#### BY EMAIL & DoT website

#### Government of India Ministry of Communications Department of Telecommunications Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001 (Data Services Cell)

#### No. 813-07/LM-25/2023-DS-II

Dated: 31.08.2023

To,

All Internet Service Licensee's

# Subject: CS (comm) 420 of 2023 Asian Paints Ltd. v. Ajeet Kumar & Ors Before Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

Kindly find the enclosed Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 02.06.2023, 16.08.2023 on the subject matter. (Copy enclosed).

2. Please refer to the **Para 6 to 8** of the court order dated **16.08.2023** in respect of blocking following **06 websites**:

<u>https://asianpaintsonline.agency</u>', <u>'https://paintsdistributorship.com</u>', <u>'www.aspdeal.in</u>', <u>'www.asiapaintagency.in</u>', <u>'asianpaints.store</u>'.

3. Accordingly, in view of the above, all the Internet Service licensees are hereby instructed to take immediate necessary action blocking access to websites of defendants no. **31 to 42** as given in memo of parties (Annexure-I).

Director (DS-II) Tel: 011-2303 6860 Email: dirds2-dot@nic.in

Encl:A/A

Copy to:

- V.Chinnasamy, Scientist E (chinnasamy.v@meity.gov.in), Electronics Niketan, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) New Delhi for kind information and necessary action.
- (ii) Lalita Sowmya Priya (Sowmya@fiduslawchambers.com) and Rohan Krishna Seth (<u>rohan@fiduslawchambers.com</u>) counsel for the plaintiff for kind information.
- (iii) Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar(hvscgscdhc@gmail.com), Central Govt. Standing Counsel [Delhi High Court], Senior Penal Counsel for kind information.
- (iv) IT wing of DoT for uploading on DoT websites please.

# \* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

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# CS(COMM) 420/2023 & I.As. 15278-81/2023

### ASIAN PAINTS LIMITED

..... Plaintiff

Through:

 Ms. Shwetasree Majumder and Ms. Lalita Sowmya Priya, Advocates (M. 918826384092)

versus

### AJEET KUMAR AND OTHERS

..... Defendants

Through: Mr. Mrinal ojha, Mr. Debarshi Dutta, Mr. Aayush Kevlani and Mr. Shivam Tiwari, Advocates for D-8. (M- 9990952258)

### CORAM: JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH <u>O R D E R</u> % 16.08.2023

1. This hearing has been done through hybrid mode.

# I.A.15279/2023 & 15281/2023 (exemption from advance service to the Defendants)

2. In view of the fact that the Plaintiff has sought *ex parte ad-interim* injunction, exemption from advance service to the Defendants is granted.

3. Applications are disposed of.

# I.A.15278/2023 (u/O I Rule 10 CPC)

4. The present application has been moved seeking impleadment of further domain names which are engaged in illegal use of the mark 'ASIAN PAINTS' and engaging in misleading customers and users. It is the case of the Plaintiff that the proposed Defendants are using the Plaintiff's trademark, logos, and ad-campaigns to misrepresent that they are the Plaintiff and are providing dealerships of the Plaintiff. The facts pleaded in the application would show that the following further domain names have been registered by the proposed Defendants:

- i. https://asianpaintsonline.agency
- ii. https://paintsdistributorship.com
- iii. www.aspdeal.in
- iv. www.paintsdealerships.in
- v. www.asiapaintagency.in
- vi. asianpaints.store"

5. It is the submission of Ms. Mazumdar, ld. Counsel that one of the domain names at serial number (ii) is being operated by Defendant No.1-Ajeet Kumar, who is still continuing illegal activities and collecting money from the innocent consumers as his mobile number has still not been deactivated.

6. After perusing the application, it is seen that all of the domain names and websites appear to be using the name 'ASIAN PAINTS' and some variants thereof in order to fraudulently collect monies by portraying themselves to be the Plaintiff. Accordingly, the said domain names are impleaded as Defendant Nos.31 to 42. The respective Domain Name Registrars are also impleaded.

7. The amended memo of parties is taken on record. The same is annexed with the order as <u>Annexure 1.</u>

8. The injunction order already granted on 2nd June, 2023 as modified vide order dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 is extended to all the newly impleaded Defendants as well. All Banks, telecom companies, DoT, Telephone Service Providers shall all comply with the orders passed by the Court.

9. The Delhi Police shall trace the telephone/mobile numbers '+91

1206914306' and +91 9040762785' and get the same deactivated. In addition details of whereabouts of Defendant No.1, who is impersonating himself as the Plaintiff and collecting money shall be investigated and action in accordance with law shall be taken. Ms.Hetu Arora Sethi, ld. Counsel shall communicate this order to the Cyber cell Delhi Police, for compliance.

10. Insofar as TRAI is concerned, due to various changes in policies and regulations, two features that were introduced are mobile portability and blocking of mobile numbers which are used for spamming. Since mobile number portability has been permitted by TRAI, it is not clear as to how the service provider *qua* a particular mobile number can be identified. Moreover, there is no doubt in the mind of the Court that blocking orders when issued by the Court would also have to be implemented by TRAI so as to ensure that the telephone numbers are not continuously being used to lure and entice innocent consumers to pay monies under the garb of offering dealerships, franchises etc.,

11. Accordingly, TRAI shall file an affidavit on these two aspects at least one week before the next date of hearing.

12. All the Domain Name Registrars shall provide the KYC particulars, credit card payment details and any other details which may be available, especially if any of these domain names/websites have availed of cloud services and any other services from these entities. The concerned Banks shall also provide the KYC details in respect of the above-mentioned domain names to the counsel for the Plaintiff.

13. Mr. Mohanti, who is present on behalf of the Delhi Police shall also undertake an investigation into Defendant No.-1 Mr. Ajeet Kumar and other registrants of these domain names and shall also file a status report in this



regard by the next date of hearing. The Delhi Police is free to take action against the said Registrants as well in accordance with law.

