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# MidWeek ENTERTAINMENT

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## MARRIAGE ON CARDS FOR RAKUL PREET SINGH AND BEAU JACKKY BHAGNANI IN 2022?



**FANS ARE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER RAKUL PREET SINGH AND BEAU ACTOR-PRODUCER JACKKY BHAGNANI ARE ALSO JOINING THE LIST OF CELEBS GETTING MARRIED SOON. THE FUEL TO THE FIRE WAS ADDED WHEN THE ACTRESS CONFESSED BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JACKKY THROUGH A ROMANTIC POST WHICH SHE SHARED ON HIS BIRTHDAY A FEW MONTHS AGO. WELL, FIND OUT THE TRUTH HERE!**

A lot of celebs have got married and many are even in line! Going by the number of 'shaadis' taking place in the Bollywood industry, many are curious to know whether Rakul Preet Singh and beau actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani are also joining the list. Yes, that's true! The fuel to the fire was added when the actress confessed being in a relationship with Jackky through a romantic post which she shared on his birthday a few months ago. Well, this led to a number of reports go viral about the two tying the knot in the year 2022. The actress in a recent interview with a news portal opened up about her personal life and even answered the question about her wedding plans. Speaking to media, Rakul said that she chose to come upfront about her relationship in public because she felt that it was beautiful. Further, she said that announcement about her marriage is something she will do once it will happen. However, for now she is focussed on her career because this is what she is in the industry for.



## SIKH BODY SUBMITS COMPLAINT AGAINST KANGANA RANAUT IN MUMBAI SEEKING FIR OVER 'DEROGATORY' LANGUAGE



A Sikh organisation on Monday submitted a complaint seeking registration of an FIR against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in Mumbai alleging that she had used derogatory language against the Sikh community in her social media post. A Khar police station official said a complaint was received from the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) and they are looking into it. He said a delegation led by Manjinder Singh Sirsa, a Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and president of the DSGMC, submitted the complaint against Ranaut. In the complaint, the DSGMC mentioned that Ranaut had intentionally and deliberately portrayed the farmers' protest (Kisan Morchha) as a Khalistani movement and also dubbed the Sikh community as Khalistani terrorists. It claimed that she had recalled the massacre and genocide that happened during 1984 and earlier, as a planned and calculated move on part of then prime minister Indira Gandhi, the official said quoting the complaint.

## PRIYANKA CHOPRA DROPS ROMANTIC COMMENT ON NICK JONAS' LATEST POST AMID SPLIT RUMOURS



**WASHINGTON (ANI):** Global star Priyanka Chopra, in a subtle manner, quashed all the rumours about her separation from husband and singer Nick Jonas. Rumours of a split between the couple began circulating recently when fans and followers noticed that Priyanka, who often goes by Chopra-Jonas, dropped both of her last names from her social media handles. The reason behind the name change is still unclear, but Priyanka seemed to put any breakup speculations to rest with a romantic comment on her husband's latest Instagram post. On Monday night, Nick took to Instagram to share a video of himself performing some bicep curls during a workout session. "Monday motivation. Let's get it," Nick captioned the post. Priyanka commented on the post, "Damn! I just died in your arms." She also added an emoji with heart eyes, another sweating and a third simple red heart.

### VIRAL 'BOMBSHELL' NIKKI TAMBOLI LOOKS SUPER HOT IN SHIRTLESS NEON BLAZER



NIKKI TAMBOLI ON SATURDAY BROKE THE INTERNET WHEN SHE DROPPED A PICTURE OF HERSELF ON A SHIRTLESS BLAZER AND HIGH WAITED PANTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

### JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ BURNS THE INTERNET WITH PICTURES IN BODY-HUGGING SUIT



ON SATURDAY, JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ TOOK TO INSTAGRAM AND POSTED THREE PICTURES IN A BODY-HUGGING WHITE SUIT.

### 'SALMAN KHAN NE MUJHE NAHI BANAYA HAI': WHEN MALAIKA ARORA REPLIED ANGRILY TO 'ITEM GIRL' REMARKS



IT WOULD NOT BE WRONG TO SAY THAT MALAIKA ARORA HAS MADE A NAME FOR HERSELF IN BOLLYWOOD WITH HER FILMS AND HER STYLE.

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ROHIT, HARSHAL, AXAR STAR AS DOMINANT INDIA THRASH NEW ZEALAND TO WIN T20I SERIES 3-0.

