

- BOLLYWOOD
- HOLLYWOOD
- SPORTS
- CRICKET

Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

'HASEE TOH PHASEE' TURNS 8: PARINEETI CHOPRA SINGS 'ZEHNASEEB,' CALLS HER CHARACTER MEETA REFRESHING | 15



February 08, 2022

www.southasiandaily.com

Vol 22 Issue 06, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN: AKSHAY KUMAR, TIGER SHROFF TO STAR IN THE BIGGEST ACTION ENTERTAINER



THE ONSCREEN CHEMISTRY OF AKSHAY KUMAR AND TIGER SHROFF IN "BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN" ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO HAS SET THE SCREEN ON FIRE. BOTH WILL BE SEEN TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME AND THIS SENSATIONAL PAIRING IS ALL SET TO SMASH ALL BOX-OFFICE RECORDS ON CHRISTMAS 2023. THIS IS HUGE! THE BIGGEST ACTION SUPERSTARS OF BOLLYWOOD, AKSHAY KUMAR AND TIGER SHROFF, ARE ALL SET TO TEAM UP FOR DIRECTOR ALI ABBAS ZAFAR'S UPCOMING ACTION DRAMA 'BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN.' SHOT AT AN EXTRAVAGANT PRODUCTION LEVEL, THE FILM IS EXPECTED TO BE THE BIGGEST ACTION ENTERTAINER OF ALL TIMES. SHROFF TOOK TO SOCIAL MEDIA ON TUESDAY AND UNVEILED THE TEASER OF THE FILM. HE WROTE, "DOUBLE ACTION, DOUBLE DHAMAKA!! READY BADE @AKSHAYKUMAR AKSHAYKUMAR TOH KHILADIYO KI TARAH DIKHAYE HEROPANTI ? SO EXCITED TO PRESENT TO YOU ALL , THE BIGGEST ACTION ENTERTAINER EVER #BADEMIYANCHOTEMIYAN."

DHARMENDRA SAYS HE GOT READY THRICE TO ATTEND LATA MANGESHKAR'S FUNERAL, BUT COULDN'T



16

VETERAN ACTOR DHARMENDRA SAID HE COULDN'T MUSTER THE COURAGE TO ATTEND LATA MANGESHKAR'S FUNERAL. THE ICONIC SINGER PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 6 IN MUMBAI.

SHAH RUKH KHAN'S DAUGHTER SUHANA KHAN TO MAKE BOLLYWOOD DEBUT WITH ZOYA AKHTAR'S FILM?



SHAH RUKH KHAN'S DAUGHTER, SUHANA KHAN IS RUMOURED TO BE MAKING HER BOLLYWOOD DEBUT SOON.

PRATIK SEHAJPAL, UMAR RIAZ & RUBINA DILAİK CONFIRMED FOR ROHIT SHETTY'S SHOW?



15

KHATRON KE KHILADI 12: BIGG BOSS 15 CONTESTANTS PRATIK SEHAJPAL, UMAR RIAZ AND BIGG BOSS 14 WINNERS RUBINA DILAİK HAVE BEEN FINALIZED FOR THE SHOW

SALMAN KHAN, POOJA HEGDE STARRER 'KABHI EID KABHI DIWALI' LOCKS EID 2023 RELEASE



Good news for Salman Khan fans! The much-awaited project of the superstar 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' will now release on Eid 2023. The announcement was made on Monday by trade analyst Taran Adarsh who wrote on Instagram, "#Xclusiv... SALMAN KHAN - SAJID NADIADWALA ARRIVING ON EID 2023... #SajidNadiadwala's #KabhiEidKabhiDiwali - starring #SalmanKhan and #PoojaHegde - to release in *cinemas* on #Eid 2023... Directed by #FarhadSamji." The makers are yet to make an official announcement about the same. For those unversed, the most-anticipated project is directed by Farhad Samji and also features Pooja Hegde in the lead role.

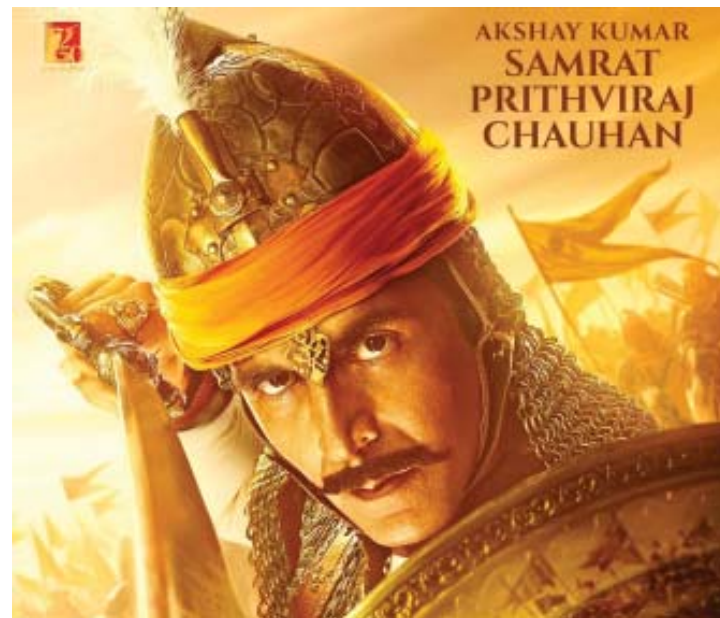
JHUND TEASER: AMITABH BACHCHAN IS READY TO LEAD A PACK OF SLUM KIDS AS THEIR SOCCER COACH



After many delays, the much-awaited Jhund is set to finally take us on field, with Amitabh Bachchan leading a pack of slum kids towards their goal, literally. Based on the life of Vijay Barse, the founder of Nagpur-based NGO Slum Soccer, Jhund chronicles the story of a professor, who encourages street children to build a football team, in order to help them find a purpose in life.

