

LIGHTS, CAMERA & LAW

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT LAWS UPDATES

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AUTHORS

ANISHA SHETTY, PARTNER

SHRIJA VERMA, ASSOCIATE

ANM GLOBAL

Advocates & Legal Consultants

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COAI ADVOCATES FOR REGULATION OF OTT COMMUNICATIONS

The Cellular Operators Association of India has called for the regulation of over-the-top (OTT) communication services such as WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal. They argue that these platforms offer services like voice calls and messaging, which are comparable to those provided by traditional telecom companies. The association warns that the lack of regulation for these services could threaten national security. While established telecom providers like Jio, Vodafone Idea, Airtel, and others must follow the Telecommunications Act, 2023, as well as the rules issued by the Department of Telecommunications, OTT communication services currently operate without such legal requirements. These platforms are not required to store local data, maintain domestic network infrastructure, or comply with lawful interception procedures. In response, OTT providers and tech companies have raised concerns that excessive regulation could hinder innovation and infringe on privacy rights, noting that they are already governed by the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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UDAIPUR FILES MOVIE CLEARED FOR RELEASE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REJECTS OBJECTIONS

The release of the film Udaipur Files, based on the 2022 murder of Kanhaiya Lal, faced multiple legal hurdles before finally hitting theatres on **8 August 2025**. Initially slated for release on **11 July 2025**, the Delhi High Court stayed its release a day earlier after petitions by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and journalist Prashant Tandon, who argued that the film could incite communal hatred. The Supreme Court refused to intervene, directing the producers to comply with the High Court and approach the Centre. A review committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) cleared the film with six additional cuts besides the 55 already imposed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), but later withdrew them after the court questioned the Centre's

authority to enforce such changes. On 6 August 2025, the MIB dismissed the petitions, citing no valid grounds to block the film. The next day, the Delhi High Court also rejected a fresh stay plea by accused Mohammed Javed, noting the lack of evidence and emphasizing the producer's significant investment. With these hurdles cleared, the film was finally allowed to release.

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ANI ALLEGES COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST YOUTUBER THUGESH

The Asian News International (ANI) moved the Delhi High Court against YouTuber Thugesh alleging infringement of its copyrighted content. The agency is seeking for a permanent and mandatory injunction against at least four of Mahesh Rajesh Keshwala's YouTube uploads on his channel 'Thugesh Unfiltered', alleging that he had used ANI's original material without obtaining any license, authorization or consent from the news agency. Furthermore, ANI is also seeking damages for copyright infringement, plagiarism, unjust enrichment and piracy. ANI's plea stated that Mahesh had unlawfully reproduced, disseminated and published ANI's work for which they have exclusive rights under the Copyright Act, 1957. As per the court filings, ANI had issued copyright strikes against YouTube initially to which Thugesh responded countering the allegations that the said use falls under the ambit of 'fair use'. The next set of arguments will be heard on 12th of September.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT DIRECTS CBFC NOT TO INSIST ON NOC FROM YOGI ADITYANATH FOR 'AJEY' CERTIFICATION

On August 7, 2025, the Bombay High Court instructed the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) not to require the makers of the film "Ajey: The Untold Story of a Yogi" to get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the film's certification. The court told the CBFC to give the

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filmmakers clear reasons, including a detailed list of scenes or dialogues that are considered objectionable, based on the Cinematograph Rules. The filmmakers were also asked to submit their case to the Revisional Committee by August 8, which was directed to provide its response by August 11. The CBFC was further asked to complete the certification process by August 13.

Further, on August 21, Bombay High Court reserved the judgement to be delivered after watching the movie, before deciding, if certification has to be granted without cuts or not. Later on August 25, Bombay High Court directed CBFC to grant certification to the movie without any changes.

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PUNJAB WOMEN'S COMMISSION TAKE SUO MOTO COGNIZANCE AND SUMMONS HONEY SINGH AND KARAN AUJLA

The Punjab State Commission of Women has proactively addressed concerns regarding alleged vulgar and offensive language used in songs by Yo Yo Honey Singh and Karan Aujla. The Commission has also sent formal letters to the Director General of Police, instructing them to investigate the matter and take necessary legal actions. The Chairperson of the Commission, Raj Lali Gill, explained that Honey Singh was summoned for his song "Millionaire" and Karan Aujla for his song "MF Gabru," both of which are widely shared on social media. This action was taken after receiving reports about the use of objectionable language in these songs. The singers are required to appear on 11th August. But they both failed to appear, as they are not currently in India citing they had shoot scheduled, and assured to visit office within 15 days of concluding the shoot.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT UPHOLDS ENTERTAINMENT DUTY ON CONVENIENCE FEES FOR ONLINE MOVIE TICKETS

