



Sonaakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi

## Celebrating dosti, ft. BFFs Sona-Huma

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Sonaakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi's friendship isn't your typical story of instant bonding. Their first meeting was at an after-party in Singapore in 2017, and it wasn't exactly friendship at first sight for them. On Friendship Day today, Sinha recalls her first interaction with Qureshi: "Huma is very chatty and I am a very reserved person. So, the first time we interacted, I was like, 'Yeh itni kyun chep ho rahi hai'. She kept talking so much." Qureshi adds: "At that after-party, what I loved about Sona was that she was dancing as crazily as I was. And then, I kept wondering why we were getting overfriendly. I think once she makes you her person, there is no going back." Years later, their friendship solidified when Sinha visited Qureshi's home, thanks to her then-boyfriend and now-husband, actor Zaheer Iqbal, who was friends with Qureshi. "After that, we never stopped chilling together. Our friendship was cemented that day," Sinha says.

### SAFAR-ING TOGETHER!

Their travels offer a glimpse into their contrasting preferences. Qureshi says, "Sona likes any place with water, while I like to explore new places." Recalling a trip to Amsterdam, she adds, "We had gone for a vacation and I had to book our stay and I made a mistake. We were on the road in Amsterdam, with our bags." Sinha adds, "But we were laughing through it all, saying, 'Chal coffee peete hain, breakfast karte hain and then dekhte hain ki kya karna hai'."

### ALL ABOUT LOVING EACH OTHER

Qureshi says: "Sona is a keeper. If she says she will be there for you, she'll always fulfil that promise. She's not flaky. What you see is what you get and I admire her for that." Sinha loves Qureshi for her "people management skills". She says, "It's a skill I would love to have. Huma gets along with everyone and can handle people so well. I don't have to think twice before calling her or asking her for advice."

PHOTOS: AJAY KADAM



Outfit: AFEW by Rahul Mishra  
Jewellery: Isvari  
Bhumi shimmers in a silver bralette with sequin pants and shirt from AFEW by Rahul Mishra. Her look has been amped up further with a statement necklace from Isvari that consists of 350-carat tanzanites and 40-carat diamonds studded in white gold. The designer and jeweller both are participating in FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend that concludes today.

## 'MY PERSONAL STYLE IS ALWAYS EVOLVING'

In a special shoot with HT City Showstoppers, actor Bhumi Pednekar talks about staying updated with trends, and her wardrobe essentials



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A rendezvous with the finest in Indian couture. Witness the most enticing designs from India's best couturiers participating at the FDCI Wedding Weekend. The one-stop shop for your wedding wishlist will feature select assortment of custom made bridal outfits and jewellery



Outfit: Tarun Tahliani  
Jewellery: The House of MBJ

The actor looks regal in a brocade jacket featuring marori embroidery work paired with flared trousers and an embroidered bustier from Tarun Tahliani. Her look has been further elevated with a statement tourmaline and polki gajra paired with polki bangles from Shreejee Jewels. They both are also partaking in FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend that ends today.

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## 'Ours is not like those temporary friendships jo industry mein hoti hain'

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Asha Negi and Karan Wahi have been friends for almost a decade. While it's Friendship Day today, the actors feel "jab milein, tab Friendship Day hota hai". "We seldom talk to each other and when one of us feels it has been too long, we call and catch up. We understand and respect each other's space," says Wahi. Negi adds, "Hamare gap kabhi-kabhi bahut lambe hote hain. We disappear, but when we meet, it feels like we met just yesterday. That's the essence of our bond. I feel

that's why our friendship has lasted so long."

While they have both evolved as individuals, they are proud that their friendship remains unchanged. "Earlier, we were like kids. Now, we are both mature. I am happy that ours is not like those temporary friendships jo industry mein hoti hain," says Negi.

Wahi adds, "Asha has evolved. Compared to five years ago, she's a different person now. Our friendship has lasted so long as we are not judgmental. There would be things she does that I might



not agree with, but I never force my point of view on her. She's always been gullible, but the good thing now is that she can share her point of view."

Negi says they have always been there for each other in good and bad times: "Our friendship is not superficial or just about sharing good moments or having fun. We are not industry friends, who just party together. We are always there for each other."