Ahead of its release next month, the makers have restarted its promotional campaign, beginning with its new teaser that was shared on Tuesday. It shows a bunch of slum kids creating music from trash material as Big B walks up to them, leading the pack as their mentor. Jhund marks the Bollywood directorial debut of Nagraj Manjule, best known for Marathi blockbuster Sairat and the critically-acclaimed 2013 drama Fandry. The film faced innumerable delays for over two years, owing to the coronavirus pandemic. It was also stalled from releasing on OTT platforms, owing to copyright issues. The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Raaj Hiremath, Savita Raj Hiremath, Nagraj Manjule, Gargee Kulkarni, Meenu Arora under the banner of T-Series, Tandav Films Entertainment and Aatpat.

AKSHAY KUMAR-STARRER 'PRITHVIRAJ' TO NOW RELEASE ON JUNE 10



MUMBAI, (IANS) Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Prithviraj' now has a new release date and will hit the big screen on June 10.

The film was earlier scheduled to hit the screens on January 21 but got postponed due to the outbreak of Omicron in the country.

A tweet from the production banner Yash Raj Films read: "History is coming to the big screen on 10th June! Releasing in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Celebrate Samrat #Prithviraj Chauhan with #YRF50 only at a theatre near you." The film, which also stars Sonu Sood and Sanjay Dutt, marks the debut of beauty queen Manushi Chhillar.

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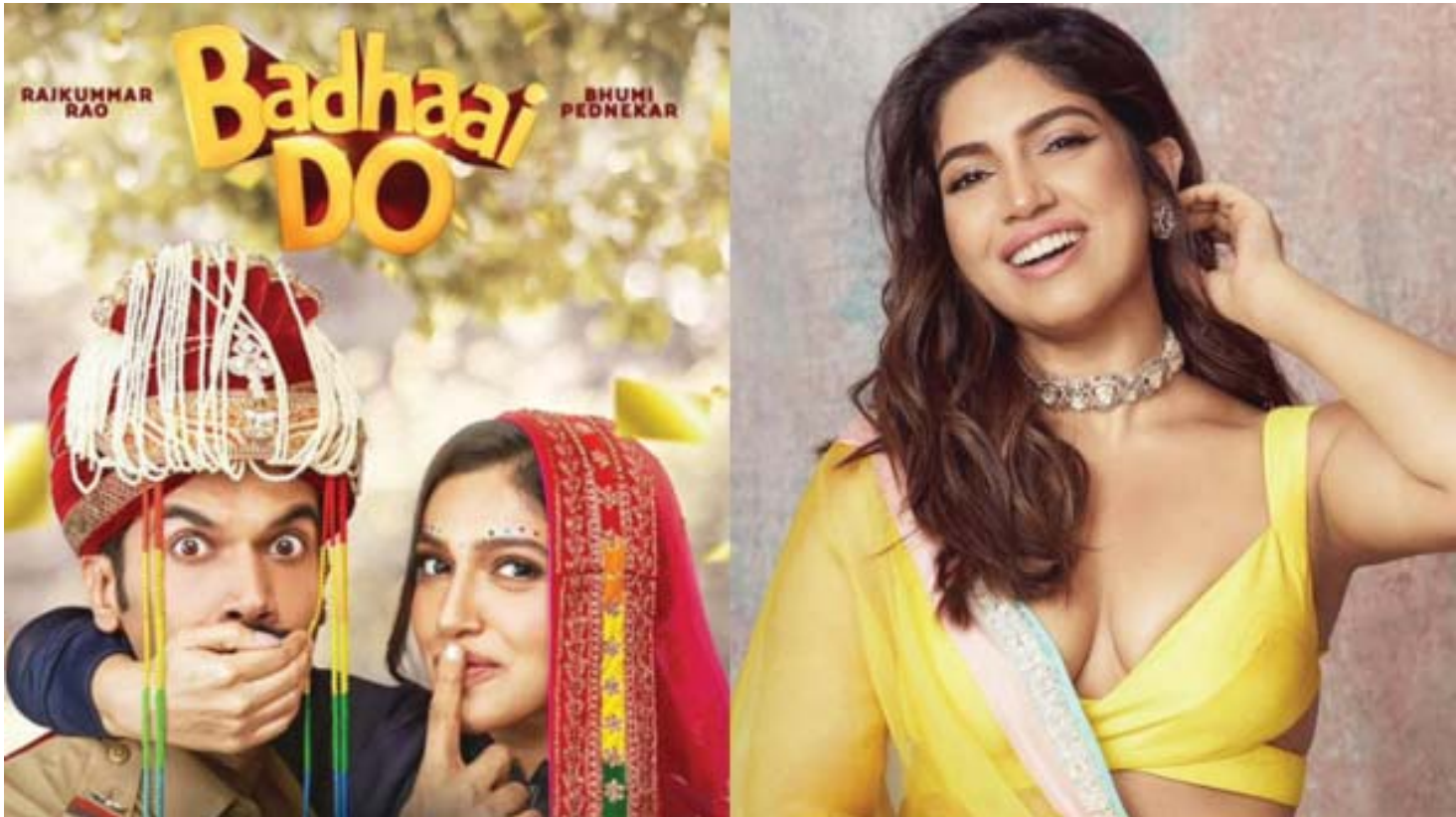


