

Intellectual Property
Newsletter

The IP Odyssey

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TRADEMARK TAPESTRY

DELHI HIGH COURT SEEKS CUSTOMS REPORT IN COLGATE TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT CASE

The Delhi High Court directed the Customs Department to submit a detailed report after Colgate-Palmolive alleged trademark infringement by Chinese-origin goods bearing deceptively similar marks. Colgate claimed that counterfeit oral care products were being imported into India using marks that closely resembled its registered trademarks, including “Colgate” and “Colgate Strong Teeth.” The Court noted the prima facie case of infringement and emphasized the role of Customs under the Intellectual Property Rights (Imported Goods) Enforcement Rules, 2007. It sought clarity on whether the impugned goods were detained, released, or cleared, and directed Customs to file its report within four weeks. The matter will be heard next on November 28, 2025.

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DELHI HIGH COURT CANCELS “CROOSE” MARK, STRENGTHENS CROCS’ BRAND PROTECTION

The Delhi High Court has upheld the trademark rights of Crocs Inc., directing removal of the mark “CROOSE” from the Trade Marks Register. Justice C. Hari Shankar held that “CROOSE,” registered by a third party for identical goods, was deceptively similar to “CROCS” and likely to mislead consumers given the phonetic and visual resemblance. The Court observed that Crocs enjoys longstanding goodwill and reputation in the footwear market, and that allowing “CROOSE” to coexist would amount to dilution and unfair advantage under Sections 11, 47, and 57 of the Trade Marks Act. Emphasizing consumer protection and brand distinctiveness, the Court directed the Registrar of Trade Marks to cancel the registration within four weeks, thereby reaffirming robust legal protection for Crocs’ well-known mark.

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DELHI HC GRANTS MATTTEL INJUNCTION, BARS USE OF 'BARBIE' MARK BY KITCHENWARE FIRM

In a significant ruling, the Delhi High Court has granted an ad-interim injunction in favor of Mattel Inc., prohibiting a local kitchenware and catering company from using the 'Barbie' trademark. The court found that the defendant's marks- 'Barbie Hospitality', 'Barbie Catering', 'Barbie Enterprises', and 'Barbie Kitchenware' were likely to cause confusion among

consumers and unfairly capitalize on the established goodwill of Mattel's Barbie brand. The court also ordered the removal of infringing social media content. Mattel had objected to the defendant's application for the mark 'Barbie One Stop Solution for HORECA & Foods Processing', arguing that it infringed upon their well-known trademark. This decision underscores the protection of established trademarks against unauthorized use in unrelated sectors.

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY WINS PARTIAL RESTRAINT IN DELHI HIGH COURT TRADEMARK DISPUTE

In *Princeton University v. Multiple Educational Institutions*, the Delhi High Court granted partial protection to Princeton University over the use of its name. The U.S.-based university sought to restrain Hyderabad institutions from using “Princeton” as part of their names, alleging trademark infringement and passing off. The Court held that while Princeton University had rights in its mark, the defendants had shown long-standing use in India and invoked Section 34 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, which allows continued use by prior adopters. Accordingly, the Court refused to grant a blanket injunction but restrained the defendants from opening new institutions under the “Princeton” name during the pendency of the suit and directed them to maintain semi-annual accounts. The ruling underscores the limits of foreign universities’ claims without demonstrable prior and continuous use in India, clarifying that trademark rights must be balanced against prior user protections.

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DELHI HC: NO TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT BETWEEN “PROEASE” SANITARY NAPKINS AND “PRUEASE” LAXATIVES

In *RSPL Health Pvt. Ltd. v. Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd. & Anr.*, the Delhi High Court dismissed RSPL’s plea to restrain Sun Pharma from using the mark PRUEASE for a laxative product, despite RSPL’s registration of PROEASE for sanitary napkins. RSPL argued that “PRUEASE” was deceptively similar and would infringe or dilute its mark, also relying on its intent to expand the product line. The Court held that the two marks operated in entirely dissimilar goods and trade channels, sanitary products versus prescription medicines with distinct consumer bases, packaging, and distribution. It further observed that trademark protection cannot be stretched across unrelated goods merely because both fall within the same trademark

TRADEMARK TAPESTRY

class, and speculative future expansion cannot ground an injunction. Finding Sun Pharma's adoption of the mark bona fide, the Court refused interim relief and allowed Sun Pharma's continued use, clarifying that similarity of marks alone is insufficient absent a likelihood of confusion within overlapping markets.

