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BOLLYWOOD TOWN 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS 2015 - 2025



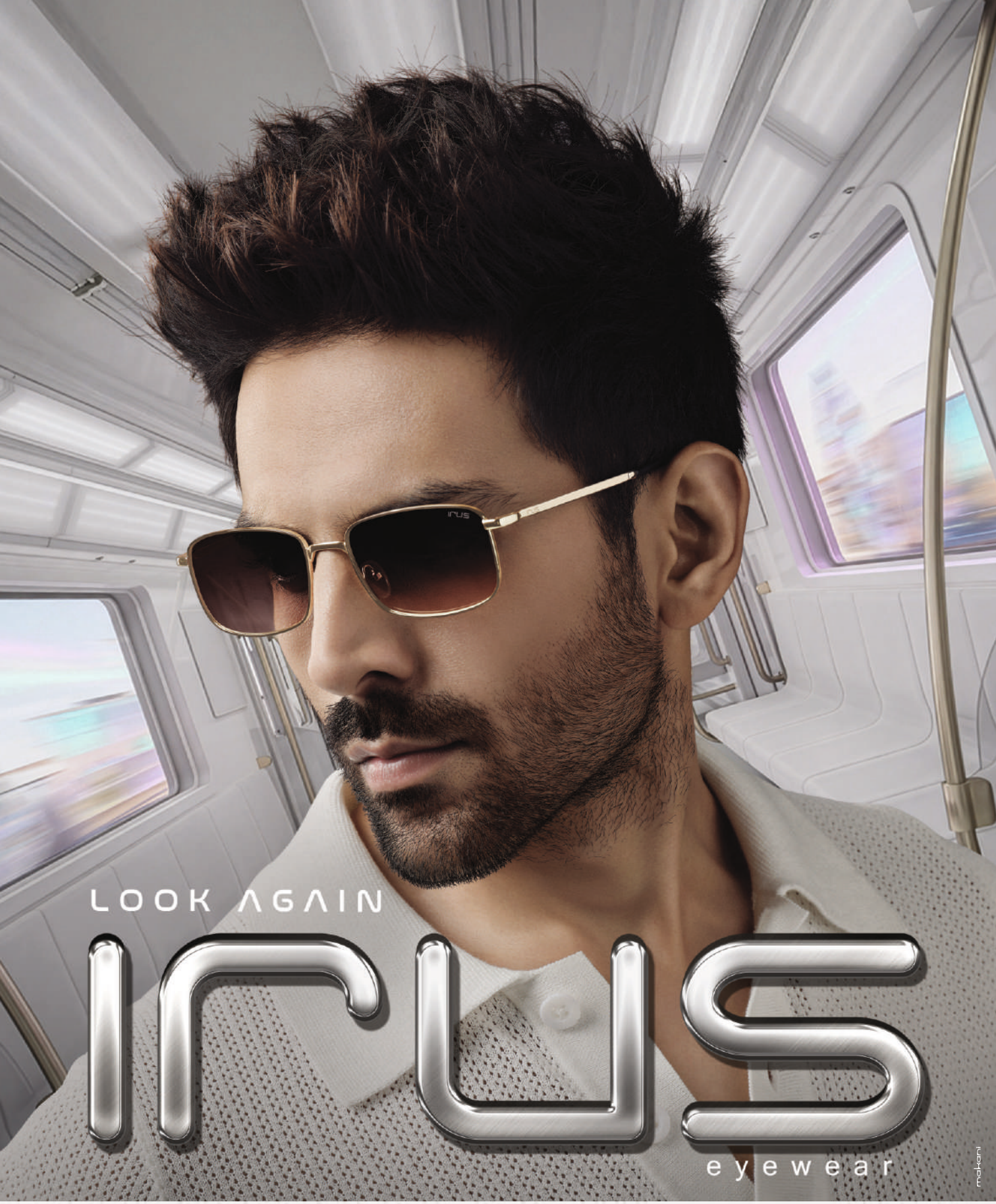
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From the publisher's desk

Dear Readers,

This year, Bollywood had hardly any fight for the Diwali release date. No A-lister's movie this Diwali. History suggests that Diwali, Eid, Independence Day, and Christmas are the most important occasions to release the big movies. This year's Diwali had just two movies: Thamma and Ek Deewaane Ki Deewaniyat. Both are average movies with mediocre budgets. Apart from these two movies, the other movies like Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, Bhagwat: Chapter 1, The Taj Story, and Single Salma were released in the month of October.

Overall, the month of October was not really an exciting month for most of the filmmakers.

The month of November is starting with the release of Yami Gautam and Emraan Hashmi starrer Haq, followed by Jatadhara, Jassi Weds Jassi, De De Pyaar De 2, 2020 Delhi, 120 Bahadur, Haunted 3D: Ghosts Of The Past, Mastiii 4, and Tere Ishq Mein. This month has bigger movies to release in comparison to October. We can expect the better box-office collections that may lead towards a good year-end.

Even the South Indian film industry has limited hit movies in this quarter. Most of the really big budget and A-lister movies are slated to release in 2026. We hope for a much better year ahead as far as box-office collections are concerned.

As usual, we will keep on updating latest news, views and gossip on film, TV and fashion industry so; keep reading and keep loving Bollywood Town.

Regards,
Sharmila Yogesh Mishra

BOLLYWOOD TOWN 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS 2015 - 2025

10th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

NEWS | VIEWS | GOSSIP

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CROSSOVER



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Prime Video & Hrithik Roshan's HRX Films come together for a gripping new thriller series Storm (Working Title), production to begin soon

PRIME Video, India's most-loved entertainment destination, today announced its upcoming Original drama series Storm (working title), marking an exciting new collaboration with superstar Hrithik Roshan and his banner HRX Films, a division of FilmKraft Productions. Created and directed by Ajitpal Singh, with a gripping story crafted by Ajitpal Singh, Francois Lunel, and Swati Das, the upcoming series will be produced by Hrithik Roshan and Eshaan Roshan and marks the actor's foray into the streaming space. Storm boasts a stellar cast led by Parvathy Thiruvothu, Alaya F, Srishti Shrivastava, Rrama Sharma and Saba Azad. With production scheduled to begin soon, Storm is a high-stakes thriller drama set against the backdrop of Mumbai.



"At Prime Video, we remain steadfast in our commitment to championing extraordinary talent - both on-screen and behind the scenes, to deliver compelling narratives that resonate with audiences globally. Hrithik Roshan is one of Indian cinema's most distinguished creative forces, and our collaboration with him and HRX Films is a significant milestone that exemplifies our dedication to excellence in storytelling. Storm marks the beginning of a dynamic collaboration, paving the way for more exciting projects ahead," said Gaurav Gandhi, Vice President, APAC & MENA, Prime Video. "The development process of this series has been remarkably rewarding, with Hrithik's distinctive artistic vision and Eshaan Roshan's dynamic energy and unwavering commitment enriching the narrative. Storm brings together powerful women protagonists and a gripping story that we're confident will resonate with audiences across the world."

"Storm presented me with the perfect opportunity to make my debut as a producer in the streaming space, and Prime Video, with its proven record of bringing exceptional stories to life, was an instinctive choice," said Hrithik Roshan. "What drew me to Storm was the compelling world that Ajitpal has created. The story is raw, layered, and powerful, with unforgettable characters which will be essayed by incredibly talented actors. This series has the potential to resonate with audiences not just in India but across the globe, and I'm excited for viewers worldwide to experience its captivating narrative on Prime Video."

As the series gears up for production, more details will be unveiled soon.

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Hansal Mehta's True Story Films partners with Lijo Jose Pellissery and A.R. Rahman for a romance drama

A landmark collaboration is set to enrich the Indian film landscape. True Story Films and Amen Movie Monastery have announced an upcoming feature directed by acclaimed filmmaker Lijo Jose Pellissery, with an original score and songs composed by Academy Award-winner A.R. Rahman.

Penned by Karan Vyas and Pellissery, the film promises to be a lyrical exploration of love, longing, and the fragile complexities of human connection.

Widely regarded as one of the boldest and most inventive voices in Indian cinema, Pellissery has earned international recognition for his visually daring and narratively audacious films. With this project, he turns his gaze to romance, promising an intimate yet expansive cinematic journey.

Joining him is music legend Rahman, whose timeless compositions continue to transcend borders and generations. His ability to weave evocative melodies with immersive soundscapes positions the film as both a visceral and lyrical experience — a musical ode to romance itself.

Casting for the film is currently underway.

"To bring together Lijo Jose Pellissery and A.R. Rahman for this film feels nothing short of momentous. We look forward to beginning production later this year and sharing the magic that Lijo and ARR, along with a stellar team, will bring to audiences," said Sahil Saigal, Partner at True Story Films.

"Lijo is a revelation to cinema. Working with Hansal has been a delight, and I'm eager to see what the three of us create together," added A.R. Rahman.







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Veteran actor Pankaj Dheer, Karna of Mahabharat, dies at 68



MUMBAI: Renowned actor Pankaj Dheer, known for playing the role of Karna in BR Chopra's TV series Mahabharat (1988), died today on October 15, 2025. He was 68 years old, and according to sources, he was suffering from cancer. He has worked in many super hit movies and TV serials, but his image in public was of playing the character of Karna in the Mahabharata serial.

He has worked in Jeevan Ek Sanghursh, Saugandh, Sanam Bewfa, Sadak, Badshah, Andaaz, Tarzan: The Wonder Car, and many more movies and TV serials.

Veteran actor Asrani passed away at the age of 84



MUMBAI: Veteran actor and comedian Asrani, best known for his role as the jailer in Sholay, passed away today at the age of 84 on October 20, 2025, in Mumbai. He has appeared in over 300 Hindi films.

It is with deep sorrow that the Indian film fraternity and millions of admirers mourn the passing of veteran actor and comedian Govardhan Asrani, fondly known as Asrani. Born in Jaipur and trained at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, Asrani's journey was marked by dedication, versatility, and an unmatched sense of comic timing that made him one of the most beloved faces of Indian entertainment.