DETAILS ON PAGE 17

## NEED TO KEEP OUR FEET ON GROUND, DRAVID AFTER INDIA'S 3-0 SERIES WIN OVER NZ

**KOLKATA, (IANS)** After India's comprehensive 3-0 series win against New Zealand, the head coach Rahul Dravid on Sunday said he is impressed with his team's performance throughout the three matches but they have to keep their feet on the ground and need to be realistic about the victory. Rohit Sharma's fantastic fifty and a clinical bowling performance led by Axar Patel (3/9), powered India to a convincing 73-run win over New Zealand in the third and final T20I, helping the hosts complete a 3-0 clean sweep in the three-match series at the iconic Eden Gardens on Sunday. Speaking after the win, Team India head coach said New Zealand had arrived in India immediately after a World Cup final loss and it wasn't easy for the visitors to play back-to-back matches. "It was a really good series win. Everyone played really well right through the series. It feels good, nice to start well. We are also quite realistic. We have to keep our feet on the ground and be a bit realistic about this win. Not easy for NZ to play a World Cup final and then to turn up three days later to play three games in six days, was never going to be easy for them," said Dravid during the post-match presentation. "Nice from our perspective but we have to learn from this series and move forward. It's a long journey ahead over the next 10 months and we'll have our share of ups and downs," he added.



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JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ BURNS THE INTERNET WITH PICTURES IN BODY-HUGGING SUIT

Gorgeous Jacqueline Fernandez, who was seen in the film 'Bhoot Police', is wrapping up the year on a working note, similar to the way she started it. With several films in her pipeline, the actress is rounding off the year in fitting style. She knows how to set Instagram on fire with her saucy pictures, her latest photos are the proof. On Saturday, Jacqueline Fernandez took to Instagram and posted three pictures in a body-hugging white suit. With her open hair, she posed wearing roller skates. Sporting a fresh look, the actress opted for minimum jewellery in her latest photoshoot. She matched her outfit with silver bracelets and a necklace. A number of her fans commented on her pictures. One of them wrote, "I love the way you look," while another fan mentioned, "Beauty of the year." On the work front, Jacqueline is currently shooting for her film 'Ram Setu'. She recently shared a video from the sets of the film as well. Other than that, the actress has had a year full of set hopping and we don't think it will stop anytime soon.

Jacqueline has a long list of films yet to release which includes 'Cirkus', 'Ram Setu', 'Kick 2', 'Bachchan Pandey' and 'Attack'. The actress also has a few unannounced projects and with this post, she has got the fans all excited and eagerly waiting for the announcements of the same.



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# VIRAL 'BOMBSHELL' NIKKI TAMBOLI LOOKS SUPER HOT IN SHIRTLESS NEON BLAZER

‘Bigg Boss 14’ contestant Nikki Tamboli raised the temperature with her latest sizzling hot picture on Instagram. In the photo, she can be seen wearing a neon green blazer with a high waisted pants. Nikki Tamboli on Saturday broke the internet when she dropped a picture of herself on a shirtless blazer and high waited pants on social media. Sharing the pictures, she wrote, “It’s not my fault that am popular neither is it my fault if you are jealous.” With more than 274,000 likes, her picture went viral. Celebrities and her fans dropped fire emojis under the post. One of her fans commented, “next level hotness,” while another mentioned, “I’m jealous bcz you’re very hot.” An Insta user wrote, “Absolutely Gorgeous, Glamorous, Stunning, Attractive, Charming, Elegant, Hottest, Fashion Diva Ever Seen.” Another user wrote, “Next superstar of the whole world.” Undoubtedly, Nikki Tamboli knows how to set the bar high when it comes to fashion. She has been winning the internet’s hearts ever since made her debut in the Hindi entertainment industry in ‘Bigg Boss 14’. And while she might not have won the show, the actor-model gained a lot of fame, which eventually helped with her next endeavours such as ‘Khatron Ke Khiladi 11’ and the many music videos and TV appearances that she has been busy shooting. For the unversed, days before appearing in the stunt-based reality show ‘Khaton Ke Khildai 11’, Nikki Tamboli lost her brother to COVID-19.



