

LIGHTS, CAMERA & LAW

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT LAWS UPDATES

OCTOBER , 2025



AUTHORS

SHABBIR SHAMIM, SENIOR ASSOCIATE

CHITRAKSH TEVATIA, ASSOCIATE

ANM GLOBAL

Advocates & Legal Consultants

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN PLEA SEEKING GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT BLOCKING

The Honourable Supreme Court of India, in the case of *Dr. Raman Kundra and Anr. v. WhatsApp LLC/Meta Platform and Ors.*, declined to entertain a petition seeking nationwide guidelines to regulate suspension and blocking of user accounts by social media intermediaries, including messaging platforms like WhatsApp.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioners submitted that their WhatsApp accounts, used for client communication by their clinic and diagnostic centre, had been blocked without any prior notice or explanation. Allowing the Petitioners to withdraw their petition, the Apex Court remarked that WhatsApp and similar intermediary platforms are not 'State' entities, and hence, a writ under Article 32 of the Constitution would not be maintainable.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

DELHI HIGH COURT PROTECTS HRITHIK ROSHAN'S PERSONALITY RIGHTS BUT DECLINES TO REMOVE FAN PAGES

The Honourable Delhi High Court grants protection to actor Hrithik Roshan in relation to his personality and publicity rights and further directed the removal of certain links and listings on internet and e-commerce platforms that infringed upon the personality rights of the actor.

The actor had sought protection against the unauthorised commercial use of his name, image, and likeness, alleging that third parties were exploiting his persona to sell merchandise and using his videos in unauthorised dance tutorials. However, the Honourable Court observed that dance tutorials using publicly available songs did not amount to commercial exploitation.

On the plea to remove fan pages, the Court clarified that

non-commercial fan clubs could not be taken down by passing an ex-parte order, noting that they were not defamatory and operated for "fun and recreation." The Court, however, directed the removal of AI-generated content impersonating the actor and asked the defendants to share Basic Subscriber Information (BSI). The next date of hearing is 27 March, 2026.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

AKSHAY KUMAR MOVES BOMBAY HIGH COURT OVER DEEPFAKE MISUSE, SEEKS PROTECTION OF PERSONALITY RIGHTS

Akshay Kumar approached the Honourable Bombay High Court seeking urgent protection of his personality rights against the growing misuse of his name, image, and voice through deepfake videos, AI-generated content, and fake endorsements. The plea alleges that unidentified entities are unlawfully commercialising the actor's persona by cloning his voice, creating obscene blogs, and circulating manipulated media across digital platforms.

Justice Arif Doctor heard the matter and reserved the order after hearing submissions from Senior Advocate Birendra Saraf, who argued that fabricated clips attributed to a public figure like Akshay Kumar could cause serious reputational and public harm before any clarification could be issued. Another manipulated video depicted the actor making remarks about Rishi Valmiki, which led to demonstrations in multiple regions.

The actor has sought a John Doe injunction against unknown individuals, social media intermediaries, and websites.

Access Source: [here](#) and [here](#)

Order Copy: [Source here](#)

PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS REVIEW OF 'SAFE HARBOUR' PROTECTION FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AMID FAKE NEWS SURGES

NATIONAL

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology has urged the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to outline its plan to revisit 'safe harbour' protections for social media intermediaries under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000, amid growing concerns over the spread of fake news.

In its report, the Committee called for major tech companies to appoint a dedicated nodal officer in India and sought inter-ministerial and international cooperation to address language barriers, and jurisdictional conflicts. The Committee highlighted that algorithmic biases and engagement-driven content models on digital platforms amplify sensational and misleading posts, incentivising the virality of misinformation.

Further, the Committee proposed a time-bound grievance redressal mechanism, a unified complaint portal, and public awareness campaigns to counter misinformation. While supporting self-regulation, it recommended extending such frameworks to all TV channels, mandating fact-checking units and internal ombudsmen across media formats and revoking accreditation of journalists or organisations found guilty of spreading fake news.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

BOMBAY HIGH COURT PROTECTS SUNIEL SHETTY'S PERSONALITY RIGHTS

The Honourable Bombay High Court granted ex-parte ad-interim relief to actor Suniel Shetty against the unauthorized use of his image, name, and likeness through AI-generated deepfakes, false endorsements, and impersonation on social media.

The Honourable Court observed that such acts amounted to a "*lethal combination of a depraved mind and misuse of technology*", infringing Shetty's personality rights, privacy, and dignity under Article 21. It restrained several defendants, including unknown "John Doe" entities, from circulating or profiting from any AI-generated or misleading content using Shetty's persona.

Meta Platforms and X Corp. were directed to take down infringing material and provide details of the uploaders. The matter will next be heard on 17 November 2025.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

KUMAR SANU MOVES DELHI HIGH COURT OVER AI VOICE CLONING AND MISUSE OF PERSONA

Playback singer Kumar Sanu has sought protection of his personality and publicity rights, including his name, voice, vocal style, and technique, from unauthorized use and commercial exploitation. Mr. Sanu alleged that several entities have been using his likeness, voice, and performances without permission, circulating GIFs, videos, and AI-cloned audio that misrepresent him and cause reputational harm. The singer claimed these acts infringe his moral rights under the Copyright Act and constitute false endorsements and passing off.

