

From Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas throwing a bash in London to Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani sharing an adorable selfie to wish their fans, stars truly embraced the festive spirit. Here's a look

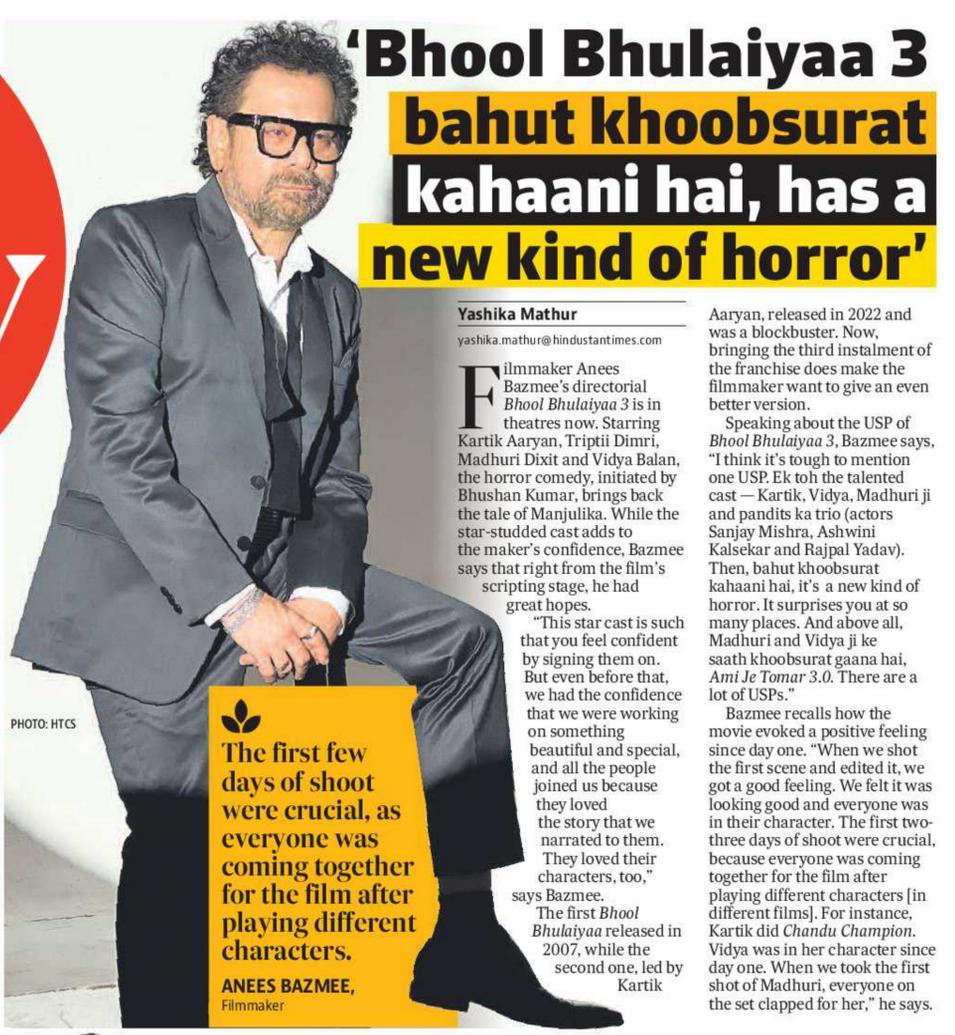


Ayushmann Khurrana with his wife, writer and director Tahira Kashyap Khurrana
PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

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ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK



'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 bahut khoobsurat kahaani hai, has a new kind of horror'

Yashika Mathur
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Filmmaker Anees Bazmee's directorial *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* is in theatres now. Starring Kartik Aaryan, Triptii Dimri, Madhuri Dixit and Vidya Balan, the horror comedy, initiated by Bhushan Kumar, brings back the tale of Manjulika. While the star-studded cast adds to the maker's confidence, Bazmee says that right from the film's scripting stage, he had great hopes.

"This star cast is such that you feel confident by signing them on. But even before that, we had the confidence that we were working on something beautiful and special, and all the people joined us because they loved the story that we narrated to them. They loved their characters, too," says Bazmee.

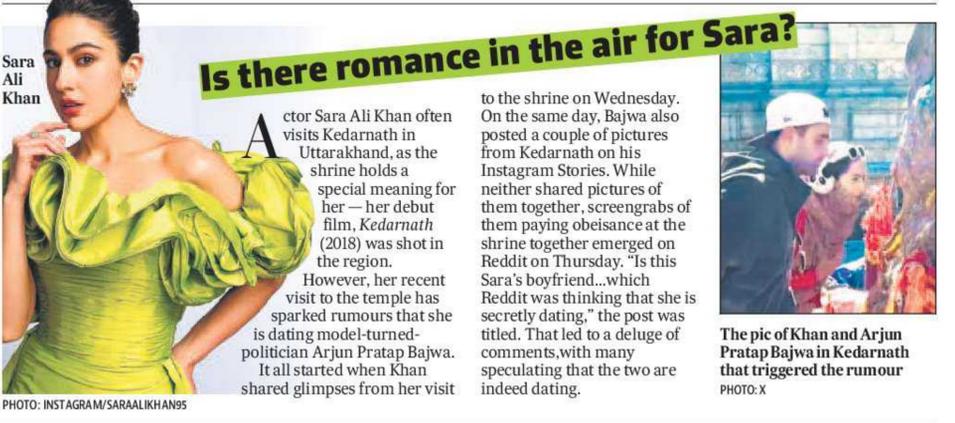
The first *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* released in 2007, while the second one, led by Kartik

Aaryan, released in 2022 and was a blockbuster. Now, bringing the third instalment of the franchise does make the filmmaker want to give an even better version.

