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# Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

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LEAN ON HIS SHOULDER | 16



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## KANGANA RANAUT REACTS AFTER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP DEMANDS JOE BIDEN'S DRUG TEST



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**SARA ALI KHAN HAS ADMITTED TO HAVING CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LATE ACTOR SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DURING THE FILMING OF 'KEDARNATH' IN FEBRUARY 2018**

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**DEEPIKA PADUKONE HAD ADMITTED TO BEING PART OF THE WHATSAPP GROUP, BUT NOT DRUGS CHAT**

## SHERLYN CHOPRA EXTENDS SUPPORT TO PAYAL GHOSH IN #METOO AGAINST ANURAG KASHYAP



Sherlyn Chopra has extended her support to actor Payal Ghosh, who has accused Anurag Kashyap of 'forcing himself' on her. Payal Ghosh's #MeToo received support from actor Kangana Ranaut previously. Sherlyn tweeted, "Dear @iampayalghosh, pls understand that u r not alone in this fight. All those who value truthfulness and integrity r with u. They say - why did Payal take 5 years to lodge a complaint. Well, it takes a lot of bravery, resilience n grit to disclose such experiences. It's not easy." She further shared, "It's ridiculous to argue that a woman must report an untoward incident as and when it happens. Does reporting the matter years later make the truth untrue?? I thank @KanganaTeam for encouraging us to speak the truth and not feel intimidated by the high and mighty.. #TruthMatters" Payal Ghosh also tweeted to Sherlyn Chopra thanking her for her support. The tweet was also liked by Kangana Ranaut. Payal had lodged a complaint against Anurag Kashyap at Versova police station. She accused film maker Anurag Kashyap of sexual exploitation. Kashyap and his lawyer responded to the allegations, but there has been no further update in the case yet.

## BHUMI PEDNEKAR: REALLY WANT THEATRES TO REOPEN BUT NOT AT THE COST OF THE SAFETY OF OUR AUDIENCES



In love with the big screen experience, Bhumi Pednekar is all for the theatres to reopen soon. With discussion around the future of cinema gathering storm, countries all over the world have been working towards finding a solution. Closer home, the announcement by West Bengal government to open cinemas in limited form October onwards, has raised hope. Though in support, Pednekar feels that the steps taken in opening big screens should be "thoughtful" given the virus scare still looming large. "I completely miss the big screen experience. It has been a regular exercise and I have many memories of watching films in theatres with family. Being one in the audience, I've always enjoyed the universal emotion towards something that's happening on screen. Nothing can really match that experience. So, I really hope for theatres to open soon but not at the cost of the safety of our audiences," she says.

## LOOKED LIKE WE COULD BE CHASING 250 AT ONE POINT - STEVE SMITH AFTER RR'S RECORD-BREAKING WIN

Captain of Rajasthan Royals, Steve Smith was all smiles after his team downed Kings XI Punjab by four wickets and in the process, pulled off the highest successful chase in the history of the IPL. KXIP posted a strong 223/2 with Mayank Agarwal leading the way with a maiden IPL century. The Royals responded in style with Sanju Samson, Rahul Tewatia and Smith peeling off fifties, which in the end, paved the way for RR's win with three balls to spare in Match 9 of IPL 2020. Smith lauded the efforts of Tewatia (who hit 30 in one over from Sheldon Cottrell) and Samson (top-scoring with 85 including seven sixes) and said the way KXIP batsmen were going, he harboured the thoughts of the Royals chasing down a target of 250 at one stage. "That was some chase! Tewatia, that was some sort of display against Cottrell. We got an idea about the conditions here in the last game. It's a small ground, we always thought if we have wickets in the shed, we always have a chance," Smith said. "Samson is hitting sixes at will at the moment. We saw in the nets that he was hitting the ball like he did in that over to Cottrell. Credit to him. Three sixes off Cottrell would have got us back in that game, that's great self-belief. Looked like we could be chasing over 250 at one point, credit to the bowlers for pulling things back." This is the first time in his IPL career that Samson has scored back-to-back fifties in the IPL. In the Royals' first game, Samson hit an astonishing nine sixes and only one four en route to playing a knock of 74 off 32 balls. As far as Tewatia is concerned, he emerged as the hero of one of the great comeback stories as he went from 17 off 23 to eventually finish on 53 off 31.

## FORMER AUSTRALIA CRICKETER DEAN JONES PASSES AWAY IN MUMBAI AGED 59



**FORMER AUSTRALIA CRICKETER DEAN JONES PASSED AWAY IN MUMBAI AT THE AGE OF 59 DUE TO A HEART ATTACK. JONES WAS IN INDIA AS PART OF THE STAR SPORTS COMMENTARY PANEL FOR THE ONGOING INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE.**

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Monday: Health Show  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,  
Sat and Sunday: Current affairs  
Wed: Economic updates  
3pm, 6pm, 9:30 pm





# NCB official reveals Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor said they don't even smoke



An official of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) recently revealed that all four actresses Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Rakul Preet Singh, and Shraddha Kapoor who were recently questioned about the alleged drug nexus in Bollywood have denied substance abuse. As reported earlier, all four actresses said that when they spoke about "doob" in their WhatsApp messages, they were referring to hand-rolled cigarettes. "They said they don't even smoke cigarettes," the official said, Times of India reported. The actresses reportedly have also denied having any knowledge regarding late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's drug habit. The NCB officer said that technical analysis of their mobile phones which were voluntarily surrendered will clear all doubts. Apart from these actresses, Kshitij Prasad, who is a former executive producer of Dharmatic Entertainment, owned by Karan Johar has been remanded in NCB custody till Oct 3. Prasad told a magistrate's

court that he was 'harassed' to make a statement that would implicate Johar. Prasad is among the 20 people, including Rhea Chakraborty, who is in custody. An NCB official seeking Prasad's remand said he was a key accused linked to the "drug syndicate" and was being uncooperative. The remand application states that Prasad had taken delivery of ganja from Karamjeet alias Anand Singh and his associates Ankush Arneja and Kaizan Ibrahim, who is connected with Sushant's manager Samuel Miranda and hence NCB needed his custodial interrogation to probe deeper into his role. Meanwhile, his lawyer Satish Maneshinde has alleged that the NCB was using intimidatory tactics to draw out a confession from Prasad. He said they found nothing during a search of his house "apart from the end bit of a stale and dry cigarette butt in the balcony but they suggested it was ganja and even drew up a 'panchnama' to that effect despite his protests."

