mytwo

favourites,

undhiyu, on

Sankranti'

tilgul and

Rishabh Suri

rishabh.suri@htlive.in

ctor Regina Cassandra, who grew up in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, holds Pongal close to her heart. Rooted in the traditions of South India, the multiday harvest festival celebrates abundance, gratitude and togetherness. Reflecting on her upbringing, the 34-year-old actor says, "I was born in a Christian household, but the cultural influence around me — be it from friends, neighbours, or the community - made Pongal an integral part of my life."

Known for her performances in films like Maanagaram (2017), Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga (2019) and Thalaivii (2021), Cassandra fondly recalls her early memories of Pongal. "As a child, I'd borrow traditional skirts from my friends to participate in the Pongal pooja. I'd help with cooking and, of course, eating the delicious pongal!" she shares, adding, "There are two types of pongal dishes - sakkarai (sweet) pongal and ven (savoury) pongal. My favourite is sakkarai pongal."

For Cassandra, the essence of Pongal lies in its inclusivity. "Even now, my house help creates

beautiful kolams (rangoli) outside my home. She does it with such enthusiasm, it's a joy to watch her. We also prepare a special spread of food. I've celebrated Pongal in other cities like Delhi and Mumbai, but there's something magical about how Tamilians celebrate it - it feels so authentic and full of love," she says. This year, Cassandra is

particularly excited about a unique event in her hometown. "For the first time, Chennai is hosting a balloon festival during Pongal. I'm planning to attend it's going to be such a fun way to celebrate!" she shares.

#### Mugdha Kapoor

mugdha.kapoor@hindustantimes.com

or actor Karishma K Tanna, Makar Sankranti is a celebration of togetherness. "It's all about connecting with family and friends," she shares, adding that the charm of the harvest festival, where offerings are made to the Sun God, symbolising gratitude for a bountiful harvest, lies in its "simplicity and universality".

Karishma K Tanna cherishes Makar Sankranti's simplicity, while Regina

Cassandra celebrates Pongal's inclusivity, as both share the joy of the

harvest festivals and reliving their childhood memories

"We usually begin the day with prayers, dress in traditional outfits and indulge in festive treats such as tilgul (a sweet made with jaggery, sesame and ghee) and undhiyu (a classic Gujarati mixed-vegetable dish slow-cooked with aromatic spices)," says Tanna, who was last seen in Hansal Mehta's Scoop.

Married to businessman Varun Bangera, Tanna

reminisces about her

PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH

mother's cooking, saying her undhiyu is "the best in the world". She adds with a smile, "Pairing it with puris and jalebis is a tradition I eagerly look forward to every Sankranti.'

Kite flying, a quintessential Sankranti activity, evokes fond childhood memories for the 41-year-old. "I was never great at it, but I loved the energy it brought to the day," recalls the actor, saying, "I have fond memories of flying kites on the terrace with my cousins. We'd compete to see whose kite stayed up the longest... I remember once my kite got tangled with someone else's, and it turned into a hilarious tug-ofwar!"

While Sankranti holds a special place in her heart, Tanna also appreciates other harvest festivals that showcase India's rich cultural diversity. "Lohri, Pongal, Bihu, etc. are all so vibrant and unique. They truly reflect the traditions and spirit of our country," she ends.

Fans are speculating

wallpaper (above) is a picture of her and Mody

that the actor's

PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH

screenwriter

the internet has been

Balancing festive celebrations with a hectic schedule isn't always easy, but even if it's just a quick celebration or a phone call to loved ones, it is important for me to stay connected

to my roots and traditions. KARISHMA K TANNA, Actor

Love in the details for

Shraddha and Rahul?

# 'After KNPH, people stalked me, sent me letters written in blood'

Mugdha Kapoor

he year 2000 ushered in a new era for Bollywood and director Rakesh Roshan's Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai (KNPH) was symbolic of that shift. The film, which turned actors Hrithik Roshan and Ameesha Patel into overnight sensations, turns 25 today. As it celebrated the milestone with a theatrical rerelease over the weekend, Patel tells us she feels "lucky to be a part of such an iconic

"It feels nice that people feel the film is important enough to be re-released," the actor says, adding, "I had fantastic chemistry with Hrithik; it was also my most raw performance. I think people loved the authenticity reflected on screen."

outside; it was another level of fear and madness." As she marks her own 25th

anniversary in the industry, Patel notes, "I'd like to think that my grasp of cinema is better now, but I'm still a student. It's been a great journey and I have no complaints."

