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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**
+ **CS(COMM) 342/2026**

BENNETT COLEMAN AND COMPANY LIMITEDPlaintiff
Through: Mr. Hemant Singh, Ms. Mamta R. Jha,
Mr. Akhil Saxena and Ms. Palak Batra,
Advocates.

versus

WWW.TIMESOFINDIAA.NEWS & ORS.Defendants
Through: Mr. Badar Mahmood, SPC for
R-4/UOI.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TUSHAR RAO GEDELA

ORDER
01.04.2026

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I.A. 8659/2026 (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. 8660/2026 (Pre-Institution Mediation)

4. This is an application filed by the plaintiff seeking exemption from instituting pre-litigation 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 vs. 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. 8661/2026 (Exemption)

7. This is an application filed on behalf of the plaintiff under Section 151 of CPC seeking exemption from filing clear/true typed copies of dim/illegible documents along with the captioned suit.

8. Exemption allowed, subject to just exceptions. However, clear/true typed copies of dim/illegible copies of the documents with proper margins be filed within four weeks with an advance copy to the defendants.

9. The application stands disposed of.

I.A. 8658/2026 (Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2, CPC)



10. Present application has been filed on behalf of the plaintiff under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 of CPC, 1908 seeking *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction against the defendants.

11. Plaintiff claims to have been established in the year 1838 by the first publication of the edition of the “Times of India” and claims to have a legacy spanning 188 years. Plaintiff claims that over the long passage of time, the mark “TIMES” and the acronym “TOI” have gained such reputation, that they have now turned to be source identifiers synonymous with the plaintiff’s standards of journalism. Plaintiff also claims that the trademarks have acquired a secondary meaning and any reference to the word “TIMES” or the acronym “TOI” in relation to media, news or allied services, is immediately linked to plaintiff exclusively.

12. Plaintiff claims to be the registered proprietor of the trademark “The Times of India” with the first registration dated 30.07.1943 in Class 16. Subsequently, more than 100 trademarks for the said marks and its formatives have been registered. The trademark “The Times of India” is claimed to have



been declared a well-known trademark *vide* the Trade Marks Journal 2144 on 19.02.2024.

13. Plaintiff claims to have conceptualized a distinct visual identity in the year 2010 and adopted the unique “TOI” device/ . The plaintiff also claims the said device to be an original artistic work and asserts itself to be the owner of such original artistic work. Plaintiff states that the logo features a distinctive font and palette. A dedicated mobile application i.e. Times of India News app was launched in the year 2011 featuring the device “  ” as its App icon.

14. The plaintiff also claims to have published several supplements which are circulated alongwith newspapers [“The Times of India (publishing since 1861)”, “Navbharat Times (publishing since 1950”, “The Economic Times (publishing since 1961”, “Maharashtra Times (publishing since 1962” and “Sandhya Times (publishing since 1991)”] such as TIMES Property (published since 2001), TIMES Infoline, TIMES Wellness, TIMES Ascent, TIMES Drive, TIMES Life, TIMES Classifieds, TIMES Global, TIMES Nation, TIMES Sports, TIMES Business, TIMES City, TIMES Life, TIMES Matrimonial, TIMES Trends, Delhi TIMES, Bombay TIMES, Lucknow TIMES, Bangalore TIMES, Education TIMES, etc.

15. In para 17 of the plaint, the plaintiff has enumerated various trademark registrations, the same are extracted hereinbelow:-



Application No.	Trade Mark	Class	Date of Application	User Detail	Validity
Class 16					
83800		16	30/07/1943	30/07/1943	30/07/2027
142375		16	16/02/1950	16/02/1950	16/02/2027
286954		16	28/03/1973	01/11/1838	28/03/2028
1375141	THE TIMES OF INDIA (IN HINDI)	16	03/08/2005	05/03/2005	03/08/2035
Class 41					
2793033		41	19/08/2014	Proposed to be used	19/08/2034
2793036	THE TIMES OF INDIA	41	19/08/2014	Proposed to be used	19/08/2034
Class 9					
552524		9	11/06/1991	16/06/1991	11/06/2035
986928	THE TIMES OF INDIA GROUP	9	30/01/2001	Proposed to be used	30/01/2031
1375145	The Times Of India (In Hindi)	9	03/08/2005	05/03/2005	03/08/2035

