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PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION:

LS PASSES INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL, 2022; BOTH HOUSES ADJOURNED

▶ THE BILL SEEKS TO EXTEND THE APPLICATION OF DOMESTIC LAWS TO RESEARCH STATIONS SET UP BY INDIA IN THE ANTARCTIC REGION. BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT WERE ADJOURNED ON FRIDAY, 22 JULY, AND WILL RECONVENE ON MONDAY AT 2 PM.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, which seeks to extend the application of domestic laws to research stations set up by India in the Antarctic region. India has two active research stations in the Antarctic: Maitri and Bharti, where scientists are involved in research. The Bill proposes to prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica without a permit or written authorisation of another party to the

Antarctic Treaty, provide for inspection by an officer appointed by the government and for penalty for contravention of certain provisions of the legislation. It also seeks to constitute a fund for the welfare of Antarctic research work and protection of the environment of the icy continent.

Soon after the Bill was passed, the House was adjourned for the day to meet again on Monday at 2 pm. During the day's proceedings, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Rajya Sabha that more than 2,000 trains were cancelled between 15 and 23 June amid the Agnipath protests across the country.

Meanwhile, sloganeering took place in the Lok Sabha by Opposition parties over price rise and inflation. The House was adjourned twice in the first hour of the session's commencement. Before being adjourned, 'The Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022' was passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill aims at having India's own national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystem. Meanwhile, ruckus continued in the Rajya Sabha after it resumed following adjournment for an hour by chairperson Venkaiah Naidu. Opposition MPs raised slogans against the Centre in the well of the House and demanded a discussion on GST, asking PM Narendra Modi to come to the House for a discussion. Since the session began on Monday, both Houses have suffered frequent adjournments as the Opposition protests against inflation in the country, demanding a discussion on price rise in the Parliament.

'Lions appear ferocious, aggressive': plea in SC against state emblem atop Central Vista

Amid the ongoing row on "angry lions" emblem cast atop the new Parliament building, a plea has been moved in the Supreme Court against the visible change made in the description and design of the state emblem of India.

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Amid the ongoing row on "angry lions" emblem cast atop the new Parliament building, a plea has been moved in the Supreme Court against the visible change made in the description and design of the state emblem of India. The plea, moved by two advocates Aldanish Rein and Ramesh Kumar Mishra, urged the top court to issue a direction to the Central government to correct the state emblem of India, recently installed at the top of the Central Vista project at New Delhi, which is going to house the Parliament House and Central Secretariat, in accordance with the state Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005. The plea said the newly-installed state emblem of India at the top of Central Vista project has a visible difference in the design of lions which depicts a changed composure of the lions than that of the symbol preserved in the Sarnath museum. "The lions of the new installed emblem appear to be ferocious and aggressive with their mouth open and canines visible, while



the lions of the state emblem preserved in the Sarnath museum, which has been used as official seal so far in all respects, are calm and composed," it said. The plea submitted that the Sarnath lion capital of Asoka was adopted as the state emblem of India due to its philosophical and spiritual meaning. It added that the state Emblem of India is not just a graphic design but also has entrenched cultural and philosophical significance which ought not have been altered unthinkingly and illegally. "The respondent, by effecting a visible change in the design of the national emblem, has manifested gross arbitrariness in violating the sanctity of the state emblem," said the plea.

RS DEBATES BILL ON 'RIGHT TO HEALTH', NAIDU HOPES HOUSE WILL FUNCTION SMOOTHLY

▶ The Rajya Sabha on Friday debated a private member's bill 'The Right To Health Bill, 2021' moved by RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha. Chairman Venkaiah Naidu said that he was glad that the Rajya Sabha today held an insightful debate on a private member's bill.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Rajya Sabha on Friday debated a private member's bill 'The Right To Health Bill, 2021' moved by RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha. Chairman Venkaiah Naidu said that he was glad that the Rajya Sabha today held an insightful debate on a private member's bill. Jha moved the bill to make health a fundamental right for all citizens and to ensure equitable access and maintenance of a standard of physical and mental health conducive to living a life of dignity. After the House adjourned for the day, Rajya Sabha chairman Naidu tweeted, "Glad that Rajya Sabha today held an insightful debate on a Private Member's Bill on Right to Health. 10 members spoke. On the last day of first week of monsoon session today, full Question Hour was taken up. First four days were lost due to disruptions." Naidu hoped that the House will function smoothly from next week onwards. The Rashtriya Janata Dal MP appealed to the Union government to hold a

discussion on the 'Right to Health' as death doesn't consider voting patterns. Jha noted that commitment to public health is extremely important and mentioned that the country needs a Covid memorial to act as a reminder of lives lost and mistakes made during the pandemic. Participating in the discussion on the Bill, BJP member Rakesh Sinha said that India will have three doctors for every 1,000 people by 2025. Taking a dig at the Opposition Sinha said that slogans don't bring change in a society, fundamental reforms are needed. Congress member Indu Bala Goswami hit out at the Centre over Covid mismanagement. Supporting the Bill, K Keshava Rao of the TRS said that health is indeed a serious subject. NCP MP Fauzia Khan said that expenditure needs to be increased on health and urged the government to pay attention to the exploitation by hospitals during the pandemic. She also urged the government to allocate funds to help patients with rare diseases.

Denied discussion on Agnipath, Cong, other Oppn MPs walk out of committee meeting

Denied a discussion on the Agnipath scheme in the Standing Committee on Defence meeting, Congress MPs walked out on Friday.

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Denied a discussion on the Agnipath scheme in the Standing Committee on Defence meeting, Congress MPs walked out on Friday. Sources said that Congress Rajya Sabha MPs KC Venugopal and Uttam Kumar Reddy walked out from the meeting and some other opposition MPs followed suit. The opposition MPs wanted to raise the issue of the Agnipath scheme but the chairman did not allow it as the agenda was something different, the sources. KC Venugopal said Uttam Reddy, Danish Ali and I walked out in protest from the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence for not taking up the controversial Agnipath scheme despite our repeated requests and my earlier letter addressed to the Chairman, requesting a discussion. "The Chairman turned a deaf ear to these crucial questions & the scheme was not discussed. We urged the Chairman to clarify; Why was the Parliament Standing Committee on



Defence kept in the dark on the #AgnipathRecruitmentScheme? Why the scheme was not taken up in the committee's budget scrutiny meetings despite involving financial implications? No discussion in Parliament, no deliberations in the Parliament Standing Committees, thus goes the way of bulldozing legislations in the Modi era," he said. The agenda was, "Consideration and adoption of the Draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in the Twenty-Second

Report of Standing Committee on Defence (17th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2021-22 on Ordnance Factories, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) (Demand No. 20) (2) Chalking out of the future programme of the Committee." The Congress has been against the Agnipath scheme and is pressing for its withdrawal.

HIDEOUT BUSTED IN J&K'S DODA, ARMS, AMMUNITION RECOVERED

The Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army, in a joint operation, busted a terrorist hideout in Doda district and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, officials said on Friday.

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army, in a joint operation, busted a terrorist hideout in Doda district and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, officials said on Friday. Police said after getting specific information, the joint team launched a search operation in a forested area at Gundoh in Doda. "During search an old hideout of militants in Khasodi Chansar forest falling the jurisdiction of PS Gandoh was busted and arms/explosive material in rusted condition recovered," police said, adding that these included a UBGL barrel, a UBGL grenade, a RPG shell, 25 electronic detonators, and two UBGL accessories. Police have registered an FIR and investigation has been started.

RAILWAYS NOT TO RESTORE SENIOR CITIZENS' CONCESSION IN TRAIN FARE

New Delhi: Restoring senior citizens' concession in train fare would not be desirable as the cost of granting concessions weighs heavily on Railways, the Parliament was told on Friday. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Rajya Sabha in a reply that Indian Railways is already bearing more than 50 per cent of the cost of travel on an average for all passengers, including senior citizens, on account of lower fare structure for passenger services. He also said that apart from this due to Covid 19, passenger earnings for the last two years are less in comparison to 2019-2020. "These have long term impact on the financial health of the Railways. Cost of granting concessions weighs heavily on Railways. Hence extending scope of concessions to all categories of passengers including senior citizens is not desirable. In spite of these challenges, Indian Railways has continued concession in fare to four categories of persons with disabilities, and 11 categories of patients and students," he added.



'Climate change questions' least asked in Parliament, 0.3% queries in 20 years

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As many as 895 questions related to climate change were raised by 1,019 Members of Parliament, forming only 0.3 percent of the total queries asked in the House in 20 years, revealed a recent study. India is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change "ranked 29 out of 191 countries" due to its geographic size, climatic conditions, and large population, especially of vulnerable groups, as per the paper "Climate change: The missing discourse in the Indian Parliament", prepared by Seema Mundoli, Zubin Jacob, Ranjini Murali and Harini Nagendra in association with the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, and The Snow Leopard Trust, Seattle, US. The paper analyses the parliamentary questions (PQs) on climate change during 1999 to 2019. "The highest number of questions were in years following a political event. For example, 2007 saw the sharpest increase in PQs (from 8 questions in 2006 to 53 in 2007). This was the year that preceded the launch of the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The highest number of questions (104) were asked in



2015 "the year that followed the renaming of the 'Ministry of Environment and Forests' to the 'Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change' with an accordingly expanded portfolio," it said. The study also revealed that even MPs from climate-vulnerable states are not asking more questions. Male MPs asked ten times more questions than women MPs, it says highlighting the low representation of women in Parliament. Among the questions, 27.6 per cent were focused on impact of climate change, and 23.5 per cent on mitigation. The adaptation received the least attention (3.9 per cent), despite the

importance of climate adaptation to India. Many questions focused on the issue of understanding the impact of climate change on agriculture, which contributes 17 per cent of India's GDP, followed by coastal issues, and health. The remaining aspects of climate impact were less covered. Ministers referred to a source for their information on climate change in only 10 per cent i.e. 91 questions of the PQs asked. Studies (58.9 per cent) done were the most cited, followed by newspaper articles (22 per cent), a conference (11 per cent), institutes as sources (5.6 per cent), and international agreements (1.1 per cent), it added.

CBSE CLASS 12 RESULTS: THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TOPS WITH 98.83%, PRAYAGRAJ AT BOTTOM WITH 83.71%

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the highest percentage of 98.83 per cent students passing in the CBSE 12th board examination, Thiruvananthapuram topped the country, while Prayagraj region remained at the last position with 83.71 per cent. More than 13 lakh students have passed this time in the CBSE 12th board examinations. On an average, 92.71 per cent students have passed in the exams. Bengaluru is at number two with 98.16 per cent and Chennai stood at third with 97.79 per cent students passing in the CBSE 12th board examination. Delhi ranks fourth and fifth in this category. In the fourth position, 96.29 per cent students have passed class 12 in East Delhi region while West Delhi region is at fifth place with 96.29 per cent students clearing the board examination. Delhi ranks fourth and fifth in this category. In the fourth position, 96.29 per cent students have passed class 12 in East Delhi region while West Delhi region is at fifth place with 96.29 per cent students clearing the board examination. Ajmer is at sixth place with 96.01 per cent. 95.98 per cent in Chandigarh, 94.08 per cent in Panchkula region, 92.06 per cent in Guwahati, 91.20 per cent in Patna, 90.74 per cent in Bhopal region, 90.48 per cent in Pune region, 90.37 per cent in Bhubaneswar region, 90.27



per cent in Noida region, 85.39 per cent in Dehradun region and 83.71 per cent in Prayagraj region have passed in the class 12 board exam. This year 14,44,341 students from across the country had registered themselves for the CBSE 12th examinations, out of which 14,35,366 appeared and 13,30,662 passed. At the same time, 93.98 per cent students studying abroad have passed the board examinations. A total of 33,432 students have scored more than 95% marks in the CBSE Class 12 board results this year. Many students have scored 100% marks in these board exams. These include Yuvakshi Vij, a student of Noida and Tanya Singh of Bulandshahr. Yuvakshi Vij, studying in Noida private school, has scored 500 out of 500 marks. Yuvakshi is a student in the humanities stream.



