

**Intellectual Property
Newsletter**

The IP Odyssey

JULY & AUGUST 2025

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TRADEMARK TAPESTRY

DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS DYNAMIC INJUNCTION AGAINST AMAZON, FLIPKART, SNAPDEAL, MEESHO & OTHERS IN RELIANCE TRADEMARK SUIT.

Reliance Industries filed a suit seeking an ad-interim injunction against 21 defendants for unauthorized use of its well-known trademarks 'RELIANCE' and 'JIO' on FMCG products like poha, salt, and pulses sold on platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart. The company claimed the defendants used identical marks, logos, and packaging to mislead consumers and pass off their goods as Reliance's, posing a serious risk to public health and consumer trust. Many infringers operated under fake identities, prompting the plaintiff to bypass pre-litigation mediation.

Justice Saurabh Banerjee granted an ex-parte ad-interim injunction, restraining the defendants from using the marks 'RELIANCE', 'JIO', or similar variants, and from copying Reliance's trade dress or packaging. He also directed e-commerce platforms to delist the infringing listings, share seller details, and take down any future violations upon notification. The court emphasized that such deceptive use targeted vulnerable consumers and aimed to exploit Reliance's goodwill.

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DELHI HIGH COURT REVIVES CROCS' PASSING OFF PETITION AGAINST BATA, LIBERTY, OTHERS

The Delhi High Court has revived multiple lawsuits filed by Crocs Inc., USA, against Indian footwear companies for allegedly imitating the unique design of its foam clogs, overturning a 2019 decision that had dismissed the claims. Crocs accused firms like Bata, Liberty, Relaxo, Action, Aqualite, and Bioworld of copying the overall structure and perforated design of its clogs, asserting it as a shape trademark. In 2019, a single-judge bench had dismissed the suits, ruling that Crocs could not claim common law trademark protection for a design already protected under the Designs Act, 2000. However, a division bench has now ordered a full hearing of the cases by a single judge on their merits. Under Indian law, companies and firms can register designs and seek legal remedy for infringement, which occurs when a copied design may mislead consumers by resembling the original.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT RESTRAINS IMPERSONATOR MISUSING SONU NIGAM'S NAME ON X

The Bombay High Court has granted relief to singer Sonu Nigam in a digital impersonation case, passing an ex-parte interim order restraining a criminal lawyer, named 'Sonu Nigam Singh', from using the singer's name on X. Singh had allegedly posted politically and communally sensitive content under the handle 'Sonu Nigam', misleading the public and triggering backlash against the singer. Justice R.I. Chagla, granting an ad-interim injunction, held that Sonu Nigam is entitled to protection over his distinctive name, especially where its use by Defendant 1 amounted to misrepresentation. The Court clarified that while Defendant 1 may use his full name 'Sonu Nigam Singh' on X, it must be done in a way that avoids confusion, deception, or misrepresentation.

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS INTERIM RELIEF TO THE GERMAN FOOTWEAR COMPANY, BIRKENSTOCK

The Delhi High Court has awarded an interim injunction in favor of German footwear firm Birkenstock in a lawsuit alleging trademark, copyright, and design infringement. The Court prohibited Agra-based production units and Indian retailers from producing, selling, distributing, or exporting counterfeit Birkenstock items.

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DELHI HIGH COURT AWARDS INR 1.2 CRORE TO JOHNSON & JOHNSON IN ORSL TRADEMARK CASE.

The Delhi High Court has directed several companies to collectively pay over ₹71.21 crore in damages to Johnson & Johnson for infringing the trademark of its electrolyte drink brand, ORSL. The U.S.-based pharmaceutical giant had filed a suit seeking to stop the production of a competing product under the name "ERSI," which allegedly imitated ORSL's trade dress. Upon applying the triple-identity test, the court found clear evidence of trademark infringement and passing off. As a result, eight entities involved in manufacturing marketing, and owning the ERSI brand were penalized

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and permanently barred from producing or promoting beverages that mimic ORSL's branding and packaging. Referring to the 2014 precedent set in Heifer Project International vs. Heifer Project, the court held that all three elements of the test—similar trade dress, identical market segment, and overlapping consumer base—were met, making the infringement evident. Highlighting the risk of consumer confusion, the court concluded that the imitation was deliberate and egregious it awarded Johnson & Johnson both compensatory and punitive damages totaling ₹71,21,56,864.

