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MidWeek ENTERTAINMENT FROM CORONAVIRUS; SHARES HER COVID-19 STORY | 16

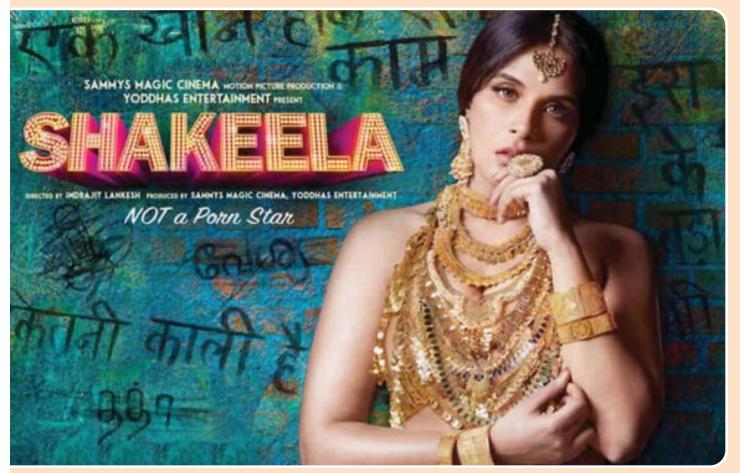
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GENELIA DESHMUKH RECOVERS

September 1, 2020

Richa Chadda starrer 'Shakeela' biopic likely to get OTT release



RICHA CHADDA STARRER SHAKEELA BIOPIC HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS FOR YEARS NOW. IN THE FILM, THE ACTOR PLAYS THE TITULAR ROLE BASED ON THE LIFE OF SOUTH STAR. DIRECTED BY INDRAJIT LANKESH, THE FILM WILL BE EXPLORING THE LIFE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL SHAKEELA, WHO WAS A MASSIVE ADULT STAR. THE FILM WILL ALSO CRITIQUE THE MALE-DOMINATED STAR SYSTEM OF THE SOUTHERN INDUSTRY IN THE 90S. NOW AS PER LATEST REPORTS, THE BIOPIC IS EYEING FOR AN OTT RELEASE. TALKING ABOUT THE SAME, SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FILM STATED, "THE FILM ALREADY HAD A DIGITAL EXHIBITOR AND THUS, THEY ARE THE FIRST PARTY TO APPROACH. THE CHANCES OF THEATRES OPENING SOON LOOK BLEAK. KEEPING THAT IN MIND, THE PRODUCERS HAVE INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH OTT PLATFORMS."

THIS IS WHEN KANGANA RANAUT'S TEJAS' GOES ON FLOORS



KANGANA RANAUT'S 'TEJAS' IS SLATED TO GO ON FLOORS AFTER THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN HAS COME TO AN EASE

GENELIA DESHMUKH RECOVERS FROM CORONAVIRUS; SHARES HER COVID-19 STORY



GENELIA DESHMUKH TOOK TO HER SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND REVEALED THAT SHE WAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 A FEW WEEKS BACK.

MAHESH BHATT DIRECTORIAL WITH SANJAY DUTT, ALIA IN LEAD IS ALL ABOUT DRUGS, MENTAL ILLNESS, SUICIDE



SANJAY DUTT TRIES HARD WHILE ACTING AS TAXI DRIVER RAVI VERMA AND SUC-CEEDS IN MANY PLACES, BUT HIS WEAK CHARACTER IS A LETDOWN.

'IS RHEA CHAKRABORTY BEING FRAMED?', TWEETS SWARA ON SEEING ALLEGED CHATS BETWEEN SUSHANT'S SISTER AND GIRLFRIEND



Swara Bhasker has released a chat which she alleges was exchanged between Rhea Chakraborty and Sushant Singh Rajput's sister Neetu Singh. In the chats, one can see the prescriptions of pills like Serta and Clonotril. The chats stated that Sushant had to take medicines for 15 days. The psyciatrist's name was also part of the chat.

Sharing the screenshot, Swara claimed that Rhea sent a message to Neetu Singh (more lovingly known as Rani di) about Sushant's mental health back in 2019 itself. She also questioned if Rhea is being framed. Swara wrote alongside the image, "Hey Voyeurs & shameless conscience-less anchors! Chat Proves #RheaChakraborty had informed the family about the mental health of SSR way back in 2019. Why did all the high decibel, screaming shouting anchors conveniently ignore this story? Does it seem like Rhea is being framed?" The actor had previously stated that Rhea is being treated 'worse than Kasab'. "Shame on us for being a toxic voyueristic public consuming this poisonous hysteria," wrote Swara in support of Rhea.

She shared, "I don't think even #Kasab was subjected to the kind of witch-hunt on media.. & media trial that #RheaChakrobarty is being subjected to! Shame on Indian Media.. Shame on us for being a toxic voyueristic public consuming this poisonous hysteria.. #RheaDrugChat #SushantSinghRajput."

KANGANA RANAUT LOSES TWITTER FOLLOWERS, SAYS 'NATIONALISTS HAVE TO STRUGGLE EVERYWHERE'

Kangana Ranaut and her fans noticed that the actress was losing her count of Twitter followers. When a user claimed that it was because she 'exposed a left leaning scum' on the platform, Kangana said that Nationalists have to struggle everywhere.

A user pointed out, "Kangana ji your follower counts are being reduced. I had this doubt but now it's confirmed that twitter doing this. It was around 992K an hour back but now it is 988K."

Post that, Kangana wrote to Twitter and asked, "I agree I notice pattern every day 40-50 thousand followers drop, I am very new to this place but how does this work? Why are they doing this any idea?"

