



LIGHTS, CAMERA & LAW

**MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTER
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DELHI HIGH COURT SLAMS GAVEL: RS 20 LAKH IN DAMAGES FOR WEBSITES 'ILLEGALLY STREAMING' BRAHMASTRA PART ONE: SHIVA

Piracy is the biggest threat for the film industry, the Court of law is now more stringent than ever. Star India made the plea that its copyright over the film 'Brahmastra Part One: Shiva', starring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt has been breached by 300+ rogue and mirror websites. The Single Judge Bench of Justice Pratibha Singh observed that the mushrooming of websites has become the norm, especially, in respect of popular copyrighted content, noting the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023 which aims to stop the threat of film piracy. The Court upheld that there is no doubt about the rights of Star India, the challenge lies in identifying the individuals or entities who are running these infringing websites as they remain anonymous or known only sometimes to the Domain Name Registrars (DNRs) and no one else. The Court granted a permanent injunction vide an order dated 25th August to stop any further copyright infringement and awarded damages of INR 20 lakh against the defendant websites which "will be jointly and severally payable by the identified Mirror Websites." Subsequently, on September 2, 2023, the High Court issued a second order, which prohibited 18 rogue websites from infringing upon Star India's copyright in the film. Subsequently, through a series of follow-up orders, the high court's Joint Registrar extended this injunction to include at least 318 additional rogue websites and certain mirror websites.

Case Name: Star India Private Limited v 7Moverulz.tc & Ors

Citation: CS (COMM) 604/2022

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RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS HURT? 'YAARIYAN 2' TEAM, INCLUDING ACTOR MEEZAAN JAFRI, FACES ANOTHER LEGAL CHALLENGE

The makers of 'Yaariyan 2', have landed in trouble for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of the Sikh community. The Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandak Committee (SGPC), the apex body of Sikhs, has filed an FIR under Section 295-A IPC (deliberate and malicious act, intended to outrage religious feelings) it was registered at E Division PS by Amritsar Police, against the producer Bhushan Kumar, the directors Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, and the actor Meezaan Jafri for showing non-Sikh, clean-shaven actor Meezaan wearing the "Sikh Kakaar Kirpan" (symbol of Sikh faith) in a wrong way, in the song- "Saure Ghar" from the movie. The SGPC claims that the filmmakers disrespected Sikh Maryada (conduct), tradition, and lifestyle by misrepresenting the Sikh Kakaar Kirpan. They have demanded an investigation and action against the makers, as well as the removal of the song from all online platforms. This is the second FIR filed against 'Yaariyan 2' on similar grounds. Earlier, the Sikh Talmel Committee, a body of Sikh organisations, had also lodged a complaint against the movie.

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BOMBAY HC'S: NO INTERIM RELIEF FOR NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI IN PAYMENT DISPUTE WITH ZEE FOR HADDI FILM

The Bombay High Court has declined to grant interim relief to renowned actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui in his ongoing battle with Zee Studios over unpaid fees for his role as the lead actor in the movie 'Haddi.' Originally, the film was slated to be produced by Anandita Studios, the rights of which were subsequently assigned exclusively to ZEE Studios. The actor claimed that his dues included payment for additional shoot days he had to work. Zee Studios responded by stating that there was confusion regarding the amount owed, which did not align with the actor's claim. They also mentioned that the payment

schedule for the actual due amount had already been agreed upon by both parties and requested time to respond to the arguments presented in the interim application. The Single Judge Bench opined that there was no immediate urgency to issue any orders and that Zee Studios should be given an opportunity to respond to Siddiqui's claims.

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'HOPEIN': INDIA'S PIONEERING CHRISTIAN OTT STREAMING PLATFORM

"HopeIn," is making its debut as India's first multilingual Christian OTT streaming platform, founded by Peter Samuel. HopeIn has a noble mission at its core – to foster a sense of community and unity among Christians and grow in their relationship with God. HopeIn's content library will span a diverse range, including inspiring dramas, insightful sermons, educational programs, and engaging children's content – all firmly rooted in Christian principles. The platform boasts a user-friendly interface, ensuring viewers can effortlessly explore this treasure trove of faith-based content.

