

NEWSLETTER

Technology, Media & Telecommunication Laws
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ABOUT US

TMT Law Practice is a boutique law firm providing a full suite of services in the TMT sectors. Over time, the firm's practice has expanded from a niche boutique IP practice, to include practice areas such as commercial disputes resolution & arbitration, regulatory litigation & advisory, corporate/commercial advisory and transactional support, and policy and legislative drafting across industry verticals. The Firm represents a broad range of clients including Fortune 500 companies, as well as MSMEs and Start-ups.

The firm engages in the practice of the conventional domains of law, and, is also heavily invested in the niche areas of emerging technology, including space technology and policy; healthcare and ICT; data privacy and protection; and, sports laws.

The Firm stresses on developing well-rounded, solution - oriented professionals, who specialize in client - focused service delivery.



MEDIA NEWS

1. **Star India retains Pro Kabaddi League Media Rights**

Star India's association with the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) got a continuation boost as it retained the League's media rights for INR 180 crores per year, totalling 900 crores for five years. Star India will hold the media rights for the PKL, India's second most-watched sporting league, for the next five seasons (2021-2025). Mashal Sports, the organising company of the PKL, held auctions for the media rights on April 15. The e-auction process saw the media rights split into four packages - (A) Global Television Rights, (B) India Digital Rights, (C) Gaming Rights and (D) Consolidated Rights Package, which consists of all the media rights offered in the aforementioned packages. Star India has retained the Consolidated Rights Package.

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2. **Bombay High Court refuses to stay release of film 'Mumbai Saga'**

The Bombay High Court refused to put a stay on release of the film 'Mumbai Saga' after a plea was filed by Ravi Bohra & family of Amar Naik challenging that the film is based on their life events and is being released without their consent.

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3. **Win for YouTube Channel TVF as Delhi High Court Refuses Interim Relief to MX Player for Exclusive Rights On 3 TVF Shows**

A single judge bench of Justice C Hari Shankar in the case of **MX Media & Entertainment Pte. Ltd v. M/S. Contagious Online Media Networks Pvt. Ltd.** rejected digital media platform MX Player's (MXP) prayer to restrain TVF from "selling, licensing, exploiting or assigning rights" against the shows developed by TVF titled 'Immature Season 2', 'Aspirants Season 1' (UPSC Season 1) and 'Flames Season 3 to any other market player.

Referring to a host of e-mails exchanged between the parties, the court said that it was clear that MXP was unwilling to abide by the covenants contained in the original agreement and that despite repeated requests by TVF made in several e-mails, to send back the Agreement, duly signed, MXP had not done so.

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4. **Film-makers dismayed as government abolishes FCAT**

The recent move by the ministry of law and justice to abolish the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) has left the movie industry dismayed. Film-makers fear they will get no hearing and will have to bow to the diktats of the censor board while legal experts point to the possible lack of understanding and time among courts which do not have background in cinema and are already handling multiple cases. FCAT, a statutory body, was constituted via the Cinematograph Act, 1952, by the ministry of information and broadcasting, to hear appeals in respect of an applicant aggrieved by an order of the Central Board of Film Certification, or the CBFC.

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5. **Delhi High Court seeks Centre's stand in plea to ban obscene, vulgar non-film songs**

The Delhi High Court sought a response from the Central government in a petition seeking a direction to the authorities to ban obscene and vulgar non-film songs available on the internet (*Neha Kapoor v. Union of India*). The petition, which is in the nature of a public interest litigation, also sought the constitution of a regulatory authority or censor board to mandatorily review non-film songs, their lyrics and videos which are available to public through various platforms like YouTube. A Division Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice in the petition preferred by Advocates Neha Kapoor and Mohit Badhu (petitioners).

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6. **Karnataka High Court seeks State response in plea to frame rules against publishing obscene content on electronic/print media**

The Karnataka High Court has sought the response of the State government in a plea to issue directions to frame statutory rules to prevent publication of indecent and obscene content as part of the news/any other programme in the electronic and print media. A Bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice Ashok S Kinagi issued notice to the State government, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and State Police. In its order, the Court also directed the petitioners to implead the State government in the matter as respondents.

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7. Plea in High Court against movies on Sushant Singh Rajput, court seeks filmmakers' stand

The Delhi High Court asked the producers of various proposed and upcoming films on the life of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput to respond to a plea by his father seeking to restrain anyone from using his son's name or likeness in movies. The father is contending that SSR's personality right vests with him even after his death and any misuse of his name/ image/ caricature/ style of delivering dialogues would amount to an infringement.