## EX-BIGG BOSS CONTESTANT HIMANSHI KHURANA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AFTER PARTICIPATING IN FARMERS' PROTEST

Himanshi Khurana informed her fans on Sunday afternoon that she has tested positive for coronavirus. She informed that it happened days after she participated in the farmers' protest in Punjab, despite taking proper precautions. The 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant requested people who came in touch with her, to get themselves checked. She asked people protesting to not forget that we all are going through a pandemic and thus proper care is essential. Himanshi shared the news on Instagram through an image which read, "I want 2 inform u all dat i hv been tested positive 4 covid-19 even after taking proper precautions. As you all know that i was the part of the protest day before yesterday & d area was crowded so i thought to get d test done before i go for my shoot today evening. . I jst wanted to inform people who came in my contact to get ur test done & please take proper precautions in d protest. Its my request to all the people protesting to not forget that we are going through pandemic so please take proper care."

## RAKUL PREET SINGH REVEALS KSHITIJ PRASAD PROCURED DRUGS REGULARLY: REPORT



Kshitij Prasad has been arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau after having strong hints that he was in possession of drugs. The agency is currently seeking four-day custody of former Dharmatic (sister concern of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions) executive producer, confirmed Times Now. The news agency also said that Rakul Preet Singh, during her probe with the NCB, revealed that Kshitij procured drugs for Bollywood celebrities regularly. They also reported that the actress took four names of high-profile celebrities and said that he provided drugs to them on regular basis, along with other celebs.

According to reports, NCB also raided his home and found small quantity of weed there. Kshitij had told reporters "I am being framed" while being taken for interrogation on Saturday. Prasad was arrested hours after Karan Johar disassociated himself from Kshitij. "Mr Prasad joined Dharmatic Entertainment, a company linked to Dharma Productions, in November 2019 as one of the executive producers on contract basis for a project which eventually did not materialise. Neither I, nor Dharma Productions can be made responsible for what people do in their personal lives. These allegations do not pertain to Dharma Productions," read a part of the statement which Karan Johar released.

ANI confirmed the news of the arrest, sharing images of Kshitij and stating that he is being taken for COVID-19 test, which is a formality before arresting someone.

The agency had previously shared, "Dharma Productions executive producer Kshitij Ravi Prasad to be arrested by Narcotics Control Bureau soon, in connection with a drug probe. Formalities are being completed."

It has now confirmed the arrest, writing, "Narcotics Control Bureau officials take Kshitij Ravi Prasad for medical examination as a part of formalities before his arrest."

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MOVIE REVIEW



# Millie Bobby Brown takes on patriarchy as detective, decipherer, finder of lost souls

When we have a director Harry Bradbeer, who has his names credited to helm episodes of Fleabag and Killing Eve, you cannot expect anything less from Enola Holmes. Arthur Conan Doyle, the legendary British writer gave the world its famous detective Sherlock Holmes and on the other hand, an American author Nancy Springer created Enola Holmes, younger sister to Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Although she is set in Victorian England, bibliophiles got a hand on her in the early 2000s. Based on The Case of the Missing Marquess, Enola Holmes has Millie Bobby Brown playing the titular role as well as the narrator. Her piece to camera is appealing and also sweet as she explains her thoughts to the viewers before she gets to it. Enola explains the real meaning of her name and that's the purpose of the film too. Teaching a young girl to be independent and that too by a revolutionary single mother is something we hear today in 'Humans of Bombay/New York' stories. But Eudoria Holmes showed her unconventional way which she foresighted will be in use for her daughter. After talking about her 16-year-long history, Enola reveals that on her birthday, her mother left without leaving any hints (or did she?) to investigate the case. Enter Sherlock (Henry Cavill) and Mycroft (Sam Claflin), who look pretty disappointed in seeing their sister not being poised or lady-like. Sherlock discovers a soft corner for his long lost sister but Mycroft on the other hand becomes a 'legal' guardian as Eudoria is missing. Mycroft wishes for his sister to finish her schooling. Being rebellious, Enola elopes and bumps into a runaway landlord Viscount Lord Tewksbury (Louis Partridge). Now that's where the adventure starts! Enola is in search of her mother and is constantly attacked by the assassin who has been assigned to kill Tewksbury. The film unfolds several political agendas that were prevalent during the Victorian Era. One of the most important movements which took place in the mid-19th century was Women's suffrage in the United Kingdom which was not named but is

highlighted extensively. Enola Holmes' premise is pretty simple, an amateur detective who has the quality of being a decipherer in her blood solves multiple cases from the skills she learned from her mother during homeschooling. Millie Bobby Brown has grown as one beautiful woman and doesn't carry the baggage of her iconic character Eleven from Stranger Things. Her character is seen learning history, science, cryptography, tennis, archery, jiu-jitsu, everything that makes her not depend on her genius brothers. Millie has made sure that she aced those nuances which her character has, making it a delightful sight throughout. Henry Cavill may not list down as the best Sherlock but he will not become the least favourite too. The smirk and slight emotions which are a rare quality in the deduction champion are witnessed here. Sam Claflin as Mycroft has aced the part as a no-nonsense government official who makes it obvious why Sherlock is loved more. He was last seen as Oswald Mosley in Peaky Blinders and this was something on a similar line which made him truly impressive. Enola Holmes was a Harry Potter reunion too with Fiona Shaw, Frances de la Tour, and Helena Bonham Carter coming together after a long time. Helena is indeed one of the greatest actors we have who goes neck-deep into every character she played. As the film is set in the 19th century, we cannot overlook the amazing costumes the character donned in Enola Holmes. Academy Award nominee Consolata Boyle has once again done a commendable job. Daniel Pemberton's music makes the film more thrilling to watch and Giles Nuttgens's cinematography is kickass, indeed! Enola Holmes defines feminism. How 16-year-old Enola Holmes breaks down patriarchy without being overshadowed by her world-famous brothers but being raised by a revolutionary single mother is the essence of this film. It's Millie Bobby Brown all the way with a dash of Helena Bonham Carter and Henry Cavill making one give it a "chef's kiss".