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HUMANS OF BOMBAY TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST 'PEOPLE OF INDIA' FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

The famous storytelling platform 'Humans of Bombay' had filed a suit against POI Social Media (P) Ltd. in the Delhi HC, seeking an injunction to restrain the infringement of its copyrighted content, which includes literary works, materials, films, and creative expressions published on its website, Instagram handle, and YouTube channel. The allegations were that 'People of India,' in itself is an identical portal publishing indistinguishable content, numerous images and videos replicated from the plaintiff's platforms. Justice Prathiba M. Singh observed that there was prima facie evidence of substantial imitation, with some photographs and images being identical or highly imitative. Consequently, the Court issued notice to the defendants and has scheduled

the next hearing for October 11, 2023.

Case Name: HOB Stories Pvt. Ltd. vs. POI Social Media,
Citation: CS (COMM) 646/2023

Order

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BOMBAY HC: NO COPYRIGHT ON THEME: 'FAMILY VISITING NATIVE VILLAGE DURING GANPATI FESTIVAL'

In a recent legal dispute, the Bombay HC made a significant ruling that there can be no copyright on the theme of 'family visiting their native village in Konkan during the Ganapati festival'. The case arose when Navigan Studios Pvt Ltd. alleged copyright infringement against the web series 'Devak Khari.' Navigan Studios claimed that the central theme of its own series titled 'Gharat Ganapati' slated to release in December 2023, which involves a feuding family during a Ganapati festival in a village in Konkan, was used without authorization in the series 'Devak Khari.' They argued that the defendants directly copied scenes and expressions, such as a character referring to 'Modaka' as 'Momo' in the context of Ganapati Puja. They also contended that scenes like the 'Garahanam' song during Ganapati Puja and the monologue at the end of the web series were copied from their work, leading them to seek a stay on its release. Justice Manish Pitale, presiding over the case, rejected the copyright infringement suit, stating that such a theme or central idea cannot be copyrighted. He highlighted that it is a common tradition for family members in Maharashtra to visit their ancestral villages during the Ganapati festival.

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DELHI HIGH COURT ISSUES INJUNCTION: KHESARI LAL YADAV RESTRICTED FROM SELLING NEW SONGS TO THIRD PARTIES UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2025, DUE TO AGREEMENT WITH GLOBAL MUSIC JUNCTION

Delhi High Court Issues Injunction: Khesari Lal Yadav Restricted from Selling New Songs to Third Parties Until September 2025, Due to Agreement with Global Music Junction to the company's right of first refusal. Yadav's engagement with third parties led to a dispute in which

the music company sought an injunction to enforce the negative covenant in the amended agreement.

The court ruled that the agreements between the parties, including the amended one, did not violate Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act (dealing with agreements in restraint of trade). These were commercial contracts between parties with equal bargaining power and mutual benefits, not excessively one-sided or imposing bondage on Yadav. The court found Yadav in violation of the agreement by selling his songs to other parties without Global Music Junction's consent. However, it clarified that this enforcement didn't restrict Yadav's career; he could still work in the Bhojpuri film industry, national TV channels, social media, and live performances. The only restriction was selling new songs to others, except when Global Music Junction refused delivery or failed to pay Yadav's dues.