JANHVI KAPOOR, VAANI KAPOOR, NEHA SHARMA ARE INDIAN MEMBERS OF RAYA, THE ‘DATING APP FOR CELEBS’ USED BY BEN AFFLECK, CHANNING TATUM

A celebrity dating app with a waiting list in the hundreds of thousands is growing in popularity in India. Raya, described pithily by The New York Times as ‘Illuminati Tinder’, is a members-only platform with an acceptance rate lower than Harvard Business School. Like an Ivy League school, it selects, rejects and wait-lists applicants, with waiting time that can stretch into weeks. It counts among its international clientele actors such as Channing Tatum, Demi Lovato, John Mayer, Lizzo, Cara Delevingne, Sharon Stone, and the outed Ben Affleck. Having made inroads in India, Raya has attracted celebrities such as Janhvi Kapoor, Vaani Kapoor, Neha Sharma, Sonal Chauhan, Anushka Ranjan, Lisa Mishra and a major filmmaker who wishes to remain anonymous. Invite-only Raya offers exclusivity and privacy that celebrities wouldn’t find on regular dating apps such as Tinder. The app, famously ‘not for everyone’, follows a rigid code of silence where exposing names of other members, taking screenshots of other profiles or even tweeting about it can get you thrown out. The app is meant to facilitate friendship and networking as much as dating. Actor Sonakshi Sinha in a recent interview with Brut was asked what her dating bio would be. She scoffed at the mere idea. “I don’t have a dating app bio,” she laughed. The interviewer swiftly moved on to his next question, but Sonakshi was clearly distracted by the possibility. She interrupted, “Imagine that. Imagine what would that be like, even. The amount of DMs I get on Instagram, in thousands. I can’t imagine what my dating app would look like.” For celebrities such as Sonakshi Sinha, who has over 21 million followers on Instagram, certain things are ironically out of reach. For instance, many actors will often admit that part of the devil’s bargain of becoming a celebrity is sacrificing all forms of privacy. Once they’ve crossed a

certain threshold of fame, their every move will be documented with the diligence of a weatherman tracking an incoming storm. But Raya, despite essentially being a virtual VIP section of the hottest club in town—or, ‘the Soho House of dating apps,’ as one person told the NYT in 2018—offers one thing that the rich and famous desire more than anything else. Confidentiality. Launched in 2015 by Daniel Gendelman, the by-invite-only app isn’t advertised, but grows through word of mouth. As an added layer of exclusivity, it’s available only on iOS devices. Of course. Society has largely become accustomed to the concept of social silos and closed circles. Even non-celebrities, for instance, are willing to wait a couple of decades to get membership at the Delhi Golf Club. But on Raya, only about 8 per cent of applications are accepted. One person even offered \$10,000 in cash to be admitted, while others, the Times said, presented elaborate resumes. “I tried to solve a big problem for a small amount of people,” Gendelman told the Times, having emerged from the woodwork after having successfully maintained secrecy about not just Raya’s membership, but the app itself. He conceived it, unsurprisingly, after a striking out on Tinder. But his vision, he said, was to create somewhat of a digital Davos. Not just movie stars and musicians, the app also welcomes athletes, journalists, and, as Gendelman insisted, people who aren’t famous at all. The app, he told the Times, is ‘for passionate people anywhere in the world who have something they want to share with other members, and can do it in a respectful way.’ It costs about as much as one month’s Netflix subscription in the US, and requires aspiring members to apply via their Instagram accounts. Raya even requires members to create a musical montage of photos, which it displays, according to a 2021 New Yorker article, in an interface that is reminiscent of iMessage and AirBnb.

Bhumi Pednekar says Badhaai Do ‘will be an eye-opener for India’



Actor Bhumi Pednekar is elated with the positive response to the trailer of her upcoming release Badhaai Do. Pednekar plays a PT teacher in the movie which also stars Rajkumhar Rao. The lead stars play gay characters in the eagerly awaited film. Talking about the movie, Bhumi said in a statement that she is happy to bring such a vision to life. “I’m really proud that filmmakers, making differential content and taking on clutter-breaking subjects, feel I can helm a project that is unique and bring their vision to life. I thrive on pushing myself constantly and my decision to do Badhaai Do was based on the fact that I get to sensitively portray a character and give voice to a subject that will be an eye-opener for India,” the actor said.

Adding that the movie balances commerce with content, Bhumi Pednekar said, “Badhaai Do is a hot franchise that balances commerce with content. It is really exciting to be an actor in these times because such subjects are being backed by big producers who want to create a change in society. As a human being, I’m drawn to subjects that can lead to a positive impact on people and be a catalyst for social good. I hope Badhaai Do does just the same. I can’t wait for people to watch this film because it is truly, truly endearing.” Directed by Harshvardhan Kulkarni, Badhaai Do releases in theatres on February 11. Bhumi also has Anubhav Sinha’s Bheed, Ajay Bahl’s Ladykiller, Shashank Khaitan’s Govinda Aala Re, and Aanand L Rai’s Raksha Bandhan in her kitty.

SHAH RUKH KHAN'S DAUGHTER SUHANA KHAN TO MAKE BOLLYWOOD DEBUT WITH ZOYA AKHTAR'S FILM?