RAJ CONG MLA CALLS MINISTER BIGGEST MINING MAFIA, THREATENS SELF-IMMOLATION

▶ **FORMER MINISTER AND CONGRESS MLA FROM SANGOD, BHARAT SINGH, HAS OPENED A FRONT AGAINST A MINISTER OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT OVER THE ISSUE OF ILLEGAL MINING, DEMANDING HIS IMMEDIATE SACKING. HE ALSO THREATENED SELF-IMMOLATION IF HIS PLEA REMAINED UNHEARD.**

issue of illegal mining, demanding his immediate sacking. He also threatened self-immolation if his plea remained unheard.

Politics has intensified in Rajasthan after the self-immolation bid by a seer in Bharatpur district on Wednesday. The seer set himself on fire to protest against illegal mining in Pasopa village of the district.

Singh wrote to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot stating that if the mining mafia is to be controlled in the state, the mines minister should be sacked immediately.

He wrote: "I have written many letters to you on Sorsan and Godavan protection. If the only way to stop illegal mining is the path of the sadhu of Bharatpur, then please wait for me to follow this effective route and talk to you."

Singh wrote: "I want to bring your attention to seers staging a sit-in for 551 days against mining in the moun-

tains of Bharatpur as well as to the seer who set himself on fire. Illegal mining is directly related to hooliganism. This cannot be possible without the patronage of the government. After the sadhu's suicide attempt, you held a press conference and directed the district collector and district administration to take strict action by identifying the mining mafia. The Minister of Mines of the state was with you in your press conference."

Pramod Jain Bhaya is the minister for mines in the Rajasthan government.

Singh said that the biggest mining mafia of the state is the mines minister, a record in illegal mining has been set in his home district. In Baran district, corrupt officers are selected by the minister in the ranks of collector, divisional forest officer, and other high posts. Many people are dying due to illegal mining in Baran district, he added.

Meta opposes CCI probe in Delhi HC, says FB can't be investigated 'due to' WhatsApp

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Opposing the Competition Commission of India (CCI)'s probe into the latest WhatsApp privacy policy, its parent company Meta (formerly Facebook) on Friday told the Delhi High Court that the government authority cannot investigate it only because it owns the instant messaging platform.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad was hearing the appeal filed by Meta and WhatsApp challenging the single-judge order which refused to stay the CCI's order in April last year.

During the course of the hearing, senior advocate

Mukul Rohatgi, on behalf of Meta, pointed out that the two platforms are different entities, though Facebook acquired WhatsApp in 2014. "The ownership is common but roads are different, policies are different. As far as Facebook is concerned, the first notice to WhatsApp to make enquiry is the actual notice," he argued.

Arguing that there is no material with respect to Facebook in the matter, Rohatgi said it was 'suo moto jurisdiction' and there is no material to commence an investigation. Further arguments in the matter will be heard on July 25. In the previous hearing, senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing on behalf of Facebook and

WhatsApp, submitted that the new privacy policy gives the users freedom to not share their data and there is no element of coercion involved.

In June 2021, the Delhi High Court had refused to stay a notice issued by the CCI, asking WhatsApp to furnish certain information in connection with the probe, ordered in March, on the instant messaging app's new updated privacy policy.

On October 23, 2021, the Centre had told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp has already violated the fundamental rights of users in the country by denying dispute resolution rights while opposing a plea filed by WhatsApp and Facebook against the new IT rules.

Jaipur | Agencies

Former minister and Congress MLA from Sangod, Bharat Singh, has opened a front against a minister of his own government over the

Trinamool leader falls sick during ED grilling, doctors on standby

▶ **Former Education Minister of West Bengal and Trinamool Congress Secretary General Partha Chatterjee fell sick while facing a marathon interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with recruitment irregularities in West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC), here on Friday.**

while facing a marathon interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with recruitment irregularities in West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC), here on Friday. The ED officials reached the residence of Chatterjee, who is currently the state Commerce and Industries Minister, at Naktala in south Kolkata at around 9 am on Friday and his questioning was going on till the filing of this report.

It is learnt that a little after 3 pm, Chatterjee complained about uneasiness and breathlessness. The ED officials, with the help of the aides of the minister, immediately informed his personal doctor.

Soon a team of three doctors reached the residence of Chatterjee, checked him and gave him some medicines. After about 45 hours, Chatterjee felt relieved, though the doctors advised him to undergo an ECG.

However, the ED officials continued with their activities at the residence of Chatterjee. The doctors have been kept on standby at another room in the minister's house. Reacting to the development, state Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said that several leaders and ministers of the party have faced tremendous mental pressure because of the excesses of the central agencies like the CBI and ED. "Earlier, senior leaders like late Subrata Mukherjee, late Tapas Paul and Sudip Bandopadhyay were harassed by the central agencies. Some of them even faced untimely death because of such mental pressure. We want to caution the BJP and the Union government that if anything happens to any of our leaders because of the excesses of the central agencies, we will not remain silent and take the Centre head on," Bhattacharya said.

Kolkata | Agencies

Former Education Minister of West Bengal and Trinamool Congress Secretary General Partha Chatterjee fell sick

Azam Khan case: SC criticises HCs for making irrelevant remarks in bail matters

The Supreme Court on Friday criticised the new trend where high courts have made irrelevant observations, not connected with a case before them, and going overboard by imposing pointless conditions in bail matters.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday criticised the new trend where high courts have made irrelevant observations, not connected with a case before them, and going overboard by imposing pointless conditions in bail matters.

A bench, headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, said it is disturbed by such orders passed by high courts and cited directions passed by a separate bench setting aside an order, similar in nature.

The bench, also comprising Justice JB Pardiwala, set aside the Allahabad High Court's bail condition to seal the premises of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University at Rampur while granting bail to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan. He is one of the members of the board of trustees of the university.

Expressing disappointment with the new trend, the top court said the high courts are exceeding their authority to delve into issues which are not relevant to the determination of the bail pleas.

"This is yet another matter where we find the high court has referred to matters which are unrelated to consideration of prayer for bail in respect of concerned crime," noted the bench. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared on behalf of Khan in the apex court. After hearing Sibal's arguments, the top court said the high court ought to have dealt with only those aspects which



high court order," the bench told Uttar Pradesh's counsel. Only July 18, the Supreme Court stayed all proceedings and adverse remarks, calling for B summary reports and service records, against the Karnataka ACB by a Karnataka High Court judge. A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said the

were related to bail and not ventured into unrelated issues.

The top court noted that if sealing proceedings were to take place, then it should have been independent of the observations made by the high court. "You take action under other law, not under the

judge while hearing a bail plea of an accused made unnecessary observations. It added that the observations made and directions passed in the petition, calling for B summary report, are irrelevant and detrimental to the accused. Only July 14, the Supreme Court set aside the orders of a judge of Patna High Court, who acted without jurisdiction, ordering the appearance of businessman Subrata Roy Sahara and also asked for a plan to return the money to the investors.

In May, the Allahabad High Court granted bail to Khan in an alleged case of grabbing of enemy property for the construction of the university. The court directed the Rampur District Magistrate to take possession of the property attached to the campus of the University by June 30, 2022, and raise a boundary wall with barbed wire around it.

Oppn in Odisha Assembly demands entry of journalists into press gallery

▶ **The Opposition BJP and the Congress on Friday created an uproar in the Assembly demanding the entry of journalists into the press gallery inside the House.**

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

The Opposition BJP and the Congress on Friday created an uproar in the Assembly demanding the entry of journalists into the press gallery inside the House.

At present, the journalists are seated in a conference room outside the main assembly hall and cover the proceedings through videoconferencing.

Raising the issue during Question Hour, the Opposition MLAs trooped into the well of the House and disrupted the proceedings. Unable to conduct the House business, Speaker B.K. Arukha convened an all-party meeting, adjourning the House till 11.30 a.m.

However, the situation remained almost the



same when the House reassembled for Zero Hour at 11.30 a.m. As the media persons are not allowed into the press gallery, they were not able to report the proceedings correctly, said BJP chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi.

When the Rath Yatra was conducted with the participation of lakhs of people and Parliament started functioning normally, why should the

journalists not be allowed into the press gallery? he asked. Majhi said some of the members are being treated like second-class citizens as they were asked to sit in galleries which demeaned their dignity. Congress member Tara Prasad Bahinipati demanded that the Speaker allow media persons to sit in the press gallery to cover the proceedings. He also urged the Speaker to allow the members to sit in the House like in pre-Covid times. Other members including Jayanarayan Mishra from the BJP, Santosh Singh Saluja (Congress) and Laxman Munda of the CPI (M) also demanded that the Speaker allow the media persons into the press gallery and ensure normal functioning of the assembly like earlier.

Keeping in mind the safety of members in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the new seating arrangements for MLAs and journalists were finalised at an all-party meeting, said the Speaker.

Only a few days are left for the current session of the Assembly to end. A decision on lifting the restrictions on the media would be taken in the next session of the House considering the situation prevailing at that time, he added.

Scindia, Pradhan to meet Bengal BJP leaders during state visit

Kolkata | Agencies

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will be on a two-day visit to West Bengal from Saturday as a preparatory mission for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

A state committee member of the BJP told IANS on condition of anonymity that the visit of Scindia is especially significant for the state leadership as he has been assigned for the Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency, which elected a BJP representative for two consecutive terms before.

Dum Dum, an erstwhile refugee-dominated Lok Sabha constituency on the outskirts of Kolkata, had been a traditional Left base-

tion since 1977, when the Left Front government to power for the first time.

However, the red fortress started witnessing the first signs of collapse in 1998, when BJP's Tapan Sikdar got elected from there and also retained the seat in 1999.

However, CPI(M) regained the constituency in 2004. Since 2009, Trinamool has gained control of the crucial Lok Sabha constituencies with Saugata Roy getting elected from there for three consecutive terms in 2009, 2014 and 2019. "The party leadership feels that Dum Dum can be regained by the party in 2024 and hence Scindia has been especially assigned to oversee the process of restructuring the party organisation in Dum Dum," the state committee member said. It is learnt that

Scindia will arrive in Kolkata on Saturday morning and will first visit the Dakshineswar Kali temple which comes under the Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency. As per the schedule, Scindia will also visit the recently-inaugurated Sealdah Metro station as a public relations exercise.

On Sunday, Scindia will hold meetings with the party functionaries of Dum Dum and discuss the roadmap for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. He will also visit the Khardah Ramakrishna Mission before returning to Delhi on Sunday evening. However, the state BJP leadership is yet to specify the schedule of Pradhan.

"As per initial plans, Pradhan's programme will be mainly restricted to North Kolkata," the state committee member said.

FLYING ARTICLES BANNED IN DELHI AHEAD OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

New Delhi: A bid to avoid terror strikes and any untoward incidents, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Friday prohibited flying of various sub-conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, UAVs, hot air balloons, or para-jumping over the jurisdiction of the national capital's territory. The order, issued by the Commissioner's Office, is to keep the national capital safe ahead of Independence Day.

The Delhi Police chief said that it has been reported that certain criminal, anti-social elements or terrorists inimical to India may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations by the use of sub-conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, para-motors, hang-gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlite aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft, hot air balloons, small-sized powered aircraft, quadcopters, or even by para-jumping from aircraft etc.

Discussions on with stakeholders on new IT Rules: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As Big Tech companies continue to urge the government to remove certain provisions in the new IT Rules, 2021, Minister of State for IT and Electronics, Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday said that the IT Ministry continues to have discussions with the stakeholders concerned.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said that the government's goals are aimed at ensuring open, safe, trusted and accountable internet for its users.

"In this regard, this Ministry continues to have discussions with the concerned stakeholders including industry, legal experts and academicians to achieve our objectives including new legislations, amendments of the rules, etc. This Ministry has received many ideas during such consultation processes," he said.

The existing Information Technology Act 2000 was enacted 22



years ago, he said.

"Since then, the technology and the internet today has evolved at a very fast pace. There is a paradigm change in the opportunity in the Cyberspace and the challenges associated with it, which was not envisaged in 2000," Chandrasekhar added. An industry group called

Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) representing US-based Big Tech firms have urged India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to make changes in the proposed amendments to the country's new IT Rules, 2021 which would "negate the government's commitment to ease of doing business". In a letter to the IT Ministry, the coalition that represents Apple, Meta, Google, Amazon, Twitter, and Spotify, among others, said that the proposed changes in the new IT Rules 2021 would affect continuity in business operations for all intermediaries that have made significant investments in the country in regard to technology, workforce, and other resources.

The republished draft by the IT Ministry has revealed a plan to form an appeals panel that can reverse content moderation decisions by Big Tech companies.

The new IT rules also require big social media platforms to help the government trace the originator of messages in special cases.