On 6th August 2025, the Bombay High Court confirmed the constitutional validity of the 2014 amendment to the

Maharashtra Entertainments Duty Act. This amendment allows the state to collect an entertainment duty on convenience fees charged for online ticket bookings that exceed Rs. 10. A division bench consisting of Justice MS Sonak and Justice Jitendra Jain rejected petitions filed by the FICCI-Multiplex Association of India and Big Tree Entertainment (Book My Show), which contested the seventh proviso added to Section 2(b) of the Maharashtra Entertainments Duty Act. The court ruled that convenience fees are an essential part of the payment for admission to entertainment and therefore fall under the statutory definition of payment for admission. The court used the pith and substance doctrine to determine that the law essentially imposes a tax on entertainment, a power clearly given to the states under Entry 62 of List II in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The court stressed that the proviso does not introduce a new tax or specifically target online booking, but rather ensures that only the amount exceeding Rs. 10 is taxed within the taxable admission charges. The court concluded that the challenged proviso is within the state's legislative authority and not unconstitutional.

Access Link: [Source here](#)

MADRAS HC REJECTS THE PLEA FOR MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR AVIATION REPORTING

Advocate M. Pravin initiated a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that was rejected by the Madras High Court. The PIL aimed to establish clear guidelines for media coverage following aviation accidents. The case was directed at the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY). It raised concerns regarding the habit of some media organizations to release speculative and unverified reports right after such incidents, often assigning blame to pilots or other individuals before official inquiries are completed. The petitioner argued that these practices contradict basic principles such as the presumption of innocence and harm the dignity and privacy of those involved, which violates Articles 14, 19(1)(a), and 21 of the Indian Constitution. The court declined to consider the petition. By doing so, the court left the media's role

in covering such sensitive events without regulation, thus preserving the current state of press freedom in these instances.

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MADRAS HIGH COURT DIRECTS TAMIL NADU POLICE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO THEATRES SCREENING VIJAY DEVERAKONDA-STARRER "KINGDOM" IN CASE OF DISRUPTIONS

The Madras High Court has intervened to protect the theatrical screening of actor Vijay Deverakonda's latest film "Kingdom" amid intensifying protests led by the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK). The protestors have alleged that the movie misrepresents Sri Lankan Tamils, portraying them as criminals, and distorts Tamil Eelam history in a way that disrespects their struggles. In light of the mounting opposition, SSI Productions, the distributor of "Kingdom" in Tamil Nadu, approached the court with a petition requesting police protection for theatres screening the film. Hearing the matter, Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy directed the Tamil Nadu Police to provide adequate security to ensure uninterrupted screenings. The court reaffirmed the legal position that any film certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) cannot be prevented from release or exhibition by third parties. While upholding the right to peaceful protest, the judge clarified that such demonstrations must be conducted with prior police permission and only in designated protest areas. The court firmly prohibited any form of unlawful disruption, threats, or obstruction of screenings, thereby safeguarding both artistic freedom and public order.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT DISMISSES COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE AGAINST DREAM GIRL 2

The High Court of Bombay on August 6, 2025, rejected the interim injunction requested by Ashim Kumar Bagchi, who claimed that Dream Girl 2 copied his script titled "Kal Kisne Dekha," which was later re-registered as "The Show Must Go On." The court determined that the

similarities between the works were limited to common elements such as general themes, ideas, and standard scene setups, which are not protected under copyright law. The court also dismissed the breach of confidence claim as "far-fetched," stating that the plaintiff did not prove that the defendant had access to his work in a way that created any legal duty of confidentiality. As a result, the court ordered the plaintiff to be reimbursed Rs. 2 lakhs in costs, and directed Rs. 1 lakh each to be paid to Balaji Telefilms and the film writer within four weeks of the order being made public.

