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KANGANA RANAUT'S PUBLIC PERSONA IS  
NOT THE ONE I KNOW: ANURAG BASU | 20

# Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR  
2021



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## Alia Bhatt-starrer Gangubai Kathiawadi lands in legal trouble



**A CASE HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST ALIA BHATT, DIRECTOR SANJAY LEELA BHANSALI AND WRITER HUSSAIN ZAIDI BY GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI'S ADOPTED SON BABUJI RAWJI SHAH**

ALIA BHATT-STARRER GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI HAS LANDED IN A LEGAL SOUP. A CASE HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST ALIA, DIRECTOR SANJAY LEELA BHANSALI AND WRITER HUSSAIN ZAIDI BY KATHIAWADI'S ADOPTED SON BABUJI RAWJI SHAH, REPORTED [INDIATODAY.IN](https://www.indiatoday.in). IN HIS COMPLAINT, SHAH ALLEGED THAT THE MOVIE AND ITS SOURCE MATERIAL — THE BOOK *MAFIA QUEENS OF MUMBAI* BY AUTHOR HUSSAIN ZAIDI — ARE DEFAMATORY IN NATURE. THE PETITION FURTHER STATED THAT IT INFRINGES UPON BABUJI RAWJI SHAH'S RIGHT TO 'PRIVACY, LIBERTY AND SELF-RESPECT'.

## PLANNING TO RELEASE RADHE ON EID 2021 IF THE SITUATION IS SAFE: SALMAN KHAN



Superstar Salman Khan on Sunday said his upcoming film *Radhe – Your Most Wanted Bhai* will arrive in theatres on Eid 2021 provided the scenario is safe for people to come to cinema halls amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Directed by Prabhu Deva, *Radhe* was scheduled to hit Indian screens during the festival on May 22 this year but was delayed in the wake of the ongoing health crisis.

Asked about the impending release of *Radhe*, Khan said he wants the film to release on Eid 2021 but the date is yet to be locked.

"*Radhe* will release when it has to. The situation is grave now. When people start going back to theatres and when they have money to spend on entertainment. We had made a commitment of Eid release last year and will give commitment for this Eid soon. If everything is clear, we will release it this Eid or it will release whenever it has to," he told reporters. Khan, who is at his Panvel farmhouse with his family, was interacting with select media on his 55th birthday.

The release of *Radhe* is not more important than the health and safety of the audience, the actor emphasized.

"Important thing is when we release *Radhe* everyone should be safe that time in theatres. And God forbid, if something happens it won't be acceptable. We will have to plan it successfully," he said.

## WOULD HAVE MARRIED ALIA BHATT ALREADY HAD THERE BEEN NO PANDEMIC: RANBIR



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ADDRESSING REPORTS SURROUNDING HIS IMPENDING WEDDING, RANBIR KAPOOR SAID THAT THE DEAL WOULD'VE BEEN "SEALED" HAD THE "PANDEMIC NOT HIT OUR LIVES".

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ROHIT SHETTY HAD ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS TURNING 'SINGHAM' AND 'SIMMBA' INTO A COP FRANCHISE, AFTER WHICH HE REVEALED 'SOORYAVANSHI'

## RHEA WAS ARRESTED IN A BOGUS CASE WITH NO EVIDENCE BY NCB: LAWYER



Actor Rhea Chakraborty's lawyer Satish Maneshinde has welcomed Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh's statement urging the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to reveal the findings of the probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. Maneshinde said in a statement, "I welcome the statement of Shri Anil Deshmukh, Home Minister, Government of Maharashtra calling for the CBI to make the report public in the case of death of Sushant Singh Rajput. A hue and cry was made when the Mumbai Police took about 2 months into the investigations and the report remained to be made public. An FIR was filed in Patna making false allegations against Rhea Chakraborty and her family in July 2020. The Mumbai Police, ED, NCB and CBI including Patna Police have conducted investigations against Rhea. She was arrested in a bogus case with no evidence by NCB."

## INDIA THRASH AUSTRALIA IN MELBOURNE TEST BY 8 WICKETS, LEVEL FOUR-TEST SERIES 1-1

Heading into the Melbourne Test, the main question on everyone's mind was how India would bounce back from the debacle of being bowled out for 36 in Adelaide? Ajinkya Rahane, in his calm and composed manner, answered it in a decisive way. With his pro-active captaincy and a series-defining hundred, Ajinkya Rahane once again egged his bowling unit who was missing the services of Umesh Yadav due to a calf strain. Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Ravichandran Ashwin ran through the Australian batting yet again. The tail did frustrate India but not so much as to worry India who bided their time. In the end, the target of 70 was too little to trouble an Indian side rejuvenated. On day 4, India won the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground by eight wickets to level the four-Test series 1-1. There were many players of the Indian cricket team who played an outcome in this win, which will be considered the best overseas win in a long time due to the background and circumstances heading into the Melbourne Test. It was Ajinkya Rahane's pro-active captaincy on day 1 which knocked the momentum out of Australia. His field placings and his rotation of bowlers as well as his surprises clearly upset Australia's planning. With the bat, Ajinkya Rahane's century and his partnerships with Ravindra Jadeja and Rishabh Pant ensured that under the conditions, the lead of 127 was simply too much for Australia. On day 3, Australia were staring at the brink of an innings defeat when Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja all chipped in to reduce Australia to 99/6. However, Cameron Green and Pat Cummins ensured the match would be taken to the fourth day.

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### Tests:

First Test: **Australia won by 8 wickets**

Second Test: **India won by 8 wickets**

Third Test: **Jan 6-11 06:30 PM**

Fourth Test: **Jan 14-19 07:00 PM**

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





# VIVEK OBEROI NAMES THESE ACTORS TO STEP INTO RANI MUKERJI AND HIS SHOES FOR 'SAATHIYA' REMAKE



On December 20, Rani Mukerji and Vivek Oberoi starrer Saathiya clocked 18 years of its release. The film is the official Hindi remake of Mani Ratnam's Tamil film Alaipayuthey and was directed by Shaad Ali. Now, during a recent interaction, Vivek was quizzed about Saathiya and was also asked who should step in Rani and his shoes if the movie is remade in today's times. To which the actor named Alia Bhatt and Kartik Aaryan. Vivek told The Times of India, "There are so many lovely and talented young actors, but if I were to cast Saathiya today, I would cast Kartik and Alia, a fresh pair like Rani and me were an interesting change for both actors in terms of performance." Sharing his best memory of the film, Vivek stated, "After the re-

lease of the film, I was invited to Pune for promotional activity at a theatre. I was so amazed that there were thousands of girls screaming my name in a frenzy! I remember Rani saying the crowd was too much and being a girl she backed out saying it's not safe. I felt that if neither of us goes and meets the fans they will be so disappointed, so I got out of the car we were in to make my way into the theatre." Oberoi added, "It was crazy! I suddenly felt my feet literally rise off the ground! I had only seen rockstars in concerts being carried like that, for the first time in my life, it was happening to me now! I will never forget that mix of fear that I may fall and the joy and energy of the love I was being blessed with!"

