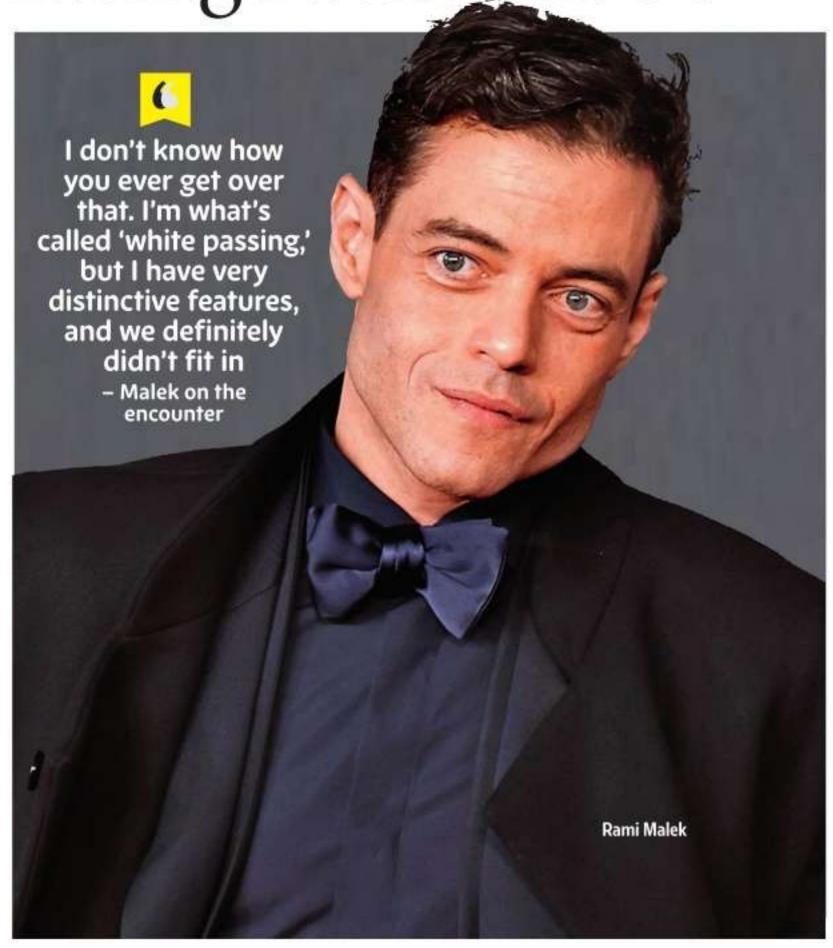


DEMONTE COLONY
DIRECTOR TIES
THE KNOT

ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Got thrown on a car's bonnet: Rami recalls facing racism in US



scar-winning actor Rami Malek has opened up about experiencing racial profiling in the US, revealing he was once "thrown" onto the hood of a police car after being mistaken for a robbery suspect in California. The Egyptian-American actor, known for roles in Bohemian Rhapsody, Oppenheimer and No Time To Die, recounted the incident during an interview with The Guardian.

"I got thrown on the bonnet of an LAPD

cop car because someone had robbed a liquor store and stolen a woman's bag. They said the (thief) was of Latin descent and, 'You fit the description.' I remember how hot that engine was ... it was almost burning my hands," Malek said. "I remember laughing on the cop car, thinking, 'OK, this is a very precarious situation. I may well be going to jail for something I've not done," he added.



Roopa Radhakrishnan

th four releases in four languages, two of which marked his debut — in Telugu (Na-garjuna's *Naa Saami Ranga*) and and Kannada (Shivarajkumar's Bhairathi Ranagal) — Shabeer Kallarakkal has had a very busy 2024. The actor, who had his breakthrough by playing Dancing Rose in Sarpatta Parambarai, tells us that he still isn't easily recognised in person. "I met Sarpatta Parambarai's editor (Selva RK) at Arya's birthday party before the film's release. He was like, 'Why are you so quiet? You are so energetic in the film'. I get that a lot and many don't even recognise me in person as I am a lot different from all the characters I have done," he says.

