

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

TRANSFER PETITION(CIVIL) Nos.997-1000/2021

UNION OF INDIA & ANOTHER ETC.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM & ORS. ETC.

RESPONDENT(S)

WITH

TRANSFER PETITION(CIVIL) Nos.1147-1152/2021

TRANSFER PETITION(CIVIL) Nos.1248-1252/2021

O R D E R

Heard learned counsel for the respective parties.

2. These cases are concerned with the challenge to the *Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021*. It is submitted by Mr. Rajat Nair, learned counsel that writ petitions have been filed in various High Courts including the High Court of Delhi, the High Court of Bombay, the High Court of Orissa, the High Court of Karnataka, the High Court of Madras, the High Court of Calcutta and the High Court of Kerala. In order to avoid contradictory judgments, the Union Government has filed the Transfer Petition to consolidate all the matters in one court for analogous consideration.

3. Since a good number of these writ petitions are pending consideration before the Delhi High Court, we deem it appropriate

to transfer the proceedings pending in various High Courts for analogous hearing, to the Delhi High Court.

4. Consequently the following cases are ordered to be transferred:-

Sl. NO.	Case No.	Pending at
1	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 12604/2021	High Court of Orissa
2	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 18084/2021	High Court of Kerala
3	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 6491/2021	High Court of Karnataka
4	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 12515/2021	High Court of Madras
5	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13055/2021	High Court of Madras
6	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 153/2021	High Court of Calcutta
7	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 14172/2021	High Court of Bombay
8	PIL No. 14204/2021	High Court of Bombay
9	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13675/2021	High Court of Kerala
10	Writ Petition (Civil) No. 6272/2021	High Court of Kerala

5. With this order, the above cases stand transferred to the Delhi High Court. The concerned paper books/records in the different High Courts should now be transferred to the Delhi High Court within four weeks from today. Additionally, all such similar cases pending in various High Courts should also be transferred on appropriate application, by either of the parties.

6. The related SLPs challenging the interim order passed by the High Court stands disposed of by permitting the Union of India to make necessary prayers before the Delhi High Court.

**W.P.(C) No. 760/2021**

Mr. Vedant Prabhakar, learned counsel submits that since this is a writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, the petitioner would withdraw the same in view of the order passed

today in the Transfer Petition. Then a writ petition before the Delhi High Court will be filed. Noting the above submission, the Writ Petitions stands dismissed as withdrawn.

6. The Transfer Petitions are allowed in the aforesaid terms.

7. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

.....J.  
[ HRISHIKESH ROY ]

.....J.  
[ PRASHANT KUMAR MISHRA ]

NEW DELHI;  
MARCH 22, 2024

ITEM NO.56

COURT NO.7

SECTION IX

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 14506-14507/2021

(Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 14-08-2021 in WPL No.14172/2021 14-08-2021 in PILL No. 14204/2021 passed by the High Court Of Judicature At Bombay)

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ANR.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

AGIJ PROMOTION OF NINETEENONEA MEDIA  
PVT. LTD. & ANR. ETC.

Respondent(s)

(FOR ADMISSION and I.R. and IA No.117645/2021-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT )

WITH

T.P.(C) No. 997-1000/2021 (XIV)

(FOR ADMISSION and I.R. and IA No.63369/2021-EX-PARTE STAY and IA No.63370/2021-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T,)

T.P.(C) No. 1147-1152/2021 (XI-A)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.77779/2021-EX-PARTE STAY)

W.P.(C) No. 760/2021 (PIL-W)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.79630/2021-EX-PARTE STAY)

SLP(C) No. 11163/2021 (XI-A)

(FOR ADMISSION and I.R. and IA No.85838/2021-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No.85839/2021-EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT)

T.P.(C) No. 1248-1252/2021 (XVI)

(FOR ADMISSION and IA No.87279/2021-EX-PARTE STAY)