'Railways suffered loss of Rs 259.44cr during Agnipath protests'

▶ **THE GOVERNMENT ON FRIDAY SAID THE RAILWAYS HAS SUFFERED A LOSS OF RS 259.44 CRORE DUE TO DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF RAILWAY ASSETS DURING AGITATIONS AGAINST THE 'AGNIPATH' SCHEME.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government on Friday said the Railways has suffered a loss of Rs 259.44 crore due to damage or destruction of railway assets during agitations against the 'Agnipath' scheme.

In a reply in Rajya Sabha, Union Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav said that in 2022, the Indian Railways suffered loss of Rs 259.44 crore due to damage or destruction of railway assets.

"Separate data regarding the amount of refund granted to passengers due to disruption of rail services on account of public disorder consequent to agitation like those held

after launching of Agnipath scheme is not maintained. However, during the period June 14 to 30, a total refund of approximately Rs 102.96 crore was granted on account of cancellation of trains," Vaishnav said.

The Railway Minister told the House that 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

"Therefore, state governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police," he said.

The Minister further told the Rajya Sabha that Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Cases of damage, destruction of government property including railway property are registered and investigated by the concerned GRP/State Police under IPC and Railways Act.



MAHARASHTRA CABINET EXPANSION LIKELY IN COUPLE OF DAYS

A HIGHLY-PLACED SOURCE IN THE GOVERNMENT SAID, "THE CABINET FORMATION HAS BEEN FINALISED BY CHIEF MINISTER EKNATH SHINDE AND DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS AND THE SWEARING-IN IS SET TO TAKE PLACE ANYTIME IN NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS."



CM. A highly-placed source in the government said, "The Cabinet formation has been finalised by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and the swearing-in is set to take place anytime in next couple of days."

bers (including 40 Shiv Sena rebels and ten independents) formed the government last month. A source in the BJP said, "Senior party leaders will get priority in the Cabinet."

Zafar Alam Khan www.absoluteindianews.com

The much-awaited Cabinet expansion in Maharashtra is likely to take place anytime in next couple of days. Sources confirmed that around 30 ministers will be inducted in the first of the two-phase expansion. The state can have 43 ministers, including the

POLICE ORDER ACTION AGAINST MEN FOUND LOITERING AROUND SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

Pune: Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissioner Ankush Shinde has ordered action against men found loitering around the premises of schools and colleges in his jurisdiction.

Shinde has issued orders to all officers in charge of police stations in the area. Accordingly, the police have appealed to citizens to contact helpline numbers 112 and 020-27352500 and share information on miscreants found misbehaving with women and girl students on the premises of educational institutes.

A press release issued by senior police inspector Raosaheb Jadhav, PRO of Pimpri-Chinchwad police, stated that colleges and schools have started functioning and the possibility of trouble caused by girl students and women by "road romances" wandering around such school and college premises cannot be ruled out.

Officers at police stations have been asked to carry out effective patrolling in and around such areas in their jurisdictions and ensure action against miscreants.

TWO PATIENTS OF BA.5OMICRON VARIANT FOUND; 142 CASES OF SWINE FLU REPORTED SINCE JANUARY

This has taken the tally of BA.4 and BA.5 patients to 160 in the state. District-wise BA.4 and BA.5 cases included Pune (93), Mumbai (51), Thane (5), Nagpur and Palghar (four each) and Raigad (3).

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra on Friday reported 2 cases of BA.5 Omicron variant say the latest reports from the National Institute of Virology, Pune. While, 142 cases of swine flu (Influenza A H1N1) have been reported in the state from January to July 21.

Detailed epidemiological investigation of the Omicron cases is currently underway.

This has taken the tally of BA.4 and BA.5 patients to 160. District-wise BA.4 and BA.5 cases included Pune (93), Mumbai (51), Thane (5), Nagpur and Palghar (four each) and Raigad (3).

While, Mumbai has reported the highest number



of swine flu cases till July 21 with 43 patients, followed by Pune with 23 cases.

Pune, Thane, and Kolhapur have reported 2,2 and 3 deaths respectively due to swine flu taking the total number of fatalities to 7.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra today recorded 2,515 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the number of active cases to 14,579. Besides, 6 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the day, taking the tally to 1,48,051.

SC seeks Maha govt's response on plea challenging mandatory Marathi signboards for shops

THE HIGH COURT HAD NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO BAR ON USING ANY OTHER LANGUAGE ON THEIR DISPLAY BOARD AND THE RULE ONLY MANDATED THE SHOP'S NAME TO BE DISPLAYED IN MARATHI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from Maharashtra and others on a plea challenging a Bombay High Court which refused to quash the state government's rule mandating

shops and establishments to display their names in Marathi (Devanagari script) language. A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy issued notice to the Maharashtra government, Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, and others on an appeal filed by the Federation of Retail Traders Welfare Association challenging the February 23, 2022 order of the high court. The high court had noted that there was no bar on using any other language on their display board and the rule only mandated the shop's name to be displayed in Marathi. The petition had challenged an amendment to the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017, as per which all shops and establishments have to display signboards of their names in Marathi, the font of

which shall be the same as that of the other script and not smaller. The federation had said this was in violation of Articles 13 (Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights), 19 (Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech), and 21 (Protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution. The high court had said the rule was for the convenience of Maharashtra's public at large, whose mother tongue is Marathi. "What the petitioner fails to recognise is that this requirement is not meant for retail traders, but meant for workers and public who approach them, who are more likely to be familiar with Marathi," the court had said. Marathi may be the official language of the state government, but it is also undeniably the common language and mother tongue of the state, the HC had said.

'You buy an umbrella to use when it rains': RBI Governor on using forex reserves

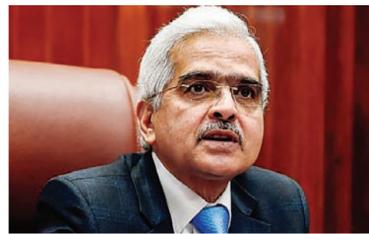
DUE TO THE RBI ACTIONS, INCLUDING MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE INFLOWS, THE MOVEMENTS OF THE RUPEE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY SMOOTH AND ORDERLY, RBI GOVERNOR SHAKTIKANTA DAS SAID ON FRIDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Due to the RBI actions, including measures to encourage inflows, the movements of the rupee have been relatively smooth and orderly, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

Speaking at a conference, Das said, "By eschewing sudden and volatile shifts, we have ensured that expectations remain anchored and the forex market functions in a stable and liquid manner."

Das said in recognition of the fact that there is a genuine shortfall of supply of forex in the market



relative to demand because of import and debt servicing requirements and portfolio outflows, the RBI has been supplying US dollars to the market to ensure that there is adequate forex liquidity.

"After all, this is the very purpose for which we had accumulated reserves when the capital inflows were strong. And, may I add, you buy an umbrella to use when it rains!" We will continue to engage with the forex market and ensure that the rupee finds its level in line with its fundamentals. I would like to reiterate that we have no particular level of the rupee in mind, but we would like to ensure its orderly evolution and we have zero tolerance for volatile and bumpy movements," Das said.

THACKERAY TEAM TO MOVE SC AGAINST LS SPEAKER'S MOVE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Uddhav Thackeray-led has said it will move Supreme Court against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision to recognise MP Rahul Shewale as Shiv Sena group leader.

Sena MP Vinayak Raut on Thursday said the decision taken by the Lok Sabha secretariat was not right and Sena will write to the Speaker about it.

Raut claimed that going by the record, it appears the Speaker decided to appoint Shewale as Sena group leader a day before the 12 Sena MPs who joined chief minister Eknath Shinde faction actually wrote requesting the change. Raut also said the Sena's Lok Sabha office was still with the Uddhav camp and they were using it every day.

"All group leaders are appointed by the party president and not by the strength of the MPs, even if they are in a majority. We had written to the Lok



Sabha Speaker and parliamentary affairs minister on July 6. Then on July 18, at 8:30 pm, we went to the house of the Lok Sabha Speaker and demanded that if anyone claims the post of Shiv Sena group leader, give us a chance to present our side. We met again on July 19 and gave a letter in

this regard. However, he suddenly changed the Shiv Sena leader in Lok Sabha without heeding our letters. Rahul Shewale's name was displayed on the LS website," Raut said. He alleged, "The circular reflecting change in the party's position appeared on the LS website on July

20. We received it on July 19, but actually the list of group leaders in Lok Sabha is dated July 18. As far as I know, the Eknath Shinde group's MPs met the Lok Sabha Speaker on July 19 and gave the letter.

Meanwhile, the Speaker had already chosen to take this decision on July 18. The Lok Sabha secretariat issued a letter on July 19 and said this decision will be effective from July 18. "Raut further alleged the LS secretariat had not followed due procedure and rules. "We are not able to understand the rules by which LS secretariat made this change. They have made him (Shewale) group leader without any natural justice, without taking notice of our letter. They should have implemented this change at least from the day the rebels

gave the letter. But they gave the letter on July 19 and it was implemented on July 18. Hence there is suspicion among Sena MPs that the decision was biased."

Kalyan-Murbad rail line work to begin from September: Patil

THE IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL FOR THE LINE WAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN IN 2016 AND A ROUTE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FROM ULHASNAGAR, TITWALA AND MURBAD IN THE DISTRICT.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The work on the 28-kilometre Kalyan-Murbad railway

line in Thane district will begin from September this year, Union minister and local parliamentarian Kapil Patil said on Friday. An official release from the office of Patil, a Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) Lok Sabha MP from Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, said he had met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Delhi recently to discuss the project.

The in-principle approval for the line was given in 2016 and a route survey was conducted from

Ulhasnagar, Titwala and Murbad in the district.

The then Maharashtra government under Devendra Fadnis had also approved the project but it went into cold storage soon after till the Eknath Shinde dispensation recently told the Centre the state would contribute 50 per cent of cost.

As per officials, the stations on the route will be Kalyan, Shahad, Ambivli, Kamba Road, Apti, Mannoli, Potgaon and Murbad. The project is estimated to cost Rs 857 crore as per earlier railway studies, they added.

Man climbs mobile tower, demands wife return

The incident took place in Dabhadi village where an inebriated husband stayed atop a mobile tower for four hours to get his spouse back.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Fights between couples are nothing unusual and while a few wait for the issue to resolve on its own, others go an extra mile to cajole their misfit partners. In Maharashtra, one man took an idea out of a Hindi film script and climbed atop a mobile tower to get his angry spouse back.

Yes, much like Dharmendra's character in

the 1975 blockbuster, Sholay, a man was spotted high up on a mobile phone tower in Jalna district. The incident took place in Dabhadi village in Badnapur tehsil on Wednesday and the man, identified as Ganpat Bakal, was reportedly in an inebriated state when he climbed the 100-foot tower.

The local residents grew concerned about his safety and alerted the cops and fire brigade seeking help. According to PTI, the man risked his life to convince his wife to return from her maternal home. It was only after the locals and police personnel at the site convinced him they would help him resolve their domestic dispute that he agreed to come down.

"He was under the influence of alcohol. He came down from the tower after four hours. Bakal was detained and then released later," the police told the news agency. It remains unclear if his wife has returned or not. However, a video of him sitting on the mobile tower has gone viral across social media sites, leaving netizens laughing out loud, prompting many jokes and memes online.

While some said this "stupidity" might only irk his wife further, others joked this is probably why she left her home in the first place.

A similar incident had happened in 2017, however, in a twist the man had climbed the tower demanding a divorce.

Murder convict on the run for 12 years surrenders after daughters pass exam

With no one to look after the family and his twin daughters, Sanjay appealed before the high court to overturn his conviction, but lost. He then decided to take parole leave and abscond until his daughters had grown up.

Team Absolute | Nagpur

The SSC board results this year revealed the incredible saga of a murder convict, who jumped parole and remained on the run for 12 years to educate his twin daughters. He remained in touch with the family while evading the cops, worked at a printing unit, and ensured his daughters got all the books, prodding, and father's support they needed to study. He surrendered on May 12, after his daughters scored 86% and 83% in their SSC boards.

