content that appears authentic but is unauthorized, headded. Similar concerns have surfaced abroad, with Scarlett Johanssonobject-ing to Al voice cloning and Cristiano Ronaldo challenging unauthorized NFTs (non-fungible tokens)—under-scoring the global nature of the prob-lem, Personality rights violations can have a significant and multifaceted investors accelerative brand and mone.

impact on a celebrity's brand and mone

ry value, according to entertainment dustry experts.

industry experts.

"Unauthorized use of their likeness can create public confusion, falsely implying acelebrity's endorsement of a product or service, which can dilute the value of their legitimate brand partnerships. This directly impacts their earning potential from official endorsements and licensing deals," said Annuous Muldes extrate law fire in Konser

pam Shukla, partner, law firm Pioneer Legal.

"Bevond financial loss, deepfakes and

ips away at the credibility and com-ercial worth of a celebrity's persona,

ie added. For an extended version of the story, go

she added.





Deepfakes, voice clones: **Celebrities fight AI threat**

Experts say India's legal framework is inadequate to stop the complexity of AI infringements

hile the likes of Aish hile the likes of Aish-warya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan and Karan Johar move court to protect their personality rights—including their name, image and signature—experts say artificial intelligence (AI) is making i increasingly difficult to detect and pre

increasingly difficult to detect and pre-vent such violations. Al tools can generate highly convin-cing deepfake videos and voice clones, making it difficult to trace and remove them, especially across multiple plat-forms, Personality rights violations hurt celebrities not just financially but also in terms of brand equity. Fake endorse-ments and unauthorized merchandise can vipe out licensing fees and toyalties worth crores. The counterfeit goods market is estimated to be ₹40,000

market is essumated to the corrore.

The reputational damage can be even more severe. Pornographic deepfakes or morphed content inflict irreparable larm, erode brand exclusivity and can slash future endorsement fees by 20-30%. Top Bollywood actors charge anywhere from 15 crore to 110 crore per anywhere from 15 crore per anywhere from 15 crore per anywhere from 15

"The recent legal actions instituted by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan and Karan

Abhishek Bachchan and Karan Johar signal agrowing imperative to find a particularly in light of the rapid proliferation of generative AI etchnologies," said C.A. Brijesh, partner, IPR law firm Remfry & Sagar. The violations in question extend far beyond traditional unauthorized image use. We are now witnessing a more complex landscape involving algorithmic replication of a elebrity's voice, likeness, expressions and persona assets that are intrinsically tied to voice, likeness, expressions and per-sona, assets that are intrinsically tied to



Al tools can generate highly convincing deepfake videos and voice clones, making it ve them, especially across multiple platforms.

their commercial and reputational value," he added.

The legal recourse for such violations spans multiple remedies, including those related to unfair competition, performers' rights, copyright and the con-

stitutional rights to privacy and dignity. Though the courts have recognized these harms as both commercial loss and reputational injury, the enforcement is complex because it is difficult to

by anonymous actors outside Indian jurisdiction, said Gaurav Sahay, found-ing partner, law firm Arthashastra Legal. Rahul Hingmire, managing partner at law firm Vis Legis Law Practice, pointed out that celebrities are litigating against

PORNOGRAPHIC deepfakes or morphed content inflict irreparable

Legal.

The yound financial loss, deepfakes and manipulated content can also cause irreparable damage to a celebrity's reputation, goodwill and personal dignity, particularly when the content is defanatory, obscene, or misleading.' he added. The loss of control over their own public image is a major blow to their brand's integrity and long-term viability, Shukla said.

Even scams, impersonator accounts and lake agencies diver trillions of followers, weakening trust and audience engagement, highlighted Namrata Pahwa, an advocate at the DeliH High Court.

