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Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

KATRINA KAIF'S SUNDAY SELFIE
IS WINNING HEARTS | 15

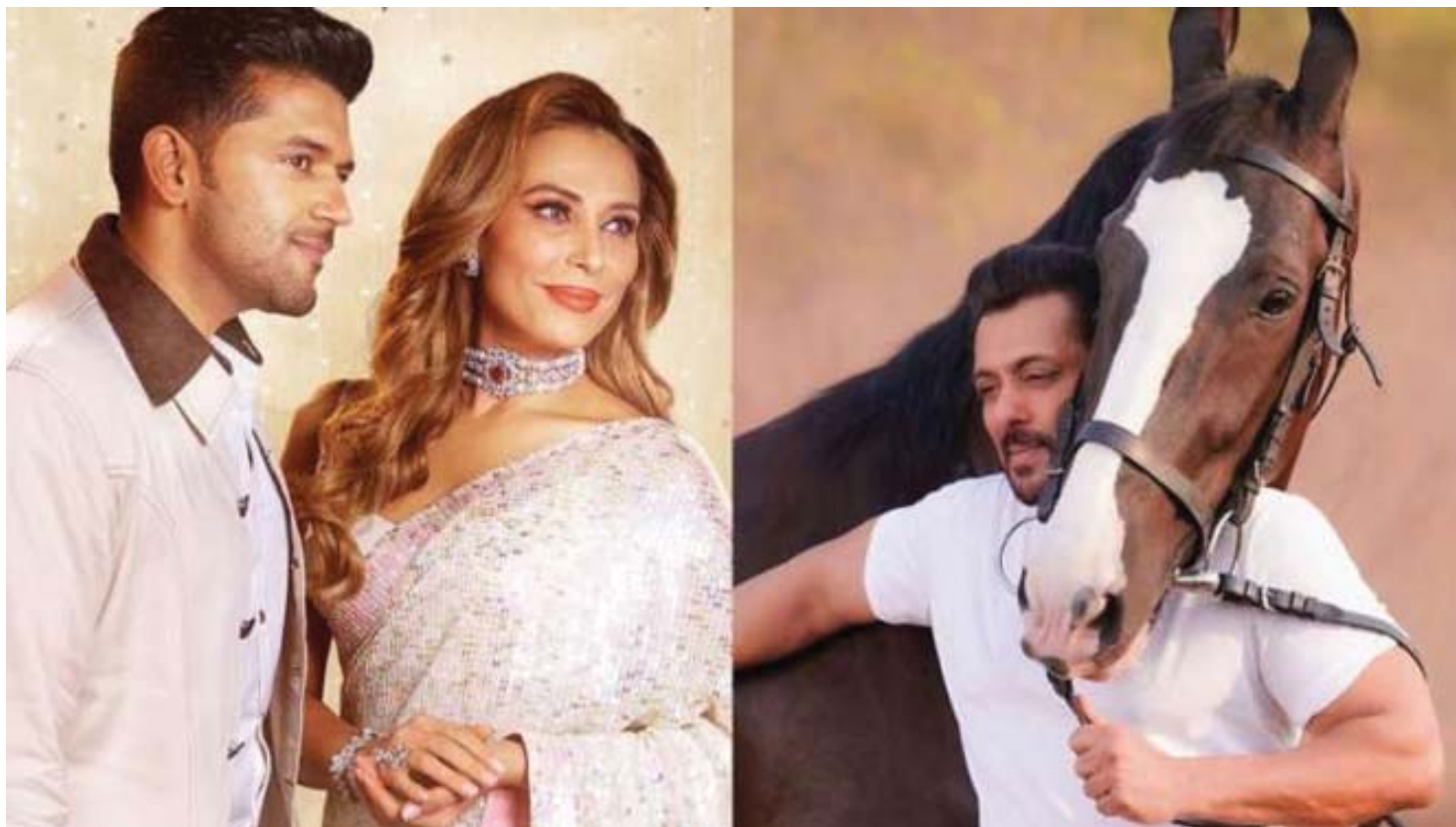


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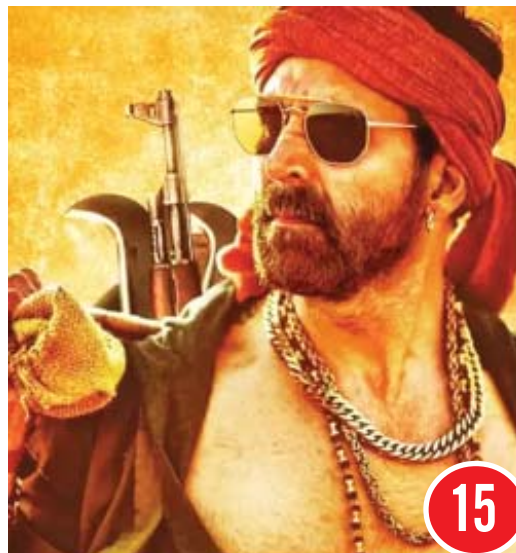
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SALMAN KHAN TO COLLABORATE WITH IULIA VANTUR, GURU RANDHAWA FOR NEW SONG 'MAIN CHALA'



