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Life & Style of Stars

TANNISHTHA CHATTERJEE

CANCER HAS MADE ME SHAMELESS AND FEARLESS

LAKSHYA

I'M THE SO-CALLED OUTSIDER'

SHRADDHA SRINATH

WOMEN ARE MERCILESSLY CRITICISED

HARSHVAR-DHAN RANE

I'M AN ADDICT OF HEARTACHE

10 BEST WAYS TO ***STAY HEALTHY IN WINTER***

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

MY FAMILY, MY LATE FATHER AND THE AUDIENCE HAVE BLESSED THAMMA WITH LOVE.

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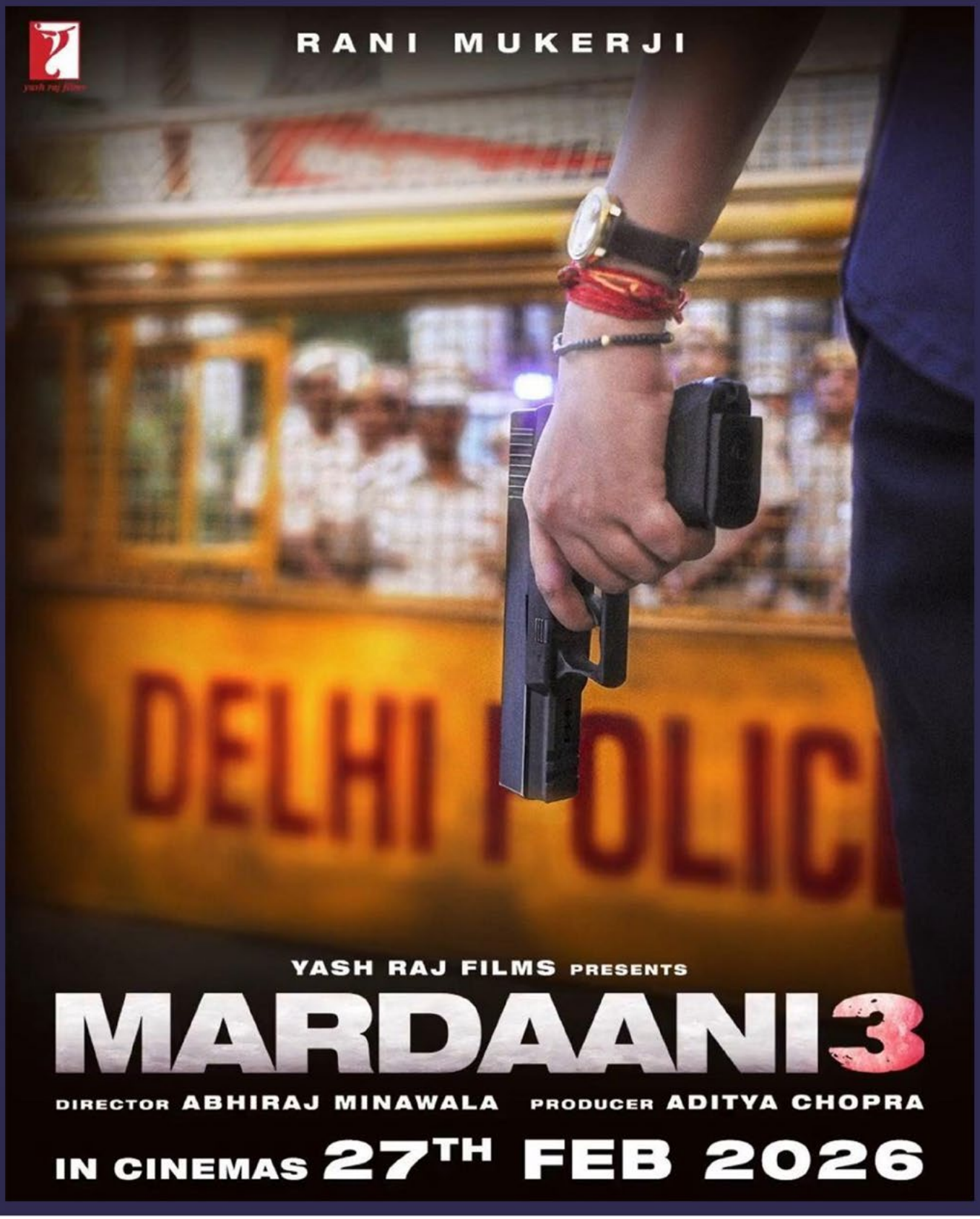

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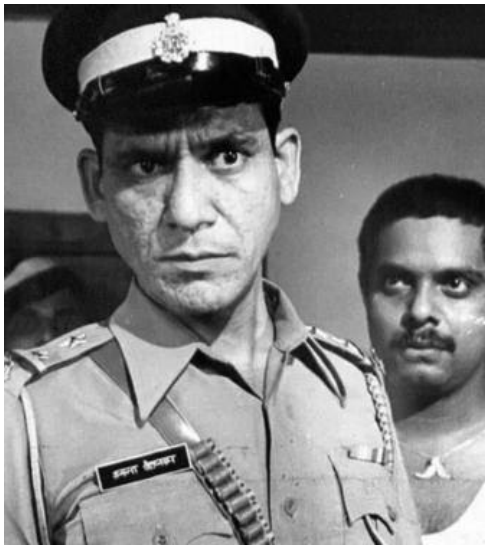


'Thamma' becomes divine experience for Ayushmann Khurrana as Paresh Rawal's dialogue brings memories of late father

How 'Thamma' Became an Instant Hit: Box Office Milestone in Just 72 Hours

Released on 21 October 2025, 'Thamma' marks the fifth chapter of the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe. Alongside Rashmika Mandanna, the film features Nawazuddin Siddiqui in a prominent role and was released alongside Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa.

Within its opening weekend, the horror-comedy successfully crossed Rs 50 crore, reflecting strong audience reception and critical appreciation for its blend of humour, horror, and family emotions.

Ayushmann Khurrana's Emotional Tribute to His Family and Late Father

In a heartfelt social media post on 24 October, Ayushmann shared how the film evoked memories of his late father, P. Khurrana. He described his experience working with co-actor Paresh Rawal, who plays his father in the film, as profoundly moving.

Ayushmann wrote, "This family has seen a lot in the last few years. The success of Thamma is like a beautiful divine light. It is a result of collective prayers of the young and old present here."

Ayushmann Khurrana Shares Emotional Tribute

Ayushmann Khurrana's latest film 'Thamma', starring Rashmika Mandanna, has made a striking impact at the box office, grossing over Rs 50 crore in just three days. The actor took to social media to express his heartfelt gratitude, describing the film's success as a divine blessing and highlighting the emotional journey behind the project.

Personal Connection through Iconic Dialogue: A Tribute to His Father

The actor revealed how a line in the film, Ayushman Bhava:, spoken by Paresh Rawal, reminded him of his father's blessing whenever he touched his feet. Ayushmann said, "When Paresh ji said Ayushman Bhava: in the film, it felt like my father, my guardian angel had blessed me. My family, my late father and the audience have blessed Thamma with love."

Ayushmann Khurrana Plans Surprise Visits to Connect with Fans

In addition to his social media tribute, Ayushmann shared that he intends to visit suburban cinemas occasionally, where he may get emotional while greeting fans. He wants to thank the audience personally with a quick "hi" and show his appreciation for their love and support.

About the Film: Maddock Horror Comedy Universe Continues

Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, Thamma combines elements of horror, comedy, and family drama, continuing the legacy of the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe. With its unique storytelling, strong performances, and relatable family moments, the film has quickly become a favourite among moviegoers.

Critics have praised the chemistry between Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna, as well as the emotional depth brought by Paresh Rawal and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. The film's success reinforces the growing popularity of horror-comedy films in Bollywood, particularly those with strong family-centric narratives.

Emotional Ayushmann Khurrana calls Thamma's success blessing from late father: 'This family has seen a lot'

Ayushmann Khurrana expressed his feelings in an emotional note after Thamma crossed ₹50 crore at the box office in just three days.

Ayushmann Khurrana on Thamma's success

On Friday, Ayushmann took to Instagram and shared a compilation that included a video from his Diwali celebration with family, a picture with his late father, one with his on-screen father Paresh Rawal, and a clip of fans mobbing him as he visited a theatre screening of Thamma to see the audience's reaction. Alongside the pictures and videos, he penned a heartfelt note expressing how Thamma's success came as a huge relief.

He wrote, "This family has seen a lot in the last few years. The success of Thamma is like a beautiful divine light. It is a result of the collective prayers of the young and the old present here. Ayushman Bhava:... that's what my father used to say whenever I touched his feet. When Paresh ji said Ayushman Bhava: in the film, it felt like my father, my guardian angel, had blessed me."

Ayushmann expressed his gratitude for the film's success and added, "My family, my late father and the audience have blessed Thamma with love. Don't be surprised if you come across an overwhelmed me in one of the theatres in the suburbs —I may drop in to say hi and thank you!"

Q. What is the biggest challenge for Indian actors transitioning to Hollywood?

His industry friends also showered love and congratulated him on the film's success. Rajkummar Rao commented, "Congratulations, brother. Very well deserved." Vijay Varma wrote, "Lots of love to you and fam, brother." Rakul Preet Singh added, "May this be just the beginning of so much more... love to all of you."

Fans also joined in to celebrate the moment. One of them wrote, "Like they say, some successes feel personal to us. This one feels exactly like that. Your wins = our wins. So, so happy and proud of you, AK! You deserve every bit of this and even more. Ayushmann Bhava!" Another commented, "You deserve every bit of it."

Ayushmann lost his father, astrologer P. Khurana, in May 2023 after a prolonged illness. Earlier this year, in April, his wife and filmmaker Tahira Kashyap revealed that her breast cancer had relapsed after seven years. She underwent treatment and is currently focusing on regaining her health.

Ayushmann Khurrana's recent and upcoming workBefore Thamma, Ayushmann was last seen in Dream Girl 2 (2023) alongside Ananya Panday. The film was a commercial success, earning ₹142.2 crore worldwide at the box office. In Thamma, produced by Maddock Films, Ayushmann plays the role of a vampire. The film also stars Rashmika Mandanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Paresh Rawal and Faisal Malik in key roles. It has received mostly positive reviews and continues to enjoy a dream run at the box office.
Ayushmann will next be seen in Mudassar Aziz's Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, which also stars Sara Ali Khan in the lead role. The film is scheduled for release in March 2026.

The Man Who Directed 5 Superstars

Dinesh Raheja charts the highs and lows of Hrishikesh Mukherjee's creative association with five megastars -- Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar and Dharmendra.

Five megastars -- Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar and Dharmendra -- had one thing in common: They held Director Hrishikesh Mukherji in high regard.

Each of the five actors have collaborated memorably with the filmmaker, often stepping out of their starry ways and making special concessions to accommodate his critically acclaimed middle-of-the-road films.

Amitabh Bachchan-Hrishikesh Mukherji

Amitabh Bachchan has done the most movies with two directors, Hrishikesh Mukherji and Manmohan Desai. He did as many as eight films with both.

In fact, the actor first came into prominence thanks to Mukherji's Anand (1971). Amitabh played second lead to Rajesh Khanna who had the more prominent title role as the dying man who spreads life-affirming positivity.

But Amitabh shot to fame as Babu Moshai, the brooding, emotionally barricaded friend whose life is transformed by Anand.

Sure, Amitabh became a huge star with Zanjeer in 1973 but Mukherji played a major role in establishing his acting credentials as an actor with the twin successes of Namak Haram and Abhimaan, both of which released that same year.

Mukherji is the only filmmaker to have pitted two superstars, Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, together on screen. Twice at that. In Namak Haram, though Khanna had the sympathy-cornering death sequence, many felt that Bachchan had stolen a march over his senior.

Since Amitabh's wife Jaya too had debuted in Hindi films with Mukherji's Guddi, the close friends formed a clique.

Story goes that Amitabh-Jaya insisted on being a part of the director's Chupke Chupke (1975) though Dharmendra-Sharmila had the main roles. But the resulting rollicking comedy was a creative win for the couple, as was the darker-shaded Mili (also 1975) which presented true love triumphing over a terminal disease.

Mukherji made a creatively courageous decision at this juncture of his collaboration with Bachchan. Though Amitabh had now been entrenched as an action superstar, Mukherji cast him in a poignant role in Alaap (1977) as a soft-spoken musician who struggles against his materialistic father.

Alaap flopped disastrously, but Amitabh continued to extend his patronage to Mukherji right until the mid-1980s when he cut his work load after his near-fatal accident and Mukherji retired from films. Amitabh would dutifully show up even for a guest appearance, like he did for Mukherji's Golmaal (1979).

The duo next teamed up on Jurmana (1979) and Bemisal (1982) which were relatively minor notes in the rich symphony of their collaboration.

But both films were thematically rich human dramas, very much a part of the sensitive, civilised, literate cosmos that Mukherji created in their long and remarkable repertoire.

Rajesh Khanna-Hrishikesh Mukherji

In Anand, Hrishikesh Mukherji captured the ultimate irony: A dying man who teaches others how to live. Interweaving it with laughter and without resorting to melodrama, Mukherji showcases Anand's philosophy -- 'Life has to be lived well, irrespective of the lifespan'.

In one of his signature roles, Rajesh Khanna played the terminally ill patient who copes by refusing to mope.

At the giddy heights of his superstardom, Khanna gave a persuasive performance that was straight from the heart. It fetched him the Best Actor award.

Khanna would reportedly cut his fees for the filmmaker.

Mukherji next cast Khanna in Bawarchi (1972) as another benign soul whose transformative powers change lives. Once again, there was no love story for the king of romance, but this time, the duo weren't as successful at the ticket windows.

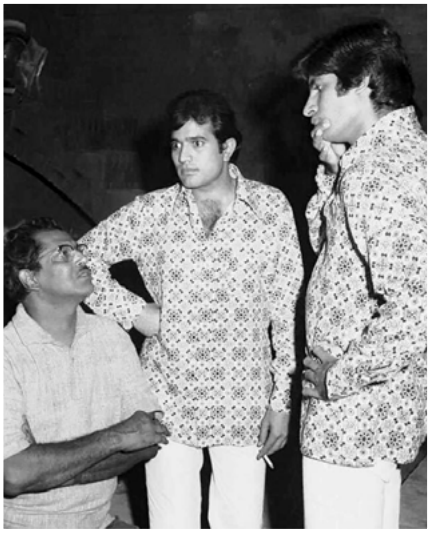
Quick on its heels came the hit film, Namak Haram (1973), in which Khanna played a champion of the dispossessed, who stands by his empathy even if it means going on the warpath against his best friend, played by Bachchan.

In subsequent years, Mukherji switched preferences to Bachchan.