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MADRAS HC ORDERS FRESH INVESTIGATION IN FACEBOOK POST DISRESPECTING HINDU GOD

The Madras High Court Bench at Madurai has observed that disrespect for deep-rooted religious symbols and deities can lead to social unrest and hurt a large section of the society. It has thereby set aside the closure of a case registered with the Thoothukudi police regarding a Facebook post insulting Lord Krishna. While it is crucial to ensure freedom of expression, it is equally important to ensure that it does not translate into hurting religious sentiments. The Court noted that the Investigating Officer had only made a request to Meta Platforms Inc. of the USA for furnishing the account related information and closed the case as undetected due to mere refusal to furnish this information thus citing grave procedural lapses in the investigation. Therefore, the High Court has directed the police to resume investigation and mandated the completion of inquiry and filing of final report within the next 3 months.

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ACTOR RANA DAGGUBATI APPEARS BEFORE ED RELATED TO PMLA CASE

Actor Rana Daggubati appeared before Enforcement Directorate in Hyderabad with his alleged connection to promotion of unauthorised online betting and gambling by certain platforms. This appearance is in connection with the federal agency's investigation, for which they

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issued summons to four actors- Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, Lakshmi Manchu, and Rana Daggubati. They had been told to appear on different dates at the zonal office of the agency for questioning related to the case. They have been alleged to endorse online betting apps which are involved in generating 'illicit' funds. They are charged under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

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INDUSTRY BODIES VOICE CONCERN OVER DRAFT TELECOM CYBERSECURITY REGULATIONS

Prominent industry associations, including IAMAI, NASSCOM, BIF, and CUTS International, have expressed strong reservations about the Department of Telecommunications' draft telecom cybersecurity regulations. They contend that the proposed amendments broaden the regulatory net to include non-telecom entities—such as OTT platforms, retailers, and educational institutions—under a new category called “Telecommunication Identifier User Entities.” Their concerns center on potential regulatory overreach, conflicts with existing IT laws, inadequate privacy protections, and significant compliance costs, particularly from the proposed Mobile Number Verification system, which could cost up to ₹3 per transaction. Industry representatives caution that these changes could stifle innovation, impose disproportionate burdens on MSMEs, and disrupt the growth of India's digital ecosystem.

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ACTOR SHWETHA MENON MOVES KERALA HIGH COURT TO QUASH FIR

On August 7, 2025, actor Shwetha Menon approached the Kerala High Court seeking to quash an FIR filed by the Ernakulam Central Police. The case, initiated on a complaint by Ernakulam resident Martin Menachery, alleges that she acted in films containing vulgar and obscene content for financial gain, with such material circulated via social media and adult websites. She has been booked under Section 67(A) of the Information

Technology Act, 2000, and Sections 3 and 5 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In her petition, Menon termed the FIR “malafide and ill-motivated,” stressing that the films in question were CBFC-certified, publicly exhibited years ago, and acclaimed for their artistic quality. She noted that her role in Paleri Manikyam, cited as obscene, won her the Kerala State Award for Best Actress. The FIR comes as she contests for the AMMA president post ahead of its August 15 elections.

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SC TO HEAR CROSS-APPEALS IN GOOGLE PLAY STORE ANTITRUST DISPUTE IN NOVEMBER

On August 8, 2025, the Supreme Court admitted cross-appeals by Google, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and the Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) challenging a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) ruling on Google's Play Store policies. A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar scheduled the hearing for November. The appeals target the NCLAT's March decision upholding the CCI's finding that Google abused its dominant position by enforcing restrictive Play Store billing rules and favouring its own payment service. Google disputes these conclusions, while the CCI and ADIF seek restoration of certain directions. In May, the NCLAT reinstated CCI mandates requiring Google to disclose data-handling policies and avoid using billing data for competitive advantage, both now under Supreme Court scrutiny. The case originates from a 2020 CCI probe, which in 2022 penalized Google and ordered remedies to curb anti-competitive billing practices harming app developers.

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IAMAI SEEKS TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM DATA LAW FOR AI TRAINING

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has urged the government to temporarily exempt data fiduciaries from certain provisions of the Digital Personal

Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, when processing publicly available personal data solely for training or fine-tuning AI models. IAMAI highlighted ambiguities in the law regarding the use of publicly accessible data, noting challenges in determining whether such data was voluntarily disclosed or posted due to legal obligations before being re-shared. These complexities, it warned, could raise compliance costs, hinder innovation, and slow the growth of India's AI sector, particularly for startups reliant on large datasets. The association suggested amending Section 3(c)(ii), which exempts publicly available data, or using Section 17(5) to grant interim exemptions. Stressing global competitiveness, IAMAI noted that countries like the US and China impose fewer restrictions on AI developers. However, some members, including Reliance Jio and Culver Max Entertainment, reportedly hold differing views.

