



# LIGHTS, CAMERA & LAW

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**MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTER  
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**AUTHORS:**

**ANISHA SHETTY, ASSOCIATE PARTNER**

**NIKITA RAGHAVAN, ASSOCIATE**

## **I&B MINISTRY INTRODUCES CONSOLIDATED BROADCASTING BILL**

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry is proposing the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill to overhaul the regulatory framework for broadcasting services, covering DTH, OTT, and digital news platforms. This legislation, currently undergoing public consultation, is designed to replace the Cable TV Networks (Regulations) Act, 1995, and other existing sector regulations. The draft bill introduces key elements such as content evaluation committees, a more participatory Broadcast Advisory Council for self-regulation, diverse approaches to program and advertisement codes, and statutory penalties. Minister Anurag Thakur emphasizes the bill's significance in adapting the regulatory framework to the evolving landscape of OTT, digital media, DTH, IPTV, and emerging technologies.

Addressing the accessibility needs of the Divyangjan community is a notable aspect, with comprehensive guidelines included in the proposal. The draft Bill establishes contemporary and statutory definitions, extending regulatory coverage to OTT content and digital news. Emphasizing self-regulation, it mandates Content Evaluation Committees and suggests a more inclusive Broadcast Advisory Council. The bill differentiates Program and Advertisement Codes, requiring self-classification and robust access control for restricted content. Statutory penalties, including advisory, warning, censure, or monetary penalties, are proposed. Infrastructure sharing among broadcasting network operators and platform service conveyance are incorporated. Experts view this initiative as a positive step toward efficient business operations and appropriate regulation.

**[Bill Link](#) [Source](#)**

## **ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH SONY FOR SUCCESSFUL MERGER IMPLEMENTATION: ZEE**

Punit Goenka, CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL), is actively engaged with Sony Group Corporation to secure the merger with Culver Max Entertainment (Sony Pictures Networks India or SPNI).

despite disagreements, particularly about Goenka's role as MD & CEO in the merged entity, ZEEL remains committed to resolving all issues in the merger agreement, emphasizing its value for shareholders. The merger deadline is December 20, and discussions revolve around Goenka's appointment. Regulatory concerns arise from an ongoing Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) investigation, although Goenka asserts the Securities Appellate Tribunal's (SAT) decision clears his path to leadership. Approvals have been granted by stock exchanges, the Competition Commission of India, and the National Company Law Tribunal. In Q2, ZEEL reported a 9% YoY net profit growth to Rs 123 crore and a 21% revenue increase to Rs 2,438 crore, driven by robust performances in film and digital divisions. Advertising revenue dipped by 3%, while subscription revenue grew by 8%. ZEE5, ZEEL's streaming platform, experienced a 59% revenue surge to Rs 265 crore, with an 8.3% reduction in operating loss to Rs 254 crore.

**[Source](#)**

## **DISNEY+ HOTSTAR TO REMAIN IN INDIA: BOB IGER**

Walt Disney CEO, Bob Iger, expressed interest in staying in the Indian market while exploring options for its Star India business. Discussions, including talks with Reliance Industries, are ongoing for a potential sale of Disney's Indian assets. Despite challenges in some segments, the linear business in India is performing well. Star India's entertainment segment remains profitable, while sports and streaming face financial difficulties. Disney+ Hotstar saw a decline in paid subscribers. Fiscal results for 2023 showed a 6% rise in operating profit to \$12.8 billion and a 7% increase in revenue to \$88.8 billion. Walt Disney plans to cut an additional \$2 billion in expenses, part of a \$5.5 billion cost reduction plan. Star India's net profit for FY23 dropped 31% to Rs 1272 crore, despite a 6% increase in operating revenue. Total income grew by 9% to Rs 20699 crore. There is a potential deal between Walt Disney's Star India and Reliance's Viacom 18 which could lead to the formation of India's largest media and entertainment conglomerate.

**[Source : \(here\) and \(here\)](#)**

## **FILM'S CONTENT MOCKS DISABILITIES: CBFC SERVES NOTICE ON PRODUCERS OF AANKH MICHOLI**

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) has issued notices to film producers and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) regarding the film 'Aankh Micholi.' Disability rights groups raised concerns about the film mocking various disabilities. The CCPD, taking suo-motu cognizance, issued a notice to the production companies and sought replies from the CBFC CEO and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting secretary. The notice states that the film mocks disabilities specified under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and cites relevant legal provisions. The CCPD has requested an inquiry, comments, and remedial action within 10 days, emphasizing the mandatory compliance under the RPwD Act.

