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Mid Week HAPPY New Year ENTERTAINMENT

JANHVI KAPOOR DROPS A FUN VIDEO WITH HER GANG ON CHRISTMAS. CAN YOU SPOT VIJAY SETHUPATHI IN IT? | 15



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AHEAD OF NEW YEAR'S EVE, GET INSPIRED BY TAMANNAAH'S FASHION-FORWARD LOOKS THAT BROKE THE INTERNET IN 2021



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WHAT TO WEAR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, HERE'S A LOOK AT TAMANNAAH'S EIGHT MOST CAPTIVATING LOOKS THAT BROKE THE INTERNET IN 2021.

Popular diva Tamannaah, who has worked in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi and Hindi cinema, is one of the most sought after stars in the Indian film industry. The actress earned rave reviews for recent performance as Simran in 'Maestro', the Telugu remake of the Hindi crime thriller 'Andhadhun'. She is a huge fashion icon too as the 'Baahubali' actor keeps sharing her glamorous and sizzling pictures on her Instagram account. From rocking a holographic dress to acing the colour blocking, Tamannaah stuns with the trendiest looks and raid-worthy sartorial choices. The actress is styled by none other than Shaleena Nathani, who is known for working with the biggest stars in Bollywood, Deepika Padukone.

SHILPA SHETTY SHARES POST ON 'MAKING MISTAKES' WHILE HOLIDAYING WITH RAJ KUNDRA: 'WE MAY CAUSE PAIN...'



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ON MONDAY, SHILPA SHETTY SHARED A PHOTO OF A BOOK THAT HAD ACTOR TALLULAH BANKHEAD'S QUOTE ABOUT MAKING MISTAKES. SHE IS VACATIONING WITH HUSBAND RAJ KUNDRA AND HER FAMILY.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA: THERE IS NOTHING LIKE CITADEL ON TELEVISION



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PRIYANKA CHOPRA SAID THAT THE FACT THAT CITADEL WAS A LIMITED SERIES ALLOWED HER TO DIP HER TOES IN TELEVISION AGAIN. SHE ALSO SAID THAT THE TRAINING FOR THE SHOW WAS "VERY, VERY INTENSE".

YAMI GAUTAM ON KERATOSIS PILARIS: 'WHEN PEOPLE SAW ME AT SHOOT, THEY WOULD TALK ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD BE AIRBRUSHED'



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YAMI GAUTAM ON KERATOSIS PILARIS: 'WHEN PEOPLE SAW ME AT SHOOT, THEY WOULD TALK ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD BE AIRBRUSHED'

ALIA BHATT BECOMES PETA INDIA'S 2021 PERSON OF THE YEAR



Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has been named PETA's 2021 Person of the Year for her work in support of an animal-friendly fashion industry. The actress had recently invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which makes vegan leather out of discarded temple flowers. In addition, her vegan kids' line, Ed-a-Mamma, also won a 2021 PETA India fashion award for helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature. Alia is known to advocate support for cats and dogs and often uses her voice to call for stronger animal protection laws. The actress has also starred in a pro-adoption People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India campaign to help felines and canines. PETA India Director of Celebrity and Public Relations, Sachin Bangera said, "Alia Bhatt is not only helping to advance vegan fashion but also encouraging the next generation to be kind to animals." He added, "Alia doesn't hesitate to speak up, whether she's rallying her fans to adopt a dog or cat or calling for action on crimes against animals."

RANVEER SINGH ON '83' PERFORMANCE: FELT DUTY-BOUND TO MY NATION



Bollywood's livewire star Ranveer Singh feels wearing the 1983 World Cup Indian cricket team jersey propelled him to deliver the knockout '83' performance to audiences. He feels proud that he had the honour to wear the Indian colours and is delighted that the movie is entertaining audiences. Ranveer said: "I felt deep sense of responsibility to do my best, contribute and anchor a film that is very important for our nation. It is a glorious chapter in our history, an achievement that we want the coming generations to know of and feel proud of their country." He added, "So, I felt duty-bound to my nation, to creatively propel and empower a film that's so important for us as a people." Ranveer also felt a sense of duty to the original cricketers of the 1983 cricket team, who made India proud on the global stage, when he wore the national outfit for the Kabir Khan directorial. "I felt duty-bound to the players of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad to recreate, represent and portray their great achievement and justify the cinematic rendition of the story befittingly and also duty-bound to Indian cinema after the struggles that the entertainment business has been through and to deliver a film that brings people back into theatres, that's so important for our movies; a film that unites the diverse cultures of our nation into the bond of cricket and of movies," he further said.

