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ANU AGGARWAL
Acting Is In My Karma

LAKSHMI MANCHU
I Will Never Be A Traitor To The People I Love

MIA MAELZER
I Adopted A Cat To Understand Motherhood

10 AYURVEDIC HEALTH TIPS FOR STAYING WELL IN RAINY SEASON

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Sara Ali Khan
HONOURED TO BE PART OF 'METRO... IN DINO'

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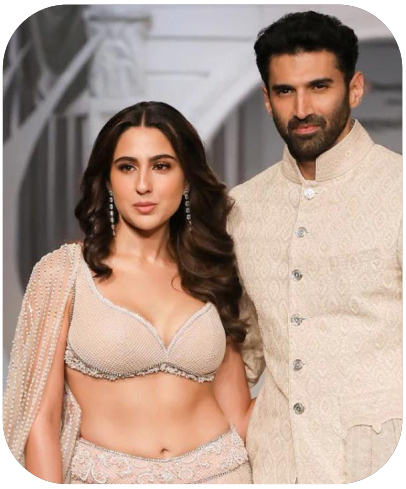
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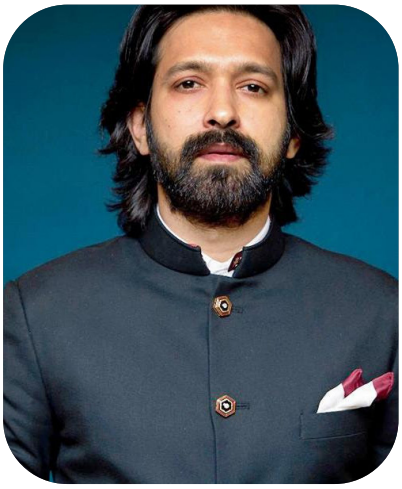
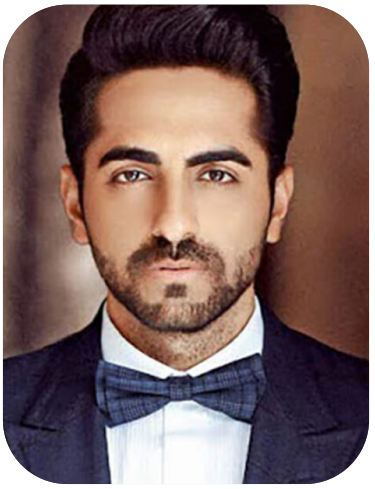
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Honoured to be part of 'Metro... In Dino': Sara Ali Khan

Sara Ali Khan called working in Metro... In Dino surreal, having grown up watching Anurag Basu's films. She said the project felt less pressured, as the responsibility was shared by the entire ensemble.

Sara Ali Khan on Wednesday said she grew up watching filmmaker Anurag Basu's movies and that is why it was surreal for her to be a part of the director's latest, "Metro... In Dino". An anthology of four stories of contemporary couples, the movie is a follow-up to Basu's critically-acclaimed 2007 movie Life in a... Metro. As an actor, Sara said she has never felt less pressure for a project but with Metro... In Dino, she knew that the responsibility would be shouldered by everyone involved in the film.

"I have never felt less pressure. I just think that there are moments where I can't even believe that I'm here. I am just so honoured and privileged to be on a stage right now with like seven actors that I admire, with Anurag and Bhushan sir, in a film like this."It's just amazing. It's surreal to me to just be a part of it. So, I don't think that the pressure would be mine at all actually," the actor told reporters. In the movie, Sara will feature alongside Aditya Roy Kapur, Ali Fazal, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Konkona Sen Sharma, Pankaj Tripathi, Neena Gupta and Anupam Kher.The four stories of the movie are set in four main metro cities – Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Bengaluru. The "Sky Force" actor said she was new to Basu's style of filmmaking and that's why she relied on co-star Aditya, who had earlier starred in the director's 2020 anthology "Ludo"."I had a lot of fun. I've grown up watching Basu da's films and I think that just being given an opportunity to be part of it was just amazing. Basu da has a way of working that I have never really seen before. Adi, having worked with Basu da before, it was like a nice bridge kind of a thing because they knew each other and they knew how to work. I instantly felt very comfortable," she said.Besides Aditya, Fatima, who also featured in "Ludo", helped Sara on the sets."They both were like, 'This is it, this is how it's going to be. Just go with the flow.' So, I think that it was definitely helpful," she said.

Asked about the box office pressure, Basu said a storyteller should honestly tell their stories and let audiences decide the fate of the movie. "You can't plan it. A safe film is the most unsafe film. I think a film needs to be made with heart and then the audience will decide whether we did our job," he said. Metro... In Dino is produced by Bhushan Kumar of T-Series and Anurag Basu Productions Pvt Ltd. The film will be released in theatres on July 4.





Inside The Life Of Sara Ali Khan, From 'Ghar Ke Nuskhe' To Daily Dose Of Wisdom Over Tea With Mother Amrita Singh

You always seem full of energy and positivity. What are some simple everyday things that genuinely make you happy?

The simplest things bring me the most joy! A morning workout instantly lifts my mood. It's not just about fitness but also about mental clarity and starting the day on a positive note. I love unwinding with music, especially old Bollywood songs; they have a way of making everything feel lighter. Traveling, especially to the mountains, gives me a sense of peace and perspective, which is so important for mental well-being. Writing poetry is another way I express myself; it helps me reflect and stay connected to my emotions. Taking care of my mind is just as important as taking care of my body, and these small rituals help me stay balanced and happy.

Do you have any cherished rituals or moments of joy that help you stay grounded amidst your busy life?

My morning workout is non-negotiable, it's my way of centering myself before the madness begins. Travelling also gives me perspective whether it's the mountains or the sea, exploring new places keeps me connected to the world beyond my work. And of course, a long, indulgent shower is my personal reset, it's that one moment in the day where I completely switch off and just enjoy the simple pleasure of self-care. These little rituals keep me always ready to take on the day.

Your love for family is evident. How do family moments contribute to your happiness?

For me, happiness begins with family. No matter how hectic life gets, chai time with Mom is my daily dose of warmth and wisdom, while Ibrahim's nok-jhok and endless jokes (mostly at my expense!) always make me laugh. These simple, unfiltered moments keep me grounded and remind me of who I am beyond all the glitz and chaos. Traveling is my ultimate reset button both personally and creatively. There's something about stepping into a new place, away from the usual routine, that instantly refreshes my mind and soul. The mountains, especially, have this incredible way of grounding me their vastness, the silence, the fresh air, it's pure magic. Personally, it teaches me gratitude and reminds me how small we are in this grand universe. Creatively, travel fuels my imagination. The people I meet, the cultures I experience, and even the little everyday moments in a new place spark fresh thoughts and perspectives. Whether it's through poetry, photography, or even just the way I see life, travel keeps me inspired. And let's be honest, nothing beats chai with a view of snow-capped peaks!

After a long and hectic day, what's your go-to way to relax and unwind?

Nothing beats a refreshing shower—it's my little escape. Then, I love sipping on a warm cup of chai or just unwinding with a good book. If I have the energy, a quick workout or yoga session helps me de-stress, but honestly, sometimes all I need is my cozy blanket and some old Bollywood songs. It's these little moments that bring me peace and recharge me for the next day.

You always manage to look fresh and radiant. What's your daily skincare and self-care routine like?

My skincare mantra is simple cleanse, hydrate, and protect. I start with a gentle cleanser, follow up with a moisturiser, and never skip sunscreen. Face masks are my go-to for a quick reset as they help me slow down and unwind. I swear by "ghar ke nuskhe" malai, honey, and fresh fruits are my skincare staples, passed down from my mom. After all, skincare isn't just about the face it's about feeling good from head to toe!

What's your mantra for staying fit—both physically and mentally?

For me, fitness isn't just about looking good, it's about feeling strong, energized, and happy, inside and out. Consistency, balance, and self-love are key. I stay active with Pilates, cardio, or weight training because movement keeps me refreshed. But mental well-being is just as important. Therapy, journaling, and meditation help me stay balanced, while poetry, travel, and time with family bring me peace. At the end of the day, it's all about listening to your body, taking care of your mind, and embracing yourself fully.

Therapy in India is still a stigma, what are your thoughts on that?

Mental health conversations have come a long way, but there's still hesitation around seeking therapy. I believe there's no shame in mental health struggles, yet most people still hesitate to admit that they are in therapy. That gap shows how much work we still must do. Personally, I see therapy as a tool for self-care, just like exercise for the body, it helps strengthen the mind. I have found that talking to a professional, journaling, and meditating keep me balanced. There's no weakness in seeking help; in fact, it takes strength to prioritize your well-being. The more we normalize these conversations, the easier it will be for everyone to get the support they deserve.

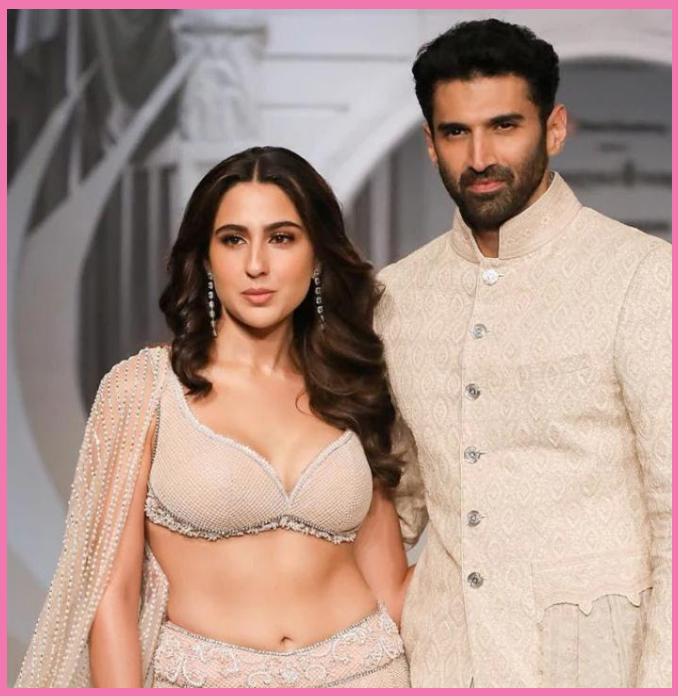
Your fashion choices are sartorial and relatable. What's your personal style mantra?

It is simple comfort with a touch of individuality! I love outfits that let me be myself, whether it's a classic kurta, a breezy dress, or athleisure that keeps up with my on-the-go lifestyle. I believe fashion should be effortless and fun, something that makes you feel good from the inside out. Mixing high fashion with relatable, everyday pieces is what makes style truly personal. And of course, nothing beats the timeless charm of a bright, happy kurta! If you're comfortable and confident, you'll always look your best.



Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur's Marriage!!!

Fun conversation on The Great Indian Kapil Show sparks debate of Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur's marriage.....



On the latest episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show, as the cast of Metro...In Dino grace the couch, Kapil Sharma teased Sara Ali Khan about her marriage. However, the actress had the perfect comeback as she played her UNO reverse card to flip the question of Aditya Roy Kapur instead

Actors Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur and the cast of Metro... In Dino has been busy with the promotion of their upcoming film. As part of the promotions, they were recently seen on the second episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 3. As the star-studded cast, including Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaikh, with director **Anurag Basu** graced the couch, laughter was guaranteed. And so was roasting.

Kapil Sharma draws a theory

During the show, Kapil was seen drawing a theory and playfully grilling **Aditya Roy Kapur** about his dates (film dates). He teased that there has been a pattern where every actress that Aditya worked with in a movie got married later.

He hinted at Sara's marriage nextKapil shared, "Toh doston aapko mazedaar cheez batata hoon, aap sabne notice toh kiya hoga, Fitoor mein Aditya ne Katrina ke saath kaam kiya, unki shaadi ho gayi, Sadak 2 mein inhone Alia ke saath kaam kiya, Alia ki shaadi ho gayi, Night Manager mein inhone Sobhita ke saath kaam kiya, uski shaadi ho gayi, toh Sara....iske baad?"

Sara Ali Khan's response

Just when the audience thought Aditya would laugh it off and join Kapil in teasing his co-star, Sara Ali Khan came up with the ultimate response. She shared how every actor she worked with also got married later, including Ranveer Singh, Varun Dhawan, Vikrant Massey and Vicky Kaushal. She said, "Maine Ranveer ke saath kaam kiya uski shaadi ho gayi. Varun ke saath kaam kiya, uski shaadi ho gayi, Vikrant ke saath kaam kiya uski shaadi ho gayi, Vicky ke saath kaam kiya, uski shaadi ho gayi, toh actually bachna toh Adi ko chahiye!" Even Kapil could help but acknowledge that Sara played her UNO reverse card really well. With this level of wit, unexpected comebacks, and the ensemble cast, The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 3's upcoming episode promised to be a riot of laughter, entertainment and roast - all at once. The episode premieres on 28th June on Netflix.

Kangana Ranaut lashes out at Mira Nair's son Zohran Mamdani, 'sounds more Pakistani than Indian'

Kangana Ranaut recently lashed out at New York City's newly elected mayor, Indian-origin Zohran Mamdani, saying his name sounds more Pakistani than Indian. She also shared a video of him leading anti-Hinduism protest at Times Square

Along with the video, **Kangana Ranaut** penned, "His mother is Mira Nair, one of our best filmmakers, Padma Shri, a beloved and celebrated daughter born and raised in great Bharat based in New York. She married Mehmood Mamdani (Gujarati origin), a celebrated author, and her son is named Zohran. He sounds more Pakistani than Indian... whatever happened to his Hindu identity or bloodline, and now he is ready to wipe out Hinduism, wow!! It's the same story everywhere. On a different note, I met Mira ji on a couple of occasions--congratulations to the parents. #ZohranMamdani."



Actor-turned-politician and BJP MP, Kangana Ranaut, who is known for being unapologetically vocal about her political stance, has made headlines once again, The MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi has raised questions on the cultural and religious identity of Zohran Mamdani, the Indian-origin politician who recently won the Democratic primary in the race for New York City mayor. For the unversed, Mamdani is a 33-year-old democratic socialist and sitting New York State Assembly member. Also, the son of renowned Indian filmmaker Mira Nair, Mamdani, recently **emerged victorious** over former Governor Andrew Cuomo to become the city's first Muslim mayor.



Kangana Ranaut lashes out at Zohram Mamdani

His victory has been widely discussed globally. Following his victory, Ranaut took to her X (formerly Twitter) handle to share her thoughts with him. She shared a video clip of an old protest led by Mamdani.

Who is Zohran Mamdani?

Zohran Mamdani was born in Uganda and raised in the US. The 33-year-old made history by becoming the first South Asian man and only the third Muslim elected to the New York State Assembly. His political platform has focused on progressive reforms, including rent freezes, universal childcare, free public transportation, and tax reforms targeting the wealthy.Political figures across the progressive spectrum lauded his recent primary win. Former Governor Cuomo, in his concession speech, acknowledged Mamdani's strong grassroots campaign: "Tonight was Assemblyman Mamdani's night. He put together a great campaign, inspired young people, and ran a highly impactful race. I called him to congratulate him."



‘METRO... IN DINO IS THE LIFE I HAVE LIVED’

‘Very rarely does a film give you the opportunity to do this, I was constantly improving and adding scenes on the set.’



He points out that he is not a businessman who has to make and release a film in nine months. He is happy to wait. For his actors. And even for his daughters, Ishana and Ahana. Pointing out that you can only mould a child’s personality till they are in the 12th standard, **Anurag Basu** shares that his wife and collaborator Tani and he took a conscious decision to slow down the pace of their work.

In the first of a two-part interview, the writer-producer-director says, “Now that my younger daughter has completed her 12th standard, you will see a film from me every year-and-a-half.” “When you are playing a long innings, you have to pace yourself. It’s like cricket, you know you have to make this many runs in this many overs and can afford to go slow for a few overs in the middle, provided you pick up pace later.”

What do you remember from Life In A... Metro, which got you your first Filmfare nomination for Best Director and won you a Black Lady for Best Screenplay?

I have very few friends and one of them was Bobby Singh, the cinematographer of Gangster who also shot Life In A... Metro. He is no longer with us, I miss him. Also, Rajat Poddar, my art director and production designer, whom we lost last year. He had been with me since my television days. Ajay, my assistant editor, also passed, all three were a part of my core team. Another friend Irrfan Khan, who played the irrepressible Monty, also went away too soon, as did KK who came down from Pune to sing Alvida and O Meri Jaan. I don’t remember much from the film, but I remember these friends. We were a close-knit unit.



And Metro... In Dino?

This film gave me the opportunity to relive moments which I had experienced with family and friends. When she saw the final edit two months ago, my wife Tani complained, ‘Tumne to humare sab scenes film mein dal diya hai (You have put all our moments into the film).’ (Smiles) Metro... In Dino is the life I have lived and the many crises my friends have faced. Very rarely does a film give you the opportunity to do this, I was constantly improving and adding scenes on the set.

Also, shooting with these talented actors who have such different personalities was such a joy. It reminded me of Barfi! and the friendships we had built on the sets. The bonding between Ranbir (Kapoor), PC (Priyanka Chopra), cinematographer **Ravi Varman** and me, in fact, the whole unit was something I had never experienced before. Recently, when we were shooting in Darjeeling, we remembered all those fun times.



Eighteen years later, Life In A... Metro is still remembered for its memorable performances. Who among the cast of the sequel surprised you?

I wouldn’t call Metro... In Dino a sequel since it’s a very different film about love and loss, heartbreak and heartache, set in today’s times. All my actors surprised me and I’m not being diplomatic. You will understand why I am saying this when you see the film. They are playing normal people who you see around you everyday You have never seen Sara (Ali Khan) playing a character like this one before.

I had worked with Koko (Konkona Sen Sharma) earlier in Life In A... Metro and know her to be a wonderful actress. Ditto Anupam Kher. But I was equally impressed with Neena Guptaji, Pankaj Tripathi, Fatima (Sana Sheikh), Ali Fazal and Adi (Aditya Roy Kapur).

Aditya has been openly expressing his admiration for you...

Really? Adi is a sweetheart and not just me, my whole unit loves him. He’s an honest, sincere and under-rated actor who deserves much more. He also needs to pick his films correctly and while he is always pushing for retakes, uska ‘ek aur’ khatam hi nahin hota (his requests for one more take never ends), he’s not a pushy guy. He’s very laid-back and that’s holding him back. He understands that.



After taking four years to complete Jagga Jasoos, you have also acquired a reputation of being 'slow'. That's unfair, my first few films came in quick succession.

I had a release almost every year. In fact, Murder and Tumsa Nahin Dekha: A Love Story came in the same year, with Gangster following two years later in 2006. I never intended for Kites to take two-and-a-half years to complete, but I've realised since that big films take time. Raju (Rajkumar Hirani) makes a film every three-four years. It's the same for Karan Johar. Except for Anurag Kashyap, no one makes films back-to-back. There is a minimum gap of three years between releases.

