



O S ARUN

Pics: Praveen Thyagarajan

# Chennai

## 'TO KNOW MUSIC BETTER, ONE MUST BECOME A RASIKA'

Praveen Kumar S

Carnatic musician OS Arun speaks about his outlook on the Margazhi season, his performances so far, and more...

**What, according to you, is your best memory of the Margazhi season?**

I shifted to Chennai in 1998. Although I was singing very well in the early 2000s and getting awards, too, I wanted to get into the top bracket. I analysed myself, and then started making my music a little more accessible. I started incorporating compositions of composers like Tyagaraja and Kambur Das from both the south and the north. I worked really hard for that, and it worked beautifully. It attracted both the young and the old and went beyond the regular Carnatic music rasikas. I cherish those memories.

**When do you think a Carnatic musician comes out of their shell?**  
Over the years, we evolve, and so does our understanding of music. To understand music better, a performer must become a *rasika*. One should know the *thalam*, what a composition conveys, etc. If you are able to do that, the connection with the audience is much higher. It is a learning process. We learn every day.

CONTINUED ON P 3



The musician performing at a concert in Chennai

### On the artistes he enjoys listening to the most...

I've always followed KV Narayanaswamy sir, TN Seshagopalan sir, TV Sankaranarayanan sir, and my brother OS Thyagarajan. In my opinion, Seshagopalan sir is a complete musician. Sankaranarayanan sir's music is the most soothing, and Narayanaswamy sir is a maestro. I've also admired ML Vasanthakumari amma's ragas.

# Times

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024  
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY  
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE



MALAVIKA ON HER FIRST FOOTBALL-IN-A-STADIUM EXPERIENCE P3

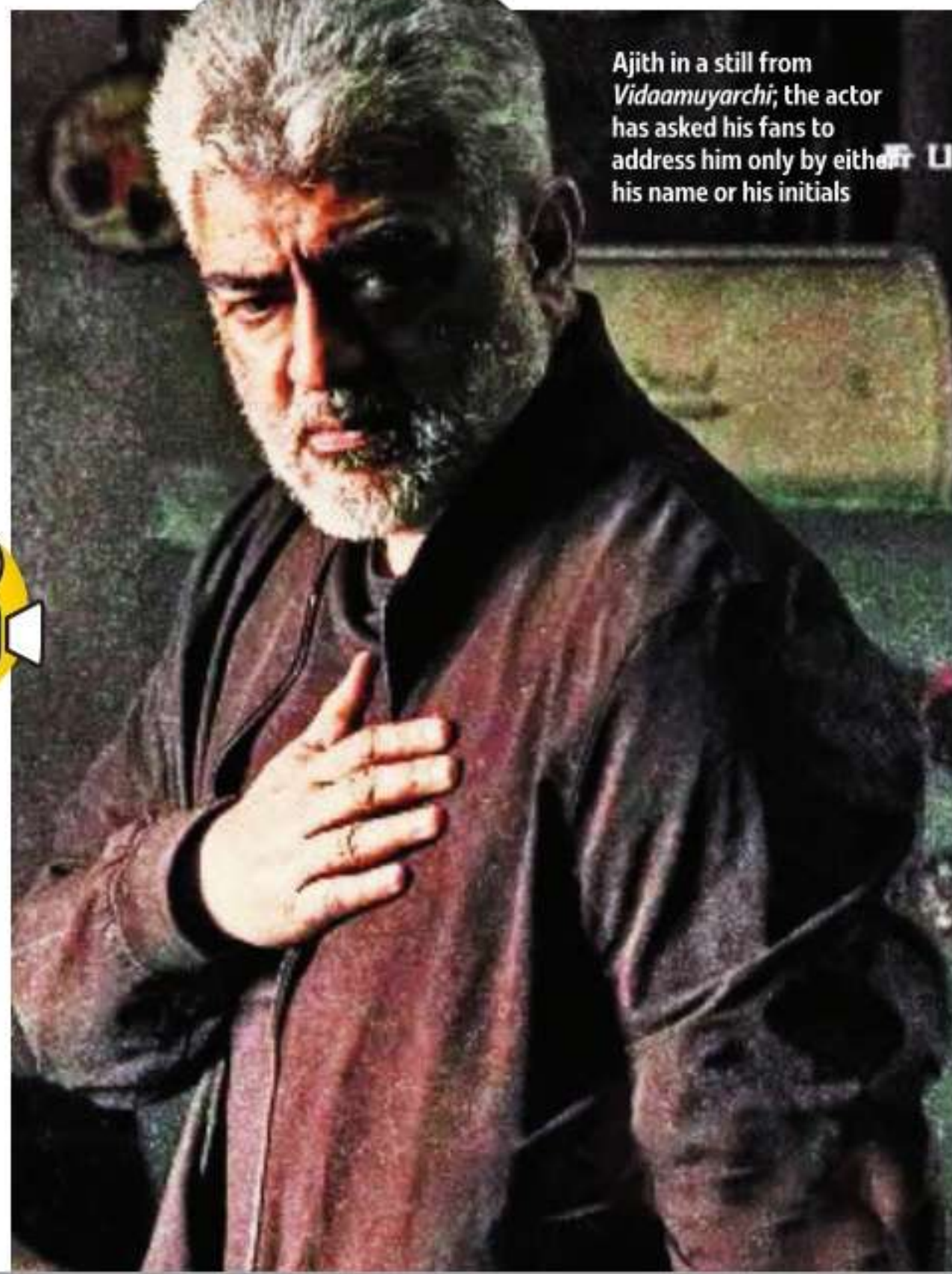
## 'I'm uncomfortable,' says Ajith urging fans to stop 'Kadavuley Ajithey' chant

