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# Mid Week ENTERTAINMENT

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PUBLIC APPEARANCE POST SUKESH  
CHANDRASEKHAR CONTROVERSY | 21



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## KATRINA KAIF JOINS SALMAN KHAN FOR TIGER 3 SHOOT AFTER CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY WITH VICKY



BOLLYWOOD STARS KATRINA KAIF AND SALMAN KHAN WERE SNAPPED AT MUMBAI'S KALINA AIRPORT ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 15). THE DUO JETTED OFF TO DELHI TO SHOOT FOR THE LAST SCHEDULE OF TIGER 3. BEFORE GOING INSIDE THE AIRPORT, BOTH THE ACTORS WAVED AT THE PAPARAZZI. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SALMAN AND KATRINA WILL BE SHOOTING TOGETHER AFTER THE ACTRESS TIED THE KNOT WITH ACTOR VICKY KAUSHAL IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

## INDIA'S FIRST 'DISCO-KING' BAPPI LAHIRI PASSES AWAY AT 69 (LD)



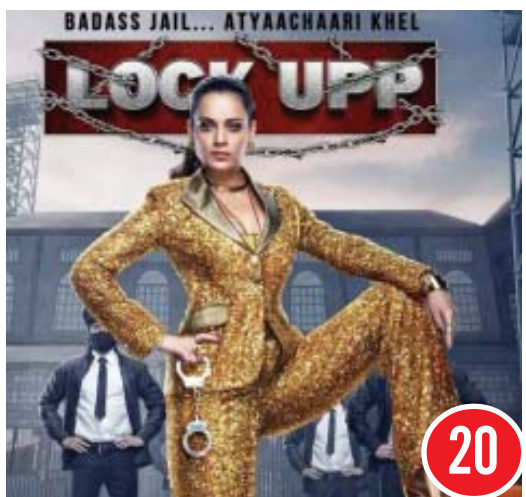
**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Veteran singer-composer Alokesh alias Bappi Lahiri - nephew of the legendary trio of late Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar and Anoop Kumar - passed away around midnight due to multiple health issues, his family said here on Wednesday. Wielding the baton from the age of 19, Lahiri, 69, and breathed his last at the Criticare Hospital, Juhu, said the hospital Director Dr Deepak Namjoshi. "He had been admitted to the hospital for a month and was discharged on Monday. But his health deteriorated on Tuesday and his family called for a doctor to visit their home, after which he was brought to the hospital," said Dr Joshi. He suffered from several health complications and died due to OSA (obstructive sleep apnea) last night, the medico added. Lahiri - who attained fame as India's first 'Disco King' - is survived by his wife, Chitrani, daughter Rema and a son Bappa, who has taken to his dad's musical career.

## RELEASE DATE OF AAMIR KHAN'S 'LAAL SINGH CHADDHA' PUSHED TO AUGUST 11



**HYDERABAD, (IANS)** Aamir Khan's much-awaited movie 'Laal Singh Chaddha' is gearing up for its release on August 11. The movie was supposed to hit the screens on April 14, but the makers made an official announcement regarding the postponement. Aamir Khan's production house, which took to their social media handle on Tuesday, made an official announcement, also thanking the makers of Prabhas-starrer 'Adipurush' for pushing their release date, to accommodate 'Laal Singh Chaddha's' release. The statement by Aamir Khan Productions read, "This is to announce that our film, 'Laal Singh Chaddha', will not be releasing on 14th April as planned. This is because we are unable to complete the film in time. The film will now be releasing on 11 Aug 2022 in theatres worldwide. We would like to thank Mr Bhushan Kumar, T Series and Om Raut and the entire team of Adipurush from the bottom of our hearts." It further added that Prabhas-starrer Adipurush, which was slated for a release on August 1, has now been moved. The statement further read, "We would like to thank them for being so helpful and understanding, and for shifting the release date of their much-awaited, Adipurush, starring Prabhas, Kriti Sanon and Saif Ali Khan, so that Laal Singh Chaddha can come on 11 Aug 2022."

## KANGANA RANAUT LAUNCHES TRAILER SHOWING GLIMPSE OF REALITY SHOW 'LOCK UP'



WALKING THROUGH THE JAIL CORRIDOR, KANGANA RANAUT STATES HOW DANGEROUS THE 'LOCK UP' WORLD IS, AND IT WILL BE A NIGHTMARE! 16 CONTROVERSIAL CELEBRITIES WILL BE PUT TOGETHER IN LOCK UP FOR MONTHS AND STRIPPED OF THEIR AMENITIES.

## KIARA ADVANI CONFESSES HER NEWFOUND LOVE FOR K-DRAMAS



BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS KIARA ADVANI HAS CONFESSED HER NEWFOUND CRAZE FOR K-DRAMAS AND SAID THAT SHE IS HOOKED TO 'SNOWDROP'.

## ANUSHKA SHARMA STARTS PREPPING TO BECOME JHULAN IN 'CHAKDA XPRESS'



ACTRESS ANUSHKA SHARMA HAS STARTED PREPPING FOR HER COMEBACK FILM 'CHAKDA XPRESS', WHERE SHE WILL BE SEEN PLAYING WOMAN FAST BOWLER OF INDIA JHULAN GOSWAMI.

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ROHIT SHARMA AND KIERON POLLARD POSE WITH THE TROPHY BEFORE THE MATCH, INDIA VS WEST INDIES, 1ST T20I, KOLKATA.



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor's upcoming film 'Jersey' will now release on April 14. The film was earlier scheduled to hit the screens on December 31, last year. However, the film was postponed after civil restrictions were re-imposed due to fears over the Omicron variant. A tweet from the film's producer Dil Raju Productions read: "#Jersey releasing in cinemas worldwide on April 14th, 2022." 'Jersey' tells the story of a middle-aged cricketer, who gets back into the game for the love of his son. In addition to Shahid, the film, which is directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, also stars Mrunal Thakur. The sports drama is a remake of a 2019 Telugu film of the same name. It stars Nani, Shraddha Srinath, Harish Kalyan, Sanusha, Sathyaraj, Sampath Raj and Viswanth Duddumpudi.



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## RANI MUKHERJEE: BAPPI UNCLE WILL ALWAYS BE INDIAN CINEMA'S MOST ICONIC MUSIC PERSONALITY

**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Actress Rani Mukerjee, whose mother Krishna Mukherjee was a childhood friend of Bappi Lahiri, has mourned the death of the late veteran music composer, who is popularly called as the 'Disco King', and said that he will always be the most iconic musical personality of Indian cinema.

Rani said: "India has again lost one of her precious gems... Bappi uncle is and will always be the most iconic musical personality of Indian cinema." "His music was legendary, his versatility as a composer was unmatched," she added.

The actress called Lahiri, who passed away aged 69 in a hospital in Mumbai, "a truly self made man, a great son to his parents, a wonder-

ful husband and a great dad."

Rani shared that Lahiri's death is a loss for her family.

"My Mum and Bappi uncle were childhood friends from Calcutta. It's a personal loss for our family... My mother is devastated."

She added: "While the whole world mourns his loss, I can't help but think of all the memories I have of him from my childhood. Will miss him dearly. His smiling face and kind personality will always be a happy memory.. I pray that Chitrani Aunty, Rema, Bappa and the entire Lahiri family finds strength to go through this loss. It's too sad. He went too soon. Bappi uncle rest in peace. The heavens have earned an angel today!"

## Anushka Sharma starts prepping to become Jhulan in 'Chakda Xpress'



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Actress Anushka Sharma has started prepping for her comeback film 'Chakda Xpress', where she will be seen playing woman fast bowler of India Jhulan Goswami.

"If you closely follow Anushka's social media, you will see that she is constantly putting up content related to working out. So, just to let the cat out of the bag, she has started prepping to play Jhulan on screen. She plays a cricketer in the film and while Anushka has always been one of the fittest actresses in Indian cinema, she will need to tailor-make her workout to achieve the kind of body and fitness level she needs to play Jhulan effectively," informs a trade source.

The source added: "Anushka Sharma has given us memorable female protagonists in Indian cinema. Her magnificent body of work shows how she has given audiences some of the most incredible

leading ladies in Indian cinema in films like Sultan, NH10, Band Baaja Baaraat, Pari, Phillauri, PK, to name a few. She is also known to transform herself for films and Jhulan is a film that will give us a chance to see a vintage Anushka performance."

"Anushka doing a film on women's cricket is exciting from the very onset and the fact that the makers are trying to make it the biggest sports film inspired by a female sporting icon in scale and canvas, makes things all the more exciting!" informs the source.

