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

+ CS(COMM) 657/2026

ZEE ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES LTD. ...Plaintiff

Through: Mr. Siddharth Chopra, Mr. Yatinder Garg, Ms. Suhasini Raina, Mr. Siddharth Chopra, Mr. Vivek Ayyagari, Mr. Priyansh Kohli, Mr. Abhay Aren, Advs.

Versus

[HTTPS://SOCCERBOX.ME/](https://soccerbox.me/) & ORS. ...Respondent

Through: None

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SAURABH BANERJEE

ORDER

% **03.06.2026**

I.A. 15966/2026 (*Exemption from pre-institution mediation*)

1. By virtue of the present application under *Section 12A* of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (*CCA*), read with *Section 151* of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (*CPC*), the plaintiff seeks exemption from pre-institution mediation.

2. Considering the averments made in the present application, as also since the plaintiff is seeking *ex parte* ad interim injunction in an accompanying application, and in view of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Yamini Manohar vs. T.K.D. Krithi:2024 (5) SCC 815* and by a Division Bench this Court in *Chandra Kishore Chaurasia vs. R. A. Perfumery Works Private Limited 2022:DHC:4454-DB*, the plaintiff is exempted from instituting pre-litigation mediation.

3. Accordingly, the present application is disposed of.

I.A. 15968/2026 (*Additional documents*)

4. By virtue of the present application under *Order XI Rule 1(4)* read



with *Section 151* CPC, the plaintiff seeks leave of this Court to file additional documents.

5. The plaintiff is at liberty to file additional documents at a later stage, *albeit*, after initiating appropriate steps, strictly as per the provisions of the CCA read with *Section 151* CPC and the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018.

6. Accordingly, the present application is disposed of.

I.A. 15967/2026 (*Exemption from issuing notice under Section 80 CPC to D-10, 16, 18 & 19*)

7. By virtue of the present application under *Section 151* CPC, the plaintiff seeks exemption from advance service upon the defendant nos.10, 16, 18 and 19.

8. For the reasons stated in the application as also taking into account the aforesaid factors and in the interest of justice, the plaintiff is granted exemption from effecting advance service upon defendant nos.10, 16, 18 and 19.

9. Accordingly, the present application is allowed and disposed of.

I.A. 15969/2026 (*Sec 149 CPC*)

10. By virtue of the present application under *Section 149* read with *Section 151* CPC, the plaintiff seeks exemption from filing the requisite Court fee at this stage and seeks a period of *seven days* to do the needful.

11. For the reasons stated therein, the present application is allowed and the plaintiff is granted a period of *one week* to file the requisite Court fee.

12. The application is disposed of.

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13. By virtue of the present plaint, the plaintiff seeks grant of a



permanent injunction restraining the defendants (rouge websites) engaged in infringing the plaintiff's exclusive rights and broadcasting rights, damages, etc.

14. Let the plaint be registered as a suit.

15. Upon filing of the process fee, issue summons of the suit to the defendants through all permissible modes returnable before the learned Joint Registrar on 25.08.2026.

16. The summons shall state that the written statement(s) be filed by the defendants within a period of *thirty days* from the date of the receipt of the summons. Written statement(s) be filed by the defendant along with affidavit of admission/ denial of documents of the plaintiff, without which the written statement shall not be taken on record.

17. Replication(s) thereto, if any, be filed by the plaintiff within a period of *fifteen days* from the date of receipt of written statement(s). The said replication, if any, shall be accompanied by with affidavit of admission/ denial of documents filed by the defendants, without which the replication(s) shall not be taken on record within the aforesaid period of fifteen days.

18. If any of the parties wish to seek inspection of any document, the same shall be sought and given within the requisite timelines.

19. List before the learned Joint Registrar for marking exhibits of documents on 25.08.2026. It is made clear that if any party unjustifiably denies any document, then such party would be liable to be burdened with costs.

I.A. 15965/2026 (*Stay*)

20. By virtue of the present application under *Order XXXIX Rules 1 and*



2 CPC, the plaintiff seeks the following reliefs:-

“i. Pass an order of temporary injunction restraining the Defendant Nos. 1 to 5 (and such other websites which are discovered during the course of the proceedings and notified by the Plaintiff to have been infringing the Plaintiff’s Exclusive Rights and broadcasting rights), their owners, partners, officers, and all others in capacity of principal or agent acting for and on their behalf, or anyone claiming through, by or under it, from in any manner communicating, hosting, streaming, and/or making available for viewing and downloading, without authorization, on their websites or other platforms, through the internet in any manner whatsoever, the Plaintiff’s content related to the FIFA WC, so as to infringe the Plaintiff’s Exclusive Rights;

ii. Pass an order directing Defendant Nos. 6 to 8, its directors, partners, officers, affiliates, and all others in capacity of principal or agent acting for and, on their behalf, or anyone claiming through, by or under it, to suspend the domain name registration of the Defendant Nos. 1 – 5, as well as any additional infringing websites discovered during the FIFA WC and notified by the Plaintiff on real time basis. Specific Domain Name Registrars for each website are disclosed under para 43 of the Plaint.

