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# Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

**SAMEERA REDDY SAYS SHE TRIED TO FIT INTO BOLLYWOOD: 'I WAS TOLD I WAS TOO DARK, TOO TALL, TOO BROAD' | 16**



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## FANS SCREAM 'HOLIDAY 2' AFTER SEEING AKSHAY KUMAR'S NEW 'INTO THE WILD' POSTER WITH BEAR GRYLLS



AKSHAY KUMAR'S NEW 'INTO THE WILD' POSTER HAS TAKEN FANS INTO A TIZZY AS THEY NOW HAVE BEEN DEMANDING A SEQUEL TO THE ACTOR'S MOVIE 'HOLIDAY: A SOLDIER IS NEVER OFF DUTY'

AFTER THE GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AKSHAY KUMAR WILL BE PART OF BEAR GRYLLS' 'INTO THE WILD', HIS NEW POSTER HAS TAKEN THE INTERNET BY STORM. AFTER SEEING THE LATEST LOOK OF KILADI KUMAR, FANS HAVE BEEN SCREAMING 'HOLIDAY 2', THUS DEMANDING A SEQUEL TO AKSHAY'S FILM 'HOLIDAY: A SOLDIER IS NEVER OFF DUTY'.

AKSHAY PAIRED A BLACK T-SHIRT WITH ARMY JACKET IN THE NEW POSTER OF 'INTO THE WILD' WITH BEAR GRYLLS. SEEING THE SAME, FANS COULD ONLY THINK ABOUT 'HOLIDAY 2'. "THIS TIME VIRAT BAKSHI IS ON WILD MISSION," WROTE A FAN ON THE POSTER WHICH WAS A REMINDER THAT THE EPISODE WILL PREMIERE ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, AT 8 PM.

**IN 2016, AAMIR KHAN HAD ADDRESSED SAME FAKE INTERVIEW SHARED BY KANGANA RANAUT, HERE'S WHAT HE HAD SAID**



EARLIER LAST WEEK, KANGANA RANAUT HAD SHARED AN 'INTERVIEW' OF AAMIR KHAN, ACCUSING HIM OF 'KATTARPANTHI' (EXTREMIST RELIGIOUS VIEWS).

**KANGANA RANAUT RESPONDS TO BOYCOTT KANGANA EMERGING AS TOP TREND ON TWITTER: 'MICE ARE COMING OUT OF THEIR HOLES'**



KANGANA RANAUT HAS RESPONDED TO THE #BOYCOTT\_KANGANA TREND ON TWITTER, CALLING IT AN ATTEMPT BY THE 'MAFIA' TO BRING HER DOWN.

**BOBBY DEOL'S FOOLHARDY STUDENTS BRING WIN-WIN MOMENTS IN SHAH RUKH KHAN PRODUCED NETFLIX ORIGINAL**



IN THE 80S, NEW CADETS ARE GETTING TRAINED IN NASHIK AND ARE AWAITING FOR DEAN VIJAY SINGH (BOBBY DEOL) TO GIVE THEM LECTURES DURING THE SEMESTER.

## MIRA RAJPUT SHARES THROWBACK PHOTO FLAUNTING HER BABY BUMP AHEAD OF MISHA KAPOOR'S 4TH BIRTHDAY

Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput's daughter Misha Kapoor is all set to turn four on August 25. The couple welcomed their first child back in 2016 a year after entering marital bliss. Now, Mira took to her Instagram page and shared a throwback photo flaunting her baby bump just before she was about to pop. Yes, as per her post, Mira posed for this photo a day before Misha was born. In the photo, Mira is seen wearing a pink kurta and pouting with her eyes closed. She is seen showing her full-grown baby bump. Shahid's wife captioned her post stating, "Throwback to the day before I popped #4yearsagotoday. I can understand the belly getting bigger, but what's with the nose getting huge?"



## EMRAAN HASHMI TO STAR IN BALWINDER SINGH JANJUA'S COMEDY, SAB FIRST CLASS

Emraan Hashmi has signed his next project, Balwinder Singh Janjua's slice-of-life film titled Sab First Class. The announcement was made on social media by trade analyst Taran Adarsh, who called it the actor's first film in the comedy genre.



In an Instagram post, Taran wrote, "ANNOUNCEMENT... #EmraanHashmi to star in #SabFirstClass, a slice of life film... In fact, #Emraan will be trying his hand at comedy for the first time... Directed by Balwinder Singh Janjua... Produced by Deepak Mukut, Shivanshu Pandey and Abhay Sinha... Nishant Pitti presents." Fans were quick to point out that Emraan starred in Madhur Bhandarkar's 2012 romantic comedy, Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji. He has also starred in comedies such as Ghanchakkar (2013) and Good Boy Bad Boy (2007). Emraan, who rose to fame with adult dramas, had told Hindustan Times in a 2017 interview that he was looking to move on from the 'serial kisser' tag and reinvent himself as an actor.

## PRAKASH JHA ADDRESSES CONTROVERSIES AROUND AASHRAM: 'ONCE PEOPLE WATCH THE SHOW, THEY WILL REALISE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT'

Director Prakash Jha has addressed the controversies surrounding his next web show, Aashram, that takes a deep and incisive look at blind faith and how some self-styled exploitative godmen take advantage of it. The filmmaker says this criticism is not a new phenomenon and he has faced it in the past too. "It always happens with all my work, before it gets released, someone will go to court, governments will ban my films and people are concerned. But once the film releases, everything is quiet and that is going to happen this time too," says the filmmaker in an interview to Hindustan Times, saying 'once people watch the show, they will find out there is nothing to worry about'.



## KXIP'S CHRIS GAYLE TESTS NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19 AFTER ATTENDING USAIN BOLT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

World-record sprinter and eight-time Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt has tested positive for the coronavirus and is self-isolating at his home in Jamaica after last week celebrating his 34th birthday with a big bash mask-free, confirmed Jamaica's health ministry late on Monday. One of the people, who according to several media reports, attended Bolt's birthday was Kings XI Punjab's Chris Gayle. If Gayle was tested positive for the novel coronavirus, his chances of travelling to UAE to play for Kings XI Punjab would have been compromised. But, the swashbuckling batsman took to social media to announce that he has been tested negative twice. "Couple days ago. 1st Covid-19 test.. Before travel I need 2 negative test," Gayle's Instagram story said. In another post, Gayle wrote, "The last one went a bit too far in my nose. Phew. Result was negative."



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## IPL 2020: Which team suffers in finals – Chennai Super Kings or Royal Challengers Bangalore?



