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MidWeek ENTERTAINMENT DISHA PATANI'S HOT STRAPLESS BIKINI LOOK IS BURNING UP THE INTERNET | 14

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SARA ALI KHAN, ANIL KAPOOR AND ANANYA PANDAY TO STAR IN DISCOVERY PLUS NEW NON-FICTION SHOWS







Streaming giant Discovery Plus on Wednesday announced its upcoming line-up of non-fiction titles and Bollywood stars Anil Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, Ananya Panday and Nora Fatehi are set to be featured in the new shows. While Sara Ali Khan will be seen in the second season of Mission Frontline, where she will be seen in action with the Veerangana Force in Assam, Anil Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Nora Fatehi and Badshah will star in Star vs Food 2. Buoyed by the response to season one of Star vs Food, season two of the franchise produced by Endemol India, makers say, ensures double the fun, entertainment, and cooking. Talking about his experience of being on the show, Anil Kapoor, in a statement said, "Despite my undeniable love for food, it is no secret that my expertise lies at eating and not cooking. Being reality TV series Say Yes To The Dress that focused on profiling brides blessed with excellent culinary artists in my home and family, I have as they search for their perfect wedding dress.

never had to enter the kitchen to prepare a meal for myself. Star vs Food S2 set me up against a challenge of cooking a scrumptious meal for my loved ones "And I must say, this was a much more daunting task than acting. Undoubtedly, it has been an exhilarating experience and I can't wait to make my family proud with this new notch in my belt," the actor added. The first season of Star Vs Food featured Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karan Johar among others. Mission Frontline with Sara Ali Khan promises to show the actor in a never-seen-before avatar, performing extreme physical training routines alongside the Veerangana Force, India's first female commando unit to tackle rising crime against women in the state. The line-up also includes the Indian adaptation of American

> **KIARA ADVANI POSTS MUSHY PICS WITH** SIDHARTH MALHOTRA AMID DATING RUMOURS

The reported couple, Kiara Advani and

Sidharth Malhotra are now promoting

their film 'Shershaah'. The two have

been in the spotlight due to their

rumoured romance. Amid this, Kiara

took to her Instagram and shared jaw-

dropping photos with Sidharth. She cap-

tioned the photos with a red heart emoji.

Fans are all hearts for the two. Taking to

the comment section a fan wrote. "my

hearttt", another one wrote, "omgg".

Kiara recently opened up about

Sidharth's bond with her and how he is

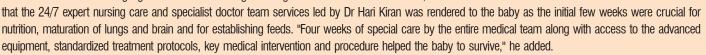
professionally. Speaking to Etimes, the

actress said, "As a co-star, Sidharth is

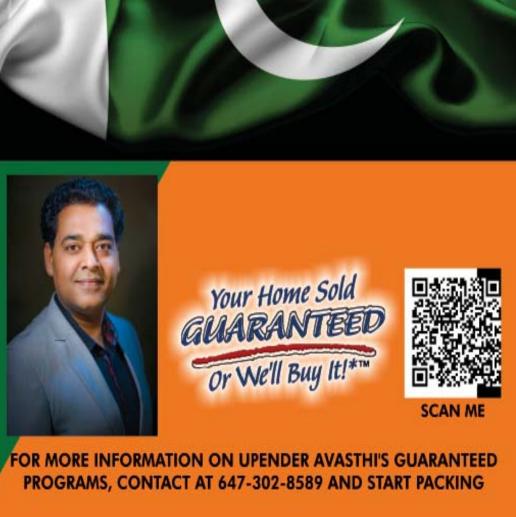
SONU SOOD LENDS HELPING HAND FOR TREATMENT OF BABY GIRL

HYDERABAD, (IANS) A "severely" malnourished two-and-a-half year old girl, suffering from old burns and anemia, was cured successfully by Ankura Hospitals in association with Sood Charity Foundation. Dr Srinidhi, Medical Director at Ankura Hospitals, LB Nagar, said, Afeefa Maryum was admitted to hospital last month with chronic non healing wound with intermittent bleeding and severe anemia with malnutrition. A year ago hot oil accidentally fell over her left temporo - parietal region, left hand, nape of neck and upper back of trunk. She was immediately taken to a local hospital where collagen was applied and was discharged within a week.

Post discharge, the child developed scalds over left side of scalp area and was again admitted in the same hospital when collagen was applied over left side scalp and nape of neck, for the second time. The child didn't receive sufficient diet and nutrients leading to malnourishment. "As the parents had no money for further treatment, they contacted actor SonuSood, who recommended Ankura Hospitals for treatment. When the child was admitted at Ankura for further evaluation and management, the situation was critical and challenging due to the low weight and given her medical condition," the doctor said. He said







DISHA PATANI'S HOT STRAPLESS BIKINI LOOK IS BURNING UP THE INTERNET



Bollywood diva Disha Patani is an active social media user and she loves teasing her fans with some hot and sexy photos of herself. Disha's Instagram timeline is filled with photos mostly from her beach vacations. Especially since the outbreak of COVID, Disha Patani has been taking to the photo-sharing app to drop pictures from her exotic beach holidays, expressing how much she is missing unwinding by the beachside.