Another user informed her about 'ghost bans', which means if a Twitter user speaks up against anti nationals, something

leaning scum' and it gains popularity then
Twitter lowers the visibility of tweets.
The user shared, "Maam these are
called "Ghost bans". Basically if you
speak up anything against anti nationals, say something with nationalistic sentiments or expose
some left leaning scum on Twitr
& it gains 2 much popularity, Twtr
gives you ghost bans I.e. lowering visibly of tweets...."

with nationalist sentiments or 'expose a left



FIELDING COACH JONTY RHODESIt is important that players like Mohammed Shami set high standards in fielding in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, says Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) fielding coach Jonty Rhodes.

Rhodes believes that if senior players like Shami set high standards in fielding, then younger guys in the lineup will also follow them and it would create a great culture within the group.

The IPL 2020 will be played in the UAE from September 19-November 10 across three venues -- Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah.

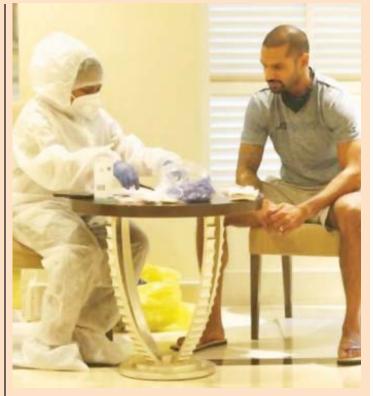
"From an energy perspective, I always look to the senior players to lead that because there are some talented young players like Mayank Agarwal, Karun Nair, Deepak Hooda, some great fielders. But it's guys like Shami who, for me, are so important to this outfit because they are often looked up to and respected in very high regard, especially in Indian cricketing circles," Rhodes said in a video posted on the official Twitter handle of Kings XI Punjab.

"If they are setting high standards, then young players, it's easier for them to follow. So it's great to see Shami speed to the ball, great technique and just showing the younger guys that he's still got something left in the tank," he added.

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DELHI CAPITALS PLAYER SHREYAS IYER ADHERING TO HEALTH PROTOCOLS UPON ARRIVING IN UAE.



SHIKHAR DHAWAN PAYS ATTENTION TO A HEALTH OFFICIAL AFTER ARRIVING WITH HIS DELHI CAPITALS TEAM IN UAE.

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SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S SISTER SHWETA SINGH KIRTI LEAKS WHATSAPP CHATS WHERE RHEA CHAKRABORTY ORDERS 'DOOBIE'

Screenshots of WhatsApps chats shared by Sushant Singh Rajput's sister Shweta Singh Kirti on Friday, who has been proactively seeking justice for her late brother on social media platforms, reveal that actor Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik ordered someone to get 'doobie', which according to Google is 'cannabis cigarette'. In another conversation from the chats which are from last year, Samuel Miranda sends photographs of 'blueberry kush'. In a still shared over a chat, Siddharth Pithani confirms whether Sushant has got the doobs. Sushant's sister took to her Twitter account to share screenshots from a WhatsApp group named "NIFW". The names of some of the memebrs in the group visible in the screenshot are -- Aayush SSR, Anandi SSR, Siddharth Pithani SSR, Rhea and others. In the screenshot from July 30 last year, Sushant's girlfriend Rhea can be seen ordering someone: "Doobie required". To which, the owner of the phone from where screenshots have been taken, replies: "Getting." Reacting to Rhea's text, Aayush SSR writes: "Rolling." Meanwhile, Siddharth Pithani SSR comments: "Miranda is here." The mobile owner replies: "Waterstones booking is cancelled for the day as required." After a few more conversations, Rhea follows up saying: "Do we have a doob?" To which the mobile owner, replies: "Checking. Rolling and getting." Another screenshot shared by Shweta from a chat on August 27, 2019, has Samuel Miranda writing to the mobile owner: "AK47 aur blueberry kush. Check dis out" and shares photographs. In a separate tweet, Shweta shared four more screenshots. In one screenshot from July 21, 2019, the mobile owner writes to Aayush SSR: "Take doobies when you go." To this, Aayush SSR replies: "Always." In another screenshot involving a group titled "Team SSR" from August 5, 2019, Siddharth Pithani SSR writes: "SSR has the doobs right?" To this, the mobile owner replies: "Yes."



This is when Kangana Ranaut's 'Tejas' goes on floors

After spending lockdown waiting, Kangana Ranaut-starring 'Tejas' is now set to go on floors this December. 'Tejas' sees the actress play a daring and fierce fighter pilot.

The Indian Air Force was the first of the country's defence forces to induct women into combat roles in 2016. The film takes inspiration from this landmark event. Kangana Ranaut took to



their social media and marked the announcement, "#Tejas to take-off this December! Proud to be part of this exhilarating story that is an ode to our brave airforce pilots! Jai Hind #FridaysWithRSVP @sarveshmewara1 @RonnieScrewvala @rsvpmovies @nonabains."

Written to evoke a sense of pride and most importantly inspire the youth of our nation, this mission based film takes us through some of the most challenging combat missions our forces undertake in their effort to keep our country safe from terrorism. Written and to be directed by Sarvesh Mewara, this is another RSVP film after 'Uri: The Surgical Strike' which is touted as a tribute to the armed forces. Talking about the film, Kangana said, "Tejas is an exhilarating story where I have the privilege of playing an air force pilot. I am honoured to be a part of a film that celebrates these brave men & women in uniform who make immense sacrifices in the line of duty everyday... Our film celebrates the armed forces and its heroes ... Excited to take this journey with Sarvesh and Ronnie." "We were in the midst of prep when the world was hit by this unfortunate pandemic. I'm pleased to announce that we are resuming work and will commence shoot later this year. Uri celebrated the courage of the Indian Army and Tejas is our dedication to the brave fighter pilots of the Indian Air Force. The idea of developing a story around a woman fighter pilot was born in-house by Salona Bains Joshi, the Associate Producer on the project, and I backed it instantly. With Kangana as the lead, I hope our film inspires many more women to join the Indian Air Force," Ronnie Screwvala added.





