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On the fear of his phone getting hacked



#Lifestyle
HOW INDIAN LUXURY FASHION IS TAKING OVER THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION p.08

#Showbiz
COST OF ACTIVISM
 Actor Dia Mirza Rekhi talks about being criticised and trolled for her political and social opinions and how it even gets her judgemental eyes from her male co-stars p.01



#Showbiz
SUNITA AHUJA ROASTS GOVINDA FOR OUTING WITH 'BETI KI UMAR KI LADKI', HE REACTS p.01



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 ENTERTAINMENT & PROMOTIONAL FEATURES



Virgo
 You may meet some new friends during your journey. p.08

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NO OZEMPIC: SOHAIL
 The actor opens up on his drastic transformation, denies taking weight-loss drugs p.01



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Dia says male co-stars mocked her as 'andolan wali'

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM
DIAMIRZAOFFICIAL

Akash Bhatnagar

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Actor Dia Mirza, who is in the 25th year of her career, was recently seen in *Operation Sifd Sagar*. Beyond her on-screen work, she has remained vocal on social issues, drawing criticism this year for remarks on climate change and patriarchy. Ask if backlash ever makes her hold back, and she says,

"I know that when I speak up and everything that I have stood for or have said, has come from a place of care, and it doesn't come from a place of anger and hate. So, I don't feel uncomfortable when some of the times there has been an opposition or a backlash or criticism."

Recalling reactions from within the industry, she adds, "I've had so many interesting instances where my male co-actors have said things

like 'oh, ye to activist hai, andolan wali hai'. And it was not said as a compliment." The actor believes women are judged more harshly than men for speaking up. "It's interesting to see how people get offended when a woman speaks about something and it's not always true when men speak up. But it's also because perhaps in the entertainment industry, women are not often expected to or are allowed to be vocal," she says.



STOP PRESS

Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse, the third and final film in the animated trilogy, has suffered an online leak months ahead of its June 18, 2027 release. An unfinished trailer surfaced on X on Thursday, prompting co-writer Christopher Miller to say, "Not a fan of leaks of unfinished, not fully rendered footage."

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PHOTO: X



Sohail's throwback picture

NO OZEMPIC, NO FAT BURNERS: SOHAIL KHAN ON HIS WEIGHT LOSS

The actor reveals the real reason behind his drastic transformation

Natasha Coutinho

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Sohail Khan's recent appearance at the wrap-up party of reality show *Alliance* sparked concern among fans, with pictures from the gathering prompting questions about his noticeable weight loss. While some social media users wondered if the actor was dealing with health issues, others speculated whether GLP-1

weight-loss drugs were behind the change. Speaking to us, Sohail says his weight loss was linked to health issues he faced soon after entering the reality show. "I got a bit claustrophobic in the first few days, as it was my first time being a part of a reality show. A stomach bug added to that in the first week itself of entering the house. I must tell you, the love and concern, not only about my health, but at any given time by contestants, made me stay in for five weeks, though I

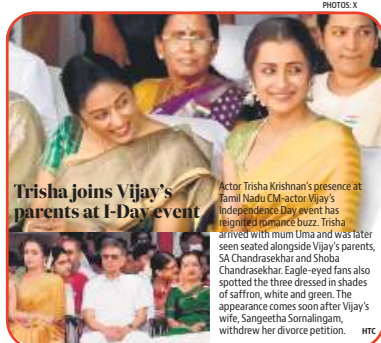
was unwell in the first itself." The actor adds that the illness also forced him to watch what he ate so that he could continue participating in the show's challenges. "I just needed to control what I was eating as I wanted to be a part of the challenges and be around the new family and friends that I made till the last day, and now for a lifetime. So no Ozempic, no fat burners, I'm only taking pure and loads of love and affection from everyone."



PHOTOS: X AND INSTAGRAM

Sunita slams Govinda over Komal outing; he says, 'Stay within your limits'

Actor Govinda's Mumbai airport outing with *Roopa* co-star Komal Rani Swarnkar has fuelled dating rumours. Govinda, 62, and wife Sunita Ahuja, 59, have been married for over three decades and share two children. Sunita has recently spoken more openly about alleged affairs in their marriage. On Friday, she said, "Beti ki umar ki ladki ko le-leke ghoom raha hai, sharam to sana chahiye thoda isko. Koi standard to hona chahiye." Taking a jibe at Komal, she added, "Tumhara sugar daddy itna ameer hai, kapde to dhang ka peheno." On Saturday, Govinda hit back: "Sunita ji, aap bohot zyada maa-behen ki gaali dene lagi hain... Youngsters jo hain aapse ummed karte hain ki aap jis tarah se vyavhar karenge, they will follow it... Don't do this. Sasta kar diya hai maa-behen ka naam. Aapse yeh apeshit nahi hai." ntc



PHOTOS: X

Trisha joins Vijay's parents at I-Day event

Actor Trisha Krishnan's presence at Tamil Nadu CM actor Vijay's Independence Day event has ignited romance buzz. Trisha arrived with mum Uma and was later seen seated alongside Vijay's parents, SA Chandrasekhar and Shoba Chandrasekhar. Eagle-eyed fans also spotted the three dressed in shades of saffron, white and green. The appearance comes soon after Vijay's wife, Sangeetha Sornalingam, withdrew her divorce petition. ntc



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'AAP APNI HADD MEIN RAHIYE'

Reacting to the chatter around him and Komal, Govinda said, "All the stars in the country have worked with young actors. You are not leaving any stone unturned to ensure that people don't love me anymore. Shohrat, daulat, izzat, sab mili hui hai, upar wale ne di hai. This doesn't mean that you will insult the ones who don't. Aap apni hadd mein rahiye."



