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Alt media on Tripura riots: Better late than never?

Arakkal Shada Amina

BENGALURU: While news of communal riots and mob attacks in the Northeast state of Tripura broke on social media, it took alternate media almost 10 days to give it any coverage.

The unrest first began when the Bengali Hindu community was attacked during Durga Puja which ended on October 15. The situation has since then deteriorated. While the mainstream media failed to give it any coverage, reports of the violence against the Muslim community made its way to alternate media in the past 3 days.

Prominent independent news sites like NewsLaundry, The News Minute, Scroll.in, The Wire and Independent published in-depth articles almost 10 days after the onslaught of the violence highlighting the situation and giving details into the history of the communal unrest while mainstream media failed to give it any coverage.

Meanwhile, the hashtag #saveTripuramuslims had already made its way to social media applications such as Instagram and Twitter, but it did not attract as much attention as is expected of riots of this massacre.

Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar dies at 46

Nandita Narayanan
Riya Joseph

BENGALURU: Renowned Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar passed away of a heart attack on Friday, aged 46. The actor was working out at the gym when he collapsed. He was rushed to Vikram hospital in Bengaluru, where he was given cardiac resuscitation but to no avail. He is survived by his wife and two children. Fans, well-wishers expressed condolences over the loss of the famous actor.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences on Twitter, "A cruel twist of fate has snatched away from us a prolific and talented actor, Puneeth Rajkumar. This was no age to go. The



Puneeth Rajkumar

Instagram /puneethrajkumar.official

coming generations will remember him fondly for his works and wonderful personality. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

Karnataka Chief Minister, Basavaraj S Bommai also expressed his sorrow, "Shocked and deeply saddened as Karnataka's most loved superstar

#PuneethRajkumar is no longer with us. [sic.]" Film stars and directors across the film industry like Kamal Haasan, Ram Gopal Varma, Mammooty, Dhanush

and others paid their condolences to the late actor's family and close ones on social media.

As reports of schools, colleges and shops shut-down were making its way across the city, Bengaluru City Police assured that normalcy prevails in the city's law and order. They also recounted memorable moments in a social media post.

"Please don't believe in any rumours nor engage in any kind of rumour-mongering. Everything is under control in the city. Bengaluru City Police assures peace and law & order in our city," read the post on their Twitter page.

Puneeth was the son of the late actor Dr. Rajkumar, and has acted in 40 films.

CBSE and ICSE students oppose offline exams

Varsha Benedict

BENGALURU: CBSE's decision to conduct offline board exams for the 10th and 12th board has not gone down well with students as they are not inoculated against COVID infection.

Himanshu Borah, a social worker and student activist wrote on Twitter asking CBSE, as well as the ICSE board "to conduct examinations in online mode." She also added, "The current situation is not appropriate to gather people



Representational Image

Twitter/@AdvMamtaSharma

in one place, who have not even been vaccinated."

Students and parents have also started a petition against conducting offline 10th and

12th board examinations. Riya Biswas citing the number of petitions, tweeted that "10 lakh decisions cannot go in vain. Our

opinions matter. Please look into this. [sic.]"

Mamta Sharma, an advocate at the Supreme Court of India, stated that the parents have a legitimate demand for offline classes to not begin until children have been vaccinated. Such hasty decisions should be avoided to prevent another outbreak of Covid.

Ankita Sarkar, a CBSE student also shared her grievance. "Almost our entire term was conducted in online mode. We have class assignments and internal

exams online. I don't understand CBSE's hesitation in conducting offline boards," she said.

Trishna Chatterjee, another CBSE student, said, "[They are] simply ignoring the pandemic and conducting offline exams is utter stupidity. We care about our families and ourselves. Giving offline exams is not only putting ourselves at risk but also our family and everyone around us. What are we going to do with certificates if our health is at serious risk?"

Zuckerberg: Facebook, Inc is now called Meta

Shahul Hameed

BENGALURU: American technology conglomerate Facebook changed its parent company's name to Meta during the annual developer-focused event, Connect conference on Thursday.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg took the stage 'a virtual home' to announce the same and highlighted that it is the company's new venture into shared augmented and virtual world environments.

"The strategy of rebuilding the brand name may prove to be fruitful taking into

consideration Facebook's recent past image," said Aditi Agarwalla, an MBA student.

While many lauded this move, some took a dig at the name. "Meta as in 'we are a cancer to democracy metastasizing into a global surveillance and propaganda machine for boosting authoritarian regimes and destroying civil society... for profit,'" tweeted U.S. politician and activist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

"Privacy and safety need to be built into the metaverse from day one," Zuckerberg said as he revealed the metaverse during the event.

'Tu Yaheen Hai' receives mixed reactions

Jesly Pulikotil

Actress and former Bigg Boss Hindi contestant Shehnaaz Gill released the song "Tu Yaheen Hai", on her official YouTube channel as a tribute to her reported boyfriend, late Sidharth Shukla. The song sung by Gill herself received mixed reactions from the fans. "It's been almost a month since she went silent on social media. I rushed to YouTube to watch the song. It was intense and sad, I almost cried, especially towards the end," said Jesina Joy, a student from Pune. Aishwarya Bhor, a



A still from the song Tu Yaheen Hai Youtube/ Shehnaaz Gill

homemaker from Nagpur said, "They brought Sidharth back to life through all the previously existing visuals of the couple together." She added that the song reaffirms how genuine SidNaaz's (the name used to address the

couple) relationship had been.

Mrunali Gadiya, a law student from Delhi, disagreed with Joy and Bhor, "I do not find this song as honest as it is shown. There is a stand-in person walking alongside

Shehnaaz as Sidharth, which is supposedly her imagining him in this song. It is disturbing that the creators did a whole lot to make the song seem emotional."

"This is such a stunt. They shot a whole 'tribute' song, to benefit from Sidharth's demise. I cannot say if Shehnaaz is really emotional in this song, or if it is just an act. The song is very cinematic. It has a storyline of its own, carefully selected locations, costumes, even a choreographer! I am more skeptical than grieved by this song," said Devika Jachak, an event manager in Mumbai.