$~39

* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\+ CS(COMM) 81/2026

JIOSTAR INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED .....Plaintiff

Through: Mr. Sidharth Chopra, Mr. Yatinder Garg, Mr. Priyansh Kohli, Mr. Manish Singh and Ms. Ishi Singh Advocates.

versus

CRICHDBEST.COM & ORS. …..Defendants

Through:

CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTIC JYOTI SINGH

O R D E R

% **29.01.2026**

I.A. 2386/2026 *(u/S 80 r/w Section 151 CPC)*

1. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff seeking exemption from serving advance notices to Defendants No.14 (BSNL), 17 (MTNL), 22 (DoT) and 23 (MeitY).

2. For the reasons stated in the application, the same is allowed, exempting the Plaintiff from advance service.

3. Application stands disposed of.

I.A. 2387/2026 *(u/O XI Rule 1(4) of Commercial Courts Act, 2015 r/w Section 151 CPC)*

4. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff seeking to place on record additional documents within 30 days.

5. Plaintiff, if it wishes to file additional documents at a later stage, shall do so strictly in accordance with provisions of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

6. Application is allowed and disposed of.

I.A. 2388/2026 *(for pre-institution mediation)*

7. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff under Section 12-A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 read with Section 151 of CPC seeking exemption from Pre-Institution Mediation.

8. Having regard to the facts of the present case wherein urgent relief is prayed for and in light of the judgment of Supreme Court in ***Yamini Manohar v. T.K.D. Keerthi, (2024) 5 SCC 815,*** as also Division Bench of this Court in ***Chandra Kishore Chaurasia v. RA Perfumery Works Private Ltd., 2022 SCC OnLine Del 3529***, exemption is granted to the Plaintiff from Pre-Institution Mediation.

9. Application is allowed and disposed of.

CS(COMM) 81/2026

10. Let plaint be registered as a suit.

11. Upon filing of process fee, issue summons to the Defendants through all permissible modes, returnable before the learned Joint Registrar on 26.02.2026.

12. Summons shall state that the written statements shall be filed by the Defendants within 30 days from the receipt of summons along with affidavits of admission/denial of the documents filed by the Plaintiff.

13. It will be open to the Plaintiff to file replications within the stipulated time from the date of receipt of written statements along with affidavits of admission/denial of documents filed by the Defendants.

14. If any of the parties wish to seek inspection of any documents, the same be sought and given the timeline prescribed in Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018.

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

15. Learned Joint Registrar will carry out admission/denial of documents and marking of exhibits.

I.A. 2385/2026 *(u/O XXXIX Rules 1 and 2 r/w Section 151 CPC)*

16. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff under Order XXXIX Rules 1 and 2 read with Section 151 of CPC for grant of *ex parte* ad interim injunction for restraining Defendants No. 1 to 7 and other unknown parties from infringing Plaintiff's Broadcast Reproduction Rights.

17. Issue notice to the Defendants through all permissible modes, returnable before Court on 07.04.2026.

18. It is the case of the Plaintiff as averred in the plaint that Plaintiff is a leading entertainment and media company in India engaged *inter alia* in production of popular content broadcasted on its channels and owns exclusive rights in several works broadcasted on its channels. Plaintiff owns the media rights in respect of various sporting events including international cricket matches organized by the International Cricket Council ('ICC') and Board of Control for Cricket in India ('BCCI'). Plaintiff along with its affiliates is the owner of an extensive portfolio of more than 100 channels in over ten languages ('JioStar Channels') and also owns and operates OTT platform, JioHotstar.

19. It is stated that Defendants No. 8 to 12 are Domain Name Registrars ('DNRs') and Defendants No. 13 to 21 are Internet Service Providers ('ISPs'). Defendants No. 22 and 23 are arrayed by the Plaintiff to assist in enforcement and/or compliance of orders of injunction passed by the Court.