NUSHRRATT BHARUCCHA TAKEN TO **HOSPITAL FROM SETS OF LUV**



Nushratt Bharuchha, who has appeared in films such as 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety' and 'Pyaar Ka Punchnama', is sadly ill. According to reports, the actress was taken to a hospital from the set of Luv Ranjan's upcoming film. Nushratt confirmed to ETimes that she was diagnosed with Vertigo. The pandemic, she claims, has taken a toll on everyone, both mentally and physically. The actor went on to say that she stayed at a hotel near the sets of Luv Ranjan's next film to make travelling easier. However, her condition apparently deteriorated after three weeks of filming. Nushrrat Bharuccha appeared to believe that she will improve in a day or two. However, she had to be taken to Hinduja Hospital, according to reports. She said, "I thought I would be okay in a day or so but the next day was equally bad. I reported on the set but a few minutes later, it all went spiralling downward. I could not do anything. They decided to rush me to Hinduja Hospital (Mumbai) and when I reached there, I was still worse. I needed a wheelchair to be taken upstairs. My blood pressure by then had dropped to 65/55."

'RAJ KUNDRA TOLD ME SHILPA SHETTY LIKED MY WORK, I WAS ENCOURAGED **DURING SHOOT: SHERLYN CHOPRA**



Bollywood actor Sherlyn Chopra has alleged that businessman Raj Kundra, who has been arrested in a porn film production case, had told her that his wife Shilpa Shetty liked her work. Sherlyn told ANI that Raj Kundra contacted her for making films and she signed an agreement in March this year. He wanted me to join him and the name of the app would be the 'Sherlyn Chopra app'. Sherlyn Chopra was summoned by the property cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch on Friday for questioning in connection with the porn film production case in which Kundra was arrested last month. She said Kundra wanted different videos in the app, which are glamour, high fashion, fitness, fun and other things. She said the concept was glamour in the beginning and then she was told about "semi-nude and nude films". "During the shoot, I was encouraged. They used to say I am doing great and Shilpa has seen your photos and videos and has appreciated my work. And when you get so much praise from the seniors it does not make you feel that you are doing something wrong and it makes you think to do better," she said. "I was told that whatever they are doing is not wrong, during that time no legal notice was given to us.... at that time it did not seem that anything wrong was happening".



SAKSHI TANWAR ON WORKING WITH MANOJ BAJPAYEE IN DIAL 100: 'NOT MANY KNOW THAT HE WAS MY FIRST DIRECTOR'

Sakshi Tanwar's upcoming film Dial 100's it could have been tough, but with her, it became such a pleasant trailer has left fans intrigued. The ZEE5 origitime. She was fun, lively and we could connect and talk about so nal features Manoj Bajpayee as a police ofmany things. We would sing together, and I kept asking her about her ficer who gets a distress call from Neena previous work which I had liked. I think I couldn't have asked for Gupta's character Seema Pallav. As he tries more as I got to work with Neena ji and Manoj sir together," shared the Bade to help her, the officer realises their past Achhe Lage Hain actor. While Sakshi Tanwar and Manoj Bajpayee may not share a lot of screen time, she said they are part of some powerful scenes, which she connect which has now put his wife (Tanwar) and their kid in danger. The thoroughly enjoyed doing. Sharing that working with Manoj Bajpayee has been a thriller, directed by Rensil D'Silva, will long-standing goal, the actor went on to reveal their three-decade-old connection. start streaming from August 6. "Not many know that when I was in college in Delhi, Manoj sir had come to In an exclusive chat with take a workshop. He is, in a way, my first director as he worked with us indianexpress.com, Tanwar on a play Madam, where I was playing the lead. It actually took me 30 years to share screen space with him," she said. Sakshi said that the biggest reason also acknowledged the rise in women-led narrato take up the film was Neena Gupta, with whom tives in films and web series. She said, she got to share maxi-"Women have ruled TV for many many mum screen space. "She years. This was missing on the bigger screen, but with diaiis someone I have always admired. Apart tal platforms coming from being a great acin, there are tor, while shooting, I more and more came to know she is opportunities. a wonderful, warm There are stronperson. Since we ger roles for everyone, not mostly shot at night,

YO YO HONEY SINGH BREAKS SILENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **ALLEGATIONS BY WIFE SHALINI TALWAR, STATEMENT INSIDE**

Honey Singh's wife recently accused him of domestic violence, which sparked a lot of curiosity. She told the media heart-breaking information about the incidents. Honey Singh has now decided to break his silence. He took to Instagram and wrote "I am deeply pained and distressed by the false and malicious allegations levied against me and my family by my companion/wife of 20 years, Mrs. Shalini Talwar. The allegations are severely odious.I have never issued a public statement or press note in the past despite being subjected to harsh criticism for my lyrics, speculation on my health, & negative media coverage in general. However, I see no merit in maintaining a studied silence this time because some of the allegations have been directed at my family - my old parents and younger sister - who have stood by me dur-



ing some very difficult and trying times and comprise my world. The allegations are cynical and defaming in nature. I have been associated with the industry for over 15 years and worked with artists and musicians across the country. Everyone is aware of my relationship with my wife, who has been an integral part of my crew for more than a decade now and always accompanied me to my shoots, events, and meetings. I strongly refute all the allegations but will not comment any further because the matter is sub-judice before the Court of Law. I have full faith in the judicial system of this country, and I am confident that the truth will be out soon. The allegations are subject to be proven and the Hon'ble Court has provided me with an opportunity to reply to such allegations. In the meantime, I humbly request my fans and public at large to not draw any conclusion about me and my family until the Hon'ble Court pronounces a verdict after hearing both the sides. I am confident that justice will be served, and honesty will win. As always, I'm grateful for all the love and support of my fans and well-wishers, who inspire me to work hard and make good music. Thank you! Yo Yo Honey Singh"