'Chakda Xpress' is tracing the glorious journey of one of the fastest female pacers in the history of world cricket, Jhulan, as she moves up the ladder despite the countless hindrances posed by misogynistic politics to fulfil her only dream -- to play cricket.

'Chakda Xpress' is being produced by Clean Slate Filmz.

## WHEN BAPPI LAHIRI CALLED HIMSELF ‘AMITABH BACHCHAN OF MUSIC INDUSTRY’, SAID BEYONCE ´ AND EMINEM ‘DRESS LIKE ME’



Veteran singer Bappi Lahiri died late on Tuesday at the age of 69. His doctor told news agency PTI about his demise, and said that the singer was facing 'multiple health issues'.

Popularly known as 'Disco King', the singer was credited for popularising synth-based dance music in the Indian mainstream. He was also known for his inimitable dressing style, dominated by gold chains.

Such was the level of his success back in the 1980s and 1990s, the singer said in an interview that he is the 'Amitabh Bachchan of the music industry'. Dismissing the notion that he has competition in India, he told Hindustan Times in 2009, "In film industry, there is Amitabh Bachchan and in music industry, there is Bappi. But Amitabh Bachchan is 12 years older than me."

He even suggested that he's peerless internationally, and said, "There is no competition, but there are singers who dress like me. Among women, there's Beyonce and there's Shakira and among men, there is 50 Cent, Eminem and definitely, Akon..." Bappi Lahiri died late Tuesday due to OSA (obstructive sleep apnea). Tributes poured in from all quarters. PM Modi condoled his death, "Shri Bappi Lahiri Ji's music was all encompassing, beautifully expressing diverse emotions. People across generations could relate to his works. His lively nature will be missed by everyone. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

## MADHURI DIXIT, MANAV KAUL TALK ABOUT DISADVANTAGES OF FAME ON 'THE KAPIL SHARMA SHOW'



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Bollywood superstar Madhuri Dixit talks about the disadvantages of fame on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. She is appearing as a special guest to promote her web series 'The Fame Game' with co-actors Manav Kaul, Sanjay Kapoor, Lakshvir Saran and Muskan Jafari.

Host Kapil Sharma spoke about how fame brings in a lot of happiness but with it come certain disadvantages as well.

Madhuri Dixit agrees to it and gave an example by recalling a incident: "A switchboard wasn't working in my house and the repairmen were called home. Unfortunately, I was home that day. To repair a small switchboard, four repairmen came along! What's more, a fifth guy also trotted in after these four."

Elaborating further, Madhuri went on: "They came and said, 'Which switchboard needs repairing?' to which I pointed saying, 'This one'. They first smiled at me and said to the other, 'Kholo!' (open it) so a person came and opened the board. Then the guy said, 'Dekho' (see), a third person popped up and began looking inside.

"Then he called another person and said, 'Theek karo' (repair it) and the fourth guy started repairing. After they repaired the switchboard I said, 'Okay now you can go, it's all good now.' They smiled again and left but one man was left behind. I asked him, 'What happened? Are you not leaving with them?' he said, 'Kahan? Hum inke saath nahi, hum toh aapko dekhne aaye the!' (Where? I am not with them, we just came to see you!)"

Manav Kaul also joined the conversation and shared his own experience: "I feel that when we go back home, like I belong to Indore and often go to meet my mother, my sister-in-law and my brother. So, a lot of people come to visit and I have to sit and watch their kids talents. You have to listen to all of their poems, watch all of their dance performances and you have to praise all of them and say, 'Waah waah, very good!'"

## ALI FAZAL ON WORKING WITH GAL GADOT: IT WAS TOO MUCH FUN



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** After working with names such as Dame Judi Dench in 'Victoria and Abdul' and Vin Diesel in 'Fast and Furious 7', Indian actor Ali Fazal has now shared screen space with star Gal Gadot in the murder mystery film 'Death On The Nile', based on the 1937 novel by Agatha Christie.

Ali will be seen playing the role of Gal's cousin and is also one of the suspects in the film, which tells the tale of a perfect couple's honeymoon on a cruise. Things take an awry turn after a murder takes place on the ship.

Apart from Gadot and Ali, the film also stars five-time Academy Award nominee Kenneth Branagh, Armie Hammer, Margot Robbi, Tom Bateman, Leitia Wright, Annette Bening, Russell Brand and Rosie Leslie among many others.

Talking to IANS about working with Gadot and others in the film, Ali said: "It was too much fun. It was lots of fun. She (Gadot) was very sweet. I think most of the actors were very sweet and gentle... Very giving actor herself (Gadot) and easy to talk to."

The 35-year-old actor revealed how the Branagh, who is also directing the film, broke the ice on set for everyone.

## AJAY DEVGN: MY CHARACTER IN 'RUDRA' IS POSSIBLY THE GREYEST



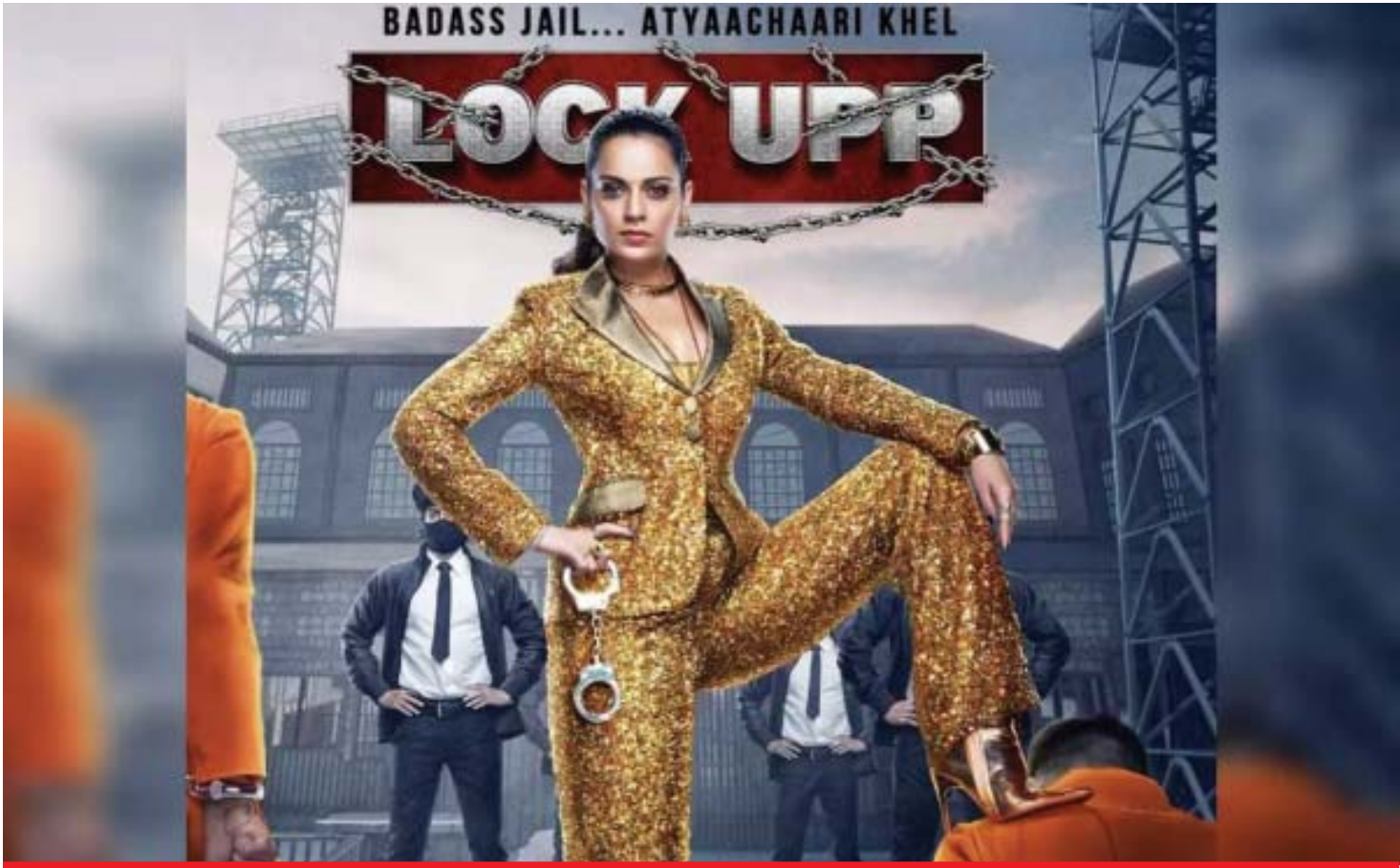
**MUMBAI, (IANS)** The makers of the thriller 'Rudra - The Edge Of Darkness' starring Ajay Devgn on Monday giving a glimpse of its dark world. The star says his character in the series is possibly the greyest character that one may have never witnessed before.