# JOHN ABRAHAM SAYS HE HAS CREATED DESI AVENGERS WITH SATYAMEVA JAYATE: ‘MARVEL STUDIOS APKO PATA NAHI HAI’



John Abraham is back with the second installment of his vigilante actioner Satyameva Jayate in which the actor stars in a triple role, something he said was a challenge. The film is a sequel to his 2018 hit of the same name. It featured Abraham as Virendra Rathod, who kills corrupt police officers, while National Award winner Manoj Bajpayee played an honest cop. In the second part, scheduled to be released in theatres on November 25, Abraham will again be seen fighting corruption this time in Lucknow. The actor plays three roles in the film of a farmer-father and his twin sons, a cop and a politician. “It is very daunting to play all these roles in one film. One part was like a breeze because in the first film I played a similar role of a vigilante. The other character is a cop for which I would shoot two-three scenes a day. I couldn’t get the hang of this guy (character) initially but finally we nailed it. He is very

interesting in the film. “Besides, we had to get the distinction right between a brooding and funny guy. My favourite character is the father, it has turned out to be outstanding in terms of heroism,” Abraham told PTI in an interview. The Mumbai Saga actor said the key reason to make the second part was the reception of the audience to the first movie. “The idea is to make a good film and entertain everyone. People loved the first one so much. The first part of everything is a testing ground because most of them don’t work hence we don’t see more franchises. There are very few films that work and which is why there is a demand to see the second part. “The film works because the audience has liked it, if it fails because the audience has not liked it. We wanted to make a large screen entertainer this time and Satyameva Jayate 2 is that,” he added. The actor also reacted to a video shared by one of his fan accounts on YouTube where the person compared the Hulk with John. John said, “Marvel Studios aapko pata nahi hai (you don’t know), we’ve created our own Hulk, we’ve created our own entire Avengers series with my character in Satyameva Jayate 2. Replace everybody with me.” Abraham, 48, further said the only similarity between the first and the second film is the theme of corruption. “This new film is a completely different story. The only thing common is that a vigilante is going to take on corruption,” he said. Everybody is a vigilante at the end like the superheroes in Hollywood, the actor said. “There is a lot of corruption that exists in the world and vigilantes will exist on the big screen and how they are portrayed is every director’s own language...”

# SOORYAVANSHI DIRECTOR ROHIT SHETTY OPENS UP ABOUT HIS DAYS OF STRUGGLE: I USED TO EARN RS 35

Filmmaker Rohit Shetty is the man of the moment with his latest directorial Sooryavanshi inching towards the Rs 200 crore club. In a recent interview, Rohit opened up about his days of struggle and shared that he used to earn Rs 35 at the start of his career. On the chat show Sunday Brunch, the filmmaker, who entered Bollywood as a Chief Assistant Director, candidly shared that in the 90s, at the start of his film journey, his salary was just Rs 35. The actor mentioned that his family’s financial condition was not good. Rohit Shetty’s father was also an action director, but he said that his journey was not an easy one. The director shared how he had to sometimes choose between travel and food at times. Rohit Shetty also revealed the street food that he relished during his days of struggle.



# RANVEER SINGH, SALMAN KHAN, KARAN JOHAR HUNG OUT IN A PRIVATE JET AT IFFI 2021



The 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is currently underway in Goa. The opening ceremony was held on Saturday, and saw Bollywood stars such as Salman Khan, Ranveer Singh and Shraddha Kapoor putting on a grand performance. Karan Johar and Hema Malini were also in attendance as I&B Minister Anurag Thakur felicitated 75 aspiring filmmakers. While photos and videos from the gala event have already created a buzz online, some new pictures of Salman, Ranveer and Karan are now doing rounds on social media. The photos have been shared by a crew member of their private jet. In the pictures, the three are smiling as they stand beside the fan, who called Salman Khan ‘superman’ in her caption. Sharing a photo with Ranveer Singh and Karan Johar, the woman wrote, “One more shots pls.” Earlier, Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant had also shared a photo with Salman Khan and Ranveer Singh on Instagram. Striking a pose with the stars, the politician wrote, “Met Superstars of Indian Cinema, @beingsalmankhan and @ranveersingh at the Inauguration ceremony of the 52nd India International Film Festival in Goa. #IFFI52 #IFFIGoa #IndianCinema #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav #GoaAt60.”