LUTGAYE JUBIN NAUTIYAL SONG **ARTIST BAARISH KI JAYE B PRAAK IS QADAR TULSI KUMAR** THODA THODA PYAR **STEBIN BEN**

NADIYON PAAR TERA SUIT MAIN JIS DIN BHULA DU **OH SANAM BEWAFA TERA MASOOM** TUJHE BHOOLNA TOH CHAHA ROCHAK KOHLI

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'RANBIR KAPOOR AND ALIA BHATT ARE GETTING MARRIED THIS YEAR': LARA DUTTA CONFIRMS



While fans are eagerly waiting for Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt to announce their wedding, Lara Dutta believes that it might take place this year. The couple has been dating since 2017, and last year Ranbir had said that had it not been for the pandemic, the two would have been married by now.

In an interview to Times Now, Lara, who recently made waves for her transformation into Indira Gandhi for BellBottom, said that she was from the 'older generation', and was not aware about which couples from the younger generation are dating. "I might say something about some couple and I wouldn't even know if they are still together or

When Ranbir and Alia's wedding was brought up as an example, Lara said, "I believe that they are getting married this year."

Ranbir and Alia have mingled well with each other's families, and Alia often shares photo with Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor. On her birthday, Alia had shared a photo with her and penned a warm caption, "Happy birthday to the strongest (healthiest) & warmest of them all. Love you @neetu54." Recently, during an episode of Super Dancer Chapter 4, Ranbir's cousin, Karisma was taken by surprise at the suggestion that Alia should be counted as a part of the Kapoor family. As Karisma named the actors in the family, her co-judge Anurag Basu joked, "You can add Alia to that list now." Karisma smiled, and pretended to zip her lips. Last year, in an interview with journalist Rajeev Masand, Ranbir said that he wanted to 'tick mark' that goal soon in his life. "I don't want to jinx it by saying anything. I want to tick mark that goal very soon in my life," he said.

Cinema plays an important role in showing nationalism: Akshay Kumar

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar believes the unsung heroes of the country deserve praise for their service, which he says is the highlight of his upcoming release BellBottom.

In the 1980s-set spy thriller based on true events, the 53-year-old actor plays an intelligence agent with codename 'BellBottom' who spearheads the mission to rescue 210 hostages from a hijacked Indian plane. Asked if unsung heroes are the new face of nationalism via movies, Kumar said, "Cinema does play an important role in showing nationalism."

"It is essential that we tell everyone about these people who do so much for the country, the risk they take. I am glad I got the opportunity to be part of BellBottom which is about an unsung hero," the National Award-winner told PTI in an interview.

BellBottom joins the long list of Kumar's films which blends high octane stunts, synonymous with the actor's action star status, and patriotic fervour following titles like Holiday, Baby, Airlift, Kesari, and Mission Mangal. "With this film, I would like the audience to see and understand the life of an agent, who are unsung heroes and how they work selflessly for the country without expecting anything in return. And how he goes unnoticed. It is a great life and people should know about them." Asked about his views on nationalism, the actor said, "What I believe about nationalism I show it onscreen through films and that is what I want to say about nationalism."

As the contribution of many heroes goes unnoticed, it is imperative they are celebrated through films, he added.

"They are the unsung heroes and even if there is more glorification being shown, then I don't see any problem in that. I feel it shouldn't be less, if it is more than it is ok. They deserve praise."

It is not that he enjoys playing unsung heroes more in cinema, said the actor, who averages three to four movies a year.

"I enjoy every space. I have played this man who stands in support of women in Toilet: Ek Prem Katha and Padman, an out-and-out comedy role in Houseful and then played a transgender in Laxmii. So, I have not restricted myself to playing particular kinds of roles."

For BellBottom, the actor said, he has tried to make the character a bit glossy to make it entertaining for the audience. "The film is about this mission and how these men saved the lives of several people. These undercover agents are very normal people. They are not like James Bond, they do things in a very raw and real manner.

"Like, my character is not someone jumping from one building to another. Since, this is a real story, things are done in a logical way. But we have tried to make it a little big and commercial (by adding some fantasy). However, 80 per cent of the story is real," Kumar added. BellBottom happens to be the first film to be shot amid the



pandemic last year and Kumar is grateful to the producers for shooting the film during Covid-19 in the UK. "We didn't face any difficulty. The credit goes to the producers to take the crew of more than 200 people to shoot over there but with all the necessary protocols. They took the risk to do something unbelievable," he said.

