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BHUMI PEDNEKAR-STARRER GRITTY DRAMA 'BHAKSHAK' WRAPS UP SHOOT

The shoot of 'Bhakshak' starring Bhumi Pednekar was recently wrapped up in Lucknow after a single schedule that spanned 39 days. The film, said to be inspired by true events, finds its physical setting in the state of Bihar and presents the ground reality of crimes against women. It presents a tale of a daunting woman's pursuit for justice and her perseverance in bringing a heinous crime to light. Bhumi will be seen portraying the role of a journalist in the film, who quickly realizes the consequences, threats and

intimidation she may face as she uncovers a story. In addition, the film also stars Sanjay Mishra, Aditya Srivastava and Sai Tamhankar in key roles. Co-written by Pulkit and Jyotsana Nath, 'Bhakshak' has been directed by Pulkit who has earlier directed the biographical web series 'Bose: Dead or Alive' starring Bhumi's 'Badhaai Do' co-star Rajkumar Rao. Produced by Gauri Khan and Gaurav Verma, 'Bhakshak' is a Red Chillies Entertainment production.

ANIL KAPOOR, SON HARSH VARRDHAN TO APPEAR IN UPCOMING REVENGE THRILLER 'THAR'



Actors Anil Kapoor, Harsh Vardhan Kapoor, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Satish Kaushik will be seen starring in the upcoming revenge thriller titled 'Thar' on Netflix. Inspired by Western Noir genres, 'Thar' is set in the eighties and essays the story of Siddharth - played by Harsh Vardhan. Shifting to Pushkar for a job, Siddharth embarks on a journey to avenge his past. The directorial debut of Raj Singh Chaudhary who has also written the film. Talking about his upcoming film, the producer and actor, Anil Kapoor said: "I am extremely proud of what we have achieved with Thar and am super excited about the film for several reasons. The genre itself - a noir thriller set in Rajasthan that pays tribute to the genre of the classic Western is a first for Indian cinema and audiences." "Thar" is a playground where the dynamism of new blood meets the

experience of industry stalwarts, both on and off screen. On screen we see the fresh pairing of Harsh Vardhan Kapoor and Fatima Sana Sheikh and off-screen we see director Raj Singh Chaudhary creating magic with a team of ambitious, risk-taking debutantes - Director of Photography Shreya Dev Dube and Music Composer Ajay Jayanthi. As an actor and a producer, I have always strived to push the envelope and disrupt the status quo with innovative content." Thar is a classic thriller paired with suspense, mystery and drama making it the perfect entertainer. Shot at some of the most aesthetic locations in the country, the film will also be a treat to the eyes. Pratiksha Rao, Director, Films and Licensing, Netflix India, said, "Bringing to them the most entertaining and diverse films is not possible without taking creative swings with passionate filmmakers, and Thar is an example of such storytelling."

DEEPIKA PADUKONE REVEALS SALMAN KHAN WAS THE FIRST TO OFFER HER A FILM: 'WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP...'

Deepika Padukone has revealed that superstar Salman Khan was the first person from Bollywood to offer her a film. In an interview with Bollywood Hungama, Deepika said that Salman saw the potential in her, but she did not want to be an actor at the time. "We've always had this beautiful relationship and I'll always be grateful to him because he was one of the first people to offer me a film. It was just a tragedy that I was not ready for it," Deepika said. Adding that she would always remember this gesture of encouragement from such a popular star, Deepika said that she one day hopes to work with Salman. Deepika Padukone is often seen promoting her films on Salman Khan-hosted reality show Bigg Boss. On the work front, Deepika has a slew of films in her kitty, including Project-K, The Intern's Hindi remake, Fighter and Pathan. She



was last seen in Amazon Prime Video movie Gehraiyaan.