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CASTROL LIMITED v SANJAY SONAVANE AND ANR.

The Delhi High Court, per Justice Tejas Karia, issued interim directions restraining the defendants from issuing groundless threats of trademark or copyright infringement against the plaintiff, its Indian subsidiary, or authorized distributors. The order will remain in force until the next hearing, with liberty to file replies and rejoinders within set timelines.

The plaintiff, a reputed petroleum company marketing lubricants and engine oils under well-known marks including "CASTROL," filed the suit under Section 142 of the Trade Marks Act and Section 60 of the Copyright Act. Its grievance concerned threats issued over use of the "3X," "3X PROTECTION," "3XCLEAN," and "3 IN 1 FORMULA" marks ("3X Marks"), which the defendants claimed infringed their "3P Marks."

Following a public notice and seizure of goods from an authorized distributor, the plaintiff alleged the threats and FIR constituted harassment, asserting that the goods were genuine and that the numeral "3" could not be monopolized.

Justice Karia held that prima facie the 3X Marks did not infringe the defendants' rights, and that continued threats risked irreparable harm to the plaintiff's reputation. Finding the balance of convenience in its favour, the court restrained the defendants and listed the matter for further hearing on 9 December 2025.

[CS(COMM) 855/2025]

WOW MOMO FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED v WOW BURGER & ANR

The Delhi High Court rejected Wow Momo Foods Pvt. Ltd.'s plea for an interim injunction against the defendants' use of the mark "WOW BURGER," in a case concerning alleged trademark infringement and passing off.

Wow Momo, established in 2008 with over 600 outlets, owns registered marks such as "WOW! MOMO,"

"WOW! CHINA," and "WOW! CHICKEN." It claimed that "WOW" formed the distinctive core of its brand family, supported by long use, substantial turnover, and promotional investment that allegedly gave the term secondary meaning.

The Court disagreed, observing that the plaintiff held no exclusive registration for "WOW" or "WOW! BURGER," and its trademarks expressly disclaimed rights over the word "WOW." It noted that the plaintiff itself admitted "WOW" was a common laudatory term, not inherently distinctive. The Court reiterated that such descriptive expressions cannot be monopolized without strong proof of secondary meaning, which the plaintiff failed to provide.

Additionally, "WOW! BURGER" had been used only briefly as a menu item before being replaced by "Moburg," weakening the plaintiff's claim of proprietary use. Finding "WOW! MOMO" and "WOW BURGER" visually and conceptually distinct, the Court concluded there was no likelihood of confusion and denied the injunction, reaffirming that generic terms remain public property.

[CS(COMM) 1161/2024 & I.A. 48983-48984/2024]

ZEPTO PRIVATE LIMITED & ANR v OWNER OF DOMAIN NAME ZEPTONOWINDIA.COM & ORS.

Plaintiff 1, Zepto, a leading quick-commerce company delivering groceries and essentials across India, owns the registered trademark "Zepto." Plaintiff 2, its wholly owned subsidiary, operates its website and mobile applications under the domains zeptonow.com and zepto.com.

Zepto alleged that Defendants 1-7 and unknown parties (Defendant 19) were running fraudulent schemes misusing its name and goodwill by offering fake Zepto franchises and job opportunities, collecting money through various bank accounts. Defendants 2 and 3 were found operating zeptojob.com and zeptojobs.in, falsely posing as Zepto's official recruitment portals. Numerous fake social media profiles also impersonated Zepto representatives. Following complaints from victims, Zepto issued a public warning on LinkedIn.

The Delhi High Court found that the defendants were misusing Zepto's mark to deceive the public through forged letters, fake postings, and unauthorized use of the company's name and management details. Holding that Zepto had made a strong prima facie case, the Court ruled that irreparable harm would result without immediate relief.

TRADEMARK TAPESTRY

An ex-parte ad-interim injunction was granted restraining the defendants from using Zepto's mark for fraudulent recruitment or impersonation, while directing suspension of infringing domains, freezing of bank accounts, and blocking of related websites and phone numbers.