14. Ms. Mazumdar, ld. Counsel shall provide a copy of the application today itself to Ms. Hetu Arora Sethi, ld. ASC.

15. List on the date already fixed.

## I.A.15280/2023 (for direction)

This is an application seeking directions against the Domain Name 16. Registrars which have failed to comply with the orders of this Court. According to the Plaintiff, 'M/s Gname 019 Inc.' and 'Top Level Domain LLC' furnished have not the particulars relating to the www.asianpaintsfranchisee.com www.asianpaintsdealerships.com and despite specific orders.

17. Insofar as Top Level Domain LLC is concerned, since it has refused even to respond notice issued by the Plaintiff, Mr. Harish Vaidyanathan, ld. CGSC is requested to accept notice on behalf of the DoT. In view of orders blocking services of DNRs having already been passed in *CS (Comm) 567/2022* titled *Star India Pvt. Ltd. & amp; Anr. v. MHDTV.WORLD & amp; Ors.* and *CS (Comm) 604/2022* titled *Star India Pvt. Ltd. v. 7MOVIERULZ.TV & amp; Ors.*, this Court is of the view that action in accordance with law shall be taken against 'Top Level Domain LLC' and its services shall be suspended by DoT, within 4 weeks.

18. Insofar as 'M/s Gname 019 Inc' is concerned, ld. Counsel for the Plaintiff submits that an email dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 has been received from the said DNR. The email has been handed over to the Court and the same reads as under:

CS(COMM) 420/2023 Signature Not Verified Digitally Signed By:RAHUL Signing Date:21.08.2023 "Dear Sir or Madam, <u>The domain name has been disabled.</u> Pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 ("CPC"), the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 ("PDPA") and related laws and regulations, <u>the</u> <u>registrant information should be considered as</u> <u>personal data. We have no right to disclose the</u> <u>above information and/or data to you without</u> <u>the request of the central authority and/or</u> <u>various competent authorities in Singapore.</u> Thank you in advance for your understanding and support. Please be aware!

Gname"

19. The above email is taken on record.

20. A perusal of the above email would show that the DNR relies upon the fact that its servers may be located in Singapore as a reason to not disclose the details, on the ground of privacy. This issue has been squarely dealt with by this Court in *Neetu Singh Vs. Telegram FZ LLC* 2022:DHC:3333 where this Court has held as under:

45. This brings the Court to the defences taken by Telegram in its response to the prayer for disclosure. In this regard, this Court finds as under:

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(i) In so far as the law in Singapore is concerned, the provisions of the PDPA, in fact, specifically recognize violations of law, as being an exception to privacy, when details of the originators of the infringing data can be revealed. Such violation of law and investigation/proceedings, would obviously include violation of copyright and other intellectual property rights. The relevant provision of the PDPA of Singapore reads:

*"17. Collection, use and disclosure without consent* 

(1) An organisation may —

(a) collect personal data about an individual, without the individual's consent or from a source other than the individual, in the circumstances or for the purposes, and subject to any condition, in the First Schedule or Part 1 of the Second Schedule;

(b) use personal data about an individual without the individual's consent, in the circumstances or for the purposes, and subject to any condition, in the First Schedule or Part 2 of the Second Schedule; or

(c) <u>disclose personal data about an individual</u> without the individual's consent, in the <u>circumstances or for the purposes</u>, and subject to any condition, in the <u>First Schedule or Part</u> <u>3 of the Second Schedule</u>.

FIRST SCHEDULE

## PART 3

LEGITIMATE INTERESTS

3. The <u>collection, use or disclosure</u> (as the case may be) <u>of personal data about an</u> <u>individual is necessary for any investigation</u> <u>or proceedings</u>."

Thus, the disclosure of personal data for the purpose of any proceedings, which would obviously include proceedings related to infringement of copyright would be a recognized exception to data privacy under the PDPA of Singapore. (ii) <u>Moreover, copyrighted works are entitled to automatic</u> <u>protection in all WTO countries under the Berne</u> <u>Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic</u> <u>Works, 1886 read with the Agreement on Trade-</u> <u>Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights</u> <u>(TRIPS), 1995</u>. The Plaintiffs' copyrighted works are no exception to that. Article 1 of the said Convention provides as under:

> "Article 1. Establishment of a Union. The countries to which this Convention applies constitute a Union for the protection of the rights of authors in their literary and artistic works."

Singapore is a signatory to the Berne convention and a WTO country as well. Thus, the Plaintiffs' works would enjoy protection even under the laws of Singapore. These are reciprocal protections granted to authors who can enjoy rights across the world even without seeking registrations. India recognizes copyright in foreign works and reciprocally, foreign countries recognize the copyright granted under Indian Law. In view of this position of the law regarding copyright, compliance with local law, i.e., PDPA, cannot be an excuse for Telegram to justify the non-furnishing of the information relating to the channels through which dissemination of infringing content takes place as, such dissemination, would in the opinion of this Court, be violative of law, even under the laws of Singapore.

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"46. In view of the above factual and legal position, <u>in</u> the opinion of this Court, merely because Telegram chooses to locate its server in Singapore, the same cannot result in the Plaintiffs' – who are copyright owners of course materials – being left completely remediless against the actual infringers especially in order to claim damages and avail of other legal

remedies in accordance with law. If such an argument in the current world where most is accepted, dissemination happens through online messaging services and platforms, IP violations would go completely unchecked. This cannot be the intention of law. The provisions of the IT Act and the Rules made therein have to be construed harmoniously with the rights and remedies provided to the copyright owners under the Copyright Act. Indian Courts are competent to decide issues relating to infringement of copyright and the mere fact that Telegram is operating a messaging service in India which chooses not to locate its servers in India cannot divest the Indian Courts from dealing with copyright disputes or divest copyright owners from availing their remedies in Indian Courts. In the present age of cloud computing and diminishing national boundaries in data storage, conventional concepts of territoriality cannot be strictly applied. The dynamic evolution of law is essential to ensure appropriate remedies in case of violation of copyright and other IP laws.

