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

CNR No. DLHC010350602026

+ **CS(OS) 676/2026 & I.A. 20739/2026**

SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI

.....Plaintiff

Through: Mr. Abhishek Singh, Mr. J. Amal Anand, Mr. Elvin Joshy, Ms. Shivani Kalra, Mr. K.V. Vibhu Prasad and Mr. Akshat Mishra, Advocates.

versus

META PLATFORMS INC & ORS.

....Defendants

Through:

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TUSHAR RAO GEDELA

ORDER

04.08.2026

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1. This is a suit instituted by the plaintiff seeking the following prayers:

“i. Pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction directing Defendant No.1 to permanently remove, delete and disable access to the Impugned Videos and the 56 impugned content available at the following URLs, and to prevent their re-upload or mirroring on its platforms:

- a) <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1K7z42bGQv/>*
- b) <https://www.instagram.com/p/DarNomND7vr/>*
- c) <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1M1SXJqPFU/>*
- d) <https://www.instagram.com/p/Dats6XViAYH/>*
- e) <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1545549994256265>*
- f) <https://www.facebook.com/reel/27853081137693395>,*

ii. Pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction directing Defendant No.1 to remove, suspend, block and disable access to all videos, reels, posts and content which are identical or similar to the Impugned Videos, or which otherwise refer to, name, depict or concern the Plaintiff in connection with the impugned fabricated story, whether on its own accord or upon intimation of any such content by the Plaintiff;

iii. Pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction directing Defendant No.2 to permanently delete and take down the First Impugned Video, presently available at URL: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1K7z42bGQv/> and at URL: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DarNomND7vr/>, and from any other online



platform, page, group, account or medium where the same or similar content has been published;

iv. Pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction directing Defendant No.2 to permanently delete and take down the Second Impugned Video, presently available at URL: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1MISXJqPFU/> and at URL: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Dats6XViAYH/>, and from any other online platform, page, group, account or medium where the same or similar content has been published;

v. Pass a decree of permanent injunction restraining Defendant No.2, his agents, servants, assigns and all others acting for and on his behalf, from making, publishing, uploading, broadcasting or circulating the Impugned Videos, or any video, image, reel, post or content of a similar nature that refers to, names, depicts or concerns the Plaintiff, anywhere on the internet or in print or electronic media;

vi. Pass a decree directing Defendant No.2 to tender a full, unconditional and prominent public apology to the Plaintiff on the "Jan Chaupal Post" Facebook and Instagram pages and on all associated social media accounts, together with a clear and prominent clarification that the entire story depicted in the Impugned Videos is false and fabricated;

vii. Pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction directing Defendant No.3 to permanently delete and take down the republications of the Impugned Videos made on his Facebook account "Ranjeet Singh", at URL: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1545549994256265> and at URL: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/27853081137693395>, and restraining Defendant No.3 from publishing or circulating the Impugned Videos or any similar content that refers to, names, depicts or concerns the Plaintiff;

viii. Pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction directing Defendant No.4 to remove and delete any post, video, reel or content which is identical or similar to the Impugned Videos available at the URLs set out in Prayer (i) above;

ix. Pass a decree awarding damages to the tune of Rs. 2,01,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crores and One Lakh only) in favour of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant Nos.2 and 3, jointly and severally;

x. Award costs of the present Suit in favour of the Plaintiff and against the Defendants."

2. Let the plaint be registered as a suit.
3. Upon filing of the process fee, issue summons of the suit to the defendants through all permissible modes.
4. The summons shall state that the Written Statement shall be filed by the



defendants within 30 days from the date of the receipt of summons. Alongwith the Written Statement, the defendants shall also file Affidavit of Admission/Denial of the documents of the plaintiff, without which the Written Statement shall not be taken on record.

5. Liberty is granted to the plaintiff to file Replication, if any, within 30 days from the receipt of the Written Statement. Along with the Replication filed by the plaintiff, an affidavit of Admission/Denial of the documents of defendant be filed by the plaintiff, without which the Replication shall not be taken on record.

