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

+ **I.P.A. 1/2023**

JUSTICE ON TRIAL

..... Petitioner/plaintiff

Through: Mr. Harish Salve, Sr. Adv. (through
VC) alongwith Mr. Siddharth
Sharma, Adv.

versus

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (INDIA) & ANR.

..... Respondents/Defendants

Through:

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA

ORDER

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22.05.2023

IA No. 10037/2023

For the reasons stated in the application, the delay of 64 days in re-filing the present suit is condoned.

The application stands disposed of.

I.P.A. 1/2023 & IA No. 10036/2023

1. The plaintiff, which is stated to be a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and also registered as a Public trust under the provisions of the Bombay Public Trust, 1950, has filed the present suit for damages, invoking Order XXXIII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, seeking permission to file as an indigent person.

2. The defendant no. 2 is stated to be the national broadcaster of the

United Kingdom; the defendant no. 1 is stated to be the local operations office of the defendant no. 2.

3. It is the contention of the plaintiff that the defendant no. 2 has released a two episode news documentary titled “India: The Modi Question”. The two episodes are stated to have been published in January 2023. It is contended that the said documentary/publication contains content which casts a slur on the reputation of the country and also makes false and defamatory imputations and insinuations against the Prime Minister of India, the Indian Judiciary and the Indian criminal justice system. Details thereof have been set out in paragraphs 11-26 of the plaint.

4. It is averred that the aforesaid conduct of the respondents is actionable and has made them liable to damages, as claimed in the suit.

5. Issue notice to the respondents through all permissible modes, returnable on 25.09.2023.

IA No. 10035/2023

Issue notice to the respondents through all permissible modes, returnable on 25.09.2023.

SACHIN DATTA, J

MAY 22, 2023/r