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WP No. 25017 of 2025

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 15-07-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

WP No. 25017 of 2025

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Petitioner(s)

Vs

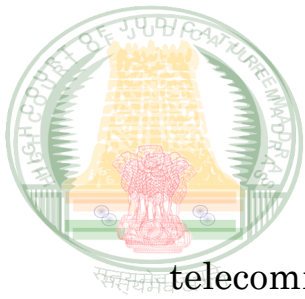
1.The Union Of India
Rep By The Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
6, Lodhi Road, CGO Complex,
Pragati Vihar, Electronics Niketan,
New Delhi-110 003

2.The Director General of Police
Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai,
Mylapore, Chennai-600 004

Respondent(s)

[R2 suo motu impleaded vide Court order dated 09.07.2025, made in W.P.No.25017 of 2025]

PRAYER Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondent herein to act upon the petitioner representation dated 18.6.2025 by taking all appropriate measures, including but not limited to blocking/removing/issuing take down notices/issuing directions to all concerned intermediaries/websites/pornographic platforms/



telecommunication service providers to forthwith and on a continuing basis detect, remove, and block all content depicting the petitioners Non consensual intimate images and videos(NCII)which are being uploaded,shared re-uploaded, transmitted or distributed over the Internet and digital platforms, by employing technological solutions such as Hash Matching Technology, Artificial intelligence-based content recognition tools including Photo DNA, Google content safety Hash checkers, or any other similar tools or mechanisms, so as to ensure the effective removal of such content and to prevent its further dissemination on any Internet or digital platform at present and in the future.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.Abudu Kumar
Rajaratnam
Senior Counsel
for Mr.Rajagopal Vasudevan

For Respondent(s): Mr.A.Kumaraguru
Senior Panel Counsel for R1

Mr.V.Meganathan
Government Advocate for R2

ORDER

When the matter was taken up for hearing today, the learned Senior Panel Counsel appearing for the 1st respondent submitted that immediate steps were taken to block all the websites.

A compliance report of the 1st respondent dated 15.07.2025 was



placed before this Court. The relevant portions are extracted

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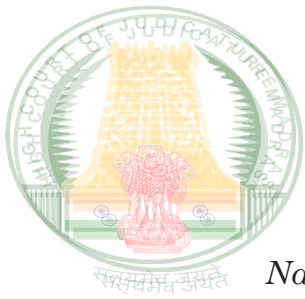
hereunder :-

2. That, further, as per the AoBR, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is the licensor for all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in India. Therefore, it is submitted that only DoT is empowered to direct any blocking of websites through ISPs. Pursuant to the order dated 09.07.2025, the answering respondent communicated the order of the Hon'ble Court, and forwarded it to DoT for necessary compliance. DoT replied back citing technical limitations in blocking the URL's mentioned in the Petition. A copy of the email dated 10.07.2025 and the reply has been annexed and marked as Annexure R-2.

3. The Court order was also forwarded to various intermediaries (Facebook, Instagram, Google, YouTube, Telegram, X, Reddit, WhatsApp) for necessary action and compliance, and also requesting a compliance report at the earliest and within 24 hours. A copy of the email dated 10.07.2025 and compliance emails as received till 14.07.2025 (before noon) have been annexed and marked as Annexure R-3.

4. That vide order dated 11.07.2025, the Hon'ble Court keeping in view the technical limitations in blocking the URLs listed in the Writ Petition and as cited by DoT, directed the Respondent (MeitY) to block the entire websites. A copy of this order dated 11.07.2025 has been annexed and marked as Annexure R-4.

5. That, pursuant to the court order dated 11.07.2025, the website details shared by the Government Counsel and Commissioner - Greater Chennai Police, Tamil Nadu were consolidated and communicated to DoT vide mail dated 12.07.2025. A copy of the email received from Commissioner Greater Chennai Police, Tamil



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Nadu and email to DoT to block the websites have been annexed and marked as Annexure R-5 & R-6 respectively.