47. In the facts and circumstances of the present case. Telegram-Defendant No.1 is directed to disclose the details of the channels/devices used in disseminating the infringing content, mobile numbers, IP addresses, email addresses, etc., used to upload the infringing material and communicate the same, as per the list of channels filed along with the present application. If there are any further list of infringing channels, the same be also submitted to Telegram within one week. The data relating to the infringing channels and the details as to the devices/servers/networks on which they are created, their creators, operators including any phone numbers, IP addresses, email addresses, used for this purpose shall be disclosed by Telegram within a period of two weeks thereafter. The said information shall at this stage be filed in a sealed cover with the Court. Upon perusing the said



information, directions, if any, shall be passed after hearing the parties."

The above decision which was rendered in the context of copyright 21. infringement, would be equally applicable in the context of trade mark violations as well. In view of the above legal position, the said DNR is notified of the above judgement and is given another opportunity to provide the details of the registrant. If there is no compliance, then action would be liable to be taken for directing suspension of the services of 'M/s Gname 019 Inc.,' including for suspension of services.

List on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. 22.

### PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J.

AUGUST 16, 2023/dk/sk

## Annexure-1

List of Defendants as per Memo of Parties

S.No.	Parties	Address
1.	AJEET KUMAR	www.asianpaintsdealerships.com;
	(ASSOCIATED WITH THE	www.asianpaintsdealership.in
	WEBSITES	And www.paintdealership.com)
		Emails:
		process@asianpaintsdealership.in;
		info@asianpaintdealership.com;
		dealership@asianpaintsdealerships.co;
		asian@asinapaintsdealership.in
2.	HARISHCHANDRA GADE	www.paintsdealership.com;
	(ALIAS ABHISHEK)	www.asianpaints.co)
	(ASSOCIATED WITH THE	EMAILS:
	WEBSITES	asian@paintsdealership.com;
		process@asianpaintsdealership.in;
		dealership@asianpaints.co
		Mob. No.: +91 8478827013; +91
		9903084193
3.	BHAUTIK GOUSWAMI	www.asianpaints.in
	OWNER of	EMAIL: support@asianpaints.in
		MOB. NO.: +91 8513945036
4.	RAJ KUMAR MEHTA	www.asianpaintsfranchisee.com)
	(ALIAS RAJ KUMAR	EMAIL:
	MITTAL)	info@asianpaintsfranchisee.com
	(ASSOCIATED WITH THE	Mob. No.: +91 9867624377; +91
	WEBSITE	9833285882
5.	ANIL	www.Asianpaintsdealerships.com)
	(ASSOCIATED WITH THE	EMAIL:
	WEBSITE	dealership@asianpaintsdealerships.com
-		MOB. NO.: +91 8017473823
6.	RUPA BHARTI	D-305, SHANTI NIWAS,
		JOSHI LN PANT NAGAR,
		GHATKOPAR (EAST)
		MUMBAI - 400077
		MOB. NO.: +917208204223



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-	LOUDIDOE	
7.	JOHN DOE	(OPERATORS/ USERS OF THE
		MOB. NOS.: +91
		8334974257; +91 8961628525; +91
		120 6914306)
8.	GODADDY.COM LLC	14455 NORTH HAYDEN ROAD
		SUITE 219
		SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85260
		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
		EMAIL:
		grievanceofficer@godaddy.com
9.	ENDURANCE DOMAINS	UNIT NO. 501, 5TH FLOOR & UNIT
	TECHNOLOGY LLP	IT BUILDING NO. 3
		NESCO IT PARK, NESCO
		COMPLEX
		WESTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY,
		GOREGAON (EAST)
		MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA 400063,
		INDIA
		EMAIL: compliance@edtpl.in
		abuse@publicdomainregistry.com
		grievance-
		officer@publicdomainregistry.com
10.	GNAME 019 INC	EMAIL: complaint@gname.com
	GNAME.COM PTE. LTD.	
11.	TOP LEVEL DOMAINS LLC	EMAIL: domain.operations@web.com
12.	FEDERAL BANK	EMAIL: secretarial@federalbank.co.in
	FEDERAL TOWERS, P B NO.	contact@federalbank.co.in
	103,	
	ERNAKULAM, KERALA	
	683101	
13.	CANARA BANK	E- MAIL:
	HEAD OFFICE NO.112	hosecretarial@canarabank.com
	J C ROAD BENGALURU -	-
	560 002	
	PHONE : 080 - 22100250	
14.	YES BANK	EMAIL: yestouch@yesbank.in
	YES BANK HOUSE,	



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	OFF WESTERN EXPRESS	
	HIGHWAY,	
	SANTACRUZ (EAST),	
	MUMBAI - 400055	
15.	UTKARSH SMALL FINANCE	EMAIL:
	BANK	communications@utkarsh.bank
	UTKARSH TOWER,	
	NH-31(AIRPORT ROAD),	
	SEHMALPUR, KAZI SARAI,	
	HARHUA, VARANASI,	
	221105, UTTAR PRADESH	
16.	INDIAN BANK	EMAIL: holegal@indianbank.co.in
	PB NO: 5555, 254-260,	
	AVVAI SHANMUGAM	
	SALAI,	
	ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI –	
	600 014	
17.	INDUSIND BANK	EMAIL: headconsumer@indusind.com
	INDUSIND BANK LIMITED,	headoperations@indusind.com
	2401 GEN. THIMMAYYA	reachus@indusind.com
	ROAD (CANTONMENT),	customercare@indusind.com
	PUNE-411 001	
18.	ICICI BANK	EMAIL:
	ICICI BANK TOWER,	headservicequality@icicibank.com
	NEAR CHAKLI CIRCLE,	
	OLD PADRA ROAD,	
	VADODARA 390007,	
	GUJARAT, INDIA.	
19	PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK	EMAIL: bo1988@pnb.co.in
	HEAD OFFICE, PLOT NO. 4,	
	SECTOR 10, DWARKA	
	NEW DELHI-110075	
20.	KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK	Email: itsecurity.bank@kotak.com
	27 BKC, C 27, G BLOCK,	customerfirst@kotak.com
	BANDRA KURLA	
	COMPLEX,	
	BANDRA (E), MUMBAI -	



