

IMMEDIATE
COURT MATTER

No. A-56014/71/2026-DM
Government of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi-1

Dated: .09.2026

To,

1. Living Media India Limited (India Today)

(Email: business@intoday.com and editor@intoday.com)

2. Republic Media Network (Republic TV)

(Email: legal@republicworld.com)

3. Sathiyam Media Vision Private Limited (Sathiyam TV)

(Email: webteam@sathiyam.org)

4. All Media Organisations/Outlets including

- i. Newspapers registered under Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867,
- ii. Private Satellite Television Channels and their Self Regulatory Bodies,
- iii. Publishers of news and current affairs content on digital media and their Self Regulatory Bodies, and
- iv. Social Media Intermediaries

Sub: Compliance with the Order dated 25.09.2026 passed by Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P.(Crl.) No. 2564 of 2026 – Tulir Charitable Trust vs. The Commissioner of Police & Ors - reg.

Sir/Ma'am,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Order dated 25.09.2026 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P.(Crl.) No. 2564 of 2026, titled *Tulir Charitable Trust vs. The Commissioner of Police & Ors.*, wherein, the Hon'ble Court has directed:

“i) There shall be an injunction restraining the media outlets, entities, intermediaries, digital platforms from publishing, broadcasting, uploading, transmitting, sharing, circulating, reproducing or otherwise disseminating any video which touches upon Crime No.174 of 2025 on the file of the Central Crime Branch, Chennai.

ii) The media outlets, entities, digital platforms, etc., who have already uploaded any material in connection with Crime No.174 of 2025 are directed to remove them forthwith, failing which the police shall vigorously apply the law and ensure their removal. This

exercise should be completed by 26.09.2026 and a compliance report shall be filed on the next date of hearing.”

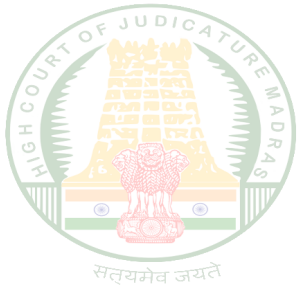
3. The aforesaid Order is enclosed for immediate compliance.
4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl.: As Above.

Yours faithfully,
Digitally signed by
Arpitha S
Date: 29-09-2026
16:08:53
(Arpitha S)
Deputy Secretary (DM)
Email: arpitha.s@gov.in

Copy to:

- i. Sh. Navneet Kumar, Under Secretary (BC-I/II/III Section), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for dissemination of the said communication to all Private Satellite Television channels
- ii. Shri Pradyumna Kumar Atri, Section Officer, MUC-I section, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for dissemination of the said communication to Newspapers registered under Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867
- iii. Dr. Sathyanarayanan Subramanian, Scientist 'E', Cyber Laws Legal, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003, E-mail: cyberlaw-legal@meity.gov.in for appropriate action with respect to user generated content and Intermediaries
- iv. NIC Cell, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for placing the same on the website of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 25-09-2026

CORAM

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THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN

**WP (Crl).No.2564 of 2026
and WP MP (Crl).No.946 & 947 of 2026**

Tulir Charitable Trust
(For Prevention & Healing of Child Sexual Abuse)
Represented by its Managing Trustee
Ms.Vidya Reddy
Having office at:
No.74, E.V.K.Sampath Road,
Vepery, Chennai-600007

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

- 1.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai Police,
No.132, EVK Sampath Road,
Vepery, Chennai-600007.
- 2.The Director General of Police,
Cyber Crime Wing,
Director General of Police Office,
Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore,
Chennai-600004.
- 3.The Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment
Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
- 4.The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Electronics and Information
Technology,
New Delhi-110003.
- 5.The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
New Delhi-110001.



6.Living Media India Limited,
(India Today)
India Today Group Mediaplex,
FC-8, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida-201301.