Shraddha and Shruti Tejane, aged 16, were honoured by NGOs and the prison department at Mangalmurti Lawns of Nagpur Central Jail on Thursday. The Tejane sisters, students of Santaji High school, Hudkeshwar Khurd Chikna, Nagpur district, did not go for tuitions. Their teachers took efforts for the twins, who showed unflinching determination to excel. Their father, Sanjay Tejane, in his 50s, surrendered after jumping parole for 4,200 days, a little less than 12 years. His time on the run may leave him ineligible for any further leave, and other facilities, including



remission, during his life term. Sanjay had been arrested for murder by Wardha police in November 2003 with his father Shaligram and brothers Vasudev and Nameo. The four were awarded life imprisonment in 2005. Sanjay twice came to meet his ailing wife and mother on furlough. In 2007, twins Shraddha and Shruti were born. With no one to look after the family and his twin daughters, Sanjay appealed before the high court to overturn his conviction, but lost. He then decided to take parole leave and abscond until his daughters had grown up. Shraddha, who scored 86%, said their father could only meet them

furtively on occasion, but supported the family by working at a printing unit. "He was always motivating us to study and study. He came furtively but always brought books for us," said Shraddha, choking with emotions. "I want to study engineering and fulfil my father's dream of us sisters becoming IAS officers. But now everything is on my mother's shoulders, and we feel a little helpless," she adds. "Father took great risk but accompanied us to the examination centre each day. He did not fail to turn up even when we needed him," said Shraddha, recalling how the family covered in fear when cops came searching for their father. Shruti, who scored 83%, said her father remained away but never allowed the family to feel unprotected. "We are also grateful to our school teachers like Kamdi sir, Bhoyar sir and others who helped us," she said. "We have just passed out of school. There are bigger challenges awaiting us ahead," said Shruti. Their mother Kalpana said relatives are helping the daughters get admission in Standard XI science stream. "My husband always protected and supported us from outside.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Madam President: On Droupadi Murmu's election as India's 15th President

The election of Droupadi Murmu as India's 15th President is rich in symbolism. In the 75th year of the country's Independence, Murmu becomes the second woman to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and the first member of a tribal community to do so. Her membership of the Santhal tribe is in focus. She has risen through the ranks in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and has shown a mind of her own during her stint as Governor of Jharkhand. Her election to the highest office of the country comes 101 years after two tribespeople were elected to legislative bodies in colonial India. Founding figures of the Republic were acutely cognisant of the disadvantageous position of the tribespeople and made special provisions such as the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution. Jaipal Singh Munda, sportsman and tribal leader, was a prominent member of the Constituent Assembly who forcefully articulated the fears and hopes of tribespeople. In 2000, two States, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, were formed to give more focused attention to the concentrated tribal population in these regions. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, was passed in 2006. Murmu's election is a milestone in the journey of tribal empowerment, though she is by no means limited to her identity. It is a moment of pride for India. For the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this is a moment of political triumph over the Opposition. Paving the way for a tribal woman to succeed a Dalit in the highest office, Modi has shown yet again his capacity to constantly script invigorating politics by gauging the political aspirations of marginalised communities and enlisting them for Hindutva politics. Murmu's elevation has elated tribespeople across the country, and this could convert into significant electoral gains for the BJP in the coming days. Her candidacy split the Opposition, as many members of the Shiv Sena and JMM supported her. Tribespeople have high expectations from Murmu's rise to the top, but that could be realised only if the Modi government backs up its symbolism with substance. This is the right moment to pay attention to the concerns that many tribal activists have been raising of a systematic erosion of protections accorded to tribals, harassment and suppression by the police, and a general intolerance of the state towards tribal autonomy. Murmu personally may have limited leeway in championing any political cause, but she has certainly become an inspiration for all disadvantaged sections of society women, tribals and the poor in general. To make her election more meaningful, state policy too must bend towards justice and fairness to all. Murmu's election should not be used as a convenient excuse for inaction on countering the wider disempowerment of tribespeople.

Is China a threat or an opportunity to Russia?

That was just another political talk show on Russian TV, and, to make things lively, the editors rolled out a question list to all the attendees: Is China a sincere and powerful friend to Moscow in the current crisis, or is it a very fickle friend not to be trusted?

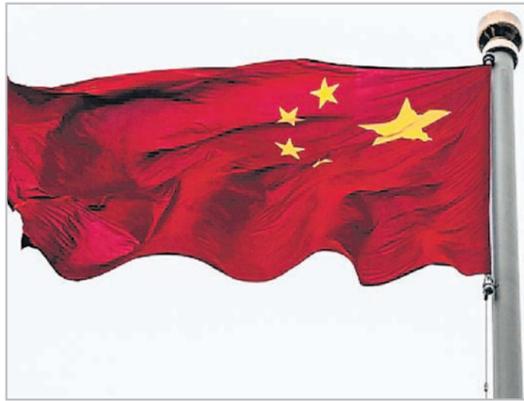
War, sanctions and a global crisis made such shows an intermittent fixture on all the main channels of Russian TV. Basically, they are all alike. Experts on foreign policy, on military questions and economy are standing or sitting in a circle and exchanging opinions.

Not every channel had such shows in the past, but now things are different. For the audiences, some of these have replaced even the news programs. After all, your country is at war, so you need not only facts, but their assessment -- constantly.

The problem is, the channels have to compete, so the shows need to be emotional, and your experts have to clash with each other. And what can be better for tickling the nerves of the audience, than debating on how reliable is China, Russia's #1 trading partner and a "strategic competitor" of the West.

At the show I've just attended as an expert on China, we were presented with a very familiar set of questions. We'll talk later about why it's familiar; let's see some of these questions right now.

Is China just using Russia in its own clash with the West? Is China really eager to replace the Western consumer goods and technologies, denied to Russia due to Western sanctions, or is it abandoning the Russian market? Does Russia feel comfortable with China's economic activities in Central Asia and every other area of the world? Will Russia, one day, become only a junior partner of its huge neighbour?



This set of questions is vital to millions and millions of very ordinary Russians. The things is, with China, a #1 economy in the world at our side, we may rest assured that our military will easily finish the task of putting an end to that endless Ukrainian civil war -- that, incidentally, is the real meaning of events unfolding in Ukraine these days. With China's help, the Western sanctions against Russia's economy will go on failing, while hurting the West, as they do now.

The Russian TV show I was attending evolved along predictable lines. These lines were dividing the experts who knew how "Xi Jinping" sounds in Russian, and the ones who could not really pronounce it. Meaning that the people who are just generally dabbling into foreign affairs have no idea about the exact facts. And facts do matter.

could never produce such amount of these by itself, only Russia can, and does.

And, no, nobody in Moscow (the people in the know, that is) is worried about the growing Chinese economic activities in Central Asia or anywhere else in the world.

There are two reasons for that, one is that Russia is not producing what China does, so we are not competing. The other is, Chinese presence is welcome anywhere if it squeezes out Western presence in all forms. And so it went on, point by point in the mentioned list of question marks about the essence of the Russo-Chinese alliance. So, where have we seen that list before?

Here you have to look at expert publications is several American magazines, from The National Interest to The American Conservative to the Foreign Affairs. One and the same idea is being discussed by many authors.

Namely, our (American, Western) war against Russia in Ukraine has failed, our sanctions have hurt ourselves more than anybody else and have alienated about two thirds of the world.

So it's time to stop posturing and making angry speeches, time to do the only thing that may yet work -- namely, look for splits that could, if we are lucky, crack the Russo-Chinese alliance, sow distrust and suspicions in the two societies.

But how exactly do you create that distrust? You introduce the proper

ideas into these societies, which are of course not isolated from the global media space. The only thing you need is to make a kind of a list of questions, that may shake folks in a serious way.

Which questions are these? Why, we have already listed them. Is China just using Russia in its own clash with the West? Will Russia, one day, become only a junior partner of its huge neighbour? And so on.

I've seen all these ideas all over the Western media, from where they spill into Russia over the non-existing information borders. In fact, I've seen similar lists in 2014, when the Western sanctions began in earnest after a referendum in formerly Ukrainian Crimea, that led to its incorporation into Russia. The very same ideas about China, the unreliable ally, were circulating then with dull regularity.

And if you are not Russian, but some other China's partner, the list will be slightly different. There you'll read about "predatory nature" of Chinese business and a "debt trap".

These primitive ideas are unlikely to impress the real experts, but then there are always the TV shows to promote them.

(Dmitry Kosyrev is a columnist for the Russian State agency website ria.ru, as well as for other publications)

international

Britain blocks University of Manchester to sell camera tech to Chinese firm

London | Agencies

In a first, the UK government has blocked University of Manchester from sharing motion camera technology with a Chinese firm over national security concerns, the media reported on Friday.

Kwasi Kwarteng who is business, energy and industrial strategy secretary stopped the university not to share the camera technology with Beijing Infinite Vision Technology, reports South China Morning Post.

"There is a potential that the technology could be used to build defence or technological capabilities, which may present national security risk to the United Kingdom," Kwarteng said in the order.

"Those risks would arise on the transfer of the intellectual property to the acquirer."

The University of Manchester and the Acquirer have entered into a licence agreement that enables the Acquirer to use intellectual property relating to SCAMP-5 and SCAMP7 vision sensing technology to develop, test and verify, manufacture, use, and sell licenced products. It was the first time the UK government used new powers to block a deal under the National Security and Investment



Act 2021. "The Secretary of State considers there is potential that the technology could be used to build defence or technological capabilities which may present national security risk to the UK and those risks would arise on the transfer of the intellectual property to the Acquirer," read the final order.

"The Secretary of State considers that the final order is necessary and proportionate to mitigate the risk to national security," it added. Kwarteng is separately conducting a full national security assessment of the \$75 million acquisition last year of the country's biggest semiconductor maker Newport Wafer Fab by Nexperia, a Dutch subsidiary of China's Wingtech Technology, the report noted.

Imran Khan warns Pakistan could turn into Sri Lanka if vote theft continues

Lahore | Agencies

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has warned of serious and dire consequences if political horse-trading and theft of votes, aimed at stealing the mandate of his party's candidate in the Punjab elections for the Chief Minister, continues.

He said that the open buying and selling of politicians and party members by other parties is a blatant violation of the norms of a democratic system, adding that if such practices do not stop, then Pakistan would become the next Sri Lanka.

"If this horse-trading and use of money to buy off our members does not stop, I am warning that Pakistan will become the next Sri Lanka," he said while addressing a gathering in Lahore.

"I will not be responsible for what happens next," he added, highlighting that his narrative of change and foreign conspiracy of regime change to oust his government has reached every house, which can trigger a major uproar plunging the country into a civil war between the people and the institutions.

Imran Khan's threat comes at a time when important elections for Punjab's Chief Minister are happening. And despite a clear majority of the PTI's candidate, reports of members missing and hefty amounts of money being offered by other parties is being openly practiced in what, Imran Khan called, "stealing the mandate" required to win the election



and take control of the country's largest province.

"Everyone knows that our party has full numbers for the election of its candidate Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as the Chief Minister of Punjab. If public mandate is bought with stolen money, then I will not be responsible for what happens. The people will now remain in my control because the nation has awakened. They will not sit idly

going on from both sides, with party members alleging opposition party members of offering them billions of rupees to abstain from taking part in the voting.

Analysts say that Imran Khan's political strength and demand for early general elections in the country will rely on the outcome of the Punjab elections. If his candidate wins, then forcing the federal government to announce early elections and bring in a caretaker setup through political pressure will become a much easier task. On the other hand, the government has maintained that it will not bow down to Khan's ongoing political campaigns and demands, stating that it will take difficult and unpopular decisions if needed but will complete its tenure.

Sri Lanka's new cabinet of ministers sworn in

Colombo: Eighteen ministers, including Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena were sworn into Sri Lanka's new cabinet before President Ranil Wickremesinghe in state capital Colombo on Friday.

The President's Office said that among those who took oaths as Cabinet Ministers were Ali Sabry as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Harin Fernando as the Minister of Tourism and Lands, Nalin Fernando as the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security, Kanchana Wijesekera as the Minister of Power and Energy. Dinesh Gunawardena was sworn in as the Prime Minister earlier in the day, and he also held the position of the minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government. The new Cabinet of Ministers was sworn in after Ranil Wickremesinghe won an election in parliament on July 20 to become the new President of Sri Lanka following the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Xinhua news agency reported.

S KOREA PROTESTS AGAINST JAPAN'S CLAIMS TO DOKDO IN DEFENSE WHITE PAPER

Seoul/Tokyo | Agencies

The South Korean government has condemned Japan on Friday for laying repeated claim to the easternmost islets of Dokdo in its annual defence white paper.

