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# Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

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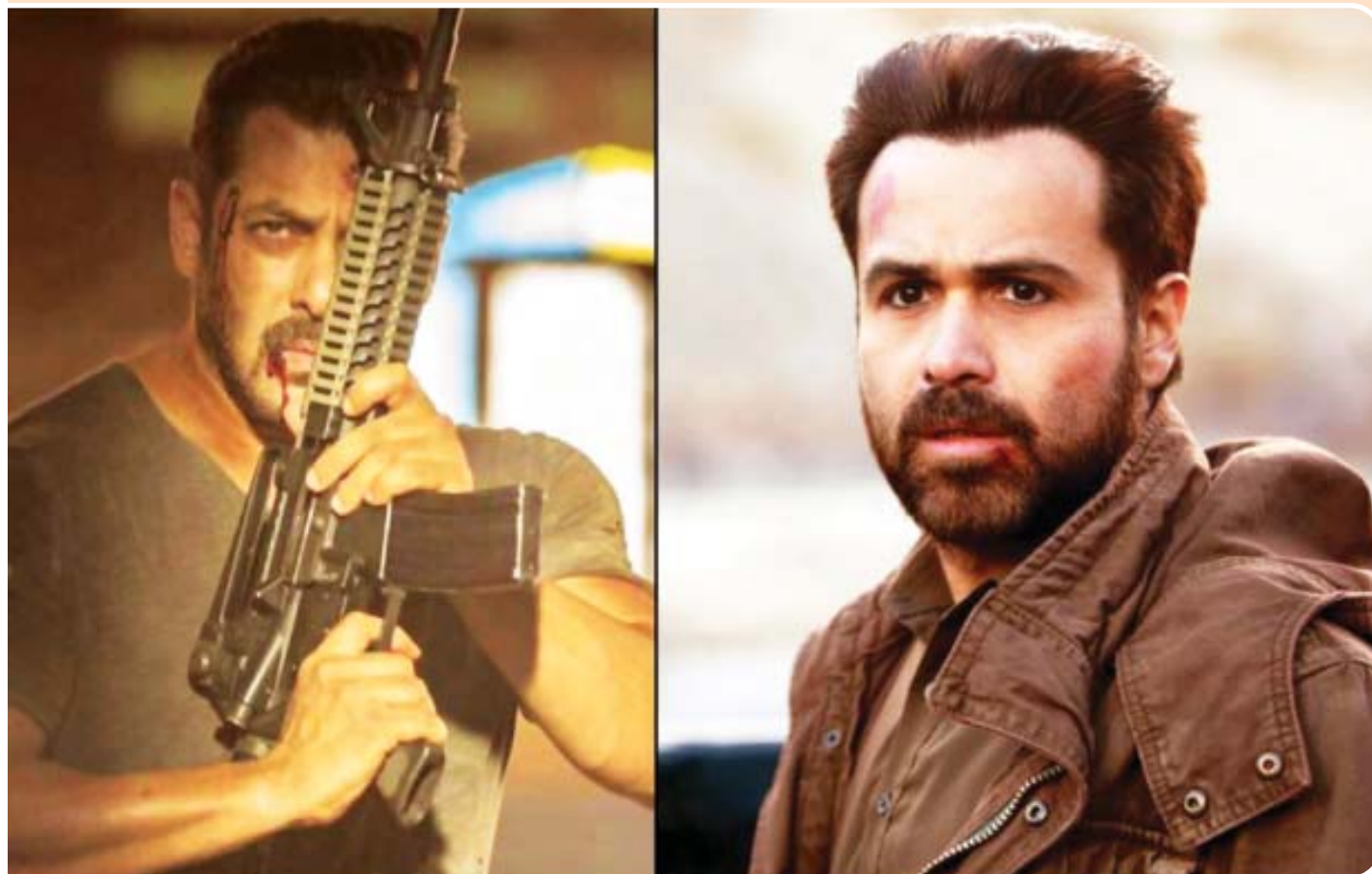


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## Emraan Hashmi playing ISI agent in Salman Khan-Katrina Kaif starrer 'Tiger 3'?