21.		Email: austamaraara@idhi aa in
<i>∠</i> 1.	IDBI BANK LTD.	Email: customercare@idbi.co.in
	IDBI TOWER, WTC	
	COMPLEX,	
	CUFFE PARADE, COLABA,	
	MUMBAI 400005	
22.	CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA	EMAIL: zmmmzo@centralbank.co.in
	CHANDER MUKHI,	
	NARIMAN POINT	
	MUMBAI – 400 021	
23.	MINISTRY OF	E-MAIL: cyberlaw@meity.gov.in;
	ELECTRONICS AND	gccyberlaws@meity.gov.in;
	INFORMATION	pkumar@meity.gov.in;
	TECHNOLOGY,	uoidhc@gmail.com
	THROUGH THE DIRECTOR	
	GENERAL (DIT) CYBER	
	LAWS	
	ELECTRONICS NIKETAN, 6-	
	CGO COMPLEX,	
	LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-	
	110003	
24.	DEPARTMENT OF	E-MAIL: secy-dot@nic.in; dirds2-
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	dot@nic.in;
	THROUGH ITS SECRETARY,	uoidhc@gmail.com
	MINISTRY OF	$\bigcirc$
	COMMUNICATIONS AND	
	IT,	
	20, SANCHAR BHAWAN,	
	ASHOKA ROAD,	
	NEW DELHI-110001,	
25.	TELECOM REGULATORY	E-MAIL ID : ap@trai.gov.in
	AUTHORITY OF INDIA	daca@trai.gov.in
	MAHANAGAR	
	DOORSANCHAR BHAWAN	
	(NEXT TO	
	ZAKIR HUSSAIN COLLEGE)	
	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU	
	MARG (OLD MINTO ROAD)	
	NEW DELHI: 110 002	
	IND W DELENI, I IO UUZ	



26.	BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LTD. BHARAT SANCHAR BHAWAN, REGULATION CELL 5TH FLOOR, HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR LANE JANPATH, NEW DELHI - 110001	E-MAIL: ddg_reg@bsnl.co.in; sbkhare@bsnl.co.in
27.	BHARTI AIRTEL LTD. AIRTEL CENTRE, TOWER- A, 6TH FLOOR 'A' WING, PLOT NO. L6, UDYOG VIHAR PH- IV, GURGAON- 122016	E-MAIL: amit.bhatia@airtel.com
28.	MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LTD. 5TH FLOOR, MAHANAGAR DOORSANCHAR SADAN 9, CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD NEW DELHI – 110003	E-MAIL: raco.mtnl@gmail.com mtnlcsco@gmail.com gmracomtnl@gmail.com
29.	RELIANCE JIO INFOCOMM LIMITED RCP 14 (TC 23), PHASE 4, B-BLOCK, 3RD FLOOR, C 4 130 THANE- BELAPUR ROAD, GANSOLI, NAVI MUMBAI- 400701	E-MAIL: care@jio.com Hitesh.marthak@relianceada.com Kapoor.guliani@ril.com mahipal.singh@ril.com sunil.kr.gupta@ril.com shilpi.kant@ril.com jyoti.jain@ril.com
30.	VODAFONE IDEA LIMITED VODAFONE HOUSE PENINSULA CORPORATE PARK GANPATRAO KADAM MARG, LOWER PAREL, MUMBAI- 400 013 INDIA	E-MAIL: florencia.depores@vodafoneidea.com raaj.goyel@vodafoneidea.com smitha.menon@vodafoneidea.com radhika.gokhale@vodafoneidea.com pankaj.kapdeo@vodafoneidea.com arun.madhav@vodafoneidea.com



31.	BANK OF MAHARASHTRA	EMAIL:
	BANK OF MAHARASHTRA	hocomplaints@mahabank.co.in
	HEAD OFFICE	agmcustomerservice@mahabank.co.in
	LOKMANGAL, 1501,	
	SHIVAJINAGAR	
	PUNE-411005,	
	020 - 25514501 TO 12	
32.	TATA TELESERVICES	
	LIMITED	
	JEEVAN BHARATI, TOWER	
	I,	
	10TH FLOOR, 124	
	CONNAUGHT CIRCUS	
	NEW DELHI -110 001	
33.	JOHN DOE,	
	OWNER OF	
	www.asianpaintsonline.agency	
34	VAGHAMARE ROHIDAS	EMAIL:
	NATHAA	chambalindia8813@gmail.com
	OWNER OF	
	https://paintsdistributorship.com	
	BAJAR PETH MURGUD	
	VIDYALAYA KAVAL	
	MURGUD KOHLAPUR	
	MAHARASHTRA – 416 219	
35.	BIGROCK SOLUTIONS LTD.	EMAIL: Grievance-
		officer@bigrock.com
36.	JOHN DOE	
	OWNER OF https://aspdeal.in/	
37.	HOSTINGER, UAB	EMAIL: abuse@hostinger.com
38.	JOHN DOE	
	OWNER OF	
	https://paintsdealerships.in/	
39.	JOHN DOE	
	OWNER OF	
	https://asiapaintagency.in/	
40.	DYNADOT LLC	EMAIL: abuse@dynadot.com
		DataProtectionOfficer@dynadot.com



		info@dynadot.com
41.	ANURAG CHAUHAN OWNER OF	EMAIL: digitalchauhan@gmail.com
	https://asianpaints.store/	
42	NAMECHEAP, INC.	EMAIL: abuse@namecheap.com



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# \* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

+ CS(COMM) 420/2023

ASIAN PAINTS LIMITED ..... Plaintiff Through: Ms. Shwetasree Majumder, Mr.Prithvi Singh, Ms.Lalita Sowmya Pemmaraju, Advocates.

versus

AJEET KUMAR AND OTHERS Through: None. ..... Defendants

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT BANSAL

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### <u>ORDER</u> 02.06.2023

## I.A. 11321/2023 (for Exemption)

1. Subject to the plaintiff filing original, clear and legible copies of documents on which the plaintiff may seek to place reliance, within four weeks from today, exemption is granted for the present.