6. That, vide order dated 12.07.2025, DoT has issued directions to Licensees with Internet Service Authorization to block the access to the websites received in connection with the said matter. The DoT Order dated 12.07.2025 to Licensees with Internet Service Authorization has been annexed and marked as Annexure R-7.

7. In light of the above-stated submissions, it is respectfully submitted that the respondent (MeitY) has taken necessary steps to secure lawful action in pursuance to the orders of the Hon'ble Court and the Hon'ble Court may take the present compliance report on record, in due compliance with the order dated 09.07.2025.

2. The learned Senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submitted that the videos / intimate images has once again resurfaced in 39 sites and the particulars of those 39 sites were also placed before this Court. The learned Senior counsel submitted that the order passed by the Delhi High Court which was relied upon by this Court, dealt with various steps to be taken to prevent such resurfacing of the intimate images / videos. To substantiate the same, the learned Senior counsel relied upon Paragraph 53 and 54 of the order and also directions VII and X. The learned Senior Counsel also brought to the notice of this Court the order passed by the Karnataka High Court in WP No.2358 of 2025 dated 29.04.2025 where the same

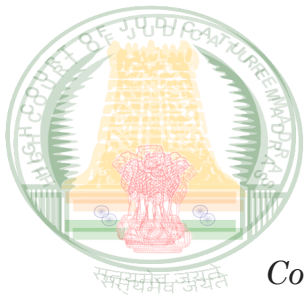


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issue was dealt with and directions were given to initiate proceedings in terms of Section 69A of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008 r/w Rule 10 of the Information Technology (Procedure and safeguards for blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. The learned Senior counsel specifically relied upon Paragraph No.16 and 17 in the said judgement where the Karnataka High Court has strongly expressed that Courts cannot remain mute spectators when faced with such menace which undermines privacy and integrity of women in particular. It further observed that protecting the society is the joint responsibility of service providers, content providers and also the law makers. Therefore, it is the duty of the State to bring such perpetrators of crime to justice. In that case, the Karnataka High Court was dealing with the menace of blocking proton mail.

3. The learned Senior Panel counsel also produced the written instructions received from the Home Ministry. For proper appreciation, the instructions received today is extracted hereunder:-

In compliance with the Hon'ble Madras High Court's order dated 09.07.2025 and with reference to the Hon'ble Delhi High

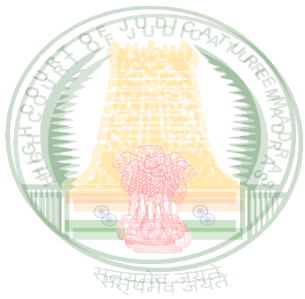


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Court's judgment in W.P. (CRL) 1505 of 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C), is actively working under both existing mechanisms and proposed frameworks-particularly the Central Scheme for Combating Cybercrime (2025-2028) and the SURAKSHINI initiative to strengthen redressal mechanisms for Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII) and other online harms.

The National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) currently offers two complaint modes: "Report and Track" and "Report Anonymously". The anonymous mode is specifically designed for sensitive offences such as NCII and Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM), enabling victims to report incidents without disclosing their identity. These complaints are automatically forwarded to the respective State/UT Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for necessary action.

Simultaneously, the Online Cybercrime against Women and Children (OCWC) team at 14C manually reviews complaints specifically related to CSEAM and issues takedown requests to Social Media Intermediaries (SMIs) via the SAHYOG portal.



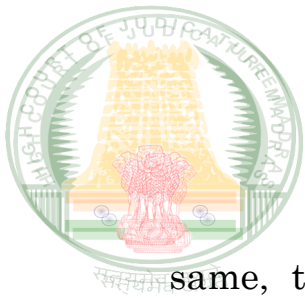
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Under the proposed SURAKSHINI initiative, which is currently under submission for approval of the competent authority, a dedicated Mitigation Centre is envisaged (yet to be established) to enable real-time detection, response, and takedown of NCII and CSEAM content. As part of this initiative, dedicated dashboards will be developed to provide real-time tracking of complaint status, FIR registration, platform response, and takedown confirmation. These features are aimed at improving transparency and strengthening victim trust.

