

**IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION),
PERUMBAVOOR**

Present : Smt.Annie Varghese, Civil Judge (Senior Division)
Tuesday, the 10th day of February 2026/21st Magha 1947

I.A. No.01/2026 in O.S.No.8/2026

Petitioner/Plaintiff:-

Sabu M. Jacob, aged 63 years, S/o. M.C Jacob, Managing Director, Kitek Garments Limited, Building No. VI/496, Kizhakkambalam, Vilangu P.O, Kunnathunad, Ernakulam, Kerala, India – 683 561

By Advs. Vijay V.Paul, Ajay V.Anand, Uthara P.V, Alphin Antony A, Abel Antony, Rojit Zachariah, Angela Elsa John & Radhika Prasad.

Respondents/Defendants :-

1. M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503 Represented by its Managing Director – K.J Jose.
2. K.J Jose, age not known, Managing Director, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
3. Melbi Jose, age not known, Director, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
4. Anto Augustine, age not known, Managing Editor, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
5. Roji Augustine, age not known, Chairman, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.

6. Josekutty Augustine, age not known, Vice-Chairman, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
7. Arun Kumar, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
8. T.V Prasad, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
9. S.S Saran, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
10. Vineetha Venu, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
11. Arjun Mattannur, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
12. Smruthy Paruthikad, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
13. Jimmy James, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
14. P.R Sunil, age not known, Reporter, M/s. Reporter Broadcasting Company Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
15. Indo-Asian News Channel Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony,

Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.

16. Nikesh Kumar M.V, age not known, Managing Director, Indo-Asian News Channel Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
17. Rani Varughese, age not known, Director, Indo-Asian News Channel Private Limited, Reporter Studio Complex, HMT Colony, Kalamassery, Cochin, HMT Colony, Ernakulam, Kanayannur, Kerala, India, 683503.
18. Google LLC, Unit No. 26, The Executive Center, Level 8, DLF Centre, Sansad Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 11000, Represented by its Grievance Officer – Suraj Rao.
19. Mr. Suraj Rao, age not known, Resident Grievance Officer for YouTube, Google LLC, Unit No. 26, The Executive Center, Level 8, DLF Centre, Sansad Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001.
20. Google India Private Limited, No.3, RMZ Infinity- Tower E, Old Madras Road, Floors- 4 and 5, Bangalore- 560016, Represented by its Grievance Officer.
21. Meta Platforms Inc, Unit 28 and 29, The Executive Center, Level 18, DLF Cyber City, Building No.5, Tower A, Phase III, Gurgaon- 122002 Represented by its Grievance Officer for Facebook

No vakalath

The petition is filed under Order 39 Rule 1 r/w Section 151 of the CPC to pass an order of temporary injunction restraining the respondents 1 to 17 from making, writing, uploading, distributing, or in any manner publishing and/or re-publishing any defamatory content or statement(s) about or concerning the applicant, or the Kitex Group, through any mode of publication and in making any false and frivolous allegations against the Applicant or the Kitex Group of Companies through any platform or medium – digital or print or through satellite television and to direct respondents 1 to 21

to remove videos from the social media platforms or to make it private, for the reasons stated in the affidavit. The petition is coming on for hearing on 10.02.2026 in the presence of the above counsel and the court on the same day passed the following :-

ORDER

This is a petition filed under Order XXXIX Rule 1 r/w S.151 of Civil Procedure Code seeking temporary injunction.

2. Heard learned senior counsel for the petitioner and perused the affidavit, petition and documents produced.

3. The petitioner has filed the petition seeking two reliefs. The first relief is to restrain respondent Nos.1 to 17 from publishing, uploading, etc. of defamatory content against the petitioner and Kitex Group of Companies, of which the petitioner is the Managing Director. The second relief sought is to direct respondent Nos.18 to 21, who are intermediaries owning and operating social media platforms, to take down the videos uploaded against the petitioner in their platforms. Learned senior counsel submitted that they are seeking ad-interim injunction only against respondent Nos.1 to 17.

4. The petitioner's case in brief is that respondent Nos.1 to 17 have published defamatory imputations against the petitioner through Malayalam TV News Channel, Reporter TV, and its associated digital and social media platforms with full knowledge of the falsity of such imputations which has resulted in serious reputational loss and injury to the petitioner, his business and political life. It is contended that the videos published by respondent

Nos.1 to 17 propagate a false imputation that the petitioner decided to align the political party Twenty20, of which the petitioner is the President, with NDA coalition, on account of imminent threat of arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. The videos also falsely allege that the petitioner and the Kitex Group of companies had committed financial fraud, tax evasion, money laundering, regulatory violations, etc., and that the petitioner had aligned with NDA coalition to protect his business interests and to avoid further proceedings by the Enforcement Directorate. The petitioner contends that these allegations are false, frivolous and devoid of any factual basis and have been published with the malafide intention to tarnish the petitioner's reputation and credibility and that the said publications were made with clear and deliberate intent for projecting the petitioner as a criminal and for creating a scandal for the purpose of attracting publicity, viewership and commercial gain to the 1st respondent's Television and digital media platforms. According to the petitioner, a legal notice had been issued to respondent Nos.1 to 17 on 02.02.2026, but no reply has been received so far.

5. On a perusal of the affidavit, petition, plaint and documents produced, I am satisfied that a prima facie case had been made out that respondent Nos.1 to 17 had published defamatory content against the petitioner and Kitex Group of companies. Issuing notice would delay and defeat the very purpose of the above petition. Hence, in the interest of protecting the rights of the petitioner, an ad-interim injunction is passed restraining respondent Nos.1 to 17 from making, writing, uploading, distributing or in any manner publishing or re-publishing any defamatory content