Suhana Khan's name was recently trending on social media, thanks to her visit to Zoya Akhtar's office. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's daughter was snapped in casual wear as paparazzi spotted her outside the filmmaker's office. This led to a murmur about Zoya and Suhana's collaboration. Netizens are wondering if the star kid will be making her Bollywood debut soon. In the photos, Suhana is seen wearing a white tank top with beige trousers. She has tied her hair in a casual pony and carries an oversized bag. While there has been no official confirmation about the same, Suhana has earlier shared her interest in acting. SRK's darling daughter Suhana made her entry into the glamour world by becoming Vogue India's cover star in 2018. Proud dad Shah Rukh had taken to social media to share the cover, writing, “Holding her in my arms again thanks to @vogueindia . 'What imperfect carriers of love we are...' except when it comes to our children. So sending u all my love & a big hug. Hello Suhana Khan!" Donning an over-sized dress.



MAHABHARAT’S BHEEM, ACTOR PRAVIN SOBTI, DIES OF A HEART ATTACK AT 75



Actor Pravin Kumar Sobti, popular for essaying the role of Bheem in BR Chopra's Mahabharat, has died at the age of 75. Kumar's daughter Nikunika told media, “He passed away yesterday around 9.30 pm. He suffered a heart attack. He died at home in Delhi.” Besides playing the role of Bheem, which made him a household name, Kumar also starred in many films including Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Shehenshah and Dharmendra's Loha. Other films to his credit include Aaj Ka Arjun, Ajooba, and Ghayal, among others. Before he became an actor, Praveen was a hammer and discus throw athlete. A four-time Asian Games medallist, he also represented India in 1968 Mexico and 1972 Munich Olympics. He was also honoured with Arjuna award. He worked as the Deputy Commandant in the Border Security Force (BSF) as well. The official Twitter account of BSF paid tribute to the late actor. “The iconic role of ‘Bheem’ essayed by Sh Praveen Kumar Sobti in B R Chopra's Mahabharat will continue to bring back memories of the ‘gentle giant’,” the tweet read. Condoling the death of Kumar, in another tweet, BSF wrote, “Director General & All Ranks of BSF condole the untimely demise of Sh Praveen Kumar Sobti, former Deputy Commandant, Arjuna Awardee, two-time Olympian (1968 Mexico Games and 1972 Munich Games) & four-time Asian Games medallist (2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze).

AKSHAY KUMAR REFUSES TO GO ON THE KAPIL SHARMA SHOW FOR BACHCHAN PANDEY PROMOTIONS



Akshay Kumar's upcoming film Bachchan Pandey, opposite Kriti Sanon, Arshad Warsi, and others is all set to release in cinema halls on the occasion of Holi, March 18. The BellBottom actor is known to promote his films with all his might. However, Akshay has reportedly refused to appear on TV's popular chat show The Kapil Sharma Show for movie promotions. This may come as a surprise to the readers as the Bollywood star is known to feature on the show on every occasion a film of his is set for release. The reason for Akshay choosing not to feature on The Kapil Sharma Show this time is related to his last appearance when he came to promote Atrangi Re with Sara Ali Khan. During the episode, Kapil made a mention of an interview Akshay did with a ‘famous personality’ where the latter asked him how he liked eating mangoes. Kapil was supposedly alluding to an interview that the actor did with PM Narendra Modi in 2019. This portion of their banter on the show has led to friction between the two actors, a report in Hindustan Times claims. In continuation of their conversation, Akshay goes on to challenge Kapil to openly name the ‘personality’. Kapil diverts the subject. Reportedly, after the shoot got over, Akshay requested the channel to not air this portion. Even though this part of the conversation was not televised, a clip was leaked on social media and went viral. Later, the Bollywood actor sought clarification from Kapil's team but got no response. Now, he has refused to go on The Kapil Sharma Show for Bachchan Pandey promotions, which is directed by Farhad Samji.

'HASEE TOH PHASEE' TURNS 8: PARINEETI CHOPRA SINGS 'ZEHNASEEB,' CALLS HER CHARACTER MEETA REFRESHING



As Parineeti Chopra's film 'Hasee Toh Phasee' with co-star Sidharth Malhotra clocked eight years since its release on Monday, the actor opened up about how her character shattered the stereotypical representation of a heroine on screen. Talking about her character, Parineeti shared, "Hasee Toh Phasee' is a very special film in my filmography. Meeta's character is very close to my heart as I got to play the role of a quirky scientist in the film! She was the dark horse in her family and she is extremely sharp and has many ideas happening in her head all the time. I feel so blessed that I got to play the role of Meeta who in a way, broke the stereotype of how a heroine should be or look on screen." Parineeti also hopes that the quirky romantic film gets a sequel. She said, "To date, I receive so much love for 'Hasee Toh Phasee' and I am constantly asked by people if there will be a sequel to the film. I feel it's a great idea to have a Part 2 to 'Hasee To Phasee' and visit what Meeta and Nikhil would be doing today! Now over to the makers!" The actor also shared a post on her Instagram account to celebrate eight years of the film's release.