16. In para 20 of the plaint, the plaintiff has provided a tabulated form of successful enforcement actions and the orders passed by various Courts while the plaintiff sought to protect its registered trademark or domain names etc. thereby establishing that it has zealously protected its trademarks and the acronym. The details of orders passed by this Court is extracted hereinbelow



Case details	Relief Granted
Bennett, Coleman & Co. vs. Times AD & Anr. CS(OS) No.1660/1994	The court ruled in favour of the plaintiff, specifically regarding “Times of India”. A permanent injunction was issued restraining the defendants from publishing or circulating under the mark/ name “Times AD” or any other similar mark.
Times Internet Ltd. vs. Raman Gulati & Ors. CS(OS) 2360/2008	Injuncted the defendant from using the website www.indiatimetrade.com by order dated 11.11.2008 passed by this Court.
Bennett, Coleman & Co. vs. Himanshu Tripathi CS(COMM) 1823/2009	Injuncted by order dated 23.09.2009 passed by the Hon’ble Delhi High Court. Further the matter was subsequently decreed <i>vide</i> order dated 20.01.2010 in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants.
Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited vs. Timespro Consulting LLP & Ors. CS(COMM) 723/2022	The defendants, its franchisees and all persons claiming right through them were permanently injuncted as on 05.02.2024 by the Hon’ble Delhi High Court from using marks similar to plaintiff’s TIMES, TIMESPRO, TIMES PROPERTY or TIMES. Further, the defendants were directed to surrender in favour of the plaintiff, the domain name timesproconsulting.com and/or any other domain name/email containing marks identical or deceptively similar to plaintiff’s TIMES, TIMESPRO, TIMES PROPERTY or TIMES formative marks.

17. In para 27 of the plaint, the plaintiff has provided a table of the steady increase in its average daily circulation and readership figures from FY 2000-2001 to 2021-2022. Plaintiff claims trans-border reputation and boasts international acclaim. Plaintiff claims to be enjoying an unrivalled national market dominance claimed to be based on statutory data as enumerated in para 29 of the plaint. It also claims a digital monopoly and search engine association to evidence its widespread presence in the digital sphere.

18. Plaintiff states that in the year 2011 it launched its dedicated mobile application. It claims that the said mobile app has a very high volume of traffic indicating its formidable reputation as mentioned in para 32 of the plaint. The Facebook screenshot indicating 12 million followers is reproduced hereunder:



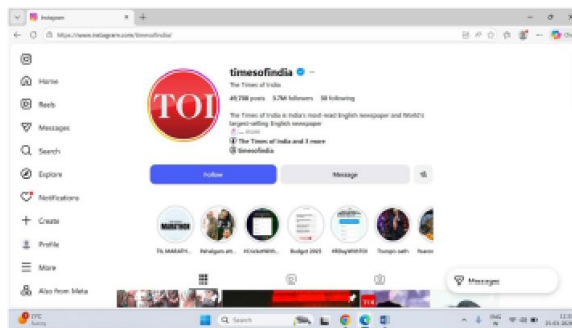
TIMES OF INDIA - Facebook Page

Followers - 12 Million

Available at the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/TimesofIndia/>

Date of Screenshot: 25.03.2026



TIMES OF INDIA - Instagram Page

Followers - 3.7 Million

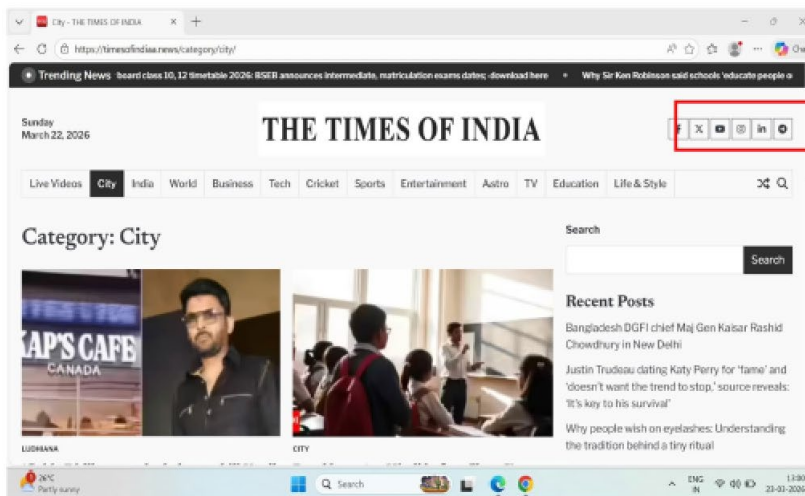
19. In para 35 of the plaint, the plaintiff has provided a table of the annual revenue figures from FY 1997-1998 to FY 2021-2022 (Rs.829.74 crores to Rs.4992 crores) sales and promotional expenditure figures from FY 1997-98 to 2021-2022 (Rs.8.58 crores to Rs.272.09 crores).