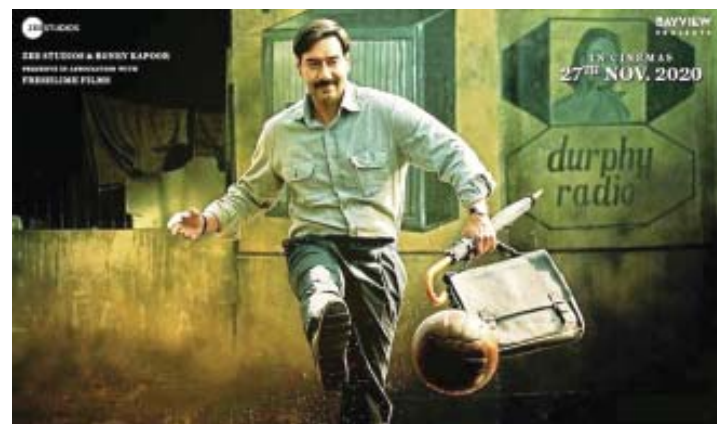
Salman Khan's forthcoming film 'Tiger 3' has made fans more excited due to the new addition to the cast. Yes, we are talking about Emraan Hashmi who plays the baddie in the film directed by Maneesh Sharma. Interesting, a few character details about the 'Murder' actor has been speculated and it's interesting as it could get. As per reports, Emraan will be playing Pakistan's ISI agent aka Tiger of Pakistan. Talking about the same, a source told Pinkvilla, "Emraan Hashmi plays the role of a Pakistani agent, who is pitted against the RAW official, Tiger, played by Salman Khan. It's essentially Tiger vs Tiger, as the ISI describes Emraan as Pakistan's answer to Tiger aka. Avinash Singh Rathod. If you heard the late actor Girish Karnad, say, 'yeh kaam sirf ek admi kar sakta hai, Tiger' it's time to be introduced to the toughest and the only person who can play a nemesis to Tiger – ISI agent, Emraan Hashmi." The source added, "His look is also far off from the negative leads we have seen. In fact, it's as stylish as it gets."

## 'THE FAMILY MAN' SEASON 2 TO PREMIERE ON JUNE 4; TRAILER LAUNCHED



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** The second season of the popular web series "The Family Man" will premiere on June 4. The trailer of the series released on social media on Wednesday. Manoj Bajpayee returns in the starring role in season two along with Priyamani Raj, Sharib Hashmi, Seema Biswas, Darshan Kumar, Sharad Kelkar, Sunny Hinduja and Shreya Dhanwanthary in pivotal roles. South actress Samantha Akkineni marks her digital debut as an antagonist of the show. The creators of the series Raj and DK said in a joint statement: "As creators, we have been waiting for a pretty long time to share the trailer of the much-awaited new season of The Family Man today. We promised the season will be out by end of this summer, and we are glad that we just about kept that promise. The wait will finally be over on 4 June as Srikant Tiwari will return with a thrilling storyline, and 'danger really has a new face' — Samantha Akkineni, who has done a tremendous job, along with the always-fantastic ensemble cast."

## AJAY DEVGN'S 'MAIDAN' NOT CURRENTLY IN TALKS FOR PAY-PER-VIEW RELEASE: MAKERS



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** The makers of the Ajay Devgn-starrer sports drama "Maidaan" on Thursday quashed rumours that they were considering putting the film up for pay-per-view digital release. A statement issued on behalf of the film's producers Boney Kapoor, Akash Chawla and Arunava Joy Sengupta denied any such possibility, at least for now. The statement reads: "We would like to share that there is currently no conversation with any streaming platform for pay-per-view release of the film 'Maidaan'. Our focus at present is to complete the film keeping everyone's safety in mind and in full compliance with protocols laid down by the government. We request you to please reach out to us regarding any news about Maidaan." The film is inspired by the true story of Indian football coach Syed Abdul Rahim, who coached and managed the national team from 1950 till his death in 1963, and is considered by many as the man who changed the face of modern Indian football.