ODI TEAM SELECTION PUSHED TO END OF THIS WEEK, ALL EYES ON ROHIT'S FITNESS STATUS



The BCCI has decided to delay the selection committee meeting for the ODIs in South Africa till the end of this month to get a clear picture on new white-ball captain Rohit Sharma's left-hamstring injury status. Rohit has been doing his rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) but it could still take some time for the Indian captain to regain full fitness. "The team selection meeting will happen after the first Test. It could be on December 30 or 31st but the BCCI is yet to take a final call. Rohit is pulling all stops to get fit but hamstring injuries are a bit different from other injuries. It has been learnt that Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel are unavailable for selection. About Rohit, a call will be taken closer to the selection date," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.



SCOTT BOLAND CELEBRATES AFTER DISMISSING JONNY BAIRSTOW, AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND, 3RD TEST.

DEALS ON PAGE 17



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VIVIAN DSENA AND VAHBIZ DORABJEE’S DIVORCE FINALISED: ‘IT IS A MUTUAL DECISION AND THERE’S NO NEED TO CHOOSE SIDES’

TV actors Vivian Dsena and Vahbiz Dorabjee’s divorce is finalised. The actors had met on the sets of Ekta Kapoor’s show Pyaar Kii Ye Ek Kahaani, and tied the knot in 2013. However, four years later, they filed for divorce amid rumours of differences. And now, four more years later, the couple is officially separated. The actors released a joint statement to Bombay Times which read, “It is with hearts full of sadness that we announce that we have legally separated and are now divorced. We have been working hard, for well over a few years, to see what might have been possible between us and we have come to the conclusion that we would like to

continue our life journeys separately. It is a mutual decision and there is no need to choose sides or denounce one another and argue over who is to blame and the reasons for our separation. We ask our fans for their understanding. We have conducted our relationship privately and it is difficult for us to discuss details of our personal life. I hope we are able to continue doing our work in the same manner with the love and support of all our fans. We hope to repay all the love and support that we have been showered with in the past many years through greater and better projects in the future. In the future, we hope to enjoy the same love and warmth received from our fans and admirers that we did in the past.”

SALMAN KHAN: HOW 2009 CHANGED BHAIR’S GAME AND PAVED WAY FOR SUPERSTARDOM

Salman Khan’s extended cameo in Baghban was on the lines of his righteous Prem in several films. The actor, however, thought his role in it was unrealistic. In fact he didn’t like playing the obsessive lover in Tere Naam too. He believes Radhe was everything a man should never be! Both Baghban and Tere Naam came in 2003, two films that brought some shine to his flailing filmography with titles like Tumko Na Bhool Paayenge, Hello Brother and Yeh Hai Jalwa. Salman’s career that started in 1988-1989 with Biwi Ho To Aisi and Maine Pyar Kiya seemingly got wings, but in his own words, he was out of work for 4-5 months after Maine Pyar Kiya. His father Salim Khan had to request GP Sippy to sign Salman for Patthar Ke Phool. To say that Salman Khan’s career remained a bumpy ride for the first decade won’t be wrong. While he found a safe zone under Rajshri movies, his experiments with comedies gave him a genre to rely on — Andaz Apna Apna, Judwaa, Biwi No.1, Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya and No Entry, to name a few. Salman did the maximum cameos in early 2000s too. Some were to honour bonds of friendships, others were to keep him in the spotlight. But Salman was still far from the superstardom he enjoys today. And the stuff he was doing only impressed a select fan base. On the way,



he tried ensemble Salaam-e-Ishq, Hollywood movie Marigold and even hosted 10 Ka Dum on television. No doubt Salman was a bonafide star of Bollywood, but he was still away from the stratospheric success of today. 2008 was a year Salman was at his lowest with God Tussi Great Ho, Hello, Heroes and Yuvvraaj falling flat. Salman was in a dire need for a career makeover. Within the next one year, tables turned and Salman found a new lease of life.

JANHVI KAPOOR DROPS A FUN VIDEO WITH HER GANG ON CHRISTMAS. CAN YOU SPOT VIJAY SETHUPATHI IN IT?

Actor Janhvi Kapoor sure knows how to keep her fans engaged and entertained. The actor never fails to share updates of her life and her career on social media. It wouldn’t be wrong to say that Kapoor’s Instagram is a perfect balance of work and play, and her recent update is proof. On Monday, the Dhadak actor shared a video that features her with her Aksa gang. Aksa gang features Janhvi’s team and a couple of her close friends. In the new video, Janhvi and her team is seen performing on Himesh Reshammiya’s ‘Ice Cream’ song. The video gives a sneak-peek of the fun Janhvi had on Christmas. Interestingly, the video also features Vijay Sethupathi. As the video progresses, Janhvi tags Sethupathi as someone she loves. As soon as Janhvi shared the video, Arjun Kapoor dropped a comment. “@vaishnavpraveen is going to be launched soon... I can sense it,” he wrote. Vaishnav is a photographer by profession. Hair stylist Amit Thakur called the gang “Crackpots.” The video also left her fans in splits. “U guys are too awesome indeed...never fail to entertain us,” a fan wrote in the comment section, while many complimented Vaishnav Praveen. “@vaishnavpraveen more facets to your talent being unveiled everyday,” they mentioned. On the work front, Janhvi wrapped Mili, which marks her first film with her father Boney Kapoor. Boney Kapoor is producing the film. “It’s a wrap! #Mili ?? My first film with papa, of whom I’ve only heard stories of all my life as a producer. But after working with you, and it feels so cool to say that!!



