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Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

NATASHA SURI TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19; TO SKIP PROMOTIONS OF BIPASHA BASU-KARAN SINGH GROVER'S 'DANGEROUS' | 16



August 11, 2020

www.southasiandaily.com

Vol 20 Issue 32, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

VIDYA BALAN SAYS PEOPLE THOUGHT SHE WAS 'MAD' WHEN SHE SIGNED THE DIRTY PICTURE, REVEALS HER PARENTS' REACTION



ACTOR VIDYA BALAN REVEALED THAT WHEN SHE SIGNED MILAN LUTHRIA'S THE DIRTY PICTURE, PEOPLE THOUGHT SHE WAS 'MAD' AND TOLD HER SHE COULD NOT BE 'DOING THINGS LIKE THESE' AS SHE HAD A GIRL-NEXT-DOOR IMAGE. HOWEVER, HER PARENTS ASKED HER TO FOLLOW HER INTUITION. IN AN INTERACTION WITH INDIA TODAY, VIDYA SAID THAT SHE HAD NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT DOING THE DIRTY PICTURE. "THE MOMENT I MET MILAN, HE INSPIRED FAITH IN ME. SO I KNEW THAT HE HAS A CERTAIN AESTHETIC SENSE, I KNEW IT WON'T BE CHEAP. ALSO, EKTA (KAPOOR, PRODUCER) WAS INVOLVED AND SHE IS A WOMAN. I KNEW HER, I STARTED MY CAREER WITH HER. SO I WAS SAFE ON THOSE ACCOUNTS. BUT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO TOLD ME THAT 'ARE YOU MAD? YOU ARE A GIRL NEXT DOOR AND YOU CAN'T BE DOING THINGS LIKE THESE.'"

RHEA CHAKRABORTY CALL DETAILS REVEAL SHE SPOKE TO MAHESH BHATT 16 TIMES, ADITYA ROY KAPUR 23 TIMES IN PAST YEAR



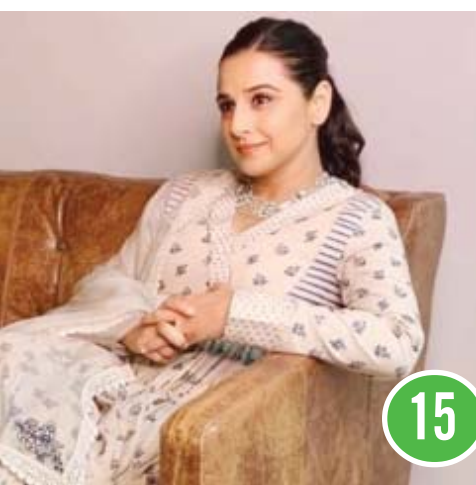
RHEA CHAKRABORTY SPOKE TO SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S HOUSEHELP SAMUEL MIRANDA 287 TIMES IN A YEAR, WHICH IS PROBABLY MORE THAN SHE SPOKE TO SUSHANT.

BOBBY DEOL'S 'AASHRAM' TO RELEASE JUST A WEEK AFTER HIS DIGITAL DEBUT WITH WEB SHOW 'CLASS OF '83'



CLASS OF '83 WILL PREMIERE ON NETFLIX ON AUGUST 21 AND IS BASED ON HUSSAIN ZAIDI'S BOOK.

'IF YOU'RE GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO, EVEN SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT': VIDYA BALAN ON ONGOING NEPOTISM DEBATE IN BOLLYWOOD



VIDYA BALAN SAID, "I'VE COME FROM A NON-FILM FAMILY AND HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO GET WHERE I HAVE," ON THE NEPOTISM DEBATE IN THE INDUSTRY.

KANGANA RANAUT URGES FOR CBI PROBE INTO SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S DEATH: 'WE DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH'



Kangana Ranaut, once again, extended her support to a demand for a CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) probe into the death of Sushant Singh Rajput's death. She shared a video to put forward her demand. In the video, Kangana can be heard saying "We want CBI for Sushant Singh Rajput, we deserve to know the truth." Dressed in a sobe peach coloured dress, Kangana is seen holding a placard that says "Justice for Sushant CBI For SSR." The caption for the video read, "Mumbai police wants to rush the probe Sanjay Raut saying they are almost done with the investigation, we deserve to know the truth #CBIForSSR iijusticeforSushanthSinghRajput @shwetasinghkirt an 1912."

AKSHAY KUMAR, KUNAL KEMMU, SAQIB SALIM AND OTHERS GO IN UNLOCK MODE: AFTER TV, FILMS AND WEB SERIES RESUME SHOOT



The Covid-19 pandemic caused Bollywood film productions to come to a complete stand still in mid March. While TV shoots resumed shooting in June, films and web series were still waiting it out, until recently. While dubbing and work meetings were on, shooting was totally stalled until recently. Actor Akshay Kumar has left for London in the United Kingdom for the shoot his film, Bell Bottom. He was accompanied by the film's cast Huma S Qureshi, Lara Dutta and others. Incidentally, Kumar was also one of the first actors to shoot a commercial during the lockdown. Talking about resuming work amid the pandemic, Kumar recently told Hindustan Times, "I don't think I've stayed away from the camera for so long and now, there's a newfound excitement to be back on set." Actors Dhanush and Sara Ali Khan are also set to begin shooting for director Aanand L. Rai's romantic drama Atrangi Re in Madurai. Khaali Peeli, starring Ishaan Khatter and Ananya Panday is also set to resume shoot very soon.

Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan confirm they are expecting second child: 'Thank you to all our well wishers'

Kareena Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan have said in a joint statement that they are expecting their second child. The couple has a 3-year-old son together, Taimur Ali Khan. "We are very pleased to announce that we are expecting an addition to our family !!Thank you to all our well wishers for all their love and support," the couple said in a statement. Earlier on Wednesday, Kareena's father Randhir Kapoor has said about the rumours surrounding her pregnancy that he hoped they were true. "I hope it's true and if so, I would be very happy. Doh bachche toh hone chahiye (One should have two children) to give each other company," Randhir had told The Times of India, adding that Saif and Kareena had not told him anything and he has no idea if the news is true.

BCCI gets government approval to hold IPL in UAE this year

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has finally received the Indian government's approval to hold the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The news was confirmed by IPL governing council chairman Brijesh Patel. He added the organization would work with the IPL franchises to make the bio-security arrangements. The government approval paves way for the IPL 2020 to take place in UAE from September 19 to November 10. Currently, the BCCI's top priority is to find a replacement sponsor for VIVO after it pulled out of the tournament's title sponsorship contract.



INDIA TO HOST T20 WORLD CUP 2021



The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the new schedule for the T20 World Cup 2021. Originally scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November this year, the tournament has been postponed to 2022. The 2021 edition, meanwhile, which was scheduled in India will take place as planned. Format of the Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will remain as it was for 2020, and all the teams who qualified for the 2020 event will now participate in the edition in India. Format for the tournament will remain the same, and teams who qualified for the 2020 event will now participate in the edition in India. Meanwhile, the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup which was all set to play out in February 2021 in New Zealand, has been postponed to February-March in 2022. Chief Executive Manu Sawhney said in a statement, "There has been no women's international cricket played since the conclusion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup earlier this year and due to the varying impact of COVID-19 globally that is likely to remain the situation for a number of the teams."

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AAMIR KHAN RESUMES 'LAAL SINGH CHADDHA' SHOOT IN TURKEY POST LOCKDOWN; HERE'S HIS NEW LOOK

Aamir Khan is back on sets. The actor has flown down to Turkey to resume the shooting of his film 'Laal Singh Chaddha'. The movie, also featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan in the lead role, was slated to release on Christmas 2020. To keep up to schedule, Khan is back to work.

Images of Aamir Khan from the airport there are now out. He was seen posing with the staff at the airport and the hotel, with and without the mask. Rather than a pillow, Aamir Khan seen with what looks like an airbag this time. It appeared that the actor was also greeted with a bouquet of flowers.

'Laal Singh Chaddha' is the official Hindi remake of Tom Hanks' film 'Forrest Gump'. Aamir Khan had announced the movie on his birthday in 2019. 'Laal Singh Chaddha' also features Vijay Sethupathi and Mona Singh in pivotal roles.

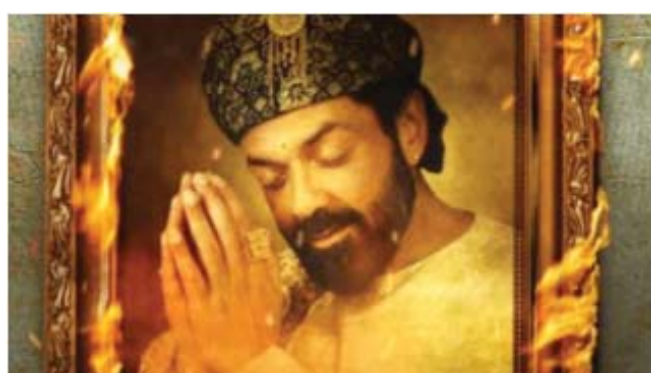
The film was also shot in Chandigarh. In fact, the Mahurat shot took place in Punjab. Aamir has also shot the film in Kolkata, Kerala, Jaisalmer, Goa and Himachal Pradesh. The schedule in India was completed on February 12, 2020.

Aamir Khan is the second celebrity who has flown down to a foreign location. Recently, Akshay Kumar had also left for UK schedule of his movie 'BellBottom' with the team, including Lara Dutta Bhupathi and Huma Qureshi. Producers Jackky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh were also seen at the airport. Vaani Kapoor is the female lead of the movie.



Bobby Deol's 'Aashram' to release just a week after his digital debut with web show 'Class of 83'

Bobby Deol was last seen in two multi-starrer big-budget projects Race 3 with Salman Khan and Housefull 4 with Akshay Kumar, and now the actor is all set to make his web debut with two projects Aashram which will release on August 28 on MX Player and Class of 83 where he will essay the role of Dean Vijay Singh, coming up on Netflix which will mark his debut on OTT, releasing on August 21.



Two of Bobby's web projects are releasing just a week apart from each other. Talking about Aashram, it is produced and directed by Prakash Jha and recently to avoid controversies around the show both Prakash Jha and MXPlayer issued disclaimer before the trailer launch.

