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ABOUT RGNUL

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, to fulfill the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization.

In 2015, RGNUL became the first and the only NLU to have been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with an 'A' grade. In 2018, RGNUL was amongst the four NLUs to have been granted an autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and has been ranked among the top law schools in India in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

ABOUT CESEL

The Centre for Excellence in Sports and Entertainment Law has been established under the tutelage of our Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai with the aim to encourage a culture of legal study, genuine interest, and policy-making in the growing field of Entertainment and Sports Law and its numerous intersections with other disciplines.

By focusing on contemporary issues and advancements in these fields, the Centre strives at adding research work and development with the aim to boost recognition of these emerging domains of law in India that are well known for cinematography, cutting-edge special effects with an intriguing blend of copyright act and more in Entertainment Law and disciplines as law and policy, competition, match-fixing, broadcasting rights and related studies in Sports Law.



SPORTS & GAMING LAW UPDATES



NFT RISES IN POPULARITY AMONG INDIAN SPORTSPERSONS

If you are an educated user of the internet, chances are that you have heard about Non-Fungible Tokens or NFTs. A non-fungible token is defined as a unique and non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a blockchain, in the form of a digital ledger. NFTs can be associated with reproducible digital files that we all have and use, such as photos, videos, and audio.

The popularity of NFTs has been on a meteoric rise throughout the pandemic, and sportspersons in India have recently began to cash in on it, by launching their own line of NFTs. Dinesh Karthik, the Indian cricketer, was the first Indian sportsperson

to launch an NFT, named “Six for the Win”. Other Indian sportspersons who have launched their own NFTs include Manika Batra, Mary Kom, Vijender Singh, and so on.

Recently, in an NFT auction held in Dubai, a bat signed by the 2011 World Cup winning team fetched \$25000, while a jersey signed by David Warner was sold for \$30000 with many other items also earning high bids. This proves that NFTs are ruling the technological and financial markets within the sports industry right now and seem to be in high demand across the country.



Delhi High Court constituted a three-member committee to probe Manika Batra's allegation of match-fixing

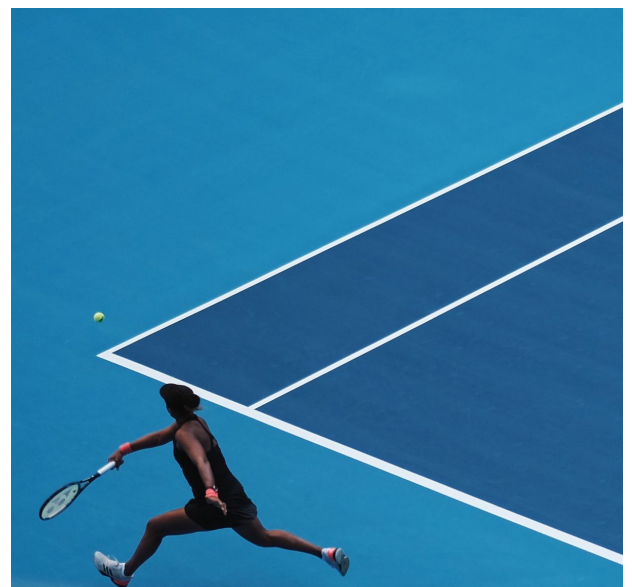
The Delhi High Court has formed a three-member committee to investigate the accusation by top table tennis player Manika Batra of a match-fixing attempt by the national coach, which will be chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice Vikramjit Sen.


While hearing Batra's appeal against the Table Tennis Federation of India, Justice Rekha Palli revealed that another former Supreme Court judge, Justice A K Sikri, and Arjuna Awardee and Padma Shri Winner athlete Gurbachan Singh Randhawa will be on the committee (TTFI).

Batra, who was left off of India's team for the Asian Table Tennis Championships, filed a lawsuit earlier this year saying that national coach Soumyadeep Roy 'pressured her to throw away' an Olympic qualification match in favour of one of his trainees.

She further stated that TTFI was conducting its selection processes in an opaque manner and was specifically targeting people like herself. The judge recommended that the committee perform the investigation as quickly as possible and deliver its findings, ideally within a duration of four weeks, given the severe nature of the petitioner's accusations.