I finally know what everyone means when they say you give your heart and soul to each film you take up. That isn’t the only reason this film is so special to me- it’s been the most inspiring journey to work with someone so completely consumed by his focus and love for cinema like @mathukuttyxavier sir. Thank you and @noblebabuthomas for your guidance and patience. For reinstating my belief that if you work honestly enough and hard enough, however tough the journey is- it’s still the closest thing to magic. And it’s worth everything. I hope you guys feel the same way when you see the film! And I hope we make you proud papa ?? thank you for this journey,” she wrote in a post. Janhvi also has Good Luck Jerry and Dostana 2 to her credit.

EMOTIONAL JACKIE SHROFF RECALLS HOW BROTHER DIED TRYING TO SAVE SOMEONE; ASTROLOGER DAD HAD WARNED HIM ‘DIN KHARAB HAI’

Actor Jackie Shroff remembered his mother and elder brother, both of whom died when he was young, and whose loss he still feels to this day. In a conversation with writer Twinkle Khanna for her Tweak India channel, Jackie said that his brother died trying to save somebody, after their astrologer father had warned him not to leave the house that day. “My brother died when I was 10. He was 17. He tried to save somebody. He drowned,” the actor said, as Twinkle offered condolences. “That’s the way life is, we’ve all seen this. Dil mein reh jaate hain, photo reh jaate hain (They’re alive in our hearts and in photos),” he added. Later, he spoke about how his father, who was an astrologer, had warned his brother not to go to work that day. “Bhai ko bola tha, aaj kharab din hai, mat jaana bahar (He told my brother it’s a bad day and that he shouldn’t leave the house),” Jackie recalled. “He used to work at Century Mills. He was a mill hand. He said don’t go to your mill today. And he didn’t. But he went down to save somebody in the sea, and he drowned, without knowing how to swim.” The actor admitted that many people think of astrology as a ‘joke’ but he can’t deny the two times his father made accurate predictions—he also told him that he’d become an actor one day. Jackie spoke about his mother, whom he was very close to. After she died, he said, his body became cold, and he’d take warmth from a fire. He said that he had to force himself not to ‘jump’ in it.



PRIYANKA CHOPRA: THERE IS NOTHING LIKE CITADEL ON TELEVISION



Priyanka Chopra Jonas recently spoke about her forthcoming series with the Russo Brothers titled Citadel. The spy action series, also starring Richard Madden, has been described as “an expansive and groundbreaking global event comprising a mothership series and several local language satellite series.” As the synopsis suggests, the series will spawn multiple spinoffs in many countries. Talking to Collider about the series, Priyanka Chopra said, “There is nothing like Citadel on television, I think. It’s extremely high scale, extremely finessed action, stunts, but at the same time it’s a drama and it has heart. So, I think there is really nothing like that on TV right now and that is one of the big reasons I really wanted to do it. Doing something for multiple episodes...you know it’s a commitment.” PeeCee added that the fact that it was a limited series allowed her to dip her toes in television again. She also said that the training for the show was “very, very intense”. “It was a lot of work, but I am so excited to share it with the world, because I just saw a bunch of it recently and I think it’s very special. We’ve worked really hard on it, and you’ll see that,” she said. Priyanka Chopra can currently be seen in Lana Wachowski’s The Matrix Resurrections, the fourth film in the iconic sci-fi film franchise. Priyanka essays the adult version of the exiled program Sati. The character was originally featured as a child in The Matrix Revolutions, in 2003.

YAMI GAUTAM ON KERATOSIS PILARIS: ‘WHEN PEOPLE SAW ME AT SHOOT, THEY WOULD TALK ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD BE AIRBRUSHED’



Actor Yami Gautam is currently busy with multiple projects. However, recently, she garnered attention for a social media post about her skin condition keratosis pilaris that causes dry, rough patches and tiny bumps. As a leading lady of Hindi cinema, Gautam was applauded for being open about something that could leave a person with so many insecurities. Recently, while speaking to Mid-day, Yami said that being candid about her skin condition was “liberating”. The actor also spoke about how she would often hear people say at photoshoots that her pictures should be airbrushed for this reason alone. “When people saw me at shoot, they would talk about how it should be airbrushed or concealed. That would affect me a lot. It took years to accept it and wear my confidence,” she said. Earlier, Yami Gautam had taken to Twitter to share her non-touched photos to highlight this issue and had written a heartfelt post. The caption read, “Hello friends, I recently shot for some images and just when they were about to go in for post-production (a common procedure) to conceal my skin-condition called Keratosis- Pilaris, I thought, ‘Hey Yami, why don’t you embrace this fact and accept it enough to be OKAY with it. Just let it be...For those who haven’t heard about this, it’s a skin condition wherein you get tiny bumps on the skin. I promise they aren’t as bad as your mind and your neighbor auntie makes it out to be.” Further elaborating on it, she penned, “I developed this skin condition during my teenage years, and there is still no cure for it. I’ve dealt with it for many years now and today finally, I decided to let go of all my fears and insecurities and found the courage to love and accept my ‘flaws’ wholeheartedly.”