## Sushant Singh Rajput's work will keep him alive forever: Shekhar Suman

As we move on from 2020 to 2021, we are left with the void left behind by the demise of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR). However, even though the talented young actor is physically not present between us, his work will keep him alive forever, feels veteran actor Shekhar Suman. Shekhar Suman tweeted, "The new year 2021 would be bereft of the presence of Sushant but his work will keep him alive forever. It's interesting to note that his birthday would fall on January 21, 2021. Starting and ending with 21. #Sushant's birthday." Sushant Singh Rajput was born on January 21, 1986. January 21 would mark the late actor's birth anniversary, who passed away aged 34 on June 14 this year in Mumbai. The actor popularly known as SSR was found dead in his Mumbai apartment on June 14 this year. Remembering Sushant and others from the film industry who passed away this year, Shekhar Suman had tweeted a few days ago, "Looking back at 2020, it took away everything from us. We lost actors Irrfan Khan, Rishi Kapoor and Sushant Singh Rajput within a few weeks of each other. Besides, several other artists and technicians died. The world lost politicians, poets, soldiers and warriors, farmers and migrant workers." Meanwhile, Sushant's sister Shweta Singh Kirti has urged the fans of her brother to choose love over hatred. As the year nears its end, Shweta initiated a new digital campaign, #Love4SSR, asking his fans to come forward and do a good deed.

## Rakhi Sawant's husband to enter 'Bigg Boss 14' house as contestant?



'Bigg Boss 14' contestant Rakhi Sawant has often been vocal about her marriage to her husband Ritesh but has kept his full identity under wraps. However, it looks like Rakhi's wish for her hubby to reveal himself to the world is finally going to come true. In an interview with The Times of India, Ritesh has admitted that he will soon enter Salman Khan's reality show as a contestant, to support Rakhi. Ritesh said that he has already conveyed his desire to be a part of Bigg Boss 14 to the makers of the show and has confirmed his availability in the first week of January and is anticipating a response from them. He said, "I have told the Bigg Boss makers that I want to enter the show as a contestant and they are working on it. They wanted me to enter on Christmas, but as I was busy with my work, I could not go inside. I have asked them to inform me a week in advance if I have to enter as I will have to settle a few things before going inside." Ritesh further added, "I have told them I will be available in the first week of January, but I haven't got any confirmation until now so let's see when it happens. I am expecting to enter by mid-week. I will go as a contestant, I have requested the makers. I want to go inside as her support. I feel Rakhi has come into my life as a blessing and she is a very good person."

## SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA'S 'BLIND' STARTS FILMING

Mumbai: Shooting for actor Sonam Kapoor Ahuja's upcoming movie "Blind" has started in Glasgow, Scotland. The action-thriller, directed by Shome Makhija, centres on a blind police officer in search of a serial killer. The cast also features actors Vinay Pathak, Purab Kohli and Lilette Dubey. The film has Sujoy Ghosh, Avishek Ghosh and Manisha W. Pinkesh Nahar and Sachin Nahar as well as Hyunwoo Thomas Kim on board as producers. The makers are planning a 2021 release for "Blind".



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# 2 YEARS OF 'SIMMBA': THROWBACK TO MOVIE'S SUCCESS BASH WITH AKSHAY KUMAR, RANVEER SINGH & AJAY DEVGN



Rohit Shetty was all set for a blockbuster with Ranveer Singh, back in 2018. The movie, 'Simmba', released on December 28 and became an instant hit among people, for various reasons. Rohit Shetty brought back Ajay Devgn, who played 'Singham' in the original film. This time he had roped in Ranveer Singh as 'Simmba' after working with the actor on an advertisement. The movie was also touted to become Sara Ali Khan's debut movie. Of course, eventually she went on to make her debut in Abhishek Kapoor's 'Kedarnath' opposite late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Before 'Simmba's' release, Rohit Shetty got people excited by announcing that he is turning 'Singham' and 'Simmba' into a cop franchise and soon, various superstars could be seen in it. He had planned a surprise in 'Simmba' - an entry of 'Sooryavanshi'

Akshay Kumar, which raised the excitement among audiences fourfold. To make it official, Rohit hosted a success bash in which he posed with 'Singham' Ajay Devgn, 'Simmba' Ranveer Singh and 'Sooryavanshi' Akshay Kumar. The photo also came at a time when news was strong that Karan Johar had quit as a producer. The picture established that KJo was still very much a part of 'Sooryavanshi', whose lead actress had not been finalized back then. At present, Rohit Shetty's 'Sooryavanshi', starring Akshay Kumar as the male lead with cameos by Ranveer and Ajay, and Katrina Kaif as the female lead, is awaiting its release in theatres. The movie is expected to release in 2021, after COVID-19 scare reduces.

## Inside Kapoors' Christmas lunch: Ranbir Kapoor wraps arm around Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan 'screams' in family pic



Giving a sneak peek of the family get together for Christmas, Kareena Kapoor Khan shared an adorable picture for fans on Friday. "The tradition continues... and so does the screaming... la familia forever...", wrote Kareena using red heart emoticons on Instagram with a happy picture that captures the whole family and closed ones gathered for celebrating Christmas at Kapoor's residence. From Bollywood star Karisma Kapoor to Alia Bhatt who is currently dating Ranbir Kapoor, the Instagram post sees 'Student Of The Year 2' star Tara Sutaria too, who is currently in a relationship with Raj Kapoor's grandson Aadar Jain. Continuing with the caption, the soon mom-to-be actor wrote, "All covid tested rocking and rolling... Merry Xmas people.. Missed @neetu54 aunty and @riddhimakapoorsahniofficial," with a red heart emoticon. The post which was liked by thousands of fans and followers was re-shared by Bollywood stars Karisma Kapoor and Alia Bhatt on Instagram Stories. For the unversed, it is a Kapoor family tradition wherein a member of the family hosts the annual Christmas bash and all the members take out time from their busy schedule to spend time with each other. This year, Neetu Kapoor and Riddhima Kapoor Sahani was missing from the get-together. Not to mention the void there was because of the absence of late Rishi Kapoor.

