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RANVEER SINGH-DEEPIKA PADUKONE HOST FAMILY LUNCH FOR ACTOR'S MOTHER ANJU BHAVNANI'S BIRTHDAY



WHEN THE PAPARAZZI CAPTURED DEEPIKA PADUKONE AND RANVEER SINGH, THEY WERE SEEN WITH THEIR PARENTS.

▶ MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 23

KARTIK, TABU RESUME 'BHOOL BHULAIYAA 2' SHOOTING



MUMBAI, (IANS) Actors Kartik Aaryan and Tabu have resumed shooting for their upcoming film "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", which was halted due to the second wave of Covid-19.

The shoot is taking place in Mumbai.

Kartik treated his fans with a picture on Instagram. The photograph features him posing alongside Tabu.

"Begin Again #BhoolBhulaiyaa2," he wrote as the caption, which currently has 725K likes on the photo-sharing website.

The film also stars Kiara Advani. It is a follow-up to the 2007 Akshay Kumar-Vidya Balan hit film "Bhool Bhulaiyaa".

The 30-year-old actor also has the film "Dhamaka" lined up, which is slated to release on an OTT platform. Kartik was in the news for his controversial exit from the Karan Johar-produced "Dostana 2".

BABY JEH IS SIX MONTHS OLD AND HIS PIX GO VIRAL



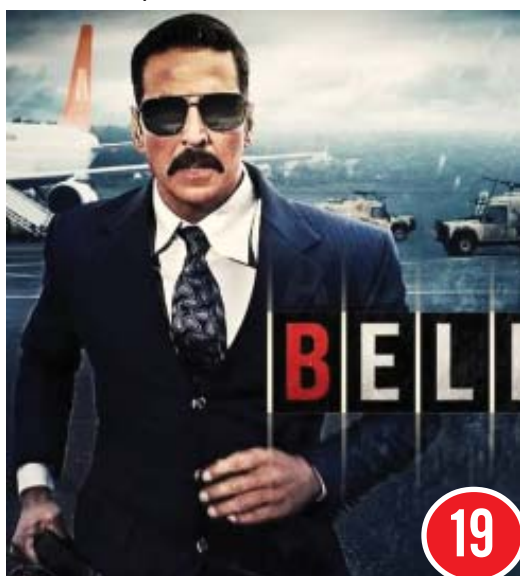
MUMBAI, (IANS) His alleged name was the target of trolling on Twitter some days back, but when Baby Jeh's proud mother, Kareena Kapoor Khan, shared his picture cradled in her arms in the Maldives, the serene blue sea overlooking them as he turned six months old, they elicited more than one million likes in a matter of minutes. Kareena, whose "Pregnancy Bible" is just out, her husband Saif Ali Khan and their first son, Taimur, were holidaying along with Jeh in the Maldives. They returned to Mumbai on Sunday. And as they were leaving the airport, the paparazzi shot close-up pictures of Jeh being led away by the family help. The picture was at once splashed by the Kareena Kapoor Khan FC (fan community) on Twitter. Earlier on Saturday, when Kareena put up her mother-and-child Instagram post, greeting them with emojis and lots of love were the Bollywood glitterati, from Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh to Manish Malhotra and Amrita Arora.

THIS INDIAN TEAM WILL NOT TAKE A BACKWARD STEP WHEN PROVOKED: KOHLI



The Indian national cricket team, under the leadership of Virat Kohli, plays fearless cricket and takes the challenge head-on. Giving an insight into Team India's mindset, skipper Kohli, said, "This team is not going to take a backward step when provoked. We play together and we play to win. We don't let any opposition take us lightly and keep reminding them that we are always going to compete and find ways to win games." "It is our belief that we can beat any team in the world," said Kohli in a virtual press conference on Tuesday ahead of the third Test against England at Headingley, Leeds. With spin likely to play a bigger part than it has so far this series, offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin may be in line for a recall after missing out at both Trent Bridge in the first test and again at Lord's. "As far as Ashwin playing is concerned, we were quite surprised to see the pitch at Headingley the way it was. I thought there would be more grass on the pitch. It would be more spicy and lively but that was not the case. Anything is possible, we always name a 12, and then on the day we have a look at the pitch and what it could become on Day 3 and 4, and accordingly, we will go in with the right combination," Kohli explained.

AKSHAY KUMAR DELIVERS A RACY, PACY ENTERTAINER



BELTBOTTOM MOVIE REVIEW: AKSHAY KUMAR FILM IS A LET-OUR-HAIR-DOWN-CAPER WHICH EMBRACES ITS UPBEAT, SILLY SPIRIT, AND TURNS IT INTO A WORTHY OUTING FOR THE BIG SCREEN IN THESE COVID TIMES.

'BE YOUR OWN WARRIOR': SHILPA SHETTY TALKS OF 'HIGH AND LOW POINTS' AMID RAJ KUNDRA CASE, TURNS TO YOGA



SHILPA SHETTY HAS BEEN MOVING AHEAD WITH A LOT OF STRENGTH EVEN AS HUSBAND RAJ KUNDRA'S ARREST HAS STIRRED NEGATIVITY AROUND THE BOLLYWOOD ACTOR.

KRITI SANON STUNS AS A BRIDE IN MANISH MALHOTRA'S TRADITIONAL LEHENGA FROM 'NOORANIYAT' COLLECTION



LOOKING ELEGANT IN THE PHOTOS, KRITI CAST A SPELL ON THE ONLOOKERS WITH HER EXQUISITE CHARM AND ENCHANTING BEAUTY.

TO WATCH ALL THE LATEST GOSSIP IN ENTERTAINMENT, WATCH CHANNEL Y ROGERS 857, BELLFIBE 828, TELUS 2418



PARALYMPICS DECLARED OPEN, JAVELIN MAESTRO TEKCHAND LEADS INDIAN CONTINGENT, PARAJUDOKAPRISCILLAGAGNÉ LEADS CANADA.



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INDIA 2022



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SARAVANAABHAVANCANADA



Akshay Kumar delivers a racy, pacy entertainer

Remember the faintly ridiculous bell bottoms, those massively flared trousers sported by fashionistas and plebs alike in the 70s and 80s? Akshay Kumar's RAW agent, Code Name Bell Bottom, carries them off with cheerful comic book flair. That's exactly the tone of the film, which doesn't make the mistake of taking itself too seriously, despite the seriousness of its subject. It is fashioned as a racy, pacy entertainer from start to finish, and never loses sight of its objective, exaggerated situations and characters happily to the fore. This loosely fictionalised actioner, based on a clutch of real-life hijackings of Indian Airlines planes in the 80s, has Akshay Kumar fronting it, with a bunch of supporting acts — Adil Hussain is tops — managing to grab their bit of the limelight. It is a let-our-hair-down-caper which embraces its upbeat, silly spirit, and turns into a worthy outing for the big screen in these Covid times. One of the things that Bollywood has always grappled with is just how to simplify complex things, because otherwise we would lose interest, see? So, we get a potted history of the time, when, we are told, India and Pakistan were having a rare amicable moment, but it was not to last too long. Of course. Punjab was hotting up. Khalistani insurgents were being backed by the ISI; so was the JKLF (so says the movie, not me), and the best way to teach India a lesson, according to the wicked wily ISI, was to hijack Indian planes, and use hostages to barter terrorists incarcerated in Indian jails, while 'phaelaing' general 'dehshat'.

A good patriotic Indian hero's love for his motherland knows no bounds. It is only the love for his 'bebe' (Dolly Ahluwalia) that can give it competition. Our BellBottom is given a loving mother, who meets a sorry fate in one hijack: it is in another that our hero gets a chance to avenge both. Two for the price of one Pakistani hijacker: what can be better? A ramshackle plot that headlines our hero's exploits, with the actual hijack scrunched into a small but energetic section, that's what.

The action moves between Delhi, London, Lahore, Islamabad, and Dubai, as RAW chief (Adil Hussain, stealing every scene) tells an emergency cabinet meeting headed by the PM Indira Gandhi (Lara Dutta in a jaw-dropping doppelganger avatar. The artists responsible for this makeover must be lauded), that the only guy who can save the Indian hostages is their 'star analyst' BellBottom. Cue Akshay, file under arm, camera trained on his billowing trouser bottoms, striding into the PM's office, and taking it from there.

One of the advantages of claiming that the story is just 'inspired' by real-life events is that you can stuff it with lots of make-believe: BellBottom and comely wife (Vaani Kapoor) get to exchange flirty dialogue, and a song; a let's-hunt-the-bad-guys in a London outpost, where BellBottom shows us multiple uses of a Coke (if you are a spiffy secret agent and you are drawing a top-secret squiggle on a napkin, you need to dissolve it in soda, got it?). Your eye begins to roll, but the scene shifts swiftly: anything goes, if you keep it moving fast enough. Dutta not only looks but sounds a bit like Mrs G, all thunderous control. Except in one place when she says 'it is our collective bloody responsibility' ('b-y', really?) to her table of strong men, and you start the eye roll again, but then she moves on. So do you. It's not just her ministers and diplomats who are shown to be



bumpers; the Pakistanis, smirking and flailing in turn, are buffoons too. Only RAW, the agency which is top dog (and has a smutty canine joke in there, delivered with a fabulous straight face by Hussain), headed by our indefatigable hero, wins the game. Tewari puts Akshay in the saddle, as it has to be in this kind of a film, and our sharply-mustachioed hero delivers handsomely, leading his band of braves into battle.

