

**DELHI IS...  
MAERA  
MISHRA  
GETS  
ENGAGED  
IN DELHI  
P3**



**BACK BEAT  
IMRAN  
KHAN ISN'T  
A PART  
OF HAPPY  
PATEL  
P4**



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OF INDIA

## IT'S 10 YRS TOO LATE FOR SELF- DOUBT TO KICK IN: SIDHARTH



Sidharth Malhotra;  
(inset) in a still  
from *Yodha*

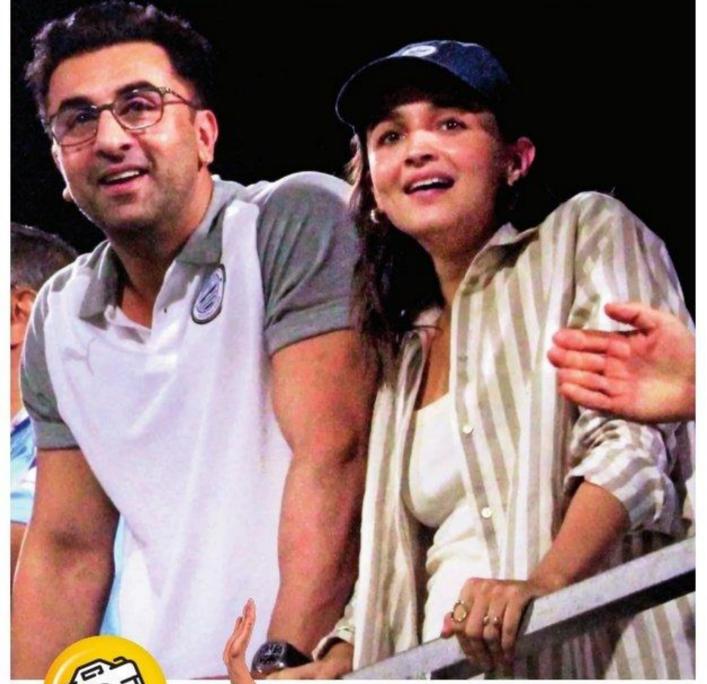
Vinay MR Mishra

**S**idharth Malhotra, who won accolades for his performance in *Shershaah*, has never shied away from taking up roles that allow him to push the envelope. Irrespective of the movie's reception at the box office, the actor continues to make interesting career choices. After two years, he had a theatrical release with *Yodha* in March, but the movie didn't do wonders at the box office. In conversation with us, Sidharth says that the fate of a movie doesn't lead to self-doubt.

**Q** Whenever I do a film, I want to be sure whether it is a product that I'm proud of. I ask myself, do you bring quality to it? Is this something new that you are putting out? And for me, *Yodha* ticked all those boxes

CONTINUED ON P 4

## IT'S RK-ALIA IN THE HOUSE... ERR STADIUM



**SPOTTED**

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt were spotted at the semi-final match of a sporting event on Monday. Post the game, the couple took a lap around the Mumbai Football Arena, enthusiastically waving at the crowd. Ranbir was also captured sharing heartfelt moments with the players as he went on to hug many of them. Now, Ranbir's love for football is well known; the couple had also revealed their daughter's name with a post featuring "Raha" on an FC Barcelona jersey!



## VOICES

I took four years off of Instagram and I let my team post for me. I felt like it was the most rewarding gift I gave myself. I was more present. I was happier. It's more human. I think it's important to take breaks

— Selena Gomez, who has a staggering 428 million followers on Instagram, at the 2024 TIME 100 Summit

