IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

IN ITS COMMERCIAL DIVISION

INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 37234 OF 2026
IN
COMMERCIAL IP SUIT (L) NO. 37230 OF 2026

Godpower Media Private Limited ...Applicant/ Plaintiff

Versus

John Does and Ors. ...Respondents/ Defendants

Mr. Ashish Kamat. SR. Advocate, Mr. Rashmin Khandekar, Mr. Aneet Naik, Ms. Madhu Gadodia, Mr. Anand Mohan, Ms. Unnati Gambani & Ms. Vinayika Shahi, Parth Shah, Amartya Mody i/b Anand and Naik, for the Applicant/Plaintiff.
Mr. Akshay Ayush a/w Ms. Sneha Jaisingh i/b Bharucha & Partners, for the Defendant No. 7.
Mr. D.S. Patil, for the Defendant No. 9.
Ms. Reeti Shetty i/b Mr. Hardik Sampat, for Defendant No.29.

CORAM: MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.
DATED : 2nd Novmeber 2026

P. C.:

1. Heard Mr. Kamat, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the Plaintiff, Mr. Ayush, learned Counsel appearing for the Defendant No.7 and Mr. Patil, learned Counsel appearing for the Defendant No. 9.

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2. Mr. Kamat, learned Senior Counsel, for the plaintiff, at the outset states that there is a typographical mistake in the name of Defendant No. 7, and therefore, seeks leave to amend the name of Defendant No. 7.

3. Accordingly, leave as sought is granted.

4. Amendment be carried-out forthwith. Reverification is dispensed with.

5. The suit has been filed for permanent injunction restraining infringment of copyright, damages rendition of accounts, delivery up etc.

6. The rights which are the subject matter of the present suit are the Plaintiff's copyright and related rights under the Copyright Act, 1957 in the cinematograph film titled as 'NAMIT MALHOTRA'S RAMAYANA' and its underlying works, namely the script, screenplay, dialogues, music, lyrics, sound recordings, background score, visual effects, characters, picturisation, footage, stills, songs, trailers,

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teasers and other promotional material. The suit is instituted partly for infringement which has already occurred and partly as a *quia timet* action to prevent apprehended piracy of the Suit Film.

7. The Plaintiffs have arranged 35 defendants in the suit. The particulars of the same are as under:

> *7.1. Defendant No. 1 (John Doe / Ashok Kumar) represents unidentified persons / entities who operate clandestinely and anonymously, including operators of the Rogue Websites [Exhibit V] and their mirror / redirect/proxy/alphanumeric variants; torrent, cyberlocker, file-sharing, streaming and link-indexing portals and applications; channels, groups, pages and accounts on social media and messaging platforms; cable and DTH operators; and persons who record, copy,*

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upload or share the Suit Film or any part of it without licence.

7.2. Defendant Nos. 2 to 28 are internet service providers and/or telecom service providers through whom users in India access the infringing material ***(the "ISP Defendants")****, impleaded to give effect to orders of blocking and of disclosure of subscriber information.*

7.3. Defendant Nos. 29 to 33 are social media and messaging platforms on which the leaked recordings of the trailers were uploaded and circulated ***(the "Platform Defendants")****.*

7.4. Defendant Nos. 34 and 35 are the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Telecommunications - proforma Defendants impleaded to issue directions to the ISP Defendants and the Platform Defendants for

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implementation of the orders of this Court (the "Government Defendants").”

8. The plaintiffs have raised the following contentions in the plaint:

(i)The Suit Film is based on the Indian epic, Ramayana', directed by Nitesh Tiwari and starring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Yash and Sunny Deol, alongside an extensive ensemble cast. It is one of the largest and most expensive motion pictures ever produced in India, with a budget of approximately INR 2,000 Crores (approximately INR 4,000 Crores for the two-part series), and was produced by engaging over 10,000 persons worldwide.

(ii) In the Plaint it is further stated as under :-

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a. The visual effects of the Suit Film are executed by DNEG, recipient of eight Academy Awards for Best Visual Effects;

b. Its original score is jointly composed by A.R. Rahman and Hans Zimmer;

c. Its is the first Indian production to be accorded the 'Filmed for IMAX' designation; and

d. Its theatrical release is undertaken by Dharma Production Private Limited in North India and by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment Inc. in all territories outside India.