20. Some of the milestones that the plaintiff has achieved are clearly mentioned in para 36 of the plaint and are not reproduced herein *in extenso* to avoid prolixity.

21. Some time in the third week of March, 2026, plaintiff claims to have come across the impugned websites through its internal investigation, which are alleged to illegally and unauthorizedly using the plaintiff's well-known trademark and device mark on its website in relation to the identical services. Plaintiff claims that, upon further investigation, it was revealed that defendant



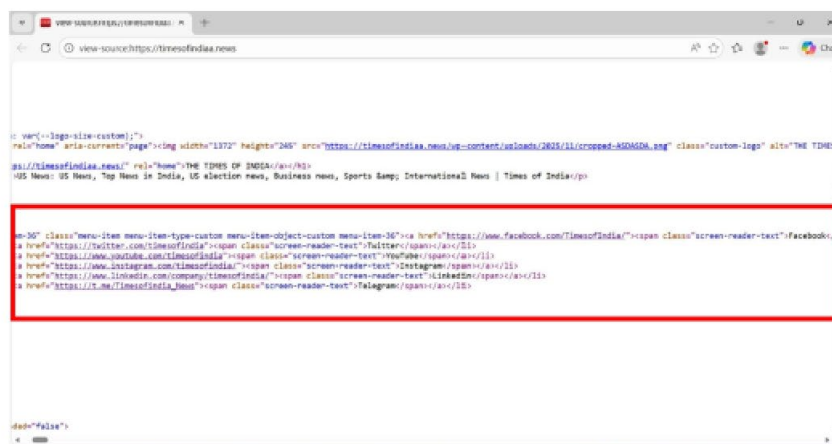
nos.1 to 6, in order to create an atmosphere of trust, has embedded a direct hyperlink to the plaintiff's official website (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com), and has also represented themselves to be associated with the plaintiff's by showing authentic and verified official social media handles, including X, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Telegram. Some of the screenshots embedding of hyperlinks redirecting defendant's website to the plaintiff's website are reproduced hereunder:



Available at the link:

www.timesofindiaa.news/category/city/

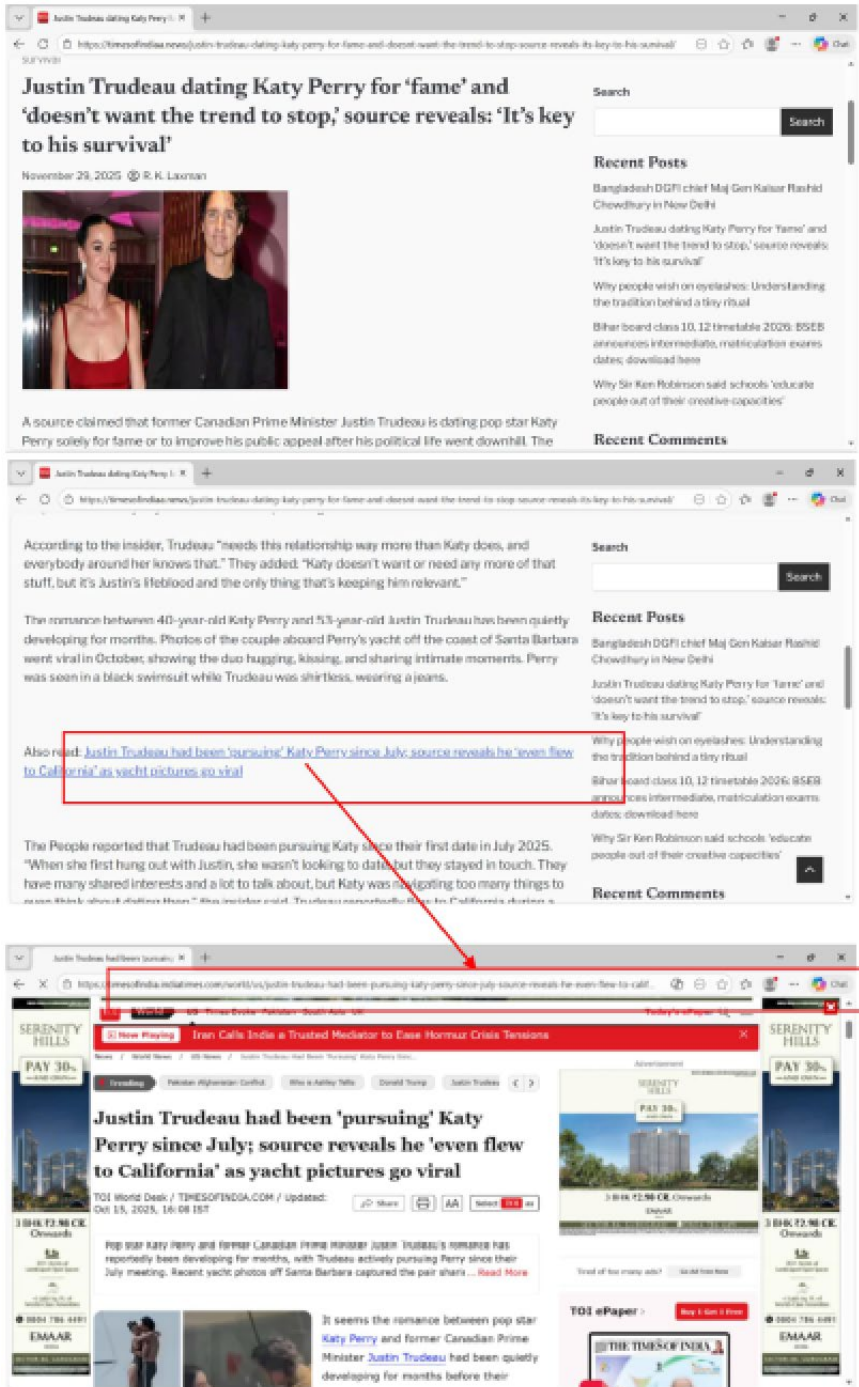
Date of Screenshot: 23.03.2026



Available at the link: [view-source:https://timesofindiaa.news/category/city/](https://timesofindiaa.news/category/city/)

[source:https://timesofindiaa.news/category/city/](https://timesofindiaa.news/category/city/)

Date of Screenshot: 23.03.2026



22. Plaintiff also claims that the impugned websites scrapes, reproduces, and publishes news articles curated by the plaintiff and copy the content verbatim. It claims that this illicit replication of the contents extends to the unauthorized appropriation of the specific bylines of its journalists namely, R.K. Laxman, Vishwa Mohan etc. Plaintiff claims that such usurpation of the plaintiff's original literary works constitutes a flagrant violation of the plaintiff's

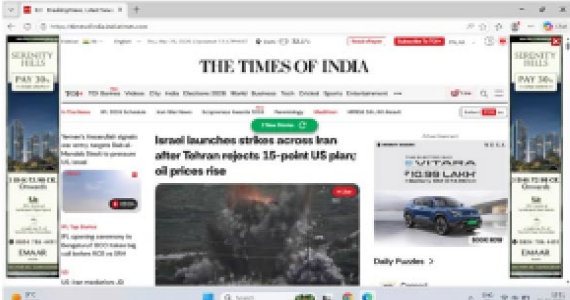





exclusive rights under Section 51 of the Copyrights Act, 1957. It also claims that such an act of unauthorized misappropriation of the names and bylines of the plaintiff's esteemed journalists constitutes infringement of their inherent personality and publicity rights

23. Plaintiff claims that the defendant nos.1 and 6 are actively employing a deceitful digital 'bait-and-switch' stratagem to unlawfully enrich itself at the immediate expense of the plaintiff. It claims that the 'bait' consists of the unauthorized display of the plaintiff's well-known trademark "THE TIMES OF

INDIA', the TOI device mark/ , which collectively serve to lure unsuspecting internet users seeking authentic news.

