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December 1, 2020

Mr. Aditya Kashyap  
Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law  
Sidhuwal-Bhadson Road  
Patiala – 147001 (Punjab)

Dear Mr. Kashyap,

**Sub: Your request for consent to initiate proceedings for criminal contempt under Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 read with Rule 3(c) of the Rules to Regulate Proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court of India, 1975**

I am in receipt of your letter seeking consent for initiating proceedings for criminal contempt against Ms. Rachita Taneja under Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

I have examined the three tweets and the cartoons depicted in the tweets. I am satisfied that each one of them is intended to denigrate the Supreme Court of India and to lower its authority in the eyes of the public.

If the first tweet depicting Arnab Goswami with the Supreme Court of India and the Bharatiya Janata Party by his side and with Arnab Goswami mouthing the words “*Tu jaanta nahin mera baap kaun hai*” were to be believed, one would have to proceed on the basis that the BJP is somehow interested in protecting Arnab Goswami and has prevailed upon the Supreme Court to do so. Therefore, the clear implication would be that the Supreme Court of India is biased towards the ruling political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and would tailor its judgments for the benefit of the ruling party.

Similarly, the second tweet referring to the Supreme Court as ‘Sanghi Court of India’, apparently a reference to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, with the legend, “*Arnab gets bail, real journalists get jail, independent judiciary is fail*”, carries a gross insinuation against the Apex Court of this country to the effect that the Supreme Court of India has ceased to be an impartial organ of the State. The tweet is clearly calculated to undermine the public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the Supreme Court of India.

*K.K. Venugopal*

The third tweet is also highly objectionable, as clearly and unequivocally, what is alleged is that there was a bargain by which the judgment pertaining to the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya was delivered to favour the BJP's stand, in exchange for a Rajya Sabha seat. What is omitted to be said is that the judgment was delivered unanimously by a Constitution Bench of 5 judges and therefore, cannot be attributed to the then Chief Justice alone. This is similarly, therefore, a clear attempt to turn the minds of the people against the then Chief Justice of India, and in the bargain against the Supreme Court judiciary as a whole. It is deliberately intended to shake the confidence that the people have in the Apex Court of the country and to lower the authority of this institution.

I am satisfied that each one of the tweets with the cartoons attached to them is in contempt of the Supreme Court of India, and hence I give my consent to initiate proceedings under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 in regard to each one of the tweets.

Yours sincerely,



K.K. Venugopal