

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

24

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

Court Matter

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 16/4/21

4 HC: Norm violations are non-bailable offences

DGP asked to ensure FIR registration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

16/4/21  
Pointing out that violation of COVID-19 norms notified under the provisions of the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020, were cognisable and non-bailable, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday directed the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police to ensure that the police register FIRs when instances of such violations are brought to their notice.

The court also directed the DG&IGP to constitute a team of senior officers to educate the police on the effective enforcement of laws to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and monitor the registration of FIRs and investigation in cases of violations, including not

wearing masks, failure to maintain social distancing, and violation of norms at large congregations. The DG&IGP has been directed to issue directions/guidelines to police officers for the effective implementations of the provisions of the Act.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the directions while noting that the police were hesitant in registering FIRs against these violations and were taking the law lightly, perhaps, due to the provision in the law to compound these offences by way of collection of fine by the authorised officers even after the registration of FIRs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 ✓

4 HC: Norm violations are non-bailable offences

16/4/21  
The Bench was hearing a PIL petition filed by Letzkit Foundation. The Bench issued the directions after taking note of rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the State.

Unless penal action under the Act is taken and the regulations are enforced strictly, the purpose of enacting these laws as a tool for the State authorities to prevent the spread of epidemics cannot be achieved effectively, the Bench observed.

Pointing out that right to lead a healthy life is guaranteed under Article 21, the Bench said that the government must view violations seriously as they would violate the right to a healthy life

of others.

As prominent political and religious leaders and celebrities will have to lead by example, it is all the more necessary for the police to take strict action when this class of society violates the norms, the Bench said, while referring to instances in which the police had registered FIRs against such leaders only after the court's intervention.

On the allegation that the government relaxed norms on occupation of seats in cinemas at the instance of a leading Kannada actor [Puneet Rajkumar], the Bench hoped that the government in future will not relax norms at the instance of a few individuals.

CM  
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