CHENNAI SUPER KINGS AND ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE HAVE FEATURED IN EIGHT AND THREE IPL FINALS RESPECTIVELY BUT MS DHONI'S SIDE HAS WON THE TROPHY THREE TIMES WHILE VIRAT KOHLI IS YET TO GET SUCCESS. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS AND ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE. ONE IS LED BY MS DHONI, THE OTHER BY VIRAT KOHLI. TWO GREAT CRICKETERS, TWO MOST ADMIRABLE FIGURES IN THE CRICKETING WORLD. DHONI IS THE GREATEST CAPTAIN EVER, WHILE KOHLI IS ON THE PATH OF GREATNESS. THE CLASH BETWEEN CHENNAI SUPER KINGS AND ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE IS DUBBED THE KAVERI DERBY.

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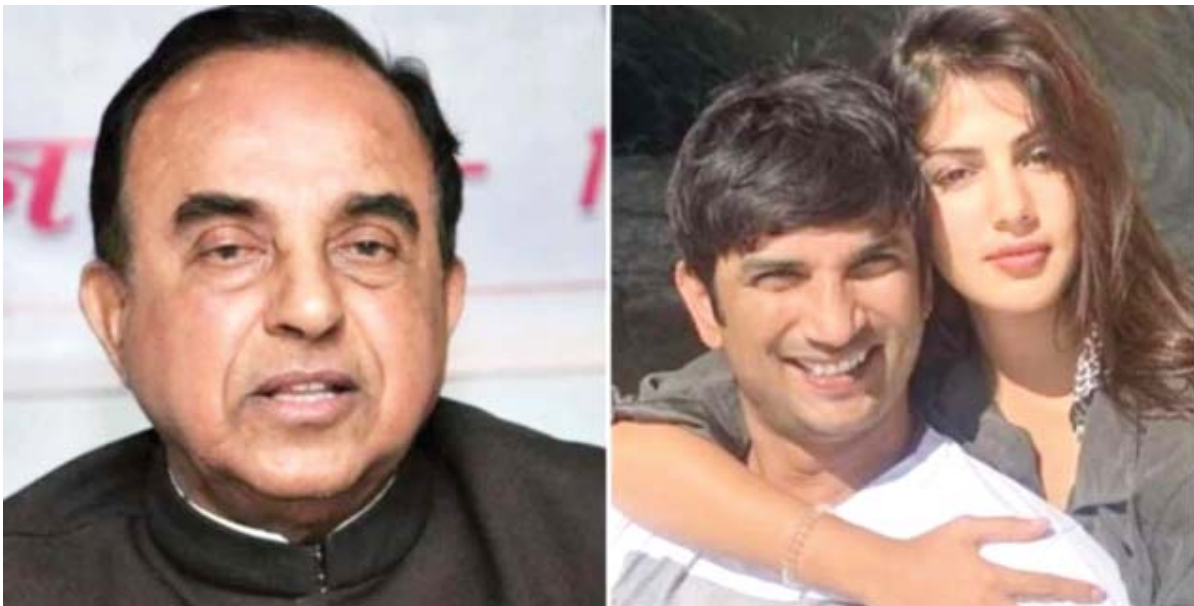


# SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY ON WHY 'CBI WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT ARREST RHEA CHAKRABORTY' IN SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DEATH CASE

In a tweet on Monday, former Union Cabin Minister Dr. Subramanian Swamy spoke in CBI investigation in Sushant Singh Rajput death case and said that if Rhea Chakraborty contradicts her conversation with Mahesh Bhatt then Central Bureau of Investigation will have to arrest her. He wrote, "If Rhea Chakravarty keeps giving evidence which contradicts her conversation with Mahesh Bhatt then CBI will have no alternative but to arrest her and subject her to custodial interrogation to get at the truth."

Swamy's tweets come after Mahesh Bhatt and Rhea Chakraborty's WhatsApp chats were leaked a few days back on the Internet. After the chats went viral, Mahesh's wife Soni Razdan and Pooja Bhatt had also defended the filmmaker.

Pooja had tweeted, "Interestingly, the message refers to as 'most explosive revelation' is a message that my father also sent me & countless other people on his phone list on the same day (June 9) & subsequently posted on Twitter as well (26-6-2020) get your facts right." On the other hand, Soni quoted her tweet and wrote, "Yes true. Here is mine. We get them every day. When will news channels actually give us real news and not fabricated spin-offs? Most seem to have turned into uglier more salacious versions of Stardust and Cine Blitz." The forwarded message by Mahesh read as "Sometimes to really see things the way that they truly are, you have to take a step back, and another step, and then a few more." While another message read as "Loneliness plays a key in nurturing the seed of personal creativity and birthing one's true self."



## In 2016, Aamir Khan had addressed same fake interview shared by Kangana Ranaut, here's what he had said

Earlier last week, Kangana Ranaut had shared an 'interview' of Aamir Khan, accusing him of 'kattarpanthi' (extremist religious views). Later, the interview was proven to be fake.

In the fake interview, Aamir was shown to be saying that even though he is a Muslim and his wife (filmmaker Kiran Rao) a Hindu, their children will only be brought up with Islamic culture and traditions. Sharing it, Kangana had tweeted that 'outcome of a marriage is not just a blend of genes and cultures but even religions', asking the actor to teach his children 'Allah ki ebadat bhi seekhayein aur Shri Krishn ki Bhakti bhi'.

In another tweet, she asked when did Aamir become 'so intolerant'.

However, the interview was a complete fake. Back in 2016 itself, Aamir had said in an interview with Rajat Sharma that he had filed an FIR against the same. Aamir said he had been watching a conspiracy unfolding against him since a long time. "I could see that people were being provoked against me. There was a weird interview in which I am shown to be saying that 'I am a Muslim, my kids will be Muslims, so what if my wife is a Hindu'. These weird interviews that were supposed to be mine, were going viral in the media. My pictures were being shared that I am mingling with terrorists. So such rumours were being spread about me," he said. Aamir, therefore, filed a complaint with the police who caught two men in relation to the case. One was the one who created the fake video and the other was arrested for spreading it on internet.