It was slightly longer for Jagga Jasoos, but those who keep talking about how it took me four years to complete the film forget that Ranbir had four releases at the time and Katrina (Kaif), three. He was so busy shooting and then promoting Ae Dil Hai Mushkil, Roy, Bombay Velvet and Besharam that it was difficult to get his dates. I'm not blaming him. Jagga Jasoos needed time and I was fine with him completing his other films before returning to mine.

(Smiles) I'm not a businessman, mujhe itna paisa nahin banana hai (I don't have to make so much money). Even though the film took time, you never heard the studio crib because it did not go over budget and I did not ask for extra dates. Even if I need 100 days, they are spread over a year, two, three or four depending on the situation. (Sighs) Sometimes things are not in your control.

So, you're saying the delay with Jagga Jasoos was not intentional but accidental?

Partly, yes. Also, since my wife Tani is also a collaborator professionally, we made a conscious decision to slow down the pace of our work when the kids were in school. You can only mould your child's personality till they are in the 12th standard and films take time to complete.

I would have never forgiven myself if we had not been around for our two daughters, Ishana and Ahana when they were growing up. Now that my younger daughter has completed her 12th standard, you will see a film from me every year-and-a-half. When you are playing a long innings, you have to pace yourself. It's like cricket, you know you have to make this many runs in this many overs and can afford to go slow for a few overs in the middle, provided you pick up pace later.

But won't upping the pace now be difficult?

(Chuckles) No, if you remember, I came from television. I am used to making 20-minute episodes and can change my pace anytime.

Yeah, you started out as an independent director with Zee TV's Tara, a path-breaking soap featuring a strong-willed, contemporary Indian woman played by Navneet Nishan.

It was the first Hindi drama series to run for almost five years which is quite an achievement for a director who was in his early 20s then.



I give complete credit for Tara's success to Vinta Nanda. It was her baby, she wrote the series and developed the characters.

I only boarded the ship mid-way, after almost 100 episodes. As you pointed out, I was very young then and being around Vinta taught me a lot. Since Tara was almost autobiographical, I started to understand the nuances of a mature man-woman relationship.

Since then, you have explored this relationship beautifully and sensitively even in a commercial film like Murder. Where does this understanding come from?

I've always been a keen observer of my surroundings and since I was very young, my cousins, some of them older than me, would come to me for relationship advice.

Also, thanks to my parents, Subrato and Deepshikha Bose, and all the Bengali literature I've read, I see life through a woman's lenses.

It's my weakness that I've hardly written any stories from the point of view of the man. I guess it has to do with my mother's influence when growing up.

Then, Tani came into my life, followed by my two daughters who are strong personalities with minds of their own. Ishana will tell me straight if she doesn't like any of my stories.

I am surrounded by these wonderful women at home who are teaching me something new every day.





Yun Hi Chala In Space: 'I'm Deeply Moved'

'This success is not just mine, crores of people have contributed to it.'

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has taken Javed Akhtar's **Yun Hi Chala Chal Rahi** from Ashutosh Gowariker's Swades to space.

"The songs were born from you, but they became big not only because you have written them. They became big because there are crores of people who have appreciated them and some have identified with them," **Javedsaab, your song Yun Hi Chala Chal Rahi is on its way to space.**

What can I say? I am deeply moved. I still remember the recording in the voices of Udit Narayan, Kailash Kher. When this song was recorded, even then the reaction of people was very positive. Everyone was like koi Ganga nahaye barson mein... all these lines were loved. People liked it a lot.

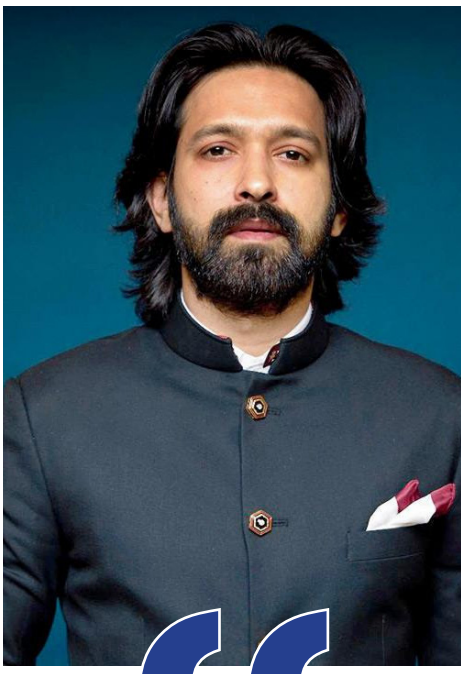
Your songs of nationalism and desh bhakti have so much thehrao in them.

I think there is a section of my mind which is very committed to nationalism. When I was a child, the Tricolour used to be hoisted at our house on 15th August and 26th January. I vividly remember how the grownups used to hoist it, then take it down in the evening, how it was wrapped carefully and placed on the top shelf of the cupboard where we used to keep it safely in Lucknow. During summers in Lucknow it is so hot, but we children used to go out at 4 in the afternoon. When the elders used to sleep, we children used to go out.

I remember one day I went to that room where there was a Tricolour in the cupboard. I pulled a table, climbed onto it and stood on my toes to touch the flag. This feeling of nationalism does not happen through lectures. It is organic.

Javedsaab, when something so momentous happens, when this man is listening to your song up there in space, does it not give you a sense of pride, a sense of satisfaction?

Of course, it does! But more than that, whatever you have done and what belongs to your past belongs to the past. Past laurels won't help you grow. Whatever is done in the past is done. Your work is also like your children. Once they become mature, they are persons in their own right. Even the film songs and dialogues they acquire their own personality. Yes, they were born from you, but they became big not only because you have written them. They became big because there are crores of people who have appreciated them and some have identified with them, so this success is not just mine, crores of people have contributed to it. The fact that it becomes an iconic thing, it is not just because of the person who made it, it is because of the people who appreciated it, it is because of their emotions, their feelings, their experiences...



Vikrant Massey opens up about the past few years, leaving him feeling burnt out, and how people misconstrued his announcement of taking a break as retirement

In December 2024, Vikrant Massey did what was an anomaly in the cut-throat business of Bollywood – the actor announced that he was taking a break from movies. Expectedly, it sparked shock among his fans and colleagues. Six months on, he is promoting his next, **Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan.** That has left many confused, who misconstrue that Massey had retired. He begins, "People still ask me, 'Why did you retire?'"

The actor is amused that his **announcement was misunderstood** by so many. "Which part of my post did people not understand? Maybe they are not used to seeing actors taking a break, but I want to better myself. I wanted to take that break. I had mentioned in my post that there are two films I'd be working on, one of which was Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan. Two months after announcing my break, I started shooting for it," he says.

Massey reveals he had turned down many projects leading up to the announcement. "Post 12th Fail [2023] and The Sabarmati Report [2024], a lot of films were coming my way. I can't do 10 films a year. So, that post was to convey to filmmakers that I needed some time off. Many were shocked to hear a no from me." More importantly, slowing down was crucial for the actor's sanity. With seven releases in the past two years, including successes in 12th Fail and Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba (2024), he felt the need to pause. "It was not something I decided overnight. There was a burnout. I wanted to spend time with my family. Also, I [saw] the love coming in from the audience. I want to be worth their time. But when I'm getting burnt out, how can I face the camera and keep repeating the same thing?" The actor wrapped up Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan, co-starring **Shanaya Kapoor**, in March. White, a biopic on spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, is due to roll only in August, giving him enough time to re-energise himself. So, where does that leave Don 3? "It's too early to talk about it," he smiles.

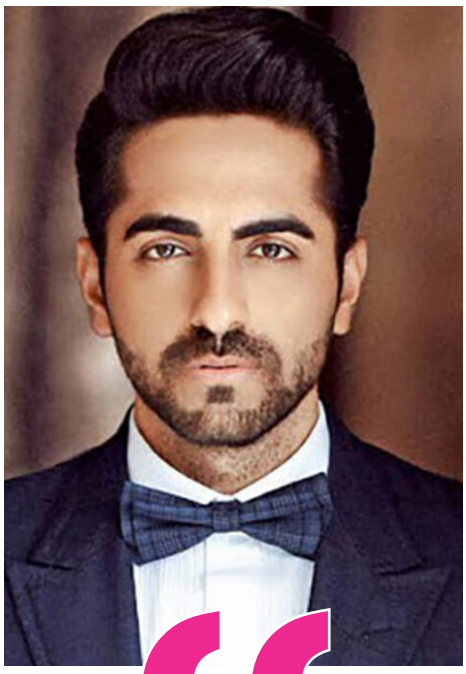
Break ke baad

After the dismal run of Zero (2018), Shah Rukh Khan took a hiatus, returning after over four years with the blockbuster Pathaan (2023) Distraught after Laal Singh Chaddha (2022) tanked, Aamir Khan took time off to reassess his career. The result – the sparkling Sitaare Zameen Par this year. Late Sridevi had stepped away from the screen after tying the knot with Boney Kapoor in 1996. She returned in 2012 with English Vinglish

Vikrant Massey opens up about his controversial break from acting: People still ask me, why did you retire?

Ayushmann Khurrana's wife Tahira Kashyap recalls financial struggles post marriage: 'My bank balance was...'

They have been together for years and have proved to be the strongest couple of Bollywood. In a latest interview, Tahira opened up about the time when her bank balance went down to zero.Ayushmann Khurrana comes from a humble background. The actor has worked hard to achieve great success, fame and money. His wife Tahira Kashyap has stood by him through thick and thin. She has supported him during his struggle and has been his biggest cheerleader in his success. Recently, Tahira Kashyap's candid confession about financial struggles hit the internet and made it to the headlines.In a chat with Official People of India, Tahira Kashyap recalled the time when she moved to Mumbai with Ayushmann Khurrana post their marriage. She revealed that she was always an independent woman and had brought her savings along. She added that she used her savings to buy groceries for home and for a long time, Ayushmann Khurrana did not realise where the food was coming from. Eventually, her savings started depleting. She mentioned that her bank balance almost went down to zero and finally she broke down. She shared, "This boy did not understand how we were getting the food, like how we were buying all of these vegetables, fruits. My bank balance was depleting. I had never asked anyone for money, even my parents."Tahira Kashyap then recalled the incident when she got angry at Ayushmann Khurrana and broke down. Once he asked why she hadn't bought mangoes. She got angry as he hadn't noticed that she was eating mangoes for two days so that he could eat. She broke down and revealed to him that her bank balance has gone down to zero and that they have been spending her savings for so long. She added, "And then he realised, 'Why didn't you ask me for money?' I said, 'Because I can't. You are supposed to buy groceries with me.' By then he had become a VJ so his journey had started. Ayushmann Khurrana and Tahira Kashyap tied the knot in 2008. They have two children. Tahira recently made it to the headlines as she revealed that her cancer has relapsed.



Ayushmann Khurrana and Tahira Kashyap have often set major goals.

Aditya Roy Kapur

He opens up about choosing projects: 'I won't pass up films for screen space or strategy'

Aditya Roy Kapur isn't a fan of promotions. But he is having a ball promoting Metro... In Dino. The actor is enjoying getting to know his co-stars as they join forces for Anurag Basu's romantic drama. Tell him that the movie is a much-needed antidote to action films that are dominating the box office, and Kapur says, "A lot of people have said that a film like this is releasing after a long time. When it comes to choosing projects, we tend to focus on what's in front of us. You ask yourself: does this story connect with me? Once a certain kind of film does well, it triggers a chain reaction. That's how the business works. Hopefully, people will connect with this film, and maybe we'll see more of these stories being made again."



(From left) Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan in Metro...In Dino Metro... In Dino marks the actor's second collaboration with **Basu** after Ludo (2020). Starring Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Konkona Sensharma, Pankaj Tripathi, Neena Gupta, Anupam Kher, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and Ali Fazal, the movie explores various shades of love. How easy is it to play the quintessential romantic hero? "People often underestimate how tricky it can be," says Kapur. "You need to lean into your own charm, make it feel current, and still keep it honest. It comes down to the writing. I don't think Anurag sir would ever do something that feels uninspired. By now, Dada and I have developed a shorthand. There's an instinctual understanding of what he wants. He wants his actors to be experimental; he doesn't judge you if something doesn't land. Also, he thrives on improvisation. He can rewrite a dialogue, change a scene, or shift the energy. Being on his set has taught me that sometimes, the takes where you feel unsure are the best ones."

Usually stars are wary of ensemble movies. Filmmaker Rohit Shetty has often said that today's actors are too egoistic to share screen space. But Kapur has no such qualms. "It's about not denying myself a good opportunity. When Dada spoke about this new story, it sounded exciting. I wasn't going to pass it up for some arbitrary reason like screen space or strategy. I started my career doing supporting roles. In my first film [London Dreams, 2009], I played a small part. I'm happy with my path."

The Kiss Girl Hema Malini Took Panga With

When you are in love, you are preoccupied just with that.' 'Nothing else registers. It's like being drugged.'





She did a kissing scene in the 1960s, and was promptly nicknamed the 'Kiss Girl'. But **Sonia Sahni** achieved fame when she was cast as Rishi Kapoor's mother in Raj Kapoor's blockbuster Bobby. She was only 26 then.

Glamorous, elegant and able to speak Hindi-Urdu with ease because she was born and raised in Kashmir, Sonia had a long but strikingly unconventional career for 50 years.

"I was told Rajji had gone to Sadhana first for Bobby He wanted to change the image of the typical Hindi screen mother and present a younger mother," Sonia Sahni tells **Rediff's Dinesh Raheja.**

"Sadhana refused because she had a problem with her eyes. Meanwhile, I was shooting for O P Ralhan's film at RK studio where Rajji saw me act and said 'I want this girl for the role'."

Did you know Ankhiyon Ka Noor Hai Tu, filmed on you in your debut Johar Mehmood in Goa (1965) has crossed 70 lakh views on YouTube?

(Hums the mukhda).

All the films I made with Joharsaab as director were good. Amazingly, I

had not even seen Goa while acting in this film. They recreated Goa in Madh island, Bombay. I saw Goa for the first time in 1995! What's ironical is that I have now settled in Goa because my son Ketan has opened a restaurant there called Analogue. Life has come full circle.

Your debut made waves because you did a kissing scene, quite revolutionary for the 1960s. You were called the Kiss Girl.

I was playing a Portuguese girl so naturally, my way of greeting would be a kiss. I was supposed to be in love with the leading man (I S Johar) so I kissed him on the lips.

Were you a bold newcomer?

I am from Kashmir and quite conservative. I would say: 'I won't wear this', 'I won't wear that', so Joharsaab sent me to a Parsi lady who made me understand that in this film, I was playing a Portuguese girl. Since I was totally new, I got lots of training from Mr Johar and his directorial assistants. I was only 17. My name was changed too.

You were Usha, right?

I am still Usha (laughs). But they wanted a name more in keeping with my Portuguese character. So my co-star Simi Garewal suggested to Mr Johar that my name should be Sonia.

Did you get along with Simi? This was also her first hit film.

She is a nice, helpful lady who would tell me, 'Don't do this' or 'Do your hair like that'. I got along with Mehmood too. He would make us laugh a lot.

Despite the success of Johar Mehmood in Goa, why did you work only with actor-director I S Johar initially?

I signed a five-year contract with G P Sippy's company in which Joharsaab was a director. I was paid on a monthly basis and was given a flat, a car and a driver on the condition that I could only work in I S Johar's movies. I received several offers from other filmmakers but was not allowed to accept them.

You did do an American film Maya in 1966. I S Johar was in the cast too.

That was my second film. It was big news because at that time, I was the only Indian actress who had worked in Hollywood. The film starred Clint Walker and his son was played by Jay North (famous for playing Dennis The Menace). I played Clint Walker's housekeeper and some scenes suggested that I was opposite him.

How did you extract yourself from the contract?

I pleaded with Joharsaab to let me work in other films. But he refused saying, 'Or we will end the contract.'

I agreed.





Was it tough to strike out on your own in the film industry?

The first year was hard because I had no contacts, but God helped me at every stage. I signed Bandish with Dara Singh's son (Parduman Randhawa) as my leading man. I told its producer I would do his film on one condition: You have to pay me all the money now because I want to buy a house. With the money from Bandish, I bought a beautiful two-bedroom flat at Carter Road, Bandra (north west Mumbai).

Why did you start accepting second leads and character roles?

I did films as a heroine opposite Dev Kumar and Sailesh Kumar. Unfortunately, I was not getting roles opposite the leading heroes of that time. I was friendly with actress Zaheeda and grew close to her family members, like Nargis and Sunil Dutt. When I asked them for advice, they cited Raaj Kumar's example and said that he may not be a hero but he is still a big star. So I started accepting non-heroine roles and my career really started from that point. Even if I was playing the second lead, my role would be better than the heroine's. What more did I want? I got big movies with directors like Raj Kapoor, Manmohan Desai and Hrishikesh Mukherjee. I was very happy because as an actor, I could show my mettle.

Arguably, your most memorable role was in Raj Kapoor's Bobby (1973) as Rishi Kapoor's mother.

I was told Rajji had gone to Sadhana first for Bobby. He wanted to change the image of the typical Hindi screen mother and present a younger mother.

Sadhana refused because she had a problem with her eyes. Meanwhile, I was shooting for O P Ralhan's film at RK studio where Rajji saw me act and said, 'I want this girl for the role.'If it had been offered to Sadhana, I knew it would be a good role. I said, 'Main yeh role karoongi' though I was only 26.

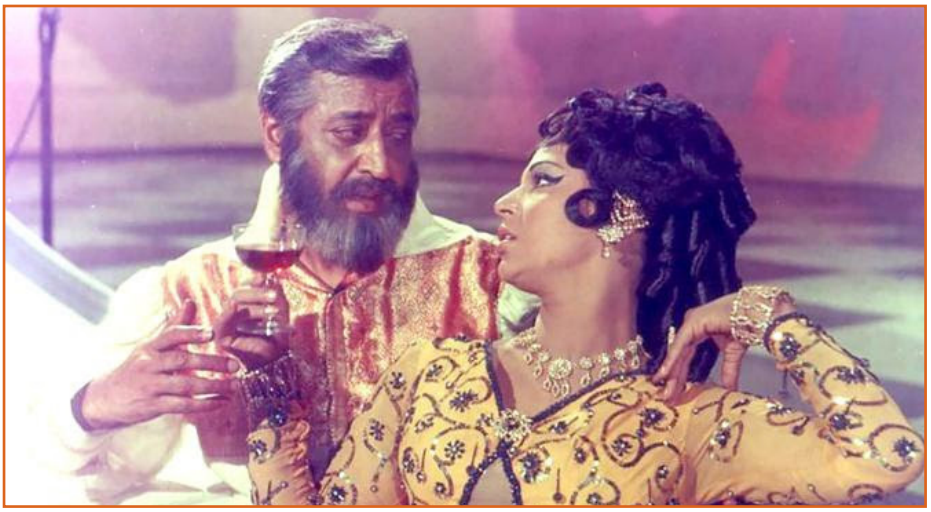
You had an impactful scene in which your character finally explodes at her husband (Pran) for forcing her to prioritise social obligations over her son. What was it like to be directed by Raj Kapoor?

