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Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

JENNIFER LOPEZ CALLS OFF
ENGAGEMENT WITH ALEX RODRIGUEZ
AFTER FOUR YEARS OF TOGETHERNESS
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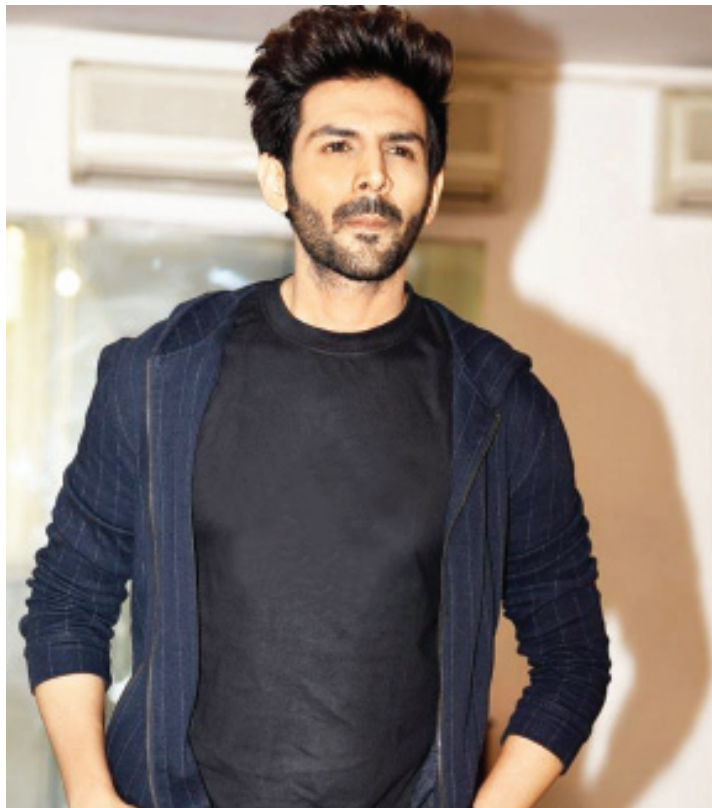


March 16, 2021

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JANHVI KAPOOR REVEALS ONE THING SHE WOULD LIKE TO 'STEAL' FROM KARTIK AARYAN



BONEY KAPOOR AND LATE ACTOR SRIDEVI'S DAUGHTER JANHVI KAPOOR IS CURRENTLY ENJOYING THE SUCCESS OF 'ROOH' CO-STARRING RAJKUMMAR RAO AND VARUN SHARMA. THE FILM HAS SO FAR EARNED RS 12.58 CRORE IN FOUR DAYS. JANHVI RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN A RAPID-FIRE SESSION AND REVEALED THE ONE THING SHE WOULD LIKE TO STEAL FROM RUMOURED BEAU KARTIK AARYAN. JANHVI TOLD BOLLYWOOD HUNGAMA, "I THINK I WOULD STEAL HIS BRAIN BECAUSE I THINK HE IS VERY SMART." SHE FURTHER ADDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO STEAL ACTOR DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S BEAUTY. JANHVI MADE OTHER INTERESTING REVELATIONS AND REVEALED THE MOST CRAZED EXCUSE SHE'D GIVEN TO REJECT A BOY'S PROPOSAL. SHE SAID, "I THINK AT ONE POINT I HAD SAID, 'NO, MY EXAMS ARE COMING UP, I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING ELSE.' AND THEN, I MISSED MY EXAM ALSO, SOME SPANISH TEST IT WAS AND I SAID, 'NO, I NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON MY SPANISH TEST,' AND I ENDED UP TRAVELLING AND I FORGOT ABOUT THE SPANISH TEST."

ALIA BHATT THROUGH EYES OF DIRECTORS MEGHNA GULZAR, GAURI SHINDE: SHE GIVES US CUES ON WHERE TO CALL 'CUT'



AS ALIA BHATT CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY, WE GET TWO OF HER DIRECTORS TO SPEAK ABOUT WHAT MAKES THE ACTOR A "RARE, PRECIOUS" COLLABORATOR.

JANHVI KAPOOR, RAJKUMMAR RAO'S HORROR COMEDY IS PLAIN HORRIBLE



ROOH! REVIEW: WHAT'S MISSING IS A COHERENT PLOT AND WRITING. ALL WE GET IS ONE CRINGE-INDUCING SEQUENCE AFTER THE NEXT.

AMITABH BACHCHAN UNDERGOES SECOND EYE SURGERY, CALLS IT 'LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE'



EARLIER, THROUGH HIS PERSONAL BLOG POST, 78-YEAR-OLD AMITABH BACHCHAN HAD OPENED UP ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY IN HIS SIGHT BECAUSE OF THE SURGERY.