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(iii) The Suit Film is scheduled for theatrical release in India on 5 November 2026, and in international territories on and from that date on a territory-by-territory basis. Its global premiere took place on 27 October 2026 at the David Geffen Theatre, Los Angeles. The Suit Film has been certified for theatrical release by the Central Board of Film Certification.

(iv) The Suit Film has been the subject of extensive publicity and extraordinary public anticipation since its announcement on 3 July 2025, with the theatrical trailer alone having almost 1 billion cumulative views across public platforms.

(v) The commercial sustenance of the Suit Film depends significantly on its theatrical performance in the opening weeks, on which

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the value of every downstream right (satellite, digital / OTT, music and residual rights) is also based. A shortfall at the box office is therefore a loss repeated and multiplied across every subsequent revenue stream.

(vi) The release of the Suit Film is staggered, so that at any given moment it will have released in some territories and remain unreleased in many others. A single unauthorised copy made in the first-releasing territory will become available free of charge, within hours, in every territory where the Suit Film has not yet opened, destroying the demand on which recovery in that territory depends before a single ticket there is sold.

(vii) On 18 July 2026, an invite-only launch event for the first trailer of the Suit Film

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("Trailer No. 1") was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Despite the Plaintiff's best efforts toprotect the Trailer No. 1 against unauthorized recording and illegal public distribution, unidentified persons present at the event surreptitiously recorded portions of Trailer No. 1 and uploaded them on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube, from where other users downloaded, shared and re-posted them across platforms. A criminal complaint in relation to such piracy was lodged on 1 August 2026 before the Cyber Crime Investigation Cell, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, identifying 26 accused .

(viii) The second trailer of the Suit Film ("Trailer No. 2") was released on 15 October 2026. Until then it was confidential and unpublished. Even then, numerous segments of Trailer No. 2, comprising portions of the

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Suit Film itself in its current and final form, were leaked and circulating on various platforms before its release.

(ix) Other material from the Suit Film, including photographs from the sets, behind-the-scenes clips, sequences disclosing key plot points and screen grabs of raw and unfinished footage, has also been unauthorisedly distributed. Not fewer than 4,500 infringing links relating to these leaks have been detected through the anti-piracy agency engaged by the Plaintiff [Exhibits R, S and T].

(x) The above leaks show that infringers record and leak content even when it is shown only to curated audiences, and that infringing content is re-uploaded faster than it can be taken down. A take-down regime

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operated after the event therefore cannot contain it. Premieres and special screenings are also likely in the days before release in India.

(xi) The Plaintiff has a real and well-founded apprehension that the Suit Film or parts of it will be recorded, camcorded, ripped, uploaded, streamed and otherwise communicated to the public on the Rogue Websites and elsewhere at or about its release, and that the injury will be far greater than that caused by the leaks of the trailers. The persons behind such acts act anonymously and cannot be identified in advance, so an injunction limited to presently identified persons, websites and URLs would be ineffective.

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(xii) The Rogue Websites are repeat infringers. When a URL is blocked they resurface within hours as a mirror, redirect, proxy or alphanumeric variant of the same website, operating behind a veil of anonymity. Pirated copies and clips are also circulated through channels and groups on messaging platforms, cyberlockers, torrent and link-indexing portals, social media pages, applications and cable / DTH networks, and made by camcording at cinema halls and at preview and promotional screenings [Exhibits U, V and X].

(xiii) The Plaintiff has tendered an Additional Affidavit, affirmed on 1 November 2026, to place on record certain links purporting to offer the Suit Film for "free" to watch online. It is apprehended that such dormant links will become activated upon an infringing

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copybecoming available upon the Suit Film's theatrical release, as the Plaintiff has already pleaded. The links depicted in the Additional Affidavit are in no way permitted or filled across the page in an attempt to mask their real nature, which is to offer pirated jargon/contend copies of the Suit Film.

(xiv) India has more than 2,700 internet service providers operating in a mesh network, and a communication issued by the Department of Telecommunications in March 2026, in connection with an order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in CS (COMM) 810/2025: Jiostar India Private Limited v. serialmaza.my & Ors., records that compliance with repeated blocking orders is time-consuming and complex [Exhibit W]. A blocking order can therefore be implemented effectively only if the Government Defendants

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issue directions/notifications to all internet service providers and telecom service providers, in addition to compliance by the ISP Defendants.