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Mahesh Bhatt directorial with Sanjay Dutt, Alia in lead is all about drugs, mental illness, suicide



Mahesh Bhatt made his directorial comeback with 'Sadak 2', which is touted to be the sequel of 'Sadak'. It would rather be right to say that the film heavily relies on 'Sadak' nostalgia, which, quite honestly, is the only good part in the movie, but that too feels strange with the modern storyline.

Sanjay Dutt tries hard while acting as taxi driver Ravi Verma and succeeds in many places, but his weak character is a letdown. Alia Bhatt and Aditya Roy Kapur almost have the same graph throughout the film. Jisshu Sengupta is one of the most colourful characters in the movie, but he too is only able to pull it off to an extent due to the weak storyline, which is the case with Priyanka Bose as well as Makarand Deshpande. Gulshan Grover, who comes in a special apearance, is again playing the 'bad man' with a twist.

The storyline of 'Sadak 2' is the biggest disappointment. It mocks suicide, glorifies mental illness, and even has the touch of drugs 'for the greater good'. All the three possibilities are currently being investigated in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case (mortal remains found on June 14, 2020 in his Bandra apartment) in real life, for which the director Mahesh Bhatt is a suspect.

Coming back to the movie, it begins with an attempt to suicide, soon to be followed by the meeting between Sanjay Dutt and Alia Bhatt, who 'see' and 'feel' unexplainable things, making the world term them 'mentally unstable'. The main character Araaya (Alia Bhatt) is shown as a powerful female character, who ends up getting deceived by every person that matters to her.

Araaya's crazy spirit to hold on to Ravi Verma (both are termed mentally unstable by the world, mainly their close relatives), and her fight against the evil, should have shined through the movie and it would, if it came naturally. More so, drugs are casually used in the film

(obviously, without consent) 'for the greater good', and by the end of the film, every person is happy no matter what they went through. Pooja Bhatt, who was also going to make her acting comeback with the film, can only be heard and seen in flashes. 'Is this for real?' is a question you will be asking yourself many times throughout the film. To be honest, Mahesh Bhatt, who had directed movies like 'Arth', 'Zakhm', 'Daddy', or even the original 'Sadak', has lost his charm, which is clearly visible through the film. 'Sadak' was a believable story about a taxi driver falling in love with a young woman who has been forced into prostitution, through a transgender, which was played by Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The actor played such an iconic character that even memories of 'Sadak' bring back goosebumps.

'Sadak 2' on the other hand, doesn't even touch the brink of either Sanjay Dutt-Pooja Bhatt's romance or Sadashiv Amrapurkar's acting. With the storyline given, Mahesh Bhatt should have rather not made his comeback at all, than come up with a mediocre film which is only passibly entertaining (that too not in a good way). If it wasn't for his last scene, Makaranad Deshpande as the 'shady baba' would also have passed off as average in the film. 'There is no greater business than the business of God,' is one of the lines in the film, but Mahesh Bhatt touched that only at the brink. Alia keeps screaming on the helpers of the 'godman' throughout the film, and simply states that they want to take away her money. How dangerous are these godmen, is shown only in one scene later in the film, and by that time, you are too exhausted to go on and on. While Sanjay Dutt and Alia Bhatt's relationship in the film appears to be little forced, her romance with Aditya Roy Kapur is only remotely believable. The two characters are the only people she takes a road trip with, thus the depth of her relationship with other actors remain a mystery.



SALMAN KHAN HELPS REBUILD 70 HOUSES IN MAHARASHTRA'S FLOOD-AFFECTED KHIDRAPUR VILLAGE



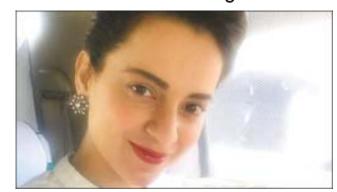
Bollywood actor Salman Khan kept his promise and helped rebuild houses in Maharashtra's flood-affected Khidrapur Village. The actor had adopted the village which was hugely affected by the floods in 2019. Finally news about him rebuilding the houses has been confirmed. Cabinet minister in the Maharashtra government Rajendra Patil Yadravkar announced that the work on 70 affected houses has finally begun. Mentioning Salman Khan, he said that with the actor's help, the government was able to help 70 families by rebuilding their homes.

Salman Khan has previously extended his help for social causes through Being Human foundation. The foundation was opened with the initiative to provide education and healthcare services to underprivileged children in India. It promises to fund education of a few students from Mumbai-based non-profit organizations, and provide a program for differently-abled children.

On the work front, Salman Khan was going to release Prabhudheva's film 'Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai' on Eid, but the film's fate came to a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, and following lockdown. He has also announced 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' and 'Kick 2'. Salman is also expected to announce 'Tiger 3' soon.

The actor is also back with hosting the new season of 'Bigg Boss'. Salman, who has been associated with the show for a decade, will be now seen in 'Bigg Boss 14', the promos of which are already out.

Kangana Ranaut refuses to take protection from Mumbai Police in drug case, says 'more scared of them than mafia goons'



Kangana Ranaut, who had demanded protection for her say in the drug case formed against Rhea Chakraborty by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), has now refused to take protection from Mumbai Police. The actress stated that she is more scared of the Mumbai Police than the movie mafia goons. Kangana had stated that she is ready to be a witness and expose the usage and supplier of drugs in Bollywood, but needs protection for the same. It has been four days since the actor said the same, which was pointed out by a Twitter user. The user also asked the Mumbai Police to provide her with protection by mentioning, "It's been more than 100 hours 4 days since actress @KanganaTeam she is ready to expose the Bollywood-Drug mafia nexus but she needs protection. Unfortunately, Maharashtra Government hasn't provided her any protection till now. @OfficeofUT @AnilDeshmukhNCP @CPMumbaiPolice."