The plea also highlights the misuse of artificial intelligence to clone his voice and morph his image for unlicensed content and merchandise shared across social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, which generate revenue through clicks and views. Mr. Sanu urged the court to restrain such activities through an injunction, stressing that these acts dilute his identity, mislead the public, and exploit his artistic legacy for commercial gain.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

LEGAL NOTICE SENT TO MAKERS OF YAMI GAUTAM AND EMRAAN HASHMI FILM "HAQ" OVER SHAH BANO PORTRAYAL

Siddiqua Begum, daughter of late Shah Bano Begum, has issued a legal notice to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), director Suparn S. Varma, and producers Jungle Pictures and Baweja Studios against the upcoming cinematograph film Haq, starring Yami Gautam and Emraan Hashmi, which is reportedly

inspired by the Shah Bano case. Siddiqua Begum alleged that the film was made without the consent or authorization from the legal heirs of late Shah Bano Begum.

Siddiqua claims that the said film represents an unauthorized use, distortion, and commercialization of her mother's life, violating Article 21 (Right to Privacy and Dignity), personality and publicity rights, and provisions under the Copyright Act, 1957 and the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The notice demands that the CBFC withhold or revoke certification of the film and all concerned parties to immediately cease and desist from releasing, promoting, or screening the film until written consent is obtained from Shah Bano Begum's legal heirs. However, the makers of film have not yet responded to the said notice.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

DELHI HIGH COURT ISSUES NOTICE TO RED CHILLIES, NETFLIX ON SAMEER WANKHEDE'S DEFAMATION SUIT OVER 'BA*DS OF BOLLYWOOD'**

The Honourable Delhi High Court issued notices to Red Chillies Entertainment, Netflix, and others in a defamation suit filed by IRS officer Sameer Wankhede over the web series "*Ba***ds of Bollywood*". Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav directed the defendants, including X (formerly Twitter), Google, and Meta Platforms, to file their replies within seven days. The Court, however, declined to grant interim relief at this stage on Wankhede's plea seeking removal of allegedly defamatory content from online platforms, observing that the matter "could have wider ramifications."

Wankhede, who led the 2021 Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raid that resulted in Aryan Khan's arrest in a cruise ship drug case, claims the series falsely maligns him and discredits anti-drug enforcement agencies. He has sought ₹2 crore in damages, pledging to donate the amount to Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital. The plea also

alleges that the series violates the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, and provisions of the IT Act and Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita for depicting obscene and offensive material that could outrage national sentiment. At the subsequent hearing, the defendants filed their replies, stating that the web series is a work of situational satire and not intended to defame the plaintiff. The defendants submitted that the content was inspired by material already available in the public domain and argued that Wankhede's reputation had been under public scrutiny prior to the web series' release.

Red Chillies Entertainment also questioned the maintainability of the suit before the Honourable Delhi High Court and invoked the defence of creative freedom and fair comment. The next day of hearing is 10 November 2025.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

DELHI HIGH COURT PROTECTS SUDHIR CHAUDHARY'S PERSONALITY RIGHTS, ORDERS TAKEDOWN OF DEEFAKE VIDEOS

The Honourable Delhi High Court has granted an ex-parte ad-interim injunction protecting the personality rights of journalist and DD News Editor-in-Chief, Sudhir Chaudhary.

Chaudhary argued that multiple YouTube and social media channels had created and circulated AI-generated deepfake videos misusing his name, likeness, voice, and image to spread false and misleading news for commercial gain, thereby infringing his personality, publicity, and trademark rights, and causing reputational harm.

The Honourable Court directed that all infringing links be taken down within 48 hours and further ordered that if the concerned defendants fail to comply, Google LLC must remove the content within the same timeframe.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

MAJOR HOLLYWOOD AND BOLLYWOOD STUDIOS URGE INDIA TO TIGHTEN COPYRIGHT RULES AGAINST AI TRAINING

Major Hollywood and Bollywood film bodies are lobbying an Indian government panel to strengthen copyright protection and restrict artificial intelligence firms from using copyrighted content to train AI models, letters reviewed by Reuters show.

The Motion Picture Association (MPA), which represents Warner Bros, Paramount, and Netflix, and the Producers Guild of India have urged that India must reject proposals for blanket AI training exemptions and instead adopt a licensing-based regime. MPA India's Managing Director Uday Singh warned in a letter to the panel that allowing such exceptions could "undermine the incentive to create new works and erode copyright protection in India." The government-constituted panel, led by commerce ministry official Himani Pande, is currently reviewing whether India's copyright framework adequately addresses AI-related challenges and is expected to submit recommendations soon.

