

Daily Orders for Case WP 15589/2025

Sl. No	Judge(s) Name	Date of Order	Daily Order
1	M.NAGAPRASANNA	03/06/2025	<p>Heard the learned senior counsel Sri Dhyan Chinnappa appearing for the petitioner. Learned Additional Government Advocate is directed to accept notice for respondents 1 to 3. Sri H Shanthi Bhushan, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India is directed to accept notice for respondent No.4. Sri Dhanaraj H S, learned counsel accepts notice for 5th respondent/The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce. Petitioner to serve set of papers upon the aforesaid counsel forthwith. The petitioner - Raajkamal Films International, represented by its Chief Executive Officer, is at the doors of this Court seeking a direction by issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus to take steps to restrain the respondents from taking any measures, directly or indirectly, that would in any manner restrain/restrict the exhibition of the petitioner's film 'Thug Life' in all languages in the State of Karnataka. They further seek a direction to the officials and machinery under the control of the State to provide necessary security to the Director, Producers, cast and other associated in the making of the film 'Thug Life', the exhibitors, theatre owners and other places where the film would be screened and also provide protection to audience and movie goers. In effect, the protection is sought to all and sundry associated with the movie 'Thug Life'. A third prayer is sought, seeking a direction restraining the 5th respondent in particular, from issuing any direction or instruction in relation to banning the release and distribution of the petitioner's film 'Thug Life' in the State of Karnataka. The circumstance that has led the petitioner to the doors of this Court is generated on the audio launch of the movie 'Thug Life', producer of which, is said to be the actor Sri Kamal Haasan. The statement that is said to have been made by Sri Kamal Haasan is that, the language – Kannada, has taken birth from the language – Tamil. This stirred a controversy and resulted in certain unrest in the State of Karnataka, as the people of the State of Karnataka, specific groups or otherwise, felt that their sentiments attached to the language – Kannada got undermined by the statement quoted supra. The people or several organizations began protest against the statement made by the actor, demanding an apology for having made the said statement without any basis. During the pendency of the demand of the people of Karnataka or certain groups and the 5th respondent, the movie 'Thug Life' is said to be releasing on 05th June, 2025 all over, including the State of Karnataka. In the wake of the aforesaid controversy and the release of the film, the 5th respondent is said to have issued certain statement to the press that they would not be permitting the movie 'Thug Life' to be screened in any of the screens/multiplexes in the State of Karnataka. The reason for the said statement is said to be the statement made by the actor, which had hurt the sentiments of the people of Karnataka. Owing to the release of the film and its smooth exhibition, the petitioner is before the Court seeking the afore-quoted prayer. The demand of the 5th respondent, as is narrated in the petition, is that they wanted an apology from the hands of Sri Kamal Haasan who has made the aforesaid statement. In that wake, the learned senior counsel places on record, a communication made by Sri Kamal Haasan, to the President of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce/5th respondent. The communication reads as follows: "3/6/2025 Mr. Narasimhalu, President, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore. Sir, I acknowledge your letter dated 30/05/2025. Out of deep respect for the people of Karnataka, I offer the following with sincerity. It pains me that my statement at the Thug Life audio launch - spoken out of genuine affection for the legendary Dr. Rajkumar's family, especially Shiva Rajkumar - has been misunderstood and taken out of context. My words were intended only to convey that we are all one and from the same family and not to diminish Kannada in any way. There is no dispute or debate on the rich legacy of Kannada language. Like Tamil, Kannada has a proud literary and cultural tradition that I have long admired. Throughout my career, I have cherished the warmth and affection extended to me by the Kannada-speaking community, and I say this with a clear conscience and conviction: my love for the language is genuine, and I have great respect for the love that Kannadigas have for their mother tongue. My bond with Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam - and all languages of this land-is abiding and heartfelt. I have always stood for the equal dignity of all Indian languages and remain opposed to the dominance of any one language over another, as such imbalance undermines the linguistic fabric of the Union of India. I know and speak the language of Cinema. Cinema is a universal language that knows only love and bonding. My statement was also only to establish that bond and unity amongst all of us. It is this love and bond that my seniors taught me which I wanted to share. It is out of this love and bond that Shivanna attended the audio launch event. I really regret that Shivanna had to go through such embarrassment on account of this. But am sure our true love and respect for each other will always remain and get firmer now. Cinema must remain a bridge between people - never a wall that divides them. This was the intent of my statement and I never have been nor would ever want to give any room for public unrest and animosity. I sincerely hope my words are received in the spirit they were intended, and that my enduring affection for Karnataka, its people, and their language is recognised in its true light. I earnestly believe that this misunderstanding is temporary and an opportunity to reiterate our mutual love and respect. Yours truly, Sd/- Kamal Haasan" A perusal at the afore-quoted communication, has all the ingredients of a remorse, but since it is issued in demand of the 5th respondent for an apology, it should have contained those words. The word 'apology' is nowhere found in the communication. This Court is of</p>

		<p>the prima facie opinion that, if a sentence of apology had been included while concluding the communication, it would have concluded/ended all controversy and the unrest or disharmony in the State of Karnataka. At that juncture, the learned senior counsel, on instructions would submit, that till the issue is resolved by a dialogue or a trialogue with the 5th respondent, the petitioner is not willing to screen the movie anywhere in the State of Karnataka. The learned senior counsel would submit that the matter may be adjourned and if there is possibility of any truce that could be arrived at between the parties with regard to acceptance of the communication quoted supra to the 5th respondent, the issue could be put at rest. The learned senior counsel would seek to justify that the 5th respondent had demanded an apology for having allegedly undermined the sentiments of the people of Karnataka in terms of what is noted hereinabove. According to the learned senior counsel, the communication now addressed to the 5th respondent is in response to the said demand of an apology, which the learned counsel for the 5th respondent would dispute that there is no apology in the communication made to the 5th respondent. He would however seek time to place it before the 5th respondent and get back to this Court on the next date. In the light of the submission of the learned senior counsel, on instruction, that the screening of the movie would not be insisted upon, till the dialogue/trialogue with the 5th respondent gets concluded, I deem it appropriate to adjourn the matter, to enable the efforts of the parties to the lis. Heard in part. List the matter on 13-06-2025 at 3.30 p.m. for further hearing.</p>
--	--	---