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8. Netflix inks deal for rights to Sony films

Netflix Inc. has reached a multiyear agreement with Sony Pictures Entertainment for domestic streaming rights to the studio's theatrical movies. The deal will start with Sony Pictures' 2022 movie slate. As part of the pact, Netflix will have a first-look option to pick up movies Sony is making or licensing specifically for

streaming platforms. Netflix has committed to ordering an undisclosed number of those films, the streaming giant said.

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9. Italy Abolishes Film Censorship, Ending Government Power to Ban Movies

Italy has officially abolished film censorship by scrapping legislation that since 1913 has allowed the government to censor scenes and ban movies such as, most famously, Pier Paolo Pasolini's "Salò or the 120 Days of Sodom" and Bernardo Bertolucci's "Last Tango in Paris." The move which is symbolically important, though censorship is de-facto no longer practiced — definitively does away with "the system of controls and interventions that still allowed the Italian state to intervene on the freedom of artists," said Culture Minister Dario Franceschini.

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COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARK NEWS

1. **Delhi High Court Rejects Britannia's Plea of Trademark Infringement Against ITC'S Sunfeast Digestive Biscuits**

A single judge bench of Justice C Hari Shankar dismissed a petition by Britannia Industries Ltd against ITC Ltd for alleged trademark infringement and passing off by ITC's Sunfeast FarmLite Digestive Biscuits, of Britannia's NutriChoice Digestive Biscuits. Holding that Sections 29(1) and 29(2) of the Trademark Act have to be interpreted keeping in mind that the "points of dissimilarity between rival marks cannot be regarded as irrelevant," or be ignored, the court said that ITC Sunfeast's FarmLite Digestive Biscuits were not deceptively similar so as to confuse them with Britannia's NutriChoice Digestive biscuits to a person of average intelligence and imperfect recollection.

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2. **BharatPe prima facie does not infringe PhonePe trademark: Delhi High Court declines interim relief**

The Delhi High Court has refused to pass an interim injunction order against "BharatPe" while holding that its mark was not in violation of the trademark held by "PhonePe" (*PhonePe v. Ezy Services & Ors*). The judgment was passed by a Single Judge Bench of Justice C Hari Shankar, who nonetheless directed "BharatPe" to maintain accounts of the amounts earned as a result of the use of the mark and to file half-yearly audited statements. The judgement passed earlier this month stated that parties cannot misspell descriptive/generic words to claim exclusivity unless there is evidence of such misspelling achieving secondary meaning.

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3. **Conscious attempt to copy another's packaging does not constitute passing off**

A conscious attempt by a company to copy the packaging of another's product, by itself "does not constitute passing off or trademark infringement", the Delhi High Court ruled. The court further observed that unless a consumer is liable to get confused or deceived, no case of infringement or passing off can be said to exist based on the intentions of the company which copied the packaging. "A conscious attempt at copying, however, by itself does not constitute either infringement or passing off. The matter has, in either case, to be examined from the point of view of the customer of average intelligence and imperfect recollection.

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4. **Restraining Serum Institute from using 'COVISHIELD' name will disrupt COVID-19 vaccination programme: Bombay High Court in Trademark case**

The Bombay High Court in an order dated 20.04.2021 in the case of *Cutis Biotech v. Serum Institute of India* refused to restrain Serum Institute of India (SII) from using the mark 'COVISHIELD' for its vaccine against the COVID-19 virus on the ground that SII was the prior user of the mark, had acquired enough goodwill and that discontinuing the name would create confusion and disruption in the vaccination programme.

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5. **Apple can't block Swatch's 'One more thing', High Court Rules**

Apple has lost a legal challenge levied at Swiss watchmaker Swatch to prevent it registering Steve Job's famous phrase "one more thing" as a trademark. Apple cofounder Jobs, who died in 2011, often said "one more thing" at the end of an Apple presentation before announcing a surprising new product. When Swatch filed to trademark the phrase in the UK, Apple objected, and the battle went to court. Judge Iain Purvis said in his ruling that Swatch may have tried to "annoy" Apple with its trademark, but that Apple can't block the Swiss watchmaker from using it.