The court noted that the parties would cooperate with the procedure and that the committee would be able to devise its own approach as long as it followed natural justice principles.





Online gaming case: Karnataka High Court concludes hearing, reserves for orders

On 22nd December 2021, the Karnataka High Court concluded hearings, and reserved the case for orders, on petitions challenging the validity of the State's new law banning online games of chance. The two-judge bench comprised of Hon'ble Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, and Hon'ble Justice Krishna S Dixit. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and others appeared on the petitioners' behalf, and Advocate General Prabhulinga Navadgi appeared on the state government's behalf.

The petition was filed by six companies and industry bodies (All Indian Gaming Federation, Mobile Premier League, Games24x7, Gameskraft, Head Digital Works Private Ltd, and Jungle Games), who moved to the Karnataka High Court against the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Compliance Act, 2021, which makes all forms of gambling, a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The petitioners argued that the amendment has even included the games that require skill, under games of chance in its definition of gaming. Moreover, even the Supreme Court, in 1957, has held that competitive games of skill are business activities, protected under the sub-sections of Article 19 of the Constitution.

NADA amends its anti-doping rules for the second time to fall in line with World Anti-Doping Code

The new WADA code came into effect on January 1, 2021, and all its signatories were expected to revise their rules in accordance with the new code. NADA amended its rules earlier this year, however, the new amendments were objected by WADA, since they were not in consonance with the WADA code. It seems that the goal for NADA was to reduce the number of dope offenders, as well as to avoid harsher sanctions; but this was not possible going by WADA regulations. Now, NADA has recently published an amended version of its rules, though the date on which it was updated isn't clear. In the new version, there isn't any provision for lenient sanctions belonging to athletes not falling under "international" or "national" categories. NADA has done away with its definition of "other athletes", and these athletes would now fall into the category of "national" athletes. NADA's decision of re-amending its rules was a wise one, considering that for countries not complying with WADA's code, the consequences would include the possibility of these countries not getting to host regional, continental or world championships or events organized by Major Event Organisations during the period of non-compliance.



Orissa High Court issues notice to state government over gambling law

On a petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Orissa Prevention of Gambling Act, 1955, which prohibits any games for stakes or money, the Orissa High Court has given notice to the State government. On a case filed by Tic Tok Skill Games Pvt. Ltd, an online gaming firm, the division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice AK Mohapatra issued the notice.

The Orissa Prevention of Gambling Act, 1955 was challenged on the grounds that it imposes a blanket prohibition on all games for stakes with no rational foundation or categorization. The petition, as well as the State government's response, will be heard on February 12 by the bench. According to the petition, a blanket ban on games that makes no distinction between games of skill and games of chance violates the notion of proportionality. The blanket prohibition has no rational link to preventing the vice of gambling, and as a result, all games of skill are likewise prohibited as a result of such blanket rules, directly infringing on the basic freedom to perform any trade or vocation provided by the Indian Constitution.



IPL Controversy: Why BCCI Chief Sourav Ganguly had to Step Down as ATK Mohun Bagan Director?

Sourav Ganguly, who is no stranger to controversy regarding conflict-of-interest issues, has stepped down as director of Indian Super League team ATK Mohun Bagan, owned by RPSG Ventures Ltd. The RSPG Group has won the rights to own the Lucknow franchise of the Indian Premiere League. According to the BCCI Constitution, Ganguly will be in conflict-of-interest, if he retained his position as a stakeholder and Brand Ambassador in ATK (Atletico de Kolkata) Mohun Bagan.

A few years back, Ganguly was charged with conflict of interest for being the president of Cricket Association of Bengal, a TV commentator and an advisor of IPL team Delhi Capitals; and it is clear, that this time, the RPSG group did not want any embarrassment regarding their new IPL team. Therefore, Ganguly stepped aside from his position in Mohun Bagan, at least for as long as he is the BCCI president, to avoid any conflict.