But Khanna and he did collaborate one last time for the ill-fated Naukri (1978), which was a long time in the making.

It had an indifferent release when Khanna was going through a low phase.

Sadly, after four films, this team ran out of steam.



Raj Kapoor-Hrishikesh Mukherji

Mukherji rose to prominence as a director with the Raj Kapoor-Nutan starrer, Anari, which was the biggest hit of 1959.

Anari could well be said to have provided the template for Mukherji's future filmmaking style. It centred around a highly principled common man (Kapoor), battling a rich but humanely etched capitalist (Motilal); and this conflict became a recurrent theme in many of Mukherji's movies thereafter.

After Anari, Mukherji continued to choose strong, single-character-oriented biographical subjects (Anuradha, Anupama, Anand, Guddi, Mili).

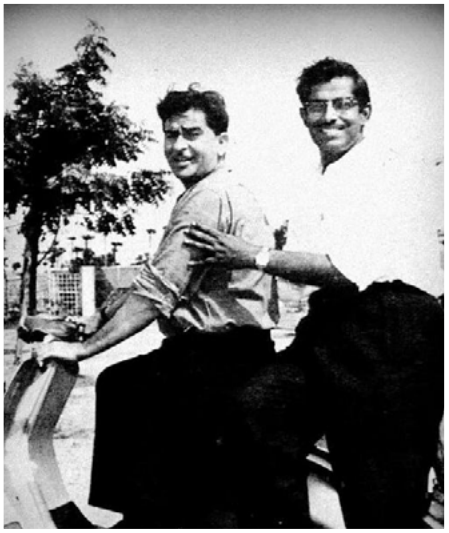
Mukherji and Kapoor seemed to be perfectly matched cinematically. In Anari, Mukherji's world view (Kisiki Muskurahaton Pe Ho Nissar) complemented Kapoor's onscreen image derived from the idealism of his earlier films. What also helped Anari was its narrative fluidity (Mukherji's reputation as a film editor was legendary), and the director's ability to tailor ideological standoffs into emotionally loaded scenarios. The film won Raj Kapoor his first Best Actor trophy from Filmfare.

But the director and actor chose to collaborate next on a markedly different subject, Aashiq (1962). The film had Kapoor and Padmini as creative artistes and star-crossed lovers while Nanda played Kapoor's wife.

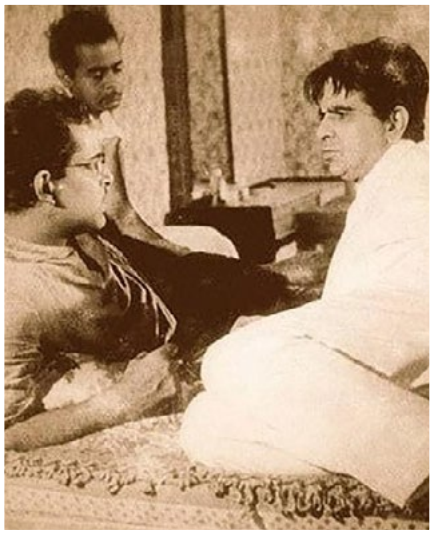
The film didn't do well but their friendship survived.

Mukherji wanted to make Anand originally with Kapoor. After all, Kapoor called Mukherji 'Babu moshai' but it was not to be.

Raj Kapoor's last collaboration with Hrishikesh Mukherji was a character role alongside Rajesh Khanna in the forgettable Naukri (1978).



Dilip Kumar-Hrishikesh Mukherji



Though Dilip Kumar was a huge star in the mid-1950s, he agreed to act in Hrishikesh Mukherji's directorial debut Musafir (1957), effectively jump-starting the filmmaker's career with a bang.

Dilip Kumar ascended because he knew Mukherji from the time the latter was assisting Director Bimal Roy during Devdas (1955).

Mukherji, a science student from Calcutta University, had also impressed Kumar with his work as the co-editor on Devdas.

Musafir was a portmanteau film with three thinly-linked stories and six acting leads.

But the Tragedy King gave it his characteristic intensity.

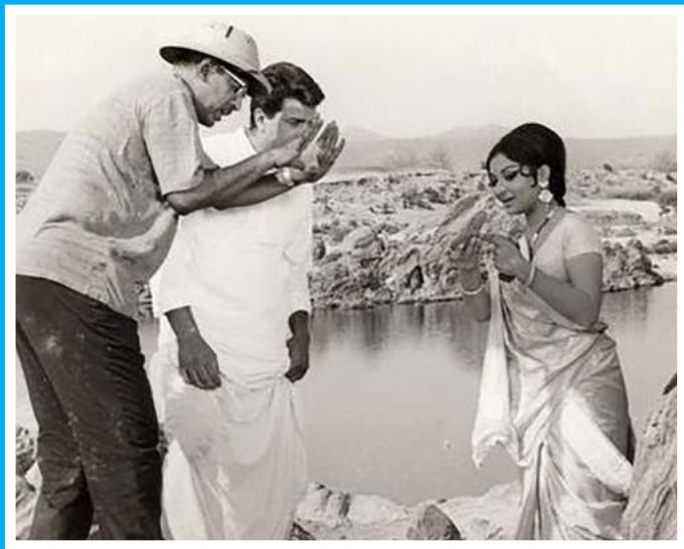
This Mukherji film was the only time that Kumar crooned a song onscreen; he dueted with Lata Mangeshkar on the Salil Chowdhury composition, Laagi Nahi Chhute.

Musafir didn't travel far at the box office, but Mukherji's association with Dilip Kumar continued. Though Mukherji was now a full-fledged director, Dilip Kumar roped him in as one of the co-editors on his home production, Ganga Jumna (1961), a landmark success.

Then Dilip Kumar surprised many by consenting to do a cameo for Mukherji's Phir Kab Miloge (1974). He played a villager who kidnaps Mala Sinha to avenge a wrong done to his sister.

Considering Dilip Kumar has rarely made any cameo or special appearances in his career, it certainly testifies to his respect for Hrishikesh Mukherji.

Dharmendra-Hrishikesh Mukherji



Hrishikesh Mukherji's films repeatedly explored new facets of macho star Dharmendra's personality.

Dharmendra became a big star after playing the rough-and-tough Shaka of Phool Aur Patthar in 1966. Later that year, Mukherji successfully presented him in a strikingly different role as a progressive and sensitive writer in Anupama.

Dharmendra won acclaim for playing the catalyst who encourages a shy, neglected girl (Sharmila Tagore) with a fractured psyche to blossom into her own person.

Mukherji refreshingly presented his star-actors like Dharmendra and Khanna and even glamorous heroines like Sadhana (Asli Naqli) or Sharmila (Satyakam) or Rekha (Alaap) as embodiments of simplicity.

Dharmendra was so pleased with this portrayal that he repeated the Mukherji-Tagore team in his production Satyakam (1969).

The actor had an author-backed role as an inveterate believer in truth, who refuses to compromise his values even in the face of insurmountable odds. The stylistically spare film didn't appeal to the masses but Dharmendra counts it among his favourites.

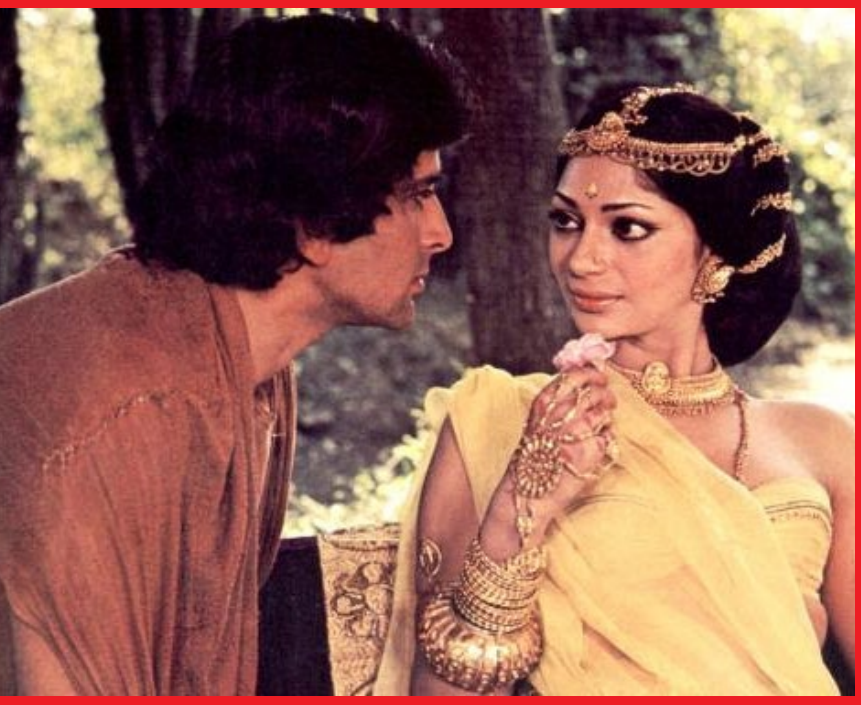
Overcoming his disappointment at not being cast in Anand, Dharmendra sportingly agreed to do an extended cameo in Mukherji's seminal classic, Guddi (1971). He played himself on screen, the object of Guddi's immature star-worship.

In the 1970s, Dharmendra was a huge action star after Mera Gaon Mera Desh and Jugnu, but Mukherji stubbornly stood his ground and cast him instead in a comic role in Chupke Chupke (1975).

As a Hindi purist poseur, the actor was a laughing riot.

Including Majhli Didi (1967) and Chaitali (1975), this star-director collaboration lasted over six films.

One wishes though they had warmed our hearts with even more tales of human whimsy.



Why Simi Garewal Went Topless For Siddhartha

'I don't see what the fuss was about.'

Conrad Rooks' adaptation of Herman Hesse's cult novel Siddhartha, which was released in 1972, is best remembered for Simi Garewal's topless sequence which caused a furore.

Recalling the episode of her career as "baffling", Simi tells "The scene is organic to the plot and not there for titillation. Of course, it took a lot of convincing from the director before I agreed. But once I did, there were no second thoughts, and certainly no regret."

There was a huge controversy surrounding Siddhartha when Simi sued a magazine for printing her bare torso on the cover.

"I guess that was a mistake," Simi reflects.

"I overreacted. By drawing attention and subconsciously fanning the controversy, I ended up having flocks of people watching the film for all the wrong reasons. But today, Siddhartha is on the curriculum of several major universities in the US. That really makes me feel good. We made the film with our heart and soul. It was a unique experience."

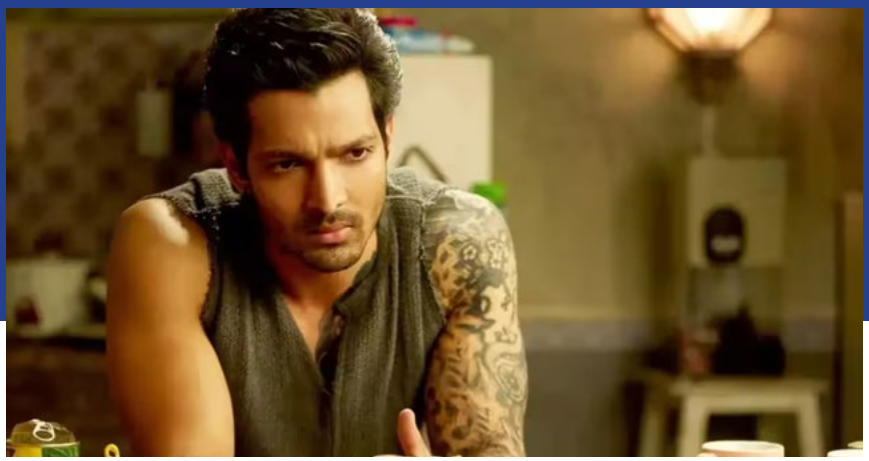
Conrad Rooks' film about spiritual awakening featured Shashi Kapoor as a pin-up boy of the ascetic world.Simi recalls meeting her Siddhartha co-star after many years. "I can't believe I met Shashi Kapoor after many years. By then, Shashi had become a recluse. He was so warm to me! When I told him I hadn't seen him for decades, he told me he doesn't miss my talk show Rendezvous With Simi Garewal ever. I didn't know there were so many people who still remembered the film."

"Shashi called himself a cradle-snatcher because according to him, I was just a baby when he did Siddhartha with me."

Simi is still delighted by the experience.

"I've worked with masters like Satyajit Ray, Raj Kapoor and K A Abbas. Conrad Rooks was an altogether different experience. He got a cast and crew that was focused on Buddhism. We believed in what he was doing."

"And how wonderful that I got to work with Ingmar Bergman's cinematographer Sven Nykvist! He photographed the film and me so beautifully. Do you know Siddhartha was shot at the bird sanctuary in Bharatpur? It was supposed to be made with Amitabh Bachchan instead of Shashi Kapoor."



Harshvardhan Rane says seeing his father longing for love drew him to romantic roles: ‘Saw him with 5-6 partners'

In a recent interview, Harshvardhan Rane revealed that his father's experiences with love influenced his attraction to romantic roles.

Bollywood actor Harshvardhan Rane is currently garnering praise for his recent release, Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat. The actor made his debut in the film industry with Sanam Teri Kasam, where he played a romantic hero. In a recent interview. Harshvardhan revealed what draws him towards romantic roles. (Also Read: Hansal Mehta responds to criticism for celebrating ‘misogynistic film’ Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat)

Harshvardhan Rane reveals what attracts him to romantic hero roles. Harshvardhan Rane reveals what attracts him to romantic hero roles.

Harshvardhan Rane on being drawn to romantic roles

Harshvardhan gained recognition after Sanam Teri Kasam and has now returned with another romantic hero role. Talking about what pulls him towards such roles. Harshvardhan said, "I saw my father with 5-6 partners in different timelines. I guess I silently observed him longing for love, soul connection, and emotional bonds. I remember as a child I used to observe him without allowing him to get uncomfortable about me absorbing all that he felt and what he dealt with."

The actor also spoke about his experience working with Sonam Bajwa in the film. He described her as a performer with immense untapped potential, praising her sincerity and emotional depth. He added that Sonam is not just a successful commercial heroine but also a powerful actor capable of commanding a scene even in silence.

Harshvardhan made his Bollywood debut with Sanam Teri Kasam in 2016 alongside Pakistani actor Mawra Hocane. Though the film initially underperformed at the box office, it later found immense popularity on social media. Upon its re-release, it broke several box office records, emerging as the highest-grossing re-release, earning Rs 41 crore worldwide.

About Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat

Directed by Milap Zaveri, the film also stars Sonam Bajwa in the lead role alongside Shaad Randhawa, Sachin Khedekar, Ananth Narayan Mahadevan, and Rajesh Khera in pivotal roles.
The film opened to mixed-to-positive reviews from critics and has earned Rs 16.75 crore at the domestic box office so far, despite tough competition from Thamma.