AI industry groups such as the Business Software Alliance, which represents AI companies like OpenAI, have advocated for fair-use exceptions. On the other hand, MPA members argue that opt-out systems would unfairly burden rights holders and deter investment in high-quality local content.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

TRAI RECOMMENDS FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL RADIO BROADCASTING IN 13 MAJOR CITIES

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on 3 October 2025, released its recommendations on formulating a Digital Radio Broadcast Policy for private broadcasters, proposing the introduction of digital radio services in 13 major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune. TRAI has suggested that digital radio services begin in simulcast mode, allowing new and existing FM

broadcasters to air one analog, three digital, and one data channel on a single frequency.

The Authority also recommended auction-based spectrum assignment under the Telecommunication Act, 2023 and set reserve prices for the same. The policy framework includes a 15-year authorization period, a 4% adjusted gross revenue (AGR) fee, and allows voluntary migration for current FM operators within six months of the spectrum auction. TRAI further proposed introducing a new authorization for Radio Broadcasting Infrastructure Providers and called for government advisories to ensure digital radio receiver availability in mobile phones and vehicles. According to TRAI, digital radio will enable broadcasters to deliver superior audio quality, additional channels, opening new business opportunities and enriching the listener experience.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Access Link: Recommendations [here](#)

GOVERNMENT PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO IT RULES TO REGULATE DEEPFAKES AND SYNTHETIC MEDIA

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), on 22 October 2025, proposed amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, aimed at tackling the growing misuse of synthetically generated information, including deepfakes, misinformation, and other harmful AI-generated content.

The draft amendment seeks to strengthen due diligence obligations for intermediaries and social media platforms by introducing new labelling, traceability, and accountability requirements for synthetic media. Under the proposed framework, platforms enabling the creation or sharing of such content must ensure visible labels or embedded metadata identifying it as "synthetically generated information."

Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs) will be required to obtain user declarations on whether uploaded content is AI-generated and verify these through

NATIONAL

reasonable technical measures. They must also prominently label such content to help users distinguish between authentic and synthetic material. The draft amendment also introduces a statutory definition of “synthetically generated information” and clarifies its inclusion under existing provisions dealing with unlawful online acts. Intermediaries acting in good faith to remove harmful synthetic content will retain protection under Section 79(2) of the IT Act.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Access Link: Draft Amendment [here](#)

GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS ONLINE CONTENT TAKEDOWN RULES, LIMITS AUTHORITY TO SENIOR OFFICIALS

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified an amendment to Rule 3(1)(d) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, tightening the framework for online content removal. The move follows a lengthy legal dispute with Elon Musk’s social media platform X, which had raised concerns over the broad powers previously granted to lower-level officers.

Under the new rules, which take effect on November 15, only senior bureaucrats of joint secretary rank or above and police officers serving as deputy inspector general or higher will be authorised to request content removals. MeitY said the changes are aimed at improving transparency, accountability, and procedural safeguards. Each takedown order will now have to include clear reasoning, specify the legal basis and statutory provision invoked, and identify the exact URL or location of the content in question. A secretary-level officer will review all orders on a monthly basis to ensure they remain lawful and proportionate.

Before this revision, a wider range of officials, including inspectors, were able to issue takedown requests. That framework came under fire after police orders targeted cartoons and satirical posts, prompting one of X’s most

public legal battles with the government. MeitY said the updated rules strike a balance between protecting citizens’ constitutional rights and maintaining necessary regulatory powers.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Access Link: Notification [here](#)

GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH SINGLE-WINDOW PORTAL FOR FASTER APPROVALS OF LIVE EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

The government is set to roll out a new digital portal aimed at streamlining permissions for live shows, concerts, and cultural festivals across India. Developed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the single-window platform will consolidate multiple approvals, allowing organisers to access venue details, review capacity limits, check pre-cleared licences, and obtain final permissions within 15 days.

The decision was finalised at a recent meeting of the joint working group, now renamed the Live Events Development Cell, which brings together officials from key central ministries, nine state governments, and leading industry bodies. The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s earlier call to harness India’s growing youth-driven festival and concert culture as a force for cultural exchange and economic growth. By digitising and centralising permissions, the government hopes to boost India’s creative economy, attract global talent, and establish the country as a preferred destination for large-scale cultural and entertainment events.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

CENTRE ANNOUNCES SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR PRINT, TV AND RADIO VIA HIGHER AD RATES AND REGULATORY REFORMS

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) initiated a significant support package to strengthen traditional media sectors including print, television, and

radio, amidst rising digital disruption. As part of the measures, the Government has proposed a 27% increase in advertisement rates for print media, with the formal notification expected after the Bihar Assembly elections. The Ministry is also working on comprehensive regulatory reforms for the radio sector, noting that it has “shrunk to almost a negligible level” under the current regime, and plans to revise the television audience rating framework to address distortions affecting news broadcasters.

Additionally, the Centre has proposed the administrative integration of three key media-related bodies, the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), and the Press Information Bureau (PIB), to streamline outreach and compliance mechanisms.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

COMPOSER ILAIYARAAJA MOVES MADRAS HIGH COURT ALLEGING UNAUTHORISED USE OF SONGS IN TAMIL FILM “DUDE”

In the case of Ilaiyaraaja v. Sony Music Entertainment India Pvt Ltd & Ors., the Plaintiff informed the Honourable Madras High Court that two of his compositions had been incorporated into the Tamil language feature film “Dude” without his authorisation and that Defendants continued to exploit his repertoire despite earlier objections.