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6. **Google beats Oracle in biggest programming copyright Supreme Court case ever**

Ten years ago, Oracle argued that Google had infringed Oracle's copyright, by copying the "structure, sequence, and organization" of 37 Java application programming interfaces (APIs) into Android. Google replied that an API is like an alphabet or a grammar. They're the fundamental elements used to create programs. Now, at long last, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has concluded what programmers had known all along: APIs can't be strictly copyrighted. Fair use must play its part. Ironically, in the 90s, both Oracle and Sun, Java's original owner, argued that software APIs shouldn't be covered by copyright. For the last decade Oracle has been desperately trying to monetize its failed Sun purchase by attempting to squeeze \$9-billion dollars out of Google's use of Java APIs in Android. After a long-delayed hearing on Oracle v. Google in October 2020, SCOTUS ruled on April 5 that Google could legally use Oracle's Java API code when building Android.

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7. Conor McGregor loses Trademark Fight

Conor McGregor has failed in a legal fight with a clothing firm over sportswear that bears his name. The 31-year-old MMA fighter applied to register his name as a trademark in order to sell clothing in Europe. The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) has now ruled that three new trademarks – “McGregor Productions”, “McGregor Combat” and “The McGregor Follows” cannot be registered for the sale of clothing, footwear and headgear.

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8. Apple Files Opposition to Apple-Shaped Graphic Trademark Filing

Apple Inc. filed a notice of opposition before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board regarding applicant Georgette LLC’s application for an apple-shaped mark covering “purified drinking water; bottled water” in Class 32, asserting that it will be harmed if the applicant’s mark is registered because of dilution and the likelihood of consumer confusion, mistake, or deception. Apple contended that since 1977 it has “extensively promoted, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold goods or services in connection with a family of trademarks consisting, in whole or in part, of the word APPLE or its graphic equivalent, the Apple Logo (shown below) depicting a stylized apple with a detached leaf (collectively, the ‘Apple Marks’

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9. TikTok sued for trademark infringement over editing tool

Video-sharing social network TikTok infringed the trademarks of a video editing company when it released a new editing feature, according to a new lawsuit filed at a US federal court. London-based Stitch Editing filed the complaint at the US District Court for the District of California against the social media platform and its Chinese subsidiary, ByteDance. According to the complaint, Stitch Editing provides editing services for commercials and music videos and owns a registered US trademark for ‘Stitch Editing’ and common law trademark rights for “Stitch” that cover its editing services.

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10. IP suit against Qatar Airways takes flight in UK Court

Qatar Airways must disclose documents relating to the use of its inflight entertainment system and apps after it was sued by a royalties society for copyright infringement, the UK High Court has ruled.

The decision was handed down by Deputy Master Edward Francis of the court’s chancery division on April 13. Qatar Airways provides its passengers with an inflight entertainment system, Oryx One, and two complementary apps, Oryx One Play App and the Oryx One App, through which they can access entertainment services and content, including music, films, television shows and games. UK-based Performing Right Society (PRS) filed a complaint in December 2019 against the airline alleging that these systems were infringing many thousands of its own licensed musical works, and that it was entitled to injunctive relief and damages.

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11. Aahar Food sued for importing, distributing counterfeit Haldiram products in the US

Indian snack leader Haldiram’s has sued Aahar Food Distributors LLC in the US district court for allegedly importing, distributing and selling counterfeit Haldiram products in the States. The snack-maker has also sought damages to the tune of \$2,000,000 per counterfeit mark for trademark violations. Haldiram’s has sought relief on at least five grounds, including federal trademark infringement, false representation and false designation of origin, common law trademark infringement, unfair competition, and injury to business reputation. A counsel on behalf of Haldiram’s has alleged that Aahar, without consent or permission of Haldiram’s, has imported, distributed and sold products into the States “food products which are not produced or authorised by plaintiff, but whose packaging is marked with the designation Haldiram, in the form of a trademark or trade name, which mark and/or name so resembles the plaintiff’s Haldiram’s marks as to be likely to cause confusion to cause mistake, or to deceive relevant consumers as to the origin of the defendant’s goods”.