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DELHI HIGH COURT ISSUES DYNAMIC INJUNCTION TO TATA AGAINST TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

The Delhi High Court has granted Tata Sons and Tata Consumer Products a broad dynamic injunction, empowering them to directly request domain name registrars to block fraudulent websites misusing the "TATA" trademark. Justice Amit Bansal passed the order after Tata produced evidence of an ongoing scam involving fake dealership and distributorship offers using deceptive websites. Victims were duped into paying large sums under the guise of fees like "registration," "product deposit," and "renovation charges." The Court found the fraud systematic and exploitative, issuing restraints against unnamed defendants and permitting Tata to act pre-emptively against future misuse.

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GLOBAL REPUTATION ALONE NOT ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH PASSING OFF CLAIM: DELHI HIGH COURT IN VIP INDUSTRIES VS. CARLTON SHOES LTD CASE.

The Delhi High Court dismissed appeals by VIP Industries in a trademark dispute with Carlton Shoes Ltd. (CSL), ruling that global goodwill is not enough for a passing off claim—goodwill must exist in India. Both parties held registrations for the mark "CARLTON" in Class 18, making infringement claims invalid under the Trade Marks Act. The Court held that only passing off claims could be considered and agreed with the Single Judge that CSL had prior use and goodwill in India since 1993. The Court found VIP's use of the CARLTON mark in 2006 was not innocent, given CSL's earlier registration and reputation. It rejected VIP's claim that handbags and luggage were unrelated, finding them similar.

Since CSL used "CARLTON" as its primary mark and VIP had other brands, the balance of convenience also favoured CSL. The interim injunction granted to CSL was upheld, and VIP's appeals were dismissed.

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DELHI HIGH COURT DECLARES 'NUTELLA' WELL-KNOWN, ISSUES PERMANENT INJUNCTION

The Delhi High Court declared 'NUTELLA' a well-known trademark under the Trade Marks Act, 1999, and granted a permanent injunction to Ferrero Group against a defendant producing counterfeit 'NUTELLA' products. The Court found the defendant's use of identical branding and packaging was deliberate, misleading consumers, and posed health risks. Ferrero, a global leader in confectionery, has used and registered 'NUTELLA' since 1964 with distinctive packaging. The defendant was found manufacturing fake products in unhygienic conditions, violating trademark rights and public safety.

The Court recognized 'NUTELLA' as a well-known mark due to its longstanding use, global reputation, and prior international recognition. Ferrero was awarded Rs 30 lakh in damages, and the defendant was ordered to pay Rs 2 lakh as legal costs.

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS INTERIM RELIEF TO CHING'S, RESTRAINS LOCAL MANUFACTURER FROM USING 'SCHEZWAN CHUTNEY' MARK

The Delhi High Court has granted interim relief to Capital Foods (Ching's Secret) against Pitambari Products, restraining them from using the trademark "Schezwan Chutney." The Court found that Ching's is the registered owner of this word mark and also holds copyright in its product's artistic packaging. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora observed a prima facie case for infringement, emphasizing that the injunction specifically covers the use of the "Schezwan Chutney" mark, not the trade dress of Pitambari's products. The defendant was promoting its "Schezwan Chutney" on social media. This decision reinforces trademark protection for established brands even when terms might seem descriptive. The case will be further heard in December.

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DELHI HIGH COURT RULES 'YATRA' IS A GENERIC TERM, CANNOT BE MONOPOLISED IN A TRADEMARK DISPUTE

The Delhi High Court refused to grant an interim injunction to Yatra Online Limited in its trademark dispute against "BookMyYatra", holding that the word 'Yatra' is generic and incapable of being monopolised. The Plaintiff, Yatra Online Limited, argued that it had been using the mark 'Yatra' since 2006 and had built significant goodwill and reputation in the travel services sector. The Defendant, Mach Conferences & Events Limited, was accused of adopting the name "BookMyYatra" to ride upon the Plaintiff's reputation. The Court noted that 'Yatra' literally means travel in Hindi, making it a descriptive and common term for travel services. It further observed that Yatra Online's own trademark registrations carried disclaimers stating "no exclusive right over the word Yatra." The addition of the prefix "BookMy" by the Defendant and the suffix ".com" were considered sufficiently distinctive. The Court held that no prima facie case was made for granting the interim injunction against the defendant to restrict them from using the marks 'BOOKMYYATRA' / 'BOOKMYYATRA.COM' and the domain name or website, www.bookmyyatra.com, and dismissed the application, emphasising that generic words cannot be monopolised under trademark law.

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DELHI HIGH COURT SEEKS RESPONSE FROM PEPSICO INDIA OVER 'FIZZ' TRADEMARK USE IN 7UP PACKAGING.