Earlier, in an Instagram post, Kareena revealed that her son Taimur Ali Khan loves turkey. In an Instagram image Kareena posted, the actress is seen posing for the camera along with husband Saif Ali Khan, while Taimur, who is fondly called Tim by his parents, can be seen gorging on turkey. "Someone loves turkey," Kareena wrote. Kareena and Saif hosted a Christmas eve dinner with his family and friends. The 'Uda Punjab' star had posted a picture from the dinner on her Instagram handle featuring all those present at the get-together including sister Karisma and friend Natasha Poonawala. Kareena wrote alongside the image, "That warm, fuzzy feeling... Merry Xmas people." Her sister-in-law, Soha Ali Khan, who also attended the party, posted a picture of her daughter, Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, posing next to a Christmas tree. "Merry Christmas from ours to yours!" she wrote in another post, which had pictures from Kareena and Saif's party. Kareena and Saif got married in 2012 and the actress gave birth to their first-born, Taimur, in 2016. Kareena is currently expecting their second baby and is often seen out and about in Mumbai city finishing her work commitments or visiting family and friends. Kareena and Saif had announced on August 12 that they are expecting their second child. The actress recently completed her shoot for the upcoming film "Laal Singh Chaddha" co-starring Aamir Khan in Delhi.

### Pooja Bhatt celebrates four years of sobriety, says 'what an enriching journey it has been'

Filmmaker Pooja Bhatt is celebrating four years of being sober and says the journey has been very enriching. The filmmaker took to Twitter to share a photograph of a view of the hills splashed with hues of the pink sky and surrounded with greenery. "Four years sober today! Earlier it was pink champagne, malt & packed, city bars. Now it is pink skies & deserted, country roads," Pooja wrote. "What an enriching, searing journey it has been. Gratitude to life & the divine force that has watched over me kept me true, vulnerable, strong. #sobrietyrocks," she added. Pooja quit drinking in 2016 and has been vocal about her struggle with addiction. "I stopped drinking by first acknowledging that I had a drinking problem. Because you are a woman and you live in a society where you are always taught or forced to brush things under the carpet. We tend to bury this shameful habit that we have of covering it up and say, 'Oh, we don't have a problem, it is somebody else's and I am not that drunk'," Pooja has said in the past. Pooja shot to stardom in the nineties with her roles in "Daddy", "Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin", "Sadak" and "Zakhm". As a director, she has helmed "Paap", "Kajraare" and "Jism 2" among other projects. She was seen in "Sadak 2", which marked the return of her father Mahesh Bhatt as director after two decades.



### Suhana Khan shares stylish mirror selfie; Navya Naveli Nanda leaves loved-up comment



Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan has posted a new mirror selfie on her Instagram page. Suhana wore a top with a zebra pattern but what caught her friends' and fans' attention was the chic nail art. Suhana has limited comments on her Instagram account, however, her photo has already garnered more than 2.5 lac likes. In addition to this, Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda also posted a comment on the photo and dropped a heart-eyes emoji. Suhana's cousin Alia Chibba also commented on the post with loved-up emojis. Suhana spent the entirety of the coronavirus induced lockdown in Mumbai with her family and flew out to Dubai with them for the Indian Premier League (IPL). She is now back in New York for college. She studies at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Like her father, Suhana wants to become an actor. She starred in a production of William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet in London. Shah Rukh praised her performance in an Instagram post and wrote, "With my Juliet in London. What a wonderful experience and exceptional performances by the whole cast. Congratulations to the whole team." Earlier, in an interview with Hindustan Times, Shah Rukh had emphasised the importance of education and how Suhana must learn acting before entering the film industry. "Suhana should learn acting for another three to four years if she wants to be an actor. I know many of my industry friends feel my kids should start acting tomorrow. But it's my belief that they shouldn't start acting yet," he had said.

### Kangana Ranaut's public persona is not the one I know: Anurag Basu



Filmmaker Anurag Basu, who launched Kangana Ranaut's career in Bollywood, says he doesn't meet the actress often but when they do meet, it is like old times. In a recent interview, he said that the public personality is something he doesn't understand. In an interview with Mid-Day, Anurag said that he has seen a different Kangana from what her public persona is. The filmmaker thinks that Kangana has two personalities. He said, "Not really. We usually don't meet, but whenever we do, this [public] persona is not the Kangana I [know] personally. So I think there are two Kanganas. Beech wali [the other one] I don't understand." Anurag had launched Kangana's career back in 2006 with 'Gangster'. The movie launched her opposite Emraan Hashmi and Shinee Ahuja.

### Alia Bhatt puts her winter look on display; fans gush over the photo



Winter is finally here and people are enjoying the sweater weather to the fullest. Winter fashion is definitely a thing and people love experimenting with their look during the chilly season. How can Bollywood celebs be left behind? From sweaters, beret to trenchcoats and jackets, celebs wear it all and flaunt it on their social media pages. One of the celebs who shared her winter look is Alia Bhatt on her Instagram page. In the photo, Alia looks cute as ever in a white full-sleeved sweater and denim shorts with a cream printed beret cap. She is seen chilling on the couch while posing for the photo. Alia captioned the photo with a 'snowflake' emoji. Amid the 'new normal' of coronavirus lockdown, Alia kickstarted the dubbing for her upcoming film Brahmastra directed by Ayan Mukerji. She was seen with Ranbir Kapoor while heading to the dubbing studio.



# VARUN DHAWAN-SARA ALI KHAN'S 'COOLIE NO 1' RANKS LOWER THAN SALMAN KHAN'S 'RACE 3' ON IMDB



After receiving bashing from all corners, Varun Dhawan and Sara Ali Khan-starring film 'Coolie No 1' has become one of the lowest ranking films on IMDb. The film has even managed to beat 'Race 3' and gained a lower rank at the movie rating platform.

All Govinda fans are upset with Varun Dhawan for touching an iconic piece by the legendary actor. The movie, which also features Paresh Rawal and Johnny Lever in pivotal roles, is once again directed by David Dhawan, who originally helmed the 1995 film starring Govinda as the male lead and Karisma Kapoor as the female lead.

Varun Dhawan faced backlash especially over one scene in the movie - a train scene - which has made people question logic and science. The film has only been ranked 1.4 on IMDb, which is an even lower

rank than Salman Khan's film 'Race 3'. 'Race 3' was ranked 1.9 on IMDb, which was considered one of the poor ratings when the film released back in 2018. 'Race 3', starring Salman Khan in the lead role was an experimental film. The movie's franchise was originally directed by Abbas-Mustan and had a continued plotline. Remo D'Souza came on board to direct 'Race 3' with just Anil Kapoor as one of the actors from the previous films. 'Race 3' starred Salman, Jacqueline Fernandez, Daisy Shah, Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor and Saqib Saleem. 'Race 3' released a few months after Salman Khan's superhit 'Tiger Zinda Hai'. The movie, starring Katrina Kaif as the female lead, was 'Ek Tha Tiger' franchise. 'Sultan' director Ali Abbas Zafar collaborated with Salman for the movie, for the second time after 'Sultan'.