(xv) The persons comprised in Defendant No. 1 have no licence or authority to make the Suit Film or any part of it available to the public, and their acts prima facie infringe the Plaintiff's exclusive rights under Sections 14, 51 and 55 of the Copyright Act, 1957. The balance of convenience lies in the Plaintiff's favour, as the ISP, Platform and Government Defendants are required to act only against specified websites, URLs and content, and legitimate content is not affected. The loss to the Plaintiff once the Suit Film is leaked cannot be undone, quantified or compensated in money.

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(xvi) Ad-interim relief ought to be granted without notice to Defendant No. 1, whose members are unidentified and cannot be served, and because notice would only allow them to move infringing content to new domain names, channels and accounts, defeating the relief.

9. The suit film by scale of production and breadth of intended release, one of the largest motion pictures ever produced in India other than being one of the most expensive motion pictures produced anywhere in the world.

10. The film is scheduled for release in India on 5th November 2026, and international territories on and from that date on a territory-by-territory basis.

11. The suit film's international premier at the David Geffen Theatre inside the Academy of Motion Pictures, Los

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Angeles, United States of America (USA) took place on 27th October 2026.

12. The budget of the suit film is approximately INR 2,000 Crores. The suit film is Part I of a two-film series. The combined budget of two-films series is approximately INR 4,000 Crores.

13. It is stated in the plaint, that the suit film is based on the Indian epic, 'Ramayana', directed by Nitesh Tiwari and staring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Yash and Sunny Deol and Ravie Dubey alongside an extensive ensemble cast. It has been stated that the film has been produced by engaging over 10,000 persons worldwide. Its visual effects are executed by DNEG, recipient of 8 Academy Awards for best visual effects. Its original score is jointly composed by A.R. Rahman and Hans Zimmer. It is the first Indian production to be accorded the "Filmed for IMAX" designation. Its theaterical release is undertaken by Dharma Production Pvt. Ltd. in North India and Sony

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Pictures Home Entertainment Inc in all other territories outside India.

14. It is stated that on 18th July 2026 the first trailer of the Suit film was held at an "invitees only" basis, a confidential launch event at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, where invitees were bound by confidentiality agreements, since, the Trailer had not yet been published or released to the general public in any form. It has been stated that, despite Petitioner's efforts to contain Trailer No.1 to the attendees substantial portions of Trailer No.1 were leaked across social media platforms especially Facebook, Instagram, X and Youtube and accordingly a Cyber Complaint in respect of leak of Trailer No. 1 was filed. On 15th October 2026 the Trailer No. 2 of the said film was published and it was discovered that numerous segments of Trailer No.2 had been leaked and were circulating on various platforms on the internet.

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15. It is submitted by Mr. Kamat, learned Senior Counsel that the on basis of Plaintiff's apprehension, as soon as the film is released on 5th November 2026 it will be immediately available on various platforms. To substantiate the said contention he points out Paragraph No. 2.3 filed on behalf of the Plaintiff dated 1st November 2026. The said Paragraph No. 2.3 reads as under:

"2.3. Subsequent to filing of the Suit, the Plaintiff has come across actual instances of such dormant links which have begun to appear online. The links / pages claim to offer the Suit Film for "free" to watch online, and it is apprehended that these dormant links will carry infringing copies (as they in fact claim to do) closer to or shortly upon release of the Suit Film. The operators of these links are in no manner permitted or authorised to do so. An illustrative/representative set of such links, as presently available, are as follows:

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(i) https://www.theknot.com/us/watch-ramayana-2026-fullmo-and-online-4khd-free;

(ii) https://cno.to/movie/656908-ramayana-rise-of-a-legend;

(iii) https://fullmoviesell.org/movie/ramayana-rise-of-a-legend-656908/;

(iv) https://us123movies.online/movies/ramayana-rise-of-a-legend-x1656908y/; and

(v) https://www.justwatch.com/in/movie/ramayana.

Copies of the content / pages of the said links and websites carrying them are annexed hereto and marked as Exhibit A-1. Such instances are only limited to the dormant links available as on date on affirmation of this present Affidavit. The Plaintiff craves leave to produce and place on record any further links / material of similar nature."

16. Thus, Prima facie the Plaintiff has real and well-founded apprehension that the Suit film and parts of it will

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be recorded, uploaded, streamed and otherwise communicated to the public on various platforms.