PARINEETI CHOPRA SAYS SHE ‘ABUSED’ HER POSITION AFTER EARLY SUCCESS, ‘CHASED MONEY’ AFTER TAKING REGRESSIVE ADVICE



Actor Parineeti Chopra spoke about her career lull, which came after a promising debut with 2012’s Ishqzaade. The actor, who appeared in three films this year, admitted to having abused her position after convincing herself that her fans would accept her in ‘mediocre’ films. In an interview with Filmfare, Parineeti said that she received ‘regressive’ advice from people who haven’t changed with the times, and told her things like, “You need to just be sexy, you need to do songs in films, you need to just romance the hero and you need to learn how to be a heroine.” Parineeti admitted to ‘chasing money’, but said that even with her films that now make her cringe, she doesn’t regret doing them. “I became complacent and a little less focused. That’s why this happened. That’s why I was saying okay to mediocrity. I was never overconfident. When you have five flop films, people say she has gone mad. But they’re actually just five bad decisions,” she added. In 2021, Parineeti starred in the Saina Nehwal biopic Saina, which released in theatres but didn’t leave much of an impression critically or commercially. She also starred in the critically panned Hindi adaptation of The Girl on the Train, and received acclaim for the long-delayed Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar, directed by Dibakar Banerjee. After getting a token theatrical release, the film found a new audience when it arrived on streaming.



83 BOX OFFICE COLLECTION DAY 3: RANVEER SINGH FILM FAILS TO HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK, EARNS RS 47 CR IN OPENING WEEKEND

Ranveer Singh starrer 83 might have missed to stump Spider-Man: No Way Home on its opening day, but the film is going steady at the box office. The Kabir Khan directorial 83 earned Rs 47 crore at the box office in the first weekend. Though the movie had a successful weekend, it missed the mark of Rs 50 crore in its first three days of release. 83 earned a net profit of Rs 12.64 crore on its release day, it amassed Rs 16.95 crore on Saturday and Rs 17.4 crore on Sunday. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh tweeted, "83TheFilm disappoints... Biz witnessed slight growth *outside metros* on Day 3, but not enough to cover lost ground... The jump on Day 2 [#Christmas] and Day 3 [Sun] had to be massive, since #Christmas is one of the best periods, but it was missing." He wrote in another tweet, "The non-performance of #83TheFilm has sent shock waves, since it comes with a big price tag and bigger expectations... Plus, the extensive screen count [3741 screens; all versions], so it had to deliver... Fri 12.64 cr, Sat 16.95 cr, Sun 17.41 cr. Total: ? 47 cr. #India biz."

83 traces the journey of India's cricketing squad lead by Kapil Dev, towards getting the nation its maiden World Cup win in 1983. While Ranveer Singh essays the role of Kapil Dev, producer Deepika

Padukone plays his reel wife Romi Dev. Others in the cast include Saqib Saleem, Jatin Sarna, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Jiiva, Harrry Sandhu, Ammy Virk, Chirag Patil, Pankaj Tripathi and others.

Former cricketer Ravi Shastri, who was part of the Indian team in 1983, called the movie "his most favourite cricket film" so far. Ravi Shastri was a guest at Express Adda last week. During a conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, he said, "Not because I was part of the team that won, I really had tears in my eyes when the film got over because it brought back so many memories," adding that the show put up by the cast and crew was laudable. "They worked their backsides off to try and look like the characters they were playing," he said. Post the screening of 83 last week, Alia Bhatt took to her Instagram stories and wrote a note of appreciation too. She said, "It's not a movie that can be boxed into a post along with a few adjectives! It's an experience- a part of history that's nothing short of magic! There were so many moments when I wanted to clap scream cry and dance at the same time! Pride, joy, unity, friendship, inspiration, I mean the list can go on. You walk out a different person after watching this beautiful beautiful film! Thank you for this film!"

Spider-Man nets a massive \$1 billion, first film of the pandemic to do so

Peter Parker's good fortune continued over the holiday weekend as Hollywood prepares to close the books on a turbulent 2021. Even with some mighty competition from new Matrix and Sing movies, and rising concerns over the omicron variant, Spider-Man: No Way Home stayed in the No. 1 spot and netted a few more milestones too including crossing the \$1 billion mark globally.