# RANI MUKERJI ON FINANCIAL INSTABILITY IN BOLLYWOOD: ‘BEING FROM A FILM FAMILY DOES NOT ALWAYS SPEAK OF ANY PRIVILEGE’



Rani Mukerji reprises the role of Vimmi “Babli” Saluja in Bunty Aur Babli 2, a sequel to 2005’s Bunty Aur Babli. In a recent interview, she detailed the trials and tribulations she experienced before making it big in the film industry. She said that despite belonging to a reputed family with strong connections to the world of cinema — her father Ram Mukherjee was a film director and her mother, Krishna Mukherjee, was a playback singer — she was not exactly privileged. While speaking to Bollywood Bubble, Rani explained that back in the day, belonging to a film family did not guarantee wealth. People would sell their homes just to release their films, and producers would be “left on the roads” because they didn’t have money. “Being from a film family does not always speak of any privilege,” she said. “People are poor also, they come from humble backgrounds,” she added. Rani debuted in the film industry in 1996 with her father’s Bengali film Biyer Phool. In the same year, she debuted in Hindi cinema with Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat, in which she was cast by noted producer Salim Akhtar. Rani claimed that “Salim uncle” did not cast her because she was “somebody’s daughter, somebody’s niece.” She was cast, she said, probably because he noticed a “spark” in her. “I was chosen because he thought I probably had the spark to be able to face the camera. And I did have to give an audition. The director and the DOP [director of photography] liked the way I looked, and Salim uncle was confident enough. All actors who make it big in the industry are newcomers when they start off, and they start somewhere. It was the same case with me. I started and I worked on myself and worked hard. I am happy that today I have fans who support me through thick and thin.”

# DHAMAKA: NETFLIX’S THRILLING KARTIK AARYAN-STARRER IS AN ATTACK ON ALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE



The ‘villain’ at the centre of Netflix’s Dhamaka, starring Kartik Aaryan, has a very clear objective. He doesn’t want to take over the world, nor is he after fame and riches—although, it can be argued, he isn’t completely averse to the idea of some extra cash and a moment in the sun. He is, instead, motivated by revenge, but the sort that you, as a member of the audience, can get behind. Raghubeer Mhata attacks all the right people—the greedy news media, the corrupt government, the apathetic public that have collectively wronged him—and he’s here for his pound of flesh. He is an angry man, and Dhamaka is an angry film. Too angry, some might say, considering how overzealous it is to point fingers at those it wants to hold accountable for their (in) action. Exploited and forgotten by the powerful elite, Raghubeer has come to claim what he is owed. He was a part of the construction crew that helped build the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, he says. It was during that time that three of his crew members died because of glaring safety lapses. But nobody cared. Three men died, and nobody cared. Not only were the deaths swept under the rug, the story didn’t even make the news. And for that, he blames the politicians who were instrumental in burying the incident at sea, and the TV channels that were complicit in ensuring that the bodies, so to speak, didn’t float to the surface. And so, on a sunny day, he calls up a local radio station and asks for Arjun Pathak, a disgraced former anchor who is carrying out a punishment posting for vaguely defined misdeeds. Raghubeer tells Arjun that he has planted bombs across the city, and to prove his claim, detonates one on the Sea Link. He might be a common man, but he is playing God—Raghubeer is both the creator and the destroyer. Dhamaka treats television news like the reality show that it is—both Raghubeer and Arjun know that they’re on TV, and both have crafted narratives for themselves in their minds. But neither realises that there is a Bigg Boss watching from above, using them as puppets for his own amusement and gain. They’re both being exploited, although very differently. It makes them two sides of the same coin, and perfect foes for a cat-and-mouse thriller. Raghubeer has a grudge, Arjun Pathak has a grudge, but perhaps most noticeably, Kartik Aaryan has a grudge. Forever typecast as a heartthrob, the actor (and the film) leans in on Arjun’s utter lack of redeeming qualities. It’s quite interesting to note that despite experiencing so much, virtually in real-time, Arjun barely evolves as a person, and remains, until the final frames, a reactionary character. More than this effort to live up to the requirements of several emotionally draining scenes, it is Aaryan’s willingness to be an absolute prick that is most admirable. Dhamaka, ultimately, is a movie about a rather despicable man coming to the gradual realisation that he isn’t the hero of his own story, but rather, the villain of a larger one. He thinks only about himself; even after the first bomb goes off, his mind remains focused on how he can use the situation to his advantage. He remembers only much later that his estranged wife is on the ground, putting her life on the line as she covers the story.