On the other hand, Class of '83 will premiere on Netflix on August 21 and is based on Hussain Zaidi's book, the story revolves around an honest cop who becomes the dean of the police academy. Class of '83 is directed by Atul Sabharwal and produced by Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment. Speaking about the film, Bobby had said in a statement, "I love the sheer variety of content a digital medium like Netflix has to offer. The 1980s was a fascinating period in Mumbai's history, and this film allowed me to live and feel that era all over again. When Atul and Red Chillies Entertainment approached me, I was drawn by the intensity and depth of the character and knew right away that I had to be part of Class of '83." On the work front, Bobby Deol had made his Bollywood debut with Barsaat in 1995 and went on to star in films like Gupt, Soldier, Kareeb, Badal, Bichhoo, Ajnabee, Humraaz, Apne, and Yamla Pagla Deewana.



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KANGANA RANAUT CALLS AYUSHMANN KHURRANA 'MEDIocre', 'CHAPLOOS OUTSIDER'



Kangana Ranaut has joined netizens in bashing Ayushmann Khurrana for showing his support to Rhea Chakraborty. She has called him a 'chaploos outsider' and hinted that he is 'mediocre'. The actor also went on to state that actors like him take full advantage of conflicts faced by few like her and Sushant Singh Rajput. Kangana also accused Ayushmann of openly denying and mocking her and Sushant. "Chaploos outsiders support mafia only for one reason and the reason is their mediocrity, nobody is threatened by them and they take full advantage of conflicts faced by few like Kangana and SSR by openly denying and mocking them .. -KR," shared Team Kangana Ranaut. The reply was on Kamal R Khan's tweet which read, "Ayushman Khurana is supporting #RheaChakraborty and nepo kids

for 3 reasons! 1) He has to survive in the Bollywood. 2) He is the artist of #YRF. 3) Sushant Singh was his competitor! Don't worry khurana. Your films will also come n public will give you perfect reply. All the best." Ayushmann Khurrana, who was lauded for revealing his experience with Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, is now receiving a lashing from netizens for showing support to Rhea. The actor-singer had left a heart and broken heart emoji on the actors' post, after which he came under the scrutiny of the netizens. The internet users stated that despite being an outsider, Ayushmann has not spoken up on the topic of Sushant Singh Rajput's demise yet. A few users also accused him of trying to 'normalize nepotism'.

Fan poses with Sanjay Dutt's photo outside Lilavati hospital



A fan was seen outside Lilavati hospital, where actor Sanjay Dutt is receiving treatment after complaining of breathlessness. He was tested negative for COVID-19 and is expected to be back home in a day or two. The fan was seen holding a picture of Sanjay Dutt from 'Vaastav'. Wearing a white glove with black mask and blue bandana, the fan showed the picture to the paparazzi. According to Sanjay Dutt's tweet, he might get discharged either today or on Monday. "Just wanted to assure everyone that I'm doing well. I'm currently under medical observation & my COVID-19 report is negative. With the help & care of the doctors, nurses & staff at Lilavati hospital, I should be home in a day or two. Thank you for your well wishes & blessings," tweeted Sanjay. Dutt was hospitalized on Saturday evening after he complained of

breathing discomfort and chest pain. He suffered from low oxygen saturation levels, leading to discomfort in the chest. The actor was admitted to Lilavati hospital in Mumbai at 6 PM. The doctor treating him has confirmed that he is admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) but his health is stable now. He also said that a few more tests will be conducted on the actor. According to reports, Dutt was admitted with fluctuating oxygen levels and was tested for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Sanjay Dutt has tested negative for the novel virus. Thus, he is receiving treatment in a non-Covid ward. After the Rapid Antigen Test test swab, he has also been taken for RT-PCR testing. The same took place because the rapid antigen test has a chance of missing a positive case.

Rhea Chakraborty call details reveal she spoke to Mahesh Bhatt 16 times, Aditya Roy Kapur 23 times in past year

Rhea Chakraborty appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday along with her brother Showik Chakraborty and former manager Shruti Modi and now her call details of the past one year have revealed some shocking details. According to our sources, in the past one year, Rhea spoke to her father 1192 times, her brother Showik 1069 times and with Sushant Singh Rajput around 145 times. However, sources say that Rhea spoke to Sushant's househelp Samuel Miranda 287 times in a year, which is probably more than she spoke to Sushant. Apart from this, Rhea spoke to several other people including Shruti Modi 791 times, Siddharth Pithani 100 times, Deepesh Sawant around 41 times, Sushant's sister Rani only 4 times in a year. Interestingly, Rhea also spoke to her mentor and filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt 16 times in a year over the phone, Uday Singh Gauri for 22 times and Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur 23 times. She also talked on the phone with Dream Home Real Estate company, 23 times in the past year. On Friday, Rhea Chakraborty appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in Sushant Singh Rajput's death case. Her images come up a few hours after her request to postpone the recording of her statement until her Supreme Court plea hearing was rejected by the ED. The ED had reportedly also warned they would register Rhea Chakraborty's absence as non-compliance of summons. Rhea appeared before them with her brother Showmik Chakraborty - both of whom were reportedly business partners with Sushant Singh Rajput.