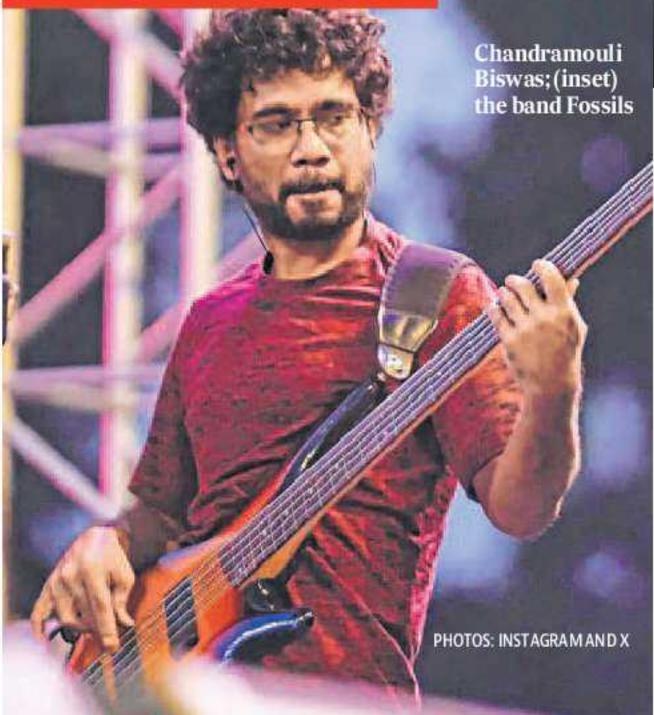
Twenty-five years on, does she plan on catching KNPH in theatres? "I'd only seen it twice. But now, I'm excited to see it with friends and family who didn't watch it with me at that time," she replies.

Ameesha Patel; (inset) a still from Kaho Naa.. Pyaar Hai



However, the 49-year-old is quick to recall that the frenzy often reached extreme lengths: "There were so many fans who took pictures of us to temples and churches and married the photos. I would get pictures of myself with sindoor and letters written in blood. People would stalk me, find my address and wait

**Former Fossils** bassist found dead, band in shock





🔪 assist Chandramouli Biswas, a former member of Kolkata-based rock group Fossils has reportedly died by suicide. The musician, who was part of the band for 18 years, was found dead in his Kolkata residence on Sunday evening. He was 48.

Biswas was found by singer Mohul Chakraborty of Golok, another band he was part of. Chakraborty later told media persons, "[He] was not taking my calls and I became worried. I called one of his close friends and we reached his home to check on him when we found him dead." According to local police, Biswas had been "depressed for some years" and was undergoing treatment. Authorities also found a suicide note that is currently being examined.

As for the Fossils, Biswas' former bandmates learnt about his death while on their way to a performance. Addressing the audience during the show, lead vocalist Rupam Islam said, "When we came here, we received a piece of news in the car and that news hit us like a thunderbolt. In such a situation, no one can sing or play an instrument. Chandra... was my best friend. We were in touch until last year." HTC

#### **STOP PRESS**



Anurag Basu has now clarified that actor Triptii Dimri's controversial exit from Aashiqui 3 had nothing to do with her image. "That's not true, Triptii knows it too," he told Mid Day. Reports had earlier suggested that the makers wanted an "innocent" female lead for the film.

# Shraddha Kapoor and Rahul Mody PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

media users noted that ince last year, actor Shraddha Kapoor and Kapoor's phone wallpaper seemed to be a picture of her and Mody. While both the Rahul Mody have been making headlines for their actor (37) and Mody (34) have shied away from commenting rumoured romance. Now, on the speculations, Kapoor buzzing after the actor was has often dropped hints on spotted outside a gym in social media. Mumbai on Sunday. Social The duo was first

joint appearance at businesspersons Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding festivities last year. The actor further fuelled rumours when she posted a selfie of herself wearing a necklace with the initial 'R'.

romantically linked after a

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SHOW

**STOPPERS** 

on Tuesday

For celeb style, follow on insta:
@htcityshowstoppers

Sobhita

Dhulipala in a



Y/PROJECT SHUTS DOWN OPERATIONS Parisian fashion house Y/Project has announced closure after 14 years, citing challenges in finding a buyer. This comes after co-

founder Gilles Elalouf's death in June and creative director Glenn Martens' departure in September. Despite €11 million (over ₹97 crore) in revenues last year, attempts to sell the brand failed.