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12. Nike Faces Legal Battle with US Postal Service

After a recent settlement with streetwear brand MSCHF over possible trademark infringement claims, sportswear giant Nike now finds itself as a possible target in a trademark infringement suit from the United States Postal Services (“USPS”). The dispute arose with Nike releasing a concept art of an experimental Air Force 1 sneaker, the design of which is inspired by fonts and imagery used on the USPS’s Priority Mail shipping boxes. The USPS subsequently released a statement that the designs were not licensed or otherwise authorized to Nike, and that Nike was leveraging the USPS’s designs for its own gain, with no income or royalties from the same accruing to the USPS. The

Postal Service further claimed that Nike has been unresponsive in its attempts to arrive at a solution, and that it would take whatever actions it deems necessary to protect its valuable intellectual property rights.

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13. France Secures 'France.com' Domain

In a recent decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the French government was awarded ownership over the domain 'France.com'. The previous owner of the domain, Jean-Noel Frydman, had registered France.com in 1994, and had been using the website for promoting tourism in France, and had also registered several trademarks for 'France.com' and his company, France.com, Inc. The French government, through previous litigation in the courts of Paris, had already acquired possession over the France.com domain. Frydman had filed the present suit in the United States Court of Appeals, seeking to assert his trademark rights over the term 'France.com' against the French government. The suit was however, dismissed, as the French government had sovereign immunity against such cases in the United States.

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14. Facebook Sues for Trademark Infringement over Domain Names

Facebook, as well as its subsidiaries Instagram and WhatsApp (together referred to as Facebook), filed a complaint in the Middle District of Pennsylvania against defendant New Ventures Services, Corp. as well as some unknown individuals "as the agents of, and/or as the alter egos of New Ventures Services, Corp. (collectively, 'NVSC') for the registration of at least 74 infringing domain names which the defendants purportedly profited from in bad faith. According to the complaint, NVSC is "seeking to take advantage of Plaintiffs' goodwill and fame, and unwary internet users by registering at least 278 domain names that are identical or confusingly similar to Plaintiffs' trademarks," specifically the Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp trademarks.

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15. Apple leans on The Beatles to win Trademark Case

Apple has won a case brought before the US trademark trial and appeal board (TTAB), which sought to block the company from registering the 'Apple Music' trademark.

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16. Chanel loses European court fight in trademark dispute with Huawei

Chanel lost its trademark fight with Huawei Technologies after a top European court said their logos bear no similarity to each other. The dispute dated to 2017 when Huawei sought approval from the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), a trademark body, to register its computer hardware trademark which has two vertical interlocking semi-circles. Privately owned Chanel objected, saying that the design was similar to its registered French logo of two horizontal interlocking semi-circles used for its perfumes, cosmetics, costume jewellery, leather goods and clothing.

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17. "Single Ladies" Choreographer JaQuel Knight Becomes First Person to Copyright Dance Moves

JaQuel Knight, the choreographer behind major hit music videos like Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" and Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion's "WAP," has become the first person to copyright dance moves. "Copyrighting movement is about putting the power back in the artist's hands," Knight told *Variety*. "We set a historic precedent with the 'Single Ladies' copyright achievement." Copyrighting the "Single Ladies" moves gives Knight control over who can make content containing them—meaning he can now file takedown requests if creators upload videos of themselves performing the dance to platforms like, say, TikTok.

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18. YouTube Sued for Allegedly Inadequate DMCA Repeat-Infringer Policy

Business Casual Holdings LLC filed a complaint in the Southern District of New York against YouTube LLC, Google LLC, and Alphabet Inc. for their allegedly inadequate repeat-infringer policy as required by law. According to the complaint, the defendants failed "to maintain and reasonably implement a repeat-infringer policy as required by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ('DMCA')." The plaintiff averred that, in order to qualify for safe harbor protections under the DMCA, a service provider such as YouTube must meet certain criteria.

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19. UK High Court to hear copyright suit over Bitcoin white paper

An Australian computer scientist who claims to be the creator of Bitcoin has been allowed to pursue the anonymous operator of bitcoin.org for copyright

infringement. Craig Wright, who claims he wrote the foundational Bitcoin white paper, filed legal action against Cobra, the name used by the operator of the website, at the UK High Court this month. The famous white paper was published under the name of Satoshi Nakamoto in 2008, while the true identity of Nakamoto has been long debated. Wright has since gone public with claims to be Nakamoto and the author of the document, which outlined the fundamental technology behind the cryptocurrency. The purpose of the lawsuit is to obtain the removal of the white paper from bitcoin.org for copyright infringement, which will require Wright to prove he is indeed the author of the

document. The UK High Court this week granted permission for Wright to pursue the case.