## Sara Ali Khan admits close relations with Sushant Singh Rajput; Shraddha Kapoor confesses partying at actor's farmhouse



Amid the ongoing probe being conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in a drugs related case which is a part of investigations going on in late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, actresses Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor on Saturday appeared before the investigating agency. According to sources, actress Sara Ali Khan has denied taking drugs in any form. She has also refused to identify any of the drug peddlers previously arrested by the NCB. However, the 'Simmba' star has admitted to having close relationships with late actor Sushant Singh Rajput during the filming of 'Kedarnath' in February 2018. Sara Ali Khan also revealed to the NCB officials during the interrogation that she would often visit the 'Dil Bechara' actor at his residence in 'Capri House'. Sara also spoke about her trip to Thailand with Sushant and disclosed that she had been to Sushant's Lonavala farmhouse with the actor several times. Sara admitted to smoking cigarette however, denied taking drugs. She added that late actor Sushant, on some occasions did smoke weed. During the interrogation, while Sara dismissed allegations of receiving drugs via Karmajit Singh Ananad in a parcel, she did not

give any clear answers to taking drugs along with actor Rhea Chakraborty. Meanwhile, according to sources, actress Shraddha Kapoor too has denied taking drugs before the NCB. She has also dismissed all allegations against her in the case. During her interrogation, Shraddha revealed to the NCB officials that after the release of the film 'Chhichhore', a party was held at Pawna farmhouse. Divulging details, she said that they arrived at the farmhouse around 3 pm in the afternoon. Soon after lunch, Shaddha said, that they took a boat to an island where the party was held till late in the night. However, Shraddha added that she did not consume drugs at the party. In a shocking revelation, Shraddha revealed to the officials that she had seen Sushant Singh Rajput take drugs in his vanity van and sometimes on the sets during the shooting of the film. However, when the NCB showed Shraddha a drug chat of her's with Jaya Saha, the actress did not give any clear answer. Meanwhile, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday questioned Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone and her former manager Karishma Prakash too, for over five hours in the alleged drugs case in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

## 50 years of YRF: Aditya Chopra remembers late father, legend Yash Chopra; wants to be part of Bollywood every lifetime



YRF head honcho Aditya Chopra has shared a letter he wrote as the production house completed 50 years of existence. Co-incidentally, it also marks late Yash Chopra's birth anniversary. In his letter, Chopra remembered how his father was a salaried employee of BR Films and started the company with nothing, but created a legacy. He also recalled making 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' when Yash Rash Films completed 25 years of being. The CEO of YRF, married to Rani Mukerji, who also has a daughter Adira with her, announced what are his special plans as the production company completes 50 years. He thanked every person ever associated with YRF, and said that he would love to be part of Bollywood in every lifetime. In 1970, my father Yash Chopra, left the security and comfort of his brother Mr. BR Chopra and formed his own company. Till then, he was a salaried employee of BR Films and didn't own anything of his own. He did not know how to run a business and did not even have the basic knowledge of what goes into making a company. All he had was a strong belief in his talent and hardwork and a dream to be self-reliant. That conviction of a creative man backing nothing but himself and his art, gave birth to Yash Raj Films. Mr. V Shantaram, who owned Rajkamal Studios, graciously gave him a small room in his studio for his office. My father didn't know then, that the small company that he started in a tiny room, would one day become the biggest film company of the Indian Film Industry. In 1995, as Yash Raj Films (YRF) entered its 25th year, my directorial debut film Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge released. The historic success of that film gave me confidence to give wings to some crazy risky ideas that I had for the future of YRF. Besides the immense love that my father had for me, he now also had a lot of faith in my ideas because of the miraculous success of my film. I had foreseen the advent of international corporate studios coming to India and taking over our business. I wanted us to achieve a certain scale, so that we could retain our independence before they came in. My father contradicted his own conservative mindset and bravely indulged all my bold initiatives. And in a span of 10 quick years, we went from a film production house to India's first fully integrated independent film studio. Across 5 decades YRF, at its core, has been a traditional company with deep-rooted old world values and a conservative approach to business. But at the same time it's also been a bold forward looking company, constantly trying to push itself in embracing technology and innovations to be ahead of the curve. This perfect balance of traditional and modern is what defines Yash Raj Films.

## Sonu Nigam calls out Ministry of Labour for retweeting Deepika Padukone meme from fake account



Deepika Padukone was recently presented before the NCB in Bollywood drug nexus and actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case. The actress has been trolled on a large scale, and Ministry of Labour also happened to share a meme, posted by Sonu Nigam's fake Twitter account. Nigam shared a video calling out the Ministry of Labour, reminding them that he is not on Twitter since three years. Sonu also stated that cyber police in India is a joke or else such an incident would have never taken place. He said that what started out as justice for Sushant Singh Rajput, has gone down to a new low with the kind of memes going viral. He was especially upset with the fake accounts that have opened since three years that he has deactivated his account. The accounts, he points out, share ridiculous posts that he would never want to be part of. Sonu ended his video pleading people not to retweet from his fake accounts. He said that shaming people does not make him happy, and he wants to self-inspect, from which he doesn't wish to be distracted. It was reported that the NCB was upset with Deepika Padukone's inter rogation. The actress reportedly did not accept or reveal anything around drugs. However, a CBI official confirmed that no more names have been summoned yet, including Deepika's.



# Riddhima Kapoor Sahni's birthday wish for 'baby brother' Ranbir Kapoor includes Alia Bhatt



After Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Ranbir Kapoor is celebrating his birthday under lockdown. The actor turned 38. The Kapoor family, and Bollywood, has lost a legend Rishi Kapoor earlier this year. Amidst this, Riddhima, who, along with her mother, have become one another's strength, shared a cute little birthday wish for her 'baby brother'.

While wishing Ranbir 'happy birthday', Riddhima happened to share photos of the family along with both (Ranbir and Riddhima's late father) Rishi Kapoor and Ranbir's girlfriend Alia Bhatt. Sharing only one picture of her and Ranbir as kids, she wrote, "Happiest bday AWE-SOMENESS! Love you so much #mybabybrother #38andfab."

On the work front, Ranbir was shooting for BFF Ayan Mukerji's 'Brahmastra', which had to come to a stall after COVID-19 pandemic. He was shooting for the movie with Amitabh Bachchan and Alia Bhatt, who also play parallel leads in the film.

