

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 13044 OF 2026

IN

SUIT (L) NO. 13041 OF 2026

Indian Institute Of Technology Bombay

...Applicant/Plaintiff

Versus

Pravinkumar Ramachandra Ghodake

...Defendant

—————
Mr. Karl Tamboly a/w Mr. Hormus Mehta, Ms. Ahsan Allana and Mr. Kunal Bilaney i/b JSA, for the Applicant/Plaintiff.
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CORAM : ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.

DATE : 17th APRIL, 2026

P.C.

1. I have heard Mr. Tamboly, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Applicant/Plaintiff, who has today pressed for urgent ad-interim relief.

2. At the outset, Mr. Tamboly points out that the Defendant has been served and undertakes to file an affidavit of service. He further points out that the Defendant has, after being served by an email dated 16th April 2026, addressed to a host of authorities including the office of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India as also the Registrar of this Court, setting out the reasons why the Defendant has not appeared today.

3. Mr. Tamboly then submits that the present suit has been filed on account of the various defamatory emails that have been addressed by the Defendant, in which the Defendant has made *per se* defamatory statements not only against

the Plaintiff but also against the various professors and board members of the Plaintiff, including Hon'ble Ministers who are nominee directors on the board of the Plaintiff.

4. With the assistance of Mr. Tamboly, I have perused a few of these emails and I find that the same contain *per se* defamatory statements, inasmuch as the Defendant has proceeded to call the various Hon'ble Ministers as also the professors of the IIT (Cri-mi-nal at Core!), amongst various other *per se* defamatory statements. The volume of these emails is huge.

5. Mr. Tamboly submits that the pattern of the Defendant is to repeatedly address such emails to various authorities. He submits that, on a legal notice being served by the Advocates for the Plaintiff upon the Defendant, the Defendant proceeded to send out similar emails making *per se* defamatory statements against the Plaintiff, to around fifteen other law firms. He submits that the defamatory statements did not stop at only the Plaintiff but also included the Plaintiff's Advocates. Mr. Tamboly submits that it is the Defendant's pattern to spiral out of control, which is required to be stopped. Mr. Tamboly has today sought limited ad-interim relief seeking to restrain the Defendant from addressing any communications or making any *per se* defamatory statements against the Plaintiff until the next date of hearing.

6. Having heard Mr. Tamboly and having perused the record, in my view, Mr. Tamboly has made out a compelling case for the grant of limited ad-interim relief. It cannot be lost sight of that the Plaintiff is a premier institution with a reputation that transcends even with equal right repute. The Defendant has

chosen today not to appear and show any justification for making the statement which are *per se* defamatory.

7. Hence, I deem it fit to issue notice to the Defendant, returnable on 8th May 2026.

8. It is made clear that until the next date of the hearing of this Interim Application, the Defendant shall be restrained from making any statements against the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's Advocates. It is, however, clarified that if the Defendant has a grievance against the Plaintiff, the Defendant is at liberty to set out what his grievance is and address it only to the appropriate authorities of the Plaintiff.

9. Mr. Tamboly assures the Court that if such grievance is received by the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff shall look into the same and address the same.

10. Stand over to **8th May 2026**.

[ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.]