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May 19, 2022



Gyanvapi row: Hearing in SC, Varanasi court today

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 18

The Supreme Court of India to begin hearing on Gyanvapi Mosque row on Thursday as the report of survey also likely to be submitted. Meanwhile an application has been filed in the Varanasi Court to demolish the wall beside Wuzu Khana, where a 'Shivling' was allegedly found. According to lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who is representing the Hindu side, the demolition of the wall has been demanded to allow the parties to go further inside the Mosque premises. The matter has been listed for hearing on Thursday, May 19.

"The court ordered to remove Advocate Commissioner Ajay Mishra for hiring a private cameraman and leaking the contents of the survey. Further, we filed an application for the demolition of the wall beside the wuzu khana so that we can enter further. The court will hear the matter today," said Jain.



On Monday, May 16, the videographic survey of the Mosque premises concluded. At the end of the survey, an application was filed by the Hindu side informing the court that a 'Shivling' was found inside the Wuzu Khana - the pond where Muslims perform their ritual cleansing before offering Namaz. After listening to the

plea, Varanasi's Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar directed that the spot be sealed.

Apart from the hearing on the Wuzu Khana, another crucial application slated for hearing is the Hindu side's plea to reappoint ousted court commissioner Ajay Mishra. On Tuesday, the Varanasi court removed advo-

cate Ajay Mishra as commissioner of the Gyanvapi survey on grounds of alleged non-cooperation and charges of 'leaking' sensitive information pertaining to the confidential survey to the media. It also gave two more days to the commission to submit the survey and appointed advocate Vishal Singh in his place. Meanwhile, an application has been filed in Varanasi court to demolish the wall beside wazukhana where a Shivling is claimed to be found during the survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque premises, said lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side on Wednesday. The Varanasi civil court on Tuesday removed the Advocate-Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra from the panel formed to survey the Gyanvapi mosque. The court-appointed special Commission has also received two more days to submit the survey report. The three-day-long court-monitored videography survey of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex in Varanasi concluded.

Pb okays Rs. 1500 per acre incentive for farmers adopting DSR technology

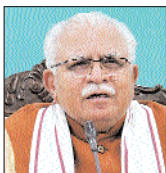
BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAY 18:

In a major step aimed at conserving scarce natural resources like underground water through Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technology, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday approved Rs. 1500 per acre incentive to the farmers for sowing of paddy through this innovative technology. A sum of Rs.450 crore has been earmarked to provide incentive to the farmers for promotion of less water consuming and cost effective DSR technology. This step would be instrumental to save nearly about 15-20 percent water as compared to the conventional puddling (kaddu)

method during the life cycle of crops. Pertinently, the alarming situation arisen out of fast depleting ground water mainly due to water guzzling traditional method of paddy transplantation needs bold measures to check this serious trend instantly. Currently the water table is falling at rate of 86 cm per year leading to a precarious situation, where no underground water will be available across the state in coming 15-20 years. According to a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office, it will encourage majority of farmers to adopt this proven technique which needs far less water for irrigation, improves percolation, reduces dependence on farm labour and improves soil health.

Goal is to bring Haryana on top in development: CM

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Government is promoting industrial development in the state. Under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal, the State Government has prepared a roadmap to take the state forward on the path of industrial development by making positive changes. A suitable environment is being created for industries in the state and all necessary facilities are being provided to the entrepreneurs. As a result of this, along with the big industries of the country, foreign companies are also willing to invest in Haryana, while many companies have started the process of investment. The investment of these companies has increased the pace of development in the state. Now Maruti Suzuki is also setting up its third plant in the state. An agreement for allotment of 800 acres and 100 acres of land respectively at Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)/Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd and Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation IMT, Kharkhoda in the presence of Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal will be signed on May 19.



Boxer Nikhat Zareen storms into World

C'ship final
NEW DELHI: Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen breezed into the World Boxing Championships final with a dominating victory over Brazil's Caroline De Almeida in Istanbul, on Wednesday. Zareen, who is a former junior world champion, stayed calm and completely dominated her rival for a 5-0 win by unanimous decision in the last-four bout of the 52kg competition. Six-time champion MC Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL and Lekha C are the only Indian women boxers who have won world title and now Hyderabad based Zareen has the opportunity to join the elite list.

