

# LIGHTS, CAMERA & LAW

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT LAWS UPDATES

JULY, 2025



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## **MALAYALAM ACTOR MINU MUNEEER GRANTED BAIL IN DEFAMATION CASE**

Actor Minu Muneer was released on bail on 1st July 2025, following her arrest by the Kochi city cyber police in the Balachandra Menon defamation case. She was arrested on 30th June 2025 pursuant to several posts made by her on her social media accounts alleging sexual harassment against veteran actor and director Mr. Balachandra Menon, in 2024. Mr. Menon filed a complaint contending that the posts in question are defamatory and likely to negatively impact his reputation. On 2nd October 2024, Ms. Muneer was charged under Section 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Section 67 of the Information Technology Act (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) and Section 120(o) of the Kerala Police Act (causing nuisance through any means of communication). The police were directed to release her on bail after questioning by the Kerala High Court. An in-depth inquiry into Ms. Muneer's social media activity is reportedly ongoing. This case is receiving significant attention due to Mr. Menon's stature in the Malayalam film industry and the threat of online defamation and sexual harassment allegations in light of the Hema Committee report.

Link: Source ([here](#))

## **DISPUTE BETWEEN TECHNICIANS AND PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATIONS GRINDS TAMIL CINEMA TO DISRUPTION**

The ongoing conflict between the Film Employees Federation of South India (FEFSI) and Tamil Film Producers Council (TFPC) has caused multiple disruptions in film productions in the Tamil film industry. The dispute arose due to expiry of a memorandum of understanding that previously governed wage standards and working conditions for both producers and employees. FEFSI has raised concerns about the unequal distribution and disparity of income between actors

and other workers in the industry. Before the Madras High Court, TFPC argued that high fees were only common in larger production houses and small-budget film producers cannot afford to pay large sums to their talent. FEFSI, however, claimed that TFPC is encouraging the recruitment of employees from other states to restart halted film projects. A single judge bench dismissed the civil petition and recommended that both parties undergo mediation, a step that both sides have agreed to take, in order to resolve the dispute quickly. On 2nd July 2025, the Madras High Court appointed retired Justice M. Govindaraj as the mediator in the above matter and instructed him to initiate dialogue at the earliest.

Link: Source ([here](#)) and ([here](#))

## **AICWA URGES COMPLETE RESTRICTION OF PAKISTANI CELEBRITIES ONLINE**

On 2nd July 2025, the All India Cine Workers Association (AICWA) sent a formal letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to implement a complete ban on the online presence of Pakistani celebrities. AICWA also called for prohibition within the country of all social media and other accounts originating from Pakistan and expressed deep concern over the visibility of Pakistani artists such as Yumna Zaidi and Mawra Hocane, as well as other Pakistan-based accounts and channels, in India. This letter follows AICWA's earlier call for a mandatory ban on all Pakistani social media accounts following Operation Sindoor. Additionally, AICWA also urged the government to ensure that future collaborations with Pakistani nationals, including promotions on social media or OTT platforms, are fully restricted. Further, as a respectful gesture toward the families of martyrs and the Indian Armed Forces, it called for a permanent severance of cultural ties with Pakistan.

Link: Source ([here](#))

## **REDIFFUSION INTRODUCES TATA POWER'S FIRST 100% AI-GENERATED RATH YATRA FILM**

Tata Power, in partnership with Rediffusion, has introduced a digital film during Rath Yatra, representing a unique fusion of artificial intelligence technology with traditional Indian art forms. The film showcases Odisha's deep cultural heritage through entirely AI-created sand-art visuals with realistic homage to the region's artistic traditions. Rediffusion's National Creative Director, Mr. Pramod Sharma, referred to the film as an emotional journey aimed at honouring Odisha's lasting spirit and artistic heritage. The creation of the film involved thorough AI training to accurately capture the complex beauty of sand art. The aim of this collaborative project between Tata Power and Rediffusion is to highlight how technology can be applied responsibly and creatively to safeguard traditions in a powerful and meaningful manner.