'If you're good at what you do, even sky is not the limit': Vidya Balan on ongoing nepotism debate in Bollywood



There is a raging insider vs outsider debate in Bollywood ever since the tragic and untimely death of Sushant Singh Rajput. National Award winner Vidya Balan recently opened up about the nepotism debate in the industry. In an exclusive interview with BollywoodLife, Vidya Balan opened up about the same and also commented on the undue flak she's been getting from fans for not par taking in the vitriol of another National-Award-winning actress just because she's married to film producer Siddharth Roy Kapur. Vidya said, "I don't think about these things, honestly (the backlash). I don't read anything. Even when I post on social media, I don't read the comments...so, I'm blissfully unaware. I think I will continue to speak my mind because that's the only way I know to be. Such things are very convenient (people trolling just because she's married to Siddharth)." Vidya also said, "I don't see how that changes the fact that I've come from a non-film family and have worked very hard to get where I have. I'm very proud of this journey, I'm very grateful for my journey, and people can say whatever they want, it doesn't matter to me. Of course, it is difficult (for the outsiders)."

She further added, "I won't deny that at all. It is easier when you come from within the industry. I think this is the only industry where meritocracy reigns supreme. So if you're good at what you do and you work hard and believe in yourself, even the sky is not the limit."

On the work front, Vidya was last seen in Shakuntala Devi with Sanya Malhotra, in a film directed by Anu Menon. Shakuntala Devi released on OTT on July 31 and opened to rave reviews from fans as well as critics with everyone especially praising Vidya's performance in the biopic.

After Rhea Chakraborty, ED summons Shruti Modi in Sushant Singh Rajput's death case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Sushant Singh Rajput's ex-manager Shruti Modi. She was snapped at the ED office in Mumbai some time back. Reportedly, Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty was in touch with Modi and made various phone calls to her. Rhea was spotted with her brother Showmik Chakraborty as they came before ED for interrogation in the case. While Rhea is still being interrogated, Showmik was allowed to leave the office. A few hours before appearing, Rhea requested the ED to postpone the recording of her statement till her Supreme Court plea hearing. Rejecting the request, the ED had reportedly also warned they would register Rhea Chakraborty's absence as non-compliance of summons. Both Rhea and Showmik were reportedly business partners with Sushant Singh Rajput. ED has summoned Rhea for questioning in connection with a money laundering case related to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. The Bihar Police had found Rs. 15 crore missing from Sushant's bank account. The same was also confirmed by Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Sushant's father KK Singh, in his FIR with the Bihar Police, had also stated that he suspects Rhea took Sushant's money. KK Singh had made other claims too, including Rhea kept Sushant away from his friends and family.

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Natasha Suri tests positive for COVID-19; to skip promotions of Bipasha Basu-Karan Singh Grover's 'Dangerous'



Actress Natasha Suri has tested positive for Covid-19 and will have to skip promotions of her upcoming thriller, Dangerous.

"I have been sick and under home quarantine since the beginning of August. On August 1, I had gone to Pune for some urgent work and I guess that's where I got it from. I think I passed on the virus to my sister Rupali and my granny too," Natasha said.

"They have also been unwell. But the good part is, we are all recovering gradually. It's such a strange coincidence that I have to back out of the promotional activities of my film Dangerous which is due to release on August 14 as I was in fact excitedly looking forward to participating in the film promotions with my co-stars Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover, but COVID has hit

me in the same fortnight as our digital release date," she added. The supermodel continued: "Anyway, I and my folks are recuperating and will be fit and fine soon by God's grace. Right now, I'm feeling physically weak and exhausted, but mentally I am upbeat and looking forward to the audience's feedback and reaction to my film."

Dangerous is about a young entrepreneur whose wife is kidnapped and his ex-girlfriend is sent to probe the case. The thriller project is slated to release on an OTT platform.

The movie also stars Suyyash Rai, Sonali Raut and Nitin Arora in pivotal roles. Dangerous is directed by Bhushan Patel and produced by Vikram Bhatt and Mika Singh.

After Sushant Singh Rajput broke the wall, I was able to make my Bollywood debut with Bhatt camp: Gurmeet Choudhary



When Sushant Singh Rajput passed away, Gurmeet Choudhary had taken to his Twitter page and wrote, "So much to say. But to sum it up you inspired so many of us brother. You paved the path. But why would you do this? Shocked and no, I cannot believe. Rest in peace wherever you are." Now, during a video interview, Gurmeet spoke about the same that it was Sushant who inspired him to make a transition from television to films.

He stated, "Sushant has paved the way for us in Bollywood. If he would not have been successful there, perhaps the filmmakers would have rejected me too, stating why would they pay to watch me in theatres since they have already seen me a lot on TV. Sushant changed

Bollywood's approach to TV stars. After Sushant broke that wall, I was able to make a Bollywood debut with the Bhatt camp film, Khamoshiyaan."

The Geet actor added, "My family and friends call me up and ask me not to take the wrong step and assure me that they will watch my films, come what may. This is a very competitive industry and everyone is scared that their career might finish if they deliver a flop film."

Gurmeet has starred in four Bollywood films by making his debut with Khamoshiyan in 2015. Soon after that, he was seen in Wajah Tum Ho, Laali Ki Shaadi Mein Laaddoo Deewana. He played the role of Capt. Prithvi Singh Dagar in 2018 release Paltan directed by JP Dutta.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA-NICK JONAS ADOPT A HUSKY AUSTRALIAN SHEPARD MIX BREED DOG, NAME HIM PANDA



Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas have welcomed a new member in their family. The couple has adopted one more dog of Husky Australian Shepard mix and named him Panda. They even created an Instagram page for this one too, calling it as 'Panda Chopra Jonas'. Both Priyanka and Nick took to their social media pages and shared cute photos from the photoshoot with their adorable pet. They already own a chihuahua named Diana and a German shepherd named Gino.