iii. Pass an order interim injunction directing the Defendant Nos. 6-8 to disclose the following information of the Defendant Nos. 1-5 (and such other websites which are discovered during the course of the proceedings and notified by the Plaintiff to have been infringing the Plaintiff’s Exclusive Rights and broadcast reproduction rights):

a) Complete details such as name, address, email address, phone number, IP address etc.

b) Mode of payment along with payment details used for registration of domain name by the registrant(s).

iv. Pass a temporary order directing the Defendant Nos. 9 to 17, their directors, partners, proprietors, officers, affiliates, servants, employees, and all others in capacity of



principal or agent acting for and on their behalf, or anyone claiming through, by or under it, to block access to the various websites identified by the Plaintiff in the instant suit (at S. No. 1 of the Documents), as well as any additional infringing websites discovered during the course of the FIFA WC and notified by the Plaintiff on real time basis.

v. Pass an order directing the Defendant Nos. 18 and 19 to issue a notification calling upon the various internet service providers registered under it to block access to the various websites identified by the Plaintiff in the instant suit (at S. No. 1 of the Documents), as well as any additional infringing websites discovered during the course of the FIFA WC and notified by the Plaintiff on real time basis;”

21. As per the pleadings and arguments advanced by learned counsel for plaintiff, the plaintiff is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, and is engaged in the business of production, acquisition, co-production, promotion, marketing and distribution of various cinematographic films. Further, the plaintiff also owns and operates a digital entertainment platform/ streaming service called ‘Zee5’ accessible at <https://zee5.com> and also through various applications for download on mobile, tablets, laptops, desktops, etc. available on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

22. The plaintiff has acquired certain exclusive media rights for *FIFA World Cup 2026 (FIFA 2026)* vide Right Confirmation letter dated 01.06.2026 comprising the broadcasting rights within India, through cable, satellite, terrestrial, IPTV, broadband, mobile technology transmission systems (*exclusive rights*) in respect of FIFA 2026 taking place from 11.06.2026 to 19.07.2026. Further, learned counsel for plaintiff submits that by virtue of *Section 37* of the Copyright Act, 1957 (*Copyright Act*),



the plaintiff has the rights thereunder to broadcast, re-broadcast, retransmit, stream, and make available for viewing and/ or communicating the same to the public, as also to seek protection against copyright infringement.

23. On 29.05.2026, the plaintiff came to know *via* investigators that defendants nos.1-5 (*rogue websites*) were engaged in illegally broadcasting the matches of the recently concluded IPL 2026, as also have announced the future availability of FIFA 2026 in violation of the rights of the plaintiff under the Copyright Act.

24. It is further submitted that a fresh cause of action arises against the rogue websites (known and unknown) every time such websites communicate to the public, host, advertise, stream and/ or make available for download and viewing FIFA 2026 and the content related thereto anywhere in India, including Delhi, without obtaining requisite permissions. Further, since the said rogue websites cannot be traced, having masked addresses, for the purposes of giving effect to any orders that may come to be passed by this Court, the plaintiff has arrayed the Domain Name Registrars of the rogue websites as defendant nos.6 to 8 (*DNRs*) respectively as under:

Defendant No.	Rogue Websites	Defendant No.	Domain Name Registrars
1.	https://soccerbox.me/	6	Immaterialism Limited
2	https://soccerworldcup.me/		
3.	https://dlhd.pk/	7.	PKNIC
4.	http://strumyk.uk/	8.	Soluciones Corporativas IP, SL t/a SCIP
5.	https://sportsbay.pro/		



25. Learned counsel for the plaintiff submits that the Internet Service Providers as defendant nos.9 to 17 (*ISPs*) who are engaged in the business of providing internet and telecommunication services to the public and are the gateways that enable access to such rogue websites, as also defendant nos.18 and 19, i.e. Department of Telecommunications (*DOT*) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (*MEITY*) for necessary information and compliance have also been impleaded. Lastly, the unknown defendants in the form of further rogue websites or their alpha-numeric/ mirror/ redirect variants who may emerge subsequently and be discovered to be infringing the rights of the plaintiff as John Doe/ defendant no.20, and to enable their real-time blocking through a *dynamic+ injunction* have also been impleaded.

