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Crl.O.P.No. 8021 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 19.03.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE **G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN**

Crl.O.P.No.8021 of 2025

S.Chidambaran

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.State represented by Inspector of Police,
Peerankaranai Police Station,
Chengalpet District.

2.Kannaki

..Respondents

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to call for the records in FIR No.578 of 2024 on the file of the first respondent police dated 18.12.2024 and to quash the same accordance with law.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.K.Viswanath

For R1 : Mr.A.Gopinath,
Government Advocate (crl.side)

ORDER



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This petition has been filed to quash the FIR in Crime No.578 of 2024 on the file of the first respondent, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 76 of the BNS, 2023 and Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 2002.

2. The case of the prosecution, as per FIR, is that the de-facto complainant, a four-month pregnant woman, had submitted blood samples for testing at Peerkankaranai Government Primary Health Centre on 17.12.2024. On 18.12.2024, she visited the centre with her husband to collect the report. When she approached the lab technician, who is none other than the petitioner herein, he asked her to close the door and stated that a manual examination of her private parts was required. She refused and immediately informed the doctor, who confirmed that no such examination was necessary and that the technician's role was limited to issuing the blood report. On the complaint lodged by the second respondent, the first respondent registered a case in Crime No.575 of 2024 for the offences punishable under Sections 76 of the BNS, 2023 and Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 2002.



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3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the allegations made by the de facto complainant were false, baseless, and intended to malign the petitioner's reputation. It was argued that the petitioner was merely performing his duty, and at no point did he make any inappropriate remarks or attempt to conduct an unwarranted physical examination. The attending doctor had confirmed that no such examination was required, and no physical contact or criminal conduct occurred. The FIR, being devoid of any substantive material or independent corroboration, was an abuse of legal process. Hence, the petitioner prayed for quashing of the FIR.

4. The learned Government Advocate (crl.side) opposed the quash petition, stating the complaint lodged by the pregnant woman discloses a *prima facie* case under Section 76 of the BNS and Section 4 of the TNPWH Act, justifying investigation.

5. Heard both sides and perused the materials placed on record.

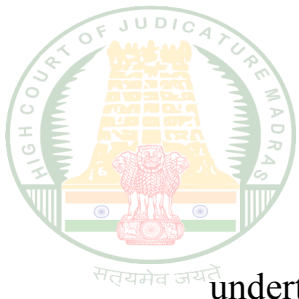


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6. On a perusal of the First Information Report, this Court finds that there are specific and serious allegations as against the petitioner which attract the ingredients of cognizable offences and warrant thorough investigation. It is well settled that an FIR is not expected to be an encyclopaedia of facts. The FIR in the present case discloses a *prima facie* commission of cognizable offences. Hence, this Court is not inclined to quash the FIR at this stage. The investigation machinery must be allowed to proceed in accordance with law to unearth the truth and bring the guilty to book.

7. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in the judgment reported in **2019 (14) SCC 350** in the case of ***Sau. Kamal Shivaji Pokarnekar vs. The State of Maharashtra & ors., (Crl.A.No.255 of 2019*** dated **12.02.2019**) held that the learned Magistrate while taking cognizance and summoning, is required to apply his judicial mind only with the view to taking cognizance of the offence whether a *prima facie* case has been made out for summoning the accused person. The learned Magistrate is not required to evaluate the merits of the materials or evidence in support of the complaint, because the Magistrate must not



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undertake the exercise to find out whether the materials would lead to conviction or not. Only in a case where the complaint does not disclose any offence or is frivolous, vexatious or oppressive, the complaint/FIR can be taken for consideration for quashment. If the allegations set out in the complaint do not constitute the offence of which cognizance has been taken by Magistrate, it can be considered for quashment. Therefore, it is not necessary that a meticulous analysis of the case should be done before the trial to find out whether the case would end in conviction or acquittal. If it appears on a reading of the complaint and consideration of the allegations therein, in the light of the statement made on oath that the ingredients of the offence are disclosed, there would be no justification to interfere. At the initial stage of issuance of process, it is no open to the Court to stifle the proceedings by entering into the merits of the contentions made on behalf of the accused. Therefore, the criminal complaint cannot be quashed only on the ground that the allegations made therein appear to be of a civil nature. If the ingredients of the offence alleged against the accused are *prima facie* made out in the complaint, the criminal proceeding shall not be interdicted.



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8. Further the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India issued directions in the judgment reported in **2021 SCC Online SC 315** in the case of ***M/s.Neeharika Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., Vs. State of Maharashtra & ors.***, as follows :-

“23.

vi) *Criminal proceedings ought not to be scuttled at the initial stage;*

vii) *Quashing of a complaint/FIR should be an exception rather than an ordinary rule;*

.....

xii) *The first information report is not an encyclopedia which must disclose all facts and details relating to the offence reported. Therefore, when the investigation by the police is in progress, the court should not go into the merits of the allegations in the FIR. Police must be permitted to complete the investigation. It would be premature to pronounce the conclusion based on hazy facts that the complaint/FIR does not deserve to be investigated or that it amounts to abuse of process of law. After investigation, if the investigating officer finds that there is no substance in the application made by the complainant, the investigating officer may file an appropriate report/summary before the learned Magistrate which may be considered by the learned*



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Magistrate in accordance with the known procedure;

.....

xv) When a prayer for quashing the FIR is made by the alleged accused and the court when it exercises the power under Section 482 Cr.P.C., only has to consider whether the allegations in the FIR disclose commission of a cognizable offence or not. The court is not required to consider on merits whether or not the merits of the allegations make out a cognizable offence and the court has to permit the investigating agency/police to investigate the allegations in the FIR; ”

9. In view of the above discussions, this Court is not inclined to quash the First Information Report in Crime No.578 of 2024. However, the first respondent is directed to complete the investigation in Crime No.578 of 2024 and file the final report within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this Order, before the jurisdiction Magistrate, if not already filed.

10. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition stands dismissed.



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Neutral citation : Yes/No
Speaking/non-speaking order
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To

1.The Inspector of Police,
Peerankaranai Police Station,
Chengalpet District.

2. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN, J.

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