"(The government) strongly protests against Japan's repetition of its sovereignty claim over Dokdo, clearly an integral part of the Korean territory in terms of history, geography and international law, and urges it to immediately scrap it," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Choi Young-sam said in a statement. Such a move is of no help to efforts for building "future-oriented" bilateral relations, he added.

It was issued shortly after Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi reported this year's document to the Cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo. It marked the 18th consecutive year for Tokyo to claim its sovereignty over Dokdo in the paper on the nation's security conditions and its responses.

In Seoul, the Ministry summoned

Makoto Hayashi, Minister for Political Affairs at the Japanese Embassy, to deliver a formal protest message to Tokyo, Yonhap news agency reported.

In separate protest, Seoul's Defence Ministry called in Takao Nakashima, a defence attache at the embassy.

The paper was published just days after Foreign Minister Park Jin visited Tokyo for talks with his local counterpart, demonstrating President Yoon Suk-yeol's commitment to a resolution to disputes over shared history, especially Japan's colonisation of Korea from 1910-45.

The updated version carried largely similar descriptions on the territorial issue, a longtime sticking point in Seoul-Tokyo relations, with those of last year's one.

But it added a position that cooperation between the neighbouring countries is getting more important amid grave regional security situations.

Seoul has maintained its effective control of Dokdo with a small police detachment on the rocky islets in the East Sea.

RIO POLICE RAID LEAVES 18 DEAD IN FAVELAS

Sao Paulo: At least 18 persons were killed during a police raid targeting a crime group at the Almao favelas in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, police reported.

Among the dead were a 50-year-old woman, who was hit by a stray bullet during the raid, and a police officer, police spokesman Ivan Blaz said at a press conference on Thursday.

Four suspects accused of killing police officers were arrested during the operation, in which 400 officers were involved and supported by four helicopters and 10 armoured vehicles, Xinhua news agency reported.

Blaz described the situation in the region as "very tense," saying that the criminal ring had expanded from drug trafficking to robbing cargo trucks entering the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The dragnet aimed to locate and arrest the gang members, who planned to enter other favelas on Thursday to carry out vehicle thefts, Lieutenant Colonel Uira do Nascimento Ferreira of the Special Operations Battalion of the militarised police in Rio said at the press conference.

Harmful US border policies damaging to Mexico, millions of migrants: IRC

Mexico City | Agencies

Harmful border policies put in place by the US are damaging to Mexico and undermine the human rights of millions of migrants, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) said. Due to "inhumane border policies such as Title 42 and the Migrant Protection Protocols MPP program," migrants at the US-Mexico border "require humanitarian assistance in five critical aspects," including medical attention, food and safety, the IRC added in a press release on Thursday. "The implementation of harmful border policies ... has resulted in Mexico being forced to fulfill growing humanitarian needs," said Rafael Velasquez, the IRC's Director for Mexico, as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. Title 42 allows border agents to expel migrants and asylum-seekers without a court hearing over concerns of Covid-19 spread, reported US media. When expelled or



deported, "people can encounter dangers similar or worse than those they tried to flee from in the first place," said Velasquez, citing an IRC investigation of migrants in Mexican border cities. "International cooperation and funding are critical to support and strengthen existing protection and asylum systems and policies in Mexico to guarantee people's integrity, regardless of their nationality or status," he added. Founded at the call of Albert Einstein in 1933, the IRC helps people affected by humanitarian crises -- including the climate crisis -- to survive, recover and rebuild their lives.



MURMU GETS SUPPORT FROM 'MANY' NON-BJP MLAS IN MP: SHIVRAJ

19 non-BJP MLAs voted for Murmu in Madhya Pradesh: BJP

MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN HAS CLAIMED THAT SEVERAL NON-BJP MLAS HAVE ALSO VOTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT DROUPADI MURMU IN THE STATE. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES, 17 MPS AND 104 MLAS CROSS-VOTED FOR DROUPADI MURMU IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.



first woman President, who was elected during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.

Murmu will take oath as the 15th President of India on July 25 at the Parliament House, New Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh BJP leadership celebrated the occasion by congratulating the President-elect and thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for nominating her for the Presidential polls.

Notably, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tribals in India - about 21.5 per cent of the state's population (2011 Census). Out of a total of 230 assembly seats, 47 are reserved for STs. In 2018, the BJP won 16 seats in the state's tribal-dominated areas, against 31 in 2013. Of the 35 seats reserved for the SCs, the BJP won 17 in 2018, as compared to 28 in 2013.

According to government sources, 17 MPs and 104 MLAs cross-voted for Droupadi Murmu in the presidential election.

The ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh on Friday claimed as many as 19 MLAs from the opposition camp voted in favour of President-elect Droupadi Murmu in the poll for the top constitutional post.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Murmu scripted history on Thursday by becoming India's first tribal President in the one-sided contest, defeating Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha. Murmu, 64, won by an overwhelming margin against Sinha after receiving over 64 per cent valid votes in counting of ballots of MPs and MLAs, comprising the electoral college. The polling had taken place on July 18.

"Today, I can say with

pride that in Madhya Pradesh, 19 MLAs (from non-BJP background) voted as per the voice of their conscience in favour of sister Droupadi Murmu. It has exposed the anti-tribal face of former chief ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh (of the Congress)," state BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma told reporters.

"I thank all these 19 MLAs who cross-voted in this historic decision to show their participation in electing Droupadi Murmuji," Sharma said. In the 230-member

Assembly, the BJP has 127 MLAs and the Congress 96. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has two members, the Samajwadi Party (SP) one MLA, while there are four independent legislators in the House.

The BSP and the SP had formally extended their support to Murmu, who was the candidate of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Political parties can not issue a whip to their MLAs or MPs in the presidential poll which takes place through secret ballot.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has claimed that several non-BJP MLAs have also

voted in support of President-elect Droupadi Murmu in the state.

"In Madhya Pradesh, many non-BJP MLAs have also voted for Murmu ji with their conscience, and I would thank them all," Chouhan said.

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee, Odisha-born Murmu will be the first tribal and the second woman President of the country. Pratibha Patil (July 25, 2007 to July 25, 2012) was the country's

Students forced to reach school in MP dist by crossing river on ropes

A video has been making the rounds on social media in which the residents of a Madhya Pradesh village, including students, can be seen risking their lives to cross a river that has no bridge with the help of ropes -- similar to stunts performed in a circus.

the residents of a Madhya Pradesh village, including students, can be seen risking their lives to cross a river that has no bridge with the help of ropes -- similar to stunts performed in a circus.

The students of Gochpura village in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district reach school through this "short cut" route as the condition of the main road is apparently not apt for commuting.

Gochpura village is around 60 km from the district headquarters. The ropes have been tied to two trees on either side of the river that flows between the village and agricultural fields. The depth of the river is six feet while it is almost

20 feet wide.

In the video, the people can be seen holding on to one rope while keeping their balance on the other to cross the river. The students have been doing the same to reach school.

The authorities swung into action after they got information about the video that went viral on the internet. Naib Tehsildar Shailja Mishra told media-persons that she has been apprised of the matter, adding that senior officials went to counsel the villagers and convince them not to cross the river on ropes. Meanwhile, the ropes across the river have been cut, while directions have been issued to use the main commuting route.

Team Absolute | Guna

A video has been making the rounds on social media in which

MP Cong to fix accountability of leaders recommending names for tickets

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Next time, the Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh who will be recommending candidates' names for tickets for the elections will be responsible for winning that particular seat. This process was introduced for the first time as an experiment during the selection of candidates for the urban body elections which concluded recently. The state Congress leadership has now decided to continue with the system.

Sources in the state Congress, who are privy to the development, told IANS that state party chief Kamal Nath had introduced this system during the selection of candidates for the urban body elections. Now, after having won five mayoral posts in 16 municipal corporations in the state, Nath wants to continue with the system during the selection of candidates for the assembly elections in 2023. The sources informed that during the selection of



candidates for the mayoral and councillors' posts, the Congress leaders, who had recommended names, had given in writing that they will be accountable for the outcome of the results. "Kamal Nath has introduced this system to avoid factionalism among the party cadre and also to keep the ground level workers united. The party has received a positive response through the system and therefore, he (Nath) has decided to continue with this system," said a senior Congress functionary. The sources also claimed that out of the 16 mayoral candidates, most were selected by

Kamal Nath while two -- the Bhopal and Devas' mayoral candidates -- were recommended by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh. "The party is preparing lists of all leaders who had recommended names for candidates in urban body elections. The senior leaders will hold a meeting for an analysis of the overall outcome in the urban body elections. Leaders who had recommended the names for candidates will be called for their reply," the Congress functionary added.

Out of the 16 municipal corporations across Madhya Pradesh, the ruling BJP which had won all the mayoral posts in the last elections, could retain only nine, the Congress managed to win five mayoral posts, while debutant AAP and an Independent won one mayoral post each. It is the first time since 1999 that the Congress will have as many as five mayors after direct election for mayoral posts was introduced in Madhya Pradesh.

Collector will be the presiding officer: ELECTION OF DISTRICT PANCHAYAT PRESIDENT AND VP ON JULY 29

Bhopal: The State Election Commission has finalised the programme of meetings for the election of Deputy Sarpanch, President and Vice President of Janpad and District Panchayat. Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has informed that the meeting for the first phase of the election of Deputy Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat will be held on July 24, for the second phase on July 25 and for the third phase on July 26, 2022.

Similarly, the meeting for the election of President and Vice President of Janpad Panchayat will be held on July 27, 2022 for the first phase and on July 28, 2022 for the second phase. The meeting for the election of the President and the Vice President of the District Panchayat will be held on July 29, 2022. Singh has informed that the presiding officer will be the collector for the election of the president and vice-president of the district Panchayat.

IANS-CVoter National Mood Tracker:

Majority believe MP civic election results trailer of 2023 Assembly polls

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh suffered a setback in the municipal elections in the state.



respondents disagreed with the sentiments.

Interestingly, during the survey, a majority of both the opposition and NDA voters opined that the municipal election results are a trailer of 2023 Assembly polls in the state.

As per the survey data, 68 per cent of opposition voters and 65 per cent of NDA supporters believe that the civic election results in the state are an indication of a larger political scenario in the state ahead of 2023 Assembly polls in the state. Similarly, a majority of both the urban and rural voters said that results of Madhya Pradesh Municipal Elections are a curtain raiser for the next Assembly polls.

During the survey, 65 per cent urban voters and 64 per cent rural voters asserted that the outcome of local body elections is a trailer of the state Assembly elections slated to be held next year.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh suffered a setback in the municipal elections in the state.

The party has lost seven municipal corporations. After the counting of votes of two phases, while the BJP won nine municipal corporations, the Congress registered victory in five.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and an independent candidate got one seat each for a total of 413 municipalities, including 16 Nagar Palika Nigam, 99 Nagar Palika Parishads and 298 Nagar

Parishads were held in two phases on July 6 and July 13. CVoter-IndiaTracker conducted a nationwide survey for IANS to know the people's views about the results of local body election in view of the upcoming Assembly elections in the state in 2023. During the survey, the majority of respondents - 66 per cent stressed that these election results should be seen as a prelude to the Assembly polls scheduled to be held next year. However, 34 per cent of the

DIGVIJAYA SINGH, PREMCHAND GUDDU GET BAIL IN ABETMENT TO VIOLENCE CASE

Indore: Former chief minister Digvijaya Singh and former Ujjain MP Premchand Guddu got regular bail on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 each in a 10-year-old case of abetment to violence and voluntarily causing hurt.

Singh and Guddu were present before a session court in the district on Thursday to complete bail formalities. The duo had been convicted under section 109 of IPC for abetment to violence along with four others Jai Singh Darbar, Anant Narayan Meena, Aslam Lala, and Dileep Chaudhary and under section 326 for voluntarily causing hurt on March 26 this year. The court had then granted bail to the leaders for appeal period, which ended recently. The case is related to an incident of July 2011, when BJP Yuva Morcha members showed black flags during a demonstration, stopping convoy of Digvijay Singh in Ujjain. BJYM members had alleged that they were beaten up by Congress members causing injuries to them. A FIR was registered at Jeevaji police station in Ujjain against the accused. Names of Digvijaya Singh and five others including Premchand Guddu were later added in case registered under section 307, 29323, 324 for attempt to murder and beating. Later, charges under section 307 were revised to 326 of IPC on direction of MP high court.