In India as well, Spider-Man No Way Home continued its winning spree despite competition from films such as Ranveer Singh-starrer 83 and Allu Arjun's Pushpa: The Rise. The film earned Rs 10 crore on December 25th, to take its total India box office collection close to Rs 165 crore. Its Sunday collections are still awaited.

Internationally, according to studio estimates, Spider-Man added \$81.5 million over the three-day festive weekend, down 69% from its first weekend. The Sony and Marvel film has now grossed \$467 million from North American theaters, more than doubling the domestic grosses of 2021's previous No. 1 film, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings.

With \$587.1 million from 61 overseas markets, in just 12 days of release, Spider-Man has grossed \$1.05 billion globally. It's the first film of the pandemic to cross \$1 billion and is tied with Star Wars: The Force Awakens for being the third-fastest film ever to do so — and this without the benefit of its release in China. Universal's Sing 2 came in second place with an estimated \$23.8 million, while Warner Bros.' The Matrix Resurrections grossed \$12 million to take third place.

The animated musical Sing 2 features high-profile celebrity talent including Matthew McConaughey, Scarlett Johansson, Reese Witherspoon and Bono, as well as a jukebox soundtrack full of well-known hits. Since its release Wednesday, it's made \$41 million (\$1.6 million of that came from Thanksgiving weekend showings) from North America and \$65 million worldwide. "We're extraordinarily pleased," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution.

Orr said the stellar CinemaScore (A+) and audience scores suggest that the film will continue to perform well in the next few weeks, when many kids are still out of school for the holidays. The fourth Matrix also opened on Wednesday and has earned an estimated \$22.5 million in its first five days in North America. The film, directed by Lana Wachowski and starring Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss, is currently streaming on HBO Max as well. Globally, it's grossed \$69.8 million to date.

While the studio was hoping for a stronger box office, Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' head of domestic distribution, said the movie achieved what they were looking for as an overall strategy including HBO Max.

The Matrix Resurrections is the last of the 18 Warner Bros. films released in 2021 to debut both in theaters and on HBO Max simultaneously. Starting in 2022, the studio will have a 45-day exclusive theatrical window on their films.

In fourth place was Disney and 20th Century's The King's Man, a prequel to the action-comedy Kingsman series starring Ralph Fiennes. It came in slightly under expectations with \$6.4 million from the weekend and \$10 million from its first five days. The audience skewed heavily male (65%).

The Kurt Warner biopic American Underdog opened on Christmas Day and has made an estimated \$6.2 million in its two days in release to round out the top five. Zachary Levi stars as Warner, the quarterback who went from undrafted free agent to Hall of Famer.



SHILPA SHETTY SHARES POST ON 'MAKING MISTAKES' WHILE HOLIDAYING WITH RAJ KUNDRA: 'WE MAY CAUSE PAIN...'



Actor Shilpa Shetty, who is on holiday with husband Raj Kundra and children in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, shared a cryptic post on 'making mistakes' on her Instagram stories. On Monday, Shilpa shared a photo of a book that had actor Tallulah Bankhead's quote about making the same mistakes if she lived her life again. The quote read, "If I had my life to live again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner." The other part of the book reads, "Mistakes can make us more interesting than the things we do right. We may cause pain to ourselves or others, hamper our professional progress, or just plain embarrass ourselves. But, oh! what we learn from our mistakes."

It continued, "I don't seek out to make mistakes but I make them anyway. But I have to admit, now that some time has gone by, some of my mistakes have been a lot fun." Shilpa added, "Mistakes were made" and "No regrets" stickers on the photo. Recently, Shilpa had shared a photo with Raj, months after he was released from jail in porn apps case.

Last week, Raj addressed the case and wrote in a statement, "After much contemplation, considering there are many misleading and irresponsible statements and articles floating around and my silence has been misconstrued for weakness. I would like to start by stating that I have NEVER been involved in the production and distribution of 'pornography' EVER in my life." He referred to the case as a 'witch hunt' and that he was ready to face trial, as he was sure that 'truth would prevail'.

KATRINA KAIF SENDS 'LOVE AND LIGHT' TO SALMAN KHAN ON BIRTHDAY, SHILPA SHETTY AND BHAGYASHREE WISH TOO



Salman Khan turned 56 on Monday. The Bollywood superstar's birthday became all the more special this year after his close shave with a snake a day before. While fans flooded social media for their Bhaijaan wishing him good health, several B-town stars also send him birthday greetings. The actor was bit by a snake and had to be hospitalised.

Salman's long associate Katrina Kaif, who recently tied the knot with Vicky Kaushal, took to her Instagram stories and posted his picture along with a birthday wish that read, "Salman Khan, the happiest birthday to you. May all the love light and brilliance u have be with you forever."

Actor Shilpa Shetty too shared a picture with Salman on Instagram. The caption read, "Happy birthday, my forever Rockstar @beingsalmankhan. Thank you for always "Being YOUman" Keep soaring and roaring our TIGER! Loads of love, always." Pulkit Samrat, who was previously married to Salman's raki sister Shweta Rohira posted a click that also had Arpita Khan and Varun Dhawan. He wrote along, "Happyyyy Birthdayyyy Bhai!!!! Love Love & Love for you!!"