Rising to fame in the 1970s, he became a household name through memorable performances in films like Sholay (as the eccentric jailer), Chupke Chupke, Bawarchi, Abhimaan, and Amar Akbar Anthony. His collaborations with stalwarts such as Rajesh Khanna, Hrishikesh Mukherjee, and Gulzar enriched Indian cinema with laughter, warmth, and human emotion. Equally adept at both comedy and serious roles, Asrani proved his range time and again, earning critical acclaim for performances that balanced humour with humanity. Beyond acting, he also directed films like Chala Murari Hero Banne, displaying his multifaceted creativity. Even in his later years, Asrani continued to charm audiences with his roles in films like Hera Pheri and Welcome Back, bridging generations through his art.

His death marks the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future actors and filmmakers.

Asrani will be remembered not only for his laughter but also for his sincerity, humility, and enduring contribution to the golden age of Indian cinema. His timeless performances will keep echoing in the hearts of movie lovers forever.

LET'S GO!

MOCHI



13 Years, 19 Films - Varun Dhawan, the bankable star of his generation

IN 2025, Varun Dhawan marks 13 years since his debut in Bollywood — a milestone that reflects not just the passage of time but the evolution of one of this generation's most reliable film stars. From his breakout in Student of the Year (2012) to an enviable streak of successful films, Varun has carved out a commercial identity, delivered hits across genres, and shown unmatched appeal with audiences.

Here, we celebrate his journey — highlighting the successes, the average outings, the rare misses, and what makes him one of the most bankable actors of his era.

Varun Dhawan made his debut with Student of the Year (2012), directed by Karan Johar. The film introduced him alongside Alia Bhatt and Sidharth Malhotra, and though not a massive blockbuster, it established his screen presence and youthful charisma. It laid the foundation for what was to come.

Over these 13 years, Varun has delivered a remarkable number of commercially successful and loved films. Here are some of his standout hits:

Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania (2014) — A fun romantic comedy pairing Varun with Alia Bhatt; a certified hit.

Main Tera Hero (2014) — A massy entertainer that played to his comic and energetic strengths.

Badlapur (2015) — A striking departure into darker territory, earning him immense critical acclaim and box-office success.

ABCD 2 (2015) — A dance-drama that connected with youth audiences and became one of the highest-grossing dance films in India.

Dilwale (2015) — A large-scale commercial entertainer that added to his mainstream appeal.

Badrinath Ki Dulhania (2017) — A heartfelt entertainer that combined social messaging with romance; a big success.

Sui Dhaaga – Made in India (2018) — A socially rooted story that connected with audiences and critics alike.

Bhediya (2022) — A genre-blending horror-comedy that added diversity to his filmography.

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari (2025) — A family drama that performed well and resonated with urban audiences.

Across his 19 releases, a staggering 15 films have been either hits, super hits — a record very few of his contemporaries can claim.

Every star has films that don't set the box office ablaze but still hold their ground. Films like October were critically acclaimed and emotionally moving, though commercially modest. What makes Varun's stardom so enduring?

Consistent Entertainment — Whether romance, comedy, action, or drama, Varun knows his audience and delivers exactly what they expect.

Reliable Box-Office Performer — With most of his films turning profitable, Varun remains a “safe bet” for producers and distributors.

Versatility Within the Mainstream — He has balanced commercial entertainers (Judwaa 2, Badrinath Ki Dulhania) with performance-driven roles (Badlapur, October).

Mass & Youth Connect — His charm, comic timing, and dance skills keep him relatable across age groups.

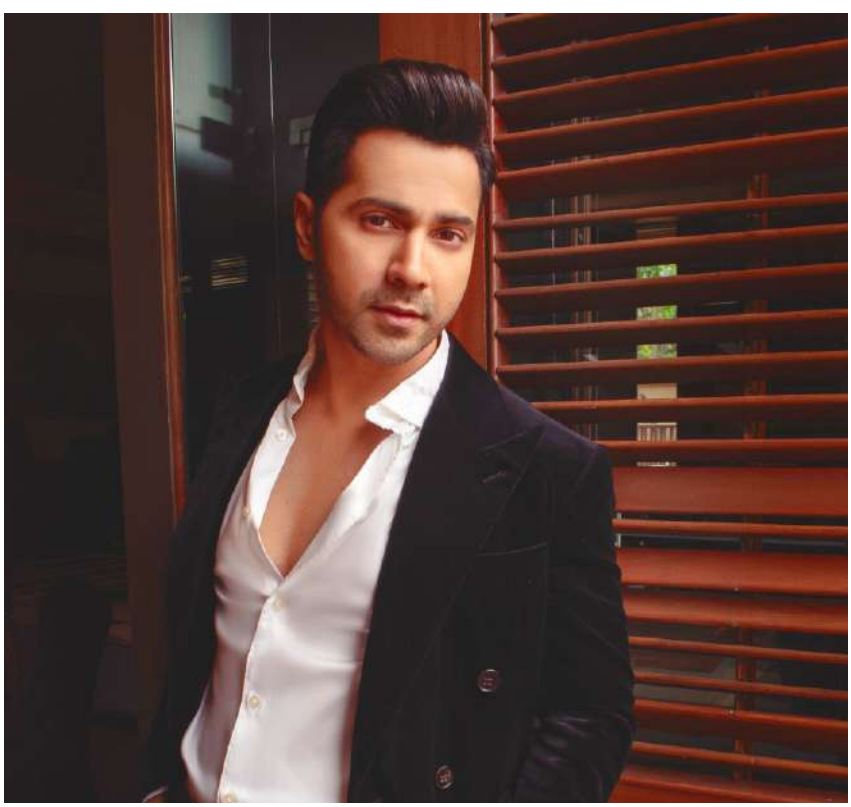
Professional Discipline — Known for his dedication, punctuality, and positive energy on set — qualities that make him one of the industry's most dependable stars.

Next up for Varun is Border 2, one of the most anticipated projects in his career. The film promises to showcase him in a patriotic, high-impact role — a genre he hasn't fully explored yet.

Completing 13 years in an industry as unpredictable as Bollywood is no small feat — but doing it with 15 successful films out of 19 is extraordinary.

From Student of the Year to Badlapur, from ABCD 2 to his latest blockbuster Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, Varun Dhawan has proven that consistency, connection, and charisma can make an actor both critically admired and commercially indispensable.

As he steps into his 14th year, Varun stands tall as one of Bollywood's most bankable stars — an artist who's not just survived the tides of changing trends, but continues to lead them with heart, hustle, and box-office magic.



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Actor Satish Shah passed away at the age of 74


still from film 'Masti'

MUMBAI: On October 25, 2025, veteran actor Satish Shah passed away at the age of 74. The cause of Satish Shah's death has been reported as kidney failure. Satish Shah was best known for his role in the TV serial *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* and popular movies like *Main Hoon Na, Hum Aapke Hain Kaun, Kal Ho Naa Ho, and many more.* His passing due to kidney failure has once again highlighted the importance of kidney health and raised awareness about the risks associated with kidney diseases.

Esha Deol announced as brand ambassador for Handball Pro League



ACTRESS Esha Deol has been officially announced as the Brand Ambassador for the Handball Pro League (HPL), which is set to take place in Nagpur in February 2026.

A former state-level handball player during her school years, Esha brings a personal connection and genuine passion to her new role. Her appointment aims to boost visibility and enthusiasm for the sport across India, particularly among young athletes and women.

The Handball Pro League, which continues to grow in popularity, is gearing up for an exciting new season featuring top national and international talent. With Esha Deol's involvement, the organizers hope to inspire more youth participation and spotlight handball as a fast-paced, dynamic sport deserving of greater recognition.

The league's Nagpur edition promises to be a celebration of energy, athleticism, and sporting spirit perfectly reflected in Esha Deol's vibrant association with HPL.

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PREETI JHANGIANI





***Preeti Jhangiani**, who shot to fame from Mohabbatein, has completed her silver jubilee years in the Hindi film industry. Prior to Hindi films, she worked in three South Indian films and created her own space there. Even prior to a big screen, she did a lot of ad films and music videos. Rajshri Productions' music video Ye Hai Prem (Chhui Mui Si Tum Lagti Ho) was a big turning point that opened a door for the big screen industry for her. Apart from the blockbuster Mohabbatein, she has also worked in many Hindi films like Awara Paagal Deewana, LOC Kargil, and Aan: Men At Work, etc. In an exclusive interview with **Yogesh Mishra**, she spoke about her childhood days, the way she entered Bollywood, her newly started production house, her working experience in the latest release, Udaipur Files, upcoming projects, and more.*

YOGESH MISHRA
yogesh@bollywoodtown.in

Can you tell us a little bit about your childhood days and how you entered the glamour world?
It's so nice that you're talking to me about all these things. Actually, I was born and brought up in Mumbai. My family is not connected to films at all in any way. So, it was never my dream or my ambition that I wanted to become an actor, and I wanted to enter the entertainment industry. I was just 16 or 17 years old when I was studying at Jai Hind College, Churchgate (Mumbai). Until then, I had very few travels; once I went to London because my aunt was there. So that was the one trip I had done. My life was very secluded and protected. It was a very traditional Sindhi family. But my parents were always very open-minded and very modern. We were just two sisters. Therefore, we consistently advocated for independence and self-reliance. Never depend on anybody for anything. So, we were always encouraged to do whatever we wanted. So, when I was modelling for the opportunity in college, I was distributing pamphlets. They wanted us to do a Colgate gel ad for a different person. We were kids. We went with a bunch of girls, and we went to shoot for the audition. So, we auditioned for the ad film, and I got that ad film. And Colgate gel was the first ad with four or five other girls and boys. After that, my photograph started circulating to different agencies, and people started calling me for different products' modeling. And then the first music video I did was with Radhika Rawal and Vinay Sapru. After that I did a couple more ad films, and then I was called from my agency for the Ye Hai Prem music video of Rajshri Productions. So, I directly went to college for the audition and saw that Saroj Khan ji was sitting there. It was such an amazing experience. They saw me, and the next day I heard that I'm doing the video. That's it. There's no audition at all.