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Enter 'The Empire' of celebrations

Celebrating 25 years of hospitality excellence, Sheraton New Delhi has unveiled The Empire, its newest premium banquet venue, marking another milestone in the hotel's legacy of memorable celebrations and bespoke experiences.

Designed to host up to 200 guests, The Empire is an elegant, contemporary space suited for intimate weddings, corporate gatherings and milestone celebrations. Sophisticated interiors, curated culinary experiences and personalised service come together to create a refined setting for every occasion.

The launch was marked by an exclusive evening showcasing ITC Hotels' celebrated culinary expertise. The specially curated menu brought together innovative fusion cuisine and authentic Delhi-style specialities, paying tribute to Delhi's rich culinary heritage. Crafted by the hotel's culinary team, the dining experience balanced contemporary flavours with traditional regional delicacies, reflecting The Empire's vision of bringing exceptional cuisine and elevated celebrations together under one roof.

Speaking on the occasion, Amit Kumar, Area Manager, Welcomhotel North & General



▲ Dr Sanjeev Bagai

◀ L-R: Abhinav Kaushal; Parineeta Sethi, Chief Editor, Global Spa Magazine; and Sandeep Arora

Manager, Sheraton New Delhi, said, "As we celebrate 25 years of Sheraton New Delhi, The Empire represents our continued evolution in creating exceptional experiences. More than a banquet venue, it is a destination where celebrations are thoughtfully curated, combining refined hospitality, bespoke culinary offerings and modern elegance."

As Sheraton New Delhi enters its next chapter, The Empire reinforces its commitment to innovation, timeless hospitality and creating memorable moments for every occasion.

HTC



Amit Kumar, Area Manager Welcomhotel North and General Manager, Sheraton New Delhi; and Pawan Soti



Cricketer legend Sachin Tendulkar waved the Tiranga

Lehra Do: Stars let the Tiranga fly

Celebs turned Instagram tricolour with flag-hoisting moments and heartfelt I-Day messages

Actor Arjun Rampal wrote, "Happy 80th Independence Day to every one of us Indians. Be proud. Be free"



Actor Riddhima Kapoor Sahni expressed gratitude for the sacrifices of our freedom fighters



Amitabh Bachchan posted a reel in his signature style saying, "Vande Mataram"



Actor Ayushmann Khurrana held the Tiranga close to heart



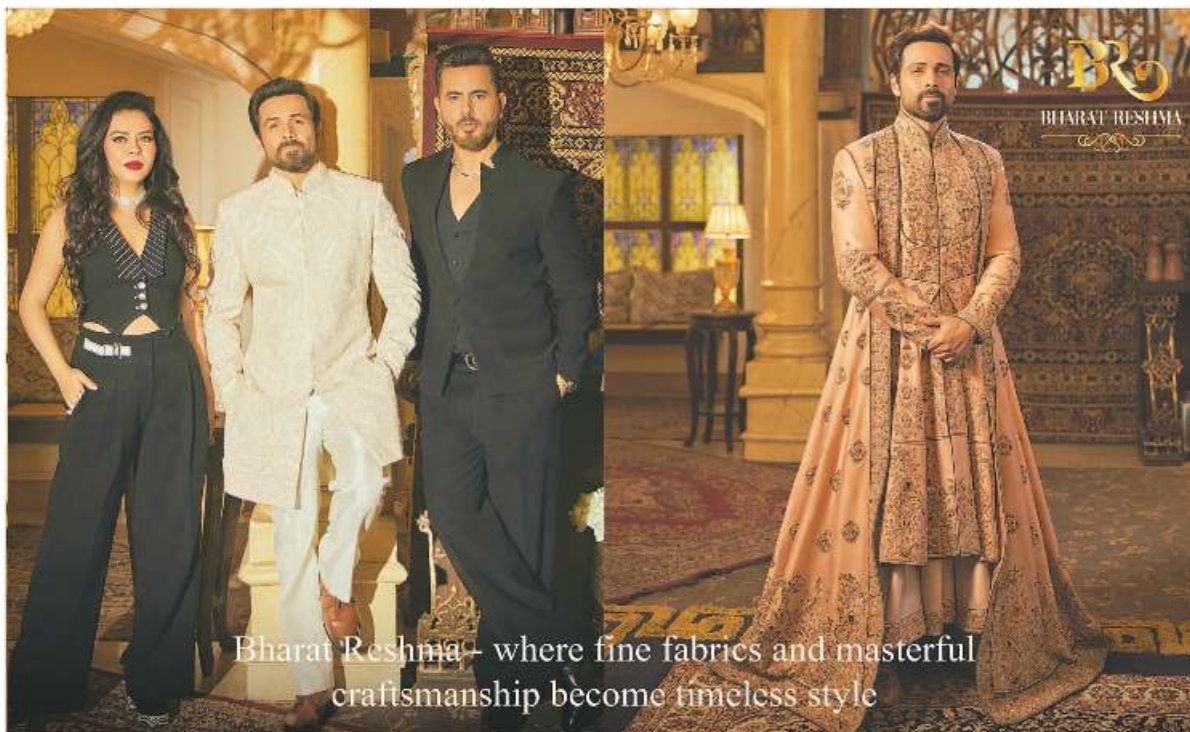
Actor-MP Ravi Kishan attended the I-Day celebrations at Red Fort in Delhi with his wife, Preeti

Author Soha Ali Khan wrote, "Here's to an India where every mind feels free to question, dream, speak, and belong"

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM



Actor Bhumi Pednekar saluted the diversity of India



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AKSHAY PAAJI MAY BE HAIWAAN ONSCREEN, BUT TRUE INSAAN IN REAL LIFE



Gurpreet Ghuggi; (Inset below) recipients of houses funded by Akshay Kumar for victims of last year's Punjab floods

Rishabh Suri

rishabh.suri@hindustantimes.com

With floods recently wreaking havoc across India, the devastation in Punjab last year comes to mind. The floods left 40 people dead and damaged thousands of homes. Actor Akshay Kumar, we learn, stepped in to help, and his efforts are now bearing fruit.