Salman Khan's Maine Pyar Kiya co-star Bhagyashree had an adorable wish for him too. Sharing a string of pics from her appearance on Bigg Boss 15, she wrote, "Dost voh hota hein, jis ko dekhte hi lage that's my friend! Dosti.... jo kabhi nahi badalti. We created some everlasting memories back then and then re-lived them on #bigboss. Happy birthday @beingsalmankhan." Actor Rohit Bose Roy's wish read, "Wishing u a very happy birthday @beingsalmankhan ! Stay cool, stay healthy, and keep entertaining the audiences with ur unmatched chutzpah!" Actor-host Manish Paul posted some candid clicks with Salman and captioned them as, "Happy Birthday bhaijaan @beingsalmankhan ...man with a golden heart!! The way he cares for all its impossible to match that...love you sir...stay blessed #mp #salmankhan #superstar #bhaijaan."

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HOPE I CAN REPEAT MY SUCCESS IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA IN SOUTH AFRICA TOO: SHARDUL |P18



HAPPY *New Year*

Mid Week Sports

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ASHES 2021-2022: SCOTT BOLAND THE SURPRISE HERO FOR AUSTRALIA IN SERIES CLINCHER

Australia's debutant Scott Boland will not forget about his astonishing performance in his Test debut as he clinched the series for his side in the third Test of the Ashes in the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday. At lunch on Sunday's first day of play, Boland received some friendly advice from Australia assistant coach Andrew McDonald to add speed to his run-up. Boland claimed a modest haul of one wicket for 48 in England's first innings of the third Ashes test, before completing a remarkable debut by taking six wickets for seven runs in England's second innings and winning the player-of-the-match award. Boland praised his former Victoria state coach McDonald for supporting him during his first test match.

"He's been huge. Since I found out on Christmas Eve that I was playing, I have been really nervous," Boland said on Tuesday after Australia completed victory by an innings and 14 runs to take a 3-0 lead in the five-match series and retain the Ashes.

"Coming off at lunch on day one, that was hard work. I felt like I wasn't breathing at all. I was just so nervous the whole time. He gave me clear instructions. He knows my bowling so well."

Boland also received great support from his home-state spectators at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. A crowd of 42,626 made the noise of a gathering twice as large when 32-year-old Boland took two wickets in his only over on Monday's second day of play.

Boland took four wickets off three overs on Tuesday. The big right-armers' figures of 6-7 for the second innings, including the key wicket



of England captain Joe Root caught at slip for 28, left Tuesday's crowd of 40,945 fans chanting his name. "I've never had a crowd behind me like that," Boland said. "I tried to soak it up when I was down at fine leg. I really enjoyed it. It felt like they were pushing me on when I was running in to bowl. I was just hoping I was going to be good enough." Mission accomplished.

Boland equaled the record for the fastest five-wicket haul in test history, in 19 deliveries, alongside England's Stuart Broad in 2015 and Australia's Ernie Toshack in 1947.

U19 ASIA CUP 2021: INDIA BEAT AFGHANISTAN BY 4 WICKETS TO BOOK SEMI-FINAL BERTH



The Indian boys made sure they clinched victory against Afghanistan and book their spot in the semi-finals of the U19 Asia Cup 2021. The Men in Blue defeated the Afghan boys by 4 wickets with 10 balls to spare in their last group match at the ICC Academy Ground No. 2 in Dubai on Monday. Opener Harnoor Singh (65) was the highest scorer for India, while Kaushal Tambe (35*) and Raj Bawa (43*) followed up with their heroics to shepherd India's chase. India will take on either Bangladesh or Sri Lanka in the semifinals on Thursday. Chasing 260, India had got off to an excellent start courtesy of Harnoor Singh and Angkrish Raghuvanshi putting on 104 runs for the first wicket. However, Afghanistan stormed right back into the contest with three wickets in quick succession. Noor Ahmad came in and dismissed Singh (65) and Raghuvanshi (35) while Bilal Sami got the wicket of Shaik Rasheed (6). Skipper Yash Dhull and Nishant Sindhu later put on 46 runs for the fourth wicket, but as soon as India started to gain momentum, the latter was dismissed for 19 by Khaleel Ahmad.

