

THIS LOHRI, I  
WILL MISS MAA  
KE HAATH KA  
KHAANA: RAKUL

Onkar Kulkarni

It's her first Lohri post *shaadi*, and Rakul Preet Singh, who tied the knot with Jacky Bhagnani in February 2024, is excited to celebrate the festival with the family she's married into. The actress exclusively posed for us dressed in traditional finery and spoke about the many memories associated with the festival and how she plans to celebrate it this year.

On Lohri, I always remember the celebration we had as a kid with our grandparents... We would have a big bonfire on the terrace or lawn, which was perfect as it would be very cold in Delhi

## 'Lohri signifies growth and new beginnings'

Shiv Gautam

**Circling around the bonfire, enjoying traditional dishes like sarson ka saag with white butter... and everyone taking part in the preparation of the food - that is how I have celebrated Lohri since childhood**

**SHEHNAAZ GILL**

**Jaspreet Nijher**

As the winter chill peaks in north India, Shehnaaz Gill, who is currently shooting for her Punjabi film in Chandigarh, is wrapped up in the Lohri fer-

vour: In a chat, the actress-singer talks to us about celebrating the festival with her loved ones, embracing renewal and looking ahead with optimism. "This Lohri is renewing me in every way," she shares.

CONTINUED ON 3

**Buzzstop**

**COURT EXEMPTS ALLU ARJUN FROM WEEKLY POLICE VISITS**

Allu Arjun has been granted relief by a district court in Hyderabad from the condition that required him to appear before the police every Sunday. This stipulation was part of the conditional bail granted to him in connection with the *Pushpa 2* screening stampede case. The court accepted the actor's plea that weekly appearances posed security risk, while emphasising that he must cooperate with the ongoing investigation. Allu has also been permitted to travel abroad as part of the revised bail conditions.

TNN

## Grateful that we are safe as of now: Preity on LA wildfire

Preity G Zinta, who lives in LA with husband Gene Goodenough, addressed the devastation that has consumed the city. In a post on X, the actress wrote, "I never thought I would live to see a day where fires would ravage neighbourhoods around us in LA, friends and families either evacuated or put on high alert, ash descending from smoggy skies like snow and fear and uncertainty about what will happen if the wind does not calm down with toddlers and grandparents with us. I'm heartbroken at the devastation around us and grateful to god that we are safe as of now. My thoughts and prayers to people that are displaced and have lost everything in these fires. Hope the wind dies down soon and the fires are contained. A big thank you to the fire department, fire fighters and everyone else helping to save lives and property. Stay safe everyone."

@backgrid\_usa

**Meghan and Harry visit wildfire victims**

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, visited California to help distribute food and supplies to victims of the Eaton Fire on Friday. The couple connected with the affected families, as per *People*.

**Angelina Jolie with son Knox aid wildfire victims**

Angelina Jolie and son Knox were seen shopping for supplies to assist those affected by the devastating fires. "Right now, I'm taking care of people close to me and having them at my house," Jolie said.

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# I CAN'T DO GIDDA, BUT I CAN DO BHANGRA: RAKUL

Rakul Preet Singh



CONTINUED FROM K 1

## 'EVERY FESTIVAL IS ABOUT GETTING THE FAMILY TOGETHER'

Rakul says, "Every festival is about getting the family together and enjoying the festivities. Today, on Lohri, I am looking forward to spending time with my family. I am going to miss my *maa ke haath ka khaana*. There is some magic in mom-made food. Every time I visit my parents in Delhi, I tell my mom what to cook for breakfast, lunch and dinner so I can relish it to the fullest," says Rakul, who loves indulging in *garma-garma sarson ka saag* and *makki ki roti* on this occasion.

