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Crl.O.P.No. 10452 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 08.04.2025

CORAM:

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

Crl.O.P.No. 10452 of 2025

and

Crl.M.P.No.6970 of 2025

T Janardhanan

..... Petitioner

Vs

1.State rep by,
Inspector of Police,
Peelamedu Police Station,
Coimbatore.
Crime No. 160 of 2023.

2.P.Narayanan

..... Respondents

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to call for the records relating to the impugned FIR No.160 of 2023 dated 10.03.2023 on the file of 1st respondent police and quash the same as against the 1st accused is concerned

For Petitioner : Mr.K.Krishnan

For R1 : Mr.A.Gopinath
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)



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ORDER

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This Criminal Original Petition has been filed seeking to quash the FIR registered in Crime No. 160 of 2023 on the file of the first respondent police for the offences under Sections 408 and 380 of IPC.

2. The case of the prosecution is that, based on the complaint lodged by the second respondent, the first respondent registered an FIR in Crime No.160 of 2023 for the offences under Sections 408 and 380 of IPC. It is alleged that the accused, being the Security Officer, was responsible for the theft of gold jewels weighing 206 grams of gold and a cash of Rs.41,166/-.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that based on the complaint, the petitioner, being the Security Officer, who conducted a preliminary investigation and found that the jewels and cash were missing from the bureau. Therefore, the petitioner has been falsely implicated in this case.

4. On instructions, the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the first respondent submitted that after



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registration of the FIR, the investigation is under progress. Further, he would submit that the offences have been altered to Sections 408 and 380 of IPC.

5. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the first respondent.

6. It is seen that the petitioner had misappropriated jewels to the extent of 206 grams and cash amounting to Rs.41,166/-. Further it is seen from the First Information Report that there are specific allegations as against the petitioner to attract the offence, which has to be investigated in depth. Further the FIR is not an encyclopedia and it need not contain all facts and it cannot be quashed in its threshold. This Court finds that the FIR discloses prima facie commission of cognizable offence and as such this Court cannot interfere with the investigation. The investigating machinery has to step in to investigate, grab and unearth the crime in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Code.



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7. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in the

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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 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



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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.

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 :-

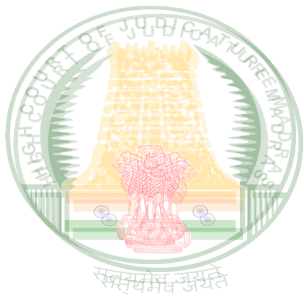
“23.

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 encyclopaedia which must disclose all facts and details relating to the offence reported. Therefore, when the*



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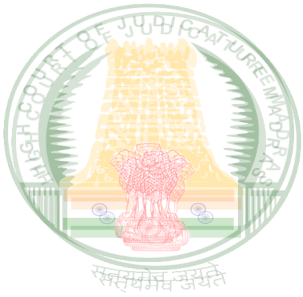


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investigation by the police is in progress, the court should not go into the merits of the allegations in the FIR. Police must be permitted to complete the investigation. It would be premature to pronounce the conclusion based on hazy facts that the 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 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;”



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9. In view of the above discussions, this Court is not inclined to quash the First Information Report. However, the first respondent is directed to complete the investigation in Crime No.160 of 2023 and file a final report within a period of twelve 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. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

08.04.2025

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

1.The Inspector of Police,
Peelamedu Police Station,
Coimbatore.

2. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN, J.

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