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

CNR No. DLHC010947842024

+ **CS(COMM) 1147/2024 & I.As. 48740/2024, 27483/2025**

RAJAT SHARMA & ANR.

.....Plaintiffs

Through: Mr. Sidharth Chopra, Ms. Disha Sharma, Ms. Snehima Jauhari and Ms. Deepika Pokharia, Advocates.

versus

TAMARA DOC & ORS.

.....Defendants

Through: Mr. Nishant Gautam, CGSC with Mr. Manish Rawat, GP, Ms. Srishti Singh, Mr. Mohit Bokoliya and Mr. Abhishek Mohanpuria, Advocates for D-10/DoT and D-11/MeitY.

Mr. Aditya Gupta, Ms. Vani Kaushik and Mr. Rohith Venkatesan, Advocates for D-17.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JYOTI SINGH

ORDER

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24.08.2026

1. This suit is filed on behalf of the Plaintiffs *inter alia* seeking a decree of permanent injunction restraining infringement of personality and publicity rights of Plaintiff No.1 as well as restraining infringement of the registered trademarks of Plaintiff No.2, misappropriation of goodwill, unfair trade practices and restraining infringement of copyright in cinematographic films along with associated broadcasting rights and moral rights of Plaintiff No.2 with other ancillary reliefs.

2. By *ex parte* ad interim order dated 18.12.2024, Court restrained Defendants No.1 to 8 and 12 and all others acting on their behalf from infringing the personality and publicity rights of Plaintiff No.1 as also from



infringing the intellectual property rights, which are subject matter of the present suit, amongst other directions. Defendant No.9/Meta Platforms Inc. was directed to block/remove/take down the impugned content of Defendants No.1 to 8 and disclose their complete details. Defendant No.10/DoT and Defendant No.11/MeitY were directed to issue necessary notifications to all TSPs and ISPs to block/suspend the websites, telephone numbers, social media accounts, channels etc., which were infringing the rights of the Plaintiffs.

3. During the pendency of the suit, Defendants No.13 to 17, of which Defendants No.13 to 16 are YouTube channels which were circulating deepfake videos, unauthorizedly using personality attributes of Plaintiff No.1 as also Defendant No.17/Google LLC were impleaded and by order dated 07.11.2025, Defendant No.17 was directed to take down YouTube channels of Defendants No.14 to 16 and disclose all available BSI and IP logs details along with other details associated with the said Defendants. Defendant No. 9/Meta Platform Inc. was deleted vide order dated 22.09.2025 based on its undertaking that it will act upon any further information given by the Plaintiffs with respect to URLs which are mirror images of and identical to the URLs, which are subject matter of the suit, after accepting the undertaking.

4. Mr. Siddharth Chopra, learned counsel for the Plaintiffs submits that the suit can be disposed of by passing a decree of permanent injunction against Defendants No.1 to 3, 5 to 8, 14 and 16 and Plaintiffs are willing to give up the reliefs claimed against Defendants No.10 and 11 in paragraph 100(g), (j) and (k). Further, Plaintiffs do not press the relief claimed in paragraph 100(i) for declaration of Plaintiff No. 2's various INDIA TV



trademarks as well-known within the meaning of Section 2(1)(zg) of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 ('1999 Act') and liberty be granted to seek such declaration in any subsequent suit.

5. It is the case of the Plaintiffs that Plaintiff No. 1 is a renowned journalist and has been the face of Indian television for over two decades with impeccable reputation, both in India and abroad. Plaintiff No. 1 is the recipient of several awards for his contribution to the field of journalism in India including Padma Bhushan in 2015 in recognition of his service in the field of literature and education. Plaintiff No. 1 has been hosting India's most successful longest running television show 'Aap Ki Adalat' for the last 29 years besides many other popular shows on television.

6. Aggrieved by the acts of Defendants No. 1 to 8, who were perpetuating gross misinformation including through wrongful use of AI technology for creation of doctored video bearing distorted, modified and modulated images/voice and other personality traits of Plaintiff No. 1 as also unauthorized use and infringement of registered INDIA TV trademarks of Plaintiff No. 2 and copyright violation, Plaintiffs filed the present suit and by *ex parte* order dated 18.12.2024, Defendants No. 1 to 8 and 12 were restrained. During the pendency of the suit, Defendants No. 13 to 16 were impleaded, which were YouTube channels circulating deepfake videos, unauthorizedly using various personality attributes of Plaintiff No. 1. On 07.11.2025, Court recorded the statement of Defendant No. 17 that on 30.10.2025, acting on the complaint and after reviewing the accounts of YouTube channels operated by Defendants No. 13 and 15, the accounts were terminated while the accounts of Defendants No. 14 and 16 were still under review. Court directed Defendant No. 17 to take down YouTube



channels of Defendants No. 14 and 16 within 36 hours from the order being uploaded as also to disclose available BSI, IP logs and other access/contact details.

7. Defendants No.1 to 3, 5 to 8, 14 and 16 were served but did not file written statements and accordingly, on 15.07.2026, their rights to file written statements were closed by learned Joint Registrar. As noted above, Plaintiffs have given up the reliefs in paragraph 100(g), (j) and (k) against Defendants No. 10 and 11. Defendant No.12 is John Doe.

8. In light of the aforesaid, suit is decreed in favour of the Plaintiffs and against Defendants No.1 to 3, 5 to 8, 14 and 16 in terms of paragraph 100(a) to (e) of the plaint.

9. Decree sheet be drawn up by the Registry.

10. Liberty is granted to the Plaintiffs to seek declaration of INDIA TV trademarks as well-known within the meaning of Section 2(1)(zg) of 1999 Act, in a subsequent suit.

11. Plaintiffs shall be at liberty to approach Defendant No. 9/Meta Platforms Inc. and Defendant No. 17/Google LLC, copying their respective counsels on record with the relevant details of any subsequent discovered URLs and/or content as applicable, relating to subject matter of the present suit including direct or indirect misuse, misappropriation or exploitation of the name, likeness, image, voice, photos, videos or any other aspect of Plaintiff No. 1's persona, which amounts to infringement of his personality and publicity rights and/or his copyright and trademark. Plaintiffs shall provide the concerned Defendant(s) with supporting particulars/documents demonstrating that such URLs and/or content, as applicable, form the subject matter of the present suit, on an affidavit. Upon receiving such



request with details of relevant URL(s) and/or content, as applicable, the concerned Defendant(s) shall independently examine and evaluate Plaintiffs' request and act in terms of their respective policies. Concerned Defendant(s) shall acknowledge the request within 24 hours and take action within 36 hours thereafter. In case, the concerned Defendant(s) does not act upon the request made, Plaintiffs shall be at liberty to approach the Court to seek appropriate directions in that regard.

12. Suit is disposed of along with pending applications.

JYOTI SINGH, J

AUGUST 24, 2026

S.Sharma