European parliament's proposal for a new regime to combat piracy of live sports content

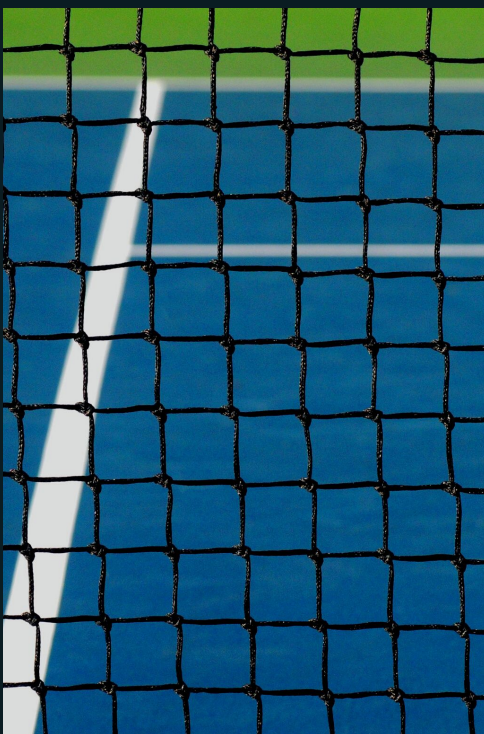
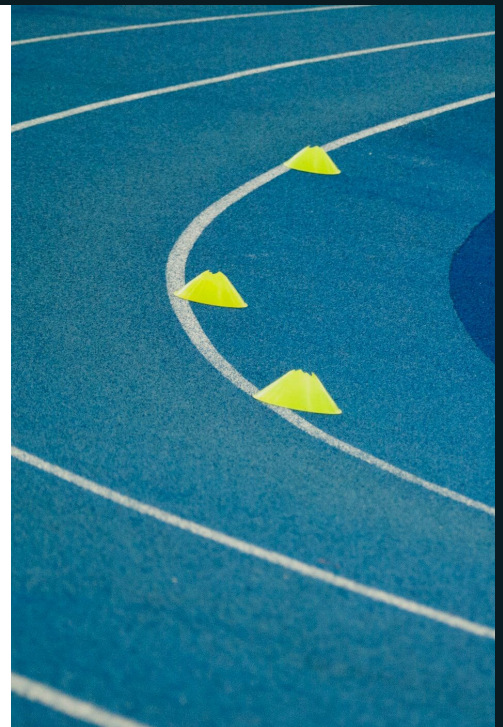
Piracy of media rights poses a long-standing danger to sport finance. However, as the European Parliament acknowledged in a resolution released on May 19, 2021, advances in digital technology and the expansion of access to digital information (particularly through IPTV) have raised the risk of sports fans being exposed to stolen content.

The ideas of the EU Parliament will now be considered by the EU Commission which include establishing a common EU-wide quality and technical reliability standard for software tools deployed by rights holders; clarifying the requirement for the removal of, or disabling of access to, online illegal live sports event content as fast as possible; allowing for immediate take down procedures targeting illegal live sports event content; ensuring that the measures to be taken by intermediaries are effective, justified and proportionate; taking measures that make it easier to find legal means of accessing sports content, among others. While the threat of piracy to the sports sector in today's digital environment will persist, the EU Parliament's suggestions look to be a step in the right way. However, technological as well as legal factors will play a role in the successful execution of any enforcement regime.

Supreme Court Expresses Displeasure Over The Functioning Of HCA, Favours Enquiry

The Supreme Court expressed serious dissatisfaction with the running of the Hyderabad Cricket Association, led by former India captain Mohd Azharuddin, and the debate over the selection of former supreme court judge Justice Deepak Verma as the ombudsman, saying it would initiate a probe. The CJI-led bench was upset by the course of events in the HCA and instructed a counsel to communicate to Justice Verma not to give any orders as the ombudsman for his term had already expired.

The HCA is split over Justice Verma's selection as the ombudsman, and one of the HCA's associated cricket clubs has launched a legal lawsuit. Before the lower court, it was argued that the HCA apex council's resolution appointing Justice Verma lacked legal jurisdiction. It had asserted that the appointment decision could only be made at the annual general meeting. As a result, the civil court put Justice Verma's appointment on hold. It was argued before the High Court that the petitioner was acting in collusion with the HCA secretary Vijayanand and lacked credibility. The High Court overturned the municipal court's ruling and slammed the secretary of the HCA, calling the opposition to the appointment of the ombudsman a collusive effort.



