

AMAZING WORK BEING DONE IN INDIA: PAYAL

CONTINUED FROM K1

Kapadia added, "I think we have our own vocabulary in cinema, and it's very self-contained in India. We understand the gestures in our communities, and there is not always a need to send a film to a festival because we have our own (film) festivals. Lots of people go out to watch films. This is just one film amongst thousands of films, and it's good that we have all kinds of films - some festival films and some not-so-festival films (laughs). So, everything should exist together. That's what's wonderful about cinema."

Talking about Indian films, she said, "Everything is changing. Even what Bollywood is, is changing all the time. So, there is no one kind of cinema, especially cinema from Kerala has an immense amount of range of the films that are being made."

'THE JOY OF CO-PRODUCTION IS WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER'

In response to a question on the sound design of



Payal Kapadia

Who is Payal Kapadia

While this is Kapadia's first feature film, she is not a newcomer at Cannes. In 2021, her documentary *A Night of Knowing Nothing* won the Golden Eye for the best documentary film. It was also part of the Directors' Fortnight section. In 2017, when she was at FTII, her short film *Afternoon Clouds* was shortlisted for the Cinéfondation section (for student films).

why there was so much sound. I think this is the joy of co-production that we learn from each other."

'HOPE FOR MORE FILMS FROM FEMALE FILMMAKERS IN CANNES'

When asked if she thinks that female solidarity and more films by women are happening across the world, Kapadia said that she would like to believe that's true. "It's wonderful that there are more films being made by female filmmakers, female technicians, female sound recordists. We need many more, but change is happening gradually but surely. I think it only makes things more inclusive. And I hope that we could have more films from female filmmakers in Cannes."

the film, Kapadia said, "Sound is a very important element of my work. In Mumbai, if you're from there, you know that it is never silent. Even the sound of silence is specific - there is always the distant sound of trains or construction. Of course, this was torture for our sound recordist from France, who just could not understand



(L-R) Chhaya Kadam, Kani Kusruti, Payal Kapadia and Divya Prabha

An adbhut feeling: Chhaya Kadam on Cannes debut

Mihir Bhanage



Chhaya Kadam

Chhaya Kadam, who plays a prominent role in Kapadia's films, says, "This is a dream team. Payal is a brilliant filmmaker. We see so many things in our daily life but never pause to find the story behind them. Payal does that." She tells us about the team's red-carpet dance, standing ovation at the premiere and more.

'THE RED-CARPET DANCE WAS IMPROMPTU'

This was Chhaya's first Cannes visit and it was a memorable one. "It was an *adbhut* feeling," exclaimed Chhaya, adding, "Reaching the venue and stepping on the red carpet was something I can't explain in words. I saw my entire career flash in front of my eyes. It was like each character I have ever played was with me at that moment." When asked what led to the red-carpet jig, the *Laapataa Ladies* actress laughs. "It wasn't planned. On the way to the venue, I was a little nervous. But as we were posing, I heard a peppy song playing and couldn't stop myself from shaking a leg. It was all impromptu. Then came the standing ovation which was surreal and exhilarating. All this on my first visit to Cannes," said Chhaya.

'I LIVE LIFE BY MY RULES'

While Chhaya has been part of multiple Marathi films, including *Sairat*, her recent Hindi outings - *Laapataa Ladies*, *Madgaon Express* and *Gangubai Kathiawadi* - have brought her even more reach and accolades. "I don't know how to react to this love. I am speechless and I owe this to every filmmaker who cast me in their projects, in whatever capacity they deemed fit. I love being part of projects that go beyond the usual stories. Even if they stir up the hornet's nest, it doesn't bother me. I live life by my rules and my decisions are my own, and I don't care what anyone else thinks of it."