Parle Agro, owner of the Appy Fizz brand (launched in 2005), had approached the Delhi High Court seeking to restrain PepsiCo India from using the word "Fizz" prominently on its 7Up packaging, alleging trademark infringement and market confusion.

The company argued that Fizz is the central element of its mark and that PepsiCo's new packaging, minimizing "7Up" while elevating "Fizz", mimics its branding style, potentially misleading consumers.

In response, the Delhi High Court has issued a notice to PepsiCo India Holdings, requesting that the company explain why its use of "Fizz" should not be restrained. The next hearing is expected on September 4, 2025, making it a key case to watch for its implications on the use of descriptive terms in trademark law.

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DELHI HIGH COURT PASSES JOHN DOE ORDER IN FAVOUR OF 'GHAR SOAPS'

The Delhi High Court issued a John Doe order to preserve the creative rights of "Ghar Soaps," a brand that manufactures natural and chemical-free skincare products, in a complaint against several unknown organizations charging trademark and copyright infringement for using deceptively identical packaging.

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PLACE AT WHICH SALE OCCURRED DETERMINES 'PLACE OF BUSINESS' U/S.134 OF TRADE MARKS ACT: BOMBAY HIGH COURT

The Bombay High Court ordered the return of a trademark infringement suit filed by M/s Arcee Electronics against M/s Arceeika, holding that the Court lacked territorial jurisdiction.

Justice Sandeep V. Marne noted that the plaintiff operated showrooms only in Navi Mumbai and Raigad, with no pleading or evidence of carrying on business in Mumbai city. Invoices showing delivery to Mumbai customers were found insufficient, as sales occurred at Navi Mumbai outlets.

The Court held that under Section 134(2) of the Trade Marks Act, jurisdiction lies where the plaintiff resides or carries on business, and since no part of the cause of action arose in Mumbai, the plaint must be filed in the proper district court. Accordingly, the plaint was returned under Order VII Rule 10 CPC, with interim applications disposed of.

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS AD-INTERIM INJUNCTION TO NDTV AGAINST TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

The Delhi High Court granted an ad-interim ex-parte injunction in favour of New Delhi Television Limited (NDTV) in a lawsuit alleging infringement of trademark, passing off, and infringement of copyright, including unfair competition, against various platforms and defendants which are unknown. The Court found that the defendants were unauthorisedly using deceptively similar variants of NDTV's trademark, with the intent to create a false impression of association with NDTV. Noting that NDTV had a strong prima facie case, and that the balance of convenience lied in its favour, and that unrestrained infringement would cause irreparable harm, the Court directed the infringers to cease all infringing activity. Additionally, it ordered

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platforms such as Google, YouTube, and Telegram to suspend or remove infringing channels and accounts, and to disclose associated information.

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS INTERIM INJUNCTION TO TIPS FILMS LIMITED FOR ITS FILMS “MAALIK” AND “SARBALAJI” AGAINST 56 ROGUE WEBSITES.

The Delhi High Court has granted an interim injunction in favor of Tips Films Limited, restraining 56 websites from unauthorized streaming of the plaintiff's upcoming films “MAALIK” and “SARBALAJI”. The Court noted that the defendants were likely to stream pirated versions of these films without authorization, which would cause irreparable harm. Granting an interim injunction, the Court restrained the websites from hosting or streaming the content, directed domain name registrars to lock and suspend these domains, and asked internet service providers, along with DoT and MeitY, to block access to them. The Court also allowed Tips Films to notify authorities of any new infringing websites during the pendency of the suit for prompt blocking, ensuring protection of the plaintiff's rights and safeguarding its promotional release strategy.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS ILAIYARAJA'S PLEA TO TRANSFER COPYRIGHT DISPUTE TO MADRAS HIGH COURT.

The Supreme Court on July 28, 2025, dismissed music composer Ilaiyaraaja's plea to transfer a copyright dispute from the Bombay High Court to the Madras High Court. A bench led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai rejected arguments by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, stating the Bombay case was filed first.

The dispute stems from a 2022 lawsuit by Sony Music Entertainment India, which sought to restrain Ilaiyaraaja Music N Management Pvt Ltd (IMMPL) from using 536 songs, claiming rights through Oriental and Echo Recording.

IMMPL argued that 310 of those works are already part of ongoing litigation in Madras, where Ilaiyaraaja filed a 2014 case challenging Echo's rights. That case led to a 2019 judgment recognizing his moral and special rights under copyright law.

