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'Padmavati' to become 'Padmavati'

CBFC to give UA certificate to movie, suggests 4 other changes



(Left) Sanjay Leela Bhansali, stills from the movie.

MUMBAI, DEC 30 /- The censor board has decided to give Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Padmavati' a UA certificate without any cuts but has suggested that the director change the film's title to 'Padmavati' besides making four other modifications. There were reports doing the rounds that the board had suggested 26 cuts to the film, but in a statement, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) chairman Praseon Joshi clarified that they have only advised five modifications, including the title change, but 'no cuts'. The board has also suggested modifications in disclaimers, pertinently adding one regarding not glorifying the practice of 'Sati' and also relevant changes in the song 'Ghoomar' to befit the character portrayed, he said. Joshi added that the producers and the director of the film are "completely in agreement" with the proposed modifications. The board

had a meeting of their examining committee on December 28 and decided to give the film a 'UA' certificate along with some modifications and likely change of the film's title on the basis the attributed material/creative source'. Bhansali, who appeared before a parliamentary panel, had said his lavishly-mounted Rs 150 crore period drama, featuring Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh, is based on the 16th century epic poem 'Padmavati' by Malik Muhammad Jayasi. Besides Joshi, the meeting was also attended by regular examining committee members, along with other censor board officials. Considering the complexities and concerns around the film, the CBFC appointed a 'special panel to add perspective to the final decision of the censor board's official committee'. The special panel included Arvind Singh from Udaipur, Chandramani

Singh and professor K K Singh of the Jaipur University Joshi said, the filmmakers, Bhansali Productions, in a written communication to CBFC, had also requested a panel of historians/academicians and members of the Rajput community view the film. He said that this was not the first instance that a special panel was appointed for the certification process. A similar practice was followed while certifying 'Jodhaa Akbar' and 'Aarkashan'. "This was an unprecedented situation. I am glad that following a balanced approach we resolved the task at hand in a pragmatic and positive manner", Joshi said on CBFC's decision to give the film a UA certificate. The certificate as per the procedure will be issued once the required modifications are carried out and final material is submitted. Reacting to the development, founder-patron of Rajput Karni

Sena Lokendra Singh Kalvi said a lot of clarifications are yet to come on the issues and it will be too early to comment. He, however, said his stand is "very clear, which is known to everyone". President of Rajput Sabha Giriraj Singh Lotwara said that it was unfortunate that the board wants to favour the film producers instead of considering recollections of the Rajput community that it distorts history. He said that he will continue to protest against 'Padmavati' in democratic manner. The film's final application was submitted on November 28, the CBFC said. The film got stuck in controversy after various Rajput groups alleged that it distorts history, a claim repeatedly denied by the director. Historians are divided on whether Padmi actually existed. As protests spread across various states, the film's December 1 release was deferred as it didn't have censor clearance.

Day after fire tragedy

Police issue lookout notices against pub co-owners, BMC begins crackdown

MUMBAI, DEC 30 /- A day after 14 lives were lost in a devastating blaze at a Mumbai pub, police today issued lookout notices against its two co-owners, while the civic body directed officials to ensure that safety norms are followed in restaurants and bars, thronged by people on New Year's Eve. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has cracked down on eateries and started razing unauthorised construction. The fire brigade is trying to confirm whether flames from a fire stunt by a bartender, burning coal used for hookah, short circuit or anything else led to the fire. According to a senior police official, lookout notices were today issued against Hitesh Sanghvi and Jigar Sanghvi, the co-owner of '1 Above' pub, which is run by C Grade Hospitality. The police said they were in the process of issuing lookout notices against other accused as well.

On Friday, the police had booked the Sanghvi brothers, another co-owner Abhijeet Manka and others, under IPC sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 377 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others). However, teams comprising staff of building and factory departments, medical health officer and fire department. The teams will inspect all the restaurants in their respective wards and ensure that they are compliant to fire safety norms, the message stated. The premises should have fire escape routes, staircases and ensure open spaces are encroachment free, it said. The Mumbai civic body had on Friday suspended five officials, including those attached to the C-5 South ward for dereliction of duty. There are allegations that civic authorities turned a blind eye to construction irregularities and violation of fire safety norms in the compound. Mumbai mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar had said an inquiry had been ordered and strict action would be taken against errand officials. The civic administration has taken action against at least five eateries and restaurants following the fire. A BMC official confirmed that they have pulled down illegal roofs of two restaurants 'Skyview Caf' and 'Social' in Kamala Mills and encroachments of 'Pranay', 'Fun' and 'Sheesh Sky Lounge' at Raghuvanshi Mills in the same locality. Action was also taken against some restaurants in Andheri, the official said. "We have



A police team inspects the debris after a fire broke out in Mumbai pub

formed several teams and are collecting information about the hotels and restaurants, after getting complaints of unauthorised constructions by them. Several ward officers are also carrying out inspection and razing illegal structures." BMC spokesperson Ram Detonde said. A fire brigade official said they are trying to ascertain what exactly led to the fire. Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam today demanded that BMC commissioner Ajoy Mehta be suspended, for the deadly fire at a rooftop pub in Kamala Mills, which claimed 14 lives. Termining the suspension of five civic officials as an eye wash, Nirupam demanded a CBI or a judicial probe into the incident saying the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner "was guilty of overlooking irregularities". Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis had on Friday said that he has asked Mehta to hold an enquiry and submit a report within 15 days. Talking to newsmen at the site of the fire in central Mumbai, Nirupam said: "The commissioner is guilty of overlooking illegalities and violation of rules. How can he probe his own sins. He should be suspended". "The assistant commissioner is in charge of the ward and should have been suspended first", Nirupam added.