The film reserves a tiny sting in its tail for its leading lady, rescuing her at the very last minute from being consigned to a decorative prop. Saving grace, but oh-so-slight. You wish that there was more to that strand. Huma Qureshi also gets a bit part, where 'bit' is the operative word: how do you insert interesting women into an all-boys club? And why is no one else sporting bell-bottoms, which was considered high style in those days? Never mind, moving on. 'BellBottom' works on its stated metrics of see, no complexities, everything easy. Fun and games and rat-a-tat action, and no hostages lost, just as they didn't in real life after the rescue operation was pulled off successfully. We get the flag, but no strident flag waving. We get Bad Pakistani Terrorists who brainwash Hapless Indians, but no loud jingoism. Bad guys lose. Good guys win. Jai Hind.



Shooting resumes for Sidharth Malhotra-starrer 'Mission Majnu'

MUMBAI, (IANS) Sidharth Malhotra and RashmikaMandanna resumed shooting for their upcoming film 'Mission Majnu' on Monday. The film is produced by Ronnie Screwvala (RSVP), Amar Butala and Garima Mehta (Guilty By Association Media), written by Parveez Shaikh, AseemArrora and SumitBatheja, and Directed by Shantanu Baagchi. Talking about resuming shooting, Garima Mehta said, "After a brief pause, 'Mission Majnu' is back in action with strict protocols and guidelines. In this 15-day schedule, we will shoot critical sequences of the film. It's great to be on the sets again and the cast and crew are excited to move towards the successful completion of the film." The first 45-day schedule was shot across locations in Lucknow. The second schedule of the shoot has started with Sidharth, Rashmika, Sharib Hashmi, Parmeet Sethi, Anant Mahadevan and Kumud Mishra.



Kangana Ranaut's 'Thalaivii' to see theatrical release on Sept 10

MUMBAI, (IANS) Kangana Ranaut-starrer 'Thalaivii', based on the life of late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and former actress J. Jayalalithaa, is set to release in cinemas on September 10. 'Thalaivii' will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Kangana on Monday shared the announcement on Instagram. The actress also shared a poster of the movie alongside the news. "The story of this iconic personality deserves to be witnessed only on the big screen! Pave way, for #Thalaivii as she is all set to make a superstar entry into the world of cinema, yet again, a place where she has always belonged! Thalaivii IN CINEMAS near you on 10th September! #ThalaiviiOnTheBigScreen #ThalaiviiInTheatres," she wrote. Producer Vishnu Vardhan Induri said: "Thalaivii has traced an extensive journey with eternal experiences at every turn. As the theatres are reopening across the nation, we are very excited that fans can enjoy the grand experience of the legend's life on the silver screen."



top
10
songs

1
LUT GAYE
JUBIN
NAUTIYAL

SONG	ARTIST
BAARISH KI JAYE	B PRAAK
IS QADAR	TULSI KUMAR
THODA THODA PYAR	STEBIN BEN
NADIYON PAAR	SACHIN-JIGAR
TERA SUIT	TONY KAKKAR
MAIN JIS DIN BHULA DU	ROCHAK KOHLI
OH SANAM	TONY KAKKAR
BEWAF A TERA MASOOM	JUBIN NAUTIYAL
TUJHE BHOOLNA TOH CHAHA	ROCHAK KOHLI
SAIYAAN JI	YOYO HONEY SINGH

MIDWEEK BOX OFFICE	
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GODZILLA VS. KONG	46.58 CR
MUMBAI SAGA	17.00 CR
ROOHI	25.87 CR
COOLIE NO 1	30 LAKH
WONDER WOMAN 1984	10.5 CR

MIDWEEK HIT OR FLOP	
MASTER (ALL LANGUAGES)	HIT
COOLIE NO 1	SUCCESS
WONDER WOMAN 1984	SUPER HIT
LAXMII	SUCCESS
DIL BECHARA	SUCCESS

AMITABH BACHCHAN'S SEIZED ROLLS-ROYCE HAS CHANGED OWNER

BENGALURU, (IANS) Karnataka Transport department seized seven luxury cars including a Rolls-Royce, belonging to Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Sunday night. However, later it was found that the Bengaluru-based realtor who had purchased the luxury car from Amitabh Bachchan had not got the registration of the vehicle transferred to his name. The authorities have asked the present owner Babu to produce necessary documents and get the vehicle released. The transport department carried out a drive near the upscale UB City area in Bengaluru for not paying taxes, not having proper documents and insurance. Babu, the present owner of the car and proprietor of Umrah developers, stated that "I have directly purchased this Rolls-Royce by paying Rs 6 crore to Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan. I purchased the vehicle though it was old as it belonged to the actor in 2019. I have applied for the change of name for registration, but somehow it could not be done." "We own two Rolls-Royce cars. Another is a new one. My children take Amitabh Bachchan's car during Sundays and holidays. My daughter was travelling in the car when it was seized. The officers have asked her to come to the RTO office located in Nelamangala on the outskirts of the city. She had requested them to let her get dropped to the house, they have obliged," he said. "I spoke to the Transport Commissioner and asked him not to trouble us unnecessarily. He explained that there are many cars running with a single registration number in the city and they are keeping tabs on that. He had asked us to produce valid documents and get the car released. I will do so," Babu explained. Transport department Additional Commissioner Narendra Holkar stated that the Rolls-Royce car was seized for not having proper documents. The owner produced a letter signed by Amitabh Bachchan stating that the vehicle is being sold to him. Incidentally, the man at the wheel at the time of the car's seizure was the driver whose name is Salman Khan.



HIGH ON SLOGAN SHOUTING, AJAY DEVGN FILM ALMOST HIDES ITS REAL HEROES

‘Bhuj: The Pride of India’ does exactly what it sets out to do: create a ‘war film’ toplined by a swaggering hero, so heavy on jingoistic jingle jangles and slogan-shouting that it almost succeeds in hiding the real ‘heroes’ of the story – the 300 women who pulled off the incredible feat. The women repaired an airstrip overnight, so that our brave IAF boys could land their planes in order to chase the Pakistani forces off our soil during the 1971 war. Because it also has two other heroes, time has to be allocated to them, too. Sharad Kelkar plays officer R K Nair, who pointedly loses his heart to a ‘viklaang Muslim’ woman. Yes, that’s exactly how she’s described. Another Muslim woman (Nora Fatehi), the wife of a Pakistani bigwig is, hold your breath, a Spy. Yes, Ms Fatehi gets a sizeable speaking part, in which she has to kick, scream, shoot, and, gulp, act. Nope, no kidding. Wait, we were talking of big male heroes, right? Sorry, got distracted. So, Sanjay Dutt plays Ranchordas Pagi, a shrewd, canny local who keeps strolling across the desert, picking up crucial intel, and fooling the Pakistanis. The most striking thing about him are his huge multi-hued pagris, and kohl-lined eyes; he also spouts a few lines when he remembers to. Meanwhile, no sign of the 300 women yet. And then, of course, there’s Squadron Leader Vijay Srinivas Karnik (Ajay Devgn) who manages to find several occasions to stride slo-



mo across the airstrip, whether there are bombs falling around him, or his fellow soldiers are perishing in enemy fire. He also gets to make rousing speeches to chivvy the brave women of Bhuj, when he is not narrowing his eyes and chatting on the phone with a Pakistani caller, that is. ‘Kaun bol raha hai’, asks the guy on the other side. Barks Karnik: ‘tera baap’. Taalis. Finally, we get to see the ladies, dressed to the nines in colourful ghagras, who did the actual work. They are led by the incredibly brave mother-of-a-tot (Sonakshi Sinha) who is equally good at giving speeches as she is at singing ‘desh bhakti geet’: the women are suitably moved, and armed with massive ‘dhol’ and ‘nagadas’, which they manage to play vigorously in the middle of battle. Yes, that’s right, go along and do the needful. Good girls. And poor Yahya Khan, that powerful general in Islamabad who was plotting to lecture PM Indira Gandhi and show down India, has to lick his wounds. That happened in real life; it is duly shown in the movie. Waah. And there endeth the tale: like we said, no surprises. Maybe they could have done a better (much, much better, to be honest) job of the VFX, but hey, you can’t have everything, right?