6. In case any party is placing reliance on a document, which is not in their power and possession, its details and source shall be mentioned in the list of reliance, which shall also be filed with the pleadings.

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

I.A. 20739/2026 (Stay)

8. Present application has been filed on behalf of the plaintiff under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 of CPC, 1908 seeking *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction against the defendants.

9. The plaintiff is a former Union Minister and five-time Member of Parliament from Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, who held the offices of Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare (1996-97) and thereafter for External Affairs (1997-98). It is stated that the defendant no.2, claims to be a Journalist and Chief Editor of “Jan Chaupal Post News”, is alleged to have published on his Facebook and Instagram pages, on 13.07.2026, two wholly AI-generated videos (the “Impugned Videos”) wherein the plaintiff’s face, his voice, the characteristics, the dialogues and the scenes have all been artificially created by defendant no.2. It is also stated that the same have been generated and posted on public platforms for the consumption of the public.



10. It is stated that the videos falsely depict the plaintiff as a factory owner taking help of a gangster to crush his own workers' strike through threats of violence etc., of an incident alleged to have taken place sometime in the year 1985. Subsequent thereto, another video depicting the plaintiff as bonding with the alleged gangster and helping the said gangster grow in power and tighten his criminal hold over Allahabad i.e. Prayagraj has also been posted.

11. It is asserted by the plaintiff that at no point of time, prior to the publication, did defendant no.2 ever approach the plaintiff for his version or comments, which is a stark violation of the Press Council of India's Norms of Journalistic Conduct. It is stated that the suit is also instituted against defendant no.3 who has republished both the impugned videos on his Facebook account and one such reel garnered about 28,600 'likes'. The defendant no.1/Meta Platforms, Inc., is an intermediary on whose platform the artificially created AI-generated videos have been uploaded and is open to the public. It is stated that the first video has garnered about 10,000 'likes' on Facebook and 12,400 'likes' on Instagram account of defendant no.2, which are platforms of defendant no.1.

12. As soon as the plaintiff became aware of such videos, a legal notice dated 20.07.2026 was issued to defendant nos.1 & 2 with a request to defendant no.1 to disable the access to such videos within 36 hours. It is further stated that defendant no.2 sent a reply on 22.07.2026 stating that the information has been gathered from sources, although, according to the plaintiff, the same are false and fictitious. It is also stated that the defendant no.2 falsely claimed to have taken down the videos. Subsequently, on 30.07.2026, the defendant no.3 republished the videos on Facebook.