Link: Source ([here](#))

## **SC ISSUES NOTICE REGARDING SUJOY GHOSH'S APPLICATION TO QUASH COPYRIGHT PROCEEDINGS**

The Supreme Court has issued notice to the Jharkhand government on 2nd July 2025 regarding director Sujoy Ghosh's appeal on the application to quash copyright infringement proceedings under Section 63 of the Copyright Act, 1957 that are pending against him before the court of the CJM Hazaribagh. The Jharkhand High Court had earlier refused to grant this application stating that it would not conduct a 'mini-trial' and this decision was challenged in the Supreme Court. The case follows a complaint by Mr. Umesh Prasad Mehta, alleging Mr. Ghosh copied the story of the film Kahaani 2 (2016) from a story developed by Mr. Mehta titled 'Sabak', which he disclosed to Mr. Ghosh in 2015. However, Mr. Ghosh's lawyer has stated that the script of Kahaani 2 was registered with the Screen Writers Association in 2013, much before the purported meeting between Mr. Ghosh and Mr. Mehta. Further, he questioned the jurisdiction of a court in Jharkhand to hear the matter, since the purported meeting happened in Mumbai, according to Mr. Mehta himself.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN CHALLENGE TO MEDIA GAG ORDER IN DHARMASTHALA CASE**

On 23rd July 2025, the Supreme Court of India declined to entertain a petition filed by the YouTube channel 'Third Eye' which contested an interim ex parte order issued by a court in Bengaluru. The order imposed a restriction on 390 media outlets from publishing or broadcasting any content related to Harshendra Kumar D, brother of Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade. The Supreme Court directed the petitioner to file the case before the appropriate High Court and emphasized the need to follow proper legal procedures when requesting such relief. The interim order was issued in a defamation case filed by Harshendra Kumar, who claimed that false and defamatory content about the Dharmasthala burial case was being spread. The order directed the removal of nearly 9,000 online links. However, no FIRs directly implicating Mr. Kumar or the temple authorities were made in connection with the alleged murders of women in the Dharmasthala burial case in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district. The Karnataka government has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the state's Home Minister has called for a thorough investigation before any final conclusions are drawn.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **INFLUENCER RAUSHAN SINHA GRANTED INTERIM PROTECTION IN RAHUL GANDHI'S SPEECH CASE**

Raushan Sinha, a social media influencer and political commentator was granted interim protection from arrest, by the Supreme Court, in a case pertaining to his post on Congress party leader, Rahul Gandhi's alleged controversial speech. A Special Leave Petition was filed challenging the judgement of Telangana High Court where the High Court had denied granting the influencer, anticipatory bail in the matter due to which he appealed in the Supreme Court. The case follows the influencer's social media posts' reaction to a speech made by Mr. Rahul Gandhi on 1st July 2024 regarding the Hindu community. Thereafter, a supporter of the Congress party filed an FIR at Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police station alleging the influencer posted on social

media with the motive of spreading communal violence.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **COPYRIGHT BATTLE HEATS UP: DELHI HC BARS KUKU FM FROM AIRING SHOWS LINKED TO POCKET FM**

The Delhi High Court has restrained audio-streaming platform Kuku FM from uploading new episodes of five of its shows after Pocket FM alleged systematic copyright infringement. The Court has also directed Kuku FM to disclose the revenue earned from the disputed content and file a response within two weeks. Pocket FM, which has filed a civil suit against Kuku FM's parent company Mebiggo Labs, claimed the latter had been copying its shows, episode structures, thumbnails and presentation styles for over four years. The lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction and Rs. 85.7 crore in damages, citing reputational harm and misappropriation of brand identity.

During the hearing, Pocket FM accused Kuku FM of misleading users by using similar titles and manipulating SEO metadata to divert traffic. The plaintiff highlighted examples of show titles allegedly rebranded by Kuku FM and even pointed to episodes that ended with promotional lines for Pocket FM itself. In its defence, Kuku FM denied the allegations and suggested that the suit was timed to disrupt its business ahead of a funding round and potential IPO. While taking note of these claims, the Court focused on the copyright dispute and scheduled the next hearing for 29th August 2025.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **RAJKUMMAR RAO SURRENDERS BEFORE JALANDHAR COURT IN 'BEHEN HOGI TERI' CASE**

Hindi film actor Rajkummar Rao surrendered before a Jalandhar Court on 29th July 2025 in a case regarding his film 'Behen Hogi Teri' that was released in 2017. In a scene of the film, the deity Lord Shiva was shown wearing slippers and sitting on a bike. A FIR was lodged by Ishant Sharma in 2017 at Police Division No. 5 in Jalandhar, wherein such a portrayal of the deity was allegedly meant to provoke the Hindu community and could cause social unrest. The FIR also named actress

