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VIRAL! KATRINA KAIF SHOWS OFF HER MANGALSUTRA, POSES IN HOT PANTS AND ZIP-UP JUMPER IN NEW HOME



KATRINA KAIF'S DIAMOND-STUDDED MANGALSUTRA FROM SABYASACHI'S BENGAL TIGER COLLECTION FEATURES BLACK AND GOLD BEADS AND TWO SMALL DROP-DOWN DIAMONDS.

Bollywood diva Katrina Kaif, who recently tied the knot with actor Vicky Kaushal on December 9, 2021, on Tuesday took to her Instagram handle to drop a string of photos, posing casually in her new home.

In the photos, Katrina Kaif can be seen sporting denim hot pants and a beige zip-up jumper. Katrina is seen striking a pose in her new home in Juhu that Vicky and she recently moved into after their lavish yet intimate wedding. Looking fresh as a button in the photos, Katrina is seen giving fans a close glimpse of her much-talked mangalsutra. For the unversed, Katrina's diamond-studded mangalsutra is from Sabyasachi's Bengal Tiger Collection and it features black and gold beads and two small drop-down diamonds.

SHRADDHA KAPOOR SAYS WOMEN ARE THE MAIN REASON FOR HINDI CINEMA'S EVOLUTION



MUMBAI, (IANS) Actress Shraddha Kapoor feels proud that women have been an integral part of our new-age cinematic stories. According to her, women are a major reason behind the evolution of Hindi cinema. The actress says, "We have seen an absolute evolution in the way we tell stories on the screen, and it warms my heart that women have been a constant part of this process. I have grown up admiring our cinema but one thing that I have personally noticed is how women have shaped the growth trajectory. They have been an integral part of not just cinema but the overall growth of the nation." Shraddha will soon be seen performing in Zee Cinema and Zee TV's broadcast of the 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The actress adds, "With my performance 'Shakti: The Power of Indian Women', we are celebrating the strength and achievements of Indian women, their significance in the world of cinema, and overall evolution." The 52nd edition of IFFI is scheduled to be simulcast on Zee Cinema and Zee TV on January 2 at 8 p.m.

RANVEER ON COMPLETING 10 YEARS IN BOLLYWOOD: GRATEFUL I GOT A CHANCE TO BECOME AN ACTOR



MUMBAI, (IANS) It has been a decade-long-journey for Ranveer Singh in the world of Hindi cinema. The Bollywood's livewire star says it has been a fulfilling one for him and that he was a different person 10 years ago. Ranveer made his acting debut with 'Band BaajaBaraat' in 2010, after which he starred in a slew of blockbusters such as 'Bajirao Mastani', 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela', 'Padmaavat', 'DilDhadakne Do', 'Simmba', 'Gully Boy' and '83'. He says, "I have completed a decade and this journey has been beyond my wildest imagination. I am so grateful that I even got a chance to become an actor and filled with gratitude every day. It's surreal for me to think that I am living my dream, I am so grateful for the opportunities, I value them tremendously. "And what a journey it has been these 10 years - from 'Band BaajaBaraat' (BBB) to '83' and I am so happy that I got the opportunity to work with the best filmmakers, to show my repertoire as an actor, to explore my own craft in the diverse genres, to showcase my versatility." The actor calls his journey a fulfilling one.

KANGANA RANAUT VISITS TIRUPATI ON NEW YEAR; SAYS 'THIS YEAR I WANT LESS FIR'S & MORE LOVE LETTERS'



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ACTRESS A NEW YEAR POST ON HER SOCIAL MEDIA WHEREIN SHE EXPRESSED WHAT SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO IN THE NEW YEAR. THE ACTOR SAID THAT SHE WANTS "LESS OF POLICE COMPLAINTS AND FIRS AND MORE OF LOVE LETTERS."

INSIDE RANBIR KAPOOR-ALIA BHATT'S MASAI MARA VACATION



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RANBIR KAPOOR AND ALIA BHATT ARE BACK IN MUMBAI AFTER SPENDING SOME QUALITY TIME WITH EACH OTHER. EARLIER THIS WEEK, TIGER SHROFF-DISHA PATANI AND SIDDHARTH MALHOTRA-KIARA ADVANI CAME BACK FROM THEIR VACATIONS.

SUNNY LEONE RECALLS BEING 'BASHED' IN INFAMOUS TV INTERVIEW, SAYS NO ONE IN THE ROOM TRIED TO STOPPING IT: 'NO ONE HELPED'



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SUNNY LEONE OPENED UP ABOUT HER INFAMOUS TELEVIEWED INTERVIEW, DURING WHICH SHE FELT HURT BY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.

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IPL 2022 PROMISES TO BE BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE EXCITING THAN EVER BEFORE



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WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO NEW TEAMS -- LUCKNOW AND AHMEDABAD, THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE (IPL) WILL NOW BE A 10-TEAM AFFAIR.

