



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 16333 OF 2026
IN
SUIT (L) NO. 16309 OF 2026

House Of Abhinandan Lodha Private Limited & Anr ...Applicants/Plaintiffs

Versus

Swapnesh Bhanudas Sherlekar & Ors ...Respondents/Defendants

Dr. Veerendra Tulzapurkar, Senior Advocate a/w Dr. Abhinav Chandrachud a/w Mr. Rashid BOTawalla a/w Lipsa Unadkat a/w Mr. Pranav Kethineni i/b Manilal Kher Ambalal & Co. for Applicants/Plaintiffs.

Mr. Akash Rebello a/w Mr. Parag Gosar, Mr. Nadeem Shama i/b Ms Swati Chheda for Respondent No.1.

CORAM : ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.

DATE : 7th MAY 2026

P.C.

1 Dr. Tulzapurkar, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the Plaintiffs has today tendered draft amendment to the plaint, which he submits contains extracts of the material which according to the Plaintiffs are *per se* defamatory. This he submits has been done for convenience and therefore prays that the amendment be allowed. There is no opposition to the same being taken on record. The Plaintiffs are granted liberty to amend the plaint by carrying out the said amendments within a period of one week from today. Reverification is dispensed with.

2 Dr. Tulzapurkar has then taken me through the statements which

according to the Plaintiffs are *per se* defamatory. A particular reference has been placed on the statements contained in Exhibit L to the plaint. He submits that such loose and defamatory statements are causing grave harm to the Plaintiffs reputation. He submits that such statements then get widely reported and disseminated to the public at large and it is thus, he has prayed for interim relief to restrain Defendant No.1 from making such statements which he reiterates are false and *per se* defamatory.

3 Mr. Rebello learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Defendant No.1 seeks time to file a reply affidavit. He firstly submits that there is no urgency in the matter since these statements have been made in the year 2024 and also form part of public interest litigation which is pending before the Goa Bench of this Court. Secondly, he submits that Defendant No.1 is only justifying in making these statements, since they are based on cogent material which support them. Thirdly, he submits that it is curious that when the entire so called cause of action has arisen in Goa, why the jurisdiction of this Court has been invoked. He submits that the Defendant No.1 would be taking the necessary steps in this regard as well. Mr. Rebello then also pointed out that several statements have been attributed to one Nikita Pednekar, who is named in the plaint but is not a party. He submits that in fact, the statements contained in Exhibit L to the Plaint have not been made by his client but have been made by Nikita Pednekar. It is thus he submits that today the question of granting any ad-interim relief to the Plaintiffs does not arise.

4 Dr. Tulzapurkar submits that he will amend the plaint to implead Nikita Pednekar, he, however submitted that given that the suit is filed as John doe

action, at least until the next date of hearing, the statements made in Exhibit L to the Plaintiff not to be further circulated.

5 Having heard learned counsel for the parties and having perused the statements which have been placed before as being *per se* defamatory, I am inclined to grant Defendant No.1 time to file a reply affidavit to justify those statements, which have been attributed to Defendant No.1 as being *per se* defamatory. The Plaintiffs are also at liberty to amend the suit by impleading Nikita Pednekar. However, having perused Exhibit-L, I find that Dr. Tulzapurkar is justified in his request that until the next date of hearing the statements made therein should not be further disseminated to the public at large.

6 Hence, the following order:-

- (i) Amendments as granted above to be carried out within a period of one week from today and amended plaintiff to be served on all the Defendants.
- (ii) Reply affidavit to be filed within a period of three weeks from the date on which the amended plaintiff is served.
- (iii) Until the next date of hearing, statements made in Exhibit -L to the plaintiff shall not further be disseminated to the public at large.

7 Stand over to 2nd July 2026.

[ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.]