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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**
+ CS(COMM) 128/2026, I.A. 3790/2026, I.A. 3791/2026 & I.A. 3792/2026

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SHRM

.....Plaintiff

Through: Mr. Neeraj Bhardwaj, Dr. Mohan
Dewan, Mr. N.K. Bhardwaj, Mr. Bikash
Ghorai, Mr. Salil Oberoi and Mr. Rahul
Maratha, Advocates.

versus

STRATEGIC HRM & ORS.

.....Defendants

Through: None

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TUSHAR RAO GEDELA

ORDER

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11.02.2026

I.A. 3791/2026 (Additional Documents)

1. The present application has been filed on behalf of the plaintiff under Order XI Rule 1(4) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 ('CPC') as applicable to Commercial Suits under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 ('CC Act') seeking leave to place on record additional documents.
2. The plaintiff is permitted to file additional documents in accordance with the provisions of the CC Act and the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018 within thirty (30) days.
3. Accordingly, the application stands disposed of.

I.A. 3792/2026 (Pre-Institution Mediation)

4. This is an application filed by the plaintiff seeking exemption from instituting Pre-Institution Mediation under Section 12A of the CC Act.



5. As the present matter contemplates urgent interim relief, in light of the judgment of the Supreme Court in ***Yamini Manohar v. T.K.D. Keerthi*, (2024) 5 SCC 815**, exemption from the requirement of Pre-Institution Mediation is granted.

6. The application stands disposed of.

I.A. 3790/2026 (Stay)

7. This is an application filed on behalf of the plaintiff under Order XXXIX Rules 1 and 2 of CPC seeking *ad-interim* injunction against the defendants.

8. Plaintiff claims to be a professional membership organisation dedicated to the field of Human Resource (HR) Management. It was originally founded as the American Society for Personnel Administration (ASPA) on 21.11.1948. The present name of the plaintiff was adopted in the year 1989. Plaintiff claims that for the last 75 years, it has provided a comprehensive range of Human Resources related services, including but not limited to advocacy, consultancy, advertising, information dissemination, business research, marketing analysis, professional networking, etc. with nearly 3,40,000 members across 180 countries including India. Plaintiff claims to have played a significant role in shaping workplace related policy and legislations in the United States of America. Plaintiff owns a hundred percent Indian subsidiary by the name SHRM East Private Limited (Formerly Known as Strategic Human Resource Management India Private Limited) in Gurgaon, Haryana. Its operations are conducted through the wholly owned Indian subsidiaries.

9. Since 2011, the plaintiff claims to have been organising its flagship SHRM India Annual Conference Worldwide as well as in New Delhi. As recent as on 13.11.2025 and 14.11.2025, similar Annual Conference was held.

10. Plaintiff claims to be extra vigilant in protecting its trademark and had secured registered trademarks in India which are extracted hereunder:



S.No.	Trademark	Application No.	Class	Status
1.	SHRM	4900759	16	Registered
2.	SHRM	4900761	41	Registered
3.		1668202	41	Registered
4.		1668200	16	Registered
5.		1668201	35	Registered
6.	SHRM EXECUTIVE NETWORK	5169656	41	Registered
7.	SHRM INDIA Registration of this trade mark shall give no right to the exclusive use of the word 'India'	1486481	41	Registered
8.	SHRM EXECUTIVE NETWORK	5169658	35	Registered

11. Apart from that, the plaintiff had also registered its trademarks for its services worldwide in various jurisdictions which are enlisted in para 12 of the plaint. Though the plaintiff claims to have invested huge amounts of money in advertisement, publicity and promotion, however, figures are not stated in para 13 of the plaint. In fact, it is asserted that a considerable amount of time and dedication is put towards enhancing the visibility and reputation of its services. It claims that due to extensive marketing efforts, the services bearing the trademark SHRM and its variants have become a viable and commercial name across India. Plaintiff claims that it is available and has a substantial influential presence on social media platforms like LinkedIn, Twitter (X), Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, which run into millions of followers.