7.Republic Media Network,
(Republic TV)
Sprint office no 326/327,
3rd Floor, Centrium at Phoenix Market City,
Lal Bahadur Shahstri Rd, Near Kamani Kunction,
Nav Pada, Kurla West, Mumbai-400 070, India.

8.Sathyam Media Vision Private Limited,
(Sathiyam TV)
No.1 Kamaraj Park Street,
Kalmandapam, Royapuram,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600013.

9.John Doe

(All other unknown persons, news channels, media organisations, social media pages/accounts, intermediaries and other entities presently unidentified, who are publishing, uploading, transmitting, circulating or otherwise disseminating the impugned CSEAM material or any particulars capable of identifying the POCSO victims)

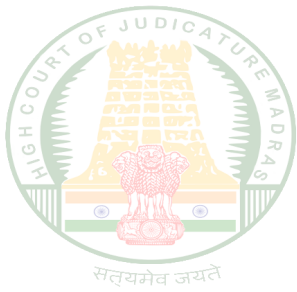
..Respondent(s)

For Petitioner(s) : Ms.Deepika Murali

For Respondent(s) : Mr.Mr.R.John Sathyan,
Public Prosecutor

Assisted by
Mr.Arun Anbumani,
Additional Public Prosecutor for RR-1 & 2

Mr.M.Guruprasad,
State Government Pleader for R-3



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Order QR

Mr.A.Kumaraguru,
Senior Panel Counsel for RR-4 & 5

Mr.Mohan, Senior Advocate
Assisted by Mr.R.Dhanush
for Mr.C.Rajashekar (for impleading party)

Mr.Rahul M.Shankar for R-7

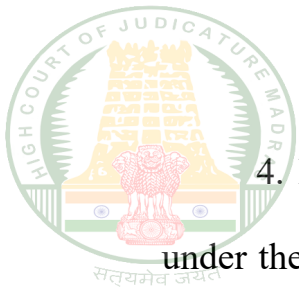
Mr.V.Vargees Amaz Raja for R-8

ORDER

This morning, Ms.Nivea.S.R had mentioned the matter. She pleaded for an urgent hearing as child sexual exploitation and abuse materials were being circulated virally on social media as well as on mainstream media.

2. Considering the urgency, this Court granted lunch motion.

3. When the matter was taken up post lunch, I heard Ms. Deepika for the Writ Petitioner, Mr.John Sathyan, learned State Public Prosecutor for Mr.Arun Anbumani, Mr.M.Guruprasad, learned Additional Government Pleader for the 3rd respondent, Mr.A.Kumaraguru, learned Central Government Senior Panel Counsel for respondent nos.4 & 5, Mr.Rahul M.Shankar for respondent no.7, Mr.Vargees Amaz Raja for R-8, Mr.T.Mohan, learned Senior Counsel instructed by Mr.Dhanush.R for Mr.C.Rajasekar, an intervenor.



4. It is the plea of Ms.Deepika that the Central Crime Branch, working under the 1st respondent, registered a crime invoking the POCSO Act. Initially, the Police filed a closure report in February 2026, citing inadequate evidence. The POCSO Court refused to accept the closure report and ordered further investigation. On further investigation, certain additional materials were ferreted out. On this basis, the persons who are alleged to have committed the offence have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. She added that, during the course of the investigation, apart from the initial victim, the police have identified several other victims and have recorded their statements. She states that the POCSO Court has appointed the Writ Petitioner as the “support person” under the POCSO Act, insofar as this case is concerned.

5. While the case has reached a crucial stage of investigation, she states that Respondent Nos.6 to 8 have not only discussed intricate details of the case, but have also uploaded the child sexual exploitation and abuse materials on the social and mainstream media. It is alleged that the 7th respondent had a full debate showing the material. It is the plea of Ms.Deepika that on account of such disclosures, the news channels are violating Section 15 of the POCSO Act and Rule 11 of the Rules made thereunder. She also relies upon Section 67B of the Information Technology Act, stating that the press is publishing and transmitting materials depicting child in a sexually explicit act in electronic form.