Speaking about the USP of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, Bazmee says, "I think it's tough to mention one USP. Ek toh the talented cast — Kartik, Vidya, Madhuri ji and pandits ka trio (actors Sanjay Mishra, Ashwini Kalsekar and Rajpal Yadav). Then, bahut khoobsurat kahaani hai, it's a new kind of horror. It surprises you at so many places. And above all, Madhuri and Vidya ji ke saath khoobsurat gaana hai, *Ami Je Tomar 3.0*. There are a lot of USPs."

Bazmee recalls how the movie evoked a positive feeling since day one. "When we shot the first scene and edited it, we got a good feeling. We felt it was looking good and everyone was in their character. The first two-three days of shoot were crucial, because everyone was coming together for the film after playing different characters [in different films]. For instance, Kartik did *Chandu Champion*. Vidya was in her character since day one. When we took the first shot of Madhuri, everyone on the set clapped for her," he says.

The first few days of shoot were crucial, as everyone was coming together for the film after playing different characters.
ANEES BAZMEE,
Filmmaker



Is there romance in the air for Sara?

Actor Sara Ali Khan often visits Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, as the shrine holds a special meaning for her — her debut film, *Kedarnath* (2018) was shot in the region.

However, her recent visit to the temple has sparked rumours that she is dating model-turned-politician Arjun Pratap Bajwa. It all started when Khan shared glimpses from her visit

to the shrine on Wednesday. On the same day, Bajwa also posted a couple of pictures from Kedarnath on his Instagram Stories. While neither shared pictures of them together, screenshots of them paying obeisance at the shrine together emerged on Reddit on Thursday. "Is this Sara's boyfriend... which Reddit was thinking that she is secretly dating," the post was titled. That led to a deluge of comments, with many speculating that the two are indeed dating.



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Manisha Koirala: Cancer is no longer a death sentence



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/M.KOIRALA

Akash Bhatnagar
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A survivor of stage IV ovarian cancer, actor Manisha Koirala recently received a letter from the Princess of Wales, Kate Middleton, where she expressed her joy at learning that Koirala is cancer free after such a serious diagnosis and has been able to continue her professional and charitable work while inspiring many.

Ask Koirala about the letter and she says, "It gives one the strength to go on. When I was undergoing treatment, it meant a lot when other cancer patients reached out and gave me hope. I really thank (cricketer) Yuvraj Singh, (actor) Lisa Ray and a few others who came out of cancer and spoke about it. Now, it's my time to do the same."

Middleton, who underwent preventative chemotherapy this year, is now cancer free. The actor, who works towards cancer care in India and Nepal, adds, "To be recognised by such an esteemed person like the Princess is a motivation to carry on with my work."

Talking about what is required for better cancer care, Koirala says, "Cancer treatments are expensive. So, it's important to make it available for everyone. We also need more awareness about a healthy lifestyle. Cancer is no longer a death sentence, so more education is needed."

Calling cancer her "biggest teacher", Koirala adds, "No matter how painful, it taught me the most valuable lessons. It's about being proactive, pro solution, living in the moment and figuring out what gives you joy."

When I was undergoing treatment, it meant a lot when other cancer patients reached out and gave me hope... Now, it's my time to do the same.

MANISHA KOIRALA, Actor



Kate Middleton
PHOTO: KIN CHEUNG/REUTERS

NO RATING MOVIE REVIEW

The second half of this Ajay Devgn actioner alone is worth the price of the ticket

SINGHAM AGAIN

Cast: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Arjun Kapoor, Tiger Shroff
Direction: Rohit Shetty

The third part in the *Singham* franchise relies heavily on the epic Ramayana to give the run-of-the-mill masala potboiler an update. In the new instalment, we follow Bajirao Singham (Ajay Devgn) as his wife Avni (Kareena Kapoor Khan) is kidnapped. But he can't save her alone, so he gets friends on board. A common complaint with a lot of films is that while the first halves are always good, the dip comes in the second one. Here, it's the opposite. While six people have been credited for the screenplay, the first half is simply chaotic. It's true, too many cooks to spoil the broth.

Shetty has a good concept in hand, but then he decides to take



the entire first half just to establish 'look it's Ramayana'. What also doesn't help is that we know what's going to happen next, as is the template of masala films. The 'India ghuske maarta hai dushmanon ko' is a narrative that's added to make the film appear in sync with real life, but it creates a disconnect with the viewers.

The intermission comes, rather quickly. It can only go downhill from here, right? But the second half begins, and it's a completely different film. The one-liners, the in-jokes, and just seeing a smattering of stars, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar and Devgn in one frame is worth the price of admission.

man has still got it. When he handles a gun, you know he means business. Padukone, much like the trailer, just isn't able to convince us that she is a whacky cop. Shroff is passable. And Singh, he plays a well-written role. His presence adds the much-needed energy to *Singham Again*. Be it him telling Khan that someone's wife is always getting into trouble in the CopVerse — I wasn't expecting a Shetty film to go meta!