## AAMIR KHAN-KIRAN RAO CELEBRATE THEIR 15TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN GIR FOREST



Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao rang in their 15th wedding anniversary in the Gir Forest. On Sunday morning (December 27), Aamir and Kiran visited the Gir forest and were one of the lucky people who got a rare sighting of the Asiatic Gir Lion.

After visiting the forest, Aamir penned a note to the Forest Minister to thank him for the experience. "What a wonderful and unique experience this morning! In gratitude to the forest department for my important work of conservation being done here. It was our good fortune to spot the king of the jungle, with its native family. Best wishes and Thank You," wrote Aamir in the letter. Additional Chief Secretary (Forest Department) Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta took to Twitter and wrote, "Amir Khan expresses his feelings after visiting Gir Forest. Come & see the only habitat of Asiatic Lions as their numbers have grown

exponentially from 327 in 2001 to 674 in 2020 due to massive & sustained conservation efforts under overarching leadership of Hon @PMOIndia. @CMOGuj."

Aamir Khan was spotted at Mumbai airport on the morning of December 26. The actor was seen with his wife Kiran Rao and son Azad Rao Khan. Aamir's daughter Ira Khan was also snapped at the airport. His nephew, former actor ('Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na') actor Imran Khan was also seen along with his daughter Imara.

On the work front, Aamir is awaiting the release of his Christmas release 'Laal Singh Chaddha'. The movie had to be pushed for Christmas 2021 release owing to COVID-19 lockdown and theatres being shut as a safety precaution, subsequently.

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON: CHARITY LOBBIES TO KEEP CONTACTLESS EVENT OPEN

### CANCELLED DRIVE-THRU LIGHT SHOW WILL RESULT IN HUGE LOSSES FOR LOCAL CHARITY

**TORONTO** - During a time that is typically filled with holiday cheer and time spent with friends and family, the province-wide lockdown has Ontarians feeling much less festive this holiday season. It has also left a local charity wondering why their fully contactless event, Holiday Nights of Lights, has been included on the list of restricted activities.

Tickets for Holiday Nights of Lights have been nearly sold out since its opening day on November 20th. The overwhelming success of this fully-immersive drive-thru show has undoubtedly proven that Ontarians have been desperately craving some joy and entertainment during what has been an arguably dismal holiday season. More importantly, the revenue from ticket sales has provided some much-needed stability for a charity during a time when the pandemic has heavily impacted the non-profit sector.

Holiday Nights of Lights has partnered with local charity, Epilepsy Toronto, and a portion of the proceeds were to be donated to the organization. The cancellation of this event will result in a significant loss of revenue for the charity. This was critical funding that Epilepsy Toronto was relying on during a time when funding and donations are hard to come by.

"Most of our major fundraising events have been cancelled in the wake of COVID-19 so we were thrilled to be partnering with Nights of Lights on their most recent project," explains Geoff Bobb, Executive Director of Epilepsy Toronto. "We were devastated to hear that it would be cancelled, despite our best efforts to make our event fully-contactless and safe for guests and staff."

Organizers of Holiday Nights of Lights went to great lengths to transform their event into a fully contactless experience and ensure it adhered to all COVID safety guidelines. This includes such measures as online ticketing to allow guests to enter the event without the need to lower their car windows, the use of FM radio transmissions, and directional wayfinding that keeps everyone safely in their vehicles. Despite this, organizers were disappointed to find out that even their fully contactless, drive-thru event would be included on the most recent list of cancelled activities and are appealing to government officials to keep the event running through the lockdown.

"We fully support the decision made by the province to enter into lockdown and keep Ontarians healthy over the holidays. However, with all of the additional measures and precautions we have incorporated into our event to ensure that guests and staff remain safe, we are certain that Holiday Nights of Lights is even safer than your local drive-thru pick up window or curbside pickup options," says Nights of Lights organizer, Olivera Pavlovic.

Both Holiday Nights of Lights organizers and Epilepsy Toronto are left hoping that the government may reconsider its decision to include their event in the list of cancelled activities during the lockdown.

## 'MERELY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT I PUT FORTH': PANKAJ TRIPATHI DENOUNCES USE OF POINTLESS ABUSIVE LANGUAGE ON SCREEN



Actor Pankaj Tripathi has revealed that many memes on the characters that he plays which go viral on the internet are fake. In addition to this, Pankaj also denounced the use of "coarse language" on-screen unless the role demands it. In an interview with Mid-Day, Pankaj said, "When actors abuse on screen, they do so in a certain context. Abusing on a whim is not something I approve of or endorse. Even in my scenes, I avoid coarse language, unless the situation demands it. It's not a case of being morally mindful. I am merely conscious of what I put forth as an artist."

For the uninformed, Pankaj has played famously foul-mouthed characters in films and shows, but to this date, the one which goes most viral is Kaleen Bhaiya, from Mirzapur. Elaborating on the same, Pankaj said, "The onus of being responsible is on the creators, writers, and actors. I hope that the creators of memes exercise a similar restraint and act responsibly. On most occasions, the abusive words used in these memes are not even from my films or dialogues." On the work front, Pankaj will reprise his role as lawyer Madhav Mishra, in the upcoming season of Criminal Justice, on Disney+ Hotstar. He was seen this year in films such as Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, and Ludo -- both on Netflix -- and the second season of Mirzapur.

Pankaj is also teaming up once again with Sajid Nadiadwala for 'Bachchan Pandey' after working together in Super 30 & '83. This will be the first time that Akshay Kumar & Pankaj Tripathi will be sharing screen space. Speaking about the same, a source close to the development said, "While Kriti & Pankaj have worked earlier in Lukka Chuppi. Pankaj & Akshay will be teaming up for the first time. Both are known for their comic timing and unusual choices and one cannot wait to see the creativity that both these actors create on-screen. Pankaj will be joining Akshay, Kriti, Jacqueline & Arshad in Jaisalmer from January onwards."

## SALMAN KHAN WILL RELEASE 'RADHE' DURING EID 2021 BUT ON THIS CONDITION



On the occasion of his 55th birthday, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan on Sunday said this year's celebration will be muted due to the pandemic and urged fans to follow COVID-19 norms.

"This time we will not have any birthday celebrations. Only our family will be here (Panvel) and no one else. This year we are not planning to do anything because this has been a terrible year for everybody, and people have faced a lot of difficulties," Salman told reporters at his Panvel farmhouse. "Hopefully, next year everything will go back to normal. I hope that everyone is happy, healthy and safe," the actor said.