[CS(COMM) 895/2025 & I.A. 20930-20935/2025]

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DELHI HIGH COURT AFFIRMS COMPOSER'S AUTHORSHIP IN "VEERA RAJA VEERA" DISPUTE

The Delhi High Court allowed AR Rahman's appeal against an interim order that had directed him to credit the Junior Dagar Brothers for the composition "Shiva Stuti" used in the song Veera Raja Veera. The Court held that authorship under Section 2(d)(ii) of the Copyright Act, 1957 lies in the act of composition, not performance, and that the plaintiff's claim was based on performance lineage rather than demonstrable creative authorship. It noted that the composition was part of the broader Dagarvani tradition and had been publicly performed by multiple artists over decades. The Court found no prima facie evidence of exclusive authorship or copyright ownership and emphasized that moral rights cannot be asserted without establishing authorship. It set aside the Single Judge's interim directions and remanded the matter for trial on merits.

[AR RAHMAN V/S USTAD FAIYAZ WASIFUDDIN DAGAR & ORS., FAO (OS) (COMM) 86/2025 & CM APPL. 27354/2025]

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DELHI HIGH COURT GRANTS DYNAMIC COPYRIGHT INJUNCTION TO JIOSTAR AGAINST ROGUE STREAMING SITES

In JioStar India Private Limited V/s <https://crichdstreaming.com> & ors, Justice Tejas Karia ordered interim relief to JioStar India Pvt. Ltd., the plaintiff holding exclusive digital broadcast rights for the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, against a network of "rogue" streaming websites. The Court (i) exempted JioStar from pre-litigation mediation under the Commercial Courts Act given the urgency, (ii) granted a 'Dynamic+' injunction restraining unauthorized streaming of the tournament (including future matches) via identified or mirror sites, and (iii) directed ISPs, domain registrars, DoT and MeITY to block, suspend, and enforce compliance. The order also permits JioStar to add newly discovered infringing websites in real time during the tournament.

[JioStar India Private Limited V/s <https://crichdstreaming.com> & ors, I.A. 24243/2025]

HERA PHERI PRODUCER SENDS RS. 25 CRORE LEGAL NOTICE OVER UNAUTHORIZED USE OF BABURAO APTE CHARACTER

The producers of the iconic film *Hera Pheri* have sent a legal notice worth Rs. 25 crore to the makers of *The Kapil Sharma Show*, alleging unauthorized use of the beloved character Baburao Apte. The notice claims that the show's depiction infringes upon the copyright and moral rights of the film's creators, as Baburao Apte is a distinctive character associated with the original film. The producers argue that the unauthorized portrayal amounts to misappropriation and dilution of their intellectual property, potentially misleading viewers and leveraging the character's reputation for commercial gain. This move underscores the importance of respecting copyright and character rights in media and entertainment.

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MADRAS HC ORDERS SONY MUSIC TO DISCLOSE REVENUE IN ILAIYARAJA COPYRIGHT CASE

The Madras High Court has directed Sony Music Entertainment, Echo Recording, and Oriental Records to submit detailed accounts of revenue and budgets concerning the commercial use of composer Ilaiyaraaja's works. The veteran composer has alleged that over 7,500 of his Tamil and Telugu compositions have been used without his authorization. Ilaiyaraaja emphasized that his collaborations were on a principal-to-principal basis, which allows him to retain ownership and control over his compositions. The court's order aims to examine the extent of unauthorized usage, the financial gains made by the defendants, and any potential damages due. The matter is scheduled for further hearing on October 22, 2025.

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DELHI HIGH COURT RULES ON NOKIA'S CONFIDENTIALITY CLUB IN SEP SUITS

The Delhi High Court has ruled on the formation of a Confidentiality Club in Nokia's SEP infringement suits against ASUS, Acer, and Hisense. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora allowed the inclusion of defendants' in-house representatives, mirroring their counterparts in foreign proceedings, while rejecting Nokia's plea to impose a two-year licensing restriction. The Court permitted limited redactions of confidential licensing terms subject to safeguards, but clarified that unredacted copies must be available to counsels for inspection. Crucially, Nokia was directed to disclose *all comparable licenses* to enable a fair FRAND assessment, thereby reinforcing transparency and balance in SEP disputes.