If there is tripping even after maintenance, then give notice to the officials

Team Absolute | Bhopal

If tripping occurs again after five days of maintenance, then issue a notice to the concerned officers and ask the reason. Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar gave these instructions during the review of the districts of Gwalior and Chambal divisions. Tomar reviewed the departmental works through video conferencing from Bhopal.

Tomar said that on the complaint of electricity consumers, the vehicle of the team going for repairing work should be in good condition. Along with this, necessary equipment should also be there in it. Tomar said that maintenance of power lines and transformers should be done on war footing. In this, tripping due to tree twigs and bushes will be prevented. The maintenance work should be inspected regularly by the



Divisional Engineer. He said that if there is any shortage of material, then I should be informed. Also make entry of maintenance in Google sheet.

Tomar directed to provide a Hydra to Gwalior to rectify the power faults in the poles. Complaints received at the help desk should be expeditiously resolved. Pick up the customers' phone immediately. He said that estimates should be made for electrification in un-electrified colonies. Start approved works soon. Pay special attention to quality in works.

WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE AND SPEEDY REDRESSAL OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

Bhopal: A one-day "State Level Workshop" would be on 23 July at 9:30 am on "Effective and Speedy Redressal of Consumer Complaints" by the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at RCVN Noronha Academy of Administration and Management. The workshop will begin in the chief hospitality of the Chairman of the Commission, Justice Shantanu Kemkar. In the workshop, specific provisions of Consumer Protection Act 2019, issues related to quick resolution of cases, life insurance, general insurance, health insurance, crop insurance, medical neglect, electricity and bank services, implementation of orders in the context of Consumer Protection Act 2019, e-commerce and product liability, mediation in the context of Consumer Protection Act 2019, services related to house construction, establishment and disposal of cases in district consumer commissions will be discussed.

CM PLANTS CHAMPA SAPLING IN TRIPUR SUNDARI MANDIR TRIPURA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a 'Champa' sapling along with his family in Tripur Sundari Mandir premises during his stay in Tripura today. Chouhan wished for joy, prosperity and happiness in every home along with greenery all over India. The Champa planted today is commonly used to enhance the beauty of homes, public areas and gardens. Champa grows to a height of about 15 to 25 feet.



DRIVER'S BID TO OVERTAKE LED TO BUS FALLING IN RIVER: COPS

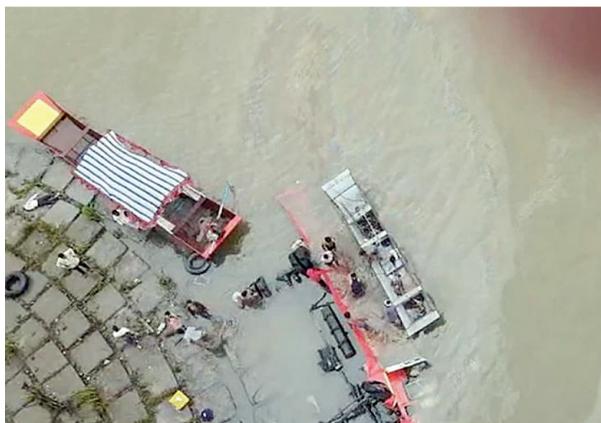
The accident had occurred at 10.15 am on Monday between Khalghat and Thigari in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, nearly three hours after the bus left Indore city at 7.30 am for Amalner in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Maharashtra state transport bus driver's attempt to overtake resulted in the vehicle plunging into the Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh, in which 13 passengers were killed earlier this week, police said on Friday.

The accident had occurred at 10.15 am on Monday between Khalghat and Thigari in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, nearly three hours after the bus left Indore city at 7.30 am for Amalner in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra. Of the dead, seven passengers hailed from Maharashtra, four from Rajasthan and one from Indore.

"As per the probe, the accident took place after the man at the wheel tried to overtake a truck running ahead of it. In the process, the driver increased the



speed of the bus, but lost control over the vehicle, which fell into the river after breaking off the railings on the bridge," district superintendent of police (SP) in MP's Khargone, D S Yadav, said over phone. The police have recorded the statement of a man, who was going on a motorcycle behind the bus when it fell into the river. He is the only witness of the accident, he said.

It was he who informed the police about the mishap minutes after the

bus fell down, the official said. "On the basis of his statement, a case was registered against the dead driver Chandrakant Eknath Patil (45), a resident of Amalner in Jalgaon under section 304 (a) (deaths caused by negligence) of India Penal Code," he added. The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has also set up a committee to probe the accident.

CM GREETES SHOOTING PLAYERS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended heartiest greetings to the national team for securing the first position by winning 25 medals including 12 gold medals in the International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup. CM Chouhan said that the players of Madhya Pradesh have boosted the national pride by making a golden contribution in the splendid performance of the Indian team in the championship held in Cairo. Chouhan has also congratulated the top shooters Sanjeev Rajput, Tejasvini Sawant, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Sunidhi Chauhan and other players who took training in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan also congratulated their coaches and fellow staff for this glorious performance.

CM CHOUHAN CONGRATULATES STUDENTS PASSING CBSE CLASS 12TH

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended warm wishes to all the students who have passed the class 12th examination of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Chouhan also congratulated all the teachers and guardians. He urged the students to work hard in the same way in future also and reach the pinnacle of success. Chouhan said that the children, who have not been able to achieve success in the examination results declared today, should not be disappointed. There is also the option of re-examination.

MADHYA PRADESH BAGS MOST FILM FRIENDLY STATE AWARD

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulated the people of Madhya Pradesh for bagging the Most Film Friendly State Award at the 68th National Film Awards 2022. Chouhan has said that this achievement is a matter of great joy and pride for all of us.



AMANDA SEYFRIED 'BENT OVER BACKWARDS' TRYING TO LAND ARIANA GRANDE'S 'WICKED' ROLE

'Mamma Mia!' actress Amanda Seyfried admits she "bent over backwards" to try and land the lead role in 'Wicked', which went to Ariana Grande.

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Mamma Mia!' actress Amanda Seyfried admits she "bent over backwards" to try and land the lead role in 'Wicked', which went to Ariana Grande. She told Backstage: "Last summer, while I was playing Elizabeth [Holmes], on the weekends I was auditioning in person to play Glinda in the movie version of Wicked - because I wanted it that much."

"I was like, 'You know what? Yeah, I have to play the last scene of The Dropout on Tuesday. I'll give my Sunday to you'. I literally bent over backwards while playing the hardest role of my life."

Seyfried said the experience was still worthwhile, as she was able to realise how she has developed as a singer, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She added: "I think it also taught me how far I've come as a singer, which I really wanted to prove. Because ever since 'Les Miz' I was like, 'I need to be better. I need to do better.' So whatever comes next in terms of musicals, I'm finally prepared."

She has made no secret of her desire to play Glinda on the big screen, and back in 2015 she spoke of her desire to be part of a potential film adaptation of the 'Wizard of Oz' prequel.

With the film entering early stages of development at the time, she said: "I might be too old when they make it. Or if they make it sooner than later, maybe I'm not the right person."

"I just still - I want it. I want to present myself and be a good candidate."

Meanwhile, director Jon M. Chu previously revealed he was moved to tears by Grande and Cynthia's auditions for Glinda and Elphaba respectively.

Responding to a fan who called for the audition footage to be made public, Jon tweeted: "It's SO good. The whole room was in tears."

"I think one of the most overlooked facts of the #WickedMovie Casting was that EVERYONE HAD to audition. NO straight offers they showed up! It was incredibly humbling to witness these actors spill their guts on the floor for this movie."

Singer Ricky Martin's husband Juan Yosef posted a photograph of the couple after the court appearance, captioned with "Truth prevails".

Ricky Martin's nephew withdraws harassment complaint against popstar

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Ricky Martin's husband Juan Yosef posted a photograph of the couple after the court appearance, captioned with "Truth prevails".

According to Variety, Martin's nephew withdrew his harassment and affair claims against the singer in a July 21 court appearance, which effectively closed the case.

Joaquin Monserrate Matienzo, Carmelo Davila and Harry Massanet Pastrana, the attorneys for Martin, released a statement about the dismissal. "Just as we had anticipated, the temporary protection order was not extended by the Court," the statement read.

"The accuser confirmed to the court that his decision to dismiss the matter was his alone, without any outside influence or pressure, and the accuser confirmed he was satisfied with his legal representation in the matter."

"The request came from the accuser asking to dismiss the case. This was never anything more than a troubled



individual making false allegations with absolutely nothing to substantiate them. We are glad that our client

saw justice done and can now move forward with his life and his career." Martin appeared virtually in a

Puerto Rico court to address the allegations made by his 21-year-old nephew.

Prior to this in early July, Martin had been served a restraining order by his nephew that cited abuse.

Martin had denied the allegations against him, with the singer's lawyer offering a statement regarding the matter last Friday.

"Ricky Martin has, of course, never been "and would never be" involved in any kind of sexual or romantic relationship with his nephew," Martin Singer, Martin's attorney, said.

"The idea is not only untrue, it is disgusting. We all hope that this man gets the help he so urgently needs. But, most of all, we look forward to this awful case being dismissed as soon as a judge gets to look at the facts."

His brother also maintains that Martin's nephew is "struggling with deep mental health challenges."

Beyond this case, Martin is currently facing other legal troubles, with his former manager suing him for \$3 million, claiming that he owes her unpaid commissions, reports Variety.



Beyonce's 'Renaissance' includes Drake, Jay-Z, Pharrell Williams

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Beyonce has shared the credits for her seventh full-length solo album titled 'Renaissance'.

The album includes names such as Drake, Jay-Z and Pharrell, veteran hit-makers like The-Dream, Raphael Saadiq, Hit Boy, Mike Dean and Nova Wav, and some unknowns who are having their first entries on Genius.com, reports Variety.

Based on the songwriting credits revealed in Apple Music's collaborators include: Drake, on the song 'Heated', Jay-Z, with credits on three songs, Pharrell Williams, likely in collaboration with his Neptunes partner Chad Hugo, Nigerian singer Tems, Solange/ D'Angelo collabora-

tor Raphael Saadiq, R&B chanteuse Sabrina Claudio.

Longtime Beyonce collaborator The-Dream ('Single Ladies', 'Who Run the World (Girls)') on multiple songs, Longtime Jay-Z/ Kanye West collaborator No I.D.,

Songwriting/production duo Nova Wav PC Records founder and Charli XCX collaborator A. G. Cook, R&B singer and former Odd Future member Syd, longtime Kanye West collaborator Mike Dean, artist/producer

Labrinth, star producer and Chic co-founder Nile Rodgers, although it seems possible it could be a sample and DJ/producer Honey Dijon.

Veteran hip-hop producer Hit-Boy and what appear to be samples of songs involving James Brown, Giorgio Moroder and Donna Summer.

Singer Beyonce has shared the credits for her seventh full-length solo album titled 'Renaissance'.

ALICIA SILVERSTONE STILL SLEEPS NEXT TO HER 11-YEAR-OLD SON

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Alicia Silverstone still sleeps next to her 11-year-old son Bear and says that she is simply "following nature" with her parenting style.

Speaking on 'The Ellen Fisher Podcast', Silverstone said: "If you were in any kind of wild setting where there are animals... if you put your baby over there, your baby is going to get eaten. It's not ideal for the baby to be over there."

She also praised motherhood as "the most precious, most unbelievable experience in this world," adding that "For me, it's so divine." And she revealed that she initially wanted four children but her obsession with Bear and her split from his father, led to her being a mother of one. She explained: "I wanted to have more (kids), but then my relationship got messed up, and it wasn't a great time to bring one in. I didn't want to have one right away because I was so in love with my Bear. "I wanted to squeeze every little moment out of him, so it wasn't until he was like three that I was ready to make another baby and then I didn't have a partner, so that's why I don't have four babies."

The actress previously shared that she took Bear to watch her classic teen romance 'Clueless' when he was just five years old and he loved it. She said: "He saw 'Clueless' when he was five, because it was on at the Hollywood (Forever) Cemetery. ... Four thousand people came to see and I couldn't pass that experience up, of watching it under the stars, pillows on the ground." "He was so young and it's not appropriate, I think, for a five-year-old to watch that movie... it's all about sex and stuff, so I just thought, 'Oops'. But, at the time... he loved it."

She said that Bear "picked up" a new way of showing affection his to mother, who played the lead role Cher Horowitz in the movie. Silverstone said: "But what he really picked up [on is] he tried to kiss me, like, passionate kisses, because that's what he saw in the movie."