RAKHI SAWANT DESCRIBES BEST 'JODIS' ON 'BIGG BOSS OTT'



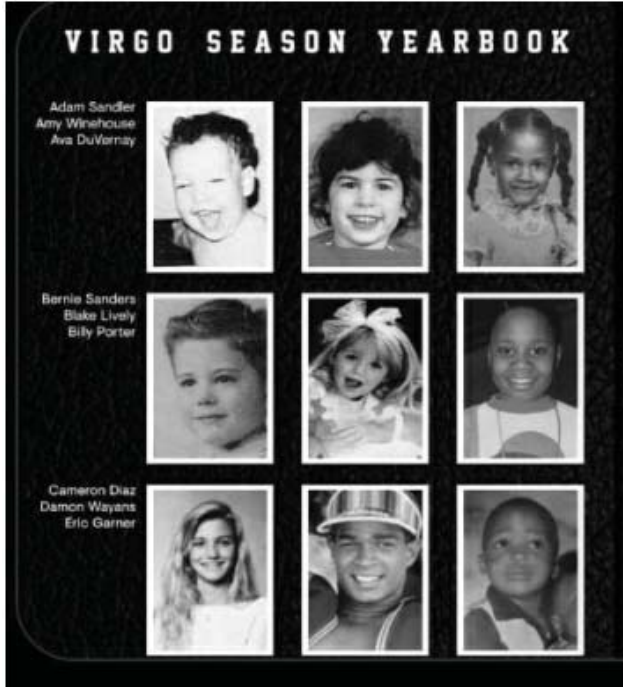
MUMBAI, (IANS) Rakhi Sawant was always keen to enter the 'Bigg Boss OTT' house and for that she even dressed up as Spiderwoman. Rakhi has now shared her opinion on the 'Bigg Boss OTT' contestants. When asked about who she thinks is the strongest and the weakest connections in the house, Rakhi affirmatively responds: "According to me, in the house, Nishant Bhat-Moose and Pratik Sahejpal-Akshara Singh are strongest connections. They are always supportive of each other and stand up for their partner wherever required. It's good to see them on screen. However, Shamita Shetty-Raqesh Bapat are the weakest connection in the house, but they can be strong if they bring out their love angle as their chemistry is very good." Moving on, Rakhi expressed her views on singer Milind Gaba's game, saying: "Milind Gaba is like Rahul Roy from the first season, 'sumdimaichup chap rehkar, game khellega. But 'Bigg Boss' ki teesriaankh jo haina, sab dekhetihai'." (He is playing the game by sitting at the back but the third eye of Bigg Boss can see everything). She concluded by saying "Jo entertainer hogagharmai wo hi aagejaaega" (the one who is an entertainer in the house will go ahead in the game). 'Bigg Boss OTT' airs on Voot.

Will Salman Khan hosted show 'Bigg Boss 15' feature legendary actor Rekha?

India's most controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss OTT' premiered on digital platform Voot on August 8. Late in September, the show will shift to its TV version 'Bigg Boss 15' and will be hosted by Salman Khan, who is currently in Russia shooting for his film 'Tiger 3' along with Katrina Kaif. The social media handle of Colors TV channel recently dropped the first promo of 'BB 15'. In the video, Salman can be seen wading through the jungle in khaki coloured clothes and stumbles upon a singing tree. The tree is none other than veteran actress Rekha voice who asks Salman, "pehchaana?" Salman then names the tree as 'Vishwasuntree' and gives it a 'pednaam'. As per reports, Rekha has lent her voice to the 'Tree of Fortune' which will introduce contestants from 'Bigg Boss' when the show shifts to TV after six weeks. Yeh kya ho raha hai? #BiggBoss15 coming soon! #BB15 #BiggBoss @beingsalmankhan," the video was captioned.

hollywood

JUNGKOOK, NICK JONAS, PRINCE HARRY IN BEYONCE'S 'VIRGO SEASON YEARBOOK'



LOS ANGELES, (IANS) Popstar Beyonce released the 'Virgo Season Yearbook' on her website recently. Beyonce featured childhood photos of several celebrities including Jungkook, Nick Jonas, Prince Harry, Ava DuVernay, Blake Lively, Billy Porter, Idris Elba, Jada Pinkett Smith, Jennifer Hudson, and Blake Lively among other stars who are September-born in the 'Virgo Season Yearbook'. A grid of black and white pictures of celebrities were posted on Beyonce's website. Beyonce is a Virgo herself, and celebrates her birthday on September 4. The international popstar will be turning 38 this year. The 'Virgo Season Yearbook' celebrates the birthdays of famous celebrities, activists, athletes and more who were born between August 23 and September 22.

AFTER LEAK, 'SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME' MAKERS DROP TRAILER OFFICIALLY, SHOWCASE PETER PARKER GRAPPLING WITH UNMASKED LIFE



After the shocking leak of the trailer of one of the most-awaited films this year 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' leaked online on Sunday, the makers have officially dropped the movie trailer where for the first time in the cinematic history of Spider-Man, our friendly neighbourhood hero is unmasked and no longer able to separate his normal life from the high-stakes of being a superhero. On Tuesday (local time), Tom Holland took to his Instagram handle to share the movie trailer and wrote alongside it, "Spider-Man - No Way Home You've waited long enough... I told you, you weren't ready (sic). He followed it up with a smirking face emoji to show his displeasure about the trailer leak ahead of its official release. In the trailer, when he asks for help from Doctor Strange the stakes become even more dangerous, forcing him to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man. Tom Holland and Zendaya starrer 'Spiderman: No Way Home', will also have appearances from Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Jacob Batalon as Ned Leeds and Marisa Tomei as Aunt May. This is the third consecutive Spider-man film directed by Jon Watts and will have a theatrical release on December 17.

IT'S A BOY! 'BLACK WIDOW' STAR SCARLETT JOHANSSON AND COLIN JOST WELCOME THEIR FIRST CHILD TOGETHER, REVEAL NAME



'Black Widow' star Scarlett Johansson and Colin Jost have welcomed their first baby together. Colin put out the news on his Instagram handle after Scarlett's representative Marcel Pariseau confirmed it to people.com. Scarlett already has a 7-year-old daughter, Rose Dorothy, with her ex-husband, Romain Dauriac. During a recent comedy show, Jost dropped a hint that his family was growing. The 39-year-old recently performed at a stand-up gig at the Ridgefield Playhouse in Connecticut over the weekend, where he said, "We're having a baby, it's exciting," according to a source in the audience. On Instagram later Wednesday, Jost shared a statement revealing that they welcomed a baby boy named Cosmo. He wrote: "Ok Ok we had a baby. His name is Cosmo. We love him very much. Privacy would be greatly appreciated." He used interesting hashtags such as "#wegotawaywithitforalongtime #nokidspolicy #we'regoingtodisneyworld," in the caption.



KIARA ADVANI REVEALS SHE ‘ALMOST BELIEVED’ IN COMMENTS THAT SAID SHE HAS GONE THROUGH PLASTIC SURGERY

Kiara Advani recently appeared on Arbaaz Khan's chat show 'Pinch 2', where she talked about the hateful remarks she gets on her social media accounts. The actress also stated that, while they can bother her at times, she prefers to ignore them the majority of the time.

Kiara also mentioned in the talk programme that she was plagued by rumours of plastic surgery in 2018. So much so that the actress said that she 'almost believed' the remarks.

Kiara revealed that she attended an event and that when the photos were uploaded on various social media platforms, many people assumed she had undergone plastic surgery. The actress said that there was so much talk about it that she almost thought she'd done something to her face. Kiara went on to say that one internet user had previously encouraged her to quit working with Akshay Kumar. The actress believes that one should know when to draw the line and not let trolls get the best of them. For the unversed, Kiara is currently making headlines with the success of her previous film, 'Shershaah,' in which she co-starred with Sidharth Malhotra. She will then appear in Raj Mehta's 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo,' in which she will share screen time with Varun Dhawan in the lead role. Anil Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor play pivotal parts in the film. Apart from these, Kiara is also a part of Anees Bazmee's 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' co-starring Kartik Aaryan and Tabu. She has also been roped in for the official Hindi remake of 'Anniyin' along with Ranveer Singh. Apart from that, Kiara will be seen in Anees Bazmee's upcoming film, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', alongside Kartik Aaryan and Tabu. She has also been cast alongside Ranveer Singh in the official Hindi version of 'Anniyin.'

POOJA HEGDE LOOKS SIZZLING HOT IN MULTICOLOURED BIKINI, SHARES THROWBACK PHOTO



Pooja Hegde's throwback beach shot, in which she can be seen wearing a bikini, has left people speechless. She is also seen sporting fashionable glasses, which add to her overall appearance. She took to her Instagram and posted the photo and captioned it, "Need to get me some again #throwback"

In terms of work, Pooja is excited for the release of her films 'Ayalaan', starring Sivakarthikeyan, Radhe Shyam, starring Prabhas, and 'Indian 2', starring Kamal Haasan. She is also 'SSMB28's main lady.

She is currently starring alongside Thalapathy Vijay in the Tamil film 'Beast'.

Pooja Hegde (born October 13, 1990) is an Indian actress and model who is most known for her work in Telugu and Hindi films. At the Miss Universe India 2010 competition, she placed second runner-up. 'Mugamoodi', a Tamil film directed by Mysskin, was her first film (2012). In 'Oka Laila Kosam', she made her Telugu film debut alongside Naga Chaitanya. In 2016, she made her Hindi cinema debut in Ashutosh Gowariker's 'Mohenjo Daro', with Hrithik Roshan..

‘BE YOUR OWN WARRIOR’: SHILPA SHETTY TALKS OF ‘HIGH AND LOW POINTS’ AMID RAJ KUNDRA CASE, TURNS TO YOGA



Shilpa Shetty has been going through a challenging time in her personal life as husband Raj Kundra has been arrested in a porn apps case, but the actor is making sure she remains calm and balanced even as she finds herself surrounded by constant speculation.