The suspense filled trailer of 'Rudra - The Edge Of Darkness' was unveiled at an event in Mumbai.

Building curiosity, the trailer opens with a terrific dialogue by Ajay: "Jo andharo mein chupta hai, main usse wahi milta hu." As he further introduces himself as ACP Rudra Veer.

Ajay said, "My character in Rudra - The Edge Of Darkness is possibly the greyest character you may have never witnessed before. This has been both challenging and inspiring for me, and I am elated to share the magic of Rudra with my fans across the world."





## KANGANA RANAUT LAUNCHES TRAILER SHOWING GLIMPSE OF REALITY SHOW 'LOCK UP'

MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut recently unveiled the trailer of the fearless reality show 'Lock Up'. She shares her delight on hosting it and speaks about the concept of the show. Kangana Ranaut says: "The spectacular launch of the show had piqued everyone's curiosity, and the trailer is a testament of how bold, controversial and exciting it is going to be. I am happy to unveil the trailer in our country's capital city, and I am equally thrilled and excited for foraying into the OTT space with such a unique and brilliant concept." She later expresses her gratitude to Ekta Kapoor, saying : "I want to thank my boss-lady Ekta, for always being by my side, and she has always been someone I admire and respect a lot. So to all my fans out there, get ready for the most 'fearless' show ever." The show's trailer features the daring host Kangana wearing a shimmering, glittery golden dress, holding a shiny baton in her hands. Kangana can be seen sitting on a luxurious, velvet throne in a sombre

jail cell and says: "Living here is no less than a dream... a bad one, though! Walking through the jail corridor." Kangana states how dangerous the 'Lock Up' world is, and it will be a nightmare! 16 controversial celebrities will be put together in Lock Up for months and stripped of their amenities. Forget about fulfilling their high demands, and the contestants will be locked up in the show's prison with people they can't see eye-to-eye with. To avoid eviction, the celebrity contestants have no option but to reveal their dark secrets to the entire world. Television czarina Ekta Kapoor says: "Unlike other reality shows, 'Lock Up' is being launched on a massive scale and has all the elements that make for an entertaining reality show. The concept of the show is brilliant and never-seen-before, as you must have seen in the trailer, and I am sure that it will captivate the viewers and set a new standard for reality shows." 'Lock Up' will be airing from February 27 on ALTBalaji and MX Player.

## DEEPIKA PADUKONE CALLS RESPONSE TO GEHRAIYAAN 'DIZZYING', RANVEER SINGH SAYS: 'YOU ARE PURE MAGIC, MY JAAN'

Bollywood star and Gehraiyaan actor Deepika Padukone is overwhelmed with the love the Amazon Prime movie has been getting post its release. The Shakun Batra directorial also stars Ananya Panday, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Dhairya Karwa in pivotal roles. On Wednesday morning, Padukone took to her Instagram handle to express gratitude. Sharing a series of stills from the Shakun Batra film, Deepika mentioned in the post, "The response to Gehraiyaan has been dizzying to say the least! 'Alisha' has been my most visceral, indelible and delicious experience as an artist. While I am

ecstatic and overwhelmed I am also truly grateful and humbled! Deepika's husband and actor Ranveer Singh was one of the first people to comment on the post. Lauding her performance as 'dazzling,' Ranveer stated, "Everywhere I go, people are just talking about how dazzling you were in this film! You deserve every bit of it, my jaan! What an extraordinary artiste you are! Breathtaking portrayal ..... it's magic, pure magic." While Padukone's central performance has been appreciated, the film itself has received a mixed reaction from the critics as well as the audience. The Indian Express' film critic Shubhra Gupta mentioned in her review, "A modern-day romance between consenting adults at cross purposes? A Bollywood movie with the courage to embrace no-holds-barred physicality? Finally, a film that takes mature viewers seriously. Can anything be better? Gehraiyaan raises our expectations but stops well short of delivering." She gave it a two-star rating.



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## KANYE APOLOGISES FOR 'HARASSING' KIM IN SLEW OF NOW-DELETED POSTS

LOS ANGELES, (IANS) Rapper Kanye West has issued an apology to his former wife Kim Kardashian and has said that he has "taken accountability" for "harassing" her. It comes after the 44-year-old rapper shared a motley of Instagram posts over the weekend and yesterday, slamming her boyfriend Pete Davidson and posting screenshots of private messages between himself and the couple, reports mirror.co.uk. While attending the Super Bowl with his children, Kanye found himself at the centre of scrutiny after he was booed by thousands of fans after his social media rant. Kanye has now deleted all of his posts, including those declaring that he will bring his family back together again, and shared another contemplating on his actions over the last few days. He wrote: "I've learned that using all caps makes people feel like I'm screaming at them. I'm working on my communication. I can benefit from a team of creative professionals, organizers, mobilizers and community leaders. Thank everybody for supporting me. I know sharing screen shots was jarring and came off as harassing Kim. I take accountability. I'm still learning in real time. "I don't have all the answers. To be good leader is to be a good listener." The rapper was recently forced to tell his fans not to "hurt" Davidson after sharing a private message between himself and Kim, in which she expresses her concern that the SNL comedian will be targeted. He shared a pic of a man in a headlock and a text seemingly from Kim which read: "U are creating a dangerous and scary environment and someone will hurt Pete and this will all be your fault." Kanye followed up the post by sharing several more snaps from his alleged conversation with Kim on her "other phone". The first saw Kim tell the father of her four kids "thank you" for his post regarding violence. The message then read: "There are dangerous people out there and this is scary and it doesn't have to be." Kanye's response read: "I will always do everything to protect you and our family forever. And I listened to you and told everyone to make sure nothing physical happens to Skete." His next upload saw the number ask why he can't keep their conversations private, to which he responded: "Cause I got a text from my favorite person in the world. 'I'm your number one fan. Why wouldn't I tell everyone!!!!' On Valentine's Day, Kanye also sent bunches of red roses in a truck with the words "My vision is Krystal Klear" emblazoned on it.

## SARAH TALKS ABOUT ABSENCE OF 'THE ACTRESS THAT PLAYED THE ROLE' OF SAMANTHA

LOS ANGELES, (IANS) Actress Sarah Jessica Parker addressed Kim Cattrall's absence in the 'Sex And The City' reboot titled 'And Just Like That'. Without even mentioning Cattrall's name amid their feud, Parker discussed the matter during her appearance on 'Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen', reports aceshowbiz.com. In a recent episode, Cohen asked the actress about it. "I loved how the show handled Samantha's absence, and every time a text came though I felt like the heart of Samantha came through -- she had a lot of heart. How did you feel in the end about how you all handled that? You kept her alive," he said. To that, the actress responded: "Yeah, well, I think... I can take no credit to how we handled it, except that I got to convey the messages since they're not spoken." She added, "But it is Michael Patrick King who is our showrunner and our head writer, and his extraordinary group of amazingly talented writers." The actress continued, "It was an idea because Samantha is not gone. The actress that played the role is no longer playing that role, but... people aren't absent from your life when you don't want them to be, you know?" Jessica Parker said that Michael handled Samantha's absence "with grace and dignity and respect, and love and affection for that character." She added, "I thought it mimicked many friendships that, you know, challenge each other, and struggle, and want to remain connected in a way, because it's too painful." On 'And Just Like Thate', it was revealed that Samantha moved to London and cut ties with the group. She made the decision because she was upset that she had been dropped as publicist for Carrie Bradshaw's book. Later in the final episode of season 1 of the 'Sex and the City' reboot, Carrie and Samantha appear to bury the hatchet. Through text, they agreed to meet up for a drink.





