. Accordingly, they attended the concerned Police Station and co-operated in the investigation. Nothing is required to be seized from the present applicants.

5. Considering the nature of allegations against the present applicants, coupled with the punishment prescribed for the alleged act of harbouring an offender, a case is made out for confirming the *ad-interim* protection granted to the applicants vide order dated 02.02.2026. Hence, the following order:-

- i) The application is allowed.
- ii) The *ad-interim* protection granted to the applicants vide order dated 02.02.2026 is hereby confirmed on the same terms and conditions.
- iii) The applicants shall attend the concerned Police Station as and when directed by the Investigating Officer.

6. The fees of the learned counsel appointed to represent the victim shall be quantified as per the Rules.

(M. W. CHANDWANI, J.)