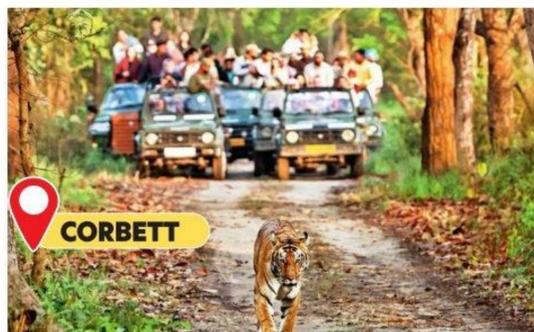
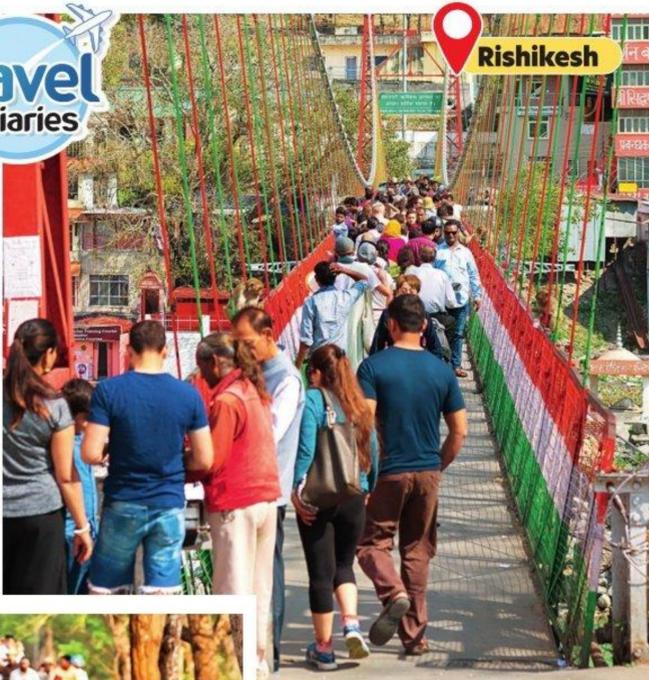
## 'Corbett, Rishikesh among the most-crowded destinations'

Divya Kaushik

**I**f you have been a frequent traveller to Corbett and Rishikesh, you may have noticed a sharp jump in hotel tariffs in the last two years. It is also rare that these tariffs would come down as there is nothing like a lean season for these popular destinations now. Earlier, one would plan a trip to Corbett for a jungle safari and Rishikesh for rafting, but with the popularity of weekend travel, self-drive holidays, these destinations located in close proximity to NCR are now constantly in demand. Recent travel trends report by an online travel platform has yet again noted Rishikesh and Corbett as two of the most-searched destinations by Delhiites.

In the post pandemic era, when travelling has become a priority for many and hybrid working is an option at several workplaces, destinations like Corbett and Rishikesh are likely to be crowded throughout the year. So, plan in advance but don't expect the accommodation budget to be low.

CONTINUED ON P 2



**Q** Around five years back, monsoon used to be a lean period for Corbett as visitors only came for safari. But Corbett is now one of the popular wedding destinations. People from NCR also visit for small celebrations like anniversaries and birthdays

— A staff member at a luxury property in Corbett



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for 24hr nourished skin



with  
nutrient  
serum



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SMART BAZAAR Chahiye



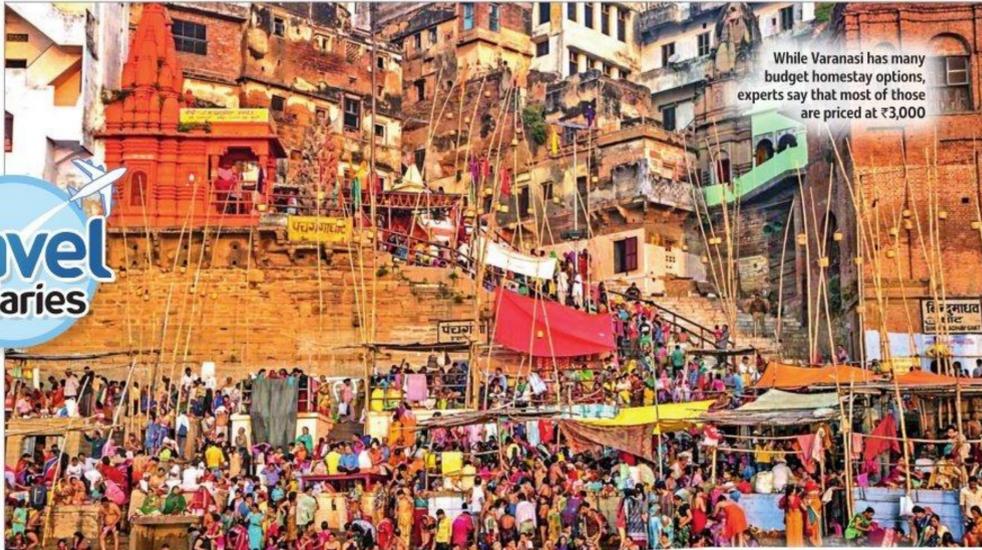
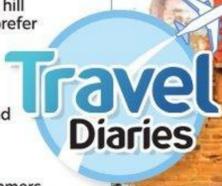
Let's Change Beauty