Delhi High Court stays the Indian Olympic Association elections

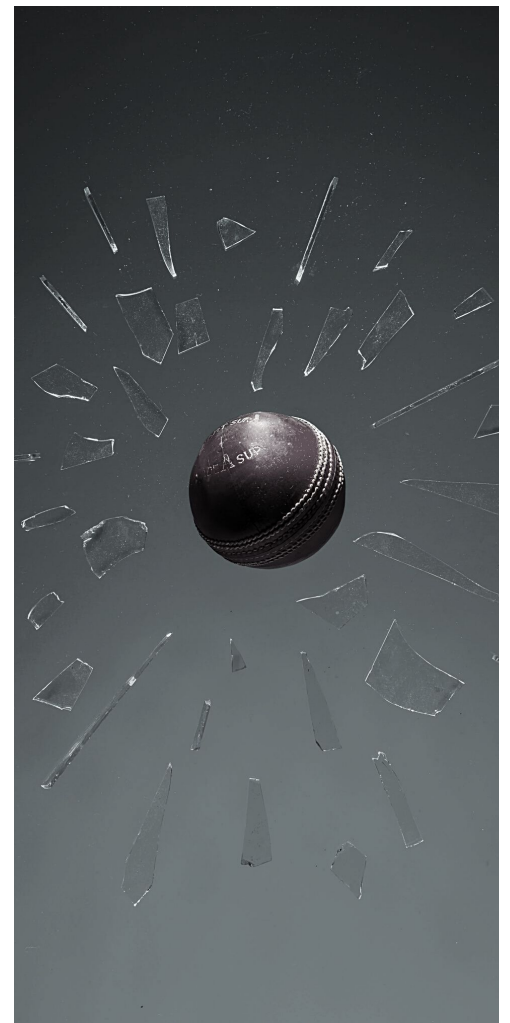
The Delhi High Court's division bench, comprising of Hon'ble Justice Manmohan and Hon'ble Justice Najmi Waziri has put a stay on the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) elections, which were set to be held on December 19, 2021 in Guwahati. The bench was hearing a petition filed by lawyer and activist Rahul Mehra, who highlighted the lack of reforms in the IOA. The petition stated that the reforms were put on hold in 2017, after Narinder Batra took over the president's post. It also highlighted that there were a few restrictive clauses in the IOA constitution. Clause 11.1.3 makes it mandatory that "only those members, who had held the office and were elected members in any of the preceding five Executive Council of the IOA, shall be eligible to contest the elections" for the posts of president and secretary general.

There are 184 members in the IOA, but because of this clause, only 15-20 people are eligible to contest in the elections. It was also pointed out that the IOA elections should be held in Delhi, its registered office. It was being organized in Guwahati to manipulate the outcome of the elections. Keeping in mind all these issues, the bench put a stay on the elections.

Delhi High Court restrains rogue websites from illegally streaming the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021

The Delhi High Court passed an order restraining rogue websites from streaming the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, as it violated the exclusive broadcasting rights held by Star Channels and Disney+ Hotstar. The plea was filed by Star India Pvt. Ltd., where it submitted that it has acquired exclusive global media rights for ICC events for the duration of years 2015 to 2023. It was stated in the plea that seven websites had infringed these exclusive rights during Vivo IPL 2021, and Star group apprehended that the same would be repeated again during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The judgment stated that an irreparable loss will be caused by rogue websites upon the exclusive broadcaster, if an ex-parte injunction is not granted. Therefore, an interim injunction was granted in favor of the plaintiff. The court also held that if other such websites are discovered by the plaintiff and brought on record, this interim injunction will be applied to them as well. The court directed the Centre to issue notification calling upon the internet service providers to block access to websites, and directed the internet service providers to block such access. The suit is listed for further hearing on February 22.



The IPL Governing Council Has Formed A Committee To Look Into The Controversy Surrounding CVC Capital, The Company That Recently Bought The New Lucknow Franchise In The IPL

On the advice of the Advocate General of India, Tushar Mehta, the IPL governing council has formed an independent committee to look into the issues surrounding CVC Capital, the company that recently bought the Ahmedabad Franchise of the IPL. The issue with CVC Capital is that they are associated with some betting companies overseas.