# SHAHID KAPOOR UNVEILS FIRST POSTER OF ‘JERSEY’, SAYS ‘THIS STORY IS SPECIAL’



Shahid Kapoor's huge return to the silver screen after a two-year hiatus is eagerly awaited by fans! Shahid Kapoor's tremendous success is known for shattering glass ceilings with his roles. Kabir Singh made a lot of noise the last time he was in town, and for all the right reasons. The makers of Jersey presented the official first look of the picture today, amid great jubilation over the superstar's return to theatres. The Jersey poster, which has sparked nationwide enthusiasm, features superstar Shahid Kapoor in a never-before-seen avatar. Jersey is a film set against the backdrop of cricket, India's favourite sport, that tells the narrative of an underdog and praises the human spirit. The unveiling of the poster has only added to the anticipation for the film. Plus, there's

more. The trailer for the film will be released tomorrow, November 23rd. Producer Aman Gill said, "We all are very excited to be sharing the first poster of Jersey today and trailer tomorrow with everyone. The last two years have been a long journey for all of us and the film, and we did not want to compromise anything for the audience along the way. We are eagerly looking forward to the audience responses on our posters and trailer in the coming days." Shahid, Mrunal Thakur, and Pankaj Kapur star in the film, which is directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Gowtam Tinnanuri, who also directed the original Telugu Jersey. Music directors of Kabir Singh, Sachet, and Parampara once again compose chartbusting tracks for Shahid.

# 'SALMAN KHAN NE MUJHE NAHI BANAYA HAI': WHEN MALAIKA ARORA REPLIED ANGRILY TO 'ITEM GIRL' REMARKS



Malaika Arora is one such Bollywood personality who always remains in the news. When Malaika announced her divorce with Arbaaz Khan then they were trolled a lot but Malaika faced more criticism when her name was linked with actor Arjun Kapoor. Malaika and Arjun are now going steady and they are often seen spending quality time with each other. It would not be wrong to say that Malaika Arora has made a name for herself in Bollywood with her films and her style. She earned huge popularity after doing the song 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' in Shah Rukh Khan's superhit

film 'Dil Se'. After this, Malaika Arora appeared in several special songs. She also won everyone's heart with the song 'Munni Badnaam' in Salman Khan's 'Dabangg'. However, after this Malaika Arora had to face a lot of criticism and she was given the tag of 'Item Girl'. Actress Rakhi Sawant had once said that Malaika Arora is not called an item girl because she is a relative of Salman Khan. Malaika reacted strongly to the remarks and said that Salman Khan has not made me and I am a self-made girl. It is to be noted that Malaika did a special song in 'Dabangg 2' also.

# JUG JUGG JEEYO RELEASE DATE OUT, KARAN JOHAR CALLS IT A ‘CELEBRATION OF FAMILY’ WITH FRESH STILLS

Karan Johar on Saturday revealed the release date of his upcoming production Jug Jugg Jeeyo. The film has been locked for June 24, 2022. Karan also shared the motion poster on Instagram. Jug Jugg Jeeyo stars Anil Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani, and marks the acting comeback of Neetu Kapoor. "There's nothing like family and I always believe – we must celebrate that. The feeling, the emotion...the togetherness! #JugJuggJeeyo is a celebration of FAMILY! Coming to cinemas near you on 24th June, 2022," Karan Johar wrote along with a clip that sets the mood of the film and suggests that Jug Jugg Jeeyo revolves around the institution of marriage. Karan Johar also shared the first set of stills from the movie that look like clicks from a wedding sequence of Varun Dhawan and Kiara Advani's characters. Film's lead actors also shared the photos and the motion poster.



# ARJUN KAPOOR NAMES ANUSHKA SHARMA ‘DESI DWAYNE’ AFTER VIRAT KOHLI CALLS HER ‘MY ROCK’



Following Virat Kohli's appreciative post for Anushka Sharma, Arjun Kapoor teased her. Virat headed to Instagram on Sunday to post a selfie with the Zero actor. The batsman referred to her as his 'rock' and the couple wore matching white T-shirts. Arjun Kapoor decided to give Anushka Sharma a new nickname in response to Virat Kohli's caption. The actor said, in reference to Dwayne Johnson's stage name The Rock, "I don't know if Dwayne Johnson and his biggest fan @varundvn approve this but... #desidwayne." In the comments section of Anushka's posts, Arjun frequently makes fun of her. Anushka recently posted a video in which she slowly peered out of a curtained area. With her eyes wide open and a broad smile, she turned to face the camera. To get a better look at her face, the camera zoomed in. "Did anyone say pack up?" she captioned the video on Social media. "Hope you don't smile like this with Vamika around," Arjun remarked, referring to Anushka's daughter Vamika.

