IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 36390 OF 2026

IN

SUIT (L) NO. 36383 OF 2026

Leena Gandhi Tewari ...Applicant/Plaintiff

Versus

John Doe / Ashok Kumar & Ors. ...Defendants

Mr. Kunal Dwarkadas a/w. Mr. Rahul Dwarkadas, Mr. Aniket Kharote, Mr. Rahul Deshpande, Mr. Neveille Mukerji and Mr. Raushan Kumar i/b. RJD & Partners, for the Applicant/Plaintiff.

CORAM : ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.

DATE : 28th OCTOBER, 2026

P.C.

1. The matter has been moved today for urgent ad interim relief.

2. Mr. Dwarkadas, the Learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the Plaintiff, submits that the Respondents have been served and that the Affidavit of Service has been filed in the Registry. Despite this, none appears.

3. Mr. Dwarkadas then submits that the Plaintiff is the Chairperson of a large multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company and featured in the *Forbes* rankings of the 100 richest Indians in the 2015 list. He then points out that, apart from the Plaintiff's business achievements, the Plaintiff is widely

Uploaded on - 29/10/2026 Downloaded on - 31/10/2026 23:46:54

recognised for her social and philanthropic endeavours. He invites my attention to the Plaint to point out that the Plaintiff has founded and actively supports the 'Dr. Susheela Gandhi Centre for Social Development', which is dedicated to the education and holistic development of children from less-privileged backgrounds. He then points out that in recognition of the Plaintiff's philanthropic work, the Plaintiff was ranked 23rd in the *Hurun India Philanthropy List 2019* and 3rd in the *List of Women Philanthropists 2019*, also published by *Hurun Report India*.

4. Mr. Dwarkadas then submitted that the Plaintiff consciously maintains a low public profile but has been constrained to file the present Suit since the Plaintiff has discovered various fake Facebook accounts created by unknown persons impersonating the Plaintiff. He then invited my attention to printouts of these various Facebook accounts and pointed out that they not only bear the name and description of the Plaintiff but also have various morphed photographs of the Plaintiff. He submits that since the identity of those responsible for opening and/or operating these accounts is presently not known to the Plaintiff, these individuals are joined as John Doe/Ashok Kumar.

5. Mr. Dwarkadas further submits that the persons operating these Facebook accounts appear to be misusing them by taking advantage of the Plaintiff's reputation as a philanthropist. He submitted that one of the objectives behind creating and operating these fake accounts of the Plaintiff was to defraud individuals who would ordinarily be the recipients of the Plaintiff's

Uploaded on - 29/10/2026 **Downloaded on - 31/10/2026 23:46:54**

philanthropy. In support of his submission, he invited my attention to a communication annexed at Exhibit "J" to the Plaint, addressed to the Plaintiff by one such individual, namely, Mr. Ajinas Aju, which inter alia records thus viz.

> *"MAAM For about a year, I used to send you "Good Morning" messages on Facebook every morning, and sometimes "Good Night" messages at night.*
> *After this had been going on for nearly a year, you recently asked me who I was and how I was doing. Since then, we occasionally exchanged updates. Last month, however, my home was flooded during the severe floods, resulting in damage to the house and other property I sent adam photos and videos of the situation. She told me that I was like a brother to her and that it wasn't right for her to live in such a large house while I was homeless, she promised to provide whatever help was needed to build me a house. However, she said that to transfer the funds to my account, I first needed to send 5,000 via Google Pay to the HR manager of her company was persuaded to send the money after being told It was needed to generate an account number for your company, and that it would be embarrassing for you if the balance fell below five thousand. It was only later that I realized I had been chatting with a fake ID for about a year, believing all along that I was speaking to you. I had been misled because I saw many of your photos and other details on Facebook, which made me assume the account actually belonged to you. This is to convince Madam that-fake-profiles exist on Facebook and Telegram. I am attaching the Facebook and Telegram profiles along with this."*

6. It is thus that Mr. Dwarkadas seeks ad interim relief in terms of prayer clauses (a), (c) and (d) of the Interim Application. He submits that the subsistence of these fake accounts not only continues to harm the Plaintiff's reputation but also poses a threat to various innocent and unsuspecting individuals who believe that these fake accounts are the genuine Facebook accounts of the Plaintiff and, on that basis, seek help from the Plaintiff only to be defrauded by those who operate these fake accounts.