It is also the first Hindi movie to release on August 19 in 3D and 2D after the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Though cinema halls in many parts of the country have reopened with 50 per cent capacity, Maharashtra, which contributes a major chunk to the overall business of Bollywood, continues to remain shut.

But for Kumar, the bigger joy is the arrival of BellBottom on the big screen. "It's been two years and we haven't seen anything in theatres. It's about time that people come to watch movies but with necessary protocols as suggested by the government. We just hope it never closes down again," he said, adding, he hopes cinema operations resume in Maharashtra too.

His other film Sooryavanshi, a cop drama, is still awaiting theatrical release since March 2020 but Kumar said there is nothing much that he can do in the current scenario. "We don't know what is going to happen. I don't have any answer. I am not the only one facing this difficulty, everyone in the industry is. There are so many people who are facing such big difficulties and my difficulties are nothing in front of them." The actor also has films like period drama Prithviraj, musical romance Atrangi Re, action comedy Bachchan Pandey, comedy drama Raksha Bandhan, and action-adventure drama Ram Setu in the pipeline. "Prithviraj is ready and if all goes well then it should release during Diwali," Kumar shared, without divulging details about his other movies. Directed by Ranjit M Tewari and written by Aseem Arrora and Parveez Shaikh, BellBottom also stars Lara Dutta, Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, and Adil Hussain in key roles. The film is produced by Pooja Entertainment and Emmay Entertainment.

'THE SUICIDE SQUAD' ACTOR JOEL KINNAMAN FILES RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST BELLA DAVIS, CLAIMS SHE'S TRYING TO 'EXTORT' HIM



Hollywood actor Joel Kinnaman, who has starred in the newly released DC film 'The Suicide Squad', recently accused Swedish model, Gabrielle Magnusson of extortion. after having consensual sex in 2018.

According to E! News, documents from the Los Angeles Superior Court state that Kinnaman requested a restraining order against Gabriella Magnusson, who also goes by the name Bella Davis, on Friday. He alleged that the woman is "threatening to publicize false information about" him, including that he "had sex with her against her will." Soon after, the actor took to Instagram and shared the reasoning behind his legal move, in a lengthy statement. Writing to his 1.3 million followers, Kinnaman, in his statement said, "Earlier this morning, I filed for a restraining order against a woman who has been threatening to physically harm me and my family and loved ones, and attempting to extort money and other things of value from me." He added, "While it is mortifying and scary to come forward about all of this, what feels worse is enduring the escalating daily threats of physical harm to me and my loved ones and threats to go to the press with fabricated, vile rumors unless I agree to a list of demands that includes money, Hollywood connections, helping to secure a work visa, a verified Instagram page, a Wikipedia page, a photoshoot with Sports Illustrated, an additional USD 400,000 USD for an apartment and more."

JENNIFER ANISTON DEFENDS CUTTING TIES WITH UNVACCINATED FRIENDS. SAYS 'WE HAVE TO CARE ABOUT MORE THAN JUST OURSELVES'



Actor Jennifer Aniston is defending her decision to drop friends and acquaintances who won't say if they are vaccinated against COVID-19 after questions on social media about the move.

The "Friends" and "The Morning Show" star said in an InStyle magazine interview published this week that there was still a "large group of people who are anti-vaxxers or just don't listen to the facts." She added that she had, unfortunately, "lost a few people" from her weekly routine who would not disclose if they have been vaccinated. She was challenged by some followers on Instagram, including Robyn Law, author of the weight-loss book "The Body Plan." who asked why Aniston was worried about being around unvaccinated people when she has been vaccinated. Aniston responded on her account. "Because if you have the variant, you are still able to give it to me. I may get slightly sick but I will not be admitted to a hospital and or die. BUT I CAN give it to someone else who does not have the vaccine and whose health is compromised (or has a previously existing condition) - and therefore I would put their lives at risk," wrote Aniston. "THAT is why I worry. We have to care about more than just ourselves here," she added. Aniston, who has 37.7 million followers on Instagram, rose to fame as Rachel Green in the US television sitcom "Friends" from 1994 to 2004. It followed a group of six New Yorkers in their 20s and 30s.







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MidWeek Spouts

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Lionel Messi joins Paris Saint-Germain



PARIS, (IANS) Lionel Messi arrived at Le Bourget airport to finalise his signing with French Ligue 1 giants Paris Saint-Germain after his tearful farewell to Barcelona on Sunday.

Lionel Messi has joined French club Paris Saint-Germain on a twoyear contract. The club posted a video teaser with words 'New diamond in Paris' in it.

The Argentinian footballer Messi, who ended his 21-year long stay at Barcelona and recently won the Copa America for Argentina, arrived in Paris on Tuesday and signed the contract.

Hundreds of fans have been waiting at the airport since Monday as the 34-year-old Argentine had been linked with the Paris-based club right after his shock departure from Barcelona was announced.

Messi, wearing a T-shirt which wrote "icic'est Paris (this is Paris)", waved to the fans when walking out of the airport.

PSG released a video later in the afternoon on its official website which heavily implied that the signing is completed. A news confer-

ence will take place in the auditorium of the Parc des Princes on Wednesday at 11:00 am, Xinhua reports.