**Source**

## **NEED PROPER GUIDELINES FOR SEIZURE OF DIGITAL DEVICES OF JOURNALISTS: SUPREME COURT**

The Supreme Court of India, during a hearing on a PIL filed by the Foundation for Media Professional, highlighted the necessity for clear guidelines on the seizure of journalists' digital devices to prevent potential misuse by investigating agencies. The PIL aimed at safeguarding against "unreasonable interference" by law enforcement and establishing comprehensive guidelines for digital device search and seizure. Senior advocate Siddharth Agarwal emphasized the lack of guidelines, citing instances where journalists' devices were seized without providing mandatory hash values. Justice S.K. Kaul stressed the need for guidelines to prevent arbitrary seizures and urged investigating agencies to develop them, expressing concerns about unchecked state powers. The court granted additional time for examination and scheduled the next hearing for December 6, emphasizing the balance between investigative powers and individual rights, particularly in the context of privacy as a fundamental right. Recent incidents, such as the return of seized devices from The Wire's staffers, underscored the impact on press freedom.

**Source**

## **SINGLE WINDOW ROYALTY PAYMENTS ADVOCATED BY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

On November 7, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, underscored the importance of promoting inclusivity in Copyright societies during a stakeholders' meeting in Mumbai. Goyal advocated for fair representation of women and equal rights for smaller artists, emphasizing the need for a single platform for royalty payments to artists. He urged the societies to collectively address disputes through a committee representing relevant copyright societies. The government's vision is to unify different segments of the creative industry, fostering collaboration and inclusive practices to support small and marginalized creators, producers, and musicians. Goyal reaffirmed the government's commitment to preserving the cultural diversity reflected in India's soft power, including cinema, film, and the music industry. He called for the entire industry to converge on a single platform to enhance creativity and bolster soft power. Goyal highlighted the music industry's significant growth in royalty collection, from Rs 50-65 crore annually to around Rs 550 crore in the last two years. Industry representatives raised concerns about royalty distribution, statutory licensing (especially under Section 31(d)), single-window licensing, and inclusive representation on the copyright society's board. Goyal stressed the importance of equitable royalty distribution and mentioned ongoing discussions about the extension of statutory licensing on the internet after consulting stakeholders.

**Source**

## **MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ISSUES ORDER TO BAN 22 BETTING APPS**

MeitY has blocked 22 illicit betting apps and websites, including Mahadev Book and Reddyannaprestopro, following Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigations. Bhim Singh Yadav, a Chhattisgarh Police constable, and Asim Das have been arrested for money laundering offenses linked to Mahadev Book. The ED is probing allegations that the betting app promoters paid Rs 508 crore to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The blocking orders were issued based on the ED's findings and raids on Mahadev Book, exposing its unlawful operations. The controversy surrounding the Mahadev app has gained a political dimension amid the ED's investigation into alleged payments to the chief minister.

[Source](#)

## **GOVERNMENT APPROVES POLICY TO TAP DIGITAL MEDIA AS PART OF AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved the Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023, with the aim of expanding the reach of awareness campaigns in the digital media sector. Under this policy, the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), the government's advertising arm, is authorized to utilize digital platforms for the dissemination of information and the promotion of various schemes and policies. This initiative is in response to the changing media landscape and the growing digitalization of media consumption. The policy capitalizes on the significant subscriber base on digital platforms, utilizing technology-enabled messaging through digital advertisements for the effective delivery of citizen-centric messages. CBC will enlist agencies in the OTT, video-on-demand, and podcast sectors, and simplify the placement of advertisements on social media platforms. The policy promotes outreach through competitive bidding for rate discovery, ensuring transparency and efficiency, with the discovered rates remaining valid for three years. This underscores the policy's recognition of the dynamic nature of the digital landscape, empowering CBC to explore innovative communication platforms.

[Source](#)

## **REMOVE OBSCENE CONTENT: I&B DIRECTS OTT PLATFORMS**

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has reportedly ordered three OTT platforms—Hunters, Besharams, and Prime Play—to remove obscene content or face action, marking the first invocation of laws against vulgarity on OTT platforms. Notices were issued in October citing violations of IT Rules, 2021, and obscenity-related laws, giving the platforms five days for compliance. Operated by Webworld Multimedia Private Limited, the platforms confirmed content removal, and the ministry may consider invoking the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, in the future. The move follows rising complaints about vulgar content, particularly on unregistered platforms. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur has expressed the government's seriousness in addressing the issue.

