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AHEAD OF KATRINA KAIF-VICKY KAUSHAL WEDDING, TAKE A TOUR OF 700-YEAR-OLD FORT BARWARA, WHERE ROOMS CAN COST RS 6.5 LAKH PER NIGHT

Actors Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are all set to tie the knot on December 9 at a 700-year-old fort in Rajasthan. Located in the town of Sawai Madhopur, the Six Senses Fort Barwara will host the couple and their guests for a week of festivities that began with an intimate party on December 7. The official website describes the property as “A beautiful 14th-century fort sensitively converted to become a Six Senses sanctuary of well-being. Originally owned by a Rajasthani Royal Family, it faces the Chauth ka Barwara Mandir temple. The significant conservation effort incorporates two palaces and two temples within the walled fort. The design of Six Senses resort in Rajasthan reinterprets the gracious and regal ambiance of a bygone era dating back 700 years.” The cheapest room at the property—the Sanctuary Suite—goes for Rs 92,000 per night before taxes, according to Booking.com. An upgrade will get you the Fort Suite and the Aravali Suite, which range from around Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.3 lakh per night, again, before taxes. The Burj Suite costs between Rs 1.4 to Rs 1.6 lakh per night. The Terrace Suite

will set you back between Rs 1.6 and Rs 1.7 lakh per night, while the Rani Rajkumari Suite ranges from Rs 3.4 to Rs 3.6 lakh per night. The taxes on this suite can go up to around Rs 60,000 per night, so essentially, it's a Rs 4 lakh plus room. But we haven't yet arrived at the peak of luxury that the property offers. The most expensive room is the Raja Man Singh Suite, which costs around Rs 5.5 lakh per night, which after taxes is around 6.5 lakh. It includes an inner courtyard and a private pool. According to the website, “The historic fort has been sensitively preserved and converted, and enjoys a sensational view of the lake and temple. The landscaping integrates purely endemic plants and water features. The property is working with the local community to rewild the forests to the east and revive the sacred lake to its former glory.” Katrina and Vicky's love story began when they expressed mutual admiration for each other on Koffee with Karan, and then interviewed each other for Film Companion. They have since been spotted together on several occasions, but have never confirmed their relationship.

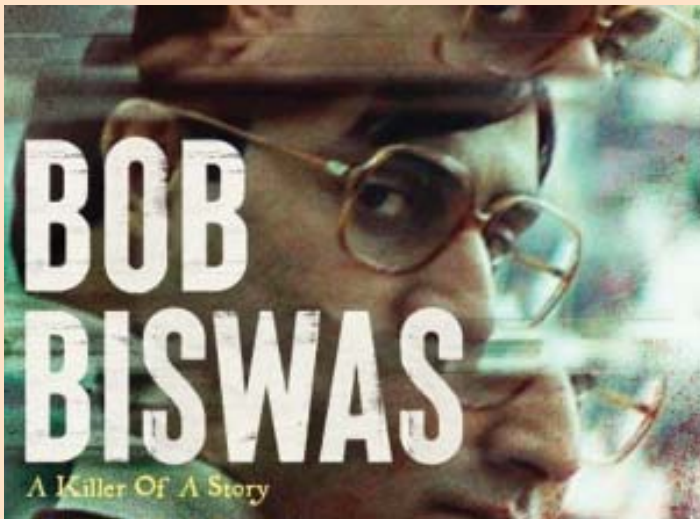
Alia Bhatt on bagging Sita's role in RRR: 'I said I'll do anything to be in your film'



Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt on Thursday revealed how she bagged the role of Sita in SS Rajamouli's magnum opus RRR. Alia shared how she met the filmmaker at Hyderabad airport and asked for an opportunity to work in one of his films. The actor was speaking at the trailer launch of RRR in Mumbai. She said, “I met Rajamouli sir at Hyderabad airport and I approached him and told him, ‘Sir I want to work in your film. I'll do anything to be in your film’. And it really was like a dream come true when he said that there is actually something that I could do.” Alia added, “To my surprise, he said, ‘Sita is very important in the film, and I am happy that you match her character’. I prepared for a year and worked on my lines for a year. The most scary part for me was to say my lines in Telugu.” Alia Bhatt also shared how she prepared for her first pan-India film where she had to say her lines in Telugu, and how Rajamouli comforted her on set. The Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani actor said, “I was very excited and nervous when I was offered the role of Sita. I was more nervous because of the language. I had learnt the lines by heart. I wanted to make sure I say those lines well and take proper pauses. But once I was on set, Rajamouli sir had kept everything ready. And made it very smooth for me. By the end of it, I was sad that it is over. Hopefully there will be more films with him in the future.”