#### TODD SNYDER TO **RETURN TO NYFW**

ILLUSTRATIONS: ADOBE STOCK

Menswear designer Todd Snyder is set to showcase his fall collection at the New York Fashion Week on February 6. The show will be held at Academy Mansion, coinciding with New York Men's Day. Snyder had returned to the NYFW runway in September 2023 after a gap of four and a half years with an intimate, salon-style show.

#### WINTER READY

The simplest way to keep your lips soft and healthy is with a hydrating lip balm. And Derma Co's 1% kojic acid lip balm has 30 SPF for sun protection as well as help with pigmented lips. The lightweight formula makes it a practical choice for everyday care. Price: ₹329 Available at: thedermaco.com



#### **EFFORTLESS STYLE** WITH STICK-ON **JEWELS**

Stick-on jewellery is a fun and easy way to add style to any outfit. Surmeyi's Chaand-Taare collection includes small, reusable designs made with skin-safe materials. They're easy to wear and come with a storage box for convenience. They offer the perfect chance for trying out something new. Price: ₹4,800 Available at: surmeyi.com



Sabyasachi

The festival of Pongal is the perfect time to celebrate tradition and culture steeped in the elegant and iconic half saree

Kriti Shukla

DRAPE

TIMELESS

HERITAGE

kriti.shukla@hindustantimes.com

t is the season of harvest festivals, and as Pongal begins today, let's take a look at the traditional attire of half sarees. Having . evolved into a stylish statement by the likes of Janhvi Kapoor, Sobhita Dhulipala, and Aditi Rao Hydari, the attire also retains its cultural essence and significance.

#### THE ORIGIN

The half saree is known as langa voni in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and pattu pavadai dhavani in Tamil Nadu. Designer Nachiket Barve explains, "The half saree finds its origin in a lot of states in South India, and it's considered a rite of passage garment when a girl reaches womanhood. It has cultural significance as well. It also suits the weather and has now become a style statement."

Indeed, the half saree has evolved beyond its ceremonial roots. Today, it graces red carpets, modern bridal trousseaus, and festive wardrobes. Most importantly, this drape is celebrated for its versatility and ability to make a striking statement.

#### A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Traditional half sarees are crafted from sumptuous silks, often adorned with intricate zari work reflecting the splendour of South Indian artistry. These are ideal for Pongal

festivities, where vibrant colours and luxurious textures are in harmony with the season's

jubilance. However, contemporary interpretations lean toward lighter, more fluid fabrics. "I love it if the fabric is fine, like chiffon or georgette, because there's already so much volume. A fine, flowing fabric works beautifully," says stylist Isha Bhansali.

This juxtaposition of traditional structure with modern materials adds an intriguing layer of complexity to this timeless piece. "Designers are revisiting this heritage ensemble, favouring lightweight fabrics like tissue silk for their timeless elegance and fluid movement," shares Barve, adding, "The colour palette has grown bolder, with ombré hues and unexpected contrasts replacing conventional tones."

Balancing intricate embroidery and traditional motifs effortlessly with vibrant hues and light weight, the half saree is a fashion-forward outfit for festivities. "The half saree is a versatile outfit ideal for festive occasions like Pongal... Whether it's a family gathering or a cultural event, this attire strikes a balance between tradition and style," Barve shares.

#### STYLING IT TO THE NINES

The best way to style this attire would be to go traditional. Barve advises, "It's good to pay homage to the roots of the garment, so pair it with temple jewellery or maybe diamonds. And add gajra."

#### ELEVATE YOUR 'FIT

Statement Blouse: Opt for intricately designed blouses with mirror work, zariwork, or embroidery for a festive touch.

Jewellery: Temple jewellery, chokers, or diamond earrings add an opulent

Gajra: Adorn your hair with white mogra flowers for the quintessential Pongal vibe.