ALIA BHATT WISHES TO BUILD HER PRODUCTION HOUSE IN NEXT 10 YEARS, WANTS TO DO FILMS THAT MAKE HER RUSH TO SETS

Alia Bhatt, who completes a decade in films this year, says she wants to continue proving her mettle in acting by being part of movies that "make her heart skip a beat". The 28-year-old actor, daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actor Soni Razdan, made her feature film debut as a lead with 2012's Student of the Year alongside other first-timers Sidharth Malhotra and Varun Dhawan. When she entered the film industry, the actor said she wanted to balance her acting career and was keen to show her versatility as an actor. "(so) I picked up roles that are challenging and less safe," said the actor. Going forward, Bhatt, whose film credits include Highway, Uda Punjab, Dear Zindagi, Raazi, and Gully Boy, said she wants to work on character-oriented and mass entertainer projects. "Now, in this part of life, I want to do front foot characters and mass entertainers because that is not easy to do either. I first wanted to prove to myself that I can act then prove to the world, which simultaneously happened. And it will continue to happen. I don't disappoint people.

AMITABH BACHCHAN TURNS NARRATOR FOR RADHE SHYAM: 'A VOICE THAT EVERYONE RECOGNISES, RESPECTS'

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has turned narrator for the Hindi version of Prabhas 's upcoming film Radhe Shyam, the makers announced on Tuesday. Directed by Radha Krishna Kumar, the multilingual romantic drama is set in Europe in the 1970s and features Prabhas as Vikramaditya, who falls in love with Prerana, played by Pooja Hegde. Kumar said given the scale of Radhe Shyam, it required a narrator with a recognisable voice. "The film is set in the 1970s and is mounted on a massive scale, we needed a voice that can command the nation and who better than Amitabh Bachchan, a voice that everyone recognises, respects and more importantly loved. We are so happy to have him as Radhe Shyam's narrator," the director, who has earlier helmed the 2015 Telugu film Jil, said in a statement. The film marks the second collaboration between Bachchan and Prabhas after their ambitious film Project K, which is currently in production. Radhe Shyam also stars Bhagyashree, Murli Sharma, Sachin Khedekar, Priyadarshi, Sasha Chettri, Kunaal Roy Kapur and Sathyan.

GURU RANDHAWA TEASES AND ANNOUNCES HIS NEW 7-TRACK ALBUM 'UNSTOPPABLE'



Punjabi pop artiste Guru Randhawa, who is gearing up for a full-length 7-song album, gave a sneak peek into the new album and also announced the name of the album as 'Unstoppable' on Monday. He took to his social media to share a few details about one of the songs from the album titled, 'Signs'. Guru wrote in the caption, "'SIGNS' from the upcoming album 'UNSTOPPABLE'. I can't wait to show you guys the magic we did on 7 songs. I think with this I am announcing my album (sic)." In the video, Guru can be seen approaching his cruiser bike before he zooms off in the arid land captured beautifully through a bird eye shot. The glimpse of the song gives an idea about it being a blend of Punjabi folk blended with electronic music tied neatly by a soothing melody and prominent snare beats at the end of each bar. Recently, Guru's dance number 'Dance Meri Rani' featuring Nora Fatehi, received a lot of positive response from music lovers.

AS JEH TURNS 1, KAREENA SHARES CUTESY PIC OF HER SONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



As Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan's second son Jeh turns a year old, the actress took to social media to share a picture of her sons in a playful mood to wish Jeh on his birthday. In the picture, Jeh can be seen chasing his elder brother Taimur. Kareena wrote in the caption, "Bhaii, wait for me I am One today. Let's explore the world together. Of course with Amma following us everywhere. Happy birthday My Jeh baba...My life #Mera Beta and #My Tiger To eternity and beyond (sic)." Kareena's sister-in-law Saba Ali Khan wrote in the comments, "Happy birthday Jeh Jaan ! Love you. Always. And Tim too." Dia Mirza commented, "Happy Birthday Jeh." Kareena Kapoor's best friend Amrita Arora wrote: "Jeh baba", adding heart emojis. Kareena followed Jeh's birthday post with another picture in the next, where Saif (who otherwise refrains from using social media), can be seen spending some quality time with Jeh. She put up the caption with Saif and Jeh's picture, "Ok Abba will follow too I love you #MyBoys #Forever #MyTigers."