Karan Wahi and Asha Negi

## Ravi Kishan: Bhojpuri isn't just about Kamariya or Lollypop Lagelu



Ravi Kishan during the Parliament session PHOTO: PTI

Because of a few money-minded people making those (crass) kinds of films or songs, we can't say that's what Bhojpuri is all about.

RAVI KISHAN, Actor-politician

## Rooting for them: Yashraj makes anthem to cheer for India men's hockey team

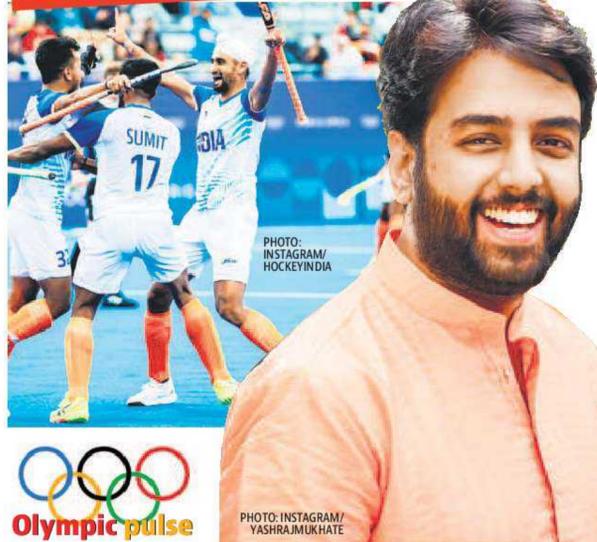


PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/HOCKEYINDIA

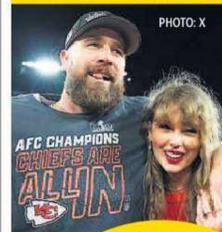
Abigail Banerji  
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The India men's hockey team has been making the country proud at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Their recent victory over Australia, the silver medallists from 2020 Tokyo Olympics, will see them lock horns with Great Britain in the quarterfinals today. To boost the team's morale, musician Yashraj Mukhate has come up with an anthem. Titled *Hockey India Anthem*, the track has been penned by lyricist Alok Ranjan Srivastava. "I feel proud to have created an anthem for our Indian hockey team. The goal was to compose a track that would resonate powerfully in a stadium setting and is something everyone could sing," says the 28-year-old.

While he has "never been a sports enthusiast", Mukhate says he is following the games this year. "I have been watching almost every event where India is competing. I'm rooting for our hockey team," he says.

The musician adds that he has a special connection with the sport: "My grandfather was an excellent hockey player. However, both my dad and I were passionate about music."

### STOP PRESS



As per sources, singer Taylor Swift and footballer Travis Kelce might be engaged soon. An insider told Page Six: "The engagement is happening soon." However, Kelce's representative denied the news.

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Rishabh Suri  
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Actor-politician Ravi Kishan is done with how Bhojpuri is perceived among the masses. He recently introduced a private member bill in the Lok Sabha to include Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Talking to us, he says the identity of the language isn't limited to the songs we have heard all these years: "My mother tongue (Bhojpuri) is spoken or understood by 25 crore people in India. It's the second most-spoken language in Mauritius. People have this notion that only songs like *Kamariya* and *Lollypop Lagelu* is Bhojpuri. It has its own literature."

The 55-year-old, who is a superstar in the Bhojpuri film industry, adds,

"Because of a few money-minded people making those (crass) kinds of films or songs, we can't say that's what Bhojpuri is all about. Woh nahin hai jo dikhai de raha hai. Humari bhaasha mein ek mithaas hai, and my intention as a Lok Sabha member was to bring that forward. I am known because of Bhojpuri cinema. I am now working in many languages, but people still remember, 'Achcha, Ravi Kishan, Bhojpuri wala!' Films like *Laapataa Ladies*, *Maamla Legal Hai*, etc., have all happened now, par shuruata toh Bhojpuri se hui thi."