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# BOBBY DEOL'S FOOLHARDY STUDENTS BRING WIN-WIN MOMENTS IN SHAH RUKH KHAN PRODUCED NETFLIX ORIGINAL



In the 80s, new cadets are getting trained in Nashik and are awaiting for Dean Vijay Singh (Bobby Deol) to give them lectures during the semester. However, missing him throughout the whole semester, five efficient and twisted cadets become impatient. Their encounter with Dean is unusual which make them his favourites. Vijay Singh has an emotional past which haunts him. No, it's not just related to his family but also the whole corrupted system which he wishes to clean but no one lets him. Due to this corrupt system, he has been assigned as the Dean in the form of punishment posting. However, those five cops lead him to get reinstated as the officer in charge. Set in the 80s and the early 90s, when underworld was prominent in Bombay (now Mumbai), Singh finds these five men who can help him clean Bombay which is beyond the underworld lives. The five debutantes are impressive to the core played by Ninad Mahajani, Bhupendra Jadawat, Sameer Paranjape, Hitesh Bhojraj, Prithvik Pratap and they know what they have signed up for. They show a ray of hope but gets dissolved in the sparkling corrupt system but is there a way out for that? Well, there has to be. Based on the book by Hussain Zaidi, The Class of 83: The Punishers of Mumbai Police was published recently. The synopsis is quite similar to what we saw in the movie. It read as "At a time when Mumbai was plagued by underworld gangsters like Dawood Ibrahim, Iqbal Kaskar and Chhota Rajan, the batch of 1983 from the Police Training School (PTC) in Nashik-trained by the legendary Arvind Inamdar-produced a group of prominent encounter specialists who have been credited with bringing back the rule of law in the city." The villain of the film is not the underworld don 'Kalsekar' who is mentioned throughout but the people involved in corruption be

it CM played by Anup Soni or those five recruited cops who think it's fair in their job to be bribed. The pace of Class of '83 picks up after it inches towards an hour of the runtime. Yes, the film is only one hour 38 minutes long, but it becomes more interesting (not really) in the last half an hour when they kickstart their on-field job. In just comparison to the whole runtime of the film, only the last half an hour seems to be a saviour. The hero of the film is indeed those five debutants with Bobby Deol's calming presence does the little talking. He keeps calm even when he has to question wrongdoings of each and every person involved in the system. He is the typical principal of the school. He dons salt-and-pepper look and is a widower. There are some sequences which show the beauty of the city back in the 80s and will remind you of those dark eras which many of us have just witnessed via movies or read in the books especially by Zaidi. The makers have researched well for the film and dug out the book thoroughly for the perfect entertainment. But still, it felt like 'work in progress'. Director Atul Sabharwal had helmed Arjun Kapoor starrer Aurangzeb back in 2013 which was also a cop drama. So this investigative cop drama seems to be his forte. But for this he rushed in some sequences, not giving right breakpoints making the sequence change entirely. As a producer for Netflix Original, Shah Rukh Khan didn't seem to have a great run with Bard of the Blood and Betaal (both shows). This is his first movie outing as the producer for the streaming platform which is on its way to the add-on factor. Overall, if you can invest one hour 38 minutes it might look prolonged and dud too. Time-saving runtime sadly couldn't save this Class of '83.



## Soni Razdan, Pooja Bhatt trolled for defending Mahesh Bhatt after his private chat with Rhea Chakraborty were leaked



Mahesh Bhatt's wife and daughter Soni Razdan and Pooja Bhatt are getting brutally trolled on social media platforms after Mahesh's Whatsapp chat with Rhea Chakraborty was leaked. For the uninformed, his wife Soni and elder daughter Pooja took to Twitter to defend Mahesh and had said that the forwards Mahesh sent to Rhea had also been sent to them, and several other people in the filmmaker's contact list. While Soni has restricted her comment section after that, Pooja has been facing a lot of flak on social media for defending her father. A lot of users said, "Just one question, why are u giving so many clarifications when u and ur father haven't done anything. Just be quiet and let CBI do their work. Truth never defend itself. So, have some patience." While another shared saying, "U seem to be a big follower. How would you explain his action towards depression was that even planned against SSR. You like them because u do not see the other side of the coin. its

halo effect." And one user said, "Bollywood is all about Delusional Dreams.. Everyone in Bollywood is trying to become Sherlock Holmes and Karl Marx now a days.. Her Own family member role in 26/11 should be probed again.. #SoniRazdan." For those who don't know, Pooja had defended her father saying, "Interestingly, the message refers to as 'most explosive revelation' is a message that my father also sent me and countless other people on his phone list on the same day (June 9) and subsequently posted on Twitter as well (26-6-2020) get your facts right." On the other hand, Soni had replied saying, "Yes true. Here is mine. We get them every day. When will news channels actually give us real news and not fabricated spin-offs. Most seem to have turned into uglier more salacious versions of Stardust and Cine Blitz."

## Katrina Kaif shares throwback photo with Anushka Sharma; here's how latter reacted to it



Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma's friendship go way back in 2012 when they worked together in Yash Chopra directorial Jab Tak Hai Jaan co-starring Shah Rukh Khan. The actors worked together in Aanand L Rai's Zero which released in 2019. Moreover, Katrina and Anushka even appeared together on Koffee With Karan where they spoke fondly of each other and fans couldn't stop gushing over them. Now Katrina took a trip down memory lane with Anushka. The Bharat actor took to her Instagram page and shared a photo posing with Anushka which was clicked during the shoot of Jab Tak Hai Jaan. In the photo, both are seen twinning in white top teamed up with jeans. They can't stop laughing while getting clicked. Katrina captioned the photo stating, "Just felt happy seeing this pic @anushkasharma". Anushka also left the sweetest comment on Katrina's post by writing, "It's because we were fully present and happy at this moment! Shine your brightest always dearest Katrina." Earlier during an interaction with DNA, Anushka spoke about working environment with Katrina. She had said, "Whether I get along with someone or don't, doesn't matter. I don't need to get along with everybody around me. It's just the vibe thing. Sometimes, you feel the vibe and connect with someone, sometimes you don't. How you are in a place and how the other person is, that's what matters. They can't be pretentious. It can't be that they are being normal and you are not being normal or the other way round. All these things do play a role. I'm happy that with Katrina and me, things are quite transparent and real!"

## Janhvi Kapoor says she's being trolled since Dhadak: 'I even got comments like good that your mother is not around to see this'

Actor Janhvi Kapoor has faced incessant trolling ever since she made her debut but she says she can't let it make her bitter. Janhvi says that the constant criticism keeps her on her toes to perform better each time. Speaking to Bollywood Hungama, Janhvi said she is being trolled ever since she made her debut with Dhadak in 2018. "I don't allow myself to get bitter about it. When my first film came I even got comments like...good that your mother is not around to see this...I can't allow myself to get bitter or hurt. I'd rather see the criticism as an opportunity to better myself. I would rather live in a bubble where everything is okay and then try to improve myself," she said. Janhvi's mother, legendary actor Sridevi died in February, 2018, just a few months before Dhadak's release. While she could not watch the entire film, filmmaker Karan Johar had shown her snippets of Janhvi's work. Janhvi latest release was Netflix's Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl. Though the film has been embroiled in controversy, critics appreciated Janhvi's performance in the film. "Reading some reviews I had tears in my eyes. I didn't realize how much this acceptance would mean to me. We all say it is enough to work hard and that is enough of a reward. But we all need the audiences' acceptance," she said. Janhvi added that if Sridevi were alive, she would have sent the positive reviews to all her relatives. However, her father Boney Kapoor has taken up that job now. Gunjan Saxena is based on the life of retired flight lieutenant Gunjan Saxena, who was the first woman to fly during combat during the 1999 Kargil War. However, Gunjan Saxena's colleagues have challenged that fact, saying that Gunjan wasn't the first or the only woman to fly to Kargil at the time.