Hurriyat calls for shutdown on May 21

SRINAGAR: The Hurriyat Conference headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Wednesday called for a bandh in Kashmir to pay tributes to Moulvi Mohammad Farooq and Abdul Gani Lone on their death anniversary on May 21. The separatist amalgam asked people to visit Eidgah, where the two leaders have been laid to rest, and offer prayers for them. Abdul Gani Lone, a prominent Hurriyat leader, was assassinated in 2002 during a rally to mark the death anniversary of former Mirwaiz of Kashmir Moulvi Mohammad Farooq in Srinagar.

12 killed in Guj factory wall collapse, PM, CM express grief

MORBI: Twelve labourers, including five women, were killed on Wednesday in a wall collapse of a salt factory in Morbi district of Gujarat. The labourers lost their lives after the wall of Sagar Salt Factory inside the Halvad industrial area within the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) limit came down around noon. Several people were still feared trapped under debris in Halvad town which is 180 km from Ahmedabad. The local administration rushed to the site immediately and the rescue operation were still underway. Police confirmed that at least 30 workers were buried as the wall came down, of these 12 were confirmed dead. "All efforts are underway to rescue others. Government stands with the families of the deceased," an official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the tragedy and offered condolences to the families of the victims.

Indrani Mukerjea gets bail by SC in Sheena Bora murder case

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 18

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to Indrani Mukerjea, the prime accused in the murder of her daughter Sheena Bora, saying that six-and-a-half years years in prison is too long a term and that the trial will not be completed anytime soon. A

three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao noted that Indrani Mukerjea has been in jail since 2015, and said the trial is not going to be completed anytime soon as out of 237 witnesses cited by prosecution only 68 have been examined till date.

"The petitioner is charged with kidnapping with an intention to murder her daughter after entering into a

criminal conspiracy. The petitioner is wife of Peter Mukerjea, who is co accused in the case. The allegation made against the petitioner is that she planned the murder in view of the live in relationship of her daughter with Rahul Mukerjea, who is the son of Peter Mukerjea through his earlier wife," the bench said.

"We do not intend to make com-

ments on the merits of the case as it might be detrimental to the interests of the parties. Taking into account that petitioner has been in custody for six-and-a-half-years and even if 50 per cent witnesses are given by prosecution, the trial would not be over soon, we are of the considered view that the petitioner is entitled to be released on bail.

Gujarat: Hardik Patel resigns from Congress

AGENCY
AHMEDABAD, MAY 18

Gujarat Congress Committee working president Hardik Patel, who recently expressed discontentment with the state party leadership, on Wednesday resigned from Congress.

Taking to Twitter, Patel said, "Today I took the courage to resign from the post (Gujarat Congress Committee working president) and primary membership of the Congress Party. I am sure that my decision will be welcomed by all my colleagues and the people of Gujarat. I believe that after this step, I will be able to work truly for Gujarat in future."



Earlier, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reached out to disgruntled Gujarat Congress Committee working president Hardik Patel to sort out differences in the party unit ahead of state assembly polls, sources had said.

Party sources had claimed that Rahul Gandhi himself sent a message to Hardik Patel asking him to continue in the party. He also asked the party in charge and other leaders to reach out to Patel to sort out the differences. Speculations were rife about Patel joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after he had lauded the BJP government for revoking Article 370 and the construction of Ram Mandir.

Delhi Lt Guv Anil Baijal resigns citing "Personal Reasons"

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 18

The centre's representative to the capital, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, has submitted his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind citing "personal reasons", sources told on Wednesday. A retired civil servant, Mr Baijal had taken over as Lieutenant Governor in December 2016 following the abrupt resignation of his predecessor Najeeb Jung. The role of Lieutenant Governor had been at the heart of an all-out power tussle between Delhi's Aam Aadmi



Party (AAP) government and the BJP, which rules at the centre, for years until a landmark Supreme Court judgement in 2018 that spelled out their powers more clearly. The Lieutenant Governor does not have independent decision-making powers and the real power must lie with the elected government, the Supreme Court had ruled in a big win for Mr Kejriwal in the years-long fight for control of Delhi. The top court emphasized that except for anything related to land, police and public order, the Lt Governor has no independent decision-making powers under the constitution.

Apex Court orders release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A G Perarivalan

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 18

Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court Wednesday ordered the release of A G Perarivalan, who has served over 30 years in jail in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said the Tamil Nadu state cabinet's advice recommending the premature release of all seven convicts in the case was binding on the governor.

The apex court also discarded the Centre's argument that the president exclusively has the power to grant pardon in a case under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, saying this would render ar-



Article 142 of the Constitution deals with the Supreme Court's power to exercise its jurisdiction and pass order for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it. The article was also used in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case.

The Centre had earlier defended the Tamil Nadu governor's decision to send the mercy plea of Perarivalan to the president. Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj had said that only the president can decide the plea regarding remission, commutation and mercy plea of an individual convicted under the central law. On March 9, the top court had granted bail to Perarivalan while taking note of his long incarceration and no history of complaints.




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YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

EDITORIAL

For greater choice

The University Grants Commission notified guidelines empowering students in higher education to pursue two academic programmes simultaneously. They can now study for two degrees/diplomas concurrently as full-time-regular students or in the open and distance learning mode, or one in full-time-regular and the other in the ODL mode. They would be able to take the two programmes in the same or in different higher education institutions. The only rider would be that this privilege would not apply retrospectively. Additionally, the ODL programme must be done from institutions that are recognised by the UGC, Statutory Councils and the Government of India.

The UGC has been guided in this decision by the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes on multiple pathways to learning through formal and non-formal modes. It believes that the move would promote holistic development in students and also enhance multi-disciplinarity.

This notification fulfils the need and the demand of the student community and would end the harassment that students have been facing on this count. Notwithstanding the ban, many students have been enrolling for more than one degrees concurrently, albeit clandestinely. Once caught, they have been subjected to litigations.

The idea was first deliberated in 2013 by a UGC committee headed by this author. Until then, students in higher education were prohibited from pursuing more than one academic programme at a time. A UGC regulation, then and most probably still, argues that all degree programmes must entail a minimum of forty hours workload for students in a week, leaving them little spare time for anything extra.

It was, however, felt that many higher education programmes did not keep students fully engaged, leaving them with spare time that could be used for the pursuit of knowledge. Further, advancements in technology were opening wide-ranging possibilities of acquiring knowledge and skills.

Keeping the pros and cons in mind, the committee had reached the conclusion that while full-time students could not be allowed to pursue another qualification on a regular basis, they could be permitted to acquire additional credits, which would be duly reflected in their transcripts. Barring this caveat, the committee recommended that full-time-regular students could concurrently pursue another degree in the ODL mode, either from the same or another university of their choice.

Targeting schools, Russia bombs the future

As she lay buried under the rubble, her legs broken and eyes blinded by blood and thick clouds of dust, all Inna Levchenko could hear was screams. It was 12:15 pm on March 3, and moments earlier a blast had pulverised the school where she'd taught for 30 years.

Amid relentless bombing, she'd opened School 21 in Chernihiv as a shelter to frightened families. They painted the word children in big, bold letters on the windows, hoping that Russian forces would see it and spare them. The bombs fell anyway.

Though she didn't know it yet, 70 children she'd ordered to shelter in the basement would survive the blast. But at least nine people, including one of her students - a 13-year-old boy - would not.

Why schools? I cannot comprehend their motivation, she said. It is painful to realise how many friends of mine died...and how many children who remained alone without parents, got traumatised. They will remember it all their life and will pass their stories to the next generation.

The Ukrainian government says Russia has shelled more than 1,000 schools, destroying 95. On May 8, a bomb flattened a school in Zaporizhzhia which, like School No 21 in Chernihiv, was being used as a shelter. As many as 60 people were feared dead.

Intentionally attacking schools and other civilian infrastructure is a war crime. Experts say wide-scale wreckage can be used as evidence of Russian intent, and to refute claims that schools were simply collateral damage.

But the destruction of hundreds of schools is about more than toppling buildings and maiming bodies, according to experts, to teachers and to others who have survived conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, in Syria and beyond. It hinders a nation's ability to rebound after the fighting stops, injuring entire generations and dashing a country's hope for the future. In the nearly three months since Russia invaded



Ukraine, The Associated Press and the PBS series Frontline have independently verified 57 schools that were destroyed or damaged in a manner that indicates a possible war crime. The accounting likely represents just a fraction of potential war crimes committed during the conflict and the list is updated daily. In Chernihiv alone, the city council said only seven of the city's 35 schools were unscathed. Three were reduced to rubble. The International Criminal Court, prosecutors from across the globe and Ukraine's prosecutor general are investigating more than 8,000 reports of potential war crimes in Ukraine involving 500 suspects. Many are accused of aiming deliberately at civilian structures like hospitals, shelters and residential neighbourhoods.

Targeting schools - spaces designed as havens for children to grow, learn and make friends - is particularly harmful, transforming the architecture of childhood into something violent and dangerous: a place that inspires fear. A geography teacher, Elena Kudrik, lay dead on the floor of School 50 in the eastern Ukrainian town of Gorlovka.

Amid the wreckage surrounding her were books and papers, smeared in blood. In the corner, another lifeless body - Elena Ivanova, the assistant headmaster - slumped over in an office chair, a gaping wound torn into her side.

It's a tragedy for us ... It's a tragedy for the children, said school director Sergey But, standing outside the brick building shortly after the attack. Shards of broken glass and rubble were sprayed across the concrete, where smiling children once flew kites and posed for photos with friends.

A few kilometers away, at the Sonechko pre-school in the city of Okhtyrka, a cluster bomb destroyed a kindergarten, killing a child. Outside the entrance, two more bodies lay in pools of blood. Valentina Grusha teaches in Kyiv province, where she has worked for 35 years, most recently as a district administrator and foreign literature instructor. Russian troops invaded her village of Ivankiv just as school officials had begun preparations for war. On Feb 24, Russian forces driving toward Kyiv fatally shot a child and his father there, she said. There was no more school-

ing, she said. We called all the leaders and stopped instruction because the war started. And then there were 36 days of occupation.

They also shelled and destroyed schools in many nearby villages, she said. Kindergarten buildings were shattered by shrapnel and machine-gun fire.

Despite the widespread damage and destruction to educational infrastructure, war crimes experts say proving an attacking military's intent to target individual schools is difficult. Russian officials deny targeting civilian structures, and local media reports in Russian-held Gorlovka alleged Ukrainian forces trying to recapture the area were to blame for the blast that killed the two teachers there.

But the effects of the destruction are indisputable. When I start talking to the directors of destroyed and robbed institutions, they are very worried, crying, telling with pain and regret, Grusha said. It's part of their lives. And now the school is a ruin that stands in the center of the village and reminds of those terrible air raids and bombings.

UNICEF communications director Toby Fricker, who is currently in Ukraine, agreed. School is often the heart of the community in many places, and that is so central to everyday life.

Teachers and students who have lived through other conflicts say the destruction of schools in their countries damaged an entire generation. Syrian teacher Abdulkafi Alhambdo still thinks about the children's drawings soaked in blood, littered across the floor of a schoolhouse in Aleppo. It had been attacked during the Civil War there in 2014.

The teachers and children had been preparing for an art exhibit featuring student work depicting life during wartime. The blast killed 19 people, including at least 10 children, the AP reported at the time. But it's the survivors who linger in Alhambdo's memory.

Pakistani TikToker sets 'forest, internet' on fire

A popular Pakistani social media figure with millions of followers is facing severe criticism after posing for a TikTok video of a forest fire.

In 15 seconds video that has gone viral on the internet, TikToker Humaira Asghar can be seen walking playfully in a gown in front of a burning hillside with the caption: "Fire erupts wherever I am."

The short clip which received backlash has since been taken down.

Asghar said in a statement released by an assistant that she did not start the fire and there was "no harm in making videos".

"She should have been holding a bucket of water to extinguish the fire instead of glamorising it," says Rina Saeed Khan Satti, an environmental activist and chairperson of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, as quoted by Daily Pakistan.

After this video of forest fire emerged, people on the internet were visibly fuming over the violation of environmental norms.

"Sheer ignorance and madness," said one comment under Asghar's video on TikTok. A user on Twitter said, "One can at least block her on social media platforms, if the authorities don't do anything."



Another person said, "Government should make sure that culprits are punished and the TikToker along with the brand should be penalised."

Pakistan is the eighth-most vulnerable country to extreme weather caused by climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

Experts say there is ignorance among the Pakistani population about environmental issues. Forest fires are common from April to July due to high temperatures and slash-and-burn farming.

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UK strongly supports Sweden, Finland joining NATO

The UK government has said it strongly supports the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as Sweden and Finland confirmed their intention to apply for membership of the military alliance, in a historic shift of foreign policy stance in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Monday evening that the two Nordic countries should be integrated into NATO, which operates on a collective defence basis under which an attack against any one ally is considered as an attack against all allies.

The UK strongly supports applications for NATO membership from Finland and Sweden. They should be integrated into the alliance as soon as possible; their accession will strengthen the collective security of Europe, said Truss.

We look forward to working with them as new NATO Allies and stand ready to offer them our every assistance during the accession process. Our mutual security declarations signed with Sweden and Finland last week by the Prime Minister [Boris Johnson] demonstrate our steadfast and



unequivocal commitment to both countries during this process and beyond, she said.

During his visit to Stockholm and Helsinki last week, Prime minister Johnson signed bilateral declarations with Sweden and Finland committing to further deepen defence and security partnerships with both countries in the lead up to their full-fledged NATO membership. Downing Street said the declarations marked a step-change in defence and security, intensifying intelligence sharing, accelerating joint military training, exercising and deployments, and bolstering security across all three countries and northern Europe.

Sweden and Finland have been NATO partners for many years and have taken part in some of the alliance's tough operations. They also make a major contribution to security in the Baltic region, Northern Europe and the rest of the Euro-Atlantic area.

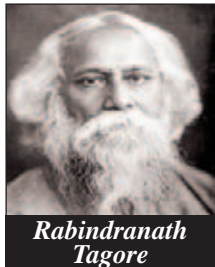
While there was less appetite for a full membership in the past, there is now greater political consensus within the countries to be included formally within the military alliance. It is in response to what is seen as Russia's aggressive stance towards Ukraine, a move that has shaken up European countries in the neighbourhood.

POEMS

Let Me Not Forget

If it is not my portion to meet thee in this life then let me ever feel that I have missed thy sight ---let me not forget for a moment, let me carry the pangs of this sorrow in my dreams and in my wakeful hours. As my days pass in the crowded market of this world and my hands grow full with the daily profits, let me ever feel that I have gained nothing.

Rabindranath Tagore



Rabindranath Tagore

Children's physical activity levels have fallen below guidelines after the pandemic

According to a new study led by the University of Bristol, the level of physical activity of British children was significantly lower by the time COVID-19 induced restrictions were lifted.

The findings of the research were published in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity.

The study found that by the end of 2021 little more than a third (36%) were meeting the national recommended physical activity guidelines.

While there was no change in their parents' physical activity levels, the National Institute for Health and Care Research-funded study findings showed that 10 to 11-year-olds took part in on



average just 56 minutes - less than the recommended hour - of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity during

weekdays from last April to December. That's around eight minutes on average less, a drop of 13 per cent, than children

of a similar age were doing before the pandemic. Senior author Russ Jago, Professor of Physical Activity and Public Health, said: "It was surprising the extent children's physical activity levels had fallen after the pandemic, indicating that changes in physical activity patterns did not revert to previous levels once freedoms had been restored. "These findings highlight a greater need to work with children, families, schools, and communities to maximise the opportunities for children to be physically active, as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic." The findings showed children were less active at the weekend than during the week, taking part in 46 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on weekend days. This was around 8

minutes slower than the activity of children who were measured using the same methods pre-pandemic.

The study, published today in the International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity, also revealed a marked increase in sedentary time, with children spending 25 minutes longer being sedentary per day, than previously during the week.

The National Institute of Health Research-funded study recruited 393 children and their parents, from 23 schools in the Bristol area, who wore an accelerometer to measure the intensity of physical activity and answered a questionnaire. This information was compared with data from 1,296 children and their parents who were recruited from 50

schools in the same area before the pandemic. Physical activity is important for children's health and happiness. The UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) recommend all children and young people should take part in an hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) each day. This is an activity that gets children slightly hot, slightly sweaty, and out of breath. The Chief Medical Officers also advise children should limit the amount of time they spend being sedentary. The study's first author Dr Ruth Salway, a Statistician at the university's School for Policy Studies, said: "The key strength of this study was we used data collected before and after the pandemic, using the same methods and in the same schools."

Popular song 'Nikamma Kiya Is Dil Ne' recreated for Shilpa Shetty

Abhimanyu Dassani-starrer 'Nikamma'

Get ready to experience nostalgia with Shilpa Shetty and Abhimanyu Dassani-starrer 'Nikamma' as the makers have recreated the 2002 released hit song 'Nikamma Kiya Is Dil Ne', which featured Esha Deol and Tusshar Kapoor.

On Tuesday, the trailer of 'Nikamma' was released and it had a brief glimpse of the song's new version.

'Nikamma' is said to be a remake of the 2017 Telugu film 'Middle Class Abbayi'.

In the clip, Abhimanyu is seen grooving along with actor Shirley Setia on 'Nikamma Kiya Is Dil Ne' lyrics.

