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Bitcoin Mining Difficulty Jumps 7.96% to Record High

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Bitcoin's mining difficulty has climbed nearly 8%, hitting a new high, as indicators suggest growing network strength and possible major price action on the horizon. Meanwhile, the broader crypto space is seeing renewed activity and controversy, from large-scale fundraising to cybersecurity breaches involving digital assets.

According to data from mining pool CloverPool, Bitcoin's mining difficulty jumped by 7.96% to reach 126.27 trillion. This marks one of the most significant increases this year, reflecting heightened activity and security on the blockchain network. Alongside this, the average

hash rate, the measure of computational power used to mine and secure the Bitcoin network, rose to 910.14 exahashes per second (EH/s), a record that suggests miners are deploying more powerful hardware or increasing participation despite volatile market conditions.

Technical analysts are also watching a structural gap in Bitcoin's price chart, specifically between the \$111,000 and \$115,000 range. Gaps of this kind have historically preceded major price movements, and some market watchers believe this could signal a sharp upward or downward correction. However, the lack of traction in alternative cryptocurrencies, or "altcoins," adds uncertainty to this outlook. The broader market remains cautious, particularly as speculative assets continue to draw mixed reactions from investors.

In a separate incident highlighting crypto's security challenges, a Kenyan commercial bank was recently targeted in a major cyberattack, resulting in the theft of approximately \$4 million. Investigations revealed that the stolen funds were laundered through various cryptocurrency platforms, raising fresh concerns about the role of digital assets in facilitating cross-border financial crimes. Kenyan authorities have launched a probe, while calls grow louder for regulatory clarity and stronger enforcement mechanisms.

At the same time, speculative enthusiasm remains alive and well. Memecoin platform Pump.fun made headlines this week by raising a staggering \$600 million during a public token sale, completed in just 12 minutes. The event underscores ongoing investor appetite for high-risk, high-reward ventures, even as scepticism lingers about the long-term value of such tokens.

Domestically, Indian crypto exchange CoinDCX finds itself under scrutiny. Following a recent hack at rival platform WazirX, CoinDCX's Chief Executive Officer denied any allegations of mishandling user funds. The executive reaffirmed the company's adherence to Indian financial regulations and called for clearer government frameworks to avoid damaging speculation. Though the cryptocurrency sector continues to grow in scale and complexity, these recent developments paint a picture of a rapidly maturing industry still grappling with security, regulatory ambiguity, and speculative excess. As governments and institutions around the world consider their next steps, it's clear that digital finance will remain a contested but crucial frontier in the global economic landscape.

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