Further, under the central scheme for combating Cybercrime, Digital investigation support Centres (DISCs) will be established across States /UTs to enhance digital forensic capabilities and ensure faster response to cyber crime complaints involving women and children.

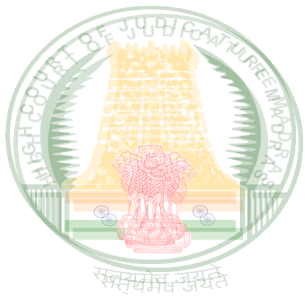
Additionally, on cybercrime.gov.in portal contract details of District Cyber police stations will be displayed on priority to facilitate easier victim access and support.

4. The present case requires continuous monitoring since it does not confine itself only to the problem faced by the victim girl involved in this case. It pertains to the problems faced by many victim girls across the country due to this menace. In view of the



same, there shall be a direction to the 1st respondent to file an affidavit before this Court by explaining the various steps that have been initiated and give a prototype as to what a victim girl must do when she is faced with a situation like this. Considering the societal frame work, not all girls are going to give complaint to the police and many are going to silently suffer the consequences. Therefore, they must be shown a way as to how they can handle a problem of this nature without getting themselves exposed and by providing an easy method to remove such videos / intimate images from the websites. If such clear directions are given, such girls can also approach the Self Help Groups or NGO, who can help in resolving the problems.

5. In the meantime, the 1st respondent shall ensure that the videos / intimate images does not resurface and the Technology that has been discussed in the order passed by the Delhi High Court as well as the Karnataka High Court shall be adopted. If ultimately, the 1st respondent is able to completely block the intimate images / videos and also prevent the same from resurfacing, it will be a test case which can be applied in future to handle the situation more effectively.



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6. Insofar as the 2nd respondent is concerned, the learned Government Advocate brought to the notice of this Court a circular memorandum dated 13.07.2025 issued by the Director General of Police. Through this circular memorandum, instructions have been given to the police officers as to how they should handle cases relating to obscenity and Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII). The relevant portions are extracted hereunder:-

The Police Officers are instructed that when a victim approaches a Police Station with a complaint regarding content posted without their knowledge or consent, specifically relating to obscenity and non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII), the following steps must be followed diligently:

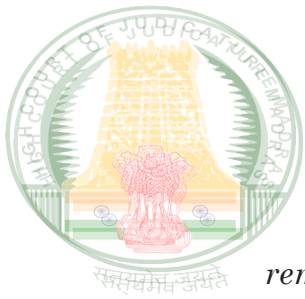
4.1 Receipt of Complaint

Upon receiving a complaint, either directly at the Local Police Station or via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal handled by the Cyber Crime Police Stations, officers should,

- *Collect complete details from the victim.*
- *Obtain the names of the platforms (social media or websites) and a list of specific URLs where the content has been published.*

4.2 Guide Victim to Report on Hosting Website

The victim should be guided to report the content directly to the platform or website hosting the material. Most websites that host NCII or similar content provide specific mechanisms for content



removal under headings such as:

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- *DMCA Takedown Request*
- *Privacy Policy*
- *Report Abuse*
- *Non-Consensual Content*

These options are generally found in the website's footer or "Contact Us" page. Victims should be guided to locate and use the appropriate method to submit a removal request.

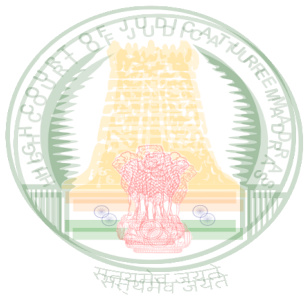
4.3 Submitting a Takedown Request through Grievance redressal mechanism Most websites provide either a designated email address or an online submission form for such requests.

Victims may be required to provide:

- *The URL(s) of the offending content*
- *A brief description of the violation (e.g., NCII, copyright infringement, privacy breach)*
- *Proof of identity, if requested (especially under DMCA or privacy claims)*

4.4 Victims may also be guided to use platforms like StopNCII.org, that prevents spread of the sharing of intimate content without consent.