Ajith has expressed his displeasure over the viral 'Kadavuley Ajithey' chants and requested his fans to stop reciting the slogan. For a while now, the chants have been constantly used in public places by the actor's fans and, in some cases, have even turned out to cause inconvenience.

In an official statement, Ajith, who had previously disbanded his fan clubs, and asked fans to not call him with titles like 'Ultimate Star' and 'Thala', urged fans to stop these chants and wrote, "Of late, a certain factor has been disturbing me and in particular, the slogan, 'Kadavuley Ajithey' has been publicly recited on various events and public gatherings. I am uncomfortable with superlatives or any kind of prefix mentioned alongside my name. I prefer being addressed by my name or my initials."

He further added, "My sincere request to everyone is to work hard, play hard without hurting anyone, look after your respective families, and be law-abiding citizens."

TNN



Ajith in a still from Vidamuyarchi, the actor has asked his fans to address him only by either his name or his initials

## 'NEVER THOUGHT ACTING WOULD BECOME MY LIFE'

...says Brigida Saga, even though she was convinced that cinema was her calling. The actress speaks about playing a cop, acting in Telugu films and more

P3

I did two Telugu films to test myself. So, acting in those two films made me realise that emotions are the same everywhere, irrespective of the language



## 2024's most searched

From Heeramandi in the top five list of shows globally to Stree 2 being the most searched films in India, here's what Indians looked up for this year

### Trending films

#### Global

- Inside Out 2
- Deadpool & Wolverine
- Saltburn
- Beetlejuice Beetlejuice
- Dune: Part Two
- It Ends with Us
- Oppenheimer
- Kung Fu Panda 4
- Alien: Romulus
- Terrifier 3

### Trending TV shows

#### Indian

- Heeramandi
- Mirzapur
- Last Of Us
- Bigg Boss 17
- Panchayat
- Queen of Tears
- Marry My Husband
- Kota Factory
- Bigg Boss 18
- 3 Body Problem

#### Global

- Baby Reindeer
- Fallout
- House Of The Dragon
- Heeramandi
- Shōgun
- The Perfect Couple
- Queen Of Tears
- Marry My Husband
- 3 Body Problem
- Nobody Wants This

### Trending People

#### Indian

- Vinesh Phogat
- Nitish Kumar
- Chirag Paswan
- Hardik Pandya
- Pawan Kalyan
- Shashank Singh
- Poonam Pandey
- Radhika Merchant
- Abhishek Sharma
- Lakshya Sen



#### Indian

- Stree 2
- Kalki 2898 AD
- 12th Fail
- Laapataa Ladies
- Hanu-Man
- Maharaja
- Manjummel Boys
- The Greatest of All Time
- Salaar
- Aavesham

Kalki 2898-AD, Stree 2, Maharaja, Manjummel Boys and Laapataa Ladies also made it to the top 10 list of the most popular Indian films on IMDb in 2024

Source: Google Trends Report 2024



### Travel

- Azerbaijan
- Bali
- Manali
- Kazakhstan
- Jaipur
- Georgia
- Malaysia
- Ayodhya
- Kashmir
- South Goa



Marking the centenary celebrations of the legendary Raj Kapoor, the Kapoor family invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the film fest Raj Kapoor@100 in Delhi

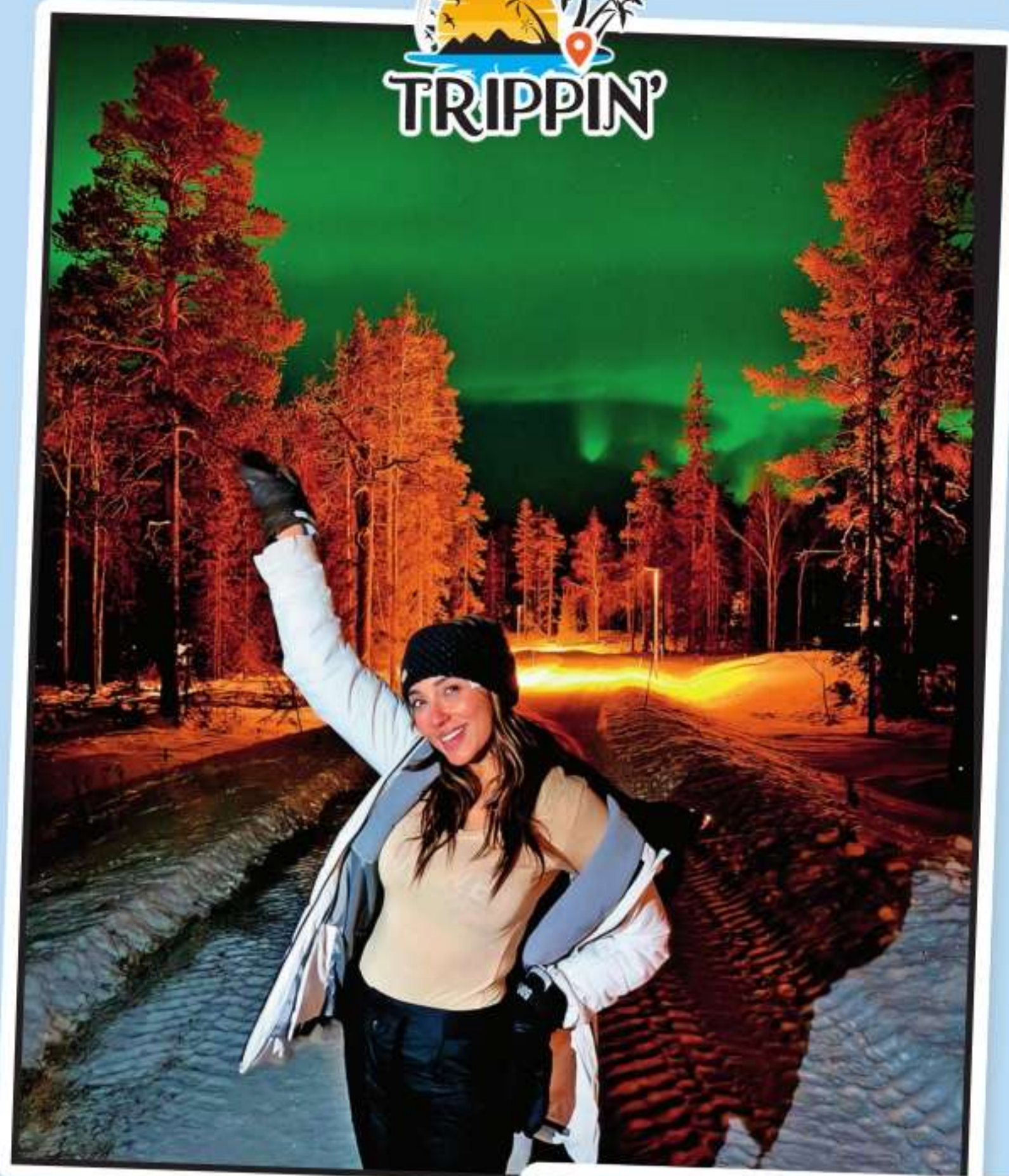
Saif Ali Khan, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir, Kareena, Karisma, Neetu Kapoor, Riddhima Sahni, Armaan and Aadar Jain pose for a family selfie