INDIA DEFEATS SRI LANKA BY NINE WICKETS TO CLINCH HAT-TRICK TITLE



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AFTER RESTRICTING SRI LANKA TO 106 RUNS, RAIN CAUSED A BREAK AND INDIA WERE GIVEN THE TARGET OF 102 RUNS AS PER THE DLS METHOD.

BANGLADESH SECURE HISTORIC EIGHT-WICKET WIN OVER NEW ZEALAND IN 1ST TEST



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BANGLADESH HAVE ENDED NEW ZEALAND'S 17-MATCH UNBEATEN RUN ON HOME SOIL WITH A STUNNING EIGHT-WICKET VICTORY AT MOUNT MAUNGANUI.

NETIZENS REACT TO KOHLI'S ABSENCE IN SECOND TEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Test skipper Virat Kohli was ruled out of the second Test against South Africa due to an upper-back spasm with KL Rahul taking the charge. The decision to make Rahul captain attracted mixed reactions from cricketers and fans. While some rued the absence of Kohli in the crucial Test, others lauded the Indian management for their bold decision. Former India pacer Irfan Pathan wrote on Twitter, "Regardless of current form, Kohli not playing is a huge boost for South Africa not just as a player but the aggressive leader!" Kohli, who has been struggling a prolonged lean patch with the bat, will thus not be able to complete his landmark 100th Test in the series' third and final match at Cape Town. "Back spasm rules out Captain Kohli from the 2nd Test. Drop a (Heart Emoji) to wish King a speedy recovery! Hope to see you on the field for the 3rd Test Skip!," Indian Premier League franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore wrote on Twitter. "Virat Kohli has an upper back spasm. Legit injury considering all the backstabbing @BCCI's done to him. #SAVIND," tweeted a fan. Another fan compared Virat's incident with footballer Mesut Ozil when German was dropped from the Arsenal side. "Virat Kohli has back spasm, this reminds of Ozil being dropped from Arsenal due to the same reason..don't know what's the truth but Kohli should make utmost use of this break and focus more on his batting..we need Kohli the batter back ..#SAVIND."



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INSIDE RANBIR KAPOOR-ALIA BHATT’S MASAI MARA VACATION: WOMAN TALKS ABOUT MEETING ‘SUPER NICE BOLLYWOOD STARS’

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are back in town after they rang-in New Year together. The couple was spotted at Mumbai airport on Sunday evening. Alia wore a black spaghetti top with blue jeans, while Ranbir preferred a comfy outfit. Ranbir and Alia were seen enjoying their holiday in Kenya’s Masai Mara. Last year, the couple welcomed 2021 with Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone in Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan.

In a picture, which is going viral on the social media, Alia and Ranbir seemed happy to be spending their time in Kenya. The woman named Lisa Christoffersen, identifying herself as ‘luxury safari curator’, wrote, “A chance rendezvous while on safari- Had a wonderful time chatting with the super nice #Bollywood stars from India @aliaabhatt and #ranbirkapoor.” Earlier this week, Alia treated fans to a couple of photos from her trip. While one of the pictures featured Alia smiling to the camera, Ranbir is seen enjoying a drink. “giving 2022 some hakuna matata energy. stay safe... smile .. be simple and love more!!!! happy new year,” she captioned the photo. Alia and Ranbir have been dating each other for a few years now. The two were busy promoting

Brahmastra in December. While they marked their presence at Delhi’s poster launch event, the two made sure to grab attention of the Telugu audience by attending Bigg Boss Telugu finale. During their appearance, Alia revealed Ranbir’s ‘superpower.’

Alia said, “He is calm in the storm. That is his superpower.” Asked if Alia is the storm, she laughed and said, “Maybe!” Ranbir added, “I think Alia is more than the storm in my life She is a firecracker.” Alia interjected and said that she hoped it was an environmental-friendly firecracker, and Ranbir agreed. “You have to stay calm around her, she’s always blasting.” Meanwhile, some of the Bollywood couples chose Ranthambore National Park as their destination to welcome 2022. Ananya Panday and Ishaan Khatter spent their time together. Kiara Advani and Siddharth Malhotra also enjoyed being amidst the nature. Ananya shared a set of photos from her trip on her Instagram account. “Entering 2022 with a grateful, happy heart ?? stay safe, be kind & make every moment count ?? #YearOfTheTiger,” she wrote. In another post, Panday shared a video in which she is enjoying raw guava and the company of Ishaan.