Kishan got a positive response from his fraternity, including the film industry, ever since the news broke. "Everybody has been congratulating me. People now know I went to the Parliament for the right reasons. I am a man with a mission," he says.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/YASHRAJMUKHATE

{ YOUR TAROT THIS WEEK }

Manisha Koushik



**KOUSHIKMANISHA**  
ASKMANISHA  
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August 04 - 10, 2024

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/KAJOL



AUGUST 5, LEO  
Kajol Devgan

**ARIES** MAR 21-APR 20



Ajay Devgn

**Love:** Temperance **Mood:** The Hermit **Career:** Six of Swords  
Get ready for an awesome week ahead! This week, you may encounter some exceptional career opportunities. Investing in precious metals could yield significant profits. Maintaining harmony among children at home might require extra attention. Prioritize self-care to ensure optimal health.  
**Lucky Number:** 9 **Lucky Colour:** Dark Red

**CANCER** JUN 22-JUL 22



Ranveer Singh

**Love:** The Star **Mood:** Four of Wands **Career:** The Hanged Man  
Exciting times are coming your way. You may experience a productive phase in your professional life. Your appraisal may lead to a salary increment or promotion. Financial stability is indicated due to smart investments and effective budgeting. Students could receive promising academic opportunities.  
**Lucky Number:** 22 **Lucky Colour:** Orange

**LIBRA** SEP 24-OCT 23



Ranbir Kapoor

**Love:** Eight of Cups **Mood:** The Tower **Career:** Two of Swords  
Look out for surprises and joy all week long. You can look forward to promising financial deals on the business front this week. Prioritize self-care to maintain well-being and boost your energy levels. Embrace the excitement in your romantic life as parents may bless the bond with approval.  
**Lucky Number:** 4 **Lucky Colour:** Blue

**CAPRICORN** DEC 22-JAN 21



Sidharth Malhotra

**Love:** The Chariot **Mood:** The Moon **Career:** Six of Wands  
Good things are heading your way. Family life may bring surprises as a distant relative might renew contact. Your loan repayment schedule is likely to be manageable, allowing you to pay off your debts easily. Love life may thrive as you succeed in conveying your true feelings to your romantic partner.  
**Lucky Number:** 5 **Lucky Colour:** Green

**TAURUS** APR 21-MAY 20



Vicky Kaushal

**Love:** Justice **Mood:** Seven of Coins **Career:** Ace of Wands  
Stay determined and optimistic this week. The week might present some professional challenges, but don't let that discourage you. Your strong family connections will be a reliable source of support. Even if your academics aren't currently excelling, there's ample room for improvement and development.  
**Lucky Number:** 11 **Lucky Colour:** Cream

**LEO** JUL 23-AUG 23



Saif Ali Khan

**Love:** Two of Swords **Mood:** The Tower **Career:** Devil  
Stay positive and aim high this week. Romance may sparkle with passion and excitement, adding a joyful touch to your life. Financially, you are likely to find an increase in savings, enhancing financial security. Family is likely to bring love and support, with a lively family function on the horizon.  
**Lucky Number:** 8 **Lucky Colour:** Magenta

**SCORPIO** OCT 24-NOV 22



Shah Rukh Khan

**Love:** The Hanged Man **Mood:** The Fool **Career:** The Emperor  
Buckle up for a fantastic week! This week, you can look forward to a favourable professional life. You are likely to gain recognition for your networking skills and quick thinking. Family life may remain harmonious as elders step in to resolve a dispute. It's an auspicious time for new family activities, such as get-togethers.  
**Lucky Number:** 18 **Lucky Colour:** Golden

**AQUARIUS** JAN 22-FEB 19



Abhishek Bachchan

**Love:** The World **Mood:** Three of Coins **Career:** Three of Wands  
Get set for a super productive week. The professional arena is brimming with opportunities for success, and dedication is poised to yield fruitful results. Love is in the air, enriching romantic bonds with happiness and fulfillment. Students are likely to excel academically and be acknowledged for their hard work.  
**Lucky Number:** 7 **Lucky Colour:** Saffron

**GEMINI** MAY 21-JUN 21



Vedang Raina

**Love:** Five of Coins **Mood:** The Sun **Career:** Judgment  
Luck's on your side this week! Professionally, you may experience a stable period with promising opportunities on the horizon. Strengthening family ties becomes essential, especially in light of any unfortunate news that may arise. Financial management may become challenging.  
**Lucky Number:** 2 **Lucky Colour:** White