LATA MANGESHKAR, INDIA'S SINGING GODDESS

BY AMIT KHANNA

For nearly eight decades, Lata Mangeshkar defined Hindi film music. Diminutive, Indore-born Lata was literally nurtured in music. Her father Dinanath Mangeshkar ran a theatre company and later did music concerts. So, a two-year-old Lata would sit by her father's side while he did his daily 'riyaaz'. By the time she was five, she would warble abhangs and other songs from her father's repertory of classical and traditional songs. Lata was the eldest of the five Mangeshkar siblings -- Asha, Meena, Usha and Hridaynath. Incidentally all would grow up and make a name for themselves. Unfortunately, after some professional disasters, Dinanath died leaving the family destitute in 1942. All the responsibility fell on 13-year-old Lata. She had appeared in bit roles till then but now she needed more work. Family friend Master Vinayak (father of actress Nanda) came forward to help. He helped the young Lata get her a break in friend Vasant Joglekar's film Kittie Ha Saal in 1942. She started working in Master Vinayak's company, NavyugChitrapat. In 1945, this company moved to Mumbai and the young Lata followed too. While the initial days were of tremendous struggle, Lata started learning classical music under Ustad Aman Ali Khan of the Bhindi Bazaar Gharana. In 1946, she got her first Hindi film in Vasant Joglekar's 'Aap Ki Seva Mein' (1945). She kept on doing an odd song or the other until Master Ghulam Haider (better known as the composer of Kamal Amrohi's 'Pakeezah') became her mentor and got her a job in Bombay Talkies and her first hit was in 'Majboor' in 1948 where Ghulam Haider gave the music. Haider also got her to improve her Urdu diction. In 1948, she got her big breakthrough in 'Ziddi' from Bombay Talkies, starring Dev Anand and Kamini Kaushal, with music by S.D. Burman (Kishore Kumar, too, got his break in this film). 'Ziddi' was followed by 'Buzdil', both in 1948. and in 1949, the superhit 'AayegaAanewala' in 'Mahal'. This Kamal Amrohi film had music by Khemchand Prakash. Lata's rise to the top thereafter was swift. She soon became the default choice as the playback singer for most leading ladies and composers. Once Bade Ghulam Ali Khan said about her "Kambakthkabi sur nahinchodti" -- damn, she never drops a note. From the Fifties to the Eighties, Lata delivered hundreds of hit songs under various composers. She was the first choice of filmmakers such as Mehboob Khan, V. Shantaram, Bimal Roy, Raj Kapoor, the Anand brothers, (Chetan, Dev and Vijay), Raj Khosla, Yash Chopra, Amiya Chakravarty and L.V. Prasad. Let us not forget this was the golden age of Hindi film music with composers such as Anil Biswas, Naushad, S.D. Burman, Khemchand Prakash, C. Ramchandra. Shanker-Jaikishen, Roshan, Madan Mohan, Khayyam, Salil Chowdhury, Vasant Desai, Hemant Kumar, Ravi, Kalyanji-Anandji, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, and later Rajesh Roshan, BappiLahiri and Anu Malik. Poets such as Sahir, Shailendra, Majrooh, Shakeel, Kaifi, Indeevar and Anand Bakshi were also among some of the most talked-about individuals. Among the singers, we had Suraiya, Geeta Dutt, Asha Bhosle, Shamsbad Begum and Suman Kalyanpur, among women, and Mohamad Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Mukesh, Hemant Kumar, Talat Mehmood and Manna Dey. Lata Mangeshkar was the voice most heard and liked in India. Lata Mangeshkar never married, though there were whispers about her liaisons with C. Ramachandra, Raj Kapoor, Jaikishen, and an extended close friendship with cricketer-prince Raj Singh Dungarpur. Such was her respect that such innuendo never impacted her image. She would come to the studio dressed in exquisite white sarees with a prominent bindi carrying a thermos of warm water. Rarely would she ask for a cup of tea. She did not socialise much and spent most of her time with her family, doting on her mother and nieces and nephews. Cricket and photography were her favourite hobbies, and she could whip up a mean dinner if required. I got to know her in my early days in Navketan, but came closer to her once I turned a lyricist n 1973. In fact she sang the first song I wrote

'Dur Dur Tum Rahe', for which she got the West Bengal Film Journalists' Association Award. Over time, she got fond of me partly because I was the youngest writer of lyrics and partly because of the language, which was a little different from the conventional Hindi/Urdu used in film songs. It was only after a couple of years of working together that she opened up. She would talk about her travels or indulge in some mild gossip about other film folk, but usually she would come to rehearse the song and go to the mike and in a couple of takes the song would be okayed and she would leave. One thing I noticed was that she always exchanged a few words with some of the senior musicians whom she knew for decades. She was not political in the overt sense of the word, but was a nationalist. She was proud to be Indian and was not willing to accept needless criticism of the nation or its rulers. A couple of times I spoke to her about it, she was aware of what was happening in the world. She was also familiar with global music trends. While she respected classical performers and singers, she was not intimidated by anyone. She doted on her family, special the kids of her siblings. There are several stories going around since the 1950s about how the Mangeshkar sisters obstructed the entry of new comers. This is patently wrong. They were loyal to some composers and felt betrayed if a song created for them was handed over to another singer on account of their unviability on a particular day. In fact, there are many young singers who were encouraged by Lata and Asha. She was willing to take a stand when required. She was the first singer after K.L. Saigal who insisted on a share of royalty for each of her songs. When Rafi compromised, she stopped singing duets with him for a number of years. Similarly, she took offence to a comment made by O.P. Nayyar about her voice quality. She never sang for him ever. She never sang a single song of the talented composer. Similarly, once she had some creative differences with S.D. Burman and they did not work together for five years. What is it that makes Lata Mangeshkar stand out among not only her contemporaries, but also singers from earlier and later years? One, her voice, which is a natural gift -- soft, dulcet and very malleable. The second is her ability to feel the words she sang. She could sing a romantic song with as much ease as she sung a ghazal, a bhajan or a lullaby. I can say with confidence that she was the only singer who would improve upon the original composition of the music director. She could embellish the song with the right 'murki', 'harka' or a mere emphasis on a particular word. Her enunciation was impeccable. It is a wrong notion that she rehearsed a lot. In the 1950s, it was a tradition for the singers to go to a music director's music room for rehearsal. Somehow this practice faded away by the 1970s. Lata Didi could give a perfect take after a mere 15-minute rehearsal. Whenever she really need to work on a particular composition, she would call the composer and ask him to come home for a rehearsal. To sing faultlessly for almost eight decades is an unparalleled achievement. There were perhaps a dozen composers and half a dozen lyricists and, a few filmmakers with whom Lata had a special relationship, but her professionalism was there for every singer, writer, composer, arranger or orchestra with whom she worked. I am often asked about Lata's best songs. When an artiste's repertoire runs into thousands, it is very difficult to pick a handful of her songs. A few of my favourites (not exclusively) at random are: 'AyegaAanewala', 'Na Jaane Kahan Kho Gaye', 'Ai ri main toh prem diwaniya', 'Zindagiusi ki hai', 'Phaili hui hainsapnon ki bahen', 'Bekas pe karamkiye', 'Ajeeb dastan hai yeh', 'O basantipawanpagal', 'Allah tero naam', 'Kahin deep jalekahindil', 'Meremehboobtujhe', 'Jogirejao re', 'NainaBarse', 'Lag ja gale', 'Bindiyachamkegi', 'Aajphirjeene ki...', 'Phool tumhebhajhai', 'ChaloSajna', 'Kaiserahoonchup', 'Baharonmeraanaanchalbhisanwaro', 'Bahonmeinchaleaao', 'Rangila Re', 'Ye galiyan ye chaubara', "Ehsan Tera hogamujh par", 'YashomatiMaiyya se', 'Didi tera devardeewana', 'Tujhedekhatoh', 'Kabhi khushikabhigham', and two of my lyrics -- 'Pal bhar me ye kya ho gaya' and 'Suman Sudha Rajni Chanda'.