SUSHMITA SEN DISPLAYS HER INNER STRENGTH IN NEW POST: ‘YOU DON’T ALWAYS HAVE TO BITE’

Sushmita Sen on Monday, got into the skin of her character Aarya in her latest Instagram post. Sushmita, who’s currently basking in the success of season two of the Disney+ Hotstar web series, shared a click from the crime-thriller that has her spearheading the main plot. “You don’t always have to bite... sometimes, all you gotta do is Hisssss #yourstruly #Aarya. I love you guys!!! #duggadugga,” Sushmita captioned the image. Aarya, which first premiered on the OTT in 2020, returned with its new season last month. The Ram Madhvani directorial had actors Ankur Bhatia, Sikandar Kher, Maya Satao, Sugandha Garg, Jayant Kripalani and others reprising their parts. Sushmita Sen’s latest post comes days after she announced of parting ways with her partner Rohman Shawl. On December 23, Sushmita posted a picture with Rohman. In her caption she wrote, “We began as friends, we remain friends!! The relationship was long over...the love remains!!” The two dated for nearly three years. Speaking on her break-up, Sushmita told HT, “I’m 100% person. When I’m in love, I’m 100%. So, when we leave gracefully, we must do that 100%. Closure is impor-



tant for both people so that they can move on in their lives. And yeah, the friendship always remains.” Sushmita added that she wanted to say goodbye amicably as every relationship she has been a part of, has helped her grow from strength to strength. With regard to her Instagram post about her breakup, the actor said, “The world needs that love. There’s enough problems in it already.”

ARJUN KAPOOR BREAKS SILENCE ON BEING TROLLED FOR AGE DIFFERENCE WITH GIRLFRIEND MALAIKA ARORA

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora are one of the hottest couples in B-town. The two have never been shy about their relationship and keep sharing their romantic pictures and videos on their social media profiles on Instagram. Recently, the couple had gone to Maldives in December 2021 and both Arjun and Malaika dropped beautiful and scintillating pictures from their vacay.

However, the couple is often trolled for the age difference between them as Malaika turned 48 last year and Arjun turned 36 in 2021. In a recent interview with an online web portal, the 'Gunday' actor said that he is not bothered about the age gap between the two and age should not be used to contextualize a relationship. He also added that trolling should not be given importance as it is 'just a lot of noise'.

While speaking to Masala.com, Arjun said, "I think that the media is the one who goes through the comments from people. We don't even look at 90% of it so the trolling cannot be given so much importance, because it's all fake. Those same people will be dying to take a selfie with me when they meet me, so you can not believe that narrative.



What I do in my personal life is my prerogative. As long as my work is being recognized, the rest is all just a lot of noise. Plus, you can't be so bothered about whose age is what so we should just live, let live and move on, I think is it's a silly thought process to look at age and contextualize a relationship."

JERSEY ACTRESS MRUNAL THAKUR TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, REVEALS SHE HAS MILD SYMPTOMS

Actress Mrunal Thakur who left no stone unturned to promote her upcoming film Jersey and was on a promotion spree had a little daunting start to her new year. She has been tested positive for coronavirus. The actress took to Instagram stories and informed her fans and followers. The actress wrote, "I have tested positive for Covid-19. As of today, I have mild symptoms but I'm feeling ok and have isolated myself. I am following the protocol given by my doctor and health professionals." She also urged everyone to stay safe and added, "If you have been in contact with me, request you to please get tested immediately. Stay safe everyone."

Mrunal Thakur along with her co-star Shahid Kapoor was busy promoting his film Jersey before the makers decided to postpone the theatrical release of the film after civil restrictions were reimposed due to fears over the Omicron variant. The makers issued a statement saying, "In view of the current circumstances and new Covid guidelines we have decided to postpone the theatrical release of our film 'Jersey'. We have received immense love from you all so far and want to thank you all for everything. Until then everyone please stay safe and healthy, and wishing you all the best for the new year ahead (sic)!!"

The film that was supposed to be released on December 31, tells the story of a middle-aged cricketer, who gets back into the game for the love of his son. Directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, Jersey is a remake of a 2019 Telugu film of the same name.



INSIDE PRIYANKA CHOPRA, NICK JONAS’ YACHT HOLIDAY AS THEY ‘CELEBRATE LIFE’ IN 2022: ‘HEAVEN’



Actor Priyanka Chopra shared several photos with her husband, actor-singer Nick Jonas as they celebrated the New Year together in the US. Priyanka took to Instagram and posted photos from their NYE celebrations. In the photos, the couple enjoys some romantic moments together from their time together on a yacht. Priyanka had even added the location as ‘Heaven’ with a smile emoticon. She captioned her post, “Photo dump. So grateful for friends family and friends. Here’s to celebrating life.” Another photo shows a close-up shot of Priyanka, enjoying in the sun. Owing to their professional commitments in different parts of the world, Nick and Priyanka have been managing a long-distance marriage. However, they make it a point to celebrate the special occasions together. Recently, PeeCee sent social media into a tizzy when she dropped the name ‘Jonas’ from her social media handles. Explaining her decision, she asked her fans to “just chill” as “it’s just social media”. In a recent interview with The Times of India, Priyanka explained that she made the change only because she wanted to keep the same username on both Twitter and Instagram. She was ‘amused’ at how ‘everything becomes such a huge deal to people’. Priyanka was recently seen in The Matrix Resurrections with Keanu Reeves. The actor remained busy with the promotions of the film throughout December. She will next be seen in the Russo brothers-produced Citadel, and then in Farhan Akhtar’s Jee Le Zaraa.