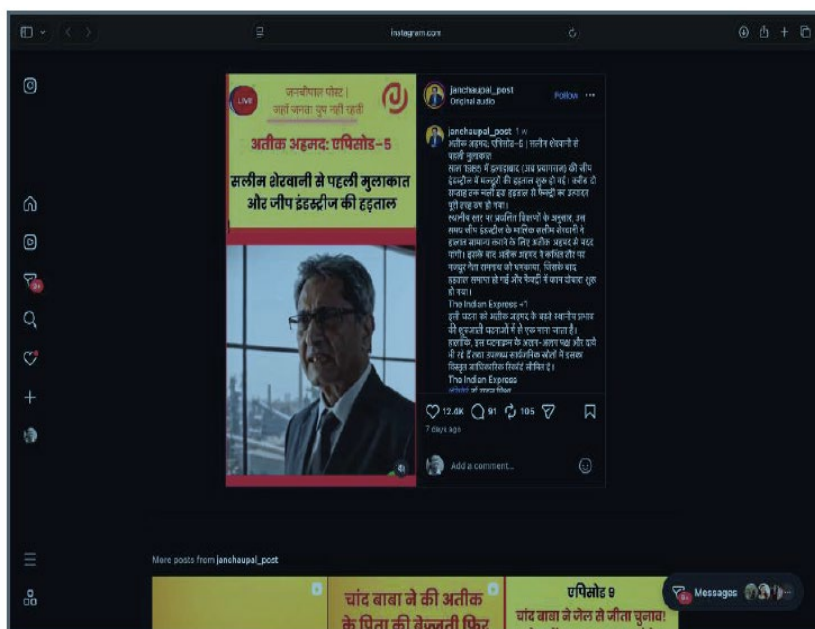
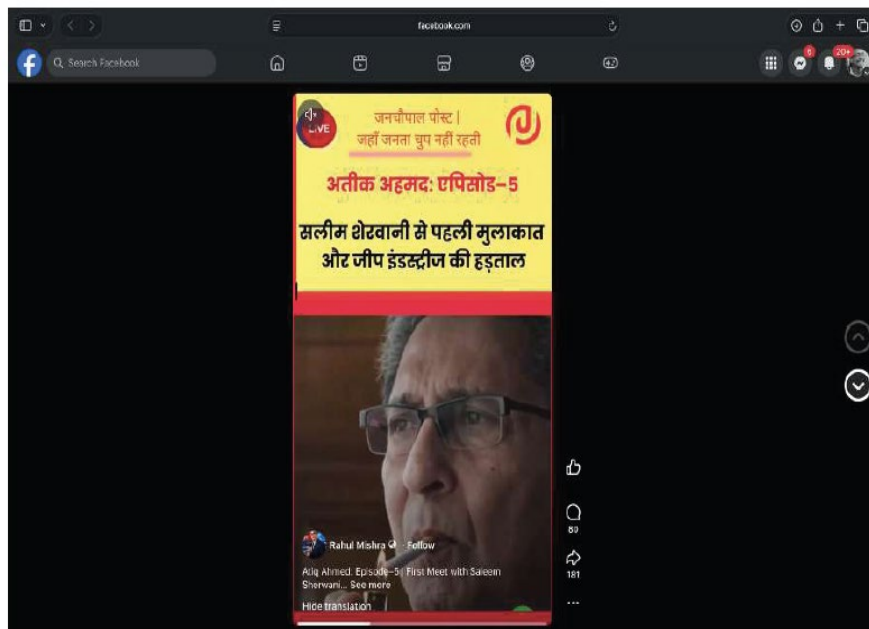
13. It is against the aforesaid defamatory contents and the violation of his rights that the plaintiff has instituted the present suit for defamation.

14. The fact that the said videos are accessible to the public has not been



denied by defendant no.2 in his reply to the notice.

15. The screenshot of the first video is extracted hereunder:



16. It would be relevant to extract the transcript of the first video, which is extracted hereunder:

“TRANSCRIPT OF THE FIRST IMPUGNED VIDEO URL:



<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1K7z42bGQv/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DarNomND7vr/>

Narrator: ...se supply hoti thi. Ek din mazdoor union ne factory mein hartal kar di.

(Background crowd chanting: "Inquilab Zindabad! Hamari maangein poori hon!")

Narrator: Factory maalik Saleem Sherwani ko samajh nahi aa raha tha. Aakhir is hartali aag ko bujhaiye kaun.

Kyunki mazdoor union ke neta Ram Narayan, seedhe mooh baat karne ko taiyar nahi the. Pareshan Sherwani ko ek local अधिकारी ने सलाह दी.

Officer: Sir... Sir... Sir woh Ateeq hai, jo Ram Narayan ka dimag thikane laga sakta hai. Aap kahein toh main baat karwaun?

Saleem Sherwani: Theek hai, tum baat karo usse aur mujhse meeting karwao.

(Song plays in background: Ateeq... Ateeq Chakia hai mera naam. Zara sa bhoole toh kaam tamam.)

Saleem Sherwani: Factory kai din se band hai. Mm. Har din laakhon ka nuksaan ho raha hai. Union President bahut hawa mein hain. Woh mazdooron ko bhadka raha hai.