# 'Budget is not a make or break factor for many families when it comes to travel'

CONTINUED FROM K 1

## 'No peak or lean season for travel in Rishikesh, Corbett, Amritsar and Varanasi'

NCR residents' love visiting the hills, but travel agents say there is "still a season to visit hill stations." They say, "People in NCR visit hill stations multiple times in a year. They prefer to go to hill stations during winters for seeing snow, skiing etc. People from other states like Maharashtra, Gujarat prefer summers - May to July. Also, after landslides at hilly regions and multiple traffic videos at destinations like Shimla and Manali, there are many people now who avoid driving to hill stations during monsoon and peak summers. But for Rishikesh, Corbett, Amritsar and Varanasi there is no such peak or lean season," says Manoj Bhaskar, a travel agent based in Delhi.



While Varanasi has many budget homestay options, experts say that most of those are priced at ₹3,000

## 'Over 50% jump in hotel tariffs at Corbett and Rishikesh in the last four years'

A budgeted accommodation at Corbett and Rishikesh would be available in the range of ₹2,000 to ₹3,500 earlier, but travel agents say that now most accommodations come in the price range of ₹3,000-₹5,000.

"For premium and luxury properties, tariff is above ₹10,000 per day. And travellers are happy to pay this price. Now all that travellers want is a good experience and desired accommodation. Budget is not a make or break factor for many families



Among spiritual destinations, Amritsar and Varanasi are easy drive destinations for people in NCR. "Now Ayodhya is also being added to the list," says Sourabh Tiwari, director of a travel company in Delhi

## Some properties at these destinations (Corbett, Varanasi and Rishikesh) have increased their tariffs owing to social media popularity and are sold out throughout the year

-Sourabh Tiwari, director of a travel company in Delhi

when it comes to travel. Earlier, one would reschedule travel plans in the hope that total cost of travel will be lesser in certain months, but for Rishikesh and Corbett, people in NCR reschedule plans as they only want a certain hotel," says Sourabh Tiwari, director of a travel company in Delhi.

## POV The power of the folded hands



Amir Khan recently spoke of how he became aware of the power of the folded hands while shooting for *Dangal* in Punjab. He was not talking about the folded hand emoji which was introduced in 2015 - first as a cultural nod to the Japanese and now, an essential part of our virtual communication. But the Namaste - the one gesture of greeting which we share with some of our neighbours and cousins in the continent.

The Namaste in fact goes beyond our religious identity. When the Maharaja of India's desi airline welcomed the world to the 'palace in the sky', he did so with folded hands. When global pop stars come to India and greet their fans, they do so with a warm "Namaste!" When Diljit Dosanjh gets teary-eyed at a packed stadium in Mumbai or Vancouver, he expresses his gratitude with his signature Namaste.

