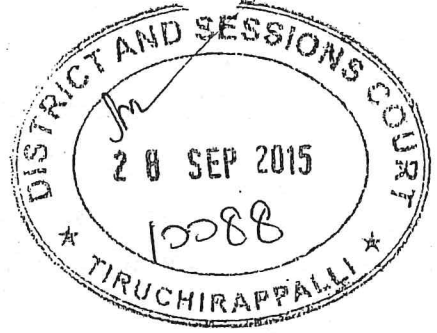


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R.O.C. No. 5071/2015/D/RG



OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Sub: Court Premises – Prohibition of erection of banners / flex boards, and organizing dharnas, processions, meetings – directions – issued.

1. The High Court (The Hon'ble Full Court) reviewed the problems that have been cropped up consequent to the non adherence of strict prohibition of the erection of banners, flex boards, cut-outs, posters, holding placards or issuing pamphlets, organizing dharnas, processions or meetings, inside, outside or around the court premises in the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
2. The High Court's Order dated 20.03.2006 & 02.03.2010 in W.P. No.7646/2006 are communicated, once again, for strict adherence to the directions contained therein. It is for the Presiding Officer of the individual Court (or) Principal District Judge / District Judge / Senior Civil Judge / Civil Judge as the case may be if the court is functioning in the Court complex / Combined Court buildings, to see that the prohibition orders of the above activities in their respective court premises / Complex are strictly implemented, in co-ordination with the police authority at the respective level.
3. The said Judicial Officers are also required to see that no one is permitted to remain inside the Court complexes for any reason whatsoever before 8.30 a.m. and after 7.00 p.m. on the Court working days by opening and closing the Court complexes across the State / Union Territory exactly maintaining the timings for the same as above.

28/9/15

4. The undermentioned Judicial Officers are required to strictly adhere to the above directions of the High Court (Hon'ble Full Court) besides communicating and ensuring that they are strictly followed by the other Judicial Officers functioning in their respective District / Control.

The receipt of this Official Memorandum is required to be acknowledged.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS

DATED : 23.09.2015



REGISTRAR GENERAL.

To

1. All the Principal District Judges / District Judges
2. The Chief Judge, Puducherry
3. The District Judge, Karaikal
4. The Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Madras

Encl. R-No. 10088, dt 28.9.2015

Copy communicated to the Head Clerk, District Court, Tiruchirappalli for information.

District Court,
Tiruchirappalli
Dt. 29.9.2015

③ 4

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

Monday, the twentieth day of March

Two Thousand and Six

20/3/2006

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR. AJIT PRAKASH SHAH, THE CHIEF JUSTICE
and

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE PRABHA SRIDEVAN

WRIT PETITION NO. 7646 of 2006.

i. Venkataraman
Advocate, 42,
Law Chamber,
High Court, Chennai.

...Petitioner

vs

The Registrar General,
High Court, Chennai.

...Respondent

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying that in the circumstances stated therein, and in the affidavit filed therewith the High Court will be pleased to Issue Writ of Mandamus forbearing any kind of political activities in any manner including display of political Cut-outs, Banners, posters or organizing dharnas, processions and meetings in any forms within the premises of the Hon'ble High Court causing Nuisance and disturbing the "Silent zone" character and atmosphere of this Hon'ble, High Court.

ORDER: This writ petition coming on for this day, upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof, and upon hearing the arguments of Mr.K.M. Vijayan S.C for Mr.R. Sureshkumar, Advocate for the petitioner, the Court made the following order:-

(Order of the Court was made by The Hon'ble The Chief Justice)

Rule returnable on 20th June 2006.

2. This Public Interest Litigation brought by a practising Advocate of this Court discloses extremely distressing state of affairs.

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3. The petitioner has pointed out that of late, a number of political hoardings, cutouts and huge advertisements carrying giant photograph of various political leaders were installed within the High Court premises by the concerned political parties themselves in the name of their advocates wing. He particularly highlighted the recent two incidents one on 24th February 2006 by the ruling party and the other on 1st March, 2006 both on the birthday of the party leaders by erecting huge glaring sign boards and bursting crackers in the premises of the High Court. He has also pointed out that even today, the presence of huge political placards installed in the premises prejudices and disturbs the legal community who are practising without any political affiliations apart from the fact that such instances cause unwarranted doubt in the minds of common public visiting the court as to the dignity, majesty and the neutral status of the High Court. There is no gainsaying that the High Court is the highest body of State Judiciary, maintenance of its decorum has to be established and preserved free from any political overtones and such status of the judiciary cannot be allowed to be tampered within the campus of the High Court by the actions of few persons, who display their political loyalty by putting placards, posters and hoardings etc. without obtaining prior permission from the Registry.