ABHISHEK BACHCHAN'S BOB BISWAS RELEASED EXCLUSIVELY ON ZEE5 GLOBAL

This December, ZEE5 Global, the world's largest streaming platform for South Asian content, brings to its viewers Bob Biswas, a crime-drama set against the backdrop of a love story, showcasing the dual life led by a contract killer, Bob Biswas. Starring Abhishek Bachchan in the titular role and Chitrangda Singh as Mary, the ZEE5 Original film has been directed by Diya Annapurna Ghosh and is produced by Gauri Khan, Sujoy Ghosh and Gaurav Verma. The journey of Bob Biswas, a middle-aged hitman-for-hire who comes out of a prolonged coma not being able to remember any details about his life and his past including his own family. As he tries to remember his identity, episodes from his past come alive, putting him in a moral dilemma between the history of his own deeds versus his newly developed sense of right and wrong. The film is a Boundscript production presented by Red Chillies Entertainment and set to premiere on India's largest homegrown OTT platform, ZEE5 on 3rd December. Shot in Kolkata, Bob Biswas also stars Chitrangda Singh in a pivotal role. Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global, said, “In line with our commitment to bring our viewers the best stories across genres and from master storytellers, we are happy to announce yet another direct-to-digital release ‘Bob Biswas’ in association with Red Chillies Entertainment and Sujoy Ghosh's Boundscript. A crime drama with Abhishek Bachchan playing the character of Bob Biswas, the film is sure to delight our global audiences.” Debutant Director, Diya Annapurna Ghosh, said, “I have had the most fantastic experience designing Bob Biswas, a crime-drama that has a love story in its essence. This film came to me in 2020 which was one of the most difficult times in all of our lives. I was blessed with a fabulous set of actors like Abhishek and Chitrangda amongst others, who have given it their all. With the support of my whole crew, Red Chillies Entertainment and Boundscript, we culminated amidst all odds to make Bob Biswas happen and I am very grateful to them.” Gaurav Verma, Producer & COO Red Chillies Entertainment said, “We endeavour to tell engaging stories across all platforms and back fresh talent; Bob Biswas is another step in that direction. It's a unique film, a character spin-off, something we have never attempted before. It was exciting to work with Diya, who has transformed into a director with a lot of promise in her very first film. Together with producing partner Sujoy Ghosh, we are excited to bring Bob Biswas to the viewers through ZEE5.”



Sujoy Ghosh from Boundscript, Co-producer and Writer said, “This is a new ‘Bob Biswas’, he is like any of us. In life, we all have various roles to play, whether as a parent, spouse or friend and in each role we are equally responsible and accountable. This is the world of Bob, where he is trying to cope with each role as his life unfolds before him. Creating this world of Bob was super exciting and having Abhishek onboard has made the film even cooler. I genuinely hope that the audience enjoys what they see.” Watch Bob Biswas exclusively on ZEE5 on 3rd December 2021. Users can download the ZEE5 app from Google Play Store / iOS App Store, on Roku devices, Apple TVs, Android TVs, and Amazon Fire Stick. ZEE5 is also available on www.ZEE5.com. About ZEE5 Global ZEE5 is the digital entertainment destination launched by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), a global Media and Entertainment powerhouse. The platform launched across 190+ countries in October 2018 and has content across 18 languages: Hindi, English, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Oriya, Bhojपुरi, Gujarati, Punjabi, including six international languages Malay, Thai, Bahasa, Urdu, Bangla and Arabic. ZEE5 is home to 170,000+ hours of On-Demand Content. The platform brings together the best of Originals, Movies and TV Shows, Music, Cineplays and Health and Lifestyle content all in one single destination. ZEE5 offers key features like 15 navigational languages, content download option, seamless video playback and Voice Search.