## V-P, PM offer condolences on the demise of Bappi Lahiri

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed deep grief over the demise of singer and music composer Bappi Lahiri. Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and others also expressed grief over the demise of Lahiri. In a tweet, the Prime Minister Modi said, "Shri Bappi Lahiri Ji's music was all encompassing, beautifully expressing diverse emotions. People across generations could relate to his works. His lively nature will be missed by everyone. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." Vice president Naidu said, "In the demise of Shri Bappi Lahiri, India has lost yet another veteran singer and composer. Bappi Da will always be remembered for his foot-tapping numbers. My deepest condolences to his family and followers. Om Shanti!." Home Minister Shah said, "Pained to learn about the passing away of

legendary singer and composer, Bappi Lahiri Ji. His demise leaves a big void in the world of Indian music. Bappi Da will be remembered for his versatile singing and lively nature. My condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." Expressing his grief, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "Deeply saddened by the demise of renowned musician Bappi Lahiri. He decorated many songs with his tunes. He had a fine and deep understanding of music. Bappida was always aware of social concerns as well. My condolences to his family and fans in this hour of grief. Peace!" BJP chief J.P. Nadda said, "Deeply saddened by the demise of popular music composer & legendary singer, Bappi Lahiri Ji. He will be remembered for his iconic singing. My condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

### BAPPI LAHIRI'S TELUGU COMPOSITIONS ARE UNFORGETTABLE

**HYDERABAD, (IANS)** Popularly known as the 'Golden Man' and the 'King of Disco' Bappi Lahiri, who passed away aged 69, had composed multiple Telugu songs which made him one of the best composers during 1986-2020 in India. Bappi Lahiri was a music director for movies as many as 14, which include some good musical hits of their respective timelines. Super hit songs like 'Vaana Vaana Velluvaye', 'Aakasham Loo Oka Thaara', are still some of the most liked compositions by the legendary musician. 'Gang Leader', 'Rowdy Alludu', 'Nippu Ravva', 'State Rowdy' and 'Rowdy Inspector' are some of the many movies for which Bappi Lahiri had composed music. Bappi Lahiri's Telugu compositions mostly starred Megastar Chiranjeevi and most of the songs in their combinations were chartbusters at that point in time. Bappi who had given music for the movies 'State Rowdy', 'Gang Leader', 'Rowdy Alludu', and 'Big Boss' featuring Chiranjeevi were musically hit. His other compositions for Mohan Babu and Venkatesh Daggubati were super hits as well. His last Telugu film was the 2020 movie 'Disco Raja', an album, originally composed by Thaman, but Bappi Lahiri was brought on board to sing the song 'Rum Pum Bum' with Sri Krishna and Ravi Teja, lyrics were penned by Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry.

## Richa loses 15 kilos, says actors are expected to look a certain way



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Richa Chadha has shared a video flaunting her jaw-dropping transformation. The actress has lost 15kgs in just three months. In the clip she shared, Richa also talked about her body weight and the expectations show business has towards actors. Richa posted a video on her Instagram handle, where she is heard talking about how she has lost and gained weight but there is better conversation that needs to be made. In a video montage featuring the actress, Richa is heard saying: "Its never easy being in front of the camera, much less for someone who wants to swim upstream. Be vocal or woke. The world is going to tell you there's a premium on youth. But that is also for public consumption only, na? Your success, failure, public! Won't matter if you are self-made or self-paid. Everyone has advice. "You've gained weight. You've lost weight." "Yes I've lost weight, I've gained weight. But surely there's

better conversation to be made." The actress added: "You can lose cartilage, health or sanity over what ends up being a terrible film. And all your well-intentioned effort amounts to be a big fat zero. When you are harassed, people will say it's a part of your job. Well, to hell with people. This isn't some before and after montage. It's me. It's my body, ever-changing. No literally, every cell, every scar, everything dies and is reborn, every six months. Why not me? Kaun Rokega (who will stop me)." Alongside the powerful post, the actress wrote: "Assuming that eLove is the absence of judgement", we're most unloved by self. Happy Valentine's Day! .Just wanna confuse the algorithm by posting something "out-of-syllabus" was looking for depth ( , , ), with utter disregard for likes and comments. Sometimes you just wanna talk, ya know ? Reframe what romance means to include self." On the work front, Richa is currently riding high on the success of 'The Great Indian Murder'.

### ALIA BHATT SAYS SHE HAS ‘NOT HEARD’ ANY KANGANA RANAUT COMPARISONS FOR GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI: ‘ONE SHOULD NOT GET INTO...’

Actor Alia Bhatt isn't aware of any comparisons being drawn between her performance in Gangubai Kathiawadi and actors Kangana Ranaut and Vidya Balan's past performances. In the film, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Alia plays a courtesan who becomes somewhat of a leader of a red light district. In an interview with Koimoi, Alia was asked about the backlash that her casting in the film initially attracted, particularly the comparisons made to Kangana and Vidya. Alia said, "No, I have not heard any of this." She continued, "Yeah, people must have suggested casting. But I feel like one should not really get into... Somebody who is a director who has been working for 25 years obviously knows whom to cast in their main lead. I was okay with people thinking I was not right for the part because that is their own perspective." Alia and Kangana, of course, haven't seen eye-to-eye in a long time. She even made an indirect remark about her casting in Gangubai last year, when she said during the promotions of her film Thalaivii that the trailer for Gangubai Kathiawadi was 'hugely criticised and mocked for bad acting and wrong casting of chota bachcha as gangster'. Her feud with Alia and other actors who've worked with filmmaker Karan Johar began after she alleged that Alia didn't repay the favour and help promote her film, even though she, Kangana, had tweeted in support of Alia's projects in the past. She has called Alia a part of a so-called 'nepo-gang' in Bollywood, and sad that her widely acclaimed performance in Gully Boy was 'mediocre'. Kangana's sister, Rangoli Chandel, mocked Alia for sending Kangana a bouquet of flowers after she was conferred with the Padma Shri. Alia, in response, said that the sisters are free to behave as they want to, but that she is happy for Kangana's success.



### MIKA SINGH SETS OUT TO MAKE HIS FANS GROOVE WITH PARTY NUMBER 'MAJNU 2'



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Rapper Mika Singh's latest track 'Majnu 2' is a perfect party number which can make you groove to its beats. The singer says it is a song that sets you free to enjoy every moment in life. Mika says: "It's an out and out groovy track which is surely going to be a part of every club's party playlist. It's a carefree sound. Just 'letting all go' kind of vibe. I've given my best shot and made it sound fresh and youthful." He further adds: "The fun we had filming this song; the energy is translated in the song which has added to the merriment on screen." 'Majnu 2' is sung by Mika Singh. This video features Laxmi Raai, Shama Sikander and DJ Sumit Sethi. The lyrics are by Azeem Shirazi, and music by Shaarib Toshi. The song is produced by Mika Singh and Tarang Krishna and directed by Sumit Bhardwaj. The song is released on Music & Sound YouTube Channel.