Priyanka posted a photo on her Instagram page posing with all three pets, although Diana has been photoshopped in it. She wrote, "Our new family portrait! Welcome to the family, Panda! We adopted this little rescue (soon he won't be so little) just a few weeks ago. We can't be sure but he seems to be a Husky Australian Shepard mix.... and those eyes... and the ears!!!"

She further wrote, "BTW @diariesofdiana wasn't around for our little photo shoot, but we couldn't leave our #1 girl out...so...we made it work! @ginothegerman @pandathepunk @nickjonas @hollywood_huskies."

While Nick shared the same photos and wrote, "Welcome to the family Panda! Panda is a Husky Australian Shepard mix rescue and we're already in love @pandathepunk @ginothegerman @diariesofdiana @priyankachopra @hollywood_huskies."

Moreover, Priyanka and Nick shared the adorable moments of all three pet canines Diana, Gino and Panda from their respective Instagram pages.

PeeCee also owned a pet dog in India named Brando who sadly passed away a few years back.

Did Badshah pay Rs 75 lakhs for fake social media followers? Rapper releases official statement



It was previously reported that Badshah has admitted to paying Rs. 75 lakhs for fake social media followers. The rapper has now released a press statement in which he states he was never involved in such practices.

In his statement, Badshah said he cooperated with the Mumbai Police, and denied all allegations levied on him. He said that he was never involved in the practices.

Here's his statement:

Following the summons, I have spoken to the Mumbai Police. I have aided the officials in their investigation by cooperating and carrying out the due diligence on my part. I've categorically denied all the allegations levelled against me and made it clear that I was never involved in such practices, nor do I condone them.

The investigation procedure is being executed in accordance with the law and I have complete faith in the authorities, who are handling this matter. I'd like to thank all those who have conveyed their concern to me. It means a lot to me. According to a report on Zee News, Badshah had paid whopping Rs. 75 lakh for fake social media followers. They claim that the rapper had paid the amount during his single 'Pagal Hai'. Badshah will be summoned again on Sunday, August 9, 2020. He was reportedly also called to the Crime Branch office today.

The rapper-singer whose original name is Aditya Prateik Singh Sisodia was questioned for ten hours on Friday. He has to answer 238 questions prepared by the Crime Branch and for the further questioning has been called in consecutively for two days. Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police Vinay Kumar Chaubey had earlier spoken about Fake Social Media Followers Scam and said in a statement, "We have investigated and found as many as 54 firms involved in this racket. SIT comprising Crime Branch along with Cyber Cell has been formed which will help in investigating this case."

Gunjan Saxena lauds Pankaj Tripathi's performance in her biopic, here's how he responded

IAF pilot Gunjan Saxena, who was the first lady pilot, has lauded actor Pankaj Tripathi for his role in her biopic. The biopic, titled 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl' features Tripathi as father to actor Janhvi Kapoor. Janhvi plays the role of Gunjan Saxena in the movie.

Gunjan shared a video of Pankaj sharing his experience while working on the movie. Posting the video, she wrote, "Father daughter duo. Respect @pankajtripathi .. You nailed it... Kudos.... The most simplistically portrayed father daughter bonding." Pankaj Tripathi responded to the post too. He was overwhelmed with the reaction. Pankaj wrote, "[Translated] Ma'am, we have made an honest effort to recreate the moments which you have lived." Apart from Pankaj talking about his experience, the video shared by Netflix showed the father-daughter chemistry between him and Janhvi Kapoor. Pankaj was also heard stating that the character is very personal for him.

Pankaj was also seen meeting Gunjan's real father Anuj Saxena in the video. Tripathi observed Saxena's body language and behaviour in the video. He went on to add that his tears while shooting the film were real.

'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl' marks Pankaj Tripathi-Janhvi Kapoor's first collaboration. It is also Janhvi's second movie in Bollywood after her debut film 'Dhadak'.

Netflix India describes the premise of the movie as 'Flight Lieutenant Gunjan Saxena makes history in her journey from aspiring aviator to India's first female combat pilot in the Kargil War' Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl is directed by Sharan Sharma and produced by Karan Johar under his home banner Dharma Productions. This is Janhvi's third outing after Dhadak and Ghost Stories. The biopic is set to be streamed from August 15, 2020.

YOUNG BOY ASKS SONU SOOD FOR PS4, ACTOR READY TO GIVE HIM BOOKS TO READ INSTEAD

Sonu Sood has become a messiah among all age groups. People have been sending him all kinds of requests - right from husbands asking him to send their wives away, to asking Sonu Sood to send Cyclone Nisarga back. The actor received one such request - for PS4.

A young boy tweeted to Sonu Sood, asking to help him with a PS4 because every child around him was playing on the gaming device. "SonuSood Please Sir Can you give a PS4. All the children around me are enjoying the lockdown by playing games .Sonu sir can you help me Please Sir" tweeted the young boy. His tweet is now deleted.