DHARMENDRA SAYS HE GOT READY THRICE TO ATTEND LATA MANGESHKAR'S FUNERAL, BUT COULDN'T

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away on Sunday after suffering multiple organ failure. Her demise had India mourning and paying tribute to the 92-year-old singer. There were many including Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Javed Akhtar, Ranbir Kapoor, Aamir Khan, Vidya Balan, Siddharth Roy Kapur and others. But veteran actor Dharmendra says he couldn't muster the courage to attend the funeral of India's 'Nightingale'. Dharmendra, in a recent interview with The Times of India, shared that he got ready to go for Mangeshkar's funeral thrice, but he couldn't step out of his house as he "didn't want to see her leaving us." He was feeling "uneasy and uncomfortable" ever since he heard the news of her death. The Sholay actor shared a close bond with 'Lata Didi' who was in contact with him even until recently. Dharmendra recalled how after he posted a grim tweet on Twitter, the late singer "immediately called up" to ask if he was OK. He said she spoke to him for half hour to cheer him up. The late singer had worked with both, Dharmendra and his wife and actor Hema Malini. She lent her voice for many songs featuring Dharmendra including "Saathiya Nahi Jaana Ke Jee Na Lage", "Kal Ki Haseen Mulaqat Ke Liye", "Gir Gaya Jhumka Girne Do", and "Jhilmil Sitaron Ka Angan Hoga", among others. Dharmendra had also expressed his grief on Lata Mangeshkar's demise on Twitter. He had shared a picture of himself with her and wrote, "The whole world is sad , Can't believe you have left us !!! We will miss you lata ji ?? pray for your soul be in peace. Lata Mangeshkar was laid to rest at Mumbai's Shivaji Park with full state honours on Sunday evening. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among those who paid their respects to the singer.

AISHWARYA RAI, TED LASSO ACTOR HANNAH WADDINGHAM PAY RICH TRIBUTE TO LATA MANGESHKAR: 'IN ABSOLUTE GRATITUDE'



Actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Hannah Waddingham paid rich tribute to Lata Mangeshkar on social media. The legendary singer died of multi-organ failure on Sunday at the age of 92. Called 'India's Nightingale', she lives behind a rich legacy. She was laid to rest on Sunday in the presence of leading figures from all across India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also flew down to Mumbai to pay homage to her. Aishwarya shared a photograph of Lata on Instagram and wrote, "At a loss for words... Prayers for your Divine Soul to Rest in Peace, Lataji... God Bless In absolute gratitude for you... and all your Blessings... Eternally...." Ted Lasso actor Hannah Waddingham wrote on Twitter, "Rest in peace #LataMangeshkar The original, magical, beautiful Bollywood songbird." Many Indian fans responded to her tweet, and were happy to note that she understands how important Lata is to her fans. Lata has given her voice to some of the most iconic Hindi songs featuring Aishwarya, particularly Humko Humise Chura Lo and Aankhein Khuli from Mohabbatein (2000) that she had sung with Udit Narayan. The Aishwarya starrer also featured Shah Rukh Khan who attended Lata's funeral on Sunday. The actor was seen offering a dua and a floral wreath while paying his last respects to the legendary singer. Khan's gesture touched hearts of fans who called it a proof of India's diversity.

KHATRON KE KHILADI 12: PRATIK SEHAJPAL, UMAR RIAZ & RUBINA DILAİK CONFIRMED FOR ROHIT SHETTY'S SHOW?