6. She states that the petitioner is a Non-Governmental Organisation which is working toward for prevention of child sexual abuse and it has been working in the South Asian region, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu, for over two decades. She states that the petitioner has the *locus standi*, to maintain the Writ Petition as it is a “support person” for the victims in this very case.

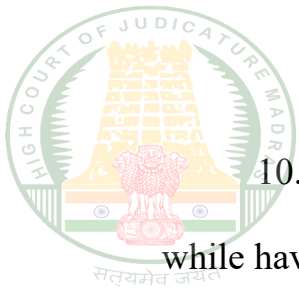
7. Mr.John Sathyan, learned State Public Prosecutor, submits that the State of Tamil Nadu has taken this issue very seriously. He points out the Director General of Police/ Head of Police Force has formed a Special Investigation Team to investigate the present crime. He points out that this Special Investigation Team is headed by three Senior IPS Officers and another, who is in the rank of the Deputy Commissioner of Police. The particulars of the Officers in the Team are as follows:-

- 1.Tmt.P.C.Thenmozhi, IPS., Addl.Commissioner of Police,
Central Crime Branch, Greater Chennai Police, Chennai.
- 2.Tmt.Disha Mittal, IPS., Joint Commissioner of Police,
L&O, Est, Greater Chennai Police, Chennai.
- 3.Tmt.J.Mutharasi, IPS, Superintendent of Police/Media
Relation Officer, O/o the DGP/HopF, Tamil Nadu
- 4.Tmt.V.V.Geethanjali, Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Crime against Women and Children, Greater Chennai Police,
Chennai.



8. In addition, he points out that the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Investigation Officer in charge of the unit of Crimes against Women, who is also in charge of the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Unit, has approached the State Nodal Officer, Cyber Crime, Tamil Nadu, for taking down any material which is connected to the present Crime No.174 of 2025 on the file of the Central Crime Branch. As a few videos have already been uploaded on YouTube, the Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police have also written to M/s.Google, LLC, California, USA, calling upon them to immediately suspend/block the URLs carrying the content in connection with the crime number. A similar request has also been made to Meta Platforms, California, USA. He states that the Police have taken note of the various leaks and are investigating the matter. He has passed across a set of 28 YouTube channels, wherein materials which have been leaked to the Press have been uploaded. He states the Police will investigate as to how the materials reached the hands of those who had uploaded these videos.

9. Mr.Kumaraguru, appearing for Respondents Nos.4 & 5, states that the Union of India will take immediate steps for blocking any URL, which contains any explicit material touching upon Crime No.174 of 2025 on the file of the Cyber Crime Police.



10. Mr.Rahul M.Shankar, appearing for the 7th respondent, states that while having a debate on the issue and uploading a screen grab, they have taken all the steps to ensure that it is in compliance with the POSCO Act and Rules made thereunder as well as the Information Technology Act. He states that if an injunction is granted in the same manner as sought for, it will affect the rights of the Press to report and thereby the Constitutional right of freedom of speech and expression, under Article 19(1)(a).

11. Mr.V.Vargees Amaz Raja, appearing for the 8th respondent, states that the 8th respondent has taken immediate steps and has pulled down all the videos in connection with the present case.

12. Mr.T.Mohan submits that on account of the leak, not only are the press having a field day, but irresponsible statements have been uploaded on social media like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. He supported the case of Ms.Deepika and seeks for an interim order as prayed for.

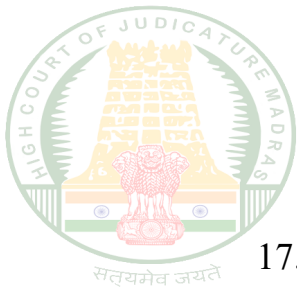
13. I have carefully considered the submissions of all sides. I have perused the materials placed on record.