SLP(C) No. 11566/2021 (XI-A)

(FOR ADMISSION and I.R. and IA No.89043/2021-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No.89045/2021-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

SLP(C) No. 8670/2022 (XII)

(FOR ADMISSION and I.R. and IA No.70520/2022-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No.70521/2022-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 22-03-2024 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HRISHIKESH ROY

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASHANT KUMAR MISHRA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Arvind P Datar, Sr. Adv.  
Ms. Nitya Ramakrishnan, Sr. Adv.  
Mr. Mrigank Prabhakar, AOR  
Ms. Sakshi Banga, Adv.  
Ms. Amisha Devi, Adv.

Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR  
 Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General  
 Mr. K.m Nataraj, A.S.G.  
 Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.  
 Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.  
 Mr. Divyansh H Rathi, Adv.  
 Mr. Amit Sharma B, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr. Adv.  
 Mr. C.U. Singh, Sr. Adv.  
 Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR  
 Ms. Mantika Haryani, Adv.  
 Mr. Bhanu Mishra, Adv.

Ms. Vrinda Bhandari, Adv.  
 Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, AOR

Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR

Mr. Amit Sibal, Sr. Adv.  
 Mr. Ruby Singh Ahuja, Adv.  
 Mr. Siddharth Chopra, Adv.  
 Mr. Nitin Sharma, Adv.  
 Ms. Swikriti Singhania, Adv.  
 Ms. Kritika Sachdeva, Adv.  
 Ms. Simranjeet, Adv.  
 Mr. Vasu Singh, Adv.  
 Mr. Srishti Kumar, Adv. '  
 Mr. Vivek Ayyagari, Adv.  
 M/S. Karanjawala & Co., AOR

Ms. Nitya Ramakrishnan, Sr. Adv.  
 Mr. Prasanna S., AOR

Mr. M. Shoeb Alam, Sr. Adv.  
 Mr. Arjun Adrain D'Souza, Adv. =  
 Ms. Fauzia Shakil, AOR

Mr. Krishan Kumar, AOR  
 Mrs. Neetu Sharma, Adv.  
 Mr. Seemant K. Garg, Adv.  
 Mr. Nitin Pal, Adv.

Ms. Vrinda Bhandari, AOR  
 Mr. Abhinav Sekhri, Adv.  
 Ms. Radhika Roy, Adv.  
 Ms. Gayatri Malhotra, Adv.  
 Ms. Anandita Rana, Adv.  
 Ms. Pragya Barsaiyan, Adv.  
 Mr. Madhav Aggarwal, Adv.

Mr. Faisal Sherwani , AOR

Ms. Megha Karnwal, AOR  
Mr. Nachiket Joshi, Adv.  
Mr. Shivek Trehan, Adv.  
Ms. Rishika Goyal, Adv.  
Ms. Riya Nair, Adv.

Mr. Arvind Datar, Sr. Adv.  
Ms. Nisha Bhambhani, Adv.  
Mr. Rajat Arora, AOR  
Mr. Rahul Unnikrishnan, Adv.  
Ms. Mariya Shahab, Adv.  
Mr. Nibin Louis, Adv.

Mr. Chitranshul A. Sinha, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following  
O R D E R

The related SLPs challenging the interim order, passed by the High Court(s), stands disposed of with liberty to the Union of India to make necessary prayer before Delhi High Court.

The Transfer Petitions are disposed of in terms of the signed order, which is placed on the File.

Pending application(s), if any, stand closed.

W.P.(C) No. 760/2021

Mr. Vedant Prabhakar, learned counsel submits that since this is a writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, the petitioner would withdraw the same in view of the order passed today and would file writ petition before the Delhi High Court.

Noting the above submission the Writ Petitions stands dismissed, as withdrawn.

Pending application(s), if any, stand closed.

(DEEPAK JOSHI)  
COURT MASTER (SH)

(KAMLESH RAWAT)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR