

Charlie Chopra & The Mystery Of Solang Valley



A Review by **Sanjiva Sahai**

Charlie Chopra

& The Mystery Of Solang Valley

(The latest Hindi web series in 6 episodes on Sony Liv)

□□Directed by Vishal Bharadwaj the show opens with an innovative musical score and hilariously clever lyrics that reveal the protagonist's (Wamiqa) home address. These elements stand out as commendable highlights in the series. However, while the music and the stunning snow-capped setting deserve praise, the adaptation of Agatha Christie's classic Sittaford Mystery falls short of delivering a believable, relatable, and engaging narrative.

□□Charlie's sporadic fourth-wall-breaking moments, where she addresses the camera and talks to the viewers, leave much to be desired. This is a well-known technique in theatre, film, TV, and literature but here it's executed with a lack of

finesse, often descending into gimmickry and absurdity. Wamiqa Gabbi's reactions serve as mere punctuation to these instances, highlighting their shallowness. It raises the question of whether delving into a detective's psyche is justified when the true pleasure lies in external observation and deciphering their actions.

□□While Agatha's novel sparkled like a well-polished diamond, the adaptation and cast's performances were more like deflated party balloons. It's as if they were handed a *Rogan Josh* recipe but decided to cook instant noodles instead. The characters needed emotional depth, but the actors served up emotional flatlines. Wamiqa Gabbi, a radiant presence, struggles to carry the show solo, hampered by a lack of versatility, rendering her lengthy role predictably dull. Naseeruddin Shah, oddly out of place, delivers a superficial performance. Neena Gupta, however, shines as the sole beacon of spontaneity and precision. Gulshan Grover repeats himself. The ensemble cast- including the entire Shah family (Ratna Pathak – Heeba – Vivaan – Imaad), Lara Dutta, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Paoli Dam, and Ashique Hussain, adds their bit to the mix.

□□It leaves viewers hoping that future adaptations by Vishal will capture the essence of Christie's work more effectively.

**

2/5

_ Sanjiva Sahai

ASIA CUP FINAL – India vs Sri Lanka – Believe it or go Nuts!!

By Sunil Sarpal



It was a bizarre match – the Asia Cup Final held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 17th September, 2023. The super-duper star of the match was none other than our own pacer Mohd. Siraj. He single-handedly demolished Sri Lanka with a haul of 6 wickets. He set the tone of the match, scalping 4 Sri Lankan wickets in a single over. His incisive spell brought about the downfall of Sri Lankan innings and wickets started tumbling like nine pins. There was some juice on offer in the wicket and the need of the hour for the Sri Lankan batsmen to apply themselves, which they did not.

The first salvo was engineered by Ravinder Jadeja when he, driving to his right, produced a stunning diving catch inches from the ground, at point.

Mohd. Siraj was so charged up that he scalped four wickets in a single over, leaving Sri Lanka completely shattered. From the other end, Bumrah too bowled beautifully and created pressure on batters in equal measure.

Sri Lanka could post only 50 runs on the board and folded their innings.

In the post match analysis, Indian veteran, Gautam Gambhir rightly pointed out that when the ball starts swinging viciously, it is imperative on the part of batsman to give due respect to bowlers and play defensively. But the batsmen were not found to be disciplined and went for their shots.

The contest between bat and ball never took off and it turned out to be a one sided affair, which, unbelievably, India won by 10 wickets. From Indian side, both Gill and Ishan Kishan were equal to the task and won the match for India. In a lighter vein, this match qualifies to be in **Ripley's Believe it or Not**

Mohd. Siraj was rightly declared Man of the Match because of his unimaginable heroics.



WHEN KAPIL'S DEVILS DETHRONED THE MIGHTY WEST INDIES

By Sunil Sarpal



It was 1983, the no-hopers or you may say the 'under-dogs' gave the all-crucial blow to West Indies cricket by beating them in one-dayers at Lords, England.

Before embarking upon the tournament at England, Indian Team did not expect any positive results from the World Cup. Their confidence level went a few notches up as the matches start unfolding. Early wins gave them the necessary confidence that they could also reach the play-offs. The confidence was given necessary boost by the captain Kapil Dev in a match against Zimbabwe when India was tottering with five top batsman having

returned to the pavilion empty handed.

From then onwards, the pendulum shifted India's way when Kapil Dev arrived on the crease. He scored 175 runs, which was considered to be the best ever innings played in a one dayer. It was a difficult wicket to bat on, but Kapil being a genuine all-rounder in the world shone with the bat and changed the course of the match. His was the inning which brighten up India's stake to lift the trophy. Sunil Gavaskar admitted that in his life time he had not seen such an outstanding inning in one dayers, such was the master class of Kapil Dev as an explosive batsman. 4s and 6s rained from his blade in a magical show of batsmanship.

Unfortunately, the match could not be telecast on air due to technical hitches.

This inning was the turn-around of India's fortune in the world cup. People still remember this inning with a sigh of relief. With this inning, Kapil Dev became an overnight hero in the tournament. Kapil leading from the front and his exploits percolated on his team mates and gave them unbelievable self-belief.

Interestingly, Indian Team had in their ranks the luxury of multi-skilled players.

MOHINDER AMARNATH : A top order batsman and a military medium swing bowler.

KAPIL DEV : A genuine all-rounder

BALVINDER SINGH SANDHU : A genuine swing bowler who could bat a bit also.

ROGER BINNY : A medium pacer who could chip in with some runs too.

MADAN LAL : A fine medium pacer who could bat as well.

In fact, India succeeded in reaching the final on the basis of these all round performers because English conditions suited their bowling the most.

The final between the mighty West Indies and the underdogs India was scheduled to be played in the Mecca of Cricket ie. Lords at England. But West Indies became over-confidant to lift upon being seeing that they are pitted up against the minnows India.

Batting first, India put up a paltry score of 180 odd runs on the board with Kris Srikant top scoring with 38 runs.

The first turning point of the match happened when Balvinder Singh Sandhu's delivery pitching outside off stump swung in viciously, leaving Gordan Greenidge bowled and bamboozled. With this wicket in pocket, Indian Team looked pumped up. The drama started to unfold when a rampaging Viv Richards hit a skyer of a Madan Lal delivery and Kapil Dev took a catch of the match running backwards. This was perhaps the second turning point of the match. These two dismissals turned the tide in India's favour.

Mohinder Amarnath's military medium did most of the damage and wisely declared Man of the Match.

The no-hopers turned heros and World Champs under the captain cool Kapil Dev. Kapil Dev's contribution was of immense value to the Team India. It was a herculean task for no-hopers but luck played a vital role for Team India. 1983 Indian Cricket Team members are written in golden letters in the history books.

□□□□□ □□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□

□□□□□□ - □□□□ □□□□

□□□□□□□□ - □□□□ □□ □□□□□□□□

□□□□□□□□ - □□□□ □□ □□□□□□

- □□□□ □□□□



PASHMINA

(Hindi DRAMA)



An army martyr's parents take a poignant trip to Kashmir, in the shadow of the sorrow of their neighbour. There, accompanied by a garrulous couple, they meet a shopkeeper who has just like them lost his son. They return with a symbol of pathos, reconciliation, closure and above all hope – a shawl called Pashmina.

WRITTEN BY MRINAL MATHUR



DIRECTED BY SAJIDA SAJI



4TH June, 2023



5:00 PM ONWARDS



LTG AUDITORIUM
MANDI HOUSE, DELHI

GRAB YOUR SEATS NOW! @ [BookMyShow.com](https://www.BookMyShow.com)



theatre@vibgyor.in



+91 9821287463



Natya Kumbh

In Association With



Snap4Me

vibgyor
#ExperienceAwesomeness

bookmyshow



पश्मिना एक हिन्दी ड्रामा है, जो एक सैन्य शहीद के माता-पिता का एक भावपूर्ण यात्रा को दर्शाता है। वे अपने पड़ोसी के दुःख के छाया में, अपने पड़ोसी के साथ एक बातचीत करने वाले जोड़े के साथ, एक दुकानदार से मिलते हैं, जो भी उनके लिए एक दुःखी पिता है। वे एक संकेत के साथ लौटते हैं, जो संतुष्टि, समाप्ति और सबसे ऊपर आशा है - एक शawl जिसे पश्मिना कहा जाता है।

.....

.....

(.....)