VIKRANT MASSEY: FACED FEW DIFFICULTIES WHILE SHOOTING 'LOVE HOSTEL'



Actor Vikrant Massey has talked about the the difficulties he faced while shooting for crime thriller film 'Love Hostel' Vikrant said: "We faced quite a few difficulties while shooting Love Hostel. Personally, it was a turbulent time for me as I was going through a lot. By just playing this character, it really kept me awake for most nights. Like it really tormented my mind." "Purely because when you sit back and realise through a character that there is somebody actually living this life then it's a very unpleasant feeling. It's not something you want to sit with for long enough." He calls it an "unfortunate truth" that there are people living lives as the one you are portraying on-screen. Shot in the rustic locales of North India, 'Love Hostel' is a tale of hope and survival in a world where power and money lead to mayhem and bloodshed.

HRITHIK'S RUMOURED GIRLFRIEND SABA AZAD JOINS THE ACTOR FOR FAMILY LUNCH

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan was joined by his rumoured girlfriend actress Saba Azad for a family lunch. Hrithik's uncle and music composer Rajesh Roshan took to his Instagram to share a picture of the family. Sharing two pictures, the family frame and a delicious south Indian meal, the composer captioned his post, "Happiness is always around.. especially on a Sunday, specifically at lunch time." The photo shows Hrithik sporting a beard in comfy clothes with his mom Pinkie Roshan, his sons Hrehaan and Hridaan, cousin Pashmina, niece Suranika, Rajesh Roshan and other members of the family. The 'War' actor commented under the picture, "Hahaha true that chacha!! And you are the most fun." Suranika wrote, "Best Sunday, best family, best lunch!" Saba too took to the comments section and wrote, "Bestest Sunday." The buzz about the two actors dating began last month when they were seen walking out of a Mumbai restaurant holding hands. However, neither of the two has confirmed that they are seeing each other. Hrithik, who was last seen in the 2019 blockbuster 'War', was earlier married to Sussanne Khan, with whom he has two sons. The two parted ways in 2014. While Hrithik is working on the Hindi remake of 'Vikram Vedha', Saba was most recently seen in the biographical series 'Rocket Boys' based on the lives of space and nuclear pioneers of India, Homi J. Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai.



KANGANA CALLS ALIA A 'BIMBO', SAYS 'GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI' HAS 'WRONG CASTING'

Kangana Ranaut has taken a dig at actress Alia Bhatt by calling her a "bimbo" and filmmaker Karan Johar's 'papa ki pari'. The Bollywood actress also said that Sanjay Leela Bhansali's forthcoming directorial 'GangubaiKathiawadi', which is slated to hit the screens on Friday has wrong casting. Kangana on Sunday took to her Instagram story, where she in a cryptic post wrote: "This Friday, 200 cr will be burnt to ashes at the box office... For a papa (movie mafia daddy) ki pari (who likes to keep a British passport) because papa wants to prove that romcom bimbo can act..." "Biggest drawback of the film is wrong casting... Yeh

nahisudhenge no wonder screens are going to South and Hollywood films... Bollywood is destined to doom jab tak movie mafia has power." She added in another post that that the 'Bollywood mafia daddy' ruined the work culture in Hindi cinema. "Bollywood mafia daddy papa jo to who has single handedly ruined the work culture in the film industry, has emotionally manipulated many big directors and forced his products of mediocrity on their cinematic brilliance, another example will be following soon after this release." "People need to stop entertaining him, in this Friday release even a big hero and greatest director are the new victims of his manipulations." 'GangubaiKathiawadi' also stars Vijay Raaz, Seema Pahwa and Ajay Devgn.