AKSHAY KUMAR TO SHOOT 'RAM SETU' MAHURAT SHOT IN AYODHYA



MUMBAI: Actor Akshay Kumar will be heading to Ayodhya soon for the mahurat shot of his upcoming film "Ram Setu". The actor will reach Ayodhya on March 18 along with the film's director Abhishek Sharma and creative producer Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi. It was the Dwivedi who came up with the idea of shooting the mahurat shot at Ayodhya. "What better way to embark upon the journey of 'Ram Setu' than to kick-off at the very birthplace of Lord Ram. Having visited Ayodhya several times myself, I suggested to Akshay and the team that we should launch the production schedule with blessings from the holy temple of Lord Ram. We are scheduled to hold our mahurat shot in Ayodhya and commence our filming on an auspicious note," says Dwivedi. Sharma reveals that Akshay will be seen in a new avatar. "Akshay sir plays an archaeologist and his look and character are inspired by several Indian and international professional archaeologists who work in the field. In terms of both look and character, Akshay sir's fans are in for a totally new avatar," he says.

HARBHAJAN SINGH, GEETA BASRA EXPECTING 2ND CHILD



MUMBAI, (IANS) Actress Geeta Basra took to Instagram to announce that she is expecting her second baby with cricketer Harbhajan Singh. The actress posted a series of family pictures where she is flaunting the baby bump. In the pictures, both Geeta and Harbhajan as well as their daughter Hinaya are dressed in blue. In one of the pictures, both Harbhajan and Hinaya are hugging the baby bump. In another picture, Hinaya is holding a black t-shirt with the words "Soon to be a big sister" printed on it and in another one Hinaya is seen kissing the bump. Geeta captioned the pictures as: "Coming soon... July 2021". Geeta and Harbhajan got married in October 2015 after a courtship of five years. The two had an intimate wedding in Jalandhar. After a year, in 2016, they gave birth to Hinaya.

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

Bumrah-Sanjana wedding: India pacer Jasprit Bumrah marries Sanjana Ganesan



ENDING ALL SPECULATIONS, INDIA PACER JASPRIT BUMRAH GOT MARRIED TO SANJANA GANESAN AT GOA ON MONDAY (MARCH 15).

ENGLAND TOUR OF INDIA, 2021

4 Tests, 3 ODIs, 5 T20s. Feb 05 - Mar 28



DATE	MATCH DETAILS	TIME
T20'S		
Mar 12, Fri	1st T20I, Ahmedabad	8:30 AM
Mar 14, Sun	2nd T20I, Ahmedabad	9:30 AM
Mar 16, Tue	3rd T20I, Ahmedabad	9:30 AM
Mar 18, Thu	4th T20I, Ahmedabad	9:30 AM
Mar 20, Sat	5th T20I, Ahmedabad	9:30 AM
SQUADS		
INDIA: Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt), KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wkl), Ishan Kishan (wkl), Yuzvendra Chahal, Varun Chakravarty, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, T Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini and Shardul Thakur.		
ENGLAND: Eoin Morgan (capt), Moen Ali, Jofa Archer, Jonny Bairstow (wkl), Sam Billings, Jos Buttler (wkl), Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, David Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.		
ODI'S		
Mar 23, Tue	1st ODI, Pune	04:00 AM
Mar 26, Fri	2nd ODI, Pune	04:00 AM
Mar 28, Sun	3rd ODI, Pune	04:00 AM

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Janhvi Kapoor, Rajkummar Rao's horror comedy is plain horrible

In the 2018 'Stree', Bollywood gave us A Ghost Who Walks, her twisted 'ultey' feet leaving tracks of gleeful subversion in the small town she haunts. A few hiccups notwithstanding, 'Stree' was a sharp feminist comment on the age-old fear of strong, desirous women. With the same producer and lead actor toplining 'Roohi', this week's new release in theatres, I was hoping for an encore. Sadly, the Dinesh Vijan-Rajkummar Rao's horror comedy is just plain horrible, with not one laugh in sight. There's nothing funny about 'pakdaai shaadi', in which young women are kidnapped and forced into unwanted marriages. Every time a film decides to bring it up, it makes you cringe. Why would a film in this day and age want to give space to this 'tradition' that should have been deep-sixed long back? 'Roohi' spends too much of its opening in setting up one such 'kidnap', for the benefit of a naive, open-mouthed 'gora' (Alexx O'Neill), which brings together a couple of small-town layabouts, Bhawra (Rajkummar Rao) and Kattani (Varun Sharma), and a shy young woman Roohi (Janhvi Kapoor), and deposits them in the middle of a jungle, for no good reason. A muscle-bound hood (Manav Vij) shows up once in a while. Why? We never quite get