But the power of the Namaste is truly felt every time we are faced with a pandemic, a global health crisis. During COVID, world leaders embraced the Namaste as the universal greeting, irrespective of the cultural backgrounds. It turned into a diplomatic ice breaker, even a way of saying that I want you to be safe. The greeting made a smashing debut at the Oval Office in 2020, when President Donald Trump met Ireland Prime Minister Leo Varadkar. Trump later said: "We didn't shake hands today and we looked at each other and said what are we going to do? Sort of a weird feeling. We did this (joined hands). I just got back from India and I didn't shake any hands there. It was easy." Even during the swine flu outbreak in 2015, health experts believed the de facto greeting of shaking hands may have triggered the spread of the disease, urging everyone to do the Namaste instead.

Amir spoke of how he may not have folded his hands as frequently as the others he has met in his professional life. But it is obvious, he could not remain immune to its infectious charm. Shall we say, this is one contagion we could have more of?

Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? Write to us at: pov@timesgroup.com

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**TIMES interact**  
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### SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

				7			1	
1				8				2 6
8				1 7				
			4		2			
			6 8 7 2 5					
			9		3			
			8 2					4
4 1				6				5
			7	9				

**HOW TO PLAY**  
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

### TIMES HITORI

**HOW TO PLAY**  
1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)  
2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.  
3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.  
4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.  
5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 4 6)  
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

4	6	1	7	2	5	4	8
1	2	1	6	1	4	7	9
4	3	6	1	9	8	7	2
3	4	1	9	2	7	6	5
1	1	9	4	3	2	1	7
2	7	2	3	2	6	4	8
4	5	2	8	4	9	3	6
9	8	1	5	2	3	2	1

Example

8	5	5	7	3	5	4	6
4	5	1	6	7	6	5	2
2	5	7	1	5	4	6	8
5	6	2	4	3	7	6	3
2	7	5	5	1	7	2	7
1	6	6	4	3	5	7	
7	8	4	6	2	3	3	7
8	4	5	2	3	5	7	1

### LOOP THE LOOP

**RULES**  
• Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).  
• Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).  
• Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.  
• You can't draw lines around zeroes.  
• Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

**HOW TO BEGIN:**  
Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.  
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B).

### THE DAILY CROSSWORD

By Natalie Tran & Sean Ziebarth 01/05/2024

**ACROSS**  
1 Glow of virtue  
5 Fort Knox supply  
9 Wet  
14 \_\_\_ of March  
15 57-Down for a diva  
16 Run onstage?  
17 Some inbox attachments  
18 Change course suddenly  
19 Puts together  
20 Make a fool of  
23 Decline, with "out"  
24 Sounds of pain  
25 Pencil topper  
29 Air filter acronym  
31 Christmas poem contraction  
33 Smooching on the kiss cam, say  
34 Hide-and-seek exclamation  
37 Bae  
38 Charged particles  
39 Joan of \_\_\_  
40 Harmful habit  
41 Big name in anonymity  
42 Determines the age of, as archaeological finds  
46 Sounds of relief  
47 In case that's the case  
48 Masseur's supply  
49 Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, for one  
51 Sock part  
52 Seasoned pro  
55 Sub, and an apt description of 20-, 34-, or 42-Across  
59 Wedding figure  
62 Invalidate  
63 Pasta \_\_\_ checca: trattoria dish  
64 Animated British piglet of kid's TV  
65 Feminine Spanish pronoun

**DOWN**  
11 River-dwelling mammal related to whales and dolphins  
2 Tally  
3 Flew off on one's own  
4 Bone, in Italian  
5 Collapsed  
6 Double Stuff treats  
7 Actor Schreiber  
8 Be bold enough  
9 Guilty feeling  
10 Kitchen appliance brand  
11 Grossed-out reaction  
12 Wedding page word  
13 "Let's"  
21 "Forget it"  
22 Foster  
26 Potential "destination" for a troubled relationship  
27 Elicit  
28 Gushes  
30 Verbal stumbles  
31 \_\_\_ Tax: Intuit software package  
32 City on the Brazos  
34 Wood pool or basin  
35 Ruckus  
36 Dinghy duo  
40 Actor Kilmer  
42 Projection places  
43 Hardly a hop, skip, and a jump away  
44 Time when shadows are shortest  
45 Petered out  
50 Optimist's words  
51 Follows surreptitiously  
53 Brilliance  
54 Dean Martin's \_\_\_ Amore  
56 Baker  
57 Song for one  
58 Insect that first appeared in the Jurassic era  
59 Family docs  
60 Sales agt.  
61 Brand at a nail salon