17. Perusal of various Orders annexed at Page Nos 583 to 805 of the Plaint shows that various High Courts have passed similar Order based on apprehension of breach of Copyright.

18. Mr. Kamat, learned Senior Counsel states that at this stage the Applicants are seeking prayer clauses a, c1, c2, d1, d2 and e of the interim application.

19. Mr. Patil, learned Counsel appearing for the Defendant No. 29 and Mr. Ayush, learned Counsel appearing for the Defendant No. 7 states that a direction be issued to the Plaintiff to communicate about any such obligations to these Defendants so that immediate steps would be taken to block, disable access and take down of said URLs carrying the segments of suit film- "NAMIT MALHOTRA'S RAMAYANA".

20. Accordingly, at this stage ad interim relief in terms of

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prayer clause a, c1, c2, d1, d2 . The said prayer clauses reads as under:

> *(a) temporary injunction restraining Defendant No.1, their servants, agents, affiliates, representatives, assignees, licensees, franchisees, partners, proprietors and all persons claiming through or under them, from in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, infringing the Plaintiff's copyright in the Suit Film, including by recording, copymg, reproducing (including by making a photograph of any image forming part of the Suit Film), uploading, downloading, storing, hosting, streaming, broadcasting, telecasting, transmitting, exhibiting, distributing, selling, giving on hire, offering for sale or hire, communicating to the public, or otherwise making available to the public, or providing access or links to, the Suit Film "Namit Malhotra 's Ramayana" or any part thereof*

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(including any footage, scene, song, trailer, teaser, still or other content therefrom, whether released or unreleased, and including content of the nature set out at Exhibits R, S and T of the Plaint), under whatever name or title, through the internet (including through websites and their mirror I redirect I proxy I alphanumeric variants, applications, torrent, cyberlocker, file-sharing, streaming and link-indexing services, and social media and messaging platforms), cable / DTH networks, physical media or any other medium, platform or technology whatsoever, without a licence from the Plaintiff;

(c) an order directing the I SP Defendants, their servants, agents and all persons claiming through or under them to:

(i) forthwith block / disable access to the URLs carrying the Suit Film "Namit Malhotra 's Ramayana" (under whatever name or title) or

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any part thereof without licence from the Plaintiff;

(ii) block / disable access to such further websites (including mirror / redirect / proxy / alphanumeric variants thereof) and URLs carrying the Suit Film or any part thereof without licence from the Plaintiff, as may be notified by the Plaintiff or by its authorised representative in writing from time to time, subject to their right to communicate to the Plaintiff, with reasons, any objection to such blocking; and

(d) an order directing the Platform Defendants, their servants, agents and all persons claiming through or under them to:

(i) forthwith take down / remove / disable access to and / or de-index from its search results, content, posts, videos, reels, channels, groups, pages and accounts on their respective

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platforms carrying the Suit Film "Namit Malhotra 's Ramayana" (under whatever name or title) or any part thereof, or links thereto, without licence from the Plaintiff;

(ii) ake down / remove / disable access to and / or de-index from its search results, such further content, posts, videos, reels, channels, groups, pages, accounts, websites and URLs of a similar nature, as may be notified by the Plaintiff or by its authorised representative in writing from time to time, subject to their rightto communicate to the Plaintiff, with reasons, any objection to such removal / de-indexing; and

(e) an order directing the Government Defendants to issue necessary directions / notifications to all internet service providers and telecom service providers to block / disable access to the websites and URLs

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referred to in prayer clauses (c) and (d) above, within 36 (thirty-six) hours of being notified by the Plaintiff or by its authorised representative in writing, subject to their right to communicate to the Plaintiff, with reasons, any objection to such removal;

21. It is directed that in case the Applicant/ Plaintiff to communicate to the ISP and Platform Defendants i.e Defendant Nos. 2 to 33 about the Obligation of the suit film on Platform and immediately Defendant Nos. 2 to 33 to take steps in accordance with prayer clause C1, C2, D1 and D2.

22. The ISP Defendants and Platform Defendants to take immediate actions to file Affidavit-in-reply on or before 30th November 2026.

23. Rejoinder if any to be filed on or before 16th November 2026.

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24. Thereafter, stand over to **16th December 2026**.

25. Ad interim relief granted to continue till the next date.

[MADHAV J. JAMDAR, J.]

SONALI MILIND PATIL

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