

Mahadev Online Betting Racket

ED summons Bollywood Star Ranbir Kapoor

Why In The News?

- The **Enforcement Directorate** On Wednesday (October 4) Summoned Actor **Ranbir Kapoor** In Connection With The **Mahadev Online Betting Case**. He Has Been Asked To Appear Before The ED On October 6 For **Promoting Illegal Online Betting And Gaming Platform**.
- Mahadev Online Book Provides Online Platforms For **Illegal Betting In Different Live Games** Such As Poker And Other Card Games, Chance Games, Cricket, Badminton, Tennis, Football And Others, Even Providing **An Avenue To Bet On Different Elections In India**.

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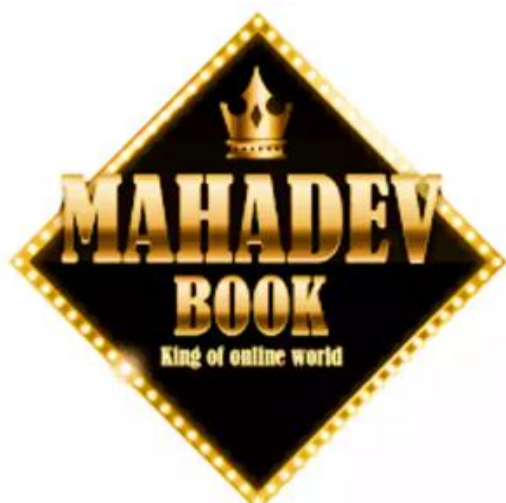
Actor Ranbir Kapoor summoned by probe agency ED on Friday in online betting case

Why In The News?

- It Also Provides A Facility To Play Several Card Games Such As **'Teen Patti', Poker, 'Dragon Tiger', Virtual Cricket Games**, And More. Its Main Promoters, Originally From Chhattisgarh, Are Based Out Of Dubai, And May Have Amassed As Much As **Rs 5,000 Crores** Through The Platform.
- As Per The ED, **M/s Mahadev Book** Maintains Various Websites And Operates **Several Closed Groups On Chat Apps**. They Advertise Contact Numbers Over Websites And Lure People To Play To Earn Profits. These Numbers Can Only Be Contacted Over WhatsApp.
- Once A Potential User Makes Contact, She Is Provided With Two Separate Contact Numbers. One To Be Contacted For **Depositing Money And Collecting**

Points In The User Ids Used To Make Bets. The Other For Contacting The Website To Encash The Accumulated Points In The Designated Ids.

- The Ids Are Generally Created On Websites Such As **Laser247.Com**, **Laserbook247.Com**, <http://www.Betbhai.Com>, **Betbook247.Com**, **Tigerexch247.Com**, And <http://www.Cricketbet9.Com> - Depending On The Need And Preference Of The Bettors.



- The Operations To Collect Money, Create User Ids, Distribute These ID Credentials Customers, And Distribute Any Money Earned Are Carried Out By **Panel/Branch Owners**.
- **Players Have To Deposit Money In Benami Accounts** Shared Online And Then Are Assigned Panels By The Head Office In Dubai. Payouts Are Also Done Using Benami Bank Accounts. These Bank Accounts Are Either Opened Fraudulently Or Are Loaned For Commission.
- Importantly, **All The Games Are Rigged** In A Manner That Overall, The Panel Owners Do Not Lose Money And Despite Initial Profits To The User, Ultimately, They Are Always Likely To Incur Losses.
- As Per Police Sources, The **App Began Its Operations In 2017**, But Its Reach Among Users Saw A **Huge Increase During The Pandemic In 2020**, Continuing To Go Up Till 2022.

The Men Behind Mahadev Book

- **Sourabh Chandrakar, 28, And Ravi Uppal, 43**, Who Hail From Bhilai, Are The Main Promoters Of Mahadev Online Book, And Are Running Their Operations From Dubai. They Have Total Control Over Its Operations And Keep **80% Of The Profits**. The Duo Is Suspected To Have Made Rs 5,000 Crores From This App.