Shruti Haasan and producer Amul Vikas Mohan, along with the director and others. They were all charged under Sections 295A (deliberately hurting religious sentiments) and 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC). Mr. Rao surrendered after a non-bailable warrant was issued against him by the Court for failing to appear before it on a hearing date despite being issued a summons. Mr. Rao's lawyer explained that the summons had been sent to the wrong address and hence, Mr. Rao was unaware of the hearing date. Based on this reasoning, the Court granted Mr. Rao conditional bail on 29th July 2025.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ'S PLEA TO QUASH 200 CRORES ED CASE DISMISSED BY DELHI HIGH COURT**

Justice Anish Dayal of the Delhi High Court refused Hindi film actor Jacqueline Fernandez' plea to quash the Enforcement Case Information Report and chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in a Rs. 2,00,00,00,000 money laundering case. The actress is named as a co-accused in the money laundering case related to Mr. Sukesh Chandrashekhar whom she was allegedly dating at that time. She was accused of accepting expensive gifts from him despite knowing his involvement in the above matter. She is also accused of hiding material facts and deleting relevant data from her phone during investigations only to confess the same during further investigations. The Court also stated that she tried to mislead the officers and concealed information. She contended before the Court that she was merely a victim of the accused's targeted malicious act and has no connection to money laundering along with the accused. This contention was opposed by Enforcement Directorate stating that she accepted the gifts while having knowledge of the accused's criminal activities.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **ETV WIN REMOVES CONTROVERSIAL SCENE FROM AIR (ALL INDIA RANKERS) WEB SERIES AFTER BACKLASH**

ETV Win has removed a controversial scene from its Telugu web series 'AIR (All India Rankers)' following

widespread criticism for promoting caste-based discrimination. The uproar centred on a scene in which a character advises juniors to socialize within their own community for success, alongside visual cues, such as a blackboard reading 'C HOW DARE', which was interpreted by viewers as alluding to a specific caste group. The episode also drew attention for apparent references to party flags and alleged indirect links to the Telugu Desam Party. While some defended the web series for reflecting societal realities in Andhra Pradesh's student culture, the backlash led ETV Win and producer of the web series, Mr. Sandeep Raj, to issue a public apology on 5th July 2025 and promise more responsible content in the future. All objectionable scenes have now been deleted from the web series.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **ACTOR MAHESH BABU RECEIVES LEGAL NOTICE OVER ALLEGED ROLE IN REAL ESTATE FRAUD**

Telugu actor Mahesh Babu has received a legal notice from the Ranga Reddy District Consumer Commission in Telangana after a doctor from Hyderabad accused him of misleading investors by endorsing Sai Surya Developers, which is a real estate firm at the centre of a Rs. 34.8 lakhs fraud complaint. Named as the third respondent, Mahesh Babu's image in the developer's promotional materials was allegedly crucial in influencing the investment decision. Earlier in April 2025, the Enforcement Directorate questioned the actor in connection with a money laundering investigation involving Sai Surya Developers and Surana Group, during which Mahesh Babu reportedly received Rs. 5.9 crores as payment for his endorsement, with Rs. 2.5 crores of such amount paid in cash. While investigations are ongoing, Mr. Mahesh is not currently named as an accused.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **LEGAL NOTICE SENT TO PRODUCERS OF NAYANTHARA DOCUMENTARY OVER USE OF CHANDRAMUKHI FOOTAGE**

The Madras High Court has issued notices to Netflix and Tarc Studios, producers of the documentary 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale', over allegations

of copyright infringement raised by AP International. AP International has claimed that the documentary used footage from the 2005 film Chandramukhi without authorization, despite a cease and desist notice and a compensation of Rs. 5 crore. While AP International holds global rights to the 2005 film, with certain exceptions, the original producer Sivaji Production had issued a No Objection Certificate to Nayanthara's Rowdy Pictures in January 2025. The dispute now hinges on whether the above No Objection Certificate is sufficient to dispute and override AP International's claim.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **PRODUCERS OF MANJUMMEL BOYS HELD FOR FINANCIAL FRAUD**