DISHA PATANI WRAPS UP SHOOT FOR 'EK VILLAIN RETURNS'

Actress Disha Patani has wrapped up shooting for her upcoming film 'Ek Villain Returns'. She took to her Instagram story, to announce the same. She shared a picture of herself with her team. Along with it, she wrote: "It's a wrap #ekvillainreturns" Starring a powerful ensemble cast including John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor and Tara Sutaria, 'Ek Villain Returns' is jointly produced by T-Series and Balaji Telefilms. The film is a sequel to the 2014 blockbuster 'Ek Villain', which featured Sidharth Malhotra, Riteish Deshmukh and Shraddha Kapoor. Directed by Mohit Suri, the film's cast includes Disha Patani, Tara Sutaria, Arjun Kapoor and John Abraham. Disha also has Sidharth Malhotra-starrer 'Yodha' in the pipeline.



'GEHRAIYAAN' CHANGED ME AS A PERSON AND ACTOR, SAYS ANANYA PANDAY

For Ananya Panday "Gehraiyaan" was an learning opportunity and the actor is happy to have evolved as an artiste as well as a person with the film. Directed by Shakun Batra, "Gehraiyaan" is a complex modern relationship drama, also featuring Deepika Padukone, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Dhairya Karwa. The actor, who made foray into movies with 2019's "Student of the Year 2" and went on to feature in "Pati Patni Aur Woh" and "Khaali Peeli", said she always believed that "Gehraiyaan" would be a perfect training ground for her. "I wanted to work with Shakun and Deepika. I went into the film wanting to learn and absorb as much as I could from people around me -- be it Shakun, Deepika, Dhairya or Siddhant. I wanted to learn as much as I could. I just had a feeling that the film would help me grow as an actor and as a person. I'm happy to see it has changed me," Ananya told PTI in an interview. With the film, which premiered on Prime Video earlier this month, the actor said she has figured out her process as a performer. "I felt honesty in my performance, that's because I'm growing and I hope to continue growing with every film. But just to be completely present in every scene, being honest, listening to my co-actors and reacting to it as naturally as possible was different. I developed and found my process as an actor," she added. Ananya, 23, shared that she was "nervous" about playing a layered character like Tia so early on in her career, but the love she has received for her performance has motivated her to make bold decisions. She credits the director for being a constant support and for making her fall in love with the craft of acting.



SHAH RUKH KHAN BEATS UP BAD GUYS WHILE SPORTING COOL NEW LOOK

Shah Rukh Khan is back. Well, no, this is not an official announcement regarding his next project. But at least, fans get to see him kick some ass in a new action-packed commercial. In the ad for a popular beverage brand, we see King Khan showing off his cool new look as he puts bad guys in their place. SRK looks smart in an all-black suit and dark glares. The caption of the video post read, "Naam toh suna hoga meri jaan? Isko soft nahi kehtey, kehtey hai toofan. Thums Up. Soft Drink Nahin, Toofan.? @thumsupofficial." Elated fans quickly flooded Shah Rukh's post with happy comments. One user wrote, "I'm so freaking happy." Another user mentioned, "Missed you so much." On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan is currently filming Pathan. The actioner also stars Deepika Padukone and John Abraham in pivotal roles. The YRF movie is being helmed by Siddharth Anand.



SANJAY KAPOOR REVEALS A SECRET ABOUT 'RAJA' SONG 'ANKHIYANMILAON'



Actor Sanjay Kapoor, who will be seen sharing screen space with actress Madhuri Dixit in the upcoming Netflix web show 'The Fame Game' after over two decades, has shared an interesting anecdote from their film 'Raja' and the iconic number 'AnkhiyanMilaoon' from the 1995 movie. The film 'Raja' is hugely popular for its music and chartbusters like 'AnkhiyaanMilaoon' and 'NazreinMiliDiDhadka', and during the promotions of 'The Fame Game', even Madhuri got to know about a huge secret from 27 years ago about the song from Sanjay. Sanjay said: "Our shooting was happening in Filmistan Studios and before the shoot of the song every day, I used to go to Satyam Hall early morning at 6:30 am. Ahmed Khan, who was an assistant choreographer to Saroj Khan ji at that time, used to work and rehearse with me for the steps. I had made a deal with Saroj ji that whatever portions I would practice in the morning, they will shoot it the same day so that I could match with Madhuri," he reveals.