PREITY ZINTA IS LOVING 'BURP CLOTHS, DIAPERS AND BABIES'



Bollywood actress PreityZinta is enjoying being a mother to her newborns Gia and Jai. She even shared a picture holding one of her twins. Preity posted the picture on Instagram, where she is seen holding her baby and smiling at the camera. The face of the baby wasn't visible as the little bundle of joy was wrapped in a baby blanket. Preity also had a burp cloth on her shoulder. "Burp cloths, diapers & babies... I'm loving it all #ting," Preity captioned the image. The actress, who made the announcement on social media with a picture of herself posing with Gene, opted for surrogacy. The actress currently resides in Los Angeles with husband Gene Goodenough, whom she tied the knot in February 29, 2016.

ZAREEN KHAN COLLABORATES WITH JORDAN SANDHU FOR PUNJABI MUSIC VIDEO 'CHANNCHANN'



(IANS) Actress Zareen Khan is all excited for her new Punjabi music video 'ChannChann' for which she has collaborated with Jordan Sandhu. 'ChannChann' is a romantic Punjabi track that showcases a cute love story between the two. Talking about the song, the actress said, "I'm so happy to collaborate with Jordan again, he is a very talented artiste. I have worked in movies, OTT and music platforms space but I personally love doing Punjabi music videos and I would love to take more such projects in the future. Every bit of this song is very special to me and I have enjoyed and loved shooting for it to the T." The music video of 'ChannChann' is out now on YouTube.

HEMA MALINI ON DHARMENDRA: 'HE HAS WRITTEN A LOT OF SHAYARIS FOR ME'



Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra is planning to celebrate his birthday with Hema Malini and their children Ahana and Esha Deol. Talking about their children, Malini stated that the most precious gift Dharmendra has given her till now are their children. And even as years go by, the love the pair has for each other has remained strong. During her conversation with Pinkvilla, Hema Malini also revealed that she learnt the Urdu language during lockdown. Elaborating on it further, the actor-politician said that she already knew the language and could read and write it from before as Dharmendra would pen lovely shayaris for her in Urdu. “Dharamji has written a lot for me,” Malini told the publication. However, when prodded further about the specific couplet that was written in her praise, the actor said she would rather keep the compliment a secret as it was too personal in nature. Hema concluded the chat by stating their love will remain forever and cannot be changed. Dharmendra and Hema Malini tied the knot in 1980. They have two daughters together, Ahana and Esha Deol. On the work front, Dharmendra is looking forward to the release of Karan Johar directorial Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani.



SIDHARTH SHUKLA MOST SEARCHED
CELEB ON THE NET; KAREENA NO. 1
AMONG WOMEN: YAHOO!



The 'Year in Review 2021' released by the web services Yahoo! reports that the late reality television star and actor, Siddharth Shukla, who breathed his last on September 2, 2021, has been the most searched male celebrity of the year that's slowly drawing to an end.

Most searched male celeb
Shukla is followed by Bollywood megastar Salman Khan, who is the host of the reality show 'Bigg Boss', which, incidentally, made the late actor famous in his lifetime.

Close on the heels of Salman Khan is the Telugu actor, Allu Arjun, followed by the late Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar, another actor to meet with a premature end, and the celebrated thespian, Dilip Kumar, who passed away this past July. Among the most searched female celebrities of 2021, Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan grabbed the top spot. Her second pregnancy was the talk of the town for a part of the year and it was followed by the arrival and progress of her second son, Jeh.

Most searched female celeb
With Kareena making it a habit of posting Jeh's pictures, along with those of her elder son, Taimur, she managed to keep her fans hooked to her Instagram account.

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif, whose wedding with Vicky Kaushal now rules the headlines, secured the second spot, followed by Priyanka Chopra, Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone.

The Biggest Newsmaker list saw a new entrant: Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan, who emerged as No. 2 in the ranking after his headline-grabbing arrest by the Narcotics Control Bureau for allegedly possessing drugs and being a part of an illegal rave party on a cruise ship.