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ASCI ORDERS MEDIA TO LABEL PAID POSTS, SAFEGUARD EDITORIAL INTEGRITY

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has made an important change to its Code for Self-Regulation in Advertising. Now, media companies are required to clearly identify paid or sponsored posts on their social media pages. This new rule is part of Clause 1.8 and demands that promotional content be clearly labelled at the beginning of the post with terms like "Advertisement," "Sponsored," "Ad," or similar tags. This update comes in response to increasing concerns that advertisements are often confused with genuine editorial content. It follows many consumer complaints about misleading or hidden marketing on reputable media platforms. ASCI leadership emphasizes that disclosing paid content upfront is essential for maintaining public trust, ensuring transparency, and meeting legal requirements. It also helps protect organizations from damage to their reputation and potential legal consequences. As a result, media organizations are now required to clearly separate paid promotions from regular editorial content, which helps protect both consumers and the credibility of the media. With the rise of digital content, ASCI's guidelines establish a benchmark

for honest and ethical advertising practices in India.

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INDIA'S INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTRY SETS UP ANTI-PIRACY TASK FORCE

On 13th August 2025, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the set-up of a task force to tackle India's rapidly growing piracy problem, an issue estimated to cost the media and entertainment industry US \$2.5 billion annually. Its mandate is to swiftly respond to film leaks and unauthorised distribution, within 24 hours of the content appearing online and devise coordinated operations to clamp down on piracy operations. The task force operates in collaboration with Confederation of India Industry (CII) and is aligned with the introduction of an innovation challenge at WAVES 2025 summit.

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KARNATAKA BAR COUNCIL DIRECTS ADVOCATES TO REMOVE PROMOTIONAL REELS/VIDEOS UPLOADED ON SOCIAL MEDIA BY 31ST AUGUST

The Karnataka State Bar Council has issued a clear instruction requiring legal professionals to remove all promotional or disrespectful reels and videos from social media by August 31, 2025. This directive, formalized as Resolution No. 50/2025, follows increasing worries about content on social media that is believed to damage the reputation and respect for the legal profession and the judiciary. The Council took this step after receiving complaints and statements, including from Senior Advocate S. Basavaraj, who pointed out particular social media posts that were deemed unprofessional or disrespectful. Letters from legal organizations also urged action against lawyers who are alleged to have violated professional conduct rules as outlined in Section 35 of the Advocates Act, 1961. Those who do not follow the order by the August 31 deadline may face disciplinary measures under Section 35, which can result in different types of penalties. This action shows the Bar Council's dedication

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to maintaining the honour of the legal profession and reflects a firm stance against any online behaviour that may weaken professional standards or harm the image of the judiciary.

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HARYANA COURT ORDERS BADSHAH TO DEPOSIT ADDITIONAL ₹50 LAKH, RAISING TOTAL SECURITY TO ₹2.2 CRORE

A court in the Karnal district of Haryana has instructed the well-known rapper and music producer Badshah, whose real name is Aditya Prateek Singh, to pay an extra ₹50 lakh as security in a continuing payment disagreement with Unisys Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd. regarding the Hindi-Haryanvi song 'Baawla'. This brings the total amount of security to ₹2.2 crore, and the money remains under a restriction that prevents it from being withdrawn or used as collateral until further instructions from the court. The disagreement began from a 2021 agreement where Badshah had agreed to pay ₹1.05 crore for promotional work and ₹65 lakh for the production of the music video. After the video was released in July 2021, Unisys submitted invoices totalling approximately ₹2 crore, claiming that the payment had not been made. Despite several demand letters and a later arbitration notice, Badshah's team reportedly did not make the payment, leading Unisys to take legal action. The court noted the continued failure to pay and believed there was a risk that Badshah might transfer or sell his assets. Therefore, the court ordered the additional deposit to protect Unisys' claims, making it clear that this interim action would not affect the outcome of the final arbitration process. Both parties are now waiting for further legal steps to resolve the matter.

