

absoluteindia

VOL. 8, ISSUE 76, BHOPAL | THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02
India, Egypt to elevate relations to strategic partnership, take...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
7 Oscar nominations for 'The Fabelmans' ...



SPORTS > 07
Renuka Singh named ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer...



HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY
Absolute India's office will remain closed on January 26th for celebrations. Next issue will be published on January 28th, 2023.

Editor

SC GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO ASHISH MISHRA IN LAKHIMPUR CASE



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted an eight-week interim bail to Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, the key accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

The apex court imposed a slew of stringent conditions on him and also decided to monitor the trial in the case. Granting the 8-week interim bail to Mishra, the bench noted that it is not inclined to express any final opinion as regard to the petitioner's (Mishra) right to seek regular bail at this stage, rather furtherance of interest of justice and in a way on an experimental basis, to adjudge as to whether there is any substance in the apprehensions expressed on behalf of the state and the informant.

The apex court imposed a slew of conditions while granting bail to Mishra: he will have to leave UP within 1 week of his release, he cannot stay in UP or Delhi/NCR, he shall inform court about his location, and any attempt by his family members or Mishra himself to influence witness will lead to cancellation of his bail. Mishra will also have to surrender his passport, he will not enter the Uttar Pradesh except to attend the trial proceedings, and the prosecution, SIT, informant or any family member of the victims of the crime will be at liberty to promptly inform this court of any incident of misuse of the concession of the interim bail.

India has lost presence in 26 of 65 patrol points in Eastern Ladakh: Report

SERIOUS CONCERN

PRESENTLY THERE ARE 65 PPS (PATROLLING POINTS) STARTING FROM KARAKORAM PASS TO CHUMUR WHICH ARE TO BE PATROLLED REGULARLY BY THE ISFS (INDIAN SECURITY FORCES). OUT OF 65 PPS, OUR PRESENCE IS LOST IN 26 PPS (I.E. PP NO. 5-17, 24-32, 37, DUE TO RESTRICTIVE OR NO PATROLLING BY THE ISFS.' PD NITYA, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OF LEH, LADAKH'S MAIN CITY, WROTE ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH PAPER, NDTV REPORTED.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has lost access to 26 of 65 patrolling points in Eastern Ladakh, a report by a senior police officer in the union territory has said, in a worrying new disclosure amid the country's standoff with China at various flashpoints along their tottery 3,500-km frontier.

The report was filed at last week's annual conference of the country's top police officers in Delhi, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

"Later on, China forces us to accept the fact that as such areas have not seen the presence of ISFs



or civilians since long, the Chinese were present in these areas. This leads to a shift in the border under control of ISFs towards Indian side and a "buffer zone" is created in all such pockets which ultimately leads to loss of control over these areas by India. This tactic of PLA (China's People's Liberation Army) to grab land inch-by-inch is known as "Salami slicing," it said.

"PLA has taken advantage of the buffer areas in the de-escalation talks by placing their best of cameras on the highest peaks and monitoring the movement of our forces... they object our movement even in the buffer zone, claiming it to be

'their' area of operation and then further ask us to move back to create more 'buffer' areas," the officer wrote.

She said this Chinese strategy was seen in Galwan Valley, the site of a deadly clash in 2020 when 20 Indian troops and at least four Chinese soldiers died in hand-to-hand fighting.

Nitya also said that marking areas as out of bounds and keeping them barren affects troop morale as well. "During an interaction with one senior officer whose unit is based right on forward area, he shared that, if by retreating 400 metres back, we can buy peace with PLA for 4 years, then it's worth it," the report

said.

The government is yet to comment on the disclosure. Speaking to The Hindu newspaper, which first reported the police officer's research paper, a defence source countered its assertions, saying "there is no loss of territory due to disengagement in friction areas".

"Some areas have been restricted for patrolling for both sides pending diplomatic resolution of disputes. No pasture lands have been lost. In disengaged areas, we have as many cameras and technical means as the PLA and hence dominate the area as much, if not more," the newspaper quoted the source as saying. They said the military was "encouraging and providing all facilities", in conjunction with the civilian administration, to allow locals and their cattle in grazing locations.

The report comes just over a month after India accused China of trying to "unilaterally change the status quo" on their de-facto border, known as the Line of Actual Control, when clashes left troops on both sides injured.

The December 9 incident in Arunachal Pradesh was seen as the most serious face-off since the Galwan Valley clash in 2020 which led to a sharp escalation in hostilities between the two countries. A series of military talks since then have led to a careful pullback of troops on both sides.

'PATHAAN' JOINS PARTY

Patna | Agencies

Mona Cinema Hall in Patna saw fans gathered outside it in large numbers and cut cakes to welcome and celebrate the release of Shah Rukh Khan's spy-thriller 'Pathaan' on Wednesday. The fans expressed their happiness and raised "Shahrukh Khan Zindabad" slogans to extend their support amid a controversy surrounding the movie.

A fan said, "We are feeling very proud. Our entire friend circle is here to watch the movie. There is no controversy anymore. The reach of the film has only increased after the initial controversy around



the song 'Besharam Rang'. The movie is in demand in the international market. The film is being released in more than 100 countries. This is the impact of Shah Rukh Khan. He is known worldwide."

Among other prominent people, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra aired his objections to one of the songs in the movie, 'Besharam Rang'. Mishra then told media persons, "The costumes in the song at first glance are objectionable. It is clearly visible that the song of the film 'Pathaan' has been shot with a dirty mindset."

ASSAM YOUTH DETAINED FOR 'PROVOCATIVE' STATEMENT

Guwahati: A man from Assam's Darang district was detained on Wednesday for issuing 'provocative' statements in connection with the Bollywood movie 'Pathaan', said police.

The person identified as Mofidul Islam bought at least 120 tickets for Shah Rukh Khan's latest release. He lives in the district's Dhula area. Superintendent of Police of Darang district, Prasanta Saikia said, "We detained him to avoid any untoward incident and registered a case under Section 107 IPC. He was later allowed to go home.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN INDORE

Indore: A group of protestors were spotted outside a theatre and staged a protest in Indore. According to report, a large group of protestors, who are reportedly activists of Right Wing, were seen reciting the Hanuman Chalisa. The report also said that the protestors had come to the Sapna Sangeeta Talkies, where the film was to be screened, with sticks to delay the release in the city. They were also allegedly chanting 'Jai Shree Ram' at the venue. The report revealed that police forces have been deployed and the 9 AM show was cancelled.