## ANIL KAPOOR'S 'INSPIRATIONAL' LOCKDOWN PHOTO GIVES MAJOR FITNESS GOALS TO NETIZENS



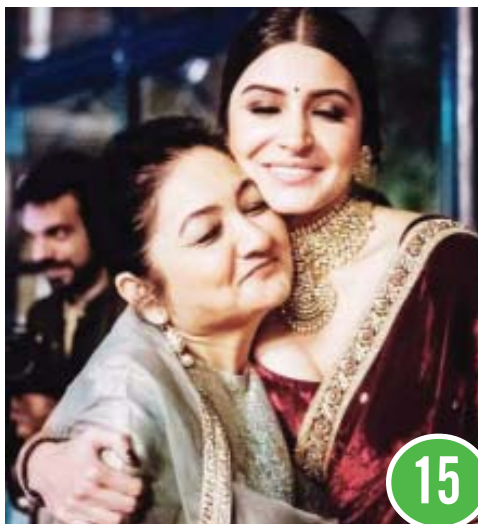
KAPOOR GOT THE SECOND JAB OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE IN APRIL. "DONE WITH THE SECOND DOSE," HE WROTE IN HIS POST WHILE URGING HIS FANS TO GET VACCINATED.

## 'NOT EVEN CRACKED RIB CAN STOP THIS FORCE OF NATURE': PRIYANKA CHOPRA PENS APPRECIATION POST FOR NICK



AMID HIS INJURY, NICK JONAS HOSTED THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS 2021.

## WHEN ANUSHKA SHARMA'S MOM WROTE 'HOPE MY DAUGHTER STARS IN YASH RAJ FILM' IN A TURTLE WAY BEFORE SHE BECAME ACTOR



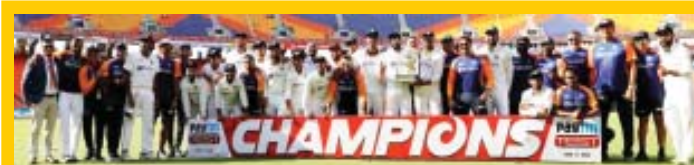
ANUSHKA SHARMA'S MOM BELIEVED IN SOME FENG SHUI THING AND A BIZARRE TURN OF EVENTS, THE WISH GOT FULFILLED.

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## IQBAL FOODS, ADF FOODS LTD AND ITN FOOD CORPORATION ORGANIZED RAFFLE DRAW EVENT FOR THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN



▶ DETAILS ON PAGE 17



## INDIA'S TOUR OF ENGLAND, 2021-22

MATCH	DATE	VENUE
1ST TEST	4TH - 8TH AUG	NOTTINGHAM
2ND TEST	12TH - 16TH AUG	LORD'S
3RD TEST	25TH - 29TH AUG	LEEDS
4TH TEST	2ND - 6TH SEP	OVAL
5TH TEST	10TH - 14TH SEP	MANCHESTER

**INDIA'S SQUAD:** Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (Captain), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohd. Shami, Md. Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul (subject to fitness clearance), Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper; subject to fitness clearance).

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A zombie tiger, with an eye gouged out. A zombie king, whose head-gear and cape will not look out of place at the Colosseum, leading his all-obeying zombie army. Then, there are the ever-greedy humans, who are only looking out for themselves. These are the two broadly defined opposing groups that we meet in the latest offering from director Zack Snyder, Army of the Dead, which streams on Netflix today. The zombie-heist film has been in the making for many years, and finally gets to see the light of the day under Snyder's expert direction. The film takes us into a world where the zombie apocalypse is already upon us, and the undead have been wreaking havoc in and around Las Vegas for a while. Now, in the present, they have been sequestered in Sin City and guarded-off with iron grills and shipping containers. There is a literal ticking time bomb, as Vegas will be flattened with a nuclear bomb to kill the remaining zombies and save humankind from the zombie apocalypse. This is where the ever-greedy humans enter, as there is a massive treasure to be salvaged from a locked safe in one of Sin City's numerous casinos. A hurriedly put-together mercenary group materialises out of the woodwork, led by a Scott Ward (Dave Bautista) — who saved the Secretary of Defence from a zombie attack — and they have to just cross the undead territory, access the billions of dollars from the safe, and make a headway from the rooftop in a helicopter, pronto. Simple, easy, no rocket science. Right. If only. We get an emotional curve ball in the form of Geeta (Huma Qureshi) and Ella Ward, Scott's daughter, and all plans go awry. There is a dominant feeling of dread and nervous anticipation which builds up right from the tenth second of the film, and it gets magnified with every passing minute. But what's a zombie feeling without the nervous, dreary clammy feeling? Added to that is the 'heist' filter which Snyder has tried to use for good effect.