[Source](#)

## **REMOVE ZEE'S COPYRIGHTED CONTENT FROM SHARECHAT AND MOJ APPS AND WEBSITES: DELHI HC**

Plaintiff Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (“Zee”) sought an interim injunction against Mohalla Tech Pvt. Ltd. (“MTPL”), the Defendant, to prevent the availability of its copyrighted recordings on ShareChat and Moj Apps. Despite a prior license agreement expiring in July 2023, Zee claimed its content continued to be accessible on MTPL's platform. The Delhi High Court directed MTPL to exclude 134 specific films/clips from its library accessible through the mentioned apps and websites. The injunction did not extend to cover versions, remixes, or user-generated content. The case is set to be revisited on 06-02-2024.

**Case Name:** Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. v. Mohalla Tech (P) Ltd.

[Order Link](#)

[Source](#)

## **BOMBAY HIGH COURT REFUSES STAY ON RELEASE OF RAILWAY MEN ON NETFLIX**

The Bombay High Court, led by Justice Arif Doctor, has declined to stay the release of the Hindi web series "The Railway Men - The Untold Story of Bhopal 1984." The court upheld the Mumbai city civil court's decision and rejected the appeals of two former Union Carbide India Limited employees seeking a stay, stating that the series could prejudice them in legal proceedings related to the Bhopal gas leak incident. The High Court emphasized that the release was announced well in advance, and the series would carry a disclaimer as a "work of fiction" based on real events. The court ruled that the appellants did not meet the high threshold required to stay the release, and pre-screening was also denied, with the suggestion to address any grievances through legal remedies post-release.

**Case Name:** Satya Prakash Choudhry vs. Yash Raj Films Private Limited

[Order Link](#) [Source](#)

## **KARNATAKA HC EMPHASISES THAT STING OPERATIONS BY MEDIA MUST BE 'HEALTHY'**

The High Court of Karnataka has emphasized the need for "healthy" sting operations by the media, stating that they should adhere to norms and follow guidelines issued by the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) and the Press Council of India. The court specified that sting operations, especially by television channels, should comply with the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and NBDSA guidelines. The observations came during a case questioning the legality of corruption cases based on sting operations conducted by private news channels against police officers and personnel of the Bengaluru City Traffic police wing and officers and staff of the Commercial Tax Department. The court emphasized the importance of adhering to the law during sting operations to avoid entrapment or luring individuals into crimes. It distinguished between positive sting operations conducted for the benefit of society and negative ones targeting individuals. The Court was hearing a case based on two sting operations by two private news channels on acceptance of bribes by the officers during 2021-2022.

[Source](#)

## **MIB APPOINTS NODAL OFFICERS TO CURB PIRACY**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in India has appointed nodal officers to instruct intermediaries like YouTube and Facebook to take down copyright-infringing content. These orders will be limited to content certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), focusing on entire movies rather than streaming-only shows. The move aims to combat piracy, costing the Indian film industry around ₹20,000 crore annually. Twelve nodal officers have been designated to handle complaints, and the process is instituted under Section 7(1B)(ii) of the Cinematograph Act, allowing the appropriate government or its agencies to take action against intermediaries.

[Source](#)

## **PATANJALI'S FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS SLAMMED BY SUPREME COURT**

On November 21, the Supreme Court ordered Patanjali Ayurved to halt the dissemination of misleading claims and advertisements against modern medical systems following a petition by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra warned of substantial fines, potentially Rs 1 crore per product, for false curative claims. The court clarified that the issue was about misleading medical advertisements, not a debate between allopathy and ayurveda. The Union Government was tasked with proposing a solution, and a follow-up hearing was scheduled for February 5, 2024. The IMA's petition stemmed from Patanjali's July ad allegedly disparaging allopathy, despite a Ministry of AYUSH agreement with the Advertising Standards Council of India. A related case in the Delhi High Court had cautioned Baba Ramdev about misleading claims regarding Patanjali's product Coronil as a COVID-19 "cure."

