

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(PIL) No.2696 of 2021

Court on its own motion

Versus

The State of Jharkhand through
the Chief Secretary & Others

... Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD**

For the Victim Family : Mr. Prabhat Kumar Sinha, Advocate
For the State : Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Advocate General
: Mr. Piyush Chitresh, A.C. to A.G.
For the U.O.I. : Mr. S.V. Raju, A.S.G.I.
: Mr. Prashant Pallav, A.S.G.I.
For the JPSC/JSCC : Mr. Sanjoy Piprawall, Advocate

ORAL ORDER

25/Dated 25th March, 2022

The matter has been taken up through video conferencing and there is no complaint whatsoever regarding audio and/or video quality.

2. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the parties.

3. The Investigating Officer of the case is present before this Court through online mode.

4. The progress report by way of 23rd report of the case pertaining to death of Late Uttam Anand, District & Additional Sessions Judge-VIII (as he then was) has been placed in a sealed cover, which has been opened during the proceeding of the case.

5. Mr. S.V. Raju, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, has submitted that the agency is thoroughly

investigating the conspiracy part, pertaining to death of Late Uttam Anand, District & Additional Sessions Judge-VIII.

He has further submitted that in course of investigation, certain information has been sought for from the 'WhatsApp' but information is not being furnished and therefore, non-furnishing the said information is coming in the way of further investigation in the matter to trace out the culpability.

6. Therefore, submission has been made to implead the 'WhatsApp' through its Nodal Officer, as party to the proceeding, so that the information which has been sought for may be furnished and it will be proper for furtherance of investigation.

7. This Court has heard the aforesaid submission and is of the view that the 'WhatsApp' is required to be impleaded as party to the proceeding which will be proper for furtherance of the investigation. However, as on today, the detail address for service of notice upon the Nodal Officer of 'WhatsApp' is not available, and therefore, adjournment for today has been sought for.

8. Considering the aforesaid submission, let this matter be listed on 01.04.2022, so that, the proper address of 'WhatsApp' may be furnished for its impleadment in the present proceeding.

9. Let a further progress report be placed before this Court on the next date of hearing. On that date, the

Investigating Officer of the case will remain present before this Court through online mode.

10. Let the progress report submitted today, be kept in sealed cover and be returned to the Registrar General of this Court to keep it in the safe custody.

(Dr. Ravi Ranjan, C.J.)

(Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.)

Rohit/-