## 'JACKKY IS A DILKHUSH PUNJABI'

The *De De Pyaar De* actress shares that her husband Jackky, who is Sindhi, is more Punjabi than she is. "My brother (Aman Preet) always jokes that Jackky is Punjabi and I am Sindhi. I, too, think that Jackky is a *dilkhush* Punjabi... he is more like *khule dil khaana peena*. I have also taught him some Punjabi words like *khota* (silly), *siyapa* (problem) and *meesana* (cunning). That has become our language when we have to communicate something when others are present," she says.

## 'LOHRI REMINDS ME OF MY CHILDHOOD CELEBRATIONS WITH MY GRANDPARENTS'

Rakul gets nostalgic and fondly remembers her childhood memories of celebrating

There is some magic in mom-made food. Every time I visit my parents in Delhi, I tell my mom what to cook for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Lohri in her Delhi home. She recalls, "On Lohri, I always remember the celebration we had as a kid with our grandparents. We used to sing songs like *Sunder Mundriye*, and in return, they would give us gifts and money. My brother and I would compete to see who gets the most gifts. We would have a big bonfire on the terrace or lawn, which was perfect as it would be very cold in Delhi."

## 'REMEMBER SHOOTING FOR AIYAARY ON LOHRI'

During all these years, even with a busy working schedule, the actress has mostly tried to be home during the festival. However, she recounts the time when she celebrated Lohri on a film set on Lohri. "I remember shoot-

Jackky is a *dilkhush* Punjabi... he is more like *khule dil khaana peena*. I have also taught him some Punjabi words like *khota*, *siyapa* and *meesana*. That has become our language

ing for *Aiyaary* (2018) on Lohri. We had a bonfire on set and threw *moongfali*, *gud* and other things into the fire as offerings," she says. Talking about the custom of dancing around the bonfire, she adds, "I can't do *gidda*, maybe I can see others and copy a step or two, but yes, I can do *bhangra*."



Shiv Gautam

# This Lohri is renewing me in every way: Shehnaaz

Shehnaaz Gill



The bonfire symbolises more than just warmth; it represents a cleansing fire where we let go of past grievances

CONTINUED FROM K 1

## 'IT'S ABOUT TRADITION AND TOGETHERNESS'

"Lohri marks the end of the winter harvest season for people in the villages of Punjab," Shehnaaz shares. "It's a time when friends, family, and neighbours gather around the bonfire. We dance, laugh, and share special food like *til ke laddoo*, *bugga*, *gajak*, *revadi*, popcorn, and peanuts. It's a feast that brings everyone together. Circling around the bonfire, enjoying traditional dishes like *sarson ka saag* with white butter, often prepared by my mom or *maasi*, and everyone taking part in the preparation of the food—that is how I have celebrated Lohri since childhood," she adds.

Reflecting on her fondest childhood memories of Lohri, Shehnaaz recalls, "As a child, Lohri meant a day off from routine, a time to play and enjoy the festivities without a care in the world. That feeling remains unmatched even today."

## 'LOHRI IS ABOUT GROWTH'

"Lohri, to me, is like the New Year," she says, adding, "The bonfire symbolises more than just warmth; it represents a cleansing fire where we let go of past grievances and negativity. As an artiste, I strive to sur-

As a child, Lohri meant a day off from routine, a time to play and enjoy the festivities without a care in the world. That feeling remains unmatched even today

## 'PATIENCE IS MY MANTRA NOW'

Looking ahead in her career in 2025, Shehnaaz, whose last Bollywood project was the sizzling dance number *Sajna Ve Sajna* from the film *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, shares her newfound perspective and says, "I am getting a lot of offers, but quality is of utmost importance to me now. I've learned to be patient, waiting for the perfect script that aligns with my vision. I am running a marathon and aiming for longevity in the industry with meaningful work. I am in no rush to get somewhere."

She adds, "In this journey, I have time on my side. I'm here for the long haul, making deliberate choices that resonate with my aspirations and values and with my film, you will get to see that. This Lohri is renewing me in every way, personally and professionally."