'AAYITHA EZHUTHU GOT ME INTO **FILMS**

I wanted to be a cricketer and did a lot of part-time jobs during college. A company where I worked part-time was sourcing actors for Aayitha Ezhuthu (2004). That's how I got into films; I shot for the film for 10-15 days. I'm also visible in one shot of that film. Many people noticed me from it and that's when I thought, 'Why not try acting?' My dad was supportive, but wasn't too confident. But I was lucky in a sense, as I didn't have to provide for my family. My struggle was in doing the extra work so that I could make it one day. There were many actors more goodlooking and talented than me. Unfortunately, they had to give up and go for a 9-to-5 job due to the commitments they had. Luckily, I didn't have to do that and I eventually ended up getting my big break in Sarpatta Parambarai.

CONTINUED ON 3 4



Buzzstop **HENRY WELCOMES FIRST CHILD WITH GF NATALIE**

Henry Cavill, best known for his role as Superman in Man Of Steel, and his longtime partner Natalie Viscuso welcomed their first child. The couple was recently spotted in Australia, pushing a baby stroller during a family outing, according to People. Cavill first shared the news of their growing family back in April 2024.



worked with the biggest of stars, but still treats you

with so much respect. SK has also been a darling.

Dakota's spiritual vacation

After her visit to the Babulnath Temple in Mumbai on Friday with partner Chris Martin, Dakota Johnson made a visit to the Siddhivinayak temple. The actress was accompanied by Sonali Bendre and Gayatri Joshi (left)

The new filmmakers have got the freedom to tell their own stories: Ashutosh Gowariker

Niharika Lal

or me, film festivals are a crash course in filmmaking," shares Ashutosh Gowariker. During a recent chat, the filmmaker discussed the mark that Indian films have made for themselves at international platforms. The filmmaker also talks about why he thinks we need to make more historical films and how legal hassels will never stop him from creating more films.

CONTINUED ON

Ashutosh says that Lagaan changed the norm that a film with songs could only be considered a commerical film

I think that the new talent has got the freedom to tell their own stories. They don't have to

worry about making films in the mainstream



'A FILM WITH BOX OFFICE SUCCESS IS ALSO BEING APPRECIATED AT FEST'

Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies was not only a box office hit but was also appreciated at its screening at the Toronto film fest

In the past few months, be it Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light, Sandhya Suri's Santosh or Kiran Rao's Lapataa Ladies, Indian films have been acknowledged at platforms like Cannes, Toronto and Sundance and have also received recognition in the form of nominations at global awards. Ashutosh says that from Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar, which won at Cannes 75 years ago, to Om Puri and Shabana Azmi representing India, Indian films have made

Ashutosh

Gowariker

their mark at film festivals and awards over the years. "What has happened is that the focus has now come to mainstream, where a film that has box office success is also being appreciated at film festivals and at award nights. That's a big change, I feel. Earlier it was like - the moment you had songs in your film, you were categorised as - this is going to be a commercial picture. This

should not even be considered for awards. It was the norm. Lagaan changed that. When we showed it to the Academy, we showed it with all the songs. And it did not matter to them. So, somewhere, every film of ours that has gone to Oscars or a BAFTA, has gone with songs. Because we have established that our films come with songs."

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Webster University - GUS

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Laugh, cry, explore: How to streamline your in-flight movie picks

You're about to board a long flight, and the viewing options feel overwhelming. Here's a strategy film

experts recommend

INDULGE IN THE CULTURE OF THE PLACE YOU'RE **HEADED TO**

Perhaps you're embarking on a longawaited adventure in a new place. Chances are, your airline will offer a selection of movies from your destination, making this a great opportunity to start immersing yourself in the culture. Nervous about flying and want the adventure to wait until after you land? In that case, we don't recommend watching Cast Away or Red Eye. Instead, opt for something familiar - a firmly grounded comedy should do the trick, preferably a silly one. However, if you'd rather not be the person in Seat 34B laughing uncontrollably in the middle of the

night, maybe avoid a comedy. There's some evidence that we cry more easily at movies while flying. Great news if you're in need of a good cry, but beware. For some, flying offers the perfect opportunity to catch up on all the recent movies they've missed. It's also a surprisingly good environment for those quiet dramas and art films you've been meaning to watch.

Level: Medium

New York Times

Gather your option right away

Once you're settled, start scrolling through the options. If a title catches your interest, check online to see its rating. This will give you an idea of what has been said about the film. You don't necessarily need to choose a movie with a high critical score sometimes, you just want to enjoy a film that isn't designed to win critical acclaim.