Shilpa has said that it's yoga that she has yet again turned to for strength and positivity. It's public knowledge that Shilpa is an avid yoga practitioner. In fact, the actor keeps sharing the benefits of yoga with her fans through Instagram videos. On Monday, Shilpa wrote a long Instagram post alongside a video of her practising a few yoga asanas. The actor wrote how she feels empowered doing these asanas. "Whether it's a low or high point, I only turn to yoga. It's the best remedy for me to stay positive, focused, and balanced. One of the most calming yet energising routines is that of the empowering 'Virbhadrasana, Malasana, and the dynamic hip opening' flow. The benefits are innumerable of incorporating these yoga asanas into your

routine. Time to prove, 'Yoga se hi hoga'," read an excerpt from her post. After taking a three-week-long break from reality show Super Dancer Chapter 4, Shilpa Shetty is back on the judges' panel. The actor had taken a break after her husband Raj Kundra's arrest last month. Shilpa's professional and personal life has been dragged into Kundra's case, with many trolling and poking fun at the actor. Affected by the negativity, Shilpa Shetty issued a statement a few weeks ago, asking people to respect her privacy and be considerate towards her and her two kids.

"I am a proud law-abiding Indian citizen and a hardworking professional for the last 29 years. People have put their faith in ME & I've never let anyone down. So, most importantly, I request you to respect my family's and 'my right' to privacy in these times," she said. Shilpa, however, maintained that she would not break her silence on the case as it was sub-judice.

SALMAN KHAN'S 'TIGER 3' LOOK LEAKED, GOES VIRAL



MUMBAI, (IANS) Salman Khan is shooting in Russia for his upcoming film 'Tiger 3'. The superstar's look from the spy thriller has been leaked and has caused social media to go into a tizzy. A fanpage on Instagram which goes by the name 'salmanic_aryan' has shared a few stills from the film, featuring the 'Dabangg' star, who is unrecognisable in his get up. According to the fanpage, the pictures are from a car chase sequence that is being shot in the country.

The 55-year-old superstar is seen sporting long reddish brown hair and a beard. He is wearing a white T-shirt, jeans, a red jacket and a headband for the look.

Another set of pictures showed Salman posing with some fans. The third instalment, which is directed by Maneesh Sharma, also stars Katrina Kaif. 'Tiger 3' was put on hold due to the global outbreak of Covid-19. 'Tiger 3' is the third part of the spy thriller franchise. The first instalment 'EkTaa Tiger' directed by Kabir Khan released in 2012. The second 'Tiger Zinda Hai' released in 2017 and was directed by Ali Abbas Zafar.

HOT ON OTT: COMING UP THIS WEEK (AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 28)



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Here's a look at highlight films, shows and series that are scheduled to drop in the digital space this week.

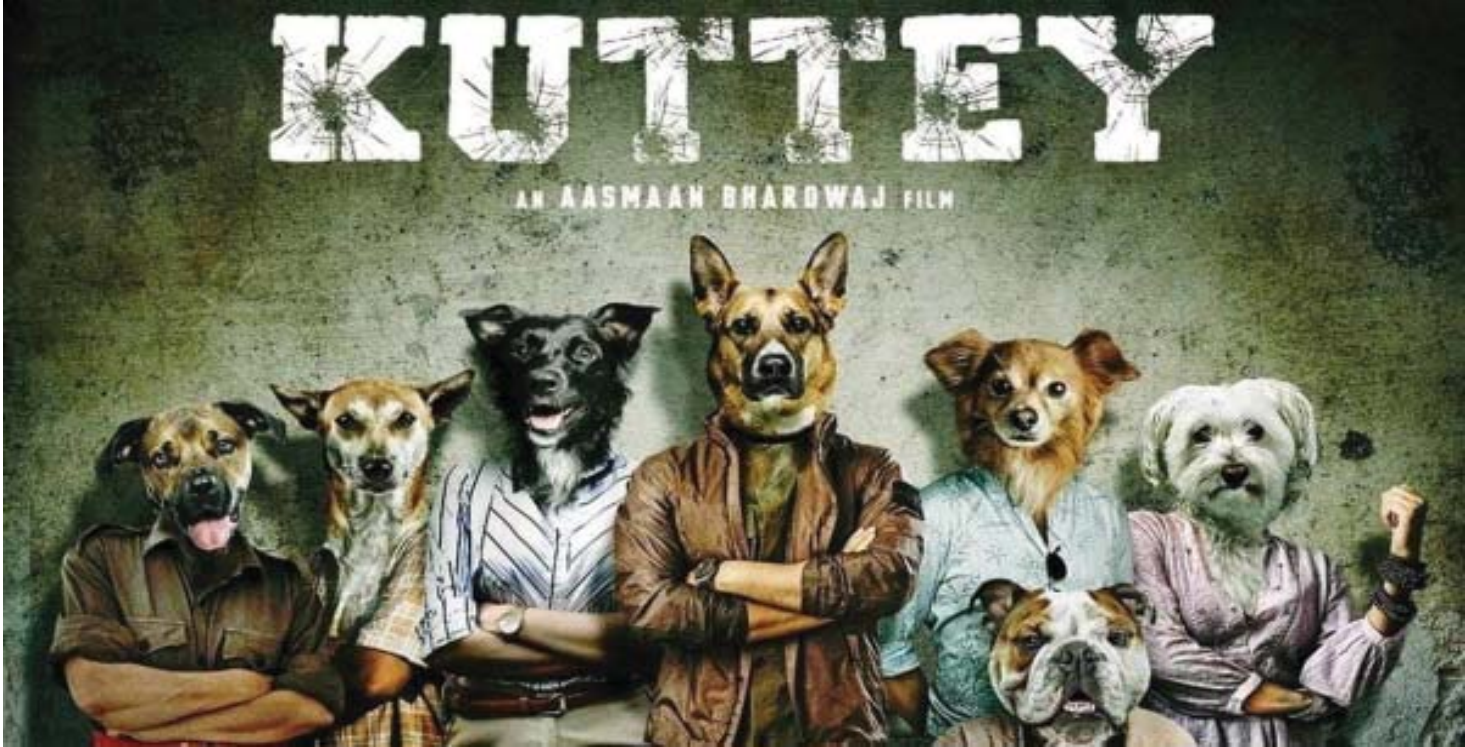
The Empire (series on Disney+, August 27)
Cast: Shabana Azmi, Kunal Kapoor, Dino Morea, DrashtiDhami, Rahul Dev
Creation: Nikkhil Advani
The Empire is based on the novel series 'Empire of the Moghul' by Alex Rutherford. The series focuses on the rise and fall of the Mughal empire through generations from Babur to Aurangzeb. The story starts in Farghana where a young prince Babur is the heir to the king. Ousted at a young age he begins his campaign for the conquest of north India.

The Interview: Night of 26/11 (film on Book My Show stream, August 27)
Cast: Jackie Shroff, Anjum Nayar, Asif Basra
Direction: Laurens Postma
A veteran war correspondent of a leading media house finds himself changing tracks from his serious journalism to a sensational one on an eventful cover story assignment when he has to interview the country's leading actress at the peak of her film career. He discovers there is more to the leading actress he is interviewing than meets the eye, and as the interview progresses, he finds himself drawn into the actress' intriguing world.

See Season 2 (series on Apple TV+, August 27)
Cast: Jason Momoa, Sylvia Hoeks, Hera Hilmar
Direction: Steven Knight
The series is set in a dystopian future where humans have lost their sense of sight after a virus wiped out their ability and now they've to find new ways to hunt, build, interact, and survive. It centres around a chieftain warrior named Baba Voss, whose two children from his new wife possess the power of sight. When a nearby queen learns about these two children, the protagonist must do whatever he can in order to protect his children from those who want to exploit their powers.

Pete the Cat (film on Amazon Prime, August 27)
Cast: Jacob Tremblay, Elvis Costello, Diana Krall
Creation: James Dean
It's a musically driven animation created by artist James Dean and inspired by his own pet kitty, Pete The Cat. It's adapted from a series of picture books authored by musician Eric Litwin and illustrated by Dean. Like the book, the series follows the adventures of an unflappable cat named Pete as he learns about new things with the help of family and friends.

