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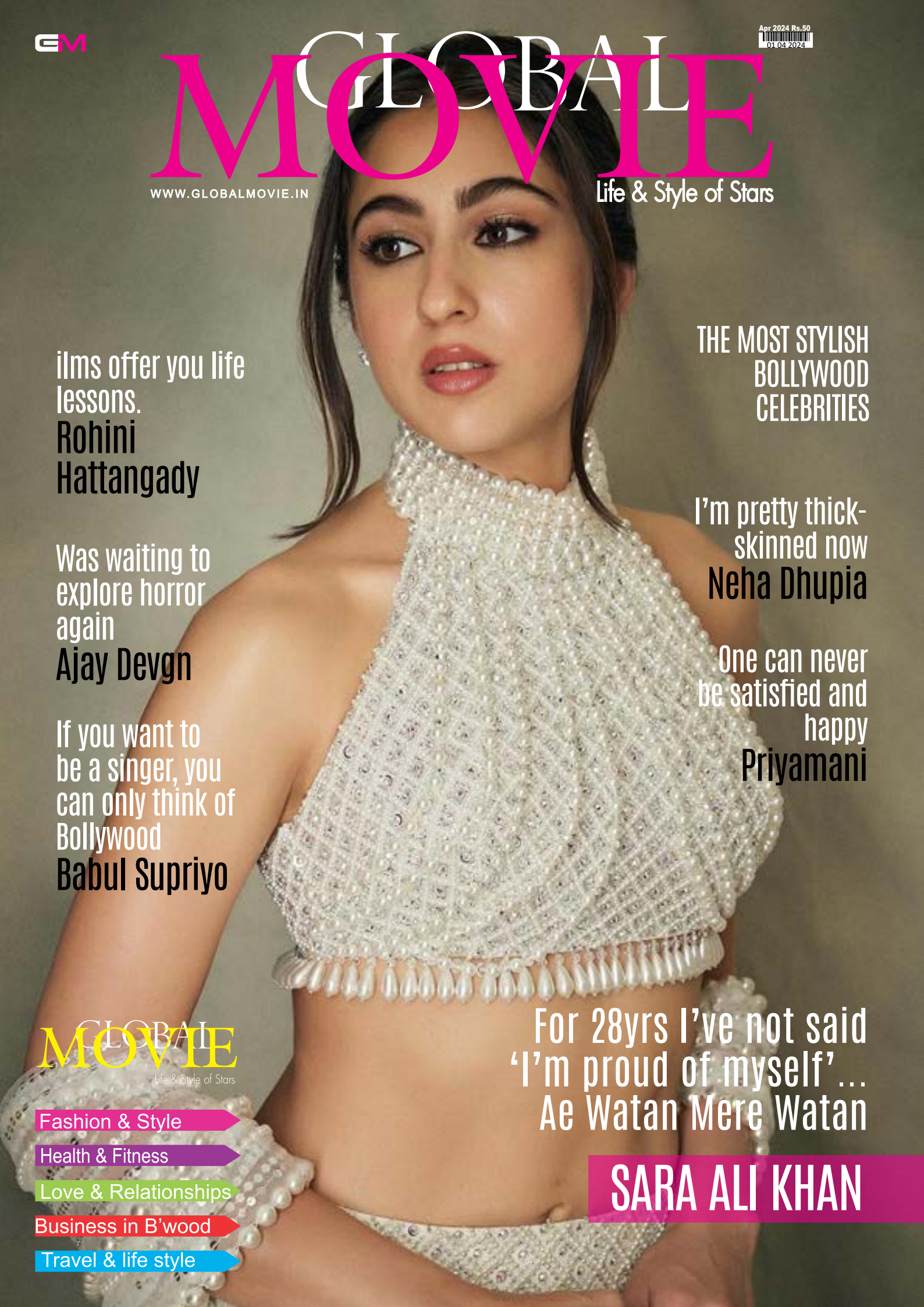

THE MOST STYLISH BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES

ilms offer you life lessons.
Rohini Hattangady

I'm pretty thick-skinned now
Neha Dhupia

Was waiting to explore horror again
Ajay Devgn

One can never be satisfied and happy
Priyamani

If you want to be a singer, you can only think of Bollywood
Babul Supriyo

For 28yrs I've not said 'I'm proud of myself'... Ae Watan Mere Watan

SARA ALI KHAN

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Sara Ali Khan

opens up on her plans to join politics 'down the line

Sara Ali Khan never shies away from giving her unfiltered and unabashed opinions on her films and life. The actor known for her carefree persona, recently spoke about if she would ever consider politics as a career. During an interview Sara was quizzed if she wants to enter politics in the near future.

Sara Ali Khan revealed her plants to join Indian politics.

Sara on her plans to pursue a political career

Sara, during a rapid fire round was asked, "Down the line, Sara Ali Khan wants to join politics?" The actor said, "Yeah she does." In an older interview with Hindustan Times, she had said, "I have a degree in history and political science so I want to pursue politics maybe later in life, but it's not a backup plan. I am not leaving and if people will give me the opportunity to be here (Bollywood), I will be here for as long as I can."

Sara Ali Khan had consecutive OTT releases in March

Sara Ali Khan had consecutive OTT releases in March

Sara was recently seen in Murder Mubarak and Ae Watan Mere Watan. While the former directed by Homi Adajania is a murder mystery, the latter is based on India's struggle for independence. Murder Mubarak also features Pankaj Tripathi, Vijay Varma, Dimple Kapadia, Karisma Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor, Tisca Chopra, Brijendra Kala and Suhail Nayyar in pivotal characters.

Ae Watan Mere Watan is directed by Kannan Iyer and stars Sachin Khedekar, Abhay Verma, Sparsh Shrivastav, Alexx O' Neil and Anand Tiwari in crucial roles.

Sara will next be seen in Anurag Basu's Metro… In Dino, a spiritual sequel to Life… In a Metro. Metro.. Dino has a stellar cast including Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

On 'Ae Watan Mere Watan', books and freedom of speech

The actor discusses her upcoming film, 'Ae Watan Mere Watan', and what the Gen-Z could learn from this chapter of the Indian national struggle

Your producer Karan Johar has described Ae Watan Mere watanas a 'Gen Z Story' Could you expand?

It's a parallel we have drawn between the current generation and the youngsters who banded together and fought for India's freedom. Their slogan was Karo Ya Maro (do or die). Obviously, the stakes are different today. We are a free, democratic nation, having overcome things like international subjugation and colonialism, but we need to have our voice. We are very lucky to live in a country where freedom of speech is encouraged and is a right given to us. So I think standing up for what you believe in, not just politically but socially, environmentally or at your workplace, is important.

As a History student, what aspects of Usha Mehta's life did you find most invigorating?

When we think of bravery, we think of a physically strong, masculine figure, but there can be emotional and mental fortitude and a degree of femininity that is needed in strength, which is what Usha Mehta embodies. She raised the tricolour at Gowalia Tank Maidan (now August Kranti Maidan), from where the Quit India Movement was launched. She was a Gandhian and a brahmachari (celibate). It's a level of sacrifice to wonder about... when your love for the country, desh prem, is so overwhelming that there's no scope for any other kind of love or distraction in your life.

This is your first period film. A pitfall of the genre is that, sometimes, the performances begin to reflect the mannerisms in the movies of that era...

I tried to watch no films of the 1940s. We didn't have much archival footage of Usha Mehta to go on. I decided not to have a Gujarati accent although she was Gujarati. The language of the film is easily understandable Hindi. This is not a biography but an ode to multiple unsung heroes of the Indian national struggle. The period design of the film is fairly accurate. We recreated the trams, the broadcast equipment, and the charkhas (spinning wheels) ...we shot in real locations around Horniman Circle Gardens in South Mumbai. Unlike Hindi film heroines of the past, I was de-glamorized in a khadi saree with a side-parting, waves and bindi. All of these details were geared towards making the world seem more true.

The last time we spoke, you were reading Flaubert's Madame Bovary. What are you reading right now? Also, do you prefer paperbacks or the Kindle?

I'm reading a book called 'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaarder. I've read it before but it's just so amazing to revisit. It has little bits of different philosophies, all woven in a fiction versus nonfiction setting. It's a beautiful book. I love physical books because I like to annotate. Recently, in fact, I was going to Jamnagar for Anant Ambani's pre-wedding celebrations and it was really funny because my father and I were the only two people on the flight with our books and our pencils. My brother had headphones on and went off to sleep.

You have been acting for a while now. What's your process of evaluating your own work?

I like to re-watch my performances. It's important to see what I did right, and what I did wrong. I have always believed I am in this profession for the love of my audience. For instance, I received a lot of love for Atrangi Re (2021) and Zara Hatke Zara Bachke(2023). So it was useful to go back and see what clicked. But having said that, as an actor, I'm beginning to realise more and more the importance of unlearning. It's important to come to each new set with a clean slate because each director has their own process and each character is different. Bambi Todi from Murder Mubarak and Usha Mehta from Ae Watan don't have anything in common. To get into the skin of both these characters, with equal conviction on different sets at the same time, was tricky. It takes objectivity, unlearning and surrender.

Sara Ali Khan says her mom Amrita Singh did everything 'single-handedly': 'She never made us feel we lacked anything'

Sara Ali Khan said that her mother Amrita Singh was unlike any of her friend's parents when she was growing up.

Sara Ali Khan grew up in a single parent household as her parents, Amrita Singh and Saif Ali Khan, divorced when she was quite young. In a recent interview, while promoting her upcoming film Ae Watan Mere Watan, Sara spoke about her mother and said that she was unlike any of her friend's parents when she was growing up. And while Sara saw it as something that she was missing, she soon realised that it was a blessing.

Talking to Galatta India, Sara said that her mother doesn't know how to cook or drive, and she saw it as something that was missing in her life until one day, her mother gave her a befitting answer that changed Sara's perspective on everything. "While growing up, my mom was unlike any of my other friend's moms. She doesn't know how to drive and she doesn't know how to cook. So I used to feel very bad. Till one day she turned around and said, 'how many of your friend's parents know how to act and ride horses? Because I do'. And I was like I am literally never saying anything to the heroine of Mard ever again," she recalled. Sara continued, "Because I suddenly was like 'she knows her business'. But I think that my mom is just the best, like in the world." Sara said that her mother made sure that her brother Ibrahim and her never felt like they were missing anything. "She has never made Ibrahim and me feel like we might lack anything. She has given us wings to fly. She has also been our grounding factor to make sure we don't fly too high. She has been my mirror. She has been my inspiration and she has done it all single handedly. I have a lot more support from a lot more people than my mother ever had growing up and if she has reached where she has, I better get 1/10th of the way. And if I get 1/10th of the way, I'm home," she said.

'I was trying to discover myself'

'In 2009, I was trying to discover myself as an actor, and that's when the journey started. I'm 41 years old and have been associated with this film for 16 years.'

Are you ready for The Goat Life, which promises to be the greatest survival adventure and India's biggest desert film?

Directed by Blessy and starring Prithviraj Sukumaran and Amala Paul, the film has music by A R Rahman.

"It was a special film for multiple reasons. The journey didn't start in 2018, it started in 2009. 2008-2009 is when Mr Blessey procured the rights of this wonderful book," Prithviraj says at the film's launch in Mumbai.

"In 2009, I was trying to discover myself as an actor, and that's when the journey started. I'm 41 years old and have been associated with this film for 16 years."

"From the very beginning, Blessey was particular that this wasn't going to be a green screen film. It had to be shot in organic locations. In 2018, we started shooting and then the pandemic came in between. When the world opened, we went back to Algeria. I don't know if a film crew has ever seen the kind of places we have shot in, we were that deep in the desert," Prithviraj adds.

"When they first came to me, I didn't understand how big the film was," Rahman says.

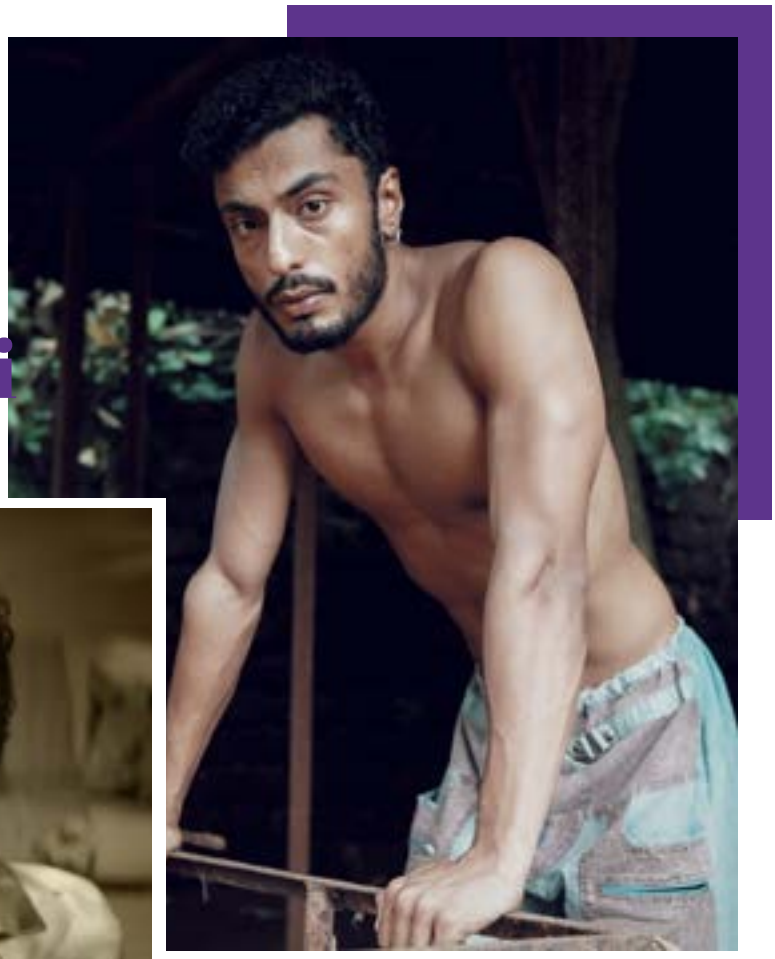
"But Blessy was very persistent. He came and told me the story and I gave him a few tunes. Then finally, I went to Jordan. I'm an explorer and I'm my first audience. If I get bored with something, I don't do it."