Case Name: Global Music Junction Pvt Ltd. vs. Shatrughan Kumar

Citation: 2023 SCC OnLine Del 5479

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DELHI HC RULES IN FAVOR OF RTV NEWS IN TRADEMARK BATTLE AGAINST REPUBLIC TV

ARG Outlier Media Pvt. Ltd., the parent company of Republic TV, filed a suit for permanent injunction against Rayadu Vision Media Pvt. Ltd., the holding company of RTV News, alleging trademark infringement and passing off of the 'R' trademark owned by Republic TV. Republic TV claimed that RTV News had copied its logo and misled the viewers, harming its reputation and goodwill. In response to that, RTV News submitted that it has been using the 'R' logo since 2007, much before Republic TV was launched i.e. in 2016. The court found that Republic TV did not have a strong case and rejected its request for an injunction. The suit will now proceed to trial. The court observed that there was no evidence to show that RTV had imitated Republic TV's logo or that there was any confusion or deception among the public. It also noted that both channels had different names, taglines, colours and fonts and that they catered to different audiences and regions. It held that granting an interim injunction would cause irreparable loss and injury to RTV News and affect its freedom of speech and expression. It further directed both parties to maintain accounts of their profits and losses till the disposal of the suit.

Case Name: ARG Outlier Media Private Limited v. Rayudu Vision Media Limited.

Citation: Commercial IP Suit (Lodging) NO.6543 OF 2023

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CONTROVERSY STRIKES 'LEO' FILM: 'NAA READY' SONG FACES CRITICISM, PROMPTS CBFC INTERVENTION

"Leo" the highly anticipated movie featuring Vijay Thalapathy and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj releasing on 19th October which also features a musical score by Anirudh Ravichander finds itself in the midst of controversy. The chain of events started with the music release on Vijay's birthday on 22nd June. The song gained quick popularity but soon criticism followed for the scenes depicting smoking by Vijay Thalapathy. This criticism prompted multiple complaints, including one from Rajeshwari Priya of Anaithu Makkal Arasiyal Katchi (AMAK), alleging that specific lyrics promoted drug trafficking, smoking, and alcohol consumption. Additionally, activist RTI Selvam filed a complaint, accusing the team of glorifying drugs and rowdy behavior in the song. In response to these concerns, the CBFC has ordered the film's makers to make alterations to the 'Naa Ready' song, specifically removing smoking scenes and alcohol references. These developments could be construed as continuous challenges to creative freedom under the guise of social responsibility.

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CBFC'S PROGRESSIVE MOVE TOWARDS ACCESSIBILITY ON OTT PLATFORMS AND FILM CERTIFICATION

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) recently took a progressive step by issuing an Expression of Interest (EOI) to enhance accessibility on OTT platforms for differently-abled individuals. This initiative followed a Delhi High Court directive for audio descriptions, closed captioning, and Hindi subtitles for the OTT release of 'Pathaan.' Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary of the Department of People with Disabilities, welcomed the move, hinting that future film certifications might depend on inclusivity and accessibility. Additionally, the Ministry of Housing and

the Urban Affairs introduced advanced guidelines, and efforts are underway to make museums and police stations more accessible. Around 13-14 departments aim to issue notifications on this by Diwali. In line with these efforts, the Delhi High Court even engaged Urban Affairs introduced advanced guidelines, and efforts are underway to make museums and police stations more accessible. Around 13-14 departments aim to issue notifications on this by Diwali. In line with these efforts, the Delhi High Court even engaged

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FWICE TAKES DRASTIC ACTION, HALTS 'WELCOME 3' FILMING OVER UNPAID DUES DISPUTE WITH PRODUCER

The much-anticipated 'Welcome 3' is facing a significant setback as the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has demanded an immediate halt to filming due to unresolved payment issues involving producer Firoz Nadiadwala. FWICE took action by issuing a non-cooperation order against Nadiadwala, citing outstanding payments totalling 2 crores. In an effort to resolve this matter, the federation has contacted the film's cast, which includes A-list actors like Akshay Kumar and Disha Patani, urging them to refrain from shooting until the unpaid dues of the technicians are settled. This payment dispute has its origins in 2015, relating to 'Welcome 2,' where the initial sum of 4 crores was later reduced to 2 crores. However, Nadiadwala's failure to honor this reduced amount has led FWICE to enforce non-cooperation measures, effectively bringing the film's production to a standstill until the dues are settled.