Brands are quick to pull back if a star's image is linked to disreputable content, even falsely. Additionally, celebrities have to spend crores on legal teams, monitoring and public relations to combat misuse. Each violation chips away at the credibility and commercial worth of a celebrity's persona. they're widely replicated, often anonymously ma

unauthorized exploitation of their per-sona—fake websites claiming official status, sale of merchandise bearing their images, false endorsements and, recently. AI-driv Deepfakes, cloned voices and chat-

bots add a new dimension-creating

Trai may open up spectrum auction to non-telecom firms

ndia's telecom regulator has sought public views on whether other entities, like those providing internet servi-

those providing internet servi-ces or large connected device networks, should be allowed to bid for spectrum along with wireless carriers to ensure competition during auctions. "Apparently, the concernof the Department of Economic Affairs is to ensure effective competition in the auction process," the Telecom Regula-tory Authority of India (Trai) said in a consultation paper released on Tuesday, Stake-holders have until 28 October

said in a consultation paper released on Tuesday, Stake-holders have until 28 October to submit their feedback. Spectrum sale is shaped by market forces as well as vari-ous economic and technologi-cal factors, such as demand for telecom services and the num-ber of bidders participating in the auction, according to the regulator. A higher number of bidders leads to greater bid-ding intensity, increasing the cal factors, such as demand for telecom services and the number of bidders participating in the auction, according to the regulator. A higher number of bidders leads to greater bidding intensity, increasing the possibility of the spectrum of the possibility of the spectrum of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the form of the possibility of the spectrum of the

auctioning Dectrumorradio aves that carry mobile signals, internet and TV is

a key source of gov a key source of government revenue. Aggressive bidding for spectrum has eased since 2021, with most of the air-waves sold near reserve pri-ces—a shift driven by industry consolidation, high base pri-ces, and the financial burden of recent 5G rollouts, accord-ingto an analysis by J. Chris-topher, wireless adviser at the Department of Tolecommunic. Department of Telecommuni-cations (DoT).

The Department of Eco-



nomic Affairs, while approving the auction results for the auction in 2024, had asked the teldemand and supply dynamics and explore the possibility of enhancing competition and mitigating oversupply of spec-trum.

and technological factors, the regulator said A total of over 12,000 MHz of spectrum is cur-rently unsold in the traditional bands, in addition

to the quantity of spectrum that will be brought under new

that will be brought under new bands, according to data shared by DoT with Trai. India's telecom market has also become a duopoly domi-nated by Reliance Jio Info-comm Ltd and Bharti Airtel Ltd, with a 75% share by sub-scribers, pushing Voddono Idea Ltd (Vi) to the margin. Meanwhile, beleaguered Vi awaits relief from the govern-ment on its stargering

adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues worth over 183,400 crore. On 18 September, the company filed a revised petition in the Supreme Court seeking a waiver of penalties and interest on AGR dues. This came after the company on 8 September filed a fresh writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging an additional demand of 39,450 crore by the Union government towards. adjusted gross revenue (AGR) Union government towards AGR dues.

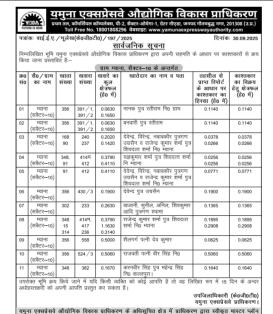
Besides financial health and Besides financial health and investment capacity of the bidders, the amount of spectrum acquired in previous auctions also shapes the spectrum demand, Trai said, adding that reserve price alone is not the decisive factor in determining actual demand.

In the June 2024 auction, a total of spectrum worth 206-228 d. Sectrum 206-228 d. Sect

₹96,238.45 crore was put on the block. Of this, 141.40 MHz of airwaves worth only ₹11,341 crore were sold at the reserve price. The ministry of commubands, according to dats hared by DoT with Trai. India's telecom market has also become a duopoly dominated by Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd and Bharti Airtel Ltd, with a 75% share by subscribers, pushing Vodafone Idea Ltd (Vi) to the margin. Meanwhile, beleaguered Vi awaits relief from the government on its staggering

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and the specific Notification issued in this regard.

The auction will be conducted using multiple price method on October 03, 2025 (Friday). The result will be amounced on the same day and payment by successful bidders will have to be made on October 06, 2025 (Monday).

Retail investors can participate in the auction on a non-compassis as per the Scheme for non-competitive bidding facility. Incinvestors can also place bids through the Retail Direct (https://birbietaildirect.org.in). For further details, please see press release dated September 29, 2025 on RBI website (www.rbi.org.in).

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