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

CNR No. DLHC010368552026

+ **W.P.(C) 11451/2026 & CM APPL. 53068/2026**

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST SHIRDIPetitioner

Through: Mr. Pramod Kumar Dubey, Senior Advocate with Mr. Saurav Agrawal, Mr. Ravi Sharma, Ms. Prachi Dubey, Mr. Rupraj Banerjee, Mr. Satyam Sharma, Mr. Harsh Khobar, Aryan Kumar Tiwari, Ms. Anusha Sinha, Ms. Khushi Arora, Ms. Devangana Mishra and Mr. Shambhu Prasad Singh, Advocates

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.Respondents

Through: Mr. Chetan Sharma, ASG with Mr. Vijay Joshi, CGSC, Advocate for respondent Nos. 1 & 2

CORAM:
HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE SWARANA KANTA SHARMA

ORDER
11.08.2026

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1. By way of the instant petition, the petitioner seeks following reliefs:

- a) Issue a writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction quashing the letters dated 17.07.2026, 18.07.2026, 19.07.2026, 24.07.2026 and 26.07.2026 issued by Respondent No. 3, refusing to take any action against the offending videos and posts; and
- b) Issue a writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction to Respondent No.1 (Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) to ensure that Respondent No.3 (Google LLC / YouTube),



removes or disable access to the impugned derogatory, inflammatory and communally sensitive video uploaded on the platform 'YouTube' as per Annexure P-1; and

- c) Issue a writ of mandamus to the Respondent No. 1 and 2 to form guidelines for the Respondent No. 3 entities to adhere for dealing with materials impacting religious sentiments of people; and
- d) Issue directions to Respondent No. 3 to make suitable changes in the portal in the GRC so that there are no restrictions on the files to be uploaded and character limit to be written..."

2. Issue notice. The learned counsel appearing on advance notice, on behalf of respondent nos. 1 and 2, accepts notice.

3. No one appeared on behalf of remaining respondents, when the matter was taken up for hearing.

4. On behalf of the petitioner, it is stated that the petitioner is seeking, *inter alia*, quashing of the communications dated 17.07.2026, 18.07.2026, 19.07.2026, 24.07.2026 and 26.07.2026 issued by respondent no. 3 (Google LLC/YouTube), whereby the petitioner's requests for removal of certain videos hosted on the YouTube platform were declined. The petitioner submits that the impugned videos contain false, defamatory, inflammatory and derogatory allegations against Shri Sai Baba, and also making allegations against the petitioner Trust. It is stated that despite lodging complaints before respondent no. 3 under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 [hereafter '**Rules of 2021**'], furnishing specific URLs and other details of the impugned content, no effective action was taken. The petitioner thereafter approached respondent no. 1 as well as the Grievance Appellate Committee, however, according to the petitioner, the impugned content continues to remain accessible on the platform, thereby hurting the religious



sentiments of devotees and violating their rights under Article 25 of the Constitution.

5. This Court has heard arguments addressed on behalf of the learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned ASG appearing for respondent nos. 1 and 2, and has perused the material available on record.

6. At this stage, this Court does not deem it appropriate to reproduce or refer to the contents of the impugned YouTube videos in the present order, as the same may have the potential to hurt the religious sentiments of members of the community. *Suffice it to observe that*, having regard to the grievance raised by the petitioner and the nature of the allegations made in the petition, this Court considers it appropriate to direct that the statutory appeal preferred by the petitioner before the Grievance Appellate Committee shall be considered and decided by passing a reasoned order within a period of seven (07) days from this date, under intimation to the petitioner, considering the urgency in the matter.

7. A compliance report shall be filed before this Court on or before the next date of hearing, i.e., 19.08.2026.

8. The order be uploaded on the website forthwith.

DR. SWARANA KANTA SHARMA, J

AUGUST 11, 2026/ns