Go on an adventure

One can find some of the best movies of the year festival winners, nuanced and interesting stories, independent fare that might not have made it to your local multiplex - turn up on in-flight entertainment systems. That's why airplanes are great places to engage in a little algorithmdefying serendipity, a bit of exploration. You're on an adventure, after all!



Tavel Diaries

How airlines pick movies on your flights

At least half of the customers use the in-flight entertainment system, according to executives from major airlines. The top choice, said Dominic Green, director of in-flight entertainment at a USbased airline, is movies. Airlines also note that the movie selection is typically data-driven.

3-2-2-

(Fig A)

Not allowed

(Fig B)

Hands on your food! The world wants to see them

recent study published in a leading retail research jour-nal validates an age-old tradition many Indians have al-ways embraced: Eating with your hands enhances the dining experience, making meals more satisfying than using cutlery. This isn't just cultural nostalgia; science backs it up. The tactile engagement of our hands with food primes our brain to perceive the meal as more flavourful and fulfilling.

Globally, the trend of eating with hands is gaining traction, from long-table communal feasts in New York's Greenwich Village to the resurgence of Filipino kamayan meals, where banana leaves replace plates and hands replace cutlery. For Indians, this 'newfound' discovery feels like a full-circle moment. After decades of being ridiculed for eating 'the

messy way,' there's a quiet validation in watching the world savour flavours through their fingers.

In fact, Anthony Bourdain, the late culinary icon, often extolled the virtues of eating with hands. During his travels, he celebrated the connection between food and culture, famously stating, "The more you eat with your hands, the closer you are to the food and the people who made it." In season 2 of his legendary series Parts Unknown, Bourdain can be seen tearing apart a butter-smothered Amritsari kulcha and enjoying his baked tandoori chicken, both in Amritsar. And who can forget Aishwarva Rai schooling Al Jazeera correspondent David Frost on eating a samosa the authentic way - with his hands - during an interview. A moment that sparked global curiosity about India's tactile dining traditions.

Scientific research further highlights that eating with hands activates nerve endings that enhance sensory perception and satisfaction. A study by a peer-reviewed psychology journal found that this tactile engagement can also help with mindful eating, allowing individuals to sayour each bite and avoid overindulgence.

Some foods, contrary to modern etiquette, are simply meant to be enjoyed by hand. Think of tearing apart flaky Malabar porottas, scooping dal with soft phulka, or devouring juicy mangoes. The tactile connection adds an irreplaceable layer of indulgence. Even during the pandemic, when hygiene concerns heightened, people found ways to rediscover this intimate act of eating, cherishing its ability to bring a sense of comfort and rootedness.

As global dining trends lean toward authenticity and diversity, the next time someone hesitates to ditch their fork, we can gently remind them: some flavours are best enjoyed finger-first.

Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? Write to us at: pov@timesofindia.com

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

			5		3	* 1 - 1		
	7			2			5	
5		4		7		3		1
		7	2		4	1		
		8				2		
		9	1		8	7		
7		1		8		4		3
	9			1			7	
			6		7			

Games

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ENGAGING PUZZLES

AND GAMES EVERY DAY

THE BEST PART

OF BEING A CAT?

HOW TO PLAY Fill in the grid so

> that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

cent in a row or column. 3 2 3 3 3 6 3 1 Unmarked create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells. 4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated. 5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be

HOW

TO PLAY

A number

may appear

just once in

each row

or column.

Eliminate

numbers by

darkening

cells. (see

example)

2. Darkened

cells must

never be adja-

repeat

circled. (e.g. 646) 6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6

SANTA CAN'T BRING YOU

SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR

FOR CHRISTMAS!

LEISURE TIMES HITORI

	TIVAL	ÐШ	110	KI			
4	4	9	4	3	2	3	6
2	9	2	7	6	2	3	8
2	3	2	7	9	1	4	3
3	1	9	2	3	5	8	4
6	6	5	4	1	6	2	7
5	8	5	1	3	3	5	9
2	7	1	6	2	4	9	5
9	2	9	3	9	8	3	1

Example

four word

jumbles, one

letter to each

work together.