Wow, without an audition, you have been selected. What next?
The next day was when my father came with me to meet them. And they saw my father. They said they loved talking to my father and interacting with him. So, he always channeled with me. By the way, my father had retired. So, he was quite inclined towards acting. He was a jovial man. So, he enjoyed speaking to everybody and interacting with people. And he didn't have any shyness in front of the camera. This way I did the Rajshri music video, which was the first music video I did. After that, I did many albums. That was the time of music videos in the 90s. Initially the idea was to do just one music video. But the music video became so popular that they decided to shoot all the songs in that album. Then they decided to make it like a story. So, all the songs are one by one as a story.

After the huge success of your music videos, how did you enter the world of the big screen?
Actually, my first movie was a Malayalam movie. There was a good strike at the colleges in the news time. I was 17 years old. I made a music video and released one. So, the Malayalam film and the Telugu film producers, they came and landed up at my house. They didn't have my phone number or anything, but they had the address, and they just came to my house, and they spoke to my parents, and they said, "We want to do this," and my father said, "But we are not. I'm not sure we want to do movies because we don't know anything about movies, and we are not sure that she wants to do movies." She is modeling, and she was all of that. So, they said, "No, no, it will be very nice, and we are shooting the whole film in Austria." Not in India. So, I told my dad, Come on. We have to go because we are going to shoot it in Austria. So, I only went for that Malayalam movie because I was spending 30 days in Austria. My father and I were just in to have a good time, but it turned out to be a training ground for me. Because that director, Mr. Mohanji, was absolutely amazing. He wanted me to; he worked very hard on me and on my dialogues and on my expressions, and it was a very tough role. It was a difficult role, my first Malayalam, and till now people remember the music and that film. And then after that, of course, the majority after that I did Tamil with Pawan Kalyan, which was a remake. With Pawan Kalyan, the official remake was also a very big hit down south. This way I entered the South Indian film industry before I entered the Hindi film industry. My South films are a huge, huge success, and then, of course, there was again just a call from Mohabbatein, and they said that this is the movie and you come and meet us. Again, I went to meet them with my dad.

How did you get on board with the movie 'Mohabbatein'?
So, I told you a little bit about my background and about when I got a call from Yash Chopra's office. I and my father went to meet Adi (Aditya Chopra). There was only Adi there, nobody else. Only Adi met us alone, and he spoke to us, and he said that this is the film and this is the commitment I will require from you. I will require a whole year commitment, and I know that you're doing other films in the south as well, but I will require you to not do any other work while my film is being shot, and you know this because you will require that kind of commitment, and I will train you in that way. So, my father and I Ireally liked him. He was a very open, honest, and young guy, and we really liked him, and we said okay, yes, we will do the film, and at that time I think nobody else had signed off.



So, there was no audition, no screen test as such for 'Mohabbatein'?
Yes, in Mohabbatein, there was nothing like that. They were auditioning and testing for the other person, kind of. There was no look test, nothing. After selection, trials, and everything, the look test happened much later. That was when Manish Ji (Manish Malhotra) came in, and he started doing the films and everything, only then. Then we did the look test and everything. We were deciding on different kinds of costumes and what kind of costume she should wear. They were deciding whether, because she's a video, she should only wear all white; while she's waiting for her husband and all that, she should wear light-paste and shades; or she should wear a bridal costume because her father-in-law is one, so she should only be in bridal clothes. So, what would all of this look like? That was the look test. But I always say that I always think that it was in my destiny. Because there was absolutely no inclination towards acting in movies. No, was there any background? So, and I remember when I got in because before we started the interview, we were talking about Sindhi families. And at that time, there was nobody from Sindhi families after Sadhana. There had been no actress from a Sindhi family. So, there was absolutely. After Sadhana, there were now, of course, a couple of girls. I just thought I think there were a lot of males in the actors and also a lot of males in the producers, but not any actresses. Asrani ji was one of those male Sindhi actors.

We recently lost legendary actor Asrani Ji, who was also from the Sindhi community. I think it is one of the biggest losses to the film industry.
Yes, and it's the biggest loss to our industry. Asrani Ji was a fantastic actor and an amazing human being. And it's a big loss to our industry.


PIC/Raju Asrani

So, how did life change after the release of 'Mohabbatein'?
First, I'll tell you how my life changed before why we wish to come up with it. I think they're kind of the training ground that I've got for that movie for eight months. They said that the role was of a classical Indian dancer. Now, I had not danced one day in my life either. I didn't know any form of dance. I had not trained in any dance. And to be a classical dancer, the kind of dancer that Mr. Chopra wanted to say, when this girl comes outside with her, sorry, it should look like a dancer is coming in the stance, and the body language should be a dancer. Now, to achieve that, there has to be an immense amount of training. So, I've trained for eight months, every day in the morning, at six a.m. I used to be asked to come in with the tabla, and I trained in Kathak, Bharat Natyam, and four other times. Then I used to go straight to the Yashraj office, where I taught diction and Hindi to a lot of famous people in the industry. He was there, and he used to train all of us in Hindi diction and voice throwing lessons. After that, we used to train with Mr. Barry John for theatre training. And after that, we used to train with Farah Khan for Hindi film songs and dance training. And even in between, we used to train with Adi for different scenes. So, there were eight months; we had just talked about Adi's Hindi film, everything, everything. Our Hindi was very bad. So, we had to train and work on our diction, on our language, on everything. So, that was how my life changed just before Mohabbatein. And then, of course, while shooting it, a lot of amazing moments were seen in a film to work with Mr. Shah Rukh Khan, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, and Aishwarya Rai; you know, to bond with all of our youngsters, Udai, Jugal, Jimmy, Shamita, etc. So, we all will always be special to each other because we spent so much time together.

How was your working experience with Amitabh Bachchan?
Like, sharing screen space with him was an amazing experience. Although I didn't have so many scenes with him, in the songs we were together. And, yes, he was always very humorous, very young at heart. He always wanted to sit with the youngsters and talk to the youngsters, and his command over the English language and the Hindi language is mind-blowing. I have never seen anybody who has such a command of both languages. So, it's very amazing and very impressive. And he is, of course; he is a towering personality.

Tell us something about your latest released movie, Udaipur Files.
When I heard the story of Udaipur Files, I knew that it's a true-life story, and yeah, I've always been very attracted to true-life stories. Even now you see the books I need. I need more autobiographies because I am very fascinated by true-life stories. And this was a story in which justice had not yet been given. Till now the family has not received the kind of justice that they should for a crime that was so heinous. I wanted to do this film because I felt this is a story that had to be told. It's a story about justice; it doesn't matter what the caste or religion of the person murdered is. Unfortunately, maybe a lot of people were not able to see it because it had a limited release and maybe fewer screens, like you mentioned, but I still feel I'm very proud that I did that movie.

What about your two kids? Is either of them inclined towards acting?
My elder son is 15 years old and can't say anything as of now, but he's inclined towards sports right now. He's one of the district-level football players. He plays all the sports in school. So, he's very sporty. And my little one is not artistic. They've said he likes to create job paint. He likes to cook. So, he's very different. They are not on social media. So, we want to make the only, so we don't want them to be influenced because of us or because of their parents. They watch the movies they want to. They watch a lot of English movies; it's a different generation. So we don't want to force them to do anything they don't want to do.

Tell us something about your newly started production house.
Yes, we started a new production house and did a film too. It's doing very well. It won a lot of awards. It was even featured in the Indian panorama section, so after that, we started our own sports league. It's an arm-wrestling league called the Pro Panja, and we've already done two seasons on Sony Sports.

Would you like to give any message to the readers of Bollywood Town?
I would like to definitely say that go for your dreams; never let anybody tell you that you can't do something because you can always do something. Live and let live. This is something that is very important because in today's day and time, where we see what is happening in this day and age, I just want everybody to live and let live.



Govinda on His Rajesh Khanna Fanboy Moment to Chunky Panday's 'Bangladesh Bachchan' Revelation: The Most Dil-Se Episode of Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle Yet!

WHEN two of Hindi cinema's most entertaining stars, Govinda and Chunky Panday, come together under one roof, wild stories, hilarious memories, and plenty of mischief are guaranteed. The upcoming episode of Prime Video's Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle turns into a nostalgia-soaked, laugh-out-loud reunion as Govinda and Chunky Panday join Kajol and Twinkle for an episode packed with filmy anecdotes, fun banter, and signature 90s energy. From Govinda's heartfelt memories of Rajesh Khanna to Chunky's outlandish career stories (including one that literally begins in a bathroom), this episode is a reminder of why the 90s were an era like no other, making it an unmissable watch for every Bollywood buff.

Twinkle recalls her long-standing connection with Chunky and shares, “I remember, your (Chunky's) mother was a doctor to all the actors. My grandmother knew you. He used to come to our house, and my grandmother always called him 'Junky Panday'.” Chunky, reminiscing about the good ol' days, adds, “Inki grandmother ka naam tha Bitti Kapadia. Aur maine Twinkle ko diapers mein dekha hai (Her name was Bitti Kapadia. I have seen Twinkle in Diapers).” While Kajol and Govinda burst out in laughter, Twinkle exclaims, “Yuck!”

Chunky shares how visiting Rajesh Khanna's house remains one of his fondest childhood memories, highlighting, “Humlog Kaka ji ke ghar jate they to watch video films, kyuki, pure hindustan mein khali doh video player they, ek kakaji ke ghar pe tha, Rajesh Khanna ji ke. (We used to visit their house to watch video films. In all of India there were only two video players. One at Mr. Rajesh Khanna's house.)