Mainstream film industry has nothing to do with this glory: Resul Pookutty

While the country celebrates Payal Kapadia's win at Cannes, Oscar-winning sound technician Resul Pookutty shared a long post pointing out that the Indian film industry had no part to play in this victory. He also reminded people that as Kapadia returns from Cannes, she will go for a court hearing for a case filed against her during her FTII days. In 2015, Kapadia was one of the leading voices behind the almost four-month protest against the then-FTII Chairman Gajendra Chauhan, who the students felt didn't have the credentials to lead the prestigious institute. Excerpts from his note:

It would be interesting to pause for a moment and think, has Indian Film Industry anything to do with this win?! None! who all are been taken to Cannes by Govt.Of India as delegation every year?! The usual suspects and familiar faces from mainstream Industry... What makes Payal's win so important?! Not just that she is from FTII, that she is from a group of people/students enthusiasts who are regular people who come from varied corners of India and signed themselves to be strugglers for the rest of their lives.

While you celebrate #PayaKapadia and her team's win at the Cannes, give it a moment of thought, the mainstream Indian Film Industry has nothing to do with this glory they only looked at us as outcasts. ...

The only reason for this National glory is all the inspiring films we saw at FTII and the atmosphere of that place nurtured by all the brilliant artists from all across the



Resul Pookutty

globe visited there and left their energies... My only request is whoever or whatever or whichever dispensation are at the helm of affaires, do not destroy that atmosphere which took generations to nurture.... There are many more Payals and Chidanands, Sathosh Sivans and Shaji Karuns are going to come out. Inspire them, let them show us a mirror that reflect us as a true society where original, logical and scientific temperament is celebrated. Let us create Sovereign minds, that will be a true celebration of cinema and life. #JaiHo my pals: Payal and Chidanand and the likes to follow them.

FootNote: Payal (Accused No.25) comes back from Cannes and next month goes for her court case hearing that FTII lodged against her for striking against the appointment of Mr.Chouhan as the Chairman! Interesting isn't it?!



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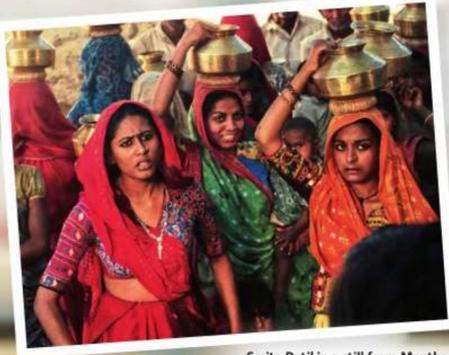
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Prateik Patil Babbar wore his mother, Smita Patil's scarf for the screening of the restored version of her film *Manthan* at the 77th Cannes Film Festival

Wearing my mom's scarf at Cannes was a tribute to her, says Prateik



Smita Patil in a still from *Manthan*, which had released in 1976

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I have many of my mom's scarves preserved in my cupboard. During the fittings for my tuxedo, my stylist and I decided to add the scarf as a tribute to her. The scarf added the perfect emotional touch to the occasion

It was an extremely proud moment for Prateik Patil Babbar to represent his mother, late actress Smita Patil, at the Cannes Film Festival this year. For the unversed, the restored version of the *Manthan* (1976), directed by Shyam Benegal, was screened at the 77th edition of the festival. "This trip is now one of my most precious memories. It's been 37 years since her demise, and this will remain one of the most symbolic and iconic celebrations of her legacy," says Prateik.

The highlight of his red-carpet look was a scarf that belonged to his mother. Talking about the sentiment behind it, he says, "She is always with and around me. That is the privilege I have, being her

son. She can hold me and hug me whenever I want. Her scarf was a symbolic addition to my custom outfit." The actor adds, "I have many of her scarves preserved in my cupboard. During the fittings for my tuxedo, my stylist and I decided to add the scarf as a tribute to her. The scarf added the perfect emotional touch to the occasion."