12. Plaintiff claims to have adopted the name SHRM in the year 1989. The domain name www.shrm.org was registered on 05.05.1995, which is a subject matter of the plaint suit. Plaintiff claims that the domain name incorporates the registered trademark SHRM in its entirety, conclusively demonstrating its



exclusive association with the plaintiff, and eliminating any possibility of ambiguity or misrepresentation. The said domain name embodies the plaintiff's global reputation and goodwill in the field of Human Resource Management. That apart, copyrights also subsist in the said official websites together with its associated domain and digital platforms. Plaintiff also claims that the copyrights vested in trademarks, labels, artistic works etc. are enforceable not only under the Copyright Act, 1957 but also by the virtue of India's international obligations under the Berne Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the International Copyright Order, 1991.

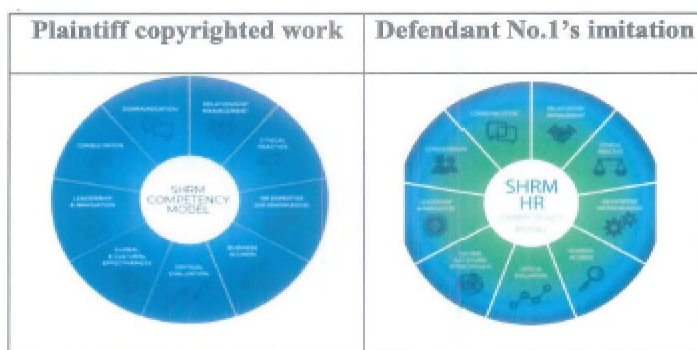
13. Plaintiff claims that sometime in the month of August, 2025 on an investigation, it was revealed that the defendant no.1 i.e. Strategic HRM purports to be engaged in rendering services in Human Resources, business consulting and allied activities, which are identical/similar in nature to those of the plaintiff. It is the case of the plaintiff that with *malafide* intent, the defendant no.1 has deliberately adopted and registered the domain name www.shrm.in. This adoption is unauthorised and illegal apart from being dishonest as it entirely incorporates the well established and distinctive trademark SHRM of the plaintiff. It is claimed that clearly it is a calculated attempt to misappropriate the plaintiff's reputation, goodwill and brand equity. Certain excerpts of the defendant no.1 websites and the comparison table between the domain names are extracted hereunder:

PLAINTIFF'S DOMAIN NAME	DEFENDANT NO.1'S IMPUGNED DOMAIN NAME
www.shrm.org	www.shrm.in

14. The investigation further reveals that the said domain name is being unauthorizedly and dishonestly adopted and used since the year 2022. A cease and desist notice was issued to defendant no.1 on 08.08.2025, however, no response is stated to have been received. Defendant no.1 is also alleged to have



apart from dishonestly adopting the domain name and infringing the registered trademark of the plaintiff, also copied and reproduced the plaintiff's proprietary content in the Pie Chart available on the websites. As an example, the plaintiff's copyrighted work and the defendants imitation is extracted hereunder:



15. Plaintiff contends that while the defendant no.1 is the infringer, defendant no.2 i.e., GO DADDY INDIA WEB SERVICE PRIVATE LIMITED is the domain name registered (DNR) and defendant no.3 i.e., HOSTGATOR.COMM LLC is the web hosting service provider. Therefore, defendant nos.2 and 3 are necessary parties to the present plaint suit. On the aforesaid, the plaintiff alleges the following points:

- The impugned domain name/website is an unauthorized website containing infringing content which violate the statutory and common law rights of the Plaintiff rights in its said Trademarks/Labels and Copyrights;
- The overall look, getup and impression of the impugned websites is identical/similar to the Plaintiffs domain name and website.
- The impugned websites are accessible in India and interactive in nature leading to consumer deception in the market by way of such fraudulent imitation; and
- The impugned services offered through this website are identical in nature hence the deception among the consumers is at the highest



degree.