'Na uska kuchh bigda, na aapka. Main hi baanj jaisi reh gayee' (quotes her dialogue verbatim). On every morning of the shoot, Rajji would sit in my makeup room and explain the scene.

He would say, 'Sonia, I have defied many people and cast you because I know you will do it.' And I would reply confidently, 'I will'.

Was your screen son Rishi Kapoor amiable?

He was a cute baby, still a teenager then.



Pran and you also teamed up in Jungle Mein Mangal.

That movie was inspired from Archie comics. I played a teacher who is romanced by a professor Pranji during the song Tum Kitni Khubsurat Ho. I did several films with Pranji.

You worked a lot with Hema Malini too -- Sharafat, Jugnu and Chacha Bhatija.

Hema Malini would take panga with me. She didn't like me though I was not saying, 'Talk to me' or 'Be friends with me'. I think Dharmendra was paying a little extra attention to me and she didn't like it.

Tell us how you fell in love with Shivendra Sinh of Palitana.



Shiv and I first met at my rakhi brother's birthday party. He said I would like to meet you again and I retorted, 'Why?' But I liked him because there was something very nice about him.

He was a real gentleman and God's good man.

Was there opposition to your marriage, considering he was from a royal family?

If his family had any objections, they never showed it. They were too educated. His younger sister Gayatri was a good friend of mine.

All of them were very warm.
I am mami to the rajmata of Jaipur, and whenever there is a get-together, they go, 'Mami ko zaroor bulana'.

Did your husband's death propel you back into acting?

His death was a big shock to me.

My son was in Class 7 in a boarding school at Mayo but he suggested that I return to acting rather that be lonely at home. I did many television shows like Kkusum.

Santoshi Maa was the last serial I worked in.

What is your life like today?

I am busy with my grandchildren, Vir Singh and Arjun Singh. My daughter Kiran is a pilot with Indigo.

I have a lovely family and the best daughter-in-law. I have retired now.


DEVGN FILMS
JIO STUDIOS AND DEVGN FILMS PRESENT
A DEVGN FILMS PRODUCTION
Jio STUDIO
RAKSHAK.
BHAKSHAK.
AUR..
MAA
DIRECTED BY VISHAL FURIA
PRODUCED BY AJAY DEVGN AND JYOTI DESHPANDE
STORY AND SCREENPLAY SAIWYN QUADRAS CO-PRODUCER KUMAR MANGAT PATHAK CREATIVE PRODUCER DANISH DEVGN
IN CINEMAS JUNE 27
ETFLIX

'He Was A Sarvashresth Brahmin. I'm In Awe Of People Like That

'What would Ravana do in today's time?'



Kajol doesn't watch horror films but she's all set to star in one, in this week's release, Maa.

As the title suggests, the actor plays a mother who does everything in her power to save her daughter in this supernatural film. She tells **Patcy N/Rediff,** "It's not a typical horror film because besides fear and great background music, it also has emotion. That is its strength."

You played a mother in Salaam Venky, and you played one in Maatoo. How are the two different?

Every woman has an identity, whether she has children or not. Salaam Venky had a different mission in life. In this film, we are fighting against a unique evil. In Salaam Venky, we were fighting a demon, which was a disease spreading through the body (Kajol's screen son suffered from a medical condition, which resulted in an early death). In this film, there is an actual demon.

But the fundamental fear that every mother has is that nothing should ever happen to her child. The biggest battle is whether she can protect the child or not. The tagline of this film is 'Evil versus Faith'. The faith a mother has in herself and in Maa (goddess) is very important.

Do you think in our country, especially with our traditions and culture, mothers are glorified so much that they are not seen as normal humans and that they cannot make mistakes?

There is a very thin line between right and wrong. Life is not black and white but a big grey area. It's always up to the perspective, how you show a character, how the director views each role. This film shows many different forms of motherhood. I feel the mother is judged a little less now.

Do you believe in black magic?

If you believe in Light, then you have to believe in Dark. I believe there is a balance in the world. Without evil, good cannot be appreciated. I don't know whether I believe in everything but there are some things that are normal.

Have you faced any eerie or paranormal things on sets?

No, never. Don't speak about these things now.

How was your experience shooting the film in Kolkata?

I got so much love from everyone.
The food was amazing. The people in Dakshineswar were nice. I am so grateful and lucky that so many people love me. It's the land of Kali Maa, so I love going there.

Do you like horror films?

I don't watch horror films.
My sister (Tanishaa Mukerji) loves horror films. I told her she doesn't need to watch horror films to get scared, I'll do it for free! But she never took me up on that offer.

What was your reaction when you got the offer to do this film?

I loved the story. It's my favourite story about Kali Maa Aur Rakth Beej. I have told this story to my children many times in different ways. I used it to scare them! When I got the offer, I felt it was a cool concept and I have to do it.



When the script was written, we thought it would be a thriller. But by the climax, we realised it had to be labeled horror because the characters and the situation became very big. It's not a typical horror film because besides fear and great background music, it also has emotion. That is its strength.



There's a scene in the trailer where you're driving and suddenly a witch comes to your window. Was that scary to shoot?

Yes, it was very scary!
We shot at a large ruined mansion, four to five hours away from Kolkata, at night.

All windows, except one, were closed. In that window, there was a skull placed mysteriously. It was very creepy. Even shooting normal emotional scenes felt scary there.

Do you like mythologicals?

I love mythology. I have read Indian mythology, Viking mythology, Greek mythology -- everything! I have been passionate about it since childhood.

Would you like to do something based on the epics like the Mahabharata or the Ramayana?

Absolutely! I would love to play Krishna. Though I might never get the chance, it's a character I really want to portray. I'm also fascinated by Ravana and would love to play him.

If I was a writer, I would have loved to meet these two characters. I would love to write a book exploring those characters.

What intrigues you most about Ravana?

Ravana was also called Dashavatar, but in real life, he did not have 10 heads. He was as intelligent and learned as 10 men. He was considered as a sarvashresth Brahmin. I am in awe of people like that.

I would love to know how the mythological Ravana would be in this day and age. In ancient times, there were a lot of restrictions and rules that everyone had to follow. But what would Ravana do in today's time?

Are you or Ajay Devgn more protective about your children?

Both parents are very protective, probably on the same level.



How naturally did the emotions come to you during the shoot?

I have played a mother's role for the last 22 years. It's an emotion that comes very naturally to me. The body language comes effortlessly.

But because it's a horror genre, everything is on a certain pitch. But I trusted Director Vishal (Furia) completely.

Why weren't you present for the dubbing of your son Yug's debut film, Karate Kids: Legends?

I was working on another project that day. But I was very happy with the way everything was done and proud of how the child acted responsibly.

Do insecurities affect your performance?

Everyone has insecurities.

I don't focus on them. I just believe that if I work hard and do well, they won't matter on screen.

‘It Really Breaks Your Heart’

These characters have huge spirits and they are fighting something that is much bigger than them. The attempt was to portray how they navigate their lives, to retain that spirit and not let it die.



Ishaan Khatter and **Vishal Jethwa** were at different points in their careers when Director Neeraj Ghaywan (Masaan) picked them for what could be the roles of their lifetime.

In Ghaywan’s new film Homebound, Khatter and Jethwa play childhood friends Shoaib and Chandan, a Muslim and a Dalit, who grow up in a small village in Uttar Pradesh. Despite their status in life, the two dream of breaking out of the restrictions imposed on them by society by joining the state’s police force.

Homebound -- inspired by real characters whose lives were documented in Basharat Peer’s New York Times article -- premiered at the Cannes film festival, where the actors, along with Janhvi Kapoor in a supporting role, made their debut.

In the film, the two friends eventually land jobs in Surat but in the wake of the nationwide lockdown, following the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, are forced to leave town and travel a long distance, mostly by foot, to their village. Homebound is produced by Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions with Martin Scorsese lending his name as the executive producer.

Aseem Chhabra spoke to the two young actors after the world premiere of Homebound.



Ishaan and Vishal, you have acted in many films. Actors can do anything but in the film, both of you bring out that friendship quality so convincingly. Did you know each other from before?

Ishaan: Only socially.

Vishal: We met in July and August 2024, and started filming in September 2024.

Ishaan: Vishal and I read together in July. Once everything was locked, Neeraj insisted we spend one-on-one time together. He wanted us to develop the spirit of this friendship. He also said, ‘I want you to be vulnerable with each other, share things from the past, and not just the happy stuff.’

Did you guys go out drinking?

Ishaan: Quite the opposite. I don’t even drink. Vishal at that time had injured his leg; he had met with an accident and was in a cast. I also had a ligament tear. Since we were both injured, we decided ‘Let’s not go anywhere, hum ghar par hee milenge.’

The first time we met, we spoke for about five hours. We got pretty close and comfortable. After that, Neeraj broke the ice, doing workshops, improvising situations, which brought us close to the characters. He was also working with us individually to finding our characters. So it was a combination of developing our chemistries and working that into the characters he had built. What really made us connect with the characters was the trip we took to UP and some of the villages where we spent about six days meeting people.

Vishal, what did you learn about Ishaan after spending five hours together the first time?

Vishal: We were able to learn some secrets about each other and our thinking process. Within a day, we were joking with each other, giving high-fives. That was needed for the characters in the film. We couldn’t fake the friendship on screen.

We had to have this connection, to bring it to the audience and show it on screen. Otherwise, it wouldn't have looked truthful. Also, as I have said earlier too, he's a great person, a great personality. He's open to everything, open to listening to you without judging you. He's like a go-to-friend for me. He knows me well now. We are that comfortable. Humne to ek doosre ke saath narazgi bhi kar li.

Ishaan, what did you discover about Vishal?

Ishaan: I think he's someone who's very emotional, sensitive, and feels strongly about things.

But there was a curiosity in him to understand the film, its depths, and to understand Neeraj's voice. I saw him every day on set, pushing himself to be open, and imbibe all that he can and grow. It was fun to have a partner who would come with a level of investment that was high and all in. In every sense, he's been my bouncing ball.



Vishal you are one year older than Ishaan.

Vishal: Yes, I am 31.

I mentioned your ages because both of you have tough roles; tough to play for somebody of your ages, as I am sure you guys have not had such difficult experiences in life.

Ishaan: Our job was to create empathy. Of course, imagination is big to me but our work was to try and bring ourselves as close to the characters as possible, try and understand them as best as we could. These boys were 22-23, and they had lived this life. This is not an easy subject to even talk about. I think, at least for me, I didn't want this film and its tone to feel self-pitying. I wanted you to see the resilience and the spirit of these characters.

From the very beginning, my character Shoaib strikes you as an optimist. He feels empowered despite the odds. Then when you start seeing the cracks in his inner world, it really breaks your heart. These characters have huge spirits and they are fighting something that is much bigger than them. The attempt was to portray how they navigate their lives, to retain that spirit and not let it die.

Yes, it was emotionally draining. It was definitely physically challenging because there would be long days of some really hard scenes, and at least in my case, as I am not an in-and-out type of actor. I can't switch on and switch off. Also, we were persuaded by Neeraj to stay immersed. So it was difficult but also a pleasure because everything on this set supported the work we were trying to do.

Vishal: Yes, we are young but in my case, if you look at Chandan's journey, I was not that privileged in my teenage years. Now I sleep in a room with an AC and have a car. But I have also seen the kind of life that Chandan had.



What do your parents do?

Vishal: My father passed away when I was 13 and my mother raised us single-handedly. So I have a sense of poverty and struggle, coming from a lower middle-class family. I became mature early on. I saw a lot and am able to use many of these experiences in my film work.

I know I can never fully experience what these characters go through but we do understand the world of Chandan and Shoaib. Physically, it was also challenging for me. I lost nearly 10 kilos during the making of the film.

Ishaan: We had to look as normal, as invisible as possible.

The film was well received; the nine-minute standing ovation was amazing. What did it feel like for both of you? Then, when you guys hugged each other.

The tears and smiles. Do you remember what was happening at that moment?

Vishal: It was an amazing experience.

I feel we are blessed because there are better hard-working actors than us. And it was special that my mother could be there with me and there were so many stars present. It was the biggest day in my career.

Ishaan: I have always aspired to do a certain calibre of work but there are some films that go beyond just working for you. Also, having watched Neeraj's previous works and knowing his voice as a filmmaker, I aligned with this very strongly.

I think it's a deeply humanist film, very sensitive. It's not a film that tries to indict or point fingers or add to the problem but rather, it tries to hold the audience's hand and show them a perspective that perhaps they're not privy to. Perhaps it could spark a change and empathy through that.

I am extremely proud of this film. Neeraj worked very hard on it. He spent three years more than any of us writing this film. And we were an integral part of the process with him. I think he was devoted to telling this story in as honest a way as possible, and it shows on screen.

Mira Nair, who directed you in A Suitable Boy, was in the audience. Did you hear from her, Ishaan?

Ishaan: Yes. She sat next to my mom. At the end, she put her head in my mom's lap. And my mom was like, 'I was in no state to console anyone.'

‘Sonam Has The Energy Of A 20 Year Old’



On this happy occasion, I wish Sonam more work and another National Award.



A decade ago, on April 19, 2015, Sonam Kapoor embarked on a journey with Neerja. The biographical drama, which released the following year on February 16, relieves purser Neerja Banot’s last flight aboard Pan Am 73 when, on September 5, 1986, four terrorists of the Libyan-based terrorist group Abu Nidal, attempt to hijack the ill-fated plane enroute to New York during a stopover at Karachi’s Jinnah international airport.

Neerja died two days before her birthday, managing to save 359 of the 379 passengers on board, including the three children she took bullets for.

She was honoured posthumously with the Ashok Chakra while Neerja was adjudged ‘Best Feature Film in Hindi’ at the 64th National Film Awards with Sonam’s performance in the title role getting her a ‘Special Mention’.

On Sonam’s 40th birthday on June 9, the film’s director **Ram Madhvani** says “Today, Sonam turns 40,which I say is 20 multiplied by two because she still has the energy of a 20 year old.”

‘It’s rare for an actor to get to play a role that is perfectly suited to them..

It was Atul (Kasbekar, Producer), who spoke to Sonam first and approached her for Neerja even before we were ready with the script. I was happy when he told me that she had evinced interest in the project because even then, I was convinced she had the right look and demeanour to play Neerja and it’s rare for an actor to get to play a role that is perfectly suited to them.

I met her for the first time when she came with us to Chandigarh to meet the Bhanot family.

We took the blessings of her mother (Rama Bhanot), her brothers (Akhil and Aneesh Bhanot) and the others who were there.

It was nice to see how homely Sonam was and how comfortably she fit into Neerja’s family. My first impression of her was that she is somebody for whom the family will always come first and this has to do with her own family and upbringing, the value system she believes in.

After this, it took us a year-and-a-half with Saiwyn Quadras who wrote the story and screenplay, and Sanyukhta Chawla Shaikh who penned the dialogue, to finalise the script.We would constantly read out the script to Sonam as it developed and I was delighted when she eventually said yes and came on board.

'I was so moved by the way Sonam spontaneously started crying'

She has a great world view, knows her European cinema and reads a lot. Consequently, she could embrace the way I shoot my movies. I use three-four cameras at a time and don't use lights.

In this film, I also insisted on keeping the four actors who play the hijackers -- Ali Baldiwala as Mansoor, Vikrant Singta as Fahad, Abrar Zahoor as Zayd and Jim Sarbh as Khalil -- from meeting the crew and the passengers till the day of the shoot.

They lived in different hotels and even rehearsed separately, meeting the passengers and the crew for the first time on the flight. In fact, the four terrorists had not even seen the inside of the plane till then. This is not your usual way of filming, but I wanted to escalate the antagonism between them.

For me as a director to capture that energy, my lead actress had to be comfortable, confident and sure, completely embrace what I call my 'System 360', which Sonam did, easily and beautifully. There is a scene in the film where in the midst of the hijack, when the danger to the passengers and the crew is escalating, Neerja opens an envelope given to her by her boyfriend Jaideep, played by Shekhar Ravjiani.

As she reads the letter in which he opens his heart, she has to eat the chocolate biscuit accompanying it, symbolic of her accepting his love, something which Jaideep will never learn.

While we were filming the scene, I was so moved by the way Sonam spontaneously started crying while reading the letter that I called for 'Cut' and she had to remind me that she was meant to eat the biscuit too.

We had to reshoot the scene and it was amazing how she did it once more with the same feeling and this time, when she was eating the chocolate biscuit, I felt like I was seeing a master at work.

'She has an excellent memory'



Sonam had begun her career as an assistant director (on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2005 film Black) and on Neerja's set, she was a great help as a first AD too. As an actress, she was a revelation. I shoot very long takes, and before the interaction with the four terrorists, I went to her make-up van to brief her, explaining that they have infiltrated the airport disguised as security officers escorting a Libyan diplomat.

As they rush the plane, armed with grenades and AK-47s, she is notified and without even meeting them, she tries to stop them by alerting the three American pilots in the cockpit who escape through the overhead hatch of the Boeing 747 while she returns to the cabin determined to save the situation.

It was a long scene.
She listened to me attentively, processing everything that I was saying and during the shoot, and remembered everything I had detailed, including her lines. She has an excellent memory. 'On this happy occasion, I wish her more work and another National Award' I have a huge regard for Sonam's fashion sense.

It is not put on; it comes naturally to her. She uses clothes as a statement and sometimes even as armour, carrying off clothes with great panache which came in very handy while we were marketing the film.



When we were going for the trailer launch, she called me to say sweetly, 'Ram, it's going to be quite hot with all the lights, so remember to carry your handkerchief.' That's Sonam, with all her gentleness and kindness! She's a voracious reader, which gives her a world view and sets her apart. Today, she turns 40, which I say is 20 multiplied by two because she still has the energy of a 20 year old.

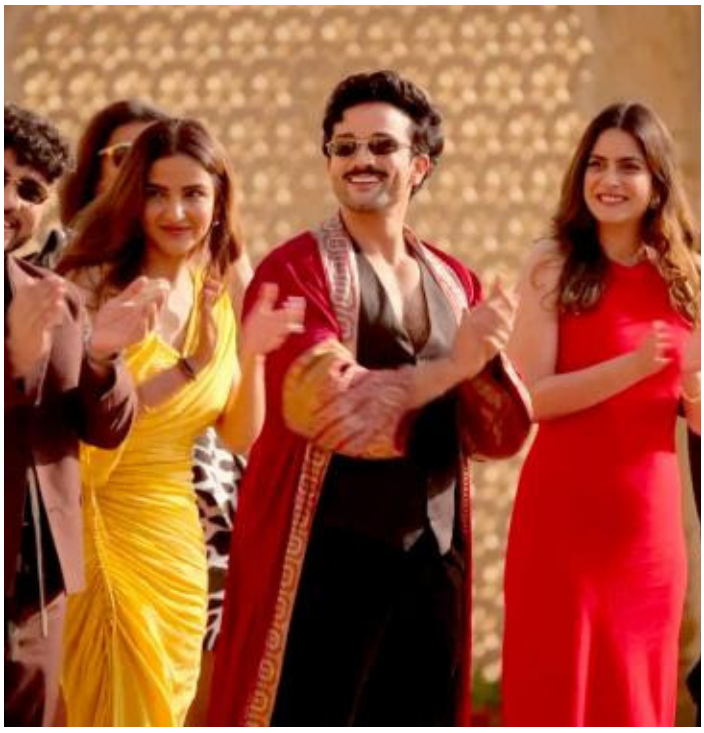
On this happy occasion, I wish her more work and another National Award.