'Don't call flyer 'drunk', says AI's new alcohol policy



Team Absolute | New Delhi

With Air India reviewing its alcohol service policy, the new guidelines say that the cabin crew should act respectfully without raising voice and guests should not be permitted to drink alcohol unless served by the cabin crew.

It also says that the cabin

crew should be attentive to identifying guests who might be consuming their own alcohol.

As per Air India's reviewed liquor policy, the cabin crew should behave with the passengers in a polite manner, and not call the guests 'drunk'.

"Don't call the guest 'drunk', warn them politely that their behaviour is unac-

ceptable. Don't be persuaded to give them 'one last drink' if they have had enough," the new policy says.

The guidelines also prohibits the cabin crew from raising their voice.

It also says that serving of alcoholic beverages must be carried out in a reasonable and safe manner, which includes tactfully refusing to (further) serve a guest alcohol. The airline has also issued a set of 'Dos and Don'ts' for service refusal. These require the cabin crew to be polite and avoid value judgements and use tact to politely inform the guest that "you will not serve them any more alcohol".

Managing unduly intoxicated patrons must be done assertively and respectfully, it says.

ChatGPT passes US Law School Exam, writes Essays on Taxation, Constitution

Paris | Agencies

A chatbot powered by reams of data from the internet has passed exams at a US law school after writing essays on topics ranging from constitutional law to taxation and torts.

ChatGPT from OpenAI, a US company that this week got a massive injection of cash from Microsoft, uses artificial intelligence (AI) to generate streams of text from simple prompts.

The results have been so good that educators have warned it could lead to widespread cheating and even signal the end of traditional classroom teaching methods.

Jonathan Choi, a professor at Minnesota University Law School, gave ChatGPT the same test faced by students, consisting of 95 multiple-choice questions and 12 essay questions.

In a white paper titled



"ChatGPT goes to law school" published on Monday, he and his coauthors reported that the bot scored a C+ overall.

While this was enough for a pass, the bot was near the bottom of the class in most subjects and "bombed" at multiple-choice questions involving mathematics.

Officials in New York and other jurisdictions have banned the use of ChatGPT

in schools, but Choi suggested it could be a valuable teaching aide.

"Overall, ChatGPT wasn't a great law student acting alone," he wrote on Twitter.

"But we expect that collaborating with humans, language models like ChatGPT would be very useful to law students taking exams and to practicing lawyers."

OUTAGE HITS MICROSOFT CLOUD PLATFORM AZURE, TEAMS AND OUTLOOK SERVICES

New Delhi: Microsoft Corp on Wednesday was hit with a networking outage that took down its cloud platform Azure along with services such as Teams and Outlook, potentially affecting millions of users globally.

Azure's status page showed services were impacted in Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa. Only services in China and its platform for governments were not hit.

An outage of Microsoft's cloud computing platform Azure can impact a variety of services and create a domino effect as almost all of the world's largest companies use the platform. Microsoft did not disclose the number of users affected by the disruption, but data from outage tracking website Downtidetector showed thousands of incidents distributed across continents.

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

प्रदेशवासियों को
74^{वें}
गणतंत्र दिवस पर
हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं

शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

निरंतर विकास की ओर अग्रसर
मध्यप्रदेश का हर गाँव - हर शहर

D11209/22



EDITOR'S SPECS

FORTY SLUM KIDS TO PARTICIPATE IN R-DAY PARADE

For the first time, slum children in the 11-18 age group, who used to beg at traffic signals, will be participating in the Republic Day parade this year. They will carry placards with the slogan 'bhiksha se shiksha ki ore' (from beggary to education). Municipal commissioner Inderjeet Singh said, "In a first, beggars from slum areas will participate in the Republic Day parade of any state. Over 40 children, who used to beg at crossroads, are rehearsing daily for it." "Now, their life is transformed due to Project Smile that is aimed to bring these children out of beggary and connect them with the mainstream. We have been working with these children for the last 1.5 years," added Singh. He said that "The work of providing them education and connecting them with schools is being done. Now, we are bringing them to the parade practice so that they have some new experience and gain confidence." Balbir Singh Maan of NGO 'Umeed', which is playing an important role in Project Smile, said, "Earlier, these poor children used to beg for money. But we have been educating them since last year. Today, they are full of confidence to participate in the R-Day parade." Pratap Vikram Singh of Project Smile said, "The kids are performing at par with the kids of convents and government schools, rehearsing for the R-Day parade. A year-and-a-half back, these children never wanted to talk to anyone as they were not ready to trust us. It took us a long time to build trust. We gave them toys, started running smart classes for them and gave them exposure."



TRIPURA POLLS:

IPFT DISCUSSING SEAT-SHARING WITH BOTH ALLY BJP, OPPOSITION TIPRA

Tripura ruling coalition member Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has been holding seat-sharing talks with both current ally BJP and opposition Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) for the February 16 assembly polls. IPFT President and state minister Prem Kumar Reang on Sunday said that they held a close door meeting with the TIPRA leaders led by party supremo Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman in Guwahati on Saturday. "We are now talking with both the BJP and the TIPRA. Our seat-sharing talks remained inconclusive so far. Once this is finalised we would announce it before the public," the veteran tribal leader told correspondent. The IPFT, since 2009, has been demanding to make the areas under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) as a full-fledged state while the TIPRA, since 2021, has been demanding elevation of the TTAADC areas by granting of 'Greater Tripaland State' under Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

After the Saturday's meeting in Guwahati, Reang said that the Central government and the BJP did not respond to their demand and if the BJP fulfilled its demands, "we would certainly fight the forthcoming polls jointly." "Deb Barman has been wholeheartedly fighting for the cause of the indigenous tribals. We are ready to fight the elections together. Talks are going on among us," he said. On his part, Deb Barman told the media in Guwahati that the leaders of both the parties have started talks for merger or fighting together during which issues on common flag and symbol would be discussed. About alliances with any other party, he said, "The party or parties which would give written assurance supporting our demand, we would forge electoral alliance with them. It is completely false propaganda that we would go into alliance with BJP or Congress or CPI-M." Deb Barman said that the TIPRA, the IPFT, and all other like-minded parties can fight the upcoming Assembly polls together on a common symbol for the greater cause of the tribals, who consti-

tute one third of Tripura's little over four million population. Responding to the influential tribal-based party's appeal, the IPFT held discussions with them in Guwahati on Saturday. The BJP, however, is yet to make any comment about the IPFT-TIPRA's seat sharing talks. "Officially we have no information about the seat sharing talks between the TIPRA and the IPFT," BJP spokesman Nabendu Bhattacharjee told correspondent. The TIPRA is now ruling the politically-important 30-member TTAADC, which has jurisdiction over two-third of Tripura's 10,491 square km area and is home to over 12,16,000 people, of which around 84 per cent are tribals, making the autonomous council a mini-Assembly. The BJP, in alliance with the tribal-based party IPFT, came to power in the 2018 Assembly polls thrashing the CPI-M-led Left, which governed the north-eastern state for 35 year in two phases (1978-1988 and 1993-2018).

Anita Bose Pfaff highlights Netaji's faith in secular values, social democratic state

On the eve of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 126th birth anniversary, his daughter, Anita Bose Pfaff, issued a statement on Sunday re-stating her father's vision of India based on secular and socialist principles, and she also explained why he had to turn to fascist governments for help. "Even though he died in a foreign country more than 77 years ago and his remains still rest in a foreign land, many of his countrymen and his countrywomen have not forgotten him," Pfaff noted in her statement. "They remember him not only in a detached manner as a person who played a role in the struggle for India's independence," Pfaff said. "Members of all parties, across the entire political spectrum, parties who share his ideas and his ideology and those who do not, pay tribute to him and thank him for his sacrifice for India. With their respect and love they repay him for his sacrifice for their country." With this preface, Pfaff went on to remind Indians that "Netaji should be remembered for what he stood for and envisaged for independent India". She then spelt out the four pillars of Netaji's Idea of India: India was to become a modern state, respected by other countries. Education for all men and women was therefore of utmost importance to him. He believed in equal rights, opportunities and duties for men and women, for members of all religions, castes and all social strata. This meant the empowerment and emancipation of all disadvantaged people. As an individual he was a religious person. However, he wanted free India to be a secular state where members of all religions would live together peacefully and with mutual respect. These values were practised in the Indian National Army and in his own actions. He was a politician inspired by socialism who envisioned India to become a modern, socialist -- or in today's terms social-democratic -- state, with equal opportunities for the well-being of all. "In his struggle for India's independence he saw himself forced to seek the cooperation and support of fascist countries who did not share his ideology and his political agenda," Pfaff clarified. "At that time, they were the only countries willing to support this struggle against a common adversary." Reiterating her demand that Netaji's ashes be brought back home from Tokyo's Renkoji Temple, Pfaff said: "Men and women who love and admire Netaji can honour him best by upholding his values in their political and personal actions -- and by welcoming his remains back in India. Let us bring Netaji's remains back home!"



international

'BREAD-AND-BUTTER' ISSUES TOP NEW ZEALAND NEW PM'S AGENDA

Wellington | Agencies
New Zealand's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said on Wednesday that tackling the "inflation pandemic" will be his top priority. The 'bread-and-butter' issues that New Zealanders are most concerned about are needed to be addressed, Hipkins told a press conference after his first cabinet meeting as Prime Minister. Hipkins was sworn in as New Zealand prime minister on Wednesday, with his predecessor Jacinda Ardern officially tendering her resignation. The swearing-in ceremony held at the Government House saw Hipkins officially taking up the top job and Carmel Sepuloni becoming the deputy prime minister. The unchanged inflation



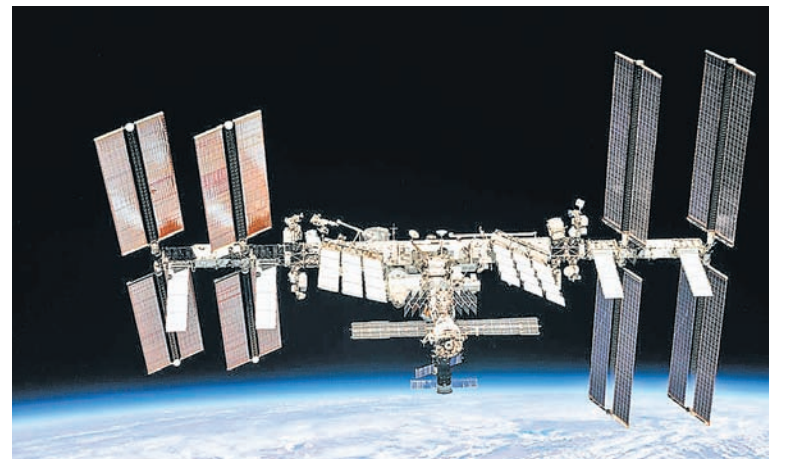
figure of 7.2 percent in the 12 months to December 2022, released on Wednesday, confirmed this is "the right immediate focus" for the government he led, Hipkins said. The level of inflation was clearly not sustainable, he said, adding the cost-of-living pressures have been caused by the global economic situation. Hipkins also compared the 7.2 per cent inflation in New Zealand with 7.8 per cent in Australia, 10.5 per cent in Britain, 10.3 per cent as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) aver-

age, 11.1 per cent in the European Union. As Prime Minister, he will talk with businesses in Auckland on Thursday, with global worker shortage expected to be one of main topics. Hipkins will reshuffle the cabinet next week. Besides the top leadership role, he himself will be the minister of national security and intelligence. Announcing her resignation last week, Ardern said after five and a half years of the top leadership role, she could not keep going for another year or term after careful consideration. Hipkins said on Tuesday he and Ardern have reflected on the last few years, adding "it's a bittersweet moment". New Zealand's 2023 General Election will be held on October 14.

CARGO SHIP CARRYING 22 SINKS OFF S.KOREA'S JEJU ISLAND, 5 RESCUED

Seoul: A Hong Kong-registered cargo ship carrying 22 crew members sank off South Korea's Jeju island on Wednesday, and five of them were rescued, while a search is underway for the others, the Coast Guard said. Fourteen Chinese and eight Myanmar crew members were aboard the Jin Tian, a 6,551-tonne, wood-carrying ship, when it sent out a distress signal at 3.07 a.m. in waters 148.2 km southeast of the city of Seogwipo on the island, Yonhap News Agency quoted the Coast Guard as saying. The ship was completely submerged when Coast Guard personnel arrived at the scene. Five of the crew members were rescued by other ships that were sailing by, officials said, adding the Coast Guard is conducting a joint search and rescue operation with their Japanese counterparts for the 17 others. The Coast Guard said the ship appears to have gone down when it sent the distress signal via the emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB), an emergency locator system. It was found that the vessel transmitted its first distress signal via the Digital Selective Calling system at 1.45 a.m. before going out of contact about an hour later.

Russia aims to deploy over 1,000 satellites in orbit by 2030



Moscow | Agencies

Russia should increase the number of satellites in orbit from about 200 now to at least 1,000 by 2030, said Yuri Borisov, Director General of Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos. In order to achieve such growth, it is necessary to produce 250 satellites per year and then 300-350 satellites annually by 2030, taking into account the gradual replacement of obsolete ones, Borisov said at an event

on space exploration, Xinhua news agency reported. He noted that the 1,000 satellites in orbit should serve for various purposes, including communications, remote sensing of the Earth, meteorology and navigation. Russia will start to deploy its own orbital station in 2027, according to Borisov, who said in July 2022 that Russia would pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 but later postponed the possible deadline to 2028.

Classified documents found at ex-US Vice Prez Pence's home

Washington | Agencies
After US President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, classified files have now been found at former Vice President Mike Pence's home. The documents, discovered by a lawyer last week at Pence's Indiana home, have been handed over to the FBI, the BBC reported. However, the former Vice President's representatives have said that the FBI collected the documents, bypassing 'standard procedures' and requesting 'direct possession' of them. Representatives for Pence have also sent a letter to the National Archives alerting them to the documents. Under the Presidential Records Act, White House records are supposed to go to the National Archives once an administration ends. Regulations require such files to be stored securely. A "small number of documents bearing classified markings" were "inadvertently boxed and transported" to Pence's home at the end of Trump's presidency, his lawyer wrote in a letter shared with US media. The latest development emerged after Pence sought legal help from specialists in

handling classified documents "out of an abundance of caution". He asked for help "after it became public that documents with classified markings were found in President Joe Biden's Wilmington residence", the letter read. Lawyers found "a small number of documents that could potentially contain sensitive or classified information", which were locked by the former Vice President in a safe. An aide to Pence told CBS News that the documents were stored in boxes in an insecure area of Pence's home. The aide said they were taped shut. According to US media, the documents are believed to have first been taken to Pence's home in Virginia before later being sent to Indiana. Amidst the latest development, Trump, who is facing a criminal investigation for allegedly mishandling papers, came to Pence's defence and took to his 'Truth Social' social media platform to say that Pence is "an innocent man". "He never did anything knowingly dishonest in his life," Trump wrote. "Leave him alone!!!"

FREEZING WEATHER KILLS 124 IN AFGHANISTAN

Kabul | Agencies

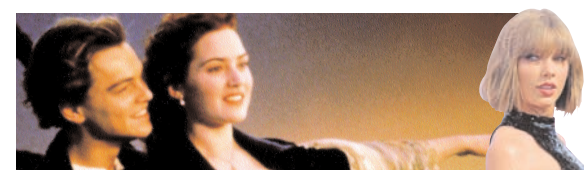
The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has confirmed that at least 124 people have been killed across the country due to the freezing weather. While confirming the fatalities, a spokesman for the State Ministry for Disaster Management said that about 70,000 livestock had also perished in what has been deemed as the coldest winter in a decade, reports the BBC. Acting Minister of Disaster Management Mullah Mohammad Abbas Akhund told the BBC that many areas of Afghanistan were now completely cut off by snow; military helicopters had been sent to the rescue, but they couldn't land in the most mountainous regions. Akhund said the forecast for the next 10 days indicated temperatures would warm. But he was still worried about a rising death toll of Afghans, and their livestock. "Most of the people who lost their



lives to the cold were shepherds or people living in rural areas. They didn't have access to healthcare," the

Minister told the BBC. "We're concerned about those who are still living in the mountain

regions. Most of the roads which pass through the mountains have been closed due to snow. Cars have got stuck there and passengers have died in the freezing temperatures." Winters are always harsh in Afghanistan but this is the worst weather in a decade. This year's relief operations have been hampered by last month's Taliban government edict barring Afghan women from working in aid agencies. But Mullah Akhund categorically said that the edict could not be lifted and the international community had to accept Afghanistan's Islamic culture. "Men are already working with us in the rescue effort and there is no need for women to work with us. The men from every family are already participating in relief efforts, so there's no need for women," he told the BBC. Aid officials, including the UN, are urgently trying to find ways to work around this ban.



Flowers is about finding happiness after divorce

MILEY CYRUS BREAKS SPOTIFY'S ONE-WEEK STREAMING RECORD WITH NEW SONG

Los Angeles | Agencies

Miley Cyrus has smashed Spotify's One-Week Streaming Record with her latest single Flowers.

From January 13 to January 19, the singer's newest track was streamed over 96 million times on the service alone. The single is reportedly about how Miley is doing after her divorce from Australian actor Liam Hemsworth, and was also released on his birthday, January 13.

Flowers soared to the top of the Billboard Hot 100 songs in its debut week after Taylor Swift's Anti-Hero had eight weeks at number one. The former Disney star sold an impressive 70,000 of the track in its first full week which continues to grow. It has been nine years since Miley had a Hot 100 No. 1, with Wrecking Ball in September 2013. Last week, the star dropped the very racy music video for her new single Flowers.

The pop song's lyrics allude to her failed relationship with the actor including a double entendre about Miley watching her marriage and the Malibu home they once shared 'burn' to the

ground.

"We were right / till we weren't / built a home and watched it burn," she sings. In November 2018, their home was completely destroyed as a result of the devastating Woolsey Fire. They wed a month later but split after less than a year in August 2019. The pair dated on/off for nearly a decade after meeting on set of their film, The Last Song (2010), when Miley was 17 and Liam was 19.

But now, Miley is the symbol of self love as she belts out: 'I can buy myself flowers / Write my name in the sand / Talk to myself for hours / See things you don't understand'.

7 Oscar nominations for 'The Fabelmans'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Reliance Entertainment's film 'The Fabelmans', directed by Steven Spielberg, is one of the most nominated film in the 95th Academy Awards.

The film is contending in the categories Best Picture, Best Director, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Original Screenplay, Best Production Design and Best Original Score.

In the Best Picture category, 'The Fabelmans' is contending alongside 'All

Quiet on the Western Front', 'Avatar: The Way of Water', 'The Banshees of Inisherin', 'Elvis', 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', 'Tar', 'Top Gun: Maverick', 'Triangle of Sadness' and 'Women Talking'.

Spielberg is in competition with Martin McDonagh, Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert, Todd Field and Ruben Ostlund in the Best Director category. In Best Supporting Actor, Judd Hirsch from 'The Fabelmans' will be seen in competition with Brendan Gleeson, Brian Tyree Henry, Barry Keoghan and Ke Huy Quan.

Michelle Williams has been named alongside Cate Blanchett, Ana de Armas, Andrea Riseborough and Michelle Yeoh.

'The Fabelmans' is a 2022 American coming-of-age drama film. It is a semi-autobiographical story loosely based on Spielberg's adolescence and first years as a filmmaker, told through an original story of the fictional Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker who explores how the power of films can help him see the truth about his dysfunctional family and those around him.



Madonna biopic starring Julia Garner scrapped as singer embarks on world tour

Los Angeles | Agencies

The anticipated biopic of music legend Madonna is taking an indefinite holiday. The project, which the icon was going to direct herself, is no longer in development at Universal Pictures. Speculation over the fate of the movie began instantly after Madonna announced a career-spanning world tour last week one that sold out shows in New York, London, Paris and other cities in minutes, reports 'Variety'.

Insiders familiar with Madonna said her sole focus is the tour, but she remains committed to making a film about her life one day.

While announced in 2020, development on the film lingered on through the end of 2022. Madonna worked on two script drafts encompassing large periods of her creative and personal life. An earlier version was written with Oscar winner Diablo Cody (their writing sessions were widely disseminated on social media).

Erin Cressida Wilson ('Secretary', 'The Girl on the Train') took a second pass.

Last June, Variety broke the news that Emmy and Golden Globe winner Garner had won the role of the pop icon.

Madonna has two feature films to her name as a director: 'Filth and Wisdom', a 2008 dramedy set in the UK, and 2011's 'W.E.', a historical

romance about King Edward VIII's abdication of the British throne to marry

American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

BEYONCE WORE \$7.5 MN JEWELLERY AT PRIVATE DUBAI GIG

Los Angeles | Agencies

Grammy winner Beyonce's jewellery for her private show in Dubai was reportedly worth \$7.5 million around a third of her rumoured \$24 million pay cheque for the invitation-only gig. The 'Crazy in Love' singer, 41, made a comeback to the stage for her first concert in nearly five years at her invitation-only show to make the opening of the new 'Atlantis The Royal' hotel in the UAE city with TMZ reporting she was paid \$24 million pay cheque for the show, reports femalefirst.co.uk. It's now been estimated her bling cost around a third of the rumoured payday. Page Six is reporting the multiple outfits Beyonce wore included about \$7.5 million of Lorraine Schwartz jewellery.

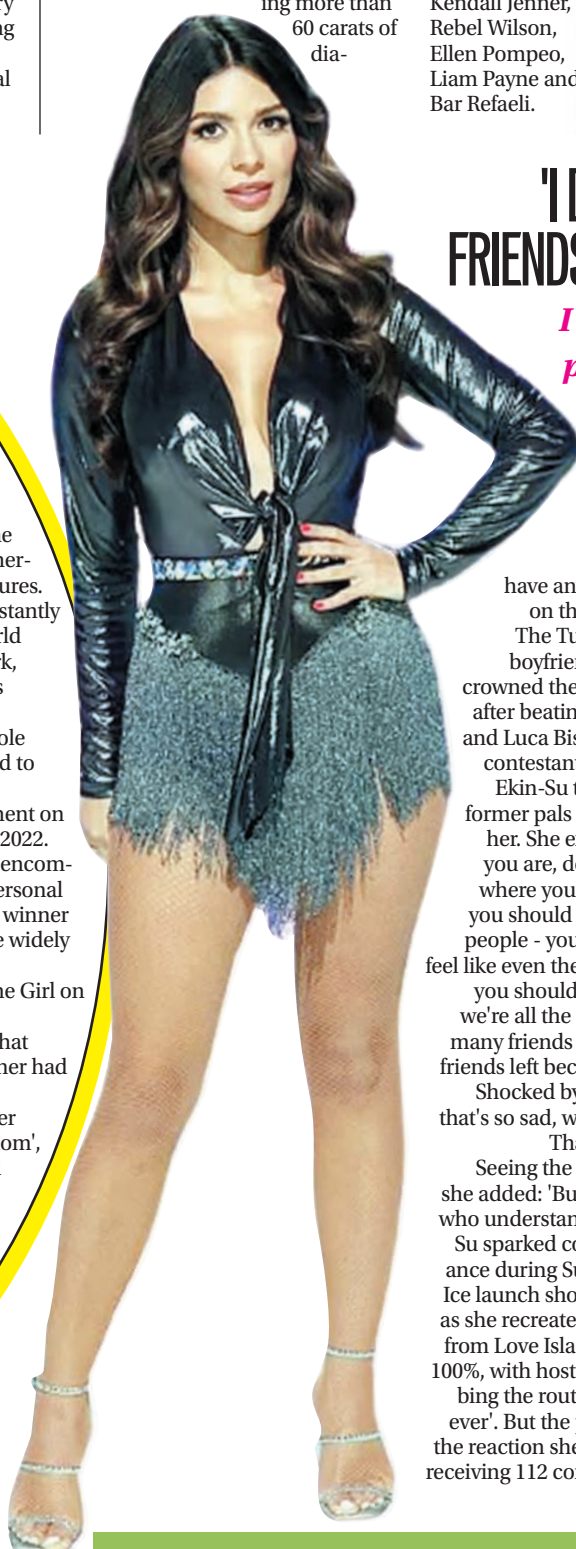
It included enormous diamond chandelier earrings, as well as different diamond and green Colombian 100 carat-plus emerald fan earrings and a 30-carat yellow diamond ring.

She wore a halo-style crown with another of her outfits, which included red gloves and bringing another pair of Schwartz diamond earrings.

For her final look of the concert, the singer wore a pink crystal-covered mini-dress by Ukrainian designer Ivan Frolov, to which she added matching stockings and gloves and pyramid earrings featuring more than 60 carats of dia-



monds. Ivan told Vogue the outfit was "created in our workshop in Kiev, Ukraine, during war and massive blackouts" and that "it just goes to show that no matter what, Ukrainian brands continue to showcase the world their resistance and culture". Beyonce's payday means she earned more than \$280,000 per minute for her 85-minute Dubai show. The singer didn't feature any of her new music on the set list, but performed hits, including 'Beautiful Liar', 'Halo', 'Crazy in Love' and 'Drunk in Love'. Beyonce's husband Jay-Z and their three children as well as her parents Tina Knowles-Lawson and Mathew Knowles were in the audience along with famous faces, including Kendall Jenner, Rebel Wilson, Ellen Pompeo, Liam Payne and Bar Refaeli.



'I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS LEFT': EKIN-SU

I lost 'so many' close people after finding TV fame

Los Angeles | Agencies

Love Island's Ekin-Su Culcuglu admitted that she 'doesn't have any friends left' after appearing on the ITV2 dating show last year.

The Turkish actress, and her Italian boyfriend Davide Sancimenti, were crowned the winners of Love Island 2022 after beating runners-up Gemma Owen and Luca Bish. Speaking to fellow former contestant Joe Garratt in a Reddit chat, Ekin-Su told listeners she ditched her former pals after they 'sold stories' about her. She explained: 'Don't change who you are, don't get caught up in this ego where you think you're this celebrity so you should act a certain way and belittle people - you shouldn't. We're all equal, I feel like even the people who clean the toilet, you should respect that person because we're all the same. Stay humble.' 'I lost so many friends coming out, I don't have any friends left because they sold stories of me.'

Shocked by her revelation, Joe said: 'Oh that's so sad, well they weren't friends then. That's jealousy man, that's sad.'

Seeing the positive side of the situation, she added: 'But then you make new friends who understand you.' It comes after Ekin-Su sparked controversy with her performance during Sunday evening's Dancing On Ice launch show of the skating competition as she recreated her famous crawling scene from Love Island. And she gave the routine 100%, with host Holly Willoughby even dubbing the routine the show's 'sexiest dance ever'. But the performance didn't quite get the reaction she was hoping for, with Ofcom receiving 112 complaints from the public following the episode.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Cara De La Hoyde



RENUKA SINGH NAMED ICC EMERGING WOMEN'S CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2022



Dubai | Agencies

India pacer Renuka Singh Thakur was on Wednesday named as the ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022 after she impressed everybody with her magnificent displays of seam and swing bowling, last year. Renuka got the better of Australia's Darcie Brown, England's Alice Capsey and compatriot, left-handed wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia to become the recipient of ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022. With this, she also became the first Indian women's cricketer to get the honour. Renuka claimed 40 wickets for her country in 2022 in just 29

matches across the two white-ball formats, filling the void of the legendary pacer Jhulan Goswami. Able to swing the ball or find deviation off the surface, the right-arm pacer is most likely to be one of India's most dependable bowlers in years to come. In the ODIs, Renuka was outstanding, claiming 18 wickets at an average of just 14.88, of which eight came in two appearances against England, and seven in India's series against Sri Lanka. Her best performance came against Australia on cricket's return to Commonwealth Games, taking 4/18 with 16 dot balls, and leaving them at 34/4, though the eventual champions chased down India's 154.

SKY WINS MEN'S T20I CRICKETER AWARD

New Delhi: India's right-handed batter Suryakumar Yadav was named winner of the ICC Mens T20I cricketer of the year 2022 award. He also becomes the first Indian to win the honour. Suryakumar beat competition from England's left-arm pace all-rounder Sam Curran, Zimbabwe's off-spin all-rounder Sikandar Raza and 2021 award winner, Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan, to get the coveted honour. Yadav had a sensational 2022 in the shortest format of the game, becoming just the second batter to score more than 1000 runs in a year in the format with his 360-degree strokeplay. He ended the year as the highest run-getter, scoring 1164 runs at a ridiculous strike rate of 187.43, averaging 46.56. His tally of 68 sixes in 2022 is the highest anyone has hit in the format in a year by a fair distance. With two hundreds and nine half-centuries in the year, Yadav was undoubtedly the standout men's T20I batter, achieving a career-high 890 rating points to be the top-ranked T20I batter in 2022.



SIRAJ TOPS ICC MEN'S ODI RANKINGS IN BOWLING

New Delhi: India's right-arm fast-bowler Mohammed Siraj has become the new number one bowler in the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings for bowlers, going past New Zealand's left-arm seamer Trent Boult and Australia's fast bowler Josh Hazlewood.



It's a remarkable rise for Siraj, who only returned to India's ODI setup in February last year following a three-year hiatus from the format and was even named in Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2022 on Tuesday. Siraj's rise to the top is more astonishing considering that he conceded 76 runs on his ODI debut against Australia in Adelaide in January 2019. Since his ODI comeback, Siraj, 28, has collected 37 wickets from 20 matches.

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern snatch late draw with Cologne, Leipzig reduce arrears in table

Berlin | Agencies

Joshua Kimmich's late hammer secured Bayern Munich a 1-1 draw with courageous Cologne while ruthless Leipzig crushed last-placed Schalke 6-1 in the curtain raiser of the 17th round.

Cologne caught a fairy-tale start on the road and stunned Bayern with the early opener in the fourth minute when Julian Chabot flicked on Florian Kainz's corner to the back post where Ellyes Skhiri finished the job from very close range.

Bayern remained unimpressed and controlled possession but still Cologne posed more threats in front



of the target as goalie Yann Sommer had to defuse a low cross to deny Skhiri a second goal at the half-hour mark, reports Xinhua.

The hosts eventually created their first opportunity in the 44th minute when Benjamin Pavard forced Cologne goalkeeper Marvin Schwabe into action for the first time.

Julian Nagelsmann's side started an onslaught on Cologne's goal after the restart but neither Matthijs de Ligt nor Kingsley Coman was able to beat Schwabe despite promising chances.

Schwabe remained in the thick of things and denied Bayern another golden chance after defusing a close-

range header from Thomas Muller in the 79th minute.

Cologne's custodian was hapless moments later as Kimmich unleashed a hammer from 30 meters into the roof of the net to secure a share of the spoils in the 90th minute.

Elsewhere, Leipzig moves on second for now after trashing Schalke 6-1 courtesy of Andre Silva's first-half brace, four points behind leaders Bayern.