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PUNE COURT SUMMONS MAKERS OF JOLLY LLB 3 OVER COMPLAINT THAT FILM INSULTS LEGAL PROFESSION

A civil court in Pune has issued summons to actor Arshad Warsi, director Subhash Kapoor, and producer Arun

Bhatia following a plea filed by Advocate Wajed Rahim Khan seeking to restrain the release of the upcoming film "Jolly LLB 3." Scheduled for release on September 19, the film has come under scrutiny for allegedly insulting the legal profession. The plea alleges that the film's recently released promotional teaser that was uploaded on YouTube on August 12, depicts an advocate wearing the advocate's band tie in a manner that tarnishes the image of lawyers and the judiciary. The petitioner claims this misuse of legal attire misrepresents and disrespects the dignity of the legal fraternity, potentially distributing societal peace. Khan asserts that similar controversies arose with the previous installments of the franchise. The complaint further contends that the filmmakers are exploiting such portrayals for financial gain. The petitioner seeks an injunction under the Specific Relief Act to stop the film's release across Maharashtra and prevent its distribution in print and digital media.

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DELHI HIGH COURT ORDERS BLOCKING OF SCI-HUB AND SCI-NET IN COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE

The Delhi High Court has issued an interim order mandating the blocking of access to Sci-Hub and Sci-Net websites after leading scientific publishers Elsevier, Wiley India, and American Chemical Society alleged copyright infringement. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora instructed the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to order all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to restrict access to the sites within days. The publishers argued that Sci-Hub and Sci-Net illegally host more than 88 million scientific papers, violating copyright and impacting lawful publishing operations. The websites, owned by Russian national Alexandra Elbakyan, have already been blocked in eleven countries due to similar lawsuits. The order follows Elbakyan's earlier undertaking in December 2020 to stop uploading copyrighted works, which publishers claim she violated by adding articles published in 2022. The court found Elbakyan prima facie guilty of contempt and noted that her foreign citizenship does not shield her from liabilities

arising in India. This injunction will remain until the next hearing, scheduled for December 1, 2025.

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PRODUCERS OF RAJNIKANTH-STARRER COOLIE APPROACH MADRAS HIGH COURT AGAINST ‘A’ CERTIFICATION

Rajinikanth’s blockbuster Coolie, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and released on August 14, has sparked a legal tussle after producers Sun Pictures moved the Madras High Court against the CBFC’s decision to grant it an ‘A’ (Adults only) certificate. The CBFC cited extensive violence, threatening moments, and strong language for the rating, while the makers argued that similar action films like KGF and Beast received U/A certificates despite greater intensity. The Board said a U/A certificate would have required major cuts, which the producers refused, opting instead for an ‘A’ rating now contested for limiting family viewership and affecting revenues. The High Court has reserved its order after hearing both sides, with the verdict—crucial for television broadcast and wider audience reach—still awaited. Meanwhile, Coolie has grossed over ₹400 crore worldwide, becoming the year’s highest-grossing Tamil film.

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DELHI HIGH COURT RESTRAINS WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FROM MISUSING NDTV TRADEMARK

The Delhi High Court has granted NDTV an ex parte interim injunction against widespread misuse of its trademark, restraining over 13 websites, 120 X (formerly Twitter) accounts, 35 YouTube channels, 16 Telegram groups, and 86 Facebook pages from impersonating the broadcaster. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora found NDTV had a strong prima facie case, warning of irreparable harm to its reputation if the misuse continued. The court ordered domain registrars to suspend the infringing sites and share registrant details, while directing YouTube, Telegram, X, and Meta to block the offending accounts and provide user information. The Department

of Telecommunications and MeitY were also instructed to ensure internet providers block access to these platforms. NDTV has further been empowered to act against any future infringers, with the court emphasizing protection of its brand, public trust in journalism, and stronger safeguards against digital impersonation.

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SUPREME COURT ASKS SAMAY RAINA & 4 OTHER COMEDIANS TO POST APOLOGIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MAKING FUN OF DISABLED

The Supreme Court has directed five comedians, including Samay Raina, to publicly apologize on their YouTube channels and social media platforms for making insensitive jokes about persons with disabilities (PwDs). The order was issued after a petition by the SMA Cure Foundation highlighted derogatory jokes made by Raina, Vipul Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar, and Nishant Tanwar. The bench, led by Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, emphasized that the degree of repentance should outweigh the offense and likened it to purging contempt. The Court also considered broader guidelines to protect dignity without stifling free speech, with the Attorney General tasked to draft comprehensive recommendations in consultation with stakeholders. The judges pointed out that humour should never come at the expense of a vulnerable community, noting the responsibility influencers bear due to the commercial reach of their content. The Court recognized the comedians’ apologies and suggested they use their platforms to spread awareness about disability rights as a form of reparation. The ruling sets a precedent for balancing freedom of expression with respect for the dignity of marginalized groups and signals potential future penalties for online misconduct.