WTC Final: India had to be content being a runners-up as Australia steals the show



Image courtesy Twitter
By Sunil Sarpal

The WTC final cricket test match played between India and Australia at The Oval, England was a mouth-watering contest. There was juice on offer for fast bowlers and life for batters was not a cake-walk at all. Indian fast bowlers did not bowl at the right areas in the first outing, enabling Aussies to take early initiative and advantage in the match. Aussies amassed a mammoth 479 in the first innings. It was a daunting task for India to take on 4-pronged pace attack of Australia. Of the 4, Boland was the most difficult to deal with. The

first innings scalp of Gill by Boland was a treat to watch. The ball pitched well outside the off stump but jagged back and uprooted the stumps.

One particular noticeable factor was when once a batsman settles down after gauging the behaviour of the pitch, it becomes imperative on his part to play a disciplined knock and not over-indulge. Once india is in a precarious situation, batters going for expensive shots leads to their downfall. The most difficult corridor for a batsman is off stump and just outside off stump. Generally, it is the away going delivery which creates trouble for batters but when bowlers swing one in, it is absolutely nightmarish for the batters.

Batting on helpful tracks for batters call for a great deal of concentration, determination and application.

In the second essay, Indian batters Rohit, Pujara and Kohli all perished after making good start and making necessary adjustment.

For Aussie fast bowlers above 6 ft plus height get extra ordinary lift and bounce from the wicket. All Aussie fast bowlers are above 6 ft.

If we talk about Rohit Sharma's batting, his batting involves lot of risk-taking shots. Pulls and hooks are his favourite shots but controlling these shots is equally important. He may get a lot of runs playing such shots but there is an element of risk involved. Anything misqued goes to waiting hands.

I think Gill has to make lot of adjustment in playing outside off stump line.

Pujara these days has changed his style of play. He need not be over enthusiastic in playing shots. Pujara of old was much more secure and stood like a wall for other batters to score bulk of runs.

In this match, India badly missed the services of Bumrah because of injury. For India it was a testing time but Aussie is a class act. Let us hope with the recovery of Pant, India poses more solidarity to the side in the future.

CSK vs GT – a thrilling, nail-biting IPL final, down to the last ball

By Sunil Sarpal



Chennai Super Kings (CSK) led by MS Dhoni and Gujarat Titans (GT) led by Hardik Pandya were pitted against each other to play for IPL 2023 Final. The venue of the match was Ahmedabad but the match on Sunday was washed out due to incessant rain and re-scheduled for play on Monday.

It was a belter of a pitch but for initial seam movement that provided little spin.

Dhoni, after winning the toss elected to bowl first, considering that in the event of intervening rain, the contest shall be reduced in target and number of overs. It will benefit the team batting second. In the ultimate analysis his prediction proved right and CSK lifted the IPL 2023 trophy for the 5th time.

A few salient features emerged from the match. They are enumerated below :-

1) The stumping effected by Dhoni of in-form Shubham Gill off the bowling of Ravinder Jadeja was a mercurial work behind the stump. Mind you Gill notched up 3 centuries on the trot before this match. and was a hot favourite facilitating GT to lift the trophy.

2) For Gujarat Titans the stand-out performers with the bat were Sai Sudershan and Saha. They both batted brilliantly and posted a formidable total of 200 +.

3) With the intervention of, rain after the first inning, the contest was limited by a reduction in overs and scaling down of the target.

4) The relatively disappointing factor was that the match could not be decided in a 20-over contest.

5) Even though MS Dhoni was not fully fit and one of his knees not taking the rigorous of running between the wicket, he has not called it quit from IPL and shall appear in the next year's IPL too for CSK.

In conclusion, as per the post tournament analysis, some of the batters have performed exceptionally well.

1) To start with, Shubham Gill has notched up three tons.

2) Followed by Virat Kohli who posted two back to back hundreds with a fifty.

3) Batters like Ishan Kishan, Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh and Surya Kr Yadav stole the show exhibiting T-20 style of shots. They redefined the game of cricket by introducing the formula – throwing caution to the wind.

WHAT A TOURNAMENT CALLED IPL

Natsamrat Theatre Festival spreads its wings to Mumbai

By Shraboni Saha

After establishing itself in Delhi, Natsamrat is now steadily making a mark in Mumbai as well. It successfully organised the 3rd Mumbai Theater Festival for Maharashtra audience



Natsamrat brought the Kumbh of plays for Mumbaikars i.e. 3rd Mumbai Theater Festival where five different plays were staged on May 26, 27 and 28 at Creative Adda Auditorium, Versova, Andheri West, Mumbai.