7. Having heard Mr. Dwarkadas and having perused the Plaint and the annexures thereto, I am satisfied that the Plaintiff has made out a *prima facie*

Uploaded on - 29/10/2026 Downloaded on - 31/10/2026 23:46:54

case for the grant of ad-interim relief. In my view, the balance of convenience is in favour of the Plaintiff. I am satisfied that if interim relief is not granted, the Plaintiff will suffer grave damage to the Plaintiff's reputation and goodwill. The recognition that the Plaintiff has received for her philanthropic work alone is telling and deserves protection.

8. The record bears out that despite being called, Facebook has not taken down or disabled these fake accounts. The Plaintiff's communications and complaints addressed to Facebook have only elicited a response that does not address the substance or content of those complaints. Mr. Dwarkadas is therefore justified in submitting that the responses appear to be automated and are absent any effective consideration of the Plaintiff's most serious complaint. Equally, Defendant No. 2 has not acted despite being called upon to take steps under the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

9. In these circumstances, I am satisfied that the Plaintiff has made out a case for the grant of ad-interim relief in terms of prayer clauses (a), (c) and (d), which read as follows, viz.

> *"(a) That pending the hearing and final disposal of the Suit, Defendant No. 1, their agents, servants, assigns, and all others acting on their behalf or under their authority, be restrained from directly and/or indirectly using or exploiting the Applicant's name, image, likeness, photograph, social media profiles and/or claiming to be associated and/or connected with the Applicant in any manner whatsoever, without the Applicant's consent and/or authorisation;*

Uploaded on - 29/10/2026 Downloaded on - 31/10/2026 23:46:54

(c) That pending the hearing and final disposal of the Suit, Defendant No. 2 be directed to immediately suspend, take down and disable access to the Impugned Pages/Accounts;

(d) That pending the hearing and final disposal of the Suit, Defendant No. 2 be directed to preserve all records, logs, and registration data associated with the Impugned Pages/Accounts and its registrant including but not limited to account holder information, IP access logs, and any correspondence relating to the registration;"

10. In addition to the above, Mr. Dwarkadas has also prayed that Facebook/Defendant No. 2, be directed to provide the Plaintiff with all the details of those persons who have opened these accounts and posted the offending material. Accordingly, on a copy of this Order being served upon Defendant No. 2, in addition to complying with the aforesaid prayer clauses, Defendant No. 2 shall also furnish to the Plaintiff's Advocates the details of the basic subscriber information of the individuals who have opened the accounts, the URLs of which are set out in 9 of the Plaint and are extracted below for convenience, viz.

Sr No.	**Facebook Page/Account**	**URL**
1.	Leena Gandhi Tewari	https://www.facebook.com/share/1JjMDZMC9A/?mibextid=wwXIfr
2.	Leena Tewari	https://www.facebook.com/share/1CBRyMeVER/?mibextid=wwXIfr
3.	Leena Tewari	https://www.facebook.com/share/1FDD51Bazt/?mibextid=wwXIfr

Uploaded on - 29/10/2026 **Downloaded on - 31/10/2026 23:46:54**

4.	Leena Tewari	https://www.facebook.com/share/1CBsa6dgep/?mibextid=wwXIfr
5.	Leena Tewari	https://www.facebook.com/share/1Pb9PHh56Z/?mibextid=wwXIfr

11. On such information being made available, the Plaintiff is at liberty to amend the Plaint and join the aforementioned entities/individuals as party Defendants to the present Suit.

12. Stand over to **2nd December 2026.**

13. Ad-interim relief to continue till the next date.

[ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.]

Vaibhav

Uploaded on - 29/10/2026 **Downloaded on - 31/10/2026 23:46:54**