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

+ **CS(COMM) 753/2026**

SONY PICTURES NETWORKS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

.....Plaintiff

Through: Mr. Sidharth Chopra, Mr. Yatinder Garg, Mr. Akshay Maloo, Ms. Ishi Singh and Mr. Manish Singh, Advocates.

versus

CRICGO.PRO & ORS.

.....Defendants

Through:

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JYOTI SINGH

ORDER

% **20.07.2026**

I.A. 18674/2026 (for pre-institution mediation)

1. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff under Section 12A(1) of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 read with Section 151 CPC seeking exemption from Pre-Institution Mediation.

2. 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.

3. Application is allowed and disposed of.

I.A. 18675/2026 (u/S 80 r/w Section 151 CPC)

4. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff seeking exemption from issuing notices to Defendants No. 27 (BSNL), 30 (MTNL), 35 (DoT) and 36 (MeiTY) as required under Section 80 CPC.



5. For the reasons stated in the application, the same is allowed, exempting the Plaintiff from effecting service on the Defendants.

6. Application stands disposed of.

I.A. 18676/2026(u/O XI Rule 1(4) r/w Section 151 CPC)

7. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff seeking 30 days' time to file additional documents.

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

9. Application is allowed and disposed of.

I.A. 18677/2026 (u/S 149 CPC)

10. This application is filed on behalf of the Plaintiff seeking exemption from depositing the requisite court fee.

11. For the reasons stated in the application, the same is allowed, granting three days' time to Plaintiff to deposit the requisite court fee.

12. Application stands disposed of.

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13. Let plaint be registered as a suit.

14. Upon filing of process fee, issue summons to the Defendants through all permissible modes, returnable before the learned Joint Registrar on 10.08.2026.

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

16. It will be open to the Plaintiff to file replications within 30 days from the date of receipt of written statements along with affidavits of admission/denial of documents filed by the Defendants.



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

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

I.A. 18673/2026 (u/O XXXIX Rules 1 and 2 r/w Section 151 CPC)

19. 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.

20. Issue notice to the Defendants through all permissible modes, returnable before Court on 18.11.2026.

21. Case of the Plaintiff as set out in the plaint is that Plaintiff, formerly known as Culver Max Entertainment India Private Limited, is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and is one of India's leading media and entertainment companies engaged inter alia in the business of television broadcasting, content acquisition, production, aggregation, distribution and exploitation of audio-visual content across television, digital and mobile platforms. Plaintiff is a part of globally renowned Sony Group and has established itself as a premier broadcaster and content provider in India and either by itself and/or through its affiliates and licensors owns, operates and/or distributes an extensive portfolio of premium television channels spanning multiple genres including sports, general entertainment, movies, children's entertainment, factual entertainment and regional content.

22. It is stated that Plaintiff, along with its affiliates, is the owner of an extensive portfolio of nearly 29 premium channels across multiple languages and genres including leading channels in both SD and HD formats such as SONY TEN 1 SD, SONY TEN 1 HD, SONY TEN 2 SD, SONY TEN 2



HD, SONY TEN 3 SD, SONY TEN 3 HD, SONY TEN 4, SONY TEN 4 HD, SONY SIX SD, SONY SIX HD, Sony Entertainment Television (SET), Sony SAB, Sony PAL, Sony MAX, Sony MAX 2, Sony WAH, Sony PIX, Sony BBC Earth, Sony YAY!, Sony Marathi, Sony AATH, to name a few. By virtue of requisite uplinking and downlinking permissions granted by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Plaintiff possesses the sole and exclusive right to broadcast and distribute the Sony Channels within India, which broadcast a wide range of premium sporting content including *inter alia* cricket, football, tennis, golf, mixed martial arts etc. Plaintiff has acquired and continues to acquire exclusive media rights in respect of several marquee sporting events and illustratively in 2026, Plaintiff has obtained rights to broadcast and telecast several international cricket matches.

23. It is stated that the Sony channels enjoy immense popularity in India and internationally and Plaintiff has invested substantial time, effort, expertise and financial resources in acquiring, producing, promoting and broadcasting such content and in developing and maintaining the goodwill associated with its channels. The goodwill and reputation of Sony channels is reflected from the fact that there are more than 700 million viewers in India and the channel is available in 150 countries worldwide. Plaintiff owns and operates the online audio-visual streaming platform and website www.sonyliv.com as also mobile application Sony LIV, viewers of which can enjoy content on-the-go with seamless streaming on a host of devices such as laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smart TVs etc.

24. It is stated that Plaintiff's OTT platform (Sony LIV) enables viewers to watch television serials and programs, films, sports content including live sports content, trailers of upcoming films and television serials, international



content including viewing schedules of content offered etc. The highly evolved video streaming technology, impeccable quality of video streaming and vast library of content places it amongst the most popular video streaming services in India.