it. The characters mumble, and fumble, and it's all a jumble. There's something up with Roohi. The two fellows soon discover that she is a shape-shifter, switching from a whisper to a roar whenever she feels like it. There was potential to this idea: a woman is never just one thing, or another. She has as much right to be many entities, as anyone else. But the film squanders it with great determination, and tasteless jokes. What's missing is a coherent plot and writing. All we get is one cringe-inducing sequence after the next ('jhaad-phoonk', exorcism, women in chains), where we are treated to problematic lines: when, when will mainstream movies stop terming wives 'chudails'? No, it never was funny; the usage now just arouses fury. Just tossing in one line as a disclaimer that the film doesn't encourage superstition, is not a buy-out. Neither is the reliable Rao's presence, usually a guarantee of quality. Sharma's brand of dialogue delivery already feels jaded. Kapoor tries gamely, but never gets a break-out right till the end. The climax is a real cracker. Finally, you get why the film was made. What a waste of an ending.



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

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10
songs

1 NAACH MERI RANI
GURURANDHAWA

SONG	ARTIST
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WAADA HAI	ARJUN KANUNGO
HONTHON PE BAS	MIKA SINGH, SHEFALI JARIWALA
FIRST KISS (FT. IPSITAA)	YO YO HONEY SINGH
SUKOON	TAARUK
AABAAD BARBAAD	ARIJIT SINGH, PRITAM
LOVE CAN SAVE IT ALL	ANDRA
RONA LIKHA THA	RAMJI GULATI
MUJHE PEENE DO	DARSHAN RAVAL
TAARON KE SHEHAR	NEHA KAKKAR, SUNNY KAUSHAL

MIDWEEK BOX OFFICE	
MASTER (ALL LANGUAGES)	154 CRORE
COOLIE NO 1	30 LAKH (AMAZON)
WONDER WOMAN 1984	10.5 CRORE
LAXMII	37 LAKH (HOTSTAR)
DIL BECHARA	22 LAKH (HOTSTAR)
TENET INDIA	10 CRORE

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ALIA BHATT THROUGH EYES OF DIRECTORS MEGHNA GULZAR, GAURI SHINDE: SHE GIVES US CUES ON WHERE TO CALL ‘CUT’



Alia Bhatt is a fine actor, a mainstream star, a star kid and also often a subject of online memes. But if one asks her directors, the moments between becoming a character in a story and the person she is, are when Alia Bhatt truly reveals herself. The moments that are rarely seen by outsiders but most intimately experienced by her collaborators. On Alia Bhatt’s birthday, indianexpress.com reached out to filmmakers Gauri Shinde and Meghna Gulzar, who made Dear Zindagi (2016) and 2018 Raazi respectively, and explored the vulnerable and receptive side to the actor. While in Dear Zindagi, Alia offered a profound, intimate portrayal of a young girl struggling with the effects of childhood trauma, Raazi saw Alia giving a searing performance as a young woman left alone in a battle field, where she finds love only to lose it forever.

Gauri and Meghna, who gave the actor two remarkably different characters to play, worlds to inhabit and enemies to fight, revisited their experiences of filming Alia and how her strength lies in her ability to

feel deeply. Meghna remembers Alia’s trembling hands during a scene that made her realise that the actor was not playing Sehmat anymore but had become her.

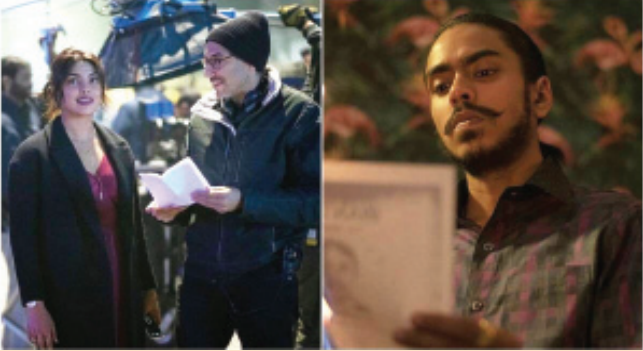
“There’s a vulnerability and delicateness to Sehmat, to her being that Alia brought to the character just with the way she approached and performed it. There were times when you could see her hands physically trembling on screen and you can’t always pull that off as a performance. You have to be trembling in your core while being that character for it to show up in this way in front of the camera,” the director says.

Sehmat allowed Alia to tap into myriad emotions, of which guilt proved to be particularly crucial as the woman’s journey on her mission was filled with long-lasting regrets as well as suffocation of not being able to mourn her sins. Meghna shares how the scene where Sehmat finally breaks down after realising that she had come too far to go back, Alia took the charge and guided her director’s gaze to a direction that she wanted the sequence to take.