NISHA RAWAL IS THE FIRST CONTESTANT OF KANGANA RANAUT'S 'LOCK UPP'



TV actress Nisha Rawal is the first contestant on the fearless reality show 'Lock Upp' being hosted by Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut. Nisha, who is known for her role in TV shows such as 'Main Lakshmi TereAangan Ki', 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', is very excited to be on the reality show. She shares: "I am very excited to make this new and challenging journey. Never seen or heard before, this show will set a new benchmark in the Indian OTT industry. I am excited to be a part of this visual treat for the audience. Also, a big applause to Endemol, ALTBalaji, and MX Player for launching a unique reality show". Nisha is the estranged wife of Karan Mehra. In the middle of 2021, the two split. Nisha Rawal said that Karan Mehra was emotionally and physically abusive and she also accused him of infidelity. In fact, Nisha Rawal filed an FIR. So, her entry will surely make it interesting.

WITH 'SHAMSHERA' SET TO RELEASE, VAANI KAPOOR TALKS ABOUT HER YEAR AHEAD

A Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor, who is all set to be seen again in the big ticket action spectacle 'Shamshera', is hoping that 2022 is her best year in Hindi cinema. She says: "I'm hoping that it's my best year in cinema. I'm still getting love from 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', a film that will always be supremely special for me. It is hugely gratifying for any artist to be validated with a lot of positivity for the work that you do and it happened to me and I couldn't be happier. "I wish to get the same love from people for what I have done in 'Shamshera'." About her performance in the Karan Malhotra directorial, Vaani says: "I have put myself out there in a big way and you will know what I mean when you see the film. It's been a fulfilling experience to push myself so much for a movie. "So, here's hoping that after 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', 'Shamshera' too will be a film that people see and say that I can be trusted to do anything on screen, that I would never back down from being part of a novel vision and that I would always try to reinvent myself into doing something new." 'Shamshera' is all set to release on July 22. She has been paired opposite Ranbir Kapoor and Vaani is hoping that this year turns out to be the best year of her career. 'Shamshera' is being produced by Yash Raj Films and will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

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INDIA CLIMB TO TOP OF T20I RANKINGS AFTER CLEAN SWEEP OF SERIES VS WEST INDIES

India's 3-0 whitewash of West Indies in the T20I series has helped them overtake England at the top of the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings released on Monday. India won the third and final T20I by 17 runs against the Kieron Pollard-led side in Kolkata with young wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan (34), Shreyan Iyer (25), Suryakumar Yadav (65) and Venkatesh Iyer (35 not out) coming up with useful contributions as the tourists could manage only 167/9 in reply to India's 184/5. The triumph helped India leapfrog England at the top of the T20 team

rankings, with Rohit Sharma's side now matching the top rating of 269. While England and India both have the same rating (269), India have a total of 10,484 points, 10 more than England's 10,474. Pakistan (rating of 266), New Zealand (255) and South Africa (253) round out the top five countries, while Australia (249) remain in sixth after their 4-1 series victory over Sri Lanka. India are fourth in the ODI rankings with a rating of 110, with New Zealand (121), England (119) and Australia (116) occupying the top-three spots.