The trick with using specific genres and tropes is, as there is enough material available, the audience will either immediately get your reference, or it will turn the joke on its head. Remember we have had The Walking Dead running for 10 seasons, making zombies a household phenomenon. Same goes for the heist formula. Ocean's 11, 12, 13 and now Ocean's 8, and Money Heist on Netflix, have all given an ample taste to the global audience of what a good heist looks like. Money Heist's popularity is unprecedented, we even have a 'Dhol Tasha' version of Bella Ciao! The most fun part of a heist film or show is the planning, and recruiting the 'motley crew' who will each have their very specific set of skills, each crucial for pulling off the heist smoothly. In Army of the Dead that very process is hurried, and the planning and anticipation of pulling off an eventual heist successfully, well we never really experience it. As for the undead bit, there is ample violence, blood, gore and brains to satisfy the zombie quotient. We see people bleeding, dying and the general sense of foreboding never leaves us. The grey, bleak vistas of Las Vegas that we see in the film is in a stark contrast with the usual glittery, bling, disco-light infested one we usually associate with Sin City. The film is small compared with the rest of Snyder's oeuvre, nothing on the scale of Justice League, and yet it feels big enough. The film is perfect 'dinner theatre', using Snyder's own words. The mindless violence, the endless gore, which we all anticipate the minute we say 'zombie film', it's all on point. Given the pandemic that is raging outside, and we are the 'zombies' that are sequestered, the film is imitating real on reel. The film with its mind-numbing approach and impact couldn't have come at a better time. Watch it for sheer entertainment, the VFX and the brilliant soundtrack that's been culled from Snyder's own master playlist.



'PURELY SPECULATIVE': AKSHAY KUMAR QUASHES RUMOURS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY RELEASE OF 'SOORYAVANSHI' AND 'BELL BOTTOM'

The film industry may have come to a standstill yet again to the COVID-19 lockdown, but fans of superstar Akshay Kumar are in for a treat once the restrictions are lifted. Two of the actor's films, 'Sooryavanshi' and 'Bell Bottom' are ready for a release. Directed by Rohit Shetty, 'Sooryavanshi' was scheduled to release on April 30, but owing to the rising cases of coronavirus, the makers had postponed the film's release. Akshay Kumar's another film, 'Bell Bottom', is slated to get a theatrical release on May 28, this year, but with the current state of lockdown in the country, that seems highly unlikely. Lately there has been a buzz that both the films are expected to have an Independence Day release and rights of 'Bell Bottom' have reportedly been sold to Amazon Prime Video. Akshay Kumar has now given a clarification on the rumours and has said details of the release are purely speculative right now. "I'm humbled at the excitement and eagerness of my fans regarding the release of Sooryavanshi and Bell Bottom, and want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for all their love. However, at this point, it is purely speculative to say that both films will release on Independence Day. The producers of both films are working out the release dates and will make announcements at the right time," Kumar said in a statement. 'Sooryavanshi' is directed by Rohit Shetty and is a part of his Cop Universe after Singham and Simmba. Akshay Kumar plays the titular role while Katrina Kaif as the female lead while in spy thriller 'Bell Bottom', Akshay will play the role of a RAW agent. It is based on the plane hijacks that took India by storm in the early 1980s. Lara will essay the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was in power at that time. Vaani will play Akshay's wife in the film.

hollywood

'RAPED ME, DROPPED ME OFF PREGNANT ON A CORNER': LADY GAGA RECALLS TRAUMA OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



Grammy and Oscar-winning singer Lady Gaga recently opened up about her trauma of being raped, while speaking on Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry's series "The Me You Can't See". Appearing in the first episode of the five-part series, Gaga remembered being 19 when a producer threatened to burn her music if she didn't take her clothes off. According to a report in usatodaycom, Gaga said, "They didn't stop asking me, and then I just froze, and I just -- I don't even remember." Gaga said she isn't comfortable naming her assailant, adding, "I do not ever want to face that person again." Gaga first spoke about her sexual assault in a 2014 radio interview with Howard Stern. She opened up about her PTSD diagnosis in 2016. In "The Me You Can't See", she said her pain manifested in a physical way.