Govinda also shares his admiration for the late legend, saying, “Twinkle, I must say this on your show, Ki meh apke dad ka itna bada fan hu, baap re baap, ap soch bhi nahi sakti hai (I am a diehard fan of your father's. An ardent follower). What a personality! Aisa hero na isse phele kabhi dekha gaya or na uske baad kabhi aisa khoobsurat hero aaya. (There was no hero like him, and there will never be another as beautiful as him.)” Agreeing with Govinda, Kajol adds, “He was the first superstar of the industry, matlab super-duper superstar.”

Chunky shares another hilarious Black Ticket anecdote. He says, “Ek baar Govinda ki picture release hui thi na, woh hit jane wali thi picture, toh mehne tickets black meh khareed ke aadhe bhau meh beche, taki picture ki report kharab hojaye. (One of his movies was supposed to be a super-hit one. So, I purchased the tickets from the black market and sold them at half the price. To tarnish the movie's image)” Taken by amusement, Twinkle jokingly says, “Chunky, only you can do this. Chunky jessa Jugaadu admi mehne dekha he nahi! (His innovative fixes are impeccable!)”

Chunky takes a trip down memory lane, revealing how he became the 'Amitabh Bachchan' of Bangladesh. He said, “Main plane meh ja raha tha Hong Kong, woh engine trouble hogaya toh woh plane Dhaka meh uthra. Plane land hua toh phir hum airport se nikle and waha mujhe ek producer mila. (I was on the way to Hong Kong. The plane's engine acted up, and we had to halt at Dhaka. After landing we exited and met a producer)” Kajol asks what the producer said, and Chunky replies, “Bola Bangladeshi picture karte hai. Meh bola, chalo, meh Hong Kong se hokar aata hu, and I started my first film. (He proposed a Bangladeshi movie to me. I agreed. I started with my first film after coming back from Hong Kong.)”

Allu Arjun continues to reign supreme, with Pushpa 2: The Rule still holding the record for the biggest opening day!

THE way Allu Arjun rules the hearts of the audience is truly magical. With his demeanor, swag, and aura, he has carved a niche for himself in the entertainment world. Having transcended the boundaries of stardom, he has also dominated the box office with the massive collection of his film Pushpa 2: The Rule, setting a record that remains untouched.

Even though the biggest film of the year, Kantara: Chapter 1, opened with ₹89 Cr. globally, it was still unable to surpass the worldwide opening of Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2: The Rule, which debuted at ₹294 Cr. This indeed speaks volumes about the megastardom of Allu Arjun, he remains truly unmatched, even when competing with the biggest films of the year. Many films have come and gone, but none have managed to touch the opening collection of Pushpa 2: The Rule.

Moreover, Allu Arjun continues to dominate the lifetime collection charts with ₹1800 Cr. worldwide, a figure that remains unbeaten. It will be exciting to see which film, if any, comes close to matching the staggering success of Allu Arjun's blockbuster.

Now, everyone is eagerly looking forward to seeing what Allu Arjun has in store next. One thing is certain, whatever the Icon Star brings to the screen next is bound to be massive.





The epic is now censor certified!

Bahubali: The Epic

gets U/A certificate with a 3 hour 44 minutes runtime!

S. S. Rajamouli's Baahubali franchise remains the pioneering Pan-India phenomenon that revolutionized Indian cinema and etched its name in history. Celebrated by audiences worldwide, the epic saga not only won millions of hearts but also broke countless box office records, setting unparalleled standards of success. Now, the visionary filmmaker is ready to reintroduce this cinematic marvel with Bahubali: The Epic, a re-edited and remastered presentation that unites Baahubali: The Beginning and Baahubali 2: The Conclusion into one grand experience. Now, the film has cleared the censorship with U/A certificate and 3 hour 44 minutes runtime.

Taking to their social media, the makers shared the exciting update of Bahubali: The Epic getting a censor certificate. They wrote -

"#BaahubaliTheEpic is Certified U/A with a 3 hour 44 minutes runtime!

Witness The Epic in theatres worldwide from 31st October.

Bahubali: The Epic is described as a single-film version of the Baahubali story, combining footage from both films with new technical enhancements, restored or previously unseen scenes, and selective alterations. The excitement around the film is at its peak, as audiences prepare to witness the magic of two mega blockbusters in one. The film is scheduled for theatrical release on 31 October 2025 in multiple premium formats, including IMAX, 4DX, D-Box, Dolby Cinema, and EPIQ. It will release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, and Malayalam.







Raghav Chadha wishes his dearest wife and bestest mother in town Parineeti Chopra on her birthday with these adorable photos

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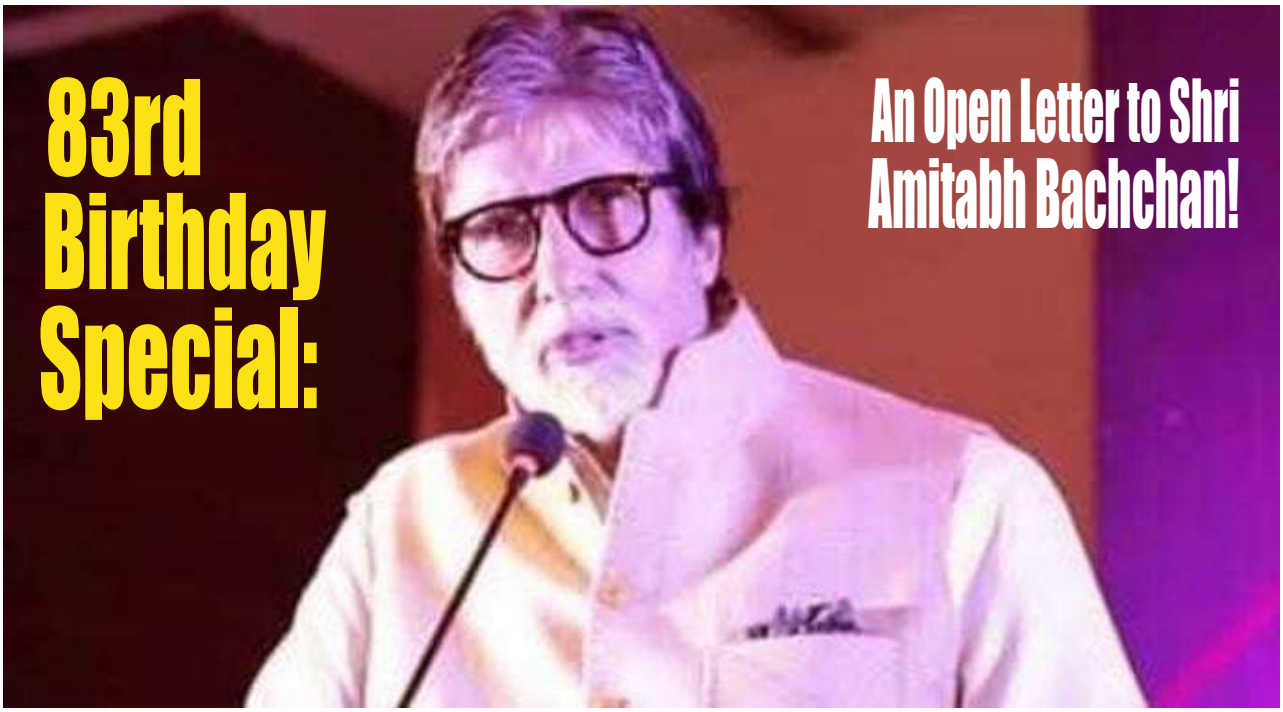
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83rd Birthday Special:

An Open Letter to Shri Amitabh Bachchan!



Girish Wankhede
mumbai@bollywoodtown.in

Dear Mr. Amitabh Bachchan,
As the sun rises on this special day, October 11, 2025, marking your 83rd birthday, we, your countless admirers across generations, pause to celebrate not just a man, but a phenomenon—an institution that has shaped our hearts, minds, and souls through the magic of your craft. For decades, you have been more than an actor; you have been a beacon of inspiration, a mirror of our emotions, and a guiding force in our lives. On this milestone, we pen this letter to express our gratitude, love, and unwavering admiration for the legacy you've gifted us through your unparalleled body of work.

From the moment you stormed onto the silver screen, you became the pulse of a nation. As Vijay in Zanjeer (1973), your smoldering intensity and righteous anger gave voice to a generation yearning for justice. The "Angry Young Man" was born, and with him, you ignited a fire in us to stand tall against injustice, to fight for what is right, no matter the odds. That steely resolve in your eyes taught us resilience, a lesson we carry in our battles, big and small.

But oh, how you made us laugh with your inimitable charm! In Sholay (1975), as the roguish Jai, your wit and camaraderie with Veeru brought joy to our hearts. "Yeh dosti hum nahi todenge" became more than a song—it became a vow of friendship we swore to uphold. Your banter, your harmonica, and that mischievous glint in your eye taught us to find humor even in life's toughest moments. And who can forget Namak Halaal (1982), where your comedic genius as Arjun Singh had us doubled over with laughter? "English is a very funny language" became our anthem for embracing life's quirks with a smile.

Your versatility has been our greatest teacher. In Deewaar (1975), as Vijay Verma, you showed us the complexities of morality, the weight of choices, and the pain of sacrifice. "Maa mere saath jaayegi" wasn't just a dialogue; it was a testament to the values of family and loyalty that resonate in our souls. In Sharabi (1984), your portrayal of a man battling his demons through addiction, yet holding onto love and dignity, moved us to tears. Your respect for Vicky's love interest, played by Jaya Prada, instilled in us a deep reverence for womanhood—a principle we strive to uphold in our lives.

Your romantic roles have been our poetry. In Silsila (1981), your portrayal of Amit's forbidden love was a masterclass in vulnerability and passion. The way you recited "Yeh kahan aa gaye hum" with Rekha made us believe in the timelessness of love, even when it's complicated. In Kabhi Kabhi (1976), your soulful poetry of Sahir Ludianvi stirred our hearts, inspiring us to weave romance into our lives with words as much as actions. We confess, sir, we've tried to emulate your style—those sideburns, those bell-bottoms, that effortless swagger—hoping to capture even a fraction of your charisma.