MAIN CHALA: ON TUESDAY, GURU RANDHAWA TOOK TO INSTAGRAM AND SHARED THE UPDATE OF HIS NEW SONG FEATURING SUPERSTAR SALMAN KHAN AND PRAGYA JAISWAL. FEMALE VOCALS OF THE TRACK HAVE BEEN LENT BY 'DABANGG' ACTOR'S CLOSE FRIEND IULIA VANTUR. THE ROMANTIC SONG IS PRODUCED BY SALMA KHAN AND IT WILL BE OUT ON JANUARY 22. BOLLYWOOD SUPERSTAR SALMAN KHAN WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY IMPRESSED US WITH NOT JUST HIS ACTING BUT ALSO HIS VOICE IS ALL SET TO FEATURE IN A NEW MUSIC VIDEO. THE 'DABANGG' ACTOR WILL BE SEEN FLAUNTING HIS ACTING SKILLS IN SINGER GURU RANDHAWA'S NEW SONG 'MAIN CHALA'. FEMALE VOCALS OF THE TRACK HAVE BEEN LENT BY IULIA VANTUR, AND THE FEMALE ARTIST WHO WILL BE FEATURING ALONGSIDE SALMAN IS PRAGYA JAISWAL. ON TUESDAY, GURU RANDHAWA TOOK TO INSTAGRAM AND SHARED THE UPDATE WITH HIS FANS. NOT JUST HIM BUT EVEN PRAGYA MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON HER SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE.

AKSHAY KUMAR'S BACHCHAN PANDEY TO RELEASE IN THEATRES ON THIS DATE



AKSHAY KUMAR IS ALL SET TO LEAD BACHCHAN PANDEY INTO THE THEATRES DURING THE HOLI WEEKEND THIS YEAR. THE FILM ALSO STARS KRITI SANON AND JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE SAYS WORKING ON SHAKUN BATRA'S SET IS 'EXHAUSTING'



DEEPIKA PADUKONE OPENS UP ON WORKING WITH SHAKUN BATRA AND HOW GEHRAIYAAN WAS 'EXHAUSTING' FOR HER.

SUSHMITA SEN SAYS SHE ISN'T 'LOST': 'YOU JUST HAVEN'T FOUND ME YET'



SUSHMITA SEN OFTEN TALKS ABOUT LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP THROUGH PENSIVE INSTAGRAM POSTS ON HER STATE OF MIND.

KIARA ADVANI RUNS IN WHITE BIKINI ON A BEACH IN MALDIVES, FANS SAY 'SIDHARTH MALHOTRA GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER'



The actress leaves no chance to mesmerise her fans with her beautiful posts. She has recently posted a video that is now doing rounds on social media. Kiara Advani on Tuesday took to Instagram and dropped a throw-back video in which she can be seen enjoying on a yacht, running at the beach in the Maldives. She looks gorgeous in a white bikini. With lakhs of views, the video is now trending on social media. Fans are eager to know about her rumoured boyfriend Sidharth Malhotra in the comment box. One of them wrote, "Areee bhabhi...bhai k saath bnati n," while the second one wrote, "Where is Malhotra?" The third one wrote, "kay @sidmalhotra you're a great photographer." The fourth one wrote, "World's cutest girl I have seen that's you my crush my beauty bomb glamorous queen."

AAMIR KHAN-KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN STARRER 'LAAL SINGH CHADDHA' POSTPONED AGAIN?



After several delays, Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha' might be postponed again. The Advait Chaudhary directorial was earlier reported to release on Christmas 2021, then pushed to Valentine's Day 2022 and had locked its release date as April 14, coinciding with Baisakhi 2022. But as per recent reports, the film has been postponed again. As per a report in BollywoodLife.com, the makers are avoiding to clash its release with 'KGF 2', the sequel to the all-time highest-grossing film in the Kannada film industry - 'KGF 1'. The action-drama film, headlined by the popular actor Yash, had booked April 14 2022 as its release date in August last year. The report states that seeing the mammoth success of Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa: The Rise', which overpowered Ranveer Singh's cricket-drama '83' on the box office despite releasing a week prior to the latter, 'Laal Singh Chaddha' makers don't want to take any chances. A source close to the entertainment portal cited another reason for the delay saying that the final leg of work, especially the VFX section, is still pending in the Aamir Khan film and hence, there won't be enough time left for the post-production. The said source added that the film might release around Diwali, but not the Diwali weekend as that has already been booked by Yash Raj Films for Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'Pathan', whose official announcement is still pending.

IF GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY, IT WILL BE AN HONOUR TO CAPTAIN INDIA, SAYS: BUMRAH



India's bowling quick- Jasprit Bumrah on Monday said he is open to the idea of leading the Indian side, if the opportunity knocks at his doors in near future. With Virat Kohli's captaincy tenure in all formats coming to an end following his resignation from Test leadership, there are questions about who could be his long-term successor considering that Rohit Sharma will be 35 next year.

"If given an opportunity, it will be an honour and I don't see any player would say no and I am no different. Be it any leadership group, I always look to contribute however I can, to the best of my abilities," Bumrah replied to a query from PTI in a press conference ahead of the ODI series against South Africa starting Wednesday. Bumrah would be the vice-captain during the series and said taking responsibility and helping teammates comes naturally to him. "I look at this situation in the same manner...taking responsibility and talking to players and helping them out has always been my approach and it will always be my approach going further keeping any situation in mind."

THE ASHES, 5TH TEST: AUSTRALIA THRASH ENGLAND BY 146 RUNS, CLINCH SERIES 4-0



AUSTRALIA THRASHED ENGLAND BY 146 RUNS IN THE FIFTH AND FINAL TEST ON DAY 3, TO CLINCH THE 2021/22 ASHES SERIES 4-0, HERE ON SUNDAY. ENGLAND WERE 68/1 AT TEA BUT THEY SUFFERED A MASSIVE COLLAPSE TO GET BOWLED OUT FOR 124 IN THEIR SECOND INNINGS IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE DAY-NIGHT HOBART TEST.