Kangana instantly replied to that by writing that she does not want the Mumbai Police involved in the matter. "Thank you for your concern sir, I am actually more scared of Mumbai police now than movie mafia goons, in Mumbai I would need security either from HP government or directly from the Centre, No Mumbai police please," wrote the actress.

In a series of tweets, Kangana had stated that "many A-listers will be behind bars" if the NCB "enters Bollywood". Kangana tweeted, "If narcotics Control Bureau enters Bullywood, many A listers will be behind bars, if blood tests are conducted many shocking revelations will happen. Hope @PMOIndia under swatchh Bharat mission cleanses the gutter called Bullywood." She further added, "I was still a minor my mentor turned tormentor used to spike my drinks and sedate me to prevent me from going to cops, when I became successful and got entry in to the most famous film parties I was exposed to the most shocking and sinister world and drugs, debauchery, and mafia."

RANVIR SHOREY ALLEGES HE WAS ABUSED BY POOJA BHATT, MAHESH BHATT'S FAMILY

Actor Ranvir Shorey has slammed a media house and Bhatt family through his latest tweet. He went on to allege being abused by the family, stating that old police and media reports would confirm the same. The 'Sonchiriya' actor also went on to allege that the moguls have targetted him since years. Ranvir responded to an article which stated that Pooja Bhatt was in an abusive relationship with Ranvir Shorey. He said that the article was a result of 'sustained', 'defamatory' and 'malicious' PR campaign.

Reacting to the article, Ranvir wrote, "These kind of articles are the result of the sustained defamatory & malicious PR campaign that these film moguls have targeted me with for years! None of the media will bother to fact check old police and media records that will show that it was I who was abused by them!"

Pooja Bhatt was engaged to actor Ranvir Shorey long ago. In fact, Ranvir was best friends with Pooja's husband Manish Makhija. After Pooja alleged that she was in an abusive relationship with Ranvir, she married Makhija in 2003. Reacting to images of Pooja and Manish, Ranvir had shared, "This guy in the photos used to be my best friend right up until after the incident, and then turned around and married her. All kinds of relationships are manipulated and psychological warfare used."



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TAAPSEE PANNU, LAKSHMI MANCHU CONDEMN MEDIA TRIAL OF RHEA CHAKRABORTY, URGE TO 'TRUST LAW OF LAND' IN SSR CASE





Actress Taapsee Pannu and south actor Lakshmi Manchu lashed out on Twitter on Sunday, demanded restrain from the media in the coverage of Sushant Singh Rajput case. While Manchu in a note put out on Twitter demanded justice for Sushant, she reacted sharply at the media's reportage of prime accused in the case Rhea Chakraborty and called it 'lynching'.

Taapsee on the other hand asked the media to 'trust the law of the land' and said that it wrong for anyone to 'overtake judiciary to convict someone who isn't proven guilty'. In a note posted on Twitter, manchu worte, "I see so many people so silent because the media has made a monster out of a girl. I don't know the truth and I want to know the truth and I hope the truth will come out in the most honest way. I have complete trust in the judiciary system and all the agencies that are involved in bringing justice to Sushant."

She continued, "But until then can we restrain ourselves from being evil and cruel and lynching of person and her entire family without knowing the facts. I can only imagine the pain the entire family is going through with these so-called media trials. If something like this happened to me I would want my colleagues to stand up for me at least the ones that know me to say back off hang on leave her alone and I ask all of you to do the same back off hang on leave her alone until the entire truth is officially released."

"I am pained by what we have become. How are we being authentic if Rhea daily since the last three days.

we don't speak our heart when we have a voice to lend. I'm standing up for my colleague," Manchu added.

Reacting to this, Taapsee, who will next be seen in Rashmi Rocket, wrote, "I didn't know Sushant on a personal level nor do I know Rhea but what I know is, it only takes to be a human to understand how wrong it is to overtake judiciary to convict someone who isn't proven guilty. Trust the law of the land for your sanity and the deceased's sanctity." Earlier, in an exclusive interview to DNA, actor Kubbra Sait had also come out in support of Rhea.

Questioning the role of media in the case, Kubbra pointed out that it is nothing but witch-hunting (against Rhea Chakraborty). Raising a question, Kubra asked, "what will happen if Rhea is proven innocent?" "What happens tomorrow if she has no link in this case?"

Adding that the CBI must be left to do its task of fairly probing the case and revealing the truth of the matter, Kubra told DNA, "Let them work it out. Let them get back to you."

Meanwhile, Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty was questioned by the CBI's Special Investigation Team for eight hours on Sunday, on issues including the medical treatment and medicines administered to Sushant Singh Rajput and mention of drugs in her chats, and is likely to be questioned again as her answers were "not satisfactory". The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team has been questioning

Mira Rajput was asked if she wants another child like Kareena Kapoor Khan, her response will leave you in splits

It is the season of pregnancy in Bollywood. Days after Kareena Kapoor Khan announced that she and Saif Ali Khan are expecting another baby after Taimur Ali Khan, Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli also announced that they are set to turn parents for the first time.

During this period, a user remembered Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput, who had said that she would love to have another child after Misha, post which the couple was blessed with a son Zain. The user asked Mira if she is thinking of another child and her hilarious response to that is sure to leave you in splits.

Mira hosted an 'Ask Me Anything' session on Instagram, during which a user asked her "Another child?" Rajput responded to the same writing, "Hum Do Hamaare Do". She also added a grin to the post, which was the response of every person who read the post.