Messi is the latest of the big-name arrivals at PSG on a free transfer this summer after coach Mauricio Pochettino's side snapped up Spanish defender Sergio Ramos after he left Real Madrid. Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum also joined from Liverpool.

Italy's Euro 2020-winning goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma has also joined after his contract with AC Milan ran out, while Moroccan full-back Achraf Hakimi joined from Inter Milan for a reported 60 million euros.

The arrival of Barcelona's all-time top scorer will definitely boost PSG's hopes of winning the Champions League for the first time. Messi and his family were also pictured at Barcelona's El Prat airport earlier on Tuesday afternoon and when asked by reporters whether his son would be joining PSG, Jorge Messi answered "yes". His contract is reported to be worth \$35 million a year after tax.

INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS ACHIEVE BEST-EVER FIH WORLD RANKINGS; MEN'S TEAM RISE TO 3RD AND WOMEN'S TEAM TO 8TH



NEW DELHI: A delightful finish to a dream campaign at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 saw Indian Hockey scripting history as both Men's and Women's teams achieved their highest ever FIH world rankings.

The Indian Men's Hockey team, which ended a 41-year medal drought by clinching the Bronze Medal in Tokyo, rose to 3rd in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings, behind Belgium and Australia, respectively. Whereas, the Indian Women's Hockey Team, moved up to the 8th position according to the latest FIH world rankings.

the 8th position according to the latest FIH world rankings. Before this feat, the Manpreet Singh-led side's career-high ranking was No.4, which they achieved in March 2020 on the back of their scintillating performances in the first three rounds of the second edition of FIH Hockey Pro League 2020. On the other hand, the Indian Women's team's highestever world ranking was 9th, which they accomplished by producing their best finish (Quarter-Finals) at the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 in four decades. Having reached till Quarter Finals of the World Cup, the Indian eves became the top-ranked Asian team and went on to clinch the Silver Medal at Jakarta Palembang 2018 Asian Games. Both the teams achieved their highest ranking following their stunning performances at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Manpreet and Co. finished second in Pool A winning four out of five group phase matches and defeated Great Britain 3-1 in Quarter-Final before losing 5-2 against Belgium in their historic Semi-Final. However, they staged a remarkable comeback to grab a 5-4 win over Germany to clinch a historic Bronze medal at Olympic Games and as result climbed up to their best-ever world ranking. Whereas, the Indian Eves, who faced three losses in the initial matches, went on to pull off arguably the biggest upset as they beat

World No.3 Australian side in what was their first-ever Quarter Final of the Olympics. Rani & Co. lost both Semi-Final and the Bronze Medal Play-Off match against Argentina and Great Britain, respectively. Hence, finishing fourth at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics led India Women's Hockey Team to climb up to the 8th in the world rankings. Having achieved their highest-ever world rankings, the Indian Men's Hockey Team Captain Manpreet expressed, "It's the reward of all the hard work and dedication towards the game we love, towards the game which has given us everything. This ranking and the Olympic medal after 41 years mark the rise of Indian Hockey, and I think this couldn't have happened without the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Sports Authority of India, Odisha Government and Hockey India. There is no looking back now, we have set the benchmark for ourselves and would like to grow from here." Men's team Chief Coach Graham Reid stated, "I must admit, I feel privileged to have played a part in the rise of Indian Hockey. It's a great feeling that we won the historic Bronze Medal as well as achieving the highest ranking on the back of our solid performance in the Olympics. We played like a unit, with the right kind of attitude, and I think that has helped the team achieve this feat. Also, Hockey India, Sports Authority of India and all the stakeholders involved with the Indian Hockey has played a huge part in bringing back the team where it truly belongs." Indian Women's Hockey Team Skipper Rani said, "We were very close to finishing on the Podium, and it is hurting the team that we didn't. However, looking at the bright side, we have made remarkable progress in recent years, and I am really proud of it. Finishing in the top four at Olympics, and climbing to the 8th position in world rankings, is a very big thing for us, and this has boosted our confidence, it will certainly help us grow going forward.

VIRAT KOHLI EXPRESSES HIS ANGER AFTER 1ST TEST ENDED IN DRAW



India skipper Virat Kohli expressed disappointment after the first Test against England ended in a draw as Day five of the match was abandoned due to rain on Sunday.

It was the first match of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023 cycle. The start of day five got delayed twice after an early Lunch and Test was taken as rain played a spoilt sport.

"We were expecting rain on days 3 and 4, and it chooses to arrive on day 5 when we were looking to have a good crack at the target," said Kohli in a post-match presentation. "We wanted to start strong, and heading into day five we felt we had the chance right in front of the ball. We certainly felt we were right on top, and it's a shame we couldn't complete day five," he added. India needed just 157 runs to win the first Test on day five but no play was possible due to rain. The visitors scored 52 runs after bundling out England in the third session on Saturday. Kohli said the game on the final day wasn't about survival as India wanted to go for the win on Sunday. "We got to 50 overnight, a real positive for us. It wasn't just about survival, it was about getting the boundaries when we got the chance," said Kohli. Praising bowlers for their stint at the crease, Kohli said, "It's the hard work of three-odd weeks (the lower-order batting). They were in the nets regularly, and we got a lead of 95 purely from their efforts.