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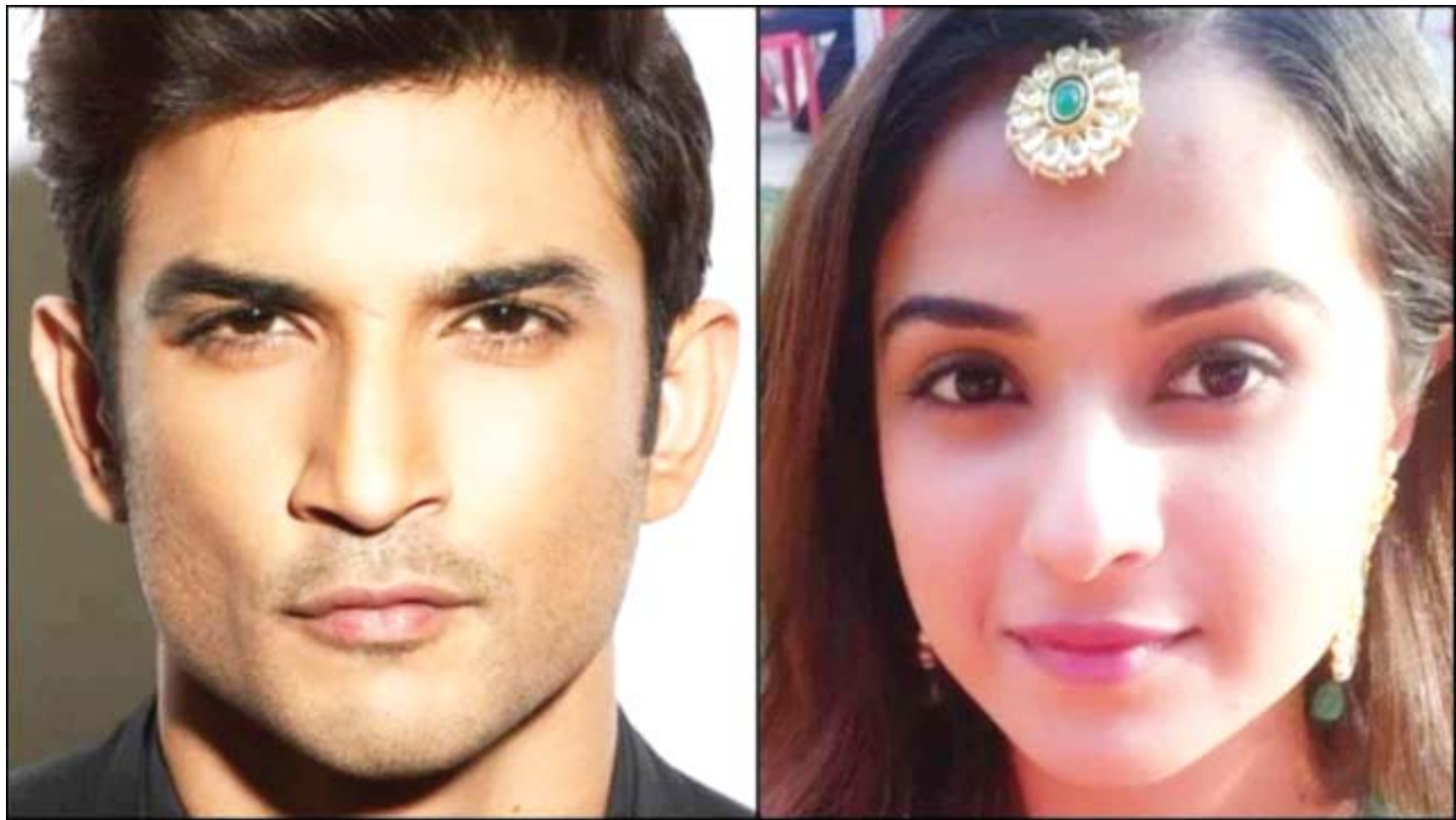
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# SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S FORMER MANAGER DISHA SALIAN'S PHONE WAS ACTIVE FOR 9 DAYS AFTER HER DEATH



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is actively investigating the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and it has now been revealed in the case that his former manager Disha Salian's phone had remained active even after her death on June 8. Disha, who had represented Sushant for a brief amount of time was found dead under mysterious circumstances on June 8, just 6 days before Sushant allegedly died by suicide. According to the Mumbai Police, Disha had committed suicide by jumping off a building. Now, Zee News has reported from sources close to developments in Disha Salian's death who have claimed that her phone remained active for more than a week even after her death. Sources say that several internet calls were placed from Disha's

phone between June 9 and June 17. However, it remains unclear who used her phone after her death. Reports also state that according to Disha's call log on June 6, she had placed, two days before her death, three calls. Whereas on June 7, two separate calls were placed from her phone, at around 12:02 am and 12:57 am. On June 7, Disha had made at least 36 calls, including a phone call to her friend Ekta, at around 12:10. An eyewitness in the case also claimed that Mumbai Police officials had reached the spot where she had died within a few minutes after the tragic incident, however, her phone was not confiscated by the officials. CBI is currently investigating the death of the late actor after the Supreme Court's directive on the same.

# 'SADAK 2' NEW SONG 'DIL KI PURANI SADAK' TOUCHES UPON SANJAY DUTT-POOJA BHATT'S LOVE SAGA



'Sadak 2's new song 'Dil Ki Purani Sadak' is here to take you back in time. The song talks about Sanjay Dutt and Pooja Bhatt's love saga, which we have seen in 1991. In fact 'Sadak 2' is a sequel to the film 'Sadak' starring Sanjay Dutt and Pooja Bhatt in the lead role. Sanjay Dutt has lost Pooja Bhatt and stays sad, but keeps her in his thoughts all the time. The song has been crooned by KK, who rang in his 50th birthday on August 23, 2020. 'Sadak 2' also stars Alia Bhatt and Aditya Roy Kapur in the lead roles with Makarand Deshpande. Jisshu Sengupta, Priyanka Bose, Mohan

Kapur and Akshay Anand have also been roped in for pivotal roles. The film is directed by Mahesh Bhatt who returns to direction after two decades and produced by Mukesh Bhatt. The music for the film is composed by Jeet Gannguli, Ankit Tiwari, Samidh Mukherjee, Urvi and Suniljeet. Sadak 2 is all set to be streamed directly on Disney+ Hotstar from August 28, 2020. Sadak 2 also reunites the team of Kalank including Sanjay, Alia and Aditya after a year. While Pooja and Dutt will be seen together nearly after three decades.