Ateeq: Naam kya hai uska?

Saleem Sherwani: Ram Narayan.

Ateeq: Koi nahi, samjhayenge usko. Tum bas hamra khayal rakho, aur hum tumhara.

Narrator: Usi raat factory campus mein ek jeep aakar ruki. Yeh woh daur tha jab Ateeq ka naam sunkar log behes nahi karte the, chup ho jaate the. Sabhi ko shaant dekhkar Ram Narayan aage aaye aur bole.

Ram Narayan: Yahan kahe aaye ho? E mazdooran ka maamla hai.

Ateeq: Tabhi toh aaye hain. Sune hain bahut netagiri chadhi hai tumpar?

Ram Narayan: Netagiri nahi, hum keval mazdooran ka hakk maang rahe hain.

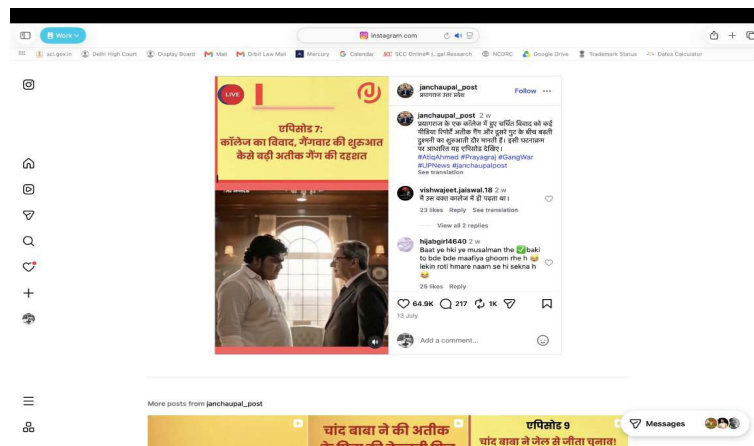
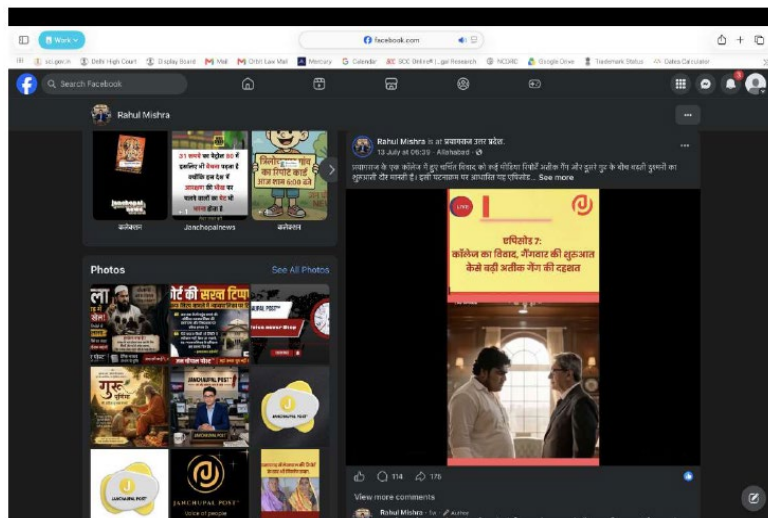
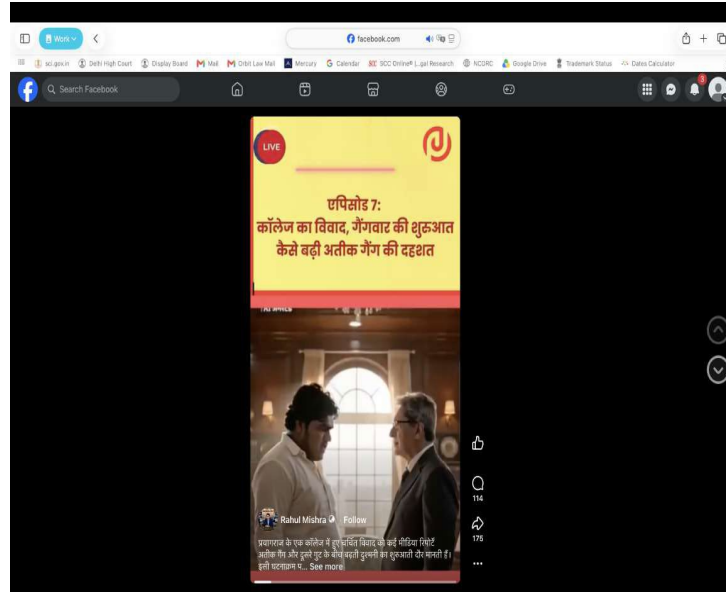
Ateeq: Tau hakk maango. Factory band kare ka sapna na dekho. Dekh rahe ho machine? Jitna din band rahengi, utna din log bhookhe mari.