**VIRGO** AUG 24-SEP 23



Ayushmann Khurrana

**Love:** Six of Cups **Mood:** The Magician **Career:** The Strength  
Your week might take a delightful twist! Professionally, you may experience growth through the successful completion of a significant project. Your vibrant energy and adaptable nature will help you navigate any family challenges with ease. Your academic prospects look promising.  
**Lucky Number:** 5 **Lucky Colour:** Dark Green

**SAGITTARIUS** NOV 23-DEC 21



Agastya Nanda

**Love:** The Hierophant **Mood:** Ten of Wands **Career:** Two of Cups  
Steady Progress is on the cards this week. Hard work and dedication are likely to lead to career advancement for young professionals. Positive developments are also expected within the family, with younger members achieving milestones. Financially, prudent decisions may bring future stability.  
**Lucky Number:** 1 **Lucky Colour:** Brown

**PISCES** FEB 20-MAR 20



Tiger Shroff

**Love:** The Magician **Mood:** Three of Cups **Career:** King of Wands  
Look forward to a rewarding week. Embracing a well-rounded approach to weight loss can lead to sustainable results. Broadening your financial investments can help establish a resilient financial portfolio. A promotion at work has the potential to bring fulfillment. Investing in property can bolster your assets.  
**Lucky Number:** 3 **Lucky Colour:** Silver

SUSHMA HOLIDAY HOMES IN KASAULI

**Friendship is a space without judgment: Dot**

**Mugdha Kapoor**  
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On Friendship Day today, actor-musician Aditi Saigal aka Dot, shares her thoughts on the special relationship she shares with her friends. Reflecting on what it means to her, Saigal says, "It's hard to define friendship because it can mean so many things. A friend could be someone you can be silly with, but also someone you can be sad with. Someone who is there through the easy and difficult stuff. Above all, I think it is a space without judgement."

Today, the 25-year-old plans to video call two of her closest friends, Shibangi and Aksha, as they are all in different cities. "Shibangi and I grew up in Delhi together; even our mums are best friends. She's Bengali, so every year during Pujo, she would take me to her society to eat puchkas. Later, when we became friends with Aksha in Mumbai, we extended this ritual to her and it has become a kind of tradition."

Do her friends ever complain about not spending enough time together? Saigal replies, "My friends are like cats. They like it when I am around, but don't complain if I am gone." She has also written a song about their bond. "It's called *Girls Night* and it is about us and our little dates. It's a fun pop track, and we shot a music video for it with our friend Hawwa who directed it," she concludes.

Dot (centre) with her friends Shibangi and Aksha

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/DOTANDTHESYLLABLES

**Nia Sharma and Shalin Bhanot**

**Nia's bond with BFF Shalin: Don't have to be in touch all the time**

**Mugdha Kapoor**

Nia Sharma and Shalin Bhanot might have had reservations about each other when they first met, but today they are BFFs. On Friendship Day today, the actors tell us about what makes their bond truly special.

Ask how the duo keeps their friendship going despite their schedules and Sharma replies, "It is possible because of the kind of quality time we've spent with each other. There are times when we don't talk for months. [Like when] he was away for *Khatron Ke Khiladi* and I was busy with two shows. But it's just that one call in two months and then we meet up. We don't have to be in touch all the time to be best friends."

The *Naagin*-fame actor says she learnt the true meaning of fitness and a good lifestyle from Bhanot. "He was the one who got me into fitness. And when I got into it, I went so hard that he can't match my level when we go jogging now," the 33-year-old adds. One thing Bhanot has learnt from his friend is her social media fluency. "I'm still learning from the fluency she has with her mobile, social media and phone camera," says the 40-year-old.

Talking about the most random thing they have done together, Bhanot, who was last seen in *Bekaboo*, recalls, "We went to a car showroom and test-drove a really expensive supercar. It was very random because, at that point, neither one of us wanted the car."