KAREENA CALLS JENNIFER LAWRENCE
'SIMPLY GORGEOUS', SHARES PIX ON INSTA



Kareena Kapoor Khan recently shared a picture of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence with a baby bump as the latter attended the premiere of her upcoming film 'Don't Look Up' in New York. Kareena took to her Instagram and uploaded a picture in her story where Jennifer can be seen posing with her co-star Leonardo DiCaprio. Kareena wrote "Simply gorgeous" for Jennifer. Jennifer, who wore a golden gown to the premiere, will be soon sharing the screen with Rob Morgan, Jonah Hill, Mark Rylance, Tyler Perry, Ron Perlman, Timothee Chalamet, Ariana Grande, Scott Mescudi, Cate Blanchett, and Meryl Streep in the satirical science fiction black comedy.

The actress will be playing an astronomer in the film along with Leo as the two attempt to warn mankind of an impending doom. As for Kareena, the actress will return after a brief hiatus with Aamir Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha' which is an adaptation of the highly successful comedy drama 'Forrest Gump' which itself was based on Winston Groom's novel of the same name. The film is slated to release on April 14, 2022.(IANS)

"MUJHSE SHAADI KAROGI?:" WHEN VICKY
KAUSHAL ASKED KATRINA KAIF ON A SHOW

NEW DELHI: Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's wedding is set to take place on December 9 at Sawai Madhopur's Six Senses Fort. The star couple's wedding festivities began on Tuesday with a mehendi ceremony and the sangeet will be held tonight. Amid all the buzz around this celeb wedding, fans of the actors dug out old videos of Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's moments together (there are very few). Among them is an old video from an award show, where Vicky Kaushal can be seen flirting with Katrina Kaif. Vicky says in the video, "Aap kisi achche se Vicky Kaushal ko dhund ke shaadi kyun nahi kar letin?" He adds, "Shaadi ka season chal raha hai, toh maine socha mai bhi puchh lun..." Mujhse shaadi karogi?" To which, Katrina replied, "Himmat nahi hai." Who knew then?

Katrina and Vicky flew to Jaipur with their respective families on Monday and kickstarted their wedding celebrations with mehendi ceremony on Tuesday. Guests at the wedding festivities include Neha

Dhupia and Angad Bedi, Kabir Khan and Mini Mathur, and actresses Sharvari Wagh, Radhika Madan and Malavika Mohanan. In terms of work, Katrina Kaif will next be seen in Tiger 3 with co-star Salman Khan. She was last seen in Rohit Shetty's cop drama Sooryavanshi, alongside Akshay Kumar. She will also star in Phone Bhoot with Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter. The actress will also feature in Jee Le Zaraa with Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt. The film will be directed by Farhan Akhtar and it will be written by Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti. Vicky Kaushal was last seen in Sardar Udham, which opened to stellar reviews. The National Award winning actor will next be seen in Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw's biopic. The actor has also signed another film with Uri director Aditya Dhar, in which he will also be seen playing the role of the Mahabharata character Ashwatthama. The actor has starred in hit films like Uri: The Surgical Strike, Sanju, and Lust Stories, to name a few.

KANGANA RANAUT REACTS TO KATRINA-VICKY'S WEDDING, PRAISES
'SUCCESSFUL' ACTRESSES MARRYING YOUNGER ACTORS

Ahead of Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's wedding, actor Kangana Ranaut on Wednesday said it is good that the "leading ladies" of Bollywood are breaking sexist norms of the society. Kaif, the star of many Bollywood blockbusters such as "Namaste London", "Singh Is Kingg", "Raajneeti", "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" and "Bharat", is tying the knot with Kaushal after dating for more than a year. Though Kangana did not directly name Kaif or Kaushal, Ranaut said the wedding "redefines gender stereotypes". "Growing up we heard so many stories of successful rich men marrying much younger women. For women to be more successful than their husband was seen as a major crisis, forget marrying a younger man after a certain age marriage was impossible for women (sic)." "Nice to see rich, successful women, leading ladies of Indian Film Industry breaking the sexist norms. Kudos to men and women both for redefining gender stereotypes," Ranaut wrote on her Instagram Stories. On Tuesday, Kaif, 38, and 33-year-old Kaushal's pre-wedding festivities started at Six Senses Fort Barwara, Sawai Madhopur. Both Kaif and Kaushal left for Jaipur from Mumbai on Monday evening with their families and from there, headed to Six Senses Fort Barwara, Sawai Madhopur, in a convoy of more than 15 cars. On the request of the couple, the 700-year-old Six Senses hotel fort Barwara situated in Sawai Madhopur district, has been decorated with a heritage look as the couple wanted something natural other than the artificial decor.