TAURUS: Right now.

it's tricky to prioritise

LOOP THE LOOP

RULES Connect adjacent dots with vertical

or horizontal lines, creating a single

loop (Fig A). Crossovers or branches are not

allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). Numbers in the

puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of

lines. You can't draw lines around zeroes. Each puzzle has just

one unique solution. HOW TO

BEGIN:

Example (Fig A) -

Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B).

SCRAMBLE

EVENTS

EXHIBITION India Tourist and Industrial Fair: A fair including various amusement rides, pet shows and stalls on government and heritage initiatives, from 3pm to 10pm, at Island Grounds, Park Town Photography Strictly Prohibited: Exhibition of photographs by the late Navroze Contractor, till January 27, at The Folly, Amethyst, Royapettah.

Email us at chennaitimes@timesofindia.com

LIBRA: A challenging

day awaits, as you may

feel the weight of your



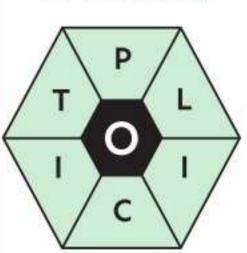
ARIES: Today is a great day for getting things done with minimal disruptions, but don't let your drive lead to isolation. You may need the support of colleagues to reach your full potential, so share your goals and

SPELLATHON

YES, AND FOR ONCE I GOT IN THE LAST WORD!

Today's Ratings: 06-average 107-good 1 09-outstanding

MS. BEAZLY?



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

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DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M GIVIN" MY MARBLES TO MR. WILSON. CAUSE I THINK HE KEEPS LOSIN' HIS."

Rearrange the letters in the **HSTIO**

EOSNY

square/circle, to make four	ELOTDD	
ordinary words	EELMBM	
Now arrange the circles to form the riddle or to fi ing word as indice	letters in the e answer to Il in the miss-	A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the as well as the Benjamin Franklin (4,.,4)

FORTUNE Book Anupam V Kapil for appt/written predictions: 39822042295 or anupamykapil@gmail.com.

your concerns. You're focused on your own plans, but take extra time to fine-tune them. Passion and enthusiasm will be your allies, but avoid making any significant financial decisions today.

GEMINI: It's wise to pause before making any big SAGITTARIUS: Today requires flexibility, as you calls today. You may feel confident in your approach, but balance your vision with practicality for better results. Avoid risky financial ventures, as things may feel uncertain.

CANCER: This is a time for emotional fulfilment and strengthening both personal and professional relationships. It's important to focus on your obligations and apply extra effort now to set as your creativity is heightened by the beauty yourself up for happiness.

LEO: Today brings a chance for positive change, whether in your lifestyle or career. However, double-check your details before committing to anything. Be mindful of balancing your time and unforeseen consequences. Take care with your efforts between work and personal life.

VIRGO: Your words carry weight today, so stay focused on consistency and integrity. This is an excellent time to define realistic financial goals and work toward them, but don't overlook your Embrace simple pleasures, as they will help you responsibilities.

FINOLE

responsibilities, both financially and emotionally. Make sure to manage your work alongside family needs, and keep an open mind to positive influences around you. See what the stars have in store for SCORPIO: There may you - according to your moon sign. be unfinished matters

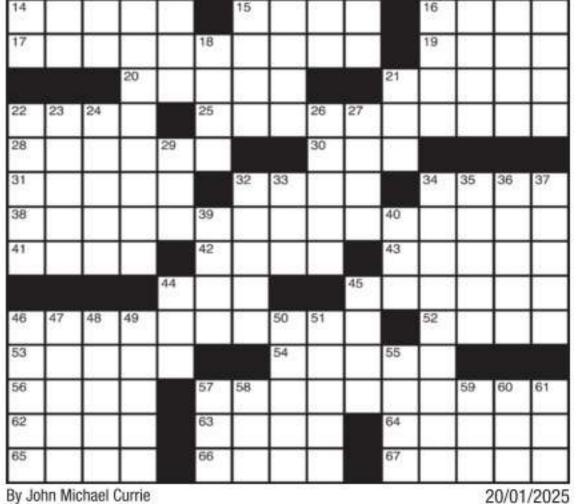
> that need attention today. Stay grounded and focus on the present, as your dreams could feel more vivid than usual. Avoid impulsive financial risks and take the time to listen to your inner voice.