**Case Name:** Indian Medical Association & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors. Citation: W.P. (Civil) No. 645/2022

[Order Link](#) [Source](#)

## **DJ UNION ACCUSES PPL, NOVEX COMMUNICATIONS AND IPRS OF UNAUTHORIZED COLLECTIONS AFTER LICENSE EXPIRY**

The Light and Sound DJ union in Chandigarh has accused Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL), Novex Communications, and Indian Performing Rights Society (IPRS) of making unauthorized collections totalling up to INR 2,500 crore (about \$330 million) after their licenses expired under the Copyright Act of the Indian government. The union filed a complaint with the Chandigarh Police and called for an investigation into the matter. The Union claims that despite their agreements ending in 2012, these companies have been collecting substantial amounts from people across the country in the name of licenses.

**Source**

## **CENTRE HAS THE RIGHT TO REGULATE ONLINE GAMBLING: MEITY TO DELHI HC**

MeitY, representing the Central Government, strongly defends its authority over online gaming in response to SOCH's legal challenge in the Delhi High Court. The challenge questions the constitutionality and legislative validity of the 2023 Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, which aim to regulate online gaming. Asserting constitutional authority under Entry 31 of List I (Union List) and Entry 97 (residual powers), the government claims jurisdiction beyond state borders in 'Inter-State trade and commerce.' Rejecting SOCH's regulatory confusion claims as proxy litigation, the government argues that SOCH lacks legal standing to challenge the 2023 Rules. MeitY emphasizes the meticulous development of the rules through extensive consultations, including public input. The government also refutes SOCH's claim of outsourcing regulatory confusion claims as proxy litigation, the government argues that SOCH lacks legal standing to challenge the 2023 Rules. MeitY emphasizes the meticulous development of the rules through extensive consultations, including public input. The government also refutes SOCH's claim of outsourcing regulatory duties, stating that SRBs are part of a comprehensive safety framework for online gaming platforms.

**Case Name:** Social Organization for Creating Humanity v. Union of India

**Citation:** WP (C) 8946/2023

**Source**

## **MAKE FILMS DISABLED FRIENDLY: DELHI HC DIRECTS CENTRE TO ISSUE GUIDELINES**

The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to make the draft guidelines for improving film accessibility for those with disabilities publicly available and process them for approval after receiving feedback from stakeholders. The court was hearing a petition from four individuals with visual and hearing impairments who sought directions to make the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Pathaan" accessible to them. The petitioners argued that under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the government must ensure access to content for individuals with disabilities. The court had previously directed Yash Raj Films to provide subtitles and closed captions for the OTT release of "Pathaan". The matter would be heard next on January 31, 2024.

**Source**

## **SIMILAR CASE AGAINST FACT CHECK UNIT DOWN SOUTH LEADS THE MADRAS HC TO WAIT FOR THE VERDICT OF BOMBAY HC**

The Madras High Court is awaiting the Bombay High Court's decision on a challenge against the Indian government's proposed fact-check unit before ruling on a similar case against Tamil Nadu's proposed unit. Tamil Nadu's unit aims to address fake news, misinformation, and hate speech, with powers to fact-check and disseminate verified information. The challenge, filed by All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's IT Joint Secretary R. Nirmal Kumar, argues that the unit infringes on online free speech rights. The Bombay High Court is set to deliver its verdict on December 1st, and the Madras High Court will hear the case next on December 6th. The broader context reveals a trend across India of state-appointed fact-check units facing legal challenges, raising concerns about potential censorship and its impact on free speech, particularly in the lead-up to the 2024 general elections. The Tamil Nadu government contends that the unit is essential to combat fake news, citing instances such as the alleged "mass killing" of Bihari migrants in the state.

**Source**

## **ADVERTISEMENT 'CAMOUFLAGED' TO LOOK LIKE A HEADLINE: PCI ISSUES NOTICES**

The Press Council of India has issued show-cause notices to editors of several newspapers for allegedly publishing an advertisement disguised as a headline during the Rajasthan assembly polls. The notice, prompted by the Chairperson, Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai, cites a violation of the Norms and Journalistic Conduct, 2022 edition. The newspapers listed in the notice published content on November 20, and the Press Council is taking suo-motu cognizance of the matter. The Rajasthan assembly polls are scheduled for November 25, with results announced on December 3 along with other state polls.