Arjun Kapoor calls girlfriend Malaika Arora a 'taskmaster'

Arjun posted a video on Instagram on Sunday, where the couple are seen doing aqua cycling. "When the girlfriend is a tougher task master than your trainer... See @drewnealpt I'm working out even on holiday in the @patinamalddives pool thanks to @malaikaaroraofficial !!!," he wrote as the caption for the image, which in just 10 minutes got over 7,000 likes. Arjun and Malaika have been dating for a while. The two have been pictured several times at various events. On the work front, Arjun currently has three films lined up - 'Ek Villain Returns', 'Kuttey' and 'The Lady Killer'.

Hrithik, Saif-starrer 'Vikram Vedha' slated for global release on Sep 30, 2022

(IANS): The first filming schedule of action-packed thriller 'Vikram Vedha', which is being co-produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Reliance Entertainment in association with Friday Filmworks and S. Sashikanth's YNOT Studios, has concluded in Abu Dhabi with Hrithik Roshan. It spanned across 27 days. The second schedule has begun with Saif Ali Khan in Lucknow. The film will hit the big screens globally on September 30, 2022. The film stars Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan in lead roles, with Radhika Apte playing a pivotal character. Pushkar and Gayatri, the original writers and directors, are helming the Hindi remake too. A cult classic in its own right, 'Vikram Vedha' is a neo-noir action thriller based on the folk tale 'Vikram Aur Betaal'. The film tells the story of a tough police officer who sets out to track down and kill an equally tough gangster. The original Tamil blockbuster starred R. Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi in the lead roles. "We are delighted to be working with Hrithik and Saif -- two great actors," Pushkar and Gayatri, the directors, said in a statement. "With a superb team around us, we hope to deliver a film that will be intense and exciting." Bhushan Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director, T-Series, said: "'Vikram Vedha' promises to be one of the most thrilling and entertaining films of the year. The announcement itself has sparked off a great deal of interest in the audience." He added: "We're ecstatic to reunite this dynamic duo after two decades on the big screen. We cannot wait for 'Vikram Vedha' to work its magic in the theatres and become a box-office hit." The 2002 film 'Naa Tum JaanoNaa Hum' was the last release where Hrithik and Saif were seen together. Commenting on 'Vikram Vedha', co-producer S. Sashikanth said: "After having produced the original version in Tamil four years ago, we are excited to see how 'Vikram Vedha' has been shaping up in Hindi with Hrithik and Saif pushing the boundaries and taking this story to a global audience."

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US announces diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics

The US has announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in China -- a move that has been heavily criticised by Beijing, BBC reported.

The White House said no official delegation would be sent to the Games because of concerns about China's human rights record, the report said.

But it said US athletes could attend and would have the government's full support. China called Washington's move a "self-directed political farce". "The US just wants to politicise sports, create divisions and provoke confrontation," said a statement by the spokesperson of the Chinese Mission to the UN. "The success of the Games does not rely on the attendance of a handful of countries' government officials."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki confirmed the boycott on

Monday, saying that the administration would not contribute to the "fanfare" of the Olympics, the report said.

"US diplomatic or official representation would treat these games as business as usual in the face of the PRC's (People's Republic of China) egregious human rights abuses and atrocities in Xinjiang," she said. "We simply can't do that."

Psaki added that the US government did not feel "it was the right step to penalise athletes who had been training for this moment", but that not sending an official US delegation to the 2022 Games "could send a clear message". Following the US announcement, New Zealand said on Tuesday it too would not send a delegation. Other countries, including the UK and Australia, are said to be considering boycotts, the report said.