### NEW POSTER FROM 'BACHCHHAN PAANDEY' SHOWCASES AKSHAY KUMAR'S RUGGED AVATAR



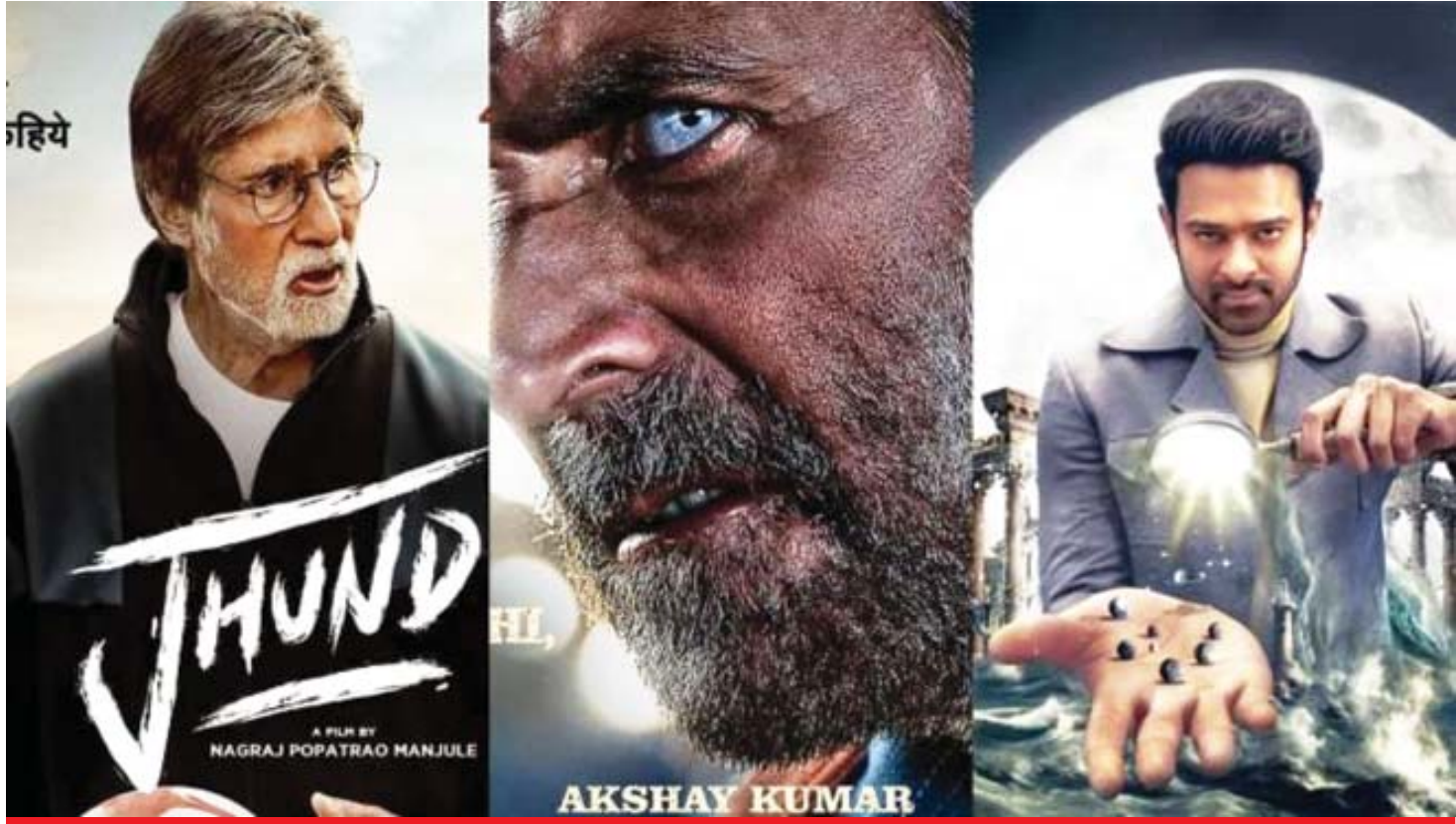
**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Bollywood star Akshay Kumar's new poster from his upcoming film 'Bachchhan Paandey' was revealed on Tuesday. The film, which also stars Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, Pankaj Tripathi, Prateik Babbar and Abhimanyu Singh, will see its trailer launch on Friday. Akshay Kumar took to his Instagram to share his character's look, he wrote in the caption, "This is one character that has more shades than a paint shop! #BachchhanPaandey aapko daraane, hasaane, rulaane sab ke liye ready hai. Please give him all your love Trailer Out on 18th Feb, 2022 (sic)." The picture shows the actor in a rugged avatar with a blue eye, thick stubble and a head gear that pretty much establishes his character. The film, a big ticket release, will hit the theaters on March 18, exactly a month after its trailer launch, on February 18, which also happens to be producer Sajid Nadiadwala's birthday. 'Bachchhan Paandey' produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, marks the fourth collaboration of Akshay Kumar with Farhad Samji after 'Entertainment', 'Housefull 3' and 'Housefull 4'. The film written by Nischay Kuttanda and Farhad Samji directs.

### JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ MAKES FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE POST SUKESH CHANDRASEKHAR CONTROVERSY



Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez was recently spotted by photographers in Mumbai in what marks her first public appearance ever since she was caught in the controversy surrounding conman Suresh Chandrasekhar. Jacqueline was dressed in white as she waved at photographers before stepping into her car. Jacqueline has been mired in controversy ever since her alleged association with Suresh came to the forefront. Jacqueline, however, released a statement in January, requesting the media to not 'intrude her privacy and personal space'. Jacqueline Fernandez was recently seen in the music video titled "Mud Mud Ke", where she shared screen space with 365 Days actor Michele Morrone.





## BIG B, AKSHAY, PRABHAS, JR NTR TO DOMINATE MARCH WITH BIG RELEASES

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The month of March looks promising as some of India's biggest stars such as Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Prabhas, Jr NTR and Ram Charan are all set to light up the big screen after gloomy months due to the surge of Covid cases in the country. The first movie to release in March is Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan's film 'Jhund'. The film is scheduled to hit the screens on March 4. 'Jhund' is a sports film based on the life of Vijay Barse, the founder of NGO 'Slum Soccer'. It also features Akash Thosar and Rinku Rajguru. In the Nagraj Popatrao Manjule directorial, Bachchan will be seen playing a professor who motivates the street children to form a football team. Next to set the screens on fire is actor Suriya's action entertainer 'Etharkkum Thunindhavan', which will release on March 10. The movie was earlier set for release on February 4. However, the makers chose to postpone its release after lockdown restrictions were imposed by the Tamil Nadu government to contain the spread of the third wave of the pandemic. Then there is 'Radhe Shyam', where South sensation Prabhas plays a palmist, while actress Pooja Hegde will be seen as his love interest. The intense love story will light up the screens on March 11. Alongside 'Radhe Shyam', filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri's directorial 'The Kashmir Files' will be seeing the light of day in the theatres. Postponed

due to a significant spike in Covid cases in the country, 'The Kashmir Files' is based on the lives of Kashmiri Pandits. It boasts of an ensemble cast including names such as Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar and Pallavi Joshi among many others. Next up is Bollywood's 'Khiladi' star Akshay Kumar's film 'Bachchan Paandey'. 'Bachchan Paandey' has been blocked for a Holi weekend release and is scheduled to hit the big screen on March 18. The film, which also stars Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, Pankaj Tripathi, Prateik Babbar and Abhimanyu Singh. The film is a remake of the 2014 Tamil film 'Jigarthanda'. Bringing the curtains down with a bang for March is filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus 'RRR' on March 25. 'RRR' was supposed to hit the screens in January, but the Covid-19 surge had pushed the makers to postpone the release. Featuring Telugu superstars Jr NTR and Ram Charan in the lead roles, 'RRR' is being touted as the fictionalised tale of two real-life unsung heroes, who fought for tribal rights. Ram Charan and Jr NTR respectively play Alluri Sitarama Raju, the leader of the Rampa Rebellion of 1922, and the Gond rebel Komaram Bheem, who took on the Nizam of Hyderabad. Alia Bhatt, Olivia Morris, Ajay Devgn and Shriya Saran also play significant roles in this grand movie.

## Kiara Advani confesses her newfound love for K-Dramas



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Bollywood actress Kiara Advani has confessed her newfound craze for K-Dramas and said that she is hooked to 'Snowdrop'. 'Snowdrop' features BLACKPINK's Jisoo and 'Something In The Rain' star Jung Hae-in, the 16-episode series explores the forbidden love between a South Korean girl and a North Korean spy during the June 1987 Democracy Movement in South Korea. Kiara said: "Most of my friends are K-Drama fans and I just had to join the bandwagon! I'm so glad that I came across Snowdrop as I'm completely hooked to K-dramas and the fascinating Korean culture -- thanks to this show. Jisoo is a phenomenal actress and her performance in 'Snowdrop' is simply outstanding." "Her chemistry with Jung Hae-in is to die for and being a huge fan of romance, I think their story in the series is so complex but captivating at the same time. I'm hooked to the show and have blocked my Wednesdays to watch every new episode." Directed by Jo Hyun-tak and written by Yoo Hyun-mi, the show also marks Jisoo's debut as a leading actress. With intriguing characters, outstanding storytelling, and a fantastic cast - Snowdrop, also available in Hindi, is a show that will take viewers on an emotional rollercoaster that is full of excitement, action, and romance.

## SHRUTI HAASAN COMMENTS ON HER NET WORTH, SAYS SHE ‘DIED LAUGHING’ AFTER GOOGLING BOYFRIEND SANTANU HAZARIKA



Shruti Haasan had witty responses to the most googled questions about her. She responded to questions about herself, diet, boyfriend and even net worth in a new interview. In an interview with Mashable India, Shruti was asked about her personal phone number, she gave a playful reply: "I have answered this before, my phone number is 100 (police helpline number)." When quizzed about her relationship status, she answered, Oh, come on! Don't fake it. I know what the next question is: 'Who is Shruti Haasan's boyfriend Santanu Hazarika?' Because I have googled this and I have died laughing because there are a whole string of questions that come associated with Santanu that are really, really hilarious. So, yeah, I am dating." About her net worth, she answered in the third person, "Shruti Haasan is still figuring it out but she knows that it needs to be more." Earlier, on Mandira Bedi's Love, Live Laugh Show, Shruti had talked about her relationship with Santanu, and why she decided to be open about it. When Mandira asked if she wanted to hide the relationship with Shantanu, Shruti said, "I hid a lot in the past. I have been very particular. I have been like, 'Oh my God, I am totally single' for the longest time. Because people were like 'you have to appear that way, you have to appear desirable, available'. And one day I was like, 'For whom? For what?' I also felt like it was disrespectful to my partner-- to hide it. It may or may not work out. We don't know but I think it's important to respect your environment and the people in it." Shruti Haasan will next be seen in Bestseller, which is directed by Mukul Abhyankar.