“The scene where she breaks down in the shower– the scene after the interval– after she kills Abdul, all I told her was, ‘This is how you are standing, this is what you do. You turn on the shower and you take it from there.’ Where she went, how much she cried it’s all her. I just let the camera roll till she had finished her cycle of outburst and that’s when I called cut. So, a lot of times I was taking the cues from here as to where I needed to call cut and a lot of times she was taking the cues from me as to how high the emotions needs to go, which is I think a fabulously synergised working relationship between an actor and a filmmaker.” It’s the same synergy that Gauri Shinde mentions when she talks about seeing Alia as Kaira in Dear Zindagi. Like Meghna, even Gauri found herself in an equation with the actor where they didn’t need to converse to discuss a scene. “She just got it. I don’t know what else to say. Of course we thought the same way as people but it’s also because Alia is very receptive. She is open to feeling things,” Gauri says.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA CELEBRATES OSCAR NOD FOR THE WHITE TIGER: ‘ANNOUNCING IT MYSELF MADE IT MORE SPECIAL’

Priyanka Chopra has shared a post celebrating the nomination of The White Tiger in the Best Adapted Screenplay category in Oscars 2021. The global icon shared a photo showing all the nominees in the said category and a photo of herself with Ramin Bahrani, who wrote and directed the Netflix movie. The film is an adaptation of the Man Booker Prize-winning novel of the same name by Arvind Adiga. Priyanka is both the producer and actor in The White Tiger. The White Tiger, published in 2008, revolves around the character of Balram Halwai, a native of Laxmangarh village, who rises from his humble background to become a successful entrepreneur. He becomes the driver of a rich Delhi Man and later murders him. Rajkummar Rao and Adarsh Gourav also star. Gourav plays the main role of Balram Halwai while Rao essays the character of his employer Ashok and Chopra is Pinky, Ashok’s wife. Meanwhile, David Fincher’s Mank leads the Oscar nominations with 10 nods. The Trial of the Chicago 7, The Father, Minari, Judas and the Black Messiah, Nomadland, and Sound of Metal each have nominations in 6 categories. The main awards ceremony will take place on April 25 GMT. The show will be filmed live from the landmark Dolby Theatre, located in Los Angeles along with other locations.



DON’T WANT TO GET INTO RUT OF REPEATING MYSELF: RAJKUMMAR RAO



Actor Rajkummar Rao says he wants to stay away from the comfort zone of playing to the gallery despite knowing that some of his “gestures” might impress the audience. In his decade-long Bollywood journey, Rao has emerged as a performer known for capturing the essence of his characters — be it his National Award-winning turn as the righteous lawyer in Shahid or the menacing terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh in Omerta. The 36-year-old actor said even though his attempt is to play regular, relatable men on screen, he avoids getting “trapped” in a certain image. “There are times when I try and be conscious that I can’t repeat certain gestures and avoid that. I know it might work beautifully for the audience and perhaps even the scene, but I restrain myself. “I don’t want to get into the rut of doing the same thing, repeatedly. I don’t want to be trapped,” Rao told PTI in an interview. To distinguish between his roles, the actor said he prefers to dive deep into brainstorming sessions with his directors. Citing the examples of Vikramaditya Motwane’s Trapped, Hansal Mehta’s Shahid and the upcoming Badhaai Do, helmed by Harshavardhan Kulkarni, the actor said the depth of the character decides the amount of time he dedicates to the preparation. But if it’s a comedy film, like his latest Roohi, his process is more “organic.” “When you do a comedy, it’s spontaneous, you can’t force it. It’s about being there and having fun with your lines. I don’t plan anything when it comes to comedies. The trick is to surrender.” Rao returns to the horror-comedy universe, three years after the blockbuster Stree. “When producer Dinesh Vijan suggested that we do a horror-comedy, I was thrilled. I knew I had to play these two wild characters unlike anything. At some point, Vicky (Rao’s character in Stree) and Bhawra will meet in one film. That was exciting because I’d be playing a double role. I had to play Bhawra remarkably different than Vicky, from his looks to the way he speaks.” Helmed by Hardik Mehta, Roohi also stars Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Sharma. Rao is aware that the film rides on massive expectations, as it’s not only one of the first major titles to release theatrically this year but also the first sequel in the horror-comedy universe.



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AAMIR KHAN QUILTS SOCIAL MEDIA, READ HIS LAST MESSAGE FOR FANS HERE

After a day flooded with wishes and posts on the occasion of his birthday, Aamir Khan, on Monday, announced that he would be quitting social media to focus more on his work and as always, keep himself dedicated to his art. Though this comes as an unlikely announcement, it is not the first time that Aamir has kept all distractions aside to focus on his work.