CRICKET FRATERNITY LAUDS KOHLI FOR HIS SERVICES AS INDIA'S TEST SKIPPER



VIRAT KOHLI'S SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT ON SATURDAY TO QUIT TEST CAPTAINCY STUNNED THE CRICKETING FRATERNITY, WHICH LAUDED THE STAR BATTER FOR HIS SERVICES AS INDIA SKIPPER IN THE LONGEST FORMAT OF THE GAME.



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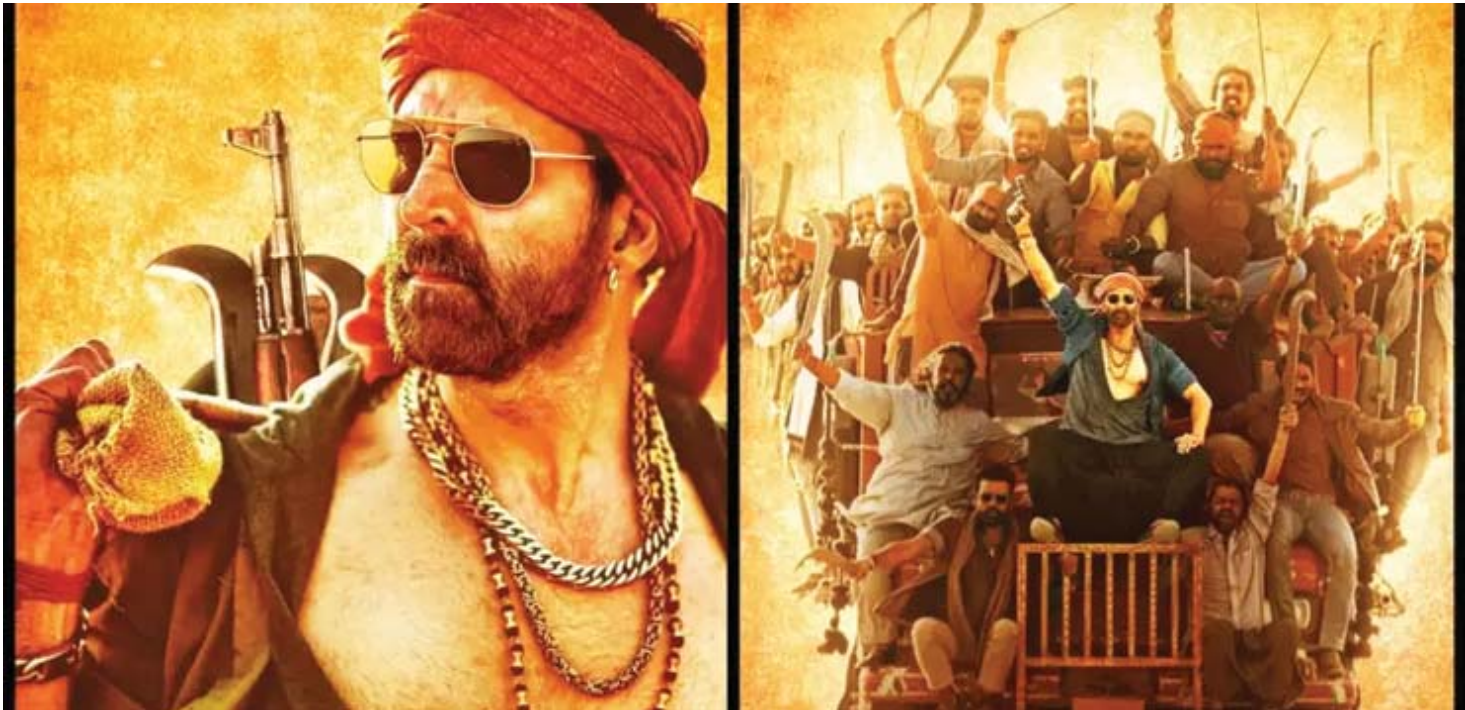
DEEPIKA PADUKONE SAYS WORKING ON SHAKUN BATRA’S SET IS ‘EXHAUSTING’, SAYS HE KEEPS ‘ACTORS ON THEIR FEET’

Deepika Padukone’s filmography for the coming year is quite impressive as she headlines big projects alongside Hrithik Roshan (Fighter), Prabhas (Project K) and Shah Rukh Khan (Pathan), among others. She will also be seen in the remake of The Intern that she is also producing. But before that, she is set to take over the screens with Shakun Batra’s Gehraiyaan, which will stream on Amazon Prime Video. The film marks her first project with the director. In a chat with Anupama Chopra, Deepika Padukone, who has collaborated with Sanjay Leela Bhansali in three of his films, spoke about how Shakun’s working process is so different than that of SLB. In fact, she stated that anyone who has worked on a Shankun Batra’s set is qualified enough to step inside SLB’s world of cinema.

“We basically say or I have started saying to him now that if you work with Shakun Batra, you can work on a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film because he’s just not happy. I am joking about the complaining part of

it but I love his process because it’s exhausting. Literally from the time you are on the set to the time you leave, actors are on their feet the whole time, except the lunch break,” Deepika said, adding that the whole process was extremely ‘nimble,’ which urged her to know her lines so well that the setting or director’s last minute changes wouldn’t throw her off guard. She also spoke about how with Sanjay or Shankun, she had the freedom to make changes to the script. “I use a pencil to change my dialogues. Some writers are not okay with that. They are very sort of married to the dialogues they write. You cannot change anything. Kabir for example. Shakun or Sanjay are open to making the dialogues your own as long as you get the essence. They are interested in essence and emotion of the scene and what the scene is trying to communicate. So, I mark up the works that are not sitting for me or don’t feel natural... and I write on the side,” she expressed. Gehraiyaan, which also stars Ananya Panday, Dhairya Karwa and Siddhant Chaturvedi, will stream on Amazon Prime Video from February 11 onwards.