VISHAL BHARDWAJ’S SON TURNS DIRECTOR WITH TABU-NASEERUDDIN SHAH THRILLER, KUTTEY



Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj’s son Aasmaan Bhardwaj is set to make his directorial debut with Kuttey, a caper-thriller boasting of an ensemble cast including Naseeruddin Shah, Tabu, Konkona Sensharma, Arjun Kapoor, Radhika Madan, Kumud Mishra and Shardul Bhardwaj, who was last seen in Prateek Vats’ Eeb Allay Ooo!. Kuttey is being co-produced by Luv Ranjan, Vishal Bhardwaj, Ankur Garg and Rekha Bhardwaj under the banner of Luv Films and Vishal Bhardwaj Films, and presented by Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar’s T-Series. The cast and makers took to social media on Monday to make the announcement, sharing the film’s motion poster. The intriguing poster features the primary cast without revealing their look as all the actors are shown with human body and dog head. (Neither do they bark, nor do they growl. They just bite),” Konkona wrote alongside the poster that also has a powerful, peppy background score. The film’s music has been composed by Vishal Bhardwaj, while his frequent collaborator Gulzar has penned the lyrics. Written by Aasmaan and Vishal, Kuttey is currently in pre-production. It will go on

floors later this year. Aasmaan has completed his bachelors in filmmaking at the School Of Visual Arts, NYC and has assisted Vishal Bhardwaj on 7 Khoon Maaf, Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola and Pataakha. Vishal Bhardwaj, in a statement, said that he was excited not only about collaborating with his son for the first time but also for having some of his favourite actors, whom he has worked frequently in separate films, coming together in one project. “Kuttey is extremely special to me as it is my first collaboration with Aasmaan and I’m excited to see what he does with it. Luv Films and Vishal Bhardwaj Films are also coming together for the first time and I am immensely excited about this association, as I really admire Luv’s brave attitude towards filmmaking and strong commercial sense,” Vishal said. Talking about the cast, he added, “I have worked with Naseer Sahab, Tabu, Konkona and Radhika on different films throughout my career and Aasmaan has brought them all together in one film itself. We cannot wait for the audience to witness this captivating thriller on the big screen.”

Shamita Shetty gets emotional as she remembers her family is going through a tough time

The feuds, chores, and unshakable friendships on ‘Bigg Boss OTT’ have been making headlines. Shamita Shetty, who is here in the wake of her brother-in-law Raj Kundra’s imprisonment in a recent episode, stated, “I am here on the show during a difficult moment for my family.” Shamita took to Instagram to post a cryptic message that appeared to justify her participation in the controversial reality show at a time when her family, including her brother-in-law Raj Kundra and sister Shilpa Shetty, are going through a difficult time in their personal lives following the arrest of the former in the pornography racket. There’s no need to hide, and it’s time to rise, hold your head high, and show the world what you’ve got, the actress wrote beside a boomerang holding a mask hiding and then unveiling her face. “Bigg Boss OTT-Here I come!” Shamita concluded her statement. Recently, Raj Kundra got interim relief The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted interim protection from arrest to businessman Raj Kundra till August 25 in a porn film racket case registered in 2020 by the Mumbai Police here. When the matter came up for hearing, his lawyer Prashant Patil argued that the other co-accused in the case are already out on bail and the offences against Kundra attract a punishment of less than seven years, and hence deserved protection from arrest. Kundra was arrested by the police on July 19 along with 11 other people on charges related to the alleged creation of pornographic films. He has been named as the key conspirator by the Mumbai Police which has slapped charges against him under Sections 420 (cheating), 34 (common intention), 292, and 293 (related to obscene and indecent advertisements and displays) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) besides relevant sections of the IT Act and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, said the police.

KRITI SANON STUNS AS A BRIDE IN MANISH MALHOTRA’S TRADITIONAL LEHENGA FROM ‘NOORANIYAT’ COLLECTION



Actress Kriti Sanon has been making headlines for her stellar performance in the recently released film ‘Mimi’. And now, the diva has become the talk of the town for her taking the social media world by storm with her latest photoshoot for ace designer Manish Malhotra. Kriti stunned as a bride in Manish’s bridal edit of hit collection Nooraniyat. The collection celebrates brides in their original spirit and emotions that emanate their individuality in their entirety. Sharing a series of photos of Kriti looking mesmerising in a traditional red lehenga featuring the age-old intricate zardozi work on it, Manish wrote that the actress enthralled in his collection’s bridal glory while rejoicing in its modern construct. Looking elegant in the photos, Kriti cast a spell on the onlookers with her exquisite charm and enchanting beauty. For the unversed, the bridal of Nooraniyat is the latest collection of Manish Malhotra’s bridal couture. Weaved in fine craftsmanship and exquisite intricate elements, the Manish Malhotra Bridal collection 2021 is an enchanting medley of bridal glory sprawled across strikingly hued compositions where each ensemble narrates an emotional story of its own. “My bridal edit is an amalgamation of moods and emotions of the brides and over the years of creating their dream outfits and interacting with them, I inadvertently got drawn into those intriguing memories and decided to capture it all - from their enthusiasm and joy to the heartfelt and compassionate, there’s a myriad of emotions and sentiments that are so heart-warming yet unsettling moments before she turns the page onto her new chapter. There’s some surreal magic adoring every bit of their feelings, transmitting you into a world only known to a bride. Whether you are of the new age, or not, the feelings remain the same, the happy tears nonetheless flow, and through it all, our collection that she adorns transcends her dreams into reality,” Manish Malhotra said.

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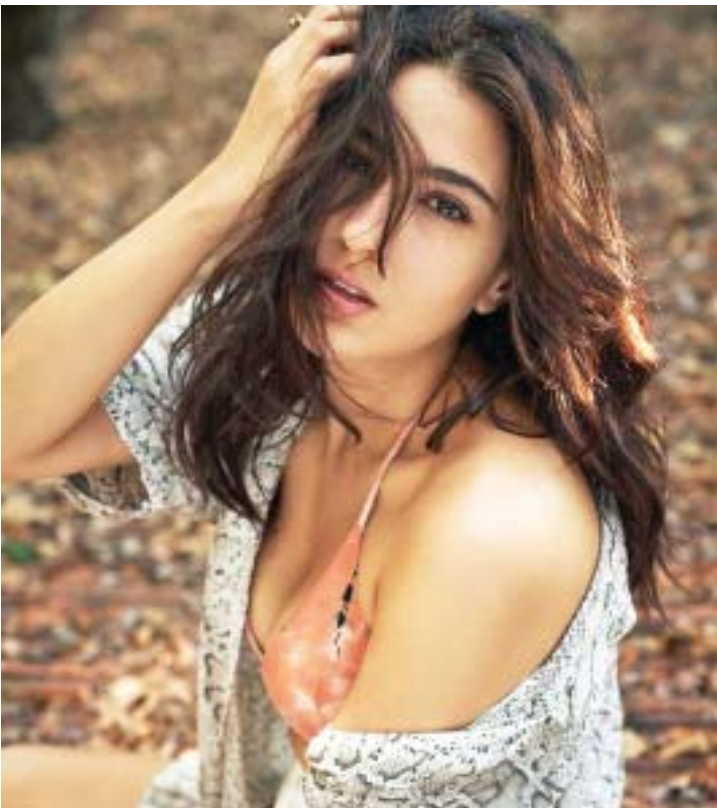


SARA ALI KHAN LOOKS SENDS INTERNET INTO A
TIZZY WITH PHOTOS IN ORANGE BIKINI

Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh’s daughter Sara Ali Khan is a complete package. She is funny, smart, a good actor and is extremely good-looking and sexy. Sara enjoys a massive fan following of 34.2 million on Instagram and often treats fans with jaw-dropping photos and videos. Recently, the actor shared smoking hot photos of herself in an orange coloured bikini. She paired it with a snake print shirt and sent the internet into a tizzy with her sultry looks. “The eyes shout what the lips fear to say So if you have something to hide you’d better look away,” Sara captioned her post. Reacting to the photo, ace designer Manish Malhotra dropped heart and lovestruck emojis in the comment section. Fans also showered love and complements on Sara’s photos. “Soo hott,” wrote one user while another commented, “OMGGG YOU SARAAA.” A third user wrote, “You are the best,” while a fourth one commented, “wowowow mama.”

On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Sara shared one of her famous knock-knock jokes video which featured her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan. She could be seen cracking the jokes on Ibrahim and the video depicted their loving bond. “Happy Rakhi Iggy Potter Time to meet the annoying daughter My jokes embarrass you, full slaughter But I promise to love you and give you water,” she wrote in the caption in full Sara style.

Sara made her acting debut with Abhishek Kapoor’s film ‘Kedarnath’ in 2018. She will be next in Aanand L Rai’s ‘Atrangi Re’, which also features Dhanush and Akshay Kumar.



AMITABH BACHCHAN’S INTRIGUING POETRY WILL LEAVE YOU SPEECHLESS

‘Chehre’ title track out: Amitabh Bachchan’s intriguing poetry will leave you speechless

On Monday, the title track from Anand Pandit’s ‘Chehre’ was released, and the combination between superstar Amitabh Bachchan, musicians Vishal-Shekhar, and the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra is unquestionably a masterpiece.

The makers of Chehre published a brief preview of the title track a few months ago, and the audience has been waiting for them to raise the curtain since then. To meet fan demand, the movie’s producers have finally published the single, which was performed by Big B and composed by artists from Prague. The musical touch to the Amitabh Bachchan and Emraan Hashmi movie ‘Chehre’ has been provided by Vishal-Shekhar.

Sharing about working with Vishal-Shekhar, director Romy Jafry shared, “Films make no sense without music. If we go back to the time, the films had no dialogue but did have music. Also, when it comes to a mystery thriller, your music has to be bold and precise. Considering this, we collectively decided to get on board Vishal-Shekhar because who else if not them? The genre that ‘Chehre’ deals with, requires good music throughout the film and hence the makers of the films have not overlooked that aspect. Both Vishal and Shekhar had put to tune a poem recited by Big B for ‘Chehre’ s title track where he coordinated with a total of 107 musicians.”