"I think they did a tremendous job with the bat. Most likely it will be a template going ahead [4-1 combination], but we've always been adaptable as well, to the conditions and pace of the wicket. It's going to be an exciting series to be a part of, as India-England always is," he added. The action moves to Lord's for the second match which gets underway from Thursday.

'STILL DON'T NEED YOU': JASPRIT BUMRAH'S CRYPTIC POST AFTER 1ST ENGLAND TEST GOES VIRAL



India pacer Jasprit Bumrah, despite not being in form for a few months was seen back in action in the ongoing tour of England. While he had failed to take wickets at the World Test Championship (WTC) final against New Zealand, the right-arm quick lead the bowling unit of India against the English batting line-up in both innings.

He had scalped 4 wickets in the first innings and then went on to bag a five-fer in the second. This also earned him another mention on the Trent Bridge honours board.

Despite all the effort, the match ended in a draw due to rain. However, after the end of the first clash, Bumrah took to social media to post pictures of him taking wickets.

However, the caption to the pictures is what grabbed the attention of fans. The bowler wrote, "Still don't need you."

Soon, the post went viral and fans want to know who the mes-

Talking about the match, India had needed just 157 runs to win on day five but no play was possible due to rain. The visitors had scored 52 runs after bundling out England in the third session on Saturday. The action will now move to Lord's for the second match which gets underway from Thursday.

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MEET INDIA'S MEDAL WINNERS AT TOKYO 2020



Neeraj Chopra's gold medal in the men's javelin throw Saturday brought joy to a billion hearts across the country. Some had tears of joy in their eyes watching him on the podium while a lot more had goosebumps listening to the Indian national anthem being played at the Olympic stadium in Tokyo. His stellar performance on the penultimate day of the Tokyo Games helped India reach its best-ever tally at the quadrennial event and end its memorable journey with seven medals, including two silver and four bronze medals.

1. MIRABAI CHANU. SILVER. 49 KG WEIGHTLIFTING

It was Mirabai Chanu, who opened the account with a silver in the women's 49kg weightlifting category when she lifted a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg). The 26-year-old, hailing from Nongpok Kakching village at the foothills of Imphal East district in Manipur, ended India's 21-year wait for a weightlifting medal on the first day, ensuring India began with a bang.

2. PV SINDHU, BRONZE, BADMINTON WOMEN'S SINGLES

PV Sindhu became the first Indian woman and only the second Indian athlete — after Sushil Kumar — to win two individual Olympic medals. The ace shuttler from Hyderabad beat China's He Bing Jiao 21-13, 21-15 to win the bronze medal in the women's singles competition.

3. LOVLINA BORGOHAIN, BRONZE, WOMEN'S WELTERWEIGHT BOXING Lovlina became only the third Indian pugilist to ensure a podium finish at the Olympic Games [after Vijender Singh (2008) and Mary Kom (2012)] when she defeated Chinese Taipei's Nien-Chin Chen in the guarter-finals to assure herself of a medal. In the semi-final, she suffered a 0-5 loss to reigning world champion Busenaz Surmeneli to return home with the bronze. The 23-year-old from Barpathar village in Golaghat district of Assam, won the first Olympic medal in Indian boxing in nine years.

4. RAVI KUMAR DAHIYA, SILVER, MEN'S 57KG FREESTYLE WRESTLING

RAvi, 23, became the second Indian debutant to win a medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Competing in the men's 57kg freestyle wrestling, Dahiya clinched silver and became the seventh Indian to win a silver medal at the Olympics in an individual event. The Sonipat-born grappler had to settle for the second spot after he lost 7-4 to two-time world champion Zavur Uguev (ROC).

5. THE INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM, BRONZE

India men's hockey team which was starved of an Olympic medal, since the gold at the 1980 Moscow Games, claimed the bronze medal when they beat Germany 5-4 in an enthralling match. It was India's fifth medal at Tokyo 2020 Games.

6. BAJRANG PUNIA, BRONZE, MEN'S 65KG FREESTYLE WRESTLING Wrestler Bajrang Punia, also in his debut appearance at the quadrennial event, beat Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov in the men's 65kg freestyle wrestling playoff to claim the bronze medal. Punia, who belongs to Khuddan village in Jhajjar district, pinned Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov.

7. NEERAJ CHOPRA, GOLD, JAVELIN THROW

Neeraj Chopra became India's second individual Olympic champion after Abhinav Bindra — with his men's javelin throw gold at Tokyo 2020. He is also independent India's first Olympian to win a medal in athletics/ track and field. With his herculean effort, the country surpassed the previous best haul of six medals (without a gold) in the 2012 London Games. This is the first time that India has managed to secure seven medals across varied sporting events. With 126 athletes across 18 sports disciplines, India had sent its biggest-ever contingent to Tokyo Olympics. Indian athletes participated in 69 cumulative events across, the highest ever for the country.

Team Canada wins most medals since Los Angeles 1984



OLYMPIC CHAMPION DAMIAN WARNER NAMED TEAM CANADA'S TOKYO 2020 CLOSING FLAG BEARER.