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DELHI HIGH COURT ORDERS META AND X TO REMOVE PIRATED CONTENT OF TELUGU FILM “KANNAPPA”

On July 21, 2025, the Delhi High Court granted an ex parte interim injunction in favour of Twenty-Four Frames Factory Pvt. Ltd., the production house behind the Vishnu Manchu-starrer Kannappa, directing Meta

Platforms Inc. (Facebook & Instagram) and X Corp. (formerly Twitter) to take down pirated reels, clips, and full-movie links circulating online, as listed in the company's submission—176–212 URLs on Meta and one on X. The court recognised over 1,700 infringing links, of which only 191 had been removed to date, and found that the unauthorised distribution was causing irreparable harm to the film's commercial interests, distribution contracts, and reputation. Under the IT (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, platforms were ordered to disable the identified URLs and comply with ongoing provisions for dynamic takedown of future infringing material. A further hearing is listed before the Joint Registrar on September 26, 2025.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT DISMISSES DREAM GIRL 2 COPYRIGHT SUIT

The Bombay High Court dismissed filmmaker Ashim Kumar Bagchi's interim application seeking to restrain the exploitation of *Dream Girl 2* on grounds of copyright infringement and breach of confidence. Bagchi alleged that the film copied substantial elements from his registered script *Kal Kisne Dekha* (later retitled *The Show Must Go On*), which he claimed was shared in confidence with some defendants, and that *Dream Girl 2* reproduced his character arcs, comedic situations, and scene arrangements. The Court, applying the *R.G. Anand test*, found that the similarities relied upon were limited to unprotectable elements such as the general idea of gender disguise and financial difficulty, which are stock themes and *scènes à faire*. It held that the works were materially dissimilar in expression, setting, and core plot, that the plaintiff failed to identify protectable or confidential material with precision, and that access to his work was not convincingly established. Consequently, no prima facie case of infringement or breach of confidence was made out, and the application was dismissed with costs.

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS DYNAMIC INJUNCTION, CURBS ROGUE SITES FROM STREAMING FANCODE CONTENT

The Delhi High Court restrained multiple rogue websites and mobile apps from illegally streaming sports content exclusively licensed to Sporta Technologies Pvt. Ltd., which operates the multi-sports aggregator FanCode. Recognising the fast-evolving nature of digital

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piracy, the Court granted a dynamic injunction that not only blocks the identified infringing platforms but also empowers authorities to take down mirror, redirect, and future derivative domains without the need for repeated court intervention.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT RULES NO COPYRIGHT IN FILM TITLES

In *Sunil Darshan Saberwal v. Star India Pvt. Ltd.*, the Bombay High Court rejected a copyright claim over the film title *Lootere*, filed by the producer of the 1993 movie of the same name.

The plaintiff sought to restrain Star India from using *Lootere* as the title of its upcoming web series, arguing that it infringed his copyright and relied on his registration of the title with the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA). The Court held that under the Copyright Act, 1957, a film title does not qualify as a "work" under Section 2(y), and therefore cannot enjoy copyright protection. It further emphasized that industry-based registrations like IMPPA's are private arrangements without statutory backing, particularly against non-members such as Star India. The judgment clarifies that protection of titles lies primarily within the realm of trademark law, not copyright, and reinforces judicial reluctance to extend copyright to short phrases or titles.

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DELHI HIGH COURT ORDERS BLOCKING OF SCI-HUB, RAISES QUESTIONS ON RESEARCH ACCESS

The Delhi High Court has directed the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) to block Sci-Hub, Sci-Net, and their mirror websites within 24 hours, following a copyright infringement case filed by leading publishers like Elsevier, Wiley, and the American Chemical Society. The order came after the court held founder Alexandra Elbakyan in contempt of court for breaching a 2020 undertaking not to upload new infringing content, as fresh research articles continued to appear on the platform. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have also been instructed to enforce the ban promptly.

While the decision strengthens copyright enforcement, it has sparked debate over its impact on India's research ecosystem. For years, Sci-Hub has served as a key access point for scholars and students unable to afford expensive journal subscriptions. Critics argue that blocking the site risks deepening inequities in access to

knowledge, particularly in under-resourced academic institutions. The matter is slated for further hearing on December 1, 2025, where the court may review both compliance and the wider implications for academic access.