"They gave me very little time to write the given melody. This was composed first, and written later so I had to write to the tune," Prasoon Joshi ads.

The Goat Life is based on the popular Malayalam novel, Aadujeevitham. It follows the life of a young man named Najeeb, who in the early '90s, migrates from the lush green shores of Kerala in search of fortunes abroad.

The film will be released in theatres on March 28 in five languages, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada.

Love Adhura: Actor Saqib Ayub's Next after Brahmastra, Farzi & She



Actor Saqib Ayub of Farzi, She, and Brahmastra fame will now be seen in Love Adhura, currently streaming on Amazon Mini TV, essaying the role of an antagonist opposite Karan Kundra and Erica Fernandes. In Love Adhura, the ace actor takes on the role of a complex character, a crazed psychopath who thrives on chaos and destruction. Tasked with executing the dark deeds of those who hire him for monetary gain, Saqib's current character, Prakash, embodies a blend of loudness, sleaze, and an insatiable appetite for conflict and pain. In fact, a little birdie tells us that the show's director, Tanveer Bookwala, who gave the actor complete freedom to play around with his character, would often proclaim on the set that Saqib's got his inner 'Joker' out, and particularly in his scenes with another female assassin.

Reflecting on his experience of shooting for Love Adhura in Munnar, Saqib says it had its own advantages and challenges too. "Unfavourable weather and fluctuating network played the biggest spoil sports. We would have perfect natural lighting and then suddenly a massive cloud cover or rain would ruin our plans! The hotel we were at had almost no network and bad internet. But the cast and crew members bonded really well because of that, and I'm certain that this camaraderie will be evident in the show. Despite the challenges, we managed to pull off a fantastic job! We found joy in simple pleasures like playing Uno and indulging in the delicious passion fruits of Munnar. Erica generously provided kilos of it for everyone, and soon we were all hooked."

Having worked with Imtiaz Ali, Raj & DK, Ayan Mukerji and other brilliant filmmakers, as an actor, Saqib prefers to embrace the director's vision of his character at hand. With regards to the much-needed transition from playing dark characters to returning to himself, he quips, "Coming out of a character isn't really a big deal, actually. I'm back to being Saqib as soon as the director announces 'pack up!' It all comes down to mental compartmentalisation, which I believe is an indispensable skill and asset for any actor in reel life, as well as for any individual in real life." Despite his extensive experience portraying negative roles, the actor is determined not to be typecast. Reflecting on his desire to break away from the gangster image established by projects like Farzi and Bambai Meri Jaan, he shares, "Both characters are close to my heart. But I want to explore diverse roles – that of a small-town guy from UP, or a student activist fighting for the rights of tribals, a quintessential Bollywood lover boy, a helpless man in a tragedy, an out and out goofball in a comedy, a boxer, an athlete, a footballer, an underdog, and the list goes on! And, more than anything, I would like to play characters that are prevalent in our society but are rarely spoken about."

The actor who is steadily climbing the ladder of success, has at least three more projects in the pipeline after Love Ahdura – two with Applause Entertainment, and one with Excel Entertainment. Notably, the latter will be Saqib's second project with Excel Entertainment following the success of Bambai Meri Jaan.

RISING ACTOR, BHUPESH RASEEN STRENGTHENING HIS FOOTSTEPS IN BOLLYWOOD

Bhupesh Raseen, a rising actor of Bollywood, is going to appear in KC Bokadia's 'Sardar:The Game Changer' serial and he is playing an important character of Bashir Hussain Zaidi-Diwan of Rampur.

KC Bokadia's 'Sardar: The Game Changer', is based on Geeta Manek's book 'Sardar: The Game Changer,' the serial delves into the significant contribution of Sardar Patel in integrating over 562 princely states into India. This serial is directed by Dayal Nihalani and produced by Rajesh Bokadia. The cast includes Rajit Kapur as title role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajeshwari Sachdev as Manibeni Patel, Rakesh Chaturvedi Om as VP Menon, Deepak Antani as Mahatma Gandhi, Sanjay as Nehru, Rajesh Khera as Jinnah, Rick Maclean as Mountbatten and Bhupesh Raseen as Bashir Hussain Zaidi-Diwan of Rampur. Akashdeep Pandey handles cinematography, with Pradeep as the art director and Harpreet as the music composer.

While talking to Global Movie, Bhupesh Raseen expressed gratitude to KC Bokadia, Rajesh Bokadia, Dayal Nihalani and Vinod Choudhary for giving him this break and including him as a part of this great serial. Bhupesh Raseen highlighted the challenges of bringing such an extraordinary serial to the screen and praised KC Bokadia & producer Rajesh Bokadia

for the initiative. Bhupesh Raseen thanked the makers for the opportunity to portray an important role of Bashir Hussain Zaidi-Diwan of Rampur in the serial.

Bollywood Actor, Bhupesh Raseen has recently finished the film, 'Tiger of Rajasthan' as a Villain. While talking to Global Movie about the film, Bhupesh Raseen said, "Tiger of Rajasthan is inspired from real incidents and the dramatic conflicts and emotional turmoil will relate to the audiences. I am glad that I am getting to play something which will showcase my calibre and I hope the audience will like the film. I am super excited to portray this negative character. The film is complete and now under censor with censor board."

When Global Movie, asked Bhupesh Raseen about his other films, then he replied "I have done cameo role in 'The Rise of Sudarshan Chakra' and 'Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai'. 'The Rise of Sudarshan Chakra' is already released. The film, 'Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai' will be releasing soon and I am blessed to be a part of this iconic film." Bhupesh further informed,

"I have acted in T-Series Bhakti Sagar music videos, as the lead actor with playback voice of Udit Narayan & Suresh Wadkar."

While talking to Global Movie, Bhupesh said, "As far as my roles are concerned, I love to do lead villain, but open to do good character roles as well. I wish to perform in the films & series of all genre including action, drama, comedy, suspense thriller." A source says that Hollywood Film, 'Vampire vs Rawhide' is under pre-production and shooting is likely to be in US, Georgia, Germany & India, Bhupesh is likely to be part of this film as Villain.

Bhupesh Raseen has been approached by Bollywood film makers and south film makers, says a source. When Global Movie, asked him, then he smiled & replied "Will inform you at a right time. Yes, the discussions are on."

Bollywood Actor, Bhupesh Raseen is Rajesh Khanna's soul brother. Bhupesh Raseen was used to be by the side of Rajesh Khanna always. Their relationship grew over two decades into a bond that went beyond blood ties. According to Bhupesh "With the blessing of Kakaji, my film career has started. I feel that my dear soul brother, Superstar Rajesh Khanna is blessing me from the heaven. I miss him a lot."

When Global Movie asked Bhupesh Raseen that how he feels after doing lead Villain in 'Tiger of Rajasthan' and now appearing as a positive character in 'Sardar : The Game Changer. He replied, "while performing each & every character, actor has to live with it. I never act. I simply bring out the real animal that's in me. Being an actor, my job is to express emotion as freely as possible. I must to do my part well and I am sure that God will do the rest."

How Aditi-Siddharth Fell In Love

Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth made their relationship official by announcing their engagement last week.

The couple have been dating for a few years.

Aditi and Siddharth first met on the sets of their Telugu film Maha Samudram in 2021.

Sparks flew, and by the time they finished filming, Aditi and Siddharth were in love.

The same year, the couple made their first appearance together at Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa's wedding in Chandigarh (Aditi and Patralekhaa were apparently flatmates when they began their film careers).

Later, they also attended A R Rahman's daughter Khatija's wedding reception in Chennai.

Despite making appearances at several film events and weddings together, Aditi and Siddharth continued to remain tight-lipped about their relationship.

In April 2023, Aditi posted a fun video from one of their travels to wish Siddharth on his birthday and penned a cute message: 'Happy birthday manicorn. To happiness always! movies, love, music, to always having the strongest purest heart, to magic, truckloads of laughter and to never never never growing up! Be magical, be you. Happiest siddu day.'

In October, Siddharth had a beautiful birthday message for his ladylove too, calling her 'partner.'

He wrote on Instagram, 'Isn't she lovely? Happy Birthday partner. Thank you for being. All the pixies in all the worlds. Fly around sprinkling dust in your grace. Incantations and giggles fill the air. All in all, wait for a smile on your face. Be you be true, And thank you, For showing us It always, without fail, takes two. See you soon. It's been too long.'

Looking loved-up in a BTS picture from the sets of their film Maha Samudram.. Aditi and Siddharth promote Maha Samudram along with co-star Sharwanand and Director Ajay Bhupathi.

After posting lovely birthday messages for each other, Aditi and Siddharth headed to Europe in December to celebrate New Year's Eve.

Boney Kapoor confirms Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Arjun Kapoor as cast of No Entry 2 along with 10 actresses: "This script is funnier than the first one"

The comedy flick No Entry, featuring Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, and Fardeen Khan, left audiences in splits with its impeccable comic timing. For years, fans have eagerly awaited news of a sequel, and recent reports suggest that director Anees Bazmee is gearing up for a fresh take.

Now, producer Boney Kapoor has confirmed that actors Varun Dhawan, Arjun Kapoor, and Diljit Dosanjh will headline the project. This casting revelation has sparked high expectations among fans, who are eager to see how the new ensemble will bring their flair to the beloved franchise.

EXCLUSIVE Boney Kapoor confirms Varun Dhawan, Arjun Kapoor and Diljit Dosanjh as cast of No Entry 2 along with 10 actresses "This script is funnier than the first one"

Adding to the excitement, producer Boney Kapoor disclosed that the actors will be romancing not one, not two, but ten heroines in the film. They plan to kick off the movie by the end of the year. During the promotions of Maidaan, "All the names said are true. They are the ones playing the part [in the film]. Let's hope things work out well and it is as interesting and fun as No Entry 1. The script is absolutely fabulous. All I can say is this script is funnier than the first one."

He added, "The actresses will be new. Since the entire star cast has changed, this film would have 10 actresses. Actresses aren't finalised yet." Boney said that the actors and the director Anees Bazmee are finalised for the project. Meanwhile, casting for actresses is underway.With the stage set for a fresh interpretation of the much-loved comedy, anticipation is running high for No Entry 2. Released in 2005, the original film is a comedy of errors that revolves around the characters of Salman Khan, Fardeen Khan and Anil Kapoor's escapades and the chaos that ensues when their lives intersect.

Meanwhile, Boney Kapoor is gearing up for the release of Maidaan starring Ajay Devgn. Based on the life of Syed Abdul Rahim, the film will release on Eid 2024.

Twinkle Khanna REACTS to Zomato's "Pure veg" fiasco:

"It has connotations of caste, hierarchy, and untouchability"

Twinkle Khanna has offered her perspective on the recent controversy surrounding Zomato's "pure veg" delivery initiative.

Twinkle Khanna, author and former actress, has offered her perspective on the recent controversy surrounding Zomato's "pure veg" delivery initiative. In a column for The Times of India, Khanna acknowledged Zomato's perceived business strategy: identifying a potential market gap and capitalising on it. However, she spoke about the cultural implications overlooked by the "pure veg" terminology. The actress-turned-author highlights the distinction between "pure veg" and labels like "vegetarian" or "vegan." She argues that "pure veg" carries connotations of caste, hierarchy, and untouchability, potentially offending in the Indian social context.

She compares words to a "scalpel" or a "dagger," depending on their usage and potential impact. The unintended consequences of Zomato's word choice serve as a cautionary tale. The 50-year-old author concludes by shedding light on the power of words to bridge divides or stir emotions. She encourages mindful communication, suggesting that well-chosen words can build understanding.

An excerpt of her caption read, "On the surface, it seemed like a solution crafted for people with specific dietary requirements, but underneath that layer, they forgot that 'pure veg', unlike vegetarian or vegan, has connotations of caste, hierarchy, and untouchability. Communication is a serrated tool; it can be a healing scalpel or a dagger depending on how you use it, and that still doesn't take into account how good your aim is."