Helmed by Sabbir Khan, the trailer of 'Nikamma' mainly revolves around Abhimanyu as a lazy boy, who only believes

Praising the video, an Instagram user commented, "Wow... it looks amazing." "Something different," another one wrote.

in having fun seven days a week. But his life is turned upside down when Shilpa appears in his life as a superhero to make him a

responsible person.

He eventually becomes responsible and stands up to fight for his family against the film's antagonist, played by Abhimanyu Singh.

The trailer has garnered mixed reactions from social media users.

However, there's a section of social media users who expressed disappointment towards the trailer.

"Ye to mca movie ka remake yaar pehle poster dekh ke laga ta ki koi mast superhero movie he lekin ye to remake nikli disappointment," a social media user commented.

"Disastrous se bhi upar wala trailer," another one wrote.

The movie will release in theatres on June 17.



Tamannaah Bhatia feels honoured to be part of Festival

Bollywood actor Tamannaah Bhatia is attending the 2022 Cannes Film Festival as part of the Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur led star-studded Indian delegation.

While speaking about being part of the Festival, the 'Baahubali' actor shared that she's very excited. "I am so excited about this, it's such an honour and I am really looking forward," she said.

For her Red Carpet look, Tamannaah had donned an elegant ball gown which had a trail. She rounded her look with smoky eyes and diamond earrings. Apart from her, the Indian delegates at the 75th Cannes Film Festival include Ricky Kej, Vani Tripathi, Praseon Joshi, AR Rahman, R Madhavan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Pooja Hegde, Shekhar Kapur and folk singer Mame Khan. On Wednesday, the Indian pavilion at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival will be inaugurated on Wednesday with a video message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the launch, Thakur along with a host of dignitaries will be present.

Netflix sets May 20 premiere date for 'Jersey'



Sahid Kapoor-starrer "Jersey" is heading to Netflix for its digital release on May 20, the streaming platform announced Tuesday. A Hindi remake of National Award-winning Telugu sports drama of the same name, "Jersey" was theatrically released on April 22 after multiple delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Netflix India shared the release date announcement on its official Twitter page.

"If you see us tearing up, it's because we just watched Jersey and we can't wait for you to catch it too. JERSEY ARRIVES ON NETFLIX ON 20TH MAY," the tweet read. "Jersey" chronicles the story of a talented but failed cricketer (Kapoor), who decides to return to the field in his late 30s driven by the desire to represent the Indian men's cricket team and fulfil his son's wish for a jersey as a gift. Gowtam Tinnanuri, who directed the 2019 original film starring Nani, helmed the Hindi adaptation as well. Also starring Mrunal Thakur and Pankaj Kapur, "Jersey" is presented by Allu Arvind and backed by Aman Gill, Dil Raju, and S Naga Vamsi.

Mame Khan becomes first folk artist to open Cannes Red Carpet for India

Led by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur as part of the official Indian delegation, Rajasthan singer Mame Khan on Tuesday made history by becoming the first folk artist to open Red Carpet for India at the Cannes Film Festival.

Khan, who has been a playback singer for several Bollywood films such as 'Luck By Chance', 'No One Killed Jessica', and 'Sonchirya' among others and has also been featured on Coke Studio along with Amit Trivedi, at the red carpet could be seen dressed in a traditional Rajasthan ensemble that included a vibrant pink Kurta underneath an ethnic embroidered coat.

The glamorous red carpet contingent which comprised of Indian film celebrities had put the diversity and uniqueness of Indian cinema on display.

Ambassadors from different regional cinemas were part of the delegation which along with Khan and Thakur included Shekhar Kapur, Pooja Hegde, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Tamannaah Bhatia, R Madhavan, AR Rahman, Praseon Joshi, Vani Tripathi, Ricky Kej. The India Pavilion at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival will be inaugurated today by Anurag Thakur and the universal theme for this year is India the content hub of the world.



Praseon Joshi considers India as 'storyteller's country'

Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification and lyricist-poet Praseon Joshi, who is part of the Indian delegation at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, considers "India as a storyteller's country".

Speaking about the festival where India has been named the 'Country of Honour', he said, "India has always come to Cannes and we have all learned a lot here. There are two parts to Cannes-- one is the market and the other one is where the films are showcased. I think both have been very important for us and this is a special year because India is the 'Country of Honour'."

"The government and all the filmmakers together have taken it pretty seriously. We are looking forward to having very fruitful discussions whether it is at an industry level or at a partnership level between different bodies," Praseon continued.