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PATENT PULSE

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT REINFORCES PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS IN PATENT REVIEW: ORAMED LTD. V. CONTROLLER OF PATENTS

In a notable judgment, the Calcutta High Court set aside the rejection of Oramed Ltd.'s patent application for an oral insulin composition. The Court found serious procedural and substantive flaws in the refusal order, including failure to notify changes in the prior art relied upon, disregard for expert evidence and technical data, and a misapplication of Sections 3(d) and 3(e) of the Patents Act, 1970.

The Controller applied the requirement of therapeutic efficacy—relevant under Section 3(d)—while assessing the invention under Section 3(e), which only requires demonstration of synergistic effect in admixtures. The Court also criticized the Controller for not considering foreign patent grants and previously submitted expert affidavits, despite earlier judicial directions. It emphasized that prior art combinations must be clearly communicated to the applicant, as changes can alter the nature of the obviousness analysis. The Court directed a fresh evaluation by a different officer and reinforced that patent examination must be conducted with procedural fairness, scientific rigor, and in line with established legal standards. This decision serves as an important precedent for ensuring transparency and reasoned decision-making in pharmaceutical patent assessments.

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DELHI HIGH COURT REAFFIRMS THE NON-PATENTABILITY OF ALGORITHMS THAT LACK TECHNICAL EFFECT

Kroll Information Assurance's patent application for a system to detect sensitive data shared on peer-to-peer networks was rejected by the Controller of Patents for non-compliance under Sections 59, 2(1)(ja), and 3(k) of the Patents Act. While the Delhi High Court accepted Kroll's claim amendments as valid clarifications, it upheld the rejection under Section 3(k). The Court held that the invention simply used generic computers to run a program based on user instructions, without offering any technical advancement or transforming hardware functionality. The Court concluded that the invention was abstract and lacked technical character. It reaffirmed that computer-related inventions must demonstrate a tangible technical effect or solve a real-world technical problem to be patentable.

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SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS PATENTS ACT, REJECTS CCI'S BID TO REOPEN ERICSSON-MONSANTO INVESTIGATION

The Supreme Court of India has dismissed the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) appeal challenging a Delhi High Court order that stopped its investigation into patent disputes involving Ericsson and Monsanto. The High Court had earlier ruled that once the informants and alleged infringers settle their disputes, the CCI's authority to pursue an inquiry under the Competition Act no longer stands.

By refusing to interfere, the Supreme Court reinforced the primacy of the Patents Act, 1970, over the Competition Act in matters of a patentee's rights. This decision significantly limits the CCI's role in scrutinizing patent practices, while making clear that disputes over the exercise of patent rights should be addressed within the patent law framework. However, the Court left open the possibility of examining broader issues in future proceedings, if required.

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ASSAM DOCTOR GETS PATENT FOR SELF BREAST EXAMINATION DEMONSTRATION MODEL.

Dr. Gayatri Gogoi, Associate Professor at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, and an adjunct researcher with ICMR, has been granted a design patent (No. 395195-001) for a low-cost, eco-friendly self-breast examination demonstration model. Developed to address delays in breast cancer diagnosis often due to low awareness and limited access to mammography, this model aims to empower healthcare workers, such as ASHAs and ANMs, to effectively train women in early detection techniques.

Designed with portability, cultural sensitivity, and affordability in mind, the model is made from everyday materials and suitable for open demonstration. It offers a practical "show-how" training tool that could dramatically improve confidence and reach in primary health settings, bridging a crucial gap in public education and early cancer detection in India.

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DESIGN

BOMBAY HIGH COURT GRANTS INTERIM RELIEF TO TRAVEL BLUE IN DESIGN PIRACY CASE

In *Travel Blue Products India Pvt. Ltd. v. Miniso Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd.*, the Bombay High Court issued an ad-interim injunction in favour of Travel Blue for its registered “**Tranquility Neck Pillow**” design. The Court held that the design possessed distinctive aesthetic appeal—not being merely functional and noted that Miniso’s competing pillow bore an almost identical shape, configuration, fabric, and colour palette, causing a likelihood of consumer confusion. The decision reaffirmed that visual similarity alone can suffice to establish design piracy or passing off, and underscored that functionality cannot invalidate protection when multiple designs could achieve the same function.

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INTERNATIONAL

APPLE SUES APPLE CINEMAS FOR TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

Apple Inc. has sued Apple Cinemas, a Massachusetts movie theater chain, for trademark infringement. Apple argues the cinema’s name confuses consumers, especially given Apple’s expansion into entertainment services like Apple TV+ and film production. The lawsuit, filed against a chain operating since 2016, seeks an injunction to force rebranding and unspecified damages. This action reflects Apple’s aggressive brand protection strategy and could set a precedent for trademark scope across industries, potentially influencing naming conventions in the entertainment sector.