> > around you.

may be pulled in multiple directions. While your friends may have demands, make sure to express your feelings clearly and find a way to connect. Your ideas will find their way out eventually. CAPRICORN: Let your dreams guide you, but remember to share them with someone you trust. This will help turn your vision into reality,

AQUARIUS: Your thoughts have more power than you realise today, so stay focused and avoid making long-term decisions that could have finances, as stress might cloud your judgment. PISCES: Let go of past emotional baggage and avoid avoiding difficult truths. Pay attention to your self-worth and how it shapes your interactions. regain clarity and purpose.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Michael Currie ACROSS Saturday's Puzzle Solved -dab in the middle VOTES

6 Smartphone downloads 10 Paper money 14 City west of Venice 15 Shave (down) 16 Spanish eight 17 Campy photo booth accessory 19 Comics icon Lee

20 Epitome of slowness 21 acid 22 "Oorah!" military org. 25 Southern California's June Gloom, essentially

28 10-Across, slangily 30 Fish eggs 31 Assumed name 32 Gravy vessel 34 Goes (for) 38 Candy treat shaped like a chick or bunny 41 Some Fidelity offerings, for short

42 Fades to black 43 Snorer's affliction 44 Gut punch reaction 45 Trademarked pastry creation 46 Sleepover hideaway 52 Weightlifter's units 53 Furnish with gear

54 For starters 56 Skeet shout 57 Trial period for a new product, and what 17-, 25-, 38-, and 46-Across all have?

67 "Heavens to __!" DOWN 1 Beach bottle no. 2 Actress Whitman

62 Flowerpot spot 63 Mideast canal 64 Battery terminal 65 "The __-bitsy spider 66 Lean and muscular

6 Diamond birthstone month 7 "Halo" star Schreiber 8 In favor of urchin 10 Pink cocktail. familiarly 11 Last part of a play,

perhaps 12 MacGowan of the Poques 13 Accept, as a coupon 18 A pop 21 Card with no face or number

22 Savory quality 23 Renewable energy source 24 Catherine's "Schitt's Creek" role

Arctic Ocean

27 Inflict upon

29 Fire residue 3 Toothpaste-endorsing 32 National park in 4 Doesn't make history? Alberta 5 "Clue" actress Madeline 33 On in years 34 Perfectly timed 35 Tubular pasta 36 Start, as a golf round

STADT HANDPRINT

TAKEAHIKE HALOS

GESTURE MANET

SWOLE TOSCALE

OHARESSAMSONITE

SLEEPONIT

LAYERCAKE

EDNAMODE

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SEENOTE

37 Petty quarrels 39 Cat's noise 40 Armed conflict 44 Alley-45 Keyboard shortcut starter

46 Cola brand

47 "That's it for me!"

GLASGOW

MOISTURE

GOALTENDS

VIIVID

ENEMY

RASES

DAMNSDDIRE

LAGASSELLEVY

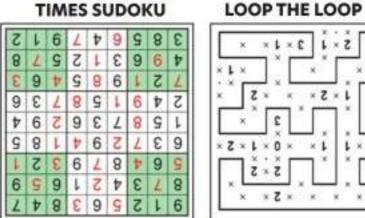
48 Calm periods 49 Pharmaceutical giant 50 Proposal

51 Posh 55 Onetime Swedish automaker

57 NNE opposite 26 Mountain range from

58 French yes 59 Do disturb 60 Media that's burned Kazakhstan to the before reading 61 "Listen up!"

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES



SPELLATHON

POLITIC, toil, topic clot, coil, colt, optic, pilot, plot,

5 × 1 3 × 1 × × Tמ 5 1×5× ××5 × 1× ×0×1×5× 2 × × × × ×



TIMES HITORI

SCRAMBLE

the body. - Benjamin Franklin contains food and fire for the mind as well as Answer: A house is not a home unless it Words: Hoist, nosey, toddle, emblem

A grand evening to celebrate Carnatic music's young talents





TM Krishna was accompanied by S Sunil Kumar on kanjira, Vignesh Ishwar, Vignesh Krishnamurthy and

Violinist Akkarai S Sornalatha being felicitated by Senthilkumar Senior General Manager - Marketing, Hatsun Agro Products Ltd

