

THE FAMILY MAN GETS GOING



The cast of the spy action thriller series *The Family Man* — Sharib Hashmi, Dalip Tahil, and Shreya Dhanwanthary have offered fans an exciting glimpse behind the scenes of the upcoming season, recently being filmed in the picturesque landscapes of Nagaland.

Tribune Life Style



All set for IIFA

Nora Fatehi will be seen setting the stage on fire with her performance at the 24th edition of International Indian Film Academy Awards. Nora said that she cannot wait to bring her A-game forward.

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ONE-TO-ONE

For the sake of LOVE

Bhaweeka Chaudhary, who is seen in the show *Badall Pe Paon Hai*, talks about her role and camaraderie among actors on the set



How do you see Lavanya's character evolving in the upcoming episodes?

My character, Lavanya, is a strong, ambitious and independent girl who only feels weak when it comes to her relationship with Rajat. She has only one motive, which is to get back the love of her life, Rajat, and she will do whatever it takes to achieve that. Since Rajat got married, she has become completely helpless, and her only goal is to revive her earlier bond with him.

Is Lavanya the antagonist in the story?

Lavanya doesn't come across as a villain, but rather as a character deeply affected by a big mistake that she made by leaving Rajat in the past. Her actions are driven by a strong emotional connection with him and a desire to correct the past, even if that means challenging Rajat's current relationship with Bani. Lavanya's character seems to be motivated by genuine feelings and a longing to make things right, rather than malicious intent. Despite her strength and independence, her desire for Rajat highlights her emotional vulnerability.

What are some of the challenges you've faced while playing the character?

I wouldn't say challenge as such, but every character has its ups and downs, and drawing from those experiences provides motivation. Plus, I have observed how other actors have portrayed their grey characters in the past and taken notes from their approach, which has helped me shape and enhance my portrayal of Lavanya. As an actor, it's important to build and evolve your character, and I've focused on that aspect.

What's it like working with Amandeep Sidhu and Akash Ahuja?

Working with Amandeep in this show on Sony SAB is a lot of fun. Initially, I was curious about how things would go, but after getting to know her, I found that she has the same vibe as me. We get along well on sets, often chilling together and chatting about various topics. It's great to have that kind of camaraderie. As for working with Akash, it's been a positive experience overall. Akash is a bit reserved and requires his own space, but we've developed a good rapport. Both Amandeep and Akash are great people and talented actors.

What has been your most memorable moment on the sets?

The most memorable moments on the sets are when all the actors gather for meals. This time is always special as we chat, gossip, and enjoy each other's company. It feels like having a family on sets, especially for those who miss home-cooked meals. Everyone shares their lunch boxes, and this unity enhances our bond.

Her belief

Society and television content are interdependent, believes actress Celesti Bairagey, who is known for her show *Rajjo* and Amazon Mini TV series *Amber Girls School*. "Both shape each other in ways we often don't realise. Television taps into the pulse of society — its dreams, fears, and contradictions — but it also feeds back into the culture, influencing how we think, dress, and even speak. Ever noticed how a catchphrase from a show suddenly becomes a part of everyone's vocabulary? It's like we're living in this never-ending loop where life inspires art, and art comes

Both society and TV shape each other, says Celesti Bairagey

back and shapes life. It's a fascinating cycle," she says. Ask her if she agrees that daily soaps resonate with the values and beliefs of society, and she says, "Daily soaps are like comfort food. We might not admit it, but they're secretly our guilty pleasures! They tap into universal emotions — love, heartbreak, ambition, betrayal. No matter how over-the-top they seem, at their core, they're showing us parts of ourselves."



Make way for Love, Sitara

The trailer of upcoming original film *Love, Sitara* has been dropped on ZEE5. This slice-of-life family drama with a lot of heart promises to peel back the layers of a seemingly perfect family, exposing the raw, messy truths that lie beneath. Produced by Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP Movies and directed by Vandana Kataria, *Love, Sitara* will premiere on September 27.

Sitara's trailer teases a powerful blend of an emotional yet entertaining family saga on love, acceptance and forgiveness, set against Kerala's lush landscape. *Love, Sitara* explores the complexities of modern relationships, the weight of family expectations, and the courage needed to face uncomfortable truths. As tensions escalate and secrets surface, viewers are left questioning whether love truly can overcome all obstacles or are some wounds too deep to heal?

The cast of the film includes the talented Sobhita Dhulipala, Sonali Kulkarni, B Jayashree, Virginia Rodrigues, Sanjay Bhutiani, Tamara D'Souza and Rijul Ray, among others.



Playing a pilot

Star Plus is all set to entertain the audience with a new show titled *Iss Ishq Ka Rabb Rakha*, starring Fahmaan Khan, who will be seen portraying the character of Ranbir, while Sonakshi Batra will be essaying the character of Meghla. Meghla hails from Bengal, whereas Ranbir is from Punjabi background.