A financial fraud case has been registered against Soubin Shahir, Babu Shahir and Shawn Antony, who are the producers of the 2024 Malayalam blockbuster 'Manjummel Boys'. They have been accused of embezzling Rs. 7 crores after allegedly promising a 40% share of the film's profits to investor Siraj Valiyaveetil. The Kerala High Court, on 26th June 2025, granted the producers anticipatory bail, stipulating that they must cooperate with police's questioning and cannot be held in custody during the investigation. If they are arrested, they are to be released immediately on bail. The producers' plea to quash the case as well as the police's request for custodial interrogation were both rejected. The dispute centres on claims that the film, which collected over Rs. 240 crores worldwide, cost less to produce than initially communicated to the investor and the investor's claim of not receiving the share of profits promised to him. The Court observed that while an element of criminality exists in the case, it mainly arises from business dealings and profit sharing disagreements that require further investigation and extensive scrutiny of documentary evidence.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **SEVERAL SOUTH ACTORS BOOKED BY ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE FOR PROMOTING BETTING APPS**

Actors of the South Indian film industry including Rana Daggubati, Vijay Deverakonda and Prakash Raj have been booked by the Enforcement Directorate

for their role in promoting illegal betting apps in India. The complainant in this case has alleged that due to the promotional activities and endorsements made by celebrities, financially weak people have lost a lot of money. The Enforcement Directorate's action was referenced from an earlier FIR that was filed by the Police in Telangana against actors Nidhi Agerwal, Pranitha Subhash and others. This action marks a significant step in action taken against betting apps that are endorsed by influencers. Defending his actions, Vijay Deverakonda has asserted that the Supreme Court of India has classified rummy as a game of skill and hence, it is not illegal betting. Rana Daggubati also clarified that his association with a particular gaming app ceased in 2017, although posters were allowed to be put up in certain regions after strict vetting.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **COURT ORDER PROTECTS SONU NIGAM AGAINST BIHAR LAWYER IMPERSONATING HIS NAME ON X**

Justice R.I. Chagla, Bombay High Court granted an ex parte interim order in favour of singer Mr. Sonu Nigam by restraining a man hailing from Bihar, who was using the name 'Sonu Nigam' on his X (formerly Twitter) profile. The singer had filed a petition alleging infringement of his personality rights and claimed that the man was using his name, without clearly stating his real identity on the platform. The Court found that the accused was using the account to publicize communally and politically provocative opinions. The singer was concerned that further use of his name might indicate that the account belonged to him and thereby mislead the public. The Court also took into consideration the fact that the accused had gained 90,000 followers on the platform by impersonating the singer. The accused is a criminal lawyer from Bihar, named Sonu Nigam Singh. The Court ordered the lawyer to use his full name in his handle on the X platform to prevent further misrepresentation.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT CAPS MOVIE TICKET PRICES VIDE DRAFT NOTIFICATION**

The Government of Karnataka has issued a draft notification proposing a uniform cap of Rs. 200 on

movie ticket prices across all cinema formats, including multiplexes, malls and standalone theatres. This ceiling price is inclusive of all applicable taxes and levies and applies even to premium formats such as IMAX and 4D screenings. The draft move represents a nearly 30% reduction from the state's average ticket price of Rs. 260. In higher demand urban centres like Bengaluru, premium ticket prices often exceed Rs. 1,000 on weekends. If implemented, the regulation could significantly impact cinema operators, particularly multiplex chains. According to market research firm Elara Capital, Karnataka contributes approximately 10% to national box office collections and around 8% to Hindi film revenues. This price cap could reduce revenues for major players like PVR Inox by an estimated 2.2%, potentially delaying returns in an already capital-intensive sector. The state has now invited public comments on the proposal.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **25 OTT PLATFORMS, INCLUDING ULLU AND ALTT, BLOCKED FOR STREAMING OBSCENE AND PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and other regulatory bodies, have directed a stop to public access to 25 over-the-top (OTT) platforms due to the streaming of content that was deemed obscene and in some cases, pornographic. This directive was issued on 23rd July 2025, pursuant to repeated government advisories sent to these platforms, urging them to comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000, the IT Rules, 2021 and laws related to obscenity. The content in question was accessible on 26 websites and 14 mobile apps and violates provisions of the Information Technology Act, Section 292 of the Indian Penal Code and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986. The decision comes after repeated efforts by the government and regulatory bodies, including the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC), to ensure compliance. Some platforms continued to bypass orders by taking down and thereafter reuploading such content. The platforms that have been banned include Ullu, ALTT, Desiflix, Big Shots, Boomex, NeonX VIP, ShowHit, HotX VIP, MoodX, Mojflix and others.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **SUPREME COURT DECLINES ILAIYARAAJA'S PLEA TO TRANSFER COPYRIGHT SUIT TO MADRAS HC**