While Amitabh Bachchan has gone back to 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' sets, there is no update on 'Brahmastra' yet. The film also stars Mouni Roy, who also celebrates her birthday today.

Apart from 'Brahmastra', Ranbir is also working on 'Shamsher' opposite Sanjay Dutt. He was also roped in for Luv Ranjan's next opposite Ajay Devgn, but there is no official update on the same either.

# MALAIKA ARORA VISITS SISTER AMRITA ARORA'S HOUSE POST RECOVERING FROM COVID-19



It's been a week since Malaika Arora revealed that she has been finally tested negative for coronavirus. The dancing queen now on Sunday has made her first public appearance post-recovery. She was seen while visiting her sister and actor Amrita Arora's residence in Mumbai. Malaika was clicked in her car while making her way towards meeting her sister after a very long time. She donned a casual-cool look for the same.

In the photos, Malaika wore an animal printed tank top with a pair of blue ripped jeans. She tied her hair in a top bun and covered herself with a grey mask. She was also seen carrying a Louis Vuitton tote bag with a blue handle. On getting recovered from COVID-19, Malaika took to her Instagram page and wrote, "Out and about!... M finally out

of my room after so many days, it feels like an outing in itself... I feel so blessed to have overcome this virus with minimum pain and discomfort. A big thanks to my doctors for their medical guidance, to BMC for making this process hassle-free, to my family for their immeasurable support and to all my friends, neighbours and fans for all their good wishes and the strength that I got from your messages and support. I can't thank you all enough in words for what everyone has done for me in these difficult times. All of you please stay safe and take care."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Malaika has been judging dance-best reality show, India's Best Dancer. She has now been replaced by Nora Fatehi after being diagnosed with coronavirus.

# DEEPIKA PADUKONE SHED TEARS THRICE DURING NCB 'WHATSAPP GROUP CHAT' PROBE: REPORT

Deepika Padukone, who had appeared before NCB on Saturday, September 26, 2020, had admitted to being part of the famous WhatsApp group, where 'D' asked 'K' about 'maal'. She was probed along with her manager Karishma Prakash.

We had received information that Deepika accepted being part of the group, but has maintained silence on drugs issue. The information came a day after Karishma reportedly accepted Deepika was admin of the group. According to the latest report by India Today, Deepika cried thrice during her probe. It is to be noted that news reports stated that Ranveer Singh was going to be part of the interrogation because Deepika has 'anxiety attacks'. However, NCB declined the news, and Ranveer eventually did not accompany Deepika.

An NCB source had said that Deepika was asked to identify the mobile number in the alleged chat with her former manager Karishma Prakash. She was also asked if she sent those messages or someone on her behalf sent the alleged messages enquiring about 'maal' from Karishma.

The sources said that the NCB asked probed Deepika, who is the daughter of badminton icon Prakash Padukone, if she used to consume drugs, if yes, from where she used to procure them and who made the payment for the drugs.

The NCB further asked her if she was procuring the drugs for her personal consumption or for someone else and since when she has been using these substances and who all were the persons who provided her these drugs. She was also asked for how long she has known Karishma and Sushant's former talent manager Jaya Saha, who worked with Kwan Talent Management Agency. NCB is now trying to find a bigger drug peddler who supplied substances to Bollywood celebrities. Meanwhile, Deepika, Karishma, Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor's statements will be presented in court today.



# Deepika, Shraddha, Sara not summoned again, Karan Johar's party video not under scrutiny now: NCB official



NCB Director Deputy General (DDG) Mutha Ashok Jain, in his byte to the media, clarified certain questions. While he said that Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan, who appeared before the agency on Saturday, have not been summoned again, the DDG also said that Karan Johar's viral party video is not under investigation, not in the case, and not now.

On Saturday evening, Jain gave a press statement in which he said that no one has received another summons yet. He said that all the statements recorded on Saturday (from Deepika Padukone, Karishma Prakash, Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan) will be presented before court on Sunday. The DDG refused to answer many questions stating that it is protocol to not reveal anything which happened during the investigation. He however said that all the points will be presented in court today, after which it might become public knowledge, if the court allows it.

Further answering question about probing the viral video from Karan Johar's party in 2019, Jain said that the video is not related to the current investigation, so they are not probing it. When asked if they will ever probe it, the DDG said that he cannot tell what would happen in the future. Deepika, Sara and Shraddha had appeared before the NCB for the first time. While Deepika accepted being part of the WhatsApp chat and broke down, failing to answer anything about drugs, Shraddha and Sara said that Sushant took drugs in his farmhouse and vanity van. Karishma, who was called for the interrogation the second time, was cross-questioned with Deepika, but the NCB was not satisfied with their answers.

# When Alia Bhatt was too shy to lean on his shoulder

Alia Bhatt has never kept it hidden that she is living the life of her dreams. The actress, who had a major crush on Ranbir Kapoor and wanted to marry him, is now a vital part of his life, as his girlfriend. Rumour also has it that the couple might tie the nuptial knot soon.

As Ranbir Kapoor turns 38 today, here's looking back at a time when Alia Bhatt was too shy to even lean on Ranbir Kapoor's shoulders. For the uninformed, the duo was supposed to be paired in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Balika Vadhu'. At the Lokmat Maharashtra of the year Awards 2017, Ranbir confessed to being a huge fan of Alia even before she became an actor. "I remember that I went to meet my friend and said, 'She's like Amitabh Bachchan, she's such a good actor.' At such a young age, she is doing such great work, it is quite amazing. I have been a fan of Alia before she became an actor," the 'Rockstar' actor said.

When asked about it, Alia said, "What he said is correct only. I think I was 11 years old when I first met Ranbir, who used to assist Sanjay Leela Bhansali back then. I had to do a photoshoot with him. I was so shy because I had to keep my head on his shoulder. And I could not do it, because it was a really shy moment for me." She then went on to put it out there, "I have always been a Ranbir loyalist since Saawariya and it has never changed." As fate has it, Ranbir and Alia are working together on Kapoor's BFF Ayan Mukerji's 'Brahmastra' opposite Amitabh Bachchan. The movie is yet to resume shooting after it was halted due to COVID-19.