Akshay Kumar’s Bachchan Pandey to release in theatres on this date



Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, who was one of the first stars to release his film Bell Bottom in theatres after the second wave of Covid-19 in 2021, is all set to return to theatres in 2022. While many films like RRR and Jersey postponed their release dates due to the rise of Covid-19 cases during the early days of the year, Akshay has announced that his upcoming film Bachchan Pandey will release in theatres in March. Bachchan Pandey has been scheduled to release in theatres on March 18. Akshay took to his social media handles to make the announcement as he also shared two new posters of the

film. Akshay had a massive hit with Sooryavanshi in 2021 and the film was credited by many trade analysts as the one that brought back the audience to the cinema halls. The film earned Rs 196 crore at the domestic box office, as per Bollywood Hungama. In 2022, Akshay has a long list of film releases. After Bachchan Pandey, he will be seen in Prithviraj, Raksha Bandhan, Ram Setu, OMG 2 and Gorkha. Directed by Farhad Samji, Bachchan Pandey also stars Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, Pankaj Tripathi, Prateik Babbar among others.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA UNDERSTANDS THE ‘REPERCUSSIONS’ OF WEARING A MANGALSUTRA, WONDERS IF IT’S ‘TOO PATRIARCHAL’



Priyanka Chopra’s wedding with Nick Jonas made the news for many reasons, including her mangalsutra, the piece of jewellery we’ve seen her wearing on several occasions ever since. A part of her wedding trousseau, her mangalsutra was created by the Italian fashion label Bulgari, and Priyanka spoke about it in a new Instagram video. In the video, she chatted with Lucia Silvestri, Creative Director at Bulgari, about giving the Indian mangalsutra a contemporary touch. The actor also gave an insight into what she felt when she wore one for the first time. She said, “When I wore mine for the first time, because we’ve grown with the idea of what it means, it was just a very special moment for me.” Explaining that the black beads on the mangalsutra are ‘to ward off evil, to protect you’, Priyanka also gave her opinion on whether a mangalsutra is too ‘patriarchal’ for modern sensibilities. She said, “As a modern woman, I also understand the repercussions of what it means. Do I like the idea of wearing mangalsutra or is it too patriarchal? But at the same time, I am that generation that’s sort of in the middle. Maintain tradition but know who you are and what you stand for. And we’ll see the next generation of girls might do differently.” A part of Priyanka’s caption for the video read, “Take traditions forward by knowing who and what you stand for... I’m trying and learning everyday.” Priyanka Chopra became the global ambassador for an Italian luxury jewellery brand last year. She tied the knot with Nick Jonas in 2018. The couple recently celebrated their third wedding anniversary.

ANUSHKA SHARMA PENS HEARTFELT NOTE FOR HUBBY VIRAT KOHLI AFTER HE QUILTS TEST CAPTAINCY



MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma took to social media and penned a heartfelt note for her husband Virat Kohli after he stepped down as Test captain of the Indian cricket team on Saturday. Kohli quit the captaincy a day after the Indian squad failed to clinch their first ever Test series win in South Africa despite winning the opening match. The Indian side conceded 2-1 series defeat. Anushka uploaded a picture of Kohli on her Instagram, where he can be seen laughing his heart out. The actress wrote in the caption, "I remember the day in 2014 when you told me that you have been made the captain as MS had decided to retire from Test cricket. I remember MS, you & I having a chat later that day & him joking about how quickly your beard will start turning grey. We all had a good laugh about it." She continued in the caption, "Since that day, I've seen more than just your beard turning grey. I've seen growth. Immense growth. Around you & within you. And yes, I am very proud of your growth as the captain of the Indian National Cricket team & what achievements the team had under your leadership. But I'm more proud of the growth you achieved within you. In 2014 we were so young & naive. Thinking that just good intentions, positive drive & motives can take you ahead in life. They definitely do but, not without challenges." Talking further about the challenges, the actress wrote, "A lot of these challenges that you faced were not always on the field. But then, this is life right? It tests you in places where you least expect it to but where you need it the most. And my love, I am so proud of you for not letting anything come in the way of your good intentions. You led by example & gave winning on field every ounce of your energy to the extent that after some losses I've sat next to you with tears in your eyes, while you wondered if there's still something more you could have done." She adds, "This is who you are & this is what you expected from everyone. You've been unconventional & straightforward. Pretence is your foe & this is what makes you great in my eyes & the eyes of your admirers. Because underneath all this were your pure, unadulterated intentions always. And not everyone will be able to truly understand that. Like I've said, truly blessed are those who tried to get to know you beneath what meets the eye." "You are not perfect & have your flaws but then again when did you ever try to conceal that? What you did was to always stand up for doing the right thing, the harder thing, always! You held on to nothing with greed, not even this position & I know that. Because when one holds on to something so tightly they limit themselves & you, my love, are limitless. Our daughter will see the learning of these 7 years in the father that you are to her. You did good", she concluded.

KATRINA KAIF'S SUNDAY SELFIE IS WINNING HEARTS



MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif, who joined her husband Vicky Kaushal in Indore, recently shared pictures from a hotel room where she can be seen enjoying. Katrina flew down to Indore from Mumbai, to celebrate Lohri with her husband. Vicky is currently shooting for director Laxman Utekar's next film with Sara Ali Khan. The actress shared a series of pictures on her Instagram as she wrote in the caption, "Indoors in ????? #sundayselfie" In the pictures, Katrina can be seen wearing an oversized red shirt and smiling for the camera as she enjoys her time off in the safe confines of her hotel room. On the work front, the actress will be shooting for 'Merry Christmas'. In addition, she will soon start working on the next schedule of 'Tiger 3' opposite Salman Khan. Meanwhile, Sara too took a day off from shooting as she along with her mom Amrita Singh sought a little divine intervention over the weekend. The two, all masked up, visited Ujjain's famous Mahakaleshwar temple and sought blessings from God.