Q. How important do you feel friendship and networking are in the entertainment industry?

It's very important
It's somewhat important
Not important
Harshvardhan will next be seen in Silaa. Directed by Omung Kumar B, the film also features Sadi Khateeb, Ipsitaa, and television actor Karanveer Mehra in lead roles. The release date is yet to be announced.

'Asrani Must Be Regaling The Angels'

'Just before his death, he did Bhoot Bangla with me.'
'What an honour for that boy from the village who watched him in Sholay!'

For a comedian like **Rajpal Yadav,** Asrani was a masterclass of inspiration.

Yadav says "As long as there is cinema, if 100 actors are remembered for cinema, Asrani will be one of them."

You shared screen space with Asrani many times.

There was a very fortunate coincidence with Asraniji: We are both favourites of Priyadarshanji, so we are in most of his films.

We were in 10-15 of Priyanji's films, plus other films.

What was your impression of Asrani?

Besides such terrific performances in Priyanji's films, he was the jailor in Sholay. I had the good fortune to sit and watch this performance in my village.

I was a kid at that time.

Then, I got a chance to work with him.

I learnt so much from Asraniji. His behaviour and his spontaneity, he was a complete actor in himself.He gave up his life while doing cinema.

There is no replacement for Asraniji.

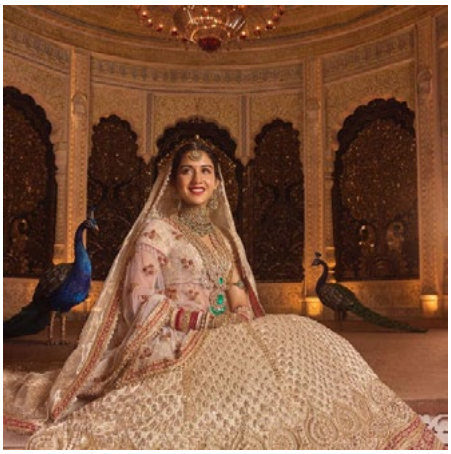
As long as there is cinema, if 100 actors are remembered for cinema, Asrani will be one of them.

Wherever he is now, he must be regaling the angels up there.

You will live for thousands of years. Love you forever.

Elevate Your Women's Look: Styling Tips With Voylla Jewelry

Indian weddings are grand affairs, filled with traditions, emotions, and, of course, stunning wedding jewellery. Over the years, Indian celebrities have set the gold standard (quite literally) for wedding jewellery, dazzling us with their exquisite and often trend-setting choices. Whether it's their own weddings or high-profile events like the Ambani wedding, these celebrities have showcased some of the most stunning and inspiring jewellery looks. These celebrity jewellery looks offer a treasure trove of inspiration. Whether you're drawn to the timeless elegance of pearls, the boldness of emeralds, or the layered luxury of stacked necklaces, there's a celebrity-inspired trend that can help you shine. And with brands like Voylla, achieving these iconic looks has never been easier. Voylla offers a wide range of exquisite jewellery pieces that mirror the grandeur and sophistication of celebrity jewellery, making it accessible to everyone. Let's check out some celebrity styles accompanied by recommendations of specific Voylla products that will help you achieve that perfect wedding jewellery look!



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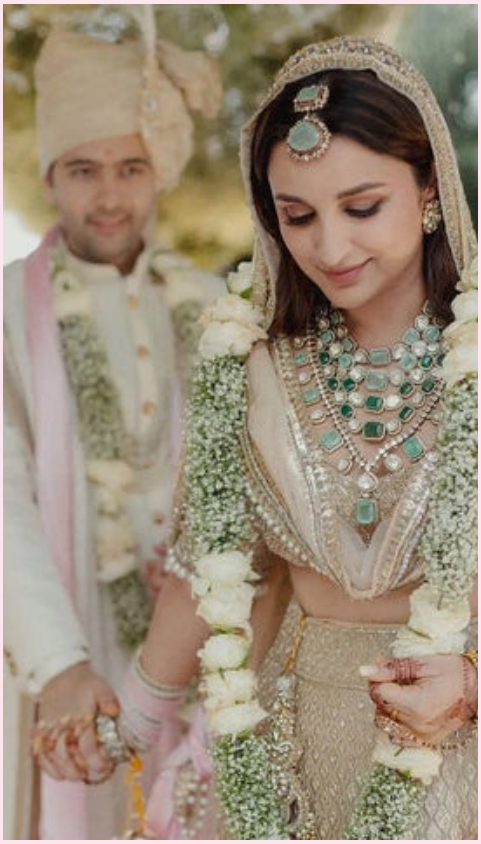
1. Emeralds: The Regal Touch

Emeralds have long been cherished for their deep, rich green hue and their association with royalty and luxury. In recent years, they have become a standout trend in wedding jewellery, especially among celebrities. The allure of emeralds lies in their ability to add a regal touch to any ensemble, exuding sophistication and timeless elegance.

Celebrities like Radhika Merchant, Kiara Advani, and Parineeti Chopra have showcased stunning emerald jewellery at their weddings, solidifying the stone's status as a must-have for those seeking a majestic and opulent look. The vibrant green of emeralds pairs beautifully with traditional Indian wedding attire, enhancing the overall splendour and making your appearance unforgettable. This trend, seen on some of the most glamorous and high-profile brides, has inspired many to incorporate emeralds into their own wedding jewellery, making it a definitive statement of luxury and grace.

Nita Ambani dazzled in a breathtaking emerald and diamond necklace at her son Anant Ambani's wedding. The deep green stones added a touch of opulence to her traditional attire, creating a timeless look.

Kiara Advani opted for a magnificent emerald choker paired with matching earrings. The vibrant green stones stood out beautifully against her bridal attire.



Parineeti Chopra also chose to incorporate emeralds into her wedding jewellery, wearing an elaborate emerald and diamond set that perfectly complemented her bridal look.

Here are some Voylla necklace sets to match this 'evergreen' celebrity jewellery trend:

- Sparkling Elegance Green and White CZ Brass Silver-Plated Jewellery Set
- Attractive Necklace Set Studded with Green Stones
- Silver Brass Necklace Sets
- 3 Layered Kundan Maang Tika Set with Green Beads
- Hasli Ethereal Elegance Green Kundan Studded Gold Necklace Set

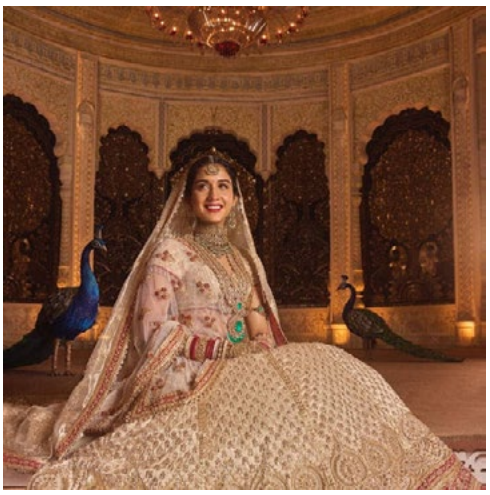
2. Layering and Stacking: Depth and Dimension

Layering and stacking wedding jewellery has emerged as a prominent trend among celebrities, redefining bridal fashion with depth and dimension. This style involves combining multiple necklaces, bangles, or rings to create a rich, textured look that exudes opulence and individuality. Celebrities like Sonam Kapoor, Isha Ambani, and Radhika Merchant have perfected this trend, especially at their own weddings, adding layers of intricate designs and varying lengths to their ensembles.

This trend allows you to blend traditional and contemporary pieces, showcasing your personal style while maintaining a regal appearance. The beauty of layering and stacking lies in its versatility, offering endless possibilities to mix and match different wedding jewellery pieces. Whether it's a combination of chokers and long necklaces or an array of bangles cascading down the arm, this trend creates a striking and memorable visual impact. Inspired by these celebrity jewellery looks, you can achieve a lavish and sophisticated look by incorporating layered and stacked jewellery, capturing the essence of modern elegance and grandeur.

Sonam Kapoor is known for her impeccable style, and her wedding was no exception. She layered multiple necklaces, blending traditional designs with modern aesthetics.

Isha Ambani showcased a perfect example of layering, wearing a combination of heavy necklaces that added grandeur to her look.



Radhika Merchant opted for stacked necklaces and bangles, creating a luxurious and visually captivating ensemble.

Create these wedding jewellery looks using these amazing Voylla recommendations and match your favourite celebrity jewellery trend!

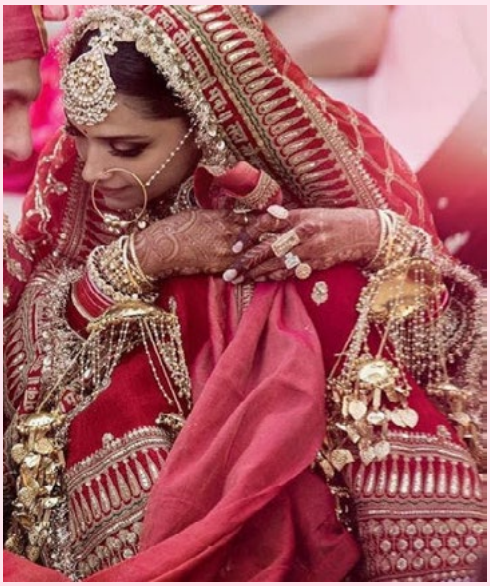
- Shabnam Rani Haar Set
- 3 Layered Kundan with Pearl Beaded Maang Tika Set for Women
- Kundan Gold Plated Brass Necklace Set

3. Statement Maang Tikkas: Regal and Bold

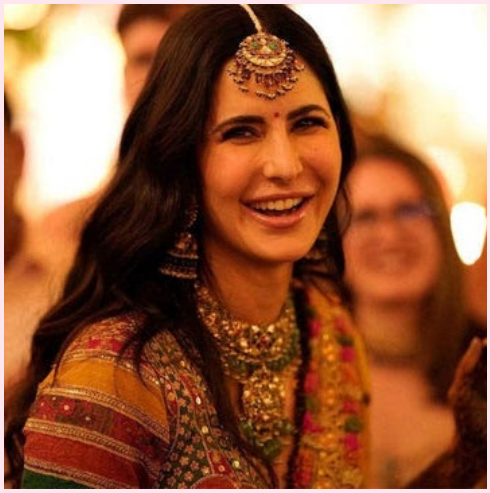
Wearing a statement maang tikka has become a defining trend in wedding jewellery, embraced by celebrities to elevate their looks with a touch of regal elegance. This bold, eye-catching piece sits beautifully at the centre of the forehead, often adorned with intricate designs and precious stones, making it a focal point of the ensemble. Celebrities like Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone, and Katrina Kaif have showcased the allure of statement maang tikkas at their weddings, pairing them with traditional lehengas and saris to create a harmonious blend of heritage and glamour.

The appeal of the statement maang tikka lies in its ability to draw attention to your face, adding a dramatic and sophisticated flair to your overall appearance. This trend allows you to make a powerful fashion statement, highlighting your unique style and personality. Inspired by these celebrity jewellery looks, incorporating a statement maang tikka can transform your look, imbuing it with timeless beauty and a sense of majestic tradition.

Alia Bhatt opted for a striking maang tikka that beautifully framed her face and added a touch of traditional charm to her modern bridal look.



Deepika Padukone wore a bold maang tikka that became a focal point of her wedding attire, enhancing her traditional South Indian bridal look.



Katrina Kaif chose a regal maang tikka, which added an element of grandeur to her otherwise understated Mehendi ensemble.

- Here are some Voylla recommendations to match this bold celebrity jewellery trend:
- Aradhana Aayrin Maangtikka
- Abharan Red and Green Stones and Pearls Opulent Jewellery Set
- Gems Embellished Maang Tika
- CZ Elegance Green and White Gems Maang Tika

4. Bold Choker Sets: Modern and Glamorous

Bold choker sets have surged in popularity among celebrities, becoming a standout celebrity jewellery trend in contemporary wedding jewellery. These striking pieces are characterized by their close-fitting, elaborate designs that rest elegantly around the neck, often embellished with intricate patterns, vibrant gemstones, and opulent materials. Celebrities like Alia Bhatt, Athiya Shetty, and Neha Dhupia have embraced bold choker sets, using them to make a powerful fashion statement at their weddings and high-profile events.

This trend combines traditional elegance with modern glamour, offering a dramatic and sophisticated alternative to more traditional wedding jewellery styles. The bold choker not only enhances the neckline but also complements a variety of ensembles, from traditional lehengas to contemporary gowns. Its versatility allows you to showcase your unique style while adhering to the grandeur expected of Indian attire. By incorporating a bold choker set, you can achieve a look that is both striking and timeless, reflecting the latest in celebrity-inspired fashion.

Alia Bhatt's wedding choker was both modern and elegant, complementing her bridal attire with a contemporary flair.

Athiya Shetty opted for a statement choker that added a bold and glamorous touch to her wedding look.

Neha Dhupia's bold choker set was the highlight of her bridal ensemble, making a strong style statement.

Make your own bold statement inspired by these celebrity jewellery trends with these Voylla necklaces:

- Kundan Elegance Opulent Teardrop Maang Tika Set
- Kundan Elegance Pearl Beads and Faux Kundan Opulent Maang Tika Set
- Apsara Bridal Red Enamelled with Pearl Yellow Gold Jewellery Set
- Forever More Red Stones and Pearls Enamelled Opulent Jewellery Set
- Taj Inayat Necklace Set

5. Pearl Chokers: Graceful and Timeless

Pearl chokers have become a quintessential trend in Indian wedding jewellery, celebrated for their timeless elegance and understated sophistication. This classic piece, which wraps closely around the neck, is adorned with lustrous pearls that add a touch of grace and refinement to any ensemble. Celebrities like Ananya Pandey, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Bhumi Pednekar have worn pearl chokers at various high-profile events and weddings, demonstrating their versatility and enduring appeal.

The beauty of the pearl choker lies in its ability to complement both traditional and modern attire, effortlessly enhancing the overall look with a delicate yet impactful charm. Its subtle shine and classic design make it a favourite among those seeking a refined and elegant aesthetic. As a symbol of purity and grace, the pearl choker not only enhances your beauty but also reflects a timeless sense of style, making it a staple in the world of celebrity jewellery.

Ananya Pandey's pearl choker at a Diwali party was a beautiful blend of tradition and contemporary style, adding a touch of sophistication to her outfit.

Tamannaah Bhatia chose a pearl choker that perfectly complemented her glamorous attire, highlighting her graceful style.

Bhumi Pednekar's pearl choker at Kiara Advani and Siddharth Malhotra's wedding was a statement of elegance and timeless beauty.