Ram Narayan: Dhamki de rahe ho?

Ateeq: Dhamki nahi, Allahabadi tareeqe se samjha rahe hain. Kal subah factory khul jaaye, nahi toh tumri agli mulaqat aspatal mein hoi.

Narrator: Agle episode mein dekhiye-Ram Narayan ke saath kya hua?"

17. Similarly, the screenshots of the second video are extracted hereunder:





18. It would be relevant to extract the transcript of the second video, which is extracted hereunder:

*“TRANSCRIPT OF THE SECOND IMPUGNED VIDEO URL:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1MISXJqPFU/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/Dats6XViAYH/>*

Ateeq: ...nahi toh tumri agli mulaqat aspatal mein hoi.

Narrator: Agle hi din hartal khatm ho gayi. Factory dobara chalne lagi. Is waqe ke baad Saleem Sherwani aur Ateeq ke beech jo bonding bani, woh

Ateeq ke khatme tak chalti rahi. Ateeq ab sirf sadkon par gundai nahi, balki factory-on, netaon aur karobariyon ke beech ke faisle tay karne laga tha.

Ateeq: Theek hai, maalik.

Narrator: Saal 1988 mein, Allahabad ka Ewing Christian College, jahan padhai se zyada, naam aur dabdabe ki charcha hoti thi. Yahin par Ateeq ka bhai Ashraf, aur Chand Baba ke dahine haath, Arif urf Chamman ka bhai, Acchan padhta tha.

College mein Acchan ki ek ladki se nazdiki thi. Woh uske saath campus mein ghoomta tha. Hua yun, jis ladki ke saath Acchan ghoomta tha, us par Ashraf ka bhi dil aaya tha.

Bas isi baat se chidha Ashraf, seedhe canteen pahuncha jahan woh ladki Acchan ke saath maujood thi. Ashraf ne gusse mein poocha-

Ashraf: Bahut hero-giri chati hai tumpe? Zyada bacchan na banao.

Acchan: E college hai, baccha. Tumhare baap ka ghar nahi.

Ashraf: Abhi jaante nahi ho humka. Ashraf hain hum. Ateeq bhai hi hamar bade bhai hain.

Acchan: Tu bhi jaanta nahi hamein. Hum Acchan hain. Chamman bhai ka chot bhai.

Narrator: Dono mein baat maar-peet tak pahunch gayi. Lekin doston ke beech mein aa jaane se kisi tarah se maamla shaant hua.

(Background voices: “Maamla shaant karo... shaant karo... kya kar rahe ho? Chal chal chal yahan se hat...”)

Narrator: Ateeq Chakia-wale apne aalishan ghar mein apne gurgon ke saath baitha tha. Shaam ko Ashraf ne ghar pahunchte hi college mein jhagre ki baat apne bhai ko batate hue bola-

Ashraf: Bhai, u Acchan aaj bahut uchhal raha tha.

