

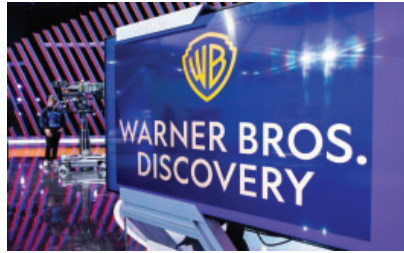


PARAMOUNT'S WBD BID FAILS TO SWAY KEY SHAREHOLDER

Paramount's revised \$108.4 billion takeover offer for Warner Bros Discovery (WBD) has failed to fully convince Harris Oakmark, WBD's fifth-largest shareholder holding nearly a 4% stake. According to Reuters, the investor believes the updated bid, despite adjustments such as Larry Ellison personally guaranteeing over \$40 billion of funding and a higher breakup fee, still falls short of being compelling.

Paramount's revised offer aimed to address concerns over financing and regulatory uncertainties, yet WBD's board has reiterated its preference for Netflix's competing proposal. While Netflix's cash bid values the company lower per share, the board points to greater certainty of financing, potential equity upside, and expected proceeds from a planned Discovery Global spin-off as key advantages.

Shareholders have until January 21, extended from the earlier January 8 deadline, to respond to Paramount's tender offer. Market



analysts say the competing bids underscore the strategic value of WBD's assets, which include HBO Max and iconic franchises such as Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and Superman. Some investors are expected to follow the board's recommendation, while others may still consider Paramount's revised proposal if Netflix does not improve its offer.

AKASHVANI & DOORDARSHAN EARN RS 588 CRORE

Akashvani and Doordarshan together generated Rs 587.78 crore from non-government advertisements between 2022 and 2025, the Lok Sabha was informed. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) is simultaneously modernizing the broadcasters under the Rs 2,539.61 crore Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) Scheme (2021-26).



Improvements include upgrading studios and transmitters, expanding coverage, and enhancing digital presence through the OTT platform WAVES. Content reforms have been introduced to boost quality and regional diversity, with local artists

engaged across 66 Programme Production Centres. Akashvani has launched audio-visual podcasts, while Doordarshan now integrates multiple channels on WAVES and apps like Online NewsONAIR, widening audience reach.

Structural reforms focus on revenue generation, multi-platform promotion, and content planning. Major national events such as Mahakumbh 2025, WAVES 2025, and ISRO satellite launches have been telecast live to ensure public outreach.

GOVERNMENT PROBES ALLEGED RS 100-CRORE TRP MANIPULATION IN KERALA

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has sought a report from Kerala Police regarding an alleged Rs 100-crore television rating manipulation case. Reports suggest a channel may have bribed a Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) employee to influence ratings.



The ministry has requested details of action taken on the FIR reportedly filed in the matter. This investigation comes amid a review of the country's audience measurement framework, reflecting the government's focus on transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance in television ratings. Officials say the inquiry will help ensure credibility in viewership metrics that underpin advertising and content decisions. ■