Producer Anand Pandit said, “Vishal and Shekhar have beautifully composed the title track of Chehre with 107 other musicians from Prague. Their concentration, dedication, and will to produce something soulful using the instruments are just commendable. “

“On the other hand, it is the first time after Silsila and Agneepath that Amitabhji has recited a poem in any film. As a fan of Amitabhji and producer for Chehre, I feel blessed because not many get this privilege.”

'KANCHANA 3' ACTRESS ALEXANDRA
DJAVI FOUND DEAD IN GOA,
INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY



A 24-year-old Russian woman, Alexandra Djavi, who acted in some Tamil films including 'Kanchana 3', was found hanging from a ceiling fan in a rented home in a North Goa village on Aug 19, according to the local police. According to Police Sub Inspector Mahesh G Kerkar, Djavi was found hanging in her rented room at Gublawado, Oxel Siolim, Bardez Goa on August 19 and her fiancé who returned from Morjim found the door locked. The Goa police is waiting for the Russian Consulate's permission to conduct a postmortem of Alexandra Djavi body. For the unversed, in 'Kanchana 3', Djavi essayed the role of Rosy who later turns into a revenge-seeking ghost. As per reports, the actress had been previously harassed in Chennai in 2019 by a photographer for sexual favours, a lawyer for the Russian consulate in Mumbai said on Saturday. The Goa-based lawyer Vikram Varma also said that the post mortems on the remains of Djavi, as well as 34-year-old Ekaterina Titova who was also found dead in her rented apartment in a separate incident, would be conducted in presence of Russian consular officials soon. "Regarding the 24-year-old, Alexandra, we have received information that she had been black-mailed in 2019 for sexual favours and after a preliminary enquiry, the Chennai Police had registered an FIR. But this is preliminary information and we hope that the Goa Police will investigate the matter thoroughly and rule out any possible suspicion in her death," Varma said. The FIR, which Varma has referred to, was registered in Chennai in 2019 after Djavi accused a photographer of harassing her for sexual favours.

'MONEY HEIST': ANIL KAPOOR,
HARDIK PANDYA, VIKRANT MASSEY,
RADHIKA APTE FEATURE IN INDIAN
VERSION OF 'BELLA CIAO'



Amid fans eagerly waiting for the release of season five of Netflix's hit show 'Money Heist', Netflix India has come up with a recreated version of the show's title track 'Bella Ciao' featuring Anil Kapoor, Vikrant Massey and Hardik Pandya. The Indian version has been composed by Nucleya. Apart from renowned celebrities like Anil Kapoor, Vikrant Massey and Hardik Pandya, the music video also features Radhika Apte, Rana Daggubati, and Shruti Haasan. Titled 'Jaldi Aao', the funny anthem encapsulates emotions perfectly and highlights the viewers' immense love for the characters. In the video, Shruti reminds of Nairobi as she sings the song in Tamil on a stretcher bed, holding a flower in her lips. Anil Kapoor can be seen dancing on the money bed just like Denver did during the first heist. Hardik Pandya turns out to be one of the robbers and Radhika Apte wishes Arturo is dead.

On composing the track, Nucleya said, "I'm a huge fan of 'Money Heist', so working on this anthem was super fun. As someone who loves the series, the song expresses what I and all other fans are feeling. Shooting the video was such an amazing experience and all the great artists who are featured in it have made it come to life. The song is peppy and in multiple languages, truly celebrating the spirit of fans who are spread across the nation. Lastly, all I can say is - Money Heist - Jaldi Aao!"

The music video ends with the Professor's clip and the information that the fifth part of the iconic Spanish series will be released on September 3, 2021, and is available in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. For the unversed, the second part of the series will drop on December 3, 2021, on Netflix.

VETERAN ACTOR MAHESH
MANJREKAR UNDERGOES SURGERY
FOR URINARY BLADDER CANCER

Mahesh Manjrekar, who has appeared in films such as 'Dabangg 3' and 'Wanted', is currently recovering from a urinary bladder cancer operation. In a sad turn of events, the actor revealed to Indianexpress.com that he had surgery a few days ago and is currently healing.



Manjrekar's most recent project was the Disney Plus Hotstar online series '1962: The War in the Hills', which starred Abhay Deol. Manjrekar made his internet debut with the series that launched last year. He's currently anticipating the release of 'Antim: The Final Truth', a film starring Salman Khan and his brother-in-law, Aayush Sharma. Mahesh Manjrekar will host the third season of 'Bigg Boss Marathi' on television soon. Both previous seasons were also hosted by the director. The campaign began in June on Colors Marathi. The show was supposed to premiere in 2020, but the coronavirus pandemic forced it to be postponed. The third season of 'Bigg Boss Marathi' will premiere later this year.



ARSHI KHAN REVEALS SHE WAS 'ABOUT TO GET ENGAGED TO AN AFGHANISTAN CRICKETER' BEFORE THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER

Bigg Boss 14' contestant Arshi Khan has never shied away from voicing her opinions and has often been criticised for her controversial remarks. As the world watches the horror that unfolds in Afghanistan after the Taliban siege in the country, Arshi in a recent interview has said that she was about to get engaged to an Afghan cricketer who was chosen by her father. "I was about to get engaged in the month of October, with an Afghanistan cricketer. He was chosen by my father. But after the Taliban took over Afghanistan we cancelled the engagement," Arshi told IANS. Arshi also mentions that they are on talking terms. "He was my father's friend's son. So now we are also on talking terms and are like friends but I'm happy. Now I'm sure to find my partner in an Indian guy." Arshi also reveals about having roots in Afghanistan. "I'm an Afghani Pathan, and my family belongs to the Yusuf Zaheer Pathan ethnic group. My grandfather had migrated from Afghanistan and was a jailer in Bhopal. My roots are in Afghanistan but I am an Indian citizen," she said. Arshi Khan and her family moved to India from Afghanistan when she was just 4-years-old. Arshi was a contestant on 'Bigg Boss 11', and re-entered the show as a challenger for the show's season 14. She has appeared in several other reality shows and music videos along with TV shows like 'Savitri Devi College & Hospital', 'Vish' and 'Ishq Mein Marjawan'. She has also featured in web series such as 'Raat Ki Rani Begum Jaan' and 'The Evil Desires'.

We should stop sweating about box office: Emraan Hashmi on Covid-19 impact and BellBottom release

Actor Emraan Hashmi says filmmakers should let go of their obsession with box office numbers as having a theatrical release amid the coronavirus pandemic in itself is a step towards revival of the industry. Film shoots across India came to a standstill due to the pandemic, first during last year's nationwide lockdown and then earlier this year when the second wave hit the country. The increasingly worrying situation also prompted theatres to remain shut for months, to finally open up for operations in Delhi and other states recently. Maharashtra, a key centre for Hindi films, has still not allowed cinema halls to open. Hashmi, whose latest film Chehre is gearing for a theatrical release on Friday, said he is thrilled that the industry is finally gaining momentum. This is his second release in cinema halls after Mumbai Saga, which opened in March. "I am happy that theatres are opening up after a long gap. I am the only actor who has had two releases in this pandemic. Some might see it as a bold move others might see it as a stupid move. But the obsession with the box office of our industry should not be the case anymore, at least not right now. The rules have changed, the game has changed," the actor said. Hashmi said, while makers were never in "control" of how their films would perform at the box office, the ongoing health crisis has only made it tougher. The 42-year-old actor lauded superstar Akshay Kumar and the producers of BellBottom, for releasing their film theatrically — the biggest Hindi film release since the pandemic. The spy thriller opened in cinema halls on August 19.

LEGENDARY ROLLING STONES DRUMMER CHARLIE WATTS DEAD AT 80



LONDON, (IANS) In his autobiography, 'Life', Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards says Charlie Watts "has always been the bed that I lie on musically". That bed -- the dapper, reserved drummer of the British rock group, who was the polar opposite of its flamboyant and raucous frontman Mick Jagger -- has been moved out by the hand of God. Watts died on Tuesday in London, aged 80.

Earlier this month, Watts had undergone an emergency medical procedure for an unspecified condition, which was the reason he was not named for the Stones' scheduled 'No Filter' tour of the US.

For millions of Stones fans around the world, the man universally acclaimed as the best rock drummer of his generation, who defined immortal numbers such as 'Paint It, Black', 'Ruby Tuesday' and 'Honky Tonk Women', will be missed -- and how!

Watts, the son of a truck driver, started out as a graphic artist with a London advertising agency (a compulsive artist, he later lent his creativity to the designs of the live sets, album jackets and merchandise of the Stones). He played drums in the evenings, earning a tidy sum, which made it difficult for the Rollin' Stones (as the band was then called) to hire him initially. It was in early 1963 that he finally joined the group on a princely sum of five pounds a week.