Sharing the reaction he got from people post the film's screening, Prateik says, "One of the things that people keep saying about my mom is that there's nobody who can get into the skin of a character like her. She is the greatest actress in the history of Indian cinema." —Vinay MR Mishra

Nicki Minaj freed after paying fine post arrest for drug possession

Rapper Nicki Minaj, who was arrested over drug possession, was freed after paying a hefty fine in Amsterdam. However, her gig has been postponed. Minaj was released from police custody in Amsterdam after being arrested on Saturday morning for allegedly carrying drugs. She streamed her arrest on Instagram Live, which led to the postponement of her scheduled concert in Manchester, part of her Pink Fri-

day 2 World Tour, say reports. The arrest occurred at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, where the Dutch police reportedly found pre-rolled marijuana joints in her luggage. She denied ownership of the drugs, saying that they belonged to her security personnel. The Netherlands classifies marijuana as "soft drugs," and exporting it is illegal despite its legal status within the country.

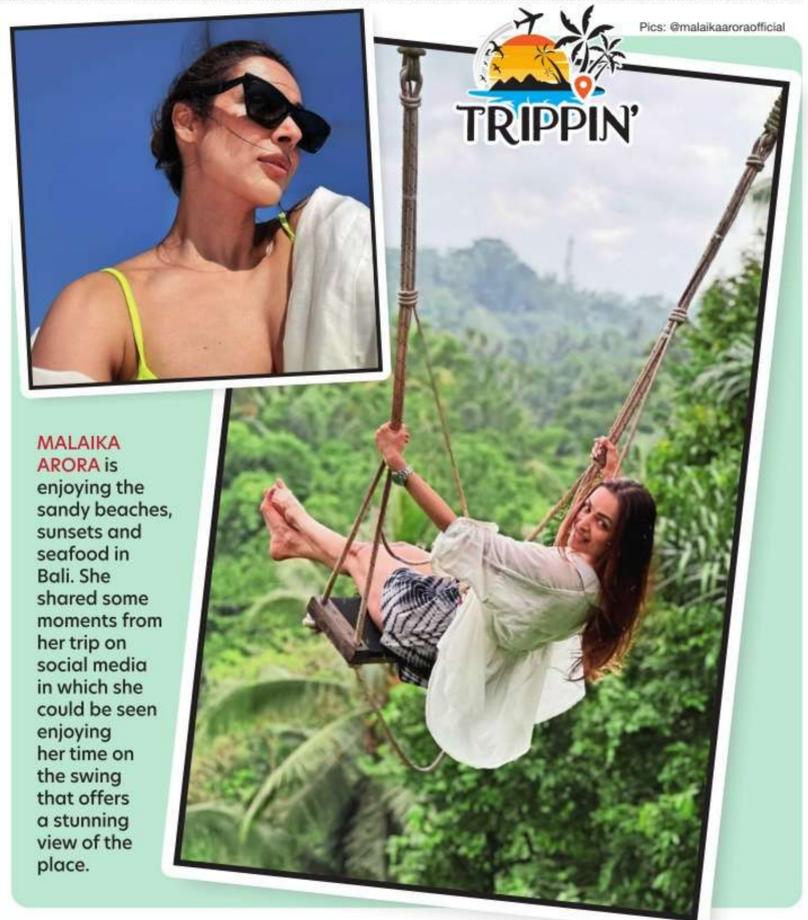
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They took my luggage without consent. My security has already advised them those pre-rolls belong to him

— Nicki Minaj on her arrest



Nicki Minaj



MALAIKA ARORA is enjoying the sandy beaches, sunsets and seafood in Bali. She shared some moments from her trip on social media in which she could be seen enjoying her time on the swing that offers a stunning view of the place.

Pics: @malaikaaroraofficial

Tusshar hops on a Mumbai local to beat the traffic

Tusshar Kapoor decided to beat the Mumbai traffic by hopping on a train to return home after his shoot on the outskirts of the city. The actor who wore a mask for his journey, shared a video and wrote, "#aboutlast-night Agar Virar Churchgate wali railway ki 1st class seat li hai toh ek selfie video toh banta hai! When there's a will there's a way to beat the ghastly traffic back from the shoot life on the outskirts of Mumbai. #naigaonvasai #hellishjamm (sic)."

Tusshar Kapoor was shooting on the outskirts of the city



@tusshark89

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