## SAMEERA REDDY SAYS SHE TRIED TO FIT INTO BOLLYWOOD: ‘I WAS TOLD I WAS TOO DARK, TOO TALL, TOO BROAD’

Sameera Reddy opened up about the beauty standards in Bollywood and how she tried hard to fit in. She said that she was constantly told how she was 'too dark' or 'too tall' and did not fit into the mould of the 'girl next door'. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Sameera said, "I was told I was too dark, too tall, too broad. I didn't fit into that girl next door look. I had to constantly try and fit in it and it really exhausted and tired me. I don't regret it because that was my learning to learn to come to this point of loving myself unconditionally. You have to go through a point where you actually hate yourself because when you come to this point of hating yourself so much and break into pieces, you can put yourself back together in the most beautiful way possible." As an actor, Sameera was expected to look a certain way. "It was not discrimination. More than that it was more of you have to look a certain way, whether you have to pad your chest or hips. There was always something that I had to fix," she said. Sameera, who made her big screen debut in 2002 with Maine Dil Tuihko Diya, was last seen in the Kannada film Varadhanayaka (2013). During her second pregnancy, she had started a campaign #ImperfectlyPerfect, in which she addressed body image issues and advocated self-love. She also opened up about experiencing postpartum depression and putting on a lot of



weight after her first pregnancy. "My campaign comes from the fact that I felt completely disillusioned and broken after being pregnant the first time when I gained weight and was 105 kgs. The perfect body and the perfect face that I worked on, for my film career, broke apart and I was completely lost," she had told Hindustan Times in an interview last year, adding that it was important to accept and love oneself.

## 'It has worked like never before': Yami Gautam on how she healed herself from neck injury during lockdown



Many might not be aware but Bollywood actress Yami Gautam suffered through a neck injury during the coronavirus lockdown. Yami recently took to her official Instagram account and opened up about the same and explained how Yoga helped her recover and explore new things. Posting a black and white picture of herself in a yoga pose, Yami wrote, "This post is very personal... Having suffered a serious neck injury, I always had to be extra cautious - esp owing to the fact the amount of physical exertion due to dance, workout, nonstop travel, physical activity, action, painful footwear, etc, etc & this list is endless, resonates with being an actor... somehow it's always been about never expressing the pain beneath the surface & rather conditioning your own self to bear it & like it said, the show must go on..." She further added, "But this lockdown, I got to explore something which I couldn't before! Every time I would try practising Yoga, I would be left more in pain owing to my condition, hence my experience never encouraged me to continue.. but this time I self-tutored my way through & allowed my body to heal itself inside out and it has worked like never before! This lockdown was not about 'looking fit' or 'workout of the day' ... it was the time where I listened & just went with the flow! I am no expert (which you shall clearly see in the images)! I took my first baby step towards this journey, which shall not stop." On the work front, Yami was last seen in Bala opposite Ayushmann Khurrana.

## Kangana Ranaut responds to Boycott Kangana emerging as top trend on Twitter: ‘Mice are coming out of their holes’



Kangana Ranaut has responded to the #Boycott\_Kangana trend on Twitter, calling it an attempt by the 'mafia' to bring her down. She has often alleged the existence of a 'mafia' in Bollywood, which uses its clout to further the career of star kids and gang up on outsiders. In a tweet, Kangana wrote, "Wonderful #Boycott\_Kangana trending, chuhe bilon se bahar aa rahe hai. Chalo, thoda haath pair toh mafia bhi maaregi (the mice are coming out of their holes. Well, the mafia will try whatever it can)." Last week, Kangana claimed that the 'movie mafia' was trying to get her Twitter account suspended, which is why she was using her 'limited' time on the microblogging site to expose them. Earlier, her sister and manager Rangoli Chandel's Twitter account was suspended for her controversial posts with communal undertones. "My friends here may find my talks unidimensional, mostly directed at movie mafia, their antinational and Hinduphobic racket. I know my time is limited here, they can get my account suspended any minute, even though I have a lot to share but I must utilise this time to expose them," Kangana had written on Twitter. Earlier, in an interview with Republic TV, Kangana said that the 'movie mafia' attempted to destroy her financially, socially and professionally. She said that after she rose to the top position with the release of Tanu Weds Manu Returns, a legal case was 'suddenly' slapped on her, which led to her being dropped by 19 brands overnight. "Of course, that case did not go anywhere but all the brands dropped me. I had made some investments considering those contracts. I was in big trouble," Kangana said, adding that her chances at getting married and having a family were also destroyed, after she was portrayed as a 'man-eater' and 'nymphomaniac'. "Then they started to claim, she is a man-eater, she sends her nude pictures, she is mixing her blood, she is a witch. Two days ago, I was a beautiful girl persuaded by many men. Suddenly, I see that maybe marriage is not an option for my life," she said. She also said that Karan Johar 'openly declared', to applause and hooting, that she should leave Bollywood. She claimed that after these incidents, she had thoughts of 'just shaving (her) head and disappearing'.



# MidWeekSports

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## 'ONE MISTAKE COULD SPOIL WHOLE TOURNAMENT' VIRAT KOHLI WARNS IN RCB'S FIRST VIRTUAL TEAM MEETING



One mistake could “spoil” the entire tournament, Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli on Monday warned his colleagues in the IPL's first virtual team meeting, while imploring them to do all they can to keep the bio-bubble secure.

It was a team meeting like no other but Kohli meant business straightaway as he urged his colleagues to strictly follow the protocols put in place by the authorities in the UAE, the venue of the upcoming edition of IPL, in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

“We have followed what's been told to us and I would expect everyone to be on the same page in terms of securing the bubble at all times and making sure that nothing is compromised,” Kohli said.

“...Because I think one mistake by any one of us could literally spoil the whole tournament. And none of us want to do that.” RCB's director of cricket operations Mike Hesson, who was present in the meeting along with head coach Simon Katich, spoke about the consequences of violating the rules after Kohli posed him a question.