# AMITABH BACHCHAN SENDS LEGAL NOTICE AS PAN MASALA ADS CONTINUE TO AIR DESPITE CONTRACT TERMINATION



Amitabh Bachchan has issued a legal warning to a pan masala firm that has continued to show television advertising featuring him despite a contract termination. In October, he announced his resignation from the Kamla Pasand campaign, citing a national anti-tobacco organization's request that he desist from sponsoring a pan masala brand in order to assist prevent young people from being addicted to tobacco. For the ad, Bachchan was also criticised on social media. A close source to a leading daily said, "Came to know from the office of Mr Bachchan, that Legal notice has been sent to Kamala Pasand, to stop Broadcasting the TV commercials with Mr Bachchan immediately. as it was noticed that despite termination of the Endorsement agreement ' Kamala Pasand ' has ignored the same and is seen to continue Airing the TV Commercials," On his 79th birthday, Big B announced his withdrawal from the ad campaign, claiming that he had no idea it was classified as surrogate advertising.

# AAMIR KHAN'S LAAL SINGH CHADDHA SECURES NEW RELEASE DATE, TO CLASH WITH YASH STARRER KGF 2



The much-anticipated Aamir Khan-led upcoming comedy-drama film Laal Singh Chaddha finally has a release date. The Advait Chandan directorial is targetting the spring harvest festival of Baisakhi next year — April 14, 2021. The makers also released a new poster while announcing the release date. This release date will make the film go head-to-head with K.G.F: Chapter 2, another much-awaited film starring Yash and Sanjay Dutt in lead roles. Clearly, the movie buffs in the country are going to be spoilt for choice on that weekend. This also sets up a titanic box office clash between two superstars and proven box office draws — Aamir and Yash. Laal Singh Chaddha, which also stars Kareena Kapoor, is a Hindi remake of Robert Zemeckis's Forrest Gump, the multiple Oscar-winning Tom Hanks-starrer that itself was an adaptation of the eponymous 1986 novel by Winston Groom.

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## Time right for Cummins to be made Test skipper: Clarke



**SYDNEY, (IANS)** Former Australian cricketer Michael Clarke feels the time is right for pacer Pat Cummins to be made the captain of the Test team despite his leadership inexperience. He added that the seniors in the team can help Cummins in adjusting to captaincy duties. Cummins is the front-runner to lead Australia in the Ashes after Tim Paine decided to step down from the post due to an off-field scandal. In the past few days, several former Australian players have said in unison about elevating Cummins from vice-captain to captain. Clarke is now the latest to join the list.

"If we were three or five years on it might be different. But with so much seniority in the team, I think it is the right time for him. Because they can help him. Steve Smith, David Warner, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood. These guys have played a truckload of Test cricket. They can be there to help him, with or without the C or VC next

to his name," Clarke said on the Big Sports Breakfast show on Sky Sports Radio.

After Paine's sudden resignation, Cricket Australia had announced that they have begun the accelerated process of selecting the next Test captain. But, as things stand, there has been no word on who will be the Test captain when the Ashes first Test begins on December 8 in Brisbane. Clarke, who has been a vocal supporter of Cummins being made skipper since 2018, thinks that one needs to see how the 28-year-old is involved with the on-field proceedings.

"You have to allow him time to get into this job. Because he hasn't had 10 years of captain first-grade or state cricket. But sometimes you can see certain things in people, and I think he's got it. He reads the game. He's a cricket captain. Looking at on the field tactics. The way he talks to his players. The way he sets the field when he bowls."

## 16 teams ready to battle it out for FIH Men's Junior World Cup



**BHUBANESWAR, (IANS)** Hockey fever is set to grip the nation as 16 participating teams prepare to battle it out for top honours at the FIH Odisha Hockey Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021, scheduled to begin on November 24.

All four teams in their respective pools will be aiming to finish in the top half of their pool, as the top two teams from each pool will qualify for the quarterfinal. In Pool A, European heavyweights Belgium will face off against Malaysia, Chile and South Africa.

Defending champions India are placed in Group B, along with Canada, France, and Poland, who all arrived here to battle it out for the title in the past week.