24. A comparative chart of the rival websites reproduced in the plaint is extracted hereunder:

Plaintiff's Website	Defendant No. 1's Website
	
<p style="text-align: center;">THE TIMES OF INDIA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE TIMES OF INDIA</p>
	
<p>Copyright certificate</p>	
<p>Copyright © 2026 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: Times Syndication Service</p>	<p>Copyright © 2026 THE TIMES OF INDIA Classics Press by Ascendior Powered by WordPress</p>



Plaintiff's Website	Defendant's Website
<p>'Goldy Dhillon gang had plans to kill Kapil Sharma if...: Chilling details emerge in Canada Kap's Cafe firing case'</p> <p>Delhi Crime Branch apprehended Ludhiana gangster Sandhu Meen Singh Sethon, sought by Canada for abduction on Kapil Sharma's wife. Sethon, linked to ISI operative Harry Chhabra, confessed the gang threatened to kill Sharma if demands weren't met... Goldy Dhillon</p> <p>LUDHIANA: The Delhi Crime Branch on Friday arrested Ludhiana-based gangster Sandhu Meen Singh Sethon, wanted by the Canadian authorities in connection with the shootings at comedian Kapil Sharma's Kap's Cafe in Toronto, Canada. Sethon is alleged to have planned to kill Kapil Sharma if the ransom money demanded from him was not paid.</p> <p>Sethon, identified as the right-hand man of ISI operative Harry Chhabra and gangster Goldy Dhillon—the alleged mastermind behind the attacks—had allegedly fled to India to maintain a low profile. He was caught on CCTV riding a motorbike in a car alongside two of the shooters.</p>	<p>'Goldy Dhillon gang had plans to kill Kapil Sharma if...: Chilling details emerge in Canada Kap's Cafe firing case'</p> <p>November 22, 2024 @ 9:11 AM</p> <p>1) Details: The Delhi Crime Branch on Friday arrested Ludhiana-based gangster Sandhu Meen Singh Sethon, wanted by the Canadian authorities in connection with the shootings at comedian Kapil Sharma's Kap's Cafe in Toronto, Canada. During the firing, Sethon revealed that the gang had planned to kill Kapil Sharma if the ransom money demanded from him was not paid.</p> <p>Sethon, identified as the right-hand man of ISI operative Harry Chhabra and gangster Goldy Dhillon—the alleged mastermind behind the attacks—had allegedly fled to India to maintain a low profile. He was caught on CCTV riding a motorbike in a car alongside two of the shooters.</p> <p>The investigation also revealed the identities of the two shooters - Daljit Bahal and Gurjit - who had been used to film the attacks and circulated the footage to amplify their threat.</p>
<p>According to Special Commissioner of Police Dewash Tripathi, the investigation leading to Sethon began with a Chennai PO's post that went missing from a cache of foreign-made weapons recently seized from arms traffickers in Delhi.</p> <p>The traffickers mentioned a Ludhiana-based buyer, which eventually led police to Sethon. He was arrested by a team led by DCP Sanjeev Yadav, with Inspectors Man Singh and Sander Goudam tracking him to a local gun.</p>	<p>The traffickers mentioned a Ludhiana-based buyer, which eventually led police to Sethon. He was arrested by a team led by DCP Sanjeev Yadav, with Inspectors Man Singh and Sander Goudam tracking him to a local gun.</p> <p>The traffickers mentioned a Ludhiana-based buyer, which eventually led police to Sethon. He was arrested by a team led by DCP Sanjeev Yadav, with Inspectors Man Singh and Sander Goudam tracking him to a local gun.</p>
<p>The first drive-by shooting occurred on October 7, just two weeks after the cafe had reopened following the first two attacks. Sethon had fled Canada on August 22, shortly after the second attack, as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police identified its contributor as the gang. One of the gang members, identified as Enayeb, was arrested. Once in India, Sethon returned to his hometown, maintaining a low profile until his arrest by Delhi authorities.</p>	<p>The first drive-by shooting occurred on October 7, just two weeks after the cafe had reopened following the first two attacks. Sethon had fled Canada on August 22, shortly after the second attack, as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police identified its contributor as the gang. One of the gang members, identified as Enayeb, was arrested. Once in India, Sethon returned to his hometown, maintaining a low profile until his arrest by Delhi authorities.</p>
<p>Within a month, the cafe came under attack again. According to DCP Sanjeev Yadav, the assailants claimed via a social media post that Kapil Sharma had not warned their cafe, prompting a repeat attack. The post also threatened further action in Mumbai, prompting a security review for the comedian.</p>	<p>Within a month, the cafe came under attack again. According to DCP Sanjeev Yadav, the assailants claimed via a social media post that Kapil Sharma had not warned their cafe, prompting a repeat attack. The post also threatened further action in Mumbai, prompting a security review for the comedian.</p>

25. Predicated on the above, the plaintiff alleges that the defendant nos.1 to 6 have committed the following illegal acts and infringed the well-known trademark as also the acronym of the plaintiff:

- Infringement of Trademarks;
- Infringement of Copyright; and
- Passing Off and Unfair Competition.