Hosted by Bollywood filmmaker Rohit Shetty, the popular adventure reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi is all set to roll down our TV screens. Be it the contestant list to the premiere date, fans cannot keep calm and are eyeing to know every detail about the show. While a lot of names have been doing rounds, the latest report suggests that Bigg Boss 15 contestants Umar Riaz, Pratik Sehajpal and Bigg Boss 14 winner Rubina Dilaik have been finalized for the show. Every season, the show raises the 'darr' quotient with a lot of dangerous stunts that are performed with various celebrity contestants participating in the show. This year too, the fans will see some popular faces taking the challenge of fighting their fears. The media portal BollywoodLife.com has released a list of celebrities who have been approached for Khatron Ke Khiladi 12 so far. The list had Umar Riaz, Pratik Sehajpal and Simba Nagpal's names among other actors.

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KOHLI SAYS HE WAS APPROACHED A FEW TIMES BY IPL FRANCHISES IN PAST |P18





MidWeek Sports



T20 WORLD CUP 2022: INDIA-PAKISTAN MATCH TICKETS SOLD OUT WITHIN MINUTES

Come October 23, India will lock horns with their arch-rival Pakistan in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. India-Pakistan is the most predictable early-round fixture in ICC tournaments will be played in the T20 World Cup when India and Pakistan square off at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The two countries now play only in ICC events, with no bilateral series since 2013. One of the reasons is this match helps the world body with a big windfall in terms of gate money and eyeballs on television guaranteed. Such is the demand to see one of world cricket's biggest rivalries, the allocations for the India vs Pakistan match to be played at Melbourne Cricket Ground on October 23 were sold within five minutes of going on sale. India and Pakistan clash on the opening weekend of the main round of the tournament at the iconic MCG. More than 90,000 spectators are expected at the stadium for the match. It is expected to be their first encounter since the T20 showpiece in the UAE late last year when Pakistan broke their World Cup duck against India. ICC men's T20 World Cup 2022 Local Organising Committee CEO Michelle Enright said: "The response from the fans has been

fantastic and we're proud of the fact we were able to reward our fans who purchased tickets to the postponed event in 2020 and those who registered early with us to get priority access to tickets in the pre-sale." According to Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC), a TV audience measurement service, the India-Pak game in the 2021 T20 world cup soared up to 167 million viewers on television alone in India. According to the ICC, the India-Pakistan game in the 2019 ODI world cup had 273 million viewership worldwide and 50 million digital-only viewers. It's the first time that Australia will host T20 cricket's global showpiece for men, with matches to be played in Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney. The fixture for the event was recently announced with the First Round to get underway in Geelong and Hobart featuring former champions West Indies and Sri Lanka, before hosts and defending champions Australia take on New Zealand in the opening match of the Super 12 at the SCG on Saturday 22 October in a re-match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 Final.

Pat Cummins to lead 18-member Test squad to Pakistan for first time since 1998

The National Selection Panel (NSP) on Tuesday named an 18-player Australia Test squad for the upcoming tour of Pakistan. Australia will tour Pakistan for the first time since 1998 for three Test matches, three One-Day Internationals, and one T20 International. The Test-playing contingent and staff are due to depart for Pakistan later this month while white-ball players, to be announced separately, will join mid-tour for the One-Day Internationals and T20 International. George Bailey, NSP Chair, said: "This squad covers all scenarios including the conditions given it has been such a long time since Australia was last in Pakistan." "With several subcontinent tours and a one-day World Cup in India on the near horizon this is a great first-up challenge for the group after the successful home Ashes Series. It's also a very historic tour given the length of time since an Australian side last toured Pakistan," he added. Last week, Justin Langer had resigned as Australia coach and Andrew McDonald will be doing the duties of interim head coach. Australia Test squad: Pat Cummins (C), Steve Smith, David Warner, Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Michael Neser, Mitchell Swepson, Mitchell Starc.



YUZVENDRA CHAHAL PICKED UP WICKETS IN BACK-TO-BACK BALLS IN HIS FIRST OVER, INDIA VS WEST INDIES, 1ST ODI, AHMEDABAD.

AWAITING NEXT OPPORTUNITY: SEVERAL PLAYERS OF U19WC WINNING SQUAD MAY NOT BE ALLOWED INTO IPL AUCTION



Eight players of the India U-19 World Cup winning team will have to wait for some more time to get their name in the Indian Premier League auction pool as they don't meet the criteria set by the Indian cricket board. Only those U-19 players who have played at least one first-class match or List A game can enrol in the auction. If they don't have domestic cricket experience, the rules state that they should have turned 19 before the auction takes place to be eligible. The rule will affect players like wicketkeeper Dinesh Bana, India's under-19 vice-captain, batsman Shaik Rasheed, left-arm pacer Ravi Kumar, all-rounders Nishant Sindhu and Siddarth Yadav, opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Manav Parakh and Garv Sangwan. Players like Rasheed, Bana, Kumar and Sindhu made a big impact in India's victorious campaign in the Caribbean.

MESSI SCORES AS LEADER PSG ROUT DEFENDING CHAMPIONS LILLE 5-1



Lionel Messi had one of his best games for Paris Saint-Germain as the runaway leader profited from bad goalkeeping to win 5-1 at defending champion Lille and move 13 points clear in the French league. The first two goals were gifted while the third was well taken by the record seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi in the 37th minute for only his second league goal since joining from Barcelona. Lille caused PSG problems but defended poorly. PSG drew and lost to Lille last season without scoring a goal. Lille conceded only 23 goals during that victorious campaign, but standout goalkeeper Mike Maignan's departure to AC Milan has proved costly and Lille has already allowed 35. The difference was evident when Lille goalkeeper Ivo Grbic made an awful blunder in the 10th, spilling a routine cross from the left into the path of Danilo Pereira for a tap-in.