2. The application is disposed of.

# I.A. 11323/2023 (for exemption from serving advance copy of the Suit paper book to D-1 to 7)

3. The present application has been filed on behalf of the plaintiff



seeking exemption from advance service to the defendants no.1 to 7.

4. In view of the urgent *ex parte* relief sought by the plaintiff, the application is allowed.

## I.A. 11322/2023 (u/S 12A of Commercial Courts Act)

5. In view of the urgent interim relief sought, the plaintiff is granted exemption from the requirement of pre-institution mediation in terms of Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

6. Accordingly, the application stands disposed of.

## I.A. 11320/2023(O-XI R-1(4) of the CPC)

7. The present application has been filed on behalf of the plaintiffs seeking leave to file additional documents under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

8. The plaintiffs are granted thirty days' time to file additional documents.

9. Accordingly, the application is disposed of.

## CS(COMM) 420/2023

10. Let the plaint be registered as a suit.

11. Issue summons.

12. Summons be issued to the defendants through all modes.

13. The summons shall state that the written statement(s) shall be filed by the defendants within thirty days from the date of the receipt of summons. Along with the written statement(s), the defendants shall also file an affidavit of admission/denial of the documents of the plaintiff, without which the written statement(s) shall not be taken on record

> Signature Not Verified Digitally Signed By MIT BANSAL Signing Date:0516.2023 12:27:21

14. Liberty is given to the plaintiff to file replication, if any, within fifteen days from the receipt of the written statement(s). Along with the replication(s) filed by the plaintiff, an affidavit of admission/denial of the documents of the defendants, be filed by the plaintiff.

15. The parties shall file all original documents in support of their respective claims along with their respective pleadings. In case parties are placing reliance on a document, which is not in their power and possession, its detail and source shall be mentioned in the list of reliance, which shall be also filed with the pleadings.

16. If any of the parties wish to seek inspection of any documents, the same shall be sought and given within the timelines.

17. List before the Joint Registrar on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, for completion of service and pleadings.

18. List before this Court on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

## I.A. 11319/2023 (O-XXXIX R-1 & 2 of CPC)

19. The present suit has been filed seeking reliefs of permanent injunction restraining the defendants no.1 to 7 from infringing the trademarks of the plaintiff, passing off their services as that of the plaintiff, and other ancillary reliefs.

20. The plaintiff is a multinational paint company founded in the year 1942. The plaintiff is engaged in the business of manufacturing, selling and distribution of paints, coatings, home décor products, bath fittings, lights, furnishings and furniture. The plaintiff claims to be using the trademark 'ASIAN PAINTS' since 1952 in respect of its products. The plaintiff is the registered proprietor of the mark 'ASIAN PAINTS' and its formative device

Signature Not Verified Digitally Signed By MIT BANSAL Signing Date: 0506.2023 12:27:21 marks in various classes. Details of the said marks are provided in paragraph 13 of the plaint. The plaintiff is also the registrant of the domain '<u>www.asianpaints.com</u>' since 1997. The mark 'ASIAN PAINTS' has also been declared a well-known trademark by the Trade Mark Registry under Section 2(1)(zg) of the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

21. Counsel for the plaintiff submits that the defendants no. 1 to 6 are duping unwary persons into believing that the defendants no.1 to 6 are the representatives of the plaintiff. The said defendants are offering fake Asian Paints dealerships on behalf of the plaintiff. The unwary persons, who are aware of the plaintiff and its reputation under the 'ASIAN PAINTS' trademark end up paying huge sums of money to the defendants no.1 to 7 under the bona-fide belief that upon making payments, the said persons will become official dealers of the plaintiff. Some of these persons have been issued forged certificates on behalf of the defendants no.1 to 7 upon making such payments. It was only when the said persons contacted the plaintiff, did they discover that they had been defrauded by the defendants no.1 to 7.

22. As an illustrative example of the *modus operandi* of the contesting defendants, the plaintiff relies on paragraph 18 of the plaint as set out below:

"18.1 The person was contacted by the Defendant No. 1, Ajeet Kumar, from his mobile No. +91 8961676785 (and landline No. +91 120 6914306) and claimed to be from Head of Department, Dealership of the Plaintiff company.

18.2 The Defendant No. 1 directed the person's attention to the website 'paintdealership.com' and asked the person to apply for a dealership from the said website. Upon applying from the aforesaid website, the person received a confirmation from the Defendant No. 1. It is pertinent to note that presently, the website 'www.paintdealership.com'

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is no longer active and the WHOIS records reflect that the domain 'paintdealership.com' is available for sale.

18.3 The Defendant No. 1 then asked the person to deposit a sum of INR 24,999 as dealership registration and INR 2,00,000 as a security amount. Upon making these payments, the person received forged/fabricated dealership certificate and confirmation email.

18.4 The Defendant No. 1 then asked the person to deposit a sum of INR 5,00,000 for "stock purchase", which payment was made by the person.