Actor Gurpreet Ghuggi, who hails from Punjab and has worked with Akshay in films such as *Singh Is King* (2008) and *Cutiputti* (2022), tells us, "Akshay paaji got in touch with me, asking how he could help. Since people were getting assistance with food supplies, I suggested that the real help would be needed after the floods, for those whose houses were destroyed."

Akshay then pledged to build 100 houses, 80 of which are now complete. Gurpreet adds, "I assembled a team to identify the people in need. These houses are mostly in the Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts. The work on the pending houses will be completed soon. It was all Akshay paaji's doing."



The project has been carried out under the aegis of the Hari Om Foundation, founded by Akshay in memory of his late father, Hari Om Bhatia.

"Akshay paaji sirf on-screen hi haiwaan play kar rahe hain (in his upcoming film), real life mein he is a wonderful insaan. Woh nahin chahte the unka naam saamne aaye. He said, 'Iss mein koi badi baat nahin hai. Help karna aur phir logon ko batana, mujhe theek nahin lagta,'" recalls Gurpreet.

PHOTOS: HTBS/YOGEN SHAR AND X

MOVIE REVIEW

Shabana Azmi, Sunny Deol deliver a heart-wrenching film

BATWARA 1947

Direction: Rajkumar Santoshi
Cast: Shabana Azmi, Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Ali Fazal
Rating: ★★☆☆

The year 2026 has already seen a Partition story. *Main Vaapas Aaunga*, reduce audiences to tears. Now, we have *Batwara 1947*.

Director Rajkumar Santoshi and lead actor Sunny Deol, who have given us classics such as *Ghayal* (1990), *Damini* (1993) and *Ghatak* (1996), adapt the popular play *Is Lahore Nai Dekhya, O Janyai Nai* for this film.

The story revolves around Shikandar Mirza (Sunny) and his family: wife Hamida (Preity Zinta), son Javed (Karan Deol) and daughter Tanvir (Kishushi Hajari), who are forced to flee India after Partition. They are allotted a haveli in Lahore, but soon discover that it is still occupied by its previous owner, a



Hindu woman named Durgavati (Shabana Azmi), called Mai by the mohalla. She insists that she is waiting for her son to return. As tensions rise, aspiring politician Yaqub (Abhimanyu Singh) gives the conflict a communal colour.

Rajkumar adapts the play beautifully, but the pitch is often louder than it needs to be. The first half is engaging. The second half begins on a shaky note, though it soon finds its footing, largely on the strength of its cast.

Shabana is remarkable as Mai. Sunny's scenes with her are among the film's most beautiful. Karan doesn't leave much of an impression. Abhimanyu's pitch as the antagonist is too OTT. On the music front, AR Rahman's songs fail to connect.

Overall, *Batwara 1947*'s biggest strength is the emotional conflict, and Shabana's performance is the star of the film.

Rishabh Suri

Anne Hathaway leads this fun creature-feature

THE END OF OAK STREET

Direction: David Robert Mitchell
Cast: Anne Hathaway, Ewan McGregor, Maisey Stella
Rating: ★★☆☆

Hailing from a generation that grew up watching classic creature adventures like *Jurassic Park*, the *Godzilla* franchise and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *The End of Oak Street* was a nostalgic ride.

The film follows the Platt family: Denise (Anne Hathaway), Greg (Ewan McGregor) and their two children, Audrey (Maisey Stella) and Brian (Christian Convery), whose ordinary life takes a U-turn when a mysterious cosmic event transports their neighbourhood to a prehistoric world. Suddenly, the family finds itself surrounded by dinosaurs and other creatures, with survival depending on staying united.

The premise is a tried-and-tested recipe for creature chaos.



The screenplay begins at a slow pace, and even when the bizarre developments begin, the adrenaline rush takes time to build. Once it does, though, there are plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, coupled with a few edge-of-your-seat ones too.

The VFX is seamless. Cinematographer Michael Gioulakis does an excellent job of capturing the mayhem. The film also understands that sometimes

what you don't see can be more frightening than what you do. Hathaway doesn't let her star status overpower the story, which ensures that her co-stars get their fair share of scenes.

Overall, there is a certain charm in watching *The End of Oak Street* lean into the kind of creature adventures that once ruled the big screen.

Rishabh Suri

MEET THE SECOND-TIME MUMS-TO-BE

From Hollywood to Korean and Chinese cinema, several stars are embarking on the journey of parenthood again. Here's a look at the mums-to-be and how they announced their second innings

BRIANNE HOWEY

The American actor, 37, known for *Gunny* & *Georgia*, announced her second pregnancy on Mother's Day, May 10. Sharing a picture of herself cradling her baby bump, she captioned the post, "Here we grow again."