Listening to TM Krishna perform was truly immersive. Our bank has been focusing on promoting music and thereby supporting talent. So, it was a wonderful experience hearing the five young artistes perform

> - Harsh Dugar, Executive Director, Federal Bank



Federal Bank saw veterans of Carnatic music come together to uplift and cheer on young talents. The big finale of the talent hunt had five finalists giving their best shot as they vied for the coveted honour, which was then followed by a soulful concluding performance by THYAGARAJA TM Krishna. This year's Sangita **AWARDS** Kalanidhi recipient, Krishna, received a long, standing ova-

tion from the crowd. Speaking to us after being declared the winner, Aadithyadev V called his victory a 'dream come true' moment. "I'm from Guruvayur, and to get such a big honour after coming to Chennai means a lot," he said.

TIMES

14th edition of Times Thyagaraja Awards is presented by Federal Bank, Powered by: Casagrand & Hatsun Curd, in association with Gopuram Turmeric Powder and Kumkum, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Minister White Dhoties and Shirts and SSVM Institutions. Supported by: Dr. Shreevarma



It's wonderful that this

awards event has been

happening for 14 years. It's grown by itself organically, and that's where things are

sustainable. Because, then,

there's a momentum built

on to it and an

added value

Vimesh Nair - Senior Vice President, Casagrand felicitating Radhika and Uma of Chinmayi Sisters, who were part of the jury along with panel Gayathri Girish (centre) and Subhashini Parthasarathy (right)

All Carnatic music students wait for December not only for Margazhi concerts, but also for the Times Thyagaraja Awards. The process is so well thought out

TM Krishna received

a standing ovation for his performance

- Gayathri Girish, one of the judges



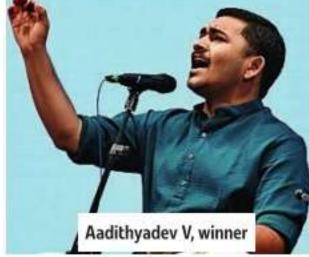
and Mrs. Harika fecilitate judge Subhashini Parthasarathy Niranjan Krishna, partner Gopuram Kumkum & Turmeric

We have been part of the Times Thyagaraja jury panel for many years. We wish we had these opportunities when we started out

> - Uma of Chinmayi Sisters, part of the judging team

This is a dreamcome-true moment for me. It is an absolute honour to get awarded by TM Krishna anna Aadithyadev V (CRV School Of Music)







I had participated last year as well, but this time, the competition was tougher. So, I put a lot of thought into it and gave it my very best - Rithikeshwar N (Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University)



Singing at the Music Academy main auditorium in front of all these stalwarts is a big blessing

> - Ranjani Radha V (Open Audition)

Ajay Gnanamuthu and Shimona tie the knot in intimate ceremony



for Ajay from his colleagues from the film industry, including Hiphop Tamizha Adhi and Meenakshi Govindharajan. Adhi took to Instagram to wish the director by posting two separate stories, one of which read, "So so happy Happy married life to my bro Ajay & Shimona (sic)"

On the work front, Ajay's Demonte Colony 2, the sequel to his 2015 horror film, hit the screens in 2024. He has also directed Vikram's Cobra and Nayanthara's Imaikkaa Nodigal.





Rashmika Mandanna was conferred the Times Fresh Face title in 2014. Since then, it has only been onwards and upwards for the actress, who quickly became a popular face in the South Film Industry. She's now a Pan-Indian star, winning hearts across the nation.

This is your final chance to shine and claim the spotlight. Auditions are closing, and the stage is set for the next superstar.

Bring your talent and passion, stardom is calling! Scan now.

www.timesfreshface.com/register.



















'Objections to my films bother me, but they don't stop me from creating'



CONTINUED FROM 1

'WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED TELLING 10% OF OUR HISTORICAL STORIES'

Ashutosh Gowariker made Jodhaa Akbar (2008) 15 years ago. In recent years, there has been a spate of historical and period films. Talking about their emergence, he says, "I think it's fantastic. We're able to tell so many stories. There is so much history in every state in the country. All the states have got their heroes, kings, and saints. And every story is important. All those stories are being told in some form or the other whether it's TV, web or cinema."