Bidding goodbye to the social media world, Aamir took to his handle and thanked his fans for their constant support and love. He wrote, "Hey guys, thank you so much for all the love and warmth on my birthday. My heart is full. In other news, this is going to be my last post on social media. Considering that I am SO active anyway 😊😊 I have decided to drop the pretence.

We will continue to communicate as we did before.

In addition, AKP has created its official channel! So future updates on me and my films can be found there.

Here's the official handle! @akppl_official

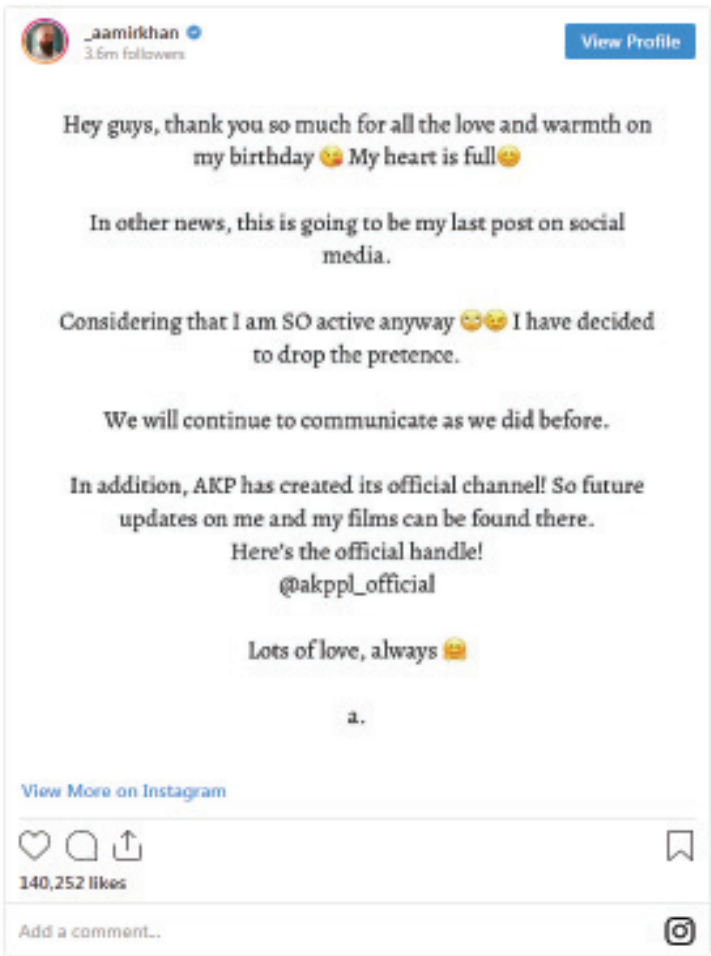
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Amitabh Bachchan undergoes second eye surgery, calls it 'life changing experience'



Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan on late Sunday night revealed that he recently underwent his second eye surgery. The actor notified that he is recovering now. The megastar of Bollywood who had previously undergone eye surgery for his first eye at the start of March, this year notified his fans about the 'life-changing experience' he had after the success of his another surgery.

Taking it to Twitter, Big B wrote, "and the 2nd one has gone well .. recovering now ..all good .. the marvels of modern medical technology and the dexterity of dr HM's hands .. life-changing experience...You see now what you were not seeing before .. surely a wonderful world !!" Earlier, through his personal blog post, 78-year-old Amitabh had opened up about the difficulty in his sight because of the surgery, which made him spend his days doing nothing. He shared that the recovery was "slow and difficult" but also thanked his fans for the overwhelming love that he received throughout the days.

Amitabh wrote in his blog, "Thank you for all the concern and the wishes for the medical condition...eye surgeries at this age are delicate and need precision handling...the best is being done and one hopes all shall be well... the sight and the recovery are slow and difficult so if there are typing errors they are to be excused."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Amitabh Bachchan, who was last seen in 'Gulabo Sitabo', currently has three films lined up for release, including fantasy-adventure 'Brahmastra', Ajay Devgn's 'Mayday' and thriller 'Chehre'.He will also be starring in Nagraj Popatrao Manjule's sports drama titled 'Jhund' and will soon start shooting for the first schedule of Vikas Bahl's new film tentatively titled 'Good Bye'.

'RRR': ALIA BHATT IS AESTHETICALLY APPEALING AS SITA IN HER FIRST LOOK FROM SS RAJAMOULI'S FILM

The wait is finally over as the makers of RRR have finally unveiled the first look poster of the female lead Alia Bhatt. On the occasion of her 28th birthday, the actor's beautiful look from Sita is finally out and it's indeed a visual delight. In the photo, Alia looks drop-dead gorgeous wearing a green silk saree with a red organza blouse. She has curled her hair and tied it into a braid. To complete her look, Alia donned a simple maang tikka, a nose ring and gold chains. Jhumkas and a red bindi completed her ethnic look. The actor captioned her post as "Sita".