PHOTOS: MANISH RANVIR

**{ DAILY HOROSCOPE }**  
Sunday, August 04, 2024

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vaastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

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**ARIES** MAR 21-APR 20

There will be nothing to complain about on the health front. Travelling to meet someone important is on the cards for some. It is best to resolve any misunderstanding.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Closeness to someone is likely to put ideas of the romantic kind in your head!  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 2 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Orange

**LEO** JUL 23-AUG 23

You will benefit by taking a break from your regular exercise routine. A loan will be granted to fulfil a fond desire. The chance of moving to a new location on transfer is likely for some.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Sharing and caring will make the romantic front fulfilling.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 5 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Maroon

**SAGITTARIUS** NOV 23-DEC 21

Making workouts a part of your routine is indicated. Good monetary decisions are likely to keep you financially secure. Trekking or going to a far-off place will prove both exciting and refreshing.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Love is in the air, so those looking for it.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 9 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Saffron

**TAURUS** APR 21-MAY 20

Getting a prestigious membership or invitation is possible for some. A helping hand to someone in need is likely to raise your image on the social front.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Lovers can expect a time of their lives, as love overwhelms them.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 3 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Brown

**VIRGO** AUG 24-SEP 23

Those ailing can expect a miraculous recovery. An understanding with someone will make your work easy. Those planning for a party or a function may get into two minds about it. Your popularity is set to rise within your social circle.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Lover will leave no stone unturned in revving up their love life.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 11 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

**CAPRICORN** DEC 22-JAN 21

Regular workouts may be taken up by those leading a sedentary life for fitness. You remain financially stable and moneysavvy mentally contented. Out-of-town visitors will make your home lively.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Looks and charm may draw you towards someone.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** White

**GEMINI** MAY 21-JUN 21

The condition of those recuperating from surgery will improve quickly. Money will come in as word about your skills gets around.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Your romantic moves will be fully reciprocated from the partner.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 17 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Dark Grey

**LIBRA** SEP 24-OCT 23

Your foresight is likely to see your assets and wealth multiply. Bouncing back with a vengeance on the professional front is indicated. The family will be extremely supportive.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Mutual love is likely to strengthen your loving bonds.  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Peach

**AQUARIUS** JAN 22-FEB 19

You can be instrumental in resolving a family dispute. An outing with friends is foreseen for some and will be great fun.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Much romancing is foreseen, as you catch your lover in just the right mood!  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Yellow

**CANCER** JUN 22-JUL 22

Peak physical fitness is assured for those working out. Strict self-discipline will keep your financial planning on track. A lot is happening on the home front, so expect some exciting time today!  
**LOVE FOCUS:** Those seeking love may feel blessed!  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Magenta

**SCORPIO** OCT 24-NOV 22

Your current exercise regime promises to keep you in shape. The day seems profitable when you can make some money. A family get-together will provide a welcome break from a monotonous routine.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** A romantic relationship is likely to flower!  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Sky Blue

**PISCES** FEB 20-MAR 20

Choosing the best from several health options will benefit you. Chances of wealth coming your way cannot be ruled out. You will be able to make good decisions by simply being cool and composed.  
**LOVE FOCUS:** You may find a partner in a romantic mood today!  
**LUCKY NUMBER:** 9 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Cream

# BOMBAY BFFS: STARS REVEAL THEIR FIRST INDUSTRY ALLIES

Starting out as an actor in the bustling city of Mumbai can be a daunting experience, but not when there's a friend by your side. On Friendship Day, today, celebs tell **Navya Kharbanda** about their first friend in the industry — the ones who acted as their pillar of support



**RIDHI DOGRA AND VINNY ARORA**

Actor Ridhi Dogra, a Delhiite, who is known for her role in *Jawan* (2023), shares, "My first and closest friend was Vinny Arora (actor). We met in 2009 on the sets of a television show. I'll always remember that day because I saw her walking in with a mithai box as her niece was born that morning. Our friendship stayed solid through the years and we've grown together even though we both don't have a lot of free time to hang out like we used to."

**SONU NIGAM AND RAJU SINGH**

Singer Sonu Nigam, originally from Faridabad (NCR), takes us on a nostalgic journey back to the '90s and reveals how composer Raju Singh became his friend. "When I came to Mumbai in 1991, I met a handsome guitarist at a recording, where I sang a few lines and got my first ₹500. Little did I know that the wonderful and talented gentleman, Raju Singh, would become a constant in my life. We have literally grown up together. I feel fortunate to have a good soul like him as my brother and friend in this industry."