[Source](#)

## **GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE A NEW FILMMAKING POLICY: ANURAG THAKUR**

During the opening ceremony of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, revealed that the government is set to unveil a new filmmaking policy. Thakur emphasized the festival's international growth, with a notable increase in applications, reflecting heightened interest. He highlighted the significant role played by India's media and entertainment industry, citing an annual growth rate of 20%. A crucial announcement was made during the event, stating that the incentive for foreign film production would be raised from 30% to 40%, with an increased cap limit of Rs. 30 crore. This move aims to attract medium and big-budget international film projects to India, contributing to the country's economic growth, job creation, and the promotion of tourism and culture. Thakur expressed the government's commitment to supporting artistic expression and positioning India as a preferred destination for cinematic endeavors.

[Source](#)

## **INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL MEDIA CANNOT BE A PART OF A PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION: BOMBAY HC**

The Bombay High Court rejected a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking safety measures at waterfalls and water bodies in Maharashtra, stating that information from social media cannot be considered in a PIL. The court questioned the authenticity of data and emphasized the need for accurate and responsible information in PILs. The PIL, filed by a lawyer, highlighted the inaction of authorities in addressing drowning incidents during the monsoons, citing violations of fundamental rights. The judges suggested that the petitioner file a more detailed PIL with appropriate data and information, allowing the current PIL to be withdrawn with the liberty to submit a fresh petition.

**Case Name:** Ajitsingh Ghorpade Vs State of Maharashtra & Ors.

[Source](#)

## **ISRA BECOMES ISAMRA ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

A decade ago, the Indian Singers' Rights Association (ISRA) was established to advocate for singers' rights and manage their royalties. Now evolved into the Indian Singers and Musicians Rights Association (ISAMRA), the organization commemorated its tenth anniversary with over 100 Indian singers in Mumbai. Overcoming challenges, ISRA, chaired by Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, secured singers' royalty rights through court judgments and a historic 2022 agreement with Indian music labels, resulting in 50 Crore plus royalties. ISAMRA, now supporting musicians too, represents artists globally, controlling 95% of performer's rights. Anup Jalota, ISRA Chairman, expressed pride in this historic expansion, emphasizing the fulfillment of Lataji's mission, marking a transformative decade for the organization.

[Source](#)

## **RANBIR KAPOOR'S "ANIMAL" RECEIVES 'ADULTS ONLY' CERTIFICATE WITH CBFC MODIFICATIONS**

Ranbir Kapoor's highly anticipated film, "Animal," is set to hit theaters this Friday with an 'A' certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The certification comes with a few modifications, including alterations to intimate scenes, cuss words, and certain dialogues including the modification of the word 'costume' to 'Vastra'. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga mentions that the initial cut of the film was nearly 4 hours long, expressing confidence in Ranbir's engaging performance. The movie, boasting a runtime of 203 minutes, features additional changes, ensuring a mature audience experience. "Animal" also stars Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and others, promising an intense cinematic experience. In the lead-up to its release, "Animal" is generating significant buzz, with audiences eager to witness Ranbir Kapoor's compelling performance.

[Source](#)

## **CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS RAPPER BADSHAH AND SANJAY DUTT IN IPL BETTING APP CASE**

Rapper-singer Badshah and actor Sanjay Dutt, along with 40 others, find themselves embroiled in an alleged digital piracy case related to the Indian Premier League (IPL). Viacom 18 has filed an FIR against the individuals, accusing them of promoting IPL match viewing on an online betting app without proper Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Badshah appeared before the Maharashtra Cyber office on Monday in connection with the case. The media company asserts that it holds IPR for streaming IPL matches and alleges that the matches were illicitly streamed on the betting app. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is concurrently investigating a money laundering case connected to the app, with Bollywood celebrities like Ranbir Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, Kapil Sharma, and Shraddha Kapoor initially named. However, Ranbir Kapoor's name was later cleared from the allegations. As the investigations unfold, the case sheds light on the intricate web of transactions and funding associated with the betting app, raising questions about the involvement of various Bollywood personalities in the scandal.