### EVENTS

**EXHIBITION**  
**Gallery ONKAF:** Everyone Wants to be Happy in cooperation with the Embassy of Lithuania and the Gallery Rooster. May 3, 6:30pm, Safdarjung Development Area

**India Habitat Centre:**  
*Untitled - Recent paintings* by Yuvraj Patil. Till May 3, Convention Centre Foyer, IHC

Email us at [tims.delhitimes@timesgroup.com](mailto:tims.delhitimes@timesgroup.com)

### GARFIELD

THE TOMATO...  
IS IT A FRUIT, OR IS IT A VEGETABLE?  
WHO CARES? I'M HAVING A POND!

### ARCHIE

WHY DO WE HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT HENRY VIII? WHEN WILL WE EVER USE THIS INFORMATION AGAIN?  
IF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HENRY VIII, I'LL FLUNK YOU.  
THE MAN TALKS SENSE.

### SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:  
04-average | 05-good | 06-outstanding

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

Letters: A, R, U, L, V, I, T

### DENNIS THE MENACE

"DAD, I'M HUNGRY. MAYBE WE COULD CATCH SOME FISH STICKS ON THE WAY HOME?"

### SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

PYERH  
STUDY  
GLLUMY  
FIRTUY

Art evokes the \_\_\_ without which the world would not exist. - René Magritte (7)

**HOW TO PLAY**  
Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

### FINOLEX FORTUNE

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See what the stars have in store for you - according to your moon sign.

**ARIES:** Friends are eager to help you along your way. Now is the time to review possible latent illness. You will notice an increase in your energy. You could make important decisions about future accomplishments.

**Taurus:** You don't have the courage to reach your goals. One of your ongoing challenges is to fight inflexibility and figure out others' perspectives. Avoid capricious, disrespectful or out of place reactions, and try to amend this kind of conduct and extreme attitudes.

**GEMINI:** You have a way of behaving that grabs others' attention. Your charm magnetises those around you. You witness the results of your desirability. Pressure comes from a domestic or personal issue. Recognise your limitations.

**CANCER:** An increase of your personal energy level depends a great deal on your will. You will have to achieve simplicity in certain matters. This is a good time to establish a lasting and interesting relationship. Sometimes the only way to get anywhere is by taking a chance.

**LEO:** Financially gainful activities at your work place will cheer you up. Financial gains and monetary transactions will bring fruitful results. Try to explore new avenues of life.

**VIRGO:** Professionals should focus on their goals. Sudden changes in professional life will make you insecure. Try to tackle issues with a positive approach. Do not let your heart rule your head. Get rid of your jealousies and possessive attitude towards loved ones.

**LIBRA:** Stay focused and you will instinctively know what is needed to win support for your views and projects. Your problem-solving abilities will be able to reach out and touch someone today. Seek out a little guidance or advice.

**SCORPIO:** Do not indulge in extra marital affairs. Your siblings could well be the cause of your worries today. Try not to get involved in controversies as it can damage your position.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You will recover from prolonged illness. Follow the dietary restrictions without failure. This may be the perfect time to organise your affairs or to rearrange your living situation. Put your head with someone to achieve genius and even better output.

**CAPRICORN:** Don't forget that a relationship is brought about simultaneously on the physical as well as the emotional and mental level. After the search of pleasure that is innate in human beings, in reality there is a natural tendency to expand your horizons.

**AQUARIUS:** Your calculative personality will create problems for your opponents. Stay away from debates as they may end up in arguments. Choose your friends carefully and you need to be more decisive today. Immediate family members will cooperate and their decision will bring cheers to your life.

**PISCES:** Monetary transactions should be dealt with very carefully. A very special person will walk into your life, so watch out and control your feelings. A very lucky day, as whatever you do will bring you good financial gains. Help from a distant relative will prove helpful to you. In love, you need to be more expressive.