For the unversed, the Zomato controversy unfolded in March 2024. The company's initial plan included a separate delivery fleet for vegetarian orders, distinguished by green uniforms. Following significant backlash online, Zomato backtracked, removing the green branding and renaming the service "veg only." Delivery personnel also retained the standard red uniforms

'MISSION TO ABROGATE ARTICLE 370 IS ONE OF THE MOST INTELLIGENT MISSIONS IN INDIAN HISTORY'

National Award-winning director Aditya Suhas Jambhale is basking on the success of his Hindi feature film debut, Article 370 which has attained superhit status.

"I am a big fan of Western political thrillers and have always felt that there weren't any references for such a film in India. So it was a challenge in the first place. The only mantra I followed was to go with what my heart says, and don't get into calculations,"

Aditya feels the original material and research already had inherent drama.

"I had to recognise and identify it and thereafter, cinematically present it. In this, every department deserves the credit. The treatment was the core for this film. If the treatment is interesting, the drama is bound to connect with the audience."

"I would like to mention the editor of this film, Shiv Panicker, who deserves a great deal of credit. Not to forget the music by Shashwat Sachdev. The entire team believed in the drama, no one ever doubted it."

Aditya is thrilled by the audiences' response.

"It's amazing!" he exclaims.
"The audience reactions in the theatres, the emotions, slogans, claps and whistles make me emotional as a Hindustani. I am grateful to the audience and the entire team which supported me."

"Making my debut in a theatrical release and then get this kind of response is unbelievable. Having said that, I would like to say that I dreamt about this. During the time I worked on this film, I believed this might happen and destiny was kind enough."

The director, whose short film Amritsar Junction, was well received, says he was not thinking of the box office while making his first feature film.
"When I was making the film, I was loyal to my vision. I did not think about what the audience would like nor did I make any calculations. As a film-maker, that is not the right approach. I told this story the way it excited me."

'I was emotional when the decision took place on August 5, 2019.'
'I made the film with clear intentions of projecting the truth.'

"Lots of people told me that the audience was not ready for a political action thriller, but I always believed that if told with conviction, the film will be received well."

The research for Article 370 was arduous and took five months.

"The biggest challenge was to get information from different resources because none of it was in the public domain," he says.

"We spoke to some investigative journalists and other sources. After compiling all the events, dates and significant pointers, we started connecting the dots and the picture became crystal clear. By the end of it, we felt we had become investigative journalists!"

Aditya is not perturbed by allegations of the film labelled pro-government propaganda.

"The day I started work on this film, I knew these allegations would follow. But I don't think about it anymore. I think the film and craft need to answer these allegations."

"I believe Indian audiences are smart and aware of a film-maker's intentions. You can't fool the Indian audience. They will watch the film and form their opinion based on what they see and feel."

Aditya was convinced about the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir."I believe that Kashmir was, is and will always be a part of India. The mission to abrogate Article 370 is one of the most intelligent and successful missions ever carried out in Indian history. I was emotional when the decision took place on August 5, 2019. I made the film with clear intentions of projecting the truth."

'PLAYING TIPSY IS DIFFICULT TO ENACT"

Bahut mazaa aaya tha doing Agneepath. When you are working with good actors, it enriches your acting.'

'Amitabhji and I had done Shahenshah before, but that was a fun film.'

Rohini Hattangady, who was seen in the Marathi film Aata Vel Zaali (It's Time To Go)**, feels films offer you life lessons.**

She's had a long successful career in the movies, and she's learnt so much from it.

In the second segment of a fascinating life and times interview, Rohini goes back in time and says "It was my first entry in my debut film and no way was I going to just show my profile to the audience! Poora chehra dekhni chahiye (my full face should be visible), I told myself, and improvised on the spot."

Let's flashback to your first film which was released back in 1978: Saeed Mirza's Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan. What memories does it bring back?

Even though it was my first feature film, I had been actively doing theatre where they teach you that even if you aren't facing the audience in a scene, three-fourth of your profile should always be visible to them or they will get unsettled.

This was playing on my mind when my first shot was explained to me.
I had to open a door that leads to a passage. The camera is to the right, the door to Arvind's cabin to the left.
I have to head left and enter the room.
It was my first entry in my debut film and no way was I going to show just my profile to the audience!

Poora chehra dekhni chahiye (my full face should be visible), I told myself, and improvised on the spot.

I open the door, look to the right, straight into the camera, then, with a yahan nahin hai expression, head left towards the cabin.
(Laughs) If Saeed noticed what I did, he didn't comment or object and the audience got to see my full face.

Talking of plays, you won the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2004 for your contribution to theatre.

Yes, that was nice.

Most people know me as a film actress, but I trained at the National School of Drama under Ebrahim Alkazi and started my career on stage.

In fact, while still at NSD, Jaydev (husband Jaydev Hattangadi) and I started our Marathi theatre group in Mumbai, Awiskar, and we produced over 150 plays.

You have acted in a Kannada play, and even a Japanese Kabuki play. I remember you in a solo, Marathi play, Aparajita.

That play was originally performed in Bengali by Tripti Mitra in the 1970s.

It was written by Nitish Sen for Shombhu Mitra.

Later, it was translated into Marathi by Tara Pandit and Sulabha Deshpande recommended it to Jaydev.

He found it very long and edited it considerably.

Also, after 30 years, he felt that the ending should change.

Why?

The play revolves around Aparajita, a battered woman who has been thrown out of her home by her promiscuous husband after she discovers that he is having an affair with his aunt.

She moves in with her brother and bhabhi and is entrusted to take care of their young son.

Wanting to do something in life, but not having any formal education, she reaches out to Sanjeevdada, her brother's once radical friend, who has several natak companies, for a role in a play.

She is waiting for the phone call which she hopes will change her life, but it comes with a price.

Aparajita is asked to come to the metro station, implying that she will have to compromise her dignity for the break which may or may not materialise.

So what change did you make?

In the original play, after much thought, Aparajita decides to go to the metro station.

Jayadev did not like the idea of her prostrating herself.

He thought as Aparjita, the unvanquished, she would do any work, no matter how menial, but would never compromise on her dignity.

So he changed the ending, with the writer's consent.

It now had Aparajita stating decisively, 'Main metro bhi nahin jaoongi.'

We performed the play in 1996, and coincidentally, the first performance was in Kolkata.

Nitishda, who was in the audience, came to meet us after the show and said that had he written the play now, this would have been his ending too.

I was relieved.

The character remained unsullied, undefeated and defiant.

Your character in Arth, the maid who works for Shabana Azmi's character Pooja, is also boldly defiant after killing her promiscuous, drunkard husband after he blows up the money she has saved for her daughter's education. It won you the Filmfare Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

Yes, my inspiration for that character was Shantabai who washed the utensils in our house and helped my mother with the chores.

She lived in the vadi just behind our home in Pune.

Her husband worked in some factory and had to walk 10 miles to and from work. They had a son and a daughter.

My brother and I would drop by her place during festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi.

Shantabai's daughter was two years younger than me and studied in the same school.

When I grew out of my school uniforms, she would get it, along with my books when I was promoted.

Shantabai was very insistent that her children should be educated well.

My mother helped her a lot.

Eventually, the daughter did a Montessori teaching course and started working.

(Smiles) When Arth was narrated to me, the character reminded me of Shantabai who had taught me how to wear a nine-yard sari in a play.

In the same year as Arth, there was Govind Nihalani's Party in which your performance won you the National Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Yes, but unlike the bai in Arth, Mohini is not in control of her life.

She has given up her career for a man, now a celebrated playwright, who is no longer interested in her and is having an affair.

Yet, she lies besides Divakar, night after night, yearning for his love.

There's that scene where while speaking to Deepa Sahi's Sona, Mohini looks into the mirror and shrinks back, afraid that she is now old and unattractive.

There's another scene before the mirror where she is applying, or rather smearing lipstick.

She is drunk throughout the party, actually, not sozzled, but tipsy.

(Laughs) Thoda sa peene se bahut kuchh bahar aa jaati hai (When you are slightly drunk, you reveal a lot).

Playing tipsy is also far more difficult to enact.

In 1990, there was Agneepath and Suhasini Chavan, the mother of Vijay Deenanath Chavan, a performance that won Amitabh Bachchan the National Award for Best Actor.

Bahut mazaa aaya tha (I had a lot of fun) doing that film. When you are working with good actors, it enriches your acting.

Amitabhji and I had done Shahenshah before, but that was a fun film. Agneepath was very intense and one day, talking about his role, he said that in this film, he wanted the audience to sit forward in their seats.

That was his approach to the role.

While you have been applauded for your intense performances, you were delightful as Sridevi's wicked aunt, Amba, in ChaalBaaz, and also Sribaby in Jalwa.

(Smiles) Humour is difficult, you need to have the comic touch and your timing must be perfect.

I had played a few comic characters on the Marathi stage and jumped at the chance to play these characters even though in Jalwa, I had a cigarette in my hand.

I hate smoking, but had learnt how to smoke for the play Mitra Chi Gosht because my director, Vinay Apte, not only wanted me to puff on a cigarette but hold the smoke inside and then slowly exhale, so it came out of my mouth as I was speaking.

'You should look like you are smoking,' he would say, and on the first day of rehearsals. I was taught how to hold a cigarette, light one without my hand shaking, and finally, how to smoke it right.

By the time the rehearsals ended, I was an expert even though I still didn't like smoking.

Fortunately, in Jalwa, I just had to hold the cigarette in my hand. Not smoke it.

What's keeping you busy now?

There's Chandrakant Kulkarni's play, Charchughi.

The phrase 'char choughin sarkhi' in Marathi, from which the title is derived, means 'like four other or ordinary women' which these four most definitely aren't.

I play the aai (mother) and all three daughters were born from an affair with a married man.

One of the milestones of Marathi theatre, the play made history between 1990 and 2000.

It was revived 31 years after it was first staged, with a new cast. We've already had 250 shows.

Then there is a small Marathi film, Respect, and a Telugu film, Telusa Manasa.

Do you speak Telugu too?

(Laughs) No, I don't know the language. I write my lines down phonetically and mug them.

I don't care for prompters so I've told the director to not give me more than four lines in a shot as that's all I can remember.

ADITI SINGS ANG LAGA DE, NOODLE SA DIL

'There must have been some wonderful genetic disorder due to which I was attracted towards filmi songs.'

One of the things that was appreciated in Varun Grover's feature film, **All India Rank**, was its music, especially the song Noodle Sa Dil.

It is sung by **Aditi Paul**, who has a bunch of notable songs to her credit, but listeners probably know her best as the voice behind the sensuous song Ang Laga De from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela.
"It has been 11 years since Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela released, but it srill feels like yesterday. Fans are still making reels on Ang Laga De and tagging me on social media,"

How was your experience working on Noodle Sa Dil?
It has been fabulous because the kind of songs I had sung so far were little on the classical or semi classical side.

People associate me with that genre.

So this is for the first time that I have sung a disco track, and I loved it.

Actually, the makers were looking for the copyright of the Made In India song by Alisha Chinai.

It is a tribute to that era and that kind of genre. Luckily, I got to sing this song.

Did you have as much fun while recording it as listeners are having listening to it?

I remember the recording day clearly. The composers of the song are Mayukh-Mainak. I have sung for them before.

Once they had asked me if I would like to do a song of this genre.

I did a bit of a research and heard a few of Nazia Hassan songs for the technicalities, and the kind of sur they would use in disco songs.

Then I sang it.

Now, I am getting so many messages on Instagram, especially from youngsters.

Disco is something which was played in the '80s and the '90s. Now, it's the era of hip-hop. Still, they are loving it.

You have worked with Sanjay Leela Bhansali in Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela.

It has been 11 years since Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela released, but it srill feels like yesterday.

Fans are still making reels on Ang Laga De and tagging me on social media.

This was a very soft song on the album, so it did not get much hype in the beginning. It got its due later.

Working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali sir has been amazing.

I was in awe when I first met him.

He had come to the sets of Indian Idol as a guest judge. His film Black was about to release then.

Watch Aditi sing Ang Laga De from Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela.

He is known to be a very strict film-maker. Is he also a strict composer?

Honestly, I have never seen him on sets. As far as the recording experience is concerned, I would say no.

He was more like a teacher.

He would just say, 'Maybe you could sing in this way and just imagine how Lata Mangeshkarji would sing this line.'

The brief for Ang Laga De was that just like Lag Ja Gale, there is this longing in the song and in addition to that, there is a certain kind of innocence also.

He said, 'They want to meet and become one. This is the night they are getting married and they will be spending time together and it's their first time of togetherness, of a beautiful journey and innocence.'

Was Ang Laga De Re your first Bollywood song?

For a big banner, yes.

But before that, I sang a song in a film called Rann starring Amitabh Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh and Kichcha Sudeep. It was a Ram Gopal Varma film.

It was a montage song and picturised on Amitji's sequences.

I was shuttling between Kolkata and Bombay back then.

After I moved here, I took Urdu classes to tone down my Bengali accent.

Now, I am way better at Hindi.

Watch Aditi Paul sing Noodle Sa Dil from All India Rank.

Noodle Sa Dil is a tribute to Alisha Chinai. Have you met her?I met Alisha Chinai only once.It was during the promotions for Indian Idol 3. She was one of the judges.
She is a diva, of course.

Who were your favourite singers growing up?

I grew up in Santiniketan, and studied there.

I come from a middle-class Bengali family and my parents wanted me to become an academician.

I was not allowed to sing or listen to any film song, irrespective of the language.