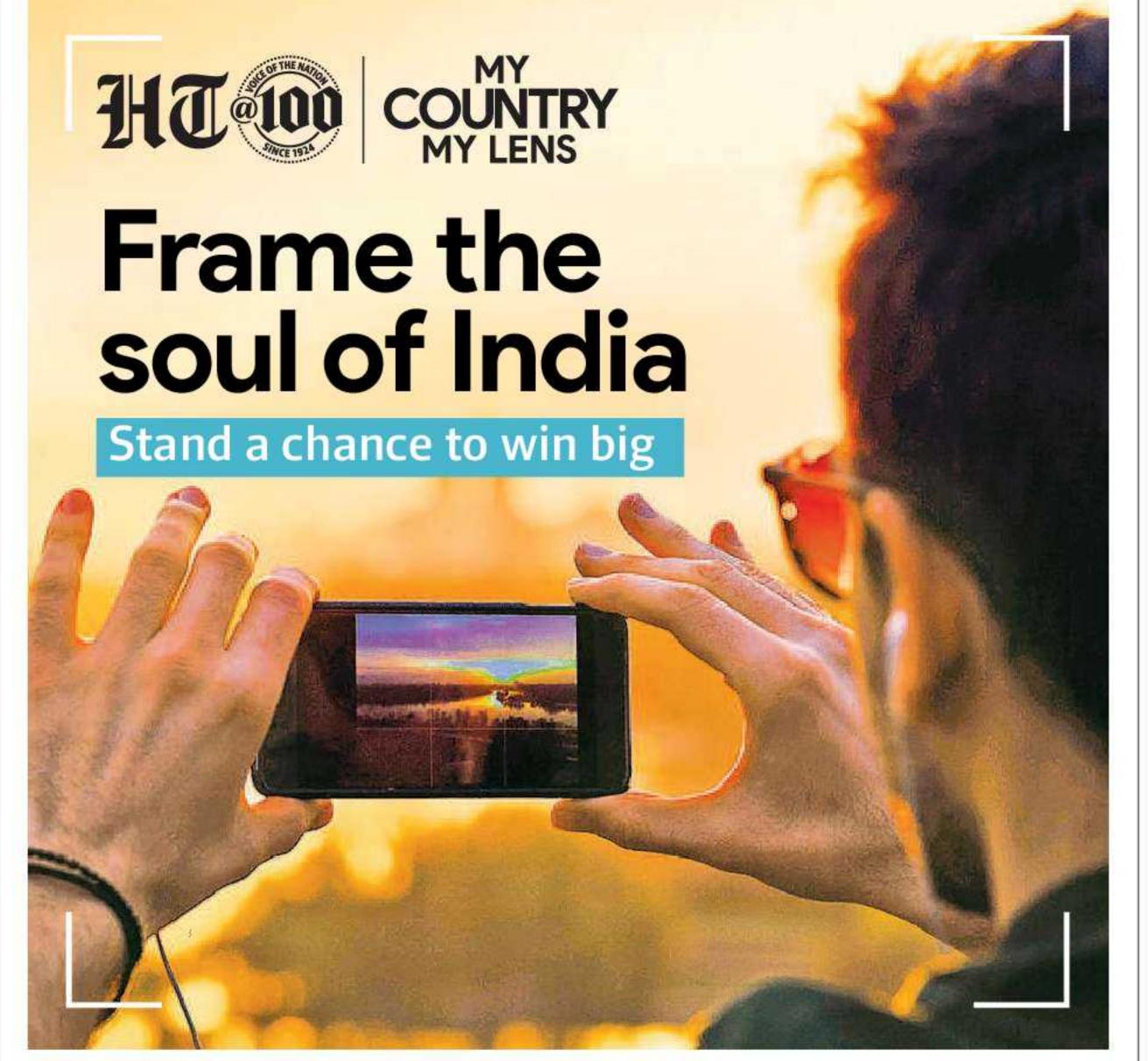
Fine Fabrics: Choose flowing fabrics like georgette or chiffon for a modern yet graceful take on the traditional Footwear: Traditional juttis or

kolhapuris perfectly complement the half saree ensemble.

Inputs by stylist Isha Bhansali

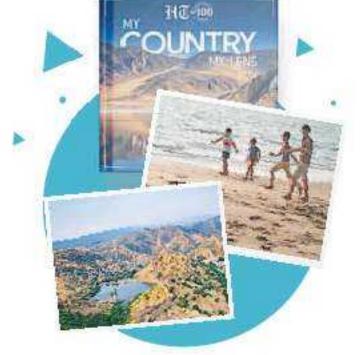
pastel Uppada silk half saree by Manish Malhotra Janhvi Kapoor in dual-tone silk paired with diamonds

Hindustan Times worce of the NATION. SINCE 1924.





