



Crl.O.P.No.32699 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 19.02.2025

CORAM:

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

Crl.O.P.No.32699 of 2024
and Crl.M.P.No.18633 of 2024

Suganthram

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The State rep by
The Inspector of Police,
Saravanampatty Police Station,
Coimbatore District.

2. The Station House Officer,
Saravanampatty Police Station,
Coimbatore District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Criminal Original petition filed under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to call for the connected records made in Crime No.121/2023 on the file of the Inspector of Police, Saravanampatty Police Station, Coimbatore District and quash the same as illegal to secure ends of justice.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Sankarasubbu

For Respondents

For R1 & R2 : Mr.A.Gopinath
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)



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ORDER

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This petition has been filed to quash the FIR in Crime No.121 of 2024, pending on the file of the first respondent registered for the offences under Sections 8(c), 20(b)(ii)(A) & 29(1) of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, as against the petitioner.

2. The case of the prosecution is that on 20.03.2023, the respondent police received an information that near Text tool bridge, Text toll canteen road, one person was selling the banned drugs. On information, they went to the place of occurrence and found that one Naveenkumar was in possession of the drugs and was selling the same. Therefore, the respondent police arrested the said person and on enquiry, it was found that the petitioner is also involved in the crime. Hence, the complaint.

3. The learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is an innocent persons and he has not committed any offence as alleged by the prosecution. On the confession statement recorded from the arrested accused, the petitioner has been implicated in this case. Without any base, the first respondent police



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registered a case in Crime No.121 of 2023, as against the petitioner.

WEB.COM Hence he prayed to quash the same.

4. The learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the first respondent police submitted that based on the confession statement given by the co-accused the petitioner was arrested and there was recovery from the petitioner to the tune of 300 grams of ganja. Now the investigation is almost over and yet to file final report.

5. Heard the learned counsel appearing on either side and perused the materials placed before this Court.

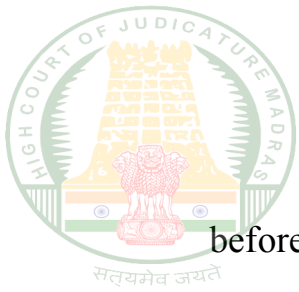
6. It is seen that the petitioner was arrested for the offences under the NDPS act, and there are recovery from the petitioner. Further on perusal of the First Information Report it is revealed that there are specific allegations as against the petitioner to attract the offence, which has to be investigated in depth. Further the FIR is not an encyclopedia and it need not contain all facts and it cannot be quashed in the threshold. This Court finds that the FIR discloses prima facie commission of cognizable offence and as such this Court cannot interfere with the



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investigation. The investigating machinery has to step in to investigate, grab and unearth the crime in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Code.

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 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



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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.

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;*



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.....

xii) *The first information report is not an encyclopaedia 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 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*



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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, considering the crime of the year 2023, the first respondent is directed to complete the investigation in Crime No.121 of 2023 and file a final report within a period of twelve weeks from the date of receipt of a 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.

19.02.2025

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

rts



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G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN, J.

rts

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To

1. The Inspector of Police,
Saravanampatty Police Station,
Coimbatore District.

2. The Station House Officer,
Saravanampatty Police Station,
Coimbatore District.

3. The Public Prosecutor
Madras High Court,
Chennai.

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