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TELUGU FILM INDUSTRY STRIKE ENDS AFTER 18 DAYS; CHIRANJEEVI AND TELANGANA CM REVANTH REDDY FACILITATES RESOLUTION

The Telugu film industry has returned to full operation

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following the conclusion of an 18-day strike that had brought film and web series productions to a standstill. The industrial action, which began on August 4, was initiated by the Telugu Film Industry Employees' Federation in a demand for a 30% wage increase, a request that was initially denied by the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce. A resolution was successfully facilitated through the combined efforts of megastar Chiranjeevi and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Chiranjeevi, a highly respected figure within the industry, stepped in to mediate the dispute, engaging with both producers and union leaders to find a mutually acceptable solution. His efforts paved the way for a breakthrough, which was solidified by the timely intervention of Chief Minister Reddy. The final agreement, reached on August 22, was lauded by Chiranjeevi, who publicly thanked the Chief Minister for his proactive role in resolving the complex issue. The terms of the settlement are designed to ensure fair treatment for workers while also maintaining sustainable production costs for filmmakers, paving the way for a stable and prosperous future for the industry

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POLICE PROBE ORDERED IN DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST JOURNALIST NAVIKA KUMAR

A Delhi court has instructed the Delhi Police to initiate a preliminary investigation against journalist Navika Kumar in a defamation lawsuit. The case was filed by ARG Outlier Media, the parent company of Republic TV, led by Arnab Goswami. The complaint alleges that Kumar, during a January 18, 2020, broadcast of "Newshour," made defamatory and baseless statements against Goswami in connection with the Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation scam. The court has invoked Section 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a provision that allows a magistrate to order an investigation when an accused resides outside the court's jurisdiction before issuing a summons. The court has scheduled the next hearing for February 26, 2026, where the police are expected to present their findings. The case marks a notable legal confrontation between two prominent figures in the Indian media landscape.

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LEGAL DISPUTE PUTS PRABHAS' 'THE RAJA SAAB' IN JEOPARDY

The production of Prabhas' upcoming film, *The Raja Saab*, has been thrown into legal turmoil. Co-producer Ivy Entertainment has filed a lawsuit in the Delhi High Court against People Media Factory (PMF), seeking a full refund of its ₹218 crore investment. The legal action alleges that PMF committed significant contractual breaches, including failing to provide regular production updates, disclose fund usage, and complete the film on schedule. Ivy Entertainment claims these delays have jeopardized its investment and has asked the court to prevent PMF from exploiting any rights to the movie. The lawsuit highlights a major dispute over the film's future. In its plea, Ivy Entertainment has stated its intention to take over and complete the project itself to safeguard its financial stake. This legal battle adds to recent reports of the film facing issues with pending payments to production workers.

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BOMBAY HIGH COURT RULES FILM TITLES DO NOT HAVE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

In a significant ruling for the Indian film industry, the Bombay High Court has declared that a film's title, by itself, is not protected under copyright law. The decision was made while dismissing an injunction plea filed by producer Sunil Darshan Saberwal, who sought to prevent the release of a web series titled *Lootere* on Disney+ Hotstar, a title he had previously used for his 1993 film. The court, presided over by Justice Sandeep V. Marne, clarified that registration of a film title with a producers' association does not create a statutory right enforceable in a court of law. Such registrations are merely a private, contractual arrangement among members of the association and do not bind non-members. The judgment reinforces a long-held legal position that while a film and its literary work can be copyrighted, a mere title cannot. The court noted that since the web series had a completely different story from the 1993 film, there was no copyright infringement. The ruling provides clarity on title disputes, emphasizing that protection must be sought through trademark registration rather than copyright.

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CONTROVERSIAL FILM 'KHALID KA SHIVAJI' REMOVED FROM CANNES FESTIVAL LISTINGS

The Marathi film Khalid Ka Shivaji has been officially removed from the Cannes Film Festival listings following directives from the Maharashtra government. The decision was announced by Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar, who stated that the move was in response to complaints that the film contains "falsehoods" and hurts public sentiments related to the legacy of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The controversy centres on the film's portrayal of Chhatrapati Shivaji as a secular ruler, a perspective that has been met with strong opposition from right-wing groups who view him as a Hindu warrior-king. The government has also requested the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to re-examine the film's clearance certificate, citing fears of potential law and order issues. The film's producers and director have been summoned by the CBFC for this re-examination. The film, directed by Raj Pritam More, tells the story of a young Muslim boy who learns about the historical figure through life experiences. Although an expert committee had initially recommended the film for the festival, this recommendation has now been withdrawn. This news video provides more context on the controversy surrounding the film's portrayal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