Sonu denied the request and rather offered the young boy a couple of books to read. Sonu said he can arrange the books for him. "If you don't have a PS4 then you are blessed. Get some books and read. I can do that for you," wrote the actor. Television actor Karanvir Bohra replied to the post writing, "Ha ha ha... Super Sahi jawab." Sonu had recently helped a Coorg farmer gets tractor after the farmer couldn't afford an ox and made his two young girls farm. The actor has been helping people since the lockdown. He helped migrant workers reach back to their state safely. The actor arranges buses, trains, etc. to help the workers reach there.



MS DHONI WOULD CLAP FOR THE BOWLER WHEN A GOOD BALL WAS HIT FOR A SIX: MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN |P18



'I WAS TELLING MY FRIENDS THAT HE WILL BREAK DOWN': SHOAIB AKHTAR ON JASPRIT BUMRAH |P19



'SUCH OPPORTUNITIES CANNOT BE WASTED' SHAHID AFRIDI, MICHAEL VAUGHAN REACT TO PAKISTAN'S LOSS TO ENGLAND IN 1ST TEST |P19



MidWeek Sports



MS DHONI PERFECT BLEND OF AGGRESSION AND BEING SAFE, VIRAT KOHLI GETTING THERE: FORMER BCCI SELECTOR



MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli have different leadership styles but just because the current India captain shows his emotions more than his predecessor does not mean Dhoni was any less aggressive a captain, feels former BCCI national selector Gagan Khoda. Having examined Dhoni as India's ODI and T20I captain between 2015 before Kohli took over in 2017, Khoda feels the former India captain was aggressive in his own way and that Kohli continues to pick and inculcate Dhoni's traits in his leadership. "They say Virat Kohli is very aggressive, but MS Dhoni is not. I don't believe in this. Aggression is not being vocal. MS Dhoni was aggressive and safe. You have to be safe as a captain. Virat Kohli is aggressive and learning how to be safe. He's learning very quickly. The only difference is that MS Dhoni is not vocal but he is equally aggressive," Khoda told SportsKeeda. Khoda reckons Dhoni was the perfect combination of aggression and being safe. There haven't been too many instances of Dhoni losing

this cool, or mouthing words at the opposition, a sight which was familiar with Kohli. But when the time was right, Dhoni did not shy away from taking it to the opposition. Khoda states Kohli, who took over as India's full-time Test captain in 2015 and in limited-overs two years later, is still learning the art of balancing the two elements and believes he'll hopefully succeed. "You can't attack and be aggressive all the time. You have to be aggressive and safe. MS Dhoni was a blend of both. Virat Kohli is reaching there," Khoda said. "MS Dhoni was a great captain and used to study the game very well. Virat Kohli is getting there and he is a very quick learner. He'll admit his mistake and say he'll do better next time." Khoda was made part of India's selection panel in November of 2015 and served his tenure till January of 2017 before he and Jatin Paranjape were shoved out due to of the Lodha Committee, which trimmed the selection panel to three individuals.

Ian Bishop names two batsmen who remind him of Sachin Tendulkar

Sachin Tendulkar is widely regarded the best batsmen to have played the game. He holds a plethora of records including the most centuries and runs in international cricket. Some of the records may never be broken in the future with the scale of task incredibly high. Cricket fans still remember the sight of Tendulkar hitting straight drives and leg glances to fast bowlers. There have been many players who have been compared to Tendulkar. Fans often wonder who would break the records Tendulkar set in international cricket. Former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop also talked about how Tendulkar played in straight lines while naming him the best batsmen he has

played against. Bishop commented that Virat Kohli and Babar Azam are the current batsmen who remind him the most about Sachin. Bishop was doing an Instagram live session with former Zimbabwe pacer Pommie Mbangwa and it was then he talked about Kohli and Azam. "Virat Kohli, Babar Azam, who in terms of the straight lines, you remember Sachin Tendulkar, there's a reason why I think he was the best batsman I bowled to as he always played in the straight lines and these two guys (Kohli, Azam) present that," Bishop told Mbangwa during the interaction. Over the last two years, the comparison between both Babar and Kohli have risen, looking at the styles of both the batsmen.

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VIRENDER SEHWAG HILARIOUSLY TROLLS YUZVENDRA CHAHAL FOR GETTING ENGAGED AMID PANDEMIC



Among Indian cricketers, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal may be the one ruling social media right now but before him, it was former India opener Virender Sehwag, who used to entertain cricket fans with his social media posts. The dashing opener decided to send out a reminder of exactly that when he trolled Chahal for getting engaged amid a pandemic situation. "Waah @yuzi_chahal ! Aapda ko avsar mein badal daala. Congratulations, (Wow Chahal, turned obstacles into an opportunity. Congratulations!)" tweeted Sehwag. Chahal and choreographer Dhanashree Verma completed their 'Roka' ceremony on Saturday, where the duo said "yes" to each other along with their families. The couple donned traditional attires for the ceremony. "We said "Yes" along with our families #rokaceremony," Chahal tweeted.

The spinner would next be seen in action for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) slated to be played in the UAE. The tournament will be played from September 19-November 10 and it will run for a total of 53 days. For the first time, the IPL final will be played on a weekday (Tuesday). Chahal was last seen in action in the ODI series against New Zealand in February this year. The 30-year-old has so far played 52 ODIs and 42 T20Is for India, managing to take 146 wickets across both formats.