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA TO BEGIN SHOOT OF AANAND L RAI’S AN ACTION HERO IN LONDON

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana will be heading to London later this month to commence the shoot of his upcoming film An Action Hero, the producers announced on Tuesday. Backed by Bhushan Kumar-led T-Series and filmmaker Aanand L Rai’s Colour Yellow Productions, the movie is billed as a slick actioner with an offbeat satirical sense of humour. The film marks the directorial debut of Anirudh Iyer, who previously served as an assistant director on Rai’s Tanu Weds Manu Returns (2015) and Zero (2018). Rai, who announced the movie in October last year, said the team is excited to kickstart shoot of the film, which

he described as an out-of-the-box entertainer. “We are excited about An Action Hero finally going on the floors and seeing Ayushmann breathe life into the character. The movie is going to be an out-of-the-box entertaining story!” the filmmaker said in a statement. Kumar, chairman and managing director of T-Series, said the film has a “quirky and fresh storyline”. “We are enthralled to commence its shoot in London and can’t contain our excitement for audiences to witness this entertainment from Anand L Rai’s stable,” he added. An Action Hero is also produced by Krishan Kumar.

Sushmita Sen says she isn’t ‘lost’: ‘You just haven’t found me yet’

Sushmita Sen shared a new Instagram post on Monday, and in her own style, spoke about love and finding the right person in life. The actor recently ended her relationship with boyfriend Rohman Shawl. Sushmita picked a picture from one of her photoshoots and in the caption wrote, “I am not lost sweetheart...you just haven’t found me yet’ I love you guys!!!” Sushmita has been sharing several thoughts on Instagram, most of the time hinting at her current state of mind. Sushmita, who’s riding high on the success of the the second season of Aarya on Disney+ Hotstar, announced of parting ways with her longtime boyfriend Rohman Shawl recently. “We began as friends, we remain friends!! The relationship was long over...the love remains!! #nomorespeculations #liveandletlive #cherishedmemories #gratitude #love #friendship I love you guys!!! #duggadugga,” she had written. The former Miss Universe was spotted with her daughters Renee and Alisah and a little child last week, giving way to rumours that she’s adopted a baby boy. She later quashed the reports through an Instagram post. Sushmita shared a photo of her chatting with the young boy, who sat atop a car bonnet. In the picture, she introduced Amadeus to her fans, she addressed the ‘random news’ and their reaction to it. “Having a chat with my Godson Amadeus about the random news concerning him, going viral in the media...his expression says it all!!! Picture courtesy: Sreejaya (Amadeus’s mom),” Sushmita wrote with the photo.



UMAR RIAZ ON BIGG BOSS 15 EVICTION, ATTACK ON PROFESSION: ‘IT MADE ME QUESTION WHY I WAS ON THE SHOW’

“It was disappointing to see myself being out,” said Umar Riaz while talking about his eviction from Bigg Boss 15. The surgeon, who is also Bigg Boss 13’s runner-up Asim Riaz’s brother, was ousted from the reality show last weekend for flouting house rules and indulging in a physical fight. However, his consolation is the love that he has been receiving from fans from all quarters. “I was so sad when I was told to leave, especially after being tagged as a violent, aggressive doctor. However, it was so overwhelming to see people shower me with so much love. That helped me to come out of the zone and gather myself up. It was truly a happy feeling,” Umar Riaz said in an exclusive chat with media. As fans have rightly pointed out, other contestants have earlier also gone physical but were let off by makers. Umar too agrees that since the very beginning, contestants have turned physical because of the nature of the tasks. Starting from the ‘map’ there has been pushing and pulling but none received the harsh punishment like him. “Karan Kundrra had also pushed Pratik Sehajpal during the start of the season, and later even Nishant Bhat but people defended it saying it was a task. Simba Nagpal had pushed me into the pool but no action was taken against him. Even Shamita Shetty had pushed Rakhi Sawant, while Tejasswi Prakash pushed Afsana Khan, yet there was no noise about it. Honestly, while they kept saying I was aggressive no one ever warned me that I could be out. I think the tasks planned this season led to a lot of physical fights. Others have made the same mistakes but given I am not a TV face I had to bear the brunt.”



PUNJABI FILM 'JATT BROTHERS' SET FOR THEATRICAL RELEASE ON FEB 4



MUMBAI, (IANS) Punjabi film 'Jatt Brothers' starring singer-actors Guri and Jass Manak, Nikeet Dhillon and Priyanka Khera, and directed by Manav Shah, is set to release theatrically on February 4. The film, which marks the acting debut of Jass Manak, was shot in January 2020, but its release was dogged by delays because of the pandemic. Shedding light on his role and the film's theme, Guri said: "This film is all about the bond of friendship with a mixture of emotions. My role is about a guy, who is very decent and helps his best friend in every situation no matter what." About Jass, Guri added: "He is like my brother and I'm happy we worked together. His sense of humour is great that you will get to see in the film. We were completely comfortable with each other." Talking about his acting debut and working with Guri, Jass shared, "The film is about all the fun I had in my college and school. I am playing the role of a guy who is very mischievous. It was my debut movie so I was very excited to play my character. I hope people like it." He added: "It was a very good experience working with my brother Guri. He is a very good actor and a very genuine guy. He helped me alot during the shoot. I'm thankful to god that I got a chance to work with him for my debut." Talking about the film and his association with Guri and Jass Manak, producer K.V. Dhillon said: "'Jatt Brothers' is all about the friendship of two college going bestfriends with a lot of fun, comedy, romance along with twists and turns. You must watch this family. It's great to work with great talent like them and they are like my brothers. They worked hard for their character which you can see from the trailer."

