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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**
+ **CS(COMM) 157/2022 & I.A. 3983/2022**

STAR INDIA PVT. LTD. & ANR. Plaintiffs

Through: Mr. Yatinder Garg and Mr. Akshay
Maloo, Advocates. (M:9717139079)

versus

LIVE.FLIXHUB.NET & ORS. Defendants

Through: Mr. Harish V. Shankar, CGSC with
Mr. Srish Kumar Mishra, Mr. Sagar
Mehlawat, & Mr. Alexander Mathai
Paikaday, Advocates.

CORAM:
JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH

ORDER
% **28.07.2022**

1. Plaintiff No.1- Star India Pvt. Ltd. and Plaintiff No.2- Novi Digital Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. have filed the present suit seeking reliefs in respect of TATA Indian Premier League, 2022 (*hereinafter 'TATA IPL 2022'*) cricketing events. Plaintiff No.1 is a leading broadcaster in India and is the exclusive licensee of media rights to various sporting events. Plaintiff No.2 owns and operates the online video streaming platform and website www.hotstar.com and the mobile application "Disney + Hotstar" on which it streams various sporting events amongst other programs.
2. The Plaintiffs have acquired the exclusive Television, Internet, and Mobile Rights for IPL for 5 years starting from 1st January 2018 for a substantial consideration vide an agreement dated 7th September, 2017. Vide the said agreement the Plaintiffs have acquired the right of exhibiting live streaming, highlight clips and repeat exhibitions of the event. A letter issued



by Chief Operating Officer, IPL dated 7th April, 2018 confirmed the rights of the Plaintiffs. IPL 2021 was scheduled to be held from 26th March, 2022 to 29th May, 2022.

3. The present suit was filed to prevent unauthorized telecasting/broadcasting and streaming of TATA IPL 2022 matches by various rogue websites which are arrayed as Defendant Nos. 1 to 8 in the present suit. Defendants No. 9 to 17 are ISPs and Department of Telecommunications (*hereinafter 'DoT'*) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (*hereinafter 'MeitY'*) are also impleaded as Defendant No.18 and 19 respectively. Vide order dated 11th March, 2022, an interim injunction was issued in the following terms:

“14. Heard. The Court has perused the plaint as also the documents. The documentary evidence and the screenshots placed on record prima facie show that the following websites have previously streamed pirated content of the cricket matches for which the Plaintiffs hold Exclusive Rights:

- 1. live.flixhub.net*
- 2. stitichsports.com*
- 3. vipleague.im*
- 4. maxsport.one*
- 5. goal.top*
- 6. t20wc.nl*
- 7. vipstand.se*
- 8. stream.btolat.online*

15. Considering the fact that the Indian Premier League (IPL) series/TATA IPL 2022 is stated to be starting w.e.f. 26th March, 2022, there is an imminent need to protect the Plaintiffs' investment as also to ensure that these Rogue Websites do not stream illegally the cricket matches of TATA IPL 2022. The Court is also prima facie satisfied that the injunction deserves to be granted against any further websites



which may suddenly emerge, showing pirated content or start streaming TATA IPL 2022 illegally and unauthorisedly. Under these circumstances, the following directions are issued:

i. ISPs viz., Defendant Nos. 9 to 17 shall block the websites arrayed as Defendant Nos. 1 to 8 i.e.:

- 1. live.flixhub.net*
- 2. stitichsports.com*
- 3. vipleague.im*
- 4. maxsport.one*
- 5. goal.top*
- 6. t20wc.nl*
- 7. vipstand.se*
- 8. stream.btolat.online*

ii. DoT and MEITY shall also issue orders for the blocking of these websites, in accordance with today's order.

iii. As and when further websites which stream the contents of TATA IPL 2022 matches illegally and unauthorisedly emerge, an affidavit in this regard may be filed by the Plaintiffs before this Court along with evidence thereof. The said websites shall also stand blocked with immediate effect, upon notice being issued to the ISPs that such an affidavit has already been filed before this Court.

iv. Upon DoT and MEITY receiving the notices and communications from the Plaintiff that the affidavits have been filed before the Court, the orders for blocking such further Rogue Websites shall be passed, immediately and in any case, within 24 hours, so that the websites do not continue to stream the TATA IPL 2022 content in any manner whatsoever."

4. After summons and notice were issued, the rogue websites have been blocked by the DoT / MeitY and the ISPs have given effect to the said order. On 25th April, 2022, an affidavit of service was also filed by the Plaintiffs. Defendant Nos. 1 to 10 and 11 to 17 are recorded as having been served



through e-mail vide order of the Joint Registrar dated 14th July, 2022. However, Defendants have chosen not to appear before the Court.

5. It is submitted by Id. Counsel for the Plaintiffs that the TATA IPL, 2022 matches has now come to an end and the injunction has also run its due course. The DoT and MeitY having issued appropriate orders during the currency of the event TATA IPL 2022, and the same having been given effect to by the ISPs, no further orders are called for. Accordingly, in the opinion of the Court, no purpose would be served in keeping the suit pending. Accordingly, the suit is decreed in terms of paragraphs 65(i), (ii) and (iii) of the plaint. None of the remaining reliefs are pressed by the Plaintiffs.

6. The suit is decreed in the above terms. Decree sheet be drawn.

7. All pending applications are also disposed of.

PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J.

JULY 28, 2022

Rahul/SK