Arjun Kapoor as Danger Lanka isn't able to evoke terror as the antagonist. Behaving someone on screen isn't enough to showcase invincibility. For someone as maniacal as Danger Lanka, the unhinged attitude is nowhere to be found here. Overall, *Singham Again* delivers in parts. You can watch it for the second half.

Rishabh Suri

Amit Trivedi: Both film and indie music are important to me

Soumya Vajpayee

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Having released a variety of singles on his independent music channel, AT Azaad, composer Amit Trivedi has now come up with an album, *Azaad Collab*. "Diwali celebrations are usually low-key for me, but this year, it's extra special as I am excited about gifting this new offering to music lovers," says Trivedi, adding that he is in the best phase of his music career, "living a dream", as he is getting to strike a balance between film and non-film projects.

"As a musician, my vision has always been to keep the creative juices flowing and create the best music with full freedom. I enjoy working on my independent projects, as there are no boundaries.

Having said that, Bollywood music has its own space and charm. I enjoy doing that, too," says the musician, who is loving the fact that the singers he records with for film projects have worked with him on *Azaad Collab*. Talking about his vision, he adds, "For films, we collaborate with singers for playback. This project aims to bring them to the fore, making them 'play front'. So, besides singing the numbers, they feature in the music videos, too."

Trivedi, who will be performing at NH7 Weekender next month, says while indie music gives him creative satisfaction, he is "grateful to Bollywood music". "Both film and indie music are important to me. I can't choose one. I am forever grateful for the Hindi film industry for giving me such amazing projects," he ends.

Amit Trivedi; (below) with singers Jubin Nautiyal and Hansika Pareek in *Rangeeni*



PHOTOS: HTBS

ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK

From spending quality time with friends and family members to dressing up in ethnic wear, here's a dekko at what Bollywood celebs did on the festival of lights

A NIGHT OF LIGHTS & STARS



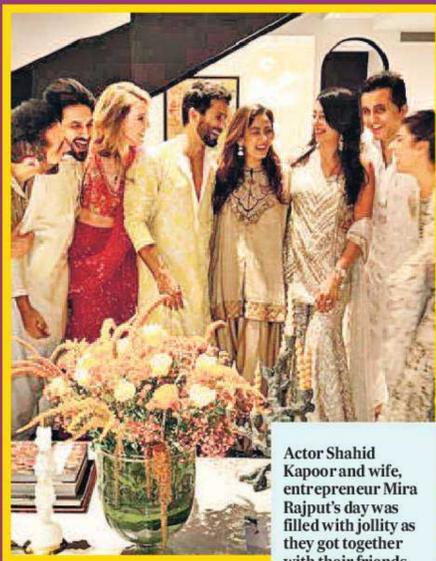
Actor Ananya Panday had a sweet Diwali, savouring her favourite ladoos and getting clicked with cousin Alanna Panday's son, River



Actor Jr NTR's Diwali was all about family time as he celebrated the day with wife Lakshmi Pranathi as well as sons Abhay and Bhargav



Actor Raveena Tandon and daughter Rasha Thadani looked the part in festive wear



Actor Shahid Kapoor and wife, entrepreneur Mira Rajput's day was filled with jollity as they got together with their friends



Actor Bhumi Pednekar took to Instagram to share a selfie after finishing Diwali puja with her family



(L-R) Actors Divya Dutta, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Konkana Sensharma, Richa Chadha, Shakya, Tanvi Azmi, Shahana Goswami and Dia Mirza gathered to celebrate Diwali.



The Deols celebrated Diwali in a grand fashion by hosting a party. Actor Sunny Deol (second from left), struck a pose with his sons Karan (left), Rajveer (second from right) as well as actor Bobby and his son Arjuna Deol (right)



Fashion designer Masaba Gupta posed with her better-half, actor Satyadeep Mishra, her mother, actor Neena Gupta and the latter's husband, Vivek Mehra. It was Masaba and Satyadeep's first Diwali after welcoming their daughter in October

ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK



American reality TV star Kim Kardashian, a self-proclaimed "chameleon", transformed into an albino alligator

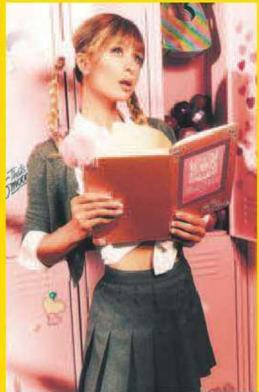
MONSTER MASH FT CELEBS

From Heidi Klum's ET-inspired costume to Sabrina Carpenter's fairy charm, here's a round-up of some of the best Halloween looks of the year



Actor-singer Sabrina Carpenter dressed up as Tinker Bell in a green dress, complete with delicate wings

Actor-singer Selena Gomez and her boyfriend, record producer-songwriter Benny Blanco dressed up as Alice and Mad Hatter from Lewis Carroll's famous Alice in Wonderland



Businesswoman Paris Hilton channelled popsinger Britney Spears' iconic schoolgirl look from the hit-classic...Baby One More Time music video