20. It is stated that Plaintiff has acquired *inter alia* media rights, including television rights (to be exercised via broadcast delivery systems), digital rights (to be exercised via digital delivery systems, including through

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

internet and mobile technology) and certain ancillary rights for various ICC events, including ongoing 'ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026' ('Ongoing Event') and the upcoming 'ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2026' ('Upcoming Event'), organized under the aegis of ICC [collectively referred to as 'Events']. The Ongoing Event commenced on 15.01.2026 and is scheduled to conclude on 06.02.2026, while the Upcoming Event is scheduled to be held between 07.02.2026 and 08.03.2026. The matches of the Ongoing Event are being played in Zimbabwe and Namibia, while the matches of the Upcoming Event will be played across major venues in India and Sri Lanka.

21. It is stated that Plaintiff entered into a Media Rights Agreement dated 27.08.2022 ('Agreement') with ICC for exclusive digital media rights and television rights for India in relation to various ICC events, including the 'Events' for a period of four years from 2024 to 2027. This position is confirmed by ICC vide letter dated 22.05.2024. Plaintiff thus enjoys Broadcast Reproduction Rights as per Section 37 of The Copyright Act, 1957 ('1957 Act'). By virtue of exclusive rights granted to the Plaintiff, it is and will continue to broadcast, stream and communicate the live transmission, delayed transmission, highlights, clips and repeat transmission of remaining matches of Ongoing and Upcoming Events on its OTT platform, JioHotstar and also on JioStar Channels. Plaintiff has paid a significant consideration for acquisition of these rights and has consequently, acquired the license to exploit and/or authorize exploitation of the exclusive rights within India. Thus, an entity, which is not authorized by the event organisers or the Plaintiff to broadcast, retransmit, host, stream, make available for viewing and download, provide access to or communicate to the public, the feed of

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

ICC Ongoing and Upcoming Events, on internet and mobile platforms, cannot so make available to the public, the broadcast of that event and any content related thereto and if it chooses to do so, the action would amount to infringement of copyright.

22. It is stated that Defendants No. 1 to 7 are various rogue websites, which are stated to be primarily hosting illegal and pirated content, engaged in making third party content and information available to the public. These websites are engaged in making available to the public, matches of Ongoing Event and based on past instances of illegal dissemination of major sporting events *inter alia* the previous matches of the Ongoing Event, Plaintiff apprehends that remaining matches of Ongoing Event as well as of Upcoming Event, will be made available on their websites, without any authorization and permission. In fact, Plaintiff has concrete evidence that these websites have started making available the live broadcast of Ongoing Event, in which Plaintiff has exclusive rights. Defendants No. 1 to 7 are vehicles of infringement whose whole business model is designed to provide members of the public access to copyrighted content without authorization and they indulge in systematic, organised and intentional nature of infringement. Additionally, it is apprehended that many rogue websites, upon being blocked/taken down, may also create further mirror websites to continue the illegal transmission/broadcast of the Events.

23. Learned counsel for the Plaintiff submits that the Ongoing Event has commenced on 15.01.2026 and is scheduled to conclude on 06.02.2026, while Upcoming Event is to commence on 07.02.2026 and shall conclude on 08.03.2026. Defendants No. 1 to 7 are unauthorizedly and unlawfully communicating various sporting events, including Ongoing Event, in which

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

Plaintiff holds exclusive rights. Some of these websites are also using Plaintiff's broadcast feed along with registered marks. Defendants No. 1 to 7 are habitual offenders whose primary purpose is to communicate sporting events without license or rights and it is imperative that an *ex parte* ad interim injunction is granted, protecting the exclusive rights of the Plaintiff as the unauthorized telecasting and broadcasting of the Events will have a serious impact on the revenues of the Plaintiff apart from infringement of its copyright and other exclusive rights.

24. Having heard learned counsel for the Plaintiff and on perusal of the pleadings and documents filed with the plaint, I am of the view that Plaintiff has made out a *prima facie* case for grant of an *ex parte* ad interim injunction. Balance of convenience lies in favour of the Plaintiff and against Defendants No. 1 to 7 and if the interim relief sought for is not granted, irreparable harm and injury shall be caused to the Plaintiff.