Fahmaan Khan gears up for the show *Iss Ishq Ka Rabb Rakha*

Fahmaan says, "As the title suggests, the show is about love and how two families come together, how two cultures come together. I am very excited and elated to be a part of the show. I am portraying the character of Ranbir, a pilot. I did in-depth research to gain a more authentic understanding of how aircraft are operated in order to make my role more realistic. It has been a challenge yet captivating experience to portray the character of a Punjabi. It comes with its own quirks and qualities. It's a challenge, and I am always excited to venture into some exciting. One takeaway would be that with every new project you have to commence fresh; it's like playing cricket, no matter how many runs you make in the previous innings, you have to start from a scratch."



Entry mode

Ekta Tiwari, who is set to play the role of Flower in the show *Gudiya Rani* on Dangal TV, says she is excited about her entry. "Flower's entry is yet to be shown, which means the audience is still in for a surprise. However, the love and support I've been receiving through pro-

Ekta Tiwari to join the show *Gudiya Rani*

motions and media coverage have been overwhelming. I want to thank casting director Ashutosh Rai and writer Bhavna Vyas for their beautiful vision. The channel and production team have given high praise to Flower's character even before her entry, which means as the colourful antagonist, Flower has already booked a special place in the hearts of the audience."

Aman Sharma loves his stint in the show *Suman Indori*

Aman Sharma, who plays the role of Gururaj Mittal in Prateek Sharma and Parth Shah's show *Suman Indori*, streaming on JioCinema, says he is deeply inspired by his character.

"Gururaj Mittal is a character that is very calm, polite and keep himself engaged with school students. Although he is part of the family and the eldest son of Chandrakant Mittal, he is not at all interested in daily home fights and other materialistic things. He is a good husband and father, and always prays for a better life for his entire family. The character is quite close to my personality, as I'm spiritual too. But Gururaj is very calm and I lose patience often," he says.

Talking about working with Studio LSD and Prateek Sharma, he says, "I'm really enjoying working with them." The actor adds that it is important to choose roles that help you come out of your comfort zone. "I believe, comfort zone makes you lazy, and create a barrier or hurdle for your success. If anyone wants to fly high, then one should go out of their comfort zone," he says.

Deeply inspired



The drama is in the details

Anubhav Sinha, whose web series *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack* ran into controversies, says though he has a point of view on geopolitics, he prefers to remain neutral on this hijack drama

NONIKA SINGH

Each time he picks up the directorial baton, he takes us to the world hitherto not seen before on silver screen. Even though acclaimed director Anubhav Sinha picks up stories very much from the milieu around him and us, but gives it a new spin each time. So, *Thappad* becomes a stinging slap on the face of patriarchy, *Mulk* a sharp anatomy of what nationalism stands for from the perspective of minority community and *Article 15* a scathing look at the glaring social inequality and discrimination.

With his latest series *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, he may have stirred a hornet's nest and naysayers may have picked up unwanted cudgels. But the tribe of those who loved his recreation of the longest hijack in Indian aviation history is no less vocal, or enthusiastic. Anyway the gifted director feels that with the Netflix series he was not really flowing against the current so much. Rather, he avers, "This is the first time, I am not blaming anyone." He adds, "Indeed, the moment when the plane landed in Amritsar, the situation could have been handled differently by the authorities. But who knows what disastrous consequences it would have entailed."

Even otherwise he feels that we tend to view war and aggression especially in our cinema as "an act of bravado, while it's many things and fail to see the collateral damage that comes along with it." Interestingly, when the series written by Adrian Levy and Trishant Srivastava came to him, his first thoughts were— what was happening outside while these passengers were being held captive? Thus many facets of the hijack drama fleshed out.

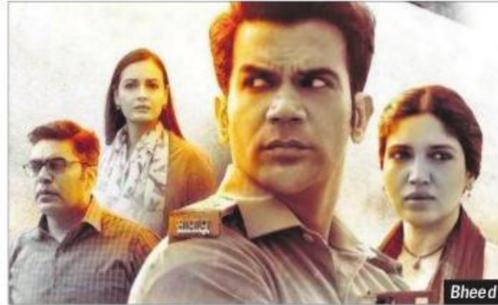
The challenge of making the series steeped in factual reality lies in not only sticking to facts but equally importantly the VFX effects. Today, he is tickled pink that no one is talking about it which means it blended so well with the narrative. On his initial reaction of refusal to direct *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, well, it had nothing to do with the politics or lack of it. He says, "I am happy making films. Unlike movies where I can control the experience of viewers, on streaming platforms I am not so sure



IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack



Thappad



Bheed



Article 15



Mulk

about how to make people watch the way I have designed it. People may not like what you have created for they could be watching on their small mobile phone screens or their speakers are not good enough."