Amid the pandemic, Salman has appealed to his fans to not throng outside his house in Mumbai on the occasion of his birthday.

Answering a question on the release date of his upcoming film Radhe, Salman said, "It will be released at an appropriate time when everything will go back to normal. It will be released at a time when everyone will start going back to the theatres with little risk of virus."

"We will release Radhe on Eid if everything will go back to normal. But the movie is less important; the safety and health of moviegoers is the most important thing. The release of Radhe can wait," he said.

Salman is also currently busy hosting the latest season of the Bigg Boss 14. He will next be seen on the big screen in Prabudheva directed Radhe - Your Most Wanted Bhai. The shoot of the film was completed in October. The superstar is also shooting for Antim: The Final Truth co-starring Aayush Sharma and directed by Mahesh Manjrekar.



# 'COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THAT STRESS': ANURAG BASU OPENS UP ON GOVINDA'S OUSTING FROM 'JAGGA JASOOS'

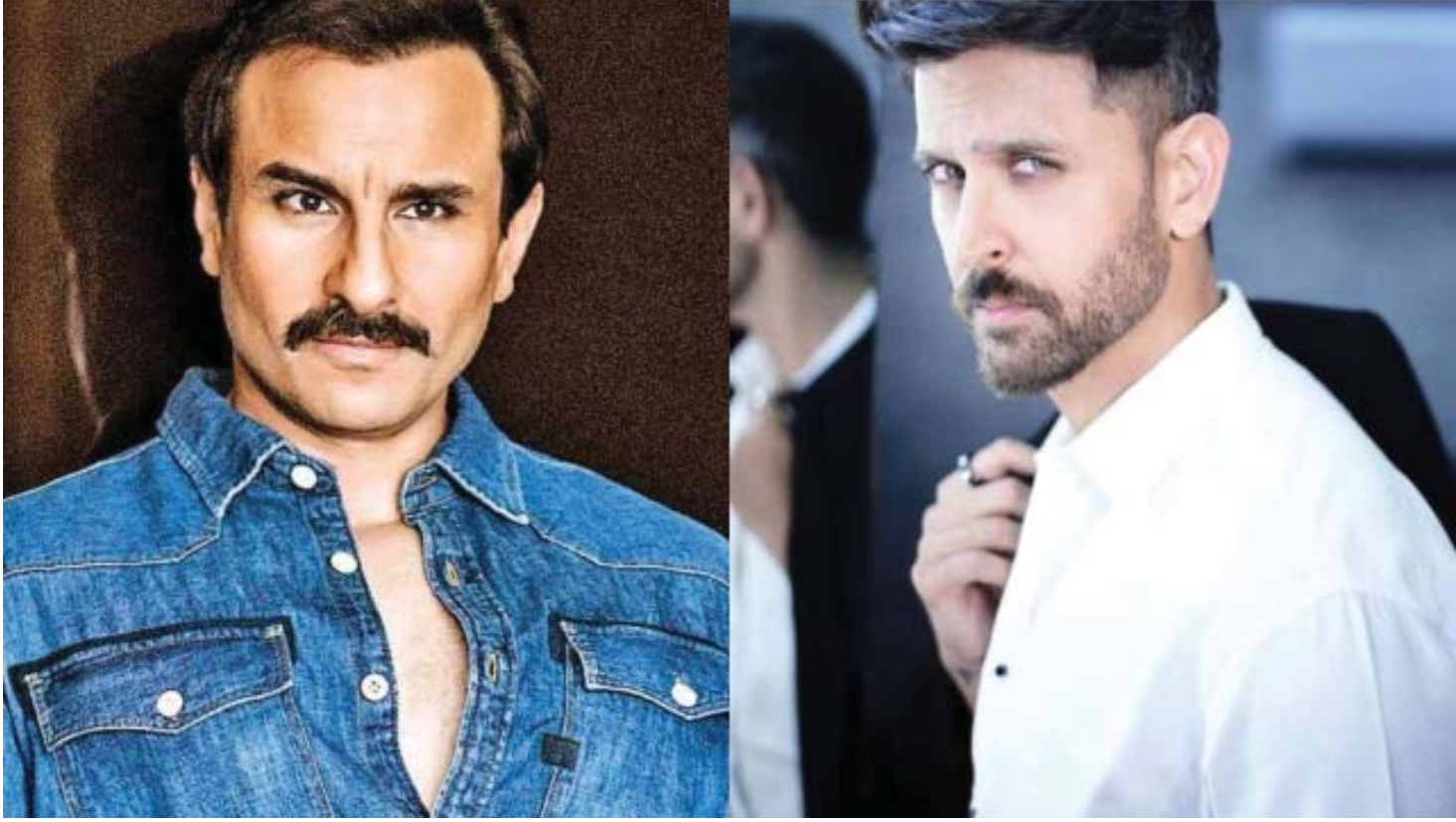


During the filming of Ranbir Kapoor and Katrina Kaif starrer Jagga Jasoos, there was a still which got leaked from the sets. The movie still had the leading actors along with Govinda who was roped in to play a pivotal role in Anurag Basu directorial. However, it was then announced that the veteran actor is no more a part of the 2017 musical film. Now, Anurag set the record straight on why Govinda was ousted from Jagga Jasoos. Basu told Mid Day, "Govindaji did come with us. With such delays already with the shoot, [there was confusion] if Govindaji is coming on the set, or is he cancelling the flight, or is he taking the fight, or are we cancelling shoot? It was so unpredictable. I couldn't have taken that stress, yaar. We were shooting outdoor in South Africa, everything was lined up. I just had to [let go of him]."

Earlier in a series of tweets, Govinda expressed his disappointment on being fired from Jagga Jasoos. The actor had tweeted, "I did my job

as an actor and if the director is not happy it's completely his call," he had written. "There were various negative stories and negative articles only for Govinda and that's how the film was remembered for three years. I was unwell and on drips but still, I travelled to South Africa and did my shoot. I was told they will narrate the film in South Africa and I dint even charge my signing amount, made no contracts. I gave full respect to the Kapoor family. I did the film because he is my senior's son. I was told I will get the script." While Ranbir who was also the producer of Jagga Jasoos had told media, "Unfortunately, the entire track has been chopped off; it is our fault, Basu and mine. We had started this film prematurely, without a complete script. The character had completely changed, and the film was taking so long. It is very irresponsible, and very unfair to cast a great legend like Govinda and not do justice to his role. We are apologetic, but it is the best thing for the film so we had to cut that track out."