2nd Test: India thrash New Zealand by 372 runs, win series 1-0

India thrashed New Zealand by 372 runs in the second Test at the Wankhede Stadium here to record their biggest victory by run margin and win the two-Test series 1-0. With this win, India also bagged 12 points in the World Test Championship 2021/23 standings.

The Indian spinners had reduced New Zealand to 140/5 in their second innings at stumps on the third day and they wrapped up victory in 43 minutes on the fourth morning, bundling out New Zealand for 167 runs in 56.3 overs to record a smashing win.

This is India's biggest win by run margin, bettering the 337-run victory registered against South Africa at the FerozeshahKotla in New Delhi in December 2015. This was also the seventh time that India have won a Test match by 300 or more runs.

Mayank Agarwal, who scored a fantastic 150 in the first innings and followed it up with 62 in the second, was adjudged the 'Player of the Match' while Ravichandran Ashwin was declared the 'Player of the Series' for his vital contribution of 70 runs and 14 wickets in the two-match series.

With New Zealand, who were shot out for 62 in their first innings, struggling at 140/5 in their second knock, India did not give the Black Caps any chances of a fightback as they just took 11.3 overs to settle the issue.

Off-spinner Jayant Yadav came up with a devastating spell as he claimed four wickets for 19 runs on Monday morning, getting the ball to turn sharply and extracting bounce.

R Ashwin claimed the other remaining wicket, getting Henry Nicholls out for 44. Nicholls was Ashwin's 300th victim at home and he is now the second most successful bowler at home, behind Anil Kumble (350).

On Monday, Yadav started the carnage by landing a double blow in the 54th over as he bowled a devastating spell of 6-2-19-4, claiming the wickets of Rachin Ravindra, Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee and William Somerville to complete a four-fer and end the match in quick time.

At the start of the day, New Zealand were hoping that their overnight batters, Henry Nicholls and Ravindra, will stall the Indians' charge, like in the first Test in Kanpur when Ravindra and last man Ajaz Patel thwarted the attempts of the Indian spinners for around 10 overs and denied India victory.

They started well as Ravindra struck Jayant for two fours in his 10th over (48th of the innings), capitalising on the short deliveries that turned and offered him width to rock back on the backfoot and smash them.

And when Nicholls swept Ashwin for a boundary a couple of overs later, it looked like the visitors were settling in for a long haul. They had started cautiously and though there were some loud appeals by the Indians, who were crowded around the bat as was expected, there was no damage done to the Kiwi innings.

But Jayant opened the floodgates when he induced an edge from Ravindra,



drawing the batter out by giving the ball enough air and managing to spin it enough that it nicked the bat on its way to Cheteshwar Pujara in second slip.

Yadav then landed the double blow in the 54th over, getting Kyle Jamieson off the second ball and Tim Southee off the fourth as New Zealand slumped to 165 for eight.

Jamieson was trapped in front by one that turned sharply from outside off and would have hit the middle stump as ultra-edge proved on the review taken by the New Zealand batter.

Southee jumped out to a nicely tossed delivery and completely missed the line to get bowled.

Yadav got Somerville out in his next over when he had the batsman jabbing at one pitched on the middle, inside-edging on to his pads for Mayank Agarwal to complete a sharp catch at short leg.

With last man Ajaz Patel at the other end, Nicholls took matters in his hands as he rushed out to hit a delivery from Ashwin only to miss it completely as Wriddhiman Saha completed a brilliant stumping to wrap up victory for India.

Ajaz Patel, who remained not out on zero without facing a ball, ended up getting another record -- the best bowling spell in a losing cause.

The 30-year-old Mumbai-born left-arm spinner, who became the third bowler in the history of the game to take all 10 wickets in an innings on Saturday, ended up with a match haul of 14/225.

The record was held by India's Javagal Srinath, who claimed 13/132 against Pakistan in 1999. Srinath incidentally is the ICC match referee for this match.

