

**BACK BEAT**  
I'VE BEEN SINGLE FOR A WHILE: SUSHMITA SEN P4



# Bombay Times

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024  
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY  
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

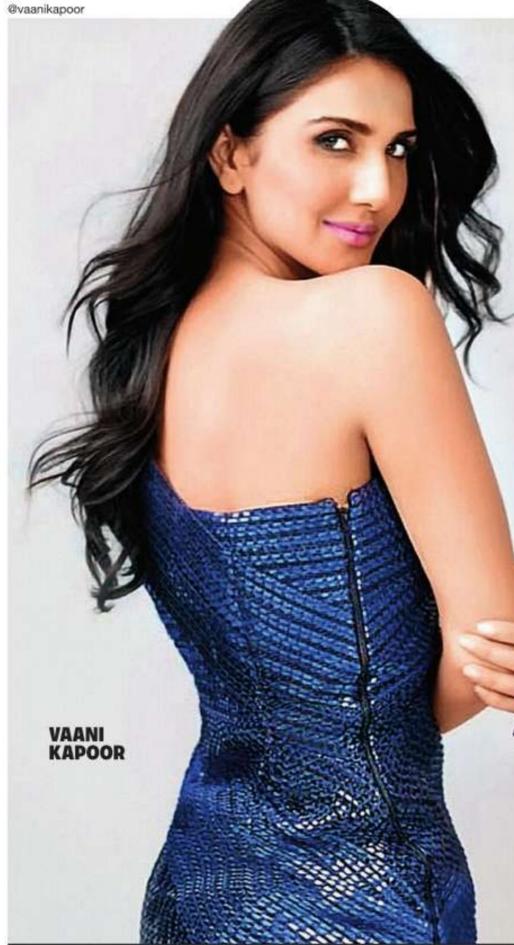


I AM GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE UP SHOWS TO STAY RELEVANT: NIA SHARMA P3

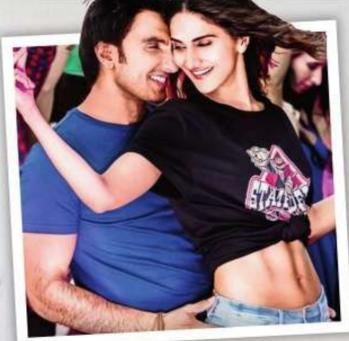
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## It's absurd that social media is a barometer of your relevance: Vaani Kapoor

@vaanikapoor



VAANI KAPOOR



Ranveer Singh and Vaani in a still from *Befikre* (2016)

Onkar Kulkarni

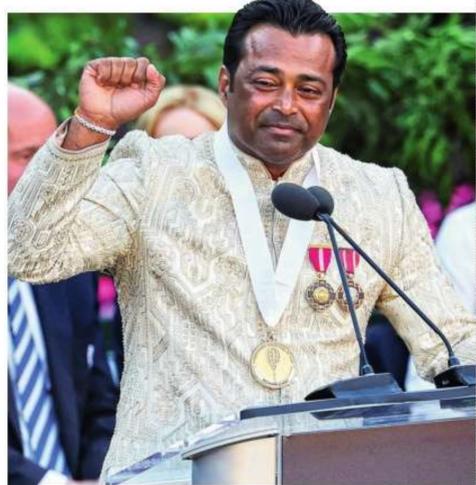
**V**aani Kapoor, who clocked in 10 years in Bollywood last year, believes that a career in films is a game of patience. "Even the most talented people in the industry, at some point, must have felt impatient. But you have to wait, just hold on and not give up. Sometimes, it is all pre-destined," says the Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui actress in a chat with us.

CONTINUED ON 3

**I understand that nowadays, you have to put yourself out there and be visible because, a lot of people within the industry who give you work look at your social media numbers**

## Thank you for giving this Indian boy hope: Leander

Leander Paes serves an ace as the first Asian player at the International Tennis Hall of Fame



Grand Slam winner and Olympic medalist Leander Paes, dressed in a *sherwani* with his Padma awards pinned to his chest, was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, USA, in the 'player' category

### 'We Asians can be number one in any field'

Paes said, "I would like to thank you so much for giving this Indian boy hope... It's been my greatest honour to play for India in the Olympics & Davis Cups. To prove that we Asians can win Grand Slams and also be number one in our field, be it tennis or anything."