Amber files notice of appeal against \$10 mn defamation suit

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Amber Heard filed a notice of appeal on Thursday of the \$10 million defamation verdict that a Virginia jury awarded to her ex-husband and Hollywood star Johnny Depp. os Angeles, Hollywood actress Amber Heard filed a notice of appeal on Thursday of the \$10 million defamation verdict that a Virginia jury awarded to her ex-husband and Hollywood star Johnny Depp.

Heard's lawyers had announced that they would appeal immediately after the jury found on June 1 that she had defamed Depp by publishing an op-ed in the Washington Post in which she described herself as a "public figure representing domestic abuse, reports Variety. The jury held that the statement was false and was made with "actual malice."

"We believe the court made errors that prevented a just and fair verdict consistent with the First Amendment," Heard's spokesperson said on Thursday. "We are therefore appealing the verdict. While we realise today's filing will ignite the Twitter bonfires, there are steps we need to take to ensure both fairness and justice." In response, Depp's representative said that his team remains confident the verdict will be upheld. "The jury listened to the extensive evidence presented during the six-week trial and came to a clear and unanimous verdict that the defendant herself defamed Mr. Depp, in multiple instances," his spokesperson said. "We remain confident in our case and that this verdict will stand." The jury found that three statements in the op-ed were defamatory, and awarded \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages. The punitive damages award was then lowered to \$350,000 to comply with Virginia's statutory cap. The jury also found Depp liable for a statement made by his attorney, Adam Waldman, in which he accused Heard of fabricating a "hoax".

The jury ordered Depp to pay \$2 million for that statement.

According to Variety, Heard's lawyers had previously asked Judge Penney Azcarate to set aside the verdict for several reasons, including the allegation that one of the jurors showed up to the trial despite never receiving a summons. Azcarate denied Heard's request, finding that she had waited too long to raise her objection and had not shown she was denied a fair trial.



Tyra Banks



IND V WI, 1ST ODI:

WEST INDIES WIN TOSS, ELECT TO BOWL FIRST AGAINST INDIA

Port of Spain | Agencies

West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran has won the toss and elected to bowl first against India in the first ODI at Queen's Park Oval here on Friday. This is also the first time Queen's Park Oval is hosting an international match after August 2019.

After winning the toss, Pooran said all-rounder Jason Holder misses out due to contracting Covid-19. "Just due to the weather and start time (on bowling first). We will look to use the conditions. Happy to be at my home ground. We spoke about batting through the innings and build partnerships. We will try our best to improve. (Kyle) Mayers is back from injury. Rest are the same from the Bangladesh series."



India captain Shikhar Dhawan said he wanted to bat second due to the sticky nature of the wicket, considering the rain factor looming

around. "I am a very cool captain, will hope to keep the energy up. Take good decisions and keep the process strong. The bench strength is

complementary with the domestic and IPL cricket." "This is a great opportunity to showcase talent, show fight, and win the series.

Surya, Shreyas, and Samson are all good, even myself. We get support here, from abroad and locals which is good."

Playing XI:

India: Shubman Gill, Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Deepak Hooda, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna.

West Indies: Shai Hope, Kyle Mayers, Shamrah Brooks, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran (captain), Rovman Powell, Romario Shepherd, Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales, Gudakesh Motie and Akeal Hosein

IND v WI, 1st ODI: Ravindra Jadeja ruled out of first two ODIs due to right-knee injury

Port of Spain | Agencies

Left-arm spin all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been ruled out of the first two ODIs against the West Indies in Port of Spain, Trinidad due to a right knee injury, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Jadeja was appointed as the vice-captain to Shikhar Dhawan for the three-match ODI series in the Caribbean.

"Team India all-rounder Mr. Ravindra Jadeja has sustained an injury to his right knee and has been ruled out of the first two ODIs against West Indies. The BCCI Medical team is monitoring his progress and a decision on his participation in the third ODI will be taken accordingly," said the BCCI through its official Twitter handle.

In the absence of Jadeja, middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer has been named as the vice-captain in India's playing eleven for the first ODI against the West Indies at Queen's Park Oval on Friday. Earlier, on the eve of the



match, in the pre-match press conference, Dhawan had said that he was unaware whether Jadeja, 33, would be available for the ODI series opener.

"Right now, he has a bit of a niggle so we don't know whether he will be ready or not for the first ODI. Other than that, Siraj is there, Prasidh is there, and we have got amazing fast bowling. In spin, Axar Patel is there and Yuzvendra Chahal is there, we have a good bunch of

bowling unit so it will be very impactful."

Meanwhile, premier West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder was ruled out of the first ODI due to testing positive for Covid-19, Romario Shepherd, all-rounder and reserve player comes into the playing eleven. "Jason Holder tested positive for Covid-19 and is unavailable for today. Romario Shepherd has been drafted into the squad," said an official update from Cricket West Indies (CWI).

Australia's Usman Khawaja feels ODI cricket is "dying a slow death"

Brisbane | Agencies

Australia batter Usman Khawaja feels that ODI cricket is "dying a slow death" and added that he was not surprised over all-rounder Ben Stokes, England's Test skipper, calling it quits from the 50-over game, citing "unsustainable" workload of playing all formats in international cricket.

"My own personal opinion - I know a few of the guys are very similar - you've got Test cricket, which is the pinnacle, you've got T20 cricket, which obviously has leagues around the world, great entertainment, everyone loves it, and then there's one-day cricket."

"I feel like that's probably the third-ranked out of all of them. I think personally one-day cricket is dying a slow death...there's still the World Cup, which I think is really fun and it's enjoyable to watch, but other than that, even myself personally, I'm probably not into one-day cricket as much either," said Khawaja to media persons in Brisbane.

Khawaja, who last played an ODI for Australia since the 2019 Men's Cricket World Cup, believes that 50-over matches are of very little importance due to the Men's T20 World Cup happening in October-November in the country. Before defending their T20 World Cup title at home, Australia are scheduled to



play three ODIs each against Zimbabwe and New Zealand in Townsville and Cairns respectively. They will then fly to India for a short, three-match T20I series before facing West Indies in two T20Is and England in three T20Is at home, as part of preparation for the 2022 Men's T20 World Cup. "Right now it (ODIs) feels like it's not really that important because of the T20 World

Cup. Something has to give, because you can't have all three formats all together playing all the games; you're going to have to decide and choose. I don't know how it's going to go. I think T20 cricket's here to stay definitely, Test cricket's here to stay definitely. But what happens to one-day cricket?"

Khawaja, who has been in the Test side since making a stellar comeback by notching up twin centuries in fourth Ashes Test at Sydney, admitted that it wouldn't be easy for a cricketer to play all three formats of the game.

"Not impossible, (but) very tough. So much travelling. If you're playing all three forms of the game, you're not at home at all really. And then the demands on your body, mentally, physically and a lot of the guys might be playing also the IPL. There's a lot of cricket going on. Yes, you get to pick and choose, I guess, in certain respects what you want to play but look, it can be very tough at the moment."

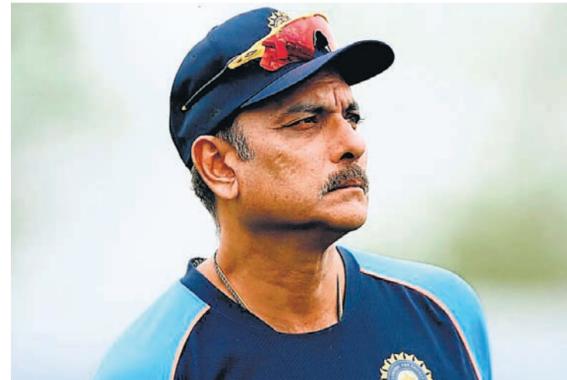
Keep Test cricket to top six teams; respect quality over quantity: Ravi Shastri

Manchester | Agencies

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri stated that Test cricket should be restricted to only the top six teams in the format. Shastri, who is currently working in the United Kingdom for Sky Sports as a member of their commentary team, further said that emphasis has to be put on white-ball cricket and that it can be used to spread the game all over the world, citing the football model.

"You cannot have 12 teams or ten teams. You keep the top six, keep the quality and respect quality over quantity. That's the only way you open a window for other cricket to be played. Expand teams in one-day cricket and T20 cricket if you want the game to spread. But Test cricket will have to reduce the number of teams that play."

"The bottom line, it's the football model. You've got the EPL, La Liga, the German league, the South America Copa America. In the future it's going to be like that, you'll have one World Cup, the big one and then the rest of it will be all different leagues happening around the



world," said Shastri.

Adding to the way he wants the Test format, Shastri insisted that the format wouldn't be limited to only six sides, but teams will have to qualify for being part of the top six to be able to play the format. As per current rankings, the top six ranked teams in Test cricket are Australia, India, South Africa, England, New Zealand and Pakistan.

As per Shastri's proposal, teams

such as West Indies, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka would miss out on playing Tests, so as do Afghanistan and Ireland, which aren't on the Test rankings yet.

"Whether it's India, Australia, or England you have to qualify for red-ball series if you want to be around to play Test match cricket. Then it doesn't matter if England doesn't go to the West Indies, or West Indies come to England. If they're in the top six, they

play, but if they're not in the top six they don't play."

In complete contrast to Shastri's views, West Indies beat England 1-0 in a three-match series in March while Sri Lanka recently drew their two-match Test series against Australia 1-1. When asked if he would be pleased with keeping Test cricket to just six teams, Shastri, the former India all-rounder, replied in the affirmative.

"Absolutely. Because what is Test cricket? It tests you and for that you need quality. If there's no quality then who's going to watch it? You're going to have three-day games, two-day games if the position is not right."

"If you have countries who have never played Test cricket and then you say 'come to India' or 'come to England', in bowler-friendly conditions the game over in two days, two-and-a-half days. And you've taken money from the broadcaster for five days."

"So he's going to be unhappy, the fans are going to be unhappy and the standard is going to go down. Quality is important and in that format of the game extremely important for cricket to survive in the future."

MEG LANNING, TAHLIA MCGRATH, BOWLERS STAR IN AUSTRALIA'S 63-RUN WIN OVER IRELAND

Bready (Ireland) | Agencies

Half-centuries from captain Meg Lanning (74) and Tahlia McGrath (70) set up Australia's thumping 63-run win over Ireland in the fourth match of the Women's Tri-Series.

After Meg and Tahlia powered Australia to 182-4 in 20 overs, the highest total of the series so far, leg-spinner Alana King took 2-11 from three overs and was backed by left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen and pacer Megan Schutt picking two wickets each to restrict Ireland to 119-7 in 20 overs.

Ireland enjoyed a fine start with the ball, limiting Australia to 39-2 after six overs. Georgina Dempsey was the first bowler to strike, trapping Alyssa Healy lbw for 1. While Meg immediately looked at home out in the middle, Australia dealt another blow when Rachel Delaney struck in her first over as Beth Mooney failed to get the right connection off a full toss, giving a catch to mid-on and depart for 9.

That brought Meg together with Tahlia and after a quiet couple of overs, a pair of sixes from the visiting captain off Arlene Kelly's second over got Australia moving. Regular boundaries followed as Meg and Tahlia targeted all corners of the ground; the former brought up her half-century off 31 balls while the latter took 30. Together their partnership was worth 135, the highest third-wicket stand for Australia Women in T20Is.

Meg finally departed for 74 in the penultimate over of the innings, when Georgina took an excellent catch at deep square leg off the bowling of Arlene. Teenager Georgina was in the action once again in the final over, removing Tahlia for 70 as she finished with figures of 2-35 from her four overs. There were economical displays from Leah Paul (0-20 off three overs) and Ava Canning (0-18 off her three) but Australia's total of 182-4



was an imposing one.

Australia made inroads with the ball quickly, with Rebecca Stokell departing for 1 in the first over of the reply to Megan. Fellow opener Gaby Lewis found Meg's safe hands off the bowling of Jess in the fourth over. But Orla Prendergast looked in fine touch, hitting four boundaries to move to 20 off just 13 balls.

A healthy partnership was brewing between skipper Laura Delany and Orla, but their stand of 36 was broken by Alana luring the latter down the ground only for the ball to sneak through the advance and strike the stumps. She struck once again in her next over, turning the ball past

Rachel Delaney to have the right-hander stumped for 3.