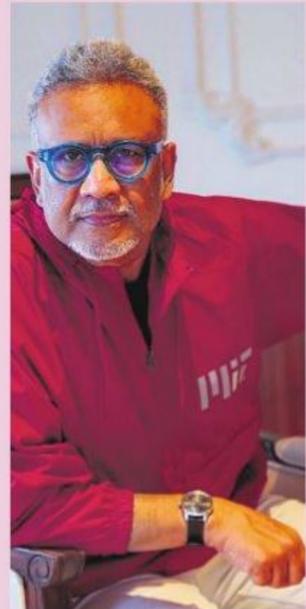
No, he doesn't think the audience for OTT is any different from cinema, only the attitude is. He says, "While in cinema halls you have the unwavering attention of viewers, on OTT they could be distracted by what'sapp status or messages or they can just go into the kitchen to make a cup of tea." Yet, as he is receiving nearly 20 calls every day on how people have binge-watched the six episode series, he has realised that his misgivings on the power of storytelling on OTT were perhaps misplaced. And, our doubts on how he managed to hold together such a stellar cast sans ego clashes are belied too. Every sin-

gle actor in the series, be it Naseeruddin Shah, Pankaj Kapur, Arvind Swami, Vijay Varma or Yashpal Sharma is a name to reckon with. On the casting coup, he reveals, "There was no desire for one-upmanship among actors. It was the first time I saw actors working like one unit."

Manoj Pahwa, seemingly his favourite, who once again got a meaty part in the series after *Mulk*, is special, but it's not like, "we hang out together." In an otherwise serious series, Sinha gave Pahwa a few tongue-in-cheek one-liners for he believes, "Audiences' appetite for humour is boundless." While it is for others to comment on his inclination towards hard-hitting subjects, the *Bheed* director says, "I guess I have a point of view on society, on economy, on geopolitics. Often this could be at variance with others and whenever you have a

contrarian point of view you are questioned." Indeed, he has no problem with people asking questions as long as these are legitimate and relevant and not a question mark in themselves.

On questions of his next being a superhero film, he reveals he is writing one. Since all his heroes have a super-heroic quality in a relatable sort of a way, he says, "My superhero would be like any other of similar genre." He nods in the affirmative that we could be inching close to creating our own universe on the lines of MCU, he is not sure whether his Shah Rukh Khan's *Ra.One* would have worked better today. He quips, "Who can say, such thoughts are a little pretentious." And, Sinha judging by his cinema wears no blinkers, only a sharp lens that makes us relook and reanalyze the world we inhabit.



"We tend to view war and aggression, especially in our cinema, as an act of bravado. We fail to see the collateral damage that comes along with it."

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Mysticism, emotion and innocence combine in the works of artist Aradhana Tandon, whose paintings are themed around women and structured buildings

When dreams take flight

SHEETAL

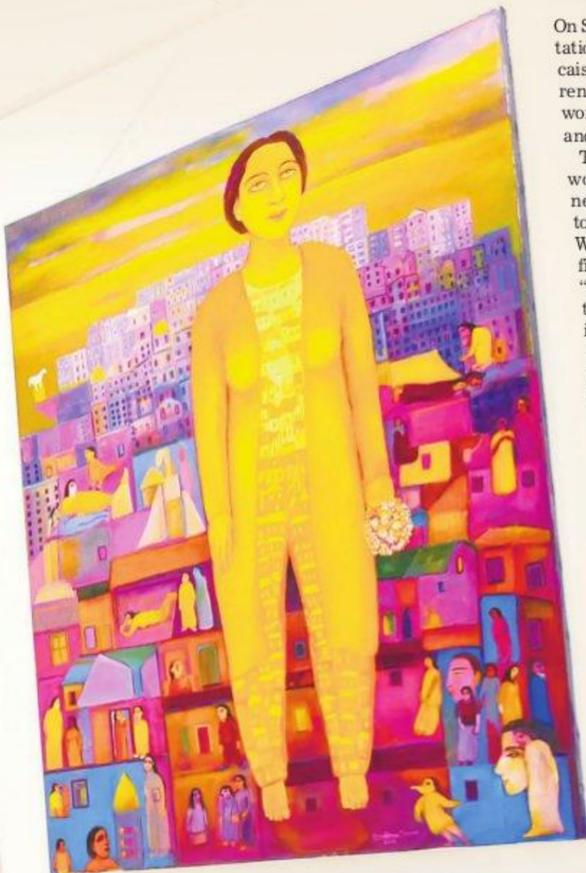
On Saturday evening, an audio-visual presentation, *Shades of Life*, held at Alliance Francaise, Chandigarh, showcased paintings by renowned artist Aradhana Tandon, whose works demonstrate great strength, emotion and innocence.