IND VS SL: HAMSTRING INJURY RULES DEEPAK CHAHAR OUT OF SRI LANKA T20 SERIES



India pacer Deepak Chahar has been ruled out of the upcoming T20 International series against Sri Lanka due to a hamstring injury. The in-form bowler had suffered the injury during the third T20 International against West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday. "He is ruled out of the series and will complete his rehab at NCA," said a BCCI official. It remains to be seen if Chahar will be fit for the IPL which is expected to begin in the last week of March. "The team has sought no replacement as vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah is already in the side," the official added. The T20 International series against Sri Lanka begins in Lucknow on Thursday.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2021 22: RONALDO'S MANCHESTER UNITED TRAVEL TO ATLETICO MADRID



No competition makes Cristiano Ronaldo come more alive than the Champions League. And no team makes Ronaldo come more alive than Atletico Madrid. So Diego Simeone and his players could be forgiven for feeling a certain amount of trepidation when Ronaldo arrives at the Wanda Metropolitano for Wednesday's last-16 match between Atletico and Manchester United, despite the Portugal superstar — at 37 — not being quite the force of nature who caused the Spanish club so much pain in the Champions League over the past decade. From 2014-19, when Ronaldo played for Real Madrid and then Juventus, he was part of teams that ended Atletico's Champions League title ambitions in five of the six seasons. In the other season, Atletico didn't make it to the knockout stage. Ronaldo scored hat tricks for Real (in 2017) and Juventus (in 2019) against Atletico, and converted the clinching penalty in the shootout between the Madrid rivals in the 2016 final. Don't forget, either, his muscle-flexing celebrations after his late penalty in extra time of the 2014 final between the teams that killed off Atletico. Up until 2020, Simeone had only ever lost in the Champions League knockout stage to a team containing Ronaldo.

WRIDDHIMAN SAHA SAYS HE WON'T REVEAL IDENTITY OF JOURNALIST WHO THREATENED HIM



Veteran India wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha on Tuesday decided not to reveal the identity of the journalist who had sent him a threatening message. In a series of tweets on Tuesday, Saha said he will keep the journalist's name with himself on grounds of "humanity". "I was hurt and offended. I thought not to tolerate such kind of behaviour and didn't want anyone to go through these kind of bullying. I decided I will go out and expose the chat in the public eye, but not his/her name," Saha wrote. "My nature isn't such that I will harm anyone to the extent of ending someone's career. So on grounds of humanity looking at his/her family, I am not exposing the name for the time being. But if any such repetition happens, I will not hold back. I thank each and everyone who has shown support and extended their willingness to help. My gratitude." Saha was dropped for the home series against Sri Lanka and is unlikely to be considered for selection in the future with the Indian team management looking to groom a youngster as backup wicketkeeper.

INDIA VS SRI-LANKA 2022

Date, Time

1st T20 -24 February	1st Test -04 March
2nd T20 -25 February	2nd Test -12 March
3rd T20 -27 February	



SUNIL JOSHI AND ROHIT SHARMA PLOT INDIA'S PATH TO THE 2022 T20 WORLD CUP, LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 22, 2022.