While RRR's official Instagram page wrote, "The wait ends here! Here's presenting @aliaabhatt as our #Sita #HappyBirthdayAliaBhatt #RRR #RRRMovie @ssrajamouli @jrnt @AlwaysRamCharan @ajaydevgn @oliviakmorris @dvmovies @rrrmovie."

In the film directed by SS Rajamouli, Alia is paired opposite Ram Charan. RRR also stars Jr NTR in the lead role and his leading lady is international actor Olivia Morris.

For the film, Alia learnt the language of Telugu as she will be delivering dialogues in it. Talking about the same, the actor had earlier said, "Shooting for this film was a very different experience for me because along with Hindi, I also had to shoot in Telugu, which is a language I don't know. I literally lived with the lines for a year and a half. By the end of it, I was speaking my lines in my sleep."



hollywood

JENNIFER LOPEZ CALLS OFF ENGAGEMENT WITH ALEX RODRIGUEZ AFTER FOUR YEARS OF TOGETHERNESS



Singer Jennifer Lopez and former New York Yankees baseball star Alex Rodriguez were reported on Friday to have split up after almost four years together. Celebrity website TMZ, the New York Post's Page Six and multiple entertainment websites cited unidentified sources close to the couple as saying the pair had called off their engagement. Representatives for Lopez, 51, and Rodriguez, 45, one of the biggest celebrity couples in the United States, did not return requests for comment on the reports. The 'Love Don't Cost a Thing' singer and Rodriguez, known as A-Rod, began dating in early 2017 and announced their engagement in March 2019. Entertainment Tonight said Lopez called off the relationship.

"Jennifer felt like moving forward to marriage wasn't right. Recently Alex's character has been called into question and that didn't sit right with Jennifer," the outlet quoted a source as saying. "The couple will always have respect for each other."

GRAMMYS 2021: BEYONCE MAKES HISTORY, TAYLOR SWIFT, BILLIE EILISH WIN TOP HONOURS



Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish won the top prizes at the Grammy Awards on Sunday in a ceremony that also saw Beyonce become the most awarded female artist in Grammy history. Swift's surprise lockdown record Folklore was named album of the year and Eilish's 'Everything I Wanted' won record of the year. Sunday's win made Swift, 31, the first woman to take home the album of the year three times. Beyonce's four Grammys on Sunday took her total career wins to 28, surpassing the previous record for a woman set by bluegrass singer Alison Krauss. British singer Dua Lipa won best pop vocal album for her dance-y Future Nostalgia. The writers of "I Can't Breathe" by R&B artist H.E.R won song of the year. It was written in response to the Black Lives Matter protests in the United States last summer. Rapper Megan Thee Stallion was named best new artist and the 26-year-old known for promoting women's empowerment won two more Grammys for her rap performance of single 'Savage', featuring Beyonce.

JUSTIN BIEBER OPENS UP WORK-LIFE BALANCE, EARLY CHAPTERS OF HIS CAREER AND SUCCESS

Canadian singer-songwriter Justin Bieber recently revealed in an interview that he is finally learning how to say no at this stage of his career. According to Fox News, ahead of the release of his latest album 'Justice,' the 27-year-old singer opened up to Billboard and revealed why he has decided to now incorporate boundaries. The 'Baby' crooner told the outlet on Thursday (local time), "I definitely learned how to have boundaries, and I just don't feel like I owe anybody anything. That has helped me to be able to just say no and just be firm in it and know that my heart [wants] to help people, but I can't do everything. I want to sometimes, but it's just not sustainable." After a decade of hectic touring and nonstop work, Bieber has finally settled into a regular work-life schedule.

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RISHABH PANT LETTING ME DOWN WITH DRS CALLS, SAYS ALL-ROUNDER RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN |P18



INDIA EXPOSED OUR WEAKNESS IN HANDLING SLOW CONDITIONS, SAYS EOIN MORGAN |P18

VIRAT KOHLI SCRIPTS YET ANOTHER RECORD: 1ST BATSMAN TO SCORE 3000 RUNS IN MEN'S T20IS |P18





MidWeek Sports

3RD T20I: ENGLAND THRASH INDIA BY 8 WKTS, TAKE 2-1 LEAD



AHMEDABAD, (IANS) England bowlers' early strikes and tight bowling in the initial phase of the Indian innings followed by opener Jos Buttler's unbeaten 83 led their team to a crushing eight-wicket win in the third T20 International at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday. With the victory, England took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

The first six overs turned out to be the difference in the match. India could make just 24 for three in the powerplay stage whereas England cruised to 57/1 thanks to Buttler's strokeplay.