# Not joining politics, don't know after 10 years though: Sonu Sood

Actor Sonu Sood, much in the limelight for the charity work he has been doing during the lockdown, especially in facilitating transport for migrant workers to their native places during the initial days (of the lockdown) is clear that entering politics is nowhere on the horizon for him.

"My hands are full as an actor. Besides that, I am doing a lot of charity work, which takes a lot of attention and time. So, politics just does not figure anywhere right now. Of course, I have no clue what destiny has in store for me after 10 years," he told IANS.

The idea of arranging transportation for migrants came to the actor while he was distributing food packets to migrants during the first few days of the lockdown. When he came across a family with kids who wanted food for 10 days as they were all set to walk to native Bengaluru, Sood told them that he would try getting permission for a transport so they do not have to walk. "I could manage to send 350 people that time. That was the trigger point. I realised I could send back more people who were planning to walk in absence of any transportation. There was no looking back after that," said Sood, who managed to arrange conveyance for thousands of people back to their homes everyday. While he has been busy with social work all these months, scripts have been piling up on his table. And interestingly, the roles he is being offered now are mostly larger than life.



# On Daughter's Day, Kapil Sharma makes netizens happier by sharing cutest photos of baby Anayra



Kapil Sharma and wife Ginni Chatrath welcomed a baby girl named Anayra Sharma on December 10, 2019. Since then she has been an apple of their eyes and time and again, the comedian shares cute moments of his baby girl. As September 27 is celebrated as Daughter's Day, Kapil shared a few photos with Anayra on his social media pages. He also posted a lovely message for his baby girl and the moments are too cute to miss. In the first photo, Kapil is seen wearing a grey tracksuit with a white cap. While Anayra looks adorable in a blue zipper jacket and blue jeans. A grey cap and blue shoes made her look cuter as ever. Anayra is also showing her loving smile while getting a kiss from her dad.

In the second photo, Anayra is showing her swag in a purple frock and a matching bandana with black & white sunglasses. Kapil captioned the post stating, "Thank you for making our life more beautiful my laado #blessings #happydaughtersday #daughter #anayrasharma." Before Anayra was born, Kapil was asked about his prep prior to becoming a parent. To which he had said, "Frankly speaking, what will I prepare for? I have no idea about this experience but my entire family is very excited. We are waiting for the new member of the family, be it a baby boy and girl. In terms of preparations, Ginni and I are purchasing a few things and keeping it exciting."

# 'GHAR KA KHANA' IS MADE BY SHAH RUKH KHAN HIMSELF: GAURI KHAN SHARES LOCKDOWN STORIES



During this five-month-long lockdown during coronavirus crisis, Shah Rukh Khan and his family spent maximum time together. The super-star, wife Gauri Khan and daughter Suhana Khan have been sharing their lockdown activities on their social media pages. Now, during an interaction with NDTV, Gauri spoke at length about how the whole Khan family spent the lockdown together under the same roof at their abode Mannat. She revealed that Shah Rukh became the master chef of the house during these months. Gauri stated, "During this lockdown, we were initially scared to even order any food from outside. So 'Ghar ka khana' is made by Shah Rukh himself and we are enjoying it. He loves cooking and I enjoy eating." Talking about her kids, Gauri shared, "Suhana has her online school which keeps her very, very busy. Thankfully. Aryan is just

through with his college, so he needs a break. And that is exactly what he is doing. Relaxing, watching movies, playing games. AbRam is back to school.. something very new. It was initially quite hard on the kids..at his age. But he is coping well. Spending a lot of time with the family and all of us together." Aryan Khan has completed his filmmaking course from the University of Southern California and daughter Suhana is learning from online classes conducted by The New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Gauri Khan has turned into an author and will be penning a coffee table book titled My Life in Design. Sharing about the same, in a statement, she had said, "I discovered my talent while doing up my own home. I realised it was something I loved deeply, but it has been a long journey that I hope to showcase through my coffee-table book."

# Mika Singh recreates 'Sawan Mein Lag Gayi Aag' for 'Ginny Weds Sunny' after 'Indoo Ki Jawani'



The makers of Indoo Ki Jawani unveiled the first song from the film 'Hasina Pagal Deewani' featuring Kiara Advani and Aditya Seal. The track is the recreated version of Mika Singh's 90s track 'Saawan Mein Lag Gayee Aag'. Now, Ginny Weds Sunny also features the same song titled 'Sawan Mein Lag Gayi Aag'. The lead actors of the film Yami Gautam and Vikrant Massey unveiled the teaser of the song which is releasing on Monday. Along with Mika Singh, the song is sung by Neha Kakkar and rapper Badshah. The music is recreated by Payal Dev while the recreated lyrics are penned by Payal Dev and Mohsin Shaikh. The rap lyrics are by Mika Singh himself. Yami shared the teaser on her Instagram page by writing, "Get ready to witness the hottest, the biggest wedding party anthem of the year! Come join the party !!!#SawanMeinLagGayiAag #SawanMeinLagGayiAag #GinnyWedsSunny @vikrantmassey87 @soundrya.production @netflix\_in @sonymusicindia @bachchan.vinod @payaldevoofficial @puneet\_khanna @adityadevmusic @sumitaroraa @navjotgulati @mikasingh @mohsinshaikhmusic @badboyshah @nehakakkar." The song is sung by Mika Singh and Asees Kaur. The music is by Mika himself while the lyrics are by Shabbir Ahmed. Talking about Ginny Weds Sunny, the film also stars Ayesha Raza in a pivotal role. The romcom is directed by Puneet Khanna and produced by Vinod Bachchan. The film is set to be a Netflix original and is all set to be streamed from October 9, 2020.

