

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SUO MOTO CONTEMPT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 1/2025

IN RE: SCANDALOUS REMARKS MADE BY MR. AJAY SHUKLA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VARPRAD MEDIA PVT. LTD., A DIGITAL CHANNEL.

[By Courts Motion]

FOR ADMISSION

Date : 30-05-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. CHANDURKAR
(PARTIAL COURT WORKING DAYS BENCH)

O R D E R

1. This Court has taken *suo moto* cognizance of a video clip by Mr. Ajay Shukla, Editor-in-Chief of a digital channel, namely, Varprad Media Pvt. Ltd.
2. Mr. Ajay Shukla in the said video clip has made vile and scandalous observations about one of the Senior Judges of this Court.
3. The said scandalous, defamatory and contemptuous allegations widely published on YouTube, are likely to bring disrepute to the august institution of the Judiciary.
4. No doubt that the Constitution of India guarantees

right to freedom of speech and expression, however, at the same time such right is subject to reasonable restrictions.

5. A person cannot be permitted to make allegations which are in the nature of defaming a Judge of this Court or any other Court and also which are contemptuous in nature, that attempts to bring disrepute to the institution of Judiciary.

6. Issue notice to the said Mr. Ajay Shukla, Editor-in-Chief of Varprad Media Pvt. Ltd. and YouTube. They shall be made party respondent(s)/alleged contemnor(s) in the present proceedings. However, it is made clear that the personal presence of the alleged contemnor(s) is dispensed with, unless so specifically directed by this Court.

7. The Attorney General for India and the Solicitor General of India, who are present in Court, are requested to assist the Court in the present proceedings.

8. By way of an ad-interim order, we restrain YouTube from continuing with the publication of the said video clip and direct them to forthwith take down the said video from the concerned channel.

9. List on 18.07.2025.

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(ANJU KAPOOR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR