Order QR

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 19-11-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR

OA No. 1297 of 2026
AND OA NO. 1300 OF 2026,OA NO. 1299 OF 2026,OA NO. 1298 OF 2026
in CS NO. 278 OF 2026

OA No. 1297 of 2026:

E.V.Velu
S/o.Mr.Ethirajulu,
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Tiruvannamalai Assembly Constituency No3,
Sri Labthi Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Ananda Vikatan Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
   represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan, No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai 600 02.

2. Ananda Vikatan Digital Private Limited
   Represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan

3. Vikatan Com Private Limited
   Represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan

4. Mr.B.Srinivasan
   S/o.S.Balasubramanian
   Managing Director
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

5. Mr.Appas Ali M
   Publisher Junior Vikatan, Ananda Vikatan
   Publishers Pvt Ltd
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

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6. Mr.Venkatesh D
   Editor, Junior Vikatan
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

7. Mr.E.Jayakumar
   Printer, Junior Vikatan
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

8. Ashok Kumar (s)/John Doe (s)
   Unknown person, including the owners and operators of websites/weblinks and their mirror websites, who may upload or communicate the impugned magazine cover.
   Address not known.

..Respondent(s)

CS No. 278 of 2026
Case QR

CNR:{HCMA012814582026}

E. V. Velu
S/o.Mr.Ethirajulu
aged about 76 years
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Tiruvannamalai Assembly Constituency
No.3, Sri Labthi Colony,
Alwarpet, Chennai-600018

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Ananda Vikatan Publishers Pvt. Ltd
   represented by its Managing Director,
   Mr.B.Srinivasan
   No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002
   ravis@vikatan.com
2. Ananda Vikatan Digital Private Limited,
   represented by its Managing Director,
   Mr. B. Srinivasan,
   No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002,

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3. Vikatan.Com Private Limited,
represented by its Managing Director,
Mr. B. Srinivasan,
No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002,

4. Mr. B. Srinivasan,
S/o S. Balasubramanian,
Managing Director,
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002,

5. Mr. Appas Ali M.,
Publisher, Junior Vikatan,
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.

6. Mr. Venkatesh D, Editor,
Junior Vikatan,
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.

7. Mr. E. Jayakumar
Printer, Junior Vikatan,
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.

8. Ashok Kumar(s) / John Doe(s)
Unknown Persons, Including
The owners and operators
Of the Websites/ weblinks
And their mirror websites
Address not known

..Respondent(s)

OA No. 1300 of 2026

E. V. Velu
S/o.Mr.Ethirajulu,
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Tiruvannamalai Assembly Constituency No3, sri
Labthi Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018.

..Applicant(s)

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Vs

1. Ananda Vikatan Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
   represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan, No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai 600 02.

2. Ananda Vikatan Digital Private Limited
   Represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan

3. Vikatan Com Private Limited
   Represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan

4. Mr.B.Srinivasan
   S/o.S.Balasubramanian
   Managing Director
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

5. Mr.Appas Ali M
   Publisher Junior Vikatan, Ananda Vikatan
   Publishers Pvt Ltd
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

6. Mr.Venkatesh D
   Editor, Junior Vikatan
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

7. Mr.E.Jayakumar
   Printer, Junior Vikatan
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

8. Ashok Kumar (s)/John Doe (s)
   Unknown person, including the owners and
   operators of websites/weblinks and their

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mirror websites, who may upload or communicate the impugned magazine cover.
Address not known.

..Respondent(s)

OA No. 1299 of 2026

E. V. Velu
S/o.Mr.Ethirajulu,
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Tiruvannamalai Assembly Constituency No3, sri Labthi Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Ananda Vikatan Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
   represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan, No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai 600 02.

2. Ananda Vikatan Digital Private Limited
   Represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan

3. Vikatan Com Private Limited
   Represented by its Managing Director
   Mr.B.Srinivasan

4. Mr.B.Srinivasan
   S/o.S.Balasubramanian
   Managing Director
   Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

5. Mr.Appas Ali M
   Publisher Junior Vikatan, Ananda Vikatan Publishers Pvt Ltd
   No.757, Anna Salai,
   Chennai – 600 002.

6. Mr.Venkatesh D
   Editor, Junior Vikatan

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Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

7. Mr.E.Jayakumar
Printer, Junior Vikatan
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

8. Ashok Kumar (s)/John Doe (s)
Unknown person, including the owners and operators of websites/weblinks and their mirror websites, who may upload or communicate the impugned magazine cover.
Address not known.

..Respondent(s)

OA No. 1298 of 2026

E. V. Velu
S/o.Mr.Ethirajulu,
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Tiruvannamalai Assembly Constituency No3, sri Labthi Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018.

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Ananda Vikatan Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
represented by its Managing Director
Mr.B.Srinivasan, No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai 600 02.

2. Ananda Vikatan Digital Private Limited
Represented by its Managing Director
Mr.B.Srinivasan

3. Vikatan Com Private Limited
Represented by its Managing Director
Mr.B.Srinivasan

4. Mr.B.Srinivasan
S/o.S.Balasubramanian
Managing Director

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Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

5. Mr.Appas Ali M
Publisher Junior Vikatan, Ananda Vikatan
Publishers Pvt Ltd
No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

6. Mr.Venkatesh D
Editor, Junior Vikatan
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

7. Mr.E.Jayakumar
Printer, Junior Vikatan
Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited,
No.757, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

8. Ashok Kumar (s)/John Doe (s)
Unknown person, including the owners and operators of websites/weblinks and their mirror websites, who may upload or communicate the impugned magazine cover.
Address not known.

..Respondent(s)

OA No. 1297 of 2026

To grant an interim injunction restraining the Respondents, their men, agents, servants, distributors, or any person claiming through or under them, from in any manner printing, publishing, distributing, selling, displaying, circulating, uploading or otherwise disseminating, in print, on any website or mobile application on social media, or by posters or hoardings, the cover of the issue of Junior Vikatam dated 22/11/2026 (Volume 44 Issue 93) filed as Plaint Document No.1, and the illustration at Page 45 of the said issue or any reproduction or adaption of its pending disposal of the suit.

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CS No. 278 of 2026

a)granting a permanent injunction restraining the Defendants, their men, agents, servants, distributors, or any person claiming through or under them, from in any manner printing, publishing, distributing, selling, displaying, circulating, uploading or otherwise disseminating, in print, on any website or mobile application, on social media, or by posters or hoardings, the cover of the issue of Junior Vikatan dated 22.11.2026 (Volume 44, Issue 93) filed as Plaint Document No.1, and the illustration at page 45 of the said issue, or any reproduction or adaptation of it (b)granting a permanent injunction restraining the Defendants, their men, agents, servants, or any person claiming through or under them, from in any manner printing, publishing, broadcasting or disseminating, in the said issue or in any other issue, edition or medium, any headline, statement, illustration, caricature or altered photograph which states or depicts as a fact that the Plaintiff has committed a scam of Rs.5,000 crore, or that he is guilty of the offences under investigation in Crime No.3 of 2026 on the file of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Headquarters, and Crime No.08 of 2026 on the file of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Tiruvannamalai Detachment, or which depicts him as a prisoner or convict or as holding the proceeds of crime; provided that nothing in this relief shall prevent a fair and accurate report of the proceedings of any court or of the fact of the investigation

OA No. 1300 of 2026

To grant an interim injunction restraining 8th Respondents, from in any manner printing, publishing, distributing, selling, displaying, circulating, uploading or otherwise disseminating, in print, on any website or mobile application on social media, or by posters or hoardings, the cover of the issue of Junior Vikatam dated 22/11/2026 (Volume 44 Issue93) filed as Plaint Document No.1, and the illustration at Page 45 of the said issue or any reproduction or adaption of it, and from in any manner communicating the same to the public pending disposal of the suit, for the reasons stated in the

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accompanying affidavit.

OA No. 1299 of 2026

To grant an order of interim mandatory injunction directing the Respondents to remove the said cover and the said illustration at page 45 from the website www.vikatan.com the Vikatan Mobile application and all social media pages and handles operated by them, and to withdraw all posters and display material bearing it, pending disposal of the suit.

OA No. 1298 of 2026

To grant an interim injunction restraining the Respondents, their men, agents, servants, or any person claiming through or under them from in any manner printing, publishing, broadcasting or disseminating in the said issue of in any other issue edition or medium any headline statement, illustration, caricature or altered photograph which states or depicts as a fact that the Plaintiff has committed a scam of Rs.5,000 crore, or that he is guilty of the offences under investigation in Crime No.3 of 2026 on the file of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Headquarters, and Crime No.08 of 2026 on the file of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Tiruvannamalai Detachment, or which depicts him as a prisoner or convict or as holding the proceeds of crime; provided that nothing in this relief shall prevent a fair and accurate report of the proceedings of any court or of the fact of the investigation, pending disposal of the suit.