## 'SHAMSHERA' DIRECTOR: TOOK 'EXHAUSTIVE' 7 MONTHS TO CREATE BACKGROUND SCORE



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Director Karan Malhotra has stated that the background score for the upcoming film 'Shamsherah' starring Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt and Vaani Kapoor, was created in seven months. Karan said: "When a trailer or a video is made, there are so many elements at play to give our audiences maximum impact. And what is super exciting is when those elements are recognised and appreciated by our audiences." "One such element of the Shamsherah announcement video is the background score. It is heartening to receive such an encouraging reaction to the musical score of the video." He added: "And I promise you; this is truly just a glimpse of what the background score of Shamsherah will finally deliver. "Mithoon and I have spent an enthralling and exhaustive 7 months delivering to you a score that will truly give you a power-packed experience of the film and its epic conflict that awaits to unfold in the theatres." Yash Raj Films 'Shamsherah' will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu on July 22. The film is a high-octane entertainer that is set in the heartland of India. The film stars Sanjay as Ranbir's arch enemy. Sanjay will play the ruthless, merciless villain and his showdown with Ranbir will be something to watch out for as they will ferociously go against each other. Vaani is paired opposite Ranbir and plays the role of a traveling performer of the country.

## 'MY INSPIRATION FOR A PICTURE PERFECT BODY IS HRITHIK ROSHAN,' SAYS TAHA SHAH BADUSSHA



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Actor Taha Shah Badussah says the inspiration behind his chiselled body is Bollywood actor and fitness icon Hrithik Roshan. From training in martial arts, calisthenics, gymnastics, to taking dance lessons, along with cardio workouts, he loves to do it all. Taha, who is known for his work in 'Luv Ka The End' and giving some hit numbers such as 'Ekk Var' with Daisy Shah and 'Aaj Sajeya' with Alaya F, talks about his inspiration to be fit and have a perfect body. He says: " My inspiration for a picture perfect body is Hrithik Roshan. He is incredible and an epitome of fitness. The way he has maintained and worked upon himself is phenomenal. I really look up to him when it comes to fitness".

## MADHURI DIXIT SHARES HER PASSION FOR ACTING IN WEB SERIES 'THE FAME GAME'



**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Bollywood superstar Madhuri Dixit is making headlines these days with her digital debut with the web series 'The Fame Game'. The show is all about a successful actress who has all the luxuries but along with this her life holds a plethora of secrets. The actress talks about her OTT debut and her love for acting. She recalls her journey as an actress and what keeps her motivating after so many years. She says: "I think, one never really gets tired of playing different characters. I love to get into the skin of every character I play. And it's always exciting when you get a role, which has a gamut of emotions to deal with. You know, one that has ups and downs in their life because it's such characters that challenge you to do better, rise above, and keep you on your toes." After winning the hearts of movie buffs and giving a number of hit movies, Madhuri still feels that there is a lot to learn and she is still a student. "I think for me, I have always been a student of cinema. And whenever I do a project, I try to rediscover or discover something new in a character which I can portray and do better than my previous performance," she concludes. 'The Fame Game' is produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Somen Mishra, Sri Rao and Dharmatic Entertainment. Bejoy Nambiar and Karishma Kohli are the directors of the series and it features Madhuri Dixit Nene, Sanjay Kapoor, Manav Kaul, Suhasini Muley, Lakshvir Saran, Muskaan Jafari and Rajshri Deshpande.





## MAHIE GILL: BEING A POLITICIAN IN REAL LIFE IS TOUGHER THAN PLAYING IT ON-SCREEN

**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Actress Mahie Gill who has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party recently and also played a politician on-screen in the recently released web series 'Raktanchal 2' says encountering the real situation as a politician is very different from acting then in films and series. Asked about her new career choice as a politician and Mahie told IANS: "Firstly it is just a coincidence that in 'Raktanchal 2' I played a politician and in reality also I joined politics. The timing was not quite planned. But I must say that when an actress becomes a politician, people's attitude changes and not always fame helps to influence people to change their minds. "Same people who love me for my acting, not necessarily love and support me as a politician. Initially, people are interested to come and meet me for selfies and the fact that they are meeting an actress. So I would say that playing a politician on-screen and meeting real people and real issues as a politician is very different and rather tougher." In the show she plays the character named Saraswati Devi and the story is set in the '90s era. Drawing the similarity from the story of the show and the present time in Indian politics, Mahie said, " when it comes to the show, I was

excited to play Saraswati Devi because of the very fact that the story was set in the 90s era and I never played a politician in my career before. Back in the day, female representation in Indian politics in higher positions was quite a power struggle." "Politics is mostly a male-dominated space where it was looked at almost like an insult for a man to take orders from a woman leader and follow her. Of course, now things have changed but still, female politicians with powerful profiles are underrepresented. Even now, only 10 per cent of our female population gets everything including higher education, high profile job because the mindset needs to be changed from home. Post marriage, their husbands also discourage women to remain ambitious. So no matter how much we talk about gender equality, we need to sensitise parents also to start the equality from home." Considering the fact that in the recent time the question is raised on the preference of religious identity over the right to education for girls when the controversy over wearing Hijab in school of Karnataka started, asked about her opinion on the matter, Mahie said, " Well, the matter is in court so I do not want to comment on it. Also, it is a highly sensitive topic and as a politician, I refuse to make any irresponsible comments. Let the verdict come out."

## POOJA HEGDE'S EXTRA EFFORTS TO ENSURE HER ROLES IN MOVIES DON'T GET SIDELINED



**HYDERABAD, (IANS)** Being one of the busiest actresses of the south right now, Pooja Hegde is all set for a couple of big releases ahead. Going back in time, Pooja had stated in one of her older interviews, how she maintains to be in focus, and not get sidelined in movies starring actors whose persona is so much larger than life. On being quizzed about how Pooja strikes a balance to maintain her glam quotient, and also don't become just the decoration in a film, Pooja said that that confidence comes from within. "I think it comes from an inner self-belief", as she quotes an instance from the Allu Arjun starrer 'Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo', "People did talk about 'Butta Bomma', and the songs much more than anything else.



But, there were a few scenes where I tried to strike a balance, indicating how much importance my role carries, in the story". "Also, I go an extra mile, and dub for my movies, even though the language is difficult. Now or later, people will recognize me and my efforts", the 'Radhe Shyam' actress had said. On being asked about her experience working with Prabhas for 'Radhe Shyam', Pooja said, "Prabhas is quite a goofy person, though at first, he looked so shy. I enjoyed time with him and felt comfortable to act alongside him. That is why our chemistry in the movie has come out so well". Prabhas and Pooja Hegde-starrer 'Radhe Shyam' gears up for its release, while Pooja's appearance alongside Vijay in the movie 'Beast' has raised much buzz as well.

## ALIA BHATT LOOKS REGAL IN WHITE AHEAD OF GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI SCREENING AT BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL



Alia Bhatt is all set for the premiere of her film Gangubai Kathiawadi at the 72nd edition of the Berlin Film Festival. She was seen leaving for Germany with her sister Shaheen on Tuesday. The film gala began on February 10 and will continue until February 20, 2022. Alia shared several photos on her Instagram account where she also shared a glimpse of the Red Carpet at the film festival. Alia shared photos where she is dressed in a white gown, and captioned her Instagram post, "Berlin, baby!" Ananya Panday commented with hearts, and Anushka Sharma commented, "Stunner." She posted a photo of the red carpet scenes on her Instagram story and wrote, "Meet me at the Berlinale Red Carpet with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, 8pm on February 16." Gangubai Kathiawadi, helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, is adapted from one of the chapters of noted author Hussain Zaidi's book, "Mafia Queens of Mumbai". The film will be premiered in the Berlinale Special Gala section. Earlier, Alia had announced the film being taken to the Berlin Film Festival on Twitter. She had tweeted, "So grateful to be part of a wonderful team that now celebrates its official selection to the #BerlinFilmFestival2022. See you on 18th February, 2022." Gangubai Kathiawadi sees Alia essaying the role of Gangubai, one of the most powerful, loved and respected madams from Mumbai's red-light area Kamathipura during the 1960s. Apart from Alia, the film also stars Ajay Devgn, Vijay Raaz, and Jim Sarbh, among others. It is scheduled to hit the theaters on February 25.