The Plaintiff submitted that the Defendants had not complied with earlier interim directions requiring disclosure of revenue and royalty accounts from streaming and other exploitation and sought appropriate remedies including accountings and relief from the Honourable Court. The Defendants submitted that they are inclined to file the revenue statement in a sealed cover and a transfer petition had been filed before the Honourable Supreme Court, and a notice has been issued. The Honourable Madras High Court noted the pendency of related proceedings before the Honourable Supreme Court and decided not to take the revenue statement on record.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

MOHALI COURT ORDERS REMOVAL OF AI-GENERATED VIDEOS TARGETING PUNJAB CM MANN

A Judicial Magistrate First Class at the Court in Mohali directed major social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X Corp and Telegram, to remove a list of 166 specified URLs containing objectionable videos targeting Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. An application filed by the State Cyber Crime Department alleging that the content was fabricated, possibly AI-generated, vulgar and capable of disturbing public order.

The Court further instructed Google to de-index and de-reference the specified material so that it does not appear in search results, and required all intermediaries to preserve records of the offending content to prevent destruction of evidence. The Court warned the intermediaries that non-compliance would lead to forfeiture of intermediary immunity under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the IT Rules, 2021.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

DELHI HIGH COURT RESTRAINS USE OF “BRO CODE” AS FILM TITLE BY RAVI MOHAN STUDIO

The Honourable Delhi High Court granted an ad-interim injunction restraining the Ravi Mohan Studios Pvt Ltd. from using “BRO CODE” as the title of their upcoming Tamil film. The plaintiff, Indospirit Beverages Pvt Ltd., asserted that “BROCODE” is a registered mark used in the beverage segment and for entertainment-linked promotions, and that adoption of an identical title for a film would cause dilution, confusion and false association.

The Honourable Court held that a prima facie case of

infringement was made out and that the balance of convenience lay in favour of protection of the registered mark. Further, the Honourable Court noted that the existence of a groundless-threat suit filed by the defendants in another High Court cannot bar a trademark court from granting injunction when statutory infringement is shown. The defendants' plea of creative and non-commercial use was not accepted at the interim stage. The injunction binds the defendants from using, publishing, advertising or promoting the impugned title or any deceptively similar expression until the next date of hearing.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Order Copy: Source [here](#)

DELHI HIGH COURT DECLINES URGENT HEARING ON PIL AGAINST RELEASE OF “THE TAJ STORY”

In a public interest litigation (PIL) filed before the Honourable Delhi High Court, Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, declined an urgent hearing to halt the scheduled release of the Hindi language cinematograph film “The Taj Story”. The PIL alleged that the film distorts historical facts about the Taj Mahal, undermines national heritage and risks communal unrest.

The PIL indicated that the said film had been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) without due scrutiny and sought directives to the Union government and states to prevent any unrest. The Honourable Court acknowledged the urgency of the matter but directed the parties to appear for regular hearing instead, rejecting a fast-track hearing.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

INTERNATIONAL

SINGAPORE TABLES BILL TO CREATE ONLINE SAFETY COMMISSION WITH POWERS TO BLOCK HARMFUL CONTENT

The Singapore government introduced a bill in their parliament to establish a new Online Safety Commission with sweeping powers to order social media platforms and internet service providers to block access to harmful content. The move follows a February study by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), which found that over half of legitimate user complaints about posts involving child abuse, cyberbullying, and harassment were not promptly addressed by platforms.

Under the bill, the new commission will be empowered to act on local user reports of online harms, including harassment, doxing, stalking, abuse of intimate images, and child pornography. It will also be able to direct platforms to restrict access to harmful material within Singapore, grant victims a right of reply, and ban perpetrators from using the platforms.

The bill also allows the commission to order internet service providers to block access to specific online pages or entire websites. Additional categories of harm, such as non-consensual data disclosure and incitement of enmity, will be added in later stages. The bill will be debated in the next session in the parliament.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

HOLLYWOOD AND TALENT AGENCIES CLASH WITH OPENAI OVER 'SORA 2' AI VIDEO TOOL

A year after OpenAI stunned Hollywood with its Sora video generator, the tech firm is again under fire following the launch of Sora 2, an upgraded AI tool that allows users to upload videos of real people and place them in synthetic environments with dialogue and sound. The new feature has ignited fierce backlash across the entertainment industry, with studios, unions, and major talent agencies accusing OpenAI of infringing on likeness and copyright protections.

Talent agencies including WME, CAA, and UTA have

informed OpenAI that their clients will opt out of the platform. Studios such as Warner Bros. Discovery argued that copyright protection does not require "opting out" to prevent misuse. OpenAI executives have pushed back, saying Sora 2 includes safeguards and that creators can request content removal.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

APPLE FACES LAWSUIT OVER ALLEGED USE OF PIRATED BOOKS TO TRAIN 'APPLE INTELLIGENCE' AI

Apple has been hit with a proposed class-action lawsuit before the California federal court by two neuroscientists who alleged that Apple used thousands of pirated books to train its Apple Intelligence artificial intelligence model. Professors Susana Martinez-Conde and Stephen Macknik of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University claim Apple relied on "shadow libraries" containing illegally copied books and other copyrighted material to build its AI system.