The focal point of IPL Governing Committee meeting was CVC and whether they will be given the letter of intent. But on Solicitor General of India's advice, they formed a four-member committee which will now give its recommendation on the matter. While the board didn't set a time limit, it expects the report soon. Once the issue is closed, the BCCI will decide on the venue and date of the IPL 2022 Auction. The committee has been assigned the charge of preparing a report on CVC Capital at the earliest possible time and advise the BCCI on what it can do and how it can tackle the situation at hand.



ENTERTAINMENT LAW UPDATES

Tarantino v. Miramax — Behind the NFT ‘Pulp Fiction’ Case, and Who Holds the Advantage

Quentin Tarantino had recently announced a sale of NFTs, based on the original handwritten script of the 1994 film Pulp Fiction, written and directed by Tarantino. Miramax, the studio which produced the movie, filed suit within days. The primary contention is regarding the crucial question of who can mint NFTs based on original movies and TV shows, and what aspects can be distributed through such means. Despite Tarantino’s rather misleading claim that NFTs consist of images and audio commentary- they contain a hash(code) of the image, or a link to the image- they are important in the sense that they may contain a smart contract that governs future transactions, essentially making NFTs a 21st century substitute for paper certificates of authenticity.

The principal question of law is whether Tarantino’s right to print publication (as per the 1993 agreement between the parties) covers the NFT sale. Miramax’s argument that Tarantino’s intention to conduct “a restricted sale”, by selling a few original script pages as one time transactions do not come under “screenplay publication”, is weak, as the NFTs give the collector flexibility in terms of the right to keep the “secret details” to themselves, convey them to a few select individuals or release them to the public. Therefore, Tarantino might have an advantage over Miramax, by providing the collectors more rights with respect to the future transactions of the NFT.

Vanniyar Sangam moves court against makers of Jai Bhim film

The Vanniyar Sangam filed a case against the Tamil film Jai Bhim, alleging that the film showed the community in poor light. The movie, which is about a real life tribal man who was falsely implicated in a case of theft and died in police custody and the subsequent litigation for justice, was widely acclaimed and has been viewed by millions of people.

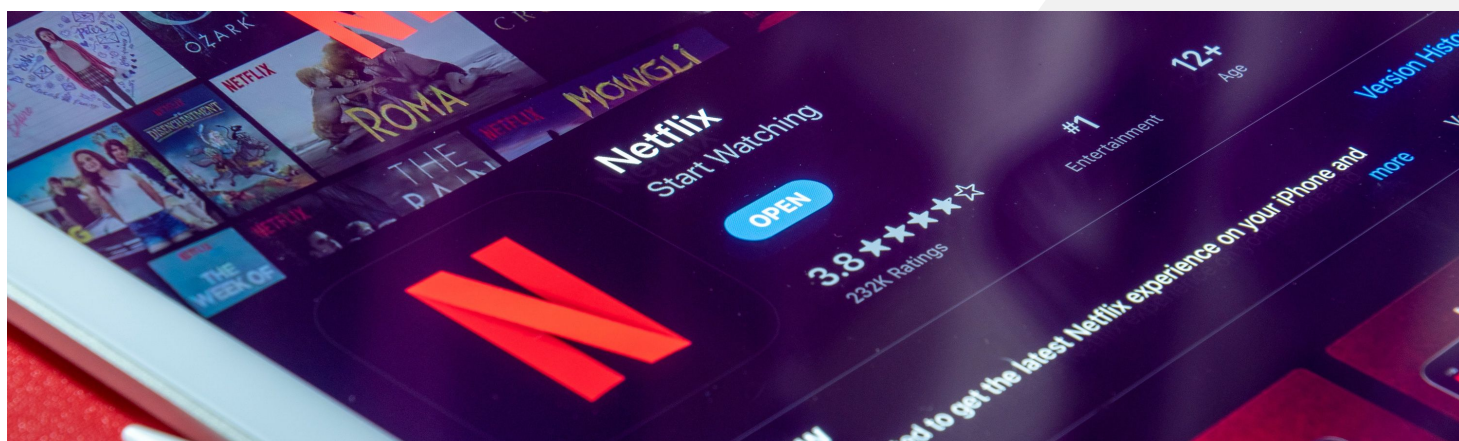
The Vanniyar Sangam, which is the parent body of the political party Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), alleged t-

-hat the reckless depiction of the community with villainy and criminal bent of mind has caused an irreparable dent in the reputation of the community.