KATHAK'S LIVING LEGEND, PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ, DIES AT 83



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The living legend of Kathak, Birju Maharaj, who had been diagnosed with kidney disease a few days ago and put on dialysis, died at his home here late on Sunday. He was 83. Maharaj ji, as he was popularly known, was said to be playing with his grandsons when his health unexpectedly deteriorated, requiring him to be rushed to the hospital, where he died of a heart attack. A recipient of the country's second highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan, Maharaj ji was also a lifelong Kathak guru as well as a talented Hindustani classical singer and percussionist. He will be remembered by cinema buffs for the two period dance sequences in Satyajit Ray's historical drama 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi' (for which he sang as well) and for the 'KaaheChhedMohe' track picturised on Madhuri Dixit in the 2002 version of 'Devdas'. Maharaj ji won the National Award for choreographing 'UnnaiKaanadhu Naan' in the Kamal Haasan multi-lingual megahit 'Vishwaroopam' and the Filmfare Awards for the Bajirao Mastani number 'Mohe Rang Do Laal'. Adnan Sami, one of the first artistes to pay his tributes to the doyen of Kathak, said in a tweet: "Extremely saddened by the news about the passing away of Legendary Kathak Dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj ji. We have lost an unparalleled institution in the field of the performing arts. He has influenced many generations through his genius. May he rest in peace." Another early tribute came from Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who tweeted: "Pandit Birju ji Maharaj was a doyen of India's art and culture. He popularised the Lucknow gharana of Kathak dance form around the world. ... His passing away is a monumental loss to the world of performing arts." Birju Maharaj was the son of the exponent of the Lucknow gharana, Jagannath Maharaj, better known as Acchan Maharaj, whom he lost when he was just nine. His uncles were the renowned Shambhu Maharaj and Lacchu Maharaj.

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**NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING BUT IF
IT HAPPENS, WILL TRY MY BEST: KL
RAHUL ON TEST CAPTAINCY |P17**



MidWeek Sports



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KOHLI STEPS DOWN AS TEST CAPTAIN: 'HE QUIT, OR WAS ASKED TO...?' MILLIONS OF FANS STUNNED

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Within months after he opted to step down as India's T20I skipper and was sacked from leadership role in ODIs, Virat Kohli has now relinquished the captaincy of the Test side as well. The shocking announcement came a day after India's 1-2 Test series defeat to South Africa in Cape Town. Kohli, who first captained India at the Adelaide Test in 2014 against Australia, was appointed to the full-time role after M.S. Dhoni announced his retirement from the format following the drawn third Test against Australia in Melbourne in December 2014. "It's been seven years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance everyday to take the team in the right direction. I've done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there. Everything has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test Captain of India, it's now. There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey, but never has there been a lack of effort or lack of belief," Kohli posted on social media on Saturday. As per the numbers, he steps down from Test captaincy as the most successful skipper in the longest format of the game for India and fourth overall. Under his time as captain, India played 68 Tests, winning 40, losing 17 and drawing 11 matches, with a win percentage of 58.82 while registering memorable wins in overseas and home conditions. Despite such a good record, Kohli has stunned everyone with his announcement. There could be multiple reasons for his sudden decision.

BCCI vs Kohli

There was a time when Kohli had absolute power in Indian cricket. During that period, BCCI was run by Supreme Court-constituted administrators and the duo of Kohli and then then chief coach Ravi Shastri controlled the Indian cricket setup.

Kohli's form with the bat also backed his decisions. But times have changed and now with Sourav Ganguly and Jay Shah at the helm, the star batter has certainly lost that complete 'power'.

The 33-year-old's announcement came on the back of a recent saga between him and the BCCI, which started with his T20I captaincy resignation before the 2021 World Cup.

Last year in early December, the BCCI removed Kohli from the ODI captaincy, naming Rohit Sharma as the new white-ball leader.

A day later, Ganguly said that he had asked Kohli not to step down as T20I captain, but Kohli soon contradicted the BCCI chief, saying his decision to quit

was received well by BCCI top officials and that he wasn't told to reconsider his decision.

He even expressed his disappointment, saying he had been told about his removal as ODI captain just one-and-a-half hours before the selection meeting to pick the Test squad for South Africa.

This became a major discussion point in the cricket world. And it was believed that the BCCI might take action against Kohli. However, as the Test series progressed, the issue got sidelined.

But the controversy stretched further when chief selector Chetan Sharma - while announcing the ODI squad for the South Africa tour on December 31 - said, "Everyone who was present in the meeting asked him to reconsider his decision when Kohli stepped down as T20I captain."

India managed to win the first Test against the Proteas and the officials praised Kohli and his side. But after the second and third Test, reports of removing Virat as captain again gained momentum.

But before any further news, the captain announced his decision on Twitter.

Virat & Co's over-reaction and rant on stump mic

The Indian cricketers, including captain Kohli, came under fire after they reacted with dismay and anger when a decision against South Africa captain Dean Elgar was overturned on review at a crucial stage during the third Test at Cape Town. Kohli and his teammates did not mince words and they expressed their frustration over the decision.