Wolfsburg snatched another high victory and extended their winning streak to six games after easing 5-0 past hapless Hertha Berlin, while Hoffenheim played out a 2-2 draw with Stuttgart.

INDONESIA MASTERS 2023

Lakshya, Saina advance to second round; Srikanth bows out

Jakarta | Agencies

Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Saina Nehwal advanced to the second round of the Indonesia Masters 2023 badminton tournament but their compatriot Kidambi Srikanth crashed out in the first round, here on Wednesday.

Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya dispatched Japanese shuttler Kodai Naraoka by 21-12, 21-11 scoreline in his men's singles round of 32 match.

In the round of 16, the seventh-seeded Sen will face Malaysia's NG Tze Yong, who ousted Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in straight games in his opening round clash.

Meanwhile, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth lost 10-21, 22-24 to Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

The experienced Indian shuttler is not in the form recently and has made first round exits from all three tournaments he has played so far this year -- the Malaysia Open,



India Open and now the Indonesia Masters.

In women's singles, Olympic medalist Saina Nehwal also successfully crossed her first round hurdle after defeating Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po 21-15, 17-21, 21-15. Saina will face the winner of the all-Chinese clash between Zhang Yi Man and Yue Han in the next round.

Rohit Sharma hopeful of Bumrah playing last two Tests against Australia

Team Absolute | Indore

India captain Rohit Sharma is hopeful of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah recovering from his injuries and playing in the last two Tests against Australia at home in March. At the same time, Rohit warned against rushing the right-arm fast-bowler into competitive cricketing action.

After recovering from a back injury sustained in September which kept him out of the 2022 Men's T20 World Cup, Bumrah was set to join the Indian team in Guwahati ahead of the ODI series against Sri Lanka earlier this month.

But he was withdrawn on the



eve of the ODI series opener, with the BCCI citing the need for him to build bowling resilience, calling the decision a precautionary measure.

Understandably, the Indian team management is cautious about Bumrah's fitness, especially with the 2023 ODI World Cup set to be held in the country in October and November.

"About Bumrah, I'm not too sure at the moment. Of course, for the first two Test matches, he's not going to be available. But I'm expecting that; not expecting but hoping he plays the next two Test matches but again we don't want to take any risk with him. The back injuries are always critical."

Women's Premier League gets total bids worth INR 4669.99 crore, breaks record of Men's IPL

New Delhi | Agencies

Jay Shah, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said that the organisation has gained a whopping INR 4669.99 crore as total bids for owning teams in the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL), which he added has broken the record for the inaugural Men's IPL in 2008.

The BCCI is all set to unveil the five franchise owners, along with the home cities, for the WPL later on January 25. It is learnt that 17 parties, including seven men's IPL franchises -- Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Punjab Kings, Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore -- are in the fray for owning teams in the five-team WPL.

The cities which are shortlisted as home cities for the WPL, as per multiple reports, are



Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Indore, Lucknow and Mumbai. The inaugural edition of the WPL could be held in March this year, with the player auction expected to happen early in February.

MUMBAI INDIANS, DELHI CAPITALS, RCB, ADANI GROUP, CAPRI GLOBAL WIN BIDS

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday announced that men's IPL teams Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, along with the Adani Group and Capri Global have won bids to own the five Women's Premier League (WPL) teams.

The inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League is expected to be played in March this year. The home teams of the five winning franchises will be Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Lucknow respectively.

The auction was held in Mumbai earlier in the afternoon. The five winners were revealed after opening the bids. While Adani Group, through Adani Sportsline Pvt. Ltd got the Ahmedabad franchise with the highest bid of INR 1289 crore, Indiawin Sports Pvt. Ltd acquired the Mumbai franchise with a bid of INR 912.99 crore.

Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd, JSW GMR Cricket Pvt. Ltd and Capri Global Holdings Pvt. Ltd won the rest of the three teams with winning bids of INR 901 crore, INR 810 crore and INR 757 crore respectively.



"I congratulate the winners for making successful bids to own WPL teams. The league will give players from India and abroad a chance to learn and grow together. It will pave the way for development at the grassroots level with the inclusion of more women cricketers."

Roger Binny, President, BCCI

SERIE A: LAZIO CRUSH DEMORALISED AC MILAN 4-0

Rome | Agencies

Former champions AC Milan almost lost their Scudetto hope as they found themselves 12 points behind leaders Napoli after a 4-0 away defeat to Lazio.

The Rossoneri had a poor start to the new year as they suffered back-to-back draws in Serie A, an exit in the Coppa Italia and a 3-0 Supercoppa defeat to Inter Milan.

Theo Hernandez was added to Milan's injury list, alongside Mike Maignan, Fode Ballo-Toure, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Alessandro Florenzi, while Lazio had to do without trump card Ciro Immobile.

Lazio put their noses ahead just four minutes into the game on Tuesday night Mattia Zaccagni rolled across from the left, and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic swept it into the box.



The Biancocelesti doubled the lead before the break as Adam Marusic's angle drive hit the post but it was prodded into the net by Zaccagni.

Luis Alberto's penalty in the 67th minute put the home side firmly in charge before Felipe Anderson put the icing on Lazio's cake.

The win allowed Lazio to climb to third place, levelling with Inter Milan and Roma on 37 points, just one point shy of second-placed AC Milan.



Jacqueline is proud of her film 'Tell It Like A Woman'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

While it was 'Naatu Naatu' that made a lot of noise with its Oscars nomination, another song 'Applause' from the film 'Tell It Like A Woman' is also competing against the global phenomenon in the Best Original Song category. Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who also stars in the film, recently shared her happiness with the track earning the nomination. The song titled 'Applause' has been penned by singer Diane Warren, a recipient of 13 Oscar nominations and spreads the message of strength and empowerment.

Excited with the Oscar nomination, Jacqueline said, "I am so proud of the entire team of 'Tell It Like A Woman' and especially Dianne and Sofia who created such magical music with 'Applause'. The whole experience of doing this film was just as magical for me."

She further mentioned, "Being associated with this Oscar nomination is just so special, I cannot express it because it is very overwhelming and I wish the best to the whole team for the Academy Awards!"