25. Plaintiff has secured exclusive rights in various sporting events organised by ICC and BCCI, including the Ongoing Event and Upcoming Event, which is evident from the confirmation letter issued by ICC on 22.05.2024. Consequently, Plaintiff enjoys Broadcast Reproduction Rights conferred in terms of Section 37 of 1957 Act. The Ongoing Event is being broadcasted and the Upcoming Event shall be broadcasted, streamed and communicated to the public by the Plaintiff on its OTT platform, JioHotstar as well as on JioStar Channels. Defendants No. 1 to 7 are rogue websites, which are unauthorizedly communicating the Ongoing Event, in which Plaintiff holds exclusive rights, without any authorization and Plaintiff apprehends that looking at the past incidences and the present communications, Defendants No. 1 to 7 will illegally and unlawfully

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

communicate the Upcoming Event also. The unauthorized dissemination, telecast or broadcast of the 'Events' by Defendants No. 1 to 7 *prima facie* infringes the rights of the Plaintiff, which it is entitled to protect. Additionally, broadcast content, including footage, commentary etc. are also required to be safeguarded. In ***Universal City Studios LLC. and Others v. Dotmovies Baby and Others, 2023 SCC OnLine Del 4955***, this Court granted injunction restraining the rogue websites, from in any manner streaming, reproducing, distributing and/or communicating to the public any copyrighted content of the Plaintiffs therein, including future works. Relevant passage from the order is as follows:-

> *"**17.** Any injunction granted by a Court of law ought to be effective in nature. The injunction ought to also not merely extend to content which is past content created prior to the filing of the suit but also to content which may be generated on a day-to-day basis by the Plaintiffs. In a usual case for copyright infringement, the Court firstly identifies the work, determines the Copyright of the Plaintiff in the said work, and thereafter grants an injunction. However, owing to the nature of the illegalities that rogue websites induldge in, there is a need to pass injunctions which are also dynamic qua the Plaintiffs as well, as it is seen that upon any film or series being released, they may be immediately uploaded on the rogue websites, causing severe and instant monetary loss. Copyright in future works comes into existence immediately upon the work being created, and Plaintiffs may not be able to approach the Court for each and every film or series that is produced in the future, to secure an injunction against piracy.*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> ***19.** As innovation in technology continues, remedies to be granted also ought to be calibrated by Courts. This is not to say that in every case, an injunction qua future works can be granted. Such grant of an injunction would depend on the fact situation that arises and is placed before the Court.*
>
> ***20.** In the facts and circumstances as set out above, an ex parte ad interim injunction is granted restraining the Defendants, who are all rogue websites, from in any manner streaming, reproducing, distributing, making available to the public and/or communicating to the public any copyrighted content of the Plaintiffs including future works of the Plaintiffs, in which ownership of copyright is undisputed, through their websites identified in the suit or any mirror/redirect websites or alphanumeric variations thereof*

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

*including those websites which are associated with the Defendants' websites either based on the name, branding, identity or even source of content. To keep pace with the dynamic nature of the infringement that is undertaken by hydra-headed websites, this Court has deemed it appropriate to issue this **'Dynamic+ injunction'** to protect copyrighted works as soon as they are created, to ensure that no irreparable loss is caused to the authors and owners of copyrighted works, as there is an imminent possibility of works being uploaded on rogue websites or their newer versions immediately upon the films/shows/series etc. The Plaintiffs are permitted to implead any mirror/redirect/alphanumberic variations of the websites identified in the suit as Defendants Nos. 1 to 16 including those websites which are associated with the Defendants Nos. 1 to 16, either based on the name, branding, identity or even source of content, by filing an application for impleadment under Order I Rule 10 CPC in the event such websites merely provide new means of accessing the same primary infringing websites that have been injuncted. The Plaintiffs are at liberty to also file an appropriate application seeking protection qua their copyrighted works, including future works, if the need so arises. Upon filing such applications before the Registrar along with an affidavit with sufficient supporting evidence seeking extension of the injunction to such websites, to protect the content of the Plaintiffs, including future works, the injunction shall become operational against the said websites and qua such works. If there is any work in respect of which there is any dispute as to ownership of copyright, an application may be moved by the affected party before the Court, to seek clarification."*