On Day 3 of the Test, Dean Elgar reviewed a decision off the bowling of Ravichandran Ashwin on the fourth delivery of the 21st over of South Africa's inning, after being given out LBW by on-field umpire Marais Erasmus, and the decision was overturned in Proteas skipper's favour.

As far as the replay is concerned, it showed the ball pitched in line and hit Elgar in the middle. However, quite mysteriously the trajectory of the ball showed that it was going over the leg-stump. Even the umpire expressed his shock and was heard as saying "that is impossible" on the stump mic.

Moments later Ashwin said, "You should find better ways to win Supersport," while an angry Kohli kicked the ground in disgust and then used the stump microphone to good effect and said, "Focus on your team as well when they shine the ball, eh! Not just the opposition. Trying to catch people all the time."

HE TOLD US AFTER CAPE TOWN THAT HE WILL BE STEPPING DOWN FROM CAPTAINCY: BUMRAH

PAARL, (IANS) Jasprit Bumrah, India's vice-captain in the ODI series against South Africa, on Monday revealed that Virat Kohli had informed the team in a meeting after the Cape Town Test about his decision of leaving the captaincy. "We have been very close as a team unit. He told us in a meeting that he will be stepping down from the Test captaincy. He informed us of this as a team and we respect his decision and value his leadership a lot. "We congratulated him as a team for his contribution to the Test team as a leader and wished him all the best. This was the conversation we had with him," said Bumrah in the virtual press conference. Bumrah further said that former skipper Kohli will always be a leader in the group. His comments come after Kohli announced on Saturday that he will step down from the Test captaincy with immediate effect. The upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa, starting from Wednesday in Paarl, will be his first white-ball series as a player. "See, I am not here to give a judgement about his decision. But yes, it's a personal decision and we respect his decision. He knows how his body is reacting and what frame of mind he is in. We respect that and it's been an immense pleasure to play under his leadership as I made my Test debut. As I have spoken before, he brings a lot of energy to the side. He will always be a leader in the group and his contribution has been immense and will be immense going further as well," added Bumrah.

PETERSEN SHINES AS SOUTH AFRICA COME FROM BEHIND TO WIN SERIES 2-1

CAPE TOWN, (IANS) Keegan Petersen shined with a classy 82 as South Africa defeated India by seven wickets to win the series-deciding third Test at the Newlands Cricket Ground on Friday.

After Petersen fell, Rassie van der Dussen and Temba Bavuma combined for an unbeaten partnership of 57 off 105 balls to chase down 212, scripting a remarkable series victory from being 0-1 down, losing tosses to aching 200-plus chases twice to win by 2-1.

The play on Day 4 began with Petersen reaching his second half-century of the match with a brace on thick edge going through third man. It also meant that Petersen has crossed fifty thrice in the series, including twice in the ongoing match. India pacers Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah asked many questions while beating the outer edges but couldn't get a wicket early on. Van der Dussen pounced on everything with width and also survived a caught behind appeal off Shami as the bat touched the ground while looking to drive. Petersen continued to impress with his off-side play and had a reprieve at 59 when Bumrah found his outer edge with a peach of a delivery but Cheteshwar Pujara couldn't hold onto the catch at the first slip. Van der Dussen clipped Umesh Yadav through mid-wicket while Petersen took two more boundaries through the off-side off Shami and Bumrah. The 54-run partnership was broken by Shardul Thakur, who got Petersen to chop onto his stumps and fell 18 runs short of his maiden Test hundred. Petersen's knock of 82 off 113 balls, his career-best effort, comes after he made a sparkling 72 in the first innings. The 28-year-old signed off from the three-match series as the highest run-scorer with 276 runs in six innings, which should be good enough for him to seal the number three spot for himself in South Africa's Test eleven.

NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING BUT IF IT HAPPENS, WILL TRY MY BEST: KL RAHUL ON TEST CAPTAINCY

He hasn't given a serious thought to the idea of being India's full-time Test captain but KL Rahul on Tuesday said if chosen for the coveted job, he would try to take the "team forward" as best as he can.

"To lead the country is a dream come true for any player and something special that he will cherish for a long time. I am no different," Rahul, who is the stand-in ODI captain for the series against South Africa, said on the eve of the first match. "It will be exciting but I am not really looking for anything at this time but if it happens to come, I will try my best to carry Team India and Indian cricket forward to the best of my abilities," he added. With Virat Kohli stepping down from Test captaincy after the team's 1-2 defeat in the Test series against the Proteas, Rahul, who led the team in Johannesburg in his absence, said that he didn't pay too much heed to his name cropping up as a possible successor till media reports started getting published. "I hadn't given it a thought till the articles with names started doing rounds," Rahul said. "I had the opportunity to lead the Test team in Johannesburg and it was something really, really special, the result wasn't as expected but it was a great learning experience, which I will always be proud of." When Rahul was reminded about his underwhelming captaincy record till date, which includes a Test defeat and only 12 wins in 27 IPL games, his first reaction was sarcasm which was not lost on anyone. "Look, thanks for the stat man. It gives me a lot of confidence," he smiled while replying to the query. For Rahul, staying balanced in every aspect of life is the key. "I take every game as it comes and I am not someone who gets worried or stays too happy. I try to remain balanced, with results. We did have a great chance to win series after Centurion. "It was a bit unfortunate and there is so much to learn," said Rahul, who had a forgettable Test captaincy debut at Johannesburg.