For Applicant(s): Mr.Rahul Balaji
For Respondent(s): Ms.M.Swapna Sundari

Common Order

O.A.No.1299 of 2026 has been filed by the applicant/plaintiff seeking an interim mandatory injunction directing the respondents to remove the cover page and the illustration appearing at page 45 of the Junior Vikatan magazine

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from their website www.vikatan.com, the Vikatan mobile application and all social media pages and handles operated by them. The applicant has also sought a direction to withdraw all posters and other display materials containing the said cover and illustration, pending disposal of the suit.

2. The disputed cover page of the Junior Vikatan magazine is based on an allegation made by the present Minister against the plaintiff, who is a former Minister.

3. The allegation made by the present Minister is extracted below:

> *"22. The impugned illustration is part of an article at pages 44, 46 and 47 titled "அன்பிலுக்கு அடுத்து வேலு.." ("After Anbil, Velu..."), published under the name of N. Ponkumaragurubaran ("the impugned article"). In substance, and in translation, the impugned article states that:*
> *(a) the present Minister for Highways has alleged irregularities of Rs.2,200 crore during the year 2025 in "patch work" on highways, and has said that a complaint has been given to the DVAC;*
> *(b) the present Government, "taking up the patch work issue", is "drawing up a sketch" for the Plaintiff;*
> *(c) according to unnamed retired officials, patch work contracts were awarded at will during the last five*

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years, money was drawn without the work being done, and "a share has been divided among the officials and those who were then in power";
(d) the contracts so awarded "would be over Rs.5,000 crore in the last five years, they say";
(e) the DVAC "has commenced a preliminary enquiry" into the patch work;
(f) according to unnamed "senior Ministers", "after Anbil, Chief Minister Vijay has set his target on Velu", and it will be no surprise if "the raid weapon is launched on Velu's premises and he is arrested"; and
(g) under the sub-heading "After Anbil, Velu... Next raid ready?", the question that is gaining strength is whether the name of the Plaintiff "will also come within the ring of enquiry".

4. Learned counsel for the plaintiff submits that, based on the allegations made by the present Minister, the defendants have published a caricature of the plaintiff on the cover page of the magazine. According to the learned counsel, the publication of the caricature in the context of the said allegations is intended to lower the reputation of the plaintiff in the eyes of the public.

5. Learned counsel further submits that, unless the caricature is removed from the cover page, the continued publication would cause serious damage to the reputation of the plaintiff. It is also contended that the balance of

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convenience is in favour of the plaintiff and that no prejudice would be caused to the defendants if they are directed to remove the caricature pending disposal of the suit.

6. Learned counsel for the respondents/defendants appeared and submitted that a caveat petition has been filed, though the same is yet to be numbered, and seeks time to file a counter affidavit. On the other hand, learned counsel for the plaintiff strongly opposes the request for adjournment, contending that any delay in removing the caricature would result in further damage to the plaintiff's reputation.

7. This Court has considered the submissions made on either side. Having regard to the nature of the allegations and the manner in which the plaintiff has been depicted on the cover page of the magazine, this Court is of the *prima facie* view that the grievance raised by the plaintiff requires consideration. The continued display of the caricature, pending consideration of the matter, may cause prejudice to the plaintiff. Therefore, in the interest of justice, the respondents are directed to remove the caricature of the plaintiff appearing on the cover page of the magazine, pending further orders of this Court.

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8. Accordingly, O.A.No.1299 of 2026 is allowed. There shall also be an order of interim injunction, as prayed for, in O.A.Nos.1297, 1298 and 1300 of 2026, until the next date of hearing.

9. The plaintiff is directed to take immediate notice and private notice to the respondents/defendants, returnable by 26.11.2026.

10. The plaintiffs shall also comply with the requirements of Order XXXIX Rule 3(a) and (b) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and file the necessary affidavits and documents evidencing such compliance within the time prescribed by law.

11. Post the matter on 26.11.2026.

19-11-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR J.

MSV

OA No. 1297 of 2026
AND
CS NO. 278 OF 2026,
OA NO. 1300 OF 2026,
OA NO. 1299 OF 2026,
OA NO. 1298 OF 2026

19-11-2026

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