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Nod for fresh contempt action against comedian

Tweet meant to insult CJI, says AG

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal on Friday gave consent to initiate fresh contempt action against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for his "grossly vulgar and obnoxious" tweet with a photograph of two fingers meant to "deliberately insult" the Chief Justice of India.

Mr. Venugopal said the tweet, posted on November 18, tended to lower the authority of the Supreme Court and undermined public confidence in it.

"The depiction of the two fingers, with the legend that he means the middle one, is to deliberately insult the



Kunal Kamra

Chief Justice of India, which would equally be an insult to the Supreme Court of India, which the Chief Justice heads," the Attorney General reasoned.

The consent letter under the Contempt of Courts Act was in reply to a complaint made by advocate Anuj Singh from Uttar Pradesh.

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"The tweet is grossly vulgar and obnoxious, and I have no doubt that it would tend to lower the authority of the Supreme Court as well as undermine the confidence that the litigant public have in the institution of the Supreme Court itself," the top law officer wrote.

This is the second consent given by Mr. Venugopal for contempt action against Mr. Kamra in November. The earlier one was for Mr.

Kamra's tweets on the decision of the Supreme Court to grant interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami.

Mr. Kamra had refused to apologise or retract the tweets. Instead, he tweeted that he wished to "volunteer" the time that may be allotted for hearing his contempt case to others "who have not been as lucky and privileged as I am to jump the queue".