Their own works were allegedly among the pirated titles. The complaint seeks monetary damages and a court order barring Apple from further misuse of copyrighted works. Apple Intelligence, unveiled earlier this year, integrates AI-powered tools into the iPhone, iPad, and other Apple devices. The case adds to a growing wave of copyright lawsuits targeting tech giants, including OpenAI, Microsoft, and Meta, over AI training practices.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

GOOGLE SAYS AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR UNDER-16S 'EXTREMELY DIFFICULT' TO ENFORCE

Alphabet-owned Google warned that Australia's upcoming law banning people under 16 years of age from using social media would be "extremely difficult" to enforce and unlikely to make children safer online. Australia will become the first country to block social media access for users under the age of 16 years when the

INTERNATIONAL

law takes effect in December 2025. Under the new rules, platforms are not required to conduct formal age verification but must use AI and behavioural data to infer users' ages.

At a parliamentary hearing, Rachel Lord, YouTube's senior manager of government affairs in Australia, said the programme, though "well-intentioned," could lead to "unintended consequences." She added, "The legislation will not only be extremely difficult to enforce, it also does not fulfil its promise of making kids safer online." Australia passed its Online Safety Amendment in November 2024, giving companies until 10 December 2025 to comply or deactivate underage accounts. Google maintains that YouTube should not be treated as a social media platform under the law, arguing that effective online safety depends on parental controls and digital tools, not blanket bans.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

U.K. STUDIOS WARNED OF LEGAL ACTION OVER INDUSTRY BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI FILM INSTITUTIONS

Several leading film studios and organizations in the U.K., including the local arms of Netflix, Disney, Amazon Studios, Apple, Warner Bros. Discovery, and domestic entities such as the BBC, Film4, and ITV, have received legal warnings from 'U.K. Lawyers for Israel' over an industry-wide boycott of Israeli film institutions. The legal letter argues that the boycott, endorsed by actors Joaquin Phoenix, Emma Stone, Olivia Colman, Mark Ruffalo, and thousands of film professionals, violates the U.K.'s Equality Act 2010, which prohibits discrimination based on nationality, ethnicity, or religion.

It warns that participation could expose studios, agents, and artists to legal and insurance liabilities, and potentially render productions ineligible for public funding. The boycott, organized by Film Workers for Palestine, pledges to refuse work with Israeli film institutions allegedly "implicated in genocide and apartheid." The group maintains the move is a "moral and legal imperative" aimed at ending complicity in human rights violations against Palestinians.

The warning follows a similar letter issued in the United States last month by 'Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights', cautioning that the Hollywood boycott could breach U.S. federal and state civil rights laws.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

SINGER LOLA YOUNG SUES PRODUCER CARTER LANG OVER SONGWRITING CREDIT DISPUTE

British singer-songwriter Lola Young filed a legal claim in London's Intellectual Property Court against U.S. producer Carter Lang, alleging wrongful claims to song writing credits on four of her tracks, including her chart-topping hit Messy. The case, filed jointly by Young and Sony Music Publishing, comes amid a dispute that her lawyers said had been ongoing for several months.

They stated that Young had "no choice" but to take legal action after Lang asserted authorship over multiple songs. "It is with immense disappointment, especially given recent events, that we have had to respond to these claims," her legal team said. Lang, who has yet to respond publicly, is best known for his work with artists including SZA, Post Malone, Justin Bieber, and Rosé. Young's representatives have not confirmed which four tracks are involved in the lawsuit, but maintained that she has "always acknowledged song writing contributions where appropriate."

Access Link: Source [here](#)

MAJOR NEWS OUTLETS LOSE PENTAGON ACCESS AFTER REJECTING NEW MEDIA RULES

More than 30 major news organisations, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Reuters, CNN, and The Associated Press, have lost access to the Pentagon after refusing to sign a new set of restrictive media guidelines introduced by the U.S. Department of Defense. The Pentagon's 21-page policy, issued under Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, requires journalists to agree to new terms in order to retain press credentials and access to the building. The rules sharply limit reporters' ability to move freely within the Pentagon, speak with staff, and report on classified or even some

INTERNATIONAL

unclassified information.

The deadline for compliance expired on October 15, prompting the Pentagon to begin confiscating media badges. The Pentagon Press Association (PPA), representing more than 100 outlets, said that the new policy could “criminalise national security reporting” and expose journalists to prosecution. Critics say the guidelines infringe on constitutional press freedoms established by the landmark 1971 New York Times v. United States case, which upheld the right to publish the Pentagon Papers. Media outlets have pledged to continue reporting on the Defense Department from outside its walls.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

CALIFORNIA PASSES LAW TO CURB LOUD ADS ON STREAMING PLATFORMS

California has enacted a new law that bans streaming services from playing commercials louder than the programs they accompany, extending long-standing broadcast volume limits to the digital era. Signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on 19 October, the law builds on the federal Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act of 2010, which regulates ad volume on television and radio. Starting July 1, 2026, streaming services operating in California will be required to ensure that advertisements do not exceed the average volume of the main video content.