It's another Bennifer 2.0 sighting! Earlier this month, actors Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck were captured in Miami, where she maintains a home. As per E! News, on Sunday (May 23), Lopez and Affleck were photographed at a private residence in the Florida city, where she owns a different home, weeks after they rekindled their romance. J'Lo was all smiles as she walked down a flight of stairs as Affleck tailed her. A source who witnessed their reunion told E! News, "Ben took a red eye to Miami and went straight to J'Lo's new house in the early morning hours. She looked very happy to see him and they walked around the property together so she could show him around." The insider added, "She had a big smile on her face and was twirling in a loose summer dress. They spent the day inside together but came out a few times for fresh air and to admire the water view."

'LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO FEEL SEEN': SALMA HAYEK TALKS ABOUT DIVERSITY IN 'ETERNALS' CAST



Hollywood's Latina beauty, Salma Hayek, who has been cast for the upcoming Marvel movie 'Eternals', recently talked about being a part of the film's diverse cast. According to Variety, director Chloe Zhao was very aware it's not every day that a Latina woman in her 50s is cast in a Marvel movie. Speaking about this, Zhao told Variety, "Ageism in Hollywood is a very concerning issue that we must stand against as artists. Ageing is a beautiful part of life that should be celebrated. It's really an honour for us to have Salma to lead the 'Eternals' family. I can't take all the credits." Talking about the diversity in the cast of 'Eternals', she added, "When executive producer Nate Moore first showed me the treatment, which he worked on with writers Kaz Firpo and Ryan Firpo, I was impressed with the age diversity of the characters they put together, and it was a big part of what got me really excited about 'Eternals'."

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# 'FRIENDS: THE REUNION' TO STREAM IN INDIA AS WELL



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** The much-awaited "Friends: The Reunion", which is set to drop on Thursday, May 27, in the US, has been confirmed for streaming in India, too. The one-hour special episode debuts on HBO Max in the US, marking the one-year anniversary of the platform. In India, the special will drop on Zee5. "Friends", starring Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry, and David Schwimmer, returns to the iconic comedy's original Stage 24 on the Warner Bros. Studio lot in Burbank for a real-life unscripted celebration of the show. "Friends: The Reunion" will feature special guest appearances including David Beckham, Justin Bieber, BTS, James Corden, Cindy

Crawford, Cara Delevingne, Lady Gaga, Elliott Gould, Kit Harington, Larry Hankin, Mindy Kaling, Thomas Lennon, Christina Pickles, Tom Selleck, James Michael Tyler, Maggie Wheeler, Reese Witherspoon and Malala Yousafzai. Ben Winston has directed the special and executive produced along with Kevin Bright, Marta Kauffman, and David Crane. "We are extremely excited to bring 'Friends: The Reunion' exclusively on Zee5 for the Indian market. 'Friends' is amongst the world's most-watched and loved sitcoms and it is a great opportunity for us to present their reunion, something that the world has been talking about, on Zee5 for 'Friends' fans in India," said Manish Kalra, Chief Business Officer, Zee5 India.

## Anil Kapoor's 'inspirational' lockdown photo gives major fitness goals to netizens

Anil Kapoor is known as Bollywood's evergreen actor for a reason. Even at the age of 64, Kapoor can give any young actor a run for his money. The 'Mr India' actor recently posted a photo on Instagram and netizens are impressed by his toned physique. In the photo, Anil Kapoor can be seen flexing his arm muscles with an intense expression on his face. With his right profile in the picture and just the right amount of light, Kapoor is giving major goals to everyone. "Lockdown is compulsory. What you do with it is optional #hardworkpaysoff #persist," Kapoor captioned the post and he certainly has achieved the best of his time at home during the lockdown. The comment section was full of praises for Kapoor with people calling him an 'inspiration' and forever young'. Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra wrote, "Wah @anilskapoor #inspiration while actress Neena Gupta wrote, "You r an inspiration." Anil Kapoor is indeed an inspiration for everyone out there. He is a fitness enthusiast and it is evident from his social media posts. The actor can be seen posting videos of him exercising at the beach or the park. The 'Welcome' actor got the second jab of the COVID-19 vaccine on April 20. "Done With The Second Dose," he wrote in an Instagram post while urging his fans to get vaccinated and stay home. Meanwhile, on the work front, Anil was last seen in Anurag Kashyap's 'AK Vs AK', which streamed on Netflix. The comedy-thriller also featured his daughter Sonam. The 'Ram Laxman' actor will be next seen in Raj Mehta's directorial 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' along with Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani, and Neetu Singh in lead roles.



