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* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

+ <u>CS(OS) 465/2025 and I.A. 16886-16888/2025</u>

.....Plaintiff

Through: Mr. Raghav Awasthi, Advocate.

versus

JIX5A & ORS.

.....Defendants

Through: Ms.Mamta Rani Jha, Mr.Rohan Ahuja, Ms.Shruttima Ehersa,Ms.Diya and Ms.Aishwarya, Advocates for R-30–Google LLC. Mr.Chetanya Puri, SPC with Mr.Anubhav Tyagi, GP, Ms.Nisha, Mr.Puneet Singh, Advocates for D-31/ Union of India.

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PURUSHAINDRA KUMAR KAURAV <u>O R D E R</u> 18.07.2025

1. Heard learned counsel appearing on behalf of the plaintiff.

2. The plaint be registered as a suit. Issue summons. Ms.Shruttima Ehersa and Mr.Chetanya Puri, learned counsel on behalf of the defendant nos.30 and 31, respectively, are present. They confirm the receipt of the suit paperbook and waives the right of formal service of summons.

3. Written statement(s) shall be filed within thirty days from today. The defendant shall also file affidavits of admission/denial of the documents filed by the plaintiffs, failing which the written statements shall not be taken on record.





4. The plaintiff is at liberty to file replications thereto within thirty days after filing of the written statements. The replications shall be accompanied by affidavits of admission/denial in respect of the documents filed by the defendant, failing which the replications shall not be taken on record.

5. It is made clear that any unjustified denial of documents may lead to an order of costs against the concerned party.

6. Any party seeking inspection of documents may do so in accordance with the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018.

7. Heard learned counsel for the plaintiff on I.A.16886/2025.

8. The relief sought in the instant suit is of permanent and mandatory injunction along with consequential damages for the deliberate and unlawful acts of posting, hosting, publishing, circulating, uploading, and/or disseminating, either directly or indirectly, various objectionable and derogatory content on websites and digital platforms.

9. Mr. Raghav Awasthi, learned counsel for the plaintiff, submits that the defamatory content is not only limited to morphed images, AI-generated visuals, deepfake material, and pornographic or nude images and videos, but also purports to depict the plaintiff in an obscene and malicious manner.

10. He also submits that the act of posting the allegedly defamatory content is not only a violation of the plaintiff's fundamental right to privacy, dignity, and reputation but also constitutes a serious civil tort. He, therefore, submits that the plaintiff's rights are to be protected during the pendency of the instant civil suit.

11. Learned counsel for the plaintiff also places reliance on various orders passed by this Court under almost similar circumstances, which are as under:-





(i) order dated 20.11.2024 in CS(OS) 165/2023;

(ii) order dated 22.02.2024 in CS(OS) 134/2024;

(iii) order dated 11.12.2024 in W.P. (CRL) 1898/2024.

12. Furthermore, Mr. Awasthi seeks liberty to place the purportedly defamatory content, which he has downloaded from respective websites, in a sealed cover. For the same, he has filed a separate application bearing I.A. No.16888/2025.

13. I have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and have perused the record.

14. The Court, during the course of hearing, has opened the sealed envelope and has perused the material contained therein.

15. On a *prima facie* perusal of the same, it is seen that the content is completely appalling, deplorable, defamatory, and is a patent breach of the fundamental rights of the plaintiff.

16. Under the aforesaid circumstances, the Court needs to pass an appropriate order so as to protect the rights of the plaintiff.

17. Accordingly, following directions are framed:-

a) An *ad interim* injunction is passed against defendants No. 1 to 8, namely the social media accounts/handles and defendant No. 9 to 27, namely third-party porn websites, restraining them from uploading, sharing, disseminating manner, either by their own handles/accounts/websites or any other third-party accounts/handles/websites any offending non-consensual explicit images of the plaintiff.

b) Defendant Nos. 1 to 27 are also directed to immediately





take down the URLs containing the offending images enlisted in Prayer (a) of the Injunction Application and from any other URLs that may have been created by them containing such offending images.

c) Defendant No. 28 (X Corp) and 29 (Meta Platforms Inc.) are also directed to forthwith take down the relevant URLs containing the offending images, from their respective platforms, as enlisted in the Prayer (a) of the Injunction Application.

d) Defendant No. 31 is also directed to block the websites enlisted as Defendant Nos. 9 to 27. Defendant No. 31 is also directed to pass appropriate directions to the ISPs to block the URLs of the individual webpages of these websites, as enlisted in the Prayer (a) of the Injunction Application.

e) The plaintiff is at liberty to notify defendant Nos. 28 to 31 or any other intermediary platforms/website(s), of any subsequently discovered URLs containing the offending Suit images or identical content, as found on their respective social media platforms and/or websites, which shall be acted upon by the said defendants. In case there is any doubt whether the notified URLs fall within the scope of the subject matter of the suit, then the said defendants or intermediaries are at liberty to seek clarification from the plaintiff, who may then apply to the Court accordingly.

f) Ms. Shruttima Ehersa, learned counsel for Google LLC,i.e., defendant No. 30 submits that upon the receipt of the suit

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papers, they have taken steps to de-index the URLs from the Google Search engine to the extent that the same contained the offending images related to the Plaintiff and were indexed on the Google search engine. She further submits that in case any further URLs are subsequently discovered, then the same may be also notified to Google using the publicly accessible and available webforms, notably, https://support.google.com/legal/contact/iridmec. For this purpose, the counsel had written a detailed email to the Plaintiff's counsel on 18.07.2025, explaining the various tools available to assist the plaintiff and other such persons.

18. Also heard learned counsel for the respective parties on I.A.16887/2025, which is an application seeking directions for defendant nos.28 and 29.

19. Having considered the averments made in the instant application and under the aforesaid circumstances, defendant no.28 i.e. X. CORP. and defendant no.29 i.e. Meta Platforms, Inc. are directed to disclose the Basic Subscriber's Information and complete details of defendant nos.1 to 8.

20. Let the said exercise be done within a period of fifteen (15) days from today.

21. Thereafter, summons and notices of in the respective application be issued to the remaining defendants on taking of steps by the plaintiff by all permissible modes, returnable on the next date of hearing.

22. Considering the confidentiality of the instant matter, the Registry is directed to delete the name and other details of the plaintiff from the memo





of parties and take appropriate steps to amend the cause title in accordance with extant rules.

23. The plaintiff shall be at liberty to place the defamatory material in a sealed envelope before the concerned Joint Registrar.

24. List before the learned Joint Registrar for completion of service and pleadings, marking of exhibits and admission/denial of documents on 25.09.2025.

25. Thereafter, list before the Court on the date to be assigned by the concerned Joint Registrar.

26. *Dasti*.

PURUSHAINDRA KUMAR KAURAV, J

JULY 18, 2025 Nc/mj