The legislation, introduced by State Senator Thomas Umberg, was inspired by a real-life complaint from his staff member, whose infant daughter was startled awake by a loud streaming ad. “This bill was inspired by baby Samantha and every exhausted parent who’s finally gotten a baby to sleep,” Umberg said. Industry groups initially pushed back, arguing that streaming platforms like Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video lack the same level of control over ad volume as traditional broadcasters.

However, after amendments barred individuals from suing platforms for violations, the Motion Picture Association and the Streaming Innovation Alliance

remained neutral. With this law, California aims to give viewers some peace and a quieter night in front of the screen.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

SPOTIFY PARTNERS WITH MAJOR MUSIC LABELS TO DEVELOP ‘RESPONSIBLE’ AI TOOLS THAT PROTECT ARTISTS’ RIGHTS

On 16 October, Spotify announced a landmark partnership with the world’s biggest music companies, Sony Music Group, Universal Music Group, and Warner Music Group, to develop artificial intelligence products that uphold copyright protections and ensure artists’ consent.

The streaming giant said the collaboration aims to create “responsible” AI-driven features that open new creative and commercial opportunities for musicians without compromising their intellectual property. Spotify emphasised that artists will not be forced to participate in any AI projects and that their rights will be fully respected. “Some voices in the tech industry believe copyright should be abolished. We don’t. Musicians’ rights matter.

If the music industry doesn’t lead at this moment, AI-powered innovation will happen elsewhere, without rights, consent, or compensation.” Spotify said in a blog post.

The announcement comes amid intensifying legal battles between record labels and AI startups. Universal, Sony, and Warner are currently suing two AI music companies, Udio and Suno, for allegedly using copyrighted works to train their models without permission. Spotify, which has more than 276 million paying subscribers, said it has launched a dedicated AI research lab to explore new ways to enhance fan experiences and generate additional revenue for artists and songwriters.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND PUBLISHING GROUPS URGE U.S. SUPREME COURT TO UPHOLD COPYRIGHT PROTECTIONS IN COX V. SONY CASE

The News/Media Alliance and the Association of American Publishers (AAP) filed an amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the respondents in *Cox Communications, Inc. v. Sony Music Entertainment*, a case that could redefine the scope of copyright liability for online service providers. The case centers on whether a company can be held responsible for “materially contributing” to copyright infringement if it knew infringing activity was taking place and failed to act, even without explicit intent to promote it.

In their filing, the two groups stressed that weakening the doctrine of contributory infringement by material contribution would severely undermine the ability of news, media, educational, and book publishers to protect their intellectual property online. They warned that large-scale digital piracy often involves anonymous direct infringers who are difficult to identify or pursue legally, making intermediary liability an essential safeguard.

The brief also highlighted how publishers rely on the existing legal framework under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) to combat infringement on major digital platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and online marketplaces like eBay. They argued that narrowing the doctrine could leave creators and rights holders with limited recourse against widespread online piracy.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

BBC FOUND IN ‘SERIOUS BREACH’ OF BROADCASTING RULES OVER GAZA DOCUMENTARY, ORDERED TO AIR AN APOLOGY

UK media regulator Ofcom has ruled that the BBC committed a “serious breach” of broadcasting rules by failing to disclose that the narrator of its documentary ‘*Gaza: How to Survive a Warzone*’ was the son of a Hamas official. The watchdog found the omission

“materially misleading” and ordered the broadcaster to air a prime-time statement acknowledging the breach. In a statement on 16 October, Ofcom said the failure to reveal the narrator’s family connection deprived viewers of crucial context that “may have been highly relevant to their assessment of the narrator and the information he provided.”

It added that the omission “had the potential to erode the high levels of trust audiences place in a BBC factual programme.” The ruling marks the first time since 2009 that the BBC has been sanctioned by Ofcom and required to broadcast an on-air apology. The regulator directed the BBC to air its statement on BBC2 at 9 p.m., with the date to be confirmed. The BBC has accepted Ofcom’s decision “in full,” saying it aligns with the findings of its internal review conducted earlier this year.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

KENYA EXPANDS CYBERCRIME LAW, GRANTING GOVERNMENT WIDE POWERS TO BLOCK WEBSITES AND APPS

Kenya’s new cybercrime law has sparked alarm among civil rights advocates after it granted the government sweeping powers to block websites and online applications deemed harmful to public interest. President William Ruto signed the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime (Amendment) Act, 2024 into law on October 15.

The amendments authorize the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee to direct internet providers to block access to sites or apps that allegedly promote pornography, terrorism, or what the law vaguely defines as “extreme religious and cultic practices.” The committee, dominated by security officials, can issue such orders without a court warrant or public oversight, raising fresh concerns about censorship and overreach. The amended law also broadens the offence of cyber harassment to include conduct “likely to cause” someone to commit suicide. This clause, critics say, is too vague and could be used to stifle dissent. The expansion follows last year’s youth-led protests against the Finance Bill 2024, during which

INTERNATIONAL

some politicians accused citizens of “cyberbullying” for criticizing them online.