26. On the aforesaid contentions, the plaintiff seeks an *ex-parte ad-interim*




injunction against the defendants.

27. Having heard Mr. Hemant Singh, learned counsel for the plaintiff, and perused the plaint and examined the documents on record it appears that an *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction is in order.

28. The overall consideration of the case put forward by the plaintiff and having regard to the fact that the trademark “The Times of India” has been recognized as a well-known trademark by the Trade Marks registry in the year 2024, the relief granted by this Court over the registered trademarks “TOI”,


“Times of India” and the device mark ; the popularity indicated by the steady growth of readership; the sales and promotion figures provided by the plaintiff over the years; the digital reach achieved by its App etc., *prima facie*, evidence a strong case in favour of the plaintiff. The balance of convenience also appears to be tilted in favour of the plaintiff at this stage. The plaintiff would suffer irreparable loss and injury to not only its reputation and goodwill but the financial and monetary loss to innocent intending advertisers from the public in general, which may not be adequately compensated in monetary terms in case *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction is not granted.

29. Accordingly, the following directions are passed:

- a. Defendant no.1, its directors, assigns in business, licensees, franchisees, and any person claiming right through/for them are restrained from using the mark TIMES OF INDIA/  or taglines or any other identical/similar trademark/domain name/ logo, either as a trademark/trade name/logo or as part of domain name, social media posts, creatives, in electronic or physical media or in any manner whatsoever;
- b. Defendant no.1, its directors, assigns in business, licensees,




franchisees, and any persons acting for or on its behalf are restrained from scraping, reproducing, publishing, communicating to the public, or in any manner utilizing the Plaintiff's copyrighted original literary works (including but not limited to curated news articles, reports, and features), the associated bylines of the Plaintiff's authors and journalists, the 'TOI'

device mark/logo , the website's unique user interface (UI), visual trade dress, or any other identical/deceptively similar artistic work or compilation, on the impugned domain www.timesofindiaa.news, any other website, social media platforms, or in any electronic/physical media whatsoever;

c. Defendant nos.2 and 3, their directors, assigns in business, licensees, franchisees and any persons claiming right through/for them are directed to take down the website/webpages at the defendant no.1's domain as available on their respective platforms and/or any other John Doe infringing websites/domain names/webpage which may contain the

trademark THE TIMES OF INDIA/  or any mark deceptively similar thereto, upon being so notified by the plaintiff and the same be transferred to the plaintiff;

d. Defendant nos.2 and 3 are directed to disclose the Basic Subscriber Information and Account Registration details of the defendant no.1 as may be available and also for any other John Doe infringing websites/domain names/webpage which may contain the trademark

THE TIMES OF INDIA/  or any mark deceptively similar thereto, upon being so notified by the plaintiff;

30. If any further websites/infringing accounts/entities are discovered by the



plaintiff, the plaintiff would be at liberty to file an application under Order 1 Rule 10 of the CPC alongwith the affidavit of evidence before the Joint Registrar (Judicial) and an application for extension of interim order, before this Court.

31. Issue notice.

32. Let a reply to this application be filed by the defendants within four weeks from service. Rejoinder, thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.

33. Compliance of Order XXXIX Rule 3 of CPC shall be done within ten days from date.

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34. Let the plaint be registered as a suit.

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

36. 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 Affidavit of Admission/Denial of the documents of the plaintiff, without which the Written Statement shall not be taken on record.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. If any of the parties wish to seek inspection of any documents, the same



shall be sought and given within the prescribed timelines.

40. List before the Joint Registrar (Judicial) on 09.07.2026 for completion of service and pleadings.

41. List before the Court on 28.09.2026.

TUSHAR RAO GEDELA, J

APRIL 1, 2026

Yrj/rl