IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.NAGARESH

Wednesday, the 9th day of July 2025 / 18th Ashadha, 1947
WP(C) NO. 24256 OF 2025(F)

PETITIONER:

COSMOS ENTERTAINMENTS REPRESENTED BY J PHANINDRA KUMAR, AGED 57 YEARS, PROPRIETOR, FLAT NO-3, EASWARI CHINNIDALE, EW NO.5, VIDYODAYA MAIN ROAD, T.ROAD, CHENAI, TAMIL NADU, PIN - 600017

RESPONDENTS:

1. **THE REGIONAL OFFICER CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION, 1ST FLOOR, CHITHRANJALI STUDIO COMPLEX, THIRUVALLUM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695027**
2. **THE CHAIRMAN CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION, FILMS DIVISION COMPLEX, PHASE I BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR, DR.G.DESHMUKH MARG, MUMBAI, PIN - 400026**
3. **JOINT SECRETARY (P & A) MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ROOM NO.552, A WING, SHASTHRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001**

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

a. Stay the operation and implementation of the letter dated 27.06.2025 issued by the 1st respondent (EXHIBIT P4), in so far as it directs the petitioner to change the name "Janaki" from the title and dialogues of the film;

b. Direct the 1st respondent to provisionally issue the Censor Certificate for public exhibition of the film titled "JSK-Janaki v/s State of Kerala", without insisting on the change of the name "Janaki", pending final adjudication of this Writ Petition;

C. Pass such other interim reliefs as this Hon'ble Court may deem just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this court's order dated 02.07.2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S.ANAND B. MENON, HARIS BEERAN & NABIL KHADER Advocates for the petitioner, STANDING COUNSEL for respondents 1 & 2 (B/O), SRI.S.BIJU, SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL & SMT.O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA for respondents, the court passed the following:

N.NAGARESH, J.

W.P. (C) Nos.23326 & 24256 of 2025

Dated this the 9th day of July, 2025

ORDER

W.P.(C) No.23326/2025 has been filed by M/s.Cosmos Entertainments seeking the following relief:-

> "Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction directing the respondents to forthwith process and issue the censor certificate for the Malayalam film 'JSK v. State of Kerala', submitted by the petitioner, in accordance with law and within a time-bound manner as deemed fit by this Hon'ble Court."

2. W.P.(C) No.24256/2025 has been filed by the same petitioner seeking the following reliefs:-

> "(i) Issue a writ of certiorari or any other appropriate writ, order or direction calling for the records leading to the issuance of the letter dated 27.06.2025 issued by the 1st respondent (Ext.P4), and quash the same as arbitrary, illegal, and violative of the petitioner's fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India;
>
> (ii) Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction directing the respondents to forthwith issue the UA Censor certificate for public exhibition of the Petitioner's feature film titled "JSK – Janaki v/s State of Kerala" under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 without insisting on any modification or deletion of the name "Janaki" from the title or dialogues of the film within a date specified by this Hon'ble court;

> iii. Declare that the direction issued by the 1st respondent to change the name "Janaki" from the title and dialogues of the petitioner's film is violative of the petitioner's right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India."

3. After arguing the matter at considerable length, counsel appearing for the Central Board of Film Certification submitted that to bring a quietus to the issue, while protecting the larger interest, a minimum excision / modification can be made to the movie as follows:-

(i) A slight modification has to be made to the subtitle of the movie by changing it as 'JSK-Janaki V. v/s State of Kerala'.

(ii) The word / sound "Janaki" appearing in the film at time duration from 01.06.45 to 01.08.32 will have to be muted or substituted accordingly.

(iii) The word 'Janaki' in the film at time duration from 01.08.33 to 01.08.36 will also have to be muted / substituted appropriately.

4. Standing Counsel for the Central Board of Film Certification further submitted that if these changes are made and the edited version is resubmitted, they will endeavour to issue the Certificate to the petitioner within a further period of three days.

5. The petitioner is amenable and agreeable to the said proposal.

6. In the circumstances, the petitioner is directed to submit the revised / modified version of the movie as suggested above at the earliest. There will be a further direction to the Central Board of Film Certification to issue the Censor Certificate within a further period of three days.

Post on 16.07.2025.

Sd/-
N.NAGARESH
JUDGE

hmh

APPENDIX OF WP(C) 24256/2025

Exhibit P4	**A TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER DATED 27.06.2025 RECEIVED THROUGH E-MAIL FROM THE 1ST RESPONDENT**

THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA
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