Sports commentator Vijay Amritraj was also inducted into the Hall of Fame for his contribution to the sport, joining 267 legendary inductees

Chris Evert @ChrissieEvert · 13h  
What a fantastic weekend! A big Congratulations to three wonderful men who deserve this prestigious honor. Vijay, Leander and Richard... @Leander @Ringham7 @TennisHalloFame

Martina Navratilova @Martina  
This was our view of the audience for the induction of Richard Evans, Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes into the International Tennis Hall of Fame- it was my pleasure to introduce my favorite mixed doubles partner Leander:)

## H-WOOD WELCOMES BIDEN'S EXIT



P4

## I AM GLAD THAT TOIFA HAS A DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE: GUNEET MONGA

Guneet Monga Kapoor

The producer talks about her experience at the Oscars and how our country, too, needs a credible and well-managed award show

Renuka Vyavahare

**T**wo-time Academy Award-winning producer Guneet Monga Kapoor is part of the esteemed Advisory Council of The Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA) OTT Edition - 2023, which will be held on July 27 in Mumbai. Guneet, who produced *The Elephant Whisperers* (2022) and *The Lunchbox* (2018), was among the first producers from India to be inducted into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. As the countdown to TOIFA inches closer, in a conversation with us, she explains why awards matter, how TOIFA is starting on a great note and what convinced her to come on board the council.

### 'WE NEED A STRUCTURED AWARD SHOW HERE'

Guneet believes there's a need for a structured event in this space. "We need something which is time bound and not an endlessly running award show. That's the need of the hour: Like the Oscars, which is also a televised event, but timelines are strictly maintained. Be it the start time, end time, or break time, they are particular about their timings," says Guneet.

CONTINUED ON 4



**The hope that we will be able to build a respectable award show and institution in the coming years convinced me to be a part of the Advisory Council of TOIFA**

### 'Awards open doors to work globally'

Talking about why awards matter, Guneet, who was one of the producers of the recently released action drama *Kill*, said, "We are all artists driven by passion. If you look at my trajectory from *Masaan*, *The Lunchbox* to *Elephant Whisperers* and now *Kill*, it takes years to break the mould. It doesn't happen overnight. Awards open doors for people to work globally. I am putting the Indian crew on the global map. So, TOIFA is a good beginning and I hope it furthers this conversation."

## Buzzstop

### HC DISPOSES OF RANDEEP'S PLEA FOR RELIEF FROM ACTION



The MP High Court has disposed of a petition by Randeep Hooda seeking that the authorities be restrained from taking coercive action against him over alleged construction on his property near the Kanha Tiger Reserve. The court observed that Randeep's plea was not maintainable, while also refusing to quash a show-cause notice issued to him in connection with the alleged construction near the buffer zone of the reserve.

Why aren't safety guidelines followed? Is trekking worth risking your life in monsoons? These are just a few questions on people's minds

## Travel influencer's death brings monsoon travel safety back in focus

Mihir Bhanage and Yvonne Jacob

JULY 4, 2024



The Kumbhe waterfall region where travel influencer Aanvi Kamdar (right) died



### Did Aanvi Kamdar die while shooting a video?

While reports suggest so, authorities and first responders have a different take. Sagar Dahimbekar, who led the team that brought Aanvi's body out of the gorge, told us, "It is a risky region and there are high chances that she may have slipped while walking. The locals who were there told us that she was clicking photos but nobody knows for sure." Nirvutti Borhade, PI, Mangaon police station, adds, "Because she was a known person on social media, people started making assumptions that she must have fallen due to negligence while shooting a video. Anyone who is travelling takes photos for memories. She was the last one walking in the group of friends she was with. They only turned around when they heard her scream. It's an unfortunate incident and such assumptions are uncalled for."

### Monsoon restrictions at specified sites near Pune and Mumbai

- No gathering of five or more people
- No entry into deep water bodies
- Ban on creating reels and taking selfies
- No tourist activity post 6 pm
- All vehicles will be banned from entering a one km radius of the waterfalls
- Consumption and sale of alcohol will be banned

CONTINUED ON 3

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A young CA-turned travel influencer from Mumbai, Aanvi Kamdar, tragically died on Tuesday after she slipped and fell into a 300 ft. gorge near Kumbhe waterfall, Mangaon, in Maharashtra.

**THE BACKLASH:** Multiple reports claimed that the youngster was shooting a video for social media and slipped while doing that. This led to widespread backlash from people calling out influencers for putting likes above life. However, authorities have a different version.