Compiled by Vishakha Pandit

TANG WEI

Chinese actor Tang Wei, known for Asian international co-productions like *Late Autumn* (2010) and *The Golden Era* (2014), announced her second pregnancy on April 29 after pregnancy rumours surfaced following a public appearance. Sharing a photo of a toy horse on Instagram, she said the pregnancy was unexpected but had brought her great happiness. She and her husband, South Korean director Kim Tae-yong, welcomed their first daughter, Summer, in 2016.



BONNIE WRIGHT

The English actor-filmmaker, 35, best known for playing Ginny Weasley in the *Harry Potter* franchise, announced her second pregnancy on Easter Sunday, April 5. In an Instagram post, she shared a photo of her two-year-old son, Elio, resting on her lap as she showed her baby bump. She said her "second little earthling" would join the family in autumn.

KALEY CUOCO

The American actor, 40, best known for the show *The Big Bang Theory*, announced her second pregnancy with fiancé, actor Tom Pelphrey, on Instagram on June 10. The couple, already parents to daughter Matilda, revealed they were expecting another girl through a family photo carousel featuring a gender-reveal cake, a sonogram and Cuoco's baby bump.

WUNMI MOSAKU

The Nigerian-British actor, 40, revealed she was expecting her second child at the 2026 Golden Globes on January 11. Known for *Sinners* (2025) and *His House* (2020), Mosaku is already a mother to a two-year-old daughter. She later wrote about the emotional significance of the pregnancy in a personal essay for *Variety*, writing, "This is my anti-announcement pregnancy announcement. Sacred. And scared. Say a prayer for a safe arrival and recovery."



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM AND X



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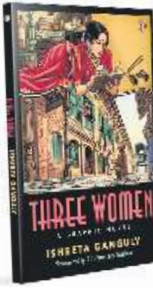


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#bookreview

A novel reimagining of Tagore's leading ladies



Visualise Rabindranath Tagore's central characters from the 19th century — Charu and Bimala — debating on the relevance of reality shows in 2026, with his sister-in-law Kadambari Devi. Though the life and tales of these characters are well known worldwide, the new book by singer-author Ishweta Ganguly reinterprets and rediscovers these personalities in the modern day. Yet, their dilemmas and debates continue to remain embedded in similar tropes such as how the 'modern woman' is still living for everyone else

while caught between love, intellect, and duty. Adapted from Ganguly's dram-com stage musical by the same name, this book engages the reader with illustrations that reflect the sincere work of Chirantan Sarkar. "The musical theatre morphed into a new form effortlessly with Chirantan's detailed interpretations with a play of lines, curves and angles. The images bring to life, the range of Charu, Bimala and Kadambari's lives from the parlours and gardens to the cafes and

verandahs of today," says Ganguly, adding, "The three women are much ahead of their times. With career, relationships and society today, the question still remains as to how should women negotiate traditional roles and expectations and still find their voice and give wings to their own purpose?" It's intriguing how the writer believed that 2026 would be an ideal setting for Tagore's sister-in-law Kadambari Devi's sassy spirit to leap across centuries and meet Tagore's two iconic, fictional female characters.

Reasoning this, Ganguly says, "Tagore's heroines in the 19th century were nuanced, quick-witted, and intricately complex women who were isolated amidst drawing room silences and engulfed in deep loneliness. In 2026, women are just as intricate and complex yet still grappling with the loneliness of digital silences." It is, however, the writer's confidence in her choice to reinterpret her musical into a graphical writing, which leaves room for intrigue. But Ganguly counters saying, "Gen Z is direct

like Charu, Bimala and Kadambari. These roles are reimagined as there isn't any suffocating sense of holding back, to masquerade vulnerability like the Carrie Bradshaw 'rules' girls are."

Title: Three Women: A Graphic Novel
Author: Ishweta Ganguly
Publisher: Penguin Random House India
Price: ₹299
Henna Rakheja



Ishweta Ganguly

HINDUSTAN TIMES MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE



THE FESTIVE SHOPPING LIST: WHAT TO BUY AND WHERE

From festive outfits and statement jewellery to home décor and gifts, Shreya Vashistha shares a guide to Delhi's best markets

Festivals have a funny way of turning a perfectly sensible shopping list into "just one more thing". A new outfit needs matching earrings, the house needs a little décor, gifts need to be wrapped and, of course, there is always room for something sweet. Luckily, Delhi has a market for almost every festive impulse.

FOR THE FESTIVE WARDROBE

When it comes to ethnic wear, Chandni Chowk remains one of the city's go-to shopping destinations. Its bustling lanes are packed with fabrics, traditional outfits, embellished pieces and accessories for everything from family celebrations to bigger festive occasions. Whether you have a specific outfit in mind or are simply browsing, there is plenty to discover.

For those looking for a mix of ethnic and contemporary fashion, Lajpat Nagar is another useful stop. From Kurtas and festive sets to footwear and accessories, the market makes it possible to put together an entire look without having to travel across the city.

FOR JEWELLERY THAT MAKES THE OUTFIT

No festive look is quite complete until the jewellery comes out. Chandni Chowk is a natural choice for traditional and occasion jewellery, while Janpath is worth exploring for colourful, eclectic pieces. Earrings, bangles, necklaces and statement accessories can add an instant festive touch, especially if you would

rather refresh last year's outfit than buy an entirely new one.

And if the budget is doing most of the talking, Sarojini Nagar has plenty of affordable accessories to browse through.

