



2026:KER:26164

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BECHU KURIAN THOMAS

TUESDAY, THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2026 / 3RD CHAITHRA, 1948

WP(C) NO. 6889 OF 2026

PETITIONER:

SABU M. JACOB
AGED 63 YEARS
S/O. M.C JACOB, MANAGING DIRECTOR, KITEX
GARMENTS LIMITED, BUILDING NO. VI/496,
KIZHAKKAMBALAM, VILANGU P.O, KUNNATHUNAD,
ERNAKULAM, KERALA, INDIA, PIN - 683561

BY ADVS.
SRI.VIJAY V. PAUL
SHRI.AJAY V.ANAND
SHRI.ROJIT ZACHARIAH
SMT.P.V.UTTARA
SMT.ANGELA ELSA JOHN
SMT.RADHIKA PRASAD
SHRI.MOHAMMED AZIF S.

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 UNION OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (A-WING), SHASTRI
BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001
- 2 M/S. REPORTER BROADCASTING COMPANY PRIVATE
LIMITED
REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT COLONY,
KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT COLONY, ERNAKULAM,
KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA. REPRESENTED BY ITS
MANAGING DIRECTOR - KJ JOSE, PIN - 683503
- 3 K.J JOSE
MANAGING DIRECTOR, M/S. REPORTER BROADCASTING
COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO
COMPLEX, HMT COLONY, KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT



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COLONY, ERNAKULAM, KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA,
PIN - 683503

- 4 V V SAJU
SHAREHOLDER, REPORTER BROADCASTING COMPANY
PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT
COLONY, KALAMASSERY COCHIN, ERNAKULAM, PIN -
683503
- 5 MELBI JOSE
DIRECTOR, M/S. REPORTER BROADCASTING COMPANY
PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT
COLONY, KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT COLONY,
ERNAKULAM, KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA, PIN -
680503
- 6 ANTO AUGUSTINE
MANAGING EDITOR, M/S. REPORTER BROADCASTING
COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO
COMPLEX, HMT COLONY, KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT
COLONY, ERNAKULAM, KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA,
PIN - 683503
- 7 ROJI AUGUSTINE
CHAIRMAN, M/S. REPORTER BROADCASTING COMPANY
PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT
COLONY, KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT COLONY,
ERNAKULAM, KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA, PIN -
683503
- 8 JOSEKUTTY AUGUSTINE
VICE-CHAIRMAN, M/S. REPORTER BROADCASTING
COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO
COMPLEX, HMT COLONY, KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT
COLONY, ERNAKULAM, KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA,
PIN - 683503
- 9 INDO-ASIAN NEWS CHANNEL PRIVATE LIMITED
REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT COLONY,
KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT COLONY, ERNAKULAM,
KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA. REPRESENTED BY ITS
MANAGING DIRECTOR - MR. MV NIKESH KUMAR, PIN -
683503
- 0 NIKESH KUMAR MV
MANAGING DIRECTOR, INDO-ASIAN NEWS CHANNEL
PRIVATE LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT
COLONY, KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT COLONY,



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ERNAKULAM, KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA, PIN -
683503

11 RANI VARGHESE
DIRECTOR, INDO-ASIAN NEWS CHANNEL PRIVATE
LIMITED, REPORTER STUDIO COMPLEX, HMT COLONY,
KALAMASSERY, COCHIN, HMT COLONY, ERNAKULAM,
KANAYANNUR, KERALA, INDIA, PIN - 683503

BY ADVS.

O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
SRI.C.S.BISSIMON
SRI.P.MARTIN JOSE
SRI.P.PRIJITH
SRI.R.GITHESE
SHRI.AJAY BEN JOSE
SRI.MANJUNATH MENON
SMT.ANNA LINDA EDEN
SHRI.HARIKRISHNAN S.
SMT.ANAVADYA SANIL KUMAR
SMT.ANJALI KRISHNA
SHRI.ABHINAV P. S.
SRI.S.SREEKUMAR (SR.)

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD
ON 24.03.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE
FOLLOWING:



BECHU KURIAN THOMAS,J

WP(C) No.6889 of 2026

Dated this the 24th day of March, 2026

JUDGMENT

The limited relief sought for by the petitioner in this writ petition is for a direction to take a decision on Ext.P1 representation filed by him on 02.02.2026.