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BHU RECEIVES PATENT FOR WORLD'S FIRST BIOFEEDBACK-ENABLED NECK EXERCISE DEVICE

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), in collaboration with IIT-BHU, has been granted a patent for the world's first biofeedback-enabled neck isometric exercise device. This innovative technology aims to assist in the rehabilitation of patients suffering from neck pain and disorders by providing real-time biofeedback during exercises. The device features a force-sensitive sensor-equipped headgear that measures applied force in various directions, an ergonomically designed chair to ensure correct posture, and a real-time biofeedback system that displays information to both the patient and therapist via a graphical interface. Additionally, it offers two exercise protocols- hold-relax mode and continuous mode and includes data recording and analysis capabilities to monitor patient progress.

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INTERNATIONAL

HEXAWARE FACES \$500 MILLION PATENT LAWSUIT IN THE U.S.

Natsoft Corporation, a U.S.-based IT firm, filed a \$500 million lawsuit against Hexaware Technologies Ltd, an Indian IT company, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Natsoft alleges that Hexaware unauthorizedly used software modernization technologies covered by nine patents developed by Updraft LLC, a company Natsoft acquired in 2024. The complaint claims that Hexaware integrated these technologies into its platforms- RapidX, Amaze, and Tensai/ATOP without permission and misused confidential information obtained during prior collaboration. Hexaware has stated that it believes the lawsuit is without merit and does not anticipate a material financial impact. The case highlights the growing significance of intellectual property enforcement for Indian IT firms operating globally.

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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SLAPS 100% TARIFF ON BRANDED AND PATENTED DRUGS, RAISING CONCERNS FOR INDIAN PHARMA

The United States has imposed a 100% tariff on all imports of branded and patented pharmaceutical products, unless the exporting company is establishing manufacturing facilities within the U.S. President Donald Trump stated that the move is aimed at strengthening domestic pharma manufacturing and reducing reliance on foreign imports. While Indian drugmakers are major suppliers of generics to the U.S. which are likely exempt ambiguity remains around the treatment of “branded generics.” Analysts caution that complex generics, biosimilars, and specialty patented products could face significant hurdles, with estimates suggesting that companies like Sun Pharma may face potential exposure of up to USD 100 million. The development signals a tougher trade environment for Indian pharmaceutical exporters and underscores the need for global players to reassess supply chain strategies.

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U.S. COURT APPROVES \$1.5 BILLION COPYRIGHT SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ANTHROPIC AND AUTHORS

A U.S. federal court has granted preliminary approval to a \$1.5 billion class-action settlement between AI company Anthropic and a group of authors who

alleged that their books were unlawfully used to train the company’s Claude chatbot. Judge William Alsup held that the settlement was “fair” though requiring refinements in the claims process to ensure equitable distribution, especially for lesser-known writers. The agreement covers around 465,000 books, with authors expected to receive approximately USD 3,000 per title. While limited to past works and subject to final approval, the settlement marks one of the largest copyright resolutions in the AI sector and sets a significant precedent for how courts may address the use of copyrighted material in training datasets.

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COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA vs. MONSANTO HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED & ORS.

The Supreme Court dismissed the Competition Commission of India’s (CCI) petition challenging a Delhi High Court ruling that had quashed its investigation into Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson and Monsanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd. A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Sandeep Mehta declined to interfere, noting that the original informants had no remaining grievance, while leaving questions of law open for future consideration.

Represented by Advocate Samar Bansal, the CCI faced Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Navin Pahwa, Vibha Datta Makhija, and C.S. Vaidyanathan for the respondents. The Delhi High Court had held that once the informant and patentee settled, the foundation of CCI’s proceedings disappeared. It ruled that CCI lacked jurisdiction since its proposed inquiry overlapped with the Controller’s authority under Chapter XVI of the Patents Act, 1970.

The key question before the High Court was whether the CCI could investigate patentees’ conduct under the Competition Act, 2002, when such conduct stemmed from exercising patent rights. The complaints alleged that Ericsson and Monsanto imposed unfair and excessive licensing terms for their standard essential patents, violating Sections 3 and 4 of the Competition Act. The Court concluded that the Patents Act prevailed in such cases, holding that patent-related competition issues fall outside CCI’s jurisdiction.

[Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No.25026/2023]



ANM ThinkPod

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ANM Global announced promotions of colleagues: Anisha Shetty as Partner, Shwetank Tripathi as Partner Designate, Gaurav Suryavanshi as Principal Associate, and Raashi Vaishya, Dishita Shah, Jinal Doshi as Senior Associate. Their legal acumen, client service, and excellence reflect the firm's philosophy of nurturing talent and recognising merit.