RAVI SHASTRI COMPARES VIRAT KOHLI, ROHIT SHARMA TO SUNIL GAVASKAR, KAPIL DEV



Former Indian head coach Ravi Shastri compared the captaincy of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to that of Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar while adding that Virat, Rohit remind him of Kapil and Gavaskar. Speaking to Star Sports ahead of Day 2 of India's first Test against South Africa at Centurion, Shastri revealed that Virat Kohli's style of captaincy is a lot like Kapil Dev, they're both spontaneous with their choices and decisions, while the pair of Rohit Sharma and Sunil Gavaskar always had a more calculative approach towards captaincy. There has been a lot of talk about Rohit's equation with Virat, however, Shastri revealed that they're both professional and are never affected by the 'talk' about their off-field relations. "You look at the two and compare their captaincy and it reminds me of Sunny and Kapil. Kapil the more Virat like, spontaneous, instinctive, goes with the gut feeling and Rohit more like Gavaskar, calculative and extremely efficient, calm and composed. I don't think the team was too worried about what was on the outside, to be honest. And I am not saying because I'm sitting here. They were professionals," stated Shastri.

AJINKYA RAHANE CAUGHT ON CAMERA REPEATEDLY REMINDING HIMSELF TO 'WATCH THE BALL' IN CENTURION



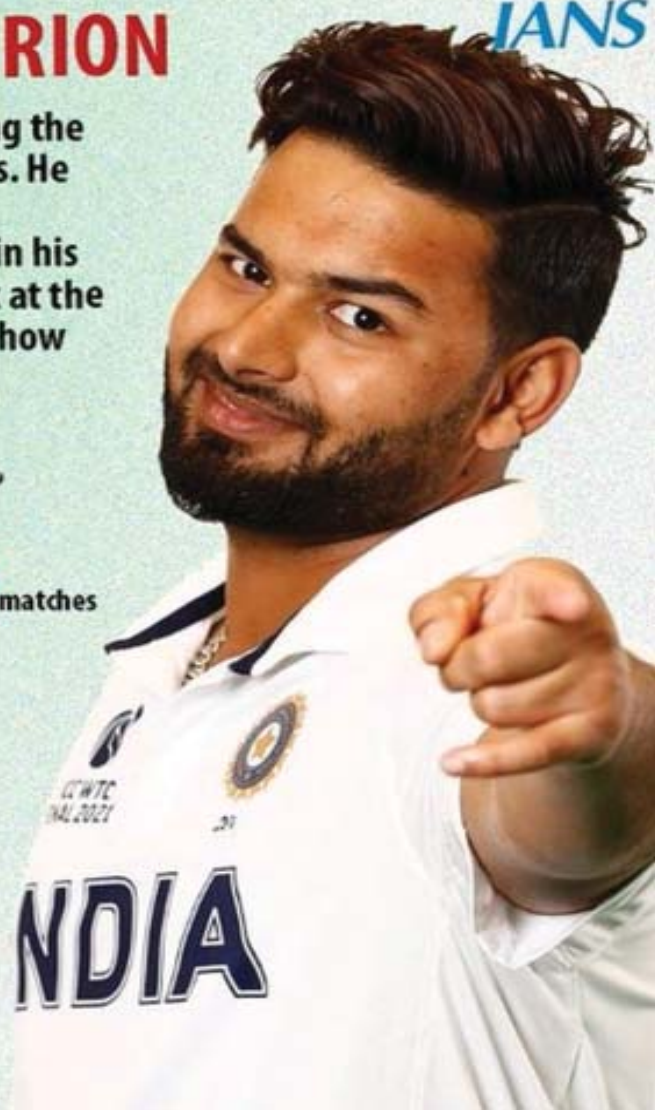
After getting all the hate and troll from fans for his inclusion in the playing XI of the first Test against South Africa at Centurion, Ajinkya Rahane, came on to the crease with a point to prove. The now ex vice-captain was at the crease playing alongside centurion KL Rahul as the two stitched up 73 runs at the end of day play. The two will be looking to take the same momentum forward on Day 2 as well. While fans are eagerly waiting for the weather to improve and the skies to clear, a video has been doing the rounds on social media which has grabbed the attention of many. In the short clip, the middle-order batter was caught on camera while batting. However, it was him keeping on talking and reminding himself to 'watch the ball' has gone VIRAL. It was not entirely surprising to see him consciously reminding himself as another below-par score in a series could very well see him being sidelined from India's red-ball set-up. As far as the Test is concerned, vice-captain Rahul hogged the limelight as the opener is playing on 122 while Rahane will resume from the overnight score of 40.

A CENTURION AT CENTURION

Rishabh Pant has set a new Indian record for being the fastest wicketkeeper to secure 100 Test dismissals. He broke the joint record held by M.S. Dhoni and Wriddhiman Saha by getting his 100th dismissal in his 26th Test at Centurion, South Africa. Here's a look at the six Indian wicketkeepers to achieve this feat and how many Tests it took them to do so.

	Rishabh Pant 26 matches
	M.S. Dhoni/Wriddhiman Saha 36 matches
	Kiran More 39 matches
	Nayan Mongia 41 matches
	Syed Kirmani 42 matches

Dhoni leads the table of top Indian wicketkeepers with 294 dismissals, ahead of Kirmani (198), More (130), Mongia (107) and Saha (104).