I want to see her grow from strength to strength with the roles she plays and go on to have as long a career as her father, Anil Kapoor, has had, maybe even longer.

You Don't Have To Be A Traitor In Life

'I don't have to 'kill' my best friend (on a reality show) and not even apologise.'







OTT actor **Sahil Salathia** seems really upset about his stint on the Amazon Prime Video reality show, The Traitors.

He feels especially bad because he was 'betrayed' by his best friend of eight years: Elnaaz Norouzi, who is among the three 'Traitors', including Raj Kundra and Purav Jha.

Sahil was the first to be evicted from the show, , "I was humiliated by my best friend of eight years. I was thrown out by somebody who literally was my family in Bombay and did not even apologise to me."

How was your experience on The Traitors?

I was there very briefly because I was killed very, very soon. After the show, I felt suicidal. I was humiliated by my best friend of eight years. I was thrown out by somebody who literally was my family in Bombay and did not even apologise to me.

I felt very worthless.
I am an actor from Jammu, who studied at a Hindi medium school, and have never had a hit. I did Ashutosh Gowariker's Panipat, which tanked. Everest didn't really take off.

P.O.W with Nikkhil Advani wasn't appreciated. Adhura on Amazon Prime Video wasn't really about me; I was in the ensemble of five people. When Raj (Kundra) told me that Elnaaz was the traitor, I felt someone pull the rug from under me.

This show left such a huge impact on me that I have decided not to be on a reality show which has men in it. Girls understand me better. Men hate me. I don't know if Raj and Purav had a reason to kill me (being the 'Traitors' on the show). There must be a reason, but it made me feel suicidal.

I don't have close friends whom I call family anymore. I don't go for birthdays at midnight with a cake.

I live alone in Mumbai.
Sahil Salathia

Who do you think is the underdog in this game? Who is the smartest player?

I had said in the Prime Video diary that I think Elnaaz is the Traitor. I literally go to her house six times a week, she is that close. I had felt that Elnaaz was the traitor as she was always very irritated. When I got to know that she killed me, I couldn't believe it.

I went into a depression which cannot be described. It's stupid because life is bigger than a reality show.

But life is not bigger than a reality show for someone like Elnaaz. So she is the strongest player because if you've lost at relationships, then you are ethically the weakest. You killed your best friend in the show because Raj Kundra told you to.

How would you play the game differently if you were given a second chance?

I would not play it because there are men on the show.

What was your reason to join the show?

I wanted to be seen as the real Sahil. I think there is some confusion about my Hindi or they think I am a stupid actor. See, this profession is based on the luck factor. I wanted to be seen by more people. If you see the content I put out on Instagram, it promotes a certain kind of fashion.

I keep international aesthetics in mind. So I wanted to be seen by more people who would probably be a part of my tribe and be like, 'Yeah, man, you are cool!'

How do you feel The Traitors is different from other reality shows in India?

All the 20 contestants were very interesting. Nineteen out of 20 were dignified, and achievers in their own fields. Like, Lakshmi (Manchu) is a big deal in the South. Raj (Kundra) is a cool entrepreneur.

The other reality shows who come to me, the people that they get aren't of much 'value'. Not in terms of money but in terms of what they stand for.

Do you think being a traitor is necessary in today's times? Have you ever been in that situation where you had to deceive someone?

People see through you. Good actors may look innocent (because they use) fillers, Botox, lips, nose, whatever.... But your soul needs to be clean.

You cannot be a negative ball of energy and then expect to do varied roles. So you don't have to be a traitor in real life.

For me, I don't have to 'kill' my best friend (on a reality show) and not even apologise.v

‘I Adopted A Cat To Understand Motherhood’

‘I am not a mother and never had an abortion either, so I had to understand motherhood and child loss from anecdotal experiences of others.’



Mia Maelzer plays Jhumpa, the disempowered woman on the run in Karan Tejpal’s well-reviewed film **Stolen**.

She plays a woman, who loses her five-month-old baby at a railway station.

“It wasn’t as tough physically as it was emotionally for me to shoot Stolen,”

Your performance as a tribal woman on the run in Stolen is quite something. How did someone as urban play such a role?

I come from a unique family, which is from urban and rural spaces. My father comes from an erudite, reputed, Bengali family of people in sports, science, law, cinema and arts. My mother comes from a family in a tiny Himalayan village of Nepal. I was brought up in an English medium school in a town called Panihati until I reached the University of Calcutta, almost unaware of our family history.

When did you become aware of the fact that you were from such a distinguished family?

Everyone was casual about teaching me the importance of their contribution to society; they ensured that I was given the same education and responsibility. So I slowly learnt everything without any pride attached to my craft. I also ended up with a scholarship at the National School of Drama and once you become part of an institution like that, where most of your batchmates come from rural India, there is no way you stay super urban anymore.

When did you become interested in cinema?

I grew up watching great world cinema and took part in national sports camps as an athlete. My mother ensured that I learnt Indian classical dance along with basic ballet. Granny exposed me to folk theatre, music and dance.



My nanny Komoladi passed away last week. She was from Metiabruz. Our house help Bhagwan was from Odisha. One of my aunts was married into a family in a village, which owned huge mango and lychee orchards, where we would spend hours with the farmers. My brother and I grew up with a lot of Anglo-Indian family influence at home. So there was no particular struggle for me to understand the class spectrum that society offered.

What did you get from this multi-cultural upbringing?

What I discovered is that we are essentially human beings first. The rest are all just socially-constructed boxes. So at a surface level, it is easy for me to play any role. The complex part is to play through the situations where my characters make extraordinary choices.

Did the character require a lot of preparation?

Yes. My teacher Dilip Shankar sir prepared me lightly for this script, as did the team that visited me at home in Jaipur. I knew about Gaurav Dhingra and held huge respect for him as the producer of Angry Indian Goddesses, but I discovered Director Karan Tejpal only after we met three years before we shot Stolen. It was slightly before COVID so we had a lot of time to prepare.



How did Karan help you prepare for your role?

He would make me study films, news and medical history. He also encouraged me when I went to meet surrogate mothers in Bengal. It was a life-risking event for me and till date, I don't know the exact location where I met them. We had to change the dialect of the role based on the women I found there. I had to put on slight weight since I played a new mother. Yet, we had action sequences, so my brother, who is a physical performance specialist, worked on my movement literacy. Even the prosthetic cut over my belly had to be different from the regular caesarean birth cases. Unlike a horizontal cut, it had to be vertical to avoid being caught as it's not a very straightforward process legally.

There are many such details that I had to put into building this role. Plus, I am not a mother and never had an abortion either, so I had to understand motherhood and child loss from anecdotal experiences of others. I adopted my cat during this process just to understand motherhood in a better way.

How much of a background check did you do on Jhumpa?

Karan spoke with many doctors and legal experts, as did I. We would discuss long hours about the journey of migrant women and surrogate mothers. We were lucky that I had access -- through a few documentary filmmakers -- to the underbelly of Bengal, who knew some women who run this underground business. Since I didn't visit with a video camera, they opened up with their inner thoughts and fears. In fact, they wanted me to tell their stories. I loved that trust.



A lot of your scenes require physical exertion. Was that tough on you?

Slightly, yes, because the geographical terrain was not easy. The heat, dust, cold and wind in the jungle made me sick but we didn't stop shooting, as we had a small budget. Most of us, including actors, the DOP (Director of Photography) team, Karan, we come from strong sports backgrounds and we fought with full endurance. It wasn't as tough physically as it was emotionally for me to shoot Stolen.

What are Abhishek Banerjee and Shubham Vardhan like as co-stars and friends?

They are lovely boys. But during the process of our film's making, Karan ensured that we don't spend too much time together for the sake of our roles. Since we all come from theatre backgrounds, particularly the Delhi stage, we got along smoothly, creatively. The language of filmmaking that we believe in is also the same.

There is almost no age gap amongst us so there was no hierarchy despite the fact Abhishek brought in his commercial cinema experiences and Shubham and I brought in film and drama school expertise. We were all learning from each other under the guidance of our director, as if it was the first time we were shooting a film. In fact, AB taught me to fight for my own rights. Shubham taught me patience. They are both magic. We are a perfect team.



Are we seeing you in anything else soon?

My upcoming films are an Indo-American feature film in Telugu and Khoya language shot inside the forest sharing the borders of four Indian states -- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. The director is an American-born Indian filmmaker, Aditya Vempaty. Nandita Das and Nassar are the two senior actors in the film along with local theatre actors from Hyderabad and the Adivasi tribe of this region. It is the last film that the late Shyam Benegal sir was mentoring at its writing stage. The film is based on climate impact and is a period drama.

Stolen's DOP Ishaan Ghosh is also part of this team. The other film is a short film based out of the Darbhanga district of Bihar, where I speak the Maithili language. The story is based on a child's sense of belonging and identity. Actor Gagandev Riar is also a part of this short film directed by Omi Gupta. I also continue my academic career as a theatre and film coach across the world associated with various schools and universities and film projects. My focus is now to ensure if I can bring my internationally-released critically acclaimed work The Braid by Laetitia Colombani to India since it's available on Netflix France, and various other channels across Europe.

Why Sitaare Zameen Par Was 'Indianised'

What is fascinating about Aamir sir is that the audience in him is still alive and throbbing. He still cries. He still laughs.



Eighteen years after his directorial debut Taare Zameen Par, Aamir Khan returns with its 'spiritual sequel' called Sitaare Zameen Par.

This time, he deals with yet another less-known medical condition -- neurodivergence. But Aamir doesn't direct this time. This time, R S Prasanna, who directed the Tamil film Kalyana Samayal Saadham and its Hindi remake Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, takes over the directorial reins.

"When this story was offered to me, it was so exciting," "I saw a quintessential Aamir Khan film."

Taare Zameen Par was a huge hit and widely appreciated. Does that put pressure on you?

Every movie puts pressure on a filmmaker, the pressure of telling a story from the heart.

When I'm writing dialogues or a scene, I am always scared. What if I am the only person who finds this interesting?

Does my wife find it interesting too? Are my kids okay with it?

Pressure is the long-term friend of every filmmaker. When there is a legacy like Taare Zameen Par, there are certainly butterflies in the stomach. But I had the legacy next to me, Aamir Khan, and he makes his directors very comfortable. I am a huge fan of Taare Zameen Par. I remember he came down to Chennai to receive the Best Debut Director Award. He rarely accepts awards, right? That was the Gollapudi Srinivas Memorial Award and K Balachander gave it to him. There was a huge crowd in the auditorium and I couldn't get an entry I was part of the crowd outside the auditorium. When Aamir sir came out to interact with fans, he was so humble. Recently, I told Aamir sir I was that kid who saw you from a distance, thank you for letting me into your world.

How did you approach Aamir for Sitaare Zameen Par?

I had a 10-year plan, that hopefully, in my seventh or eighth film, I'll muster up the courage to pitch something to Aamir sir.



Who doesn't want to work with him? When this story was offered to me, it was so exciting. I saw a quintessential Aamir Khan film. Only he has the ability to play this role. I felt he would also be the best producer to help and guide me.

Sitaare looks like Lagaan and Chak De! India where a group of underdogs rise and win via a sport. Such movies have worked in the past. Did Aamir choose this genre because it was a sure shot win after his last debacle, Laal Singh Chaddha?

Aamir sir follows his heart.
I have asked him how he chooses his films. He has the same answer: He follows his heart. What is fascinating about Aamir sir is that the audience in him is still alive and throbbing. He still cries. He still laughs. For most people, it's very difficult to keep their knowledge of the craft aside while watching a movie. Aamir sir still has the ability to be an audience while watching a movie.



Sitaare is a remake of the Spanish film Champions, which was inspired from true events. Did you watch the movie to understand it better?

My first movie in Hindi, Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, is an adaptation of my own film, Kalyan Samyal Saavdhan. It's very important to know why we are adapting something. If there is an opportunity to tell a story, one needs to be excited by that story. I wanted my father, mother and my family to see this film, but they will not, unless I Indianise it. It's a universal story. I wanted people to enjoy this in an Indian context. Apart from that, which other movie would give us an opportunity to work with 80 to 90 percent neurodivergent actors? How could I let go of this opportunity? I couldn't.

How difficult was it to work with actors with special needs? Is it true you auditioned 2,500 actors?

We had a lovely casting process for over 10 months. Aamir sir and I were helped by casting directors, Tess Joseph and Anmol Ahuja. We put a process in place where we reached out to organisations and asked for entries because we were looking at people with enthusiasm and a desire to act.

We were not looking at professional actors. Some of them have done movies, like Gopi Krishna Varma, but we were looking at real people who love to act.

I always wanted to be an actor when I was a kid. Then I realised there is something called direction and writing. When I made short films in college with a mini camera, my actors were amateurs. They were my friends, my family. I am not averse to working with new talent.

What was it like shooting with them?

They shocked us with their stamina. After lunch, we would have a dance party to get our energies up. What I really admire is that they just don't give up. They are perfectionists, just like Aamir Khan.



We would get our day's work done on time, we didn't lose any time because of them. An inclusive work environment is beautiful because there is an increase in productivity. You're working without egos and there's a lot of empathy and kindness.



What made you think about making a film on neurodivergence?

When we were expecting our first child, we had to do a (Down's Syndrome) test for the baby to check the parameters. I did not know much about neurodivergence, and that made me question a lot of things. One night, I remember asking my wife Meena if I was wrong in praying for a healthy child. Was I wrong in praying that my child ought to be this way and not that? We were having this conversation and then I think the night ended with us saying that whatever God chooses to send, that would be our child.

A lot of people and counsellors educated us. We researched online. There are so many of these Sitaare who are achievers in life. When the discussion about this film happened, this thought was in my mind. When Aamir sir asked me, why would you want to do this film?

I told him that what if a guy like Gulshan (played by Aamir) is not aware of these things? Who will teach him?

Suddenly, it all came together. I talked to Samvit Desai's (who plays one of the Sitaare) parents, and they told me so many stories about how they felt. There are good resources nowadays and so much more awareness.

Taare Zameen Par had a huge impact on the special needs community, so they were very excited when we went to them with this movie.



How was it working with Aamir Khan? Did he give ideas and tell you what to do or not do, or did he give you a free hand?

I have been asked this in every interview. I shared this with Aamir sir two days ago and we had a laugh over it. Aamir sir is an absolute delight to work with. He respects every single department, be it the director, the assistant directors or the costume department.

He empowers filmmaking in all the departments. He will not overstep or to tell you to do this and that. He empowers young people. Remember, he worked with me, who has not done any big film before Shubh Mangal Saavdaan. He constantly takes chances on directors who may not have done big films before. He is very addictive. He spoils his directors.

How did you get into the movies?

I come from a middle class family in Chennai, which had nothing to do with movies. Let me correct myself. We have everything to do with movies because we are the audience. My father is a huge film buff. One of the films he took me to was Kamal Haasan's Guna. It's a classic. He is a neurodivergent protagonist.

I remember watching Koshish, Jaya Bachchan and Sanjeev Kumar's classic, where we had special needs people. Then, there was Kamal Haasan's Sadma.

I come from a family who was hugely supportive of my filmmaking aspirations. My father was very clear that whatever you do, just get your engineering degree, so you will have a job. My lovely wife and two children keep me grounded and also keep my passion for cinema alive.



MANY WOMEN DON'T HAVE GUTS TO ESCAPE THEIR SITUATION

They can't take even the smallest step. The mental abuse is so insidious that sometimes they don't even realise it's happening.





The strains of Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehman's Tere Mere Sapne from Guide ring in your ear, as you wait for **Renuka Shahane** to answer her phone.

The ringtone is a pleasant start to the conversation, which starts with a cheerful voice, sprinkled with a lot of laughter. But Renuka has a lot of say, and she does that with her latest directorial called Loop Line, or Dhhaavpatti. The Marathi animated film is under 10 minutes, and tells a story we are familiar with. We see a housewife, who goes through an unending day of drudgery and boring housework with no appreciation from her emotionally-abusive husband. But every once in a while, she takes a break by escaping into her imagination. This is not Renuka's life, but many women have lived it at some point. "I was thinking of those women who live claustrophobic lives and yet, find an outlet," Perhaps they imagine a different life or imagine themselves in pleasant situations."

Loop Line is about the emotional abuse women face in their domestic lives. Why did you choose to explore this subject?

Whenever I think of novels or films written with women-centric characters, whatever the problematic areas are in that woman's life, there is some sort of step that the woman takes at the end, which is a sort of resolution or it gives hope for something better in her life. Like, she suddenly finds her voice or does something different to solve the issue, big or small. But a lot of women, especially housewives, don't have

the guts or the ability to go away from the situation they are in.

They can't take even the smallest step. They don't find outlets to deal with their drudgery. The mental abuse is so insidious that sometimes they don't even realise it's happening. And this is not taken seriously because the questions asked are, is your husband physically harming you? Is it very serious? But it is serious because it does not allow you to lead a happy life. So I was thinking of those women who live claustrophobic lives and yet, find an outlet. Perhaps they imagine a different life or imagine themselves in pleasant situations.

These kinds of women are very far removed from you and your life.

Totally. It's not a lived experience at all.

So how did you get a deeper understanding?

The drudgery of housework is not alien to me, even though I'm a working woman. One feels that, oh, empowered women can outsource work. Yes, of course, you can, but there are so many things one has to look into to keep a house running well, and you have to do that yourself.

And it's not an equal job. I have seen people who have worked with me, observed my life and women in general. I have seen it in villages, big towns and big cities. It's very common.



All your directorials, Rita, Tribhanga and Loop Line have strong feminist views. Have you decided to use the medium of directorship to articulate your views on feminism?

You know, people might have a very low opinion about feminism today. It's bandied around in a very derogatory manner. But I am a staunch feminist. It was an extremely important movement and the people who criticise it, including women, are where they are today because of the hard work the early feminists have put in.

They have helped women's voices to come to the fore, for them to get education, the right to vote, basic things which we take for granted. So, when you say, oh, these feminists, you're talking about individuals you don't like, basically. Let's not malign the term or the importance of that movement just because you don't like certain women or men who represent feminism.

Will you ever explore a different theme?

As a director, I want to tell stories that affect me and amplify my authentic voice. In Rita, Tribhanga and Loop Line, we are talking about the struggles women face and there is such a long journey still ahead of us, in terms of equality and mindsets.