India, led by captain Vivek Sagar Prasad, will be looking to retain the prestigious trophy as they take centre stage on their home turf.

"Our team became champions in 2016 and now our team's aim is to

continue to perform in a similar manner," Vivek, who was part of India's historic bronze-medal winning performance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, said.

"While we did not have overseas competition, the team played some practice games against the senior side in Bhubaneswar, which were quite valuable. Since arriving in Bhubaneswar, we have been getting used to the stadium. The Kalinga Hockey Stadium is truly iconic. It's good that we are getting to train here before we start," India chief coach Graham Reid added on the team's preparations.

India will begin their campaign against France on November 24. Netherlands, Spain, Korea and USA will lock horns in Pool C. Pool D will see Germany, Pakistan, Egypt and Argentina face off against each other. Belgium will play against South Africa in the first game on November 24.

### THEY HAVE BEEN VERY PROFESSIONAL: BANGAR ON INDIA'S BOWLING

**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Former India cricketer Sanjay Bangar has showered praise on India's bowlers for putting up a professional performance against New Zealand in the three-match T20I series.

He listed out the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel along with pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel as key performers in India's bowling attack. India completed a 3-0 sweep over New Zealand in T20Is, marking a good start to their preparations for next year's T20 World Cup in Australia. "They have been very professional, they have been put under the pump a bit by the New Zealand openers but the way Indian spinners have responded in the middle overs has been fantastic. So, Ashwin and Axar Patel both bowling well in tandem has really worked well for the Indian team in the middle overs and when they were chasing," said Bangar on Follow The Bules show on Star Sports.

Bangar further spoke about Kumar gaining his form after being out of the playing eleven post the T20 World Cup opening match against Pakistan, emphasising on his dismissal of Daryl Mitchell in the first T20I at Jaipur.

"Can't take anything away from somebody like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who's got his swing back because whenever he's played and he's bowled with that new ball, he's got his swing back. The wicket that he took in the first match of Daryl Mitchell was a dream and it augers really well for the Indian team because he's somebody who can give you those initial breakthroughs in the first six overs inside the powerplay and that sets any opposition on the back foot." Bangar, who served as the batting coach of India from 2014 to 2019, applauded Patel's efforts in using the variations at the back-end of the innings.

### ALWAYS CHALLENGING COMING TO INDIA AND PLAYING A REALLY GOOD SIDE: SANTNER

**KOLKATA, (IANS)** New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner, who captained the team in the third T20I against India on Sunday, admitted that it is always a challenge to play against an Indian team in their home conditions. He added that New Zealand couldn't step up to the challenge of consistently picking wickets at the top.

With the 73-run loss in the third and final T20I on Sunday, New Zealand were consigned to a 3-0 loss in the series which came just three days after playing in the Men's T20 World Cup final against Australia in Dubai.

"It was a challenging series. It's always challenging coming to India and playing a really good side. We were good in patches in every game. I think we lost a couple of overs here and there and stuff like that. Rohit Sharma is a very good player and showed that again in the series. I guess the challenge for us was to get wickets at the top and we couldn't seem to do that throughout the series," said Santner in the post-match press conference.

"But credit to the way Rohit and KL (Rahul) batted at the top and backed up throughout the game. We had our chances. I think the conditions changed in every game. Obviously, the dew played a big factor. The pitch felt like it slowed down a little bit," added Santner, who had figures of 3/27 in Kolkata.

Asked if fatigue was a reason in New Zealand losing the series, Santner remarked, "It's been a challenge. It's been a quick turnaround after the World Cup. But we pride ourselves on turning up in all the three matches and playing some good cricket against a very good Indian side. We tried to win a series in India which is tough to do and they showed once again that it's a tough challenge."

Santner insisted that beating India will be tough in home conditions, especially with the Test series starting from November 25. New Zealand were beaten 3-0 by India in the Test series back in 2016. "It doesn't really matter what format you come up against India. They are going to be a challenge to beat. We saw that the last time we were here for Tests in 2016.

### HARMANPREET KAUR NAMED IN WBBL TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT



Indian T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been named in the Women's Big Bash League's official 'Team of the Tournament' after her stellar all-round performance for Melbourne Renegades this season. Kaur has shone bright with both bat and ball for the Renegades, scoring 399 runs with three half-centuries. Her strike rate has been an impressive 135.25 while her average is 66.5. Her highest score was an unbeaten 81-run knock against the Sydney Thunder last week. She has also hit a competition-best 18 sixes till now.