Singer Ed Sheeran gave a nod to the AI-generated monkey meme version of himself by opting for the same look
PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

Model and businesswoman Heidi Klum, who is known for her eccentric costumes, transformed into the beloved character from Steven Spielberg's ET (1982). Her husband, guitarist Tom Kaulitz joined her as Elliott



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OTTplay recommends top 5 list

Best cop films to watch this week

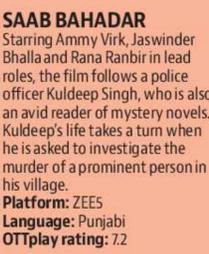


THALAVAN
Starring Asif Ali and Biju Menon in lead roles, Thalavan follows the conflict between two police officers named C Jayashankar and SI Karthik. But when Jayashankar is accused of murder, Karthik is tasked with looking into the case in the interim.
Platform: Sony Liv
Language: Malayalam
OTTplay rating: 7.4

WANTED
Salman Khan plays an undercover police officer in this Prabhu Deva directorial. The film is a remake of the 2006 Telugu movie, Pokiri, which starred actor Mahesh Babu. The cast of the Hindi version also features actors Ayesha Takia, Prakash Raj, Mahesh Chahal, among others.
Platform: ZEE5
Language: Hindi
OTTplay rating: 6.3



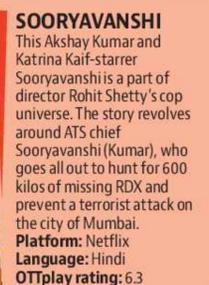
SAAB BAHADAR
Starring Ammy Virk, Jaswinder Bhalla and Rana Ranbir in lead roles, the film follows a police officer Kuldeep Singh, who is also an avid reader of mystery novels. Kuldeep's life takes a turn when he is asked to investigate the murder of a prominent person in his village.
Platform: ZEE5
Language: Punjabi
OTTplay rating: 7.2



DWITIYO PURUSH
Directed by Srijit Mukherjee, this film stars Parambrata Chatterjee, Raima Sen and Anirban Bhattacharya. A spin-off sequel to the 2011 crime thriller, Baishhe Srabon. The story revolves around a police inspector who probes a series of murders that resemble the crimes of a serial from 25 years ago.
Platform: Hoichoi
Language: Bengali
OTTplay rating: 6



SOORYAVANSHI
This Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif-starrer Sooryavanshi is a part of director Rohit Shetty's cop universe. The story revolves around ATS chief Sooryavanshi (Kumar), who goes all out to hunt for 600 kilos of missing RDX and prevent a terrorist attack on the city of Mumbai.
Platform: Netflix
Language: Hindi
OTTplay rating: 6.3

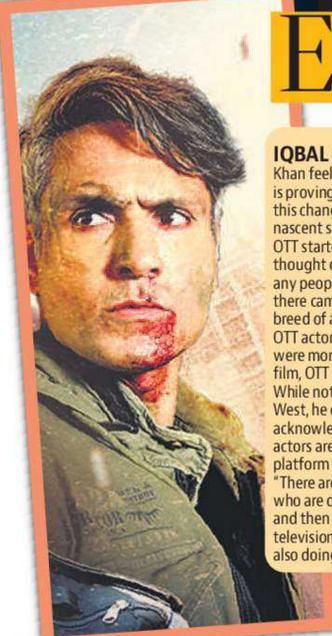


With OTT blurring the lines, actors give their take on whether the 'television' label still poses a hindrance for artistes who want to explore projects on different mediums

KARAN TACKER
Tacker, who has done shows like Khakee: The Bihar Chapter and Special Ops on OTT, feels the medium is a "great leveller or an equalizer for an artiste who wants to perform and do work that is more immersive." However, he adds, "The tag of a television actor is a perception that [comes] more from the media and fraternity than the platform itself. Both my OTT shows have been successful, but I've always been written as a television actor doing something on OTT. Making it an equal battlefield is more of a responsibility for the media, than the platform."



OTT, THE EQUALISER!



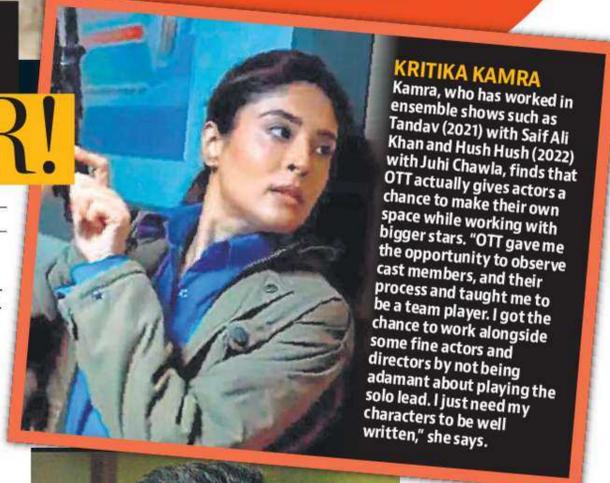
IQBAL KHAN
Khan feels that while OTT is proving to be a leveller, this change is still in the nascent stages. "When OTT started, there was this thought of, 'Let's not cast any people from TV. Then there came a different breed of actors known as OTT actors; then there were more categories — film, OTT and TV actors.' While not on par with the West, he does acknowledge that more actors are working cross-platform than ever before. "There are big film stars who are doing OTT stuff and then there are television actors who are also doing OTT," he shares.