## ALIA ON 'GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI': SHE'S SUNSHINE BUT THERE'S SADNESS IN HER



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Every time she comes on screen she gives her all to the role she plays. Actress Alia Bhatt, who currently awaits the release of her upcoming film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', has talked about how emotionally draining it was to play an intense character like Gangubai in the Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial and described her as "sunshine" but with "sadness". 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' tells the tale a young girl named Ganga who becomes Gangubai, a madame in the red light area of Kamathipura. It is loosely based on the true story of Gangubai Harjivandas, popularly known as Gangubai Kothewali, whose life was documented in the book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai' written by S. Hussain Zaidi. In a conversation with IANS, Alia spoke about the emotionally draining part of playing a real life character like Gangubai, who was sold by her suitor to a brothel. Alia said in the candid chat: "One of the things that maybe you'll also get to see in the trailer that there is a constant anger in her eyes so that comes with what happened to her and the situation she was put in. I remember whenever we used to play out scenes and there would always be that layer sir would ask me to bring in the character and maybe I didn't understand it while I was doing it and bringing it I was understanding it but when I saw the film in a flow I understood what he was trying to do and that is something ... that all adds up." "That was one of her biggest sensitive points that what happened to her was not fair and which world she had to enter is not fair but the beauty is what she does with that anger... She has it in her body and soul but how she turns it around." So how would you describe Gangubai? "She is sunshine but there is sadness in her that is emotionally draining...to that to do what she did..." The 28-year-old actress added: "Her picture was on every girl's wall in Kamathipura for 50 years. That was the impact she had for women so put yourself out for other people and not really be there for yourself that is another weight to carry. Even when I was dancing, walking or laughing... Sanjay sir said 'weight'. 'Weight' doesn't mean physical weight... It means in the heart and head and that's what translates hopefully in the screen. Asked how much is too much an actor to invest in intense roles, Alia, who has given power-packed performances in films such as 'Highway', 'Raazi' and 'Udta Punjab' to name a few, said: "Well, it depends in your personality I am that kind of a person where I will give everything." "That's how I think sir and I connected. I kind of feel we had a soul connect by the end of it. We are both number 6... I could hear him without him saying things to me.. That's the kind of connect we have formed and I have seen how he gives everything." Alia added: "He does not even rest even when his back was hurting he would be standing in pain and would not let his crew down. It is a very soldier like attitude. You have to soldier on there is no excuse. So, I am that kind of person and so is sir."

## WHEN BAPPI LAHIRI EXPLAINED HIS LOVE FOR BLING, WHY HIS 'GOLD CHAINS GOT BIGGER' AS CAREER PROGRESSED



Veteran singer Bappi Lahiri died late on Tuesday at the age of 69. His doctor told news agency PTI about his demise, and said that the singer was facing 'multiple health issues'. Popularly known as 'Disco King', the singer known for his inimitable dressing style, dominated by gold chains. He was never seen in public without them, and was even mocked on occasion for his public persona. Bappi Lahiri took it in his stride. In fact, he said that if he is ever spotted without his trademark gold chains, people are disappointed. But do you know how his fascination for gold started? "Gold is my lucky charm. When I recorded of Zakhmi, my mummy gave me a gold chain with a locket that has God's name. When I got married, Mrs Lahiri said that gold is very lucky. As my married life passed by, my gold chains got bigger. But yes, the gold Ganpati around my neck keeps me safe," he told Hindustan Times in 2009, adding, "Today, if someone wears gold chains, they say why are you copying Bappi. Only few people have such an image. Elvis Presley had a gold cross, Michael Jackson has sunglasses and Elton John has a hat." But not everybody was a fan of his 'gold man image', as he called it. Yesteryear actor Rajkumar reportedly met Bappi Lahiri at an industry event, and even passed a remark about his appearance. "Waah, shaandaar. Ek se ek gehne, bas mangalsutra ki kamee reh gayi hai," he told him, according to a Times of India report. But Bappi da was unbothered. "I know people make fun of me but I can't help it, gold is lucky for me. It's my pehchaan, just like my music," he told Indian Express in 2011. Best known for his work on films such as Disco Dancer, Namak Halaal, Dance Dance and Commando, his last Bollywood composition came in the 2020 film Baaghi 3.





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CAST OF 'JUGAADISTAN' OPENS UP ABOUT UNVEILING THE DARKER SIDE OF STUDENT LIFE

**MUMBAI, (IANS)** From dealing with student dynamics, college politics to journalism, Akarsh Khurana's directorial 'Jugaadistan' is a complete package. It's trailer is out now, giving a sneak-peek into the web series showing greyer shades of student life. 'Permanent Roommates' actor Sumeet Vyas, who is playing the role of a student politician, says: "This show is unlike any other campus dramas that you have witnessed so far. There are multiple story lines running parallelly and my character's one point agenda is to win student elections irrespective of whatever it takes. In fact, he is also unintentionally comic in his attempt to appeal to students across the board. It was one of the most memorable characters that I got a chance to essay on screen" On the other hand, 'Vaastu Shastra' actress Ahsaas Channa finds her role of a student journalist different from what she has done before. She says campus life is often depicted on-screen but the way this web series deals with it is something unusual and unique. She adds: "I have been a part of campus dramas earlier, but 'Jugaadistan' delves into areas which have remained untapped so far. My character wants to break a big story on campus, and she is even willing to bend rules to achieve what she sets out to." "Shooting for the show was a learning experience because Akarsh and Adhaar Khurana, the directors, had a sound understanding of the milieu and the students. Being part of an ensemble cast gave me even more impetus to deliver my best," says Ahsaas.



Nawazuddin, Bhumi to star in Sudhir Mishra's 'Afwaah'

**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Bollywood actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Bhumi Pednekar will be seen starring in filmmaker Sudhir Mishra's next titled 'Afwaah', a quirky thriller. Nawazuddin, who has previously worked with Mishra in 'Serious Men', said collaborating with the filmmaker once again and that too on such a unique subject is such an honour. "Both Anubhav (Sinha) and Sudhir are known to delve into larger socially relevant subjects. I value that their cinema is about making a difference. I am glad to be part of a project where they both are collaborators. Bhumi is a fine actor and the chemistry with her will be worth exploring. This will be my first with T-Series and I am looking forward to it." Bhumi added that Nawazuddin is easily one of the best actors we have in the country.



She shared: "When you are working with such a proficient actor, it makes you want to double your effort. Sudhir sir has always been on my bucket list. It is even more special because I am collaborating with Anubhav Sinha and Bhushan Kumar again after Bheed. I am extremely thrilled to be a part of this project." The film is being produced by Anubhav Sinha. He says 'Afwaah' is a novel story rooted in the heartland of India. Discussing the project, Mishra shared: "It's a story I have lived with for a long time and I have only worked each day to make it quirky and twisted. Beneath all of the quirkiness lies a crucial message which I want my viewers to take back home with them. Bhumi and Nawaz are both such powerhouse performers and together they bring a fresh chemistry. I can't wait to be on set with them." Producer Bhushan Kumar of T-Series added: "Sudhir Mishra, is a filmmaker with a fiery unputdownable voice and with talent like Bhumi and Nawaz the film will only soar to greater heights."



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# IPL 2022: SHREYAS IYER NAMED NEW CAPTAIN OF KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Kolkata Knight Riders appointed new signing Shreyas Iyer as their new captain ahead of the Indian Premier League 2022 season on Wednesday. The Indian middle-order batter was bought for a whopping Rs 12.25 crore by the franchise during IPL 2022 auction last Saturday. KKR, who made their second purchase of the day in the 27-year-old Mumbai cricketer, were involved in a long bidding war with new franchise Lucknow Super Giants. A perennial performer in the IPL, Shreyas Iyer proved he is a big player from the word go. Winning the Emerging Player of the year in his rookie season with 439 runs for then Delhi Daredevils, who bought the uncapped player for a record Rs 2.6 crore at the auction. The troubled franchise's faith in the young man's ability only grew as they made him the captain in 2018 while asking misfiring and aging Gautam Gambhir to step down after six games into the season.,

The rechristened Delhi Capitals'fortune under the new captain, and more importantly under the new ownership, only got better as the next season he led the side to the playoffs for the first time in seven years. The team only improved further in the subsequent season; finishing runners-up in 2020. As far his personal stats were concerned, Iyer amassed 463 and 519 runs in the 2019 and 2020 seasons respectively. A shoulder injury in 2021 forced him to miss the first half of the season and had to let go of his captaincy to teammate Rishabh Pant. Shreyas played 8 games in phase 2 of the season in the Middle East, scoring 175 runs at 35 on average. With the limitations of just four players, DC opted for Pant over Iyer in the retention list and the latter went into the auction list.

