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DPDP Act tackles data breach

Prajwal SK

CAMPUS: Users often share their personal information on digital platforms, leaving them vulnerable to third-party breaches and private data leaks, said Byatha N Jagadeesha, State Public Prosecutor of the Karnataka High Court, during a guest lecture at St Joseph's University on Wednesday for MA Journalism students.

The talk focused on the importance of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 amidst the rise in cybercrimes in India and on educating students about digital space and data privacy in the present era.

Digital space, the virtual world created by digital technology enables users to access and share information. "Despite the expectation that users should share information with consent, it becomes easily accessible across various sectors. Private entities frequently leverage this data for their interests," said Jagadeesha.

Data privacy has become a significant global concern, and the DPDP Act empowers users to request the withdrawal of their shared information from software platforms. However, the DPDP Act exempts government data portals from this provision.

Speaking to The Beacon, Jagadeesha said that it is essential for the government to conduct surveillance on every individual. "However, there should be certain restrictions on the data made available on open digital websites like Open Government Data (OGD), India AI Dataset, and Census India," he added.

Scorching Bengaluru sees record beer sales

Amrutha GP

BENGALURU: Midsummer beer sales in Bengaluru have risen due to the rising temperatures. A record-breaking 17.67 lakh litres of beer were sold in April, marking a 30% increase over the previous year.

The hot weather partly caused the rise in beer sales in March 2024. The Excise Department's report states that April 2024 has been the highest-selling month for beer to date. Comparatively, during the same season, 13.16 lakh litres were sold in 2023, 9.20 lakh litres in 2022, and 8.83 lakh litres in 2021. Experts say that during the summer, individuals prefer beer over other alcoholic beverages. Shivarudrappa,



A pictorial representation of a sizzling summer and a boost in sales of beer

Amrutha GP

the owner of the SLV bar and restaurant in Hoskote, said this will totally depend on individual preference.

The Karnataka state announced a 10% increase in the excise rate in 2023. This move was projected to lead to a price hike be-

tween Rs. 8 and Rs. 20 for a 650 ml bottle of beer.

Speaking to The Beacon, Shivarudrappa said, "It's not just about summer; IPL has also played a major role in increasing beer sales, mostly chilled beer on weekends. A lot of people

are working from home to beat the heat. Additionally, last weekend saw increased sales due to "Hosatodaku" (traditional non-vegetarian feast celebrated the day after the Ugadi festival), as alcohol purchases typically spike on this occasion."

Controversy sparks over food safety licence

Sneha Thomas

Ensuring food safety is crucial to protecting students' health. However, since the mid-day meal scheme falls under the government's jurisdiction, there is no point in making it mandatory for educational institutions to obtain a food safety licence, said Joseph Sebastian, a lawyer.

In the wake of numerous incidents of food poisoning reported in government schools recently, on Tuesday, VD Satheesan, the leader of the opposition party in Kerala, in a letter sent to the Chief Min-



Students having mid-day meal

PTI Photo

ister, Pinarayi Vijayan, urged the reversal of the Department of Public Education's decision to exempt government schools from obtaining a food safety license for mid-day meal schemes.

Last month's decision

the authorities, and it's unlikely that the schools would agree to this as they are not directly in control of the food preparation and will be held responsible if any issues arise," said Sebastian.

In coverstaion with the Beacon Kerala Students Union (KSU) President Aloysius Xavier demanded reconsideration of the order, saying that the student's health cannot be compromised. A solution that I can think of is the formulation of a committee to ensure the quality of commodities provided for the preparation of mid-day meals, he added.

Speaking about the strict guidelines issued by the election officials, Shivarudrappa said that though they are stocking up on beer and other alcohol, it has been quite challenging to import alcohol. "The election officials are stringent, and as more alcohol carts come more than the permission from the excise department, they may seize them," he added.

According to reports, The Karnataka excise department collected Rs 28,181 crore in excise taxes as of January 2024. For 2024-2025, the state government has set a target of around 38,000 crores. Due to this summer's sales, the government can expect a tax rise."

Timings extended for Ram Navami at Ayodhya

Shruti Srivastava

Ahead of Ram Navami celebrations, the timings have been extended for the devotees to visit the Ram Mandir.

Ajay Singh, Commercial Management Inspector at the Ayodhya Railway station informed that the Ram Mandir has been decorated very beautifully and the timings for darshan has been increased to 11 pm from the usual 9 pm. "The morning aarti will begin from 3:30 am and will continue throughout the day, giving darshan opportunities to visitors at regular intervals," added Singh.

Talking to The Beacon Singh said, "Here at the station we have made special arrangements for the visitors. We have a 24*7 helpline which is set up for the visitors coming to Ayodhya for Ram Navami." He added that special help centres have been set up for any kind of assistance. Almost 100 screens have been installed across Ayodhya for live streaming of the aarti. The live stream will also be available on Doordarshan's YouTube channel throughout the day.

Tejasvi slammed for inconsistent figures

Anu Priya & Kushal V

BENGALURU: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya's inconsistent figures on the number of depositors who got their money back from the Raghavendra Bank were heavily criticised on social media on Tuesday. His recent video on X quoted an inflated number of depositors who had gotten their money back.

On April 15, Tejasvi Surya was confronted by depositors at an election event. Their frustration was evident as he failed to address their concerns about the cooperative bank scam.

A similar disregard can be seen in his recent series of tweets.

The MP posted on April 8 that 78 per cent of Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha (SGRSBN) depositors got back their deposits, which amounted to Rs 753 crore out of the Rs 920 crore that was swindled.

However, in a video the next day, he claimed that 85 per cent of the depositors got their money back, which would amount to Rs 787 crore, attributing the success to the prime minister.

The same trend could be

seen in his tweets in 2020. On September 7, 2020, it was claimed that over 2 lakh senior citizens were adversely affected. However, on June 7, 2020, he claimed that over 1.5 lakh senior citizens and investors were affected.

In a recent tweet, the Karnataka Congress slammed Surya, stating, "The Bengaluru MP spent 5 years eating dosa, playing football, and having fun. People expressed outrage against the problem of victims who lost money in the SGRSBN scam."

A flavourful satirical comedy

Neenu M

Vineeth Sreenivasan's Varshangalkku Shesham is a comical, satirical, and emotional homage to the world of cinema. The movie revolves around the journey of two friends who aspire to make it in the industry. The two protagonists, Pranav Mohanlal and Dhyaan Sreenivasan, attempt to display the chemistry earlier in the old movies of their fathers, Mohanlal and Sreenivasan, renowned actors in the industry. The director has tried to

evoke a nostalgic tone by setting the movie's first half in an older timeline.

The movie features a good line-up of youth icons, Aju Varghese, Basil Joseph, Asif Ali, and Kalyani Priyadarshan, with Nivin Pauly in the limelight. It also entails several references from recent Malayalam superhits, which appealed to a significant audience. The soundtrack blends perfectly with the movie scenes, specifically the song 'Nyabakam', which addresses the emotional dimensions of the plot.