Google Pixel Pro, Mirrorless Camera or Go Pro bundles for winners.



Best 100 images to be published in HT@100 photobook.



Best images to be exhibited in HTLS 2025.







A hint of fatigue might slow you down today. Maintaining a close eye on

DAILY HOROSCOPE

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

your budget will help you achieve your targets. Family time brings joy through reminiscing on cherished childhood memories. LOVE FOCUS: Moments of love and

warmth will strengthen relationship. LUCKY NUMBER: 3 LUCKY COLOUR: Dark Yellow

#### LEO

alternatives.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEP 23

JUL 23-AUG 23

PREMASTROLOGER

Show extra care to elderly family members. For travel, double-check essentials. Construction loan issues could surface; seeking expert advice may open better

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vaastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat

LOVE FOCUS: A candlelit dinner could create unforgettable memories. LUCKY NUMBER: 11 LUCKY COLOUR: Orange

Financially, disciplined

paying off — keep the

business budgeting is

shared activities and conversations

will deepen bonds. Retail property

LOVE FOCUS: Thoughtful gestures

LUCKY NUMBER: 4 LUCKY COLOUR:

investments show great promise.

help nurture deeper connections.

momentum. At home,

### **SAGITTARIUS**

**NOV 23-DEC 21** 

ASKPREMASTROLOGER

Financial evaluations of profits and losses can guide you toward smarter decisions. Professionally, your high productivity will shine.

Sharing family stories will enrich connections and foster belonging. LOVE FOCUS: Reliving moments with partner will bring added intimacy. LUCKY NUMBER: 7 LUCKY COLOUR: Purple

Monitoring your heart

management of business cash flow is

essential. Adapting your leadership

style will improve workplace

LOVE FOCUS: Focusing on self-love can

pave the way for future connections.

LUCKY NUMBER: 6 LUCKY COLOUR: Red

rate during workouts will ensure a safe and effective

fitness routine. Careful

CAPRICORN

**DEC 22-JAN 21** 

#### **TAURUS** APR 21-MAY 20

Paying attention to your mental health will go a long way. Financially, realistic goal-setting will keep you aligned with stability.

Delays in transportation might arise, so plan accordingly LOVE FOCUS: If proposals feel unclear, patience leads to understanding. LUCKY NUMBER: 1 LUCKY COLOUR:

## **GEMINI**

Cream

MAY 21-JUN 21 Professional challenges in personalised service initiatives might test your patience. For travel, it's

CANCER

**JUN 22-JUL 22** 

Dark Blue

better to opt for safer alternatives to risky experiences. LOVE FOCUS: Open communication

At work, deep dives into

research projects will yield

excellent outcomes, while

patience is essential to

achieve success in family leadership

efforts. Travel requires prioritising

LOVE FOCUS: Parenthood challenges

LUCKY NUMBER: 22 LUCKY COLOUR:

convenience and comfort.

may test your relationship.

bridges gaps in expressions of love. LUCKY NUMBER: 7 LUCKY COLOUR: Maroon

#### LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23

White

Active recovery may seem slow, but a balance of rest and gradual movement will aid your health. Reassess your financial strategies if

concerns arise and seek guidance. openly to maintain harmony.

LOVE FOCUS: Discuss expectations LUCKY NUMBER: 18 LUCKY COLOUR: Silver

#### **SCORPIO**

#### OCT 24-NOV 22

Grey

Security investments might offer modest growth. For property, gated community prospects look promising — evaluate developments thoroughly before

committing. LOVE FOCUS: Matrimonial platforms may bring exciting prospects. LUCKY NUMBER: 4 LUCKY COLOUR:

## AQUARIUS JAN 22-FEB 19 Creativity in leadership



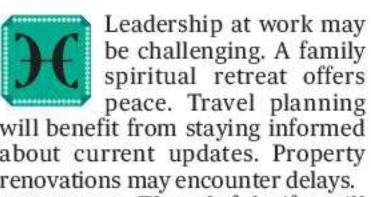
harmony.

will aid problem-solving at work. Weather conditions might disrupt travel. Property negotiations for commercial leases require diligence.