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# Pallavi Sharma was a dream come true role for me: Yami on six years of Uri

Yami Gautam is marking six years of the hit film *Uri: The Surgical Strike*. In a post, the actress talked about the character she played and wrote in a post, "Uri: The Surgical Strike celebrated more than we can think—the valour of the Indian army, the spirit of our nation and the power of

cinema. It was an honour for me to be a part of a gem like this which continues to be celebrated. Pallavi Sharma was a dream come true role for me and to be able to portray another fine female character was truly a blessing. Beyond grateful for all your love and to the entire team that help create this marvel."

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# Jude Law to play Vladimir Putin



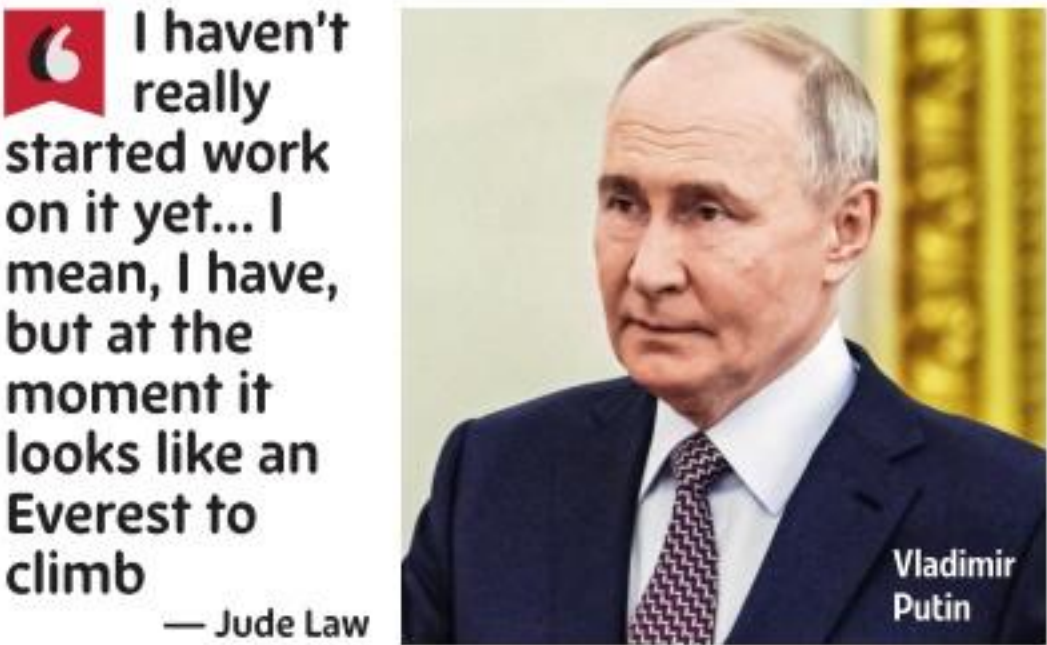
**J**ude Law has taken on a daunting challenge in his latest role as Russian President Vladimir Putin. The 52-year-old actor recently revealed in an interview that he will portray Putin in the upcoming film *The Wizard of the Kremlin*, directed by French filmmaker Olivier Assayas.

The movie will depict Putin's early years in power, offering a glimpse into his rise as a world leader. Law admitted that the role feels overwhelming, describing it as "an Everest to climb." Although he has started preparing for the part, he confessed to feeling nervous. "I'm in the foothills looking up, thinking, 'Oh Christ, what have I said?'" he remarked, acknowledging that he often feels this way after committing to challenging roles.

The film, based on Giuliano da Empoli's book of the same name, will also feature Paul Dano, Alicia Vikander, and Zach Galifianakis. Dano will play Vadim

Baranov, an artist-turned-TV-producer who manipulates society through propaganda, while Vikander will portray Ksenia, a character whose love becomes a moral turning point for Baranov.

Agencies



I haven't really started work on it yet... I mean, I have, but at the moment it looks like an Everest to climb

— Jude Law

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