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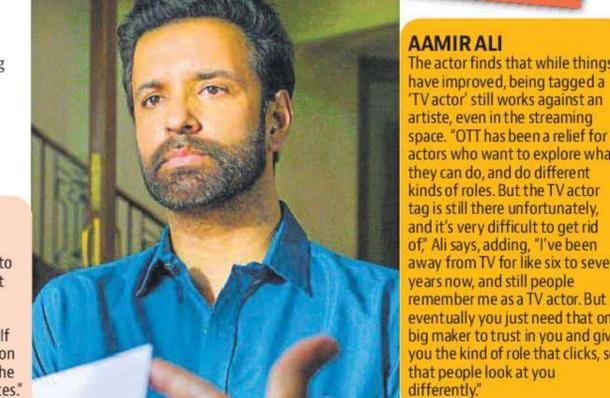
In the West, actors migrate from one platform to the other, without any tags or labels. A celebrated, Oscar-winning actor such as Meryl Streep was seen in shows like *Big Little Lies* and more recently, the latest season of *Only Murders In The Building*. Back home, actors such as Gurmeet Choudhary and Surbhi Chandna, who started out in television, recently made their OTT debuts in the thriller series *Commander Karan Saxena* and *Rakshak - India's Bravest: Chapter 2* respectively. While actor Sanjeeda Shaikh appeared in *Heeramandi*, Shaheer Sheikh became the latest entrant to make his OTT film debut with *Do Patti*. With a growing acceptance of diverse roles across mediums, the industry is witnessing a surge of talent transitioning from TV to OTT platforms. We delve into the experiences of leading TV actors who have successfully navigated this shift.



SUMEET VYAS
The actor believes that the amalgamation of mediums came from the audience's need for change. "If the audience wants to watch something predictable, they can watch TV or films. But when they watch a show on OTT, they are coming with the expectation to see something fresh and unique," he explains. Vyas continues, "So, even with actors, they welcome change. If an actor has acted on TV, but they are trying something new on OTT, audiences generally appreciate it. OTT has encouraged the audience to experiment with content, actors and performances."



KRITIKA KAMRA
Kamra, who has worked in ensemble shows such as *Tandav* (2021) with Saif Ali Khan and *Hush Hush* (2022) with Juhi Chawla, finds that OTT actually gives actors a chance to make their own space while working with bigger stars. "OTT gave me the opportunity to observe cast members, and their process and taught me to be a team player. I got the chance to work alongside some fine actors and directors by not being adamant about playing the solo lead. I just need my characters to be well written," she says.



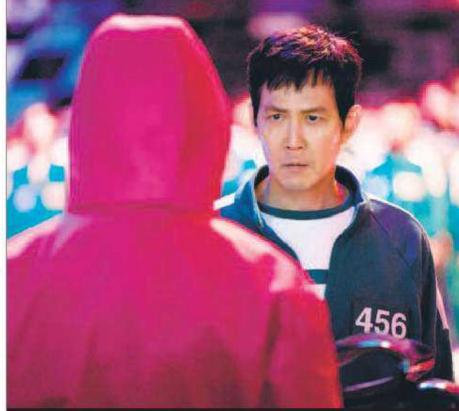
AAMIR ALI
The actor finds that while things have improved, being tagged a 'TV actor' still works against an artiste, even in the streaming space. "OTT has been a relief for actors who want to explore what they can do, and do different kinds of roles. But the TV actor tag is still there unfortunately, and it's very difficult to get rid of," Ali says, adding, "I've been away from TV for like six to seven years now, and still people remember me as a TV actor. But eventually you just need that one big maker to trust in you and give you the kind of role that clicks, so that people look at you differently."

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#inbrief

Tovino Thomas' ARM gets OTT release date

Malayalam actor Tovino Thomas' recent blockbuster *Ajayante Randaan Moshanam* (ARM) will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from November 8. Directed by Jithin Laal, it features Thomas in a triple role alongside Krithi Shetty, Surabhi Lakshmi, Aishwarya Rajesh and Basil Joseph.



Let the (Squid) Games begin

The trailer for the second season of the popular Korean show *Squid Game* was released recently. The dystopian survival thriller show will begin streaming on Netflix on December 26. The new season will mark the return of actor Lee Jung-jae's Seong Gi-hun, who is about to participate in the deadly games with a new bunch of contestants.

Grammys find a new home after 50 Years

The annual Grammy Awards, which have been telecast on the American broadcast network CBS since 1973, will be moving to a new home beginning 2027. The ceremony's telecast has been acquired by Disney and the company has said that it will simulcast it across ABC, Hulu and Disney+ as part of a 10-year deal. It will also include a series of music specials produced by The Recording Academy, which backs the global awards. Disney now holds the rights for the Grammys, the Super Bowl and the Oscars in 2027.