properly. It was also conveyed that Palestine highly values its relationship with India and stands with us in the war against terrorism, and will not engage with those who commit acts of terror against India," it said. The government takes note of the assurances given by the Palestine envoy, who informed India that his government had decided to recall its Ambassador to Pakistan Walid Abu Ali. Talking to news agency PTI after his meeting, Hajia said Ali has been recalled for attending the rally organised by Saeed. Asserting that Ali's action was not "acceptable" given the close and friendly ties between India and Palestine, the top envoy said Ali has been given a couple of days to pack and return from Islamabad. "The Palestine government has told Ali that he was not its envoy to Pakistan anymore," Hajia said. Palestinian ambassador to Pakistan Ali reportedly attended the Difa-e-Pakistan Council-organised rally in Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi on Friday. Difa-e-Pakistan Council is an association of religious and extremist groups in Pakistan, headed by Saeed. (PTI)



School children celebrating New Year at S.N Public school at Mirzapur in UP on Saturday

Palestine recalls Pak envoy after India issues demarche on his presence in Saeed's rally

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 /- India today issued a strong demarche to Palestine on the issue of presence of its ambassador to Pakistan at an event of ISI chief and Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, terming it as "unacceptable". India's secretary (economic relations) Vijay Gokhale in the external affairs ministry called Palestinian ambassador here Adnan Abu Al Hajja to the South Block after which the ministry said, "the concerns were conveyed both in New Delhi to the Palestinian Ambassador and in Ramallah to the minister of foreign affairs and expatriates, State of Palestine." "Government of India has strongly conveyed to the Palestinian side that the Palestinian Ambassador in Pakistan's association with terrorist Saeed, who is proscribed by the United Nations, at an event in Rawalpindi on 29.12.2017, is unacceptable," the ministry said in a release. It said the Palestinian side has conveyed "deep regrets" over the incident and assured India that they are taking serious cognisance of their ambassador's presence at this event. "They have said they will deal with this matter ap-

recall its Ambassador to Pakistan Walid Abu Ali. Talking to news agency PTI after his meeting, Hajia said Ali has been recalled for attending the rally organised by Saeed. Asserting that Ali's action was not "acceptable" given the close and friendly ties between India and Palestine, the top envoy said Ali has been given a couple of days to pack and return from Islamabad. "The Palestine government has told Ali that he was not its envoy to Pakistan anymore," Hajia said. Palestinian ambassador to Pakistan Ali reportedly attended the Difa-e-Pakistan Council-organised rally in Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi on Friday. Difa-e-Pakistan Council is an association of religious and extremist groups in Pakistan, headed by Saeed. (PTI)

Prez suggests inculcating virtues of revering nature as divine in school kids

BENGALURU, DEC 30 /- President Ram Nath Kovind today said people should make an effort to inculcate among school children the virtues of revering India's tradition regarding nature as divine as it will be beneficial for society. "In India we worship rivers. We value trees and forests. This is our tradition. We must make an effort to remember these virtues, and it can be done by inculcating these virtues in our schoolchildren. It will be beneficial for the society," Kovind said. The President was speaking after inaugurating 'Seva Utsav 2018', organised by the Aditya Chetana Foundation, and also the 10th anniversary of National Education Society of Karnataka and National High School that the Society runs. Aditya Chetana is a voluntary organisation working in the field of social development. It has been set up in the memory of Girija Shastri, mother of Union minister Ananth Kumar, who had worked for the poor and the underprivileged. Beginning in a small way with 'tailoring classes' for poor girls (1998), Aditya Chetana has now touched the lives of thousands through its various projects across its core themes of Anna, Akshara and Argya (Food Education Health). It has also taken up additional areas of intervention around Rural Development and Environmental Issues, the organisation said. Ananth Kumar's wife Tejaswini is the chairperson and managing trustee of Aditya Chetana. Kovind praised Aditya Chetana for providing fresh and nutritious food to school children through its Annapurna project. The Foundation's initiative is in keeping with its philosophy of Seva and its focus on Anna-Akshara-Argya or food, education and health, the president said. "I am glad to know Aditya Chetana Foundation this year has a theme centred on nature and culture. This theme is appropriate in the country and the society historically regarded nature as divine," the President said.

MPs' panel asks I&B ministry to consider separate regulator for broadcasting



NEW DELHI, DEC 30 /- A parliamentary panel today asked the Union ministry of information and broadcasting to evaluate the need to have a separate regulator for broadcasting sector, keeping in view its "tremendous growth". The Telecom Regulatory Authority

of India (TRAI) at present acts as the watchdog for broadcasting as well as telecom sectors. The Standing Committee on Information and Technology, in its report tabled in the parliament, said the broadcasting sector has seen enormous growth in the number of satellite TV channels with introduction of DTH services, digitisation of cable TV networks, setting up of independent TV rating agency and introduction of FM radio services across the country. In view of the tremendous growth in the broadcasting sector and ever-

increasing number of satellite TV channels, the panel said: "The government may undertake evaluation of the need to have a separate regulator for the broadcasting sector." "Till the time the government decides to have a separate regulator for broadcasting sector,

steps may be taken to empower TRAI through modifications in the TRAI Act, 1997 for effective regulation of its regulations," it said. The panel also asked the information and broadcasting ministry to put in place a monitoring mechanism with an aim to ensure

digitalisation of cable television in the country. It also recommended the ministry to carry out an Impact Assessment study of cable TV digitisation so that a clear picture emerges as to how far digitisation has actually been able to achieve its objectives.