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HOPE I CAN REPEAT MY SUCCESS IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA IN SOUTH AFRICA TOO: SHARDUL

Shardul Thakur has had a good initiation into Test cricket and the India seam bowling all-rounder wants to replicate his impressive show in Australia and England in the ongoing series against South Africa. Thakur has been preferred by the Indian team management ahead of Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav because of his superior batting skills. "I am looking forward to it. I hope it comes off in SA too as I have been successful in England and Australia, to contribute in South African conditions, I would be more than happy," Shardul told teammate Ravichandran Ashwin during a chat on bcci.tv.

For Shardul, who has 67 wickets and 366 runs for India in 43 international games across formats, self belief is the key. "I do like to plan my game in terms of both bowling and batting. When I enter the ground, everything is about confidence and self-belief for me. If you are playing white ball cricket, you think of yorker. So to bowl that yorker, I go in with full confidence which stands out for me as player," Shardul said. For the Mumbai cricketer, the aim is to remain a player who always makes winning contribution for the team and not just merely add up numbers.

Former Protea pacer reveals he felt paralysed before bowling to Sachin Tendulkar in 2006

Facing former South African bowler Morne Morkel at his peak was the stuff of nightmares for many batsmen around the world. But according to the Proteas pacer himself, he was in complete awe of Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar and felt paralysed before bowling to him in the 2006 series. Morkel had made his debut in that series and he still remembers how his hands froze at the thought of bowling to the Little Master. "I'll tell you what. When I made my debut in 2006... I bowled my first over to Sachin. I remember Polly (Shaun Pollock) game me the ball and I felt paralysed. I thought ok 'I am going to have to bowl this ball,'" he said on a Star Sports' Cricket Live show. Sachin was simply sensational while touring South Africa, scoring six centuries in total. However, in the 2006/07 tour, he failed to score a single century. He would come back strongly in 2010 to score two centuries in what was his final tour of the rainbow nation. Morkel recalls that tour and said he was more confident while bowling to Sachin this time around. "To play against him in 2010... it was a Test match were on Day 1, there was a lot of rain. We managed to bowl India for 130 or so. Conditions got better for batting later on but just the way he went about his trade in that second innings was fantastic to see. It was a big bat to bowl to.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly tests COVID-19 positive

BCCI President and former India captain Sourav Ganguly admitted to hospital after testing positive for Covid-19, news agency Press Trust of India reported. According to the PTI news agency, quoting BCCI sources said, "BCCI President and former India captain Sourav Ganguly admitted to hospital after testing positive for Covid-19". The legendary cricketer was rushed to a hospital late on Monday night as a precautionary measure after his Rt-PCR test report came positive. "He was taken to Woodlands Nursing Home last night. He has been given medication and is currently stable," PTI said by quoting BCCI source. Ganguly is double vaccinated and has been travelling extensively, taking part in all professional activities. Earlier this year, the 49-year-old cricketer was admitted to hospital twice and underwent emergency angioplasty after having some cardiac issues. His elder brother Snehasish Ganguly had also tested positive for coronavirus early this year.

DISCIPLINED GAMEPLANS, LOW BACKLIFT AGAINST SWING: RAHUL & MAYANK'S RECIPE FOR FIRST SESSION SUCCESS



Mayank Agarwal has witnessed KL Rahul's resurrection as a Test batsman at close quarters. Not only did he share a 117-run opening partnership with Rahul on the first day of the first Test against South Africa at Centurion on Sunday, but over the last one year, the two Karnataka team-mates have trained together and turned out for Punjab Kings in the IPL. Agarwal scored an enterprising half-century today, but Rahul reached three-figures and remained unbeaten at the end of the day's play. The latter has been a revelation as a long-form batsman ever since his return to the Test fold in England earlier this year. So what has Rahul done behind the scenes? His opening partner was asked this question at the post-day press conference and Agarwal was coy to start with, before offering some technical insight into Rahul's batting. "Well, that's a question you should ask him," he said before elaborating a bit. "As someone who is watching him closely, he (Rahul) really understands where his off stump is. He is really getting to the line of the ball and he is leaving very well. And he is very disciplined with his gameplans and mindset. He is looking to bat sessions and he is looking to bat through, whenever he gets set."

BEN STOKES HASN'T LOOKED LIKE THE AGGRESSIVE PRESENCE THAT OPPOSITIONS HAVE FEARED: RICKY PONTING



Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting feels Ben Stokes hasn't looked like the "physically aggressive" presence that opposition teams have feared due to his "ultra-defensive approach" in the ongoing Ashes series. Ponting also slammed England skipper Joe Root, Stokes and Jos Buttler for the manner of their dismissals in the first innings of the Boxing Day Test which the two-time World Cup winning captain believes was "inexcusable". England are 0-2 down in the marquee showdown between the traditional rivals. "He's looked ultra-defensive. He hasn't looked like the big, physically aggressive presence at the crease that opposition teams have feared to bowl to in other series," Ponting told 'cricket.com.au'.

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