'Tell It Like A Woman' is an anthology of films made by eight female directors from around the world. Margherita Buy, Eva Longoria, Cara Delevingne, Anne Watanabe, Jennifer Hudson, Marcia Gay Harden and Jacqueline Fernandez are just a few of the ensemble cast members in the film. The actress also took to her social media to express her joy and excitement as she congratulated the fellow contenders. Apart from 'Naatu Naatu' and 'Applause', the other songs that have been nominated include 'This Is A Life' (EAAA), 'Hold My Hand' (Top Gun: Maverick) and 'Lift Me Up' (Black Panther: Wakanda Forever).

Apart from 'Naatu Naatu', 'Applause', is also nominated under Best Original Song



'Song brought me peace'



A.R. RAHMAN GIVES NEW SPIN TO 'VAISHNAV JAN TO'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The first song from the upcoming film 'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh', titled 'Vaishnav Jan To' was unveiled on Wednesday. The song composed by music composer A.R. Rahman was originally written by Late Narsinh Mehta and has been sung by playback singer Shreya Ghoshal.

The film has been directed by Rajkumar Santoshi and marks his return to cinema after almost a decade.

Speaking about the song, Rahman shared, "Rajkumar Sir is a legend and working on a music for him was a great experience. 'Vaishnav Jan To' is also one of the special songs because it was Gandhi's favourite."

He further mentioned, "This song brought a sense of peace whenever I worked on it and I am sure it will bring the same peace and love in the hearts of my audience as well."

The song, presented by Jacky Bhagnani's record label Jjust music, rouses the emotion of patriotism.

Rajkumar Santoshi's daughter, Tanisha Santoshi shared, "Everything about 'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh' is a treasure I will always cherish."

'Vaishnav Jan To' was my first song. Since it is in the Gujarati language I had to prepare for it days in advance. Also, there was an added pressure of the legendary singer Shreya Ghoshal ma'am lending me her vocals along with A.R. Rahman sir's music so I had to give it my best. "The song didn't have any dance steps obviously so I had to make it as expressive as possible through my emotions and eyes. But all in all, it was an exhilarating experience for me," she added. 'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh' presents a unique concept of opposite ideologies shared by Mahatma Gandhi and his assassin Nathuram Godse. Presented by Santoshi Productions LLP, the film is a PVR Pictures Release, produced by Manila Santoshi.

Sandeep Modi on giving 3 different looks to Aditya Roy Kapur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The 'Night Manager' director Sandeep Modi talks about the three different looks of Aditya Roy Kapur in the web series, which is a Hindi adaptation of John le Carre's novel 'The Night Manager'.

He shared: "The story was set across five years, and five different emotional stages for our character. Shaan's character is the longest arc of the story. He starts with 'The Night Manager' in Dhaka, to Shimla, he goes to Sri Lanka, and he goes through so much, eventually the climax." Sandeep, who is known for 'Aarya', 'The Lottery', and 'Neeraj', added further how challenging it was to give him different looks that goes well with the storyline of the series. "We decided to go with three looks for him, he's clean shaven, he's bearded, and he has stubble. So it was tough trying to figure out how to manage each look because each look required 5-7 days to prep right." "Once you get him clean shaven, it will require 14 days to come back to a bearded look so it was a tough production call but creatively we took it and it is wonderful on screen," he concluded. Created and directed by Sandeep Modi, the show features Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, Sobhita Dhulipala, Tilotama Shome, Saswata Chatterjee, Ravi Behl and others.



KAUSHIKI RATHORE ON FACING CASTING COUCH IN INITIAL YEARS OF HER ACTING CAREER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kaushiki Rathore, has been a part of shows like 'Krishna Chali London', 'Gudiya Hamara Sabhi Pe Bhari' and 'Story 9 months Ki', is all set to be seen as the negative lead in the TV show 'Durga Aur Chaaru'.

Kaushiki narrated an incident and said that during her initial days, she received a weird demand.

She said: "The industry has changed so much but the one thing that hasn't changed is asking for favours in return for work. The incident happened with me when I had started giving auditions and chanced upon an opportunity in the South project."

"All the things got finalised but when they handed over the contract to me they added some of their conditions and asked me to compromise. I was bewildered as I had only heard about such incidents, but when it happened to me it shook the ground beneath me. I declined their offer but their words affected my mental state." Kaushiki added that one cannot blame the entire industry for those practicing casting couch. She shared: "Despite the incident, I believe that not all are bad. We just need to learn to differentiate between good and bad. People should understand that compromising is not the only way to make it big in the industry."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Disha Patani

Pathaan: A Phenomenal Spy Thriller

FILM REVIEW

YOGENDRA CHATURVEDI

Directed by: Siddharth Anand
Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone & John Abraham

Ratings: 4/5

A classic story of a patriot, who neglects the rules to protect the country and its people from threats.

Pathaan, is a spy thriller that crackles with energy. It goes the distance riding on the insouciant and cocky charm that Shah Rukh Khan, in his first full-fledged appearance on the big screen since 2018's Zero, brings to an exercise that is at once excessive and exciting.

Salman Khan's cameo is the icing on the cake for this high-octane action sequel. If you are a movie buff, it will make your heart skip a beat. Pathaan, who peppers with gunpowder-dry punch lines, contributes in no small



measure to keeping this action-packed movie on the boil all the way till the end.

The first half of the film is more concerned with glorifying the appearances of the characters than with telling a story, which is fun to watch. The first 40-45 minutes after Salman's cameo in the second half drag the

movie's graph down, but it re-establishes the grip on audiences in the final 20 minutes.

You cannot, without a doubt, ask for an action-packed entertainer while also demanding a coherent story. It's a movie for the masses, and it should be treated as such.

John Abraham, as an antagonist with a

decent back story, did a good job adapting the character and delivered as required. The heroine, Deepika Padukone, is an ISI agent with a back story that makes her the inscrutable and unpredictable person she is. Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana - are perfectly in tune with the style and substance of Pathaan. The movie packs a massive punch. The cinematography is the topmost drawer. Editing lends the film a pacy rhythm that leaves no room for dull passages. And the pulpy panache of directorial sleights is impressive. They combine to make Pathaan a thoroughly riveting movie that instantly gets the willing suspension of disbelief that it demands and thrives on.

The team Pathaan has done an excellent job of creating action sequels and playing beautifully with VFX. This film contains an insane amount of VFX, making it critical for them to be flawless.

Conclusion: Without a doubt, every Indian should and must go to theatre and watch this movie. After all, it's the Bollywood's Badshah on the big screen after a four-year hiatus.