



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO.37218 OF 2025
IN
SUIT (L) NO.37043 OF 2025

Sanu Bhattacharjee @ Kumar Sanu

.. Plaintiff

Versus

Rita Bhattacharya and Ors.

.. Defendants

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- Ms. Sana Raees Khan, Advocate for Plaintiff.
 - Mr. Atif Noor Hasan Shaikh a/w. Ms. Ayesha Ahmed, Shanu Chaturvedi, Advocates i/by Zen Jurists India LLP for Defendant No.1.
 - Ms. Amishi Sodani, Advocate i/by Ms. Charu Shukla, for Defendant No.2.
 - Mr. Rishabh Jaisani a/w. Mr. Harit Lakhani, Advocates i/by Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. for Defendant No.3.
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CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : JANUARY 21, 2026

P.C.:

1. Heard Ms. Khan, learned Advocate for Plaintiff; Mr. Shaikh, learned Advocate for Defendant No.1; Ms. Sodani, learned Advocate for Defendant No.2 and Mr. Jaisani, learned Advocate for Defendant No.3.

2. Ms. Khan has drawn my attention to the Interim Application. Today pursuant to the previous order dated 16.01.2026, Mr. Shaikh appears on behalf of Defendant No.1. Equally, other Defendants are duly represented before me.

3. After hearing Ms. Khan and perusing the grievance towards

the contentious part of the posts and / or interviews which are listed in paragraph Nos. 7.1 to 7.13 and 8.1 to 8.23, Mr. Shaikh would submit that he be permitted to file Affidavit-in-Reply thereto.

4. However he in his usual fairness persuades the Court on instructions to consider sending the parties to Mediation especially in view of the fact that son of Defendant No.1 and Plaintiff has recently got wedded and hence he would request the Court that if parties are referred to Mediation then it will sub-serve the interest of both parties. While acknowledging the request made by Mr. Shaikh, I have made it apparently clear to him with respect to the case made out by Plaintiff in paragraph Nos. 7.1 to 7.13 and 8.1 to 8.23 of the Interim Application that his client will have to immediately restrain herself and ensure that there is no further reputational damage caused any further and no further insinuations are spoken by her about / against the Plaintiff.

5. *Prima facie*, after going through the same, I am of the opinion that at some places in the interviews which have been given by Defendant No.1 there is a clear personal tirade against Plaintiff which is *prima facie* qualified by words that are used therein.

6. Considering the fact that Plaintiff and Defendant No.1 were married for a long time but equally considering the fact that they having being legally separated more than 32 years ago is one of the

most crucial factor which needs to be applied to the case made out by Ms. Khan if the contentious words / sentences appearing in the interview / transcripts placed before Court in the aforementioned paragraph Nos. 7.1 to 7.13 and 8.1 to 8.23 are to be considered and hence Court will undoubtedly have to step in.

7. Be that as it may, I have also equally requested Ms. Khan to take appropriate instructions as to whether Plaintiff is also agreeable to go for Mediation without prejudice to his rights and contentions considering that the issue is between members of the family and in view of what the request made by Mr. Shaikh. All contentions of the Plaintiff shall undoubtedly be kept open. Ms. Khan would submit that due to the interviews given by Defendant No. 1 and her tirade against Plaintiff, he has suffered immense financial and personal loss and mental agony leading to cancellation of his pre-determined shows abroad. Further she would submit that Plaintiff is remarried and is a father of two daughters today and hence to protect himself and his family he was compelled to file the Suit. She would submit that Plaintiff's personality rights are also protected by the Delhi High Court.

8. After hearing the learned Advocates, it is directed that there is no reason for Plaintiff to worry about the consequences at this stage because *prima facie* on the basis of the subject matter which is referred to hereinabove and the grounds in the Interim Application, I am

inclined to accept Mr. Khan's case on *prima facie* consideration and grant ad-interim relief in terms of prayer clauses (a) and (b) against all Defendants which read thus:-

- “a) Pending the hearing and final disposal of the Suit, pass an order of permanent injunction restraining the Respondent No.1, her agents, servants, representatives, attorneys, employees, followers, and all persons acting on her behalf, including independent media houses, from writing, speaking, posting, publishing, broadcasting, or disseminating, in any for or medium, any defamatory, false, slanderous, or libelous statements concerning the Applicant or his family, through print, electronic, or social media or otherwise.*
- b) Pending the hearing and final disposal of the Suit, pass on order of prohibitory injunction restraining Respondent No.1, her agents, representatives, and any other person acting on her behalf, from posting, sharing, circulating, or otherwise disseminating any defamatory, false, or misleading content about the Applicant through any medium including social media, print, or digital platform.”*

9. Ms. Khan's request for deletion of the said objectionable interviews / contentious parts of the said interviews will be considered on next date after going through the replies of Defendants to the Interim Application. Needless to state that Defendant No.1 shall not give any further contentious interviews or continue with the tirade on the same line which are objected to by the Plaintiff in the aforementioned paragraphs 7.1 to 7.13 and 8.1 to 8.23 of the Interim Application until the Interim Application is determined by this Court.

10. In so far prayer clauses (c) and (d) are concerned, I shall hear Ms. Sodani and Mr. Jaisani, learned Advocates appearing for the platforms also on the next date.

11. They are also directed to file their Affidavit-in-Reply qua the restrictions or directions invoked against them in prayer clauses (c) and (d). Let the Affidavit-in-Reply be filed by Respondents within a period of two weeks from today. Affidavit-in-Rejoinder, if any, to be filed by Plaintiff within a week thereafter.

12. With regard to the request for Mediation, Court shall be apprised of the same on 28.01.2026 when the present matter will be listed for directions for that purpose only.

13. Stand over to **28th January, 2026**. To be placed under the caption '**For Directions**'.

H. H. SAWANT

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]

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