

19th June 2021

1. Centre plans Bill to order censors to re-examine a cleared film

The Centre sought public comments on its draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which proposes to bring back its “revisionary powers” over the Central Board of Film Certification. This would empower the Centre to order “re-examination” of an already certified film, following receipt of complaints.

In November 2000, the Supreme Court had upheld a Karnataka High Court order which struck down the Centre’s “revisional powers in respect of films that are already certified by the Board”.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said it wanted to add a provision “for granting revisionary powers to the government on account of violation of Section 5B(1) of the Act” (principles for guidance in certifying films).

2. Delhi HC’s order surprising, need to examine reading of UAPA, says SC

The Supreme Court issued notice on Delhi Police appeals against the Delhi High Court order granting bail to student-activists Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha who had been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a Northeast Delhi riots conspiracy case.

While it declined to interfere with the bail order, the bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian said “in a bail application, a 100-page judgment discussing all laws is surprising us” and “can have pan-India ramification”. It said “the manner in which the High Court had interpreted the Act (UAPA) will probably require examination by the Supreme Court”.

Directing that “in the meantime, the impugned judgment shall not be treated as a precedent and may not be relied upon by any of the parties in any of the proceedings,” the bench said “what we can say is, bail has been granted (to the student activists) and they will not be affected but will stay the effect of the HC order”.

The bench “agreed” with “concerns” raised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the interpretation of the UAPA by the HC in the verdict raised several questions especially “since the legality of UAPA did not arise (in the proceedings before the HC)”.

3. PM Modi launches crash course to train one lakh 'Covid warriors'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday launched a crash course to train more than one lakh "Covid warriors" as he called on the country to be prepared for challenges the coronavirus pandemic may pose in the future.

The programme will be carried out from 111 training centres spread across 26 states.

Prime Minister Modi said training will be imparted to Covid warriors in six customised job roles — Home Care Support, Basic Care Support, Advanced Care Support, Emergency Care Support, Sample Collection Support, and Medical Equipment Support.

This will include fresh skilling as well as upskilling of those who have some training in this type of work.

"This campaign will give fresh energy to the health sector frontline force and will also provide job opportunities to our youth. The coronavirus period has shown us the importance of skill, re-skill and up-skill," he said.

4. Indian-origin Justice becomes first person of colour to be nominated to Supreme Court of Canada

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has nominated Indian-origin Justice Mahmud Jamal to the Supreme Court of Canada, becoming the first person of colour to be named to the apex court of the country.

Trudeau announced Jamal's nomination to replace the retiring Rosalie Silberman Abella, the first refugee and first Jewish woman to sit on the top court.

5. Flying Sikh Milkha Singh, independent India's first sporting superstar, dies at 91

Missing what could have been India's greatest track and field medal — a bronze at the Rome Olympics in 1960 by 0.1 seconds — independent India's first sporting superstar taught a nation entering its teens what a heartbreak felt like.

The legendary athlete is a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and the 1958 Commonwealth Games champion, but his greatest performance remains the fourth-place finish in the 400m final of the 1960 Rome Olympics.

He also represented India in the 1956 and the 1964 Olympics and was bestowed the Padma Shri in 1959

An Army man, who impressed a Pakistan General so much that he gave him the famous moniker “Flying Sikh”; a track legend who put India at the starting blocks of the biggest sporting stage; and a trailblazer who demanded excellence from all those who represented the country — Milkha Singh passed away from Covid-related complications late Friday at the age of 91.

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