Tandon's art presents the strength of women as the most authentic and prominent metaphor of nature, due to her ability to produce, nurture and contribute values. Women and structured buildings often find their way in Tandon's work. She says, "It's true that many who witness my work think of women as being a theme, but my intentions have always been to depict humans of all kinds. As for the structured buildings, they are also a presentation of my inner thoughts and dreams that come in many shapes, sizes and colour."

Tandon's imagination takes off from her own source of artistic creativity that rises from her subconscious mind. Her work is creative expression of an intelligent soul, which can trigger some of the most challenging thoughts.

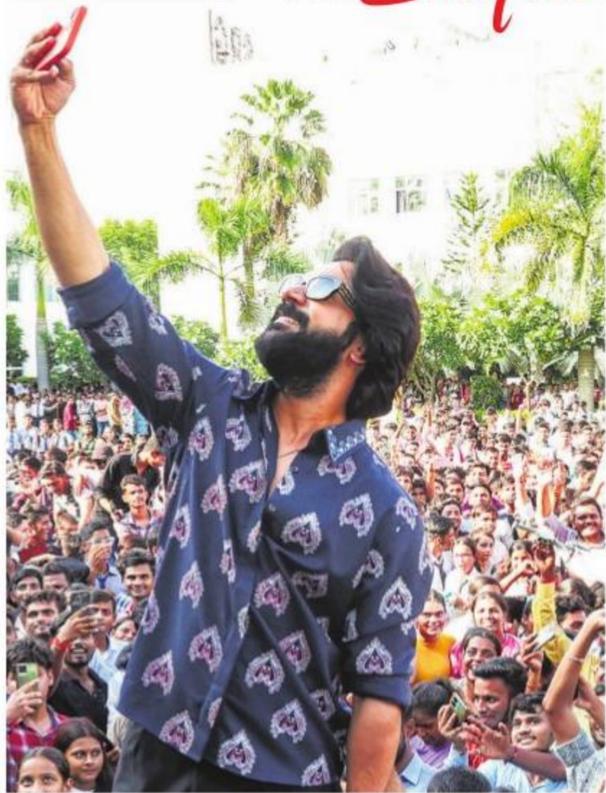
While the event was mainly an audio-visual presentation organised by MN Sharma Architectural Society, Tandon displayed a few of her works in the art gallery for people to appreciate her 33-year-long career.

There's also hint of mysticism in her works. Her ability to fuse one figurine into another and bring alive animals, birds or trees is remarkable. Even the choice of colours is unique. For her journey, Tandon specifically thanked renowned artist Prem Singh, who also served as the formal principal of Government College of Art, Chandigarh. "Under his tutelage, I was able to develop many skills. I also thank Diwan Manna for encouraging me to be out here with my works." Apart from drawing inspiration from Chandigarh's architecture, which she has seen and very much been a part of, she has painted other locations as well, such as Cappadocia in Turkiye.



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PRADEEP TEWARI



Rao on the go

Finally, the makers of *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* unveiled the romantic song *Tum Jo Mile Ho* starring RajKummar Rao and Triptii Dimri on Thursday. After teasing fans with a teaser of the song, RajKummar dropped the full song video on his Instagram handle.

Titled *Tum Jo Mile Ho*, the song is composed by Sachin-Jigar and sung by Vishal Mishra along with the duo. The lyrics are beautifully penned by Priya Saraiya. Giving 90s vibe, the video shows the romantic chemistry between Rajkummar and Triptii.

Sharing the video, he wrote, "90s ka wahi andaaz, lagega aur bhi khaas, aapke apne Vicky Vidya ke saath! #TumJoMileHo song out now! #VickyVideoKaWohWalaVideo in cinemas on 11th October."

A few days ago, the makers also released the film's trailer, which offers a sneak peek into the hilarious journey of Vicky (RajKummar) and Vidya (Triptii), as they, along with their family, go all out to recover their missing suhagraat CD in the scenic town of Rishikesh. With help from Mallika Sherawat and the rest of the family, the couple leaves no stone unturned, from appealing to the police and family elders to even venturing into graveyards at night.

Helmed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* promises a "perfect blend of laughter and drama, immersing viewers in the charm and energy of the swinging 90s. RajKummar and Triptii Dimri-starrer *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* is all set to clash with Alia Bhatt's *Jigra*. Both films are releasing on October 11.

Talking about RajKummar's other projects, the actor will be next seen in *Maalik*. — ANI



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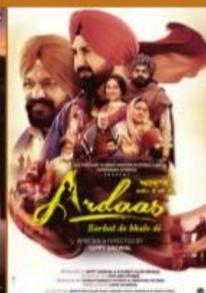
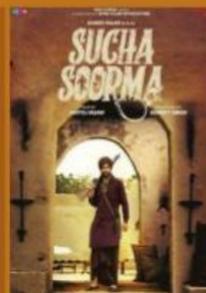


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