14. The fact that Crime No.174/2025 is at an advance and crucial stage of investigation is not in dispute. Mr.John Sathyan states that the Police are still taking efforts to find out if there are any more victims than those have already been identified. At this juncture, if new debates or photographs are being uploaded on the new channels, there is a distinct possibility that other victims might not come forward to record their statements with the fear of consequences it can have on their lives.

15. While this Court cherishes the freedom of speech and expression and in particular, the freedom of the Press to disseminate information, this Court is also reminded of the gruesome events that took place during the Bombay Terrorist attack in 2009. It was only on account of the constant exposure and coverage by the Press of the activities and strategies being adopted by the law enforcing agencies that the terrorists came to know of them and they took counter measures, thereby defeating the very purpose for which the security personnel had been deployed. Every right has a corresponding duty and this duty is not only to be owed to the children, but also to the accused involved in the case.

16. Mr.Rahul M.Shankar is right that the Press has the right to report. But, whether this right to report is unrestricted and absolute or would include the right to media trial would have to be probed into.



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17. Though Ms.Deepika seeks to a John Doe order in absolute terms, in order to balance the interest of the press as well as that of the victims and the accused, as an interim measure, this Court passes the following order:-

i) There shall be an injunction restraining the media outlets, entities, intermediaries, digital platforms from publishing, broadcasting, uploading, transmitting, sharing, circulating, reproducing or otherwise disseminating any video which touches upon Crime No.174 of 2025 on the file of the Central Crime Branch, Chennai.

ii) The media outlets, entities, digital platforms, etc., who have already uploaded any material in connection with Crime No.174 of 2025 are directed to remove them forthwith, failing which the police shall vigorously apply the law and ensure their removal. This exercise should be completed by 26.09.2026 and a compliance report shall be filed on the next date of hearing.

iii) In order to fulfil the interest of the public to know as what the Police are doing with respect to this serious crime, the Special Investigation Team formed by the Director General/Head of Police Force shall issue a press release once in every week.



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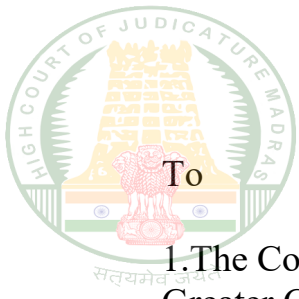
iv) The entities who have been injuncted are at liberty to have a discussion on the issues that arise out of child abuse, as long as it does not touch upon the factual matrix in Crime No.174 of 2025.

18. Ms.Deepika shall ensure that the 6th respondent is served with the soft copy of the entire set of papers by E-mail by end of today. The advance copy of the counters shall be served on Ms.Deepika and the Counsel appearing for Co-Respondents before presenting it to the Courts.

19. List the matter immediately after the Admission List on 30.09.2026.

25-09-2026

NHS



To

1.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai Police,
No.132, EVK Sampath Road,
Vepery, Chennai-600007.

2.The Director General of Police,
Cyber Crime Wing,
Director General of Police Office,
Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore,
Chennai-600004.

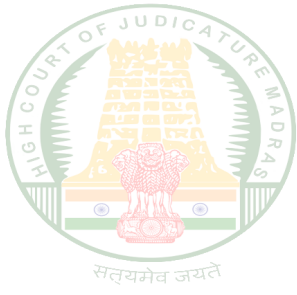
3.The Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment
Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

4.The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Electronics and Information
Technology,
New Delhi-110003.

5.The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
New Delhi-110001.

6.Living Media India Limited,
(India Today)
India Today Group Mediaplex,
FC-8, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida-201301.

7.Republic Media Network,
(Republic TV)
Sprint office no 326/327,
3rd Floor, Centrium at Phoenix Market City,
Lal Bahadur Shahstri Rd, Near Kamani Kunction,
Nav Pada, Kurla West, Mumbai-400 070, India.



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Order QR

V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J

NHS

**WP (Crl).No.2564 of 2026
and WP MP (Crl).No.946 & 947 of 2026**

25-09-2026