SPIDER-MAN NO WAY HOME BEATS BLACK PANTHER’S WORLDWIDE TOTAL, GROSSES \$1.37 BILLION



Hollywood closed out 2021 with more fireworks at the box office for Spider-Man: No Way Home, which topped all films for the third straight week and already charts among the highest grossing films ever. But even with all the champagne popping for No Way Home, the film industry heads into 2022 with plenty of reason for both optimism and concern after a year that saw overall ticket revenue double that of 2020, but still well off the pre-pandemic pace. Movie theaters began the year mostly shuttered but ended it with a monster smash. Sony Pictures’ Marvel sequel No Way Home grossed an estimated \$52.7 million over the weekend to bring its three-week total to \$609.9 million. That ranks 10th all-time in North America. Worldwide, it’s made \$1.37 billion, a total that puts it above Black Panther and makes it the 12th highest grossing film globally.

No Way Home, Tom Holland’s third standalone film as the webslinger, gave a huge lift to the box-office recovery that started in earnest last spring when U.S. cinemas opened after a year of COVID-19 closures. Marvel films dominated the turbulent year, accounting for the top four movies of 2021: No Way Home, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, Venom: Let There Be Carnage and Black Widow.

JOHN ABRAHAM, WIFE PRIYA RUNCHAL TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19: ‘EXPERIENCING MILD SYMPTOMS’



Actor John Abraham and his wife Priya have tested positive for Covid-19. He took to Instagram and shared a post that they are now quarantining at home and haven’t been in contact with anyone else. He also added that they have mild symptoms.

John wrote, “I came in contact 3 days ago with someone who I later learned had COVID. Priya and I have tested positive for COVID. We have been quarantined at home so haven’t been in contact with anyone else. We are both vaccinated and are experiencing mild symptoms. Please stay well and healthy. Masks up.”

Owing to the spike in Covid and omicron cases in Mumbai, the Maharashtra government had announced several restrictions and new containment zones in the city. The spread of infection is higher in areas such as Bandra, Colaba, Fort, Malabar Hill, Andheri and GG Worli as the average growth rate in the last seven days has gone up. Mumbai on Sunday recorded 8,063 new Covid-19 cases. Other Bollywood celebrities including Kareena Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor had tested positive recently, as well. Kareena has recovered and is out of quarantine, while Rhea is still in the process of recovery.

John Abraham was last seen in the film, Satyameva Jayate 2.



SUNNY LEONE RECALLS BEING ‘BASHED’ IN INFAMOUS TV INTERVIEW, SAYS NO ONE IN THE ROOM TRIED TO STOPPING IT: ‘NO ONE HELPED’

Actor Sunny Leone opened up about her infamous interview with a television anchor in 2016, expressing her disappointment at the people in the room with her at the time, who did not get up and try to stop it. The interviewer had tried probing into Sunny's past as an adult performer, making her visibly uncomfortable. Speaking to Bollywood Bubble, Sunny said that the incident affected her, and that she took a long time to 'snap out of it'. She felt that she had been 'bashed' on television, by someone who came into the interview (and left afterwards) with preconceived notions about her. "This was on multi-levels of feeling hurt. The biggest question afterwards—there were rows and rows of chairs and people sitting in that room." She added, "I turned and I asked, "Did I hurt you in any way?" 'Did you not think it was okay to come and stop this?" She said that

she wasn't going to get up and leave. "Imagine, you've worked with these people for several years and not one person thought it was not right to stop this. After this, I even said, 'Did I do something?' No one helped," Sunny continued. She added that she had been asked those questions before, but she was hurt more by the manner in which the questions were asked. Sunny had received much support from Bollywood celebrities and fans after the interview, and was praised for having maintained her composure through it. She did, however, admit that she came close to walking out at one point, but chose to stay after being asked to 'sit down'. Sunny Leone will soon start shooting for the upcoming season for MTV Splitsvilla. She will also be seen in Shero, which marks her Kollywood debut.