## 'NOT EVEN CRACKED RIB CAN STOP THIS FORCE OF NATURE': PRIYANKA CHOPRA PENS APPRECIATION POST FOR NICK JONAS



Priyanka Chopra Jonas flew down to Los Angeles from London not only to present at Billboard Music Awards 2021 but also to support her husband and host of the event. For the uninitiated, Nick recently got hospitalized following a severe road accident in which he cracked his rib. Now, Priyanka took to her Instagram page and shared a sweet photo posing with Nick after BMAs. In the photo, Priyanka is seen sitting on a chair and hugging Nick while he gave her a peck on her forehead. She captioned the photo stating, "Husband appreciation post. Not even a cracked rib can stop this force of nature. So proud of you baby. With everything you do! Your work ethic, your pursuit of excellence! You inspire me every day! Crushed it today! I love you so much!" Earlier, a source close to the couple told Page Six, "Priyanka is coming to LA from working in London to help Nick with his injury and to give him support. They have limited time in LA together, so she wanted to be there to support him." Priyanka joined a list of presenters that include Cynthia Erivo, Chelsea Handler, Dixie D'Amelio, Gabrielle Union, Henry Golding, Kathryn Hahn, Kelsea Ballerini, Lena Waithe, Leslie Odom, Jr., Lil Rel Howery, Padma Lakshmi, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Swizz Beatz and Beyonce's mother Tina Knowles-Lawson at Billboard Music Awards 2021 held at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California.

## 'INDIAN IDOL 12' HOST ADITYA NARAYAN ISSUES APOLOGY FOR HIS 'ALIBAUG' COMMENT ON REALITY SHOW

In the recent episode of 'Indian Idol 12', host and singer Aditya Narayan asked one of the contestants 'Hum Kya Alibaug se aaye hai kya?', and this has stirred up a controversy. MNS Chitrapat Sena chief Ameya Khopkar called him out, the channel and the makers of the reality show by demanding an apology. Aditya took to his Facebook page and apologised with a note. In a Facebook live video, Khopkar was heard saying, "A Hindi channel has a singing reality show, I am not going to name it, but Aditya Narayan hosts the show, where he has made a derogatory comment about our Maharashtra's Alibaug. I have not seen the show, but I got complaints from many people from Maharashtra. People on these Hindi channels so easily say, 'Hum Kya Alibaug se aaye hai kya?', and I think they are not aware of the rich cultural heritage that comes from Alibaug. If we, people of Alibaug, get upset, they don't know what we can do, we won't let the show take place. With this comment, they have insulted us."

# IQBAL FOODS, ADF FOODS LTD AND ITN FOOD CORPORATION ORGANIZED RAFFLE DRAW EVENT FOR THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN



In collaboration with Iqbal Foods, ADF Foods Ltd and ITN Food Corporation arranged a consumer promotional event for the holy month of Ramadan. Customers were given a chance to win six exciting prizes by purchasing Ashoka food products for a minimum of \$10. The raffle draw event was well-organized and was held at Iqbal Foods at the Mississauga location on May 21, 2021. The winners were contacted by phone and were asked to come and pick up their prizes. In an exclusive interview with Y Media, Masud Sethi, Country head for ADF FOODS Canada, appreciated all the members involved in arranging this successful event. He extended his special gratitude to Brother Salam, Owner of Iqbal Foods, ITN Foods' Vice-President Tariq Ansari, Mohsin Ali, GM at ITN Foods and Brother Aziz Huq, ITN Foods' Sales Executive. Masud Sethi told Y Media, "he looks forward to organizing more events like this in the future and aims to give away bigger prizes to consumers."







**VIRAT SHOWS BIG HEART AGAIN, DONATES MONEY FOR TREATMENT OF FORMER PLAYER'S MOTHER | P18**



**CSK'S DWAYNE BRAVO EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RISING COVID-19 CASES IN TAMIL NADU | P18**

**KL RAHUL DOING FINE, EXPECTED TO FLY WITH TEAM INDIA SQUAD FOR ENGLAND TOUR | P18**



# MidWeek Sports



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## CRICKET'S INCLUSION IN 2028 OLYMPICS: ICC BETS ON INDIAN SUBCONTINENT FANS

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has cited the Indian subcontinent's enormous cricket reach, 92 per cent of the one billion global cricket audience, in its push for the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles (LA28).

