

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BECHU KURIAN THOMAS
Friday, the 22nd day of May 2026 / 1st Jyaishta, 1948
WP(C) NO. 17422 OF 2026(C)

PETITIONERS:

1. ALL INDIA DIGITAL CABLE FEDERATION THROUGH ITS SECRETARY GENERAL MR. MANOJ CHHANGANI HAVING ITS OFFICE AT: 236 OKHLA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PHASE – III NEW DELHI , PIN - 110020
2. DEN NETWORK LIMITED THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE MR. RENJU JOSHI KURIANS BUILDING 41/775-A1, FIRST FLOOR PRA 47, TRIPUNITHURA ROAD PADIVATTOM, ERNAKULAM., PIN - 682024

RESPONDENTS:

1. UNION OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ROOM NO. 22041, 2ND FLOOR KARTAVYA BHAWAN 2 NEW DELHI, EMAIL: SECY.INB@NIC.IN , PIN - 110001
2. TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI) REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY 4TH FLOOR, TOWER F, WORLD TRADE CENTRE NAUROJI NAGAR, NEW DELHI, EMAIL: SECRETARY@TRAI.GOV.IN, PIN - 110029
3. BROADCAST AUDIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (BARC) REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) VALENCIA TOWER, 4TH FLOOR RAJKAMAL STUDIO MARG 61, DR. S.S. RAO ROAD PAREL EAST, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA., PIN - 400012

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to stay on the operation and implementation of the impugned proviso to Clause 5.4.1 of the TV Rating Policy 2026 as far as it excludes the viewership of the landing page from viewership measurement and the operational guidelines issued in furtherance of the proviso to Clause 5.4.1 of the TV Rating Policy 2026, pending disposal of this writ petition (civil).

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and upon hearing the arguments of M/S M.GOPIKRISHNAN NAMBIAR, K.JOHN MATHAI, JOSON MANAVALAN, KURIAN THOMAS, PAULOSE C. ABRAHAM, RAJA KANNAN and JAI MOHAN, Advocates for the petitioner and the ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL of INDIA for R1 and R3, Mr. JAISHANKAR V. NAIR, STANDING COUNSEL for R2, the court passed the following:

FRIDAY, THE 22ND DAY OF MAY 2026

WP(C) No. 17422 of 2026

ALL INDIA DIGITAL CABLE FEDERATION & ANOTHER

VS

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER:

SHRI.M.GOPIKRISHNAN NAMBIAR, SHRI.K.JOHN MATHAI, SRI.JOSON
MANAVALAN, SRI.KURYAN THOMAS, SHRI.PAULOSE C. ABRAHAM,
SHRI.RAJA KANNAN, SRI.JAI MOHAN

ADVS FOR RESPONDENTS:

ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

BECHU KURIAN THOMAS, J.

W.P(C) No.17422 of 2026

Dated this the 22nd day of May, 2026

ORDER

Having heard Sri. Arun Kathpalia, the learned Senior Counsel, as instructed by Adv. Swapnil Gupta and Adv Jai Mohan, the learned counsel for the petitioners, I am of the view that this matter requires detailed consideration. Hence, Admit.

2. The learned Additional Solicitor General of India takes notice for respondents 1 and 3. Adv. Jaishankar V. Nair, the learned Standing Counsel, takes notice for the 2nd respondent.

3. Since the Supreme Court is already in seisin of the matter in Civil Appeal No.6001-6003/2019, wherein, Exhibit-P28 order has been passed directing that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India shall not enforce Landing Page Regulations/directions against the respondents and other similarly situated members of the Association, it is only appropriate that

the respondents herein be directed not to implement the proviso to Clause 5.4.1 of Exhibit-P1 - TV Rating Policy of 2026, without getting further orders from this Court. Ordered accordingly.

Post on 19.06.2026.

jka/22.05.26.

Sd/-
BECHU KURIAN THOMAS
JUDGE



APPENDIX OF WP(C) 17422/2026**Exhibit P1**

TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER DATED 27.03.2026 BEARING NO. 36011/13/2020-BP&L(VOL-III) ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ALONG WITH "POLICY GUIDELINES FOR TELEVISION RATING AGENCIES IN INDIA" AND ORDER DATED 08.05.2026 BEARING NO. 36011/13/2020-BP&L (VOL-III) AMENDING THE SAID POLICY

Exhibit P28

TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER DATED 30.07.2020 PASSED BY HON'BLE SUPREME COURT IN TRAI V. BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. & ANR., CIVIL APPEAL NO(S). 6001-6003/2019