# HRITHIK ROSHAN, SAIF ALI KHAN TO STAR IN HINDI REMAKE OF SUPERHIT TAMIL FILM 'VIKRAM VEDHA'



Bollywood actors Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan will feature in the Hindi remake of the 2017 Tamil superhit film Vikram Vedha. The original starred R. Madhavan as righteous police officer Vikram while Vijay Sethupathi played the gangster Vedha. In the Hindi remake, Hrithik will play the gangster while Saif essays the cop. The film draws from the ancient lore of Vikram-Betaal, where a wily gangster manages to escape every time a determined cop nabs him, by narrating a new story drawn from his own life. Announcing the Bollywood remake, trade analyst Ramesh Bala tweeted from his verified account on Friday: "#VikramVedha Hindi casting.. @iHrithik to do @VijaySethuOffl role.. #SaifAliKhan to do @ActorMadhavan role..Fantastic casting."

Earlier Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan was expected to play the character of Vedha. However, as per reports, Aamir recently backed out of the project, and Hrithik was roped in. The Bollywood remake will be directed by Pushkar-Gayathri, who also helmed the Tamil original. The film, backed by Neeraj Panday, is expected to go on floors soon. Meanwhile, while Hrithik was last seen in action film 'War' alongside Tiger Shroff, Saif is completing shooting for his upcoming film 'Bhoot Police' also starring Arjun Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez and Yami Gautam. Saif is also gearing for his next OTT release after Sacred Games, 'Tandav', and will also be seen in magnum opus 'Adipurush' playing the antagonist Ravan in the film starring south actor Prabhas in Lord Ram's role.

# WOULD HAVE MARRIED ALIA BHATT ALREADY HAD THERE BEEN NO PANDEMIC: RANBIR



Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are one of the most loved Bollywood couples. There have been several speculations about their marriage and relationship since they made their relationship official. In a video interview with Rajeev Masand, Ranbir confirmed that he is hoping to get married to his girlfriend Alia Bhatt soon. To the surprise of their fans, Ranbir said that if there had not been a pandemic situation, the two would have got married already. Addressing reports surrounding his impending wedding, Ranbir said that the deal would've been "sealed" had the "pandemic not hit our lives". He said, "I don't want to jinx it by saying anything. I want to tick mark that goal very soon in my life." For the uninformed, during the lockdown, Ranbir and Alia were living together for quite some time, and with reports swirling about their wedding, the 'Brahmastra' actor has finally suggested that they are inching closer to the D-Day. Ranbir was also asked if he took any online classes during the lockdown, to which he said, "My girlfriend Alia is a bit of an overachiever, and she probably took every class there is -- from guitar to screenwriting. I always feel like an underachiever next to her. But no, I didn't take any classes."

# Ismail Darbar sings heartbreak ballad at Gauahar Khan and Zaid Darbar's pre-wedding festivities



Gauahar Khan and Zaid Darbar are set to get married today. The pictures from their Haldi and Mehendi ceremony had immediately gone viral with fans spreading good wishes for the couple. Now, a video has emerged in which veteran music composer Ismail Darbar, Zaid's father, singing at his son's pre-wedding ceremony. The viral video shows Ismail take over the stage and sing his composition 'Lutt Gaye' from the film Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam starring Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Salman Khan. Zaid sang the heartbreak ballad along with his father on stage with Gauahar accompanying them. Many fans questioned the choice of song that Ismail sung on a happy occasion. An intimate yet elaborate affair, Gauahar and Zaid's pre-wedding festivities began with the traditional 'chiksa' ceremony. Earlier, the actress and Zaid had shared a glimpse of their love story in an animated video. Gauahar's Instagram video featured a caricature version of the couple. The summary of the video read, "What started as a lockdown ritual, turned into love at first beep. Quarantine drives and parking garages is what date night looked like! No matter the distance, we've always found ourselves closer together. And when all words failed, he sealed the deal with a song. We can't wait to spend our lives with love, laughter and most importantly good food." "We didn't have a courtship. I met him, we hit it off and he didn't think he would propose to someone, marriage was not on his mind. When he asked me, it wasn't planned. It was in a flow and after meeting me, in literally over a month, he proposed to me. There were no second thoughts, she said."

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# VIRAT KOHLI NAMED ODI PLAYER AND MEN'S CRICKETER OF THE DECADE, ONLY PERSON TO ACHIEVE THIS RECORD

After featuring in the all three teams of the decade - ODIs, T20Is and Tests - current Indian skipper Virat Kohli has been named as the ODI Player of the Decade. Not just this Virat has also been named as the Men's cricketer of the Decade. Not just his consistency across all formats, his performances, records and statistics speak for themselves.

In the 10-year period since 2011, Virat has scored a monumental 10,561 runs in the ODI format at an average of 61.83. He has smashed 39 centuries and 48 fifties in the same period and has grabbed on to 112 catches. He is the only player to score 10,000-plus runs in the ODI cricket during the awards period. Speaking about the accolade, Virat Kohli felt happy and honoured to receive the award. "ODI cricket is something that I took to very early, I came into the team into the ODI team first then I made my Test debut two years later. "So I got the understanding of my game in ODI cricket pretty early and my only intention and mindset was to make winning contributions for the team and I just strived to do that every I game I played and I never focussed on stats and numbers along the journey at all. Those just become the byproduct of what you want to do on the field and those for me just end up being the milestones that you just cross on the path of victory," he added. Kohli has been one of the most consistent players and run-chasers in the history of the game, who averages around 80 in run-chases. Talking about the evolution of the ODI cricket and the influence of T20 cricket on the same, Virat mentioned that earlier there was used to be four fielders inside the ring in the powerplay but the two new ball rule came in and T20 cricket's popularisation meant 300-350 scores were chased down pretty easily compared to a time where 260-270 was a great score.

**Sir Garfield Sobers Men's Cricketer of the Decade**

Apart from being named the best cricketer in the ODI format, Virat Kohli was also named the Men's cricketer of the Decade. Virat Kohli was the highest run-scorer in the Awards period of 10 years, scoring 20,396 runs across formats. He smashed more hundreds than anyone in the period, 66, along with 94 fifties. Among players with minimum of 70-plus innings, Virat Kohli also has the highest batting average of 56.97.

Talking about the recognition and the best moments for him as a cricketer in the last decade, Virat Kohli said that winning the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup at home, 2013 ICC Champions Trophy in England and winning the Test series against Australia in 2018 were the highlights of his career from the awards period. About his mindset as a cricketer when he steps on to the field every single time playing for India, Virat said, "If you focus on consistency alone, I don't think you can be as consistent. If your endeavour is to make sure that you step on to the field to make your team win at any cost, in that mindset you can perform beyond your limitations and your own abilities. "That's always been my mindset. [To] give my heart and soul on the field for my team and make sure that as a team we are always moving forward in the right direction whether we get the results or not. It's the mindset that you take on the field and that helps you to be consistent in all formats of the game for a long period of time because you are looking forward to making sure that you make some impact every time you step on to the field. "So whether it's a contribution of 40, 50 or 60, a hundred a double-hundred or whatever it is, my aim is to bat as long to get the team in good positions," he added.