While the government insists the law targets criminals, not critics, digital rights groups fear it marks a step backward for Kenya’s reputation as one of Africa’s most open online societies.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

EU TO OVERHAUL MEDIA AND COPYRIGHT RULES AMID RISE OF AI AND PLATFORM POWER

The European Commission is preparing for a major overhaul of its media and copyright laws in 2026, as Brussels seeks to update Europe’s media framework to reflect the growing influence of streaming platforms, algorithmic curation, and artificial intelligence. Speaking before the European Parliament’s Culture and Education (CULT) Committee this week, EU Commissioner Henna Virkkunen said the media and creative industries are “at the heart of our democracies” and are under mounting pressure from digital disruption. She identified the enforcement of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) and revisions to the Audio-visual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) and Copyright Directive as key priorities for 2025–26.

The Commission will review the AVMSD. Virkkunen said the review will consider “new challenges such as the importance of European content of general interest, fair advertising, and new players such as influencers.” A proposal is expected by December 2026. The Copyright Directive review will run in parallel, addressing gaps around AI and intellectual property. The current EU framework allows text-and-data mining unless rights-holders explicitly opt out, a system critics say leaves most online material open for AI training.

The European Media Freedom Act, which came into force in August, remains unevenly enforced across member states. The Commission plans to issue implementation guidelines by the end of the year,

focusing on media self-declaration systems and content moderation safeguards that give outlets 24 hours to contest takedown decisions.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Equity Partner, Anushree Rauta, was featured in ET BrandEquity's article, "Two-Minute Tales, Billion-dollar Bets." She shared her expert insights on the legal and regulatory landscape governing India's rapidly growing short-format video ecosystem.

ET **BRAND EQUITY**.com

ANM GLOBAL
Advocates & Legal Consultants

QUOTED BY ET BRAND EQUITY : "TWO-MINUTE TALES, BILLION-DOLLAR BETS"



"We are witnessing a sharp uptick in deal requests. In fact, several leading platforms like Amazon, JioStar and Zee are now exploring and investing in this segment"

ANUSHREE RAUTA

EQUITY PARTNER
(HEAD OF MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & GAMING PRACTICE)

contact@anmglobal.net

Mumbai | New Delhi | Bengaluru | Chennai

https://anmglobal.net

THE ECONOMIC TIMES | tech
English Edition • Today's ePaper

ANM GLOBAL
Advocates & Legal Consultants

QUOTED BY THE ECONOMIC TIMES :
"DRAFT ONLINE GAMING RULES SET STAGE FOR
CLEAN-UP, ESPORTS GROWTH"



"For brands and celebrities, the authority's published registry of valid and prohibited games could serve as a due diligence tool before endorsements."

The framework aims at transparency and consumer protection, but with heavier compliance costs and slower rollouts likely, its impact will hinge on how the Supreme Court's October hearing shapes the final law."

ANUSHREE RAUTA

EQUITY PARTNER
(HEAD OF MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & GAMING PRACTICE)

contact@anmglobal.net

Mumbai | New Delhi | Bengaluru | Chennai

https://anmglobal.net

Our Equity Partner and Head of the Media, Entertainment & Gaming Practice, Anushree Rauta, was featured in The Economic Times article, "Draft online gaming rules set stage for clean-up, esports growth." She shared her insights on the evolving regulatory framework and its impact on India's growing online gaming and esports industry.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

The Game: You Never Play Alone, a gripping new Tamil series, released on 2nd October 2025. ANM Global is proud to have represented Applause Entertainment Private Limited, extending advisory and transactional support for the series, encompassing S&P, format acquisition, and the revenue agreement.



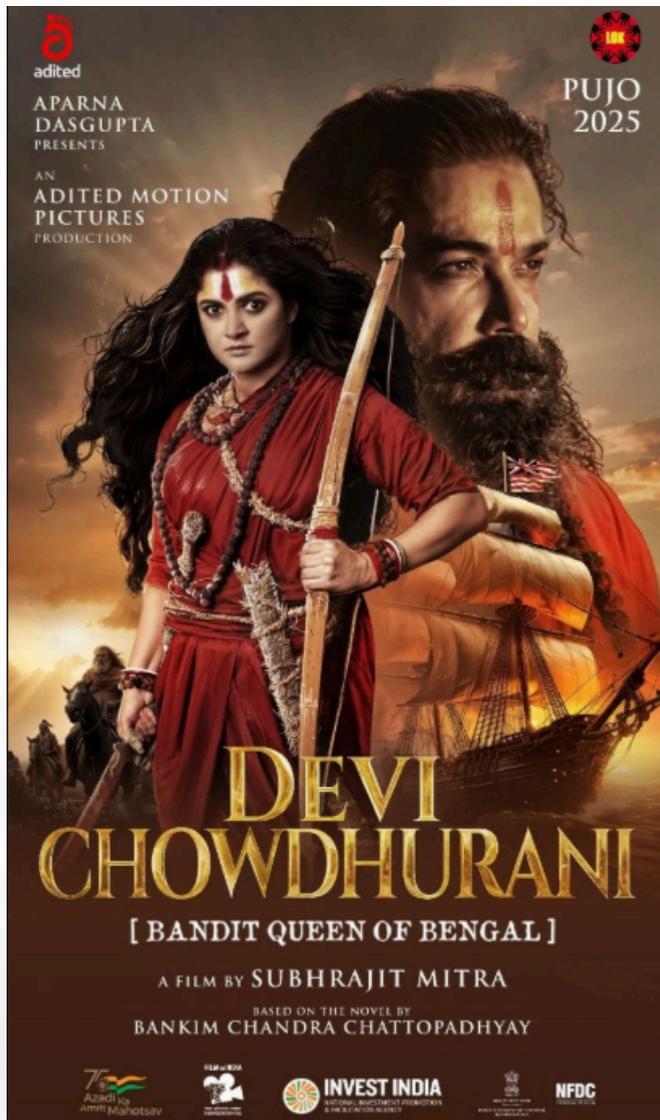
Search – The Naina Murder Case, a compelling Hindi series, releasing on 10th October 2025 on JioStar.