Your command over language has been our classroom. Your flawless Hindi diction, your impeccable English in films like Black (2005), and your heartfelt Marathi tributes have shown us the power of words to bridge cultures and emotions. In Black, as Debraj Sahai, you taught us that true teaching transcends the classroom—that it's about igniting a spark in another's soul. Your portrayal of a teacher guiding a deaf-blind girl to find her voice was a lesson in perseverance and empathy that we carry forward.

Your characters have been our companions through every phase of

life. In Amar Akbar Anthony (1977), as Anthony Gonsalves, you celebrated communal harmony with infectious joy, reminding us that love and brotherhood transcend all divides. In Baghban (2003), as Raj Malhotra, you showed us the grace of aging, the strength of familial bonds, and the pain of being misunderstood—yet you never lost your dignity. In Piku (2015), as Bhaskor Banerjee, you brought humor and relatability to the quirks of old age, making us laugh and cry as we saw our own parents in you.

Your sincerity, your discipline, and your humility have been our guiding stars. Whether it's the intellectual arrogance of Dr. Sudhir in Anand (1971), the quiet strength of Auro in Paa (2009), or the fierce determination of Vijay Dinanath Chauhan in Agneepath (1990), you've shown us how to face life's challenges with courage and conviction. Your dialogues—"Rishte mein toh hum tumhare baap lagte hain"—have become our anthems, recited with pride and passion. Your love for cricket, evident in your commentary and enthusiasm, has fueled our own, making every match a celebration of your spirit.

You've been our Dilip Kumar, our Marlon Brando, our Daniel Day-Lewis, and our Anthony Hopkins, all rolled into one. But more than that, you are our Amitabh Bachchan—the Shahenshah, the Shehenshah, the one and only. Your films have been our scriptures, your characters our mentors, and your performances our life's soundtrack. From the heartbreak of Muqaddar Ka Sikandar (1978) to the triumph of Coolie (1983), from the intensity of Sarkar (2005) to the warmth of Cheeni Kum (2007), you've given us a roadmap for every emotion, every milestone.

On this 83rd birthday, we thank you for the 83- and more—reasons you've given us to live fuller, braver, and kinder lives. Your work has been a torchbearer, illuminating our paths through youth, love, despair, and celebration. You've inspired not just us, but our parents and now our children—the third generation to be touched by your magic. Your voice, your poetry in Silsila , your larger-than-life presence in Kaala Patthar (1979), and your quiet introspection in Pink (2016) continue to guide us. As we raise a toast to you today, we say, in true Bachchan style, "Aaj khush toh bahut honge tum!"

Keep inspiring us, Sir. Keep being the Sun that lights our skies, the teacher who shapes our dreams, and the artist who paints our lives with emotion. Happy 83rd Birthday, our Shahenshah. May you continue to shine, as you always have, in every frame of our lives.
With Gratitudes and Love,
Girish Wankhede and your Admirers Across Generations
#AmitabhBachchan
#HappyBirthdayWishes









Uorfi Javed goes global! Making her international red carpet debut at The Pink Ball at the British Museum — a true fashion milestone

From Mohabbatein to Ramayana:
The Evolution of Diwali Blockbusters Over a Quarter Century

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DIWALI, the festival of lights, has long transcended its religious roots in India to become a cultural phenomenon that intertwines family celebrations, shopping sprees, and cinematic spectacles. For the Indian film industry, particularly Bollywood and its regional counterparts, Diwali represents a golden opportunity—a prolonged holiday period when families flock to malls and multiplexes, eager for shared entertainment that captures the festive spirit. Over the past 25 years, Diwali releases have not only shaped box-office trends but have profoundly influenced the evolution of cinema itself, while becoming an integral part of the common man's festive experience. These films, often larger-than-life masala entertainers packed with action, romance, songs, and star power, have turned Diwali into a high-stakes battleground for filmmakers. They have driven innovations in marketing, fostered franchise dependencies, and reflected shifting audience tastes, all while providing families with a reason to step out, spend, and bond over popcorn and silver-screen magic.

Yet, as we stand on the cusp of Diwali 2025, the lineup feels unusually subdued, lacking the blockbuster buzz of yesteryears, though the horizon brightens with promises like the 2026 release of Ramayana. This journey through a quarter-century of Diwali cinema reveals how these festive launches have moulded the industry and enriched everyday lives, even amid hits and misses.

The millennium dawned with a Diwali that set a high bar for what festive releases could achieve. In 2000, Yash Chopra's Mohabbatein, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Aishwarya Rai, epitomized the ideal Diwali film: a glossy family drama brimming with romance, emotional depth, and unforgettable music. It became an immortal hit, drawing crowds who revelled in its celebratory vibe, while the darker Mission Kashmir, featuring Hrithik Roshan and Sanjay Dutt, offered a more serious alternative but settled for modest success. This contrast highlighted an early pattern—Diwali audiences crave spectacle and heart, films that align with the festival's joyous mood. For the common man, such releases transformed Diwali into a cinematic ritual, where watching a big film became as essential as lighting diyas or bursting crackers. On the industry side, Mohabbatein's triumph reinforced the value of star-driven, music-heavy productions, influencing filmmakers to prioritize emotional accessibility and broad appeal.

The early 2000s, however, served as a reminder that Diwali's magic isn't guaranteed. In 2001, films like Deewanapan' with Arjun Rampal and Tera Mera Saath Rahe' starring Ajay Devgn flopped disastrously, lacking the buzz or quality to captivate festive crowds. The following year echoed this disappointment with Jeena Sirf Tere Liye' featuring Tusshar Kapoor, Annarth' with Sunil Shetty, and Govinda-Raveena Tandon's Waah! Tera Kya Kehna; all devoid of hype and commercial traction. By 2003, the slate was equally lacklustre, with Ssshhh'… starring Dino Morea, Karan Nath, and Tanishaa, alongside Pinjar' featuring Manoj Bajpayee and Urmila Matondkar, both failing to generate excitement and bombing at the box office. These years taught the industry a harsh lesson: without strong marketing and star power, even Diwali's extended holidays couldn't salvage poorly conceived projects. For ordinary families, these flops meant fewer options for outings, underscoring how cinema's fortunes directly impact the common man's festive joy, when films underperform, the multiplexes feel emptier, and the holiday spirit dims slightly.

A resurgence came in 2004, when Veer-Zaara, another Yash Chopra masterpiece with Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta, and Rani Mukerji, captivated audiences with its romantic grandeur and the late Madan Mohan's timeless soundtracks. It became a superhit, proving that emotional cores and melodic scores could make Diwali releases enduring classics. Accompanying it were Aitraaz, featuring Akshay Kumar, Priyanka Chopra, and Kareena Kapoor, which did average business, and the disastrous Naach' with Abhishek Bachchan. This mix propelled the industry toward more polished storytelling, while for the average viewer, films like Veer-Zaara created lasting memories, often revisited during family gatherings years later. The mid-2000s continued this rollercoaster: 2005 saw three releases—Garam Masala' with Akshay Kumar and John Abraham managing average returns, while Kyon Ki' starring Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor, and Shaadi No. 1' with Sanjay Dutt, crashed as disasters. In 2006, Shah Rukh Khan's Don remake, co-starring Priyanka Chopra, clashed with Jaan-E-Mann featuring Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar; Don's slick direction, hit songs, and Khan's charisma made it a superhit, affirming remakes as a viable Diwali strategy. The 2007 clash between Om Shanti Om, Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster ode to Bollywood, and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Saawariya' with Ranbir Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor, saw the former triumph spectacularly, while the latter flopped. These battles over screen counts not only intensified industry rivalries but also heightened public anticipation, turning Diwali into a spectacle beyond the films themselves. For the common man, such clashes meant more choices and heated discussions, enriching the social fabric of the festival.

By 2008, Diwali showcased diversity's potential: Rohit Shetty's Golmaal Returns with Ajay Devgn and Kareena Kapoor delivered laugh-out-loud mass entertainment, while Madhur Bhandarkar's Fashion starring Priyanka Chopra offered gritty drama—both succeeding despite their opposing tones. This success encouraged filmmakers to experiment beyond pure masala, broadening cinema's appeal. The following year, 2009, reverted to inconsistency with high-profile flops like Akshay Kumar and Sanjay Dutt's Blue, Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor's Main Aurr Mrs Khanna, and the average-performing All the Best with Ajay Devgn and Sanjay Dutt. In 2010, Golmaal 3, again with Ajay Devgn and Kareena Kapoor, became a big hit, solidifying franchises as Diwali staples, while Akshay Kumar and Aishwarya Rai's Action Replayy' flopped. The 2011 release Ra.One, Shah Rukh Khan's ambitious sci-fi spectacle with Kareena Kapoor, drew crowds through hype and scale, even if it didn't fully meet expectations. These years pushed the industry toward bigger budgets and visual effects, influencing global aspirations in Indian cinema, while for families, franchise familiarity provided reliable entertainment during holidays.

The 2010s intensified clashes and Star Wars. In 2012, Yash Raj's Jab Tak Hai Jaan' with Shah Rukh Khan, Katrina Kaif, and Anushka Sharma faced off against Son of Sardaar 'starring Ajay Devgn, Sanjay Dutt, and Sonakshi Sinha; both earned mixed reviews but average hits, showing that divided screens could dilute potential. Hrithik Roshan's Krrish 3 in 2013, with Priyanka Chopra, became a blockbuster, embodying Diwali's love for superhero spectacles. Shah Rukh Khan's Happy New Year in 2014, featuring Deepika Padukone, leveraged promotion and songs for superhit status. Salman Khan's 2015 family saga Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, directed by Sooraj Barjatya, scored big on nostalgia and star charisma. The 2016 showdown between Karan Johar's romantic Ae Dil Hai Mushkil (Ranbir Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai, Anushka Sharma) and Ajay Devgn's action-packed Shivaay' ended with the former succeeding, proving emotional resonance often trumps raw action during festivals. In 2017, Rohit Shetty's Golmaal Again with Ajay Devgn, Parineeti Chopra, and Tabu became a blockbuster, while Aamir Khan's Secret Superstar did well via word-of-mouth. These successes cemented franchises and star vehicles as industry mainstays, driving economic booms in merchandising and tie-ins, while for the common man, they fostered a sense of communal celebration, with films sparking post-Diwali conversations and repeat viewings.