Australia's bowlers tied down run-scoring in the middle overs and regular wickets meant Ireland were unable to pose a significant threat as the innings wound down. Orla finished as Ireland's top-scorer with 25, but not enough for the hosts to avoid a thrashing from the World Champions.

Brief Scores: Australia 182-4 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 74, Tahlia McGrath 70; Georgina Dempsey 2-35) beat Ireland 119-7 in 20 overs (Orla Prendergast 25, Laura Delany 21; Alana King 2-11, Megan Schutt 2-16) by 63 runs

Over 500 players, including 24 from Khelo India University Games, in PKL player auction

Mumbai | Agencies

More than 500 kabaddi exponents are expected to enter the fray when the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 player auction takes place in Mumbai on August 5-6, according to PKL organisers Mashal Sports.

In a bid to bring in more youngsters to compete in the popular league, 24 players from the top-two teams of Khelo India University Games, 2021 will be included in the auction pool, said the organisers on Friday.

The Domestic, Overseas, and New Young Players (NYPs) will be divided into four categories -- A, B, C and D in the player auction. The players will be further sub-divided as 'All-Rounders', 'Defenders' and 'Raiders' within each category. The base prices for each of the categories are: Category A - Rs 30 Lakhs, Category B - Rs 20 Lakhs, Category C - Rs 10 Lakhs and Category D - Rs 6 Lakhs. The total salary purse available to each franchise for its squad for Season 9 is Rs 4.4 crore.

The league commissioner, Anupam Goswami, said, "Every season has witnessed the emergence of new talented players and I am certain there are a lot of surprises in store for us this year as well. I look forward to welcoming the young talents from the Khelo India University Games into the player auctions. PKL Season 9 will be organized in liaison with our stakeholders and associates in



the national kabaddi ecosystem under the AKFI."

The PKL teams also have a choice of retention of players from their respective PKL Season 8 squads as per the league policies. The franchises are allowed to retain up to six players under the 'Elite Retained Players' category and up to four 'New Young Players' (NYPs) under stipulated conditions in each PKL season. The players, who are not retained by the franchises from the pool of 500-plus players, will go under the hammer during the two-day auction process in Mumbai.

Satyam Trivedi, head, Adani Sportline, said, "After a successful Season 8, all the players are eagerly waiting to step on the mat once again. We at Gujarat Giants are looking forward to some exciting bids and build a strong squad for the upcoming Season 9."

Karan Johar opens up on being trolled for favouring Janhvi Kapoor over Sara Ali Khan, says 'that's completely untrue'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Karan Johar's popular talk show is back with a bang after a hiatus of two years. So far, it's been three weeks since the show started streaming. The first episode starred Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, while the second featured tinsel town BFFs, Janhvi Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan.

While many netizens lauded their camaraderie, there are many who slammed Johar for favouring Kapoor over Khan and calling the former hotter and more glamorous.

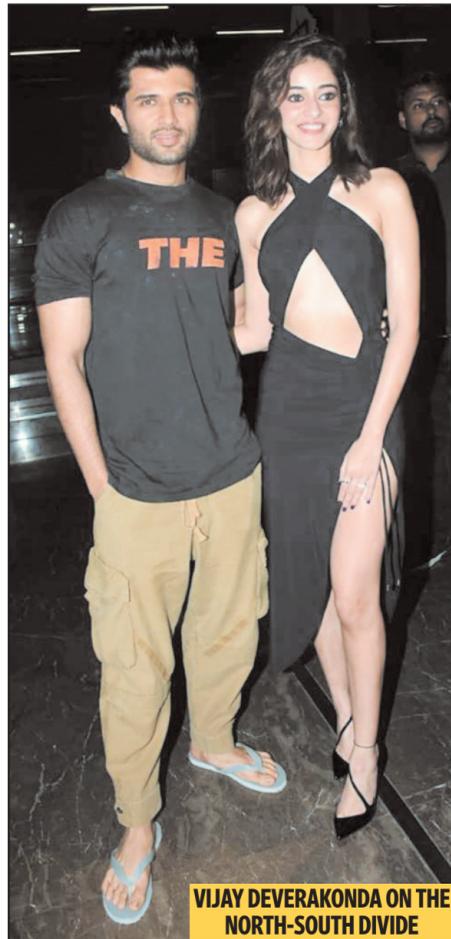
The filmmaker is currently promoting Liger starring Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Panday. At the trailer launch event in Mumbai, the actor was asked about it. He vehemently denied doing so and quipped, "I have to say it is completely untrue. I was just feeling bad because Janhvi lost both rounds (the rapid fire and the quiz). I was perhaps trying to be nice. In that process, everybody read it wrong. I love both (Kapoor and Khan) dearly. They are wonderful artists and girls. I have known them since they were kids. There is no question of bias."

Karan Johar further spoke about being irked by indifference and despite people commenting, there is a lot of love coming his way. Opening up about how does he process this kind of validation, the filmmaker said, "I have learnt to take it in my stride. I have no problem with hate. I have a big problem with indifference. I would love the love. As long as you don't ignore me, I am fine. People can troll me



and say whatever they want and I respect everyone's opinions. I am not here to please the world. I just want to make sure the world knows me".

Talking about Liger, helmed by Puri Jagannadh, the film marks Mike Tyson's debut in the Indian cinema and is slated to release on 25th August.



VIJAY DEVERAKONDA ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN IT'S JUST INDIAN CINEMA AND ACTORS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Panday's much-awaited Pan-India film Liger's trailer was unveiled on 21st July. After a mammoth event in Hyderabad, the team arrived in Mumbai for the trailer launch of the film. The event was attended by the cast and makers of the film and graced by Ranveer Singh's presence.

During the press conference at the event, the actor was asked about his excitement in the Hindi cinema and how he sees the crossbreed of two cinemas. Talking about his love to tell stories to a large audience, Vijay said, "I see it as a personal dream and ambitions coming to life".

He further expressed gratitude towards Ranveer Singh and quipped about the north and south industry working with each other. He asserted, "The film fraternity has always been an industry where technicians and actors from the South have been working in North and vice-versa. In fact, actors like Anil Kapoor and Sridevi made their debut down South. It's been an industry which has always been working with each other. It's just that now we are doing cinema where the entire country watches and it's about time that this happens. I am looking forward to the day when it is no longer called North and South and just called Indian cinema and actors. That is what we should look forward to." Boxing legend Mike Tyson will also be making his debut in the Indian cinema with the flick. He will be seen in a cameo in Vijay Deverakonda's starter and a glimpse of it is seen in the trailer. Sharing his experience of working with Mike Tyson, the actor said, "My mother was very scared and was constantly praying whenever I was shooting with Mike Tyson. She even applied sacred ash and vermilion before we jetted off to shoot and called my crew member to ensure my safety. Despite that, I still got punched during the shoot (chuckles)."

Ranveer Singh appears naked on his most recent magazine cover

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Actor Ranveer Singh is determined to break the internet in some way. He appeared naked on his most recent magazine cover. To refresh your memory, this is the same magazine that "broke the internet" for the first time in 2014 with the iconic Kim Kardashian champagne pictorial. Ranveer appears in the images wearing nothing but his birthday suit and sitting on a Turkish mat. He made several stances inspired by Burt Reynolds' comparable naked cover photo. Ranveer speaks about his films, clothes, and his overall comfort with nakedness in the magazine interview. "It's so simple for me to be physically nude, but I've been darn f'ing naked in some of my performances. My fing spirit is visible to you. How exposed is that? That is being completely nude. I don't care if I'm nude in front of a thousand people. It's only that they become uneasy" he stated during the interview. The whole interview may be seen on the Paper magazine website.

The images were posted on Instagram by several Bollywood accounts. Some people felt Ranveer was influenced by Milind Soman. "Milind walked so Ranveer could run," one person remarked. Another pondered Deepika Padukone's reply, asking, "Deepika didi yeh dekh ke kya bolegi?"

Ranveer recently appeared in OTT interactive special Ranveer versus Wild, which included Bear Grylls. Furthermore, it has been alleged that he just purchased a new house for Rs. 119 crores near Shah Rukh Khan's Mannat.

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone are travelling at an unknown location to celebrate the latter's birthday. The Jayeshbhai Jordaar actor will next be seen in Rohit Shetty's Cirkus, with Jacqueline Fernandes and Pooja Hegde. The film is set to be released on Christmas 2022. Aside from that, Ranveer has Rocky aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani, in which he co-stars alongside Alia Bhatt, Dharmendra, Shabana Azmi, and Jaya Bachchan. The film is scheduled to be released in theatres on February 11, 2023.

MANUSHI CHHILLAR: I HAVE BEEN NOTICED BECAUSE OF MY WORK IN DEBUT FILM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Manushi Chhillar, who will be seen starring opposite actor John Abraham in the upcoming film 'Tehran', believes that she has been noticed because of her work in her debut film 'Samrat Prithviraj'. "Tehran" is a film inspired by true events and Manushi is ecstatic to have landed her third big Bollywood project. She says: "I'm thrilled to have signed my third film and it's amazing that I have been noticed because of my work in debut film in which I really put in my everything."

"I personally love this genre of films that are inspired by true events and I hope to do my best in Tehran. I have to thank my producer Dinesh Vijan for his trust in me and for making me a part of this incredible project." The young actress adds: "I'm really looking forward to working with John Abraham and creatively collaborating with him in Tehran. I thank my director Arun Gopalan for believing that I can be a part of his vision."

"It is amazing to be associated with such big projects at the start of my career and this validates my belief in myself as an actor. I want to give it my all in Tehran and I hope I get love from media and audiences."

Manushi is happy that the media and audience have also loved her new look in the film. She adds: "I sport a new look in this film and I'm really excited about it. I want to do varied roles and be a part of the best films being made by our industry."

"Tehran" gives me an opportunity to shine bright and I hope I can do justice to the role on screen. I will work very hard for it."

A Maddock Films production in association with Bake My Cake Films, 'Tehran' has been directed by Arun Gopalan, written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma, produced by Dinesh Vijan, Shobhna Yadav and Sandeep Leyzell.



Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Rashmika Mandanna, now better known as Srivalli of 'Pushpa: The Rise', is the talk of the town with multiple project releases across industries. The actress is now heading to Delhi for the shoot of 'Animal' co-starring Ranbir Kapoor. A source close to the actress revealed that "This is the first time Rashmika will be visiting Delhi for the shoot of 'Animal' and other work commitments. She is very excited about the shoot and to explore the city and meet her fans. Due to her busy schedule, she could

RASHMIKA EXCITED ABOUT HER FIRST VISIT TO DELHI, THANKS TO 'ANIMAL' SHOOT

never visit Delhi but now she will there for the shoot and her fans will be equally excited to have her in the capital city." The source added: "Rashmika will be travelling to Delhi on 26th and will be there for a couple of days." Apart from 'Animal', Rashmika will be making her much-awaited Bollywood debut with 'Goodbye' opposite Amitabh Bachchan. She also has the sequel of 'Pushpa' in her kitty, along with 'Mission Majnu' opposite Sidharth Malhotra and 'Varisu' with Vijay Thalapaty.

Shahid, Mira recreate iconic 'DDLJ' train scene in Switzerland

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor along with his wife Mira Rajput, is giving major vacation goals to his Instagram followers.

Earlier this month, Shahid and Mira had flown down to Switzerland along with their children Misha and Zain. In a recent Instagram post, Mira shared two photographs from the vacation, the first one shows her sitting inside a rail coach. The second picture however, caught the fancy of netizens as the celebrity couple recreated the iconic train scene from the Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol-starrer 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'. While Shahid stands at the train's door, Mira is seen extending her arm to Shahid in a bid to catch the train which is already at a halt. The picture tickled the funny bones of their followers. Soon after Mira shared the post, fans swarmed the comment section of her post. A user commented: "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge My Fav Couple," while another wrote, "Oye raj & simran 2.0". Incidentally, the train catching scene also found its place in the Shahid and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer 'Jab We Met'. The film, which released in 2007, was Shahid and Kareena's last film as a romantic couple. The two parted ways midway through the film's shoot. While Kareena moved on and fell in love with Saif Ali Khan on the sets of 'Tashan', and tied the knot with him in 2012, Shahid married Mira in 2016. During their time in the picturesque location, Shahid, Mira and the family went trekking, sightseeing, etc. They also updated their fans by sharing several adorable pictures on their Instagram handles.



Hansika Motawani