[Source](#)

## **THE QUESTION WHETHER STREET ART IS COVERED UNDER COPYRIGHT RULES: DELHI HC EXAMINES**

Plaintiffs St+Art India Foundation and Paola Delfin Gaytan filed a suit against Acko General Insurance for the unauthorized use of their artwork, 'Humanity,' in the defendant's advertisements. The Delhi High Court, under Justice Prathiba M. Singh, directed Acko to take down Instagram posts and any online listings of the mural within 72 hours. The Court considered the hoarding incorporating the mural as clearly an advertisement. Despite Acko's removal of the physical hoarding, the court noted the mural's continued presence on online platforms. Acko claimed that its use fell under fair dealing, citing Section 52(i)(t) and 52(i)(u) of the Copyright Act, but the Court rejected this defense. The Court emphasized that the advertisement reproduced the mural for commercial benefit and stated that there was no presumption that the mural was in the public domain for such usage. While acknowledging the social cause aspect, the court held that the use was not merely for public messaging but constituted an advertisement. Given Acko's agreement to take down Instagram posts and other online listings of the mural, the Court directed compliance within 72 hours. Additionally, the Court instructed the plaintiffs to communicate any URLs displaying the mural on Acko's posts. The matter is scheduled for the next hearing on February 2, 2024.

**Case Name:** St+Art India Foundation &Anr. Vs Acko General Insurance Citation: 2023 SCC OnLine Del 7277

[Order Link. Source](#)



## **CONCERNS OVER DEEPFAKE VIDEOS LEAD TO PLANNING OF NEW REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES AND PENALTIES: CENTRE**

The Indian government is planning to introduce legislation to combat deepfakes, including financial penalties for creators and social media platforms hosting such content, according to Union telecom and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. After a meeting with stakeholders, including AI and social media companies, Vaishnaw stated that stringent rules are needed to address the issue, focusing on four pillars: detection of deepfakes and misinformation, prevention, strengthening reporting mechanisms, and increasing awareness. The move comes in response to the viral spread of deepfake videos featuring several actors such as Rashmika Mandanna, Katrina Kaif and Kajol. The proposed regulations may include watermarking AI-generated content, deepfake detection, and rules addressing data bias and privacy concerns. Another meeting in December will assess progress and determine legislative incorporation.

Further, the investigation by Delhi Police's investigation against the deepfake video involving actress Rashmika Mandanna faces obstacles as major tech companies, including Meta and GoDaddy, allegedly have not provided required details. Despite detaining a suspect and seizing his device, authorities have been unable to trace the creator of the deepfake video. Requests for information to Meta and GoDaddy have reportedly been met with non-cooperation. The police assert that cooperation from these tech giants is essential to decode the fake identity and VPN used by the suspect. The situation highlights challenges in addressing deepfake incidents and the need for improved cooperation between law enforcement and tech companies.

[Source](#)

# INTERNATIONAL

## **STREAMING BONUSES UNDER NEW CONTRACT: WIN FOR ACTORS FROM SAG-AFTRA ISSUE**

Hollywood actors secured streaming bonuses of around \$40 million annually under a new tentative labor agreement between the SAG-AFTRA actors union and major studios, according to union leaders. The three-year contract, valued at over \$1 billion, received an 86% endorsement from SAG-AFTRA's national board. The deal, pending member ratification, involves Netflix, Disney, Warner Bros Discovery, and other Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) members. The bonuses represent a new revenue stream, with 75% allocated to actors in popular streaming shows and 25% to a fund for other streaming actors. The agreement also raises minimum salaries, addresses AI use in filmmaking, and protects actors from unauthorized digital replicas. The deal concluded after a 118-day strike by SAG-AFTRA, costing over \$6 billion to the California economy.

[Source](#)

## **PROMISE TO FUND LEGAL COSTS FOR USERS FOUND GUILTY OF INFRINGEMENT: OPENAI**

OpenAI has introduced "Copyright Shield," pledging to cover legal costs for business-tier ChatGPT users facing copyright infringement claims. This initiative applies to ChatGPT Enterprise and the API but excludes free and Plus versions. CEO Sam Altman announced the commitment at the DevDay conference, aligning OpenAI with tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, and Google in providing legal support to users accused of copyright infringement. OpenAI also revealed plans for users to create custom ChatGPT models for an upcoming app store. The company is currently facing lawsuits, including one from comedian Sarah Silverman, alleging the use of copyrighted material in training its AI models.

[Source](#)

## **FAIR AND EQUITABLE REMUNERATION PHASES OUT SPOTIFY IN URUGUAY**

Spotify has confirmed its decision to end its service in Uruguay following the approval of an amendment to the country's copyright law. The amendment, titled "Rendición de Cuentas," mandates "fair and equitable remuneration" for artists, leading Spotify to threaten withdrawal earlier in July. The streaming giant expressed concerns about the lack of clarity in the proposed changes and the potential for additional mandatory payments. Despite paying nearly 70% of generated revenue to record labels and publishers, Spotify argued that additional payments would make its business untenable. The company will begin phasing out its service in Uruguay from January 1, 2024, with operations ceasing entirely by February. The amendment also addresses financial remuneration for performers when songs are reproduced on "social networks and the Internet."