The late 2010s and early 2020s brought risks and recoveries. Thugs of Hindostan' in 2018, Yash Raj's mega-production with Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, and Katrina Kaif, flopped disastrously despite its dream cast, warning against scale without substance. Akshay Kumar's Housefull 4' in 2019, with Bobby Deol and Riteish Deshmukh, succeeded as escapist fun. The 2020 pandemic halted major releases, creating a void that amplified the 2021 comeback of Rohit Shetty's Sooryavanshi, starring Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, and Ranveer Singh, which became a hit amid pent-up theatre demand. However, 2022's Ram Setu' with Akshay Kumar and Jacqueline Fernandez, and' Thank God 'featuring Ajay Devgn and Sidharth Malhotra, both flopped despite varying promotion. Salman Khan's Tiger 3 in 2023, with Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi, generated massive buzz and solid earnings, even if not a runaway blockbuster. The 2024 clash of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 with Kartik Aaryan and Singham Again starring Ajay Devgn drew crowds, with the former emerging as a massive hit despite mixed reactions for the latter.

This rich tapestry draws from earlier immortals like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Raja Hindustani (1996), Dil To Pagal Hai (1997), Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998), Hum Saath-Saath Hain (1999), and Baazigar (1993), which set the template for Diwali's emotional, musical spectacles. Over 25 years, these releases have revolutionized cinema by emphasizing marketing, franchises, and pan-Indian appeal, including rising Tamil influences. For the common man, they've elevated Diwali to a cinematic pilgrimage, boosting local economies through outings and creating shared cultural milestones.

Yet, Diwali 2025 feels dull by comparison. The lineup includes Tamil successes like the romantic-action Dude' directed by Keerthiswaran and starring Pradeep Ranganathan and Mamitha Baiju, and another sports drama Bison Kaalamaadan' helmed by veteran Mari Selvaraj, released on October 17. In Hindi, there's Ayushmann Khurrana's horror-comedy Thamma' in the Maddock;s Horror Comedy Universe in the league of Stree, Munjya and Bhediya. It is directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and feature Rashmika Mandanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Paresh Rawal along with Ayushman.The Other release is Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat' with Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa, directed by Mela Zaveri. While these carry some excitement, they lack the blockbuster buzz of past years, reminiscent of the lacklustre releases in 2002 or 2003. Without a potential mega-hit, this year's festivities might see fewer theater crowds, affecting the common man's outing traditions.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises a revival with Ramayana, starring Ranbir Kapoor—a mythological epic, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, is poised to capture the festive essence with its grandeur and cultural resonance. This could reignite Diwali's cinematic fireworks, drawing families back in droves.In retrospect, the journey of Diwali releases over 25 years illustrates cinema's symbiotic relationship with society: films that resonate with festive moods become timeless, shaping industry strategies and enriching lives. Even in quieter years like 2025, the legacy endures, reminding us that Diwali's true spark lies in the hope of the next big screen celebration.


Girish Wankhede

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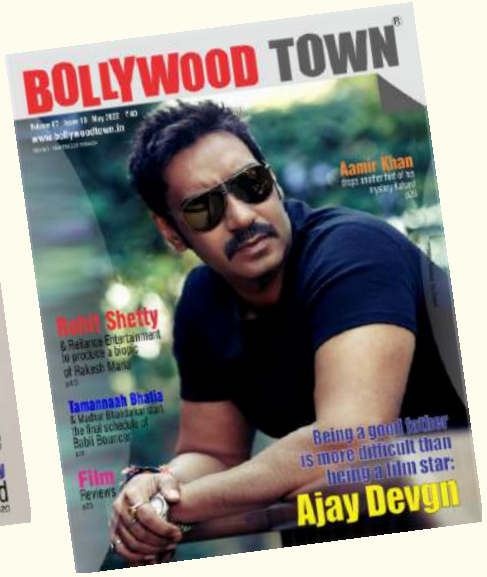
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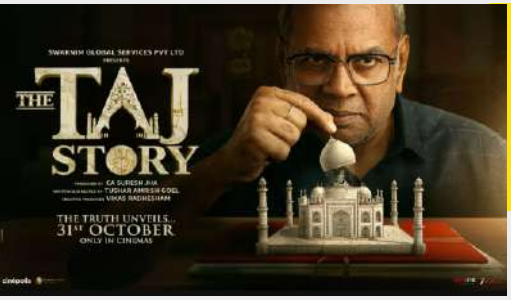






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Movie: THE TAJ STORY
Starring: Paresh Rawal, Zakir Hussain, Amruta Khanvilkar, Namit Das, Sneha Wagh
Director: Tushar Amrish Goel
Genre: Courtroom Drama
Release Date: 31.10..2025

Rating: ★★★½☆

...an eye-opener

THE Taj Story brazenly presents itself as a brutal social drama. Rather than being merely another historical or period film, The Taj Story is a cinematic argument. The question of who actually built the Taj Mahal is one of its main topics and has been the subject of discussion for many years. Was it Shah Jahan, or is history hiding another reality? The film explores this controversial tale in great detail, combining societal criticism with a reexamination of historical facts in order to be both dramatic and thought-provoking.

Actor Paresh Rawal plays the main character in the movie. His performance was simply outstanding. He played almost the same parts in a few of his earlier popular movies. An actor's performance even outshines the story and premise in this incredibly rare film. The performer is Paresh Rawal, who you may recognize as Babu Rao in Phir Hera Pheri, Aakrosh, Sanju, and Nanji Bhai in OMG. But he won a National Award for his dramatic and mature performance in The Taj Story. Apart from Paresh Rawal, Zakir Hussain, Sneha Wagh, Amruta Khanvilkar, Namit Das, Akhilendra Mishra, and others have performed admirably.

This movie clearly demonstrates the magnetism of Tushar Amrish Goel's direction. He has made every effort to provide as much information as possible about the history of the Taj Mahal. Despite not claiming to be a Taj Mahal documentary, the movie presents enough information to spark a conversation.

The screenplay and dialogue are created in a way that maintains the audience's attention. Actors Paresh Rawal and Zakir Hussain have a number of really powerful conversations in the film. Although there isn't much music in the film, the background soundtrack is nevertheless quite good and impactful. The director and writer, Tushar Amrish Goel, created an amazing screenplay that gets you immersed in the drama and prevents you from blinking.

Overall, it may or may not alter a person's opinion on the Taj Mahal, but it may spark a conversation about the important issues it raises. Why wait, then? Visit the movie theatre closest to you to watch it.



Movie: SINGLE SALMA
Starring: Huma Qureshi, Shreyas Talpade, Sunny Singh, Lauren Gottlieb, Kanwaljit Singh
Director: Nachiket Samant
Genre: Romance-Drama
Release Date: 31.010.2025

Rating: ★★★☆☆

...a nice attempt

DIRECTOR Nachiket Samant's Single Salma is one of the finest comedy dramas of the year, starring Huma Qureshi, Shreyas Talpade, and Sunny Singh in pivotal roles.

The story revolves around Salma Rizvi (Huma Qureshi), an engineer in the UP-state government's public works department based in Lucknow. Salma, being an elder and the only earning member of the family, takes the full responsibility of her sisters and a younger brother. Although her father, Mr. Rizvi, belongs to an old rich family, now his financial condition is not satisfactory. While taking care of the education and marriages of her siblings, she forgets her own personal life and becomes single even after the age of 30+. Salma's mother is quite concerned about her and searches for a bride for her. Salma meets many, but nothing could work out because of her age bracket. Meanwhile, she meets Sikandar (Shreyas Talpade), who is around 40 but still single. Finally, marriage dates and everything were confirmed between these two families. A twist comes in Salma and Sikandar's marriage when Salma goes to London on her official mission for two months just before marriage, where she falls in love with Meet (Sunny Singh), a British citizen of Indian origin. What now for Salma-Sikandar's marriage? What happens with the newly developed, very personal relations between Salma and Meet? Whom will she marry now? To know the answers to these questions, one must watch the film.

Huma Qureshi had done a brilliant job. Her performance is simply good and quite appealing. Shreyas Talpade, on the other side, looked innocent and pleased the audience with his brilliant acting skills. He has fully justified his part. Actor Sunny Singh has also made his presence felt. Apart from these lead actors, other artists like Lauren Gottlieb, Kanwaljit Singh, and Kal Sabir have also done justice to their parts.

The direction of Nachiket Samant is simply good. The cinematography is good and captured Lucknow and London in the best possible ways. Although songs are not that entertaining, still it's quite impressive.

Overall, this is one of the finest comedy dramas that will entertain the audience with its powerful storyline and, of course, the brilliant acting skills of Huma Qureshi and Shreyas Talpade. It's an above-average film. So, why wait? Go and watch it in your nearest cinema hall.



All eyes on Krithi Shetty

KRITHI with her natural ease on screen, have sparked comparisons with the career trajectory of her contemporaries. Displaying confidence and maturity beyond her years, it is these attributes of KritShetty is fast emerging as the next big name to watch out for in South Indian cinema. With a charm as effortless as her striking screen presence and versatile performances in blockbuster movies like Uppena, Shyam Singha Roy, Bangarraju, and Warriorr among others, she's capturing the attention of both audiences and filmmakers. Much like the wave that catapulted Rashmika Mandanna into the limelight, Krithi's rise is backed by her strong acting chops and relatable appeal, making her one of the most promising faces of her generation.