“It (violation) will be dealt with very seriously. For accidental breach, players will be removed and sent into isolation for seven days and then come back only after he tests negative.

“There will be strong consequences if players chose to do that (violate protocols). Players will sign a document which explains the consequences,” Hesson said. Kohli added, “We have to understand that we need to protect the bubble.” The Indian captain stressed on the need to develop a good team culture from the first day.

“I can't wait to get to our first practice session, something that we all are going to cherish. An opportunity to create a good team culture from Day 1. “For me it's all about what can I do to create an environment where everyone feels a part of the team equally and everyone feels responsible for where we want to go equally,” he said.

**“ IPL 2020 | Virat Kohli meant business straightaway as he urged his colleagues to strictly follow the protocols put in place by the authorities in the UAE, the venue of the upcoming edition of IPL, in view of Covid-19 pandemic.**

“And I think all of us have to contribute towards that. Firstly the seniors in the team. So let's start things on the right note.” Moved out of India due to the pandemic, the 13th edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be played across the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

At the start of the meeting, a video of which the franchise shared on its Twitter handle, Kohli said, “From my end it's very awkward to have a welcome meeting like this but (this is) something that we probably have to get used to quite a bit. “I think we have done pretty well to Dubai firstly safe and sound.” The players are currently undergoing a mandatory six-day quarantine which is in line with the Standard Operating Procedure issued by the BCCI. As per the protocols, RT-PCR tests are to be conducted on everyone on Day 1, 3 and 6 of the quarantine, after which all the players who return negative for all the three tests will enter the tournament bio-bubble.

Subsequently, they will be tested every fifth day of the tournament. The players and support staff were already tested multiple times before departure for the UAE.

## 'HIS TEAMMATES LOVED THAT ABOUT HIM': RICKY PONTING EXPLAINS WHY MS DHONI WAS A GREAT LEADER

Former Australia captain and batting legend Ricky Ponting believes that there was a stark difference in leadership skills between him and former India captain MS Dhoni. Ponting, during his time as Australia skipper, led his team to back-to-back ODI World Cup wins. Dhoni, on the other hand, went on to become the only captain to win all three ICC trophies - the 2007 T20 World Cup, the 2011 ODI World Cup and the 2013 Champions Trophy. Ponting explains why Dhoni was a great leader and points out one thing that he himself could not do as leader that Dhoni could. “He [MS Dhoni] never seems to let his emotions get the better of him, which is a really good trait in a leader — as hard as I tried when I was on the field, I could never quite stay in complete control of my emotions.” Ricky Ponting told news.com.au.

“Indian teams always seemed to lift when he was captain. He always seemed to have this knack to be able to get the best out of his players. You knew that he had things under control, and his teammates loved that about him,” the former Aussie cricketer further said. “I spend a lot of time in India now, so I know how revered he is in that part of the world. Even when you travel around the world and you listen to cricket fans, they talk about Dhoni and his leadership and how calm he seems to be under pressure on the field,” he further added. Ponting, who will lead Delhi Capitals as the head coach in the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League which kicks off from September 19th, said that he is eager to face off against Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings in the tournament.

“Chennai have been one of the most consistently strong and competitive teams in the IPL, and a lot of that's got to come down to his [MS Dhoni's] leadership as well. I'm looking forward to coaching against him now and making sure he doesn't win any game off his own bat when Chennai play the Delhi Capitals,” Ponting signed off.



## 'We made a mistake': Sunil Gavaskar highlights one reason why India couldn't win 2019 World Cup



There have been detailed discussions regarding India's 2019 World Cup campaign for over a year. India were one of the favourites to win the title in England after an incredible run in the last few years. The team under the leadership of Virat Kohli finished at the top of the table after the group stage. It looked India would be heading to the finals after the bowlers reduced New Zealand to 240 in the semifinals. But it all came crashing down from there. The top-order failed, the middle order couldn't do much and it was left to MS Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja to reignite the Indian hopes. But the contest ended when Dhoni was uncharacteristically run-out. Whenever a debate takes place regarding the World Cup, the conversation turns towards team management's inability to get a settled no.4 batsman in place. Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar also agrees that India made a mistake by not having a proper no.4 batsman.

“What we need to look at is to have somebody at 4, 5 and 6 who are very good batsmen, who would otherwise bat at the top but because 1, 2 and 3 are occupied they are batting in the middle-order. We made a mistake by not having a proper No. 4 at the 2019 World Cup. If we had had a proper No. 4 for the World Cup then it might have been a completely different story,” Gavaskar told India Today. “India's top-3 batting lineup is such a fabulous batting lineup that often it has happened that numbers 4 and 5 at the initial stages of the World Cups haven't got the opportunity to play long innings, to get their eye in.

## 'Dream is very much alive' - Rajasthan Royals' Robin Uthappa hopeful of making India comeback

Out-of-favour India wicketkeeper-batsman Robin Uthappa believes that a good season of Indian Premier League could still pave a way for him to make a comeback for India. The 13th season of IPL will start from September 19th and will be played in the UAE this year. The matches will take place in three cities - Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Uthappa, who was bought by Rajasthan Royals at the auctions last year, said that he still believes he could make an international return.

Answering a question from a fan in a video uploaded on Rajasthan Royals' Twitter account, Uthappa said: “I certainly believe that if we have a great season in the IPL, wonderful things could happen to me and even bring me back into the reckoning for the Indian team.

“I am someone who is always positive as a human being and I look for silver linings even in negative situations. So my conviction is really strong that god willing, that I will be able to represent my country again and bring laurels to it. I hope that happens,” he added.

The batsman further said that the dream to play for India is still alive for him. “Anyone who plays competitive cricket hopes to play for the country and bring laurels to the country. So the dream is very much alive,” he said.

Uthappa has played 46 ODIs in which he has scored 934 runs at an average of 25.94. He has also played 13 T20Is in which he has scored 249 runs. Uthappa was a part of India's 2007 T20 World Cup-winning team as well.

In his IPL career, Uthappa has played 177 games in which he has scored 4,411 runs at an average of 28.83 at a strike rate of 130.5. He was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders franchise that lifted the title twice, but was not retained by KKR last year.



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# ‘Bowled some 4000 overs and got hammered by Laxman and Dravid’: Shane Warne recalls 2001 Eden Gardens Test



Former leg-spinner Shane Warne recalled how it was being on the field for almost 180 overs and watching VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid script one of Test cricket's greatest comebacks of all time during the 2001 Test match between India and Australia and Kolkata's Eden Gardens. In reply to Australia's first-innings total of 445, India were bundled out for 171. However, after Steve Waugh decided to enforce the follow-on, Dravid and Laxman's record 376-run partnership for the fifth wicket laid the groundwork for India's mammoth 657/7 declared, a stage from where they came back to win the Test match, becoming only the third team in history to win a Test after following-on. Warne, who finished with 1/152 from 34 overs, recalled his and Australia's long day on the field.