BCCI eyes start of domestic season from November 19, IPL players may miss first few rounds



The BCCI is mulling November 19 as tentative date for start of domestic season with Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament but Indian players in various IPL teams won't be able to play first few rounds due to quarantine protocols in place. The delay in the beginning of the domestic season due to Covid-19 pandemic means that only Mushtaq Ali trophy and Ranji Trophy (December 13- March 10) comprising of 245 games (across the formats with 38 teams) will be played. There will be no Vijay Hazare Trophy, Duleep Trophy or Challenger Series this year and as of now there is no provision for Irani Cup also. "This is a tentative list that has been prepared and it has gone for approval of president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah," a senior BCCI official told PTI on condition of anonymity. While this is a draft schedule, it is being asked how the Indian players, who will return from IPL, will play since they will have to be in a 14-day quarantine as per government rules. "That's an issue primarily for the uncapped players, who would be with the squad and would like to play some cricket. Now even a player's team is knocked out before play-offs, he won't be back before November 3 and till November 17 will be in quarantine. "For those whose teams are in play-offs and may reach finals, they will have to miss the first few rounds in that case. But again this is a draft proposal and there could be some tweaks in it," the official said.



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‘You cannot create a name like this’: Shoaib Akhtar says Babar Azam needs to ‘establish himself as match-winner’

The first Test against England in Manchester last week exposed the chink in Pakistan’s armour once again. It was a tale of two matches for Pakistan in two different innings. In the first one, Pakistan came out on top, scoring 300+ and bowling out their opponents with over a 100 runs short. From then on, it seemed that this match would be a smooth sailing for Pakistan. But things turned sideways very quickly. Pakistan were bundled out for 169 in the 2nd innings, setting a target of 277 for England to chase. With half centuries from Jos Buttler and Chris Woakes, the hosts went on to chase down the target with three wickets remaining.

In a video on Youtube, Pakistan pace bowling legend Shoaib Akhtar said that the team’s batting let them down in Manchester. “Pakistan got an opportunity to put a big score but they made the same mistake that they have been doing since partition. That the batting lets us down,” he said.

“We needed partnerships, stroke-making only when you get loose balls. It was a great chance for Pakistan to put 350-400 runs on the board,” Akhtar added.

The former Pakistan seamer went on to add that if a batsman cannot capitalise of 107-run lead, then he is of no use to the team. “But again, none of Pakistan’s star batsmen could score runs. If you have to become a big player and earn a name, these are the situations. “If you are not able to capitalize on a 107-run lead, however big a batsman you may be, you are of no use,” Akhtar said.

Babar Azam scored a brilliant half century on the first day of the Test, but was dismissed early on the 2nd day, and could only score 5 runs in the 2nd innings. Akhtar said that Babar needs to become a match-winner to make a name for himself.

“Shan Masood was unlucky but he had already played his part. Asad



ENGLAND'S JAMES ANDERSON CELEBRATES TAKING THE WICKET OF PAKISTAN'S BABAR AZAM.(REUTERS)

Shafiq got run out, it is again his fault. But Babar Azam has to come out with something good, because you cannot create a name like this. You might be a good player, but you have to establish yourself as a match-winner,” Akhtar said. England have taken 1-0 lead in the three-match Test series against Pakistan. The two teams will meet again in the 2nd Test which begins from Thursday.

‘SUCH OPPORTUNITIES CANNOT BE WASTED’ SHAHID AFRIDI, MICHAEL VAUGHAN REACT TO PAKISTAN’S LOSS TO ENGLAND IN 1ST TEST



The first Test between England and Pakistan was a cliffhanger. There were moments where it looked like Pakistan had the upper hand, then it looked like England were cruising. The pendulum kept on swinging for four days at Old Trafford in Manchester. Eventually, it was England who emerged victorious in the first Test as they chased down Pakistan’s target of 277 runs with 3 wickets to spare.

England were in big trouble when five wickets fell for just 117 but a sixth-wicket stand of 139 between Chris Woakes, who remained unbeaten on 84, and Jos Buttler (75) took the match away from Pakistan during Saturday’s fourth day.

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah (4-99) had put Pakistan in pole position with two wickets as England slipped from 86-1 to 117-5 in its second innings. Earlier, Pakistan resumed on 137-8 and added a quickfire 32 runs before being bowled out for 169.

Former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi was disappointed with the end result as he believed the match was in their grasp. Meanwhile, Mohammed Yousuf and Michael Vaughan also reacted to England’s victory on Twitter. Pakistan captain Azhar Ali maintained that the series is not over as he looks forward to the next Test match in Southampton.

“It’s disappointing but not over yet, there are still two Tests to go,” Azhar told reporters.

“There a lot of positives from this game, we outplayed England on most parts of this Test match.

“I wouldn’t say we lost the match in (our) second innings, but we missed a chance to knock England out of the game there.”

“We were sure we’d wrap it up if one more wicket fell,” said Azhar.

“But they (Buttler and Woakes) attacked from the off and snatched the game away from us.

“Sometimes you just have to give credit to the opposition.”

“We were in control of the game; we were one punch away from finishing the game off, but they came and dominated us during that period.”

‘I was telling my friends that he will break down’: Shoaib Akhtar on Jasprit Bumrah



Raising concerns over India pacer Jasprit Bumrah’s fitness, former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar said the right-arm seamer will not be able to play in all three formats of the game for a long time. Bumrah has been spearheading India’s pace attack for the past few years and en route become one of the best bowlers in world cricket.