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IPRS AND LYRICFIND ANNOUNCE LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP

Indian Performing Right Society Limited (IPRS) has teamed up with LyricFind, a global leader in licensed lyrics. This strategic alliance ensures that all IPRS creators and publisher members holding rights are duly compensated for the display of their lyrics across over 100 digital platforms. This arrangement was announced

at the "All About Music" Conference in Mumbai on September 8, 2023 with a receptive audience of Indian music creators, publishers, label executives, and entertainment industry leaders. Rakesh Nigam, CEO of IPRS, highlighted the partnership's potential to expand global reach, increase revenue, and enhance catalogue value for IPRS members. Robert Singerman, SVP of International Publishing at LyricFind, expressed optimism about the partnership's transformative impact on the Indian music industry. He noted that it would bridge language and knowledge gaps, allowing people worldwide to appreciate the depth and history of Indian songs across various genres.

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TDSAT ISSUES NOTICE TO DISNEY STAR OVER FREE CRICKET STREAMING ON DISNEY+ HOTSTAR

The All India Digital Cable Federation (AIDCF) had urged the Telecom Disputes and Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) earlier in September vide a petition, to take action against Disney Star with respect to streaming of cricket matches, including the Asia Cup and the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, for free on its platform, 'Disney+ Hotstar'. The petitioner had contended that this practice was unjust and constituted discrimination against the cable TV industry, which had paid Disney Star for the distribution and transmission of signals. In response, the TDSAT had issued a notice to Disney Star, initiating an inquiry into the matter. In a recent development in October, the TDSAT has denied interim relief to the AIDFC and has permitted Disney Star to stream the tournament on its platform for free, thereby stating that OTT services shall not be covered under the TRAI Act, and that no irreparable loss will be caused to AIDFC if such stay is not granted.

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DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXCLUDES OTT SERVICES FROM THE TELECOM BILL

In a significant move, the Department of Telecommunications has decided not to categorise Over-The-Top (OTT) services to form a part of telecommunication services in the forthcoming Telecom Bill. This move exempts OTT platforms from any telecom specific regulations. This decision follows TRAI's earlier proposal to introduce regulations for OTT communication apps and even suggested the selective banning of specific OTT services. The Telecom Bill is set to be introduced in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament. This new legislation seeks to replace three existing laws – the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885; the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933; and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950 – in order to modernize and align regulations with current technology standards.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF ZEE ENTERTAINMENT IN COPYRIGHT DISPUTE AGAINST 'TRILLER'

In a significant legal development, the Bombay High Court has issued a groundbreaking judgment in the copyright dispute between Zee Entertainment and video-sharing platform Triller. The court has directed Triller to pay USD 300,000 (approximately Rs. 2,44,26,480) to Zee Entertainment for unauthorized use of copyrighted music. Furthermore, the court conscientiously addressed the mediation efforts put forth by Zee Entertainment, recognizing their genuine attempts to amicably resolve the matter. Despite these earnest endeavors, they remained unfruitful. Consequently, the court rendered its verdict in favor of Zee Entertainment, and instructing Triller to cover legal costs of Rs. 2.5 Lakhs. Additionally, the court granted Zee Entertainment permission to execute the judgment without a formal decree. Triller was also ordered to pay 18 percent interest from the lawsuit's filing date until full payment is made."

Case Name: Oberoi Mega Entertainment LLP & Ors vs Sanjay Saha & Ors

[Order](#)

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TRAI PROPOSES SWEEPING CHANGES FOR PRIVATE FM RADIO OPERATORS IN INDIA

India's telecommunications regulator, TRAI, has unveiled a significant proposal affecting private FM radio operators. The recommendations include permitting these operators to broadcast news and current affairs segments upto 10 minutes per clock hour. TRAI also suggests implementing a 'code of conduct,' akin to All India Radio's standards, to govern news content on private FM radio channels.