But the subjects I am dealing with next are not gender-related. They are more related to the social aspects. Not that I am done with stories related to women but I want to delve into other aspects. My next Marathi film deals with racism and how we don't even realise how racist we can be.



In Bollywood, which are the filmmakers that bring out the woman's voice the best?

Gulzarsaab writes beautifully for women. Bimal Roy's films are so sensitive to women. Guru Dutt portrayed women in such a sensitive manner.

Sujoy Ghosh in Kahaani. Dupahiya was written by two men (Avinash Dwivedi, Chirag Garg), and all the women characters were so sensitively written. Similarly, some women are so good with men. Take Zoya Akhtar, Farah Khan, Mira Nair.

As an actress working in Bollywood over decades, how much have things changed for women? How supportive is the system to women now?

Today, things are so much better in terms of the opportunities for women. In the 1990s, usually, the

only women on the sets were the actors and their hairdressers. You would not find any other woman.

Of course, there were female directors like Sai Paranjpe, Vijaya Mehta, and Aparna Sen, but the set was predominantly men. Now, there are women in front of the camera and behind. We have female cinematographers, something you would have never imagined in the '90s.

Also, with the advent of OTT platforms and corporates, there's a different type of professionalism. There is an awareness of any sort of bullying or sexual abuse or innuendo. These things are handled better, more gracefully. Now there is an intimacy coordinator for scenes related to intimacy.

In the 1990s, there weren/t even separate losses for women! Women who were character actors had to deal with a lot. For the outdoors, if you had to go to the loo and there were none, you had to make a temporary place with your chunnis. It was later, maybe sometime in the 2000s that things got better and there were separate loos for women.



Recently, Deepika Padukone opted out of a film because of a better work-life balance after becoming a new mom. This must have been unheard of in the 1990s. What were the choices that you had to deal with as an actor, when you had your children?

Yeah, absolutely. unheard of. At that time, once you signed a film, it was taken for granted that you've signed out your life for that time. But I chose not to work when I had children because I find it very difficult to multitask. It confuses me. So when I had kids, I wanted to stay with them.

I took up work very rarely in those years. And I never did outdoor shoots. Now that they have become independent (Renuka's sons Shouryaman and Satyandra are 23 and 20 respectively), I have started working again. Dupahiya is the first shoot where I have gone outdoors again.

But everybody has the right to decide their priorities, if they want to balance work and home. They have a right to say that, okay, I'll work only these many hours. If it's not suitable to the producer or director, then you're not there in that project.

There's a film like Loop Line, which is trying to make an important statement. And then there's a film like Housefull 5, bigger in budget and scale, about sexism and racism, and it's even doing well. Do you feel discouraged or disappointed?

No, I don't. Who am I to judge? People are paying their money and seeing it. In fact, I would like it if films work because that's very important for the industry. If the commercial entertainers don't run, then the out-of-the-box films have no chance. Loop Line is a passion project for me. It's not something where I'm going to earn a lot of money.

I knew that, in fact, I'm not going to possibly earn any money. I was told that there's no distribution network for animation films, especially those with mature content. They are rarely made in India, so they don't have that kind of market.

Why don't we see you acting more often? Are the roles uninteresting or low-paying or are you choosing to direct more than act?

I have to balance my acting, my writing and my direction. I also have to balance my house. So whenever I feel everything is conducive, I take up the offer. Of course, they should be offers that one feels excited about. But you will see more of me now because my kids have grown up.

Dupahiya was such a pleasant watch. Did it bring you more offers?

Yes. People feel that sometimes you are going in different directions, so you won't act. So now, maybe people will feel that, oh, she's accepting offers now that she's done Dupahiya.



How do you look back at your career, the films you did? Which ones were memorable?

Some things stand out for me either due to the popularity they offered me or because I loved being part of them. I loved Circus (1989) because that made me choose this profession of acting. It was Aziz uncle (Mirza), who mentored me and encouraged me to become an actor. During Lifeline (1991), I found a passion for direction.

I had assisted Dr Vijaya Mehta in that series, and it was an institution for me. My Telugu film Money (1993) was such a joyous time. I was new to the field of cinema and the language was not mine. Yet, I really enjoyed myself. Surabhi and Hum Aapke Hai Koun...! have stood the test of time.

When I go anywhere in the world, people recognise me because of Hum Aapke Hai Koun..!. I loved Imtihaan (1995) because that was when people started taking notice of me as an actor. My directorial films, Rita, Tribhanga and Dhao Patti are my babies.

When you look back, how much have you changed as a person? What were you like in those days?

I've changed a lot. My level of patience has increased a lot. You know, as a young person who is very popular, there is a certain brashness in you. There is a certain overconfidence, which has mellowed over the years. But I am still very self-critical. I have to be kind to myself. I think I should learn to do that more.

Bollywood's sweet girl-next-door got married to one of the scariest villains of the time, Ashutosh Rana. But we want to know your scariest quality.

Oh, I don't think I have, I'll have to ask Ranaji.
("Ranaji, what is my scariest quality?")
("Cockroach.")
No, no, he thought what I'm scared of, and he said cockroach.
("Do I have a scary quality?")

He's saying he doesn't find anything scary about me. But I'll tell you what my scary quality is. I can be happy being a recluse and that's not a good thing.

What is Ranaji's scary quality?

He has very few scary qualities. But his anger is scary. Even my anger is scary. I think my children can give the right answer to this. (She asks Shouryaman, who's present in the room) My eldest son says that I get irritated randomly.

What's his father's scariest quality?



He's scared to even say it.
We don't get angry very often but when we do, you should leave us alone.

What ticks you off?

Dishonesty.
Incompetence.
Cruelty to children, animals or anybody who's underprivileged. I think what my eldest son said is that, being irritable randomly, sometimes the pressure of being everywhere at the same time gets to me.



Raj Kapoor Could Have Married Nargis

'Those were not kind days for a woman with a break-up.'



Among the few who knew iconic actress Nargis best is her niece and former actress **Zaheeda** (Anokhi Raat, Prem Pujari, Gambler).

"The love in her eyes when she looks at Raj Kapoor! I challenge any artiste of today to emote like that with just their eyes,"

Did you grow up living in the same house as your aunt Nargis?

All of us lived together as one big, happy joint family in Marine Drive's Chateau Marine building (on Marine Drive, South Mumbai). Nargisji lived with my grandparents, my father (Nargis' brother Akhtar Hussain) and his family as well as (actor) Anwar uncle's family. It was a huge 3,000 square foot flat, and Nargisji had one bedroom to herself.

She was already a huge star. Could you walk into her room anytime?

Of course! When I returned home from school, I would enter her room and see the beautiful cotton sari which she had worn to the studio and which was now kept for dry-cleaning.



She never left home without applying perfume, so I would pick the sari and smell the perfume...

How involved was she in your life?

I loved my aunt, and she loved me and my sisters Rehana and Shahida. She would put me on her shoulders and enter the swimming pool at the CCI, then throw me into the deep and challenge me to swim. She also taught me ballroom dancing and how to use the soup spoon, dessert spoon etc.



Were there no starry airs at home?

She was a simple woman which simple tastes. Her favourite food was bhindi and she could take a plate and eat while sitting on the floor. She could take a chatai and sleep on the floor. She was just Baby which is what she was called by the whole family because she was the youngest. But we sisters and cousins called her Pappo because when we were young, we couldn't say Fufi (aunt) and we ended up enunciating it as Pappo.

Nargis never considered living independently?

My father had fixed up a nice apartment for her in a neighbouring building but she didn't stay there even for one night. That building was made by G P Sippy (of Sholay fame) and it was my father who recommended that he turn film producer. Now their grandsons (Rohan Sippy and my son Nilesh Sahay) have ganged up to make a film.



You told me you have been re-watching Raj Kapoor-Nargis' 1950s classics.

I thought chalo, I've not seen my aunt in such a long time so I started watching. Oh my God! As an

audience, I could see no vulgarity, just pure innocence and genuine love on screen. The love in her eyes when she looks at Raj Kapoor! I challenge any artiste of today to emote like that with just their eyes.

Do you remember meeting Raj Kapoor?

He would come to our house sometimes. On Diwali, an enormous box of mithai and firecrackers would come from Raj Kapoor. Dabboo (Randhir Kapoor) would come home with the invitation card to all the RK premieres. And Raj uncle would call and say, 'Zaroor aana'. If I wore my aunt's sari to the premiere, he would immediately recognise it.

Nargis came across as a strong lady. Was it difficult for her to reclaim her life after she broke up with Raj Kapoor and walked out of RK Studios?

She was hurt.
There was a time when he could have married her, but he didn't. Remember, those were not kind days for a woman with a break-up. The world has changed; today, nobody cares.

She soon immersed herself in the epic Mother India (1957). What do you recall of that time?

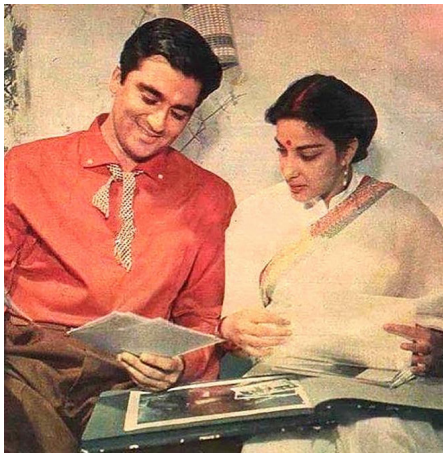
Her Mother India co-stars, Sunil Dutt, Raaj Kumar and Rajendra Kumar would land up at our home. My aunt would send us to get sandwiches and pastries from Gaylord and I would say sarcastically: 'Don't these people eat at home and come?'

Then there was the famous fire on the set and Sunil Dutt gallantly rescued Nargis.

It was a harrowing time.
When they returned from that outdoor shoot of Mother India, I had accompanied my father to the railway station to receive her. A part of my aunt's hand had been badly burnt and there were some burns on her forehead. But Sunil Dutt had been very badly burnt.

How did their love story develop?

Sunil Dutt was a very shy man.



Whenever he came home, he would stare at the Persian carpet. He would wait for hours for her to return from the studio. We would ask if he wanted tea but he would say, 'Nahin jee, main pee ke aaya.' Very shareef.

Was theirs a big marriage?

It was a simple marriage.
The family got to know only afterwards, when they came home to seek their blessings. After marriage, they shifted to a one-bedroom apartment in the Stardust building on Napean Sea Road.



Was it a difficult decision for her to leave films, especially on the heels of Mother India?

She was being offered fabulous amounts of money and stories written around her character. But Sunil Dutt said, 'Nahin madam, bas ab ho gaya.' She had always craved for a family and loved children. Look how she looked after us like her own children.

Did you see her less often after marriage?

She had made it clear to Sunil Dutt that her family meant the world to her and nothing would change that. She could not live without Chateau Marine; every morning she would be home till evening. We nieces eventually became more like her sisters, and would regularly meet her for shopping, movies and lunches.

Was she an indulgent mother to Sanjay Dutt?

His mother always had a slipper in her hand to discipline him (laughs).

His father believed in tough love.

Yes, Sunil Dutt had his quirks.
When he was making Man Ka Meet with his brother Som Dutt, he got angry when his brother refused to jump down from a height. He told his son to do the jump, and Sanjay obliged. My aunt said she almost had a heart attack. But his father wanted his son to be a tough boy.

How did she get involved in social work?

If she knew anybody was in trouble, she would go out of her way and use her offices to help. She helped introduce Amitabh Bachchan and Leena Chandavarkar to so many people in the industry.

She stood by Meena Kumari too during her fatal illness.

When I was shooting in London for (Dev Anand's) Prem Pujari (1970), I asked Dev for permission to meet Meena Kumari in hospital there. My aunt had sent woollen coats for Meena Kumari through me because she knew she was in a bad financial situation. Her health was in a very bad state.

Tragically, Nargis too died young. Only 51. What was your last conversation with her?

Sunil Dutt called and said, 'Come, your Pappo wants to meet you all for the last time.' When I went to see her in the ICU, I can never forget the way she looked at me. She just said: 'I am finished.' I said, 'Please don't say that.' She had every religious support at her bedside. I said they will look after you.

Then I left the room because I didn't want to burst into tears in front of her. I miss her and remember her every day so fondly. I love her children Anju, Sanju and Priya too because she had said before dying: 'Don't abandon my children.'

‘TU MAR KYU NAHI JAATI’: JAMIE LEVER RECALLS COMMENTS SHE RECEIVED FOR HER LOOKS

Jamie Lever opened up about the harsh body shaming and colourist comments she faced growing up, which deeply affected her self-image. She revealed how societal pressure made her insecure about her appearance until she learned to embrace her body and confidence

Jamie Lever, daughter of ace comedian and actor Johnny Lever, is a woman of many talents. She can dance, act, mimic, and make you laugh with her incredible skills. She recently opened up about her growing years and how people around her reacted to her physical appearance. Jamie revealed that she was insecure about her body, as she was an obese child.

Jamie Lever says she was called ‘chudail’

In an interview with Hauterrfly, Lever recalled the kind of comments she received during her early years based on her looks. “I got so many comments. Kaali hai (she’s dark), chudail lagti hai (she looks like a witch), chudail jaisi hasti hai (she laughs like a witch), you are ugly, you won’t get work in the industry, tu mar kyu nahi jaati (why don’t you just die), you are not getting work because of the way you look... Aisi shakal waali ladkiyon ko film nahi milti (girls who look like this don’t get films).

I have received such messages all my life. Colourism is such a huge issue here. Growing up, people would ask me to apply ubtans, turmeric masks, all of this to ‘become fair’... Colourism is a major problem in our country.”

Lever said that her insecurity about her body was so intense that she would cover herself from head to toe. “There was a phase when I used to wear long kurtas to cover my body. Even my family asked me to cover my posterior because I have bigger hips. I have a pear-shaped body – so what do I do about it? I was told to do something about my body, and I didn’t like myself. My body was an embarrassment for me, and it is only much later in life that I learned how to own my body and my curves.”

When Jamie got flashed at the age of 10

In the same interview, Jamie recalled a traumatising incident from her school days. She said that once her driver picked her up from school and was waiting outside for her brother to join them. “He asked me to wait in the car. My friend and I were chatting in the back seat.

One creepy guy came, stood at the window behind her, flashed me and started masturbating. It was the first time I’d seen a male part and I was so shocked. I didn’t understand what was happening. I was so young, maybe 10-12. I started trembling because I thought he’d open the door and do something,” she said.

She further recalled her school bus conductor being inappropriate toward her. “Our school bus conductor was so inappropriate with us, he would touch us. Some days, I feel like it’s all a bad dream...I have suppressed these memories.

He’s supposed to protect children, but he had a sick mind. I became so closed off, I didn’t let men into my life. I only dated once I moved abroad in my 20s,” she said

‘I Was Just Trying To Win Hearts’

Somewhere they felt that this guy is notorious because of what we read in the media. I was just trying to make people understand who the real me is. But you can’t be the real you.

Raj Kundra has been evicted from the OTT reality show, The Traitors, but seems thrilled of his time spent there. From navigating trust and betrayal to the thrill of strategy, he reflects on what makes the show unlike anything else on Indian television. “I call it the Kalyug ka show because this is kalyug,” “In the morning, you are friends and at night, someone is backstabbing you. My wife is hooked on it.”

How did the show resonate with you on a deeper level?

I enjoyed the show. We knew what we were getting into. I have seen The Traitors in the UK, I like the concept. I played to what I understood the game format to be. There are no hard feelings. You trust people, but you have to deceive them. You have to work with your instincts, and sometimes, you get it wrong. I think the first murder sent ripples, sabke hosh ud gaye. **Sahil Salathia** got killed and everything just turned. Everyone was confused. They thought Sahil had a close friend in Elnaaz, so uske upar se toh shaq hat hi gaya tha. What we tried to do as the Traitors was play the game. Even in the Circle of Shaq, you see my own Traitors throwing me under the bus. But it’s a part of the game.

Who do you think demonstrated the most strategic prowess?

I think the underdog was Jannat Zubair because she comes across as this very sweet kid. It’s not a game show for sweet, kind people. The strongest player is Apoorva Makhija.

If you could hit rewind, what strategies would you implement?

I don’t think it’s a show you can play by yourself because you’ve come with so many preconceived notions. I just thought everyone was gunning for me. When the traitors were chosen, I went a little aggressive by trying to be fun and friendly. I switched from this quiet person to learning and listening. I think in the excitement of the game, I went too fast, so then I slowed down. But I think it’s an interesting game show. There’s so much you can learn about people. I call it Kalyug ka show because this is kalyug. In the morning, you are friends and at night, someone is backstabbing you. My wife (the actress Shilpa Shetty) is hooked to it, so audiences are liking it.

What made you take up the show?

This game rewards deception but punishes perception. I think it came with a lot of preconceived notions. Somewhere they felt that I come with privilege or that this guy is notorious because of what we read in the media. I was just trying to win hearts and make people understand who the real me is. But you can’t be the real you. You have to come with a little bit of deception. So the perception didn’t work for me.

How do you feel The Traitors is different from other reality shows in India?

It’s so well cast.
The show format is different. India has never seen a show like this. We’ve just seen different kinds of reality shows, with just arguments and fights. This has got a little event. You have competitions and prizes to win. It’s like a mix of two, three different shows, but with its own uniqueness. Karan Johar brought so much to the table. People have always seen him in a humorous way. To see him as this serious game master... The show is about dhoka. You have to murder someone to win. I also wanted to be on the same screen as Lakshmi Manchu because my wife acted with her.







‘Acting Is In My Karma’



When I was shooting Aashiqui, I would hear comments like “Yeh toh bahut lambi hai. Heroine nahin dikhti hai”. But Aashiqui became such a big hit, and you know how the industry is. You have success, then you have everything.

Anu Aggarwal has always been an enigma.

From lip-syncing to popular Aashiqui songs to enacting unconventional roles to disappearing from films, the actress has made brave, individualistic, choices.

Courage is also what Anu exhibited after a life-threatening car accident. Instead of upending her life, adversity encouraged her to travel further on the path towards self-discovery.

"International Creative Management, one of the largest talent management agencies in Los Angeles, wanted to take me on. But that is also the time I wanted to take a break. I had started meditating. What more can you give me which my country hasn't already given?",

How do you look back on your smash hit debut Aashiqui (1990)?

Aashiqui made me a star, and it showed me the stars. A transformation happened in me, and I was grateful.

I had interviewed you in your Khal-Naaikaa days in 1993, and I recall you liking my headline: 'Cat Among The Pigeons'.

The headline made me smile, and then it made me think. Your interview and your perspective of me was so on the mark. I'll give you an analogy. I once wrote about how I'm walking on the bank of a river alone when everyone else is huddled in groups trying to swim inside the river (the mainstream).

You were definitely unique. That helped you generate a brief but memorable film career.

I was clear about what I wanted to do.