Chasing a 157-run target, England began well raising 23 for the first wicket before Jason Roy (9 off 13) was dismissed.

However, Buttler (83 off 52 balls, 5x4s, 4x6s) kept up the charge as England took 14 off Chahal's first over — the innings' fourth — and followed it up with 16 runs in the fifth over of the innings bowled by Shardul Thakur.

Buttler's partner, Dawid Malan who is also a big-hitter, played second fiddle and kept rotating the strike before he was out stumped off the bowling of Washington Sundar.

Jonny Bairstow (40 not out off 28 balls) then added an unbeaten 77 runs for the third wicket to see England home.

Earlier, skipper Virat Kohli had hammered an unbeaten 77 (46 balls, 8x4s,

4x6s) to help India reach 156/6 in 20 overs.

Kohli played a captain's knock once again, following the unbeaten and match-winning 73 he made in the second T20I, as wickets around him kept falling. India had been reduced to 24 for three in the sixth over with K.L. Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan back in the pavilion. Jofra Archer (0/32), Mark Wood (3/31), Adil Rashid (0/26) and Chris Jordan (2/35) bowled in the power-play and made things difficult for India. The India captain added 40 runs with Rishabh Pant for the fourth wicket in just under six overs to bring India's innings back on track. Pant was run out and Shreyas Iyer followed soon after. But Kohli added 70 runs for the sixth wicket with Hardik Pandya (17 off 15 balls), who surprisingly played second fiddle.

India would have been in a poor position had they not managed quick runs in the slog overs. They made 69 in the last five overs with the majority of those runs coming off Kohli's bat.

Kohli though had a blip in the field when he dropped Buttler in the 15th over but by that time Buttler had already made 76. Yuzvendra Chahal too spilled a catch.

Brief scores:

India 156/6 in 20 overs (V Kohli 77 not out, R Pant 25, M Wood 3/31) lost to England 158/2 in 18.2 overs (J Buttler 83 not out, J Bairstow 40 not out)

VIRAT KOHLI SCRIPTS YET ANOTHER RECORD: 1ST BATSMAN TO SCORE 3000 RUNS IN MEN'S T20IS

India captain Virat Kohli scored a well-composed half-century to power India to a seven-wicket win over England in the second Twenty20 international on Sunday.

Kohli hit an unbeaten 73 off 49 balls as India chased down a target of 165 in 17.5 overs to level the five-match series at 1-1. It was Kohli, who finished off the game in style, with a flicked four and then a pulled six against Chris Jordan. But that was not before he hit five fours and three sixes and also became the first batsman to reach 3,000 runs in T20 internationals. Kohli now has 6001 runs from 87 T20Is since making his debut in the format in Zimbabwe in 2010. He is also the leading run-scorer in the Indian Premier League with 5878 runs from 192 matches.

INDIA EXPOSED OUR WEAKNESS IN HANDLING SLOW CONDITIONS, SAYS EOIN MORGAN

India have exposed England's "weakness" in handling slow conditions but competing here will only prepare them well for the Twenty20 World Cup, feels skipper Eoin Morgan.

India drubbed England by seven wickets in the second T20 to level the five-match series 1-1 on Sunday night.

Morgan admitted they struggled to get used to the slow surface used for the second match. "I suppose the difference was in the wicket we played and how we adapted. It was different wicket from the one we batted in the first game. The pitch was slow and low and one thing that does is expose our weakness on these surfaces a little bit," said Morgan at the post-match virtual media interaction on Sunday night.

"We don't play a lot on slow, low wickets and the more that we can do that, the better. You only become better in these conditions by playing in them and making mistakes."

The English skipper, however, said playing in such tough conditions ahead of the ICC World T20 later this year in India, will only help them. "I thought the other night, the pitch really suited us because it had more pace in it – similar to a wicket at home, a Cardiff wicket or somewhere like that, that was a little bit uneven and maybe stood up a little bit.

"But this took us out of our comfort zone and really was a typical Indian wicket that we would play on in an IPL game. Again, your accuracy has to be on," Morgan said. "You tend to learn quicker if you're winning and confident and everything goes reasonably smoothly – you can integrate the learning quite quickly – but equally, if we have to learn the hard way, we're still going through that process of trying to learn game-on-game so when it comes to the World Cup in seven months' time, we can be as best prepared."