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LI ED RESTS CAFE  
ANNA AMOUR ARIA  
BAEZ JUMBOTRONS  
MRES MESA MAE  
BIGDIPPER TBALL  
ANY PEPPER STE  
TUTU TIP NONPC  
STANDARDPODLES  
EXCEL FLO SADE  
ALS AKA TAN  
EGYPT MINTSKIRT  
LEO ALAN PITT  
DOWNSIZING LURE  
EDIE SENOR ODES  
REED ASKME SEEP

### SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

**TIMES SUDOKU**

2	9	8	1	4	1	6	3	5	7	2	6
5	3	6	9	7	2	1	4	8	3	5	6
1	7	4	5	3	2	8	6	9	7	1	4
4	7	1	6	5	9	1	6	8	2	7	3
3	8	9	6	2	7	4	9	1	5	7	3
6	5	2	7	2	1	7	4	9	3	8	1
9	6	9	6	9	4	3	4	3	9	7	8
8	6	9	6	9	4	3	4	3	9	7	8
1	8	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1

**LOOP THE LOOP**

**TIMES HITORI**

1	1	6	5	8	2	4	8
1	2	1	6	1	4	7	9
4	3	6	1	9	8	7	2
3	4	1	9	2	7	6	5
1	1	9	4	3	2	1	7
2	7	2	3	2	6	4	8
4	5	2	8	4	9	3	6
9	8	1	5	2	3	2	1

**SCRAMBLE**  
Words: Hyper, dusty, gummy, truity  
Answer: Art evokes the mysterious without which the world would not exist. - René Magritte

# Being a part of Shubh Shagun was the worst decision of my life: Krishna

Neha Maheshwri

**S**hubh Shagun actress Krishna Mukherjee has been waiting for her dues to be cleared for a year and a half. She recently took to Instagram to share her experience and how that left her anxious and depressed. The actress even said that doing the show was the "worst decision of my life."

When we reached out to Krishna, she shared, "I started shooting for the show in March 2022. Our payment should have started rolling in three months after the show aired. However, when I didn't receive payment even after four-and-a-half months, I refused to report to the shoot unless the first payment was cleared. The producer relented and made the first payment. I had to fight again for the second paycheck, which was issued in October."



Krishna Mukherjee; (below) the post that she had shared on Instagram



## We will respond to all her allegations legally: Producer Kundan Singh

Producer Kundan Singh told us, "Krishna filed a police complaint for harassment against two people from the production team. We took immediate action against them, only to realise later that nothing of that sort had occurred. Now, she is levelling the same accusation against me. So, what's the truth? There are inconsistencies in her statement. Everyone has a mobile phone. Am I to believe she couldn't call me or dial 100 if she was locked inside her room? If we had no intention of clearing her dues, why would we apply for mediation before the court? She kept changing the amount, and hence mediation was necessary. The show shut down because of the artistes, primarily due to her FIR. No channel wants legal action against a show. I am at a loss of ₹4 crore. We will respond to all her allegations legally."

### 'THE PRODUCTION TEAM HAD LOCKED MY DOOR FROM OUTSIDE'

It isn't just the delayed payment that's a concern, Krishna also accuses the production house of mistreatment. She said, "On October 3, 2022, I went to my room to change after my shift. Two members of the production team started banging on my door. One of them shouted, 'Tu change kar, oopar aa aur shoot kar. Main gate band kar, iski gaadi bahar nahi jaani chahiye.' I was terrified and rushed to the wash-room, fearing the latch might break. When I tried to open the door, I realised they had locked me from the outside."

She added, "My co-actor Shehzada Dhani argued with them and opened the door. I informed the channel, the producer and everyone associated with the show

about the incident. The following day, on October 4, 2022, I reported the matter at the Vanrai Police Station (Thane), and an FIR was registered. Soon the production team inundated me with calls and requested me not to involve the police. I went back to the shoot but got to know that producer Kundan Singh was present on the set on the day of the incident. That's when I decided to quit the show and informed them. However, a few days later, the show was pulled off air abruptly and they blamed me for it. In January 2023, they sent me a court letter seeking mediation regarding my dues. But I turned it down, as I wanted the entire money to be cleared. Since then, I have been running around for the pending dues amounting to ₹40 lakh and have even approached CINTAA (Cine and TV Artistes Association)."