GIVE THE HOUSE A FESTIVE MAKEOVER

Festive shopping is not just about dressing up. Homes get their share of attention too. Amar Colony and Lajpat Nagar are worth exploring for colourful décor and festive essentials. Whether it is something for the entrance, dining table or living room, a few small additions can make the house feel ready for the celebrations.

For shoppers looking for more polished gifting and lifestyle options, Khan Market offers a different kind of festive shopping experience.

THE GIFTING LIST IS CALLING

Festive gifting can quickly become a shopping expedition of its own. There is always someone else to add to the list: family, friends, colleagues, neighbours and that one person you completely forgot about until the last minute.

For more curated gifting options, Khan Market is a good place to browse. For something more traditional and handmade, Dilli Haat offers handicrafts, textiles and products from artisans across India.

Festive shopping in Delhi is rarely just about buying what is on the list. It is about wandering through colourful lanes, discovering something you did not plan to buy and, inevitably, coming home with a little more than you intended. After all, half the fun of the festive season is in the shopping. And in Delhi, every market has its own way of turning a shopping trip into a festive experience.



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Pink dreams

With an overcast sky in the background, this cotton candy seller looks spectacular with his stock of sale adding colour to the surroundings at Kartavya Path where visitors gathered in huge numbers during the Independence Day weekend.

PHOTO: AMT/ANI

As Onam begins, designers are refreshing Kerala's classic ivory-and-gold handloom with colour, traditional motifs like Vallam Kali, the canoe boat race from Kerala, and more for a new generation



How to maintain a hand-painted Kasavu saree

- It is better to dry clean to preserve the paint
- Gentle hand wash with cold water and a mild detergent, only if necessary. Don't scrub hard
- Do not soak the saree for more than 5-10 minutes
- Don't twist the saree
- Always dry in the shade, not under direct sunlight
- Avoid placing hot iron directly onto the paint

KASAVU SAREE GETS A FRESH ONAM TWIST

Radhika Bhirani

radhika.bhirani@hindustantimes.com

The visual palette for celebrating Onam, the vibrant harvest festival that begins today, is defined by bright yellow and red floral pookkalam (floral rangoli), lush green banana leaves, and pristine off-white and gold Kasavu. Traditionally, this handloom is known for its pristine off-white or cream body bordered by golden threads. But over the past few years, independent designers and brands have been lending a contemporary and artistic touch to the celebrated handloom.

For many, the objective is not to change the essence of Kasavu but to present it in a way that resonates with a new generation that values individuality, comfort, and cultural pride equally.

Today's younger consumer wants fashion that feels both rooted and relevant. The beauty of the Kasavu saree lies in its timeless elegance, and brands are re-imagining it through contemporary colour accents, modern

blouse pairings, innovative motifs, lighter fabrics, and versatile silhouettes that fit seamlessly into today's lifestyle," says Vinay Chaturani, Co-founder and CEO of ethnic wear brand Soch.

Traditionalists may argue that Kasavu's simplicity is what makes it beautiful. But brands are trying to ensure they're careful not to lose the handloom's essence while catering to consumers seeking versions that feel more personal and contemporary.

"We look at the ivory and gold as the main story and treat the artistic details almost like little additions to it. It could be an illustration, a small pop of colour, a hand-painted element, an unusual motif or an interesting border," says Sujata Biswas of Suta, which has a range of Kasavu sarees priced between ₹2,500-₹22,500 depending on the fabric, craftsmanship and detailing. Tanisha Biswas, the saree brand's co-founder, adds, "It's not really about choosing the new over the classic. People want something that feels fresh each Onam, while still feeling connected to what makes a Kasavu a Kasavu."



Customised painting on Kasavu

Thiruvananthapuram-based Dr Laji Sajith, a dentist-turned-entrepreneur, says there's "high demand" for hand-painted Kasavu sarees during the Onam season. She takes 2-3 days to hand-paint a single saree with floral motifs, using acrylic paints for cotton and aquarelle paint for silk. "These designs are popular among the young and the old alike," says Dr Sajith, who depends on word-of-mouth and social media to reach customers.

There's also Vinaya Nelson, a Kochi-based architect, whose passion for painting led her to build her brand, The Ame Stories. "Onam is a huge celebration in Kerala, and everyone waits for this season to wear the best of their Kasavu sarees. The idea behind hand-painting flowers and foliage on the sarees is to offer something unique," she says, informing that she sources pure handloom from Kuthampully, a handloom weaving village, to ensure the integrity of the authentic weave.

Not just an 'Onam saree'

Kasavu is slowly moving beyond being seen as just an 'Onam saree', note the Suta co-founders Sujata and Tanisha Biswas. Earlier, the plain ivory-and-gold Kasavu had such a strong association with Onam that many younger women would wear it for the festival and then save it for their next special occasion. Artistic details are changing that perception. When you add illustrations, interesting borders, colour or experiment with the blouse, the same saree can feel completely different. "You can wear it with a statement blouse for Onam, pair it with a shirt for dinner, or style it differently for another celebration," they say.