And he was there, like a rock, a picture of sobriety when the Stones made news not only for their record-breaking albums, but also for their debauched lifestyles and internecine internal bickering, then ironically getting addicted to amphetamines when the rest of his band mates were reforming themselves as they hit their 40s, and finally, going back to complete sobriety, just not interested, as he wrote in his autobiography, "in being a pop idol sitting there with girls screaming". Famous for his immaculate Savile Row suits, Watts was on 'Vanity Fair' magazine's International Best Dressed Hall of Fame in 2006 (an honour also accorded to him by the 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper). In the same year, 'Modern Drummer' magazine inducted him into its Hall of Fame, where he was in the company of the likes of Ringo Starr and Buddy Rich. Besides art and music, if Watts had a passion, it was to breed prized Arabian horses, which he did on his 700-acre farm in south-western England, where he lived with his wife, Shirley Ann Shepherd, a sculptor whom he married in 1964. Their only child, Seraphina Watts, was born in 1968, and she's the mother of the late drummer's only grandchild.



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VIRAT KOHLI'S INDIA WILL PLAY HOW THEY PLAY, WE WILL NOT GET DRAWN INTO ANYTHING THAT'S NOT HONEST: JOE ROOT



India channelled their aggression to their advantage to script a famous win at Lord's while England failed to rile up the opposition players despite regular attempts and that is something Joe Root is looking to avoid in the third Test beginning here on Wednesday. The second Test was played in an intense atmosphere with players of both teams not shying from constant sledging. With India leading the series 1-0, one expect more aggression from Virat Kohli's team but Root said his team has learnt its lessons from the previous game and will not be drawn into the conversations needlessly. "There's the theatre and everything else surrounding the game. We've got to make sure that we play the game how we want to play and we look after that as best as we can, and not get too distracted or drawn into anything that's not honest," said Root in the virtual pre-match media interaction. "We've got to be genuine to ourselves, genuine to how we are as individuals and how we are collectively and be as good as we can, the way that we go. Virat's team will play how they play, I just want us to go out and be the best version of ourselves." Root has already admitted to tactical blunders that cost his side the Lord's Test. Their emotions also got the better of them. "I think there were always conversations you always try to find one percenters in ways you can deal with different situations. "We've done some good learning off the back of the last game I think we could have managed certain areas differently, me as the captain, we could have gone about things slightly differently. "We have got three massive games to play in this series, there's a lot to play for. And you know we're desperate to bounce back strongly," he said. England have made a few changes going into the game with Dawid Malan coming in to bat at number three and Haseeb Hameed

moving up to open alongside Rory Burns. Opener Dom Sibley has been dropped and Mark Wood has been ruled out of the game due to a shoulder injury. Root expects Malan to make an instant impact even though the south-paw has not played a lot of red-ball cricket of late. "Dawid obviously offers a lot of experience in that top three, not necessarily in terms of experience in Test cricket, but he has played a huge amount of international cricket now, he's dealt with pressure situations. "He's played a lot of red ball cricket over the course of his career and he's also had great successes in a massive series in Australia and was our leading scorer out there, so we know that he's capable of big things." Wood's injury has created an opening for Saqib Mahmood's Test debut and Root did not rule that out. "I feel Saqib couldn't be in a better place to potentially play Test cricket, you look at how he's progressed over the last couple of years across all formats. "But the opportunities, he's taken this year when I've been given them he's been exceptional," said Root. The skipper, who has been scoring the bulk of the runs for his team, is confident that under-fire batting line-up will come good. "The most important thing about batting in Test cricket revolves around big partnerships, when two guys back for a period of time the game can look completely different. And that's got to be our focus as a batting group. "Starting your innings in England can be the hardest thing to do." Root attributed his brilliant run of form to the technical changes he made recently. "Sometimes it's that old adage if you have to take a little bit of backward step to come forward and feel like reaping the rewards of that and I think I've obviously, over a period of time, found myself getting out between 50 and 100.

Afghanistan's ODI series moved from Sri Lanka to Pakistan



COLOMBO, (IANS) Logistical issues related to air travel and the 10-day lockdown imposed in Sri Lanka has forced the Afghanistan-Pakistan ODI series to be moved from Sri Lanka to Pakistan. The three-match series will start from September 3 and the venue will be decided in a day or two. The series, which was to be held in Hambantota in Sri Lanka has been moved to Pakistan as the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB)

was finding it difficult to arrange for the team's travel from Kabul to Sri Lanka after the Taliban took control of the country and the resultant chaos disrupted air travel, according to a report in espncricinfo. The Afghanistan team that has assembled in Kabul was to travel by road to Pakistan and fly to Dubai from where it was to take another flight to Colombo. The team will now travel to Pakistan by road later this week.

ENGLAND PACER MARK WOOD RULED OUT OF THIRD TEST AGAINST INDIA



LEEDS, (IANS) England pacer Mark Wood has been ruled out of the third Test against India at Leeds due to a jarred right shoulder. The 31-year-old sustained the injury on the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's while diving to stop a boundary. Despite Wood returning to bowl on the last day of the Lord's Test, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Monday that he will not be fit to play in the third Test. Wood had taken five wickets in England's 151-run loss to India at Lord's. "He will remain with the squad in Leeds and will continue his rehab with the England medical team. The 31-year-old will be assessed at the end of this Test match," said a statement from the ECB. Wood joins Olly Stone, Stuart Broad, Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes on the injured list. Ben Stokes is still unavailable as he is still on a break from cricket to focus on his mental health. Wood's absence means that Saqib Mahmood is in line for a Test debut at Headingley. It also puts Craig Overton in contention to get into the playing eleven. The third Test between England and India starts from Wednesday. India are leading the five-match series 1-0.

EPL: RECORD-BREAKER MICHAEL ANTONIO LEADS WEST HAM TO 2ND STRAIGHT WIN



Michail Antonio's record goal for West Ham was sealed with a kiss. The fun-loving striker became the London club's all-time leading scorer in the Premier League era, moving onto 49 goals by netting twice in a 4-1 win over 10-man Leicester at the Olympic Stadium on Monday. Antonio's first- a close-range shot on the turn to make it 3-1 in the 80th- moved him past Paolo Di Canio's previous record mark of 47 and he celebrated by running to the sideline and raising aloft a cardboard cut-out of himself.

ERIK LAMELA SCORES AGAIN, GIVES SEVILLA A PERFECT START IN SPAIN



New signing Erik Lamela scored in stoppage time for his third goal in two matches as Sevilla edged Getafe 1-0 to join defending champion Atletico Madrid as the only teams with a perfect start in the Spanish league. Lamela got the winner from inside the area by picking up the rebound from Rafa Mir's shot that hit the post after a breakaway three minutes into injury time on Monday. "We were not comfortable but in the last play we fought until the end because we knew we could score and get the win," Lamela said. "Luckily we started with two victories and we will keep working hard so we can get better. We have a lot to improve." Lamela, the Argentine signed from Tottenham in a deal that saw Sevilla youngster Bryan Gil move to England, scored twice in his official debut with the Spanish club last weekend, a 3-0 home win against promoted Rayo Vallecano.

High-flying India eyeing unassailable series lead and a big knock from Virat Kohli



A supremely confident India will look to tighten the noose around a struggling England and captain Virat Kohli will be expected to overcome his prolonged lean patch when the third Test of the five-match series begins here on Wednesday.

Kohli’s last international hundred came in November 2019 and though he has scored a couple of 40s in the series so far, the expectations have always been sky high from the modern great.

He looked a tad vulnerable around the off-stump in the first two Tests and one can expect him to present a tighter technique when the ball is pitched on the fourth stump at Headingley.

The form of Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane had also been a cause of concern for India but that has been put to rest after the experienced duo batted for almost 50 overs on day four of the Lord’s Test and were responsible for taking the game to the final day before the Indian pacers scripted a famous win.

The performance of openers Rohit Sharma and K L Rahul has been the biggest plus for India in the batting department. Both have showed remarkable temperament and technique in testing conditions to give the team a solid start. Rahul, who was drafted into the team in place of injured Mayank Agarwal, has grown in confidence with each innings and seem to be sure about which balls to play and which ones to leave, which is critical for success in English conditions.

Rohit too has looked in sublime touch and only needs to figure when to play his trademark pull shot, having fallen to that stroke twice in the series so far. Rishabh Pant will play the way he plays and Ravindra Jadeja has also done a decent job at number seven. It can be said that he is playing in the team more as a batsman than as a left-arm spinner.

With conditions expected to be cold and favourable for the pacers at Headingley, India are expected to retain the four-prong pace attack, leaving no space for R Ashwin once again.

Shardul Thakur is fully fit but it is unlikely that Kohli will make any changes in the pace attack which won India the game on day five at Lord’s. Ishant Sharma, who had not played the opening Test, was really impressive at Lord’s and the hugely experienced pacer is likely

to be preferred over Thakur, who is the lesser bowler compared to Ishant but the better batsman.

The potency of the world-class attack has been increased by Mohammad Siraj, who was sensational on day five and has impressed many with his relentless accuracy. India last played here in 2002 when they registered a famous win by an innings and 46 runs. None of the current players have the experience of playing on this ground and it will be interesting to see how they adapt to the challenge.

England, on the other hand, will be hoping their batting woes will subside with the inclusion of white-ball specialist Dawid Malan. Malan last played a Test three years ago but is expected to deliver considering his rich first-class experience.