KANGANA RANAUT VISITS TIRUPATI ON NEW YEAR; SAYS 'THIS YEAR I WANT LESS FIR'S & MORE LOVE LETTERS'



Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut kickstarted her New Year 2022 by visiting the Balaji temple at Tirupati and Rahu Ketu temple. The actress took to Instagram and penned a long post sharing the pictures from her trip. She shared what she wished for 2022. She mentioned that this year she want less police complaints and FIRs and more love letters. The actress, who is known for speaking her mind, took to Instagram,

where she shared a motley of pictures praying at a temple, very close to Tirupati Balaji. She even performed some rituals. Kangana captioned the images, "There is only one Rahu Ketu temple in the world.... It's very close to Tirupati Balaji...performed some rituals there Out of five elemental Lingas, Vayo (air element) Linda is also situated here Quite a remarkable place." She added: "I went there to have the mercy of my beloved enemies, in this year I want less Police complaints / FIRs and more love letters.... Jai Rahu Ketu ji ki." Earlier the actress shared a selfie from her trip and wrote, "Happy New year to everyone...Starting this year with blessings from Tirupati Balaji...Hope this one is a memorable one." On the work front, Kangana is gearing up for her next 'Dhaakad', an action thriller, which was slated for an April 8, 2022 release. It has now been pushed to May 2022. She also has 'Tejas'. The movie revolves around a daring female pilot played by Kangana and is based on how women pilots can play a important role in keeping our nation safe from external forces. It is a tribute to the brave soldiers of the country.

EKTA KAPOOR TESTS COVID POSITIVE 'DESPITE TAKING ALL PRECAUTIONS'

Ekta Kapoor has tested COVID 19 positive despite taking all necessary precautions. The Indian television and film producer informed the same by sharing a post on Instagram. Ekta, who was honoured with Padma Shri last year shared that despite taking all necessary precautions she caught the virus and requested those who came in contact with her to get tested. "Despite taking all precautions I've tested positive for COVID 19," she wrote in a statement, adding, " I am fine and I request everyone who has come in contact with me to please test themselves."On the work front, Ekta Kapoor is all set to crank it up a notch in 2022 with more than 24 projects in the pipeline. Some of the projects have been shot and are ready to release while some are still at the development stage. Ekta is set to work with some of the biggest names in the industry like Amitabh Bachchan, John Abraham, Neena Gupta, Disha Patani, Kareena Kapoor, Hansal Mehta and many more in the coming year. Talking about the 2022 content calendar, Ekta says, "I am very excited to announce that my team and I are all set to release more than 24 projects in 2022. We have some amazing content ready to release across various platforms be it theatres, web shows or TV channels." ALTBalaji, which is the digital arm of Ekta's production house will dole out projects like '#hashtagwars', 'Verdict 2', 'Mentalhood S2', 'Apharan 2', 'Bois Locker Room', 'Class of 2021', 'Baarish 3', 'Band aid', 'Paurashpur Season 2', 'Bank Heist', 'A Cold Mess' and 'Farrey'. In the TV space, shows like 'Naagin 6', 'Kasam Tere Pyaar Ki 2', 'Kahan Hum Chale', 'Itna Karo na mujhe pyaar 2' will be broadcast soon. Coming to films, Balaji Motion Pictures's slate looks packed with interesting projects like 'Ek Villain Returns', 'Freddy', 'U turn', Hansal Mehta's untitled thriller, 'Jersey', 'Goodbye', 'KTina', 'Shehzada', 'Shootout at Byculla', 'Dobaara' and 'LSD 2'.



LARA DUTTA: I’LL BE LIMITING MYSELF GREATLY IF I JUST LOOK AT PLAYING LEAD CHARACTERS



Actor Lara Dutta says she is at a stage in her career where she is in search of characters that promise to leave a lasting impression rather than chase prime roles. Lara Dutta has been working in the industry since her big-screen debut in 2003 with Andaaz and has featured in several successful films in the last two decades. In an interview with PTI, the actor said what gets her to board a project today is the script, the people involved in mounting it and the scope it has for her to try something new. That is why, she said, even a film like BellBottom which was headlined by Akshay Kumar, got her excited as she got to play the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. "It is the content that is being made, what the character is doing is what excites me. I have gone long past the phase where I want to play the lead or the prime character, because at the end of the day, I genuinely feel you will be limiting yourself greatly if you are going to come with that mindset."

AR RAHMAN’S DAUGHTER KHATIJA GETS ENGAGED



AR Rahman's daughter Khatiya Rahman got engaged. The singer's daughter shared the news with her Instagram family on Sunday. "With the blessings of the Almighty I'm happy to announce to you all my engagement with Riyasdeen Shaik Mohamed @riyasdeenriyan, an aspiring entrepreneur and a wizkid audio engineer. The engagement happened on 29th December, my birthday in the presence of close family and loved ones," she wrote as the caption. As soon as she shared the news, Neeti Mohan, Nisa Shetty and others dropped congratulatory messages for the couple. "Many many congratulations. This is such a wonderful moment," Mohan wrote. Sreekanth Haariharan sent his "heartiest congratulations" to the couple. Shweta Pandit wrote, "Little baby girl is all set to walk the aisle. So happy for you." Harshdeep Kaur also sent her warm wishes for the couple as she congratulated the two. "Congratulations to the both of you ?? God Bless," the comment read. Singers such as Shashwat Singh, Sharanya Srinivas, Sid Sriram, Srinivas and others also sent warm wishes for Rahman's daughter.