# 'MERI TOH AUKAAT NAHI HAI': TIGER SHROFF ON POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH BTS



Earlier in September 2020, Tiger Shroff treated fans by performing a dance routine on BTS' latest chartbuster track 'Dynamite'. People couldn't stop gushing over the actor's killer moves and now he has been asked about a collaboration possibility in future. Tiger, during an interaction with Indian Express, revealed that he is a huge fan of the South Korean boyband. The Baaghi actor also called them 'holistic performers' while praising from his heart. Talking about a collaboration with BTS, Tiger stated, "With BTS? Meri toh aukaat nahi hai (I can hardly even dream of such a thing). These guys are the biggest group in the world right now. I am such a big fan of them. I recently did a dance vlog on their song 'Dynamite'. It is such a feel-good song. The 'Unbelievable' singer further added, "In times like these, we need that kind of vibes. I think the reason their music transcends boundaries and goes across the world is because of their lyrics, messages, visuals and of course, their talent. They are such holistic performers." Meanwhile, on the work front, Tiger was last seen in Baaghi 3 which released earlier this year. Directed by Ahmed Khan, the film starred Shraddha Kapoor as the female lead and Riteish Deshmukh and Ankita Lokhande in pivotal roles. Tiger made his singing debut with a new single titled 'Unbelievable' which was helmed by Punit Malhotra. His upcoming film includes Heropanti 2 which is directed by Ahmed Khan and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala.

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**WILL HARDIK PANDYA  
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**SANJU SAMSON  
CREDITS GYM SESSION  
WITH VIRAT KOHLI FOR  
HIS FRESH VERVE IN  
CRICKET|P19**

**'INHUMANE AND GOES BEYOND  
CRUELTY': VIRAT KOHLI ON HATHRAS  
GANGRAPE |P19**



# MidWeek Sports

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

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 <b>2020 SEASON SCHEDULE</b> IPLT20.COM		
 <b>DELHI CAPITALS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>29 SEPT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>SUNRISERS HYDERABAD</b>
 <b>RAJASTHAN ROYALS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>30 SEPT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS</b>
 <b>KINGS XI PUNJAB</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>1 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>MUMBAI INDIANS</b>
 <b>CHENNAI SUPER KINGS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>2 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>SUNRISERS HYDERABAD</b>
 <b>ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>3 OCT   06:00 AM</b>	 <b>RAJASTHAN ROYALS</b>
 <b>DELHI CAPITALS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>3 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS</b>
 <b>MUMBAI INDIANS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>4 OCT   06:00 AM</b>	 <b>SUNRISERS HYDERABAD</b>
 <b>KINGS XI PUNJAB</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>4 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>CHENNAI SUPER KINGS</b>
 <b>ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>5 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>DELHI CAPITALS</b>
 <b>MUMBAI INDIANS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>6 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>RAJASTHAN ROYALS</b>
 <b>KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>7 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>CHENNAI SUPER KINGS</b>
 <b>SUNRISERS HYDERABAD</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>8 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>KINGS XI PUNJAB</b>
 <b>RAJASTHAN ROYALS</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>9 OCT   10:00 AM</b>	 <b>DELHI CAPITALS</b>
 <b>KINGS XI PUNJAB</b>	<b>VS</b> <b>10 OCT   06:00 AM</b>	 <b>KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS</b>

## 'INDIANS LACK SENSE OF HUMOUR': FAROKH ENGINEER DEFENDS SUNIL GAVASKAR OVER VIRAT-ANUSHKA REMARK

Former Team India cricketer Farokh Engineer has come out in support of Sunil Gavaskar, who found himself in the middle of a huge controversy during the IPL 2020 clash between Kings XI Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL 2020 clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. The former India skipper was accused of making a snide remark involving Anushka Sharma that many thought was in poor taste. Gavaskar remarked, "Inhone lockdown me to bas Anushka ki gendon ki practice ki hain". Farokh, during a chat with the Pakistan Observer, said that Indians lack sense of humour while defending Gavaskar. "We, Indians lack a sense of humour. If Sunil had indeed said so about Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, it must have been in a humorous tone and not in the bad or derogatory taste," he said. "Knowing Sunil Gavaskar well, I am sure he would have said it jokingly. Even in my case, people took it very seriously with the result that Anushka had to come out with her statement." "I didn't even know one of the selectors during the World Cup and I asked him who the hell he was, because he was wearing the India blazer and he said he was one of the selectors. All they were doing was getting Anushka Sharma cups of tea. Anushka is the beautiful wife of India captain Virat Kohli and why would Sunil or me criticise them", Engineer added. However, Sunil Gavaskar issued a clarification to multiple media outlets over the issue after Anushka Sharma had posted an elongated post on Instagram speaking about the matter. "Rohit didn't strike the ball well in his first match, MSD didn't strike the ball well, Virat also didn't strike the ball. Most of the batsmen have because of the lack of practice. That was the point that was being made. Virat also had no practice and the only practice that he had was when we saw them playing in their building compound and Anushka was bowling to him," Gavaskar said. "That's what I said. That's the only bowling, I have not used any other word. She was bowling to him, that's all. Where am I blaming her? Where am I being sexist in this? I am just stating what was seen in the video which was maybe recorded by somebody in the neighbouring buildings and then put up."



## 'TALK ON MS DHONI'S BATTING POSITION PUTTING PRESSURE ON CSK', SAYS BRETT LEE



The return of MS Dhoni to cricket was always expected to be the talking point of the IPL. Dhoni took a break from cricket after India's World Cup semifinal defeat to New Zealand last year. He was expected to return to play for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League in March, but the tournament was postponed to September due to the Covid-19 outbreak. In August, Dhoni left the sporting world stunned when he announced his retirement from the sport. So, his return in the IPL for CSK had even more significance this year. But unfortunately, for CSK and Dhoni fans, it has not been the best of starts. Dhoni's reluctance in batting on top of the order has invited criticism from all corners, and CSK have already suffered two big defeats in the tournament - against Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals. Speaking in the post-match show on Star Sports, former Australia cricketer Brett Lee said that he believes that the chatter about Dhoni's batting position is affecting CSK. "They have to start winning, they've got the right team but don't think they've got the right position (for the players). I think the talk on Dhoni's batting position is putting a lot of pressure on the entire team," Brett Lee said. "He has to fix his batting position," the former fast bowler further added. CSK will next take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday in their next game.