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20. US proposes 10-day fast-track copyright registration

The US Copyright Office has proposed a new fast-tracked registration option for owners involved in disputes before the office's new small claims board.

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TECHNOLOGY

1. Indian short film gets minted as an NFT

Production house, Lekh-Haq, has announced that it has listed the world's first Indian short film as a non-fungible token (NFT) on OpenSea, the biggest marketplace for NFTs. The short film titled, *For Those That Watch Me Dream*, has been minted on the blockchain with a base price of 0.3 ethereum (current level \$674.53). However, individuals can bid higher.

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2. DRDO Builds State-Of-The-Art Single Crystal Blades For Helicopter Engine Application; Supplies To HAL

As part of the indigenous helicopter development program for helicopter engine application, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed single crystal blades technology and supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It is taken up by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premium laboratory of DRDO, to develop five sets (300 in number) of single crystal high pressure turbine (HPT) blades using a nickel-based super alloy. The supply of the remaining four sets will be completed in due course.

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3. PayPal launches crypto checkout service

PayPal Holdings Inc has started allowing U.S. consumers to use their cryptocurrency holdings to pay at millions of its online merchants globally, a move that could significantly boost use of digital assets in everyday commerce. Customers who hold bitcoin, ether, bitcoin cash and litecoin in PayPal digital wallets will now be able to convert their holdings into fiat currencies at checkouts to make purchases, the company said. The service, which PayPal revealed it was working on late last year, will be available at all of its 29 million merchants in the coming months, the company said.

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4. Microsoft's LinkedIn faces Italian probe following user data scraping

Microsoft's LinkedIn faces a probe by the Italian privacy watchdog after reports that the personal data of 500 million users was scraped off the platform and posted online. The Italian authority said in a statement that it started an investigation following "the dissemination of user data, including IDs, full names, email addresses, telephone numbers." The regulator said Italy has one of

the highest numbers of subscribers to LinkedIn in Europe and called on affected users to "pay particular attention to any anomalies" related to their phone number and their account. Scraping is a technique that extracts data from a website, usually with automated software. The firm said in a statement that "this was not a LinkedIn data breach, and no private member account data from LinkedIn was included."

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5. LG and SK settle EV Battery Dispute

LG Energy Solution and SK Innovation have resolved a multibillion dollar trade secrets dispute over electric vehicle (EV) batteries, sidestepping a United States International Trade Commission (USITC) decision that would have barred SK from importing its batteries into the US. In a joint statement from the two South Korean companies, LG and SK announced they will be dropping all litigation and have signed a non-assertion agreement covering the US or South Korea for the next ten years. As part of the agreement, SK will pay LG ₩2 trillion (\$1.8 billion), comprising several lump-sum payments as well as running royalty fees.

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6. Amazon gets ULA's satellite launch vehicles for Project Kuiper

Amazon.com Inc announced that it had secured nine satellite launch vehicles from United Launch Alliance (ULA) to support the initial deployment of its broadband internet initiative, Project Kuiper. Atlas V launch vehicles from ULA, a joint rocket venture between Boeing Co and Lockheed Martin Corp, is the first of many vehicles which will be used to deploy Amazon's satellite constellation to orbit. Last year, Amazon said it will invest more than \$10 billion to build a network of 3,236 satellites that will provide high-speed broadband internet services to people around the world who lack such access.

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7. Google reportedly ran secret 'Project Bernanke' that boosted its own ad-buying system over competitors

According to court documents filed in a Texas antitrust case, Google conducted a hidden program for years that used data from previous bids in the company's digital advertisement exchange to allegedly give its own ad-buying scheme an advantage over rivals. Publishers who sold ads through Google's ad-buying programs were not informed about the project, titled

"Project Bernanke." Google acknowledged the existence of Project Bernanke in its response and stated in the filing that "the details of Project Bernanke's operations are not disclosed to publishers." Google denied in the documents that there was anything inappropriate about using the exclusive information it

possessed to inform bids, calling it "comparable to data maintained by other buying tools."

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DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

1. **Right to privacy cannot be inherited after death: Madras High Court dismisses plea against release of Jayalalitha biopics, Thalaivi, Queen**

A deceased person's *right to privacy* cannot be inherited, ruled the Madras High Court in an order dated 14.04.2021 in the case of **Deepa Jayakumar v. AL Vijay and Ors** while dismissing a plea against the release of biopics on late former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **J Jayalalitha**, including Ramya Krishnan-starrer "Queen" and Kangana Ranaut-starrer "Thalaivi." The Bench of Justices R Subbiah and Sathi Kumar Sukumara Kurup was dealing with an appeal moved by Jayalalitha's niece, J Deepa, who claimed that her rights to privacy may also be infringed if a biopic is made without her consent.