[Source](#)

## **META SUED OVER THE USAGE OF THE NAME "THREADS"**

Threads Software Limited is threatening legal action against Meta over the use of the name "Threads" for its social media platform in the UK, claiming ownership of the trademark. Despite Meta's attempts to purchase the domain 'threads.app,' Threads Software has given a 30-day notice and plans to seek an injunction if Meta continues using the name. Threads Software, offering a cloud-based intelligent message hub, has actively promoted its platform worldwide since 2014. Dr. John Yardley, MD of Threads Software, characterized the situation as a "David and Goliath" battle, acknowledging the threat posed by one of the world's largest technology companies. Meta's "Threads" platform faced a decline in user engagement, prompting the introduction of new features and Instagram integration. Apart from this, Meta has faced copyright infringement claims in the past.

[Source](#)

## **MILLIONS OF UNDERAGE USERS AT META: COURT FILINGS**

Meta, the parent company of Instagram, is under scrutiny as attorneys general from 33 U.S. states have unsealed a legal complaint accusing the social media giant of violating children's privacy laws. The complaint alleges that Meta received over 1.1 million reports of users under 13 on Instagram since early 2019 but "disabled only a fraction" of those accounts. Instead, the company allegedly continued to collect personal information from children without parental consent, violating the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. The lawsuit could result in significant civil penalties for Meta. The unsealed filing provides details from the states' lawsuit, including internal emails, chats, and presentations, suggesting that Instagram actively pursued underage users while failing to comply with privacy laws. The complaint claims that Meta used ineffective age-checking systems and allowed users under 13 to lie about their age to create accounts. Meta executives are accused of misleading Congress about the effectiveness of their age-checking process. Meta has defended its efforts to create age-appropriate online experiences and suggested the need for federal legislation to improve age verification processes. The lawsuit focuses on privacy violations under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, with potential fines exceeding \$50,000 per violation. Meta previously faced privacy-related allegations, settling with the Federal Trade Commission in 2019 for \$5 billion.

[Source](#)



# FIRM HIGHLIGHTS



## MR. PURAZAR FOUZDAR, JOINED ANM GLOBAL AS A PARTNER

We are thrilled to introduce a dynamic addition to our ANM Global family. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Purazar Fouzdar, who has joined us as a Partner in our esteemed Dispute Resolution Practice.

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## MR. RAHUL DHOTE ATTENDED THE 20TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE 74TH & 75TH COUNCIL MEETINGS OF THE ASIAN PATENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION (APAA).

Our Partner, Mr. Rahul Dhote had the privilege of attending the 20th General Assembly and the 74th & 75th Council Meetings of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA), hosted at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, from 3 to 7 November 2023.

[READ MORE](#)



## MR. ADARSH HIMATSINGHKA WAS ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHED INSTRUCTORS FOR THE IP PRESS CERTIFICATE COURSE ON MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW HELD RECENTLY.

ANM Global is delighted to share that our Senior Associate, Mr. Adarsh Himatsinghka was one of the distinguished instructors for THE IP PRESS Certificate Course on Media and Entertainment law held recently.

During the session, Mr. Himatsinghka, shared his valuable insights on the Introduction to Media and Entertainment Laws.

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[contact@anmglobal.net](mailto:contact@anmglobal.net)



[ANM Global](#)



[+91 22 2287 3499](tel:+912222873499); [+91 22 4971 1084](tel:+912249711084)

# OFFICES

## MUMBAI

1. 1410, 14th Floor, Maker Chambers V, Dr. Jamnalal Bajaj Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021  
Ph: [022-2287 3499](tel:022-22873499)
2. 411-413, Dilkap Chambers, Off. Veera Desai Road, Fun Republic Lane, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053  
Ph: [022-4971 1084](tel:022-49711084)

## NEW DELHI

E-5, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024 Ph: 011-4054 1860

## BENGALURU

21/2, 1st Main Road, Opp Indian Overseas Bank, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009  
Ph: [080-2350 9909](tel:080-23509909)

## CHENNAI

715-A, 7th Floor, Spencer Plaza Suit No.1056, Mount Road, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002

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