ANM Global is proud to have represented Applause Entertainment Private Limited and Applause Productions, providing advisory and transactional services, including cast and crew agreements, format acquisition, and the revenue agreement for the series.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Shaili B. as Director – Strategy & Client Relations at ANM Global. She will lead strategic growth initiatives, strengthen client engagement, and enhance the firm’s market presence.



Devi Chowdhurani, a Bengali drama, released on 26th September 2025.

ANM Global is proud to have represented Adited Motionpictures LLP in drafting, negotiating, and executing the agreements for the production of the film and the exploitation of music rights in and to the film.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Bison: Kaalamaadan, an original Tamil film dubbed in Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, is set to release on 17th October 2025 across all major territories.

ANM Global is proud to have provided overall legal advisory for the film, including the drafting, reviewing, and negotiation of agreements.



ANM Global is proud to be recognised in the asialaw 2025 Rankings.

The Firm has earned accolades in Media & Entertainment and Intellectual Property, reflecting our deep expertise and commitment to delivering high-quality, client-focused legal services.

Anushree Rauta has been named a Notable Practitioner in Media & Entertainment, and Rahul Dhote has been named a Notable Practitioner in Intellectual Property.

The graphic displays the ANM Global logo (Advocates & Legal Consultants) and the asialaw logo. It features two award icons: a gear and a lightbulb. The text reads: 'FIRM RANKINGS 2025-2026' with 'MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT' (OUTSTANDING) and 'INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY' (RECOGNISED). Below, it shows 'INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS 2025-2026' with portraits of Anushree Rauta (Media & Entertainment) and Rahul Dhote (Intellectual Property), both labeled as Notable Practitioners. The footer includes office locations (Mumbai | New Delhi | Bengaluru | Chennai), contact email (contact@anmglobal.net), and website (https://anmglobal.net).

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Equity Partner and Head of the Media, Entertainment & Gaming Practice, Anushree Rauta, was featured in ETLegalWorld's article, "Playing by the Rules: India's Effort to Regulate Online Gaming Disputes." She shared her insights on the evolving regulatory framework and its impact on India's online gaming and esports landscape.



From The Economic Times

Advocates & Legal Consultants

QUOTED BY ET LEGAL - "PLAYING BY THE RULES: INDIA'S EFFORT TO REGULATE ONLINE GAMING DISPUTES"



"There is a risk of administrative overreach, considering that an authority with quasi-judicial powers can exercise such powers which are judicial in nature. This imbalance raises constitutional concerns regarding procedural fairness and the separation of powers, particularly if adjudicatory powers are exercised by an authority lacking judicial expertise. The Draft Rules therefore build upon — rather than wholly reinvent — this compliance framework. The key challenge will lie in harmonizing both regimes to avoid duplication and excessive compliance costs, particularly for smaller operators."

ANUSHREE RAUTA
EQUITY PARTNER
(HEAD OF MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & GAMING PRACTICE)

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



Advocates & Legal Consultants

WIPO WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

WIPO-NLUD-IPO Joint Masters/LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law and Management
Session on Licensing in Bollywood

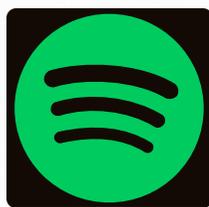


MS. RITISHA MUKHERJEE
PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE

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

Ms. Ritisha Mukherjee, Principal Associate, was invited to speak at the prestigious World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – National Law University, Delhi – IPO Joint Masters/LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law and Management Programme.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS



ANM ThinkPod

DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this newsletter is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered professional advice. We will not be liable for any harm incurred by you as a result of placing reliance on such information. Through this newsletter, you may be able to link to other websites and content that are not under our control. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorse the views expressed within them. Before making any decisions based on the information provided in this newsletter, we recommend consulting with a qualified professional for advice tailored to your specific situation.



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, Gandhi Nagar,
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

RECOMMENDED FIRM FOR MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT BY **ASIALAW PROFILES**