26. The issue of rogue websites engaged in piracy of copyrighted content is posing a recurring threat and there is no gainsaying that piracy must be curbed and needs to be dealt with a heavy hand. This position is acknowledged and reaffirmed in several decisions of this Court, one of which is referred to above. There is a need for immediate relief in the present case considering that 'ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026' is ongoing and 'ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2026' is scheduled to commence on 07.02.2026. Delay in blocking access to Defendants No.1 to 7's websites and/or any other rogue websites indulging in illegal and unlawful activities, would lead to an irreparable breach of Plaintiff's exclusive rights, as aforementioned, apart from revenue loss.

27. Accordingly, Defendants No. 1 to 7 and/or any person acting on their behalf are restrained from communicating, hosting, streaming, screening,

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

disseminating or making available for viewing/downloading without authorization any part of ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 and ICC T-20 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026, on any electronic or digital platform, in any manner whatsoever.

28. Defendants No. 8 to 12 i.e., the DNRs are directed to block and suspend the following Domain Names of Defendants No. 1 to 7 forthwith, upon service of copy of this order by Plaintiff's counsel as under:-

Defendant No.	Rogue Websites	Defendant No.	Domain Name Registrars
1.	https://crichdbest.com	8.	Tucows Domains Inc.
2.	https://nadiaoj8h.69ddfriendly67c7dyheld.shop	9.	Namecheap, Inc.
5.	https://leeflix.com		
3.	https://ben70o5.lq0pcpackz0cplsnow.cfd	10.	Dynadot LLC
4.	https://zody2xz.hqcyfunctionq318determine.sbs		
6.	https://mainstreams.io	11.	TLD Registrar Solutions Ltd.
7.	https://sports.stream2watch.pk	12.	PK Domains (PKNIC)

29. Defendants No. 8 to 12 shall also file an affidavit in a sealed cover/password protected document disclosing the complete details of Defendants No. 1 to 7 as available with them, including e-mail addresses, mobile numbers, contact details, payment details and KYC details within four weeks.

30. Defendants No. 13 to 21 i.e., ISPs/TSPs are directed to block Defendants No. 1 to 7's websites immediately upon service of copy of this order by Plaintiff's counsel.

31. Defendants No. 22 and 23 are directed to issue necessary directions to all ISPs for blocking/removing access to the websites as specified in paragraph 28 above.

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07

32. During the currency of 'ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026' and 'ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2026', if any further websites are discovered by the Plaintiff, which are found to be unauthorizedly streaming and communicating contents over which Plaintiff has exclusive rights, Plaintiff will be at liberty to communicate this information to Defendants No. 8 to 23 and on receiving intimation from the Plaintiff, Defendants No. 8 to 21 shall take steps to immediately block the said websites and Defendants No. 22 and 23 shall issue necessary blocking orders immediately on receipt of details of these websites from the Plaintiff.

33. Plaintiff shall file affidavits from time to time furnishing details of newly discovered websites, their Domain Names, the DNRs and the URLs, in respect of which communication has been sent to the concerned entities and for which blocking orders are sought. Plaintiff shall also file appropriate applications for impleadment of the said websites and this order shall extend to the newly added Defendants.

34. If any website, which is not primarily an infringing website, is blocked pursuant to this order, it may approach the Court seeking modification with an undertaking that it does not intend to illegally disseminate content over which Plaintiff has exclusive rights.

35. Plaintiff shall comply with Order XXXIX Rule 3 of CPC within a period of two days from today and file compliance affidavit within two weeks.

JYOTI SINGH, J

JANUARY 29, 2026
S.Sharma

This is a digitally signed order.
The authenticity of the order can be re-verified from Delhi High Court Order Portal by scanning the QR code shown above.
The Order is downloaded from the DHC Server on 30/01/2026 at 12:55:07