After the success of Aashiqui, I got hundreds of offers. I refused so many films because they wanted me to play the romantic Aashiqui girl. Instead, I worked with directors who gave me some great roles. I wanted to play different roles as an actor. Mani Ratnam saw me as an underworld queen for his Thiruda Thiruda. Sawan Kumar Tak offered me the title role in Khal-Naaikaa. In King Uncle, Rakesh Roshan gave me the role of a Goan girl, Fanny, which was different from any other role that I played.

Did you gel with a commercial director like Sawan Kumar Tak?

He used to stand up every time I entered the set. I was humbled by how much respect Sawan Kumar would give me.

Why didn't you work with Mahesh Bhatt after Aashiqui?

Mahesh probably didn't have a role for me, otherwise he would have come to me. I had good working relationships with all my directors, including the late Mani Kaul with whom I did Cloud Door, which opened at the Cannes film festival. I learnt so much from my directors.

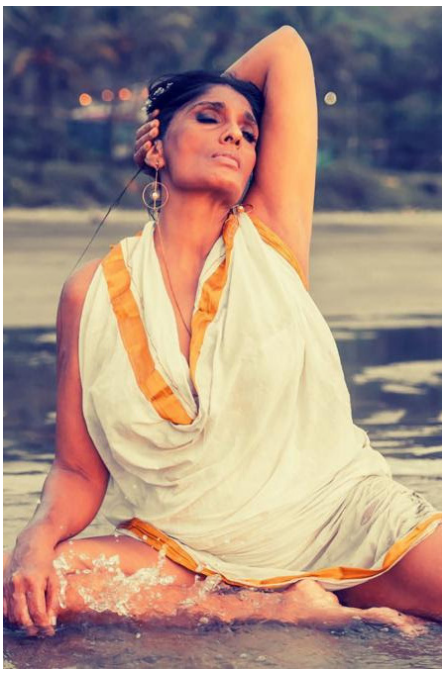
So why did you give up acting so soon? Did you get disillusioned?

That is a question I have asked myself. My life veered towards yoga and spirituality, towards self-development. I was getting quite disillusioned by the massive attention. I know people will say 'You have no business when you are that big a star to feel disillusionment.'

But for me, it was just too much.
I would come home after shooting and often sleep hungry because I was living alone and the maid hadn't come or I didn't have a maid. I was in my 20s and didn't know how to hire people nor did I have the time. Being alone and handling the housekeeping was difficult for me. Moreover, I had already worked with the best directors. After Cannes, I wanted to take a break and just rest.

I even refused a Hollywood offer.
In 1996, International Creative Management, one of the largest talent management agencies in Los Angeles, wanted to take me on. I was excited and thought I may join them. But that is also the time I wanted to take a break.

I had started meditating.
I thought, what more can you give me which my country hasn't already given? I was tired, I wanted to take some time off. I thought, do I really want to get into this right now? So I decided to go for a sabbatical. I didn't think it would last so long.



How did you get into yoga?

My uncle took me to a lecture at the JJ School of Arts. I heard Guruji's lecture on yoga and was hypnotised. I enrolled as a student and filled the form without mentioning I'm a movie star. I was chosen, and in 1997, I went for a course to the Bihar School of Yoga. We had 40 students from 20 different countries, and I was among the top two students.

What fascinated you about yoga

enough to make you forsake your film career?

I thought I would do this four-month course and maybe return to acting. But yoga just got me. I loved exploring its depth. Then I got into Karm Yoga. I wanted to know more about the Vedas, about Tantra. People don't know that I have a very strong academic side to me. I was okay with a simple lifestyle -- living out of a bag and sharing the room with someone. I was in Munger (Bihar). I was not in Mumbai, I had locked my house and gone.

So the impression that you veered towards spiritualism only after your life-threatening accident isn't true?

I did Vipassana in 1991 just after Aashiqui. I've been a Vipassana meditator ever since and that has really channelised my mind. Then, from 1997, I was living in the Bihar School of Yoga. I became a Karma Yogi, studying the depth of yoga, and living that Yogic lifestyle.



Which year did you have a car accident?

I had an accident in 1999. I had come back to sell my house. Guruji said you should take sanyas, you are made for helping people. You know what a bad accident I went through. The doctor said, 'She will die.' All the doctors had given up on me.

They say that even an accident happens for a purpose.

Absolutely. It took me to the next level. I don't see my accident as a bad thing. The accident was a blessing. I'm writing a book on that, so you'll read about it. One of the reasons I have gotten well and am here is because I have so much to give to the people who have given me so much. I had been on a spiritual path and abandoned everything. I even shaved my head in 2001. For four years, I shaved my head every 10 days. I lived a humble life without any belongings, without any expectations... just learning what I can do for society.

Which is why my foundation was formed. I've been speaking around the world, and our focus is mental health. Yoga says that diseases are psychosomatic. It all starts in the mind. You calm your mind, you save yourself. Now, it's also time for me to spend some time acting because it can go together with my work.

You are taking another leap of faith.

Acting and being a glamour figure, whether I like it or not, is a part of my karma. It is time that I embrace the industry that has brought me where I am today. To give back. Also, I love to act.

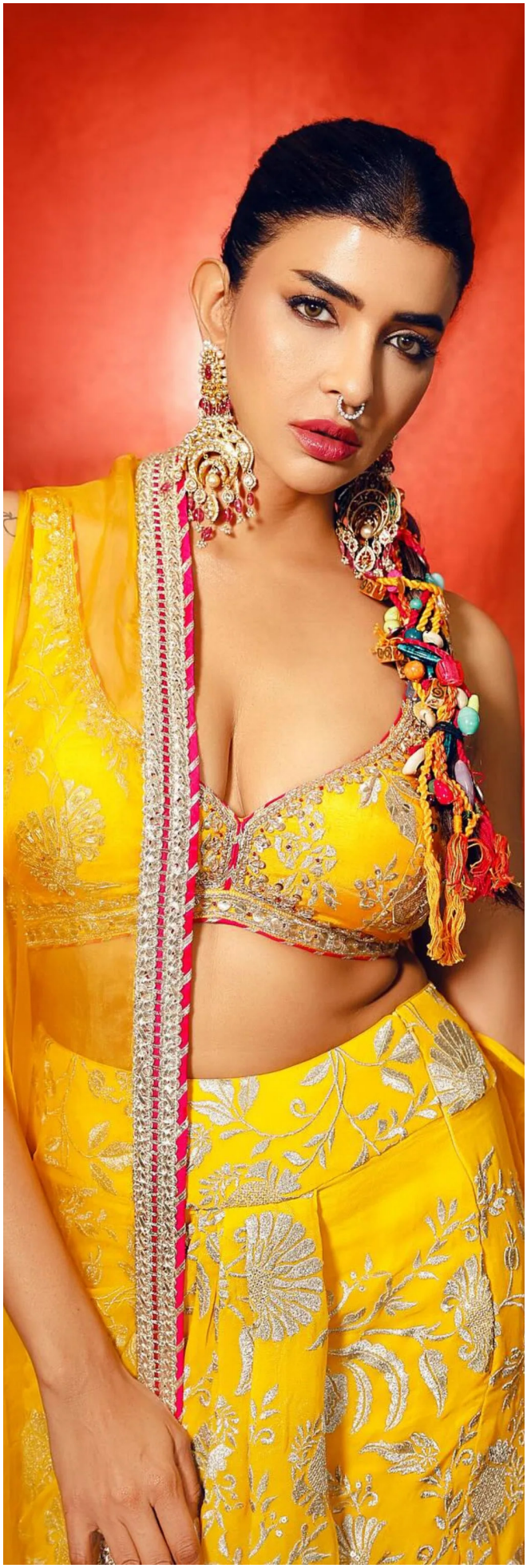
Are you confident the film industry will accept you back with open arms?

The industry has never accepted me.
When I was shooting Aashiqui, I would hear comments like, 'Yeh toh bahut lambi hai. Heroine nahin dikhti hai. Models acting nahin kar paate. And then they would say: 'Rang dekho. Kaisa makeup karti hai.' But Aashiqui became such a big hit, and you know how the industry is. You have success, then you have everything.

Do you miss the high of that period -- the fame and the parties?

I went to the biggest party with the top actors in Los Angeles in 1995. I left it. For me, the party is inside now.nI can sit at home and meditate and there's no bigger party than that.





I Will Never Be A Traitor To The People I Love

Once I came out of The Traitors, I needed therapy to understand what had just happened on the show.





Lakshmi Manchu signed up for The Traitors thinking it would be a fun, reality experiment.

What she didn't expect was the emotional whiplash that followed. The actor-producer tells **Rediff's Shristi Sahoo** why the experience left her shocked. "There were a bunch of lions and I was thrown in like a goat."

How did The Traitors make you feel?

It was like a whack.
I was like, what the heck is this?
What is going on here?

I love making friends and meeting new people. And yes, these were all your friends but you turned around and they were talking about you.

Once I came out of the show, I needed therapy to really understand and separate myself from what had just happened on the show. It was quite tumultuous for me, honestly.



Who do you think consistently outdid the competition?

I think I was the underdog. I had no clue what was going on111111. There were a bunch of lions and I was thrown in like a goat. Everyone came in strong. Initially, I thought Ashishji (Vidyarthi) was just sleeping but be it Uorfi (Javed) or Jannat (Zubair). everybody bought in their A-game.

It was not a fun experience because I was at the edge of my seat all the time. I think my heart rate was 150 throughout! I'm not a person of strategy, so I don't know if I would have played it differently.



Did you make any friends on the show?

After the show, I feel this show gave me some beautiful friends. Raj and I met on the show, but I know if I call him at 3 am, I know he will drop everything and be there. Sahil (Salatia) is also one of those guys. Raftaar and Jasmin (Bhasin) have become family.

I was at Raftaar's wedding. Now, Jasmin, his wife and I have become this trio and we talk to each other at least four times a week. Each one has a little piece of my heart because I got to see who they are apart from what we see of them on social media.

What drew you to this show?

Oh, they kept saying, 'Go be yourself, Lakshmi'. I was like, okay. That's all I wanted because I put in thousands of hours of work, coming from the family that I do, to separate me from my last name, or my tag, or how I was raised.



So I put in a lot of work to just understand who I am without any of these. But going there, that really did not reflect. It just tore me apart.

What makes The Traitors so different from other reality shows in India?

I have just moved to Bombay. This was not a format where you're locked up in a house for three months. This was their main launch in India; there will not be a bigger noise.

I always like to put myself in places I haven't been, things I haven't done. As an artist, that's the only way you can grow -- keep shocking your system and doing things that people don't expect of you. All the cards felt right for me, that's why I agreed.

Is betrayal necessary today?

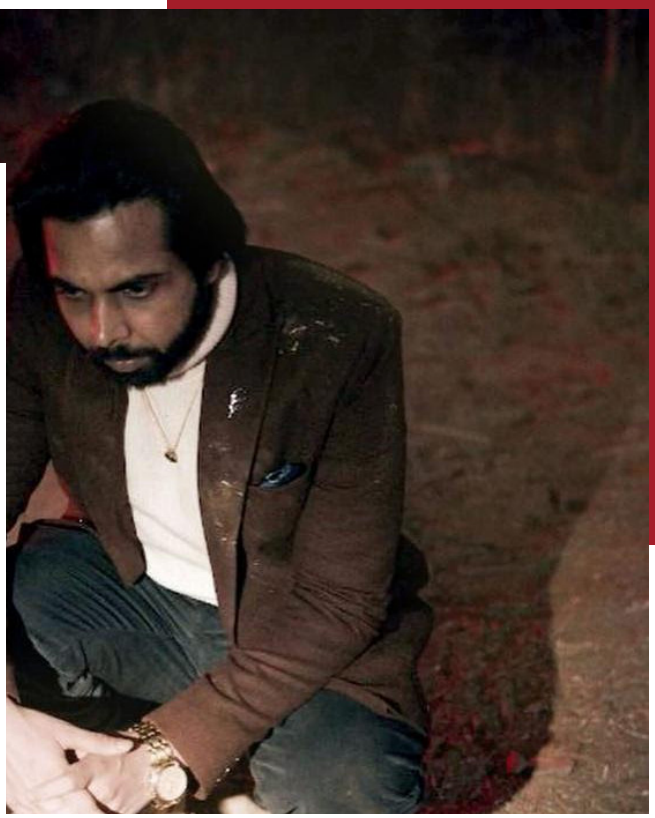
There are choices in life where you can do shortcuts and benefit out of them. Being a producer and actor, I see this all the time. But ultimately, you're walking yourself home and you have got to be genuine, honest.

Even with a gun to my head, I will never be a traitor to the people I love. Even to people I don't like, I can't be a traitor. I may put them out of my life but will never backstab them.

‘AFTER THE SCENE, HE BROKE DOWN AND WEPT’

The entire shoot paused after that. There was a heaviness on set -- a shared recognition of the horror we were portraying.





Amazon Prime Video’s **Stolen** has been getting raves. Vikramaditya Motwane, one of Bollywood’s ace directors, who has made films like CTRL, Trapped, Lootera and Udaan, called it ‘India’s best action thriller of the decade, if not longer’. “The story of the Bansal brothers grew from that moment, where two young men got brutally killed by a mob that mistakenly believed they were child kidnappers. They are driven by panic, misinformation and manipulated videos circulating rapidly on WhatsApp,” Stolen’s debutant director **Karan Tejpal** tells. “That tragedy became the seed for the film’s narrative and emotional terrain.”

Where did you get the idea for Stolen?

The idea began with a video I saw of the **2018 Karbi Anglong lynching in Assam.**

It left a knot of fear in my stomach -- a visceral, physical reaction I couldn’t shake. I felt disturbed, and the only way I knew to process that feeling was to write. The story of the Bansal brothers grew from that moment, where two young men get brutally killed by a mob that mistakenly believed they were child kidnappers. They are driven by panic, misinformation and manipulated videos circulating rapidly on WhatsApp. That tragedy became the seed for the film’s narrative and emotional terrain.

How much research did you do on mob lynchings?

I began researching what is known as ‘WhatsApp lynchings’. I uncovered the broader, more unsettling social crisis behind the incident. On one side, there is the collective fear within disempowered communities to protect their children. On the other, the unimaginable grief of parents whose children become victims of that fear. It exposed a chilling cycle of mistrust, desperation and systemic failure. Each element of the story -- child trafficking, vigilante justice, the breakdown of law enforcement and the manipulation of truth -- is a reflection of a different facet of the larger phenomenon that led to that lynching.

Stolen is also about the perils of privileged do-gooding.

At its core, Stolen is about a man forced out of his bubble, confronted with a brutal, unfamiliar reality and compelled to see the world through new eyes. But more broadly, the film is a mirror to a fragmented society.

Was this inspired by any specific incident?

Stolen is not a reconstruction of a single event but a fictionalised emotional truth born from a very real one. It attempts to understand how fear travels, how empathy erodes, and how quickly society can unravel when

trust in its institutions collapses.

The casting features relatively unknown actors except Abhishek Banerjee.

The casting was driven by the strength of each actor's craft. I couldn't have asked for a better ensemble. With only five primary characters, every role had to carry weight; and each actor brought something unique to the table. Abhishek is undoubtedly one of the finest actors today. His style is honest, instinctive and deeply rooted in spontaneity. Casting him as Gautam Bansal was an easy decision. A consummate professional, he read the script within days and came on board without hesitation. It was a very straightforward process. The chemistry between characters was crucial, especially for the dynamic between the Bansal brothers. I was keen to cast actors with a real-life connection, and Abhishek suggested his friend Shubham Vardhan. From our first meeting, I wanted to work with him. He's a meticulous, highly trained actor who can inhabit any character.

What about the actress who plays the tribal?

Mia Maelzer was recommended to us by the incredible casting director, Dilip Shanker. I saw Mia's short film, The Field, which left no doubt that she was perfect for Jhumpa. She's an exceptional collaborator: Deeply committed, emotionally present and willing to give everything to the work.

The chase sequences in the village have a feel of guerrilla film-making. Were they shot with a secret camera?

No. The chase sequences were meticulously planned and designed to look as real and immersive as possible, to give the audience the feeling of being right in the middle of the action.The crew brought exceptional skill and focus to the shoot, from the cinematographer to the action team, from sound to costume. Everyone was aligned with the same vision, and it is truly a testament to their craft that it felt so raw and spontaneous. The goal was always to create a visceral, lived-in experience. I'm glad that came through.

Abhishek's mob-lynching sequence is severely traumatic to watch. How traumatic was the shoot?

It was an incredibly emotional and difficult scene, especially for Abhishek. On that day, the boundaries between performance and reality blurred. He fully inhabited the pain and fear of those who have suffered such violence. After the scene, he broke down and wept. It wasn't just acting. It was a deep, visceral connection to the truth of the character and the boys whose stories inspired the film.

How did you shoot Abhishek's lynching?

We shot the sequence as a continuous four-minute take, and we only did three takes. The rest of the crew was on the razor's edge in terms of preparation and precision. For most of us, the focus was technical -- hitting marks, timing movements. For Abhishek, it was an emotional freefall. His response after the take reminded all of us of the weight and reality behind the fiction we were creating.

It must have been traumatising for the entire crew.

The entire shoot paused after that. There was a heaviness on set -- a shared recognition of the horror we were portraying. It was a sobering moment for everyone involved.

Your film questions the relationship between the empowered and the disempowered. Are you saying the empowered can afford the luxury of a conscience at their own peril?

With Stolen, I wasn't trying to question or make a definitive statement. I was more interested in placing characters from different ends of the power spectrum in situations where their lives intersect and collide, and then dramatising how those encounters unfold. In my view, the empowered are the most in need of a conscience. They hold the influence, the reach, and the ability to effect change. Saying it comes 'at their own peril' is perhaps a narrative device used for dramatic tension in cinema. In reality, we've seen many examples of the empowered using their position to do remarkable, transformative work, without it costing them everything. More than anything, Stolen is a mirror to myself. A call out to my own conscience. A reminder to act, not just observe.

Which of the two brothers, the conscientious Raman or the escapist Gautam, is more you?

I don't know if I would be a Raman or a Gautam. Most likely, Gautam. But having made this film, I hope I have the courage to be a Raman. Because the real danger is not in having a conscience, but in choosing not to act on it.

You had to struggle for three years for a release, until Amazon Prime Video intervened. Would you say the future of Indie cinema is bleak?

It's the opposite of bleak.
In recent years, every A-list festival has featured at least one Indian film in the official selection -- many of them going on to win top awards. Films like Girls Will Be Girls, The Match, Shadowbox, Sabar Bonda, Homebound and others are part of a growing wave of bold, diverse storytelling. The crowning moment, of course, is All We Imagine As Light winning the Grand Prix at Cannes. It's an extraordinary achievement. Indian cinema is clearly on the rise, and it feels like we're on the cusp of a new chapter, one where we'll be exporting more cinematic gems to the world.

What are you working on next?