Emphasizing the vital role of FM radio on mobile handsets, TRAI urges against disabling built-in FM radio receivers. Additionally, TRAI proposes separating the annual license fee from the Non-Refundable One Time Entry Fee (NOTEF), advocating for a license fee of four percent of the Gross Revenue (GR), excluding GST. TRAI even calls upon the government to provide relief to FM radio operators, underscoring the industry's resilience and continued significance in India.

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SAREGAMA'S BOLD MOVE- MAJORITY STAKE ACQUISITION IN POCKET ACES

In a strategic move, music label Saregama has acquired a majority stake in digital entertainment company Pocket Aces Pictures Pvt. Ltd. Pocket Aces boasts an impressive user base of approximately 95 million digital-first customers across platforms like Instagram and YouTube. Saregama will initially acquire a 51.8% share for approximately INR 174 Crore in an all-cash deal. Additionally, there are plans to further acquire a 41% stake over the next 15 months at pre-agreed multiples. This acquisition aligns with Saregama's vision to be a part of the evolving music economy in various Indian languages. Saregama reports that Pocket Aces recorded Rs 104 crore in revenue from operations in FY23, with an impressive 34% CAGR revenue growth over the past four years. This strategic partnership represents a blend of tradition and innovation, positioning Saregama to engage with the burgeoning digital audiences, as per Avarna Jain, Vice-Chairwoman of Saregama.

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DELHI HIGH COURT: COPYRIGHT PROTECTION EXTENDED TO INTERPRETATIONS OF SCRIPTURES

In a recent ruling, the Delhi High Court clarified the scope of copyright protection concerning spiritual scriptures. Justice Prathiba M Singh emphasized that while no one can claim copyright for scriptures like the Bhagavad Gita or Bhagavatam themselves, any adaptations, explanations, or dramatic works based on these texts are eligible for copyright protection. The court's verdict came during a copyright infringement suit filed by the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, founded by Srila Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). The trust argued that Prabhupada's writings and lectures simplified religious texts, making them accessible to a broader audience. Observing extensive infringement and piracy of the plaintiff's works, Justice Singh issued an ex-parte interim injunction against the defendants, further instructing Google and Meta to remove related applications and pages. The court also directed authorities to issue blocking orders against infringing websites.

Case Name: The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, India vs. <https://bhagavatam.in/#gsc.tab=0>.

Citation: 2023 SCC OnLine Del5977.

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DELHI HIGH COURT: NO INTERIM ORDER ON SONG 'JALSA' IN MISSION RANIGANJ

Saga Music Private Limited filed a lawsuit seeking a permanent injunction against the use of the song "Jalsa," sung by Sartaaaj Satinder Pal Singh Sartaaaj in the upcoming film "Mission Raniganj," starring Akshay Kumar. According to Saga, Sartaaaj had assigned the rights over his song to Sony Music for perpetuity. Despite such assignment, he went ahead and performed the song without authorization from Sony at the Sydney Opera House and further assigned rights to 12 of his songs including 'Jalsa' to Saga Music for which he was to be paid ₹50 lakhs but was paid only ₹25 lakhs so far. The Delhi HC noting that as an ordinary singer it is difficult to follow the intricacies of laws regarding music contracts, declined to grant the interim injunction sought by Saga Music, provided that Sartaaaj deposits ₹25 lakhs

with the Court. The Court observed that considering Sartaaaj does not hold the rights over 'Jalsa', not only does he need permission from Sony and/or its assignees to use it for public performance, but all agreements, including the one with Saga Music, which oppose such assignment, stand void.

Case Name: Saga Music Private Limited & Anr vs. Satinder Pal Singh Sartaaaj & Ors.