16. Plaintiff submits that the infringement of the trademark as also the domain name/website is apparent from the above narration of facts. On that basis, the plaintiff seeks an *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction against the defendants.

17. Having heard learned counsel for the plaintiff and after perusing the plaint and the documents thereto, it appears that, *prima facie*, the acts of infringement by the defendants are evident. Having regard to the fact that plaintiff's registered trademarks as also copyrights vested in trademarks, label, artistic works etc. under the Copyright Act, 1957 have been in use for a long time, *prima facie*, it appears that the defendants are infringing the registered trademark and copyrights in artistic work, logo, or device which subsist in the official website of the plaintiff, and in case an *ex-parte* injunction as sought is not granted and the defendants are not restrained from continuing with the infringing activities, irreparable loss and injury would be caused to the plaintiff, which cannot be adequately compensated in monetary terms. The balance of convenience is tilted in favour of the plaintiff being the owner of the registered trademark and copyrights in the artistic work. Further, if the defendants are not restrained from continuing with the infringement, it would lead to confusion and deception amongst the customers and general public.

18. Having regard to the aforesaid, the following directions are passed:

- a. The defendants and all persons acting for and/or on their behalf are restrained from using the plaintiff's trademark or copyrights in any artistic work, logo or device which subsist in the plaintiff's website and/or any other mark, identical or deceptively similar thereto in any manner whatsoever, till the pendency of the suit.
- b. The defendants and all persons acting for and/or on their behalf are restrained from using or operating the domain name www.shrm.in or



any other domain name identical or deceptively similar to the plaintiff's trademark/label/trade name "SHRM"/"SHRM INDIA"/



and its domain name www.shrm.org or from using the same as meta tags or in any other deceptive manner, till the pendency of the suit.

- c. The defendant no.1 and all persons acting for and/or on its behalf are restrained from using, hosting or redirecting to www.shrm.in or any other domain name identical or deceptively similar to the plaintiff's domain name www.shrm.org in any manner whatsoever, till the pendency of the suit.
- d. The defendant no.1 and all persons acting for and/or on its behalf are restrained from using any social media account or handle that infringes or is deceptively similar to the plaintiff's registered trademarks/labels, trade names or copyrighted materials and are directed to suspend or transfer such infringing handles or accounts to the plaintiff.
- e. The defendant nos.2 and 3 are directed to withdraw any support and block/restrain the website of the defendant no.1 and/or mirror/redirect/alphanumeric website which are put in play by the defendant no.1.
- f. The defendant no.1 is also directed to render a true and complete statement of accounts of profits and assets by way of an affidavit within a period of two weeks from service of the notice of the present application.

19. Issue notice.

20. Let the reply to this application be filed by the defendants within four weeks from service and rejoinder, thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks



thereafter.

21. The compliance of Order XXXIX Rule 3 of the CPC, 1906 be carried out within a week.

CS(COMM) 128/2026

22. In the above circumstances, let the plaint be registered as a suit.

23. Upon filing of the process fee, issue summons of the suit to the defendants through all permissible modes.

24. The summons shall state that the Written Statement shall be filed by the defendants within 30 days from the date of the receipt of summons. Alongwith the Written Statement, the defendants shall also file an affidavit of Admission/Denial of the documents of the plaintiff, without which the Written Statement shall not be taken on record.

25. Liberty is granted to the plaintiff to file Replication, if any, within 30 days from the receipt of the Written Statement. Along with the Replication filed by the plaintiff, an affidavit of Admission/Denial of the documents of defendants be filed by the plaintiff, without which the Replication shall not be taken on record.

26. In case any party is placing reliance on a document, which is not in their power and possession, its details and source shall be mentioned in the list of reliance, which shall also be filed with the pleadings.

27. If any of the parties wish to seek inspection of any documents, the same shall be sought and given within the prescribed timelines.

28. List on 23.04.2026 before the Joint Registrar.

29. List on 07.08.2026 before the Court.

TUSHAR RAO GEDELA, J

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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CS(COMM) 128/2026

Page 8 of 8