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ಶಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Court matters - Contem

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## A-G says no to contempt action against Sardesai

Plea was over tweets by the journalist

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal on Thursday declined to grant permission to initiate contempt action against senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai for his tweets.

In a one-page letter addressed to complainant, advocate Omprakash Parihar, Mr. Venugopal reasoned that "trifling remarks and mere passing criticism, though perhaps distasteful, are unlikely to tarnish the image of the institution."

The contempt plea was over Mr. Sardesai's tweets in connection with the Supreme Court verdict in a *suo motu* contempt case against civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan, punishing the latter with a ₹1 fine for "scandalising the court" with his tweets.

"I have given careful consideration to the tweets. I find the statements made by



Rajdeep Sardesai

Mr. Sardesai are not of so serious nature as to undermine the majesty of the Supreme Court or lower its stature in the minds of the public ... The reputation of the Supreme Court as one of the great pillars of our democracy has been built assiduously over the last 70 years," Mr. Venugopal wrote.

The Attorney-General has to give permission to initiate contempt of court action.