In a rather short span of time, Krithi has already built a repertoire of impactful roles that highlight her ability to blend into diverse genres, ranging from youthful romances to intense dramas. Her ability to connect emotionally with audiences, coupled hi that set her apart in an industry that is constantly on the look out for fresh talent.

What makes Krithi Shetty stand out is not just her current popularity, but the promise of being a bankable star. As she continues to choose scripts that offer her the scope of both performance and mass appeal, the young actress is steadily carving a niche for herself in South cinema. With a growing fan base and an expanding presence across industries, Krithi is well on her way to join the league of pan-India stars and is fast becoming the “Next Big Thing” South cinema has to offer.

BOLLYWOOD TOWN
EMERGING STAR





Model Name: **Sangee Dubey**
Photographer: **Raju Asrani**



Steal her style: Raashii Khanna's ethnic looks to try this festive season

AS the festive season unfolds, all eyes are on pan-India star Raashii Khanna, whose impeccable ethnic wardrobe is the ultimate style inspiration. From breezy kurta sets to regal sarees and dreamy lehengas, Raashii shows us how to ace traditional fashion with grace, glamour, and a modern twist. Here's a roundup of her most breathtaking looks to help you elevate your own festive style game.

1. Pretty in Pink: Vibrant Kurta Chic

Raashii embraces festive simplicity in a striking fuchsia pink kurta set embellished with delicate embroidery. Styled with traditional juttis and statement earrings, this look is equal parts effortless and elegant, perfect for family gatherings, puja ceremonies, or intimate festive get-togethers.

2. Golden Glow: Mustard Magic

Bright, bold, and beautiful, Raashii's mustard kurta look is a lesson in understated sophistication. The white threadwork and traditional bangles add a subtle charm, making it an ideal pick for daytime celebrations or casual festive events.

3. Saree Glamour: Ivory Elegance

For those who love timeless tradition, Raashii's ivory silk saree with a contrasting pink blouse is pure perfection. The gajra-adorned bun, statement jewelry, and minimal makeup channel old-world charm, a classic choice for festive dinners and cultural celebrations.

4. Regal Radiance: Olive-Gold Saree Statement

Make a bold yet sophisticated statement like Raashii in a dazzling olive-gold saree paired with a deep-cut embellished blouse. This look blends heritage craftsmanship with contemporary flair which is ideal for festive parties or grand family occasions.

5. Festive Dream: Green & Pink Lehenga Love

When it's time to go all out, Raashii's vibrant green and pink lehenga is the ultimate festive showstopper by Torani. With intricate detailing, rich hues, and traditional jewelry, it's the perfect ensemble for weddings, receptions, or Diwali soirees.

Fashion Tips

November in Mumbai is calm after the festive sparkle

The city slows down just a little, the air turns gentler, and wardrobes shift from shimmer to subtle sophistication. Dressing this month is about relaxed elegance with a hint of warmth. Fabrics that Breathe with Ease Think linen, cotton-silk, and lightweight denim — comfortable for the day, refined for the evening breeze. Hues that Soothe Move towards neutrals and earth tones — sand, sage, ivory, and dusk blue — paired with soft metallics for quiet luxury. Silhouettes that Flow Relaxed co-ords, breezy maxis, and anti-fit shirts — perfect for layering without losing comfort. Layers that Add Character Structured vests, oversized shirts, or sheer capes bring a smart, transitional edge to your look. Footwear that Balances Style & Comfort Mules, loafers, or open-toe flats — city-ready, yet easy on your feet. Beauty that Feels Effortless Soft matte skin, nude lips, and brushed brows — a minimal glow that mirrors the mellow November mood. November is about effortless chic — breathable fabrics, calm hues, and silhouettes that move as easily as Mumbai's rhythm.

STYLING TIPS BY ALICE KAKANI.
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Parineeti Chopra:

five outfits that prove her fashion game keeps getting stronger!





NOT only is Parineeti Chopra a stunning actress, but she has also perfected the ability of being elegant without being forced. Her style has changed dramatically over the years, going from girl-next-door charm to edgy experimental styles and red carpet glamour. Here are five looks that demonstrate how her sense of style is just growing as she celebrates another chic year!

Saree Diaries: Elegance with Ease

Parineeti's saree moments are all about understated grace. She often opts for soft silks, pastel chiffons, or contemporary drapes that exude both comfort and charm. Whether it's a festive look or a red-carpet appearance, she keeps her styling subtle yet striking. You can explore similar elegant drapes on Navyasa by Liva to channel her timeless, feminine vibe.

Denim Days: Cool, Casual, Confident

Off-duty or on the move, Parineeti knows how to rock her denim like a true trendsetter. From high-waisted jeans to cropped jackets, her outfits reflect her easy-going yet polished aesthetic. She often pairs her denims with graphic tees or relaxed shirts proving that comfort can be effortlessly stylish. Get her cool-girl vibe with Spykar's denim collection that blends fit, flair, and functionality.

Sunglasses That Steal the Show

Parineeti's eyewear choices always make a statement bold, classy, and full of personality. Be it oversized frames, sleek cat-eyes, or tinted lenses, her sunglasses perfectly complement her ever-changing looks. To add a similar touch of glam to your everyday style, explore GKB Opticals' collection for chic shades that turn heads everywhere you go.

Jewellery & Accessories: Subtle Spark, Big Impact

Her accessory game is all about balance elegant without being overpowering. From minimalist studs and layered necklaces to dainty rings, Parineeti's jewellery picks reflect her easy elegance. Whether dressing up for an event or keeping it casual, she always adds that finishing sparkle with poise.

Kurti Chronicles: Breezy, Bold, and Beautiful

When it comes to everyday ethnic wear, Parineeti makes a strong case for fuss-free elegance. Her love for easy silhouettes, playful prints, and breathable fabrics makes kurtis her go-to for comfort with style. Whether paired with denims or flowy palazzos, her kurti looks are versatile and effortlessly chic. You can recreate her relaxed yet refined vibe with Liva Fabrics, known for their fluid, soft, and breathable drapes that move with you.



Bollywood beauties have proven that when it comes to shimmery sarees, more is always more

IN the world of fashion, there's a fine line between elegantly glamorous and overwhelmingly sparkly. But these Bollywood beauties have proven that when it comes to shimmery sarees, more is always more. Sequins, metallics, and all-over bling have become the ultimate power move on red carpets and special occasions, with leading ladies embracing maximum sparkle without apology. From head-to-toe shimmer to sarees that literally light up a room, these actresses have made one thing crystal clear: there's absolutely no such thing as too much bling when you're draped in six yards of pure glamour.

Kiara Advani

Kiara Advani brought understated luxury to life in a sage green sequined saree that balanced elegance with just the right amount of shimmer. The intricate embellishments caught the light beautifully, while her minimal styling with soft waves and statement jewelry allowed the saree to take center stage. This is how you do sophisticated sparkle, proving that even subtle shimmer can make a major impact when executed with precision and grace.

Giorgia Andriani

Giorgia Andriani took the concept of shimmer to bold new heights in a metallic dark grey saree adorned with thousands of sequins that created a mesmerizing textured effect. The monochromatic magic of her look, paired with voluminous hair and glamorous makeup, transformed her into a walking disco ball, in the best way possible. This is maximum drama, maximum shine, and absolutely zero apologies for commanding attention with every step.

Janhvi Kapoor

Janhvi Kapoor proved that rainbow bling is not only just acceptable, but also absolutely show-stopping in her iridescent multicolored sequined saree. The dress featured a stunning ombré effect that shifted from deep purples to emerald greens, creating a prismatic spectacle that was both edgy and elegant. With her confident styling and modern draping, Janhvi made it clear that when it comes to shimmer, more colors and more sparkle equals more fabulousness.

Kriti Sanon

Kriti Sanon embodied timeless glamour in an ivory and gold sequined saree that radiated old-school Bollywood elegance with a contemporary twist. The delicate champagne-toned embellishments created an all-over shimmer that was both regal and romantic, while her traditional jewelry and sleek hairstyle added to the classic aesthetic. This look proves that you don't need bold colors to make a statement. Sometimes, sophisticated sparkle in neutral tones speaks the loudest.

Tara Sutaria

Tara Sutaria brought pure joy and radiance in a silver holographic sequined saree that practically glowed with every movement. Her beaming smile and confident persona, paired with the disco-ball effect of the metallic fabric, created an infectious energy that was impossible to ignore. The modern draping and minimal accessories let the saree's full shimmer potential shine through, proving that sometimes the best styling choice is simply letting the bling do all the talking.

These five stunning looks prove that when it comes to shimmery sarees, the fashion rulebook can be thrown out the window. Whether it's monochromatic metallics, rainbow iridescence, or classic champagne sparkle, these actresses have shown that confidence is the best accessory to pair with all-over bling. In a world that often preaches “less is more,” these divas are making a compelling case for “more is magnificent”. And honestly, we're here for every sequin, every shimmer, and every unapologetic moment of maximum glamour. Because if you can't shine bright in a saree covered head-to-toe in sparkle, when can you?

Saanand Verma: "The light of Diwali drives away not just darkness, but sadness too"

KNOWN for his iconic role as Saxenaji in Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain, actor Saanand Verma, who has also featured in Babli Bouncer, Vijay 69, Aakhon Ki Gustaakhiyan and the web series First Copy, says Diwali for him is not just a festival of lights — it's a festival of faith, reflection, and gratitude.

"Diwali is not just about being grateful once a year," says Saanand. "Gratitude should be part of every day, every moment. I don't wait for Diwali to thank God — I do it every day for all that I've been blessed with."

The actor recalls his childhood struggles with humility. "There was a time we didn't even have money for diyas. My mother lit an incense stick instead," he remembers. "I was sad back then, but today, I've left that negativity behind. Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha have blessed me, and I truly believe that faith can help you overcome any darkness."