A grand salute to India's spirit

SNEH International School marked India's 80th Independence Day with a grand musical program that reflected its commitment to nation-building through education. Blending patriotic fervour with artistic excellence, the programme paid tribute to the ideals of freedom, unity and responsible citizenship. The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Air Marshal Rajiv Dayal Mathur (Retd.), followed by the unrolling of the National Flag and the National Anthem, setting a tone of pride and reverence. The cultural segment brought the students' remarkable talent

The students of SNEH International School delivered a moving musical performance. PHOTOS: HTCS

to the fore. A patriotic choir filled the venue with soulful melodies, and a vibrant display of contemporary gymnastics, skating, theatre, dance and music brought the timeless philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam to life. The students celebrated India's rich cultural heritage while conveying a powerful message of peace, unity and global harmony with their performance, which earned a prolonged applause from the audience. The programme concluded with the symbolic release of white pigeons and tricolour balloons, with a resounding chorus of "Jai Hind!" Through initiatives bringing together values, creativity and excellence, SNEH International School continues to nurture compassionate leaders, responsible citizens and proud Indians, reaffirming its belief in education as a powerful force for national progress. HTCS

DUSU elections 2026: No more ₹1 lakh bonds, no heavy convoys

₹1 lakh security bond scrapped

The requirement of submitting ₹1 lakh security bond, introduced as a measure to prevent property defacement last year, has been dropped this time. Aryan Maan, current DUSU president calls it a "big achievement". He says, "Students from across all financial backgrounds and states in India come to study in DU, and if they chose to fight the elections then how can one expect them to shell out ₹1 lakh?" However, candidate compliance will still be monitored and if found under any campus violation then it will directly lead to disqualification rather than monetary forfeitures.



Bye-bye campaign canopies

Distributing freebies, souvenirs, or any branded merchandise is a violation of the election code. Even setting up branded structures such as temporary campaign canopies, umbrellas, or shaded booths bearing a candidate's name or ballot number on campus grounds is not permitted this year to curb financial influence. Aarush, a second-year student of Kirti Mal College, who will contest elections for his college's vice president post, says, "Independent candidates like us cannot match up to that affluence and even if we are sincere in our work and intention, we lose out to the power of money. I am glad now it is more of an even ground after this."

The Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) 2026 elections taking place on September 18 have already got the campus in high spirit, and here are the four major norms that have been laid down so far for this year's campaigning

■ Karan Sethi



No print posters, only handmade

Printed flyers, posters, pamphlets, or banners across college premises are forbidden to ensure that campaigning relies purely on handmade materials, preferably created by student volunteers. This step also aligns with National Green Tribunal directives and the High Court mandates to stop paper-littered campus roads. Tanisha Rathore, student of Dyal Singh College and part of its fine arts society, shares, "The creativity and imagination of us students should be at the centre. Gen Z has upped the bar with creativity at Jantar Mantar, so we need to up our game too."

Limiting the convoy

The campaign rallies have been capped at a maximum of five vehicles per candidate. Affixing election stickers with candidates' names or party symbols on any vehicle is strictly illegal. Heavy machinery like tractors and JCBs, as well as the use of animals during campaigning has been banned. The campus security and traffic authorities have been instructed to bar any vehicles that turn up with tinted windows, missing number plates, or suspicious markings.

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YOUR TAROT THIS WEEK

Manisha Koushik



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August 16-22, 2026

Manisha Koushik is a renowned tarot card reader and astrologer. She can be contacted at: +91-9650015920 Email: support@askmanisha.com; Website: www.askmanisha.com

PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH



Saif Ali Khan
AUGUST 16, LEO

ARIES MAR 21-APR 20



Kangana Ranaut

Love: King of Coins **Mood:** Six of Swords **Career:** Five of Wands
This week, your professional front looks positive and focusing on skill development may gradually lead to growth and advancement. Financial stability and prosperity are likely if you manage your wealth with care and avoid impulsive decisions. Travel plans may be a highlight, with a short getaway helping you recharge.
Lucky Number: 15 **Lucky Colour:** Silver

TAURUS APR 21-MAY 20



Anushka Sharma

Love: Devil **Mood:** Three of Coins **Career:** Knight of Wands
This week may give you several reasons to smile, starting with excellent health that brings inner calm and steady energy. Some may start thinking seriously about retirement planning to secure their long-term financial future. A long drive or change of scene may help you unwind.
Lucky Number: 3 **Lucky Colour:** Dark Yellow

GEMINI MAY 21-JUN 21



Suhana Khan

Love: Star **Mood:** Two of Wands **Career:** Temperance
This week may support agility, enthusiasm and physical wellness, with health likely to remain strong if you maintain a routine. Financially, things may look bright, and thoughtful portfolio diversification can support long-term growth. A short trip or local exploration may bring a sense of adventure.
Lucky Number: 9 **Lucky Colour:** Cream

CANCER JUN 22-JUL 22



Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Love: Judgment **Mood:** Magician **Career:** Ten of Wands
The week may bring a positive wave into both your professional and personal life. Career progression may pick up speed, giving you chances to prove your capability and secure appreciation. Romance may not be at its most intense, but there will still be small, meaningful moments of affection to treasure.
Lucky Number: 1 **Lucky Colour:** Light Red

LEO JUL 23-AUG 23



Sara Ali Khan

Love: The Sun **Mood:** The Magician **Career:** The Empress
This week may bring encouraging developments in your personal life, with strong family support becoming a major source of comfort. Financially, planning and tracking expenses will be important to maintain security. Engaging in social or community service may provide satisfaction.
Lucky Number: 15 **Lucky Colour:** Green

VIRGO AUG 24-SEP 23



Kareena Kapoor Khan

Love: The Hermit **Mood:** Two of Swords **Career:** Three of Coins
This week may bring financial success, especially if you prioritise smart asset allocation and disciplined spending. Your health is likely to remain stable, and you may be able to strike a good balance between work, rest and self-care. A group vacation or outing could be a perfect way to unwind.
Lucky Number: 18 **Lucky Colour:** Purple

LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23



Nargis Fakhri

Love: The World **Mood:** Justice **Career:** King of Wands
This week may bring a mix of opportunities and tests. On the professional front, you are likely to find good scope for growth, collaboration and recognition. At home, things may not be at their best initially, but empathy and patience can help bring everyone back on the same page.
Lucky Number: 8 **Lucky Colour:** Electric Grey

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22



Ananya Pandey

Love: Hermit **Mood:** The Fool **Career:** Strength
This week may feel rewarding in many areas if you combine discipline with flexibility. Paying attention to self-care and mindfulness can improve your emotional and physical well-being. On the financial front, sensible debt management and budgeting may help you overcome pending issues.
Lucky Number: 18 **Lucky Colour:** Brown

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21



Alaya F

Love: Wheel of Fortune **Mood:** Devil **Career:** Two of Wands
This week may bring exciting shifts in your love life as circumstances favour deeper connections and shared values may offer emotional strength and a sense of rootedness.
Lucky Number: 1 **Lucky Colour:** Peach

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 21



Deepika Padukone

Love: Death **Mood:** The Fool **Career:** The Lovers
The stars suggest a promising week ahead, especially for finances and personal growth. Monetary matters appear strong, but continuing to save, budget and plan for the future will keep you secure. Property investments seem favourable; maintaining and improving assets will be helpful.
Lucky Number: 6 **Lucky Colour:** Dark Blue

AQUARIUS JAN 22-FEB 19



Preity Zinta

Love: The Stars **Mood:** Two of Cups **Career:** Five of Swords
This week calls for deliberate self-care, with rest and relaxation becoming as important as productivity. Financially, focusing on security, budgeting and steady savings may bring peace of mind. Social life looks vibrant and may present opportunities for volunteering or community work.
Lucky Number: 2 **Lucky Colour:** White

PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20



Sanya Malhotra

Love: Strength **Mood:** The Moon **Career:** Seven of Coins
This week may feel favourable for both your family and financial outlook. Emotional banking from your loved ones may boost your confidence and help you move through responsibilities with ease. Romantic relationships may feel meaningful and emotionally rich if you remain open and expressive.
Lucky Number: 8 **Lucky Colour:** Light Green

How India is becoming luxury's new global force

From Sabyasachi's Met partnership and Manish Malhotra's Paris Haute Couture Week debut, to Indian models commanding global runways, Indian fashion is moving from representation to real influence

Aadrika Sominder

Actor Taraji P. Henson at Gaurav Gupta's Spring/Summer 2026 couture show in Paris in January

HERITAGE-DRIVEN STORYTELLING
Designers are turning their Indian heritage into a modern luxury statement. Indian designer Manish Malhotra made his Paris Haute Couture Week debut in July with his collection Maa, honouring his late mother through protective cocoon silhouettes and bangle-inspired drapes. At the same event, Rahul Mishra displayed his Fall couture line Devi: The Eternal Muse, which drew inspiration from feminine, rock-cut temple architecture for dense, thread-embroidered couture. In January, Gaurav Gupta's Spring/Summer 2026 line in Paris drew on Advaita, the ancient Indian philosophy of non-duality.

In 2026, I see an opportunity to change the narrative: from India being a source of craft and labour for international luxury to being recognised as a source of cultural knowledge, as well as a creative authority.
Shilpa Kukreja, fashion professor, UDIT

Manish Malhotra Paris Haute Couture Week debut collection Maa

Earlier, Western luxury brands looked at us only as a cultural reference. When an international celebrity wore an Indian designer, the story was often the novelty of seeing Indian craftsmanship on a global star. Today, it's more about the designer's place within global fashion.
Rajan Narayan, luxury brand consultant

GROWING VISIBILITY
Indian representation in global luxury has shifted to an undeniable main-stage visibility. On the catwalks, Indian models are leaving their mark. In March, model Bhavitha Mandava became Chanel's first Indian Global House Ambassador, while Yugi Saraiya Devala (left) and Aryan Prakash walked for Dior in June. Simultaneously, global icons are turning to Indian ateliers for major cultural moments. Card B's video in an Indian temple-inspired Rahul Mishra ensemble went viral while Taraji P. Henson championed South Asian design at Paris Couture Week in Gaurav Gupta's sculptural gown.

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM AND X

Abraham & Thakore's Saritarial with L'Atelier 1664

There is a growing appreciation globally of the time, skill and human intelligence involved in creating something India has an incredible vocabulary of embroidery, surface techniques, textiles and hand processes, which are being used to create sophisticated contemporary expressions. Our visibility as a cultural identity is changing.
Ashish Dhaka, fashion professor, UDIT

EQUAL PARTNER COLLABORATIONS
This year also marked a pivotal shift for creative partnerships. After dressing prominent faces for the Met Gala, designer Sabyasachi recently inked a landmark multi-year deal with The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (The Met). Abraham & Thakore also tied up with French lifestyle platform L'Atelier 1664 for a capsule line titled Saritarial. Meanwhile, Prada responded to backlash over its uncredited Kolhapuri-inspired sandals with a three-year training programme for 180 Indian artisans, alongside a limited-edition 'Made in India' collection. Global luxury houses are increasingly treating Indian designers as co-creators, not just sources of inspiration.