ATRANGI RE STAMPS ON EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO HANDLE MENTAL ILLNESS IN A SENSITIVE MANNER



In 2005, Konkona Sen Sharma played the role of Meethi in Aparna Sen's 15 Park Avenue — a woman suffering from schizophrenia, who has created a parallel reality for herself after a traumatic incident. She's withdrawn into her imagination, where she is married to her ex-fiance Joydeep (Rahul Bose), a man who was unable to accept her emotional upheavals. When she meets him, she cannot recognise him as the man in her alternate reality. He promises to help her find the imaginary location of '15 Park Avenue', where she supposedly lives with her family and children. At the end of the film, she 'finds' them, disappears and is never to be seen again. Chilling, terrifying — the film encompasses the horrors of the crippling illness and the toll it takes on the patient as well as the ones around them. Owing to its grim realism, it's not something one can watch easily and yet remains hauntingly beautiful.

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VIRAT HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL IN THE WAY HE HAS LED THE TEAM: COACH DRAVID
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ELGAR WANTS PROTEAS TO HANDLE DE KOCK'S TEST RETIREMENT IN PROFESSIONAL MANNER
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IPL 2022 PROMISES TO BE BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE EXCITING THAN EVER BEFORE

NEW DELHI, (IANS) With the addition of two new teams -- Lucknow and Ahmedabad, the Indian Premier League (IPL) will now be a 10-team affair and the 2022 edition of the cash-rich league promises to be bigger, better and more exciting than ever before.

The word 'exciting' naturally comes to everybody's mind when someone talks about 'new' things in life or in general. Likewise, the two new franchises will completely change the dynamics of the IPL. The RPSG Group has picked Lucknow as their home base with a winning bid of whopping Rs 7,090 crore while Irelia Company Pte Ltd (CVC Capital Partners) opted for Ahmedabad with a bid of Rs 5,625 crore.

With the addition of two teams, the organisers decided to conduct a mega auction in order to give equal opportunity to every team to pick players of their choice and build a strong side. Before that, all the eight existing franchises were given the opportunity to retain players.

With a total salary cap of Rs 90 crore available at the mega auction for each team, the eight franchises were eligible to retain up to 4 players with a maximum of 3 Indians, 2 overseas players and 2 uncapped Indians and they already have exercised their rights. On the other hand, the new franchises have been asked to retain a maximum of three players and they are busy with back-channel negotiations with star players.

Meanwhile, Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG group, which bought the Lucknow team, was immediately given a Letter of Intent by the BCCI and they have already announced their star-studded support staff. However, the CVC issue lingered after questions were raised over its alleged investment in betting companies outside India.

The BCCI had consulted experts on the dispute surrounding CVC Capital's acquisition of the Ahmedabad franchise. The board has received and adopted a report on the issue from Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, who headed a three-member independent external panel. As per Cricbuzz report, the Radhakrishnan panel has cleared the American company's participation in the league and an announcement is expected soon in the matter.

Overall, things are looking sorted and an exciting season of T20 cricket awaits Indian cricket fans. A look into things which will make IPL 2022,

bigger and better than ever before.

Mega Auction:

The IPL mega-auction will be a two-day affair, on February 12 and 13, and will be held in Bengaluru ahead of the 2022 season. It will not only decide the fate of players but the auction will also dictate how teams shape up going forward. It is often said that half of the battle in IPL is generally won on the auction day itself. The players which one franchise decides to pick clearly plays a major role in building the strength of the side. Almost five teams are also searching for their potential captains, so IPL 2022 is likely to be a high-octane affair. Notably, it could well be the last mega auction that the BCCI might conduct as the majority of participants, including the franchises, agree that the idea of having a big auction after every three years is no longer a great deal. Franchises are of the belief that the trend has clearly gone past its sell-by date, and are not in favour of losing their players whom they have nurtured over the years, in bunch.

New format:

As against 60 games and eight teams hitherto, the league, in its 15th edition, will have 10 teams and 74 games in all. Though, it's not official yet but the BCCI has discussed internally the length of the season and it will be for over 60 days. Each team will have 14 league games with the current format of seven home and away games each retained, however, in all likelihood it will revert to the group system. IPL 2022 is likely to replicate the model used in the 2011 season, which also featured 10 teams, and had teams split into two groups. The new format will change things drastically for the franchises and it will present a new challenge, forcing them to adopt new game plans and ideas against their opponents.