We used to live in a joint family.

There was a television in our uncle's house and there would be this show called Chitrahaar.

Because my parents were working, I would watch it before they reached home.

I discovered Kishore Kumar through my older brother. He used to listen to songs of Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Geeta Dutt, Manna Dey...

There must have been some wonderful genetic disorder due to which I was attracted towards filmi songs.

I love film songs. I love Bollywood songs.

How did your participation in the first season of Indian Idol help your singing career?

That shaped my career because when I participated in it, I was not into Hindi singing. I was so new to Hindi as a language.

There was also a gender problem; I could not differentiate between 'ki' and 'ka.'

The pronunciation was another issue.

So all these issues were there, but Indian Idol gave me a name.

Having said that, when I started my recordings, I had to start from scratch.

I made my demo of two original songs, composed by my Guruji Bhavdeep Jaipurwale and I started circulating them.

That's how I started my journey in jingles.

Then Goliyon Ki Raasleela: Ramleela happened.

Do you remember your first pay cheque?

I started with background music. There was this film called Main Aurr Mrs Khanna (2009), starring Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor.

This was the second I think. I forgot the first project for which I got my first pay cheque.

I think was for about Rs 5,000.But before that, ICICI Bank had opened accounts for the top 10 contestants of

Indian Idol
.Each one of us got a cheque of Rs 25,000

‘If you want to be a Singer, you can only think of Bollywood. This is not right’

‘Don’t object to change; understand why people like it.’
‘Don’t object to change; understand why people like it.’

Singer **Babul Supriyo**, who gave us hit albums like Sochta Hun and Kuch Aisa Lagta Hai, recently sang the song Khoya Khoya Chand from his 90s album of the same name in Lo-Fi version.

"There are so many singing competitions, there are so many winners, they are all lost, they do lots of shows and make lots of money, but they can only be famous if they sing for Bollywood, so no one wants to do independent songs because that requires lots of money, music companies don't support you, they say make it with your own money,"

Why did you choose Khoya Khoya Chand for a Lo-Fi version? What does Lo-Fi mean?

Kumar Tauraniji (managing directors, Tips Music) has been a mentor, philosopher and a dear friend. He has a lot of experience.

We were just talking, and we realised that this song lives in the hearts of people.

I won't be able to define Lo-Fi. It means Low Fidelity.

So many great remakes have a Lo-Fi version today.

When you want to revisit a song from the past, you are basically showering extra love to it.

You pick a song from the past and introduce it in the present for the future. So many such songs have been picked and they have been hits in films.

Abhimanyu Pragya did the Lo-Fi version. I am happy with the way the video has been done.

The original video was shot on Dia Mirza. It was Farah Khan's first directorial venture in a video.

Today, you can spend money and have your song reach 4 million views in two days.

But in this case, there is an organic increase of 3,000 to 4,000 a day. It is catching up with the youth.

This song released in the late 1990s. If a person was 14-15 in 1999, unki zindagi ke syllabus mein romance jab dheere dheere enter kar rahi hai, dil dhadakne laga rahe hai, pet mein butterflies ho raha hai, jo naye romance ka infatuation ka feeling hota hai....

Today, that person will be 39 years, and he will revisit his past.

We thought that for the Insta generation, this is a beautiful composition by Sajid-Wajid.

Sadly, Wajid is not with us any more.

It has Sameerji's lyrics.

How did you get time to sing Khoya Khoya Chand given your busy political career?

Twenty four hours (in a day) is enough for whatever you want to do in life.

Don't waste time on things you don't want to do.

If you know how to manage your time, you will have time for everything, and everyone.

I have been a minister throughout my political career, from 2014.

I have handled urban development, housing, urban poverty alleviation...

I have handled heavy industries and public enterprises, climate change, forest environment...

Now in West Bengal with Mamatadidi, I am handling two portfolios: Information Technology and Electronics and Renewable Energy.

I am always in the moment.

I have made a new rule: When I'm having my morning tea, a guy keeps the harmonium on my bed.

So while I'm writing what my plan for the day is, that harmonium is in front of me and I do riyaz of 40-50 minutes.

Kaho Ho No Pyar was your big break. How did life change for you?
How tough is it to survive in the industry? How did you cope when you were out of work?

Earlier, slow songs had something called Jhankar beats. Then, we started remixes and now Lo-Fi mix.

Where are we headed next?

Don't object to change; understand why people like it.

So many films are not box office successes, but we watch them on OTT.

There are so many opinions on social media.

I feel in every decade, there is something new that people like.

Bollywood is walking in a healthy direction today. You see movies with the best technology.

Films are not only made for stars. On OTT, you see so many unknown actors in content-driven films and shows, and they are a huge success.

We may be behind Hollywood in technology, but we are moving at a very fast pace.

Our technicians are fantastic.

The only negative thing is that the independent music scene has tilted a bit. If you want to be a singer, you can only think of Bollywood. This is not right.

We had such a rich indie-pop space, but FM stations and music channels have killed it.

They don't play independent songs. Earlier, there was something called Artist of the Month by MTV but there's nothing like that today.

There are so many singing competitions, so many winners, but they are all lost.

They do shows and make money but they can only be famous if they sing for Bollywood. So no one wants to do independent songs because music companies don't support you.

Baba Saigal's Thanda Thanda Pani, Alishai Chinoy's Made In India, KK's Pal, Sonu Nigam's Deewana, Lucky Ali's Suno, Daler Mehendi's albums, Sochta Hoon by me, Rabbi Shergill's Bulla Ki Janna Main Kaun, Shaan's Tanhaa Dil... all the first albums are famous and played even today.

But after that, when these singers made albums, they did not get that kind of publicity. They lost out to Bollywood.

Bollywood songs are shot for Rs 3 crore to Rs 4 crore (Rs 30 million to 40 million). How much money will you spend in a non-filmi song? Not more than Rs 15 lakh to Rs 25 lakh (Rs 1.5 million to Rs 2.5 million).

If we don't play them on radios or music channels, word-of-mouth is the only publicity it gets.

Things have become harder for independent music

'I'm pretty thick-skinned now'

'I don't jump at everything that comes my way.'
'(But) To say that I have too many offers coming my way is also a lie.'
'I'm not one of those people who turn down scripts every day.'

She's an actor, entrepreneur, television host, producer, podcast host. Clearly, nobody champions multitasking like **Neha Dhupia.**

With experiences spanning over two decades, Neha certainly knows how to create opportunities for herself.

Her talk show No Filter Neha features a slew of Bollywood stars in their candid avatar, and is co-produced under her home banner, Big Girl Productions.

"After spending over two decades in the business, I feel like nobody else can define your worth, except yourself,"

It's been eight years to No Filter Neha, as it enters the sixth season.

The best thing about season six of No Filter Neha is that it is on video.

It's very exciting for me as a co-producer and host to be in a situation where I know I'm in season 6.

It's a huge stamp of approval from the audience.

Guests keep coming back year after year to share their unfiltered side.

There was a lockdown, I ended up getting married and having two babies... That kind of slows down the process a little bit because you have to spend time at home.

So I paced myself out. But here I am!

How did the idea of Big Girl Productions come along?

When I was really young, my dad would say, 'What's my big girl doing?'

He used to be like, 'Oh you're a big girl. You can handle any situation.'

I thought it was a cute way of living up to my description and the way I was raised.

It was a value system that was put in my head.

How difficult is it to have unfiltered conversations with stars, especially in the age of social media, where there is so much fan and media scrutiny?

It's not easy but it isn't that hard because

I'm not here from a journalistic point of view.

I don't have a view that I'm going to pick on everything somebody says.

I don't have the intention to make it gossipy.

The idea is just to have a great conversation, and keep it unfiltered.

What are some of the topics that you won't talk about and why?

People's personal lives. I would question it but I won't talk about it if they don't.

I wouldn't talk about something that could offend the person sitting in front of me or somebody else who's worked really hard to make a name for themselves.

I wouldn't put them down or crack a joke at them.

Who has been your best guest?

Oh, it's very hard for me to say that.
But the first one always leaves a memory in your head. And my first ever guest was Karan Johar. It's always fun around him.

You recently said that it was Karan Johar who helped you to prepare for this new season. What makes your equation with Karan special and how has your friendship with him evolved over the years?

He's a really dear friend.
I remember one evening before the recording of the first episode with Tiger (Shroff), I called Karan and said, I'm not feeling it. How do I break the ice? I'm not feeling that I'm prepared 100 per cent.

It was also because I was coming back after a two-year break.

He was like, 'Talk to me on the day of recording the show. You and I can warm up to a conversation.'

And it made me so comfortable, just to hear the sound of his voice to ease me.

He also comes with this huge talk show, which is loved and watched by everyone. I would call him the guru of all talk shows because he has a way of having those conversations.

He's also so helpful. It speaks volumes of him as a person as well.

Amongst all the stars who have graced your show, who is the most punctual? Who takes time to warm up to the chat?

(Thinks) Karan was very punctual.

Ranbir (Kapoor), oh my God, extremely punctual.

Shahid (Kapoor) is very, very punctual.

There are people who talk less and there are people who talk more. But those are their personalities.

Tiger (Shroff) talks less and I talk more.

So between him and me, I was the one doing more of the talking.

Kareena Kapoor Khan, Katrina Kaif, Aditya Roy Kapur, Taapsee Pannu, Kartik Aaryan -- Neha rates the conversational skills of the stars here:

As an actor, has your strategy changed about the kind of films you want to do at this juncture of your career?

I don't jump at everything that comes my way.

(But) To say that I have too many offers coming my way is also a lie.

I'm not one of those people who turn down scripts every day.
After spending over two decades in the business, I feel like nobody else can define your worth, except yourself.

Sometimes if I feel I'm not cut out for (the role), I take my time and say no.

Your journey has seen you don many hats: From beauty pageant winner to actor to being gang-leader on MTV Roadies to headlining a chat show like this. Which one do you enjoy the most? What have you learnt from each of your avatars?

Being a producer is hard but seeing the result is wonderful.

And to be able to see your whole show come up and people talking about it is absolutely fantastic.

But what I enjoy the most is, of course, doing films.

My first love is cinema and there's no taking away from that.

You have been quite fearless in countering social media trolls, who commented on your personal stand on various issues in the past. How do you deal with online negativity and what's the mantra to keep your head down and get going?

The person in me, Neha Dhupia, is okay with taking trolls. Sometimes it's advice, sometimes it's humour, and sometimes it's toxic.

When it reaches stage three, it's unbearable.If you go to my parents or my children or my husband or my friends, then I'm not okay with it.

That's when it really angers me.
But when you say things to me, I'm pretty thick-skinned now.

'One can never be satisfied and happy'

'Language has never been a barrier for me. I'm comfortable wherever the language takes me.'
'I'm still hungry to do more.'

"I'm happy that I got to be part of such wonderful films since the story and the script were very strong in their own way,"

"Bhamakalapam 2 is a sequel so naturally, I had to be a part of it since it was the continuation of my character Anupama's journey. Article 370 was thanks to Producer Aditya Dhar, who was sure that I could be their Rajeshwari. He had the confidence that the script was strong and this piece of history had to be told to the audience."

Priyamani says she has never been short of choices, as she works in multiple languages. "Language has never been a barrier for me. I'm comfortable wherever the language takes me. I'm still hungry to do more. One can never be satisfied and happy."

Priyamani admits The Family Man was a game-changer for her.

"I think The Family Man played a very important role in my career since it was one of the biggest OTT releases, which made the world sit up and watch as to how a man can balance his professional and personal life. For us to come up with a third season speaks of how much audiences have loved the show and the characters."

She enjoyed working with Manoj Bajpayee in The Family man, where she played his wife.

"Manoj sir is someone whose career I have closely followed. I could not have asked for a better co-star. I could not have imagined a better Srikant Tiwari. What he brings to the character, the ease and effortlessness, is something I'm in awe of." She is excited about her next Hindi release, Maidaan.

"It was another box that needed to be ticked," she says. "I had the best time working with Ajay sir (Devgn) though it was only for about 12-15 days. I can't wait for everyone to see the magic unfold when the movie releases. Amit Sharma, as a director, is so fabulous that he knew how to tug at the heartstrings."

Priyamani is content with her career so far."It is the best journey I could hope for," she says. "I am happy with the choices I've made so far. I would like to continue doing the right films as much as I can. I would love to play a negative character, who is at par with the male lead. Or an out and out comedy role. I love all the experiences I have gone through, positive or negative, since they all helped me evolve as a person and actor."

'This is a story that should be told'

Barun Sobti has just completed 15 years of acting, and his new Web series, Rakshak India's Brave, has fetched him fresh laurels.

"I am grateful for each and every moment of it, the highs and lows, the struggles and the hard work,"

"I look forward to the next 15 years. I chose Rakshak for the story, the conviction of the creators, and I genuinely believed that this is a story that should be told."

The actor feels the digital platform has opened new vistas.
"There is an immense amount of diversity in the type of stories, creators and actors that OTTs have enabled. Playing a real-life soldier in Rakshak was a novel experience for Barun: "It was interesting as well as challenging, as I was portraying a real person. I had to read about Subedar Sombir Singhji's life, understand the kind of man he was. It was very important for me to understand such a man, who would happily lay down his life for the nation, to be able to do justice to my character."