The complaint seeks the court to proceed against the accused namely the producers actor Surya and his wife Jyothika, the director T. J Gnanavel and OTT provider Amazon Prime video, and punish them under sections 153,153 A, 499, 500, 504 etc. The petition also alleges that the makers have deliberately changed the name of certain characters

in order to insult prominent leaders of the community such as the late J Guru, and have also used sacred community symbols, which seem to imply that the Vanniyar community is the antagonist.

Actor Surya clarified that the intention was to show the real life struggle of Justice Chandru and that mistakes pointed out have been immediately corrected. Recently, the film's director also released a statement that there was no intention to target or shame any particular person or community.



Netflix Faces Legal Issues over Controversial Temple Scene in India

Netflix has not been able to shake off controversies with respect to popular Indian show A Suitable Boy. Amid news that the Indian government intends to take control of OTT streaming platforms in the country, fresh controversy arose as police complaints were filed against Netflix for showing a Hindu girl kissing a Muslim boy in front of a temple.

In one of the scenes of A Suitable Boy, directed by Mira Nair and based on the classic novel of the same name written by Vikram Seth, Lata, a girl from the Hindu community is shown to be kissing a Muslim boy who is her love interest. The scene was shot with a Hindu temple in the backdrop. Home minister of Madhya Pradesh Narottam Mishra stated that the scene was extremely objection-

-able and hurt the feelings of a particular religion. He also stated that the Police have been directed to determine course of legal action that can be taken against the makers of the series for hurting religious sentiments. There have also been instances of political leaders threatening to conduct street protests if the show was allowed to exist in the future.

Chess icon sues Netflix for Queen's Gambit portrayal

Netflix came under fire recently for controversies with regard to the Golden Globe-winning show, The Queen's Gambit, for incorrect portrayal of certain characters. The case was filed by Georgian chess icon Nona Gaprindashvili, who alleges that Netflix has defamed her by incorrectly portraying her in the hit series. The case refers to a sequence in the final

episode, where a commentator mentions Gaprindashvili whilst describing Harmon (the protagonist). While describing her, the commentator says that "though her gender is unusual, it is not uncommon in Russia, as there is Nona Gaprindashvili, who is the female world champion and has never faced men." Gaprindashvili, in a 25-page case filed at the Federal District Court, has stated that by 1968, she had

faced at least 59 male players, and that Netflix has deliberately lied about her achievements for "the cheap purpose of heightening the drama, a grossly sexist and belittling action." Netflix has responded to the claims by saying that though they only had utmost respect for the plaintiff's illustrious career, the claims lacked any merit, and therefore, they would "vigorously defend the case."

Court summons Netflix and its officials in a criminal case filed by Sahara

Netflix had recently produced and telecasted a documentary series titled *Bad Boy Billionaires* on the life and growth of Sahara group chairman Subrata Roy Sahara along with Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi. Sahara group had filed a civil suit for recovery of damages against Netflix India for an amount of Rs. 500 crore. They also filed a criminal complaint for making and publishing an outrageous and highly defamatory documentary about the Saharas. Consequently, the Lucknow Special Chief Judicial Magistrate issued summons to Netflix India director Abhishek Nag, documentary director Nick Read and Producer Reva Sharma, to be tried under section 500, 501 and 502 of the Indian Penal Code.

Sahara had strongly reacted against the Netflix series, alleging that it was completely baseless and that it was an ill-conceived and spiced-up commercial film full of sensationalism, which was way beyond the facts. They also stated that all the accused have willfully connived and attempted to portray the chairman of Sahara group in bad taste, thereby attempting to tarnish the reputation of the Sahara group which is "unacceptable and highly objectionable."