IPL's return to India:

The full season of 2020 and a half season of 2021 IPL were staged in UAE due to the Covid-19 situation in India. But, during his speech in Chennai, where GSK celebrated their fourth IPL win a few months ago, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had announced that IPL will be returning to India.

However, the present Omicron threat has forced BCCI to think over their decision and the board is likely to hold a meeting with IPL team owners to discuss the alternate plans of conducting the 2022 season of the lucrative league.

U19 ASIA CUP 2021: INDIA DEFEATS SRI LANKA BY NINE WICKETS TO CLINCH HAT-TRICK TITLE



The U19 Asia Cup 2021 Final saw Team India winning their third consecutive title as they defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets at the Dubai International Stadium. After restricting the side to only 106 runs, rain caused a break and Yash Dhull and his boys were given the target of 102 runs as per the DLS method. The Men in Blue reached the target in 23.3 overs to clinch the title. In eight editions of the U19 Asia Cup, India had won eight times, which includes a shared trophy in 2012. The side also owns the record of never losing a final. After winning the toss, Sri Lanka opted to bat first, but a disciplined bowling effort from the Men in Blue helped India restrict their opponents to 106/9.

BANGLADESH SECURE HISTORIC EIGHT-WICKET WIN OVER NEW ZEALAND IN 1ST TEST



Bangladesh secured a historic victory over New Zealand, crushing the hosts by eight wickets with pace bowler Ebadot Hossain claiming six second-innings wickets on Day 5 of the opening Test at the Bay Oval here on Wednesday. Records tumbled in Tauranga as Bangladesh dominated the day, claiming 12 vital World Test Championship points as the tourists clinched their first win against New Zealand in New Zealand in any format of the game. This was arguably Bangladesh's finest Test win, with the tourists breaking the hosts' -- who are the reigning World Test champions -- 17-match unbeaten streak at home. This was also Bangladesh's maiden Test win over New Zealand in 16 attempts and also the first over a top-five ICC-ranked team away from home. For New Zealand, it was the end of their eight-series winning run on home soil since 2017 and also ended their 17-match unbeaten run in home Tests.

Brief scores: New Zealand 328 and 169 in 73.4 overs (Ross Taylor 40; Ebadot Hossain 6/46, Taskin Ahmed 3/36) lost to Bangladesh 458 and 42/2 in 16.5 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 17, Mominul Haque 13 not out) by eight wickets.

RIFT BETWEEN VIRAT KOHLI AND ROHIT SHARMA? CHIEF SELECTOR CHETAN SHARMA MAKES BIG CLAIM



Team India's chief selector Chetan Sharma finally broke silence over reports of a rift between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, asserting that there is no rift between Kohli and Rohit. It is to be noted that several reports had surfaced recently claiming that things are not well between Kohli and Rohit since the former was removed as ODI captain and replaced by Rohit. Addressing a virtual press conference to announce India's ODI squad for South Africa, Chetan Sharma said, "But about what? Things are absolutely fine. That's why I was saying don't go by speculations. We're all cricketers first and selectors later. There is nothing between them." "Sometimes I read reports about them and laugh. I'm telling you there is such good planning between them about the future. Things are fantastic. If you were in my place, you would have enjoyed watching how these guys are working together as a team and family and a unit. It's really saddening when people make up things like that. So please, leave controversies behind in 2021. Let's talk about how to make them the best team," he added.

INDIA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA



1ST TEST

Dec 26-30
Centurion

INDIA WON BY 113 RUNS

2ND TEST

Jan 03-07
Johannesburg

3RD TEST

Jan 11-15
Cape Town

1ST ODI

Jan 19
Paarl

2ND ODI

Jan 21
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3RD ODI

Jan 23
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INDIA EYE HISTORIC SERIES WIN IN SOUTH AFRICA

When a dogged batter of the calibre of Dean Elgar says play should have been called off because the pitch was dangerous, you know the danger was potentially life threatening. “Batters got hit a hell of a lot of times. We had an incident of being hit in the head, where we could have had an incident of what happened in Australia. People want to watch Test cricket but we are also human beings. We are not just going to take blows and accept putting our bodies on the line... If there was a period to call it off, it was sooner,” Elgar had said. For someone who puts his body on the line for a living, and revels in that job, for Elgar to have invoked the tragic demise of Phil Hughes shows just how much the Wanderers Test of January 2018 took out of the batters. This is not to make light of what the players were up against, but for once, it was the home team claiming,

and rightly so, that conditions had slipped into extreme territory. The visiting Indians could have been forgiven had they folded in these conditions against an attack comprising Morne Morkel, Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander and Lungi Ngidi. There was little obvious incentive to take the very physical risk of trying to counter the enormity of what they were up against. The series had already been lost. A typically busy schedule, with the IPL followed by major tours of England and Australia, was lined up. But India, after winning the toss, chose to take first hit — quite literally as it was to turn out. Virat Kohli, striding forward undaunted amid deliveries exploding even from good length, made 54 and 41, perhaps two of the weightiest two-figure scores made by the same batter in a Test match.