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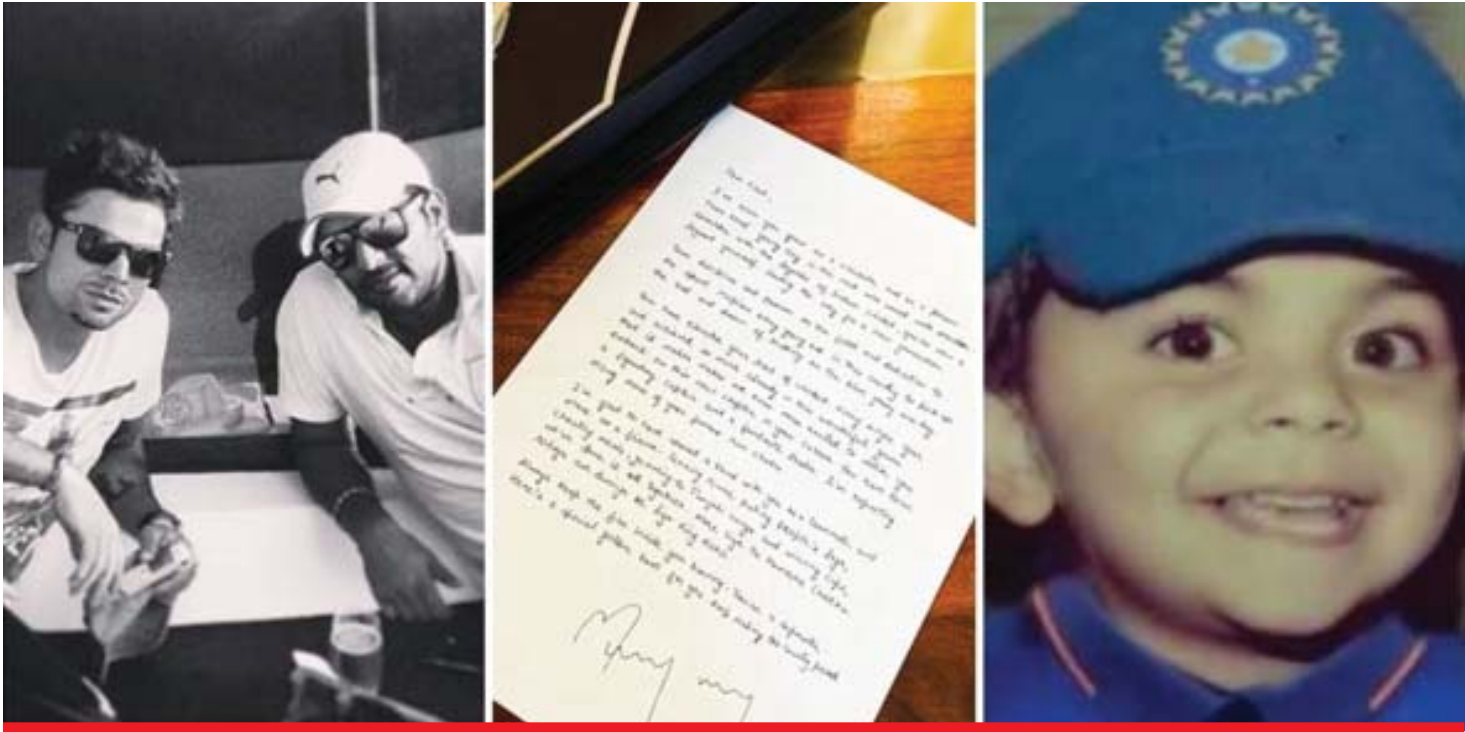


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‘TO THE LITTLE BOY FROM DELHI’: YUVRAJ SINGH PENS A HEARTFELT LETTER TO VIRAT KOHLI

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh on Tuesday penned an emotional letter for Virat Kohli, recalling his journey as a cricketer and as a person. Stating that Kohli has been an inspiration for youngsters across the globe due to his determination and hard work, Yuvraj also expressed his wish of seeing more memorable knocks from India’s star batter. “To the little boy from Delhi @imv Kohli. I want to dedicate this special shoe to you, celebrating your career n time as captain which has brought smiles to millions of fans all over the world. I hope you stay the way YOU are, play the way YOU do and keep making the country proud,” Yuvraj Singh tweeted. “Virat, I’ve seen you grow as a cricketer and as a person. From that young boy in the nets who would walk shoulder-to-shoulder with the legends of Indian cricket, you’re

now a legend yourself leading the way for a new generation. Your discipline and passion on the field and dedication to the sport inspire every young kid in this country to pick up the bat and dream of putting on the blue jersey one day,” Yuvraj wrote in the letter. “You have elevated your level of cricket every single year and achieved so much already in this wonderful game that it makes me even more excited to watch you embark on this new chapter in your career. You have been a legendary captain and a fantastic leader. I’m expecting many more of your famous run chases,” he added. Kohli recently stepped down as India’s captain from all three formats but Yuvraj, who holds the record of fastest fifty in T20I’s, hoped that Kohli would keep his insatiable hunger to succeed as long as he is playing.