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PLAGIARISM CLAIMS OVER 'RAANJHAN' MET WITH LEGAL ACTION

A new controversy has emerged surrounding the song "Raanjhan" from the film Do Patti, as an international music producer named KMKZ has accused composers Sachet-Parampara and music label T-Series of plagiarism. KMKZ claimed in an Instagram video that his original piano beat, posted on YouTube two years ago, was used without his permission, credit, or compensation. The hit song, which features Kriti Sanon, has garnered over 290 million streams on Spotify, leading KMKZ to publicly demand a "plaque" for his uncredited contribution. In a strong rebuttal, Sachet-Parampara have denied the allegations, labelling them as "baseless" and a clear attempt to gain popularity.

The duo stated that they have provided original project files to streaming platforms like YouTube and Spotify, which have reviewed and dismissed the copyright claims. Taking a firm stand, the composers have announced they are now preparing to file a defamation lawsuit against KMKZ to protect their reputation.

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APPLE CINEMAS SUED BY APPLE INC. IN TRADEMARK DISPUTE

On August 1, 2025, Massachusetts-based Apple Cinemas, owned by Sand Media Corp., was sued by the tech-giant Apple Inc. for infringement of its 'APPLE' trademark and service mark. Apple argues the cinema's name confuses consumers, especially given Apple's expansion into entertainment services like Apple TV+ and film production thereby alleging that the chain is exploiting its name to mislead consumers and dilute its brand. The complaint highlights Apple Cinemas' opening of a new location in San Francisco which is within an hour of Apple's Cupertino headquarters, and its aggressive expansion plans, including opening 100 additional theatres over the next decade. Apple claims that the cinema chain has disregarded cease-and-desist notices and failed in its trademark applications, citing consumer confusion evidenced in social media posts. The tech company is seeking an injunction to stop use of the "Apple" name and unspecified monetary damages.

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NEW UK LAW TO TARGET GANGS PUSHING ILLEGAL MIGRATION WITH SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTS

The UK government is launching a significant new law focused on addressing criminal gangs that use social media to encourage illegal migration. This law, which updates the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, will make it illegal to create or share online material that helps break British immigration rules. Such content includes ads for dangerous small boat journeys, fake travel papers, and unlawful job opportunities. Those found guilty could receive up to five years in prison and face large fines. Authorities have stated that around 80% of migrants arriving by small boats used social media during their journey, often to locate or contact smugglers. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper described these actions as "immoral," highlighting that criminals show no hesitation in putting migrants' lives at risk for financial gain. The new legislation is part of the government's larger "Plan for Change" to strengthen border security. It aims provide law enforcement with better tools to identify and break up online smuggling

groups. This initiative comes after a sharp increase in small boat arrivals and as the government intensifies its efforts, including more arrests and deportations, to stop illegal migration and ensure the safety of migrants.

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SUNO RESPONDS TO INDIE ARTISTS' AI COPYRIGHT LAWSUIT

A significant legal battle is underway in the United District Court for the District of Massachusetts, where an independent artist Tony Justice and 5th Wheel Records have filed a copyright lawsuit against AI music startup Suno. The lawsuit alleges that Suno unlawfully trained its AI models on thousands of unsigned artist's music without permission, infringing their copyright. Suno has filed a motion for dismissing the claims addressing them as baseless and inconsistent copyright laws. The company asserts that the AI generated music does not contain direct copies or samples but produces entirely new sounds, meaning no infringement occurs. Furthermore, Suno points out that the legal landscape around fair use in AI training remains unsettled globally.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

TBN SUES DR. PHIL FOR \$500 MILLION FRAUD OVER UNFULFILLED MOVIE DEAL

Broadcaster Trinity Broadcasting Network has sued Dr. Phil McGraw and his media company, Merit Street Media, accusing them of fraud and breach of contract in a \$500 million 10-year distribution deal. The lawsuit filed in federal court in Texas, alleges that despite TBN investing over a \$100 million Dr. Phil failed to produce even a single episode of his promised talk show under the agreement. TBN claims Dr. Phil misled them with false assurances about the production cost, reductions, viewership, advertising revenue and content delivery. The network further alleges that McGraw insisted on costly distribution deals with third parties, engaged in self-serving transactions by leasing studio space from TBN, and provided subpar production services. TBN, which previously owned 70% of Merit Street accuses McGraw of manipulating ownership and financial arrangements to enrich themselves at TBN's expense.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