Order

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RED CHILLIES ENTERTAINMENT LAUNCHES AGGRESSIVE ANTI-PIRACY CAMPAIGN AMID SURGE IN 'JAWAN' LEAKS; DELHI HC TAKES ACTION AGAINST WHATSAPP FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Following the tremendous success of the film 'Jawan,' there has been an unfortunate surge in pirated content. Clips of the film and even the entire movie have been leaked on various platforms, including WhatsApp and other torrent sites. In response to this issue, Red Chillies Entertainment has engaged multiple anti-piracy agencies to launch an aggressive campaign aimed at tracking down and reporting individuals and groups involved in piracy to the authorities for legal action. Red Chillies Entertainment has already identified pirated accounts operated by individuals across various platforms. They are pursuing both criminal and civil actions against these offenders for their involvement in the unauthorized release of 'Jawan.' In light of copyright infringement via Whatsapp, the Delhi HC gave another order against WhatsApp asking it to deactivate certain phone numbers for distributing study material copied from the site 'Apna college' without authorisation which amounts to IP infringement.

Case Name: Jainemo Private Limited v. Rahul Shah And Others.

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NETFLIX AND YASH RAJ FILMS JOIN FORCES FOR GLOBAL CONTENT CREATION

Netflix has entered a groundbreaking multi-year collaboration with India's esteemed film giant, Yash Raj Films (YRF), aimed at creating compelling content from India for global audiences. This exciting partnership debuts with two projects inspired by true events: "Railway Men," a four-part series featuring R Madhavan and Kay Kay Menon, based on the 1984 Bhopal gas leak tragedy, and "Maharaj," marking the debut of Junaid Khan, Aamir Khan's son and directed by Siddharth P. Malhotra, known for the global hit 'Hichki.' Monika Shergill, Netflix India's Vice President (Content), highlighted the transformative potential of streaming services in engaging a vast global viewership. This collaboration leverages Netflix's global reach and YRF's creative excellence, promising grand-scale storytelling.

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ANIL KAPOOR'S 'JHAKAAS' VICTORY: DELHI HIGH COURT CRACKS DOWN ON UNAUTHORIZED USE OF HIS PERSONA

Inspired by the actions of Rajnikanth and Amitabh Bachchan, actor Anil Kapoor filed a case to safeguard his publicity and personality rights. The Delhi High Court issued a John Doe Order, restraining the unauthorized use of the actor's name, voice, image, likeness, or personality, which includes his iconic catchphrase 'Jhakaas!' This order covers various activities such as the creation of AI-generated videos, sale of merchandise, and the circulation of forged autographs for commercial gain without authorization. The Court, recognizing the potential harm to the actor's reputation and goodwill due to such infringements, issued this order to effectively curb such activities on social media platforms, e-commerce websites, and within the public domain.

Case Name: Anil Kapoor Vs Simply Life India & Ors.
Citation: CS(COMM) 652/2023

[Order](#)

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS DYNAMIC INJUNCTION TO VIACOM18 AGAINST CRICKET MATCH PIRACY

In a significant development, the Delhi High Court has issued a dynamic injunction in favor of Viacom18, aimed at safeguarding their five-year broadcast and streaming rights for the Indian Cricket Team's bilateral matches. The court's decision comes as a response to the persistent issue of piracy, with the judges emphasizing the growing number of piracy-related cases in the courts. The Court further ordered that Viacom18 shall not be bound to initiate any fresh proceedings in relation to any new piracy /infringing sites during the course of the BCCI events. Access to such websites shall be blocked by the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) upon being informed about the same by Viacom18 on an affidavit. This ruling underscore the importance of implementing robust anti-piracy measures to combat such challenges effectively.

Case Name: Viacom18 Media Private Limited Vs Live.Smarteric.Com & Ors.