# I am glad I don't have to take up shows on television to stay relevant: Nia Sharma

Neha Maheshwri

When Nia Sharma stepped back from television to explore opportunities in other mediums, she didn't anticipate how challenging it would be. While offers did come in, they were either not interesting enough or did not materialise. She shares, "Breaking an image and exploring a new medium can be extremely challenging. While the people I met knew me and appreciated my work, it didn't translate into anything substantial. *Ab iss beech mein teen saal kahaan chale gaye* even I don't know. Several television shows were offered during this time, but none resonated with me. I also feel the television medium has suffered in the last few years, and nothing seems to be working."

## ON HER RETURN TO TV AFTER A BREAK

Nia returned to the fiction genre with the supernatural show *Suhagan Chudail* after a four-year hiatus. "My initial reaction was 'No way I'm returning to television with a show like *Suhagan Chudail*.' During the first narration, I was told the character was 200 years old, and I was stunned. This was followed by several meetings where they managed to convince me. And now that I am part of this show, I realise I am perfect for it," says the actress, who is also seen in *Laughter Chefs*.



Nia Sharma

@niasharma90



Nia with Rashmi Desai in a still from Naagin 4

Breaking an image and exploring a new medium can be extremely challenging. While the people I met knew me and appreciated my work, it didn't translate into anything substantial

rahi hai, and you are the only one lagging. But you have to snap out of that thought and realise it's okay not to follow the crowd by overselling yourself.

That sense of contentment comes when you've done meaningful work and are satisfied in your space. I am glad I don't have to take up shows to stay relevant," she shares.

## 'GETTING YOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS AGREED TO AT THIS STAGE ISN'T EASY'

The actress admits securing content-driven projects with the right budget at this stage in her career is challenging. She says, "Often, people don't approach me because they assume I charge too much, which might be true (laughs). Then, there are times when the projects you are excited about don't take off. Getting your terms and conditions agreed to at this stage isn't easy."

## 'IT'S OKAY NOT TO FOLLOW THE CROWD BY OVERSELLING YOURSELF'

Taking a break from TV was a risk, the *Jamai Raja* actress admits. "People around me would often doubt my decision, wondering if I would fade away. They would ask, 'Aaj kal kya kar rahi hai?' At times, their opinions would get to me, but I knew I was refusing work for a reason. Fading away has never been my concern, which is why I could sit back and handle the pressure. I want to be respected for my work. Sometimes, when you browse Instagram, it seems *sabhi aagye badh rahe hain, poori duniya hi achha kar*

# 'I want to be known for my films rather than airport looks'

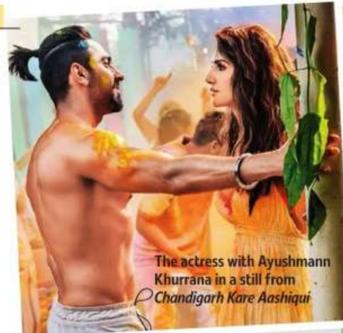
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'A lot of people within the industry give you work based on your social media numbers'

Vaani feels that social media has become a huge part of an actor's journey in showbiz, but being out there is not something that comes naturally to her. "I am terrible at it. To each its own. I don't think anything is right or wrong here. But it doesn't feel organic to me because that is not the person I am. I want to be known for my films rather than my airport looks. I understand that nowadays, you have to put yourself out there and be visible because, strangely, a lot of people within the industry who are giving you work look at your social media numbers. It's absurd that it has become a barometer of how relevant you are in today's times."

## 'I don't want to be untrue to who I am'

Personally as well as professionally, Vaani believes she has come a long way. The *Befikre* actress says, "I have learnt to be



The actress with Ayushmann Khurrana in a still from Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui

patient. There are many days when I feel low and wonder why I couldn't have been any different and push myself the way others do. But that's not me. I don't want to be untrue to who I am. Do I want to put on a façade and be somebody else just to get more work? That won't even give me satisfaction, so it's best to wait it out. After all, why would I want to sell myself short? I believe that the right opportunity might just come to you at a time when you are mentally prepared to give it your best. So, while some get it easily, it's a bit harder for the others, and you have to accept that."

Do I want to put on a façade and be somebody else just to get more work? That won't even give me satisfaction, so it's best to wait it out



VAANI KAPOOR

@vaanikapoor

Keep tabs on you favourite stars with [bombaytimes](#)



Pics: @tripti\_dimri

FURRY FRIENDS

Got a visitor on set

Meet Rocky

The beginning of *Rocky aur Tripti ki prem kahaani* can be traced back to when this feline visitor, ROCKY, wandered onto **TRIPTI DIMRI's** set

# 'One must exercise caution while travelling to monsoon hotspots'

@svrss\_raigad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she was an extremely responsible traveller. It was an accident, could've happened to anyone, media headlines are made for attention & they're sadly negative. but please don't let that slide the fact that she was a beautiful human. her work, her passion, her story & her, should be honoured at this time. please.