"Harmanpreet Kaur has been a dominant force with bat and ball for the Renegades, spearheading their rise back up the ladder after joining her new club," cricket.co.au said. Kaur has also proved her mettle with the ball following an injury to the team's star leg-spinner, Georgia Wareham. The 32-year-old has been brilliant in the power play and has snared 15 wickets. The Indian T20 skipper also boasts of the best figures of 3/22. Kaur is the only Indian to feature in the best XI of WBBL despite some quality performances by the likes of Smriti Mandhana, who became the first from the country to hit a century in the league with a record-equalling 114 not out.

### WRIST SPINNERS ARE MATCH-WINNERS IN T10 FORMAT: ADIL RASHID



**ABU DHABI, (IANS)** The importance of wrist spinners in the shortest format of cricket is paramount, feels England leg spinner Adil Rashid. He said that wrist spinners can shift the momentum of the game in T20 and T10 cricket and can be match-winners on any track.

Rashid who himself is a wrist spinner said that the most important thing for a leg spinner in T10 is to keep the confidence with which he is bowling despite going for runs.

"These days and age we have smaller grounds, flatter pitches, and bigger bats, people are hitting the ball further so they can be a bit difficult for spinners. It can play with your mind but the most important thing as a wrist spinner is to maintain that confidence knowing that you can change the game," Rashid said on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi T10 League where he is playing for Delhi Bulls.

"You can become a match-winner, you are a match-winner, you can change the game in what 3 or 4 or 5 balls by getting a key wicket then another wicket, that's the ability of a wrist spinner in general," he added.

Rashid admitted that bowling is a tough job in T10 format since the batter has the license to go after you right from the word go. "Well, the challenges are people are trying to hit every ball for sixes and four in T10 cricket, whereas in T20 batsmen take a couple of balls to see and know the game," he said.

### PAINE MAKES A HUGE STATEMENT BEHIND THE STUMPS; TAKES SIX CATCHES



**HOBART, (IANS)** Former Australian Test captain Tim Paine made a huge statement on Monday, as he returned to competitive cricket, taking six catches behind the stumps playing for Tasmania second XI at the Lindisfarne Oval here, indicating that he has recovered fully from the invasive neck surgery the wicketkeeper-batter underwent in September.

Paine, who stepped down as Australia's Test captain following a sexting scandal less than three weeks before the Ashes, had undergone a neck surgery in mid-September to set right a bulging disc that had been causing him discomfort in his left arm and neck. The bulging disc was pressing on the nerve canal, causing pain on the left side of the body.

While the 37-year-old Paine has stepped down as captain, he has made himself available for selection in the Ashes side. On Monday, he finally played his first full day of competitive cricket against South Australia second XI.

Paine looked at ease behind the stumps taking several low catches on both sides as South Australia were bowled out for 165, with Tasmania 58 for one at stumps. Paine will bat for Tasmania if required on Tuesday.





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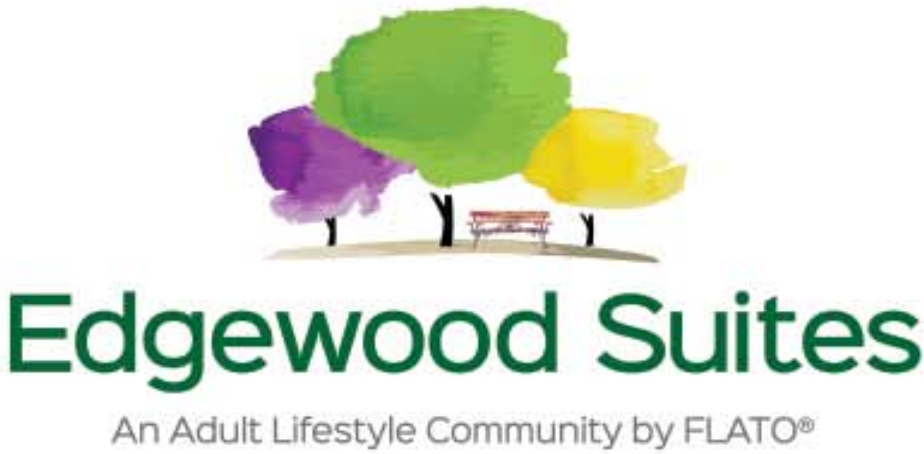
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