2. Petitioner claims to be the President of a political party, called Twenty20. He has initiated certain legal proceedings for alleged publication of defamatory content on a television news Channel by name Reporter TV. On obtaining information that the said news Channel, which was under the control and management of the 9th respondent, had allegedly transferred its shares to respondents 6 to 8, violating conditions of license, a representation was submitted to the Central Government as per Ext.P1. Immediately thereafter, this writ petition has been filed, seeking a direction to consider the said representation in accordance with law.

3. The learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner, as well as the 9th respondent, were heard along with the learned Deputy Solicitor General of India.

4. It was submitted on behalf of the learned DSGI that after Ext.P1 representation was submitted, the Ministry of Home Affairs has cancelled the security clearance for the 9th respondent,



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and a show cause notice has also been issued, calling for their explanation and that the matter is under consideration.

5. The learned Senior Counsel for the 9th respondent, on the other hand, submitted that, pursuant to Ext.P1 representation, the comments of the 9th respondent has already been sought for which has already been submitted as well.

6. Having regard to the above submissions of the learned Senior Counsel as well as the learned DSGI, I am of the view that the writ petition itself can be disposed of with a direction to proceed in accordance with law, pursuant to the representation submitted as Ext.P1.

Accordingly, there will be a direction to the 1st respondent to take a decision pursuant to Ext.P1, in accordance with law, as expeditiously as possible, at any rate, within an outer period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this judgment, after granting an opportunity of hearing to the 9th respondent.

The writ petition is disposed of as above.

Sd/-
BECHU KURIAN THOMAS
JUDGE



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APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 6889 OF 2026

PETITIONER'S EXHIBITS

- Exhibit P1 TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION (WITHOUT ANNEXURES) DATED 02.02.2026 SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER BEFORE THE 1= RESPONDENT
- Exhibit P2 TRUE COPY OF THE LEGAL NOTICE DATED 02.02.2026 ISSUED BY THE PETITIONER'S COUNSEL TO THE RESPONDENTS 2 TO 11 ALONG WITH THE POSTAL RECEIPT
- Exhibit P3 TRUE COPY OF OS 8/2026 FILED BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUB-COURT PERUMBAVOOR WITHOUT THE DOCUMENTS
- Exhibit P4 TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER DATED 10.02.2026, INJUNCTING THE DEFENDANTS THEREIN FROM MAKING DEFAMATORY REMARKS AGAINST THE PETITIONER
- Exhibit P5 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT DOWNLOADED FROM THE BROADCAST SEVA WEBSITE SHOWING THE UPLINKING AND DOWNLINKING LICENSE OF THE 9TH RESPONDENT COMPANY
- Exhibit P6 TRUE COPY OF THE GUIDELINES FOR UPLINKING AND DOWNLINKING OF SATELLITE TELEVISION CHANNELS IN INDIA, 2022 ISSUED AS PER ORDER NO. 1503/21/2017-TV(I) DATED 09.11.2022 BY THE 1* RESPONDENT
- Exhibit P7 TRUE COPY OF THE ADVISORY DATED 25.06.2024 ISSUED BY THE 1 RESPONDENT AS PER FILE NO. 1501/01/2023-TV(I)
- Exhibit P8 TRUE COPY OF THE FORM TM-P DATED 16.02.2023 FILED IN RESPECT OF TRADE MARK NO. 3419012 BY THE 3RD RESPONDENT BEFORE THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE MARKS, CHENNAI
- Exhibit P9 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT OF THE 'ABOUT US' SECTION IN WWW.REPORTERLIVE.COM/PAGES/ABOUT-US
- Exhibit P10 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT OF THE RELEVANT PAGE OF THE LINKEDIN PROFILE OF REPORTERTV
- Exhibit P11 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT OF THE RELEVANT PAGE OF WWW.ANTAUGUSTINE.COM
- Exhibit P12 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT OF THE



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- RELEVANT PAGE OF THE FACEBOOK PROFILE
OF MR. ANTO AUGUSTINE, THE 6TH
RESPONDENT,
- Exhibit P13 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT OF THE
RELEVANT PAGE OF THE LINKEDIN PROFILE
OF MR. ANTO AUGUSTINE, THE 6TH
RESPONDENT
- Exhibit P14 TRUE COPY OF THE SCREENSHOT OF THE
VIDEO IN WHICH THE 6TH RESPONDENT
CLAIMS THAT HE ALONG WITH HIS BROTHERS
ARE THE OWNERS OF REPORTER TV, AND THAT
HE HAS PURCHASED SHARES FROM MR. M.V.
NIKESH KUMAR