**6** In January 2023, the production team sent me a court letter seeking mediation regarding my dues. But I turned it down, as I wanted the entire money to be cleared

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If you're in the mood to give your taste buds an indulgent treat, try the brand's badam shake. This nutty delight contains real badam bits and gives a nutrition-packed punch with its rich flavour



## Maera Mishra gets engaged in Delhi

Rajul Yadav and Maera Mishra



Smita Bansal and Hiba Nawab performed at the engagement ceremony

**B**hagya Lakshmi actress Maera Mishra recently got engaged to Gurgaon-based dermatologist Rajul Yadav in Delhi. The ceremony was attended by the couple's family and close friends.

Maera tells us, "I wanted the engagement to be an intimate event, so Rajul and I kept the guest list very short. I invited a couple of actor friends, such as Smita Bansal and Hiba Nawab, who is also my childhood friend. My mother and I dedicated a special performance to Rajul. Smita, Hiba and a few friends also performed to a couple of songs."

While the wedding date has not been finalised yet, the big day is scheduled for February. "I plan to choose the same venue for my wedding and have envisioned my mandap on water. I look forward to spending my life with Rajul and cannot wait to get married," shares the actress.

— Neha Maheshwri

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• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)  
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543  
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP  
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



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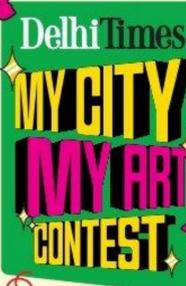
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# KIARA AND I ARE VERY INTERESTED IN WORKING TOGETHER: SIDHARTH