I came here to share my deepest condolences with all of Aanvi's friends and family. It is really heartbreaking to say the least. Please know that in this tough time, the entire travel community stands by you and we know that this obnoxious form of sensationalised reporting needs to stop on all platforms. She met with an accident and we know how sudden, unfortunate and saddening it is. Aanvi has been nothing but kind to everyone around her and she deserves better. If you come across any media post covering her story in a sensationalised, insensitive manner saying "influencer dies because of reel making" please leave a piece of your mind and call them out! This outrage needs to stop.



A rescue team at the Kumbhe waterfall site

This incident could've happened with anyone. Many people have lost their lives in monsoon mishaps. Stricter rules and safety measures need to be in place to curb these cases that occur each year

— Vinod Shirke, a trekking enthusiast

Prima facie, it can be said that she slipped and fell. Nature trails in the monsoon are tricky and such unfortunate incidents can happen. It can't be confirmed that she died while taking a video for social media

— Nivrutti Borhade, PI, Mangaon police station

## Safety tips

- Don't visit forbidden areas
- Check the weather forecast before heading out
- Take a local guide along
- Avoid entering water bodies
- Avoid standing near slippery rocks or streams
- Wear appropriate safety gear
- Carry a first-aid kit, dry food and ropes

Family of five drowns in monsoon mishap near Lonavala

Youngster jumps in waterfall at Tamhini Ghat, swept away

Tourism is welcome. But everyone needs to exercise caution. There already are restrictions and guidelines in place which should be adhered to. Besides, you should have a guide who is familiar with the area with you, a first-aid kit, some food and numbers of the nearest police station or rescue organisation

— Sagar Vilas Dahimbekar, founder of SVRSS, a rescue organisation operating in the Sahyadris

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Image Credit: Veer Design Studio

# I want to see peers cheer each other at awards: Guneet Monga



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Guneet says, "Every branch of the Academy (writers, actors, producers, etc) has their individual executive committees that meet online quarterly with a central Academy team guiding everyone. That helps in voicing global concerns. We need that kind of structure here. A pan-India credible award show is the need of the hour. There are many awards here, but most of them are mis-managed. India is so beautifully diverse in its cinematic language, so it deserves a well-managed award show." She adds, "There's also a certain level of discipline in the runup to Oscars. There are so many offline events that celebrate you as a nominee. You are always made to feel like a winner. It's an honour and privilege to attend these events as a nominee."

### 'TOIFA'S THREE-TIER VOTING PROCESS INVOLVES PARTICIPATION FROM INDUSTRY PEOPLE'

At the Oscars, every person nominated feels it's an honour to be there at the grand event, to applaud the other nominees and winners. It's not just about taking home the trophy. Guneet says that she wants to see peers cheering each other here, too. "Empires and institutes are not built overnight. Sikhya Entertainment didn't win an Oscar overnight. It's years of harnessing a skill. There's a certain way our film industry works, so let's look at one day at a time, one award edition at a time. I want to see peers cheer each other (at the awards). I am glad that TOIFA has a democratic structure with a three-tier voting process that involves participation from industry people. If this is structured and well run over the years, it will gain credibility. The hope that we will be able to build a respectable award show and institution in the coming years convinced me to be a part of the Advisory Council of TOIFA."

**'GLAMOUR AND SUBSTANCE SHOULD CO-EXIST'**  
Award shows are a mix of substance and glamour, and Guneet believes it's their co-existence that works. "Award shows and film festivals are



**India is so beautifully diverse in its cinematic language, so it deserves a well-managed award show**

televised programmes, so they will have the red-carpet glamour which will probably bag front pages, but the merit of the film should stay sacrosanct. That is what we need to achieve. Things need to be glamorous to be celebrated as glamour gets the eyeballs, but use those eyeballs to promote good cinema. Cannes and TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival) do that. You have the biggest faces attending, and it's a fashion gala, but when it comes to the competition section of the movies, it's watertight. It celebrates the best cinema in the world. Then, it's not about impressing anyone. Glamour and substance should co-exist. How you use the glamour to amplify and celebrate good content is what matters," she elaborates.

