

IN THE PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT AT
CHANDIGARH

225

CWP-8089-2020
Date of Decision: 18.03.2024

GURDEEPINDER SINGH DHILLON

... Petitioner

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ.

Present: Mr. Bhisham Kinger, Advocate for
Mr. R.S. Randhawa, Advocate for
the petitioner.
Mr. Saurav Verma, Addl. A.G., Punjab.
Mr. Dheeraj Jain, Sr. Govt. Counsel
for respondents-U.O.I., *(through video conferencing)*.
Mr. Abhilaksh Grover, Advocate
for respondent No.7.
Mr. Paul S. Saini, Advocate
for respondents No.8 to 11.
Mr. Jahaan Singh Dhaliwal, Advocate
for respondents No.12, 13 and 15.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in the present petition is for directing the respondent No.1
to regulate the illegal, anti-social, vulgar, abusive, minority oppressive and anti-
national content broadcasted by respondent No.7 and 12 to 19 without any
approval or authentication from any Government Authority.

Learned counsel for the respondents have appointed out that the
present writ petition has been rendered infructuous since the prayer made in the
present petition was for seeking issuance of directions to the respondents to
regulate the illegal, anti-social, vulgar, abusive, minority oppressive and anti-
national content broadcasted by respondent No.7 and 12 to 19. They submit that

the same issue was pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No.799 of 2020 titled as 'Skand Bajpai and another Versus Union of India and others' and Writ Petition (Civil) No.1341 of 2020 titled as 'Vineet Jindal Versus Versus Union of India and others' wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court had been informed that the Union of India has already framed Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 and Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021. While disposing of the above said petitions, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted liberty to the petitioners to raise a challenge to the abovesaid Rules and/or the validity of the Rules.

It is further submitted that in view of the above and the Rules framed, the present petition has become infructuous.

Considering the above, insofar as the substantive prayer of the petitioner herein regarding framing of separate rules/laws for regulating social media platforms is concerned, the same has already been dealt with by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the above mentioned petitions. Further, the second prayer as regards the initiation of appropriate proceedings against the respondents, the petitioner is at liberty to pursue his alternative remedies, as per law.

The present petition is accordingly disposed of as having been rendered infructuous at this stage.

MARCH 18, 2024
rajender

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No