## Yuvraj Singh thanks Rahul Tewatia for missing 6 sixes against KXIP



When one talks about 6 sixes, one person whose name comes to the mind is Yuvraj Singh. The former India all-rounder made it look so easy against England's Stuart Broad. The same feeling was given to fans when Rajasthan Royals' (RR) Rahul Tewatia was on strike against Sheldon Cottrell of Kings XI Punjab (KXIP). Tewatia started to rain hell on KXIP and struck Cottrell for 5 sixes in 6 balls. The 27-year-old scored 53 off 31 balls before Shami picked up his wicket but the damage was already done. Seeing Tewatia miss the 6 sixes, Yuvraj Singh took to Twitter to thank him for missing one ball. Yuvraj wrote, "Mr @rahultewatia02 na bhai na. thanks for missing one ball ! What a game congratulations to rr for a spectacular win !!! #RRvKXIP @mayankcricket great knock @JamSanjuSamson brilliant!". RR even replied to the comment saying, "The 5th one landed straight into our heart!". RR registered an emphatic 4-wicket win over KXIP - making it one of the most entertaining matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The Rajasthan side managed to score 82 runs off the last four overs as they completed the highest ever successful run-chase in the IPL history.

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Sat and Sunday: Current affairs  
Wed: Economic updates  
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## Rahul Tewatia, Sanju Samson star as Rajasthan Royals register highest-successful chase in history



SANJU SAMSON ROLLS OUT A REVERSE SWEEP KINGS XI PUNJAB V RAJASTHAN ROYALS, IPL 2020, SHARJAH.

The desert city of Sharjah is not unknown to batting storms. The most famous of them all, of course, remains Sachin Tendulkar’s bashing of Shane Warne in 1998. The Australian great is back in the UAE as the mentor of Rajasthan Royals, and from his resort in Dubai, where he is undergoing one week quarantine, saw his team at the receiving end of another storm, brewed by Kings XI Punjab’s Mayank Agarwal (106 -- 50b). For Warne’s solace there was another storm waiting to happen. Chasing KXIP’s mammoth 223/2 after Agarwal’s ton, with frontline batsmen Jos Buttler, Steve Smith and Sanju Samson back in the dugout, Rahul Tewatia took it upon himself to turn the tide. With 51 needed off 18 balls, he struck five huge sixes against Sheldon Cottrell to take the equation to 21 off 12. Next over by Mohammed Shami saw 19 runs scored with Tewatia and Jofra Archer doing the damage as RR needed just two of the last over. The job was completed by Tom Curran with a four against spinner Murugan Ashwin as RR recorded the highest successful chase in IPL history. On any other day, KXIP could have breathed easy after putting up such a big score. Not at Sharjah and not against a team like RR which has the likes of Buttler, Smith and Samson, who had scored a 32-ball 74 at this very ground in his previous match. Buttler departed early, but Smith and Samson fired. The duo helped RR score the highest runs in the powerplay this season (69/1), surpassing KXIP’s 60/0 in the first innings. Smith and Samson reached their half-century off 26 balls and were involved in an 81-run second wicket stand in 40 balls. Once Smith was caught at deep cover by Shami off Jimmy Neesham in the ninth over, RR’s pace of scoring slowed. Samson kept going despite Tewatia struggling at the other end before he eventually fell for a 42-ball 85. Tewatia then suddenly found his range of shots. Agarwal scored the second fastest century by an Indian in IPL, off just 45 balls, and was involved in the third-highest opening stand

ever in the tournament, 183 with KL Rahul. Those batting highlights catapulted KXIP to 223/2 in 20 overs. Agarwal’s knock stood out because he strived for it. Having shown penchant for age-group tournaments with an aggressive style, the Karnataka batsman was expected to do well in limited-overs cricket. After tons of runs in the domestic circuit and a long wait, Agarwal made his international debut but first in Tests. With a consistent display, he has sealed his position in the whites. As far as limited-overs go, Agarwal is yet to showcase his mettle. Early signs show the 29-year-old has chosen this IPL to make a point. At the 2019 IPL, Agarwal scored 332 in 13 matches. This edition, he already has 221 in three matches. “There is always risk involved, just that in T20s you have to take them a little more often,” Agarwal told this paper before the tournament. The intent to tilt the risk-reward balance in his favour has clearly showed. And what better place to take risks than the Sharjah Stadium, the smallest of the three grounds where IPL 2020 is being played. With KXIP captain and statemate Rahul playing the anchor at the other end, Agarwal went all out. Anything short and wide, and there were many of those, the KXIP opener would hook over the mid-on and if there was any length ball he would loft it over mid-off. When his timing was not perfect, Agarwal’s placement was. Generally, teams rely on left-right combination to break a bowler’s rhythm. Here two right-handed openers achieved that objective with non-chalance. Except seamer Ankit Rajpoot (9.80) no RR bowler had an economy of less than 10. Agarwal was most ruthless against RR spinners Rahul Tewatia and Shreyas Gopal. The former was taken off the attack after one over after conceding 19 runs while Gopal got hit for two sixes in the ninth over. Agarwal reached his maiden century in IPL with a lofted drive over extra cover. He was greeted with a hug by Rahul.

## ‘INHUMANE AND GOES BEYOND CRUELTY’: VIRAT KOHLI ON HATHRAS GANGRAPE



India cricket captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday hoped that justice would be done to the Hathras gangrape victim, who died of her injuries in Delhi, saying that the incident “goes beyond cruelty”. The 19-year-old woman, who was brutally gangraped by four men in Uttar Pradesh’s Hathras on September 14, was brought to a Delhi hospital on Monday for treatment but could not survive. “What happened in #Hathras is inhumane and goes beyond cruelty. Hope the culprits of this heinous crime will be brought to justice. #JusticeForManishaValmiki,” Kohli, who is in the UAE for the ongoing IPL, tweeted. The gangrape and the victim’s death has sparked outrage and protests. All the four men alleged to have committed the crime have been arrested. The young woman was left paralysed by the attack and her tongue was also cut when the accused attempted to strangle her, Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir has stated.

## ‘BATTING FOR 2 MINUTES IS NOTHING,’ PIETERSEN AND GAVASKAR NOT HAPPY WITH MUMBAI’S TACTICS IN SUPER OVER

The Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) vs Mumbai Indians (MI) clash held on Monday was one of the most fiercely fought battles in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The contest was tied after 40 overs and led to the second Super Over of the season which Virat Kohli & Co won on the last ball. RCB scored 201 in the first innings and MI levelled the score as Ishan Kishan and Kieron Pollard took the control and garnered 79 runs in the last 4 overs. Later, when the team got into the Super Over, the management decided not to send Kishan to bat. This move didn’t work well and MI could only score 7 runs off the six balls. Commentators Kevin Pietersen and Sunil Gavaskar weren’t pleased to see Ishan sitting at the dugout and not coming out to bat. Pietersen recalled the mistake Kings XI Punjab made against Delhi Capitals, by sending in Nicholas Pooran instead of Mayank Agarwal, who had scored 89 in the match. “He (Ishan Kishan) has to be incredibly exhausted and tired to have not batted in that Super over. I think Mumbai missed a trick, I’m sorry but with that smaller boundary, batting for 2 minutes is nothing. I’m not criticising him but the decision not for him to bat. We saw when Mayank Agarwal didn’t do it the other night (KXIP vs DC in Match 2) and Kings XI lost the contest,” Pietersen said while commenting.