Find your own pearl choker amongst Voylla's Necklaces inspired by celebrity jewellery here:

- Faux Kundan and Pearls Embellished Gold Plated Traditional Jewellery Set
- Cluster Setting Faux Kundan and White Pearls Adorned Gold Plated Brass Jewellery Set
- Festive Hues Pearls Adorned Gold Plated Jewellery Set
- White Pearl String Short Festive Hues Necklace with Mirror Work Enameled Motif and Triple Pearl Drops
- Aradhana Jyoti Necklace Set

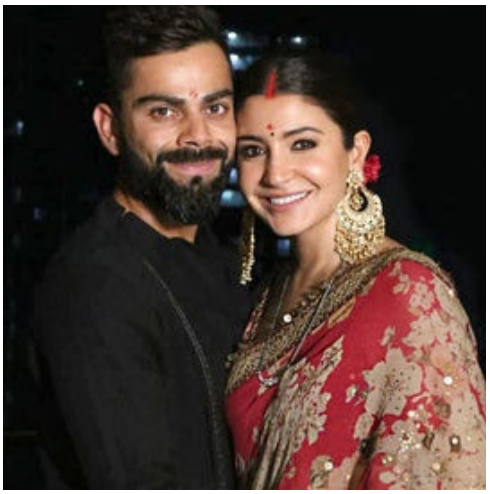
6. Long Dangling Earrings: Dramatic Elegance

Long dangling earrings have emerged as a prominent trend in wedding jewellery, capturing attention with their dramatic and sophisticated flair. This eye-catching style features elongated designs that cascade gracefully from the earlobes, often adorned with intricate details, gemstones, or sparkling embellishments. Celebrities like Kareena Kapoor, Anushka Sharma, and Sobhita Dhulipala have showcased long dangling earrings at many high-profile events, proving their versatility and impact.

These earrings not only frame the face beautifully but also add a sense of movement and elegance to any look. The trend combines modern glamour with traditional charm, making it a favourite choice for those who wish to make a bold statement. By incorporating long dangling earrings, you can elevate your ensemble with a touch of sophistication and drama, reflecting the latest in celebrity jewellery and ensuring a memorable and stylish appearance.

Kareena Kapoor's long dangling earrings at the Red Sea Film Festival were the epitome of dramatic elegance, perfectly complementing her outfit.

Sobhita Dhulipala's long earrings showcase her unique style and add a dramatic flair to her ensemble.



Anushka Sharma's choice of long earrings for Karva Chauth added a lot of drama to her traditional look.

Grab your own celebrity jewellery inspired bold earrings on Voylla here:

- Sparkling Elegance Zircons Teardrop Earrings
- Abharan White Pearls and Stones Drop Earrings
- Mosaic Opulent Geometric Statement Earrings
- Shabnam Earrings

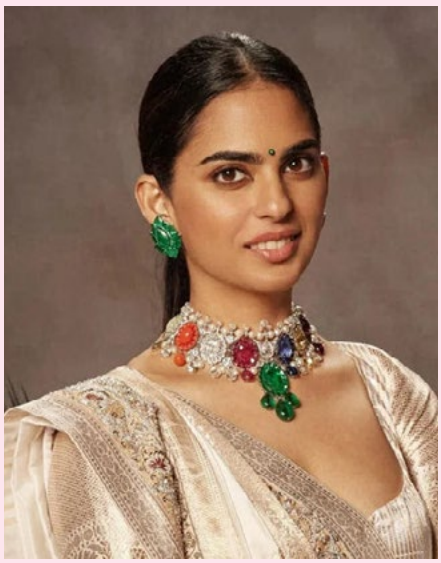
7. Multi-Coloured Jewels: Vibrant and Unique

Mira Kapoor's multi-coloured jewellery was a vibrant and unique choice, adding a splash of colour to her look.

Multioloured jewel necklaces have become a vibrant trend in Indian wedding jewelle-cry, celebrated for their eclectic and eye-catching appeal. This style features a dazzling array of gemstones in various hues, creating a striking and dynamic look that adds a splash of colour and personality to any ensemble. Celebrities like Mira Kapoor, Isha Ambani, and Jahnvi Kapoor have embraced multi-coloured jewels in their traditional attire, showcasing their ability to bring a playful and unique twist to traditional wedding jewellery.

The allure of multi-coloured jewel necklaces lies in their versatility and ability to complement a range of outfits, from classic sarees to modern lehengas. By incorporating these vibrant pieces, you can infuse your look with a sense of individuality and flair, reflecting the latest trends in celebrity-inspired fashion. This trend not only enhances the visual appeal of your ensemble but also allows for a creative and personalized touch, making it a popular choice for those who wish to stand out.

Jahnvi Kapoor's multi-coloured jewellery at the Mameru ceremony was a testament to her vibrant and eclectic style.



Isha Ambani embraced multi-coloured jewels at her brother's wedding, showcasing a unique and eye-catching style.

Anushka Sharma's multi-coloured jewels at the Diwali party added a unique and vibrant touch to her outfit, making her stand out.

Here are some Voylla necklace recommendations to match this colourful celebrity jewellery trend:

- Forever More Gold Plated Women Necklace Set
- Festive Hues Enamelled Mirror Details Gold Plated Choker Jewellery Set
- Bagh-e-Fiza Basanti Leaves and Flowers Necklace
- By drawing inspiration from these stunning celebrity jewellery looks and incorporating pieces from Voylla, you can create a wedding jewellery ensemble that is both timeless and on-trend. Whether you prefer the regality of emeralds or the vibrant allure of multi-coloured jewels, there is something for everyone in these celebrity jewellery trends.

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'I Haven't Felt Like I Am Being Typecast Yet'

'I found the role quite challenging as I have never done anything like this before. I was uncertain as to how I would pull it off. But with each challenge there was a different level of excitement that I felt'

Panchayat actor Jitendra Kumar says his role of a college professor with secrets in the upcoming crime thriller Bhagwat Chapter One: Raakshas is unlike anything he has ever done before and it gave him an opportunity to step out of his comfort zone.

The movie juxtaposes Jitendra's charming college professor Sameer opposite Arshad Warsi's inspector Vishwas Bhagwat, who is investigating the disappearance of young women. The ZEE5 original movie is directed by Akshay Shere.

Jitendra, 35, who rose to prominence as Jeetu Bhaiya in Kota Factory and features as Sachivji in the popular series Panchayat and has done films such as Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan, Jaadugar and Dry Day, said the film was challenging. "I was very excited to step out of my comfort zone. I found the role challenging as I have never done anything like this before. I was uncertain as to how I would pull it off. But with each challenge there was a different level of excitement," Jitendra said.

"I really wanted to do a crime thriller and a character with so many different shades. The dynamic between the two characters (Bhagwat and Sameer) and how their lives intertwine intrigued me." The actor said it was inspiring to work with Arshad. chill otherwise but

every time he had a scene, he would transition seamlessly. The way he gets into his character smoothly was something I enjoyed observing. Also, our set was very collaborative. We had many discussions over each scene. We always found a midpoint and took in everyone's ideas."

Jitendra has done movies and shows but is most popular for his role in Panchayat, where he plays an engineering graduate who lands up in a village in a government role. The actor said he was initially scared that he would get typecast but that hasn't happened so far.

"It's a different challenge to play those similar characters so differently where you have to be versatile in your performance. I haven't felt like I am being typecast yet, but if the time comes, I will explore different genres and characters like I did with Bhagwat."

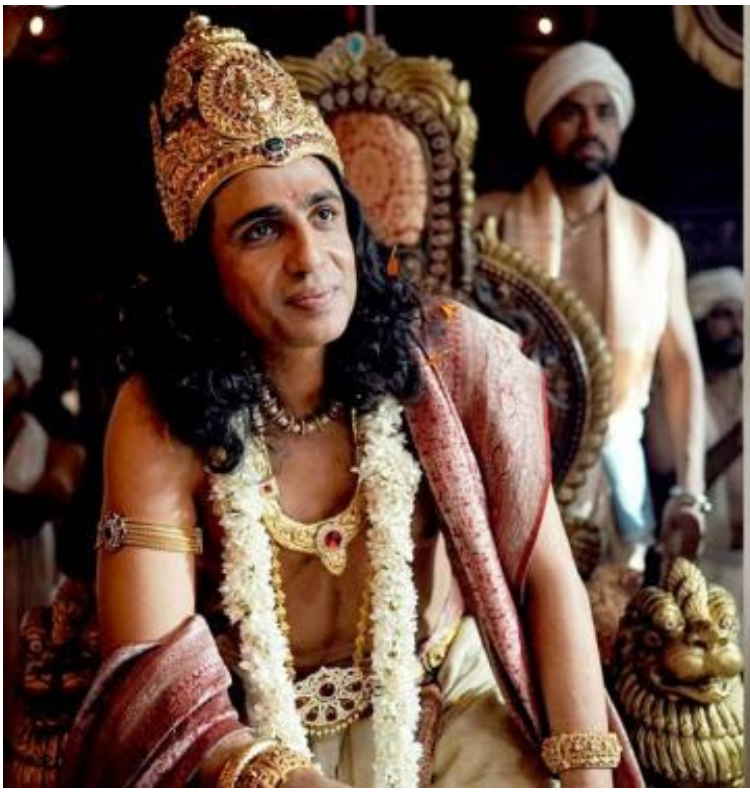
Since the story is rooted in a real life incident, the actor said he tried to portray the character with honesty and without judging him.

"I had a lot of fun with this story. There was some uncertainty as to whether I would be able to show all these complex shades and layers with conviction or not. But I made it a point not to judge my character. I believe creative people should not be judgemental at all and bring sincerity into each character that they play," he said.

Bhagwat Chapter 1: Raakshas, produced by Jio Studios in association with Baweja Studios and Dog n Bone Pictures, will premiere digitally on October 17 on ZEE5. The film also features Ayesha Kaduskar, Hemant Saini, and Tara-Alisha Berry.

Meet The Villain of Kantara

After the first Kantara, when they announced the second one, I kind of knew he will call me. I had this instinct.



It's a bittersweet moment for **Gulshan Devaiah.**

While his latest outing Kantara: Chapter 1 is inching towards blockbuster status, he is tending to his father, who met with an accident recently.

"The timing couldn't have been better," he says he joked about it with his dad.

In the Rishab Shetty directorial, Gulshan plays Raja Kulasekhara, an evil ruler intoxicated with alcohol and power.

The negative character, as Gulshan admits, has garnered him a new fandom in his superhit Kannada debut.

"I did not have to audition for Kantara," "In a way, I auditioned for it by doing Hunterrr (2015). That's a movie that Rishab watched and is a fan of."

What feels better -- a well-reviewed film or blockbuster success like Kantara Chapter 1?

They do different things.

The craft and art will enjoy the reviews of people who understand art, who understand cinema, and the finer details.

They would be able to see and pick details which most people wouldn't see.

The financial success impacts the career and profiles of artists in a very different way.

These two things are very separate.

Pragathi Shetty, the costume designer and Rishab's wife, wrote on Instagram that creating your character, Kulasekhara, was her most powerful artistic work. Tell us about the creative process for your character.

I saw that post too and know her personally.

I'm glad that it was an enjoyable process for her and her team.

For me, I would just go there and stand like a mannequin and say, what do you want me to try? They would slap things on me saying, 'this is working, that's not working, this is working, and that's not working'.

Once I was like, why don't I have armour? Then Rishab was like, Kulasekhara doesn't think he needs one (Laughs).

Kulasekhara is a nutcase.

I just had to allow them to do their creative process and learn how to manage the drapes and move differently, and stand and all that. We don't dress like that in real life, so we can't move like how we move in real life.

Did you figure out what alcohol Kulasekhara drank? The film was based in the 4th century!

(Smiles) Anything that is sufficiently fermented is good enough, I guess.

Fruit, leaves, bark, roots, minerals, it could be anything. The process of making alcohol requires fermentation and then probably distillation if it's some kind of a finer alcohol.

But nobody really knows.

This film never even pretends to be historically accurate. It's based around the time of history, but everything is fiction.

Your roots are from Karnataka. It must be a great to finally do a film in your native language.

I was a fan of Hindi films and music since childhood. That's what I grew up watching and hearing.

My parents were big fans of Hindi film music.

I've been named after Gulshan Bawra, who was a very popular lyricist in the Hindi film industry. The year that I was born, Phool Khile Hain Gulshan Gulshan was released.

So, it's there in my inheritance; it's in my name.

When it occurred to me that I want to be an actor, I decided to come to the Hindi film industry.

Hindi films were pan-India before the whole concept of pan-India existed.

Everybody used to watch them.

Sometimes we didn't understand them, but we would still watch them.
Amitabh Bachchan was a superstar everywhere.

Rajesh Khanna was a superstar everywhere.

That's why I wanted to be in Hindi movies because it would reach out to everybody.

Obviously, that was very language-specific. But now the environment is like, the idea of pan-India is not specific to a language.

Cinema is truly universal now.

After the first Kantara, when they announced the second one, I kind of knew he will call me. I had this instinct.

I was born in Karnataka. I grew up there.

I've been speaking that language since I was born. Nobody can ever take that away from me but we all have our interests.

Once you start, you discover many other things about what you can do and what you want to do.

Now I feel that I want to be a part of cinema, regardless of any boundaries.

Did you speak your own lines in both Kannada and Hindi?

Yes. I would have wanted to do the Tamil and Telugu and other versions also, but didn't have time.

I think I would have charged for it also!

Itne mein itna hi milega (Laughs).

No, it's not like I'm really fluent in all of these languages. It requires a lot of time and effort to speak that. I had agreed to do the Kannada and Hindi version myself.

Maybe, in future, I would want to do all of these languages. I can manage, definitely.

People are raving about your performance on social media.

Apparently, I have new fans now!

What kind of reactions are you getting from your industry peers?

It's always been good, man.

I've been used to industry people calling me and telling me you were really good, for a long time now. This is right from my first film.

They're used to seeing good performances from me.

That sounds like I'm gloating but it's true. I think that happened in 2011 with Shaitan. Like, who the hell is this guy?

Now that reaction doesn't happen at all.

They say, yeah, this is good. Something different.

Do you remember watching the first Kantara?

Yeah, I wanted to watch it in Kannada.

I found a ticket really far away. I went and I watched it in the theatre. I really enjoyed it.

Towards the end, I felt like I was slightly elevated from the seat.

It was an incredible experience.

Did you audition for this one?

No, I didn't have to. This part was written for me.

So, Rishab wanted me.

I've known him since 2019.

We tried to do some work; he had offered me some scripts and announced one also. But it didn't happen.

I didn't know who he was until 2019. But once I met him, I was like, this guy is crazy. There's something about him.