On 28th July 2025, the Supreme Court dismissed music composer Ilaiyaraaja's request to transfer a copyright infringement case from the Bombay High Court to the Madras High Court. A bench comprising Chief Justice B. R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and N. V. Anjaria rejected the transfer, noting that the case was first filed by Sony Music Entertainment India in Mumbai and no parallel proceedings were pending in Chennai. The dispute stems from a 2022 suit filed by Sony Music against Ilaiyaraaja Music N Management Pvt. Ltd. (IMMPL), seeking to restrain the use of 536 musical works Sony claims to have acquired from Oriental Records and Echo Recording. IMMPL contends that 310 of these works are already subject to a separate 2014 suit filed by Ilaiyaraaja in Madras, challenging Echo's ownership. The Madras High Court, in a 2019 ruling, recognized Ilaiyaraaja's moral and special rights under the Copyright Act, a judgment that continues to influence the broader legal battle but was not deemed sufficient to justify the above transfer of the matter.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **AI-GENERATED CHANGE IN ENDING OF 'RAANJHANAA' IGNITES DEBATES OVER MORAL RIGHTS IN FILMS**

Eros International has announced that it will be re-releasing the Hindi film 'Raanjhanaa' under its Tamil title 'Ambikapathy' on 1st August 2025 with a changed 'happy' ending considering the original film was a tragedy. This modification has been brought about by means of Artificial Intelligence (AI), igniting debates regarding the legal and moral legitimacy of such a modification, especially in the context of the recent similar strikes by writers and actors in Hollywood. Mr. Aanand L. Rai, the director of the original film, has expressed his discontent over the modification being made without any consultation with him. He is now reportedly working with lawyers and other filmmakers to develop contract templates that would include clauses requiring the consent of directors for alterations to their work using AI. He has also approached the Indian Film and Television Directors' Association to explore the legal options available to him. Eros International

has argued that it held the copyright in the film and the re-release merely offered an addition to the original and not a replacement, in any case.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

# INTERNATIONAL

## **WARNER BROS DISCOVERY SPLIT SEVERELY IMPACTS CONTENT BUNDLING**

Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD) has broadcasted a major strategic restructuring as it is splitting into two publicly traded companies, i.e. Streaming & Studios which would be led by CEO David Zaslav and will include HBO Max, HBO, Television and Motion Picture Group, Warner Bros and DC Studios, the latter being Global Networks, headed by CFO Gunnar Wiedenfels, housing TNT Sports, CNN, Discovery+, Discovery's linear channels and Bleacher Report. This move, set to take place by mid-2026, reverses the company's 2022 merger and aims to discontinue the disconnect between high-growth streaming assets and declining cable networks. This decision could lead a potential end to traditional 'content bundling' in between the mega media conglomerates. However, it also represents a broader acceptance that bundling TV, film, news and sports under one roof is no longer feasible.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **BILLION DOLLAR COX COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE TO BE REVIEWED BY US SUPREME COURT**

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to review an appeal against a decision by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. The appellate court had dismissed the \$1 billion in damages that were initially awarded to music labels such as Sony Music, Warner Music Group and Universal Music Group against Cox Communications for copyright violations by its internet users. In 2018, over 50 major music labels filed lawsuits against Cox Communications, accusing the company of failing to prevent its users from committing piracy, despite repeated warnings from the labels. A federal jury later ruled Cox liable for the copyright violations of approximately 10,000 music copyrights and ordered it to pay \$1 billion in damages. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged Cox's secondary copyright liability but ruled that the award was unjustified, ordering a new trial to reassess the compensation. While the Supreme Court has refused to uphold the \$1 billion

award, it has agreed to examine whether Cox can be held legally responsible for the copyright infringements committed by its users. The case is scheduled to be heard in October 2025 when the Supreme Court begins its new term.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **DENMARK TO COUNTER AI BY GIVING CITIZENS COPYRIGHT OF THEIR OWN FACES**

Denmark is set to introduce a law that will grant its citizens full copyright over their body, face and voice. This legislation would allow individuals to control how their likeness is used in AI-generated content, including deep fakes, where people's images are manipulated to appear as someone else. Speaking on the proposed law, Danish Minister of Culture, Mr. Jakob Engel-Schmidt stated that "Human beings can be run through the digital copy machine and be misused for all sorts of purposes and I'm not willing to accept that." Once the law comes into effect, citizens will have the right to request the removal of any content that violates their copyright, and they will also be eligible for compensation if their likeness has been used without their permission. However, satire and parody will not be covered under this law. The proposed legislation has already received strong political backing and support.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