"I remember standing in slips in between bowling about 4000 overs

and getting hammered around the ground. I discussed my favourite movies with Adam Gilchrist, we swapped hats, and tried everything to try and not think about it. My favourite songs... I think we were delirious," Warne said on air during the third Test between England and Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl. That said, Warne took nothing away from Laxman and Dravid's effort. Coming together at 248/4, the two batsmen batted an entire day – and a total of 104 overs – with Laxman carving a place for himself scoring in history with a career-best knock of 281. The knock helped raise Laxman's stocks and he reached unprecedented heights from there.

"But they played beautifully, Laxman and Dravid. In my time, it was as good an innings as there was. Laxman's innings was beautiful, Dravid was exceptional too. Sometimes you just have to say 'too good'," Warne added.

# ‘MAKE IT A FREE BALL.’ ASHWIN’S TWEET SPARKS OFF DEBATE AMONG FORMER CRICKETERS AND EXPERTS



India's premier off-spinner R Ashwin's tweet in which he suggested the introduction of a 'free ball' for bowlers in which non-strikers back up followed a discussion on his timeline with former India cricketers WV Raman, S Badrinath, Rohan Gavaskar and commentator Harsha Bhogle providing their opinion on the issue. Sticking to his stand that there was nothing wrong with running batsmen out after they back up too far, Ashwin said the batting team should be docked five runs if a batsman gets out on the free ball. Ashwin's suggestion was in relation to the free hit awarded to the batsman when bowlers bowls a no ball.

"Make it a free ball for the bowler. If the batsmen gets out of that ball, the batting team will be docked 5 runs. Free hit adds to the drama for a batter, let's give a chance to the bowlers too," Ashwin tweeted in response to Dinesh Karthik's assertion that it was unfair to link the dismissal to spirit of the game or call it 'Mankading' as it is permitted by laws of the game.

"As of now everyone watches the game hoping that 'the bowlers will get smacked today'," the off-spinner said.

"Echoing the famous line of Eli Wallach, 'when you have to shoot, shoot, don't talk'. Similarly, 'when you have to stay in the crease, stay in, don't walk out'," Raman said quoting from Hollywood classic 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'.

Gavaskar Jr, whose father has been one of the staunchest critics of the term "Mankading", said that spirit of the game is a vague term.

"I think 'spirit of the game' is so vague. Is it in the spirit of the game to not walk when one knows he/she is out or to appeal to dismiss a batter when one knows he/ she is not out? It's not - yet that is accepted and practised by nearly everybody," Rohan said. Rohan also feels that a lot of bowlers shy away from running out batsmen backing up too far as it invites a backlash.

"My feeling is that more bowlers don't do it because of the backlash that it creates ...the negative publicity and the drama." Kolkata Knight Riders CEO Venky Mysore, however, feels that 'Mankading' is a "harsh" dismissal and docking runs can be tried out.

"Rules vs. spirit cannot settle the issue. To me, Mankading dismissal is too harsh & jarring to everyone. So change rule? Reduce a run like in the case of 'one short'? Would that be fair?," Mysore tweeted. Bhogle wants the rule to be simplified where it clearly states that batsmen should stay inside the crease.

"I think the rule should be simple and take away any subjective element like 'normal delivery position' and just say 'non-striker stays in till the ball is released'," the celebrated commentator said. However, Karthik had a counter-argument. He said that TV umpires can check if batsmen are backing up too far and no runs could be allowed.

"...the cameras used to see the no ball can be used to monitor this. No runs allowed for that delivery, ball is legitimate and dismissal accepted." Badrinath, who has played for India in 2010-11 and was an integral part of Chennai Super Kings in the early years of the IPL, said the dismissal should stay but shouldn't be called 'Mankading'.

"...the batsman leaves crease early because he is 1) ignorant of the rule, 2) careless 3) taking unfair advantage, so only thing they need to change is the name Mankading."

Ashwin had ran out Jos Buttler during an IPL match between Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals in 2019 when the Englishman left the non-striker's end much before the delivery was bowled, triggering an age old 'spirit of the game' debate.

While what Ashwin did was well within the rules of the game, his new IPL team coach Ricky Ponting of the Delhi Capitals doesn't agree with this particular mode of dismissal.

His suggestion is similar to the concept of free hit, which allows the batsmen to score the maximum without the fear of being dismissed if the bowler delivers a front-foot no ball.

## IPL 2020 | The ground staff can surprise: VVS Laxman talks about pitches in the UAE

Sunrisers Hyderabad's batting mentor VVS Laxman is confident the quality of cricket will not suffer even if the matches of the upcoming IPL are played in front of empty stands owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moved out of India due to the health crisis, the 13th edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be played across the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

"I can assure all the fans of the game that they will really enjoy the competition even though there won't be any crowd or any spectators on the ground," Laxman said in a video released by the franchise.

"Don't ever think that the energy or the quality of cricket will come down." Instead, the former India batsman seemed a bit wary of the nature of pitches that will be on offer in the UAE.

"Probably the wickets may be on the slower side but we have to just wait and see because we may just be surprised with the efforts put in by the ground staff.

"The outfield will be fantastic but the wickets are something that I hope will be well taken care of by the ground staff."

Indian players of the Hyderabad-based franchise landed in the city on Sunday.

The Sunrisers, along with the Delhi Capitals, were the last of the eight IPL teams to reach the UAE.

Laxman said the management had made up its mind before the 2020 auction to pick young Indian batsmen for the middle-order. This resulted in the inclusion of promising players such as Priyam Garg, Virat Singh and B Sandeep among others.

"In the auction, it was a very intentional effort to have the youngsters. While they are youngsters, they are all the most prolific performers in domestic cricket.

"When you see the composition of our team, we had a lot of experienced players from both overseas and India. "But when we look at the domestic players, we (were) required to strengthen our batting, especially our middle-order batting. So we went with the performer in the last couple of seasons."

Ahead of the auction, the Sunrisers had made changes to their support staff too, bringing in Trevor Bayliss in place of Tom Moody as the head coach. While Brad Haddin, who has worked with Bayliss before, replaced Simon Helmot as the assistant coach. "Trevor is one of the most successful coaches in world cricket; England won the World Cup for the first time under his coaching," Laxman said.