Narrator: Ateeq apne bhai ko dekhta raha. Tab tak use jhagre ki khabar mil chuki thi. Kaafi der sochne ke baad woh bola-

Ateeq: E college... college ma, sabke saamne, Ateeq ke bhai pe haath uthaya?

Ashraf: Bhai, hum tumhara naam bhi bataye. Tab woh apne bhai Chamman ka raub



jhaarne laga.

Ateeq: E Acchan ko ab dhang se samjhawai pade.

*Narrator: Agle din Ateeq ke gurgon ne college par dhawa bol diya.
(Background crowd commotion and screaming)*

Narrator: Campus mein daura-kar Acchan ko pakad liya.

Acchan: Ye kya kar rahe ho?

Narrator: Agle episode mein dekhiye-Ateeq ne Acchan...”

19. It would be relevant to extract hereunder the transcribed reply dated 22.07.2026, communicated on WhatsApp by defendant no.2:

“Reply dated 22.07.2026 by Defendant No.2

Dear Advocate Abhishek Singh,

This is in reference to the legal notice dated 22.07.2026 sent on behalf of your client, Mr. Saleem Iqbal Shervani.

Please be informed that the content in question was published after gathering information from multiple news sources available on the internet, including prominent national platforms like Dainik Bhaskar. There was never any intention to defame or cause harm to anyone's reputation, nor was it done with any malicious intent. However, respecting your communication and in good faith, we have already permanently removed the concerned video from our social media platforms. We request you to kindly treat this matter as closed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rahul Mishra (MD)

Chief Editor & Correspondent, Jan Chaupal Post News

™ Jan Chaupal Post”

20. It *prima facie*, appears that the impugned videos uploaded by the defendant no.2 and re-published by defendant no.3 are derogatory and show the plaintiff in a poor light. The depiction that the plaintiff is involved with persons having alleged criminal antecedents and records for carrying out unverified and unauthenticated threats to some factory workers etc., is clearly bringing disrepute to the plaintiff. The videos appear to be targeting the plaintiff and lowering his reputation in public.

21. The plaintiff has been able to *prima facie* establish a strong case in his favour. The balance of convenience is also tilted in favour of the plaintiff. The



plaintiff shall suffer irreparable harm and injury, which may not be adequately compensated in monetary terms in case *ex-parte ad-interim* injunction is not granted.

22. In view of the aforesaid, it appears appropriate to direct the defendant no.1 to take down the following URLs:

- a) <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1K7z42bGQv/>
 - b) <https://www.instagram.com/p/DarNomND7vr/>
 - c) <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1M1SXJqPFU/>
 - d) <https://www.instagram.com/p/Dats6XViAYH/>
 - e) <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1545549994256265>
 - f) <https://www.facebook.com/reel/27853081137693395>
- and;
at URL: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1545549994256265> and at
URL: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/27853081137693395>

23. The defendant nos.2 & 3 are also directed to immediately take down the two impugned videos from their Facebook and Instagram accounts and are further restrained from publishing or republishing the said impugned videos till further orders.

24. In case the plaintiff comes across or is made aware of any other videos similar to impugned videos, the plaintiff shall intimate defendant no.1, which may take appropriate action in regard thereto. In case defendant no.1 fails to adhere to any such request, the plaintiff shall be at liberty to approach this Court.

25. The plaintiff shall also be entitled to implead any other such defendants against whom any such similar stay order is required. The impleadment application may be entertained by the Joint Registrar (Judl.), however, the extension of stay order shall be granted by this Court on an appropriate application.

26. Compliance of Order XXXIX Rule 3 of CPC shall be done within one week from date.



27. Let a reply to this application be filed by the defendants within four weeks from service. Rejoinder, thereto, if any, be filed within four weeks thereafter.

28. List before the Joint Registrar (Judicial) on 29.09.2026 for completion of service and pleadings.

29. List before the Court on 26.11.2026.

TUSHAR RAO GEDELA, J

AUGUST 4, 2026

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