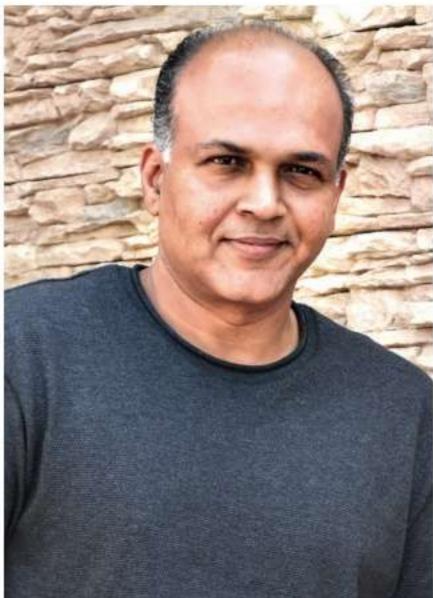
Ashutosh notes that in the 50s-60s, the genre was quite strong. "You had Mughal-e-Azam, Anarkali — some massive films which were historicals. But after a long gap, Akbar Khan sahab made Taj Mahal: An Eternal Love Story (2005), and then Jodhaa Akbar. It restarted that whole phase of historical movies. And so, we now have a spate of not only historical films but even period films. Actually, we have not even finished 10% of telling our stories."

'WHEN YOU WATCH A FILM, YOU ARE TRANSPORTED INTO THAT WORLD'

Whenever a historical film is released, there are always questions about authenticity. "You have to be as authentic as possible,"

Revisiting some classics is always a good thing. Certain nuances of certain films are lost when you watch them at that time because the age is different. There is a time gap of five-six years from when I made Lagaan and when I made Jodhaa Akbar. I've changed as a person, I've evolved. I've become mature

Gowariker says. He adds, "Filmmakers are not historians. If they were historians, they would not have made a film; they would have written a book, an account. As filmmakers, when we tell a story, we are already making our own accounts. We are drifting away from history. Gandhiji did not look like Ben Kingsley, and Akbar did not look like Hrithik Roshan. It's a fact. But when you watch a film, you are being transported into that world, and a filmmaker is making every attempt to use all his expertise and various departments to create the ambience for you to believe the story. So, be as authentic as possible, and take certain liberties where you feel that



Ashutosh Gowariker

you need to take the liberty. Try and check on historical details as much as possible." 'OBJECTIONS BOTHER ME, BUT THEY

DON'T STOP ME FROM CREATING' Every other historical film gets into legal hassles, court cases, objections but Ashutosh says that it doesn't stop him from creating. "It bothers me, but it doesn't stop me from creating. It bothers you because you feel, 'Oh man, I have done all this. 'I am very open if a person has any objection. If I am right, I will try to convince him about it, prove it to him, show him my book references, which I did during Jodhaa Akbar. And when the court case was filed against me, I won it on the basis of that. But if I'm proven that I've done injustice or shown something wrong, I don't mind changing it. Because I don't want to hurt any community, any religion, any descendant of any family who

feels that there is some injustice done to the

depiction of that person on screen. If it's in my

Kallarakka

'I KNEW THAT I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH BACK THEN'

CONTINUED FROM 1

'I'm at a place where I am confident that I

can pull off anything'

I don't want to be an option anymore because I have been one for 15-20 years. I have always been given reasons for not being cast in films, but at the end of the day, I knew that I wasn't good enough back then. I had to put in the work to get better. That's the reason I started learning different skills. I have learnt silambam, kalari, kickboxing, and horse riding. Now, even if I miss a movie, I don't think of it as a loss and don't dwell upon it.

'SHIVANNA AND NAGARJUNA SIR STILL WANT TO LEARN AND HONE THEIR CRAFT'

I have worked with many big stars, like Rajini sir, Nagarjuna sir, Shivanna, SK and DQ. All of them stick to their roots even after success and make an effort to not get carried away. For instance, Shivanna is a huge star and I grew up watching Nagarjuna sir's movies. So, to know that they are so down to earth and still want to learn and hone their

craft was a major takeaway for me. When I see them being so humble even after being such big stars, it is also a lesson for me to remain the same and not change. 'I WAS ABLE TO BE A BOXER INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BE ONE IN SARPATTA

with Shivarajkumar on the sets of his debut

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Kannada film Bhairathi Ranaga