INDIA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA



1ST TEST

Dec 26-30
Centurion

INDIA WON BY 113 RUNS

1ST ODI

Jan 19
Paarl

2ND TEST

Jan 03-07
Johannesburg

SA WON BY 7 WICKETS

2ND ODI

Jan 21
Paarl

3RD TEST

Jan 11-15
Cape Town

3RD ODI

Jan 23
Cape Town



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The Ashes, 5th Test: Australia thrash England by 146 runs, clinch series 4-0

HOBART, (IANS) Australia thrashed England by 146 runs in the fifth and final Test on Day 3, to clinch the 2021/22 Ashes series 4-0, here on Sunday. England were 68/1 at Tea but they suffered a massive collapse to get bowled out for 124 in their second innings in the third session of the Day-Night Hobart Test.

Zak Crawley (36) was the highest scorer for England while Pat Cummins (3/42), Scott Boland (3/18) and Cameron Green (3/21) shared three wickets each for Australia.
Brief scores: Australia 303 and 155 beat England 188 and 124 (Zak Crawley 36; Scott Boland 3/18, Cameron Green 3/21) by 146 runs.

IRELAND CLINCH HISTORIC ODI SERIES WIN AGAINST WEST INDIES 2-1

KINGSTON (JAMAICA), (IANS) Half centuries from Andy McBrine and Harry Tector helped Ireland defeat West Indies in a nail-biting third and final One-day International by two wickets to clinch the series 2-1 at the Sabina Park here on Monday (IST).
Set a modest target of 213 to win in 50 overs, the tourists survived a dramatic late batting collapse after McBrine (59) and Tector (52) had patiently scored their half-tons, to secure a famous series win.
Ireland lost four late wickets after being 190/4 and seemingly cruising to their required target. But the visitors held their nerve to complete one of the highest-profile series wins in the history of Irish cricket and collect 10 further ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League points to go to the third spot in the standings.
Earlier the West Indies had suffered a collapse of their own, losing six wickets for just 29 runs to leave their first innings in tatters after Shai Hope's early half-century, with McBrine taking 4/28.
And while all-rounder Jason Holder inspired the tail to wag to lift the West Indies to 212 all out from 44.4 overs, it wasn't a high enough target to deny Ireland, with McBrine and Tector hitting half-centuries in what proved to be a nervy second innings.

His decision is personal and BCCI respects it: Ganguly lauds Virat's leadership

NEW DELHI, (IANS) BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has lauded Virat Kohli for taking the team to new heights in all formats of cricket during his tenure as India skipper but said that the star batter's decision to quit Test captaincy was a personal one and the board respects it immensely. Kohli on Saturday made a sudden announcement of stepping down as India's Test skipper, a day after the 1-2 series loss against South Africa. The 33-year-old finished his tenure as India's most successful captain in the longest format of the game, with 40 wins in 68 Tests. He also helped the side to a historic Test series win in Australia and took them to the top of the ICC Test rankings. Under him, India also reached the final of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship. "Under Virat's leadership Indian cricket has made rapid strides in all formats of the game... his decision is a personal one and bcci respects it immensely... he will be an important member to take this team to newer heights in the future. A great player. well done... @BCCI @imVkohli," Ganguly said in his tweet. Kohli had earlier given up T20I captaincy after the 2021 T20 World Cup but BCCI's decision to replace him as India's ODI captain despite him wanting to continue in the post had led to controversy and the batter's relation with the board and president Ganguly became tense. While Ganguly in an interview said that he had asked Kohli to not step down from T20I captaincy before the 2021 T20 World Cup, Kohli contradicted that by saying that no one had asked him to stay in the position. Later, chief selector Chetan Sharma also contradicted Kohli's claims that he was not asked to step back as T20 captain.

CRICKET FRATERNITY LAUDS KOHLI FOR HIS SERVICES AS INDIA'S TEST SKIPPER



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Virat Kohli's sudden announcement on Saturday to quit Test captaincy stunned the cricketing fraternity, which lauded the star batter for his services as India skipper in the longest format of the game. Kohli steps down as India's most successful captain in the format, with 40 wins in 68 Tests. He also helped the side to a historic Test series win in Australia and took them to the top of the ICC Test rankings. Under him, India also reached the final of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship.
The cricket fraternity -- including past and present players -- lauded Kohli for his captaincy in Test cricket.
"Many Congratulations #ViratKohli on an outstanding career as India's Test Captain. Stats don't lie & he was not only the most successful Indian Test Captain but one of the most successful in the world. Can be very proud @imVkohli & looking forward to watch u dominate with the bat," wrote Virender Sehwag on Twitter.
Former head coach Ravi Shastri, who shared a special bond with Kohli, also said that star batter can go with his head held high.
"Virat, you can go with your head held high. Few have achieved what you have as captain. Definitely India's most aggressive and successful. Sad day for me personally as this is the team we built together," tweeted Shastri along with his picture with Kohli.
"Congratulations @imVkohli on a stunning run as the Indian captain. You can be very proud of what you have achieved so far, and for sure, your name will be up there among the best leaders in world cricket," tweeted legendary Vivian Richards.
"It's always an honour to lead the dynamic Indian team. And the decision to step down is an emotionally heavy moment. A journey well travelled," former India skipper Mohamad Azharuddin said in a tweet.
"Although I also am shocked by @imVkohli sudden decision, I respect his call. I can only applaud him for what he has done for world cricket & India. Easily one of the most aggressive and fittest players India has had. Hope he'd continue to shine for India as a player," tweeted former teammate Suresh Raina.
His Delhi and India teammate Ishant Sharma shared all the memories in the dressing room and on & off the field since childhood.
"Thank you for all the memories I've shared with you in dressing room & on & off the field since childhood, where we never thought that you would be our captain & I'll play 100 test matches for India," said Ishant in a tweet along with pictures.
"All we did was just play cricket with all our heart & things worked out well," he added.

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