25. It is stated that one of the primary modes by which the organizer generates revenue to cover all expenses made by it towards organization of sports and development is through sales/assignment of the media rights, i.e. exclusive right to exploit, broadcast, stream, communicate and make available the live matches and events to large number of viewers on different platforms such as TV, Radio, Internet etc. Plaintiff has acquired exclusive rights in various events for which it has entered into agreements with the event organizers and the details are as follows:-

Sporting Events	Agreement	Event Dates
Commonwealth Games 2026 Event Organizer – ‘Commonwealth Sport’	Broadcast Rights agreement dated 2 nd June, 2026. Rights granted under the said agreement are confirmed vide Rights Confirmation Letter dated 13 th July 2026	23 rd July 2026 - 2 nd August 2026
Australian Open 2027	Media Rights License Agreement	17 th January 2027 - January 31, 2027



Event Organizer – 'Tennis Australia Limited'	dated 5 th December 2025 Rights granted under the said agreement are confirmed vide Rights Confirmation Letter dated 13 th July 2026	
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26. It is stated that Plaintiff has acquired exclusive television, digital and media rights in respect of upcoming Commonwealth Games 2026 vide Media Rights Agreement dated 02.06.2026 for exploitation in territories such as India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for a period commencing from 01.06.2026 and ending on 31.12.2026 from the event organiser i.e. Commonwealth Sports. The rights have been confirmed vide confirmation letter dated 13.07.2026. Furthermore, Plaintiff has acquired exclusive media rights in relation to Australian Open for television and online services within India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the period 15.10.2025 to 30.06.2028, including rights in respect of live broadcast, limited archive footage, limited promotional clips, limited new access clips and commentary, which stand confirmed vide confirmation letter dated 14.07.2026. The rights include, *inter alia*, exclusive television rights, digital rights, streaming rights, broadcasting rights, communication to the public rights and all allied audio-visual and ancillary rights in relation to the events.

27. It is stated that Plaintiff has filed the present suit seeking permanent injunction to restrain infringement of its exclusive rights and broadcast



reproduction rights in relation to sporting events, including Commonwealth Games 2026 commencing from 23.07.2026 and ending on 02.08.2026 as also Australian Open 2027 commencing 17.01.2027 and ending on 31.01.2027 ('Events'). By virtue of agreements dated 02.06.2026 and 05.12.2025 respectively, Plaintiff has acquired exclusive rights in relation to broadcasting, communicating, transmitting, streaming and otherwise commercially exploiting live and deferred coverage, match/footage etc. for valuable consideration in respect of the Events and any party that unauthorizedly hosts, streams, broadcasts, communicates to the public, is guilty of infringement of Plaintiff's exclusive rights under Section 37 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

28. It is stated that Defendants No.1 to 14 ("Defendants' Websites") are rogue websites engaged in unauthorizedly broadcasting sporting content *inter alia* of the ongoing Tour of England 2026, stealing the field from Plaintiff's channel and the content playback pages on Defendants No.1 to 3, prominently displayed the logos of Plaintiff's sporting channels. The content includes live, highlights, clips and repeat exhibition of various sporting events, over which Plaintiff has exclusive rights and considering these infringing activities as also past experience with these rogue websites, Plaintiff apprehends that these and similar unknown Defendants will infringe Plaintiff's digital rights in the Events. Clearly, Plaintiff has not licensed or authorized the Defendants' websites to engage in exercise of any Broadcast Reproduction Rights with respect to the Events and their activities amount to infringement as also broadcast pirated content for unlawful monetary gains. In fact, many of these Defendants' websites hide behind Domain Privacy Services offered by various Domain Name Registrars, which enables the website owner to hide behind a veil and not disclose any contact details



publicly. Consequently, it becomes extremely difficult to contact these websites to call upon them to cease infringing conduct.

29. It is stated that Defendants No.15 to 25 are Domain Name Registrars (DNRs) impleaded for effective implementation of the orders of the Court while Defendants No.26 to 34 are Internet Service Providers (ISPs), who along with Defendant No.35/DoT and Defendant No.36/MeiTY are also impleaded for enforcing Court orders. Defendant No.37 are other infringing websites, impleaded as John Doe, since their identity, constitution etc. are unknown.

30. It is stated that Defendants' websites routinely upload, stream and make available Plaintiff's copyrighted broadcasts including matches and are *ex facie* infringing. These are evidently 'rogue' in nature inasmuch as: (i) their primary purpose is to transmit, stream, download, host, communicate and provide access to copyrighted broadcasts of the Plaintiff without any authorisation; (ii) they intentionally and systematically upload and disseminate vast volumes of infringing content, including, *inter alia*, unauthorised broadcasts of Plaintiff's events; (iii) no verifiable contact information, identification details or ownership particulars are made available on their platforms and their domain names and interfaces are pseudonymous; and (iv) their functioning demonstrates a complete disregard for copyright, as they routinely facilitate access to content and/or broadcasts owned by the Plaintiff without obtaining any authorisation.