Brief scores: India 325 & 276/7 decl beat New Zealand 62 & 167 all out in 56.3 overs (Daryl Mitchell 60, Henry Nicholls 44; R Ashwin 4/34, Jayant Yadav 4/49) by 372 runs.

ICC T20 WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA FIXTURES TO BE ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 21

A total of 45 matches will be played across seven venues in Australia -- Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney -- between October 16 and November 13 next year.

- HIGHLIGHTS**
- * The final of the T20 World Cup will be played under lights at the MCG on Nov 13, 2022
 - * The semis will be hosted at the SCG and Adelaide Oval on November 9 and 10 respectively
 - * Tickets will go on sale to the public on February 7, 2022

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday said that the full fixture set for the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia next year will be announced on January 21, 2022.

In all, a total of 45 matches will be played across seven venues in Australia -- Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney -- between October 16 and November 13 next year, and the tournament will be held exactly one year after the Aaron Finch-led Australian side won its maiden ICC T20 World Cup, in the UAE recently defeating New Zealand.

The ICC issued a statement on Monday saying, "The Men's T20 World Cup 2022 is less than 11 months away and fans can soon start preparing their World Cup experience with the full fixture set to be announced on January 21, 2022. With the announcement of the fixture, fans will be able to plan which matches they want to attend and where, before tickets go on sale to the public on February 7, 2022."

The final of the T20 World Cup will be played under lights at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on November 13, 2022, while the semifinals will be hosted at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) and Adelaide Oval on November 9 and 10, respectively.

The ICC had announced in November this year that the Men's T20 World Cup 2021 champions Australia and runners-up New Zealand, besides Afghanistan, Bangladesh, England, India, Pakistan and South Africa (as the next highest ranked teams) will gain direct entry into the Super 12 stage of the next edition of the tournament. Namibia, Scotland, Sri Lanka and the West Indies will play in Round 1. The four remaining spots at Australia 2022 will be filled via the ongoing qualification pathway, culminating in two global qualifying tournaments one to take place in Oman in February and the other in Zimbabwe in July.

INDIA RECLAIM TOP SPOT IN ICC TEST RANKINGS

The victory in Mumbai also meant that India registered their 14th consecutive series win at home and 11th straight under Virat Kohli's leadership. After registering an emphatic 372-run victory against defending World Test champions New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday, India reclaimed the top spot in the ICC Test rankings.

The victory in Mumbai also meant that India registered their 14th consecutive series win at home and 11th straight under Virat Kohli's leadership. With the home series win, India bagged 12 points and climbed to number one position in the World Test Championship 2021/23 standings. Now India have 124 points and are ahead of New Zealand who have 121 rating points. Australia who are set to start the Ashes series from December 8, are in third position with 108 points, while England are in fourth position, just one point behind Australia.

MORE THAN 32 CRORE ALLOCATED TO PCI IN LAST 4 YEARS: ANURAG THAKUR

(IANS): The Government of India has allocated more than Rs 32 crore to the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations during the period of 2017-18 to 2021-22, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said in the Parliament on Tuesday. In a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Thakur also informed the House that an amount of Rs 10.50 crore was also spent during the last Paralympic cycle under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for the para athletes.

ASHWIN RISES TO 2ND SPOT, MAYANK CLIMBS TO 11TH POSITION AFTER INDIA

Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin climbed a rung to second while his teammate and opener Mayank Agarwal, along with New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel also made huge progress in the ICC Test Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Agarwal's Player of the Match effort in the second Test in Mumbai, where he scored 150 and 62, has helped him gain 30 spots and reach 11th position in the latest update to the men's rankings.

He is just one spot below a career-best 10th position that he first attained in November 2019.

The Mumbai-born Patel, who became only the third player to take all 10 wickets in Test innings, emulating Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, has moved up 23 slots to 38th after finishing with 14 wickets in the match.

The left-arm spinner's previous best ranking was 53rd and he had started the series in 62nd position. Others to move up in the rankings after the Mumbai Test, which was a part of the ICC World Championships, are India opener Shubman Gill (up 21 places to 45th), fast bowler Mohammad Siraj (up four places to 41st) and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell (up 26 places to 78th).

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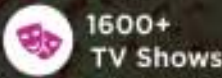


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