The ICC has underlined that if LA28 embraced cricket it would "provide the Olympic movement unrivalled opportunity to drive fan engagement" in the Indian subcontinent, a region where cricket followers outnumber those of any other sport. To further stress cricket's wide reach, it pointed out that the 2019 World Cup, held in England, attracted 545 million fans.

An ICC document prepared on the proposal to inclusion in LA28, a copy of which is available with IANS, has thrown up some more remarkable viewership numbers about the 2019 World Cup: 4.6 billion video views; 3.5 billion minutes watched across Facebook and YouTube; 31 million #CWC10 tweets and; 14 million new followers of cricket.

The ICC has compared these figures with those of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. "Rio 2016 attracted 191 million viewers in India. ICC World Cup 2019 attracted 545 million," it has said.

The ICC's LA28 proposal received a big boost last month when the Indian cricket board agreed to send its men's and women's teams to the 2028 Olympics, if cricket is included. Greats like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and former Australia captain Ricky Ponting have backed the ICC proposal. By way of some more mind boggling facts, the ICC has cited its young cricket audience, compared to the older one that watched the 2016 Olympics.

"Average age of a viewer of Rio 2016 was 53; 32 per cent of viewers of the 2019 50-over World Cup in England were aged between 18-32 years; and, the average age of a cricket fan is 34 years," the ICC pointed out. It also emphasised that 39 per cent of cricket fans are females.

If included in LA28, cricket development in the US could be accelerated while a, American team could be included as a competing team, the ICC has said. It also pointed out 87 per cent of fans want to see T20 cricket in the Olympics. The ICC is confident that cricket's inclusion in the Olympics would attract partners from new markets and bring about financial sustainability to its member countries. The world governing body said that the win-win cricket-Olympics combination would diversify its member countries' income and reduce their reliance on the ICC for income. At present, the ICC funds its associate members to develop the sport in their countries.

The ICC conducted a survey amongst its 92 associate member countries, and a large majority of them said that they would receive annual financial support, probably from their governments, if cricket became a permanent Olympic sport. According to the ICC, the survey result showed that 74 per cent of its members said that they would receive annual financial support - probably from their governments, if cricket were included in LA28, and 89 per cent believed that they would receive annual financial support if cricket became a permanent Olympic sport.

The ICC estimated that \$13 million additional total funding could come to associate members if cricket was included in LA28, and that 84 per cent of its members (54 per cent currently) would benefit from non-financial support if cricket were an Olympic sport.

The ICC has 104 members, comprising 12 full and 92 associate members.

It has also said that if the men's and women's T20 competition was included as a medal sport in LA28, it would be hugely rewarding -- financially and in terms of viewership.

The world cricket body emphasised that cricket would offer the Olympics a vibrant platform for growth outside of the traditional Olympic strongholds.

"Cricket can provide the Olympic movement with an unrivalled opportunity to drive fan engagement across the Asian subcontinent (read, mainly India)," says the ICC.

"The Olympics can provide cricket with an unrivalled opportunity to super-charge global growth beyond its traditional heartlands, particularly in the US, Europe, and China."

According to the ICC proposal, the T20 tournament at LA28 would run from July 21-August 6, with the men's and women's competitions spanning nine days each. Eight teams and 16 matches in each event would be played on turf/hybrid pitches at two venues.

However, cricket faces a tough test to be included in LA28. Since cricket is presently not part of the Olympic programme, the Los Angeles Local Organising Committee (LOC) will have to propose it as an "additional sport". This is the only option available for cricket, as there is no vacancy for any sport to be included at the Tokyo 2020 and at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The process for inclusion of sports in LA28 begins in mid-2022. The International Olympic Committee will take a decision on the LOC's proposals for inclusion of sports in mid-2023.

## 2021 PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE (PSL) TO RESUME IN ABU DHABI

**LAHORE, (IANS)** The remainder of the 2021 Pakistan Super League (PSL) will be played in Abu Dhabi, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Thursday.