CONTINUED FROM K 1

## 'ONE CAN'T PREDICT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE RELEASE DAY'

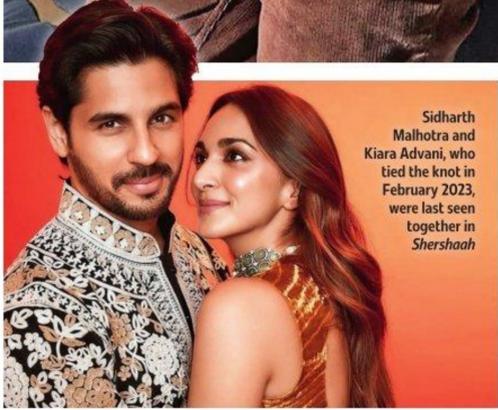
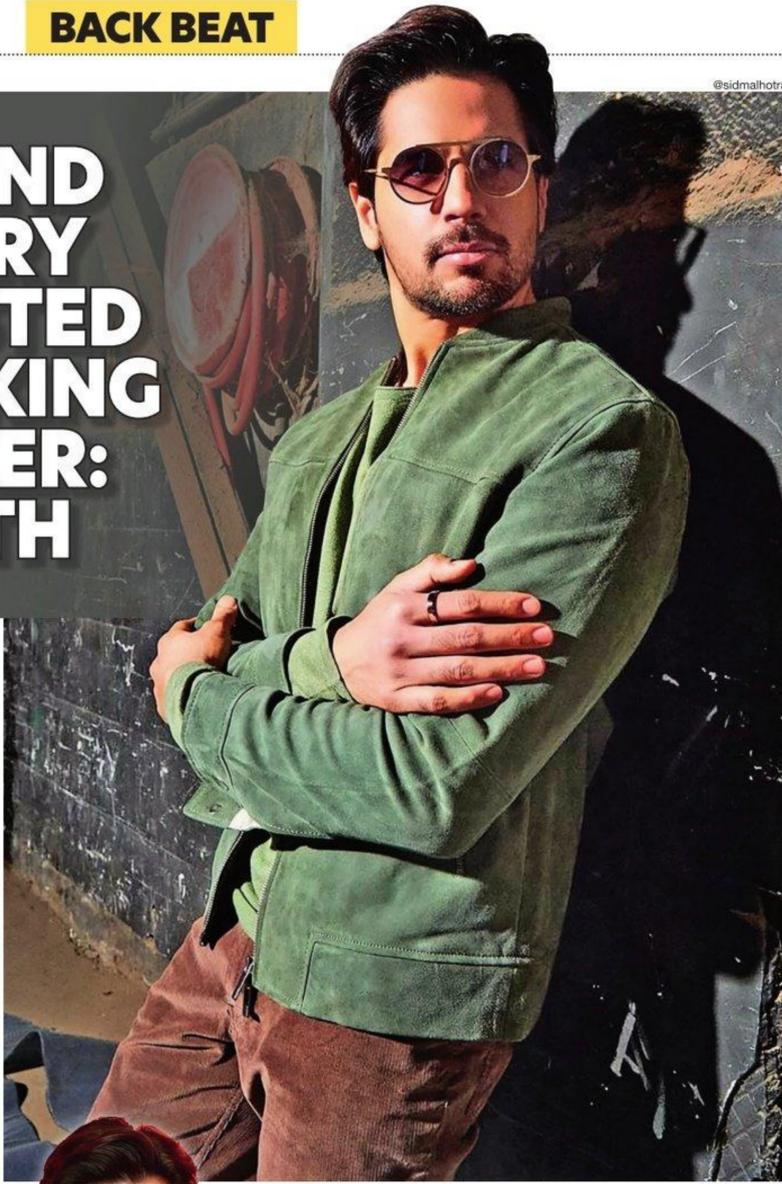
Ask Sidharth how he is processing the under-performance of *Yodha*, and he replies, "There is nothing to process. It starts with putting out a quality product. Whenever I do a film, I want to be sure that it is a product that I am proud of. I ask myself, do you bring quality to it? Is there a narrative? Is there storytelling? Is this something new that you are portraying and putting out? And for me, *Yodha* ticked all those boxes. The other aspect (the business), we don't have any control over it. We've had the best of the best in the business for over 30 plus years who still can't predict what's going to happen on that Friday. So, I'm just one of them and I am happy that we have a quality product - whether it's the action, the tonality or the music."

Does the failure of a film lead to self-doubt? "It's 10 years too late now for self-doubt to kick in. I have been here for more than a decade, and I think this (ups and downs) is part of the process. There are many other factors that one doesn't have control over," he explains.

## 'KIARA AND I NEED TO PICK THE CORRECT SCRIPT WHERE BOTH OF US JUSTIFY OUR ROLES'

Sidharth is not in a rush to announce his next. "There are a lot of projects (in the pipeline), which one will be first is the question," he says, adding, "We're now getting the creators in place. I like to be more prepped, which requires time. I think it's better to take your time than to rush into stuff."

Last year, the actor had confirmed a rom-com with his wife, Kiara Advani. He shares, "We are very interested in working together. We need to pick the correct script where both of us justify our roles. Also, the audience will get to see us after *Shershaah*, for which we got a lot of love. It is about getting the correct elements in place."



Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani, who tied the knot in February 2023, were last seen together in *Shershaah*

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# Imran is not a part of Happy Patel



Recent reports doing the rounds suggested that Imran Khan is all set to make his comeback with the comedy *Happy Patel*, which is being produced by his *mamu* Aamir Khan and directed by Vir Das. Incidentally, Aamir had backed Imran's debut film *Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na* in 2008.

However, when we reached out to Imran, he denied the news of his comeback film. He told us, "It's not true. Vir Das is directing and starring in *Happy Patel*. I'm not in the film. They have just used a photograph of me as part of an in-film joke."

The *Delhi Belly* actor is surprised by the constant speculations around his comeback. "I have never stopped being amazed at how these stories get blown out of context," he said.

— Onkar Kulkarni

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