The role was not just emotionally challenging to Barun.

"Physically as well, it was a challenge as we were shooting under extreme temperatures. Also, a lot of training was required to fit into the role of a soldier."

Barun would love to be a part of Hindi films if the right role comes along.

"There are numerous talented people in the industry, who are doing some great work. I admire a lot of them. Obviously, we all have a certain type of content that we resonate with and when I find such projects, I try my best to associate with them, irrespective of the form."

He is excited about his forthcoming projects."I am currently shooting for a lighthearted show called Raat Jawan Hai. It is a well-written show about three childhood friends. A couple of interesting conversations over projects are also happening," he says

'I didn't make any money through TV'

'I will never look down upon television. But do I want to do it again? I don't think so.'

In an industry where talent shines brightly but perseverance shines brighter, **Nikita Dutta's** journey from television to the silver screen is inspiring.

She stars in the recent release **Dange**, and wishes to work with Director Sandeep Vanga Reddy again, whose 2019 directorial Kabir Singh shot her to instant fame.

Nikita admits, "I had zero expectations from Kabir Singh.. After that film, I realised that we should never expect anything from any film. If it works, it's a bonus and if it doesn't, just move on."

How was it working with Dange Director Bejoy Nambiar?

He is a very serious film-maker, but if you see his cinema, it is very different.

He is not like your regular film-maker.

It's not just about the scripts that he comes up with, it's also the way he presents them. It is completely different.

That credibility is one of the reasons why I said yes to this film.

As a person, he is a little unpredictable. He can be extremely fun at times and extremely focused at others, and you know this is not the right time to mess with him.

The film that he has made is not just in Hindi; it's also made in Tamil and he has shot it together.

Besides the lead and supporting cast, there is also a Tamil cast and a big crew.

Imagine dealing with all of that!

He is this one-man army.

Sometimes I used to fear him for pulling it off.

Amidst this chaos, if you go and ask him the silliest of questions, he will just smile and say, 'No, no, do it like that.'

He is very calm with his actors.

Were you sceptical about your role in the film as there are so many actors on the cast?

When he narrated the story to me, he had made things clear that there were a lot of characters.
I am a secure person.

I did not have that kind of a thought about who is getting more screen time.

I was clear that the film's main people are Harshvardhan Rane and Ehaan Bhat. I had that realistic clarity in my head.

Bejoy sir wanted me to play the part in the Tamil version as well but I don't know the language.

I am glad I didn't do it because I wouldn't have been able to do justice to it.

You participated in Miss India 2012. Did you always want to participate in a beauty pageant?

Subconsciously, yes.

I never said it aloud because in my childhood, I focused on education.

Watching films was a luxury.

If I behaved well for a week and studied properly, I would be allowed to watch television shows, Son Pari and Sharaarat.

We were kept in a kind of regime, so that

we could never get distracted.

But deep down, I wanted to dance. I also used to do some mimicry.

So if I watch a film, I would try and imitate it.

When I was in college, there was this in-house pageant called Navy Queen.
I really wanted to take part in it because it was a big thing for us.
Within two weeks of my participation, I got a call from Miss India because they had some connection with the organisers.
They said I had to audition for it and I remember calling my mum and telling her, 'This has just happened and what should I do?'

She was like, 'Just go.'

I went there because I had nothing to lose.

I got through, and went to the finale.

I never got the time to think about whether I want to do it or not as one after the other, opportunities just came my way.

If somebody offers you something solid on TV, would you go back and explore that space again?

Honestly, somebody has offered me something on TV and I have to tell you this that the kind of money I was offered, I literally had a second thought.

If I had taken up the show, my next few generations would have sat back and enjoyed it.

But I was very clear that I would not want to go back to this.

I have taken a long time to detach myself from that identity.

I have a lot of respect for television and want to give full credit to it because whatever I have learnt today, it's because of this medium.

I have learnt a lot in those three years and got a lot of love from audiences.

I would never say that it was a big mistake. I will never look down upon television. But do I want to do it again? I don't think so.

I don't think I can connect to that world anymore.

When you quit TV and started going for auditions for films, did you face any discrimination?

Yes. I mean, people are not able to look at you with the kind of mentality they carry.

But I feel I was at an advantage because I had not done a show that stretched for years.

The three TV shows which I have done, I have been very choosy about. I have said no to a lot of shows.

And those three shows were short running shows.

People think it was very stupid of me because I didn't make any money through TV, but I always think about what would have happened in the long run. So I am glad I did that.

You are completing a decade this year in films.

Yes, if you count Lekar Hum Deewana Dil (2014).

I had a cameo in that, so I don't give much importance to it.

I think my career really began from 2015, when I did my first TV show.

Did your appearance in Kabir Singh help you professionally?

Of course, that helped. That has changed my entire career.

After Kabir Singh, a lot of films have been offered to me.

One-and-a-half months before the release of Kabir Singh, I signed Dybbuk (2021) and because Kabir Singh did so well, I was offered The Big Bull from the same producers.

Immediately after Kabir Singh, I was offered Rocket Gang.

So the kind of films I was being offered after Kabir Singh really helped.

Then the pandemic hit us.

Everybody suffered and I did too.

Two films of mine were set to release in the theatres but they went straight to OTT.

A film was delayed for two years and then got shelved.

I have an identity because of Kabir Singh and I give a lot of credit to it.

If Sandeep Vanga Reddy ever makes a film in that space, would you want to be a part of it?

100 percent! Sandeep sir just needs to call me and say that he has written a character for me, and I will do it.

I trust his sensibility because when we were doing Kabir Singh, a lot of times I used to wonder what was I doing in this film.

I met Shahid Kapoor for the first time on the set.

Many times, I used to feel unsure about what was happening, 'I am doing it right?'

So I had zero expectations from Kabir Singh.
After that film, I realised that we should never expect anything from any film. If it works, it's a bonus and if it doesn't, just move on.

You are set to make your Marathi debut soon.

Yes. Hopefully, the film will be released this year.

We had announced it two years ago and it's in the post production stage.

How has your experience in the film industry been?

I have never been thick-skinned, but in the last 10 years, I have become so.

I used to be a very sensitive and emotional person. I still am, but a bit better now. I think with every passing day, with every experience, with every project, I get better.

Whatever I have seen in these 10 years, I have learnt a lot

'I'm not blaming fathers, but...'

'I'm talking about that predator in your house, And how one should protect one's children from him.'

Sexual abuse of children by family members is rarely discussed in India, especially in our films.

But Director Saif Hyder Hasan chooses to go where other directors would hesitate.

In his new film, Yes Papa, he tells the story of a girl who is abused by her father.

"My lawyers told me about this incident where a girl was raped by her father but her mother refused to believe her and packed her off to a hostel. A few years later, another daughter was born to the mother. This time, she caught her husband red-handed," Saif, who has directed plays like Ek Mulaqat, Gardish Mein Taare and Dearest Bapu, Love Kasturba,

"I was so moved by this incident that I incorporated it in the script."

A lot of people are calling me brave for making Yes, Papa. But there is nothing brave about it.

Indian cinema has always stood against social ills.

There was a first film against dowry deaths, a first film against sati, a first film about the caste system, communal disharmony, rape, child sexual abuse... There is always that film which goes against the tide.

Yes Papa, I think, is that first film about incestuous child sexual abuse, where the perpetrator is a father.

The newspapers have been talking about it.

There is a book by Pinky Virani called Bitter Chocolate.

So, as a film-maker, I was sensitive enough to understand the problem.

It started with my wife visiting an orphanage and meeting a real life victim.

Do you feel we, as a society, are not sensitive or attentive towards a girl child's safety in our homes?

I think we need to stop putting them in gender boxes.

The day we stop labeling human beings based on their sexual organs, that is the day when society will make its children safe.

Not just the girl child, children in general are vulnerable.

If the predator is within our homes, we need to identify him, humiliate him and let the law take its own course.

That will be the first step towards ensuring the safety of our children.

While making the film, did you speak to any girl child who was abused at home and the psychological trauma she went through?

As I said earlier, my wife had visited some orphanages.

In one of them, she met a girl who was sexually abused by her father. The orphanage had rescued her.

When my wife met her, she was doing a nursing course at a reputed hospital in Mumbai.

The father was in jail, courtesy the orphanage which had rescued her.

For her, the irony was that her mother was asking her to withdraw the case.

At another time, I met a gynecologist from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. She was a technical witness to a case in which a minor was raped by her father.

The mother did not want to register the case but the girl went ahead and did it.

The mother refused to be a witness.

The father is still in jail and now, the victim's husband is pursuing the matter.

While writing the film, I had met several people who had a story to narrate.

One was about an IFS officer, who had raped his daughter. The mother was an IAS officer and they stayed in Chanakyapuri, Delhi. This also means that such cases are not restricted to the lower class only.

A prominent actor, who is now an MP, told me that he had a friend whose father used to sexually abuse her.

In the father's old age, the victim did his seva like any other daughter.

My lawyers told me about this incident where a girl was raped by her father but her mother refused to believe her and packed her off to a hostel.

A few years later, another daughter was born to her. This time, she caught her husband red-handed.

I was so moved by this incident that I incorporated it in the script.

I would like to say one thing: I'm not blaming fathers in general. I'm talking about that predator in your house, and how one should protect one's children from him.

We have heard of uncles, cousins and other relatives sexually abusing children.

A couple of days ago, I visited an NGO, where I was informed of a man who was sexually abused by his mother as a child. These are unheard of cases but still true.

As a society, we tend to disbelieve children when they tell us that they have been through a certain episode.

Let's start believing them.

Yes Papa was made from a similar conviction.

I have never encountered anything like this personally, but I know it exists and this is what my film talks about.

What are the statistics of girl child abuse in homes in India? Do we have some kind of study that highlights this?

The numbers are huge.
One study says that 85 percent of children are abused by people they know.

Another staggering figure of 35 percent is that it happens in a family.

There's another study that says that of all child abuse cases, 4 percent is done by fathers.

For me, numbers were not important.
Even a single child who has gone through this trauma was important for me.

As a storyteller and member of this society, I thought it was my duty to tell this story.

While directing the film, what were your learnings? What measures do we need to prevent such acts?

While making the film, there was no new learning.

I mean, I was making a feature film, not a documentary. So I was not doing hands-on research. but yes, it's just that at a conscious level, I was more sensitive.

I have a daughter. God forbid if something happens to her.

All children are precious, whether it's a boy or a girl.

How many actors rejected the role of the father in your film?

Five years ago, when I started making the film, people thought I had lost my head.

A prominent actor who I had approached said, 'Are you mad? You make love stories for the stage, what are you making now?'

A prominent film-maker said, 'Don't make this film now. These are bad times.'

An actor friend came home to convince my wife, so that she would persuade me not to make this my debut feature.

People think I make beautiful love stories for the stage, so I should do something similar in cinema.

But I was too obsessed with this idea. My wife encouraged me to use my craft for a social purpose.

She wanted me to explore the idea of Yes Papa after meeting that girl.

Nobody was willing to invest in it.
We had to beg, borrow and steal to make this film.

The actors were very kind.
The vendors were very kind.
The universe was very kind, and that's how we managed to make the film.

The tide started changing last year. On Women's Day, Kushboo Sundar, a former child artiste who is a member of the National Commission for Women, spoke about how her father had sexually abused her as a child.

Swati Maliwal, former chairperson, Delhi Commission for Women, also opened up about her father sexually abusing her.

So the conversation had started.

Ananth Mahadevan plays the father in the film. What made him agree to do the role?

Ananth Mahadevan had a very interesting take on it.

When I was telling him how the entire world was rejecting the idea of Yes Papa, he said, 'When 100 people in the film industry say no to a subject, it's time for you to make it.'

Ananth Mahadevan is a very brave actor. He's very secure.

For him, it was a part that he was supposed to play. That's it.
He understood the vision. He understood where I was coming from and he agreed to collaborate.

He has been a pillar of strength.

Why do film-makers shy away from making films on such subjects? Do film producers only think of profits?

No, that's a very unfair question.

See, film-making is a very expensive business.

So every producer has the right to look at the ROI (Return On Investment).
Also, all kinds of investment exists in every society. Escapist cinema has always been there, revolutionary cinema has always been there.

Shyam Benegal and Manmohan Desai made films in the same era.
Mehboob Khan, Raj Kapoor and Guru Dutt made commercial films with a social message.

If there was a Sholay, there was an Ankur.
Even now, we have films like Lapataa Ladies and Fighter co-existing with each other.