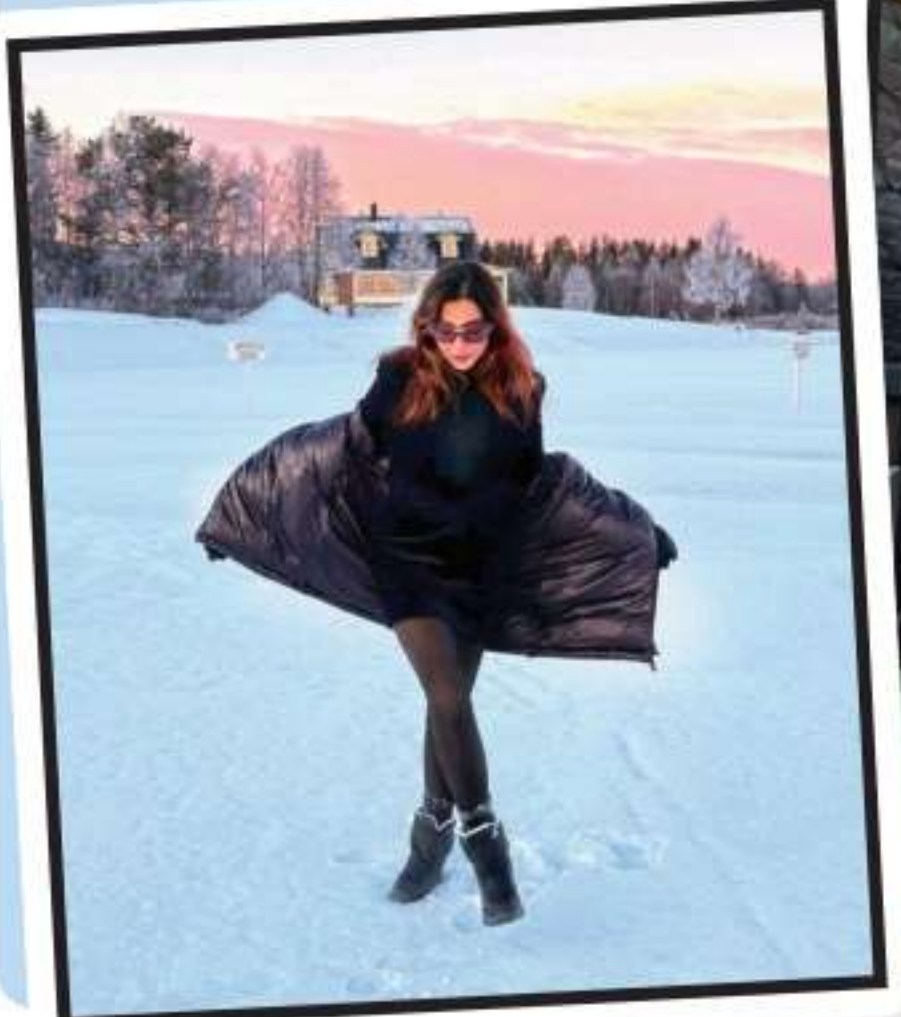








**PARVATI NAIR** celebrated her birthday with northern lights in the backdrop. Shared with us exclusively, her vacay pics from Paris and Norway are setting the ultimate b'day bash goals