Mira Rajput and Shahid Kapoor are currently quarantining with their kids in Punjab. The couple keeps on posting fun videos of them enjoying their time together. Shahid, especially, shares videos where Mira asks him to stop annoving her.

While Mira and Shahid were blessed with a baby girl Misha on August 26, 2016, Mira gave birth to baby boy Zain on September 5, 2018. Saifeena's three-year-old 'star kid' Taimur Ali Khan, on the other hand, was born on December 20, 2016.



GENELIA DESHMUKH RECOVERS FROM CORONAVIRUS; SHARES HER COVID-19 STORY



Genelia Deshmukh took to her social media pages and revealed that she was tested positive for COVID-19 a few weeks back. The actor posted a note and also revealed that she has finally been tested negative. Her note read as "Hi, I was tested COVID-19 positive three weeks ago. I was asymptomatic for the last 21 days. With god's grace, I tested COVID-19 negative today."

Genelia further shared, "As much as I count my blessings that my battle with this disease has been much easier but at the same time I must admit that these last 21 days in isolation have been the most challenging for me to deal with. No amount of FaceTime and digital immersion can kill the evil of loneliness."

The Force actor added, "I am happy to be back with my family and loved ones. Surround yourselves with love... that's true strength and it's all one needs."

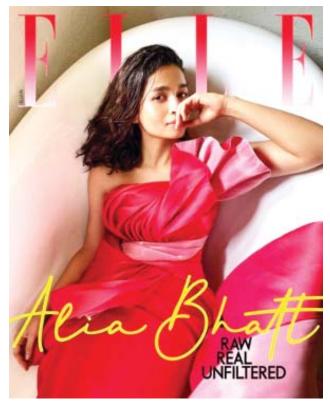
She concluded, "Test early, eat healthy, stay fit - the only way to fight this monster."

Even Riteish Deshmukh retweeted Genelia's post.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Genelia had a special appearance in the Marathi film Mauli which she co-produced with Riteish. The film starred Riteish and Saiyami Kher in the lead roles and was directed by Aditya Sarpotdar. It released in the year 2015.

Genelia is married to Ritesh Deshmukh since February 2012. They have two sons Riaan born in 2014 and Rahyll whom they welcomed in 2016. There were reports that Genelia is likely to make a comeback in movies however nothing has been confirmed yet.

ALIA BHATT GRACES MAGAZINE COVER; SISTER SHAHEEN BHATT TURNS PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HER



Actress Alia Bhatt, who of late, hasn't been making headlines for great reasons, is surely making heads turn in her latest photoshoot with a fashion magazine.

The 27-year-old star, whose film Sadak 2 recently releases on digital platform Disney+Hotstar, looked ravishing in the latest portraits has that been shared by the actor and the magazine on their social media accounts.

"Two sisters, one cover," wrote Alia while sharing a photo of the magazine's cover featuring her. What she exactly meant by the caption was revealed when one read it in its entirety. Below, she had tagged all those who were part of the shoot. Under the photo credits, Alia tagged her sister Shaheen Bhatt who had turned photographer for the September edition of the magazine, for the Raazi actor. In fact, sister Shaheen has also penned an 'emotional letter' and described Alia in her own words for the magazine's latest edition.

From what looks like a modish cover, Alia is dressed in different looks for the shoot, that exude a contemporary vibe. Dressed in a gorgeous red metallic moulded couture dress, sourced from the atelier of fashion designer Amit Aggarwal,

Alia looks radiant as she poses seated on a white couch.

In the other photos from the same shoot, Alia is seen posing quite candidly, with lots of greenery in the backdrop in one, while sitting quite comfortably on a chair with her feet up and a guitar, in another. In yet another photo, Alia is seen lying on the grass in a carefree pose, closing her eyes as she bursts into a laughter, while in the last photo, Alia can be seen standing in a swimming pool, sporting another of designer Amit's

Alia's Sadak 2, directed by filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, has been in the news for all the wrong reasons. Earlier, when the trailer of the film had released om YouTube it made the record of being the third most disliked video in the world. Later, when the film released digitally, the movie became one of the worst rated films on IMDb.

After Rhea Chakraborty, Dipesh Sawant accuses media of harassment



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) continues to grill several people associated with actor Sushant Singh Rajput in his death case. Rhea Chakraborty arrived at the DRDO Guest House in Santacruz, where the CBI is currently stationed, for questioning in the case for the second consecutive time.

Apart from Rhea, Siddharth Peethani, Dipesh Sawant, Neeraj Singh and Samuel Mirinda also appeared before the CBI for questioning on Saturday. Sushant's friend Dipesh Sawant left the DRDO guest house and reached Chembur police station. He wanted to file a complaint against the media personnels who he alleged were harassing him. Like Rhea, he asked the police to save him from the media.

Media reached Chembur police station but had to leave soon after the police asked all media personnels to empty the premises. Some time after the media left, Dipesh also walked out of the police station. The Chembur Police has confirmed that no complaint has been filed in this case yet. Previously, Rhea Chakraborty had alleged that the media was harassing her and thus, she filed a complaint.

Rhea also got protection from Mumbai Police after she alleged threat to her life. On CBI's orders, the Police would accompany Rhea every time she is called for questioning at the DRDO guest house.

Chakraborty is currently being grilled by the CBI for the third time, after details about her financial record and relationship with Sushant Singh Rajput were out. She was grilled for 10 hours on Friday and seven hours on Saturday. Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead in his Bandra apartment on June 14, 2020. The Central Bureau of Investigation has started probing the matter after the Supreme Court transferred Sushant's death case from Mumbai and Bihar Police to them.