Delhi High Court Order pertaining to the film 'The Conversion'

The Delhi High Court, dismissed a PIL seeking to restrain the release of the Hindi movie, *The Conversion*. The plea noted that the film featured "communally charged content" with the "potential of provoking hatred among religious communities." But the court has refused to entertain this ground, saying, "Provocation depends upon mental attitude of people." The PIL was filed by All India Practicing Lawyers Council, seeking an immediate deletion of the trailer from YouTube.

The division bench of Hon'ble Chief Justice DN Patel and Hon'ble Justice Jyoti Singh asked the petitioners whether the complaint was based on just the trailer, without taking the context of the entire movie under consideration. They noted a movie cannot be banned due to "one man's provocation." Nonetheless, the bench has requested the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to decide the representation based on "law, rules, regulations, and government policies related to the facts of the case."



The Bombay High Court stayed summons in a criminal defamation complaint against the producers of the film Gangubai Kathiawadi

The Bombay High Court recently extended the stay on summons issued by a Mumbai court in a criminal defamation case against the makers of Gangubai Kathiawadi, actor Alia Bhatt, and authors S Hussain Zaidi and Jane Borges, who wrote the novel on which the film is based. The case was initiated by one Babuji Shah, who claimed to be the adopted son of the late Gangubai Kathiawadi. He further claimed that the movie and the chapter in the book are offensive and derogatory in nature and tarnish the image of his mother. However, the Hon'ble Bombay High Court noted that the complainant had failed to show proof as to how he was the adopted son of the deceased woman.

The Court further held that the question of adoption of Mr. Shah must be conclusively settled as *"the right to raise grievances against defamation is limited to family members or close relatives"*. Consequently, the court granted an interim relief, and stayed the summons against the accused.



Delhi High Court refuses Interim-Injunction against Khurshid's Book

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, the Delhi High Court denied an ad-interim injunction against a book written by Congress politician and former Union minister Salman Khurshid. Vishnu Gupta, the president of the Hindu Sena, filed the suit in Patiala House Court to disrupt the production of the book. Gupta had filed this injunction complaint claiming that a paragraph in the book had offended a substantial number of Hindus and the community sentiments.

According to the court, he failed to demonstrate that the book will cause him inconvenience. In passing the ruling, ACJ Preeti Parewa noted that an injunction on the book would cause difficulty for the publishers as well as limit the author's freedom of speech and expression. According to the court, Gupta is free to criticize the book and even write rebuttals.

The Bombay High Court Refuses Injunction for the film ‘Zombivli’

In the matter of Tarun Wadhwa v. Saregama India Ltd & Anr., the Bombay High Court declined to stay the distribution of Zombivli, a film produced by Saregama India, in a copyright infringement claim filed by a director. Tarun Wadhwa, an independent director, alleged that Saregama had illegally utilised his content in a zombie film in Marathi. The controversy, according to Hon'ble Justice Patel, was not over *"the question of 'originality' in the work per se, but the dichotomy between an idea and its expression in copyright law"* (as distinct from confidentiality law). A concept does not have any copyright. It exists only in a specific embodiment of an idea that is, how individual parts, none of which are subject to copyright protection in and of themselves, are combined. The HC also added that for any complaints of breach of secrecy, *"originality and completeness must be present."* All needed components of secrecy must be demonstrated. It's not enough to show just a few of them.

Madras High Court Uplifts ‘Right to be Funny’

A single judge bench of Hon'ble Justice G.R. Swaminathan quashed a case against CPI (ML) leader Mathivanan, in the case of Mathivanan v. The Inspector of Police, who was booked under IPC sections pertaining to 'criminal conspiracy', 'waging war against the state' and 'criminal intimidation by conspiracy', for a Facebook caption. The Facebook Post was a picture with his family with the caption *"Trip to Sirumalai for shooting practice."* The verdict contemplated introduction of Right to be funny & duty to laugh. In the order, the Judge observed that 'Duty to Laugh' should be considered to be added to Part IV-A of the Constitution. It was further observed that *"Right to be Funny"* may be "mined" under Freedom of Speech and Expression provided by Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution. Moreover, the four essential stages of crime, provisions penalizing preparation (to commit a crime) must meet a *"higher threshold"*.