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COSTAR SUES ZILLOW FOR ALLEGED COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT OF THOUSANDS OF PHOTOS

CoStar Group has sued Zillow in New York federal court for alleged widespread copyright infringement of over 46,000 of CoStar’s real estate photographs. CoStar claims Zillow published its watermarked images more than 250,000 times, extending to partner sites like Redfin CEO Andy Florance expressed outrage over

Zillow’s alleged theft, citing CoStar’s investment in its image database. The lawsuit also references Zillow’s past liability in a similar case with VHT, Inc. CoStar estimates potential damages exceeding one billion dollars, possibly making it one of history’s largest image infringement cases.

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SONY SUES TENCENT FOR ALLEGEDLY RIPPING OFF 'HORIZON' VIDEO GAMES

Sony has sued Tencent for copyright infringement, alleging Tencent’s upcoming game, “Light of Motiram,” is a “slavish clone” of Sony’s Horizon franchise. Sony claims “Light of Motiram” copies Horizon’s gameplay, story, and artistic elements, potentially confusing customers. The lawsuit follows Sony’s refusal of Tencent’s 2024 collaboration offer for a new Horizon game. “Light of Motiram,” announced in November 2024, features “Mechanimals” and a post-apocalyptic setting, drawing immediate comparison. Sony seeks monetary damages and an injunction, confirming Horizon sales exceed 38 million copies globally.

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INTERNATIONAL

FEDERAL CIRCUIT DEFINES EXTENT OF IPR ESTOPPEL AND SETTLES DISTRICT COURT DISAGREEMENT IN PATENT LAW

In *Ingenico Inc. v. IOENGINE, LLC*, the Federal Circuit clarified the scope of inter partes review (IPR) estoppel, resolving a split among district courts over whether system prior art is subject to estoppel under 35 U.S.C. § 315(e)(2). The court held that the term "ground" in IPR refers only to invalidity challenges based on patents or printed publications, as specified under § 311(b). Since system prior art (like physical products or public uses) cannot be raised in an IPR, it is not subject to estoppel—even if it is substantively similar to printed materials that were or could have been used in the IPR.

This decision rejects broader interpretations—such as in *Wasica*—that treated "grounds" as legal theories regardless of the evidence used. Instead, the court aligned with reasoning from *Prolitec*, holding that estoppel applies only to specific combinations of patents or printed publications. As a result, defendants in district court litigation can still rely on system prior art even after losing an IPR, preserving a key strategy for challenging patent validity post-IPR.

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FEDERAL CIRCUIT AFFIRMS VALIDITY OF DRUG DOSING PATENT, REFINES STANDARD FOR OBVIOUSNESS IN CASES WITH OVERLAPPING PRIOR ART RANGES

In *Janssen Pharmaceuticals v. Teva*, the Federal Circuit upheld a district court ruling that Janssen's patent on a specific Invega Sustenna dosing regimen was not obvious, despite overlapping dosage ranges in prior art. The court clarified that a presumption of obviousness from overlapping ranges only applies after a fact-specific inquiry. Here, the claimed regimen involved unique elements—two distinct loading doses, specific timing, and deltoid administration—that were not simply numerical selections from prior art, making the presumption inapplicable.

The court also found Teva failed to show a motivation to combine prior art or a reasonable expectation of success. Expert testimony supported that skilled artisans wouldn't expect safety or effectiveness from the claimed multidose injectable regimen. Similarly, Teva's arguments on dosing for renal impairment lacked support, as prior art didn't address mild renal cases and advised against use in severe ones. The ruling emphasizes that overlapping values alone don't make a claim obvious without contextual technical reasoning.

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WARNER BROS. SUES MIDJOURNEY OVER ICONIC CHARACTERS

On September 4, 2025, Warner Bros. Discovery filed a lawsuit against AI image generation startup Midjourney in a Los Angeles federal court, accusing it of unauthorized use of iconic characters, including Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Scooby-Doo, Bugs Bunny, Tweety, and others, to create high-quality downloadable images in "every imaginable scene".

The suit alleges that Midjourney knowingly lifted previous safeguards, touted this change as an "improvement," and is profiting by delivering "endless copies and derivatives" of Warner Bros.' intellectual property.

Warner Bros. seeks damages, disgorgement of profits, and a court order preventing further unauthorized use. This legal action follows a similar lawsuit in June from Disney and Universal, also targeting Midjourney's handling of their character assets. This is the latest in a string of heavyweight studio challenges to AI platforms over IP abuse, with real implications for how generative AI services may need to handle copyright-protected content going forward.