31. It is stated that Defendants' websites operate well-structured homepages that are systematically organised with clear categorization of content. Further, Defendants' websites prominently display the logos of Plaintiff's sporting channels, which clearly demonstrates unauthorized and infringing use of the content and branding. These actions are neither isolated



nor inadvertent, but reflect a sustained pattern of unauthorized streaming, indexing and dissemination of copyrighted content, carried out with the clear objective of exploiting, *inter alia*, Plaintiff's copyrights. Conduct of these Defendants' websites squarely satisfies the indicia of 'rogue websites' as recognized by this Court in ***UTV Software Communication Ltd. and Others v. 1337X.To and Others, 2019 SCC OnLine Del 8002***. Accordingly, it is imperative that Defendants' websites are restrained by an *ex parte* ad interim order.

32. Learned counsel for the Plaintiff submits that Defendants' websites are habitual in hosting illegal and pirated content. Plaintiff holds broadcasting rights *inter alia* to reproduce, distribute and/or communicate to the public content under the Events. Plaintiff apprehends that looking at the past conduct of Defendants' websites, they will be illegally and unlawfully communicating the upcoming Events also, which amounts to infringement and additionally, broadcast content, including footage, commentary etc., are required to be protected. Reliance is placed on the judgment of this Court in ***Universal City Studios LLC. and Others v. Dotmovies Baby and Others, 2023 SCC OnLine Del 4955***, where the Court granted injunction restraining the rogue websites from in any manner, streaming, reproducing, distributing and/or communicating to the public any copyrighted content of Plaintiffs therein, including future works. Relevant passages from the judgment are 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 indulge 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.

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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 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/alphanumeric 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 enjoined. 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."*



33. Having heard learned counsel for the Plaintiff, I am of the view that Plaintiff has made out a *prima facie* case for grant of *ex parte* ad interim injunction. Balance of convenience lies in favour of the Plaintiff and against Defendants No. 1 to 14. The issue of rogue websites engaged in piracy of copyrighted content is posing a recurring threat and there is no gain saying 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 the ‘Commonwealth Games 2026’ are scheduled to commence from 23rd July 2026. Delay in blocking access to Defendants’ websites and/or any other rogue websites indulging in illegal and unlawful activities, would lead to an irreparable breach of Plaintiff’s copyrights, as aforementioned, apart from revenue loss and cause irreparable damage and injury.

34. Accordingly, till the next date of hearing, Defendants No. 1 to 14 and/or any other person/entity acting on their behalf are restrained from communicating, hosting, streaming, screening, disseminating or making available for viewing/downloading without authorization, any part of Events, on any electronic or digital platform, in any manner whatsoever.

35. Defendants No. 15 to 25/DNRs are directed to block and suspend the following Domain Names of Defendants No. 1 to 14 forthwith, upon service of copy of this order by Plaintiff’s counsel:-

Defendant No.	Rogue Websites	Defendant No.	Domain Name Registrars
1.	cricgo.pro	15.	Name.com, Inc.
3.	crichd.asia		
5.	crichd.mobile		



2.	cricgo.cc	16.	NICENIC International Group Co., Limited
4.	abc.crichd.com.ua	17.	ASCIO
12.	worldsports.st		
7.	crichd.is	18.	ISNIC
6.	cricstreams.org	19.	Atak Domain Bilgi Teknolojileri A.
8.	vipboxtv.sk	20.	Key-Systems GmbH
9.	Cricwatch.io	21.	Tucows Domains Inc.
10.	es.vipleague.io	22.	TLD Registrar Solutions Ltd.
11.	smarteric.click	23.	Sav.com, LLC
13.	liveverse.space	24.	Spaceship, Inc.
14.	soccerworldcup.me	25.	eNom, LLC

36. Defendants No. 15 to 25 shall file an affidavit in a sealed cover/password protected document disclosing the complete details of Defendants no. 1 to 14 as available with them, including e-mail address, mobile numbers, contact details, KYC details, within four weeks from today.

37. Defendants No. 26 to 34 i.e., ISPs/TSPs are directed to block Defendants No. 1 to 14's websites forthwith, upon service of copy of this order by Plaintiff's counsel.

38. Defendants No. 35 and 36 are directed to issue necessary directions to all ISPs for blocking/removing access to websites as specified in paragraph



35 above.

39. During the currency of the Events, if any further websites are discovered by the Plaintiff, which are found to be unauthorizedly streaming and communicating contents over which Plaintiff has copyrights, Plaintiff will be at liberty to communicate the details of such websites to Defendants No.15 to 34 and on receiving intimation from the Plaintiff, Defendants No.15 to 34 shall take steps to immediately block the said websites and Defendants No. 35 and 36 shall issue necessary blocking orders immediately on receipt of details of these websites from the Plaintiff.

40. 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.

41. If any website, which is not primarily an infringing website, is blocked/suspended pursuant to this order, it is at liberty to approach the Court for modification of the order, provided it gives an undertaking that it does not intend to illegally disseminate content over which Plaintiff has exclusive rights.

42. All Defendants in respect of whom directions have been issued above, shall file their respective compliance affidavits within six weeks from today.

43. Plaintiff shall comply with the provisions of Order XXXIX Rule 3 CPC within a period of one week from today.

JYOTI SINGH, J

JULY 20, 2026/RW