# In this industry, what we're going to do next is very uncertain: Brigida



**BRIGIDA SAGA**

... (right) with Vijay Antony

**'I'm a Dhanush and Anushka Shetty fan'**

I've been a diehard fan of Dhanush sir since childhood. The songs from his films, like *Kaadhal Kondein*, used to always be played in my house. Among actresses, I love Anushka Shetty. My love for her started when I saw the *Mobila* song from *Rendu*

**Roopa Radhakrishnan**

Actress Brigida Saga made her breakthrough with the TV serial *Aaha Kalyanam* and subsequently went on to act in films like *Garudan*, *Iraivan Nizhal*, and *Master*. In a chat with us, she shares, "In this industry, what we are going to do next is very uncertain. We'll finish one film and chill. We don't know if it will click or not, but we will still keep working."

**'HAD DOUBTS ABOUT GETTING THE BODY LANGUAGE OF A COP RIGHT'**

Till now, I have mostly played girl-next-door roles. In *Gagana Maargam*, I'm playing a cop. I initially had doubts about whether I was getting the body language of a cop right as I was used to playing soft characters. But Vijay Antony sir and director Leo John Paul gave me confidence. I felt as if I was working with a group I already knew, as he and many of our team members were from Loyola. So, it felt as if I was working with my seniors.

**Vijay Antony sir is super cool. He never made me feel that I was a newcomer. I felt as if I was working with a group I already knew, as he and many of our team members were from Loyola**

When I was in my first year of college, I got selected to play Pavi teacher in *Aaha Kalyanam*. Even now, people call me Pavi teacher.

**'TELUGU WAS A BIT DIFFICULT TO LEARN'**

I have done two Telugu movies — *Sindhooram* and *Peddha Kapu 1*. I did those films to test myself, as I wanted to see whether I could do justice when acting in a language I wasn't familiar with. That made me realise that emotions are the same everywhere, irrespective of the language. In the beginning, Telugu was a bit difficult to learn. But then I got the hang of it.

**ON HER UPCOMING PROJECTS...**

I'm playing Vignesh Karthick's wife in *Hotspot 2*. I'm also part of Muthaiya sir's *Sullan Sethu*. His son is being introduced in the film. It's a movie that's very close to my heart. It's very emotional.

## 'The beauty of art is that it is greater than the artiste'

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

**Has social media improved the reach of Carnatic music?**

It works both ways. I am still in the learning process, and sometimes, I also take inspiration from songs on social media. My experience helps me understand a song well. So, that's a merit. As for the demerits, these days, everybody's becoming a guru and teaching online. The standard of a musician cannot be judged by their work on social media. There's nothing like one-to-one. The media is also responsible for giving such people so much visibility. Music is an ocean, and the learning process should go on and on.

**Are youngsters not coming to sabhas or taking up Carnatic music of late?**

Yes. People don't have the time or the patience these days. The beauty of art is that it is greater than the artiste. I wasn't there, but the music was. I am here, and music is still here, and I may vanish, but music will still be there. Artists will come and go. Artists should understand that.

**What would you say it takes for a musician to master Carnatic music?**

All said and done, we should accept that it takes tremendous practice to become a maestro in Carnatic music. The oscillations, the microtones, and so on are not in every other genre. People who do not understand that mock Carnatic music. There is no crash course for mastering ragas.

**What is something that gives you satisfaction?**

I used to do 26-27 concerts a season, but I reduced it after a while as I also started concentrating more on the work my trust, Alapana Trust, is doing. I started it in 1998, the year I came to Chennai, to give back to society. We recently celebrated 25 years of the trust. For the past 15 years, we have been running a social outreach programme, meeting residents of old-age homes, children with autism, and the like. The idea was to make them happy. This year, we also began a talent hunt competition for the differently abled, not out of sympathy but to give them a platform. I plan on doing it every year from now. That, I find to be very satisfying.

**I would like to be remembered as a good human being. I don't want people to just say he sang well. They should also say that I had good human values**

OS Arun

**'There is a heavy demand for our music overseas'**

Before the pandemic, I performed in Paris, France, and I was surprised to see that the audience was completely French. They were listening to all the ancient ragas I was singing and were singing along! Certain musical compositions are so rich and divine that even if you don't understand the meaning of their lyrics, you tend to enjoy them. Of course, a trained musician singing them also makes a difference. There is a heavy demand for our music overseas; the people there are inquisitive, too.