- *Victims can be guided to visit such platforms and create a case, and these sites use on-device hashing of intimate images or videos.*
- *After submitting, a case ID and PIN would be generated to*



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track. The hashes thus generated would be shared with major platforms for proactive detection and blocking of the content.

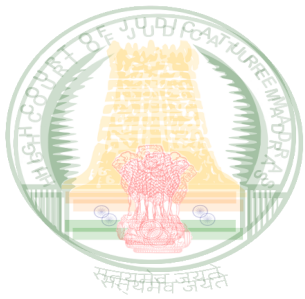
4.5 Requesting Removal from Google Search Results

If the content has already been indexed by Google, victim should be guided to submit a request for removal from search results through Google's personal information removal tool. Victims may be guided to follow the below steps,

- *Visit-https://support.google.com/legal/contact/lr_idmec?sjid-13697720550918638174-NC*
- *Briefly state that the content was published without consent (mention NCII or privacy violation)*
- *Submit the exact URLs where the explicit content appears.*
- *Confirm that the requester is the person depicted or authorized to act on their behalf.*
- *Final Submit the request for Google's review and action.*

4.6 Take down request to State Nodal Officer

- *The list of offending URLs and website/domain details must be compiled by the Investigating Officer.*
- *This information should be sent to the State Nodal Officer in the prescribed format (onclosed), to initiate a formal takedown request under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology*



Act, 2000

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5. Vide reference 2nd cited above, a circular memorandum was issued citing the provision of IT Rules for initiating legal action against intermediaries for violation of information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) rules, 2021.

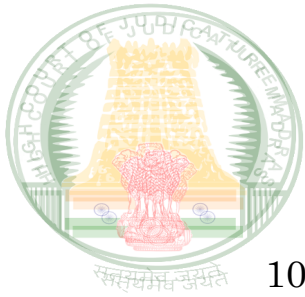
7. Considering the seriousness of the issue involved in the present case and also to bring more sensitivity to the police to handle such cases, this Court request the State Public Prosecutor to assist this Court.

8. The Police department requires more sensitivity in dealing with cases of this nature, since even in the present case, the name of the victim girl has been mentioned in the FIR. This shows the gross insensitivity on the part of the police while registering the FIR. By showing the name of the victim girl, they are causing more damage to the name and dignity of the victim girl. That apart, when this Court enquired the victim girl as to the process that was adopted



in the course of investigation, shockingly the victim girl informed that the video was witnessed by the male police officers and they were asking for the identity of the person to the victim girl, who was also present there. By adopting such a process, the victim girl is being shammed and she is repeatedly harassed causing untold mental agony. In a case of this nature, the victim girl must be accompanied only by women police officers and there are many such women police officers, who are experts in cyber crimes. This is the reason why this Court wants to inculcate more sensitivity in the police department while dealing with cases of this nature.

9. This Court directs the learned Government Advocate that the name of the victim girl must be redacted from the FIR and from all those documents where it has been incorporated in the course of investigation. In no place, the name of the victim girl must be shown. The learned Government Advocate submitted that he will immediately instruct the police to redact the name of the victim girl.



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10. Post this case under the same caption on 22.07.2025 at

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2.15 p.m.

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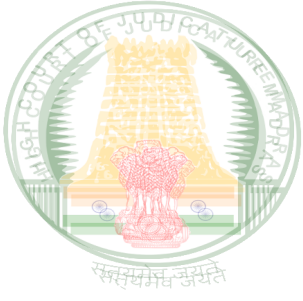
Note : Issue order copy on 15.07.2025

Index:Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet:Yes

Neutral Citation:Yes/No



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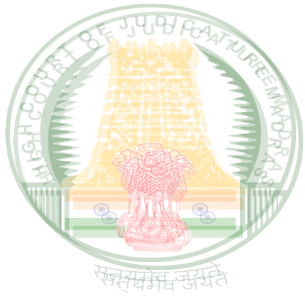
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To

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Rep By The Secretary to Government,
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