

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

(17) Court Matter - Ministers

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Defamatory issue

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 7/3/21

## Defamatory news on six Ministers: Court's fiat to 67 media outlets

Ministers had gone to court following release of Jarkiholi CD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

A City Civil and Sessions Court here on Saturday granted temporary injunction restraining 67 media organisations, including print, television, digital, and social media platforms, from putting out any defamatory news or showing video footage and pictures of six Cabinet Ministers.

It also restrained the media from committing any act or intentional omission causing character assassination of the plaintiff-Ministers on the basis of unverified material.

D.S. Vijaya Kumar, 26th

Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, passed the interim order on a suit filed jointly by A. Shivaram Hebbar, B.C. Patil, S.T. Somashekar, K. Sudhakar, K.C. Narayana Gowda, and Byrasi Basavaraj. The court noted that the Ministers had alleged in their suit that Ramesh Jarkiholi resigned from his Cabinet post after CDs containing video clips purportedly showing him getting intimate with an unidentified woman flooded the media, which termed the episode as "sex scandal for showing official favour for a woman before verifying the news, its sources and authenticity".

"... Some of the media houses are telecasting/publishing news that there are other CDs containing several sex scandals pertaining to MLAs and Ministers, and there are around 19 CDs of different MLAs and Ministers including that of an influential politician from Old Mysore region. On the basis of such false news being telecast, members from the respective constituency of the plaintiffs have started calling them and presuming their involvement in such sex scandals," the court observed in its order.

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## Defamatory news on six Ministers: Court's fiat to 67 media organisations

The court also observed that family members of the plaintiffs were being put in an embarrassing situation as a result.

**'Ministers apprehensive'**  
Recording the Ministers' claims made in the suit that "...recently, by a process of deep fake, using artificial intelligence, videos of world-wide politicians such as Barack Obama, Queen Elizabeth have been morphed and have gone viral. Similar videos of some Indian politicians have also been made. Innocent people who are unaware of such process tend to believe the videos and its contents to be true," the court said that the Ministers were apprehensive that by using fake CDs their reputation could be harmed.

**'19 more CDs'**  
Referring to screenshots of headlines in news channels produced along with the

suit, the court said that *prima facie* it appeared that the "media is sensationalising the news about 19 more CDs stating that they relate to 19 influential persons and they relate to sex scandal and even there are reference to some Ministers" apparently in the nature of sensationalism of the unverified material.

**On rights**  
Observing that though the citizens had the right to know about their leaders and the media had the right to freedom of expression, the court said the plaintiff-Ministers had the right to be protected against their character assassination on the basis of unverified material.

A similar order of temporary injunction restraining the media from carrying defamatory reports against Mr. Jarkholi was passed by the 72nd Additional City Civil and Sessions Court on March 4.