**KUBBRA SAIT AND ALI FAZAL**

Actor Kubbra Sait, born in Bengaluru, shares that her most special friend is actor Ali Fazal. "I remember distinctly when I met him. I was pretty much blown away. This was 15 years ago, just after *3 Idiots* (2009). The whole world knew him and I had just moved to Mumbai. I remember he was sitting quietly at Prithvi Theatre when I walked up to him and started singing *Give Me Some Sunshine* and he was like, 'Who is this person?'" she says, adding, "Over the years, I have seen him evolve. Ali has been one of my favourite people."

**ANUPRIYA GOENKA AND PRADEEP SARKAR**

Actor Anupriya Goenka, who hails from Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), began her acting career after moving to Mumbai in 2009. She says late director and screenwriter Pradeep Sarkar was truly there for her. She shares, "Pradeep dada played a very important role in my initiation into the industry. I did my first ad with him, and he then flew me to the Bharat Nirman ad campaign, which was a really huge opportunity."



**ABHISHEK BANNERJEE AND AMAR KAUSHIK**

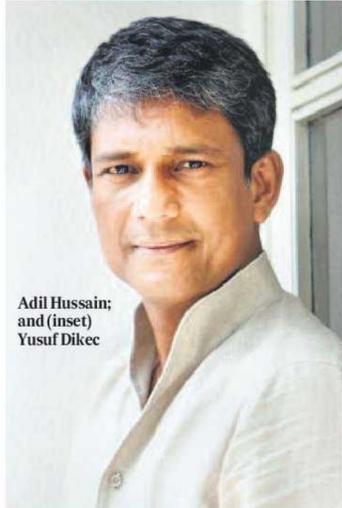
For actor Abhishek Bannerjee, the friend who has been a constant in the industry is director Amar Kaushik. After moving to Mumbai from Kharagpur (West Bengal), Kaushik was there for him through thick and thin. "I was a college student when I worked on *No One Killed Jessica* (2011), where he directed me for the first time as the second unit director, and I played a small role as a pickpocket," he recalls and adds, "Over the years, we've collaborated on several projects, and our friendship grew stronger. He is the only person who consistently saw the actor in me."

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM  
ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK

**Friendship DAY**

## It's really funny: Adil Hussain on being 'mistaken' for Turkish shooter

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ADILHUSSAIN



Adil Hussain; and (inset) Yusuf Dikec

**Sugandha Rawal**

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Actor Adil Hussain recently got a case of mistaken identity that has left him amused. It started when he was congratulated on clinching a medal at the ongoing Olympic Games in Paris instead of Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec by an online user on X.

The post read, "Congratulations sir @AdilHussain on winning silver at Olympics 2024 for Turkey. Respect." It was shared alongside a side-by-side picture of Hussain and Dikec.

The actor knows how to take a joke sportingly as he replied to the post on X, writing, "Wish this was true... Maybe it's not too late to start practising... Since I have the attitude, I need to work on the skill set now."

Talking about how he thought it was funny to be memed like this, Hussain shares, "I don't think the tweet was done because of a misunderstanding. It was a deliberate thing that they have done. It was made in jest, so I was not shocked after stumbling upon it.



PHOTO: ANIL KALPANI/REUTERS

Instead, I found it really funny and amusing." Asked if he sees the resemblance between himself and the athlete as pointed out by social media users, and he says, "Absolutely not. I don't think there is any similarity apart from the grey hair and the frame of the glasses... The tweet was made in a light-hearted way and I took it sportingly."

## Aerosmith retires from touring: Difficult but necessary decision



(L-R) Aerosmith members Brad Whitford, Joey Kramer, Steven Tyler, Joe Perry and Tom Hamilton

Iconic rock band Aerosmith has announced that they are officially retiring from touring. The five-member American band, which has sold an estimated 150 million records worldwide, released an official statement on Friday, sharing that they are cancelling their world tour as lead singer Steven Tyler, 76, has been suffering from a vocal injury sustained last year.