The southpaw will bat at number three, moving Haseeb Hameed up the order to open alongside Rory Burns. England batsmen have to find a way to score and help skipper Joe Root, who has made of the bulk of the team’s runs so far. Mark Wood, who troubled the Indian batsmen with his extra pace, is injured and that puts Saqib Mahmood in good position to make his Test debut on Wednesday.

Ahead of the game, Root confirmed that barring Wood, the team is not facing any fitness issues with lead pacer James Anderson also in good shape. Root has also hinted that his players will not be drawn into needless exchanges with the opposition players after things got heated up at Lord’s with India getting more out of the verbal battles.

Teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prithvi Shaw, Suryakumar Yadav.

England: Joe Root (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler (wicketkeeper), Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Saqib Mahmood, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson.

TOKYO GAMES IS GOING TO BE OUR BEST OUTING AT PARALYMPICS, SAYS DEEPA MALIK

Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) chief Deepa Malik is expecting the country’s para-athletes to create history by recording its best-ever performance at the Tokyo Games beginning Tuesday.

India will field its biggest contingent with 54 athletes set to compete in nine sports — archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, shooting, swimming, powerlifting, table tennis and taekwondo.

“Absolutely, my expectations have already gone beyond what I was expecting. This year, India is sending the largest-ever contingent. I am very hopeful that we are going to create history,” Malik said when asked if she is expecting the best-ever display. “It’s a contingent which is three times bigger in number, we have added four more sports in the past 4-5 years of gap between 2016-21.

“Almost two years have gone in the pandemic but despite that it’s a huge leap in the number of athletes qualifying,” Malik said during a virtual press conference to launch a joint campaign with Coca Cola-owned homegrown beverage brand Thumbs Up.

The first woman from India to win a Paralympic medal, Malik said the statistics are looking bright for the Indian contingent.

“It is not just qualification it is also acquiring the quota on the basis of world ranking. The statistics are looking very bright, athletes have done pretty well in the selection trials and the kind of current world rankings they are holding look very promising.

“Because the number of participation and the number of sports has increased, we have top ranking athletes, that gives us a very good indication that it’s going to be great Paralympics for Indian history.”

At the Rio Games in 2016, the Indian contingent returned with a haul of four medals, including two gold, a silver and a bronze.

Malik, the Rio Games silver medallist in shot put, said the athletes



have adapted well to the conditions in the Games Village.

Talking about the Covid restrictions, she said “We have to submit our samples every morning for Covid testing. Before entering any place you have to give your temperature and maintain a distance. In the village there are designated lanes.”

Thumbs Up, which has partnered with the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, will also be unveiling a campaign that includes a series of videos and other related visuals for digital and social media to keep the audiences connected with the event and the Indian athletes participating in it. “My journey of ability beyond disability has been that of breaking stereotypes and myths around disability. The partnership with Thumbs Up is a step forward in that direction,” Malik said.

The campaign will feature six athletes including Mariyappan Thangavelu (High jump), Sakina Khatun (Powerlifting), Suyash Yadav (Swimming), Navdeep (Javelin throw), Sumit Antil (Javelin throw), and Avani Lekhara (Shooting).

JAMES ANDERSON MAKES SHOCKING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JASPRIT BUMRAH, PLAYS MIND GAMES AHEAD OF THIRD TEST

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah performed superbly in the second Test against England at Lord’s. Not only did Bumrah claimed three wickets on the last day of the Test, he also batted exceedingly well to score 34 runs and help India set a challenging target for the hosts. But one thing which grabbed everyone’s attention from the match was Bumrah’s battled with England fast bowler James Anderson.

It may be recalled that towards the end of England’s first innings, Bumrah delivered several bouncers to Anderson. He also bowled at the body of the English fast bowler. While speaking in Tailenders podcast, the English pacer said, “I got caught off guard a little bit because all the batters coming in were saying how slow the pitch was. Banged in short; it was really slow. When I came out to bat, Joe said Bumrah was not bowling as quick as he normally does. And then, the first ball was 90 miles an hour and on the money, wasn’t it? And it felt like, I haven’t felt like this ever in my career. I felt he wasn’t trying to get me out.”

'Virat Kohli gets a bit too carried away with this aggression', says THIS former India star

Former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer praised Team India skipper Virat Kohli for his competitive attitude and fighting spirits which helped India register a historic win over England in the 2nd Test at Lord’s few days ago. Talking to a news channel, Farokh Engineer said that he was among the first ones in India to give it back to opposition teams. Engineer, 83, however said that Virat Kohli must exercise restraint and remain under limits while sledging the opposition. “I admire Virat for that. He has been an aggressive captain. It’s good. Of course, it has to be within limits. Otherwise, the umpire or the match referee can intervene,” Engineer said. “Maybe sometimes, yes (should he tone down his aggression?). He gets a bit too carried away, at times. But I like his aggression. He is a very good captain. I am all for it. He is I think one of the finest batsmen in the world. Also, they do sledging, so that your batsman lose confidence. But Bumrah and Shami were khadoos (stubborn), they replied in their own way. They couldn’t bat very well but they knew how to survive.

SHAHEEN AFRIDI 6-51: PAKISTAN ON TOP IN 2ND TEST VS WEST INDIES



Fast bowler Shaheen Afridi took a career-best 6-51 as Pakistan established control of the second cricket Test against the West Indies on the fourth day Monday, placing itself in a position to level the two-match series.

Left-armer Shaheen joined with Mohammad Abbas, who took 3-44, to rout the West Indies for 150, giving Pakistan a commanding 152-run first innings lead.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam then made a bold declaration of its second innings at 176-6 more than an hour before stumps, setting the West Indies a chase for 329 in around 130 overs to win the match and series. The West Indies suffered another blow when opener Kieran Powell was run out for 23 less than 30 minutes from stumps. Captain Kraigg Brathwaite carried his team through to the close when he 17 not out and the West Indies were 49-1, still 280 runs behind.

“It was a (helpful) wicket and in the first innings I just tried to bowl length and work in partnerships and that brought the success,” Shaheen said. “Early on you just try to bowl fuller on supportive wickets. “The bowling partnerships are good with me and (Mohammad) Abbas and Hasan (Ali) and Faheem (Ashraf). If you work well in partnership then success comes.”

MARK BOUCHER APOLOGISES FOR OFFENSIVE SONGS, NICKNAMES; ROT RUNS DEEP



South Africa head coach Mark Boucher admitted that the national team culture in his playing days was exclusionary, due to players being “ill-equipped” for post-Apartheid challenges.

He also apologised “for the part I played in joining in with my team-mates in singing offensive songs or using offensive nicknames.” According to ESPNcricinfo, Boucher submitted a 14-page affidavit to Cricket South Africa’s Social Justice and Nation-Building committee containing “general response,” after former South Africa cricketers revealed instances of racial discrimination and toxic team culture.

DEROGATORY NAMES, REMARKS

Paul Adams, the only player of colour in the team when he made his Test debut in 1995, revealed that he was subject to racial stereotyping during his nine-year-old career.

“I was called brown sh*t when I was playing. It often used to be a song when we won a game and we were in fines’ meetings (team celebrations after series wins). They would sing, ‘brown sh*t in the ring, tra la la la laa... When you are playing for your country, when you have had that victory, you don’t make sense of it, you brush it off, but it’s blatantly racist. Some people will say unconscious bias and they weren’t aware but this is why we are here – to change that.” Adams also shared an incident on a WhatsApp group of former internationals from the 1990s and 2000s. “On the 7th of January 2020, South Africa Under-19 lost a game against Zimbabwe and a player wrote on the group: ‘How long are they going to keep that monkey there’, speaking of the U-19 coach Lawrence Mahatlane.”

SCHEDULE OF REMAINING IPL MATCHES TORONTO TIMINGS

September 19:	CSK vs MI	(Dubai, 10:00 am
September 20:	KKR vs RCB	(Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am)
September 21:	PBKS vs RR	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
September 22:	DC vs SRH	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
September 23:	MI vs KKR	(Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am)
September 24:	RCB vs CSK	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
September 25:	DC vs RR	(Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am)
September 25:	SRH vs PBKS	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
September 26:	CSK vs KKR	(Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am);
September 26:	RCB vs MI	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
September 27:	SRH vs RR	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
September 28:	KKR vs DC	(Sharjah, 6:00 am);
September 28:	MI vs PBKS	(Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am)
September 29:	RR vs RCB	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
September 30:	SRH vs CSK	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
October 1 :	KKR vs PBKS	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
October 2:	MI vs DC	(Sharjah, 6:00 am)
October 2:	RR vs CSK	(Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am)
October 3:	RCB vs PBKS	(Sharjah, 6:00 am)
October 3:	KKR vs SRH	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
October 4:	DC vs CSK	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
October 5:	RR vs MI	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
October 6:	RCB vs SRH	(Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am)
October 7:	CSK vs PBKS	(Dubai, 6:00 am)
October 7:	KKR vs RR	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
October 8:	SRH vs MI	(Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am)
October 8:	RCB vs DC	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
October 10:	Qualifier 1	(Dubai, 10:00 am)
October 11:	Eliminator	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
October 13:	Qualifier 2	(Sharjah, 10:00 am)
October 15:	Final	(Dubai, 10:00 am)



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