MORGAN LEADS ENGLAND TO VICTORY IN RECORD CHASE AGAINST PAK IN SECOND T20 |P19 **IPL 2020: VIRAT KOHLI REVEALS** WHY HE WAS 'SCARED' AHEAD OF **ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE'S** FIRST NET SESSION | P18



MidWeek Saocut

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'SOURAV GANGULY WAS NOT SUITED TO T20 FORMAT': FORMER KKR COACH



ormer India captain Sourav Ganguly had a successful international career in both Tests and ODIs. The former lefthanded batsman retired from cricket as one of the most successful captains of Indian team. In 2008, Ganguly was roped in by Kolkata Knight Riders as captain of the team before the start of the inaugural season of Indian Premier league. But unfortunately for Ganguly fans, things did not turn out good for the team.

Under Ganguly's captaincy, KKR finished at the 6th position in the first season of the IPL, which led to coach John Buchanan trying a split role in the 2009 season. The decision did not go down well with tournaments. Ganguly who continued to struggled with the bat and KKR finished with a wooden spoon in the 2nd season.

Speaking in a recent interview, Buchanan, who was sacked before the 2010 season as KKR coach, said that he believed that Ganguly was not suited to T20 format.

"My thinking at the time was, as a captain, you needed to be able to make quick decisions and your game needed to be suited to the shorter format, and that's why I had those conversations with Sourav," Buchanan told Sportstar. "I just couldn't believe he was suited to the format of the game and certainly not in a formal captaincy role," the former Australia coach added.

Speaking in a recent interview, Buchanan, who was sacked before the 2010 season as KKR coach, said that he believed that Ganguly was not suited to T20 format.

Speaking on the idea of split captaincy in IPL, Buchanan said that he captaincy format with Ganguly and Brendon McCullum sharing the still feels it is a good idea to do so for the teams, especially in longer

> "I think it's too much for one person to actually understand all the set of plays that you need to put in place, all the various decisions you need to make, reasonably quickly. And really where it was going to was to have everybody as a leader.

"In other words, you are saying split captaincy, but you want everybody to be a leader on the field. These days all the bowlers are in charge of every delivery that they make. All batters make decisions out there without necessarily the inputs of the captain and the coaches. I think that is where the strength of the team lies," he added.

The 13th edition of IPL will kick off from September 19th with the final to be played from November 10th.

Badminton: PV Sindhu names individual who inspired her to play sports



Star Indian badminton player PV Sindhu named the person who spired her to take up sports. The Indian shuttler on Saturday claimed that it's her father who actually inspired her to take up sports. During an Instagram live session on the Bank of Baroda's official account, Sindhu talked on a range of topics.

On being asked about her inspiration she said: "Dad inspired me to play sports when I took up badminton he never questioned my choice." When asked "which alternate career would you have chosen", Sindhu replied that as a child she wanted to be a doctor, but now she thinks

badminton is better. Reflecting on how she spent her day during the lockdown, the ace shuttler said she spent more time with family and picked up hobbies that she never had time for earlier.

The coronavirus pandemic has affected all of us, and according to Sindhu, players will have to get used to playing future matches without spectators.

For those who wanted to know how she manages stress, Sindhu said: "When I am on the court I think about myself and my expectations and not what others' expectations are."

'THAT WAS IT, VIRAT WAS BACK TO HIS NORMAL SELF': HOW MS **DHONI'S CHANGE IN TACTICS HELPED KOHLI REGAIN FORM**



The 2014 tour of England was not a good one for Virat Kohli. Kohli had a poor run with the bat throughout the Test series and he could only score 134 runs at an average of 13.40 in 5 games. The India batsman has often recalled it as the toughest phase of his cricketing career. It took a while for Kohli to get to his usual self, and veteran West Indies cricketer Denesh Ramdin recalled the 2014 ODI series against India in which captain MS Dhoni helped Kohli regain form.

Speaking in an interview to cricket.com, Ramdin said: "I remember one instance when Virat (Kohli) wasn't getting any runs, he just came off an England series. We were there for a one-day series and we got Virat out once or two cheaply." Kohli was dismissed for 2 runs in the first ODI, and Dhoni pushed Kohli to no. 4 slot in the next game, in which the India batsman scored 62 runs, showing signs of forms. The 3rd ODI was washed out, and Kohli returned to his no. 3 batting position to score a ton in the 4th ODI.

"He (Dhoni) didn't drop him. He said look, rather than bat at number three. I'm going to put you at four or five. In one game, he (Kohli) came in at number four or five and scored a century (half century, actually) and that was it. He was back to his normal self," Ramdin further added.

Speaking on Dhoni's captaincy, the former Windies batsman added: "Sometimes, understanding your players, not discarding them is important. Other teams might have gotten rid of their players, he still backed Virat. I think he's (Kohli) going to be one of the best batsmen who's ever played the game. His passion as well for the game and you have to give Dhoni a lot of credit."

"Dhoni is a wonderful human being. He always said he wants to be remembered as a humble servant or a great human being and not for all the stuff he did on the cricket field. I think that is important, that says a lot about him," he signed off. Dhoni will return to play for CSK when the 13th edition of IPL kicks off from September 19th in the UAE.

Teams start training in earnest

MI, Royals, Capitals and Kings XI be-

gin practising Mumbai Indians players hit the nets for the first time in five months as the defending cham-

pion and other franchises began their preparations in earnest for the upcoming Indian Premier

League. The 13th edition is scheduled to be played at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah from September 19 to November 10. The teams are assembling for their first training session after seven days of quarantine.

Rohit Sharma's squad and Rajasthan Royals had their first net session in Abu Dhabi and Dubai respectively. Delhi Capitals also hit the ground running on Saturday evening.

Rohit led his team into the ground and even as he batted, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah ran in to bowl some quick deliveries and get back his rhythm.

Royals had its net session at the ICC Academy.