Over the past year, I've been working on two major projects as a screenwriter. One is a feature film for Mira Nair, based on an original story by her. It's challenged me in the best possible way and helped me grow as a writer. The second is Dahaad Season 2, a successful Amazon Prime Video series created by Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar. I'm leading the writers' room for this season, which comes with a larger set of responsibilities. It's a thrilling challenge to shape a story that lives up to the high expectations set by the first season. I'm fully invested in delivering a compelling, edge-of-your seat narrative. I'm also developing two feature films: Nisaar (Sacrifice) is a romantic thriller and a deeply personal project. It's being produced by Dheer Momaya and Jonathan Charbit. The other is Ummeed, a horror film written by Abhishek Banerjee and produced by Dimpy Agarwal. It allows me to delve into a genre that has fascinated me for years.

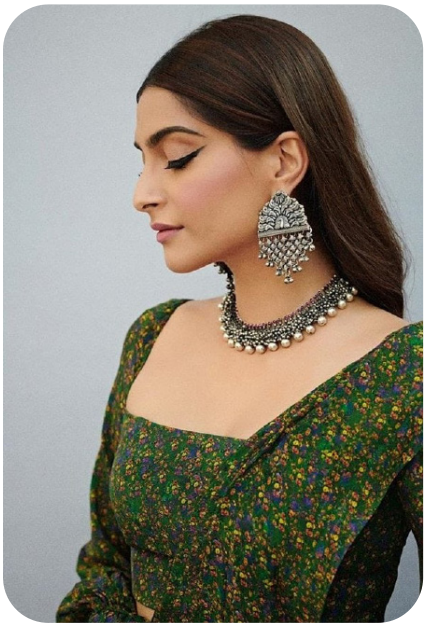
How Bollywood actresses use jewellery to dominate fashion headlines

Jewellery is no longer simply a Bollywood leading lady's accessory; it is the focal point of their look, making headlines. Statement pieces, maximalist jewellery, and blended traditional and modern styles characterise the jewellery options of top actresses. Whether posing on the red carpet or making public appearances, these celebrities employ jewellery to convey individuality, lead trends, and make their looks iconic. Their evocative, bold decisions guarantee that jewellery remains at the centre of Bollywood's constantly changing fashion story.

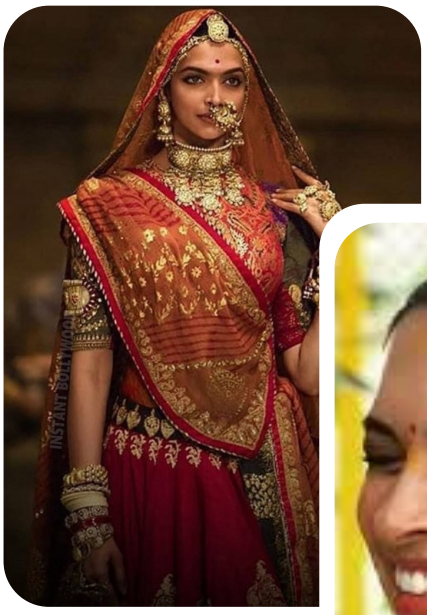
01 Sonam Kapoor

Sonam Kapoor is renowned for her daring fashion sense, regularly making bold, cutting-edge jewellery statements that turn heads. She is attracted to stacked necklaces, large earrings, and three-dimensional rings, combining traditional Kundan and Polki with modern designs. Sonam's ensembles are carefully put together, and jewellery is frequently the center of attention-whether it's a show-stopping choker or a layered group of thick bracelets. Her knack for combining vintage and new pieces makes her a fashion influencer, and fans are encouraged to use statement jewellery as an expression of themselves on headlines



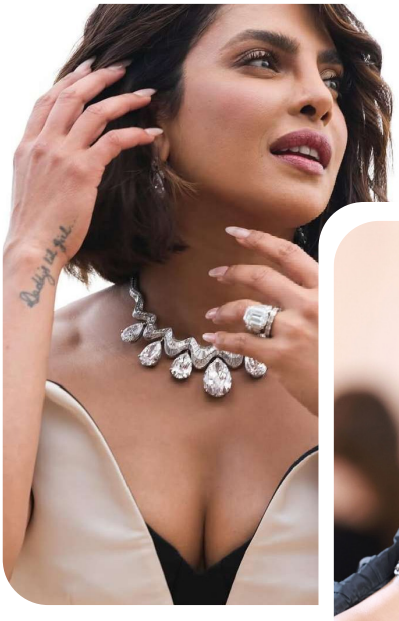


02 Deepika Padukone





Deepika Padukone is renowned for her maximalist style, embracing dramatic, attention-grabbing jewellery. She frequently selects multi-stranded necklaces, large chandbalis, and elaborate chokers to wear with both traditional and modern dresses. Deepika's style is uncompromising in its scale-she never plays down her jewellery, typically opting for colored gemstones and elaborate designs. This bold use of statement jewellery solidifies her role as a trendsetter not afraid to place jewellery at the forefront of her ensemble.





03 Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra's jewelry look is about international glamour with an Indian twist. She comfortably combines bold chokers, diamond necklaces, and show-stopping cocktail rings with both sarees and Western gowns. Priyanka's picks demonstrate versatility; she can sport a royal emerald set for a traditional function or glittering diamond drops for a Hollywood premiere. Her self-assurance in combining traditional pieces with contemporary silhouettes guarantees her jewellery never goes unnoticed, and she is a red-carpet fixture and international fashion icon n headline

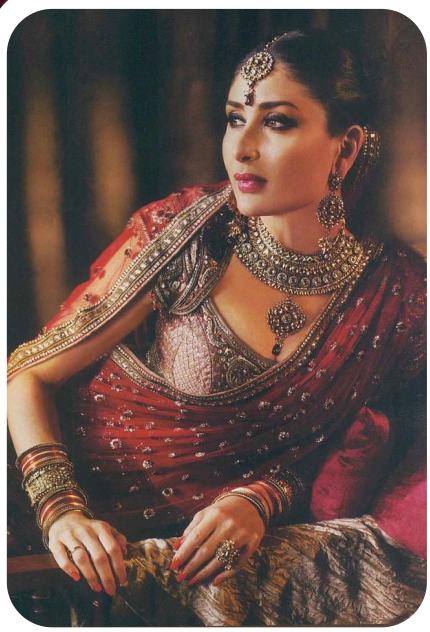
04 Aishwarya Rai Bachchan





Aishwarya Rai Bachchan embodies ageless glamour with her jewelry selection. She tends to go for traditional, royal pieces like layered Kundan necklaces, pearl chokers, and intricately designed jhumkas. Aishwarya's ensembles are grounded in tradition, with a liking for heritage-patterned designs that go well with her sarees and lehengas. Her jewelry is always carefully coordinated, bringing a whiff of royalty to each look and solidifying her position as a style icon who transcends the past and present.





05 Kareena Kapoor Khan

Kareena Kapoor Khan's jewellery style is a combination of timeless sophistication and contemporary edge. She can often be spotted in streamlined diamond necklaces with emerald detail, sophisticated gold chokers, and bold silver bracelets. Kareena's style is understated yet powerful-she allows her jewellery to make her outfit shine without overwhelming it. From the red carpet to a top-event appearance, her well-thought-out ensemble exudes a hint of opulence and assurance, making her a regular news-giver among Bollywood fashion circles.

Anand Shah..

COUTURE DESIGNER ANAND SHAH venerates gold and turns into a wondrous artist when he works with the yellow metal. His distinctive pieces display his intimacy with his muse, Mother Nature, and he interprets it in all its wild splendour on the canvas of gold.

Designing comes as easily as breathing to Shah, who is self-taught. A commerce graduate, Shah has an innate aesthetic sense that impels him to create distinctive antique-finish gold jewellery enhanced by ancient craft techniques such as filigree, granulation, textures, and kundan-setting.

Declared by the World Gold Council as one of the top ten gold jewellery artists across the globe, Shah's jewellery has also graced many a red carpet event, including the Cannes Film Festival.

His journey into jewellery designing began in 1997 in Ansaa, and broke ground for introducing high-end jewellery with modern, bold templates.

In 2012, Anand Shah started an eponymous designer boutique tucked away in Zaveri Bazaar, the mecca of Mumbai's jewellery market. The tastefully done up atelier showcases artful collections that reflect Shah's refined taste.

Over the years, Anand Shah's creations have won him awards from the industry. He has also been conferred with the 'Gem of the Year' title by GJF's National Jewellery Awards and was one of the few Indian designers chosen to contribute to the JCK calendar in 2008.

The artist is perpetually on a creative high with abundant reservoirs of energy. Claiming it to be a God-given gift, Shah prefers his work to do the talking. Turning old formats into new-age jewels is an art that he has honed over the years and some of his masterpiece collections employ mixed material such as wood, wool, and oil paints in 22-karat gold jewellery




ANAND SHAH



Monsoon Skincare Routine

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR SKIN GLOWING

When the first drops of rain hit the dry and heated weather, the rain brings in a sense of renewal and freshness to the atmosphere. It brings calmness and happiness to the whole environment including the people and the animals who are dealing with the hot dry summer season. Although monsoon brings in a relief from the summer season, it also brings in a few challenges for the skin. With the increase in humidity, the sticky monsoon weather can cause some trouble in your skincare routine. But with the right skin care practices you can amp up the game of skincare and have a healthy glowing complexion all through the season. Lets learn how to look gorgeous with the changing season.

1. CTM

Cleanse, Tone, Moisturize are some basic yet important steps that you always need in your skincare routine.

CLEANSE - Use a gentle face wash two- three times a day. Look for ingredients Niacinamide, Vitamin C and Glycerine which help in cleansing the skin and keep the pores clear. Use Himaira's Vitamin C Face Wash, a gem that cleanses and hydrates the skin well.

TONE- Toning your skin helps in keeping the skin's pH level at bay. Choose an alcohol free toner like the Himaira's Vitamin C Toner that helps in keeping the skin fresh.

MOISTURIZE- Despite the weather being humid and sticky, a moisturizer is very important for the skin. Use a lightweight gel moisturizer that seeps into the skin without feeling sticky. Hydro Bomb moisturizer from Himaira is a lightweight gel moisturizer that gives intense hydration throughout the day. It has Niacinamide and Hyaluronic acid that are healthy and glowing.

2. Exfoliation

It might seem an extra step, but exfoliation helps in removing all the dead skin cells and the sebum junk from the face which makes the face look dull and tired. Use a brightening scrub that helps in renewing the skin cells while making the skin bright and beautiful. Exfoliate your skin 1-2 times a week with Himaira's Vitamin C Scrub. It is a mild scrub that has dissolvable beads that makes your skin feel soft, fresh and glowing after every use.

3. Sun protection

Irrespective of what the season is, sunscreen is always important. Even if there is no sun and the weather is humid, still there are UVA and UVB rays which are present in the sun that can harm the skin. Use a broad spectrum sunscreen like Himaira Sunshine Lotion with SPF 50 PA ++++ that is water resistant, that means it will not easily wash off in the rain.

4. Avoid heavy makeup

Using tons of makeup products on your skin can clog your pores and lead to breakout and acne especially in the humid weather. Opt for lightweight and all in one products like Himaira's BB Mousse, that gives you the goodness of makeup and skincare together. It is a lightweight mousse which gives medium to buildable coverage without feeling heavy on the skin.

5. Body Care

While keeping a check of your face, body is something which should not be ignored especially during the monsoon season. The hot humid weather can clog in the pores and cause acne on the back. Always remember to have a good cold shower with Himaira Trio wash set which gives you three amazing body washes. They make you feel fresh and ready for the day.

Adapting your skincare routine to the monsoon season is crucial for maintaining healthy and glowing skin. The monsoon season requires special care. By following these following tips and tricks you can ensure that your skin stays radiant and problem free throughout the skin rainy season. Remember that consistency is the key and make sure you stick to it, so that you get glowing skin whether the season is dry or rainy.

10 Ayurvedic health Tips for Staying well in Rainy Season

In Ayurveda, the monsoon plays a vital role which causes various diseases because the change of time changes the dosha. So early diagnosis of doshas is essential. Ayurveda aims to maintain health with appropriate health tips in the rainy season such as lifestyle changes that balance the doshas. Instead of popping pills to cope with health concerns, it is better to try natural, side-effect-free Ayurvedic remedies and habits. Therefore, we have created a List of the Top 10 Ayurvedic health Tips for Staying well in the Rainy Season which are given below –

1. Eat Light and Digestible Foods

Rainy weather is often accompanied by a decrease in the digestive fire in the body, which is why it is necessary to eat warm, light, and easily digestible food. Always try to choose soups, stews, and herbal teas that can help stimulate digestion and keep Kapha dosha under control. In addition to this, add spices like ginger, turmeric, and black pepper to your meals to help digestion and increase the internal heat in the body. Cooked or steamed vegetables such as pumpkin, steamed salads, fresh seasonal fruits, corn, and foods made of chickpea flour and oatmeal are all the best options to keep your digestive tract in check this monsoon.

2. Food to Avoid

In the monsoon season, it becomes essential to avoid eating raw vegetables as they are full of bacteria and viruses. Because of the risk of diarrhea, it is also important to limit the consumption of seafood during the rainy season. Cold food items including ice cream, cold yogurt, and juices may weaken our immune system. Apart from that, try to avoid oily or junk food especially in this season as it leads to various diseases as these are heavy foods that are harmful to our health.

3. Exercise Regular

During the rainy season, it can make you sleepier or more lethargic, however, staying active is necessary for maintaining balance as well as health. Doing some light activities such as Gentle yoga and physical exercises such as skip rope, or some freehand exercises can refresh the body and mind. Emphasizes exercises that stimulate circulation and support the digestive system, like twists and stretches.

4. Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly.

During monsoons, fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed before eating them. Excess moisture tends to aid dust and dirt particles to stick to the outside of the fruit or vegetable, so wash them well in the rainy season which can be helpful to stay well and keep away from various illnesses.

5. Stay Hydrated

In this season, Hydration is the most important key to staying healthy. However, most people often forget to drink water from time to time because of cold temperatures. To stay well, always try to drink warm water in your routine by carrying a water bottle with you or setting a reminder to drink water. Make sure to avoid cold drinks because it leads to disrupt digestive fire (Agni). Ayurvedic health tips by experts recommend drinking warm water to aid digestion and keep the body hydrated.

6. Good Sleep

To stay well in the monsoon season, it is best to get an adequate sleep of approximately 7-8 hours each night that can allow your body to repair and rejuvenate. A well-rested body and mind can have more energy which is helpful to fight infections better and maintain overall wellness. Also,

proper sleep helps to reduce the chances of flu and cold which are common during monsoons.

7. Practice Good Hygiene

Good hygiene is an essential part that can prevent infections. This season can bring several kinds of infections, including skin and fungal infections.
Ayurvedic health tips by experts suggest taking a bath twice a day with warm water and antiseptic soap to kill germs and bacteria. Taking baths with antiseptic herbs such as Neem and Tulsi have antibacterial and antifungal properties that protect your skin from infections and germs.

8. Boost your Immunity

Immunity is important during the rainy season. Humid and humid weather can weaken the immune system, making you susceptible to infections. Ayurvedic health advice from experts recommends using herbs such as Tulsi (Holy Basil), Giloy (Guduchi), and Ashwagandha to strengthen the immune system as these herbs are known for their immune-boosting properties. Drink herbal tea made from these ingredients to keep your body strong and resilient. Additionally, include foods in your diet that strengthen your immunity, such as fruits rich in vitamin C, such as oranges, guavas, and strawberries.

9. Take care of your Mental Health.

The rainy reasons can be a stressful time for some individuals. To reduce the levels of stress, we need to find healthy ways to cope, such as yoga, meditation, or spending time with families and friends. Spending more time with loved ones is crucial to maintain physical as well as mental well-being.

10. Embrace Herbal Supplements

The rainy season brings with it an increase in allergies and viral infections. Rather than reaching for over-the-counter medications, consider adding herbal remedies to your daily routine. Tulsi (holy basil) and ginger tea can work wonders to boost immunity and relieve some symptoms such as cold and flu.

Conclusion

With the right and appropriate method, it is possible to stay healthy during the rainy season. These top 10 Ayurvedic health tips from experts offer a holistic approach to maintaining health. Implementing such kinds of ayurvedic tips can boost your immunity, boost your digestion system, and prevent infections.

FAQs About 10 Ayurvedic Health Tips for Staying Well

How can you protect yourself from waterborne diseases during the monsoon season?

There are several ways to protect from waterborne diseases such as to avoid consuming unfiltered water. Try to drink only boiled or purified water and avoid eating raw or oily food. Always wash your hands thoroughly with clean water before eating.

Why is immunity important during the rainy season?

During monsoon, it leads to humidity and dampness, which can lower immunity and make you more prone to infections. Therefore, Immunity plays a vital role in protecting the body from common illnesses such as colds, coughs, and flu.

What are some common Ayurvedic herbs that can help boost immunity?

Some ayurvedic Herbs including Tulsi (holy basil), Giloy (Guduchi), and Ashwagandha have some immune-boosting properties. These herbs can help strengthen your immune system and protect against infections.

Can Ayurveda help with specific rainy season illnesses?

Yes, Ayurveda provides some natural remedies for common illnesses such as colds, coughs, and indigestion during rainy seasons. Some ayurvedic natural ways like Herbal teas, dietary adjustments, and hygiene practices can help mitigate these health problems.

What hygiene practices should individuals follow to stay well on rainy days?

There are some hygiene practices that everyone should follow to stay good during monsoon as good hygiene is vital to prevent infections. For example, Take regular baths with antiseptic herbs such as Neem and Tulsi, which have antibacterial and antifungal properties to protect your skin.

Why should we eat light and fresh foods during the rainy season?

Light and fresh foods are easier to digest as well as safer in comparison to raw foods which can lead to bacteria. Cooked and healthy food can help maintain digestive health and prevent stomach issues.

10 Mesmerising Monsoon Destinations in India You Must Explore

The monsoon season in India is a time of transformation and rejuvenation. As the rain washes away the summer dust, the landscapes come alive with vibrant greenery, blooming flowers, and cascading waterfalls. This season not only brings relief from the sweltering heat but also creates a magical atmosphere perfect for exploration. Whether you are a nature lover, an adventure seeker, or someone looking to unwind amidst serene surroundings, India offers a plethora of destinations that are simply enchanting during the monsoon. Here are ten mesmerising monsoon getaways that you must explore this season.

01 Goa



While Goa is often synonymous with beaches and vibrant nightlife, it reveals a different charm during the monsoon. The rain enhances the lush greenery of its landscapes, making it an ideal time to explore the quieter side of this coastal paradise. The waterfalls, such as Dudhsagar Falls, are their majestic best places to visit in monsoon India during this season, offering breathtaking views.

Ideal for: **Nature lovers and adventure seekers.**
Activities: **Trekking to Dudhsagar Falls, exploring spice plantations, and enjoying local cuisine at beach shacks.**

The monsoon also brings a unique opportunity to experience Goa's cultural festivals. The Feast of St. Anne and other local celebrations showcase the rich heritage of this region. Moreover, the absence of large crowds allows visitors to enjoy the tranquil beaches and picturesque scenery.