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AI MEETS ACCOUNTABILITY: ANTHROPIC'S \$1.5B SETTLEMENT WITH AUTHORS

In a landmark agreement, AI startup Anthropic, the creator of the chatbot Claude, has settled a copyright lawsuit with a group of book authors for \$1.5 billion. The writers alleged that their works were copied without permission and used to train Anthropic's AI models. This makes the settlement one of the largest copyright-related payouts in U.S. history.

The case underscores the growing friction between rapid AI innovation and intellectual property rights. While a court previously suggested that training on legally acquired books might qualify as fair use, the use of pirated works created major liability. This settlement highlights the need for AI companies to prioritize licensed and transparent data sourcing.

For the publishing industry, the outcome is seen as a major victory, giving authors recognition and compensation for their creative contributions. For the AI sector, it serves as a wake-up call: scaling technology responsibly requires balancing innovation with respect for creators. With similar lawsuits pending against other tech giants, this may just be the beginning of a broader industry reckoning.

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AUTHORS FILE CLASS ACTION SUIT AGAINST APPLE OVER AI TRAINING PRACTICES

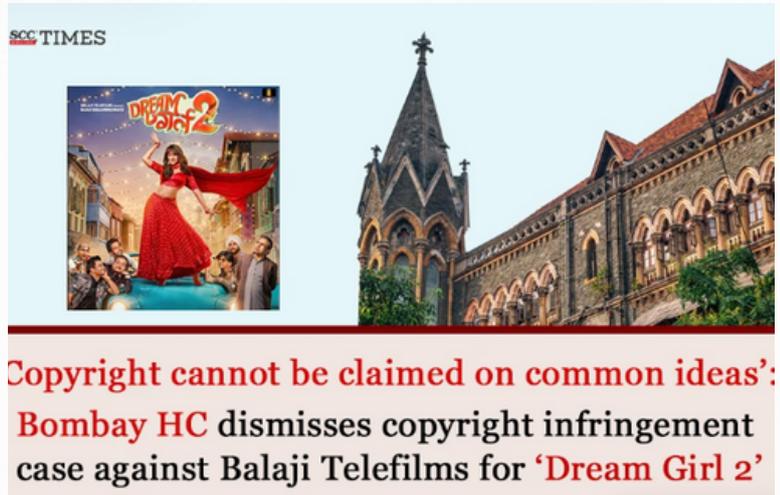
In a new legal challenge, authors Grady Hendrix and Jennifer Roberson have filed a class-action lawsuit against Apple in Northern California, alleging that the tech giant trained its OpenELM language models using their copyrighted books without permission, compensation, or proper attribution. The lawsuit claims these works were part of a dataset of pirated books, raising serious concerns over Apple's data sourcing practices in AI development.

This lawsuit joins a growing wave of litigation facing major technology companies accused of intellectual property violations in the AI space. Notably, AI startup Anthropic recently disclosed a \$1.5 billion settlement with authors over similar copyright claims, setting a high-stakes precedent and putting further scrutiny on how AI firms obtain and use creative material.

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FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

ANM Global successfully defended Balaji Telefilms Ltd. in a copyright infringement suit over Dream Girl 2. The Bombay High Court rejected the Plaintiff's request for interim relief, holding that copyright cannot be claimed over common ideas. This decision reinforces key principles of copyright law.