18.5 The Defendant No. 1 then "forced" the person to deposit a sum of INR 2,91,400 for "paint mixer machine".

18.6 The Defendant No. 1 then "forced" the person to deposit a sum of INR 3,50,000 for "license fee for chemical certificate from ministry of chemical".

18.7 Thereafter, the Defendant No. 1 again contacted the person for payment of additional sum for insurance and "other license fee". The Defendant No. 1 has not only duped the person but continues to harass him for payment of additional money."

23. The aforesaid paragraph outlines one such fraudulent act of the defendant no.1, wherein one Mr. Gopal Aggarwal was defrauded of a large sum of money, in respect of which, he had filed a complaint with the SHO, Model Town, Delhi. Attention of the Court has also been drawn to the complaint filed at page 311 of the plaintiff's documents.

24. Counsel for the plaintiff has also drawn attention of the Court to paragraphs 22 to 36 of the plaint as also Documents A and B filed as annexures with the plaint, which list out the particulars of the various fraudulent acts perpetrated by the defendants no. 1 to 6, with reference to the

Signature Not Verified Digitally Signed By AMIT BANSAL Signing Date: 0506.2023 12:27:21 domains used, the telephone numbers from which calls were made and the bank accounts to which monies were deposited.

25. Counsel for the plaintiff submits that the defendant no. 7 has been impleaded as a John Doe defendant to account for all unknown perpetrators, who are involved in the aforesaid fraudulent activities concerning the plaintiff. The defendants no. 8 to 11 are the registrars of the impugned domain names, the defendants no. 12 to 22 are the banks in which the defendants no.1 to 6 appear to hold bank accounts, the defendants no. 23 and 24 are MeitY and Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the defendant no. 25 is Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the defendants no. 26 to 30 are telecom service providers.

- 26. Issue notice.
- 27. Notice be issued to the defendants through all modes.
- 28. Reply(ies) be filed within four weeks.
- 29. Rejoinder(s) thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.

30. In my view, the plaintiff has established a prima facie case in its favour. The defendants no.1 to 6 are defrauding the public by deceiving them into believing that they are associated with the plaintiff and authorized to grant dealerships on behalf of the plaintiff. Balance of convenience is in favour of the plaintiff. Irreparable harm would be caused not only to the plaintiff but also to the public if an *ex parte* ad interim injunction as prayed is not granted in favour of the plaintiff.

31. Consequently, an *ex parte* ad interim injunction order is passed in the following terms:

I. The defendants no. 1 to 7, their employees, servants, agents, representatives and all others in active concert or participation with



them are restrained from using, in any form or manner, the plaintiff's ASIAN PAINTS trade marks or any other deceptively similar mark either on their websites or in any other manner.

- II. The defendant no. 8 is directed to suspend access, maintain status quo as to the ownership of the domains, and provide full name, address and registrant account details for the domains 'asianpaintsdealership.in', 'paintsdealership.com' and 'asianpaints.co', within two weeks from today.
- III. The defendant no. 9 is directed to suspend access, maintain status quo as to the ownership of the domain, and provide full name, address and registrant account details for the domain, 'asianpaints.in', within two weeks from today.
- IV. The defendant no. 10 is directed to suspend access, maintain status quo as to the ownership of the domain, and provide full name, address and registrant account details for the domain, 'asianpaintsdealerships.com', within two weeks from today.
- V. The defendant no. 11 is directed to suspend access, maintain status quo as to the ownership of the domain, and provide full name, address and registrant account details for the domain, 'asianpaintsfranchisee.com', within two weeks from today.
- VI. The defendants no. 12 to 22 are directed to disclose the KYC details of the following bank accounts and forthwith freeze the aforesaid accounts as listed in the table below:

Defendant Bank No.	Defendant Bank Name	Bank Accounts details
12	Federal Bank	19220100060113
12	Federal Bank	55550111749279
12	Federal Bank	55550111757926
12	Federal Bank	12200100152935
13	Canara Bank	315101027207
13	Canara Bank	110027815000
13	Canara Bank	0236101057824
14	Yes Bank	069452000001761
15	Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	159501000000006
16	Indian bank	7157050429
17	IndusInd Bank	157870280093
18	ICICI Bank	247601000999
19	Punjab National Bank	9931001000 03381
19	Punjab National Bank	8805000100017057
19	Punjab National Bank	3046000103086070
20	Kotak Mahindra Bank	7746354008
20	Kotak Mahindra Bank	7546530558
21	IDBI Bank	1998104000053525 (Money Not Transferred, Sl. No. 19)
22	Central banksy MIndia	5147162016

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- VII. The defendant no. 23 to 24 are directed to issue a notification to all ISPs to suspend access to the domains asianpaintsdealership.in, paintsdealership.com, asianpaints.co, asianpaints.in, asianpaintsdealerships.com and asianpaintsfranchisee.com, within three weeks from today.
- VIII. The defendant no. 25 is directed to issue a notification for the suspension/ temporary blocking of the phone numbers '+91 8276830105; +91 8334974257; +91 7044426299, +91 7872714487, 8777650885; +91 8961676785; +91 8961628487; + 91 +91 9769220946; +91 120 6914306; 18001204944; +91 8478827013; +91 9903084193; +91 8513945036; +91 9867624377; +91 9833285882; 8017473823; +917208204223;+91+918961628525; +918420186878; +91 120 4882200 and; +91 120 6914306', within two weeks from today.
  - IX. The defendant no. 26 to 30 are directed to disclose the KYC details of the registrants under whose names the phone numbers, '+91 8276830105; +91 8334974257; +91 7044426299, +91 7872714487, 8777650885; +91 8961676785; +91 8961628487; + 91 +919769220946; +91 120 6914306; 18001204944; +91 8478827013; +91 9903084193; +91 8513945036; +91 9867624377; +91 9833285882; +917208204223;+918017473823; +918961628525; +918420186878; +91 120 4882200 and +91 120 6914306' are registered, within two weeks from today.
  - 32. Compliance of Order XXXIX Rule 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure,1908 (CPC) be done within fifteen days.
  - 33. List before the Joint Registrar on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, for completion

of service and pleadings.