26. On oral request, learned counsel for the plaintiff, handing over a copy of the order dated 29.05.2025 passed by this Court in CS (COMM) 108/2025 entitled '*Star India Pvt. Ltd. vs. IPTV Smarter Pro & Ors.*', submits that since for sporting events such as FIFA 2026, there is also the emergence of rogue mobile applications that instantaneously come up and illegally broadcast such content, also prays for grant of a *superlative injunction* to protect the plaintiff against such rogue mobile applications, which under similar circumstances was granted by this Court therein.

27. Heard.

28. On a perusal of the pleadings and documents on record, specifically the exclusive rights of the plaintiff *qua* FIFA 2026 and the nature of the rogue websites, the present case, *prima facie*, appears to be one of widespread copyright infringement by masked players like the defendant



nos.1 to 5, who use the worse edge of today's technology to conceal their identities to enrich themselves by infringing upon the legitimate intellectual property rights of right holders like the plaintiff herein.

29. Today, it has become increasingly convenient for such illegal players to circumvent the processes *qua* protection of the rights of such plaintiffs and blocking mechanisms imposed through Court orders by instantly creating alpha-numeric/ mirror/ redirect variants of infringing websites, leading to a scenario wherein if real-time blocking is not granted, by the time such reliefs for each and every future rogue website individually is obtained from the Court, the intellectual property rights of the plaintiff would already be rendered otiose. It is also an unfortunate reality that similar infringing activities are also carried out *via* rogue mobile applications, hence it has become essential for such plaintiff(s) to obtain protections also against the associated domains/ URLs/ UIs of such rogue mobile applications in order to give any meaningful effect to orders granting them protection against infringement.

30. In light of the above, and since the infringing acts of the defendant nos.1 to 5 are without obtaining any kind of permission/ authorization/ right/ title/ interest from the rightful owner being the plaintiff, the plaintiff has been able to make out a *prima facie* case in its favour and against the defendants and the *balance of convenience* is also tilting towards grant of relief in favour of the plaintiff. In fact, if an *ex parte ad interim injunction* in favour of the plaintiff is not granted, the plaintiff will likely suffer *irreparable loss and injury*.

31. Accordingly, in view of the reliefs sought by the plaintiff coupled with the oral request made by learned counsel for the plaintiff, as recorded



hereinabove, there shall be an interim injunction in favour of the plaintiff in the following terms, till the next date of hearing:-

a. Any person/ entity including, but not limited to, the defendant nos.1 to 5, their owners, partners, officers and all others in capacity of principal or agent acting for and on their behalf, or anyone claiming through, by or under them are hereby restrained from, communicating, hosting, streaming, and/ or making available for viewing and downloading in any manner whatsoever, without authorization, the plaintiff's works, exclusive broadcasts, streams and content in respect of **FIFA 2026** scheduled to take place from 11.06.2026 to 19.07.2026 so as to infringe the plaintiff's exclusive rights in the same;

b. The defendant nos.6 to 8 being the DNRs are hereby directed to, on a real-time basis, lock and suspend the domain name registrations of the defendant nos.1 to 5, as also all such rogue websites as well as domain name registrations of associated domains/ URLs/ UIs of such rogue mobile applications registered by them, if any, that may be further discovered by the plaintiff to be infringing the plaintiff's exclusive rights in its works, exclusive broadcasts, streams and content in respect of **FIFA 2026** scheduled to take place from 11.06.2026 to 19.07.2026, and to disclose the name, email address and IP address of the registrants of the same, as notified by the plaintiff;

c. The defendant nos.9 to 17 being the ISPs are directed to, on a real-time basis, block access to the defendant nos.1 to 5, as also all such rogue websites as well as the associated domains/ URLs/ UIs



of such rogue mobile applications that may be further discovered by the plaintiff to be infringing the plaintiff's exclusive rights in its works, exclusive broadcasts, streams and content in respect of **FIFA 2026** scheduled to take place from 11.06.2026 to 19.07.2026;

d. The defendant nos.18 and 19 being DOT and MEITY are directed to ensure compliance of the above orders by the ISPs under them;

e. In all such instances where the plaintiff discovers and notifies further rogue websites as well as associated domains/ URLs/ UIs of rogue mobile applications to the DNRs/ ISPs for locking/ suspending/ blocking access to the same, the plaintiff is directed to continue to file affidavits before this Court apprising this Court of the same.

32. Upon the plaintiff taking requisite steps, issue notice to defendants through all permissible modes returnable before the Roster Bench on 06.10.2026.

33. Reply(s), if any, be filed within *four weeks* from the date of service. Rejoinder(s) thereto, if any, be filed within *two weeks* thereafter.

34. List before the Roster Bench on 06.10.2026.

SAURABH BANERJEE, J.
(VACATION JUDGE)

JUNE 03, 2026/Ab