LOVE FOCUS: Be open about your shifting romantic preferences. LUCKY NUMBER: 22 LUCKY COLOUR:

Silver

#### **PISCES** FEB 20-MAR 20



spiritual retreat offers peace. Travel planning will benefit from staying informed about current updates. Property renovations may encounter delays. LOVE FOCUS: Thoughtful gifts will beautifully express your feelings. Lucky Number: 4 LUCKY COLOUR: Baby Pink



non-film collab with the single Jaan Le Gayi, they talk about the experience and what sets the project apart

Soumya Vajpayee

soumya.vajpayee@ hindustantimes.com

rhile they have worked together on several Hindi film songs, musicians Sonu Nigam and Vishal Dadlani marked their debut collab for a single, Jaan Le Gayi, last month. The song, which is part of the album Bhoomi 2024 - a brainchild of composer duo Salim-Sulaiman, has been penned by Shraddha Pandit and has almost two million views on YouTube.

Nigam says working on the song and singing alongside Dadlani was a breeze. "Jaan Le Gayi was the first song that we recorded for the album. But everyone loved it so much that it was

decided to end the Bhoomi season with the track. I am a sound person and I get very touched by voices. Vishal ki awaaz mujhe bahut touch karti hai. Despite his rock background, he has a soul for Indian melodies, which is quite rare. I was so happy that we collaborated for our first non-film song. Vishal is a malang kind of a person and I love his vibe," he says.

For Dadlani, coming on board for the song was a yes at the very outset. "I was on a paragliding trip in France when Salim (Merchant; composer) called me and said he wanted to do this song and that I'd have to sing alongside Sonu Nigam. My brain broke a little, because it's not easy to sing with Sonu. It was something I had it would be challenging as a singer to even go behind the mic. I don't consider myself a singer at all, although Sonu and Salim always say kind things about my vocal

performances," he says.

Dadlani adds that shooting

the music video was even more fun: "It was a concertlike setting. Both Sonu and I are energetic performers on stage and we are also seen dancing in this one. Projects like these become a way of reinventing yourself, especially when you have people like Salim and Sulaiman at the helm of it. This song has me singing sargams that I am really not fluent in, but these guys encouraged me to do it. I would love to work with Sonu again."

For Nigam, who is seen

Vishal's voice touches me

pulling off some impressive moves in the music video, shooting the track was a special experience. "The last time I shot at a Bhoomi set was in 2022 for the single Ruk Ja. So, returning to the same space after two years felt great. I love working with Salim-Sulaiman, because I enjoy that space. That's why the kind of work that we've been doing, including the Kannada song Mayavi (it has close to 30 million views on YouTube) from the same album that has received so much love globally, is very divine and genuine," he ends.



# Aadar-Alekha seal it with a kiss

ctor Aadar Jain and entrepreneur Alekha Advani recently held their pre-wedding festivities in Goa. Alekha wore a stunning white dress with a veil, while Aadar looked sharp in a grey suit. Clips of the couple sharing a kiss have

gone viral online.



The ceremony was attended by their close friends and family members

#### #instastyle



celebrated Lohri with her close friends, including actor Bhagyashree. She gave her fans a glimpse into the festivities on Instagram, posting pics from the night that saw them gather around a cosy bonfire in traditional attire. She captioned the carouselof images, "Lohri di lakh lakh vadhaiyan!!!!"

Raveena Tandon and Bhagyashree PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ OFFICIALRAVEENA TANDON

cheese, add the syrup of nolen that's been mixed with butter, pour this cheesecake and set it in the fridge. You can also mix

Called dudh puli or dudh pitha and eaten during Sankranti, these dumplings are made with rice coconut and nolen gur, or paneer (chenna) mixtures. The dough is made by kneading the atta with shaped in half moons, make the kheer by reducing milk. Then cook the dudh pithas in the kheer and



Masaba names her daughter 'Matara'

ashion designer → Masaba Gupta and husband-actor Satyadeep Misra have named their threemonth-old daughter Matara. Taking to Instagram on Monday on the occasion of Lohri, she posted a close-up photo of the baby's hand as she lay in bed. Gupta placed her hand next to her daughter's, wearing a bangle with the name "MATARA" engraved on it.