PIL against the film ‘Kurup’ in Kerala High Court

Kurup, directed by Srinath Rajendran, was one of Bollywood's most awaited films and was due to be released in theatres on November 12. The film is based on the life of Sukumara Kurup, Kerala's most wanted criminal, and is co-produced by Wayfarer Films and M-Star Entertainments. Kurup, starring Dulquer Salmaan, has been sued in the Kerala High Court. According to the PIL filed by a Kochi resident, the film may infringe on the privacy of Sukumara Kurup, the notorious criminal on whom the film is based, who murdered a man named Chacko in 1984 and then used the corpse to fake his own death in order to claim insurance money. In response to the PIL, the Kerala High Court issued notifications to the Centre, the state government, Interpol, and film producers in response to the PIL but didn't issue a stay order on the film.

Analysing the situation of Female Athletes in Nigeria and their long-drawn battle for Equality

By Shaam P. Thelapilly



In October 2021, Nigeria's Women's Basketball team, popularly known as D' Tigress were finally assured by the nation's sports federation that they would be paid their bonuses and allowances which have been outstanding since 2018. This was granted to them only after the players took to social media to demand that they be paid all the outstanding money owed to them by the sports ministry, be given better travel facilities and a team manager for all team functions. D' Tigress captain Adaora Elonu even declared that if the government did not meet these demands, the team would not show up for the FIBA World Cup tournament scheduled for February 2022.

It is very hurtful to see how D' Tigress was forced to go to such measures to get the bare minimum owed to them despite being one of the most successful women's basketball teams in recent times. Adaora Elonu can be quoted as saying "We have defended our championship and brought back the cup in 2019 and 2021, which is historical, but still no invitation has been extended to the team to visit Aso Rock for a presidential handshake. Why?" The neglect faced by the Nigerian Women's Basketball team appears to be an indication of the neglect and lack of respect towards the attitude towards female athletes in the nation which is a clear contrast to the reverence in which their male counterparts are held.

The nation appears to have all the necessary legislation in place such as The National Policy on Women of 2000 in order to promote equality between the two sexes in all sectors of the economy. There are also sections in the Nigerian constitution meant to achieve the same, however most of these laws have been poorly implemented and the gender inequality in the Nigerian workplace has always been very problematic.



Nigerian women have always been well known for their perseverance and fighting spirit. Another instance of this was in 2016, when the sports federation went back on their promise of increasing the salaries for the Nigerian Women's football team fondly called the Super Falcons, which led to the team unanimously refusing to negotiate which the federation and skip the following training sessions until the originally promised contracts were brought back.

In July 2019, Desire Oparonozie who captains the Super Falcons, sent shockwaves across the nation when she demanded that female footballers be paid equal wages to their male counterparts. Oparonozie reasoned that the Super Falcons were by far Africa's most successful football team boasting of nine titles and being the only team to have played all eight Women's World Cup finals. Yet she pointed out at the Ladies In Sports (LIS).

Conference held in 2019 at Lagos, that the women's football team was only paid 3,000 USD for a win and 1,500 USD for a draw, however, their male counter-parts known as the Super Eagles were compensated in the range of 10,000 USD for a win and 5,000 USD for a draw. Oparonozie declared *"I think we deserve equal pay. This big gap tells a different story and a proper rethink of this mode of payment could also help the women's game."* Despite this campaign gaining much support across social media platforms, the Nigerian government has failed to pay much heed to these demands which eventually died out.

A similar issue has been raised by the United States women's soccer team, another instance of a female team earning more accolades than their male counter-parts in recent years yet being paid less wages and being given lesser facilities. In April 2021, a federal judge in the United States approved a partial settlement in the legal dispute between the United States Soccer and the women's team, hoping that both parties would engage more with each other and reach an amicable settlement outside the court. The US Women's soccer team is presently ranked no: 1 in the Fifa Women's Rankings, whereas their male counterparts are at rank 11 in the Fifa Men's Rankings list. whereas their male counterparts are at rank 11 in the Fifa Men's Rankings list

For these reasons, the successful protests led by Nigeria's Women's Basketball this year will go down in history as an unforgettable milestone and has induced new life into the fight for equal pay and treatment for female athletes. The Nigerian government being forced to give into D' Tigress's demands is an example of the power of feminist movements against oppressive governments in the modern world and this will hopefully serve as a precedent for many such movements across the world.



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