## **TRUMP V. META CASE DISMISSED BY US DISTRICT COURT**

US District Judge Vince Chhabria recently denied US President Donald Trump's lawsuit against Meta wherein it was alleged that Meta had trained its Artificial Intelligence (AI), Llama through a number of copyrighted books which includes 'The Art of the Deal' authored by President Trump. The applicants have also alleged that Meta used approximately 190,000 copyrighted books to train Llama, arguing that this action by Meta taking copies from pirated works and inputting them into Llama constitutes copyright infringement. However, Meta has argued that under US copyright provisions, unauthorised copying of any work

which transforms it into something new is allowed, which in this case is fulfilled as Llama's chatbot responses generated through AI entail transforming the unauthorised copying into something new. Additional court filings also show that Meta has agreed that it was training Llama with copyrighted material, which raises significant questions relating to fair use. In his judgement, Judge Chhabria dismissed the lawsuit on the basis of the authors arguing incorrect points, however, he restricted his ruling to the facts of this case and explicitly mentioned that the ruling does not verify the tenacity of Meta's use of AI as lawful or unlawful.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **YO YO HONEY SINGH AND MEHWISH HAYAT MAY FACE ENTRY BANS IN THE UK OVER MUSIC VIDEO**

The United Kingdom's Home Office is considering whether Indian rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh and Pakistani actress Mehwish Hayat should be permitted to enter the country following significant public backlash against their music video titled 'Jatt Mehkma'. The video, filmed in Birmingham and Herefordshire in the UK, shows young boys using replica guns. A complaint was raised by British MP Manuela Perteghella, claiming that the video may violate laws concerning child safety and the portrayal of imitation firearms. Concerns have also emerged of the video potentially promoting gang culture, which has added to the criticism it is facing. Since neither Mr. Singh nor Ms. Hayat are UK citizens, the authorities are considering implementing entry restrictions, such as exclusion orders, as a simpler alternative to formal legal action. These orders could be issued based on the belief that their presence in the UK is not in the public interest under immigration rules. However, if these orders are issued, they will not be made public but will instead be sent directly to Mr. Singh and Ms. Hayat.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **SOUTH PARK ENTERS INTO DEAL FOR 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS WITH PARAMOUNT**

South Park has entered into a deal of \$1.5 billion with Paramount to acquire the worldwide streaming rights for South Park to introduce the show on its streaming

service, Paramount+. This contract is for a period of five years, getting valued at \$300 million each year. Under the terms of this deal, South Park will be producing ten episodes each year. Paramount has reportedly been waiting for South Park's deal with HBO Max to conclude, after which it has acquired the global streaming rights. There were also ongoing negotiations with HBO Max and its parent company, Warner Bros Co. to co-license the show along with Paramount, however, negotiations have broken down. The show also reflects a unique earnings structure, through a deal made in 2007 Park County, on which the show is based, is liable to receive almost half of the streaming earnings of the show and Paramount has the right to receive almost half of the license money it paid for the streaming rights. This is also touted as a move to bring fresh content and access to Paramount's consumers.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

### **ITALIAN FILM DEPARTMENT CHIEF RESIGNS AMID CONTROVERSY OVER AWARD OF TAX CREDIT**

Nicola Borelli, the head of the film department at the Italian Ministry of Culture, resigned on 2nd July 2025 amid controversy over the allocation of a tax credit of EUR 863,595 to a film that was never made. The film, titled 'Stelle Della Notte', was produced by Charles Francis Kaufmann, who has since been accused of murdering his partner and infant daughter. It was also revealed that Mr. Kaufmann has received around EUR 4 million in tax credits for 13 films over the past few years, with only one film actually being completed. In response to the scandal, officials at the Ministry have initiated an internal investigation into the procedures used for granting tax credits, although no official statement has been made regarding any misuse or incorrect allocation of funds. Mr. Borelli has defended the granting of the tax credit to 'Stelle Della Notte', stating that the supporting documentation was in line with the current system. He also mentioned that he has been pushing for more rigorous scrutiny of tax credit applications for some time. Minister of Culture Alessandro Giuli announced on 2nd July 2025 that stricter oversight measures will be introduced for the tax credit system in Italy to prevent such incidents in the future.

Access Link: Source ([here](#))

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