There was an ambition, there was a drive, there was a passion for telling stories with him.

That really attracted me.

After the first Kantara, when they announced the second one, I kind of knew he will call me. I had this instinct.

Then he called me at midnight and I didn't pick up. I was like, I'm not talking to anybody at 12 at night.

The following day, I called and we chatted.

He said, I have to narrate you something. I said, I know, it's Kantara!

I didn't pretend like, can I get some time to think and all that.

I just wanted to do it.

How's your equation with Rishab Shetty?

'He said, I have to narrate you something. I said, I know, it's Kantara!'

Rishab himself told me -- and he's been saying it in interviews too -- that this part was written for me.

Thank you, Rishab!

It's not very often that parts are written for certain actors.

I think this is the first time for me, and I will try not to take it too seriously.

But I think it all worked out just fine.

In a way, I auditioned for it by doing Hunterrr (2015). That's a movie that he watched and is a fan of.

We didn't see you during the promotional activities for the film.

'The following day, I called and we chatted.'

I was busy with some personal matter. My father had a terrible accident.

I was looking after my father. I still am.

I'm taking three days off right now because he's come to that condition where I can leave him for that time.

I'm an only child, so it is my responsibility to look after my folks.

He's nearly 80, so it's challenging.

The timing couldn't have been better. That's what I told him.

I'm obligated to do promotions for them, but I requested Rishab and he said, don't worry about it.

I am privileged that they allowed me to take personal time off.

I hope your father knows that you delivered a blockbuster.

Yes. He knew right from the time when I got the project.

My mom is my public relations officer in the family. She keeps on giving all the reviews and videos and all that.

Now that a bigger section of audience in the South are familiar with your name, what films or shows of yours would you recommend to them?

I don't have any idea. People should just take a chance.

I'm from the time when there were video libraries and we used to go and browse through it and say, I don't know what we're going to watch.

We'd read the back and say, okay, who are these actors? And suddenly we discovered Jackie Chan.

Sometimes you don't like it, it doesn't work out, but you take a chance.

I've been working for more than 15 years.

I've had a variety of things in cinema as well as in long format.

I'm not going to tell people which one that they should start.

Watch all if you can, but you don't have to. Just take a chance.

One film of yours that I'm looking forward to watching is Little Thomas. Any word on its release date?

I have no idea, man. A film like that is very critical to find the right time and the people to associate with.

It's very expensive to release films in cinemas.

That's always a constraint and it's becoming even more difficult.

'Cancer Has Made Me Shameless And Fearless'

'For all you know, in the next five years there could be a path-breaking cancer treatment and I may be absolutely fine.'

When we reached out to **Tannishtha Chatterjee** for an interview, she was on her way to Sydney.

"Full Plate, which I have directed, is the opening film at the Sydney International Film Festival and I will be in a flight for the next 18 hours," she tells **Rediff** Senior Contributor **Roshmila Bhattacharya**, promising to connect once she was in Australia.

She kept her word, calling for a 'chat', less than an hour before she had to get ready to walk the red carpet.

The gastronomical drama, which stars Kirti Kulhari, Sharib Hashmi, Indraniel Sengupta, Monica Dogra and Sachin Chaudhary, pivots around a Muslim woman, Amreen, a homemaker in Mumbai, who, following her husband's accident, becomes the family's breadwinner. Her journey, while challenging religious discrimination, social conventions and gender prejudices, traces her own evolution, striking a chord with audiences across diverse cultures.

"Full Plate had its world premiere in September at the Busan International Film Festival. "In Korea, we had three screenings, all of them playing out to packed houses, with long queues outside the theatres and several people having to be turned away. That was disappointing, but also exhilarating for us!" Tannishtha exclaims, admitting that she had been apprehensive initially because the film has a lot of gentle humour which she was afraid might get lost in translation.

"But going by the smiles of the people watching and the questions that were asked during the Q&A sessions showed how they had observed and absorbed the details and nuances. I think I've been able to transcend linguistic barriers and geographical divides to communicate what I set out to do with this film." That admission prompts the first question...

Is there something that has been widely appreciated about Full Plate, your second directorial after Roam Rome Mein in 2019, that has taken you by surprise?

Well, I would say the songs and there are three of them.

(Laughs) I have sung one of them because we had a really tight budget.

There is also a rap composition by Srusthi Tawade, whose Chhota Doni has got 100 million views on YouTube.

It's become really popular with many wondering if the actors are real people.

Are they?

(Chuckles) No, they are all professional actors.

I tried to do a lot of new things with the story-telling which I think has worked, cutting across a cross-section of the audience even in India where they are divided by class, community, region and language.

At Busan, you were adjudged 'Visionary Director' at the Marie Claire Asia Star Awards. That must have been a real high?

I was elated that the film was selected for its world premiere at the Busan film fest.

I was also relieved that under the circumstances, I could finish it in time.

The award was like the icing on the cake. I was numb and didn't know how to react to the honour.

What made it doubly exciting was meeting Maggie Kang, who won the 'Director of the Year' award.

KPop Demon Hunters is such a different film from Full Plate, yet there the two of us were holding our respective trophies!

(With a wry laugh) I was standing there smiling and thinking to myself, 'Okay, so life pushes you down sometimes, but it also pulls you up.'

You made the film under really challenging circumstances...

Yes, making an indie film is itself a challenge because it is so tough to raise money.

Then just after I had finished the edit and the co-producers came in to help us complete the film, I was diagnosed with Stage 4 oligometastatic cancer.

I had just started working on the music and sound design, but was forced to take a few months break. I missed a lot of festival deadlines because of radiology and therapy.

But once I understood the rhythm of my body after going through three cycles of chemotherapy, I returned to Full Plate.

I'm still healing and undergoing treatment, unsure of what the future holds for me, but I have learnt to live in the present and do things that bring me joy.

Given that food plays an important part in the story, did you need any kind of special prep?

Oh yes, I made Kirti Kulhari, who plays Amreen, go through several workshops because the film has almost 20 minutes of chopping and cutting and I didn't want to use a double for her hands.

I wanted a fluid motion that the camera follows as her character moves around.

Fortunately, Kirti is someone who actually spends time in the kitchen, so she was as inspired as me.

I even had a cultural specialist on the set to guide us on how particular families prepared and ate their meals.

Even when it's just a biryani, there is a difference in the look, smell and taste that influences the performance.

I took pains to ensure that the dishes were prepared exactly right for which we have to thank the YouTube videos.

Two assistants were delegated to ensure that the food you see on the screen was fresh, with stale dishes being regularly replaced. Listening to me, Monica Dogra, who plays Amreen's vegan employer, would admit that these were things she would tell her cook every day.

You seem really passionate about food.

I am a connoisseur; I may not be a great cook, but I love eating.

I travel a lot, and when I'm away from India, I'm not one of those looking for restaurants which serve rajma-chawal.

That I can eat when I'm home, when I'm abroad, I like to sample authentic local cuisine.

Even when I would shoot in remote villages, I would never eat meals on the set, but identify a local and go with the person to their home for a meal.

I have a diverse palette and because of my interest in food and years of experience sampling different cuisines from around the world, I can now identify how good or indifferent a dish is just by looking at it.

During a shoot in Dehradun, I would not touch the biryani everyone was so excited about.

While I acknowledged the chicken was good, I refused to eat the biryani and after tasting it, everyone agreed that it fell way short of their expectations.

Did you ever taste the food that had been prepared for the camera?

Some of it we did. But there were times when after we had showcased the dish from different angles, it was no longer fit to be consumed.

Since I have always been very slim, everyone presumes that I'm on a strict diet, but actually, I'm blessed with a good metabolism and eat everything on my plate.

But now, life has changed and I have been forced to become more health conscious.

During Durga Puja this year, I had to leave my family in the pandal since I couldn't eat the bhog.

You have been an inspiring role model with your social media posts and your sparkling smiles, but initially, the diagnosis must have come as a big blow.

I was devastated!

It was not just cancer, but stage 4 oligometastatic cancer.

Since I am young and the disease had advanced, the doctors advocated an aggressive treatment that took a toll on my general health.

Yet you continue to be so brave about your health crisis.

Believe me, it hasn't been easy.

Your first reaction to a diagnosis like this is, 'Why me? I'm not a bad person so why did this have to happen to me?'

What you need to understand, over time, is that this is not karmic, but physical.

You were not afflicted because of something you had done in the past.

There is no reason, it is absolutely random.

There is a reason to be optimistic because this year, the Nobel Peace Prize in Medicine was jointly awarded to three people -- Mary E Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi -- for identifying the FOXP3 gene that helps in developing regulatory immune cells that prevent the body from attacking itself.

For all you know, in the next five years there could be a path-breaking cancer treatment and I may be absolutely fine.

Or maybe I won't be.

I have to live with both scenarios.

I have always done things on my own and when I can, I still go everywhere alone.

But that's not always possible now.

My sister was with me for a while, but she lives in New York and had to go back.

I didn't want to take my mother into confidence because she is old and was still reeling from the loss of my father.

That's when I reached out to my friends and they formed a support group, filling in the gap.

They take turns, deciding amongst themselves who will accompany me when I need an escort and have been my emotional anchors all through this journey.

Cancer has made me shameless and fearless.

So often we are afraid to reach out, we just smile and stay silent.

But I have discovered that if you are able to accept and express your vulnerabilities, there are so many beautiful people in the world who will happily be there for you.

'WHEN LATAJI CALLED ME MAHALAXMI'

'If I'm proud to be single it's because Lata was so blissfully single.'

The Super-Reclusive Rekha, who rarely breaks her silence, makes a heartfelt exception on Lata Mangeshkar's birth anniversary,

It is Lata Mangeshkarji's birth anniversary on September 28, you loved her?

As much as you did. Which Indian doesn't love Lataji? You know, Lataji and I shared a very special rapport that went back to when I was probably two or three years old.

That was when I heard her singing in my sleep. And what a way to be woken up! She was singing Aaja Re Pardesi from the film Madhumati.

My mother used to hear this song at full volume. I'd jump up in my cradle and start dancing.

I told her that I used to hear Aaja Re Pardesi... Pardesi to miley nahin lekin iss bahaane mujhe meri Lata didi mil gai (I couldn't find pardesi but I got Lata Didi). I went a step further and said I wanted Lataji to be born from my womb.

Lataji once called you Mahalaxmi?

Yes, I just died at that moment. The general public may have a high opinion of me. But her? The woman I worship. That moment has changed my entire view of life.

It was a very positive kind of tsunami -- it changed my life. After hearing her call me Mahalaxmi, it would be perfectly all right if I dropped dead right there.

It's a moment that is engraved in gold in my mind. Actually, my mother used to say I'm a very special child. 'You're a devi that's born out of my womb.'

I used to laugh. But Lata Didi said this in front of so many people. I don't think my life will ever be the same again.

I can't describe the experience of getting the Dinanath Mangeshkar award from Lata. I'm not just her fan. I worship her.

When Lata Didi asked me to accept the honour I didn't think twice.

Both Lata Mangeshkarji and her sister Asha Bhosle sang their best for you?

I've had the privilege and opportunity of getting the bestest of both worlds.

They've given my insignificant personality a whole new definition through their songs.

I mean, on one hand there was the husky voice of Asha Tai who has the sensuality to enhance my expressions in terms of bhav.

Then there's Lata Didi whose voice brings out the girl-woman in me.

There was a pristine untouched pure quality to Lata Didi's voice which lends instant grace to a heroine's personality. But can I be honest with you?

Yes, please?

In many ways I identify very closely with Lata Didi. In fact, I see my personality as a mixture of both.

They're sisters and yet so different in art and personality. I too have these two sides to me which blend into each other.

I have a Lata and an Asha within my personality. Rekha wouldn't have been what she is if it wasn't for these two voices.

Similarly, I attribute my performances to my directors, and my image to the way the print medium projects my photographs and thoughts.

Without these support systems Rekha wouldn't have been Rekha. But Lata Didi and Asha Tai's contribution is indescribable.

They've not just touched my life professionally. If I'm proud to be single it's because Lata was so blissfully single.

Did Aryan Khan *Really* Direct Ba***ds of Bollywood?

was released, I think all the actors were under the impression that this is a limited series.' 'After seeing the response, I feel we should have a season two.'

From selling insurance to acting in the most talked about Netflix show The Ba***ds of Bollywood, Armaan Khera finally tastes success after over a decade-long journey in Bollywood.

The actor-singer was earlier seen in Taish, Masaba Masaba, Citadel: Honey Bunny and Songs of Paradise.

He plays Sameer, Sahher Bambba's love interest, in Aryan Khan's OTT series.

For Armaan, though, the biggest joy was to meet Shah Rukh Khan which left him "dumbfounded".

"You keep thinking that this is what I'm going to say to him and come up with these big majestic statements that you will make in front of him. But nothing is good enough when he meets you, hugs you, and shakes your hand,"

Is Aryan Khan, 27, the youngest director you have worked with?

I believe so, yeah, but it didn't seem like that.

The best part of working with Aryan is that he is driven by something beyond just getting it done.

He is driven by the pursuit of perfection, to the point that he would call us for rehearsals on different days for the same scene.

Usually what happens is that we audition, get the script and then we're expected to deliver on the shoot day.

Here, Aryan had selected us, made us come to the office and work on those things together.

And he made us do it at least seven or eight times. He would just sit there and observe.

He would be like, how's the chemistry here? How's this working? Is this funny enough? Do you think the audience will laugh? The writing team was there too, and they would also observe.

A movie set is a chaotic place to be in, especially for a director. How was Aryan's temperament on sets?

This is another reason why it didn't seem like this was Aryan's first time. He was extremely patient; I've never seen him lose it.

He had so much to take care of; it was surreal to see somebody that calm.

That's also because he was so focused. He didn't let himself get distracted.

When he was on set, he only worked. I did not see him take any breaks.

He was always on the screen or talking to actors or discussing the next shot with Jay (Oza, cinematographer).

Is he as serious as he appears?

(Laughs) Oh, no, no! I think that really works for him.

I think he's extremely good-looking and when he has that serious face, he looks like an action hero!

He should be in an action flick!

It's very easy for him to get anything in life. Still, he's very grounded.

I believe he's been raised very well. I don't think he even realises the degree of manners that he actually has.

He's very courteous, very respectful to everyone.

Any personality quirks?

He's actually quite funny!

You've seen the show, right? It is fun and entertaining. He was the embodiment of the entertainment in the show.

We already knew the script was funny, but he made it funny.

He would act out my character.

He would be like, okay, in this scene, Karishma (Sahher Bambba's character) is saying this to Sameer (Armaan's character), and this would be the reaction -- and he would act out Sameer.

And do it better than me!

There are rumours that the series was ghost-directed by Farah Khan. Is that true?