"Pakistan Cricket Board has confirmed it has received all outstanding approvals and exemptions from the United Arab Emirates government for the staging of the remaining 20 HBL Pakistan Super League matches in Abu Dhabi," said the PCB.

"The PCB will now hold an online meeting with the six franchise owners later in the day to update them about the progress made as well as to finalize all details, which will be shared in due course," it further said.

The PSL, which started on February 20, was suspended on March 4 after seven Covid-19 cases had come to light.

"We are grateful to the UAE government, National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority, Emirates Cricket Board and Abu Dhabi Sports Council for their support and patronage in



ensuring all final obstacles were removed, which has firmly put us in a position to complete our marquee event," said PCB CEO Wasim Khan. "The PCB, in consultation with the team owners, will now work at pace to finalize all event-related arrangements, details of which will be shared in due course," he further said.

## DESPITE COVID-19 FEAR, BANGLADESH'S ODI SERIES AGAINST SRI LANKA GETS UNDERWAY

Bangladesh's one-day series against Sri Lanka got underway on Sunday despite COVID-19 scares in the touring camp hours before the start of the match in Dhaka.

According to media reports, uncapped Shiran Fernando tested positive, along with fellow pace bowler Isuru Udana and bowling coach Chaminda Vaas.

Sri Lanka test captain Dimuth Karunaratne said Udana and Vaas subsequently tested negative.

"Isuru Udana & Chaminda Vaas tested negative (in) 2nd COVID 19 PRC test..." tweeted Karunaratne.

Udana went on to bowl the first ball of the match after Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal won the toss and elected to bat at the Shere Bangla National Stadium.

Sri Lanka Cricket did not reply to a Reuters email seeking details of the COVID-19 cases in their camp. The teams play the second match on Tuesday and the final game on Friday.

## SUSPENDED LEAGUE SET TO RESUME IN THIS MONTH AS BCCI REVEALS PLANS



The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 was seen getting suspended after the bio-bubble was breached and players and support staff from various franchises contracted the COVID-19 virus. However, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been trying to host the tournament in any available window. Now according to the latest plans of the BCCI, the remaining part of the 14th season of the IPL is most likely to be played in September-October before the ICC T20 World Cup 2021. As per a TOI report, the BCCI has chalked out a plan to conduct the remainder of the season in the UAE in a one-month window between September 15 and October 15.

## VIRAT SHOWS BIG HEART AGAIN, DONATES MONEY FOR TREATMENT OF FORMER PLAYER'S MOTHER

Team India skipper Virat Kohli has donated a sum of INR 6.77 lakh for the treatment of former women's cricketer K.S. Sravanthi Naidu's mother, S.K. Suman. Sravanthi's mother has been in hospital battling COVID-19 and had appealed to the BCCI and the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) for help. N. Vidya Yadav, former BCCI South Zone convenor for women's cricket and sister of former BCCI President, N. Shivlal Yadav, tagged Virat Kohli asking for help for Sravanthi. Sravanthi represented India in one Test match and four ODIs and six T20Is.

## CSK'S DWAYNE BRAVO EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RISING COVID-19 CASES IN TAMIL NADU

West Indies and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has expressed his concerns over the rising COVID-19 cases in the state of Tamil Nadu as he took to social media to ask people to adhere to the protocols put by state and central governments. In a video message, Bravo referring to Chennai as his second home said that he is aware of the terrible situation in the state due to rising COVID-19 cases. Sharing the video on his Instagram handle, Bravo said that people need to be extra cautious and keep themselves and their loved ones safe in these difficult times.

## KL RAHUL DOING FINE, EXPECTED TO FLY WITH TEAM INDIA SQUAD FOR ENGLAND TOUR

Batsman KL Rahul is on his way to recovery and will most likely travel to England with the Indian team on June 2 for the Test tour of England. Rahul, who was diagnosed with acute appendicitis and pulled out of the postponed Indian Premier League at the start of this month, had been named in tour party subject to fitness clearance. "He is doing fine and has recovered well as far as I know. He should be travelling to England with the team," a source close to the player told IANS. "There is still time, about a month before the start of the World Test Championship final against New Zealand and another one-and-a-half month before the start of the five-Test series against England. The Indian team has done this before too, taken injured Wriddhiman Saha to Australia last year and made him do rehab with the team," added the source.

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