The Kings XI Punjab team had its third day of practice on Friday here under the watchful eyes of Anil Kumble, Wasim Jaffer and fielding coach Jonty Rhodes among others.

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IPL 2020: You are the heartbeat of CSK': Shane Watson's heartwarming message to Suresh Raina



Former India batsman Suresh Raina, who recently announced retirement from international cricket, had to pull off his name from this year's IPL on Saturday. Raina left the CSK camp in the UAE to travel back home due to personal reasons and will not be participating in the upcoming season of IPL, which kicks off next month. In a recent video uploaded on his official Instagram page, CSK star all-rounder Shane Watson shared a special message for Raina.

"Hello everyone, I wake up this morning with a very bad news that Suresh Raina is heading back to India for personal reasons. My heart goes to you. I hope you are doing okay, mate," Watson said.

"You are going to be sorely missed from CSK. You have been with the CSK from the start, you are the heartbeat of the team. You are also going to be missed by IPL tournament as well. You are such a star of IPL. But, most importantly, is your well-being and hope you are going okay," the right-handed batsman added.

A number of positive cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed at the CSK camp which has derailed the franchise's return to training camp in the UAE. Speaking on the same, Watson said: "It's been an interesting time to be in lockdown for another seven days, but this is the everchanging world that we live in. We all have to do what we possibly can to stay safe, to limit the spread of Covid-19 throughout the IPL tournament because it is the best T20 tournament in the world.

"All players, all fans, want it to go ahead. I'll do whatever we have to do to make sure that IPL goes ahead," the former Australia batsman added. The 13th edition of IPL will kick off from September 19th with the final to be played on November 10th.

IPL 2020: Virat Kohli reveals WHY he was 'scared' ahead of Royal Challengers Bangalore's first net session



The 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) just a few days away from its official kickoff date and Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli has experienced his thoughts on his very first practice session after spending 5 months away from the field amid COVID-19 lockdown all across the globe. After making the trip over to Abu Dhabi, all IPL sides also had to undergo a quarantine period before they were allowed to head for the nets. One of those teams who completed their quarantine upon arriving in UAE is RCB, who underwent a full net session just a day ago.

Speaking about his first experience of facing bowlers in the nets after months, Kohli told RCB in a video: "(It went) much better than expected, to be honest. I was pretty scared. I hadn't picked

up a bat for five months, but yeah it came out better than I thought, to be honest. I've trained quite a bit during the lockdown, so I'm feeling quite fit and that helps."

"Because the body is light and you react better, I feel like I have more time on the ball. That's a big plus. Otherwise, you come heavier into the season, the body isn't moving as much, and it starts playing on the mind, but yeah, as I said it went much better than I expected," he added.

"The spinners looked pretty good on day one, Shahbaz Nadeem, Washington Sundar were landing the ball in the right areas, Chahal bowled well too, the seamers went through the motions little bit today, all in well decent start to our camp," Kohli further claimed.

TWO PLAYERS AMONG 13 COVID-19 CASES IN IPL CONTINGENT, SAYS BCCI



THE TWO PLAYERS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE IN-CLUDE A WHITE-BALL T20 SPECIALIST SEAMER FOR INDIA AND A TOP-ORDER INDIA A BATSMAN.

The BCCI on Saturday revealed that two players are among a total of 13 who have tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the IPL after it came to light that over a dozen members of the Chennai Super Kings contingent have been infected by the dreaded virus in Dubai.

The two players who have tested positive include a white-ball T20 specialist seamer for India and a top-order India A batsman. the Board did not reveal any names. The tournament start September 19 and will be played across three cities in the UAE. "Thirteen personnel have tested positive of which 2 are players. All the affected personnel as well as their close contacts are asymptomatic and have been isolated from other team members. They are being monitored by the IPL Medical Team," the BCCI press release stated.

The release stated that a total of 1,988 RT-PCR COVID-19 tests were carried out between August 20 and 28 across all participant groups in the UAE.

These include players, support staff, team management, BCCI staff, IPL operational team, hotel and ground transport staff. "As per the IPL 2020 Health and Safety Protocols, testing on all participants will be conducted regularly throughout the IPL 2020 Season," it further stated. All positive cases need to go through a 14-day quarantine period following which they will have to return two negative RT-PCR tests before being allowed inside the bio-bubble for the tournament.

BCCI president Ganguly in home quarantine after elder brother tests positive for COVID-19

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly's elder brother and Cricket Association of Bengal joint secretary Snehasish Ganguly is "doing alright" after testing positive for COVID-19, which forced the former India captain and CAB chief Avishek Dalmiya to be in home quarantine. Due to the continuing rise in COVID-19 cases, Ganguly was handling all his BCCI work from an office near his residence, while the shooting for his popular Bengali TV show 'Dadagiri Unlimited Season Eight' had not resumed. "There was a notice saying that the Rajarhat studio was in a containment zone so we could not resume any shooting for season eight this time," a crew member told PTI.

Giving a health update on Snehasish, Dalmiya, in a statement issued by CAB, said, "These are tough times. He has admitted himself yesterday at a city hospital. Other than having mild temperature, he is alright at the moment. Wish him a speedy recovery." "Yes, I would be undergoing home quarantine for the next few days as per required protocol."

However, it is unlikely that the BCCI chief and Dalmiya would be tested immediately as protocol requires for some symptoms to show before that. The CAB offices, meanwhile, will remain closed indefinitely till further notice, Dalmiya said. "The CAB had not opened after Chandan Das, who works in the civil engineering department on a temporary basis, tested positive for COVID-19 on July 4. We will keep it closed indefinitely till further notice," he said. While all meetings took place virtually, Dalmiya said he and Snehasish had gone to CAB last week during a brief visit of Kolkata Police officials to

turn a few galleries of Eden Gardens into a quarantine facility. "During the meeting with the Kolkata Police authorities at their headquarters Lal Bazar, only I was present on behalf of the Association. However, Snehasish Ganguly had joined during the later part of their brief visit at Eden Gardens," he said. Snehasish's family — wife, mother-in-law, father-in-law along with their domestic help — had tested positive for the dreaded disease on June 20 at their Mominpur residence.