Dwelling on the meaning and significance of the name, she wrote, "3 months with my Matara. The name embodies the divine feminine energies of 9 Hindu goddesses, celebrating their strength and wisdom. Also, the star of our eyes."

Gupta and Misra, who tied the knot in January 2023, welcomed their daughter in October last year. The couple announced the arrival of their first child with a joint Instagram post that gave a glimpse of the newborn's feet.





OPPO Al Phone

# Reno13 Series 5G

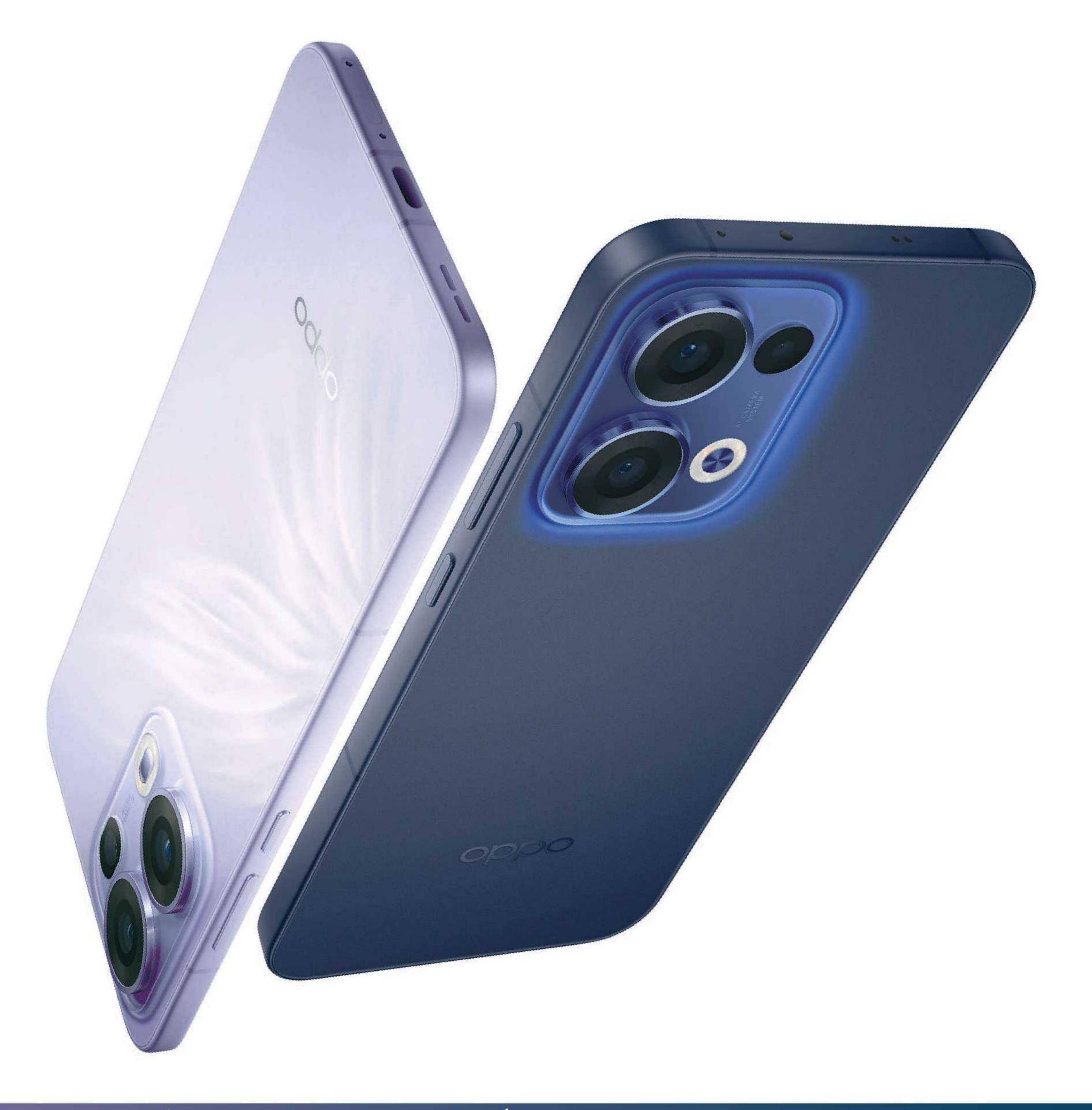
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