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PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT


ANISHA SHETTY
PARTNER


SHWETANK TRIPATHI
PARTNER DESIGNATE


GAURAV SURYAVANSHI
PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE


JINAL DOSHI
SENIOR ASSOCIATE


RAASHI VAISHYA
SENIOR ASSOCIATE


DISHITA SHAH
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

From The Economic Times

Advocates & Legal Consultants

QUOTED BY ET LEGAL - "GAME ON: CAN INDIA'S NEW SPORTS LAW FUEL A LUCRATIVE LEGAL PRACTICE?"



"Compliance will become systematic. The bigger clubs and federations will go to law firms. The smaller ones might rely on independent lawyers. Either way, this creates a stream of legal work that simply didn't exist before.

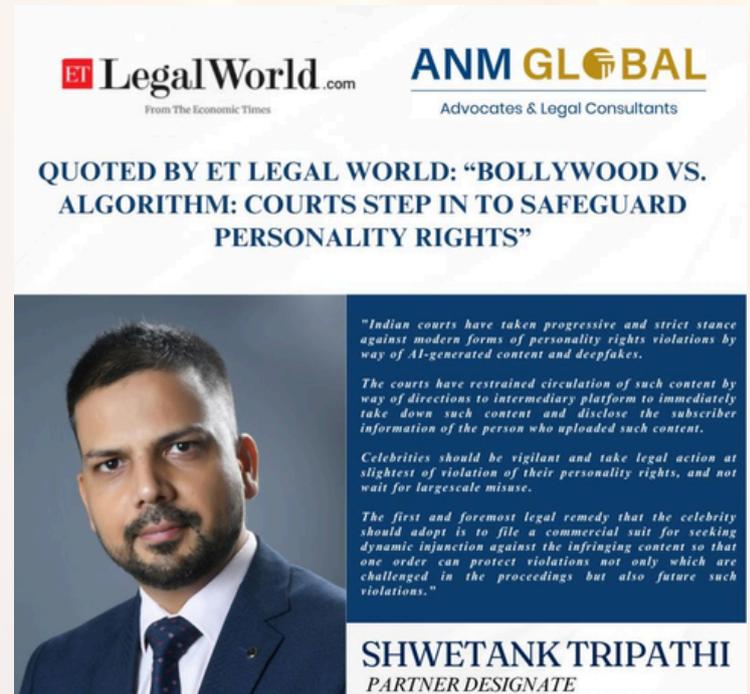
This will open doors for a lot of young sports lawyers. But the ecosystem itself has to mature. Otherwise, it risks being an opportunity without longevity."

NIDHISH MEHROTRA
MANAGING PARTNER

ANM Global Managing Partner Nidhish Mehrotra was quoted in ETLegalWorld's feature "Game On: Can India's New Sports Law Fuel a Lucrative Legal Practice?" sharing perspectives on regulatory compliance in Indian sports law, as the evolving sports and gaming landscape creates new waves of legal work.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Partner Designate Shwetank Tripathi was quoted in ET Legal World's feature "Bollywood vs. Algorithm: Courts Step In to Safeguard Personality Rights." The recognition reflects the firm's commitment to discussions on emerging legal issues and conversations at the intersection of law, technology, and society.



ANM Global's Partner Designate Shwetank Tripathi was quoted in Outlook Business feature "Why Celebrities Take Legal Action over Names, Images & Phrases — Personality Rights Issue Explained," highlighting growing relevance of this area of law with digital media and influencer culture.

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ANM Global–Scriboard hosted a Roundtable on Data Privacy, Cybersecurity & AI on Friday, 26 September 2025, at MCA, BKC. Chaired by Rodney D. Ryder, the session explored technology, regulation, and law, creating a platform for dialogue on digital law and policy.