THERE WERE CHALLENGES BUT MY ONLY AIM WAS TO IMPROVE AS A PLAYER: WASHINGTON SUNDAR



Washington Sundar has had to endure a painful five months away from the game due to a finger injury but the lanky Tamil Nadu off-spinner says he used the forced break to get better as a cricketer as that was all he could control. Washington missed out on the T20 World Cup but Ravichandran Ashwin's underwhelming show in white-ball games and subsequent ouster brought him back in the mix as he made his international return with a 3/30 against West Indies in first ODI. "There were a lot of challenges but I just wanted to do what I could do to improve myself as a cricketer and human being. That's all that's in my control and I was only focussing on that," Washington said at the post-match press conference on Sunday. Washington has understood in the past two years that there would be roadblocks and then but he will have to create his own mechanism to counter them. He first missed the T20 World Cup and then COVID-19 played truant when he was about to board the flight to South Africa.



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MORE GOOGLIES I BOWL, BETTER MY LEG BREAK WILL BE: CHAHAL ACTS ON ROHIT’S ADVICE

Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who snared four wickets in the first ODI against the West Indies here, has credited new white-ball skipper Rohit Sharma for the performance, saying the star batter made him realise that the more googlies he bowled, the more effective his leg-breaks would become. India won the match by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series here. “We had spoken before the game. The thing which you said before the game, the thing I missed in South Africa, I didn’t bowl more googlies, so it was there in my mind,” Chahal told Rohit in an interview aired on ‘bcci.tv’. “The hard-hitters decide that if the ball is in his area, he will go for the shot...so when you said, ‘the more googlies you bowl, your leg-spin will be more effective’. I bowled that to you in the nets and I realised it,” the 31-year-old explained.

According to Chahal, when he was not in the national team, he worked on changing his bowling angles. “I changed my angles, there are slow wickets here. When I wasn’t there in the team, I pondered on what improvements can be made. “I saw other bowlers, who became side-arm to bowl on these wickets. I noticed when I bowl in the nets, that the ball moves faster and you need more wrist,” he elaborated. The Haryana-player, who took his 100th ODI wicket here on Sunday by dismissing Nicholas Pooran, said that it was a good feeling to get to the milestone. “It is a good feeling (to take 100 ODI wickets). There have been ups and downs in my five-year career but it is a good feeling that you take 100 wickets in any format, which is a big thing. “I had never thought that it would happen so soon. I continued what I kept doing,” Chahal signed off.

KANE WILLIAMSON TO MISS TEST SERIES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO ELBOW INJURY

Captain Kane Williamson will miss New Zealand’s two-test home cricket series against South Africa with an elbow injury. The strain injury, which can’t be corrected by surgery, also caused Williamson to miss New Zealand’s recent series against Bangladesh. His most recent Test was against India in November. The retirement of veteran Ross Taylor will leave New Zealand with one of its thinnest batting lineups in recent years, with the bowling allrounder Daryl Mitchell likely to bat as high as No. 5. Coach Gary Stead has recalled batsman Hamish Rutherford and allrounder Colin de Grandhomme to an enlarged 15-man squad which also includes uncapped wicketkeeper Cam Fletcher and seamer Blair Tuckner.

TEAM BENEFITTING FROM SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST’S PRESENCE IN NZ: MITHALI RAJ

India ODI captain Mithali Raj says the team is benefitting immensely from the presence of a sports psychologist during its ongoing tour of New Zealand and such professional help is the need of the hour in COVID times. Mughda Bavare is the sports psychologist travelling with the Indian team on a two-month-long tour of New Zealand comprising a bilateral series and ODI World Cup. Mithali had earlier also spoken on the need for a psychologist to deal with pressure of knockout games but with tours now being played in bubbles, the professional help is needed all the more. “In today’s times, it is even more important to have them around with the team with the longer duration of tour and quarantine and bubbles,” said Mithali on the eve of the opening T20 against New Zealand here.

USMAN KHAWAJA IN AUSTRALIA SQUAD FOR THREE-TEST TOUR TO PAKISTAN



Pakistan-born Usman Khawaja has been included in an 18-man squad for Australia’s first Test tour to Pakistan since 1998, and its first in four years without Justin Langer as head coach. The squad was confirmed three days after Langer announced he’d rejected a six-month contract extension offered by Cricket Australia and quit, a decision that left Andrew McDonald as interim coach. Test captain Pat Cummins has been criticized by some high-profile former players including Ricky Ponting for not giving his full backing to Langer in the days leading up to the contract discussions. Cummins will lead the squad later this month to Pakistan for a three-test series starting March 4 at Rawalpindi. The Australian starting lineup that finished off the 4-0 Ashes series victory over England last month with a win in Hobart has been retained.

KOHLI SAYS HE WAS APPROACHED A FEW TIMES BY IPL FRANCHISES IN PAST



Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli has revealed that he was “approached a few times” by few IPL franchises in the past to put himself in the auction but he preferred to stay at Royal Challengers Bangalore. The former India captain, who stepped down as RCB skipper at the end of last season after eight years in charge, is the only cricketer to have played for one franchise since the league’s inaugural edition in 2008. “I’ve been approached a few times as well — to come into the auction somehow — I have thought about it,” Kohli told the RCB podcast. “At the end of the day, a person lives a certain number of years, and then you die and life moves on. There have been many great players who have won trophies and things like that but no one addresses you like that. “If you are a good person, people like you and if you are a bad guy, they stay away from you. Eventually, that’s what life is all about.” The 33-year-old Kohli has played innumerable match-winning knocks for RCB, who have always boasted star-studded lineups, but could still never win the IPL.

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