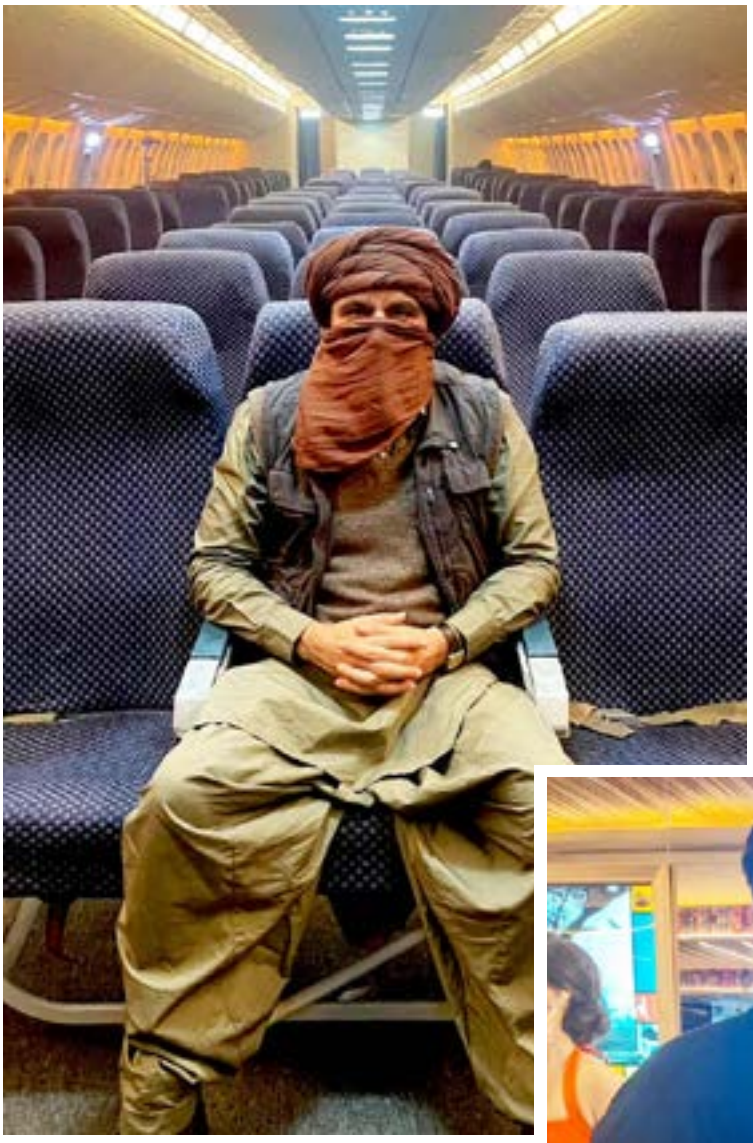
You saw great success with your play, Ek Mulaqat. Would you like to do more films or go back to the theatre?

I'm a storyteller and open to all mediums. After the release of Yes Papa, I plan to start a new theatre production based on the life of Begum Akhtar.

It's a play written by M Sayeed Alam.

Tejaswini Kolhapure has been penciled in for one part.

I need to zero in on Begum Akhtar. That process will start once I release Yes Papa.



THE MAN WE LOVE TO HATE IN YODHA

'Everybody has their bit of struggles and learnings. It will only end when you stop breathing.'

Sunny Hinduja comes from the league of talented actors who found breakthrough success in the OTT space.

Thanks to his popularity with shows like Aspirants, Chacha Vidhayak Hain Humare and The Railway Men, he is making a 'big leap' and finding his footing in films.

His latest outing was the villainous avatar in the Karan Johar production Yodha, starring Sidharth Malhotra.

Since his childhood, Indore-born Sunny has always been an avid watcher of cinema and decided to hone his skills at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune, before making his move to Mumbai to pursue his acting aspirations.

"My dad also wanted to be an actor. He could not pursue acting because of family responsibilities. I just knew that this is what I want to do,"

Is there a sense of validation when you land a film like Yodha?

At a personal level, it brings in more responsibility.
It also brings in the assurance that the things we've been doing are right. It also brings in a lot of love.It gives you more exposure within the industry.

It's a Karan Johar film, and has a wider reach.
It has more industry eyes, more public eyes.`It's a big leap from where I was.

Like you said, it's a Karan Johar film, that itself has a brand value attached to it. What was your reaction when this film was offered to you?

It was a no brainer for me.
I've been a fan of Dharma and Yash Raj Films since my childhood.
It is like a dream come true.

Were you disappointed that your name was kept under the wraps during the film's promotions?

It was all happening for the film. (My character) was a big surprise in the film.

There is only one character that people did not know about and it is being talked about now: Me.

This was probably done on purpose.

What about the character do you find particularly exciting?

It has a fun bit, a bit menacing.

It has the action, which I haven't done in a full-fledged way.

It also helped me to explore myself in a new way.

What's your special memory with the cast during the shoot?

Sidharth (Malhotra) and I had a lot of fun while rehearsing.

We had a lot of discussions.

Raashii (Khanna) and I had a lot of chats, getting to know each other, talking about our interests. We had a good time together on set.

It was fun between the directors and me as well. Even Shashank (Khaitan, the co-producer) was also there.

Your roles in Web shows like Chacha Vidhayak Hain Humare and Aspirants put you on the radar. Has your success on OTT empowered you to choose better roles in films?

There is a big change after that.
There are many things coming my way.
It is a game changer, for sure.

The lines between the mediums have blurred now, be it cinema or OTT. How does this current landscape help the actor like you?

OTT is a great medium.

It not only has the talent to showcase their work and the meatier roles that we always aspired for.

At the same time, there is no box office pressure.

Word-of-mouth is the box office collection in OTT, which is beautiful.

Not only actors, technicians, writers, producers, directors, everyone has an opportunity to choose, experiment and create different and meaningful kinds of content.

Then you can use that experience on the big films.

From among the various characters you have played so far, which one do you relate with the most and why?

I relate to all of them. I have played all of them with so much hard work and dedication.

Jagmohan Kumawat from The Railway Men and Sandeep bhaiya from Aspirants are special to me.

Could you tell us about your life before you became an actor?

I am from Indore.
I have been in a hostel for 10 years, from Class 3 to Class 12.
Then engineering happened. Then FTII.
Then, I came to Mumbai.
I was interested in films since childhood.
I think I get that feeling from my dad because he also wanted to be an actor.

He could not pursue acting because of family responsibilities, as he was the only earning member in the family.

I just knew that this is what I want to do.

Luckily, my family supported me.
Well, the challenges are the same.
I had learnt from FTII. I had done one film but it did not release. So I kept doing different things.

It was very difficult at that time (but) when you look at it in hindsight, it was necessary.

Everybody has their bit of struggles and learnings. It will only end when you stop breathing.

You learn till the end.
I have always believed that the destination keeps changing. You must enjoy the journey.

Are you content with the kind of roles you are getting?

Am I not sounding happy? (Laughs)

I am very thankful for the kind of work that is being offered. And the way things are working out for me.

At the same time, I want to do more.

It doesn't mean that I am not content. I definitely am.

It is the space where millions would aspire to be in. I am very, very thankful for that.

But I want to work on myself. I want to grow as a person and as an actor.

Three film-makers you aspire to work with?

I would love to work with Rajkumar Hirani, Abhishek Chaubey and Zoya Akhtar.

I just love their films.
Whatever work they have done, they are all classics.

Zoya Akhtar's film-making, the kind of work, the kind of variety that she has done, is amazing.

Top 9 Lean Veggie Protein Sources Good For Weight Loss

Discover the power of vegetarian lean protein foods in achieving your weight loss goals. These 8 protein-packed options will not only fuel your body but also support a healthier and leaner you!

1. Chickpeas

Dive into this protein and fiber fiesta! These versatile gems fill you up, crush cravings, and help sculpt your dream bod. Bonus: endless recipe possibilities!

2. Edamame

Pop, crunch, conquer! Packed with protein and nutrients, these little green wonders are a delicious snack attack weapon. Your taste buds and waistline will thank you.

3. Lentils

Steady energy, zero drama. This plant-based protein powerhouse keeps you fuelled for longer, making those hunger pangs a distant memory.

4. Tofu

Master of disguise, champion of protein. This soy-powered wonder takes on any flavor you throw at it, making weight loss a culinary adventure.

5.Quinoa

The complete protein grain on a mission. Quinoa delivers essential amino acids and a nutrient punch, making it a weight-loss all-star.

6. Spinach

Popeye was onto something! This iron- and vitamin-packed green beauty boasts a surprising protein punch to boost your weight loss efforts.

7. Chia Seeds

Tiny seeds, big impact. Load up on protein and omega-3s with these hunger-taming heroes. Sprinkle them on everything for a weight-loss win.

8. Greek Yogurt

Creamy, dreamy, protein-packed goodness. Get your gut health and weight loss goals in sync with this delicious plant-powered delight.

9. Paneer

High-protein, low-carb champion. This versatile cheese satisfies your cravings while keeping you on track, making weight loss a smooth, paneer-ful experience.

HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT AND STAY SLIM WITHOUT WORKING OUT

Don't worry. This is not about pumping more iron in the gym nor about doing all those cardiovascular exercises.

Instead, here we are going to talk about simple activities apart from your regular workout, which do make a lot of difference between you being a chubby chap or a lean dude. A combination of what you eat, when you eat, when you sleep, alongside your usual workout each day determines the shape of your body. Here is what you need to do throughout the day to melt that excess fat.
Build muscles & reduce fat This one is probably the best way of reducing body fat. Most people have this fear that they will get bulkier if they do power lifting. Well to set one thing straight let me tell you- muscle mass is inversely proportional to your body fat. In simple terms if you build more muscles it will boost your metabolic rate, which in turn will result in lesser overall fat percentage.

This one is probably the best way of reducing body fat. Most people have this fear that they will get bulkier if they do power lifting. Well to set one thing straight let me tell you- muscle mass is inversely proportional to your body fat. In simple terms if you build more muscles it will boost your metabolic rate, which in turn will result in lesser overall fat percentage.You must have heard this one before. Most trainers and health experts tell you to eat food high in protein and avoid oily food, rice, red meat, and many more. Well all that is right but what you really need to do is break your eating habits. This simply means instead of consuming 2-3 heavy meals you should try and split that into portions and eat about 6 small meals each day. These frequent and yet short meals would speed up your metabolic rate, which in turn will burn more calories than usual.

1. Try and be hydrated always

Drinking lots of water throughout the day is another thing that you can easily do. Not only will it keep you hydrated but it also assists in shedding the extra weight around your waistline. It also weakens your appetite which means you won't feel hungry.

2. Go to sleep & wake up slim

Not many people are aware but it's true that you burn a lot of calories while sleeping. The reason behind those big bellies of our Desi men has a lot to do with this habit of eating hard and sleeping at night. If you are someone who is regular at the gym or even if you aren't, this habit of having dinner and sleeping right after will definitely hamper your health. Ideally the last meal for the day should be at least 2 hours before you sleep. Whether you call it dinner or supper, it should be really light and include soups, green leafy vegetables and other food items that are high in fiber content. By doing so, your stomach will be filled with food that is low in calories and when you wake up in the morning, you would have already burned more calories than what you consumed.

3. Workout schedule

Usually it's the trainer's job to make your work-out schedule and change it with time but just to explore your body and muscles it won't be a bad idea if you do it yourself. Try changing exercises and observe which one works best for you. Now the question which many people ask is: "how do I know which workout is yielding me the best results?" Well the results can be easily observed by how tired, exhausted, and bulkier you feel after a particular workout.Feels good, doesn't it? You don't have to workout for hours in the gym to shed that extra bit of fat. Other than your usual workout, all you gotta do is- eat, drink, and sleep right & after sometime that beer belly will look more like the tummy of a belly dancer!

08 Expensive houses of Bollywood stars that define "Luxury living"

Mannat, Shah Rukh Khan

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan owns an uber-luxurious, five-bedroom bungalow, Mannat, in Mumbai' Bandra. The mansion is spread over an area of 27,000 square foot (sqft), featuring spacious living rooms and bedrooms, a library, a gymnasium, a personal auditorium and other amenities. The house has been aesthetically designed by the actor's wife and interior designer, Gauri Khan. Mannat is a heritage building and a tourist spot where hundreds of fans visit to catch a glimpse of their superstar. The six-storey, sea-facing property is estimated to be worth Rs 200 crore. Shah Rukh Khan has said that Mannat is his most expensive purchase.

Kajol-Ajay Devgn's house

Bollywood's famous star couple Ajay Devgn and Kajol own a house in Mumbai's Juhu, which is among the most expensive celebrity homes in India. The star couple has named their bungalow, Shivshakti. The bungalow features an elaborate facade with calming shades of cream and brown, a majestic winding staircase, a spacious lobby, a living room and bedrooms and floor-to-ceiling wood-panelled glass windows. According to media reports, Ajay Devgn bought a sprawling bungalow in Juhu for around Rs 60 crore. The new bungalow is spread across 590 square yard close to the actor's existing bungalow, situated in the Kapole Co-operative Housing Society.

Jalsa, Amitabh Bachchan

Bollywood's legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan's residence, Jalsa, is yet another iconic Bollywood celebrity home, located in Mumbai's Juhu. The twin-storey bungalow, located next to JW Marriott, is spread over an area of 10,125 sqft. The modern interiors of the bungalow have been elegantly designed with a minimalist theme. The house has contemporary living rooms, bedrooms, a temple, a garden and terrace and a personal gymnasium. It includes a home office and a study space where the superstar has meetings and script-reading sessions with filmmakers. The bungalow is worth around 100 crore.