That's funny because I never saw Farah throughout the shoot.

I only saw her at the premiere.

Did you get to meet Shah Rukh Khan?

I met him at Mannat during one of the initial screenings of The Ba***ds of Bollywood.

I was speechless.

I couldn't understand what was going on.

I was in a different realm altogether.

Shah Rukh Khan, as an actor, is such a big part of our lives.

You keep thinking that this is what I'm going to say to him and come up with these big majestic statements that you will make in front of him. But nothing is good enough when he actually meets you, hugs you, and shakes your hand.

That man is driven by a divine force.

You are having a fantastic year with back-to-back projects...

Honestly, when 2025 started, I was a little afraid as to how it would pan out because the industry has been going through a low phase for a couple of years now.

I thought this would be a year of consistent and rigorous hustle.

There were just not enough auditions happening.

So I went full-fledged into my music and started planning shoots and stuff on my own.

How do you juggle between acting and singing?

I have more control over music, since I have not signed on any label. It's an independent venture, so I don't have to depend on anybody to release or market my stuff.

With acting, if I'm doing this for a production house, like let's say Red Chilies, it depends on when they are done with the post production. It's not in my control.

The only thing in my control is getting to set on time and doing my job the best I can.

How did your creative journey begin?

I was studying business, and then eventually philosophy, in New Zealand.

During that time, my close friends were making music. They were making a lot of hip-hop, and I love hip-hop.

One day, just for fun, they got me on the microphone.

I did it, and then just couldn't get enough.

We ended up releasing a song, and then unexpectedly, I became popular in Wellington.

People started recognising me as a rapper.

I was working for an insurance company at the time.

I was selling insurance to people and then writing music in my free time.

Eventually, I started making music consistently.

How did you turn to acting?

I came to Mumbai with the intention of becoming a music producer, like making music for films and stuff like that.

I didn't have the confidence to pursue acting.

I was also influenced by what people wanted me to do, especially my mom.

She would say sometimes that actors don't really do much.

So when I came to Mumbai, auditions were happening and I decided to give it a go.

Music gave me the confidence to become an entertainer in a complete sense, and not just through singing or rapping.

I decided to follow my childhood dream of becoming an actor.

You got your first project almost a decade ago, in 2014. How tough has it been for you?

My first ever acting job was Everest, with Ashutosh Gowariker.

I had just come to Mumbai, this was my very second audition.

In the book, The Alchemist, they explore the theme about how the universe will give you a sign when you venture out on your own to follow your dream.

Everest was basically my green light from the universe to keep going further.

I've been rejected, I don't even remember how many times, but I never said no to any audition.

I've never turned down an opportunity. That's why you will notice me in a variety of roles, big or small.

I'm an artist; I'm going to do everything.

Is The Ba*ds of Bollywood's season 2 happening?**

Aryan is too mysterious to reveal that.

When the show was released, I think all the actors were under the impression that this is a limited series.

After seeing the response, I feel we should have a season two.

And if there is, you will definitely see me in it!

I'm still in love with Karishma, come on!

How The Action Was Shot In They Call Him OG

'This film had many weapons, car chases, blasts, katana action, Japanese fighters, fire and fist fights..'

Cinematographer **Ravi K Chandran** seems to be still in awe of leading man Pawan Kalyan from their latest film together, They Call Him OG.

He looks back at the shoot and tells **Subhash K Jha,** "He's a born star, exuding style and swag with every move, every word."

What was it like working with Pawan Kalyan in They Call Me OG?

I'm thrilled to be working with Pawan Kalyan sir for the second time, after our successful collaboration on Bheemla Nayak.

He's a born star, exuding style and swag with every move, every word.
His on-screen presence creates a euphoria among fans, and it's a joy to witness it.

How much does Pawan Kalyan contribute to the shooting?

As a former director himself, Pawan Kalyan sir brings a unique understanding of filmmaking techniques to the set.

He recognises and appreciates outstanding work, providing feedback that boosts the creative process.

Despite his demanding political schedule, he dedicated himself to completing the film and supported the director's vision.

His commitment to his craft is inspiring.

What is he like as a person?

What strikes me most about Pawan Kalyan sir is his well-read, classy, and compassionate personality.

His concern for the people of his state is genuine, and it's a privilege to work with someone who uses their platform for the greater good.

Does he understand camera angles?

Yes. He has choreographed the action in many films.

He is trained in martial arts. He is a black belter; he went to Japan to learn martial arts.

He is a very spiritual person too.

Because of his deputy chief minister position, he couldn't give time for more movies.

They Call Him OG is your first full-fledged action film?

None of the 70 odd films I've shot had this kind of fan following.

I am very interested in action.

Whenever I shot action, the stunt choreographer got a Filmfare Award -- Virasat, Ghajini, Yuva, Kannathil Muthamital, Ezham Arivu...

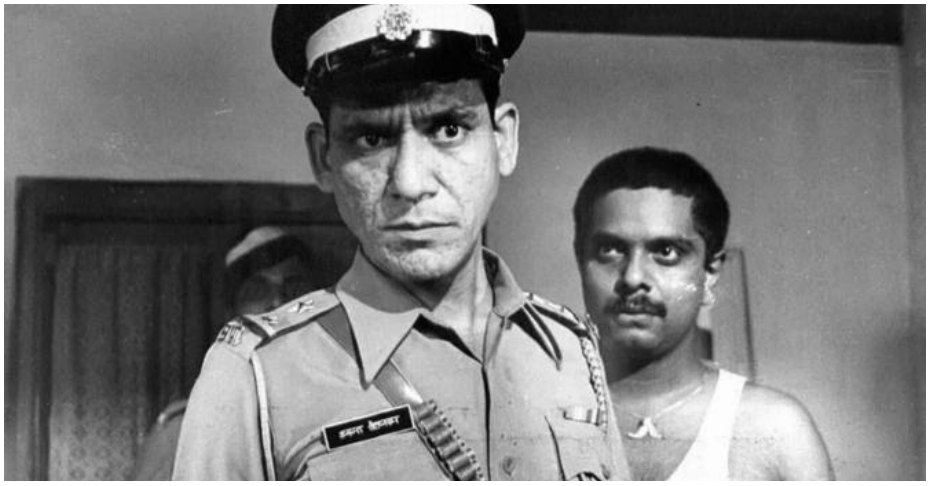
In OG, we had many stunt choreographers, almost 10.

This film had many weapons, car chases, blasts, katana action, Japanese fighters, fire and fist fights and a lot of night sequences. That gave us a lot of drama.

It's difficult to do night fights with multiple cameras to create contrast and skin tones.

Pawan sir inspires you with his mere presence

The Om Puri You Never Knew



One of Hindi cinema's greatest actors, Om Puri, would have turned 75 this October 18 had death not claimed him eight years ago.

From humble beginnings to international fame, Om's odyssey is fascinating, discovered in this interview of the actor who found rare crossover success in international cinema.

You had a long struggle before you reached this place of eminence. How do you look back at those days of hustle?

I had been independent ever since I was in the ninth standard.

I have worked in a restaurant and as a munshi too.

After completing my college in Patiala, I studied acting at the National School Of Drama in Delhi for three years and then for two years at the Pune Film Institute (FTII).

Film and drama school is where you met Naseeruddin Shah, I believe. Long before the two of you were in the vanguard of the art film movement

Naseeruddin Shah was my senior at the institute. So when I came to Mumbai around 1975, I landed up at his place in Santa Cruz (northwest Mumbai) with my bag. I stayed with him for a week till his landlady pointedly inquired how long I was planning to stay.
I had only Rs 600 with me so I rented a room in a bungalow in Bandra (northwest Mumbai) for Rs 175 a month.

When I couldn't pay his commission, the broker kindly agreed to allow me to pay it later. I have met some really helpful people in my struggling days in Mumbai.

> 'One is not allowed to smoke on the sets of a Hollywood film even during a break.'

It took half a decade before you first made an impact with Aakrosh (1980). How did you survive till then?

I was willing to do any job in Mumbai.

> 'When I asked an assistant to suggest some place where I could light a cigarette, he recommended the bad boys' corner -- where Jack Nicholson smoked.'

I had no illusions though I had studied acting at prestigious institutions.

I took up a teaching job at Roshan Taneja's classes where I taught acting to Anil Kapoor, Mazhar Khan and Gulshan Grover among others.

When I was paid Rs 600 for my first acting assignment with Govind Nihalani, I celebrated by dining at the Shamiana restaurant in the Taj Mahal hotel.

My first feature film was Ghasiram Kotwal (1976) in Marathi in which I played the title role.

Ardh Satya (1983) was the decisive turning point of your life that brought you into the spotlight. How did your life change materially?

It changed, but gradually.

After the success of Ardh Satya, I bought my own place with a terrace that I loved. But it was on a loan.

I didn't have enough money left over to even buy curtains for the windows. But my house is my island of quiet amidst the hustle bustle of everyday life.

While you have won multiple National and Filmfare awards, what gives your career an extra edge is your international success. How did you embark on this journey?

It was thanks to Jennifer Kapoor. Aakrosh had just been released and it had brought me to people's attention.

The producers of The Jewel In The Crown were searching for Indian actors and Jennifer recommended my name.

I acted in the first three episodes of that serial.

Before long, I was cast in Gandhi (1982) too. And then City Of Joy came my way.

You had a pivotal role in City of Joy (1992), a major Hollywood production. Thereafter, did you actively pursue a career in the West?

When I was advised to hire an agent after City Of Joy, I asked, 'What's an agent?'

Later, I was introduced to a famous agent called Jeremy Conway who informed me that he admired my acting in City Of Joy as well as some of my Indian films at film festivals.

However, he cautioned me, 'You are a wonderful actor, but I don't know how many parts there will be for Indian actors in foreign productions.'

I reassured him that I wouldn't flood him with calls to check on the progress. He laughed heartily and we began working together.

'But when I was heading back to my chair after the shot, Jack Nicholson asked me if I wanted to join him for a smoke. We had a long conversation over cups of cappuccino.'

Who are your favourites in international cinema?

One of my favourite films is The Godfather. My favourite actor is Alec Guinness. His own personality disappears into that of his character.

After acting in successful international films like East is East, do you feel recognised and accepted there?

While taking a morning walk in London recently, a white gentleman hailed me on the streets and said, 'Hi, Om Puri. I loved you in East Is East. You were wonderful.'

This happens at stores, restaurants and check-in counters at airports too.

In the US too, when I was a delegate at the Telluride film festival, each time I stopped at a restaurant for a cup of coffee, the owners would greet me warmly and tell me, 'We loved you in East Is East, My Son The Fanatic and City of Joy.

I was overwhelmed.

Among the Hollywood films in your oeuvre is Wolf (1994) with Jack Nicholson and City Of Joy with Patrick Swayze. Did you build a rapport with these big stars?

Patrick Swayze was very friendly and responsive. We shot together for City Of Joy in Kolkata and England and spent almost three months together promoting the film in America, Canada, Japan and Australia.

He asked about Buddhism, yoga and the rural migration into metro cities like Kolkata.

Thanks to a stroke of luck, I got to know Jack Nicholson. One is not allowed to smoke on the sets of a Hollywood film even during a break.

When I asked an assistant to suggest some place where I could light a cigarette, he recommended the bad boys' corner -- where Jack Nicholson smoked.

However, I hesitated.

But when I was heading back to my chair after the shot, Jack Nicholson asked me if I wanted to join him for a smoke. We had a long conversation over cups of cappuccino.

In most of your international films, you play South Asian characters but in Ismail Merchant's The Mystic Masseur, you played a Trinidad native of Indian descent. Your accent sounded genuine. Did you work hard on it?

I was given only three days to prepare for the accent, so I visited local bars and restaurants and kept my ears on alert to pick up their style of speaking.

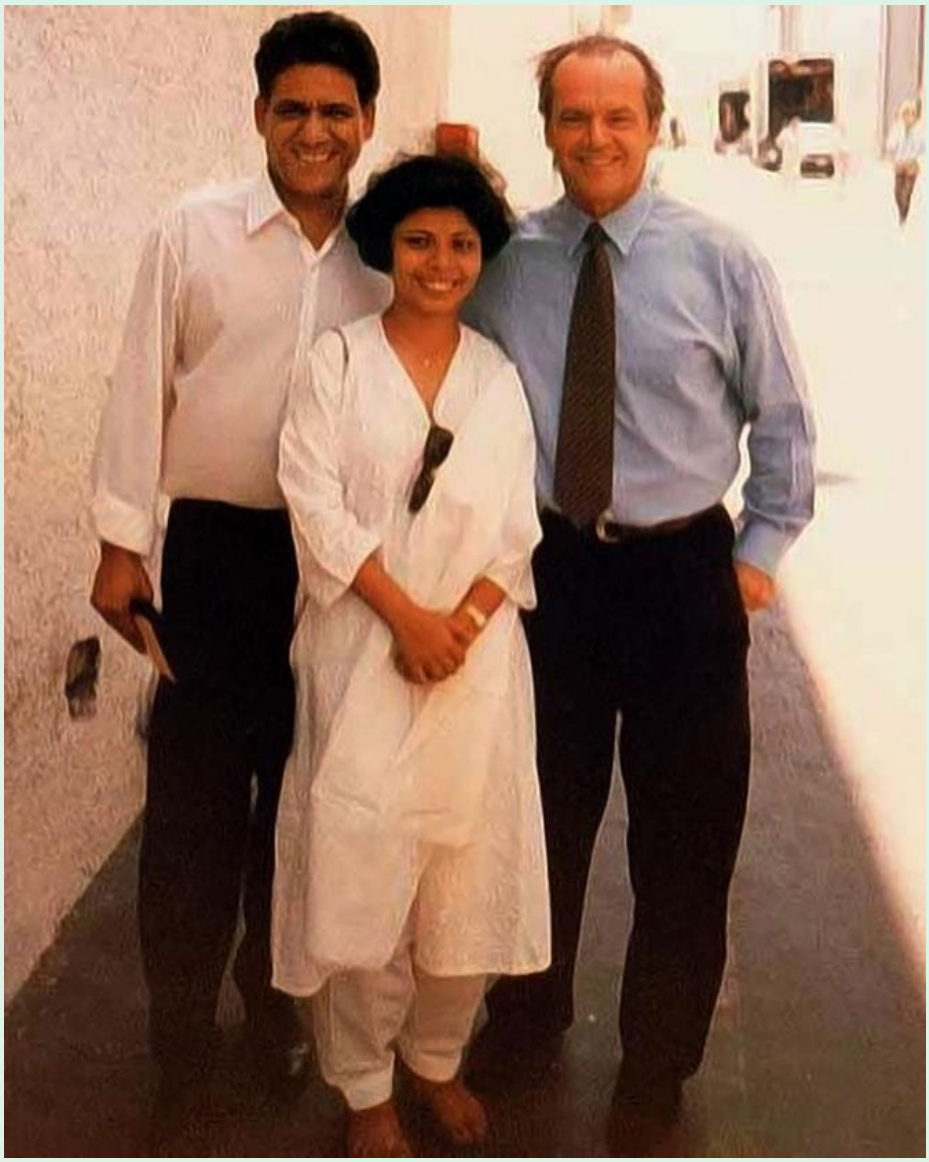
I feel I could have done better if I had more time.