## Goosebumps inducing: Malavika on watching football in a stadium



Malavika Mohanan had a "fantastic start" to her holiday season as she went to the Arsenal and Manchester United's game in London, which was, interestingly, her first time catching a football match at a stadium. Reflecting on the fun time she had, the actress wrote, "My first time experiencing football fervour at a stadium and what better game to do it at than the Arsenal Vs Manchester United game in London."

**Simply South**

What a fun first game to witness & what fantastic start to the holiday season (sic)" In another post, Malavika mentioned all that she loved during her 'quick mini trip' to London and wrote, "My first football match in a stadium and the energy was so infectious. When the entire stadium starts singing together it's so goosebumps inducing (sic)".

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MANCHU FAMILY FUED EXPLODES

# MOHAN BABU & MANCHU MANOJ SLUG IT OUT



In a shocking turn of events, veteran Tollywood actor Mohan Babu and his son, Manchu Manoj, have locked horns in a scandalous public feud, with serious allegations of betrayal, intimidation and even physical assault flying back and forth

MANCHU MANOJ

MOHAN BABU

## 'I have never asked for properties or inheritance'

In his statement, Manoj said that all the claims made against him and his wife are completely fabricated, stressing that the allegations of malicious intent and financial greed are entirely false.

### 'My father asked me to move in for my mom after my brother left to Dubai'

"We are self-employed, independent, and have always lived with dignity. I have never relied on my family for financial support or sought any properties. To even suggest otherwise is absurd and malicious," he said. "I have been residing in the family house for over a year now. Only at the insistence of my father and his close friends, who urged me to move in because my mother was alone after my brother moved to Dubai for reasons best known to him, I moved into the family house. At that point in time, my wife was pregnant. The allegation that I have moved in 4 months ago with malicious intentions is invented only for the purpose of falsely implicating me," he added.

### 'Vishnu was the only one who had the family's unwavering backing'

Manoj also revealed that only his brother Vishnu benefited from family support. "I spent over eight years working tirelessly for my father's and brother's films, directing songs, fights, and music videos, often taking on roles beneath my standing as a commercial hero. I did all this without taking a single rupee, purely for the benefit of my family. Projects like *Aham Brahmasmi* were sabotaged due to personal bias, while my brother Vishnu continued to benefit from unwavering family support," he said.

### 'My children should never have been brought into this matter'

Manoj concluded by saying that it was inhumane to drag his 7-month-old daughter into this dispute. "My children should never have been brought into this matter. The nannies employed at home are petrified due to the abusive language they have faced from my father," he said.

In a letter addressed to the Rachakonda Commissioner of Police on Monday, Babu accused Manoj and his wife, Bhuma Mounika, of unleashing "anti-social elements" to threaten his safety and pressure him into vacating his home. The veteran actor claimed he is under siege and fears for his safety.

In response, Manchu Manoj filed a complaint at the Pahadishareef Police Station. In an explosive social media note, he vehemently denied the accusations, calling them "vicious fabrications" aimed at tarnishing his image. He accused his father of years of emotional manipulation and claimed the public allegations were part of a strategy to control him.



## Police bias is putting my family in danger: Manoj

My fight isn't for wealth or property, but for my self-respect. The safety of my wife and children is at risk. When I asked the police for protection, they made empty promises. Instead of helping, they abandoned us. The constables turned away my people and sent other bodyguards home. It's clear that the police is acting one-sided

## 'Manoj & Mounika pose a grave threat to my life'

In his complaint, Mohan Babu said that his younger son Manoj caused a disturbance at his Jalpally residence on Sunday with some anti-social elements hired by him.

### 'My son's men trespassed into my home & threatened my staff'

"While at my office in Madhapur at 10:30 AM, one of my employees informed me that around 30 individuals, claiming to be my son's associates, forcibly trespassed into my home. They threatened my staff, evicted them from the property, and illegally occupied my residence. I have been informed that they are waiting for my return, intending to harm me and instill fear, forcing me to leave my home permanently," he said.