IPL 2020: 'I can reach out to them' - Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer on inclusion of Ashwin and Rahane



The Delhi Capitals franchise last year announced the trade of two big Indian names in their team before the IPL auctions. Former Rajasthan Royals captain Ajinkya Rahane and former Kings XI Punjab captain Ravichandran Ashwin were both roped in by Delhi Capitals. Both Rahane and Ashwin are regarded as fierce competitors and apart from earning plaudits in Indian cricket, the two have also made a name for themselves in IPL over the years.

But the question that remained in everyone's mind was will either of two experienced IPL campaigners replace Shreyas Iyer as the captain of Delhi Capitals. The franchise last year announced that lyer will continue with the captaincy role for Delhi.

In a recent interview, the India batsman opened up on playing alongside Ashwin and Rahane and said that the two players can help him out with the decision making in the middle. "Ashwin and Rahane are start on a positive note.

both individuals who are highly knowledgeable as players and have captained IPL teams before. So for me, this is an opportunity to use as a captain. I can reach out to them when I want to, and share and discuss with them," Iver said in the latest video uploaded on official BCCI website. Iyer also praised Delhi Captials head coach Ricky Ponting and said that he feels blessed to work so close alongside a legend like Ponting. "I feel blessed to be working with someone as Ricky Ponting's stature so closely. He is such a legend and makes everyone from the most senior one to the newest guy feel at home and as a part of the unite," Iyer said. "As a captain, he gives me freedom and that has helped me grow as a captain," he added. Delhi Capitals have not won a single IPL title but when the tournament kicks off from September 19th, the Shreyas Iyer-led side will hope to

SANJU SAMSON READY FOR IPL AFTER 'TOUGH TRAINING'

KERALA BATSMAN DOESN'T SEE THE T20 EXTRAVAGANZA AS SELECTION TRIAL FOR INDIA SPOT

On Sanju Samson's Twitter handle, there is a three-second video that could bring a smile in these depressing times. You would find a young, bearded Christian priest, in white flowing robes, bowling slow left-arm orthodox to the dashing batsman.

You would be impressed by the turn the priest extracts from a road of a pitch - literally - just as you would be by the video's background. The visuals are from a training session Sanju had in Kollam, a place he had driven to recently from his home in Thiruvananthapuram after a lockdown was declared in the capital following a COVID-19 spike.

"For the last 15 weeks, I had regular sessions of batting, running and gym and I didn't want the lockdown to affect me," Sanju told The Hindu over phone. "Fortunately, my friend has an academy at Kollam with adequate facilities and there were also people like Fr. Rebeiro to bowl at me." Sanju is delighted that he would soon be able to find out how the sessions - "the hardest training schedule ever"

- have helped him. "Like every cricketer, I have been eagerly waiting for the IPL to start. I think it would lift the spirits of not just the players but that of the entire country and the rest of the cricketing world."

He wants to win matches for Rajasthan Royals. "In T20 cricket, you have to score quickly and that's what I have been doing in the IPL over the years. "You can't waste 10 balls when Virat Kohli is padded up to bat next." Sanju thinks the wickets in the UAE could be a bit slow. "We have to play so many matches on three grounds, but they should be good enough for batting."

LA LIGA CONFIRMS LIONEL **MESSI'S • 700M RELEASE CLAUSE IS STILL ACTIVE**



As the transfer saga of Lionel Messi intensifies, La Liga on Sunday (August 30) stated that the Argentine forward still has a contract in force until 2021 and that the player has a termination clause (which Barcelona say as •700M) and can be freed only through this clause.

However, as per reports, Messi is still determined to leave Barcelona and to start a new chapter.

In La Liga's official statement, the Spanish governing body of football stated, "The contract is currently in force and has a "termination clause" applicable to the event that Lionel Andrés Messi decides to urge the early unilateral termination of the contract, carried out in accordance with article 16 of Royal Decree 1006/1985, of June 26, by which regulates the special employment relationship of professional athletes." "In compliance with the applicable regulations, and following the corresponding procedure in these cases, LaLiga will not carry out the prior visa process for the player to be removed from the federation if they have not previously paid the amount of said clause."

MORGAN LEADS ENGLAND TO VICTORY IN RECORD CHASE AGAINST PAK IN SECOND T20

MANCHESTER: Captain Eoin Morgan belted a blistering halfcentury as England chased down a record target at Old Trafford to beat Pakistan by five wickets in the second Twenty20 international on Sunday.

Pakistan posted 195 for four in their 20 overs on a flat wicket, but the home side completed their victory with five balls to spare and a take 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Morgan blasted 66 from 33 balls to secure the win in what is the highest chase in any form of 20-over cricket at Old Trafford. Jonny Bairstow (44 from 24 balls) and Tom Banton (20 from 16 balls) got their side off to a fast start with an opening stand of 66 in 38 deliveries, but when they fell in consecutive balls to spinner Shadab Khan (3-34), the home side appeared to wobble.

But Morgan and Dawid Malan (54 not out in 36 balls) led the counter-attack and accelerated as their third-wicket partnership grew, finishing with 112 in 62 balls before the skipper was caught in the deep with the side still needing 18 runs to win. Pakistan also got their runs at the top of the order as opener Babar Azam smashed 56 from 44 balls in an opening stand of 72 with Fakhar Zaman (36 from 22 balls).



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