Citation: CS(COMM) 659/2023

[Order](#)

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CENSOR CUTS IN 'FUKREY 3'

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) while granting U/A Certificate to the comedy caper film "Fukrey 3" starring Pulkit Samrat, Richa Chadha, Pankaj Tripathy & Ors. was instructed to remove scenes and references alluding to former US President Donald Trump and President of Russia Vladimir Putin in the upcoming film "Fukrey 3", the rationale therefor being to use politicians' names in films only with prior permission from the relevant ministry; however, modified names can be utilized as an alternative without any permissions being taken. They also asked for a modification to the dialogue "Jaise Sanju baba ne Maqsood bhai ko jhappi daali", which is likely a reference to the touching scene in Munna Bhai MBBS (2003) where Munna Bhai hugs Maqsood; and included an anti-smoking advertisement at the beginning of the film and the end of its first half.

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I&B MINISTRY AMENDS CABLE TELEVISION NETWORK RULES FOR ENHANCED RENEWAL AND CONNECTIVITY

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has brought significant changes to the 1994 Cable Television Network Rules. These amendments introduce a structured renewal process for Multi-System Operators (MSOs) and encourage infrastructure sharing between cable operators and broadband service providers to boost internet connectivity in remote regions. Under the updated rules, cable operators must apply for registration or renewal via the Ministry's Broadcast Seva Portal. Registration renewals will now be valid for ten years, with a renewal processing fee of ₹1 lakh. Importantly, operators can apply for renewal within two to seven months before their registration expires, ensuring uninterrupted services and attracting foreign investment. Previously, the rules only allowed fresh registrations without specifying validity or mandating online applications. The amendments simplify the renewal process. Additionally, the rules now permit cable operators to share infrastructure with broadband service providers, promoting wider internet access and efficient resource utilization. These changes aim to enhance the cable TV and broadband industry, benefiting consumers and improving connectivity in remote areas.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT JUDGE CRITICIZES HERO COP MOVIES FOR SENDING WRONG MESSAGE

During an event commemorating the Indian Police Foundation's annual day and Police Reforms Day, Justice Gautam Patel of the Bombay High Court shared his perspective on portrayal of law enforcement in mainstream cinema. He expressed concern over movies like "Singham" that portray hero cops dispensing swift justice without adhering to due process. He emphasized that due process, albeit sometimes slow, is a fundamental element of our justice system. Taking shortcuts and evading due process does nothing but put individual liberties at risk! According to Justice Patel, such films convey a misleading message, shedding light on an ongoing debate about the influence of media on public perceptions of law enforcement.

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INTERNATIONAL

LEBRON JAMES AND DRAKE SUED OVER HOCKEY FILM 'BLACK ICE' RIGHTS

Basketball star LeBron James and rapper Drake have been hit with a contentious lawsuit from Billy Hunter, former head of the NBA Players Association, in the Manhattan State Supreme Court. Hunter alleges that they circumvented his exclusive rights to produce a film based on the book "Black Ice: The Lost History of the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes, 1895 to 1925," focusing on Canada's colored hockey league.

Hunter claims he paid the book authors \$265,000 for movie rights and planned to create a documentary. Seeking \$10 million in damages, he accuses the basketball player and rapper duo of infringement. The movie, directed by Hubert Davis, is set to be showcased at the Toronto International Film Festival. Hunter's attorney highlights the irony of James and Drake, known for protecting their own brands, allegedly infringing on movie rights. This case spotlights the intricate web of intellectual property rights in high-profile entertainment.

Case Name: G.William Hunter vs LeBron James Sr., Drake & Ors

Order

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SAM SMITH AND NORMANI WIN COPYRIGHT LAWSUIT INVOLVING HIT SONG 'DANCING WITH A STRANGER'

Sam Smith and Normani have emerged victorious in a copyright lawsuit filed against them by songwriters Jordan Vincent, Christopher Miranda, and Rosco Banlaoi. The trio alleged that Smith's hit song "Dancing With a Stranger" closely resembled their own track, "Dancing With Strangers," performed by Vincent, with identical lyrics in the chorus. However, Californian Judge Wesley L. Hsu dismissed the case, stating that many of the claimed similarities were not legally protectable, and the phrase "dancing with a stranger" lacked uniqueness due to prior uses in other songs. Smith's legal team had criticized the claim as "rambling"

and "nonsensical," emphasizing its deviation from established legal precedents.