“There’s not much time in a Super Over to plan anything. If it was a 40-over game, Ishan Kishan would still want to go out and bat because form is such a fickle thing, it can go just like that. So yes, I think he should have come in because it was a matter of just 6 deliveries,” Gavaskar said. Later in the post-match presentation ceremony, Rohit Sharma revealed why that decision was taken. He stated that Ishan was drained after his innings and didn’t look comfortable so the management decided not to send him.



## Pakistan players like Babar Azam can learn a lot if given chance to play in IPL, says Shahid Afridi

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi believes that Pakistan players could have learnt about how to handle high pressure situations if they were given a chance to play in Indian Premier League. Pakistan players have not been a part of the IPL since the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2008. “The IPL is a big brand and I know that if our players like Babar Azam and others get a chance to play in it they would learn to play under pressure situations. Unfortunately, due to the existing policies, our players are not getting that big platform,” Afridi was quoted as saying by Pakistani media, according to news agency PTI. The former allrounder also said that the Pakistan players are in high demand in T20 leagues all over the world. “Our players are in demand in other leagues all over the world and the good thing is they have their own top league, PSL, to showcase their talent, gain exposure and share dressing rooms (with top players),” Afridi said. On being asked about his experience of playing in India during his cricketing career, Afridi said that he received a lot of love and respect from fans in the country.

## Will Hardik Pandya bowl this season for Mumbai Indians Zaheer Khan gives an update

Hardik Pandya has been one of the best allrounders that Indian team have produced in recent times. But after a difficult 2019, in which Pandya had to go on a lengthy layoff due to a back injury, the Mumbai Indians have a huge task in front of them to manage his workload in the ongoing season of Indian Premier League. Pandya has not been given the ball in Mumbai’s first two games against Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders, and it is still remain to be seen whether he will come into the attack against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. (IPL 2020 Full Coverage) On being asked if and when will Pandya bowl this season, Mumbai Indians Director of Cricket Operations Zaheer Khan said that Pandya is keen to bowl but the team management needs to listen to his body. “We are all expecting him (Hardik) to bowl and he is someone who really changes that balance of any side when he is bowling and he understands that,” Zaheer said in Mumbai Indians’ pre-match conference.

## MAYANK AGARWALS SLAMS 2ND FASTEST CENTURY BY AN INDIAN IN IPL HISTORY

When Steve Smith won the toss and decided to field first, it gave the in-form Kings XI Punjab openers a chance to have some fun. Karnataka duo and best friends KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal had a flat deck in front of them and they decided to punish the Royals bowlers. Agarwal, who almost took KXIP to victory in their opening match with a classic half-century, was faster off the block as he played the aerial shots with confidence and elan. The first of his seven sixes came in the second over of the innings as he launched Ankit Rajpoot straight over mid-off. Rajpoot’s lack of pace on a placid track allowed Agarwal the time he needed to get back to back boundaries in the fifth over of the innings. With KL Rahul also starting to get into his groove, Agarwal decided to cut loose against the spin of Rahul Tewatia, hitting the leg spinner for back to back sixes and a boundary to start the carnage.

## SANJU SAMSON CREDITS GYM SESSION WITH VIRAT KOHLI FOR HIS FRESH VERVE IN CRICKET

Sixteen sixes in two matches underline the power-hitting Sanju Samson has unleashed in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020. While the Rajasthan Royals wicketkeeper-batsman credits increased fitness as a reason, his interaction with India skipper Virat Kohli on the New Zealand tour in February played a crucial role in a crucial change of perspective. “I am a deep person. I keep on thinking about my future, which direction I am leading to. I keep thinking how many years I have left in my life. Everyone will die one day. At the same time if I am playing cricket, I am going to finish one day. That brought me to the thought that I can’t play cricket after 10-12 years. So, if I am not fit enough I should not play,” said the 25-year-old Kerala player, who hails from near Thiruvananthapuram. “An amazing experience happened when I was in the gym with Virat Kohli. I asked why he put so much energy into fitness work. He asked me ‘Sanju, how many years are you going to play?’ I said ‘I am 25, I think till 35 I am going to play’. He said after 10 years I can do anything, eat Kerala food, pursue whatever I want. ‘But after these 10 years you won’t be able to play cricket. So, why don’t you give everything in these 10 years?’ That changed my perspective.” Samson also credits former Kerala first-class player Raiphi Vincent Gomez for his improved fitness.

“I have understood my game. It’s more about power-hitting, and it’s bit more higher in T20s. I was lucky to have those four-five months training, increasing my strength and doing power exercises,” he said. “I had Raiphi bhai by my side. He has played cricket for Kerala and hails from the same place as I do. He was always there to push me.” Samson scored a 32-ball 74 in the first game against Chennai Super Kings and did better in an IPL record 224-run chase against Kings XI Punjab in the second game, scoring a 42-ball 85. Against KXIP, it was Rahul Tewatia who surprised all by overcoming his early struggle to put bat to ball by smashing five sixes in an over by Sheldon Cottrell. Tewatia struggled to such an extent early on that batting partner Samson even refused a single to stay on strike. “Glenn Maxwell (off-spin) was bowling at that time. I thought I am a right-handed batsman and should be taking chances against him. Also, Rahul was yet to get into his scoring momentum,” Samson said. Tewatia has become the toast of IPL and Rajasthan Royals after his 31-ball 53 took the team home on Sunday. The 27-year-old Haryana player credited clarity provided by the RR management on his role to his staying confident despite the initial struggle. “I was sent at No. 4. The only plan was to go and take on the bowlers. It was not decided before the match but much before that. When we started training in the UAE and when we had video meetings during lockdown, the team management was clear with me about my role. That really helped,” he said.





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