Hrithik Roshan's house

Actor Hrithik Roshan lives in a lavish seaside bungalow in Mumbai, located on the Juhu-Versova Link Road. According to media reports, the Bollywood star purchased his house in October 2020 for Rs 97.50 crore and paid a stamp duty of almost Rs two crore. His residence is 38,000 sqft, covering the 14th, 15th and 16th floors of Mannat Apartments in Andheri West and has a sky terrace of around 6,500 sqft. The 15th and 16th floors constitute a duplex of over 27,500 sqft, worth Rs 67.5 crore. The star had also bought the other flat on the 14th floor with an area of 11,165 sq ft for Rs 30 crore The building comes with ten parking lots and various amenities.

Shilpa Shetty's house

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra own a sprawling sea-facing bungalow worth Rs 100 crore in Mumbai. It is located in Juhu, one of the city's expensive neighbourhoods. The couple purchased their seaside bungalow after shifting back to Mumbai from London and have named it Kinara. The property includes spacious living rooms and bedrooms, which reflect a contemporary vibe. The bungalow overlooks the sea and has expansive outdoor area with numerous trees and plants.

Ranveer Singh-Deepika Padukone's house

Bollywood's popular star couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone own a luxurious property in Mumbai's Juhu. They purchased the sea-facing quadruplex worth Rs 119 crore, which is counted as one of the most expensive residential property deals in India. The house is located on the 16, 17, 18 and 19 floors of the luxurious residential tower, Sagar Resham in Bandra. The house is spread around 11,266 sqft and has an exclusive terrace of 1,300 sqft and 19 parking lots. Presently, the star couple stay at an apartment in Beaumonde Towers Prabhadevi, south Mumbai which is worth Rs 20 crore. They also own a 5 BHK G+1 luxury bungalow at Satirje of Alibaug, which is worth Rs 22 crore.

Akshay Kumar's house

Bollywood's action star Akshay Kumar lives with his wife, former actress and interior designer, Twinkle Khanna and children in an uber-luxurious Prime Beach building in Juhu. The lavish residence has an estimated worth of about Rs 80 crore. The property is a duplex, aesthetically designed by Twinkle Khanna. The interiors exhibit nature-friendly designs with modern living spaces, an expansive kitchen and a home theatre. The house also has sprawling outdoor spaces with ample greenery.

Shahid Kapoor's House

Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput own a sprawling duplex house, which they bought in 2018 for Rs 56.6 crore. The house is spread over 8,625 square feet and occupies the 42nd and 43rd floor of Three Sixty West, a high-rise tower in Worli, facing the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. Shahid Kapoor paid an additional Rs. 2.91 crore as stamp duty and registration charges to jointly register the property with Mira Rajput.

THE MOST STYLISH BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES

01 Deepika Padukone

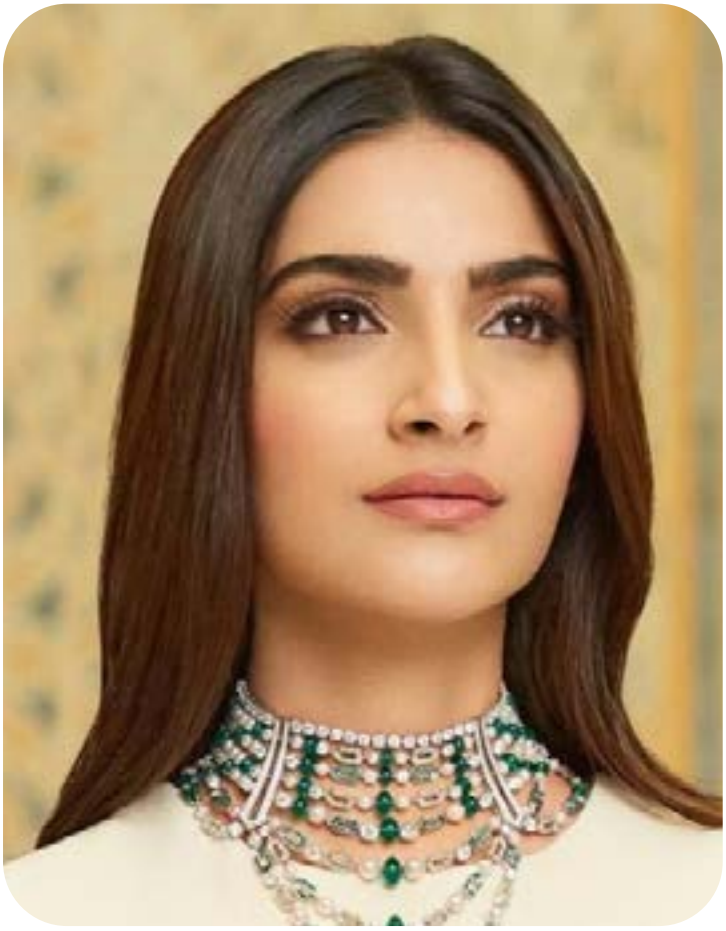
Deepika Padukone has always been a trendsetter, Her style is a perfect blend of elegance and boldness. Whether it's a red-carpet event or a casual outing, Deepika effortlessly carries herself with grace and confidence.

Her fashion choices are diverse, ranging from traditional Indian wear to contemporary Western outfits. Deepika's ability to experiment with different styles and pull off any look with ease makes her a true fashion icon.

02 Ranveer Singh

Known for his eccentric and flamboyant style, Ranveer Singh has become a fashion icon in his own right. He fearlessly experiments with colors, prints, and unconventional silhouettes, making every appearance a fashion statement.

Ranveer's ability to push boundaries and challenge traditional norms of men's fashion has earned him a dedicated following. Whether it's a red-carpet event or a casual street style look, Ranveer's fashion choices are always bold, unique, and full of personality.



03 Sonam Kapoor

Sonam Kapoor, often hailed as the fashion queen of Bollywood, continues to reign supreme . Her fashion choices are a perfect blend of classic elegance and contemporary trends. Sonam effortlessly carries off both Indian and Western outfits, showcasing her versatility and impeccable sense of style. She is known for her attention to detail, whether it's in the form of statement accessories or perfectly tailored ensembles. Sonam's fashion choices are always on point, making her a true fashion icon to watch out for.

04 Ayushmann Khurrana

Ayushmann Khurrana emerged as a style icon with his unique and relatable fashion sense. He effortlessly combines comfort and style, often opting for casual yet chic outfits. Ayushmann's fashion choices reflect his down-to-earth personality and resonate with the youth. Whether it's a formal event or a casual outing, Ayushmann's fashion choices are always on-trend and effortlessly cool. His ability to experiment with different styles and make them his own sets him apart as a true fashion icon.

05 Alia Bhatt

Alia Bhatt's style evolution has been noteworthy. She has transitioned from a girl-next-door image to a fashion-forward diva. Alia's fashion choices are youthful, vibrant, and always on-trend. She effortlessly carries off both Indian and Western outfits, showcasing her versatility. Alia's fashion choices often feature playful prints, bold colors, and contemporary silhouettes. Her ability to experiment with different styles and adapt them to her own personality makes her a true fashion

06 Vicky Kaushal

Vicky Kaushal's understated and classy style has made him a fashion icon. He effortlessly carries off both traditional Indian wear and contemporary Western outfits. Vicky's fashion choices are characterized by clean lines, well-tailored ensembles, and attention to detail. Whether it's a formal event or a casual outing, Vicky's fashion choices exude sophistication and elegance. His ability to strike the perfect balance between classic and modern makes him a standout fashion icon

07 Sara Ali Khan

Sara Ali Khan, the daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, burst onto the Bollywood scene with her debut film “Kedarnath” in 2018. Known for her refreshing beauty and charming persona, Sara quickly became a style icon for the younger generation. She effortlessly combines traditional Indian attire with modern elements, creating a unique and captivating style statement.

08 Priyanka Chopra

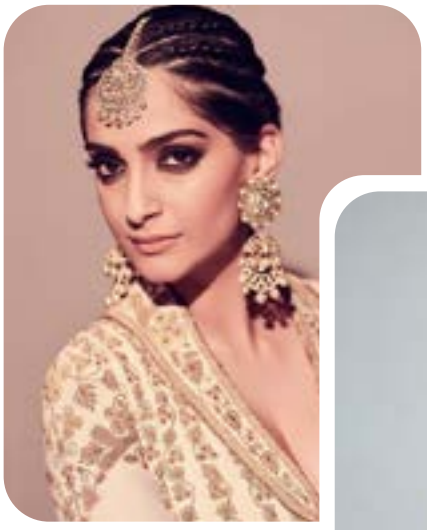
Priyanka Chopra, a global icon and former Miss World, has not only conquered Bollywood but also made her mark in Hollywood. Known for her bold and fearless fashion choices, Priyanka is celebrated for her versatility and ability to experiment with different styles. Whether it’s an elegant gown on the red carpet or a chic street style look, Priyanka always manages to make a statement.

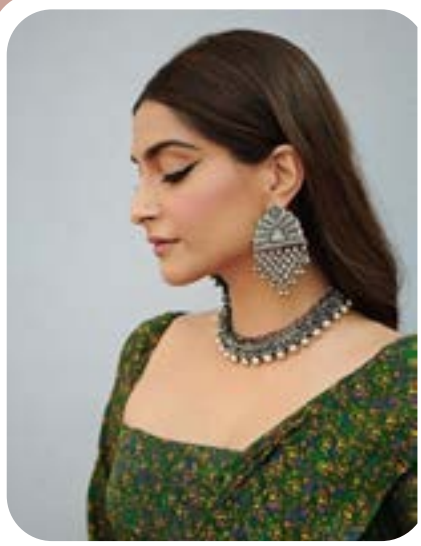
Conclusion:

These Bollywood celebrities have not only impressed us with their acting skills but also with their impeccable fashion sense. They have redefined style in their unique ways, setting trends and inspiring millions. Their influence extends beyond the silver screen, shaping the fashion choices of their fans and followers. We can't wait to see what these fashion icons have in store for us.

Bollywood Inspired Earrings For You

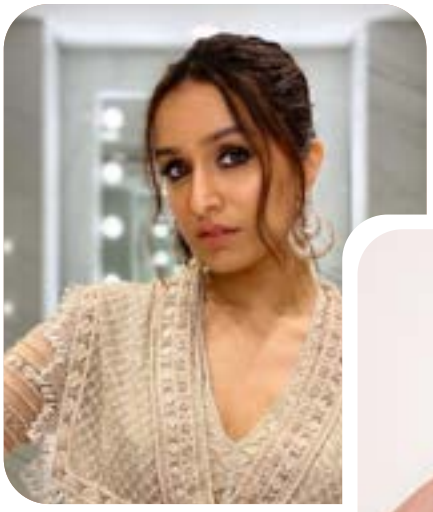
There are times when your attire is ready for all the wedding functions, but you are still trying to decide which type of earring you should wear. Don't worry ladies! We got you covered. We have curated a list of our favourite Bollywood celebs, to take bridal inspiration from for your next jewellery hunt. Choose from a different collection and follow them IRL (the way you follow them on social media). Whether it's a pooja or a funky sangeet party, complete your look with the latest trends followed by your most-loved actresses. From modern waterfall chandeliers to desi jhumkas, we have it all on our list!





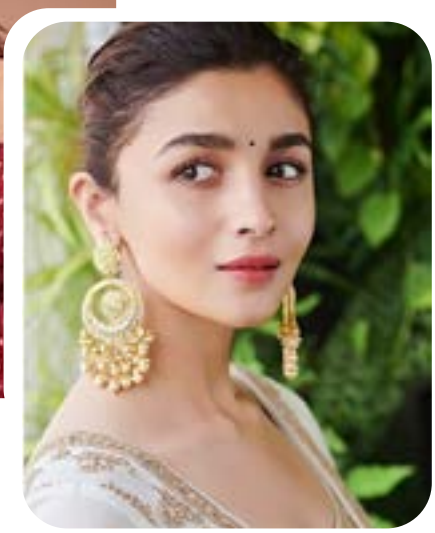
01 Sonam, the style diva

Sonam Kapoor Ahuja never fails to impress us with her impeccable sense of fashion. Even during her wedding festivities, each outfit was a dream come true in itself.



02 Eccentric Shraddha

Pairing this glimmering set with this off-white dress makes Shraddha look like an angel. Also, this neon pink earring looks super cute on Shraddha. You can pair this up with a subtle dress or a gown.

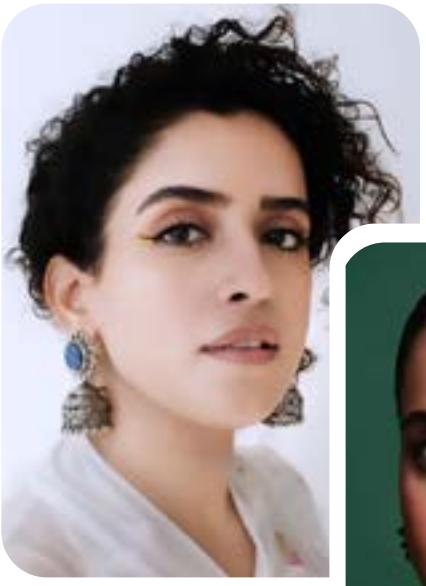


03 Alia going the traditional way

Alia Bhatt might be small in size, but she carries her big heavy earrings in style. Include these gigantic set of dazzling earrings in your trousseau.

04 Modern Kareena

Give your cocktail party a twist with these contemporary earrings inspired by Kareena Kapoor Khan. Pair these up with an embellished gown.