DAILY HOROSCOPE

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Dr. Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

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ARIES MAR 21-APR 20

☿ A strategic decision on the business front may help you gain an advantage in a competitive situation. Guidance from a parent may help you approach an important decision with greater clarity.
LOVE FOCUS: Renewed closeness may help bridge emotional distance.
Lucky Number: 2 **Lucky Colour:** Orange

TAURUS APR 21-MAY 20

♉ Paying closer attention to appetite or eating habits could support well-being. A delightful surprise from a loved one brightens the atmosphere at home. Use advertising to help find a suitable tenant.
LOVE FOCUS: Emotional patience may help avoid disagreements.
Lucky Number: 4 **Lucky Colour:** White

GEMINI MAY 21-JUN 21

♊ A balanced approach will help strengthen your financial stability. An ancestral property may be divided today, making attention to detail especially important.
LOVE FOCUS: Your partner's efforts are likely to touch your heart today.
Lucky Number: 6 **Lucky Colour:** Green

CANCER JUN 22-JUL 22

♋ Consistent efforts on digital platforms or social media projects could improve visibility and create opportunities professionally. Family-related expenses may require better planning.
LOVE FOCUS: A calm conversation may ease lingering concerns.
Lucky Number: 8 **Lucky Colour:** Dark Grey

LEO JUL 23-AUG 23

♌ Taking precautions during physically demanding activities may help avoid unnecessary strain. Family members may work together effectively while organising an important event or gathering.
LOVE FOCUS: Take some time out of your busy schedule for your spouse.
Lucky Number: 17 **Lucky Colour:** White

VIRGO AUG 24-SEP 23

♍ Business decisions are best approached carefully. Household planning may call for cooperation and compromise from everyone concerned. You may meet some new friends during your journey.
LOVE FOCUS: Let emotions develop at their natural pace.
Lucky Number: 7 **Lucky Colour:** Baby Pink

LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23

♎ A short journey or planned outing may require extra preparation, but the experience could prove worthwhile in the long run. Overexercising may lead to fatigue.
LOVE FOCUS: Your spouse will support you through every situation.
Lucky Number: 9 **Lucky Colour:** Light Blue

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

♏ Freelance assignments or independent projects could demand additional attention. Unexpected social obligations place temporary pressure on finances. Ignoring physical discomfort could slow recovery.
LOVE FOCUS: Keep communication simple and clear.
Lucky Number: 4 **Lucky Colour:** Beige

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

♐ Exploring a new audience, market, or customer base may open promising professional possibilities. A smart adjustment in the way resources are managed could deliver positive financial results.
LOVE FOCUS: A warm gesture may strengthen affection.
Lucky Number: 3 **Lucky Colour:** Maroon

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 21

♑ A contract discussion or important business follow-up could move closer to resolution. Reviewing savings strategies may help reinforce long-term financial security.
LOVE FOCUS: Understanding may ease emotional differences.
Lucky Number: 18 **Lucky Colour:** Saffron

AQUARIUS JAN 22-FEB 19

♒ Your investment plan may need some adjustments. Keep a close eye on the real estate market. Your flight journey is likely to be enjoyable.
LOVE FOCUS: A pleasant evening together helps rekindle affection and romance.
Lucky Number: 1 **Lucky Colour:** Magenta

PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20

♓ Your health is likely to remain satisfactory today. Luck is likely to favour you in financial matters. Retailers should focus on improving their service. You may find good property options online.
LOVE FOCUS: Have a plan to watch a movie with your partner.
Lucky Number: 2 **Lucky Colour:** Orange

Is your friend a keeper? Expert suggests looking for these signs

Anukriti Srivastava

Shared interest might have a way of turning strangers into friends, but what truly keeps a friendship going is often quieter and less obvious than having things in common. Chandni Tugnait, psychotherapist and founder of Gateway of Healing shares the signs of a healthy friendship.

- **Show up without being asked** Chandni highlights that noticing when something is off and showing up without being asked is a clear green flag.
- **Disagree without making it personal** "A friendship that can only survive total

agreement is always going to be fragile," says Chandni. The ability to disagree without letting it affect the friendship is a sign of a lasting bond.

- **Celebrate your wins** "Happiness at someone else's success is one of the most telling things about a person's character," adds Chandni.
- **Remember the little details** "Remembering minute details of your life suggests they were actually listening and that they think about you."
- **Don't need constant contact** The friendships worth keeping are the ones that can survive distance, silence and the ordinary disruptions of adult life.



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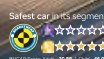
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'This Navroz is extra special'

Tara Sutaria on hosting Parsi New Year at her new home for first time

Natasha Coutinho

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For actor Tara Sutaria, Navroz this year comes with a first. As the Parsi community marks the New Year with food, family and age-old traditions, the actor is playing host this year.

"This year is extra special because it's the first Navroz being celebrated in my own home, where I'm hosting everyone. I've been doing a lot of prep with my house help and, of course, my mum," says Tara, who admits she has thrown herself into everything from the décor to the menu.

For Tara, the occasion is also a chance to celebrate a culture she feels people know relatively little about. "The Parsi community is small but wonderful, so talking about it excites me. There's a lot of sweetness to the culture, and most people connect with our love for food."

That love will certainly be reflected on her table. "This time, I'm making Persian-inspired dishes such as saffron rice with zeresak berries and lamb shanks, along with all kinds of Parsi food," she says.

But beyond the feast, Navroz is about coming home to family. "My twin sister Pia and I often travel to different parts of the world, so Navroz is a time when the family comes together," Tara says.

Having moved out of her parents' home makes this celebration particularly meaningful. "The perfect celebration would just be eating, drinking and having a good time together."



Tara's Navroz prep includes the traditional ses, a silver ceremonial tray, and mawa-ni-boi, a fish-shaped sweet; since "fish signifies prosperity in Parsi culture", she shares



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