On May 26, at 6:30 pm, the play Napunsak, written by Manjul Bhardwaj, was staged and at 8:00 pm, the play Teen Bandar, written by Prabuddha Joshi, directed by Nagendra Kumar Sharma, both plays were staged.

The play Aadhi Raat ke Baad which was written by Dr. Shankar Shesh was staged on 27th May at 6:30 pm and the play Chukayenge Nahi, written by Dario-Fo and adapted by Amitabh Srivastava was staged at 8:00 pm and both the plays are directed by Chandrashekhar Sharma.

On May 28, at 7:30 pm, the play Kambakkht Ishq written by Satya Prakash was staged and the play is directed by Shyam Kumar, director of Natsamrat.

Artists from Delhi, Ambala, Mumbai presented the five different plays at the theater in Mumbai. In these plays, there was humor, adventure as well as social messages for the audience. Seeing the audience of Mumbai, it seemed as if they had a lot of love for theatre, that's why the entire auditorium was packed on all three days. Natsamrat director Shyam Kumar says that if anyone wants to give something to the society, it can be done through drama and the audience definitely pays attention to it because it does not give stress to the mind, instead it gives a beautiful message through entertainment.

ALSO RAN: VIRAT KOHLI – IN THE PINK OF FORM

by Sunil Sarpal



Virat Kohli

As we approach the final today, in the on-going IPL season, Virat Kohli belted out back to back centuries for his franchisee RCB. Virat stole the show but unfortunately his team RCB could not even find a place in the play-offs. Kohli leaves a solid impact on his followers with the kind of flourish seen in his knocks. He plays conventional cricketing shots all over the park in a commanding fashion that bowlers are left clueless where to pitch the ball and where not.

The behaviour of the pitch on which match is played plays a pivotal role in batting performance.

Indian pitches generally are spin friendly.

In Australia the bounce is waist high.

In England, the conditions provide more swing.

In New Zealand, there is more lift from the surface and

swing too.

In West Indies, the pitches provide low bounce and are on the slow side.

A batsman needs to adjust to conditions first and plan which shot should be played and which not.

Kohli with 76 International tons in his pocket in all formats has enormous experience and exposure to any given condition. He therefore is the backbone of Indian batting and other just revolve around him. Dislodging him therefore becomes next to impossible. He stands tall among his contemporaries.

People and his die-hard foes becomes so critical about his inclusion in the side when he goes thru patchy and lean periods. They immediately write him off but Kohli has in him to bounce back with vengeance.

Kohli proclaims; "As long as God so desires, I shall keep on playing for India.

He is a modern-day iconic figure and others just want to emulate his work ethics.

He stands tall among the legendary figures India has produced so far.

If he remains fit and rarin-to-go, he will set such high benchmarks that he will be hard to dislodge.



Virus-free.www.avg.com

A Halla Gulla called IPL



By **Sunil Sarpal**

Indian Premier League will soon draw to a close for this season. Let's see what the Halla Gulla called IPL was all about

It happens once in a calender year and bring lot of fun and joy to cricket world. On every TV set in a home, this tussel between bat and ball is fought, providing great entertainment to the viewers of the game. The game is also a reminder that it belongs to young legs. Ageing has no room in this game which is on a fast lane.

Often viewers remember those that are no more, but were star cricketers during their playing days.

Dean Jones, Aussie

Malcom Marshal, WI

Martin Crow, NZ

Alas, cruel death ended their journey mid-way, depriving followers of their incredible presence and charisma.

IPL pays an astronomical amount of money to the players – thanks to IPL franchisees. On the basis of players' performance over a period of time, they are auctioned by franchisees at huge amounts. Even after the auctioned player loses his touch and his performance dips, he remains on the bench and still paid the committed amount.

It has become a joy to watch IPL matches because music is played in the background. It is full entertainment. These days commentators provide lot of stories, past experiences and also discuss spats between players. Such things bind the viewers to TV sets.

Young guns join shoulders with foreign players and get lot of international experience. Players like Nitish Rana, Ishaan Kishan and Rinku Singh are the stars in making. Cricket is in the blood of followers and they enjoy this soap opera much more than Saas and Bahu episodes on TV.



**INDIAN
PREMIER
LEAGUE**

