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

+ **CS(COMM) 775/2026**

MOHAMMED NAWAZ SHAIKHPlaintiff

Through: Mr. Himanshu Goyal and Ms.
Muskaan Garg, Advocates.

versus

JOHN DOE/ASHOK KUMAR AND ORSDefendants

Through: Counsel for D-2 (appearance not given).

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUP JAIRAM BHAMBHANI

ORDER

% **24.07.2026**

I.A. 19286/2026

By way of the present application filed under section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 ('CPC') the plaintiff/applicant seeks exemption from filing complete postal address and identity particulars of defendants Nos. 1, 4 to 9 and from serving the said Defendants at this stage.

2. For the reasons stated in the application, which is duly supported by affidavit, the application is allowed.
3. The plaintiff is exempted from filing complete postal address and identity particulars of defendants Nos. 1, 4 to 9 *at this stage*.
4. The application stands disposed-of.

I.A. 19284/2026

5. By way of the present application filed under Order XI Rule 1(4) of the CPC, the plaintiff/applicant seeks three days' time to file additional documents.
6. For the reasons stated in the application, which is duly supported by affidavit, the application is allowed.



7. Let the additional documents be filed within 30 days.
8. The relevance and admissibility of the documents so filed will be considered subsequently.
9. The application stands disposed-of

I.A. 19285/2026

10. By way of the present application filed under section 12A of Commercial Courts Act, 2015 read with section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 ('CPC'), the plaintiff seeks exemption from in pre-litigation mediation.
11. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the present case, and in light of the judgment of the Supreme Court in ***Yamini Manohar vs. T.K.D. Keerthi***¹ and of a Division Bench of this court in ***Chandra Kishore Chaurasia vs. R A Perfumery Works (P) Ltd.***², the plaintiff is exempted from attempting pre-litigation mediation.
12. The application stands disposed-of.

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13. The plaintiff *inter alia* seeks a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction restraining defendant No. 1 and defendant Nos. 4 to 9 from filing, lodging or procuring any copyright complaint, report, strike or takedown request against the plaintiff's original content, account(s) or digital properties on the basis of false, fabricated or backdated claims of ownership, along with other consequential and ancillary reliefs.
14. Upon a *prima-facie* conspectus of the matter, let the plaint be registered as a suit.

¹ (2024) 5 SCC 815

² 2022 SCC OnLine Del 3529



15. Issue summons in the suit.
16. Learned counsel appears for defendant No.2 on advance copy; accepts notice; and seeks time to file written statement.
17. Upon the plaintiff taking requisite steps within 10 days, let summons be sent to the remaining defendants by all permissible modes, returnable for the next date before the learned Joint Registrar.
18. Let the summons indicate that the defendants are required to file written statement to the plaint within 30 days from the date of receipt of summons, alongwith affidavit of admission/denial of the documents filed by the plaintiff. The plaintiff may file replication to the written statement within 30 days thereafter, alongwith affidavit of admission/denial of the documents filed by defendants.
19. List before the learned Joint Registrar for completion of pleadings, for admission/denial of documents and marking of exhibits on 02nd November 2026.
20. List before court thereafter.

I.A. 19283/2026

21. By way of the present application filed under Order XXXIX Rules 1 and 2 read with section 151 of the CPC, the plaintiff seeks *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction *inter alia* restraining defendant No. 1 and defendant Nos. 4 to 9 from filing, lodging or procuring any copyright complaint, report, strike or takedown request against the plaintiff's original content, account(s) or digital properties on the basis of false, fabricated or backdated claims of ownership.
22. Mr. Himanshu Goyal, learned counsel appearing for the plaintiff submits, that the plaintiff is a widely recognised digital content creator



- and educator, who publishes original content pertaining to AI-commentary and personal branding guidance on the platform run by defendant No. 2 *i.e.*, Meta Platforms Inc. (formerly known as Facebook).
23. Mr. Goyal submits, that commencing March 2026, defendant No.1/John Doe, acting through fabricated identities has systematically misused defendant No.2's copyright reporting architecture by initiating false copyright complaints against plaintiff's original works; and acting solely on such complaints made by defendant No.1, defendant No.2 has repeatedly removed plaintiff's content and suspended his verified Instagram Account. Learned counsel submits that the plaintiff was able to recover his account only after giving in to extortion demands made by defendant No.1.
24. Learned counsel further submits, that the plaintiff has duly informed defendant No.2 of the misuse of its copyright reporting architecture, but despite that, defendant No.2 has failed to undertake any meaningful action in this regard.
25. Mr. Goyal submits, that after the afore-mentioned incident of March 2026, the plaintiff's Instagram Account was suspended for a second time in June 2026 due to fresh copyright complaints by defendant No.1, through defendant No.7. Counsel submits that it is during this time that the plaintiff was introduced to defendant No.9, who represented that he could procure restoration of the plaintiff's verified Instagram Account.
26. Learned counsel submits, that despite the plaintiff bringing the aforesaid to defendant No.2's notice, the latter has failed to undertake any investigation into the fraudulent copyright complaints against the plaintiff.



27. In support of his submission, Mr. Goyal has drawn the attention of this court to a series of e-mail communications received by the plaintiff, wherein, having made fake copyright strikes on his account, the said defendants have blackmailed and extorted monies from the plaintiff for restoration of his account.
28. Learned counsel submits, that the plaintiff's account has been suspended for about a month-and-a-half; and the plaintiff has accordingly been unable to carry-on his occupation, namely that of content creation.
29. Most importantly, Mr. Goyal submits, that it is in fact defendant No.2's own stand that no copyright complaint is currently pending against the plaintiff's Instagram Account; and yet the plaintiff's Instagram Account continues to be suspended pending an internal review by defendant No.2. In view of the above, Mr. Goyal seeks urgent relief of revocation of suspension of the plaintiff's Instagram Account.
30. Issue notice.
31. Learned counsel is present on behalf of defendant No.2 on advance copy; and accepts notice.
32. Upon the plaintiff taking steps, let notice be sent to the remaining defendants by all permissible modes, returnable for the next date.
33. Let replies to the application be filed within 06 weeks; rejoinder thereto, if any, be filed within 04 weeks thereafter; with copies to the opposing counsel.
34. Learned counsel appearing for defendant No.2 submits, that they would expeditiously verify the current position of the plaintiff's Instagram account; and if the plaintiff's account is found to be in order, the suspension would be revoked.



35. Learned counsel for defendant No.2 further submits, that regardless of the current position of the plaintiff's account, they would in any case preserve the plaintiff's account for a period of 180 days as required by the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.³
36. Upon a conspectus of the submissions made, learned counsel for defendant No.2 is directed to obtain instructions, and if necessary, file a brief affidavit as regards the current status of the plaintiff's Instagram Account before the next date; with copy to the opposing counsel.
37. Let the instructions be obtained *positively* before the next date.
38. Furthermore, learned counsel appearing for defendant No.2 is directed to furnish to learned counsel for the plaintiff the basic subscriber information and IP logs relating to defendants Nos. 4 to 9, to enable the plaintiff to take further legal action against the said defendants.
39. Let such information be furnished within 02 weeks.
40. At request, re-notify before court on 29th July 2026.
41. Re-notify before the learned Joint Registrar for completion of pleadings on 02nd November 2026.

ANUP JAIRAM BHAMBHANI, J

JULY 24, 2026

V.Rawat

³ Rule 3(1), IT Rules 2021.