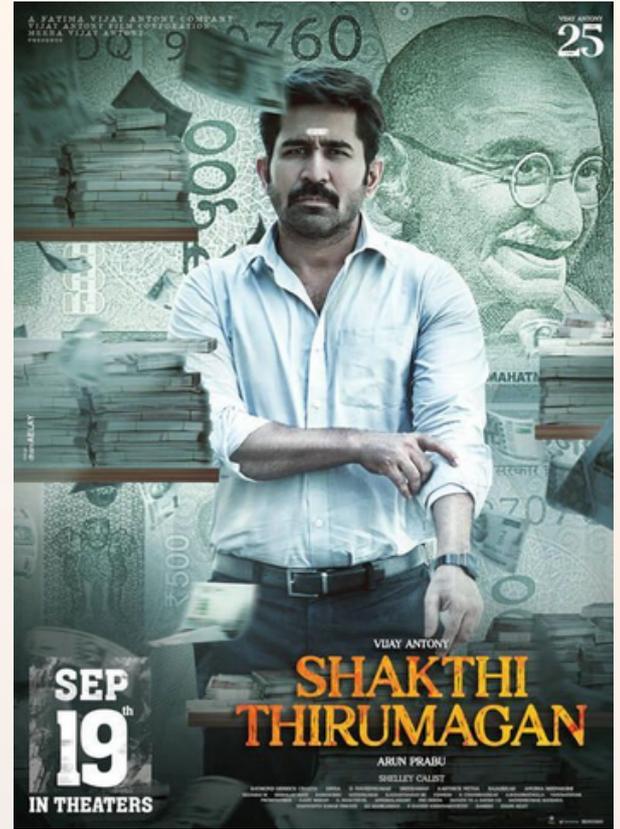


ANM Global’s Partner Sneha Nanandkar represented the firm at INDIA ADR WEEK 2025 by MCIA and IPBA Arbitration Day, Mumbai, engaging with global practitioners on issues from arbitration regime lacunas to ESG, treaties, enforceability of arbitral awards, and climate change, reinforcing ANM Global’s commitment to international arbitration discourse and stronger dispute resolution frameworks.



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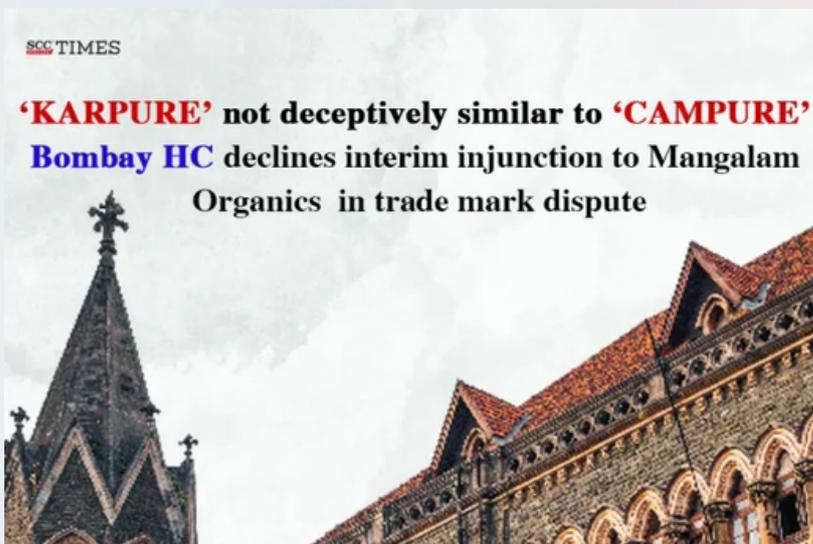
ANM Global represented RKD Studios in acquiring and exploiting dubbing rights of Shakthi Thirumagan, directed by Arun Prabhu Purushottaman with Vijay Antony and cast, released on 19th September 2025, enabling wider reach in all world languages except South Indian through its Hindi dubbed version.



ANM Global provided legal support to I AM Buddha Entertainment & Media LLP for Hindi film “The Bengal Files”, directed by Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri and released on 5th September 2025, handling production-related legal matters, contractual engagements, and distribution deals across mediums, while extending best wishes to the team.

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ANM Global represented Tips Music Limited in drafting, negotiating, and executing the exploitation agreement for Mirai's music rights. Directed by Karthik Gattamneni. The epic tale features Teja Sajja, Ritika Nayak, Manoj Kumar Manchu, and cast.



ANM Global successfully represented N. Ranga Rao & Sons Private Limited in the matter of Mangalam Organics Ltd. v. N. Ranga Rao & Sons Pvt. Ltd., where the Hon'ble Bombay High Court refused to grant an interim injunction against the use of the marks "KARPURE" / "AIR KARPURE."

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

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