34. List before this Court on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

AMIT BANSAL, J.

**JUNE 2, 2023** *rishav* 

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# \* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI + CS(COMM) 420/2023

ASIAN PAINTS LIMITED ..... Plaintiff Through: Ms. Shwetashree, Advocate.

#### versus

AJEET KUMAR AND OTHERS ..... Defendants Through: Mr Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar CGSC with Mr Srish Kumar Mishra Mr Sagar Mehlawat and Mr Alexander Mathai Paikaday, Advocates (M: 98107 88606). Mr. Mrinal Ojha, Mr. Debarshi Dutta, Mr. Aayush Kevlani, Mrs. Tanya Choudhry and Ms. Subhalaxmi, Advocates for D-8 (M: 9990952258). Mr. KG Gopalakrishnan & Ms. Nisha Mohandas, Advocates for D-27 (M: 8800556341).

#### CORAM: JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH <u>O R D E R</u> % 06.07.2023

1. This hearing has been done through hybrid mode.

#### I.A. 11998/2023 (for modification)

2. This is an application seeking clarification of order dated 2nd June, 2023. The stand of the applicant, Defendant No. 27- GoDaddy.com LLC is that since they do not have the technological means to suspend access to the domain name, the domain name ought to be directed to be suspended and locked.

3. Accordingly, it is clarified that the domain names i.e.



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asianpaintsdealership.in, paintsdealership.com and asianpaints.co shall be suspended and locked by GoDaddy.com LLC. Insofar as the second prayer relating to the costs of successful renewal is concerned, the same shall be considered at a later stage. GoDaddy.com LLC is given seven days to comply with the order.

4. I.A. is disposed of.

#### <u>CS(COMM)-420/2023</u>

5. List on the date already fixed.

PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J.

**JULY 6, 2023** *mr/am* 



#### IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (Ordinary Commercial Jurisdiction) CS (COMM) No. of 2023 Code No. 36017

#### MEMO OF PARTIES

#### IN THE MATTER OF:

ASIAN PAINTS LIMITED ASIAN PAINTS HOUSE 6A, SHANTINAGAR, SANTACRUZ (E), MUMBAI - 400 055, INDIA Email: <u>litigation@fiduslawchambers.com</u>

...PLAINTIFF

Versus

AJEET KUMAR (ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEBSITES www.asianpaintsdealerships.com; www.asianpaintsdealership.in\_And www.paintdealership.com) Emails: process@asianpaintsdealership.in; info@asianpaintdealership.com; dealership@asianpaintsdealerships.co; asian@asinapaintsdealership.in MOB. NOS.: +91 8276830105; +91 8334974257; +91 7044426299, +91 7872714487, +91 8777650885; +91 8961676785; +91 8961628487 AND + 91 9769220946 LANDLINE: +91 120 6914306 TOLL NO.: 18001204944 .... DEFENDANT NO. 1

HARISHCHANDRA GADE (*ALIAS* ABHISHEK) (ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEBSITES <u>www.paintsdealership.com</u>; <u>www.asianpaints.co</u>) EMAILS: <u>asian@paintsdealership.com</u>; <u>process@asianpaintsdealership.in</u>; <u>dealership@asianpaints.co</u> MOB. NO.: +91 8478827013; +91 9903084193

... DEFENDANT NO. 2

BHAUTIK GOUSWAMI OWNER OF <u>www.asianpaints.in</u> EMAIL: <u>support@asianpaints.in</u> MOB. NO.: +91 8513945036

... DEFENDANT NO. 3

RAJ KUMAR MEHTA (ALIAS RAJ KUMAR MITTAL) (ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEBSITE <u>www.asianpaintsfranchisee.com</u>) EMAIL: <u>info@asianpaintsfranchisee.com</u> MOB. NO.: +91 9867624377; +91 9833285882

... DEFENDANT NO. 4

6

#### ANIL

(ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEBSITE www.asianpaintsdealerships.com) EMAIL: Dealership@asianpaintsdealerships.com MOB. NO.: +91 8017473823 ... DEFENDANT NO. 5

RUPA BHARTI D-305, SHANTI NIWAS, JOSHI LN PANT NAGAR, GHATKOPAR (EAST) MUMBAI - 400077 MOB. NO.: +917208204223 ... DEFENDANT NO. 6

JOHN DOE (OPERATORS/ USERS OF THE MOB. NOS.: +91 8961628525; +91 8420186878; +91 120 4882200; +91 120 6914306)

... DEFENDANT NO. 7

GODADDY.COM LLC 14455 NORTH HAYDEN ROAD SUITE 219 SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85260 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EMAIL: grievanceofficer@godaddy.com

ALSO AT: GODADDY INDIA WEB SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED FIRST FLOOR, 01A167, WEWORK BRISTOL CHOWK, PLATINA TOWER, MG ROAD, SECTOR-28, GURGAON, HARYANA – 122002 EMAIL: <u>grievanceofficer@godaddy.com</u> ... DEFENDANT NO. 8