"I have always admired him and all the interactions I have had with him have been excellent - I learnt something with every interaction. He is cool and calm and also has the temperament of handling the best of teams and the best of players." "Brad Haddin is a hardcore competitor. He will definitely give 100 per cent or probably more than 100 per cent as the assistant coach."

## KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS PLAYERS GET TRAINING TIPS FROM SPRINTER DONALDSON

Former Olympic sprinter Chris Donaldson has come on board as Kolkata Knight Riders' strength and conditioning coach for the upcoming IPL 2020 season. Donaldson represented New Zealand in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, besides competing in the 1998 and 2006 Commonwealth Games.

He was part of the 4x100m relay team that still holds the national record and post-retirement, he oversaw the Black Caps for eight years.

Donaldson is making sure all the KKR players remain in shape by providing them his special "bedroom-workout routine" tips through group video calls. "I can't ask the players to do what I can't do, right? So while I can't do the exercises as well as them, I certainly try to put in an effort," KKR head coach Brendon McCullum said on their official website on Monday.

"I've also heard that the shirts this year - practice shirts and coach's shirts - are going to be very, very tight. So, I need to make sure that I am not too fat as we get into the season," the former New Zealand skipper quipped. He said he's enjoying every bit of his training. "The guys are now getting to know him. There have been some unbelievable workouts he has given everyone to do. They are hard, and if you haven't worked out for a while, you can't do it.

"Sore bodies for a couple of days...But it's amazing and very, very helpful for all the boys in this time of staying indoors."

KKR bowling coach Kyle Mills had a similar view about Donaldson's drills.

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## ISHANT SHARMA REACTS AFTER GETTING ARJUNA AWARD



Reacting for the first after getting the prestigious Arjuna Award, India fast bowler Ishant Sharma on Monday said it's a proud moment for him and his family.

The lanky fast bowler, who is just there shy from playing a 100 Tests, said he has worked really hard for the last 13 years to get to this point. "When I got to know I was getting the Arjuna, I was really happy, felt proud about myself. For the last 13 years, I did a lot of hard work. It's a proud moment for me and my family," said Ishant in a video posted by BCCI on their official twitter handle.

Ishant, who is one of the leaders of the Indian pace attack, said his wife Pratima, who is a member of Indian women's basketball team, was happier than him.

"My wife is really proud. She is the one who really thinks that I should get that award," said Ishant, who is currently in the UAE as part of the Delhi Capitals squad for the IPL 2020 which is slated to begin from

September 19.

Indian cricketers Ishant Sharma and Deepti Sharma were among the 27 athletes who were awarded the Arjuna Award by the Sports Ministry this year.

India opener Rohit Sharma was among the five athletes to be bestowed with the highest honour for sportspersons in India, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.

Talking about the mindset of the India pace attack which has the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and he himself, Ishant said they don't really think about personal milestones as such. Their ultimate goal is to pick wickets and win matches for India. "Mindset of the Indian bowling right now is we always think how are going to win. We don't think about individual wickets, we try and read the situation we do accordingly. We plan according to batsmen and try and execute them on the ground," said Ishant.

### 'I was literally coming from outside making that decision': KKR CEO Venky Mysore recalls dropping Sourav Ganguly in 2011

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly started his Indian Premier League career as the captain of Kolkata Knight Riders franchise in 2008. Playing at Eden Gardens in front of his home fans, the left-hander was one of the major faces of the franchise at the start of IPL. But unfortunately, KKR got off to a poor start under his captaincy, finishing at the 6th position in the first season, and then ending with a wooden spoon in the 2nd season. After KKR ended at the 6th position again in the 2010 season, the franchise decided to not retain Ganguly for the following season. The decision was widely criticised by Kolkata fans who were unable to imagine that their hometown hero would be playing for another franchise in the tournament. KKR CEO Venky Mysore, who joined the franchise after the 2010 season, recalled how decision to drop Ganguly was not tough for him, but was a really difficult one for the owners.

"I'll break that down into two parts. Personally, for me, it didn't see like a big decision (not retaining Sourav Ganguly), only because I was unattached. If I had been part of the organisation for three years, or two years or one year, it would have been a tougher decision," Mysore said in the latest episode of 'The RK?show' uploaded on Youtube.

"This was like someone completely coming in from the outside, which I was, literally from the outside. Eventually, I realised, that for the organisation and for the owners, it was tough. It's a decision and an approach that I proposed as I was given the mandate," he said.

"I look back at it, and I basically said this, that 'I don't know if it's the right thing or do or not, and we may fall flat on our face. But, it's a different approach. Are we all on board with this?' If I have to attribute whatever success we have had to one thing, it is the fact that the owners - Shah Rukh, Jay, Juhi - have stood behind the decisions I have proposed.

### IPL 2020: FUTURE GROUP NO LONGER PART OF CENTRAL POOL OF SPONSORSHIP



Retail conglomerate Future Group, which is currently going through a restructuring phase, has pulled out of BCCI's central sponsorship list for the Indian Premier League.

Future Group has been forced to pull out as the company is reportedly on the verge of a takeover and has suffered losses due to the prevailing hostile economic climate in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Yes, Future Group has pulled out of IPL central sponsorship and that's the reason their logo has been removed from the IPL website. At this point of time, I won't like to elaborate on the development," a BCCI veteran confirmed the development to PTI.

When a Future Group official was contacted, he refused comment but industry insiders confirmed that the pullout was on cards because of the financial health of the company.

"Future Group has been in bad shape since the start of Covid-19. It was bound to happen that they wouldn't have been able to spend Rs 40 crore to be a part of BCCI's central sponsorship pool. Hence, the pull-out is not a surprise," the source said. "Right now, the Future Group is going through a restructuring phase and there are talks with multi-national conglomerates about its potential takeover in the next few weeks. So sponsoring sporting events at the moment wasn't top priority for Future Group," he added.

It is learnt that education-technology company Unacademy, which lost the IPL title sponsorship bid to fantasy gaming firm Dream11, is in line to become one of the official sponsors along with credit card payment app Cred. As of now, the IPL website shows only four sponsors.

They are Dream11 as title sponsors along with Tata Motors (Altroz), PayTM and Ceat tyres.

The BCCI normally shares half of its central sponsorship kitty with the franchises. However, with the title sponsorship amount reduced to nearly half (from Rs 440 crore from Vivo to Rs 222 crore of Dream11) and the subsequent pull-outs, the teams are set to get lesser than what they were earning earlier "We know it's not an ideal situation but you can't blame BCCI for this. There is a financial crisis. If franchises have earned and made gains during good times, they understand and stand by BCCI during troubled times," a senior official of a franchise said.

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