## MAXWELL SET TO MISS PAKISTAN VS AUSTRALIA SERIES, START OF IPL 2022



Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is set to miss the tour of Pakistan and the initial few games of the Indian Premier League due to his wedding next month. Maxwell told 'Fox Sports' that the clash was unavoidable due to changes in the schedule. He is one of the retained players by Royal Challengers Bangalore alongside Virat Kohli and Mohammad Siraj. "Originally when I organised the dates with CA there was a two-week gap where I could potentially have it," Maxwell said after the third T20 against Sri Lanka in Canberra. "So when I sorted that out I was pretty happy that I wasn't going to be missing in any series. And then I came to the [CA] contract meeting midway through last year and they said well this is [when] the Pakistan series [is on] and I thought well obviously that's changed since the last conversation we had."

The IPL is expected to start in last week of March and Pakistan limited overs tour is scheduled from March 29. Richardson feels leaving IPL early last season contributed to him and Zampa being unsold at the auction. The Australian duo of pacer Kane Richardson and spinner Adam Zampa had left India due to the devastating COVID-19 wave before the IPL was eventually suspended last year. Both bowlers had no takers in the IPL mega auctions held last week. Richardson was more surprised about Zampa going unsold. "I was definitely more shocked for him. To be brutally honest, when we left last year, in the circumstances early, I remember having a conversation with him. "I said to him, look, this may come back and bite us, and at that time it wasn't a priority for us to be there. We wanted to get back to Australia." "So I think there'd be some kind of buyers that'd be pretty wary of picking us up thinking that we wouldn't come again. I definitely think that's a factor," Richardson said. The right-arm pacer had missed the 2020 IPL due to the birth of his child. He said he understood why the IPL teams did not bid for him but he has not spoken to any of them. "I'm just speaking on what I think would be a factor in it. I don't know. I've never had a dialogue with a franchise or a person that says that's what would be the case. But I think I didn't go the year before as well with the birth of my boy. "So my reputation probably is that in the last couple of years I haven't gone so it's obviously not something that I am. "I try and play as much cricket as I can. But I think the circumstances in the last couple of IPLs have made me not go. But it's not a reputation I want," he added.

## AUSTRALIAN STATE IN BID TO HOST 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Australian state government of Victoria says it has entered into "exclusive negotiations" with the Commonwealth Games Federation to host the 2026 version of the games in regional centers in the state. The Commonwealth Games are held every four years involving 70-plus countries from the British Commonwealth of nations. It was scheduled to be held in Durban this year, but Birmingham, England stepped in when financial constraints meant the South African city had to pull out of its hosting plans. If Victoria gets approval for 2026 it would be the second time in eight years that Australia hosted the games after the Gold Coast in Queensland held them in 2018. Melbourne hosted the games in 2006 while other Australian editions included those in Sydney (1938), Perth (1962) and Brisbane (1982). Commonwealth Games Australia's chief executive officer Craig Phillips says Victoria's bid will be submitted to the CGF in mid-March with official approval likely in April. There have been no suggested dates for the games in 2026, although the Gold Coast event in subtropical Queensland was held in April 2018 — the middle of autumn in Australia. The Melbourne games in 2006 were held in March.

## ‘I’M WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE’: NOVAK DJOKOVIC

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic is prepared to put convictions over his place in tennis history if tournaments around the world insist on having players vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to participate. In an interview with BBC, the Serb denied he was anti-vaccination, but said he was only exercising his personal choice when it came to deciding what entered his body. Djokovic was deported when he went to play the Australian Open. Rafael Nadal subsequently went took the crown, moving one ahead of him and Roger Federer in Grand Slam count with his record-breaking 21st title. And Djokovic insisted he may decide not to play future Grand Slams if required to be vaccinated to do so. That may allow Nadal to move further ahead in the overall race. On the possibility of skipping future Grand Slams over his vaccination stance "Yes, that is the price that I'm willing to pay. I was never against vaccination, but I've always supported the freedom to choose what you put in your body. "I understand the consequences of my decision. I am unable to travel to most tournaments at the moment." The present Covid protocols for the remaining Grand Slams of the year **French Open:** France requires people entering public venues to show proof of vaccination. This applies to sportspersons, but Djokovic may be exempted due to his Covid infection within the previous six months. **Wimbledon:** Vaccination is not mandatory but Djokovic will have to take a Covid test before and after his arrival in England. A period of quarantine is mandated only if one returns a positive result. **US Open:** If he stays unvaccinated, Djokovic may need an exemption from the American government. These are generally given to persons who may not have got the jab on medical advice or may not have had access to one before arriving in the country. Humanitarian exemptions are given on an "extremely limited basis." **Djokovic's justification of his stance** "Because the principles of decision making on my body are more important than any title or anything else. I'm trying to be in tune with my body as much as I possibly can.

## PREMIER LEAGUE 2021-22: RONALDO ENDS GOAL DROUGHT AS MANCHESTER UNITED BEAT BRIGHTON 2-0; ENTER TOP FOUR



This time, Manchester United held on to their lead. Cristiano Ronaldo ended his six-game goal drought by lashing in a 51st-minute goal to set United on its way to a 2-0 win over Brighton that moved the team into fourth place in the Premier League on Tuesday. Bruno Fernandes added a second goal in the seventh minute of stoppage time, with virtually the last kick of the game, following a rapid break as Brighton committed men forward. United had failed to win any of its last three games despite taking the lead each time — twice in the league, against Burnley and Southampton, and in getting eliminated from the FA Cup by second-tier Middlesbrough. "First half was Mr. Hyde, second half Dr. Jekyll," United manager Ralf Rangnick said, "and for a change it (the result) was different." Helping United's cause against Brighton at Old Trafford was visiting defender Lewis Dunk getting sent off three minutes after Ronaldo's goal for a professional foul, bringing down Anthony Elanga as the winger was through on goal. Dunk was initially shown a yellow card but it turned to a red after a video review. United moved above West Ham and into the Champions League qualification positions, four points behind third-place Chelsea but having played one game more. Ronaldo had been on his worst scoring run in 13 years at club level but ended that by cutting inside, after teammate Scott McTominay dispossessed Yves Bissouma, and powering a curling shot into the far corner from outside the area. The Portugal forward headed wide from Fernandes' cross later in the half, kicking the post in frustration, but his display was praised by Rangnick. "Very important not only that he scored but it was an outstanding goal," Rangnick said. "It was important for all of us, but his overall performance was one of the best since I arrived here."

## IPL 2022: WE WERE LOOKING FOR LEFT-ARMER PACERS, GLAD IT WORKED OUT, SAYS ZAHEER KHAN



Stressing that left-arm bowlers bring a different angle while having a go at the batters, former India pacer Zaheer Khan said that Mumbai Indians were indeed looking for such bowlers and got them at the recent IPL auction. During the two-day mega auction, five-time champions Mumbai Indians roped in left-arm pacers in England's Tymal Mills and India's very own Jaydev Unadkat, who is an experienced campaigner. "Look, a left-arm does bring a different angle and that does work as an added advantage, so we were looking at left-armers in particular and I am glad that it all worked out," Zaheer, who is the Director of Cricket Operations, said on a show posted on Mumbai Indians official Twitter handle. Apart from the two, Mumbai Indians also roped in Australian left-arm quick Daniel Sams, who has played five T20s and Arjun Tendulkar, who is a budding pacer and son of legendary Sachin Tendulkar. "We did get four of the certain left-handers which went out of our reach but we held our ground and made sure that we put up a squad together which we can definitely have a lot of hopes there," added Zaheer, himself a left-arm pacer.

## DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS: SANIA, HRADECKA ADVANCE INTO DOUBLES QUARTERFINALS



Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and her partner Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic advanced to the women's doubles quarter-finals of the Dubai Tennis Championships on Tuesday. Sania Mirza-Lucie Hradecka defeated the world number 12 Demi Schuurs of the Netherlands and Chan Hao-ching of Chinese Taipei 7(7)-6(3), 5-7, 11-9 in the round of 16 clash. The Indo-Czech pair broke Demi Schuurs and Chan Hao-ching early to take a 3-1 lead. However their opponents recovered to make it a close finish, Mirza and Hradecka held their nerves to clinch the set in the tie-breaker. Schuurs and Hao-ching came back strong in the second set as they clinched it to stretch the match into the super tie-breaker. However, in the super tie-breaker, the duo who received wildcards for the WTA 500 tournament won and eventually booked their place in the quarter-finals. Mirza and her partner Hradecka will next take on Japan's Shuko Aoyama and Aleksandra Krunich of Serbia in the quarters. Aoyama and Krunich defeated fourth seeds Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada and Giuliana Olmos of Mexico 7(7)-6(5), 2-6, 10-5 in their round of 16 match.





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