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<p>ARIES MAR 21-APR 20</p> <p>Today is a great day to kickstart your fitness journey. Your professional efforts will shine if you're in writing or editing. You'll successfully distance yourself from those who don't support your ideas. LOVE FOCUS: Your romantic relationship is likely to strengthen. LUCKY NUMBER: 18 LUCKY COLOUR: Maroon</p>	<p>LEO JUL 23-AUG 23</p> <p>Your dedication to getting back in shape will pay off, and peace at home will offer you the perfect chance to recharge. Some of you may plan a fun trip with friends. Networking is your answer to seeking better work opportunities. LOVE FOCUS: Enjoy a serene moment with your love partner today. LUCKY NUMBER: 4 LUCKY COLOUR: Grey</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21</p> <p>A permanent solution for an ailment may be opted by some. Moneywise, you will find yourself in a most comfortable situation. Setting out early will make a long journey comfortable. LOVE FOCUS: Lonely hearts get lucky by casting their net wider! LUCKY NUMBER: 5 LUCKY COLOUR: Magenta</p>
<p>TAURUS APR 21-MAY 20</p> <p>Staying active will keep you feeling great. Embrace the joy of a family gathering that promises to be lively and fulfilling. Your ability to foresee potential issues will ensure a smooth trip. LOVE FOCUS: Opening your heart may lead to unexpected connections. LUCKY NUMBER: 1 LUCKY COLOUR: Light Red</p>	<p>VIRGO AUG 24-SEP 23</p> <p>Be cautious with investments, avoiding schemes that seem too good to be true. A journey could bring unexpected benefits. Finding harmony with a close person will be rewarding. LOVE FOCUS: Seek love and warmth on the romantic front today. LUCKY NUMBER: 22 LUCKY COLOUR: Light Blue</p>	<p>CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 21</p> <p>You are likely to remain on sound footing, as far as finances are concerned. A break in routine is indicated as you are forced to cater to others. LOVE FOCUS: You can fall for a person of your dreams, but remember love is a two-way process. LUCKY NUMBER: 3 LUCKY COLOUR: Yellow</p>
<p>GEMINI MAY 21-JUN 21</p> <p>You may cut corners just to strengthen your financial position. Stars favour travel and those out on a vacation are bound to have a great time. LOVE FOCUS: On the romantic side, marital bliss shines bright. LUCKY NUMBER: 9 LUCKY COLOUR: Purple</p>	<p>LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23</p> <p>The family remains most supportive of your ideas. You will manage to remain calm and composed in any situation. LOVE FOCUS: A romantic relationship needs to be tended with care, so take steps to strengthen it. LUCKY NUMBER: 6 LUCKY COLOUR: Dark Green</p>	<p>AQUARIUS JAN 22-FEB 19</p> <p>Self-control will guarantee good health. Those freelancing are likely to earn well today. If you are planning a long journey, expect it to be smooth and comfortable. LOVE FOCUS: Those bored of the daily grind may not get the outlet they seek on the romantic front. LUCKY NUMBER: 1 LUCKY COLOUR: Pink</p>
<p>CANCER JUN 22-JUL 22</p> <p>Strive for a balance between exercise and diet. Your positive energy will create a joyful atmosphere at home. A positive outlook will help you surmount the problems face today. LOVE FOCUS: Those waiting for romance can be in for a long wait! LUCKY NUMBER: 11 LUCKY COLOUR: Cream</p>	<p>SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22</p> <p>It may become difficult to keep expenditures within control. Having a finger in every pie will entail a lot of travelling, but it will be worth the effort. Family tensions can take a toll of your mental health if you let them. LOVE FOCUS: Spending time together with your partner is foreseen. LUCKY NUMBER: 17 LUCKY COLOUR: Saffron</p>	<p>PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20</p> <p>It is wise to avoid any conflicts at home to maintain harmony. Your financial situation looks stable, though you may feel a lack of personal fulfilment. A lucky phase begins, bringing positive changes. LOVE FOCUS: Love will find you when the time is right, so don't rush it! LUCKY NUMBER: 2 LUCKY COLOUR: White</p>

Compiled by Akash Bhatnagar

Entertainment & Promotional Features

Power up your snack game with healthy pistachios

India is a growth market for American pistachios as the country itself does not produce any pistachios. However, more and more Indians are consuming the same, and American pistachios are becoming extremely popular. Traditionally, these nuts were only used for garnishing purposes. But as awareness about their health benefits began to rise, especially their high protein and antioxidant properties, Indians have started consuming American pistachios as a guilt-free anytime snack. Also,

American pistachios are a great ingredient for cooking purposes as well. For more information and a repository of great recipes from chefs across the world, visit: americanpistachios.in American pistachios are now easily available across India. HTC



PHOTOS: HTCS



#gramit

PHOTO: MANISH SWARUP/AP

For health's sake!

Joggers in the city have pulled out their masks to battle the early morning smog. Here's one morning jogger spotted at Kartavya Path near the India Gate. The air quality in Delhi's Anand Vihar was recorded in the 'very poor' category, with an AQI of 385 at 11am on November 1.