TOKYO– The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) named Olympic champion Damian Warner as Team Canada's Tokyo 2020 Closing Ceremony flag bearer. Warner's gold is one of 23 Team Canada medals as of Sunday morning, Canada's largest number of medals at an Olympic Summer Games since Los Angeles 1984. "Being named the flag bearer for this group of Team Canada athletes is a tremendous honour and an amazing way to cap what has been an unbelievable few days for me," said Warner. "What each of us has gone through over the past 18 months to even get to these Games is what makes Tokyo 2020 all the more special. Though I compete alone, I've never felt more support, not only from my coach, Gar, and our team but from my community and everyone back home cheering us on. As a team we had our respective

challenges training through the pandemic and that collective experience will always be a part of our story. It is a journey that we can all be incredibly proud of." Warner eclipsed three Olympic decathlon records on his way to being crowned Canada's first Olympic decathlon champion. With 9018 points. he became the fourth decathlete in history to surpass the 9000-point mark. He shattered the Olympic record (8893 points) as well as the Canadian record he previously set in May of this year (8895 points) in Götzis, Austria. Warner is also the first Canadian decathlete to win multiple Olympic medals, having won bronze at Rio 2016. The only other Canadian to win an Olympic medal in the decathlon is Dave Steen, who captured bronze at Seoul 1988. "This extraordinary group of Canadian athletes will always be remembered not only

for their performances and results here in Tokyo, but also for their determination and ability to adapt," said Eric Myles, COC Chief Sport Officer. "It's so inspiring that Canadian athletes came into these Games having faced multiple challenges, including lockdowns that meant months of missed training, and challenges travelling for qualifications, and still performed at such a high level. The tremendous character of this group is embodied by Damian, a true champion both on and off the field. The determination shown by Damian and his team in finding creative ways to train, including transforming a local arena into a makeshift athletics facility, captures the gritty spirit of this team and the support they received from their communities. Damian and his coaches found a way, just like all of us have over these past 18 months. It's stories like these

are all about for us in Canada." Team Canada will leave Japan with several more firsts and records. In addition to the historical medal haul. Team

that capture what the Olympic Games

Canada won six gold medals at Tokyo 2020 - the most in a single Olympic Summer Games since Barcelona 1992. With seven career Olympic medals, three of which were earned in Tokyo, swimmer Penny Oleksiak became Canada's all-time most decorated Olympian. Andre De Grasse won Canada's first 200m sprint Olympic gold medal in 93 years. Adding a bronze in the men's 100m and the men's 4x 100m relay. De Grasse became a triple medallist in the sprint events for the second consecutive Games. His career six medals have earned him the title of the most decorated male Olympian in Canadian history. "In an Olympic cycle that threw everything at us that it could to try to divide us, it was incredible how united this Canadian team was," said threetime Olympic champion and Team Canada's Tokyo 2020 Chef de Mission, Mamie McBean. "From all 42 sport disciplines, there was a common thread. What bound them together wasn't shared space but shared thought and perspective. They are now all forged by the same fire. I'm so proud of our athletes and coaches, for their resilience, focus and courage that they displayed on the field of play – committing to ambitious plans, going for it, because they know that's where Canadian sport is - they came here ready and believing in more.

CHOPRA THIRD MOST TALKED-ABOUT ATHLETE GLOBALLY ON TWITTER; **HOCKEY LOGS RECORD HIGH**



Still processing this feeling. To all of India and beyond, thank you so much for your support and blessings that have helped me reach this stage.

This moment will live with me forever 🙏 🍱



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Tokyo Olympic Games gold medallist, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra (@Neeraj chopra1), was the third most talked-about athlete globally, while hockey was the most talked-about sports on Twitter in India, recording an increase of 134 per cent compared to the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Following Chopra's success at the quadrennial showpiece on the penultimate day, the official Olympics handle's (@Olympics) video celebrating the thrower's iconic win was the most watched Olympics video on Twitter in India.

The 23-year-old Chopra's tweet expressing gratitude for the country folk's support for his gold-winning Olympics journey was also the most liked and re-tweeted tweet among Olympics conversations in India. This was also the tweet that received the most number of replies.

"Still processing this feeling. To all of India and beyond, thank you so much for your support and blessings that have helped me reach this stage. This moment will live with me forever. (Folded hands, Flag of India)," Chopra had tweeted following his success. Hockey became the most talked about Olympic sport on Twitter in India, recording an increase of 134 per cent compared to 2016 Rio, while the other sport that recorded massive increase in conversations were javelin throw (+5631%) and golf (+703%), where Aditi Ashok (@aditigolf) became the first Indian golfer to represent the country at the Games. Fencing, thanks to Bhavani Devi's exploits, registered a 1086 per cent increase.

#FieldHockey was the most mentioned hashtag sports in India during the Games, followed by badminton, wrestling, boxing and golf.

While Chopra was the most talked-about athlete in India, MirabaiChanu (@mirabai chanu) was second, followed by PV Sindhu (@Pvsindhu1), LovlinaBorgohain (@LovlinaBorgohai), Bajrang Punia (@BajrangPunia) and Rani Rampal (@imranirampal)in that order.