Now that your passport must be heavily stamped, where does the well-travelled actor like to holiday?

Vancouver, Seychelles and Mauritius.

Which would you say is your go-to restaurant abroad?

My favourite restaurants abroad are both in London -- there's a Lebanese restaurant in Mayfair and a Rajput restaurant in Shepherd's Bush.



'I'm An Addict Of Heartache'

'I have been in love with a career on the big screen, validated by box office numbers.'

'I never expected the love back to be instantaneous.'

Harshvardhan Rane feels validated after his Diwali release Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat opened well at the box office.

"When I met filmmakers and had many meetings in February, as soon as I would say bye and turn to walk out, I could hear producers whisper behind my back, 'Fluke hai'."

How are you sleeping after your first blockbuster?
In the last nine years, I have trained myself to sleep independent of the result. I made sure validations do not impact the breathing pattern of my thought process, and my deep sleeping stage.

It's my only wealth.

Did you expect Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat to become the success that it has?
This was the first film I chose after Sanam Teri Kasam's re-release success in February.

Ninety percent of the film industry laughed and mocked this decision of mine, as it was the most important time of my career, but I did exactly what I have been doing for the last nine years: Listen to my heart and not take anybody's advice.

Was Sanam Teri Kasam's successful re-release a precursor to the success that came?
When I met filmmakers and had many meetings in February, as soon as I would say bye and turn to walk out, I could hear producers whisper behind my back, 'Fluke hai'.

I would just quietly pause, smile and keep walking out of the room.

Reviews of Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat have called it misogynistic. Does that dampen your spirit?
I am a psychology honours student, currently pursuing my second year.

Reviewers are also human beings, and I respect individual differences of opinion.

It's an outcome of difference based on eight factors like emotional state, cognition, past experience, culture and so on. It will be foolish of me to expect everyone to feel the same thing.

You play a man so much in love that he refuses to accept that he is not loved back. Have you ever been in such a situation?
I have been in love with a career on the big screen, validated by box office numbers.

I never expected the love back to be instantaneous.

I am an addict of delayed gratification, the pain, the wait, the heartache...

How are you celebrating the success?
I am leaving for a five-six day long road show in my van, and will go around the country, requesting people to buy tickets.

An actor like me has to find, educate and ask audience to watch his films.

I don't like to sit back.

My pleasure is that one text from my producer Anshul Garg, that his gamble on me reaped him profits.

Your film is doing better than Thamma.

I see it as two outsiders on Diwali, that's a win for outsiders.

I love Ayushmann Khurrana. His journey is nothing less than a tale of inspiring resilience.

'I'm The So-Called Outsider'

'I belong to a middle class family of Delhi, with no contacts in the film industry of Mumbai.'

Lakshya is enjoying the success of his new Netflix series, The Ba***ds Of Bollywood, where he plays a rising movie star.

It's almost mirroring his own reality, and he tells Subhash K Jha, "I reached Mumbai with dreams, a clear goal and the objective of establishing myself as an actor, with conviction, determination, and a zidd."

How are you coping with the popularity of The Ba*ds Of Bollywood?**

A surge in popularity is evidence that your work and effort are being positively recognised and accepted by the viewers who now want to follow you for even better outcomes in the future. You did well in the past, and are reaping the fruits in the present.

I am thankful and grateful to the viewers of Ba***ds Of Bollywood who have not only appreciated but also accepted me as an actor.

How closely did you identify with your character's struggle?

I belong to a middle class family of Delhi, with no contacts in the film industry of Mumbai.

I'm the so-called outsider, who reached Mumbai with dreams, a clear goal and the objective of establishing myself as an actor, with conviction, determination, and a strong zidd.

So is the character of Aasman in the show.

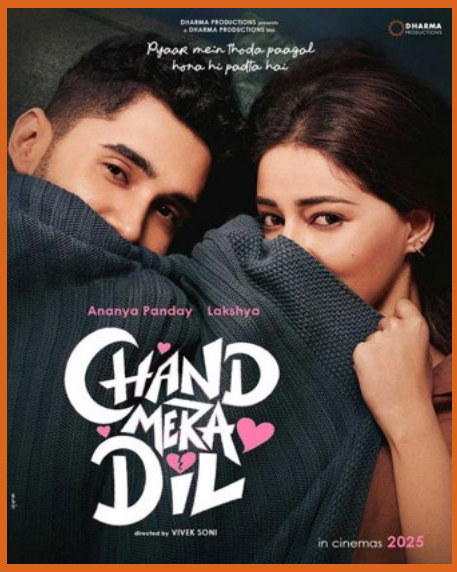
Yet, there are differences in the situations and obstacles posed to me as an individual and as the character, Aasman.

Are you flooded with offers?

I won't say there is a flood of offers, but yes, there are numerous offers available at this point, and I am grateful.

Selecting an offer is the most crucial decision now because it calls for absolute rationality and a greater responsibility.

I have a few stringent selection criteria.



What are they?

The first is relevance.

Does it align with my needs and interests?

The second is compatibility.

Will I be able to deliver the expected outcomes? Do my core strengths enable me to justify the offer and benefit mutually?

The third is Social Acceptability.

One has to abide by the principles laid down by society, of which we are an integral part.

The fourth is Value Addition.

Does this offer add to any value and augment my life, personality, profession, and career growth?

Above all, will it add to my career longevity?

How has your family reacted to your stardom?

They are joyous, celebrating the achievement, and feel uplifted too.

Yet, my mother, who practices Buddhism, always pays her gratitude to the universe.

They emphasise that success is an ongoing journey, not a final outcome.

They push me to set clear goals, put consistent efforts to achieve these goals, work for inner peace with a purpose that your conscience allows, and eventually, make a positive impact on others to spread joy and happiness.

'Women Are Mercilessly Criticised'

'It's not like I haven't made mistakes. There have been a couple of questionable films, but I have always learned from the films I pick.'

Shraddha Srinath, known for films like Jersey and Vikram Vedha, is seen in her first Tamil OTT series, The Game: You Never Play Alone on Netflix.

"You can either say yes to everything that comes your way and be seen a lot on screen and posters, or you can choose what feels right to you. For me, my work is sacred. I don't take it for granted,"

The Game: You Never Play Alone is a big success.

The show had so many interesting subplots, a lot of scope to perform, the potential of it being my very first OTT...

I really loved the narration.

I was sent the synopsis of the show and it seemed interesting on paper.

I also knew the names behind it -- Producer Applause Entertainment and Director Rajesh M Selva -- and that reinforced my confidence in the project.

Is it difficult to find projects like The Game: You Never Play Alone where the entire plot revolves around the female lead?

To find an entire series that is based on my character is not hard to find.

I frequently receive synopsis of shows and films in which I play the central part. What is hard to find is a team that will execute it well and a story that is convincing.

So you are not short of challenging roles?

Yeah, there are many well-meaning, well-intentioned makers out there, but how many of them can pull off a female-centric plot and bring it out for people to watch? That's the tricky part.

But yeah, this ticked all the boxes and eventually got bought by Netflix, which was another feather in our cap.

How relatable was the part of the digital game-maker who is targeted viciously?

I found certain aspects of Kavya's life relatable. Like the part where she is a public figure, and in the limelight.

She uses her social media to share tidbits about her personal life and work and receives a lot of love and also hate in return.

I found that relatable as a public figure and also as a woman, you know, since we are constantly scrutinised

and, sometimes mercilessly criticised.

But since I have not gone through that kind of targeted attack, it was hard for me to imagine, and it was something I needed to work on.

Was it difficult to leave behind the character's trauma when you went home?

I'm very good at compartmentalising.

Also, my approach to acting is quite definite.

I found a method that works best for me without intruding into my personal life or my mental space. So yeah, I would leave Kavya back at work and go home.

Why do we see so little of you?

Yes, this is something I hear often.

You can call it picky, but I believe that I am someone who would not settle for anything less than what I'm worthy of.There are a hundred films being made, out of which 10 are good. But all those 10 films are not being offered to me.
Let's say I'm getting 40 films out of them; 36 will be very mediocre.

What are your criteria for accepting a film?

I have a checklist.
I expect a good script, good writing, a character with a good arc.

I expect a good crew, a like-minded team.

I will not do something for the sake of it. I will not compromise.

It's not like I'm looking for all the 10 things on my checklist, but a majority should match.

You can either say yes to everything that comes your way and be seen a lot in on screen and posters, or you can choose what feels right to you.

For me, my work is sacred. I don't take it for granted.

My one life goal is to have a filmography that is something that I can look back on with pride.

IMAGE: On the sets of The Game: You Never Play Alone. Photograph: Kind courtesy Shraddha Srinath/Instagram

It's not like I haven't made mistakes. There have been a couple of questionable films, but I have always learned from the films I pick.

Do you see The Game: You Never Play Alone as a new phase in your career?

Yes. It's my first Web series.

It is currently trending on Netflix at number one. If I can deliver a successful female-led Web series, I think that opens a lot of avenues for me, builds confidence in me as an actor and how bankable I can be.

Of course, the show has a lot of other important characters but being the face of the show and doing well is a huge thing.

What next?

You will see me in a Tamil film called Aryan with Vishnu Vishal; it will release on October 31.

I play a strong-headed, alpha female journalist.

She's a very intuitive sort of person who takes her job more personally than one should.

There's another Tamil movie called Bro Code with Jayam Ravi and SJ Surya.

10 Best Ways to Stay Healthy In Winter

As we grumble upon the fact of facing a winter blizzard, it's quite hard to imagine that this frigid low temperature could possibly bring any health benefits, but according to Ayurveda, winter is the season in which there is inherent immunity boost up. Cold weather leads to decreased body temperature, and the body undergoes thermoregulation to adjust to the new climate. Sometimes this transition demonstrates through a number of winter season diseases; however, by following some easy precautions during the winter season with little effort you can have a supercharged up healthy winter. Listed below are health tips for the winter season.

Winter is the season to boost the immune system and nurture our body. Eating nourished warm food, sleeping well and staying active are some important aspects to keep one healthy during winters.

1 Healthy Diet or Food:

Eating a well-balanced diet including whole grains, lean meats, fish, poultry, legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices as well as plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables are essential to boost the immune system. We can also have an optimum intake of foods rich in vitamin C, as it helps to strengthen our immune system and to keep our body healthy.

2 Exercise:

Physical activity is an important aspect to keep one fit throughout the winter. Daily routine of yoga or any form of physical activity will help to keep you warm and boosts the immune system improving defence against seasonal ailments like flu and colds.

3 Skin Trouble:

Damaged skin is one of the perils of winter. Cold weather damages skin resulting in dry, and itchy skin, chapped lips, and cracked heels. Skin care in winter must include moisturising, applying sun protection creams and increasing intake of water.

4 Water:

Drink the required amount of water every day and stay hydrated. Water helps to clean our system and remove toxins, carry nutrients to the body cells and help balance body fluid.

5 Sleep:

A good amount of sleep helps to keep the body's immune system healthy, eliminates stress hormone cortisol and burns calories. Sleep is a non-negotiable factor for maintaining good health.

6 Hygiene:

Maintain good hygiene, wash hands to keep the bacteria and viruses to stop spreads of germs.

7 Checkup Your Health Regularly:

Winter season precautions include keeping a check on health conditions by opting for a regular health checkup. As cold weather triggers health problems like asthma, flu, sore throat, painful joints, and increased risk of heart attacks as low temperature makes blood pressure rise and puts more pressure on the heart. Preventive health checkup is the best way to beat the winter diseases and to enjoy good health even in the chilled weather.

8 Quit Smoking:

Smoking makes individuals susceptible towards respiratory infections in winter hence one should quit smoking.

9 Vitamin D:

Going outdoors and soaking in the warm sun, our body requires vitamin D - which is essential for maintaining health and immunity, Vitamin D is also required to regulate the mood.

10 Clothing:

Wear woollen clothes to keep you warm when you go out.

Now is the time to think about winter season health prevention, only if you want to avoid being sick and to avoid antibiotics and other drugs, follow above mentioned tips to have safe and a healthy

Winter wellness: 7 tips for staying healthy during the holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time for family, friends and celebrations. But winter can take a toll on your physical and mental health, even during the festivities.

So what can you do to stay healthy this winter?

1 Drink water.

Winter may be a good time for hot cocoa and cider, but always make water your drink of choice. While hot beverages can be great for warmth, remember to keep it balanced with at least 8 cups of water per day. A glass of water with and between each meal can keep you hydrated, healthy and ready to fight off any germs winter may bring.

2 Stress less.

Over-the-top holiday excursions can be stressful, which isn't how you should feel in this joyful season. Focus on your holiday traditions — don't worry about the rest. Make time for friends, family and good cheer, and embrace relaxation when you can.

3 Sleep enough.

Don't neglect the value of sleep. Do all that you can to stick to your typical sleep schedule, even around all the celebrations and traveling. Avoid or limit caffeine, alcohol, daytime napping and large meals before bed. These factors can interfere with a good night's rest.

4 Dress warmly.

Remember headwear that fully covers your ears, wear mittens rather than gloves and pull on well-insulated socks when dressing for the weather. Instead of wearing one big coat, dress in several layers of loose, warm clothing. This will better protect you against wind, snow and rain. If your clothes become wet, change them as soon as possible.