#dilse

Hi Pri, I'm back home for my Diwali break. Tried reaching on your mobile since yesterday but haven't connected. Want to catch up?
Suraj

Dear Aryan, Bhai tu kam mere aaya hai... Badha hai but phir bhi dil se badhkar hai.. Waiting to meet u on bhai dooj!
Ur, J

Neeli, tumne toh aasani se keh diya ki jaane do yaaro, par tumne mujhe kaise jane de diya, shame on you!!
Monty

Dear Sakshi, And here comes the day to cherish the marvellous marital bond, a day to recall beautiful years spent together!! You both can't even imagine what you both mean to us... Happy Anniversary!!!
Love, Didi-Jiju-Vanshu

Heyy Apple, To my last letter of the alphabet, in just 1 month, you'll turn old enough to do what you anyways do, but illegally. Hope you enjoy the day away from the pollution ridden city, and live your life to your absolute fullest.
Love, Me

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Celebrate Diwali with prosperity: Invest in KRasa Centrade, Noida

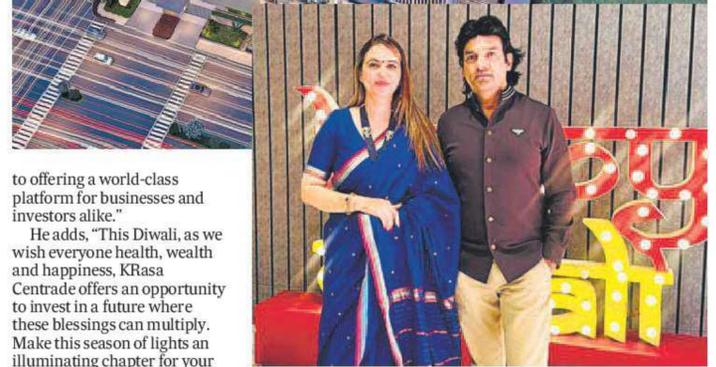
PHOTOS: HTCS

This Diwali season, as we light up our homes and welcome prosperity, KRasa International Pvt Ltd invites you to take a step towards a brighter financial future by investing in KRasa Centrade. Known for its architectural excellence and prime location, KRasa Centrade stands as one of the most promising commercial real estate projects in the region. This festive season, there is no better time to secure an investment that combines quality, reliability and strong growth potential.

Diwali, the festival of lights, is a time to celebrate new beginnings, and for many, it's an opportunity to make smart financial decisions that can bring abundance in the coming years. At KRasa Centrade, investors and businesses can secure premium office spaces and commercial establishments in a thriving environment designed to offer maximum returns. The project's location and state-of-the-art facilities make it an exceptional choice for businesses looking to make a significant impact and investors seeking long-term stability.

Arvind Singh, Managing Director of KRasa International Pvt Ltd, shares his vision for the festive season: "Diwali is not only a time for celebration but also a time for reflection and planning for a prosperous future. This is an ideal time for investors to take advantage of KRasa Centrade's unique value proposition — modern infrastructure, strategic location and promising returns on investment. We are committed

KRasa Centrade, Sector 140, Noida RERA REGN. NO. UPRERAPRJ11099. Website: www.up-rera.in/ RERA REGN. NO. UPRERAPRJ9635



MD of KRasa International Arvind Singh and Joint MD of KRasa International Kajal Singh

to offering a world-class platform for businesses and investors alike."

He adds, "This Diwali, as we wish everyone health, wealth and happiness, KRasa Centrade offers an opportunity to invest in a future where these blessings can multiply. Make this season of lights an illuminating chapter for your financial journey with KRasa Centrade." HTC

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LAKSHADWEEP - 39 AQI

This group of picturesque islands located off the coast of Kerala is ideal for those wanting to be away from the pollution and chaos. Beautiful lagoons, pristine beaches and spectacular coral reefs welcome you here. You can enjoy kayaking and rent a variety of boats, including glass-bottom ones. It's also a haven for water sports enthusiasts.

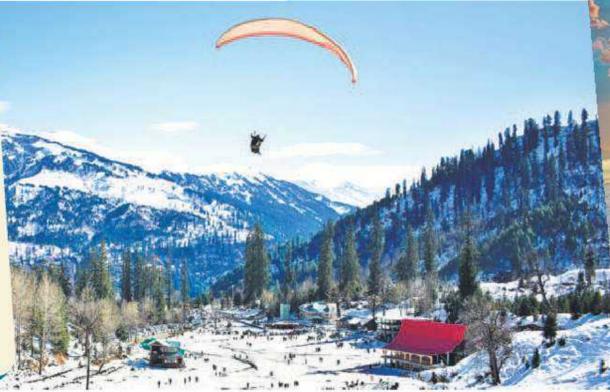


AIR WE GO: AQI-APPROVED ESCAPES

As Delhi's AQI dips into the very poor range, recorded at 385 on Friday morning, residents are escaping to hill stations in search of cleaner air. Here's a pick of six locales that boast of low AQIs this time of the year

MANALI - 31 AQI

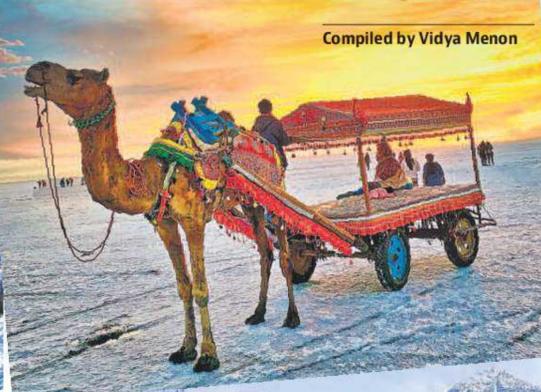
One of the must-visit places in Himachal Pradesh, this township located in the Beas River is a haven for those seeking a serene and picturesque view. Historical temples, glorious waterfalls, and numerous Nature treks will keep you busy here. The Solang Valley, around 13km away from Manali, beckons visitors with stunning picnic spots and ski slopes. You can also visit Rohtang Pass, or enjoying outdoor activities like mountaineering, paragliding, and rafting, among others.