PARAMBARAI' My first two films, Nerungi Vaa Muthamidathe and 54321, had me playing the protagonist. They didn't do well commercially, because of which I was a bit sceptical about playing a hero again. It took me some time to understand that I could also be the hero in a film. Right now, I'm

'Karthi anna was the first person to call me after Sarpatta Parambarai'

I look up to Karthi anna as an actor. He was an assistant director in Aayutha Ezhuthu. I remember telling him I wanted to become an actor and he shared a photographer's number and said that person takes pictures of his annan (Suriya) as well. I remember Ranjith sir asking me how I knew Karthi because anna told him that he and I started our journey at the same time. In fact, Karthi anna was

> the first person who called me after Sarpatta Parambarai.

role better than Dancing Rose, but if I chase after such a role, nothing is going to happen. If something is destined for me, it is going to come my way. But, as an actor, I have to be prepared for it. I came on board for Sarpatta Parambarai just two weeks before the shoot. But as I know about kickboxing, I was able to be a boxer in the film

'I ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR THE BETTER'

instead of trying to be one.

After Sarpatta Parambarai was released, a friend of mine, who once did a movie as a hero but has now left acting, called me after 14 years. He started crying and didn't say anything for five minutes. He told me that this felt like his success and said, 'Don't give up macha!' These small moments keep me going and make me think that everything will make sense one day. Time always gives you answers. When I signed King Of Kotha, I missed doing one Tamil and two Malayalam films, which turned out to be blockbusters. But I always believe that every-

As filmmakers, when we tell a story, we are already making our own accounts. We are drifting away from history. Gandhiji did not look like Ben Kingsley, and Akbar did not look like Hrithik Roshan. It's a fact Ben Kingsley in a still from Gandhi (1982)



Ankita Bharti

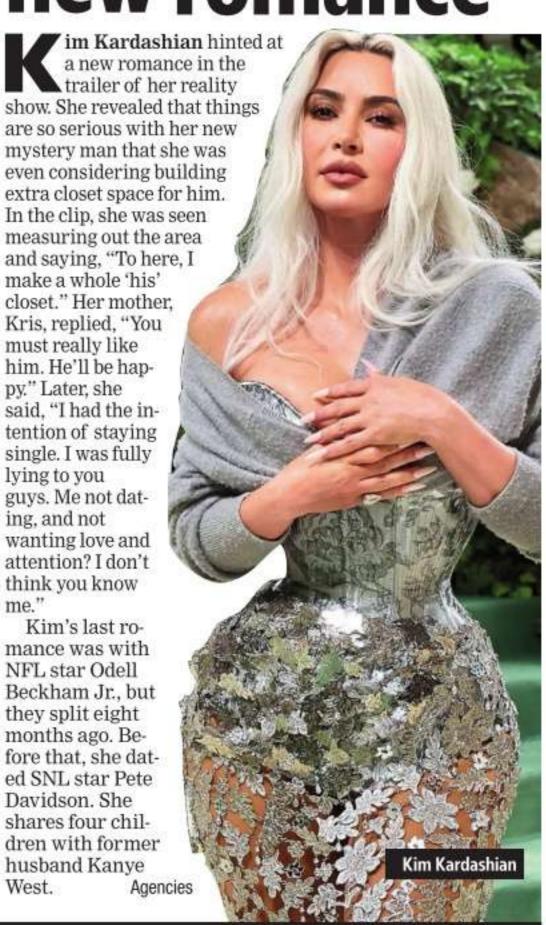
rammy-winning composer and singer Shankar Mahadevan performed at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj on Thursday evening.

The performance marked Mahadevan's first-ever visit to the Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13. Reflecting on the significance of the event, Shankar said, "I feel blessed and happy to do my music seva. This is the punya of my 30-35 years of musical journey, and it is my biggest earning. This is my first time attending the Maha Kumbh and a sacred moment for me. I've always wished to perform at the Kumbh, but the timing never aligned. Now, I'm looking forward to taking a holy dip at the Triveni

Mahadevan, who is known for his soul-stirring renditions of bhajans and devotional songs, was especially excited to perform the song Chalo Kumbh Chalein, the anthem of the previous Kumbh Mela, written by lyricist Prasoon Joshi and others. Mahadevan's repertoire also included popular renditions of bhajans, all of which enthralled the large crowd gathered at the Ganga Pandal set up at the Kumbh Mela area.



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