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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

**924 CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 229 OF 2026**

1. VIKAS BALAJIRAO BALHAL  
2. MAROTI TUKARAMJI DHARKARPAWAR  
3. GANGADHAR KHANDU BALHAL

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND ANOTHER

.....

Advocate for the Appellants : Mr. Shinde Shrikishan S.

APP for Respondents/State : Mr. D.B. Bhange

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**CORAM : Y.G. KHOBRAGADE, J.**

**DATE : 09.04.2026**

**PC.:-**

1. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the appellants. By the present appeal under Section 14-A of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the appellants/accused are challenging the order dated 20.03.2026 passed in Criminal No.92/2026 by the learned Additional Sessions Judge-2, Nanded thereby declined to release the appellants/accused on anticipatory bail in connection with Crime No.219/2025 registered with Manatha Police Station, Dist. Nanded on 12.12.2025 for the offence punishable under Sections 109, 61(2), 118(1), 351(2), 351(3), 352, 296, 191(2), 191(3), 190 of the BNS Act and under Section 3(2)(va) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

2. On perusal of FIR dated 12.12.2025, it appears that the other co-accused Vishal Shinde, Nilesh Shinde, Gangadhar Suryawanshi and Parikshit Suryawanshi and other 3 to 4 associates visited him and the accused-Vishal Shinde abused him on his caste and in filthy language. The other accused Gangadhar Suryawanshi and Parikshit Suryawanshi caught hold of him and Nilesh Shinde tried to assault with knife (khanjir), however, he bent down and sustained bleeding injuries on his head. Accused Vishal Shinde and Prashant Shinde assaulted him with iron rod. After hearing the commotion the villagers Shailesh Boinwad and Feroz Shaikh intervened and separated them on the basis of said report, Crime No.219/2025 was registered against the present appellants/accused. However, on perusal of FIR it does not appear that the informant/respondent no.2 has disclosed the name of present appellants nos.1 to 3. So also, *prima facie* there are no allegations in the FIR about abusement on caste to the respondent no.2 by the present appellants. Therefore, at this juncture, I am of the view that the appellants have made out a *prima facie* case to enlarge them on anticipatory bail. Accordingly, I proceed to pass the following order:-

### **ORDER**

(i) Issue notice to the respondents made returnable on 17.04.2026. The learned APP waives service of notice on behalf of respondent no.1. The Investigating Officer to serve the respondent no.2.

(ii) In the meantime, in the event of arrest, the appellant no.1-Vikas Balajirao Balhal, appellant no.2-Maroti Tukaramji Dharkarpawar, and appellant no.3-Gangadhar Khandu Balhal be released on ad-interim anticipatory bail on execution of P R. Bond of Rs.25,000/- each with two solvent sureties in the like amount each, in connection with Crime No. 219 of 2025, registered on 12.12.2025, with Manatha Police Station, District Nanded, for the offences punishable under Sections 109, 61(2), 118(1), 351(2), 351(3), 352, 296, 191(2), 191(3), 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and under Section 3(2)(va) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(iii) The appellants shall appear before the I.O. on 11.04.2026 at about 11.00 am and shall furnish the bail bonds and sureties and thereafter they shall appear before the I.O. on every Saturday in between 10.00 am to 12.00 pm till completion of investigation.

(iv) The appellants shall furnish details of residential address and other contact details such as the mobile number etc., to the concerned police station. If there is any change in the contact details, the same shall be immediately informed to the concerned police station.

(v) The appellants shall not induce, threat or pressurize to the prosecution witnesses and shall not commit similar offence in future and co-operate the Investigating Officer.

(vi) The appellants are directed not to leave territorial jurisdiction of Hadgaon Taluka till completion of investigation, without prior permission.