5 Limit time in the cold.

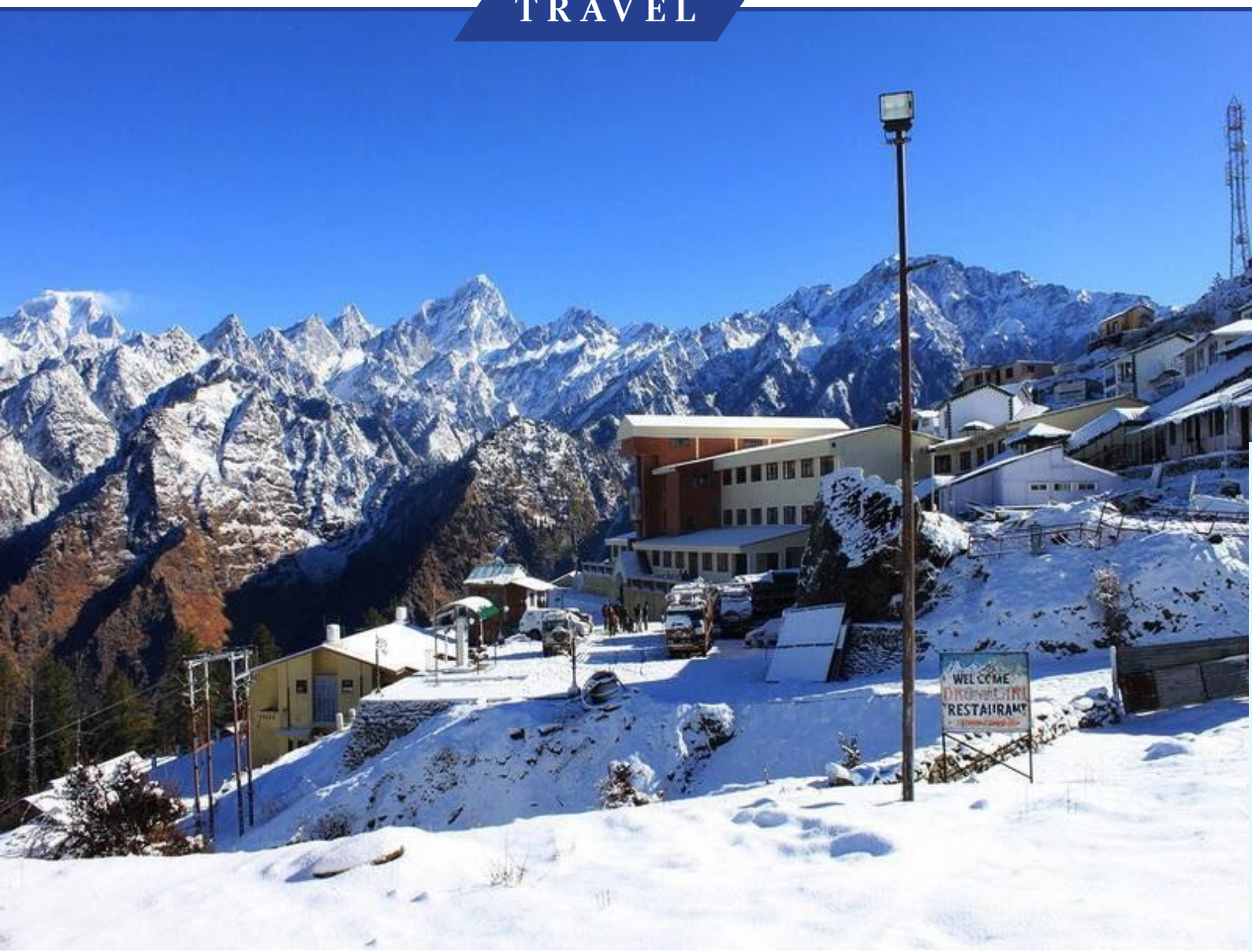
Pay attention to weather forecasts and wind chill readings. Dress accordingly, but also watch for signs of frostbite, such as red or pale skin, prickling and numbness. Seek emergency help right away if you experience any signs of hypothermia, including intense shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or fatigue. You can avoid these cold-weather hazards if you take measures to protect yourself against the cold, such as packing an emergency supply kit and warm clothing while traveling.

6 Exercise.

Cold air sometimes can discourage you from keeping up with your fitness routines. It's easy to let these habits slide for the season, but remember that regular activity can keep you healthy, both mentally and physically. Choose an indoor exercise if the temperature is below zero or the windchill is extreme. Workout apps or online exercise programs are great tools to get you moving in the comfort of your home. If you prefer to exercise outside, dress appropriately. Too many layers can make you overheat, so choose layers you can easily remove.

7 Keep the germs away.

Three words: Wash your hands. This is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading common winter illnesses, such as colds. Germs accumulate through nearly everything you do or touch, so wash your hands frequently. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, scrubbing all surfaces and rinsing well. Also, get flu and COVID-19 vaccines to avoid being sick during the coldest time of year.



BEST PLACES TO TRAVEL IN NOVEMBER IN INDIA: UNIQUE DESTINATIONS WORTH VISITING THIS SEASON

Places to travel in November in India offer something rare, that sweet spot between the chaos of peak tourist season and the unpredictability of the monsoon. The rains are long gone, the summer heat has calmed down, and winter is just beginning to set in. It's when the country starts to feel festive again, without the high prices or packed spots that December usually brings. For travellers seeking pleasant weather, fewer crowds, and a wider choice of stays, November is a strategic pick.

Whether it's cold deserts, beach towns, cultural hubs, or offbeat valleys, there's no shortage of places to travel in November that promise memorable experiences.

Why November is the Best Time to Travel in India

There's a reason so many people search for the best places to travel in November in India. Here's what sets the month apart:

Shoulder season benefits – fewer crowds and better rates in many regions.

Comfortable weather – from Rajasthan to Meghalaya, November is more pleasant than peak summer or heavy monsoon months.

Cultural festivities – Diwali, Pushkar Mela, and Wangala in Meghalaya offer unique experiences tied to tradition and celebration.

1. Bundi, Rajasthan - A Peaceful Alternative to Jaipur

Bundi is often overlooked, but this is exactly what makes it one of the offbeat places to go in November near Jaipur. The small town has ornate stepwells, blue houses, and a hilltop palace with murals that rival those in any major city.

Best time to visit Bundi

November's dry weather, moderate temperatures, and clear skies are perfect for walking tours.

Things to do in Bundi

- Visit the Taragarh Fort and admire the view from the ramparts.
- Step into the 84-pillared cenotaph, a hidden architectural gem.
- Attend the Bundi Utsav if the timing aligns, folk performances, camel races, and craft exhibitions fill the streets.

Weather in Bundi

Daytime temperatures hover around 25°C, making outdoor activities comfortable.

2. Wayanad, Kerala – Misty Mornings and Quiet Hills

For travellers seeking quiet stays and greenery without heavy rain, Wayanad is among the best November holiday destinations in the south.

Best time to visit Wayanad

Trek to Chembra Peak early in the morning for views of the heart-shaped lake.
Walk around the old Jain Temple in Sulthan Bathery.
Stay in a villa in Wayanad surrounded by coffee plantations.

Things to do in Wayanad

- Trek to Chembra Peak early in the morning for views of the heart-shaped lake.
- Walk around the old Jain Temple in Sulthan Bathery.
- Stay in a villa in Wayanad surrounded by coffee plantations.

Weather in Wayanad

18–28°C with gentle breezes.

3. Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh – Best Monuments in India

For anyone with a cultural bent, Gwalior is one of the most enriching places to travel in November. The Tansen Music Festival takes place this month, drawing classical artists from across the country.

Best time to visit Gwalior

November's dry weather, moderate temperatures, and clear skies are perfect for walking tours.

Things to do in Gwalior

- Attend a session at the Tansen Festival inside the Gwalior Fort.
- Visit the intricately carved Sas Bahu temples.
- Stay at a luxury villa in Gwalior.
- Try the local street food near the Maharaj Bada market.

Weather in Gwalior

Dry and cool, ranging from 12°C at night to 28°C in the daytime.

4. Varkala, Kerala – Offbeat Destination & Alternative to Goa

Unlike Goa, which gets busier by December, Varkala in November still retains its relaxed pace. For couples and solo travellers, it counts among the peaceful romantic getaways in November.

Best time to visit Varkala

The beach opens up post-monsoon, and November is quieter than the full tourist season that follows.

Things to do in Varkala

- Try early-morning yoga on the cliff.
- Visit the 2,000-year-old Janardanaswamy Temple.
- Book a beachside accommodation in Varkala overlooking the sea.

Weather in Varkala

Between 24°C and 30°C, ideal for beachside stays and Ayurvedic treatments.

5. Orchha, Madhya Pradesh – Hidden Gems In India with Riverside Views

This historical town on the Betwa River rarely makes it to mainstream lists, but it should. Orchha is one of those places to go in November when you want a mix of history, nature, and privacy.

Best time to visit Orchha

No humidity, light breezes, and warm sunshine make November just right.

Things to do in Orchha

- Watch the sunset from the cenotaphs along the Betwa River.
- Explore the Ram Raja Temple, one of the few temples where Ram is worshipped as a king.
- Kayak gently on the river during the early morning hours.

Weather in Orchha

Daytime highs are around 28°C, with nights in the mid-teens.

6. Majuli, Assam – One of the vanishing islands of India

Majuli, the world's largest river island, is ideal for travellers interested in culture and slow movement. With the flood season over, November becomes the best time to visit Majuli.

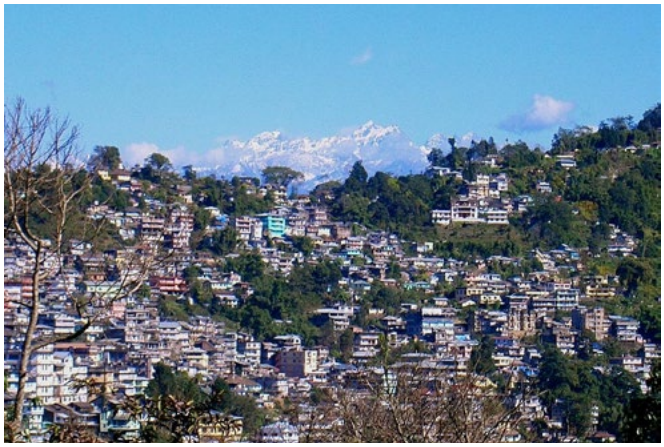
Things to do in Majuli

- Spend time in a satra (Vaishnavite monastery).
- Watch a mask-making demonstration in Samaguri Satra.
- Rent cycles and ride through mustard fields and small Assamese villages.

Weather in Majuli

Moderate, around 20–26°C, with cool evenings.

7. Kalimpong, West Bengal – Best Hill Stations in North East India



While Darjeeling draws the crowds, Kalimpong stays under the radar. It's a strong contender among places to travel in November in India for those looking for silence, views, and shorter queues.

Best time to visit Kalimpong

November is clear, ideal for views of the eastern Himalayas.

Things to do in Kalimpong

- Visit the Pine View Cactus Nursery.
- Walk through the heritage Morgan House area.
- Stay in a villa in Kalimpong with a balcony view of the Teesta Valley.

Weather in Kalimpong

Chilly mornings and pleasant afternoons, between 12°C and 22°C.

8. Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh – Close to the Clouds

For those seeking adventure, Tawang is among the most breathtaking places to travel in November before heavy snow closes the roads.

Best time to visit Tawang

Early to mid-November is ideal, dry, chilly, and before heavy snow cuts off routes.

Things to do in Tawang

- Visit the Tawang Monastery, the second-largest in the world.
- Pay respects at the Tawang War Memorial.
- Drive to Sela Pass if the weather permits.
- Weather in Tawang

Weather in Tawang

Cold but bearable, highs of 12°C and lows below freezing by night.

9. Hampi, Karnataka – Ancient Ruins Without the Heat

Hampi's widespread ruins become much easier to enjoy in November. The rocky boulders and open temples heat up quickly in summer, so the weather in Hampi in November is ideal.

Best time to visit Hampi

Definitely November, dry, breezy, and relatively quiet before the Christmas rush.

Things to do in Hampi

- Watch coracle rides on the Tungabhadra River.
- Walk around the Virupaksha Temple and Vittala Temple complex.
- Stay in a villa in Hampi or a restored guesthouse with rooftop views.

Weather in Hampi

Between 20°C and 30°C, great for long walks among the ruins.

So, Where Will Your November Take You?

India in November presents a rare balance, open skies, mild temperatures, and accessible roads. Whether someone is looking for romantic getaways in November, family trips, or quiet cultural corners, there are endless places to travel in November across the country that go beyond the usual suggestions.

From the cliffside cafés of Varkala to the classical music echoing through Gwalior's forts, each place brings a different rhythm. This is what makes November ideal, not just the weather, but the variety. These aren't just tourist spots; they're well-timed invitations to experience India in a more relaxed, meaningful way.

So if you're looking for November trip ideas, let this be the month where the plan finally comes together.

November 2025

TAROT

Loveena Crystal Gaze

(Tea and Coffee Cup Reader, Tarot card reader)

ARIES
(March 21- April 19)

The answer you ate looking before can be found during a Vacation. Be positive, lift up your thoughts, feelings, & beliefs & you will see results. Growth in your Career. Is indicated.

Angel msg- Visualise your dreams & Smooth road ahead. Welcome the new dawn in your life.

TAURUS
(April 20- May 21)

Ask for what you want, let the Universe & other people know what you need. Contracts will be Signed bringing financial gains. Angels are guiding you.

Angel msg- Let Universe bring changes in your Career. Your troubles & Setbacks are over.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 20)

Perfect timing for you to move forward. Universe has opened gateway for you to easily step through. All your hard work will bring fruit.

Angel msg- Stay Optimistic, dreams are coming true. Happy outcome is assured.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Universe wants to gift you so much & time is now. Divine timing brings abundance. Prayers have been heard.

Angel msg- Expect miracles in your life.

LEO
(July 23- Aug 22)

Enjoy the new doors that open as a result. Shifting to new home is possible. Aura is energized for financial gains. Universe is sending you blessings.

Angel msg- **what's meant for you is on its way to you. Sunshine days ahead of you.**

VIRGO
(Aug 23- Sept 22)

Dreamt of projects will manifest. News you have been waiting for anxiously comes through & money issues will be sorted.

Angel msg- Soar with happiness, Angels are blessing you.

LIBRA
(Sept 23- Oct 22)

Rainbow of happiness, abundance coming in your life. Open your heart n arms to receive blessings from your angels. Property investment is highlighted. Career will bring you success.

Angel msg- Visualize your dreams, Angels are guiding you.

SCORPIO
(Oct 23- Nov 22)

Stop worrying about money, all issues disturbing you will soon be settled. A family property dispute will work out in your favor. Career will see growth.

Angel msg- Good days are coming ahead, relax, be happy.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 23- Dec 21)

Release your doubts to heaven. Have patience, your dreams are coming true. Financial stability is highlighted. Keep charging ahead.

Angel msg- New horizon is coming in your life.

CAPRICON
(Dec 22- Jan 20)

Look forward to new gains in financial investments. Spread your wings, your dreams are manifesting. Angels are blessing you.

Angel msg- Stormy days are over, Angels are protecting you.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 21- Feb 18)

Dreams & ambitions are realized, wishes coming true & the universe sends a special blessing just for you. Be happy, positive.

Angel msg- Expect the best, smooth road ahead.

PISCES
(Feb 19- March 20)

You will touch new heights in your Career. Deals will be finalized, you are going closer to your goal. Perfect time to move forward.

Angel msg- Time for new beginning in your Career.

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