Posted on the band's Instagram, the statement reads: "We've always wanted

to blow your mind when performing. As you know, Steven's voice is an instrument like no other. He has spent months tirelessly working on getting his voice to where it was before his injury. We've seen him struggling despite having the best medical team by his side. Sadly, it is clear, that a full recovery from his vocal injury is not possible." The band added, "We have made a heartbreaking and difficult, but necessary, decision to retire from the touring stage."

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# 'NO SUCH THING AS A BAD FASHION CHOICE IF YOU OWN IT WITH CONFIDENCE'



OUTFIT: VVANI BY VANI VATS  
JEWELLERY: THE HOUSE OF MBJ

The actor dazzles in a lehenga Vvani by Vani Vats, an opulent creation that exudes both regal splendour and contemporary allure. This stunning piece, adorned with exquisite hand-cut mirror embroidery, is meticulously crafted over 100 days by a team of over 25 artisans (karigars). The lehenga's seamless blend of timeless tradition and modern glamour make it the perfect choice for the new-age woman who wishes to celebrate heritage with a contemporary twist. Her look has been rounded off with bangles featuring polki kadas with green enamelling, from The House of MBJ.



In a special shoot with HT City Showstoppers, Bhumi Pednekar bats for 'authenticity' in fashion and the things that dictate her style aesthetics

Mugdha Kapoor

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Known as a fiercely individualistic fashion icon, actor Bhumi Pednekar doesn't believe in chasing trends. "I prefer a more classic approach. Trends constantly change, but the one thing I follow is that there are no hard and fast rules," she says.

Pednekar, who has headlined films such as *Thank You for Coming* (2023), *Govinda Nam Mera* (2022) and *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* (2020), sees fashion as an instrument to reflect one's "authentic self and voice". "There's no such thing as a bad choice if you own it with confidence. The beauty of fashion lies in its ability to spark conversations and evoke varied reactions," says the actor, as she shoots with HT City Showstoppers, directing, innovating and making the showcase her own.

While traditionally, her fashion choices "would reflect the mindset she would adopt for a role", the lockdown helped the actor's sensibilities come into their own. What's one piece of advice that has stuck with her? "Don't try to be someone else. I've learned this the hard way, by experimenting with looks that didn't fit my personal vibe. I would look at some of my contemporaries and say, 'Maybe we should try that', but it never worked for me," shares Pednekar, adding, "The right outfit, on the other hand, makes me feel beautiful, sexy, empowered."

The actor counts a well-fitted white shirt, well-fitted jeans and a versatile black dress among her wardrobe essentials. "A nice bag, black heels, a statement necklace and some dainty earrings are key pieces that I frequently use to complete my outfits. I also find a long black skirt to be crucial because it can be styled in various ways for both formal and informal occasions," she ends.