Compiled by Vidya Menon

RANN OF KUTCH - 29 AQI

This vast expanse of salt marshy land in western Gujarat is a wonder of Nature. Apart from checking off tourist hotspots like Kalo Dungar and Narayan Sarovar, you can also shop for authentic Kutch embroidery, tie and dye, leather work, pottery, and bell metal craft items. The best time to visit is from November to March, which is when the famous Rann Utsav is held.



What is AQI?

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a standardised indicator that communicates the quality of air in a specific area, reflecting the potential impact of air pollution on health. It is calculated based on the concentrations of key air pollutants: ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), ammonia (NH3), and lead (Pb). Based on the volume of these pollutants, in the air, AQI is divided into six categories: **Good: (0-50)**, **Satisfactory: (51-100)**, **Moderately polluted: (101-200)**, **Poor: (201-300)**, **Very poor: (301-400)**, **Severe: (401-500)**

MUNNAR - 21 AQI

Munnar, a popular hill station in Kerala offers you endless views of green rolling hills, sprawling tea gardens, lush green forests and cascades. While basking in the peace and quiet here, you can also plan a visit to the Eravikulam National Park and gaze in wonder at the Anamudi Peak, the tallest peak in South India. You can also explore a range of exciting adventure activities like rock climbing, rappelling, and paragliding.



PAHALGAM - 19 AQI

Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir is a breathtaking hill station. It boasts of scenic valleys, gurgling streams, placid lakes, and a view of snow-capped mountain peaks. You can also explore spiritual treks and hiking trails here, along with indulging in some fine quality woollen shopping.



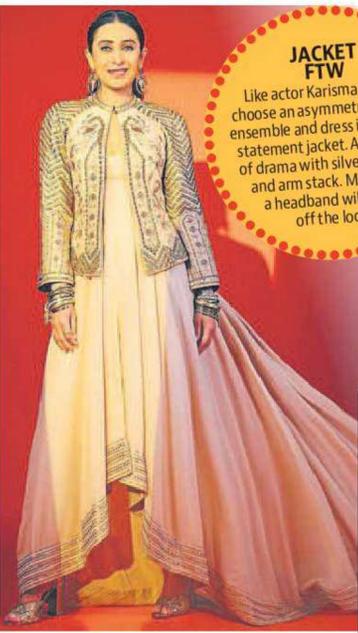
The AQI figures are approximate figures, recorded a day after Diwali. To avoid unanticipated hiccups, check the weather before travelling.

Try these comfy 'fits this Bhai Dooj



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK



JACKET FTW

Like actor Karisma Kapoor, choose an asymmetrical flowy ensemble and dress it up with a statement jacket. Add a dash of drama with silver ear cuffs and arm stack. Mules and a headband will finish off the look.



FOR CELEB STYLE, FOLLOW ON INSTA: @htcityshowstoppers

Shweta Sunny



KAFTAN TO THE RESCUE

Nothing screams comfort more than a loose and relaxed kaftan dress. Choose a festive kaftan in rani pink adorned with gota patti work like actor Kareena Kapoor Khan. Amp up the look with juttis and loose waves.

Ditch the heavy traditionals this Bhai Dooj and try these Indo-Western 'fits that are high on functionality, comfort and style. Take style cues from celebs to switch things up for Sunday



DHOTI IT UP

Like actor Richa Chadha, skip the salwar and opt for a short, layered anarkali kurta and dhoti pant set. Pair it with metallic kolhapuri wedges, potli bag, and fishtail braid. Smoky eyes, nude lips and a pair of dangling earrings to round off the look.



SHARARA, BUT MAKE IT OVERSIZED

If you still want one foot in the traditional door, emulate actor Diana Penty's 'fit in a loose sharara set. Featuring zardozi, thread and sequin embroidery on the A-line kurta and long bell sleeves, it is bound to grab eyeballs.

TIERED STATEMENT

Instead of lehenga sets, prioritise comfort as you slip into a cropped tee and tiered skirt like actor Shriya Pilgaonkar. Keep the mood neutral and earthy as you opt for such hues. Pull your hair back into a spiky bun and finish with statement earrings.



CAPTIVATING CAPE

Take a leaf from actor Karishma Kartik Tana's stylebook and wear a tube top with printed palazzo bottoms. Jazz up the look with a sheer cape top. This versatile outfit can also be styled separately.

STYLING INPUTS

- Co-ord sets in soft linens and breathable fabrics are an ideal choice.
- Pastel hues like blush pink, mint green, and serene lavender offer both elegance and understated charm.
- Look for pieces with minimal

embellishments or subtle embroidery.

- Flowy kurtas with palazzos or straight-cut pants are great for a laid-back, festive vibe.
- Sets with wrap-style tops or asymmetrical hemlines are also trending.

Inputs by designer Lavanya Ahuja

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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
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