ANM Global Advises GSharp Media on Hoopr - Turnkey Music Partnership

CEO & Co - Founder
Gaurav Dagaonkar

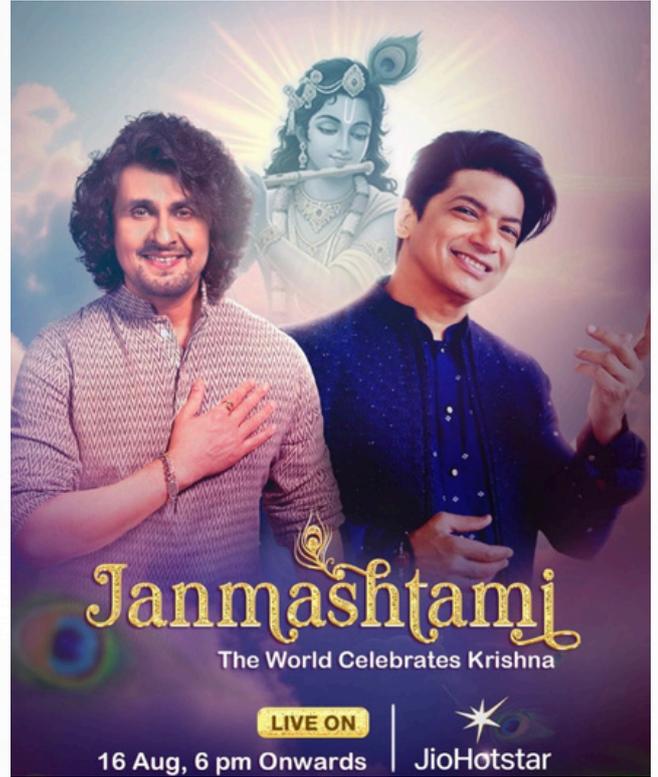
Managing Director
Atul Churamani



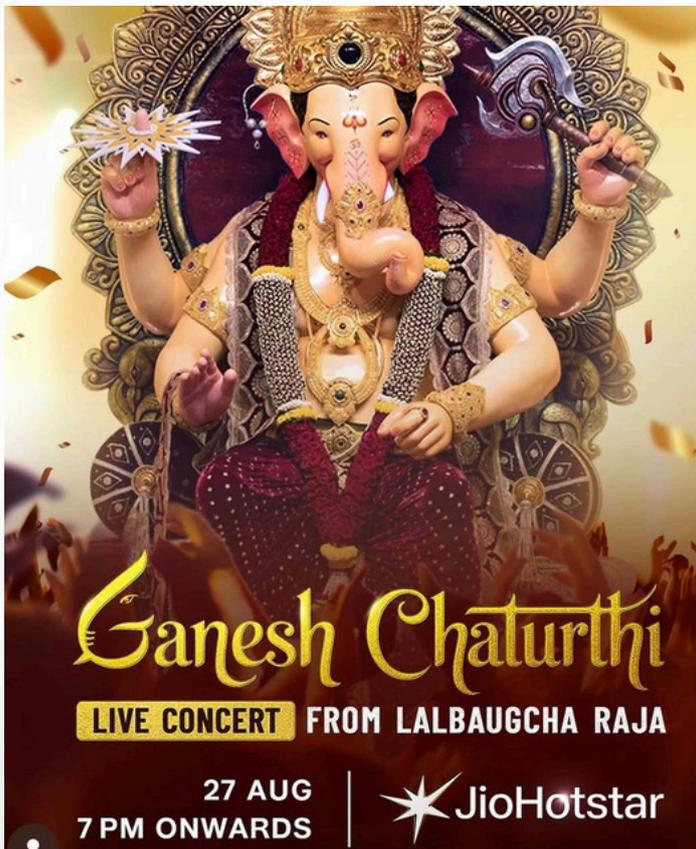
ANM Global advised GSharp Media Pvt. Ltd., parent company of Hoopr, on its strategic partnership with Turnkey Music & Publishing Pvt. Ltd. This collaboration adds 1,250+ English-language tracks to Hoopr's platform, expanding its catalogue to over 20,000 tracks. ANM provided end-to-end legal and transactional support, ensuring a compliant and commercially aligned deal.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

ANM Global represented Sol Production LLP for the Janmashtami Event 2025, which premiered live on JioHotstar on 16th August 2025. The event was headlined by Sonu Nigam and Shaan. The firm provided comprehensive legal and advisory support for talent engagement and production activities during this festive celebration.



ANM Global advised Sol Production LLP on the Ganapati Event 2025, which streamed live on JioHotstar on 27th August 2025 and was headlined by Rahul Vaidya. The firm provided end-to-end legal and advisory support for talent engagement and production activities for this festive event.



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FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

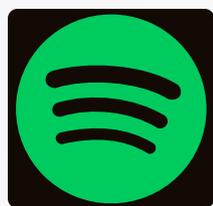
ANM Global has launched a specialised Sports & Gaming Practice to support India's rapidly growing yet highly regulated entertainment sectors. The vertical will be led by founder Nidhish Mehrotra & Anushree Rauta, bringing deep experience in advising athletes, clubs, associations, and leagues.



ANM Global and Scriboard have launched a joint venture, ANM-Scriboard, to offer specialized legal services focused on digital laws. The collaboration brings together ANM Global's expertise in media and IP with Scriboard's strength in data privacy, AI governance, and tech law. The venture aims to serve the growing legal needs of the digital economy through a comprehensive, future-ready legal framework.



ANM Global and Scriboard launch specialised joint venture



ANM ThinkPod

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

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