OUTFIT: AMAARE

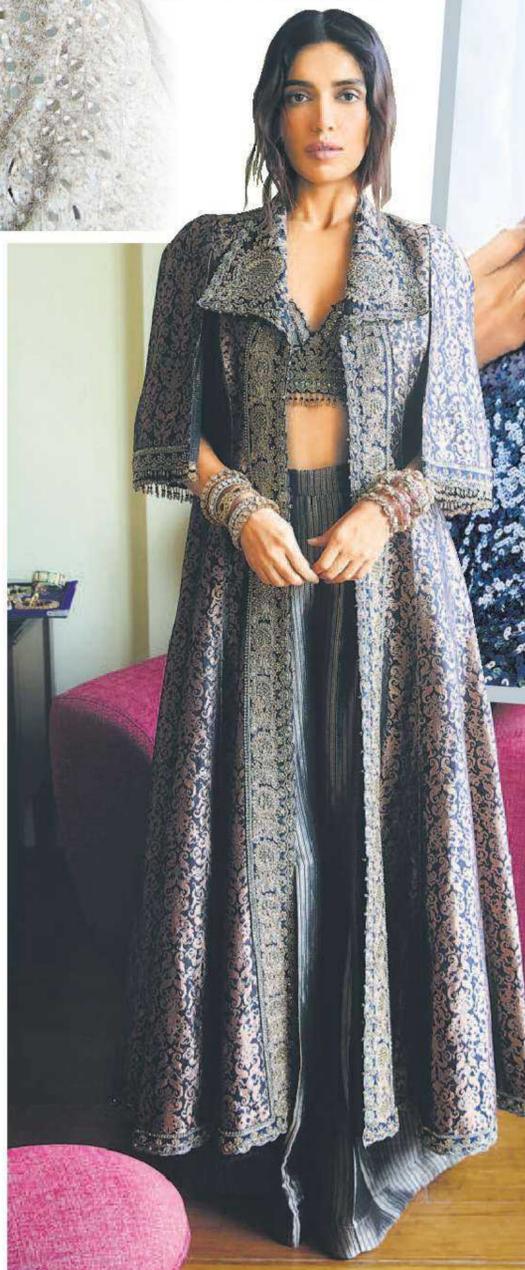
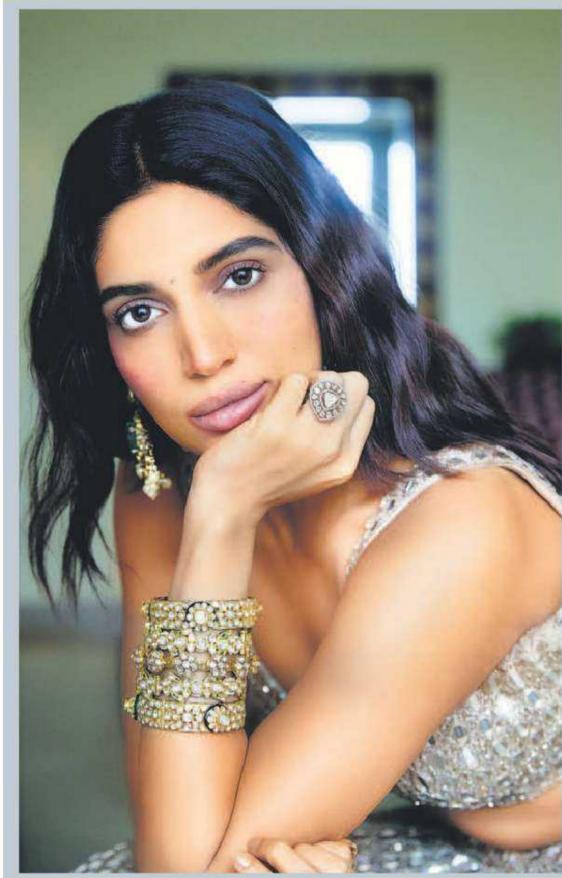
This cape tunic set in georgette, featuring hand-embroidered glass bead and sequin embroidery from Amaare, has the actor looking pretty as picture.



OUTFIT: AFEW BY RAHUL MISHRA  
JEWELLERY: ISVARI

Bhumi cements her fashion credentials in a shimmering silver bralette paired with sequinned pants and white shirt from AFEW by Rahul Mishra. Featuring floral embellishments and silver sequins, the shirt is ideal for a cocktail function. The look has been amped up with a statement necklace from Ishvari consisting of 350-carat tanzanites and 40-carat diamonds studded with white gold. Rahul Mishra is participating in FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend that concludes today.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER: SHARA ASHRAF PRAYAG  
FASHION CURATOR: SAMEER KATARIYA  
STYLIST: ANSHIKA VERMA  
STYLING ASSISTANT: TANISHA BHATIA  
PHOTOS: AJAY KADAM  
MAKEUP: NICKY RAJAANI  
HAIR: SANKY EVRUS  
ACCESSORIES: MAYA SANGHVI JEWELS AND RAZWADA  
PRODUCTION: SHWETA SUNNY, AKASH BHATNAGAR, ZAHERA KAYANAT AND YASHASVI PANDEY  
LOCATION: THE LAIT MUMBAI



OUTFIT: TARUN TAHILIANI  
JEWELLERY: SHREEJEE JEWELS

Bhumi looks majestic in a brocade jacket featuring marori embroidery work, paired with flared trousers and an embroidered bustier from Tarun Tahiliani. A statement tourmaline and polki gajra, teamed with polki bangles from Shreejee Jewels, elevates the look. The brands are participating in FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend that concludes today.