**I am glad that TOIFA has a democratic structure with a three-tier voting process that involves participation from industry people. If this is structured and well run over the years, it will gain credibility**

- Guneet Monga

# I've been single for a while: Sushmita Sen



Sushmita Sen and Rohman Shawl (above) were in a relationship. They announced their split in December 2021

Sushmita Sen, who recently appeared on Rhea Chakraborty's podcast, revealed that she has been single for the past over two years. "I have no man in my life. I've been single for a while. It has been almost two years since I have been single, to be precise, since 2021... I am not in a relationship. I have some incredibly wonderful people in my life who are my friends, and they are all just wait-

ing for a moment for me to call them and say, 'Look, I'm pulling the car out, get in the back seat. We're driving to Goa.'

When asked if she is interested in anyone, the actress said, "I am not even interested in anyone at the moment. It is lovely to take a break because I was in a relationship for almost five years. And that was a long time."

## Jessie J diagnosed with OCD & ADHD

Jessie J has been diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The 36-year-old pop star revealed the news in a candid post on Instagram in which she explained she sought medical help after welcoming her first child, son Sky, last year. Jessie wrote, "Hello. I was diagnosed with ADHD and OCD about three months ago. In telling people a lot of the reaction I got was, 'Yeah I mean we knew that' and of course I knew to some extent but having a baby has let's say... exposed it a lot more, which was comforting in a way, as it made it feel less heavy and scary."

The *Price Tag* singer added, "It's made me re-think about my whole life. It's empowered me and honestly sometimes has overwhelmed me all at the same time."

Agencies

## TRIPPIN'

Pics: @sophiechoudry

**SOPHIE CHOUDRY** is enjoying a Parisian summer. Sharing some dreamy photos from her travel diaries, she wrote, "Every girl needs Paris"

# H-WOOD WELCOMES BIDEN'S EXIT

President Joe Biden on Sunday abruptly abandoned his campaign for a second term after intense pressure from fellow Democrats and instead propped up Vice President Kamala Harris for the role

**No to Trump/Vance. No to the right-wing Christian religious takeover for our nation. Nothing wrong with Christianity, just shouldn't be running a nation birthed from freedom of religion**  
- Mark Ruffalo

**Our President has served our nation admirably for decades, he is a decent honorable man, a hugely successful president, and a patriot. Now let us unite behind @ KamalaHarris and defeat Donald Trump in November!**  
- George Takei

**AHAHAHAHA LETS GOOOOO I TOLD YALLL KAMALA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE 2024 candidate**  
- Cardi B

**I'm grateful to President Biden for everything he's done**  
- Ellen DeGeneres

**We are truly living in unprecedented times**  
- Lizzo

**Thank you President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr Jill Biden for your leadership, integrity, empathy and service to our country**  
- Jimmy Kimmel

**Kamala is trusted and tested and she is a fierce advocate for women's rights and people of color and her message is one of hope and unity for America at her time of great national divide**  
- Jamie Lee Curtis

**Thank you for your service, Mr President. It's now our duty as patriotic Americans to elect the Democrat who will honor & further your legacy**  
- Mark Hamill

## Elvis's estate questions the authenticity of memorabilia

The musician's estate, Graceland, has been concerned about items being sold by GWS Auctions; (inset) Presley's black grommet jacket listed for sale

## Elvis's estate questions the authenticity of memorabilia

An auction house that sells Elvis Presley memorabilia has come under fire by Graceland executives questioning the authenticity of some of its items, reported *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Joel Weinshanker, a managing partner of Elvis Presley Enterprises, recently expressed his concerns to *NBC News* over GWS Auctions, the auction house owned by Brigitte Kruse.

Weinshanker told the outlet he first became suspicious of the auction house when he noticed a black grommet jacket, said to be worn by the legendary singer in 1972, listed for sale. However, he claimed the jacket was hanging in Graceland's private collection. "We know there was only one made, and guess what? We have it in our archives," Weinshanker said. *NBC News* noted that it visited Elvis' estate in Memphis and saw the jacket and its receipt.

**We know there was only one (Presley's black grommet jacket) made, and guess what? We have it in our archives**  
- Joel Weinshanker, a managing partner of Elvis Presley Enterprises

### Other memorabilia under question

Other memorabilia items being sold by GWS Auctions that Graceland executives are questioning include multiple pieces of Elvis' jewellery and his private jet, which Elvis' estate claimed he never actually flew on and only owned for a few months.

और सभी न्यूज़ पेपर मैगजीन प्राप्त करने के लिए सर्वप्रथम इस टेलीग्राम ग्रुप को ज्वाइन करें नीचे दिए लकि पर क्लिक करके ज्वाइन टेलीग्राम

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