

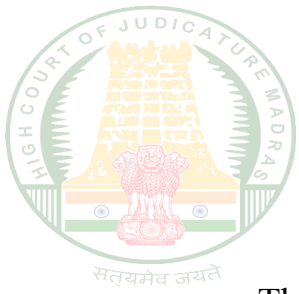
Suo Motu Criminal Contempt Petition No.1699 of 2021

P.N. PRAKASH, J.
and
R. HEMALATHA, J.

A video clipping showing the online Court proceedings of one of our brother Judges, in which, a male is found engaged in eroticism with a lady, is going viral in social media. This Court cannot afford to be a mute spectator and turn a Nelson's eye when such brazen vulgarity is publicly displayed amidst Court proceedings.

2 *Ergo*, we take cognizance of the impugned video clipping for initiating *suo motu* criminal contempt proceedings and issue the following directions:

- The Registry shall register a *suo motu* criminal contempt proceedings based on the impugned video clipping and place the matter before us on the next date of hearing;
- Since the impugned video clipping *prima facie* discloses the commission of cognizable offences under the Information Technology Act and other penal laws, the CB-CID shall register a *suo motu* FIR on the impugned video clipping and file a preliminary report before this Court on 23.12.2021 (Thursday) naming the *dramatis personae* who are found engaged in the vulgar activity;
- The Registry shall preserve the video recordings of the Court proceedings in question;



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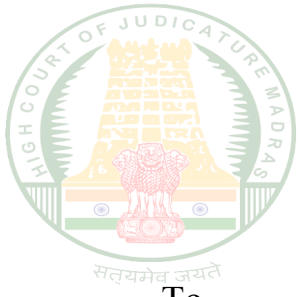
- The Registrar (I.T.-cum-Statistics) shall coordinate with CB-CID and if required, furnish the impugned video clipping and other evidences in this regard, to the CB-CID;
- The Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai, shall take steps to block the circulation of the impugned video clipping in the social media.
- The Registrar (I.T.-cum-Statistics) shall take steps to liaise with the authorities concerned for removal of the impugned video clipping from the internet.

3 Superadded, we are of the considered view that it is high time that we revisit the procedure of conducting Court proceedings in hybrid mode, especially in the light of the fact that Advocates, in large numbers, have started appearing in person in our High Court as well in the District Courts. However, a decision in this regard has to be taken by the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice before whom this matter may be placed.

Post on 23.12.2021 (Thursday).

(P.N.P., J.) (R.H., J.)
21.12.2021

cad



To
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- 1 The Registrar General
High Court of Madras
Chennai 600 104
- 2 The Director General of Police
O/o the CB-CID
Pantheon Road
Egmore
Chennai 600 008
- 3 The Commissioner of Police
132, EVK Sampath Road
Vepery, Periamet
Chennai 600 007
- 4 The Registrar (I.T.-cum-Statistics)
High Court of Madras
Chennai 600 104
- 5 The Section Officer
Contempt Section
Madras High Court
Chennai 600 104



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Suo Motu Criminal Contempt Petition No....



P.N. PRAKASH, J.
and
R. HEMALATHA, J.

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Suo Motu Criminal Contempt Petition No. 1699 of 2021

21.12.2021