ICC REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO BID FOR CRICKET'S INCLUSION IN OLYMPICS

DUBAI, (IANS) The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday confirmed its intention to bid for cricket's inclusion in the Olympic Games beginning with Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) edition. "We would love for cricket to be a part of future Games. Our sport is united behind this bid, and we see the Olympics as a part of cricket's long-term future. We have more than a billion fans globally and almost 90 percent of them want to see cricket at the Olympics," said Greg Barclay, the ICC chairman in a statement issued by the ICC.

The ICC has convened a working group meeting which will be focused on cricket becoming part of the Olympic family for Los Angeles Games 2028, Brisbane Games 2032 and beyond.

"Clearly cricket has a strong and passionate fan-base, particularly in South Asia where 92% of our fans come from, whilst there are also 30 million cricket fans in the USA. The opportunity for those fans to see their heroes competing for an Olympic medal is tantalising," said Barclay. England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Ian Watmore will chair the ICC Olympic Working Group and he will be joined by the ICC independent director Indra Nooyi, chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket TavengwaMukuhlani, ICC associate member director and vicepresident of the Asian Cricket Council Mahinda Vallipuram and chairman of USA Cricket Paraag Marathe.

SCHEDULE OF REMAINING IPL MATCHES TORONTO TIMINGS

September 19: CSK vs MI September 20: KKR vs RCB September 21: PBKS vs RR September 22: DC vs SRH September 23: MI vs KKR September 24: RCB vs CSK September 25: DC vs RR September 25: SRH vs PBKS CSK vs KKR September 26: September 26: RCB vs MI September 27: SRH vs RR September 28: KKR vs DC September 28: MI vs PBKS September 29: RR vs RCB September 30: SRH vs CSK KKR vs PBKS October 1: October 2: MI vs DC October 2: RR vs CSK October 3: RCB vs PBKS KKR vs SRH October 3: DC vs CSK October 4: October 5: RR vs MI October 6: RCB vs SRH October 7: CSK vs PBKS October 7: KKR vs RR October 8: SRH vs MI RCB vs DC October 8:

October 10:

October 11:

October 13:

October 15:

Qualifier 1

Eliminator

Qualifier 2

Final

(Dubai, 10:00 am (Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am); (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 6:00 am); (Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 6:00 am) (Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 6:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Abu Dhabi, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 6:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Abu Dhabi, 6:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Sharjah, 10:00 am) (Dubai, 10:00 am)

NO PLACE FOR TAYLOR, DE GRANDHOMME IN NEW ZEALAND'S T20 WORLD CUP SQUAD

AUCKLAND, (IANS) New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Tuesday announced a 15-member squad for the ICC T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman under skipper Kane Williamson, but there was no place for Ross Taylor, Colin de Grandhomme and Finn Allen, even as 34-yearold legspinner, Todd Astle -- who has played four T20Is -- was picked along with two other spinners -- Ish Sodhi and Mitchell Santner. Mark Chapman, who represented Hong Kong at the T20 World Cup in 2014 and 2016, was also a part of the 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup in October-November.

Pace bowler Adam Milne, who will travel with the squad as a standby, will be called upon only as an injury replacement, NZC said. The same squad will also three T20Is against India later this year.

NZC said the change had been effected to "balance the Black Caps' workloads over a four month-long period, incorporating tours to Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India, as well as the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE."

NZC also said that it will announce the squad for Test squad to tour India in a month's time. "While the Test squad to tour India will not be announced for another month or so, the Black Caps' white-ball squads (for the season) will comprise a total of 32 players -- including two new to the set-up in all-rounder Cole McConchie, and paceman Ben Sears," said NZC in a statement.

Tom Latham will captain the side in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and the usual combination of skipper Kane Williamson and coach Gary Stead will resume duties for the T20 World Cup and the Test tour to India. "Ross Taylor was selected for the three ODIs in Pakistan but, with the brief nature of the one-week series and the length of quarantine protocols, it was mutually agreed he would remain at home to prepare for the Indian Test tour and upcoming home summer," NZC said. "The first New Zealand squad will depart for Bangladesh on the August 23 and the players from the Test tour to India will return home and emerge from MIQ (Managed Isolation) just before Christmas," said NZC.



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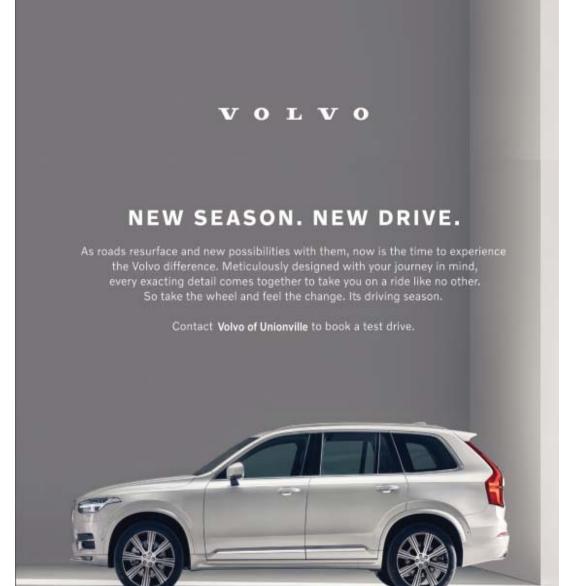
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