## HAFEEZ BLAMES COMMERCIAL FLIGHT TRAVEL FOR COVID-19 CASES IN PAKISTAN SQUAD IN NEW ZEALAND

Senior batsman Mohammad Hafeez says a lot of Pakistan players contracted coronavirus in New Zealand because they travelled in commercial flights where health safety measures were lax in economy class.

Ten players tested positive for the virus on arrival in Christchurch after a nearly 24-hour journey and it led to the New Zealand health authorities ensuring the Pakistan squad spent 14-days in quarantine, something which Hafeez didn't like in his interview to a television channel. "I think the players contracted the virus on the commercial flight since some of them had to travel in economy class where social distancing precautions were lax and our players got exposed," Hafeez said after returning home from New Zealand.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which was criticised for sending players on a commercial flight to Auckland, said it was not cost effective to send the entire 53-member contingent on a chartered flight because of the duration of the journey.

Earlier the Pakistani players had travelled to England in the summer on a chartered flight because of the Covid-19 situation but the costs were borne by the England Cricket Board. PCB CEO, Wasim Khan has admitted that since only a certain number of seats were available in the business and first class sections, some players and officials of the Pakistan A team had to travel in the economy section to New Zealand. Hafeez lamented the treatment given to the Pakistani players and officials in New Zealand. "True we are supposed to be ambassadors of the country but I don't think we were treated like that in New Zealand. The attitude kept with us was not right and we were treated like prisoners." Hafeez said the two-weeks spent in quarantine was like time spent in jail for the players and officials. "It was not easy for us to prepare for the T20 matches after spending time in jail conditions and we had just days before the first match."

The senior batsman was Pakistan's stand out player in the T20 series with two good knocks including 99 in the second match at Hamilton. Hafeez, 40, is not PCB's centrally-contracted player.

## India vs Australia: Pacer Mitchell Starc becomes fifth-fastest Aussie bowler to take 250 wickets in Test

Pacer Mitchell Starc on Sunday became the fifth-fastest Australian bowler to take 250 wickets in the longest format of the game.

Starc achieved the feat in the ongoing second day of the Boxing Day Test against India here at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Starc, in his 59th match, ended Pant's no so Test match type knock to claim his 250th wicket in the longest format of the game. Interestingly, Australian skipper Tim Paine took the catch and he became the fastest wicket-keeper to record 150 dismissals in Test cricket.

Dennis Lillee (48) is the fastest Australian to bag 250 wickets while Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (45) is the fastest bowler to achieve the feat. The off-spinner had eclipsed Lille's record in 2017.

Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath have achieved a similar feat in 55 matches while former Australian bowler Mitchell Johnson took 57 games to bag 250 wickets.

In the ongoing Test against Australia, stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane held the fort with his half-century but Mitchell Starc dismissed Rishabh Pant tipping the second session slightly in favour of the hosts.

Rahane and Ravindra Jadeja have seen off some good bowling post-tea and have crossed Australia's first innings total. On day one, with Paine winning the toss and batting first at the MCG, the hosts would have thought of putting on a decent score on the board. But led by Jasprit Bumrah (4/56), the Indians made short work of the Australian batting as they finished their first essay on 195.

## TEST CRICKET AT ITS BEST: VIRAT KOHLI PRAISES AJINKYA RAHANE'S 'TOP KNOCK' AGAINST AUSTRALIA

Ajinkya Rahane and Ravindra Jadeja put on an unbeaten stand of 104 runs for the sixth wicket as they guided India to 82 runs lead at stumps on Day two of the ongoing second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

At stumps, the visitors' scored 277/5. Rahane and Jadeja are currently unbeaten on 104 and 40 respectively. Rahane's century earned him praises from Indian skipper Virat Kohli who has flown home for the birth of his child. Taking to Twitter Kohli wrote, "Another great day for us. Proper test cricket at its best. Absolutely top knock from Jinks @ajinkyarahane88". Resuming day two from 36/1, Gill and Pujara were set in the first hour of the play. However, their 61-run partnership was ended by Cummins as Gill (45) fell short of his maiden Test half-century. Cummins then sent back Pujara (17) in his next over. Skipper Tim Paine took a superb one-handed catch to leave India at 64/3. Rahane and Vihari rebuilt the Indian innings and the duo ensured that the hosts did not lose any more wickets before the end of the first session. Both batters then started the second session after weathering the storm before lunch, however, Nathan Lyon sent Vihari (21) back when the batsman tried to sweep.

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ICC AWARDS 2020: STEVE SMITH IS THE TEST  
PLAYER OF THE DECADE, RASHID KHAN IN T20IS



STEVE SMITH TAKES THE AWARD IN TESTS FOR HAVING THE HIGHEST AVERAGE IN THE FORMAT IN THE DECADE AND RASHID KHAN TOOK THE MOST NUMBER OF WICKETS.

After being named in the respective teams of the decade, Steve Smith and Rashid Khan have won the Players of the Decade Awards in Tests and T20Is respectively. The World's No 1 Test batsman Steve Smith has the highest average among the Top 50 batsmen in the World during the Awards period of 10 years. Smith scored 7040 runs in the said period at an average of 65.79. Smith has scored these runs through 26 hundreds and 28 fifties in the format and has been the most consistent player in the format for the last few years. Given that he was out from the game for a year because of his ban, his numbers and consistency are staggering. As far as the shortest format is concerned, it was the Afghan prodigy Rashid Khan, who bagged the T20I player of the decade award. Rashid took the most number of wickets in the Awards period, which is 89, more than any other player in the world. Rashid has bowled at an unbelievable average of 12.62, including three four-wicket hauls and two fifers. Rashid, who made his debut in 2015, has these numbers playing in the international arena for just five years. Rashid, who is currently plying his trade for the Adelaide Strikers in

the Big Bash League (BBL) in Australia, was delighted to receive this award. Speaking about the achievement, Rashid said that he was speechless and expressed his gratitude towards the fans for voting for him as the best player in the T20 format. "For someone from Afghanistan to get this award, it's a special moment for me, for my whole country and for my fans," Rashid said. Recalling his best memories in the T20 internationals, Rashid said that his 5/3 against Ireland in 2017 where he took four wickets in four balls was a special moment for him. Further recounting his best memories, Rashid said, "I can't forget the performance I had in the 2016 T20 World Cup where I was the second highest wicket-taker in the whole World Cup. The game against the West Indies, they were the champions as well. We won the game and it was memorable for me as I took the big wicket of Marlon Samuels. That was the best wicket for me in that World Cup." The 22-year old admitted that he had played for only 5 years in this decade but mentioned that his first target will be to keep playing cricket till the end of the next decade and keep doing well and performing for his country.