KL RAHUL DONATES RS 31 LAKH FOR BUDDING CRICKETER’S TREATMENT

India opener KL Rahul has come to the rescue of an 11-year-old budding cricketer in need of an urgent Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT), donating Rs 31 lakh for the treatment of a rare blood disorder. In December, Varad Nalawade’s father Sachin, an insurance agent, and mother Swapna Jha, started a campaign to raise Rs 35 lakh they needed to pay for their son’s treatment. Rahul’s team got in touch with the organisation associated with the campaign as soon as they came to know about Varad. Since last September, the fifth standard schoolboy had been under the care of haematologists in Mumbai’s Jaslok Hospital after he was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia, a rare blood disorder. Varad’s blood platelet levels were very low, making his immune system extremely susceptible to infections. Even a normal fever was taking months to be cured. A BMT was the only permanent cure for Varad’s condition.

TAMIM UNFAZED BY ‘WORLD BEST’ AFGHAN SPINNERS IN ODI SERIES

Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal is not fazed by an Afghanistan spin attack he describes as the world’s best going into their one-day international series starting on Wednesday. All three ODIs are in Chattogram on Wednesday, Friday, and Monday, followed by two Twenty20s next week in Mirpur. The Afghan spin attack features Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi, but Tamim said on Tuesday he likes Bangladesh’s chances. “I am not willing to think and talk much about any particular bowler,” Tamim said. “Probably they got the best spin attack in the world but we have played well against them, especially in the ODI format. “We play the ODI format well always, and it will give us the edge.”

AUSTRALIA’S PAT CUMMINS, DAVID WARNER TO MISS PAKISTAN LIMITED-OVERS MATCHES



Australia test captain Pat Cummins and opening batsman David Warner will not feature in limited-overs meetings with Pakistan next month after they were left out of the squad for a trio of one-day internationals and a Twenty20 clash. Cummins and Warner, along with bowlers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, have been included in the squad for Australia’s three-test tour of Pakistan, but will not be involved following the conclusion of that series. Australia will be embarking on their first trip to Pakistan since 1998, playing test matches in Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore before returning to Rawalpindi for limited-overs matches from March 29 to April 5. Aaron Finch will lead a 16-man limited-overs squad that includes test players Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith.

FIH PRO LEAGUE 2021-22: HOCKEY INDIA NAME 20-MEMBER MEN'S TEAM FOR GAMES AGAINST SPAIN

Hockey India on Tuesday named the 20-member men's side that will represent the country in the upcoming FIH Men's Hockey Pro League matches at home in Bhubaneswar, Odisha against Spain. The matches will be held over the weekend on February 26 and 27, 2022. The team will be led by experienced midfielder Manpreet Singh and vice-captained by drag-flick specialist Harmanpreet Singh. The Indian team will see a new face in promising young forward in Sukhjeet Singh from Punjab who was picked in the Core Group following an impressive stint with the Punjab National Bank during the maiden Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2021 held in Bengaluru. The 20-member squad for the double-header against Spain includes goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Suraj Karkera. Defenders Harmanpreet Singh, Mandeep Mor, Surender Kumar, Varun Kumar, Jarmanpreet Singh, and Dipsan Tirkey. The team features an experienced midfield with Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Jaskaran Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, and Akashdeep Singh while the forward line features Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Shilanand Lakra, newcomer Sukhjeet Singh and Abhishek who did well against South Africa and France earlier this month has also received a call-up to the team. Additionally, Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Amit Rohidas, Rajkumar Pal, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, and Dilpreet Singh have been named as standbys. Talking about the team selection, Graham Reid, the Chief Coach of the Indian Men's Hockey Team said, "We have chosen a balanced group to play Spain for this weekend and are looking forward to playing at home in Bhubaneswar. It includes another new debutant striker Sukhjeet Singh who impressed during the selection camp last month and has been working hard since selection in the Core Probable's Group." "Spain has a new coach and will be keen to impress after losing to England.

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