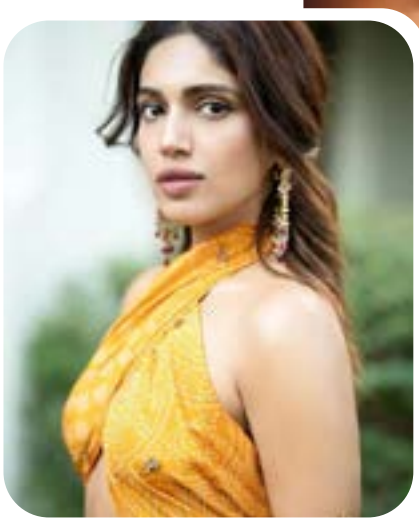


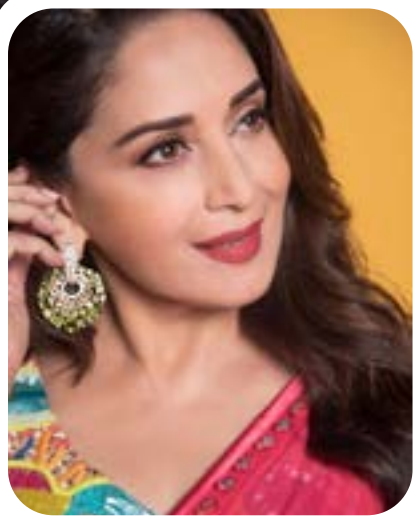
05 Simple Sanya

If you are a fan of minimal jewellery, go for a simple jhumki like Sanya's. Style the earrings with a nice gherevala anarkali suit.

06 Perky Bhumi

Show the perky side of yourself by adding these cute heart-shaped earrings to your bridal outfit. You can pair this up with a simple saree for your cocktail party.



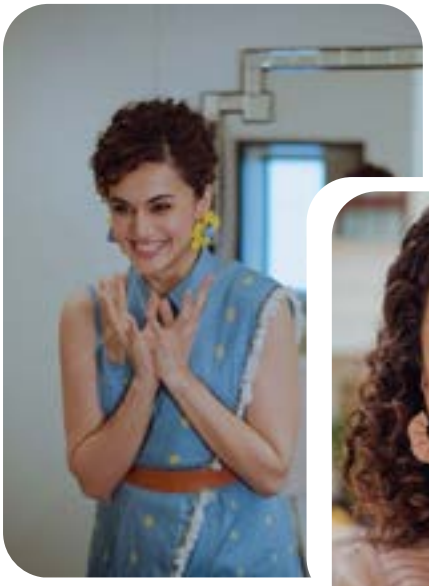


07 Classic Madhuri

There is no doubt that Madhuri is one of the most stylish actresses. Even after so many years, she still looks the same. And for bridal jewellery inspiration, she is the best.

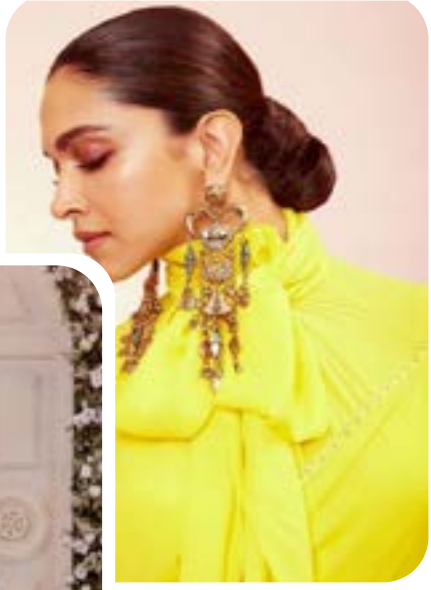
08 Evergreen Raveena

Go red and bold like Raveena with emerald green tiny earrings. This look can be apt for your pooja ceremonies.



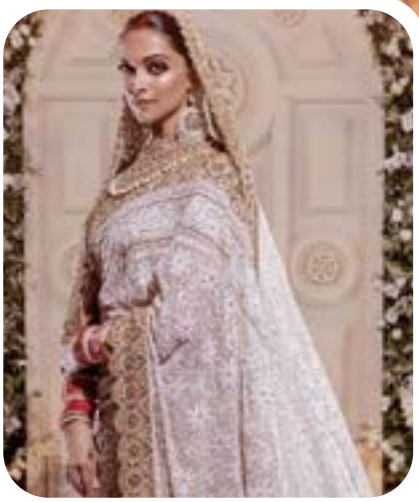
09 Quirky Taapsee

Not only her off-beat movies, but her off-beat style has impressed us too. Be it wearing a saree with a denim jacket or with a belt; she has aced it all. Wear some quirky pieces like Taapsee to have an eccentric look



10 Versatile Deepika

In recent times, Deepika has been seen wearing all types of outfits- from sarees to life-size gowns. Her jewellery game has been on point too. For your wedding functions, go versatile just like Deepika.



11 Subtle Kriti

Keep it subtle by wearing hefty earrings with simple sarees. It will give you a classic look.

12 Gorg Katrina

Keep it minimalistic by wearing simple jhumkas with a necklace. You can add this jewellery with your outfit for your sangeet party.

HERE ARE 10 OF THE BEST HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS IN APRIL.

01 Marrakesh

April is a fantastic time to visit Morocco's colourful and chaotic Marrakesh. Daytime temperatures are around 26°C to 29°C with plenty of sunshine, while evenings are pleasantly cool. Make the most of the comfortable night air with a visit to the medina after dark. During Ramadan, the markets close in the morning but stay open until around midnight and are a great place to search for souvenirs, sample Moroccan street food or simply soak up the hustle and bustle as you get lost in the narrow streets. This year, the city's famed Majorelle Garden celebrates its centenary, and there are lots of events happening at the botanical gardens and colourful cubist villa.

02 Turkish Riviera

Spring is one of the best times to visit Turkey's popular Turquoise Coast, which stretches along the southern coastline from Antalya to Bodrum. Temperatures are beginning to heat up and you can expect plenty of sunshine-filled days, but it's not quite hot enough to draw crowds of tourists so you'll be able to enjoy the region's sandy beaches, archaeological ruins and diverse landscapes largely to yourself. Take your pick from high-end resorts including Six Senses Kaplankaya in Bodrum or the palatial Titanic Mardan Palace in Antalya, or go for an adults-only, all-inclusive escape at Rixos Premium Gocek inside a nature reserve in Dalaman.

03 Mount Fuji, Japan

While it's not the best time for climbing the mountain, April does coincide with Japan's Sakura blooms, which are predicted to begin this month. Head to Lake Kawaguchi, a resort town at the base of Mount Fuji, where the blooms will flower in mid-April. Don't expect to have the experience yourself as it's peak season for tourism, and Japan is seeing huge interest from travellers after being shut off from the world during the pandemic. But if you can cope with the crowds, a visual feast of nature awaits as you gaze at the pink blossoms while lolling in the warm waters of an onsen (hot springs).

04 Bangkok, Thailand

Jet off to Thailand's bustling capital for warm weather, tropical foliage in full bloom and citywide celebrations for the annual Songkran Water Festival. Travellers can expect plenty of splashing fun in Bangkok where there's a good mix of traditional and modern festivities to celebrate the Thai New Year. Make offerings with locals at the city's temples, then enjoy water fights on the streets or at hotel pool parties. Watch a floral float parade and check out sand pagoda building competitions. It's also the shoulder season for tourism, meaning you'll get a little more bang for your buck at hotels across the city.

05 California, US

One of the world's most popular music festivals takes place in California, meaning it's the place to see and be seen. Head to Indio for the famed Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, where Lana Del Rey, Doja Cat, Tyler the Creator and No Doubt are headlining this year's event. After the festival, spend a few days unwinding in Palm Springs. Be one of the first to stay at Life House Palm Springs, which only opened at the end of last year and has an Insta-friendly swimming pool, a gorgeous cactus garden with fire pits and individually decorated bedrooms.

06 Mount Fuji, Japan

Gran Canaria in Spain's Canary Islands is a great pick for a springtime getaway. Pleasant temperatures make for good walking conditions and the island is a favourite for hiking thanks to its landscape of pine forests, sunken calderas and ocean viewpoints.

April is also the low season for tourists, so beaches are uncrowded, although it may be a little cold for swimming. Daytime temperatures hover around 20°C but bring a jacket for the evenings as they tend to be cool and windy. April is also a good month for whale watching as the mammals traverse the Atlantic Ocean waters, and dolphins can be spotted off the island's coastlines too.

07 Mexico City

It's the last chance to visit Mexico in the dry season, as well as slightly lower prices as the high season comes to an end. Head to Mexico City where many local families will be heading out for the beach or to quaint colonial towns for Easter and leaving the capital much more manageable and easier to navigate. With its historical attractions, entertainment venues and countless museums, this bustling metropolis has something for everyone. The historical downtown district and former heart of the Aztec empire is a great place to go – do so during Semana Santa (Holy Week) and you'll find it's largely free of crowds.

08 The Seychelles

April is one of the most popular times to visit this Indian Ocean archipelago as it falls in the calmer period between the Seychelles' two annual trade winds. Days are warm and sunny with temperatures hovering around 30°C and rain showers are few and far between. Famed for its picture-perfect beaches with a granite backdrop, its islands such as Mahe, Platte and La Digue have everything you need for a sunshine getaway. The recently opened Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island on its private pristine shoreline is a good pick for a blowout trip. More affordable options include Beau Vallon on Mahe, where you can find family-friendly stays for around Dh300 a night.

09 Saint-Tropez, France

Saint-Tropez comes back to life every April as the sun returns to this seaside village on France's southern coast. It's too early in the year for the well-heeled crowds that flock to this Mediterranean destination every summer, which means it's a great time for leisurely strolls through quaint streets, dining al fresco at rustic cafes and strolling through flower-filled alleys. This spring, you can check into the soon-to-open Arev St Tropez, a new boutique hotel with colourful rooms, private gardens and a reinterpretation of The Strand, one of the oldest restaurants in the region.

10 AlUla, Saudi Arabia

Catch the tail end of winter at Saudi Arabia's historical city, AlUla. Discover the kingdom's natural wonders via rock formations, towering cliffs and winding canyons and explore age-old carvings left by ancient settlers. April is also when the city's events calendar ramps up with events across art, culture, adventure, music and more. When it comes to where to spend the night, you can embrace Bedouin traditions at Banyan Tree AlUla, a tranquil desert retreat, or enjoy a real escape from city life at Habitas AlUla, a stunning eco-focused resort set amid sandstone cliffs.

Tarot Card

April 2024

TAROT

Loveena Crystal Gaze
(Tarot card Reader, Numerologist)

ARIES
(March 21- April 19)

A New and better part of your life is beginning for you, bringing Joyous and happy moments. New blessings from universe are being showered on you.

Angel msg- Sunshine days ahead of you. Love blossoms.

TAURUS
(April 20- May 21)

News you have been waiting for anxiously comes through and money issues will be sorted. Angels have heard and answered your prayers.

Angel msg- Lucrative deals will be Signed, Angels are blessing you.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 20)

Delays are over, Sudden travel plans are foretold. Abundance is coming your way. Dreams are getting manifested. Have faith in the universe.

Angel msg- Angels are guiding you towards your dreams.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Universe wants to gift you so much & time is now. All blocks in your relation are over. Keep charging ahead, happiness awaits you now.

Angel msg- Angels are surrounding you with loving light and showering you with love and blessings.

LEO
(July 23- Aug 22)

Finances are highlighted. Good period ahead. Rejoice..Celebrate. Magical energy is around you. Whats meant for you is on its way to you. Relax and enjoy.

Angel msg-Angel of wish is with you and helping you to make your wish come true.

VIRGO
(Aug 23- Sept 22)

Positive period ahead,Finances are highlighted. Receive with Open arms. Angels are bringing miracles in your life.

Angel msg- Loved ones in heaven are blessing you.

LIBRA
(Sept 23- Oct 22)

Aura is energized for financial gains. Heaven is sending you good news regarding your Career. Universe is blessing you with more comfort and luxury in your life.

Angel msg- Reach for the Stars, Angels are guiding you to new horizons in your life.

SCORPIO
(Oct 23- Nov 22)

Embrace your hearts desire, All your hard work will bring fruit. New Opportunities, new clients coming your way. Thank the universe

Angel msg- Ask and you shall receive. Angels are blessing you .

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 23- Dec 21)

Wheel of fortune has begin to turn in your favour and you will expect miracles.A new Venture will turn profitable. Have faith and patience.

Angel msg- Angels are blessing you with lucrative deals.happiness.

CAPRICON
(Dec 22- Jan 20)

Angels are guiding you to new horizons in your Career. All your hard work will bring fruit . Happy outcome is assured. All issues regarding finance will be settled. Have faith

Angel msg- Don't Descend, fly high.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 21- Feb 18)

Universe is being generous with you.you will touch new heights in your Career. A longed for wish comes true. Financial stability is assured.

Angel msg- Smooth road ahead, keep charging ahead.

PISCES
(Feb 19- March 20)

Business ventures will prove beneficial. Financially good period ahead, you will sweep obstacles to one side. Keep charging ahead, Angels are guiding you to achieve Success.

Angel msg- Your prayers for financial help has been heard.

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