## I LIKE WHEN THEY BOO: JUVENTUS' CRISTIANO RONALDO SAYS PLAYING IN EMPTY STADIUM IS BORING

Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo said he likes it when people boo him while admitting that playing in empty stadiums is "boring". Fans have not been allowed to be in the stands across Europe with some exceptions, due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, Ronaldo is hoping for things to change in the coming year. "For me I have to be honest, to play in an empty stadium is boring in my opinion. We, the players, respect all the protocol and health is the most important thing of all, of course, but I don't like it, to be honest," Goal.com quoted Ronaldo as saying at the Globe Soccer Awards. "I do it first of all because I love football. My passion is always football. I play for my family, my kids, my friends, the fans. But I don't like it, to be honest. It's so weird. I like when people boo Cristiano. When I touch the ball they 'boo', I like it. I hope in 2021 they can change the rules and we can see the stadiums full of people," he added. At the Globe Soccer Awards, Ronaldo bagged the Player of the Century award. Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and former player Ronaldinho were also in the race to bag the accolade but the Portuguese outclassed all to clinch the award. "Cristiano Ronaldo presented with the PLAYER OF THE CENTURY 2001-2020 Globe Soccer Awards, by HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed

Bin Rashid Al Maktoum -- Chairman of Dubai Sports Council, at tonight's gala," Globe Soccer Awards' tweet read. Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski, during the event, won the Player of the Year award. The club's coach Hansi Flick bagged the Coach of the Year award. Also, Bayern Munich won the Club of the Year award. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola won the Coach of the Century award. Spanish giants Real Madrid won the Club of the Century award during the event.

'Shame on ICC': Twitterati reacts to Babar Azam's exclusion  
from T20I Team of the Decade after Shoaib Akhtar's outrage



The announcement of the Teams of the Decade by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for Men and Women in all the formats have met with mixed reactions as far as the choice of certain players is concerned. The outrage was severe regarding one such player, Pakistan's current all-format captain Babar Azam. Many users on social media felt that Babar should have been included in the T20I team of the year given his consistency and the number of runs he has scored in the last few years. Not just Babar, not a single player from Pakistan could find a place in any of the Men's Teams of the Decade, which brought further criticism of the ICC and the criteria of selection. Babar, who has been playing T20 cricket since 2016 has played 44

matches and out of those he has batted in 42 innings scoring 1681 runs at an average of 50.94, including 16 fifty-plus scores. Since it was the team of the decade, some of the users felt that his ouster was justifiable since he has played in only 5 of the 10 years of the decade, while most of the selected ones have played for more duration of time than Babar. Some of the users even compared Babar's statistics with that of South Africa's maestro AB de Villiers, who was selected in the XI, where apart from the strike-rate, Babar beat De Villiers in every department very comprehensively. Many users also felt that the team was an IPL XI rather than a World T20I XI, since they felt that players like Dawid Malan, Shaheen Afridi, Brendon McCullum were missing from the line-ups.

ICC Awards 2020: MS Dhoni wins  
the ICC Spirit of Cricket award of  
the Decade for THIS incident




Former Indian skipper and wicket-keeper batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni continues to rule the ICC Decade Awards as he wins the Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade. The 39-year old was voted unanimously for his gesture of recalling the England batsman Ian Bell in the Nottingham Test of the 4-match series in 2011. The English batsman was batting on 137 when he hit square cut. Former Indian pacer Praveen Kumar chased the ball, but couldn't stop it from going towards the boundary after a diving effort. Not knowing what happened, Kumar picked the ball and threw it towards the keeper where the fielder ran Bell out. The third umpire adjudged Ian Bell run-out but skipper Dhoni took back their appeal and called Bell back to continue with his innings. Dhoni's gesture was widely applauded then and after nine years, it still is remembered as one of the generous gestures in World Cricket and hence, Dhoni has been awarded with the Spirit of Cricket Award.

## IND vs AUS: With several umpires' call going in Australia's favour, Sachin Tendulkar wants revamp of DRS



Little Master Sachin Tendulkar has called for a revamp Decision Review System (DRS) after several 'umpire's call' went in Australia's favour on day three of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Monday. During the second session, several DRS went in Australia's favour even though there were three reds and the ball was seen clipping the stumps. The on-field umpire had given not out and as a result of 'Umpire's Call' India were denied wickets on day three. Former Indian cricketer Tendulkar said the DRS needs to be thoroughly looked into by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as players opt for a review when they're unhappy with the decision taken on the field. The Legendary batsman empathised on the 'Umpires Call' as it is still unclear as to why sometimes a batsman is given out and sometimes he survives. "The reason players opt for a review is because they're unhappy with the decision taken by the on-field umpire. The DRS system needs to be thoroughly looked into by the @ICC, especially for the 'Umpires Call,'" Tendulkar tweeted. In the ongoing third day, India skipper Ajinkya Rahane has declared run out by the third umpire and was not given the benefit of doubt like Tim Paine. The Australia captain was given not out during a close run out a call on day one of the ongoing Boxing Day Test. Australia spin legend Shane Warne too had made his emotions known on social media and said that for him Paine was riding back to the pavilion. Meanwhile, Umesh Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin's early strikes strengthened India's hold of the Boxing Day Test as Australia lost two early wickets in their second innings. Australia witnessed a poor start to their second innings as Joe Bourns was dismissed by Umesh in the fourth over.

## Warner still having trouble with his groin, says coach Justin Langer



David Warner's participation remains doubtful for the third Test against India as Australia head coach Justin Langer on Sunday said that the opening batsman is still having some trouble in his groin injury. Warner was ruled out of the Boxing Day Test as the left-handed batsman was not fully recovered from a groin injury suffered in the ODI series against India. Warner has made noticeable progress as he returned to batting but his running between the wickets is still a concern. "There's no-one more professional and he's doing everything possible. We saw him bat the day before the game, he's batting again this afternoon at the MCG, so in terms of his batting he's flying, it's just trying to ... he's still having some trouble with his groin and we know how dynamic he is," Langer told Ricky Ponting during a lunchtime interview on Channel 7. "His running between the wickets, his movements all the time, so he's getting closer and we're hopeful he will come good, he's certainly hopeful he'll come good, but time will tell. We've still got a few more days to the next Test match," he added.



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