ENDURANCE DOMAINS TECHNOLOGY LLP UNIT NO. 501, 5TH FLOOR & UNIT IT BUILDING NO. 3 NESCO IT PARK, NESCO COMPLEX WESTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY, GOREGAON (EAST) MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA 400063, INDIA EMAIL: <u>compliance@edtpl.in</u> grievance-officer@publicdomainregistry.com

abuse@publicdomainregistry.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 9 **GNAME 019 INC** GNAME.COM PTE. LTD. Email: complaint@gname.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 10 TOP LEVEL DOMAINS LLC Email: domain.operations@web.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 11 FEDERAL BANK FEDERAL TOWERS, P B NO. 103, ERNAKULAM, KERALA 683101 Email: secretarial@federalbank.co.in contact@federalbank.co.in ... DEFENDANT NO. 12 CANARA BANK **HEAD OFFICE NO.112** J C ROAD BENGALURU - 560 002 PHONE: 080 - 22100250 E-mail: hosecretarial@canarabank.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 13 YES BANK YES BANK HOUSE, OFF WESTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY, SANTACRUZ (EAST), MUMBAI - 400055 Email: yestouch@yesbank.in ... DEFENDANT NO. 14 UTKARSH SMALL FINANCE BANK UTKARSH TOWER, NH-31(AIRPORT ROAD), SEHMALPUR, KAZI SARAI, HARHUA, VARANASI, 221105, UTTAR PRADESH Email: communications@utkarsh.bank ... DEFENDANT NO. 15 **INDIAN BANK** PB NO: 5555, 254-260, AVVAI SHANMUGAM SALAI, ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI – 600 014 Email: <u>holegal@indianbank.co.in</u> ... DEFENDANT NO. 16 **INDUSIND BANK** INDUSIND BANK LIMITED,

2401 GEN. THIMMAYYA ROAD (CANTONMENT),

7

PUNE-411 001 Email: <u>headconsumer@indusind.com</u> <u>headoperations@indusind.com</u> <u>reachus@indusind.com</u> <u>customercare@indusind.com</u>

... DEFENDANT NO. 17

8

ICICI BANK ICICI BANK TOWER, NEAR CHAKLI CIRCLE, OLD PADRA ROAD, VADODARA 390007, GUJARAT, INDIA. Email: <u>headservicequality@icicibank.com</u> ... DEFENDANT NO. 18

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK HEAD OFFICE, PLOT NO. 4, SECTOR 10, DWARKA NEW DELHI-110075 Email: <u>bo1988@pnb.co.in</u>

... DEFENDANT NO. 19

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 27 BKC, C 27, G BLOCK, BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, BANDRA (E), MUMBAI - 400051 Email: <u>itsecurity.bank@kotak.com</u> <u>customerfirst@kotak.com</u>

... DEFENDANT NO. 20

IDBI BANK LTD. IDBI TOWER, WTC COMPLEX, CUFFE PARADE, COLABA, MUMBAI 400005 Email: <u>customercare@idbi.co.in</u> ....DEFENDANT NO. 21

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA CHANDER MUKHI, NARIMAN POINT MUMBAI – 400 021 Email: <u>zmmmzo@centralbank.co.in</u>

... DEFENDANT NO.22

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THROUGH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (DIT) CYBER LAWS ELECTRONICS NIKETAN, 6-CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003 E-mail: cyberlaw@meity.gov.in; gccyberlaws@meity.gov.in; pkumar@meity.gov.in; uoidhc@gmail.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 23 DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS THROUGH ITS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND IT, 20, SANCHAR BHAWAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001. E-mail: secy-dot@nic.in; dirds2-dot@nic.in; uoidhc@gmail.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 24

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA MAHANAGAR DOORSANCHAR BHAWAN (NEXT TO ZAKIR HUSSAIN COLLEGE) JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MARG (OLD MINTO ROAD) NEW DELHI: 110 002 E-mail ID : ap@trai.gov.in daca@trai.gov.in ... DEFENDANT NO. 25

BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LTD. BHARAT SANCHAR BHAWAN, REGULATION CELL 5TH FLOOR, HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR LANE JANPATH, NEW DELHI -110001 E-mail: ddg reg@bsnl.co.in; sbkhare@bsnl.co.in ...DEFENDANT NO. 26

BHARTI AIRTEL LTD. AIRTEL CENTRE, TOWER-A, 6TH FLOOR 'A' WING, PLOT NO. L6, UDYOG VIHAR PH-IV, GURGAON-122016 E-mail: amit.bhatia@airtel.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 27

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LTD. 5TH FLOOR, MAHANAGAR DOORSANCHAR SADAN 9, CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD

NEW DELHI – 110003 E-mail: raco.mtnl@gmail.com mtnlcsco@gmail.com

gmracomtnl@gmail.com ... DEFENDANT NO. 28

**RELIANCE JIO INFOCOMM LIMITED** RCP 14 (TC 23), PHASE 4, B-BLOCK, 3RD FLOOR, C 4 130 THANE- BELAPUR ROAD. GANSOLI, NAVI MUMBAI- 400701 E-mail: care@jio.com Hitesh.marthak@relianceada.com Kapoor.guliani@ril.com

mahipal.singh@ril.com sunil.kr.gupta@ril.com shilpi.kant@ril.com jyoti.jain@ril.com

... DEFENDANT NO. 29

VODAFONE IDEA LIMITED VODAFONE HOUSE PENINSULA CORPORATE PARK GANPATRAO KADAM MARG, LOWER PAREL, MUMBAI- 400 013 INDIA E-mail: <u>florencia.depores@vodafoneidea.com</u> <u>raaj.goyel@vodafoneidea.com</u> <u>smitha.menon@vodafoneidea.com</u> <u>radhika.gokhale@vodafoneidea.com</u> <u>pankaj.kapdeo@vodafoneidea.com</u> <u>arun.madhav@vodafoneidea.com</u> ...

... DEFENDANT NO. 30

Prithvi Singh / Sowmya Lalita Priya P. Fidus Law Chambers Advocates for the Plaintiff F – 12, Ground Floor, Sector – 8, Noida – 201301 Mob. No.: +91 – 9911167179 <u>litigation@fiduslawchambers.com</u>

Place: New Delhi Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

DEFENDANT NO. 1 TO 7 ARE THE CONTESTING DEFENDANTS IN THE PRESENT SUIT.. PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF DEFENDANT NO. 1 TO 7 ARE NOT AVAILABLE.