JANSEN GETS MAIDEN ODI CALL-UP FOR INDIA SERIES

Young fast bowler Marco Jansen on Sunday received his maiden ODI call-up as South Africa named a 17-member squad for the three-ODI series against India beginning January 19. The 21-year-old Jansen, who had snapped five wickets in his maiden Test last week, was picked in the squad led by Temba Bavuma with Keshav Maharaj as his deputy in the white-ball series. Experienced pacer Anrich Nortje will miss the ODIs as well after being left out of the Tests due to a hip injury. Wayne Parnell, Sisanda Magala and Zubayr Hamza also retained their spots in the squad which also includes former skipper Quinton de Kock, who retired from Test cricket following the loss in the first Test against India. “This is a very exciting group and the Selection Panel and I are eager to see what they will produce,” CSA Convenor of Selectors, Victor Mpitsang said.

ELGAR WANTS PROTEAS TO HANDLE DE KOCK’S TEST RETIREMENT IN PROFESSIONAL MANNER

South Africa skipper Dean Elgar says he was initially “shocked” at Quinton de Kock’s sudden retirement from Test cricket but insisted that the team will take the setback in its stride and strive to level the ongoing series against India. De Kock, only 29, announced his retirement from the traditional format at the end of the opening Test against India, which the hosts lost by 113 runs at SuperSport Park on Thursday. “I was pretty shocked. But sitting down with Quiney (Quinton de Kock), he explained his reasons and I respect and fully understand his decision,” Elgar said at a virtual press conference on the eve of the second Test. “The responsibility for us is to carry and conduct ourself as international players. We still have to be professional around this. We still have a Test series to level, so I don’t think there will be any hangover or shock over Quiney’s retirement.”

MS DHONI HAD BETTER BACKING THAN OTHER PLAYERS: HARBHAJAN SINGH

On Christmas eve, Harbhajan Singh announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket. Even though the Turbanator, as he is popularly called, donned the Indian jersey for the last time in 2016, he was active in the Indian Premier League and was a regular voice in the commentary panel. “All good things come to an end and today as I bid adieu to the game that has given me everything in life, I would like to thank everyone who made this 23-year-long journey beautiful and memorable. My heartfelt thank you,” he had written on Twitter, while announcing his retirement. He, however, said in a recent interview that he could have played for few more years had BCCI supported players the way they did former captain MS Dhoni. “Dhoni had better backing than other players and if the rest of the players would have got the same kind of backing, then they would have played as well. It wasn’t as if the rest of the players forgot to swing a bat or didn’t know how to bowl all of a sudden,” he told Zee News.

PAKISTAN ALL-ROUNDER MOHAMMAD HAFEEZ ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez, who captained his national team in every format of the game, has announced his retirement from international cricket. The 41-year-old top-order batter has signed up with Lahore Qalandars for the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League and will continue to be available for franchise cricket around the world. “Today I say good-bye to international cricket with pride and satisfaction. In fact, I have earned and accomplished more than I had initially envisaged and for that, I am thankful to all my fellow cricketers, captains, support staff and the Pakistan Cricket Board who helped me out during my career,” Hafeez said in a statement released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). “And, of course, my family who made big sacrifices to ensure I achieved my aspirations of representing Pakistan at a global stage.

VIRAT HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL IN THE WAY HE HAS LED THE TEAM: COACH DRAVID

The Indian team head coach Rahul Dravid spoke in glowing terms about Virat Kohli’s leadership, crediting him for shutting out the outside noise in the lead-up to the first Test and predicting a big score for the India captain pretty soon. Dravid spoke to reporters on the eve of the second Test at Johannesburg that starts on Monday. “There’s been a lot of noise on other issues outside the group, leading into the first Test match. But honestly, in terms of keeping the morale high, it’s not been very difficult. To be honest, it’s been led by the skipper himself. Virat has been absolutely phenomenal over the last sort of 20 days. The way he has trained, the way he has practised, the way he has connected with the group on and off the field,” Dravid said at the pre-match press conference. Turn of events related to the captaincy controversy before India’s African safari created scope for reading between the lines. Even on Sunday, Dravid was asked why Kohli wasn’t coming for pre-match pressers. The former India captain took the question sportingly, urging the press to celebrate Kohli’s 100th Test with “dhoom dham (gusto)” when he turns up before the final Test in Cape Town.



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