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2. **India's FOSS Community Files Plea in Kerala High Court against IT Rules, Challenges Traceability Mandate**

A fresh petition, this time from the Indian FOSS community, has been filed before the Kerala High Court, praying that the court stay the implementation of IT Rules 2021, insofar as it concerns new requirements for internet intermediaries, including alarming mandates around traceability, proactive takedowns, and content removal.

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3. **Delhi High Court Dismisses WhatsApp, Facebook's Challenge to CCI Order for Probe on New Privacy Policy**

A single judge bench of Justice Navin Chawla of the Delhi High Court rejected Facebook Inc and its subsidiary WhatsApp's challenge to an order by the Competition Commission of India directing a probe into WhatsApp's new privacy policy for being allegedly anti-competitive.

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4. **EU's top data protection supervisor urges ban on facial recognition in public**

The European Union's lead data protection supervisor has called for remote biometric surveillance in public

places to be banned outright under incoming AI legislation. The European Data Protection Supervisor's (EDPS) intervention follows a proposal for a risk-based approach to regulating applications of artificial intelligence. The Commission's legislative proposal includes a partial ban on law enforcement's use of remote biometric surveillance technologies (such as facial recognition) in public places. But the text includes wide-ranging exceptions, and digital and humans rights groups were quick to warn over loopholes they argue will lead to a drastic erosion of EU citizens' fundamental rights. And last week a cross-party group of MEPs urged the Commission to screw its courage to the sticking place and outlaw the rights-hostile tech.

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5. **iOS 14.5 is Available Now with this Stunning New Privacy Feature**

It's been a long time coming, but Apple's iOS 14.5 is finally here. The most stunning feature of this update is **App Tracking Transparency (ATT)**—the anti-tracking technology that has been causing a massive fist fight between Apple and Facebook over the last few months. This new technology launching in iOS 14.5 is a big win for privacy on your iPhone. That's because it requires individuals to explicitly opt in to being tracked on your Apple device across apps and websites.

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6. **Facebook Anticipating Legal Action from Data Leak, EU Digital Privacy Group Preparing Mass Action Lawsuit**

The first signs of legal action against Facebook over the recent data breach have appeared, as an EU digital privacy group has announced plans to take the social media giant to court in Ireland. The data leak impacted some 530 million Facebook users and included email addresses and phone numbers in some cases. In the meantime, an internal email that was leaked to the media indicates that Facebook is planning to downplay the seriousness of the incident as a public relations strategy and does not appear to be overly concerned about the potential legal consequences.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES

1. **Tribunal Reforms Ordinance, 2021 takes effect: Appellate authorities in 9 laws replaced with High Courts**

The President of India has promulgated the *Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation And Conditions Of Service) Ordinance, 2021*, by which the appellate authorities under nine Acts have been done away with and the right to hear appeals under the statute has been conferred to High Courts. Further, certain amendments have also been introduced to the Finance Act, 2017, which concern the qualifications and tenure of the Chairperson and members of tribunals. A gazette notification concerning the promulgation of the ordinance was issued on April 4, by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. The notification also informs that the ordinance has come into effect at once.

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2. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notifies rules for new pre-packaged resolution process**

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notified the regulations for the recently announced pre-packaged insolvency resolution process, introduced to provide an easier path to resolution for stress Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Among the key aspects of the rules is the continued independence of the resolution professional. According to the rules, an insolvency professional can be appointed as resolution

professional if they are independent of the corporate debtor blocking any person or entities that are related to the debtor. The rules specify that the resolution professional and all partners and directors of the insolvency professional entity have to be independent of the debtor.

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3. **Central government notifies Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021**

The Central government has notified the Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021 which amends the Copyright Rules, 2013. The amendments have been introduced with the objective of bringing accountability and transparency and making the existing rules in parity with other relevant laws. It also aims to ensure smooth and flawless compliance in the light of the technological advancement in digital era by adopting electronic means as primary mode of communication and working in the Copyright Office. A new provision regarding the publication of a copyrights journal has been incorporated, thereby eliminating the requirement of publication in the Official Gazette.

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