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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\# **CNR No. DLHC010567132026**

\+ W.P.(C) 17468/2026

DHANANJAY BHOLE

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr Amit Prasad, Sr Adv, Akshay Nagarajan, Akash Singh, Advs

versus

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND ORS

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Abhishek Baid and Mr. Mohit Kumar Bafna, Advs for R1

Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG, Mr. Apoorv Shukla, CGSC, Mr. Naman Sehgal, Adv., Mr. Surjeet Singh, Adv. and Mr. Anuj - Dwivedi, Adv. for r6/UOI

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASMEET SINGH

O R D E R

% 27.11.2026

CM APPL. 81646/2026 & CM APPL. 81647/2026

Allowed subject to all just exceptions.

The application stands disposed of.

W.P.(C) 17468/2026

1. This is a writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following prayers :-

> *"A. Issue a Writ to Respondent Nos. 2 to 4 restraining them from using AI enabled Facial Recognition cameras in their stores situate in Delhi, as being violative of Article 19(1)(a)*

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and Article 21, further pass an order injuncting the collection of personal data for the purposes of enabling Facial Recognition Technology;

B. Issue a Writ in the nature of certiorari declaring the Privacy Policy dated 02.11.2026 issued by Respondent No. 2 as violative of Article 19(1)(a) and Article 21 insofar as it authorizes the collection of facial biometric information through AI enabled cameras and processing such information through its AI Model Vision AI;

C. Issue a Writ in the nature of a mandamus against Respondents Nos. 2 to 4 to delete/erase all such facial information data gathered through its AI enabled cameras;

D. Issue a Writ in the nature of a Mandamus to Respondent No. 1, Reserve Bank of India directing them to prohibit NBFC Companies to obtain facial biometric information through AI enabled cameras without express and informed consent….”

2. For the reasons stated in the petition, issue notice.

3. Mr. Bafna, learned counsel, accepts notice on behalf of respondent No. 1. Mr. Shukla, learned CGSC, appears along with Mr. Sharma, learned ASG, and accepts notice for respondent No. 6.

4. The petitioner has filed the present petition challenging the facial recognition cameras in the stores of respondent Nos. 2 to 4 which profiles customers and non-customers using its cameras. Thereafter, using these facial recognition cameras, customers are identified and profiled by matching their facial features and authenticating them through Aadhaar-sourced data.

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5. For the time being, prayers ‘B’ and ‘D’ of the present petition are not pressed as the same are in the nature of public interest and hence, I have taken up the matter for hearing.

6. Mr. Prasad, learned counsel for the petitioner, presses for interim direction and states that the said data may be shared with third parties, which affects the privacy as well as financial security of the petitioner.

7. Mr. Bafna, learned counsel for respondent No. 1, states that the representation dated 23.11.2026 by the petitioner has also been addressed to the respondent No. 1, which is presently under consideration.

8. The learned ASG has also been heard on the aforesaid issue and requested to ensure that the concerns of the petitioner are addressed at the appropriate level.

9. I am of the view that the concerns of the petitioner are genuine and in this day and age, where banking frauds as well as AI-based frauds are becoming increasingly prevalent, the privacy of the petitioner is of paramount importance.

10. The petitioner has made out a *prima facie* case, as profiling customers through facial recognition matched with Aadhaar-sourced data raises a serious question of privacy. The balance of convenience also lies in favour of the petitioner, since the respondents can still use the cameras for KYC, whereas refusal exposes the petitioner's biometric data to misuse. The petitioner will suffer irreparable loss and injury if interim orders are not granted at this stage since the misuse or sharing of this data with third parties cannot be compensated in terms of money.

11. For the said reasons, the respondent Nos. 2 to 4, their agents, employees, representatives and any persons acting on their behalf are

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restrained from collecting and using the information collected by way of these facial recognition cameras for purpose other than KYC. Furthermore the respondent Nos. 2 to 4 are specifically restrained from sharing the said data with any other entity, including group entities.

12. At this stage, Mr. Prasad, learned counsel for the petitioner, states that similar order should ideally be passed against all the customers of respondent Nos. 2 to 4.

13. In this jurisdiction, I am unable to pass such an order and for the said reasons, the petition be listed before Hon'ble Division Bench-1 on 04.12.2026 for further order(s), including on prayer 'B' and 'D' in the main writ petition.

JASMEET SINGH, J

NOVEMBER 27, 2026/NR

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