For Saanand, Diwali symbolizes the journey from despair to light. "Even if you're depressed or going through a hard time, the light of Diwali reminds you that darkness doesn't last forever. It fills us with hope, optimism, and goodness," he says.

He celebrates the festival simply — with family, sweets, and eco-friendly crackers. "I always burst sparklers and environment-friendly firecrackers. I wear new clothes, pray to Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha, and try to spread happiness around me. That's what Diwali means — light triumphing over darkness," he shares.

Saanand adds that Diwali also fills him with pride for India's rich culture and traditions. "It's believed Lord Rama returned home on this day. That divine feeling of homecoming, purity, and togetherness still fills the air during Diwali. It reminds us how blessed we are to be human and how powerful faith can be."

With his trademark positivity, the actor concludes, "The darkness inside me has completely vanished. Today, I'm a happy soul. Whether I have money or not, I don't need a reason to smile — God has given me enough strength to find joy in everything."





The second season of Reality Ranis of the Jungle was won by Irina Rudakova

AS Irina Rudakova emerged as the ultimate winner and took home the trophy and a cash reward of ₹15 lakh, viewers of Reality Ranis of the Jungle Season 2 were gripped by anticipation. Irina demonstrated she had what it took to control the jungle, despite the fact that twelve fearless Ranis competed throughout the season in difficult activities meant to test their strength, cunning, and bravery.

From the very first episode, Irina stood out. A strong, determined, and fearless player, she consistently dominated every challenge, showing incredible physical endurance, mental sharpness, and leadership. Her standout performances earned her the role of team captain, where she guided her fellow Ranis through some of the toughest tasks of the season.

Reflecting on her victory, Irina Rudakova said, “This journey has been one of the toughest and most rewarding experiences of my life. Every task pushed me to discover a new side of myself. There were times I broke down, but I never backed out. Winning this crown feels incredible because it's not just about the trophy, it's about proving that with belief and grit, you can conquer anything. I'm grateful to Warner Bros. Discovery and Varun for reminding me that courage isn't the absence of fear, it's finding the strength to push through it.”

The finale pushed all contestants to their limits. The Ranis had to hang upside down, swim in open water, and carry a total weight of 78 kilograms, a test of sheer endurance and courage. Irina's focus, determination, and resilience allowed her to outperform the other finalists, Archana Gautam, Sara Gurpal, and Hiiya Bajwa, and claim the crown.

Reality Ranis of the Jungle Season 2 delivered high-octane drama, fierce competition, and inspiring stories of grit and determination. Set in a rugged coastal landscape, the season was more challenging, wilder, and demanding than the previous year, raising the stakes and testing the contestants like never before.

All episodes are now available for streaming on the discovery+ app.





Versatile actress Sudha Chandran who is known for her willpower and resilience will be performing for late Saroj Khan

IT will be a tribute to her work in the industry. Talking more about it, Sudha Chandran says, “This is an event done by Maithili Kotnis who was quite close to Saroj Khan and used to assist her. She and her late husband had this dream of coming up with a tribute for the great choreographer of our industry Saroj Khan. There will be 3 hours of performance (Main Hoon Bollywood) in which 60-70 dancers will perform on 12th October. I will be performing Sarojji's first ever choreographed song 'Nigahen Milane Ko Jee Chahta Hai'. I am excited and thrilled to be part of this tribute. When Maithili called me for this I was not in Mumbai. I got back, met her and we rehearsed. In 4 hours we were done with it, thanks to Maithili who managed the choreography. There was a time during the practice when I became very emotional. I got goosebumps when I visualised Saroj ji is watching us.”

She also adds, “Sarojji came to the industry when choreography was always done by men. She not only found her place but also made her mark over the years. It was immensely challenging but she pulled it off with her hard work and talent. If you look at her work you will notice there is so much detailing -every expression matters in her style. She is also someone who has produced many superstars in the industry right from Sridevi, Madhuri Dixit to Meenakshi Sheshadri – the list is endless. Whether the film has worked or not her songs has been always on the top because of her unique dance steps. She was a magician. The famous song of Sailaab 'Hum ko aajkal' which was performed by Madhuri Dixit, Sarojji has choreographed in her unique style.”

The 'Naache Mayuri' actress also shares that she has a deep regret of not dancing under Saroj Khan's direction. She says,”I have been working for so long but never got a chance to work with her. Once I was part of a song which Masterji choreographed. it was a Rajshri film and I was just standing in the song. When I met her I told her how unfortunate I am that not being able to perform to her choreography. I used to tell her how I wish to be scolded by her. I have always learnt steps from her style. For me it is a great opportunity and my turn to give her my tribute. I feel and I pray that the industry should come forward to support this kind of initiative. One should understand that Legends cannot be forgotten.”

Actors need rest too: Kanwar Dhillon

on long shooting hours in television

UDNE Ki Aasha actor Kanwar Dhillon recently shared his thoughts on the demanding work schedules in the television industry, calling for a more balanced and sustainable approach to shooting hours.

Recently in an interview, Kanwar expressed that television professionals — both actors and crew — deserve manageable working hours, ideally limited to 8–10 hours per shift. While he acknowledged that certain production deadlines make overnight shoots unavoidable, he emphasized the importance of setting a healthier standard across the industry.

“I haven't heard of any official change, but I'd love to see standard shifts of 8–10 hours instead of 12 or more,” Kanwar said. “Sometimes episodes need to be delivered overnight, so long hours become unavoidable. But ideally, 9–10 hours should be the standard. It would ensure better productivity and well-being for everyone on set.”

The discussion around working hours has recently reignited after actress Deepika Padukone, who recently embraced motherhood, voiced her support for an 8-hour workday. Her statement sparked a larger conversation within the entertainment community, encouraging television artists to share their experiences and perspectives on the demanding nature of the industry.





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STAR FORECAST



NOVEMBER 2025

MESHA (ARIES) A, La, E

This month will bring some good news. Buying new vehicle, foreign trip expected. Very old lover supposed to meet you. You need to take a wise decision, and peacefully to go ahead in life. Don't make hasty decisions related to finance. Marriage opportunities are foreseen. You will have to take decision peacefully related to your personal life and finances.

VRISABH (TAURUS) Ba, Va, U

Some troubles may come this month. Avoid anger, that may be harmful for you. No decisions to be taken either in anger or in hurry. Some ups and downs expected in married life, so, you need to be careful while taking any decision. Avoid anger and any kind of misunderstanding with family. This is crucial month for you for family and spouse. Discussions may bring solutions to your problems.

MITHUN (GEMINI) Ka, Cha, Gha

This month can be harmful and take you to the depression because time is not favourable. Financial problems may come, so, avoid expenses. Think twice before making any decision. Avoid new investment. From November end, time will change, then you can explore new avenues of investment, till month end, try to avoid any new decision. You your own calibre for anything you wish to do this month.

KARKA (CANCER) Da, Ha

This month you have a very good opportunity to buy property. And you have to come and go after making a decision and discussing it with everyone. Your will progress in property, money, and new work front. Betrayal in love and misunderstanding possible, even if you do not commit any mistake. There is a chance of an exception being made against you in November, hence you have to use your mind very calmly.

SINHA (LEO) Ma, Ta, T

This year, November month is going to be the most important month for you. Time has changed for you. You may come in problem if you follow any unknown person. Family and friends support would require you. So, try to be in touch and consultation with your friends and family. You should go wisely for new investments in share market or anything like that. Unexpected new job, profit, or money will come to you.

KANYA (VIRGO) Pa, Tha, Ana

The progress in the field of art and music is foreseen. This is the month of fulfilling many new dreams in your life. New job, new progress, new success is also going to be found in your life. You are going to get a very big position at job. And similarly, whatever matter is pending for a long time, there is a lot of chance of your success in any work, this month is very auspicious for you. You can come with peace and solution.

TULA (LIBRA) Ra, Ta

This is good time for you when you can solve your financial issues. Money is coming your way. You will get relief from any old debt. Things are going to be favourable for you this month. New works may create some problems so, do the new things tactfully. You may face some issue related to vehicles. Be careful while driving. Don't share your secrets with any one. Family support is highly required this month.

VRISCHIK (SCORPIO) Na, Ya

Some big opportunities are on the way. You will enjoy the moments to come. By nature, you are quite helpful for other, so, keep helping people but take care of yourself too. The pending old works will be done this month. So, try to give you best at work front. Finances will be good. Growth in business or career is foreseen. Someone may cheat you, so, be alert from such kind of people.

DHAN (SAGITTARIUS) Bha, Dha, Fa, Dh

Whatever work you are going to do this month may turn out to be a disaster, and you may feel a little stressed about not getting it done on time. Family life or parents, first you have to talk to them and then move ahead. A little development in the field of education can increase good connections. You will get a lot of support from your family; this woman will be very important for you.

MAKARA (CAPRICORN) Kha, Ju

New progress, new sorrow, new solution, and many changes are going to happen in your life. You may face new and problems as well. You can deal with any iron material and buy iron. It can be very important for you to do a new work and you may get success. There is also a possibility of misunderstanding with everyone. You have to move forward peacefully and you have to go ahead with a goal in the new work.

KUMBH (AQUARIUS) Ga, Sha, Sa

A lot of your mind will be in a state of helping nature in your life. Because of you, anyone can save their life in this month. You do not have to put your life in danger, you also have to keep a record and you have to keep an eye on new work. You have the ability to go abroad and progress in the court matter if foreseen. This month will be very auspicious for you and be careful.

MEENA (PISCES) Da, Cha, Zha, Tha

This month is opening lots of opportunities for you. You may go to visit some big temples, especially your 'Kul Devi or Devta'. You may go with your family. Foreign trip is also expected. You may go to abroad. Lots of your problem may end this month. Growth in business is expected and new opportunities will come and old problems will go. So, enjoy the best of your time this month.



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