### 'My son and his wife want to take possession of my house'

"I firmly believe that my son Manoj and Mounika have orchestrated this plan to unlawfully take possession of my house through intimidation and force. I am a senior citizen aged about 78 years. Their actions, supported by hired individuals, pose a grave threat to my life and property," he added.

This is a private family matter that will be resolved internally. Please do not sensationalise it  
- Vishnu Manchu at Hyderabad Airport

## 'I have solid evidence of Vishnu's financial irregularities and exploitation at MBU'

Stating that the timing of the allegations against him was not a coincidence, Manoj said, "They surfaced after my public support for Mohan Babu University (MBU) students and local businesses who are being exploited by Vishnu and his associate Vinay Maheshwari. I have substantial evidence of financial irregularities and exploitation, which I am ready to present to the authorities."

In his complaint, Manoj reportedly requested the police to take action against his father, citing his medical report as evidence and urging them to file a case accordingly



## The mystery of the missing CCTV footage

Manoj also demanded the police uncover the truth behind the missing CCTV footage from their Jalapalli residence. "What happened to the CCTV footage? Why did Vishnu's associates, Vijay Reddy and Kiran, remove the CCTV drives? This tampering raises serious concerns and begs the question: what are they trying to hide? I demand a thorough investigation into this matter to uncover the truth," he penned.

# 'I'm not amazed by the success of Friends'



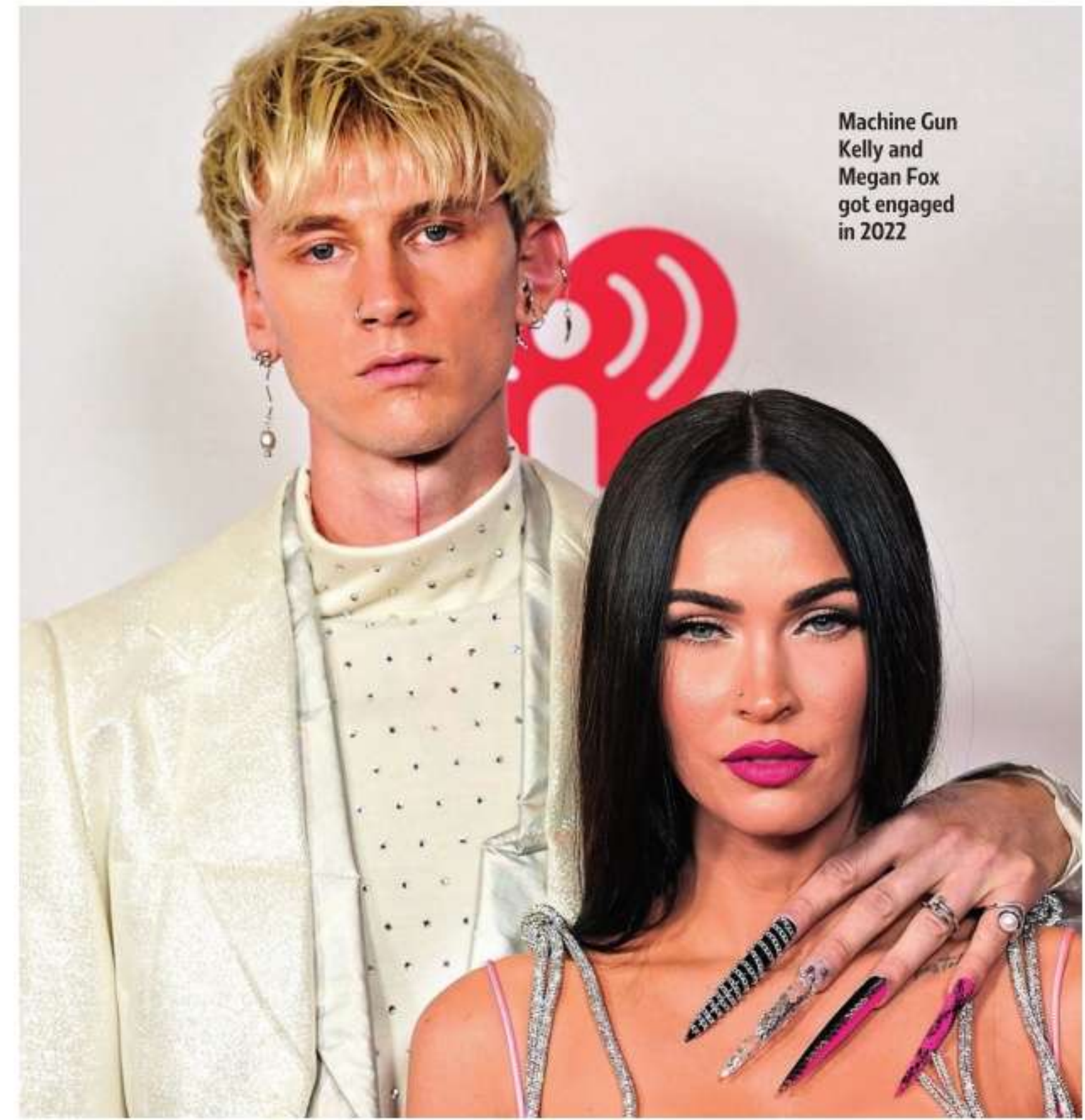
Lisa Kudrow; (left) a still from Friends