INTERNATIONAL

LANDMARK EU MEDIA LAW ENTERS INTO FORCE, AIMS TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR JOURNALISTS

The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), a significant regulation designed to safeguard journalism and preserve press freedoms, has officially started applying throughout the European Union. Developed by the European Commission and strongly supported by the European Parliament in 2024, the EMFA establishes new rules regarding media independence, transparency in ownership, and the protection of journalists and their sources. Important features of the EMFA include limiting the use of spyware against journalists, allowing it only as a final measure when there is a real national security concern, increasing transparency in state-sponsored advertising, and requiring public media to function independently. The law also mandates that social media platforms do not unfairly block or remove content from independent news organizations. Government officials have praised the EMFA as an important advancement for press freedom, highlighting its role in ensuring that news in the EU is accurate and not influenced by excessive business or political pressures. A new supervisory body, the European Board for Media Services, will oversee the enforcement of these rules. However, EU leaders and members of the European Parliament have warned that the effectiveness of the Act will depend on the strong and consistent application by all member states, especially considering recent reports showing a decline in press freedom and the safety of journalists in various areas.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

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 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.

ANM GLOBAL
Advocates & Legal Consultants

ANM Global Advises GSharp Media on Hoopr - Turnkey Music Partnership

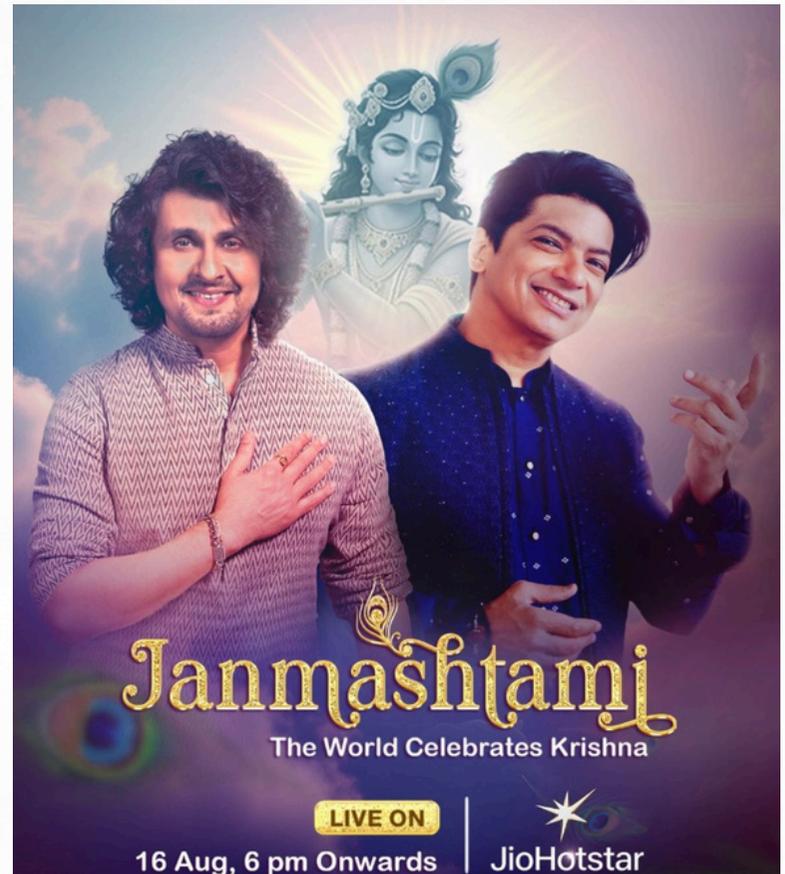
CEO & Co - Founder
Gaurav Dagaonkar

Managing Director
Atul Churamani

Mumbai | New Delhi | Bengaluru | Chennai
contact@anmglobal.net
https://anmglobal.net

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 Ganpati 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.

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 launch specialised joint venture



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.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS



ANM ThinkPod

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contact@anmglobal.net



[ANM Global](https://www.linkedin.com/company/anm-global)



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

OFFICES

MUMBAI

1. Office No. 7, floor 2nd, Nagin Mahal,
Plot-82, Veer Nariman Road,
Churchgate,
Mumbai 400020.
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

Awfis L29 - L34, 1st Floor,
Connaught Place
New Delhi, 110001
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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