Case Name: Sound and Color vs Samuel Smith & ors

Case Number: 2:22-cv-01508

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LEGAL BATTLE EMERGES AS OPENAI FACES COPYRIGHT LAWSUITS FROM AUTHORS

OpenAI is facing a class-action copyright lawsuit from a group of 17 authors including George R.R. Martin alleging unauthorized use of text from books obtained through pirate e-book repositories during the development of ChatGPT. The plaintiffs argue that OpenAI had alternative options, such as using public domain texts or obtaining proper licenses for copyrighted works, instead of engaging in what they deem "systematic theft on a mass scale."

Authors Guild president Maya Shanbhag Lang, a plaintiff in the case, underscored the importance of this legal action, emphasizing their commitment to defending authors from intellectual property infringement by OpenAI and other generative AI technologies. OpenAI, in response to the lawsuit, has expressed a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue with creators, including the Authors Guild, to address concerns about AI usage. They remain optimistic about finding mutually beneficial ways to collaborate. This legal action follows two similar complaints filed by comedian Sarah Silverman and author Paul Tremblay against OpenAI. As these lawsuits progress, their outcomes could have significant implications for the application of AI language models in the creative industry.

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KATY PERRY SELLS MUSIC CATALOG IN \$225 MILLION MEGA-DEAL

Pop icon Katy Perry has reached a significant milestone in her career with a substantial deal signed with Litmus Music. Backed by Carlyle Group, Litmus Music has acquired a portion of Perry's music catalogue, with reports suggesting the deal is valued at a staggering \$225 million. This agreement includes Perry's rights to master recordings and publishing for albums spanning from 2008 to 2020, covering iconic works like "One of the Boys," "Teenage Dream," "Prism," "Witness," and "Smile." This transaction marks the most substantial solo artist deal of the year, surpassing Justin Bieber's record-setting catalogue sale for \$200 million in January. Litmus Music's co-founders, Dan McCarroll and Hank Forsyth, expressed their excitement and gratitude for the partnership, acknowledging Katy Perry's profound impact on global culture.

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FIRM HIGHLIGHTS



ANM GLOBAL RECOGNISED BY ASIALAW 2023/24

ANM Global has been recognized as an overall 'Highly Recommended' Firm in the 2023/24 Edition of asialaw.

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MR. NIDHISH MEHROTRA APPOINTED TO INTA COMMITTEE

Our Managing Partner, Mr. Nidhish Mehrotra has been appointed to the Enforcement Committee of the International Trademark Association (INTA).

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MS. ANUSHREE RAUTA RECOGNISED BY ASIALAW 2023/24

Ms. Anushree Rauta has been recognised as 'Notable Practitioner' in the 2023/24 Edition of asialaw.

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MR. UMANG SHETH CONDUCTED A LECTURE AT PRAVIN GANDHI GANDHI COLLEGE OF LAW

Our senior associate Mr. Umang Sheth conducted a lecture at Pravin Gandhi College of Law (Shri Vile Parle Kelvani Mandals Pravin Gandhi College of Law Vile Parle (W) Mumbai 400 056), on the contractual perspectives in the Gaming and Sports Industry along with the business and legal mind of Mr. Alok Shah (Head of business Affairs at Loco).

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DELHI HIGH COURT REFUSES TO RESTRAIN USE OF SATINDER SARTAAJ SONG JALSA IN MISSION RANIGANJ

The Delhi High Court refused an interim injunction for the song "Jalsa" in "Mission Raniganj" as singer Satinder Pal Singh Sartaaj agreed to deposit ₹25 lakhs. Saga Music's claim conflicted with Sartaaj's earlier assignment of rights to Sony Music.

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