02 Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

Known as the "Princess of Hill Stations," Kodaikanal is a picturesque destination nestled in the Western Ghats. The monsoon brings enchanting waterfalls, mist-covered hills, and serene lakes that captivate visitors. The cool climate during this season makes it perfect for outdoor activities.

Ideal for: Nature enthusiasts and couples.
Activities: Boating on Kodai Lake, trekking to Dolphin's Nose, visiting the Pillar Rocks, and exploring lush forests.

Kodaikanal's famous Coaker's Walk offers panoramic views of the valleys below and is especially beautiful during the monsoon when clouds roll in. The fresh aroma of wet earth combined with blooming flowers creates an unforgettable sensory experience.



03 Coorg, Karnataka

Coorg, also known as Kodagu, is a stunning hill station famous for its coffee plantations and lush landscapes. The monsoon rejuvenates Coorg's natural beauty, making it one of the best places to go in a monsoon in India. The region's waterfalls, such as Abbey Falls and Iruppu Falls, flow vigorously during this season, creating a spectacular sight.

Ideal for: Coffee lovers and adventure seekers.
Activities: Coffee plantation tours, trekking in Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, river rafting in Barapole River, and enjoying local cuisine.

Coorg's rich cultural heritage adds to its allure; visitors can experience traditional Coorgi hospitality and taste local delicacies like Pandi Curry (pork curry) and Akki Roti (rice roti). The misty hills and sprawling coffee estates create an idyllic backdrop for relaxation.

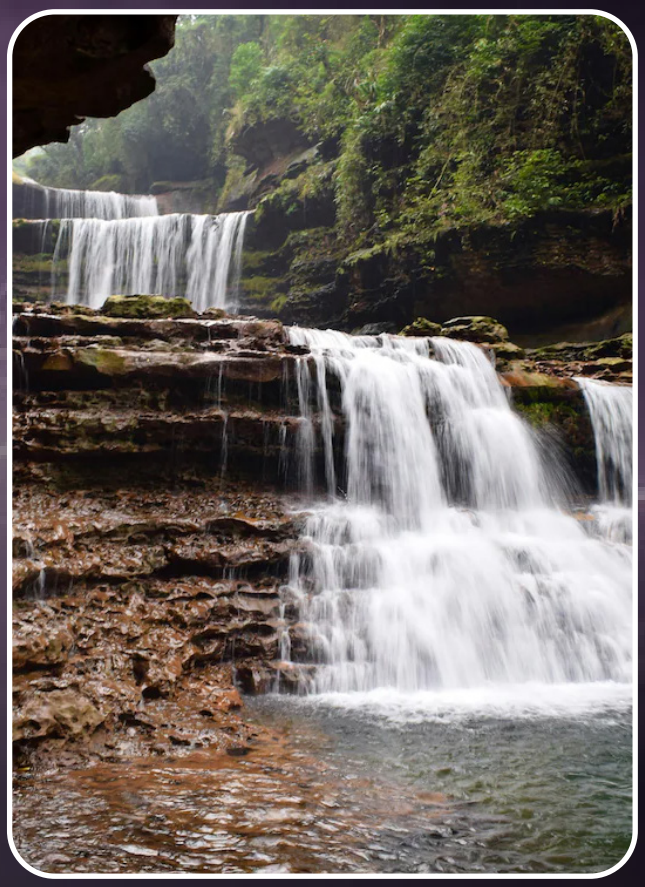


04 Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are often overlooked during the monsoon due to concerns about heavy rainfall; however, this season offers a unique experience. The islands are less crowded, allowing for peaceful exploration of pristine beaches and lush forests. The rain enhances the beauty of the islands' natural landscapes.

Ideal for: Beach lovers and adventure enthusiasts.
Activities: Snorkeling at Havelock Island, scuba diving at Neil Island, exploring Cellular Jail in Port Blair, and enjoying local seafood.

The underwater world around these islands is vibrant with marine life; thus, diving into its clear waters during monsoon can be an exhilarating experience. Additionally, the rain-soaked beaches have a serene charm that allows for introspection or simply soaking in nature's beauty.



05 Cherrapunji, Meghalaya

Cherrapunji is renowned as one of the wettest places on Earth and is simply breathtaking during the monsoon season when it flows with numerous waterfalls cascading down cliffs. The landscape comes alive with lush greenery and stunning views that captivate every visitor.

Ideal for: Nature lovers and adventure seekers.
Activities: Trekking to Nohkalikai Falls—the tallest waterfall in India—visiting living root bridges like those in Nongriat village, exploring caves like Mawsmai Cave.

The unique living root bridges are not only a marvel of nature but also showcase the ingenuity of local tribes who have cultivated these structures over generations. Cherrapunji's rich biodiversity makes it an excellent destination for eco-tourism enthusiasts.



06 Lonavala

Located close to Mumbai and Pune, Lonavala is a popular hill station that transforms into a green wonderland during the monsoon. The Sahyadri mountain ranges come alive with vibrant flora and stunning waterfalls like Bhushi Dam. It's an ideal weekend getaway for city dwellers looking to escape into nature.

Ideal for: Families and nature enthusiasts.
Activities: Trekking to Lohagad Fort or Rajmachi Fort, visiting Karla Caves or Bhaja Caves, enjoying local snacks like chikki (a traditional sweet).

Lonavala's scenic viewpoints offer breathtaking vistas of rolling hills shrouded in mist during monsoon. The cool weather combined with delicious local cuisine makes it a perfect retreat from urban life.

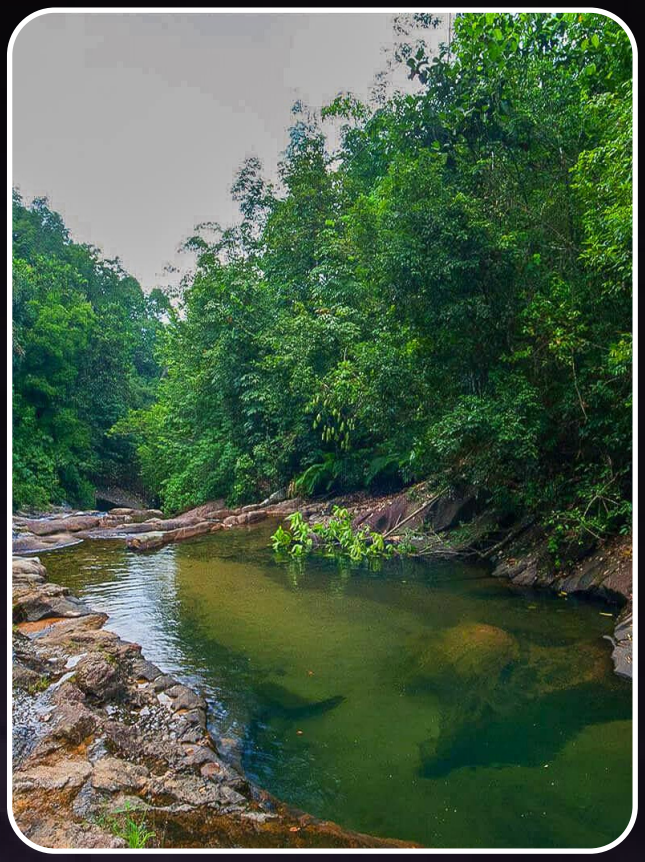


07 Chitrakote Falls – Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Often referred to as the "Niagara Falls of India," Chitrakote Falls is a breathtaking sight during the monsoon season when it flows at its fullest. Surrounded by dense forests and scenic beauty, this waterfall offers an exhilarating experience for visitors.

Ideal for: Adventure seekers and photographers.
Activities: Trekking around the falls, enjoying boat rides on the river below during calmer periods after rains.

The surrounding area is rich in tribal culture; visitors can learn about local traditions while experiencing nature's grandeur at one of India's most magnificent waterfalls.

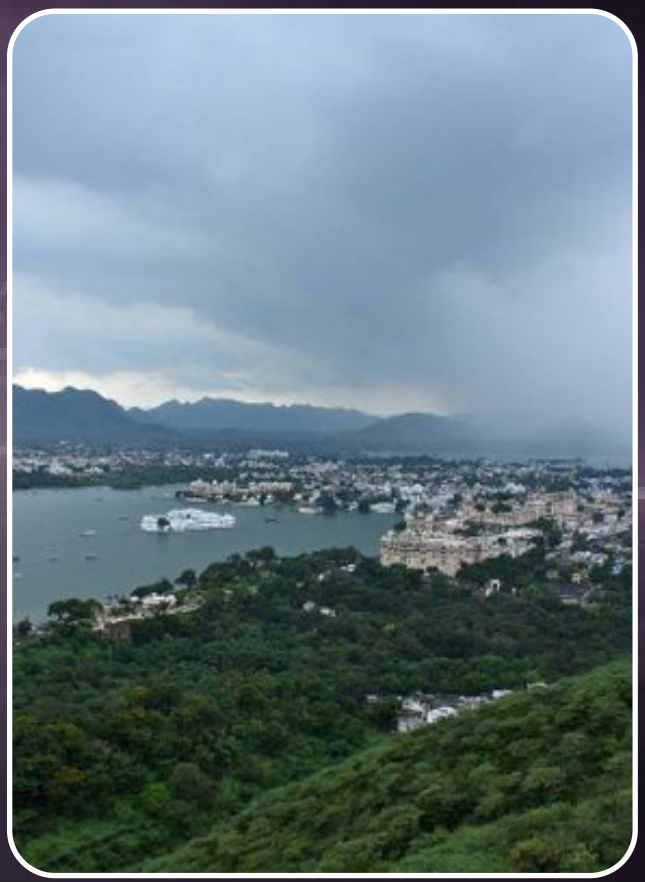


08 Shillong – Meghalaya

Shillong is known as the "Scotland of India" due to its rolling hills and picturesque landscapes. During the monsoon season, Shillong experiences heavy rainfall that enhances its natural beauty. The city is surrounded by lush greenery and numerous waterfalls that create a serene atmosphere.

Ideal for: Nature lovers and culture enthusiasts.
Activities: Exploring local markets like Police Bazaar, visiting waterfalls like Elephant Falls or Sweet Falls, enjoying live music performances at cafes around town.

Shillong's vibrant music scene adds another layer to its charm; many cafes host live performances showcasing local talent—making it an exciting destination for music lovers as well!



09 Udaipur – Rajasthan

Udaipur transforms into a romantic haven during the monsoon season when its lakes glisten with raindrops. Known as the "City of Lakes," Udaipur's palaces become even more beautiful against the backdrop of rain-soaked landscapes. The cooler weather makes it an ideal time to explore this historic city without enduring scorching heat.

Ideal for: Couples and history buffs.
Activities: Boat rides on Lake Pichola; visiting City Palace; exploring Saheliyon Ki Bari gardens; experiencing cultural performances at Bagore Ki Haveli Museum

Udaipur's rich history combined with stunning architecture creates an enchanting atmosphere that captivates every visitor—especially under cloudy skies!



10 Ladakh—Jammu And Kashmir

While Ladakh is typically associated with arid landscapes dominated by mountains and deserts, it offers a unique experience during the monsoon months when certain areas become accessible after snowmelt. The stunning landscapes are complemented by blooming wildflowers against a backdrop of majestic mountains.

Ideal for: Adventure seekers and photographers.Activities: Trekking in Nubra Valley or Markha Valley; visiting Pangong Lake; exploring ancient monasteries like Hemis or Thiksey Monastery.

Ladakh's stark beauty during this season presents an opportunity to witness nature's raw power while engaging with local cultures that thrive amidst challenging environments—making it truly unforgettable!

July 2025

TAROT

Loveena Crystal Gaze
(Tea and Coffee Cup Reader, Tarot card reader)



ARIES
(March 21- April 19)

Growth in your Career, your wishes have been heard. Every thing you touch turns to gold, take advantage of divine timing and make your move. Smooth road ahead

Angel msg- Give your relationship a chance, the love is still there, Angels will heal you.

TAURUS
(April 20- May 21)

Happiness awaits you, keep charging ahead. New avenues of income and Opportunities coming your way, allow yourself to receive and glow.

Angel msg- Major changes for the better is in the works for your love life .

GEMINI
(May 22- June 20)

Travel abroad for work will be beneficial. Spread your wings, your dreams will be fulfilled. Dreamt of projects will be manifested. Stay optimistic.

Angel msg- Money issues will be sorted.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Universe sends a special blessing just for you. Your wishes have been heard. Welcome the new dawn in your life. Angel of wishes are blessing you.

Angel msg- Ask and you shall receive from Universe.

LEO
(July 23- Aug 22)

All barriers and blocks will be removed from your life. A celebration period is ahead,your time has come to collect rewards from heaven. Money inflow is encouraging.

Angel msg- Reach for the stars, all your dreams are blooming.

VIRGO
(Aug 23- Sept 22)

Smooth road ahead, lucrative deals will be Signed. Magical energy is Surrounding you. Universe bestows generosity on you. Have faith.

Angel msg- love life blossoms.

LIBRA
(Sept 23- Oct 22)

Your Aura is energized for financial gains. Thank the universe for bringing career opportunities. You will sweep obstacles to one side. A new place of residence is indicated.

Angel msg- A longed for wish comes true.

SCORPIO
(Oct 23- Nov 22)

Look forward to new growth in your Career. Keep thoughts positive. Money inflow is encouraging. Better things are coming your way. A contract will be Signed.

Angel msg- News you have been waiting for anxiously comes through.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 23- Dec 21)

Good days are coming ahead, timing is right for new career opportunities and projects. Go with the flow. Reach for your goals. Obstacles and blocks are over.

Angel msg- unexpected miracles will happen in your life.

CAPRICON
(Dec 22- Jan 20)

Finally something good is going to happen. Stop worrying and Visualise a favorable outcome. Be Optimistic, prayers have been heard. Happy flow of Abundance is heading your way.

Angel msg- Angels are protecting and watching over you.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 21- Feb 18)

What's meant for you is on its way to you. Finances are highlighted. Health will be good. Money issues will be sorted. Miracles will happen in your life.

Angel msg- Time to reap rich dividends from Universe.

PISCES
(Feb 19- March 20)

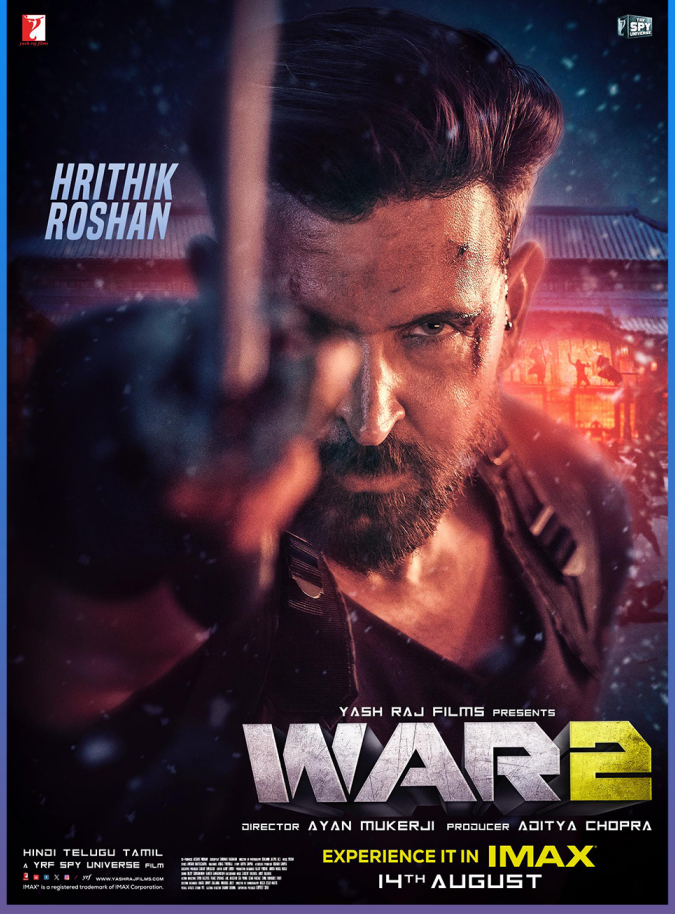
Reach for your goals, Spread your wings, aim high..Universe bestows generosity on you .Deals will be Signed bringing financial Abundance.

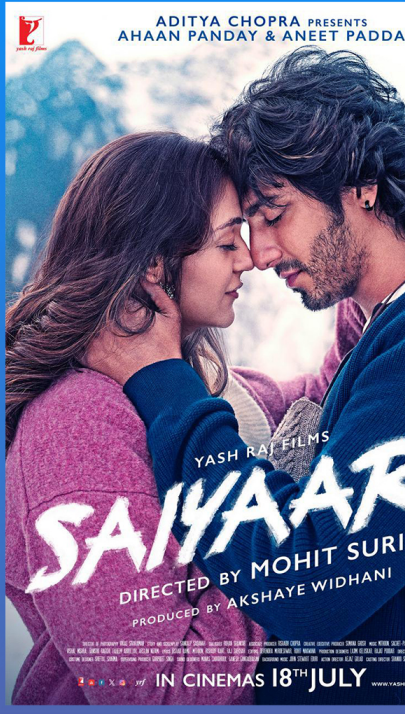
Angel msg- Rough phase is over.

Tel no- 9619035624 | Email id- loveenastro@rediffmail.com


Anurag Basu Productions
FILMS
gulshan kumar & t-series films present
an anurag basu production
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a film by anurag basu
ANUPAM KHER
NEENA GUPTA
FATIMA SANA SHAIKH
ALI FAZAL
ADITYA ROY KAPUR
SARA ALI KHAN
PANKAJ TRIPATHI
KONKONA SEN SHARMA
your own story
in cinemas 4th july
NETFLIX
SONY MAX
produced by bhushan kumar, krishan kumar, anurag basu & taani basu
co-produced by shiv chanana president (t-series) neeraj kalyan music pritam
hungama
MUSIC



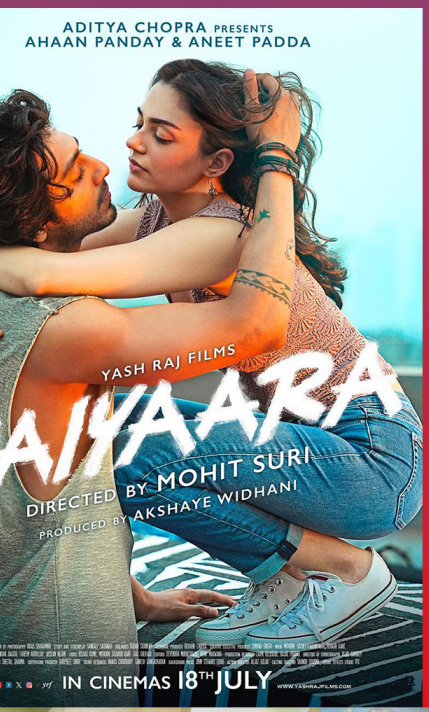




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