4. Under the circumstances, we issue the following directions:

(1) The Registrar General, High Court, Madras and the concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police, High Court, Madras are directed to ensure that no political activity of any manner including display of political cutouts, banners, posters or organizing dharnas and meetings or birthday celebration of any party leaders takes place within the premises of the High Court.

(2) The Registrar General and the concerned Assistant Commissioner of police are directed to remove forthwith all the political hoardings, cutouts, advertisements, photographs etc. placed inside the premises of the High Court or on the compound wall of the premises.

(3) In case of any violation of the order of this Court, the Registrar General/the concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police is directed to report the names of the lawyers or persons indulging in such activities to the Chief Justice.

(4) The Advocates of the various Associations of this Court are also requested to Co-operate with the Registrar General/Assistant Commissioner of Police to maintain the decorum and dignity of this Court.

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(5) It is needless to say that the above directions shall apply mutadis mutandis to all the subordinate Courts and the Tribunals in the State.

Sd/
Asst. Registrar

/true copy/

Order 24/3/2006
Sub Asst. Registrar

To

1. The Registrar General
High Court, Madras
2. The Assistant Commissioner of Police,
High Court, Madras
3. The Principal Judge,
City Civil Court,
Chennai
(Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
4. The Chief Judge,
Court of Small Causes
Chennai.
(Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
5. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Egmore, Madras (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
6. The Principal District Judge,
Chengalpattu. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)

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7. The Principal District Judge,
Coimbatore. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
8. The Principal District Judge,
Cuddalore. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
9. The Principal District Judge,
Dharmapuri at Krishnagiri. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
10. The Principal District Judge,
Dindigul. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
11. The Principal District Judge,
Erode. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
12. The District Judge,
Kanniyakumari (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
13. The District Judge,
Karur. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
14. The Principal District Judge,
Madurai. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)

- (7)
15. The District Judge,
Nagapattinam. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
16. The Principal District Judge,
Namakkal (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
17. The District Judge,
Uthagamandalam. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
18. The Principal District Judge,
Perambalur (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
19. The Principal District Judge,
Pudukkottai. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
20. The Principal District Judge,
Ramanathapuram. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
- ~~21. The~~ Principal District Judge,
Salem. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
22. The District Judge,
Sivagangai (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)

- (8)
23. The Principal District Judge,
Thanjavur. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
24. The Principal District Judge,
Thoothukudi. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
25. The Principal District Judge,
Thiruchirappalli. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
26. The Principal District Judge,
Tirunelveli. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
27. The District Judge,
Tiruvannamalai (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
28. The Principal District Judge,
Vellore. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
29. The Principal District Judge,
Villupuram (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
30. The Principal District Judge,
Srivilliputhur (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)

(309) The District Judge The Nil - d...

- 6
31. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Chengalpattu (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
32. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Coimbatore. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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your Control)
33. The Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Cuddalore. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
34. The Chief Judicial Magistrate I,
Krishnagiri. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
35. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Dindigul. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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36. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Erode. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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37. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Nagercoil (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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38. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Karur. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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39. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Madurai. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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40. The The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Nagapattinam. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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42. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
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43. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
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44. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Ramanathapuram (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
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your Control)

~~45.~~ The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Salem. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)

46. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Sivagangai (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
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your Control)

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7. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Kumbakonam. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)
8. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Thoothukudi (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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9. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Trichirapalli (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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10. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Tirunelveli (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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51. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Thiruvannamalai. (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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52. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Vellore (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
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- ~~53.~~ The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Villupuram (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
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your Control)
54. The Chief Judicial Magistrate
Virudhunagar at Srivilliputhur (Consequent to the observation made in Pare 5,
this order is communicated) (Communicate the
order copy to all the Subordinate Courts under
your Control)

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55. The Secretary Bar Association,
High Court, Madras.

56. The Secretary Advocates Associations,
High Court, Madras.

57. The Secretary Bar Council of Tamil Nadu,
Madras.

58. The Secretary Women Lawyers Association,
High Court, Madras.

59. The Secretary, Law Association,
City Civil Court Buildings, High Court, Madras.

60. The Section Officer, Writ Section, High Court, Madras.
(Rule returnable on 20.6.2006)

+ 1 cc to Mr.R. Suresh Kumar, Advocate SR No.13721

+ 1 cc to the Government Pleader SR No.13742

DATED : 20.3.2006

ORDER

WP.No.7646 of 2006

Giving directions etc as stated within

PY(CO)
SR/24.3.2006

MT/Ly

24/3

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Date: 02-03-2010

Coram:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ELIPE DHARMA RAO

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K.K. SASIDHARAN

Writ Petition No. 7646 OF 2006

S. Venkataraman

.. Petitioner

Versus

The Registrar General,
High Court, Chennai.