However, he started facing injury problems last year and was rested for the majority of the 2019 before making a comeback against New Zealand in early 2020.

“Bumrah has a difficult action. He cannot play in all formats,” Akhtar told former India opener Aakash Chopra in his show Aakash Vani.

Bumrah, who rose to the status of being one of the world’s best fast bowlers in all three formats of the game after playing a major role India’s first-ever Test series win in Australia in 2018-19, sustained a stress fracture in his back ahead of the home series against South Africa.

He missed the entire home season and only made a comeback in the New Zealand tour where he wasn’t at his best. “It is his braveness that he showed his skills in Test matches. He is a very hard working guy and is very focused. He knows where he wants to go. But will his back support him?” Asked Akhtar. The former Pakistan pacer also said that he had predicted such an injury to Bumrah a lot earlier.

“Till when will his back withstand that much load. It had to break down. I was watching his matches before he broke down. I was telling my friends that he will break down,” he said.

Bumrah averages in the early 20s in all formats of the game and has 68 wickets in Tests along with 104 in ODIs and 59 in T20Is.

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IPL 2020 I ‘HIS KNOWLEDGE, HIS EXPERIENCE WILL SURELY HELP’: BRETT LEE EXPLAINS HOW KXIP CAN WIN THIS SEASON



Former Australia pacer Brett Lee hopes Kings XI Punjab are able to go the distance this season of the IPL, and expects them to benefit from having someone of Anil Kumble’s stature as coach of the team. Kumble was appointed KXIP’s coach last October and with the experience of having coached the Indian cricket team for a year, Lee, a former player of the franchise, is hopeful of the former India leg-spinner making a big impact for the franchise. “Having someone like that (Anil Kumble) in terms of the mix of the team and certainly the squad will be invaluable. The knowledge, the experiences, will definitely help,” Lee said on the Cricket Connected


Show on Star Sports. Lee was with KXIP the first three seasons of the IPL and picked up nine wickets from 13 games, including a wicketless season in 2010. The franchise has struggled for consistency since the very beginning with their best performance coming in 2014, when they made the final against Kolkata Knight Riders but lost. They finished semi-finalists in the inaugural edition of the IPL but have thrice managed sixth and eighth place finishes. “Kings XI need to win, they have got a great squad, they have got a wonderful team that can definitely get close and close but they have not got over the line yet, so,

I’m actually waiting for that to happen. A great franchise to play for, I put up my hand-up and say that was a lot of fun to play for that franchise,” Lee added. Lee weighed in on the safety protocols associated with the IPL – which is moving to the UAE this season – and expects the players to act responsibly in the Emirates. KXIP co-owner Ness Wadia highlighted how the entire focus should be on ensuring that not a single Covid-19 case is registered. As he rightfully pointed out, one positive Covid-19 case and the IPL will run the risk of getting cancelled altogether, an aspect that Lee touched upon. “Firstly, for your health, the most

important thing to do is to make sure you social distance and to make sure you adhere by the COVID standards, so I don’t reckon any player would want to go out and do the wrong thing. It’s also for their teams and their fans, because if the IPL didn’t happen, it


would be a catastrophe, wouldn’t it? Around the world, people want to see cricket, they are missing sport,” Lee said. “I believe that all sportsmen, certainly cricketers, will make sure that they do the right thing and that is playing by the

rules, staying inside the bubble and just having fun and playing some great cricket. Look, it’s an eight to nine-week tournament, they are getting paid really, really well, they are putting on a great show for the world, so embrace the eight weeks.”




Happy Independence Day to India and Pakistan

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RAMESH SANGHA, M.P.
Brampton Centre



MS Dhoni would clap for the bowler when a good ball was hit for a six: Muttiah Muralitharan

Legendary Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan lauded India-wicketkeeper batsman MS Dhoni for his captaincy skills. Murali said the best part about Dhoni’s captaincy was that he trusted the bowler and gave him the freedom to set his own field. “Definitely he was a young captain, I would say. It was in the 2007 World Cup that he captained and won. But his theories are very nice to see. Because he will give the ball to the bowler and tell him to set the field and bowl. If it wasn’t working, then he would ask them to give a chance to the field he sets,” Murali told India off-spinner R Ashwin on his Youtube chat show DRS with Ash. Murali, who has played under Dhoni’s leadership in IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK), said Dhoni would sometimes clap for the bowler when a good ball was hit for a six. “He (Dhoni) will clap if a good ball gets hit for a six. He’ll tell the bowler that it’s a good ball, and it doesn’t matter if the batsman has hit you for a six. Batsmen too have the talent to hit,” said Murali. Murali, who picked up 40 wickets while playing under Dhoni in three seasons of IPL between 2008 and 2010, said Dhoni would take the bowler alone to tell him what to do instead of doing it in public. “So with that kind of appreciations, he’ll call you alone, to tell you what’s needed instead of doing it in public because of those qualities, he has been so successful,” added Murali. Further explaining Dhoni’s qualities as a leader, Murali, who has more than 1300 international wickets - the most - to his name, said Dhoni always listened to the advice of seniors even at a young age. “He has the ability to think calmly, it’s because of these plus points that he became such a good leader. Even when he was young, he’d listen to advice (from seniors). He’ll listen to people and then he’ll make the decision at the end of the day. That’s how he used to captain.

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