Lisa Kudrow isn't surprised by the continued success of *Friends*. The 61-year-old actress said that she can understand why the show continues to resonate with new generations. In an interview, Lisa said, "I'm not amazed because it's good and it's familiar. There's a subconscious nostalgia for younger generations for something they don't have, which is in-person connections and relations. And that's always been at the heart of every successful show."



Amy Poehler

# Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly split a month after pregnancy reveal



Machine Gun Kelly and Megan Fox got engaged in 2022

A month since Megan Fox and singer-songwriter-rapper Machine Gun Kelly, announced that they are going to become parents, the couple has reportedly broken up, as per a *TMZ* report.

According to the news outlet, the breakup happened while Megan and Machine Gun Kelly were vacationing in Bali, California, during the Thanksgiving weekend. "We're told that Megan found material on MGK's phone that was upsetting, and it made her

want him to leave the trip early. MGK dipped out of the trip early, and since then, the former couple hasn't seen each other," a source said.

The *Transformers* star, who started dating the *Bad Things* artiste in 2020 and got engaged in 2022, revealed her pregnancy on November 12 with an Instagram post. "Nothing is ever really lost. Welcome back," Fox captioned the post, using song lyrics from Kelly's track *Last November*.

Agencies

# Doing something right: Anne on her third Nolan film



Anne Hathaway

Anne Hathaway is set to star in her third Christopher Nolan film, a milestone she recently described to *Women's Wear Daily* as "it makes me feel like I'm doing something right". Hathaway debuted in Nolan's *The Dark Knight Rises* as Catwoman, followed by her acclaimed role as Dr Amelia Brand in *Interstellar*. Reflecting on her return, she shared, "It fills me with so much joy... to be invited into their world (is) one of the best places you can find yourself." Hathaway credits Nolan with revitalising her career, calling *Interstellar* a "vitalising, reviving" experience.

Agencies

# Inside Out films have changed my life: Amy

Amy Poehler shared that starring in the *Inside Out* movies has been a life-changing experience, *People* reported. While attending the 12th Annual Bring Change to Mind Revels and Revelations gala, Amy, who voiced the character Joy in both the 2015 original animated film and its 2024 sequel, talked about her role and how it has sparked meaningful discussions "as well as personal reflections about how we navigate our emotions." "My experience fundamentally changed my life," said Amy.



A still from Inside Out

## Similarities between parenting and Joy

As the mother of two teenagers, Poehler draws parallels between parenting and her character, Joy. She and her ex-husband, Will Arnett, share sons Archie, 16, and Abel, 14. Reflecting on her experience, she said, "I think that's kind of why I related to playing Joy so much. In the film, Joy has to let go, and when you're raising a kid, they're their own person. You're supposed to let them kind of have all their feelings so that they can figure out who they are."

ANI



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