.. Respondent

Prayer: This Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution, praying for the issuance of Writ of Mandamus, for the reliefs as stated therein.

For Petitioner :: Mr. R. Sureshkumar

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by
ELIPE DHARMA RAO, J.)

This Pro bono publico is filed by a resident of Chennai and he seeks a writ of Mandamus forbearing any kind of political activities in any manner including display of political cut-outs, banners, posters or organizing dharnas, processions and meetings in any form within the premises of the High Court of Judicature at Madras causing nuisance and disturbing the 'silent zone' character and atmosphere of the High Court.

2. The petitioner is a practising Advocate. According to the petitioner, ever since his entry in the High Court Campus, the premises of the High Court had never been utilised for any purpose other than those which are permitted by the Registry of the High Court. However, of late, number of political hoardings, cutouts and huge advertisements carrying giant photographs of various political

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leaders were installed within the premises by the concerned political parties itself in the name of their "advocates wing". The presence of such huge political placards installed in the premises prejudices and disturbs the legal society, who were practising without any political affiliations. Such instances of erecting huge advertisements, political hoardings causes unwarranted doubts in the minds of common people visiting the court as to the dignity, majesty and the neutral status of the High Court within the premises of the High Court. There were two recent incidents, one on 24 February, 2006 and another on 1 March, 2006 both on the birthday of the leader of two political parties. Banners of such political party erected in huge glaring sign boards and bursting crackers causes nuisance to the litigants as well as Advocates.

3. The High Court premises being the highest body of state judiciary, the maintenance of decorum, rule of law and more particularly impartial nature of the Court has to be established and preserved, free from political overtones and such status of the judiciary cannot be allowed to be tampered within the campus of the High Court by the actions of few persons, who illegally display their political loyalty without obtaining prior permission from the Registry. Therefore the petitioner prays for necessary direction from this Court so as to prohibit the erection of political cut-outs, banners, posters or organising dharnas, processions and meetings in any forms within the premises of the High court.

4. The Registrar General is the sole respondent in the writ petition. However no counter has been filed on behalf of the High Court.

5. This writ petition came up for admission before the First Bench of this Court on 20 March, 2006. The petitioner submitted before the Division Bench that even on the very same day viz., 20 March, 2006 there were huge political placards installed in the premises of the High Court and it disturbs the legal community, who are practising without any political affiliations. In view of the concern raised by the petitioner in the interest of the general public as well as Advocates, the Division Bench was pleased to issue the following directions.

"1. The Registrar General, High Court, Madras and the concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police, High Court, Madras, are directed to ensure that no political activity of any manner including display of political cut-outs, banners, posters or organizing dharnas and meetings or birthday celebration of any party leaders takes place within the premises of the High Court.

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2. The Registrar General and the concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police are directed to remove forthwith all the political hoardings, cut-outs, advertisements, photographs, etc. placed inside the premises of the High Court or on the compound wall of the premises.

3. In case of any violation of the order of this Court, the Registrar General/the concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police is directed to report the names of the lawyers or persons indulging in such activities to the Chief Justice.

4. The Advocates of the various Associations of this court are also requested to co-operate with the Registrar General/Assistant Commissioner of Police to maintain the decorum and dignity of this Court.

5. It is needless to say that the above directions shall apply mutadis mutandis to all the subordinate Courts and the Tribunals in the State."

6. The petitioner only seeks framing appropriate directions in the matter of erection of political cut-outs, banners, posters or organising dharnas, processions and meetings within the premises of the High Court.

7. The directions issued by the Division Bench on 20 March, 2006 dealt with the entire issue and comprehensive directions were issued to the Registrar General, High Court, Madras and the concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police, High Court, Madras. Therefore we are of the considered view that those directions would serve the purpose and it is not necessary to issue fresh directions in the matter. It is also a matter of record that those interim directions have become final. In such circumstances, we are of the view that this writ petition has to be disposed of with the directions of the Division Bench dated 20 March, 2006 as extracted above as the final order and accordingly it is disposed of. No costs.

Sd/
Assistant Registrar

/True Copy/

Sd/
Sub Assistant Registrar

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law

To

✓ 1 The Registrar General,
High Court, Chennai.

2 The Assistant Commissioner of Police
High Court, Madras

Copy to

1 The Section Officer,
Legal Cell,
High Court, Madras

2 The Section Officer
(F) Section
High Court, Madras

+1 CC to the Government Pleader SR.NO.14573

+1 CC to Mr.R.Suresh Kumar, Advocate, SR.NO.14240

W.P.NO.7646 OF 200

AR(CO)
PKS:30/03/2010

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