He further went on to state that India is a storyteller's country and since ancient times it has been a deeply ingrained part of our culture.

"I consider India as a storyteller's country. Not just now, but in ancient India also Katha was a very important part of our culture. Whether it's at home, whether it's the storytelling by grandparents to children or in the society where you have congregations and storytelling is an important part of it. So I think the next era can belong to India,



especially in terms of global stories and ideas coming out of India. It will be a great festival for us and we all look forward," said Praseon.

Earlier, ahead of the Indian delegation's presence at Cannes 2022 Red Carpet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi penned a message expressing his immense pride by stating India possesses the potential to become the content hub of the world.



Mike Tyson joins thriller 'Black Flies'

Boxing legend Mike Tyson has booked his next acting job in "Black Flies", a thriller drama based on Shannon Burke's novel of the same name. Tyson's previous film credits include "The Hangover" franchise, in which he most famously played a fictionalised version of himself, and "Ip Man 3".

He will play the men's superior officer in the movie, to be directed by Jean-Stephane Sauvaire.

Tyson, who will next be seen in the pan India film "Liger", joins previously announced cast members Sean Penn and Tye Sheridan in the project which revolves around

lifesaving paramedics and the toll the job takes on them. Sheridan will essay the role of an idealistic young man who is prepping for medical school and gets a street-side view of things when he drives an ambulance alongside a grizzled veteran (Penn) who is considered to be one of the city's best emergency medics.

Burke, Ben Mac Brown and Ryan King wrote the script for "Black Flies". The film is being produced under the Sculptor Media banner alongside Force Majeure, James Masciello's creative producing arm, and Projected Picture Works.

Shooting is underway in New York City.

Shehnaaz Gill spotted in ethnic outfit, gajra in hair on sets of Salman Khan's 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali': First look OUT



Punjabi actress-singer and 'Bigg Boss 13' fame Shehnaaz Gill is reportedly making her Bollywood debut with Salman Khan's upcoming film 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali'. As per latest reports, the actress has kickstarted shooting for the project. A new video of Shehnaaz, seemingly from the film's set, is doing rounds on social media.

In the alleged leaked clip, she is seen dressed in an ethnic Indian look. The video begins with Shehnaaz stepping out of her vanity van along with her team. She appears to be wearing what looks like a South Indian-style lehenga, with her hair styled with a gajra. While the original video is quite blurred, her fans were more than happy to see her.



AR Rahman shares happy snap featuring Kamal Haasan from Cannes

As the annual 75th Cannes Film Festival commenced on Tuesday, composer and singer AR Rahman shared a happy picture featuring him and South star Kamal Haasan.

Rahman took to his Instagram handle and posted the picture in which he and Kamal could be seen standing beside each other. While the musical maestro wore a black bandhgala suit with sunglasses, Kamal too wore a similar suit but with white highlights on it.

Rahman also walked the red carpet on Tuesday, representing the Indian delegation led by I&B Minister Anurag Thakur.

Excited to be at Cannes Film Festival, Rahman had told ANI, "It's a great honour to be here. I also have my first directorial film which is premiering at Cannes XR. We



all are excited." At the 2022 Cannes Film Festival Rahman's directorial debut 'Le Musk' will have a world premiere in Cannes XR, Marche Du Films. It is a 36-minute VR film that stars Nora Arnezeder and Guy Burnet in pivotal roles.

Vicky Kaushal's New York birthday celebration with wife Katrina and friends

Actor Vicky Kaushal became a year older on May 16. A day after his birthday the actor uploaded some loveliest pictures and a video of the birthday bash, on Tuesday, on his social media account. The 'Raazi' actor took to his

Instagram handle and shared a set of pictures of the party including a short video, in which Katrina Kaif, his ladylove, is seen singing Happy Birthday song for him. Sharing the snaps Vicky wrote, "Swinging into the new year with my favourite

people. My heart's filled with utmost joy and gratitude. Thank You everyone for sending me all your love and warm wishes. Pyaar pyaar aur bohut saara pyaar!!!! The first photo in his birthday album showed the birthday boy striking a



pose for the camera. The actor looked great in a blue tee and pant combo while relaxing. The actor's ladylove Katrina sat by his side, singing Happy Birthday as he cut his birthday cake in the video

that followed. The third shot in the album showed the terrace decorations, which included Happy Birthday balloons in the centre.