Rishabh Pant letting me down with DRS calls, says all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin

Team India off-spinning all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin, who was the star for his side taking 32 wickets in four Tests against England and even scoring a century with the bat, still thinks he needs to improve upon one of his skills going into the next series. Ashwin, who was adjudged the 'Player of the Series' in the series, has taken a total of 44 wickets in the last two series and was also awarded the 'ICC Player of the Month' for taking 24 wickets in the month of February, in a recent chat revealed that wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant was letting him down as far as the use of Decision Review System (DRS) was concerned during the series. In the recently concluded Test series, India had a little tough time as far as the reviews were concerned while umpires were spot-on with their calls on many of the occasions. Speaking to India Today, Ashwin said, "I think we need to change the lens with which people are looking at me for the DRS. "Before this series against England, my DRS (usage) was extremely good. Because you take the DRS, you need to rely on the keeper's resources.



2021 SEASON SCHEDULE

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MATCH DAY	MATCH NO.	DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	HOME	AWAY
1	1	FRI	9-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	MUMBAI INDIANS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
2	2	SAT	10-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	DELHI CAPITALS
3	3	SUN	11-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
4	4	MON	12-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	PUNJAB KINGS
5	5	TUE	13-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	MUMBAI INDIANS
6	6	WED	14-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
7	7	THU	15-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	DELHI CAPITALS
8	8	FRI	16-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	PUNJAB KINGS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
9	9	SAT	17-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	MUMBAI INDIANS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
10	10	SUN	18-APR-21	03:30 PM	CHENNAI	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
10	11	SUN	18-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	DELHI CAPITALS	PUNJAB KINGS
11	12	MON	19-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
12	13	TUE	20-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	DELHI CAPITALS	MUMBAI INDIANS
13	14	WED	21-APR-21	03:30 PM	CHENNAI	PUNJAB KINGS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
13	15	WED	21-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
14	16	THU	22-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
15	17	FRI	23-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	PUNJAB KINGS	MUMBAI INDIANS
16	18	SAT	24-APR-21	07:30 PM	MUMBAI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
17	19	SUN	25-APR-21	03:30 PM	MUMBAI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
17	20	SUN	25-APR-21	07:30 PM	CHENNAI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	DELHI CAPITALS
18	21	MON	26-APR-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	PUNJAB KINGS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
19	22	TUE	27-APR-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	DELHI CAPITALS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
20	23	WED	28-APR-21	07:30 PM	DELHI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
21	24	THU	29-APR-21	03:30 PM	DELHI	MUMBAI INDIANS	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
21	25	THU	29-APR-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	DELHI CAPITALS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
22	26	FRI	30-APR-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	PUNJAB KINGS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
23	27	SAT	1-MAY-21	07:30 PM	DELHI	MUMBAI INDIANS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
24	28	SUN	2-MAY-21	03:30 PM	DELHI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
24	29	SUN	2-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	PUNJAB KINGS	DELHI CAPITALS
25	30	MON	3-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
26	31	TUE	4-MAY-21	07:30 PM	DELHI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	MUMBAI INDIANS
27	32	WED	5-MAY-21	07:30 PM	DELHI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
28	33	THU	6-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	PUNJAB KINGS
29	34	FRI	7-MAY-21	07:30 PM	DELHI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
30	35	SAT	8-MAY-21	03:30 PM	AHMEDABAD	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	DELHI CAPITALS
30	36	SAT	8-MAY-21	07:30 PM	DELHI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	MUMBAI INDIANS
31	37	SUN	9-MAY-21	03:30 PM	BANGALORE	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	PUNJAB KINGS
31	38	SUN	9-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
32	39	MON	10-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	MUMBAI INDIANS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
33	40	TUE	11-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	DELHI CAPITALS	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
34	41	WED	12-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
35	42	THU	13-MAY-21	03:30 PM	BANGALORE	MUMBAI INDIANS	PUNJAB KINGS
35	43	THU	13-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
36	44	FRI	14-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	DELHI CAPITALS
37	45	SAT	15-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	PUNJAB KINGS
38	46	SUN	16-MAY-21	03:30 PM	KOLKATA	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
38	47	SUN	16-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	MUMBAI INDIANS
39	48	MON	17-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	DELHI CAPITALS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
40	49	TUE	18-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
41	50	WED	19-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	PUNJAB KINGS
42	51	THU	20-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	MUMBAI INDIANS
43	52	FRI	21-MAY-21	03:30 PM	BANGALORE	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
43	53	FRI	21-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	DELHI CAPITALS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
44	54	SAT	22-MAY-21	07:30 PM	BANGALORE	PUNJAB KINGS	RAJASTHAN ROYALS
45	55	SUN	23-MAY-21	03:30 PM	KOLKATA	MUMBAI INDIANS	DELHI CAPITALS
45	56	SUN	23-MAY-21	07:30 PM	KOLKATA	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
47	57	TUE	25-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD		QUALIFIER 1
48	58	WED	26-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD		ELIMINATOR
50	59	FRI	28-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD		QUALIFIER 2
52	60	SUN	30-MAY-21	07:30 PM	AHMEDABAD		FINAL



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