



OUR STAR CRICKETERS' FITNESS DEETS TO KEEP YOU INSPIRED P3

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I've been raised by powerful women. I'm fortunate to have received progressive parenting and I should have inculcated that into my cinema rather than following norms of the mainstream

KARAN JOHAR

People don't see my films for what they are: Karan Johar

Niharika Lal

From his love for intervals to break a narrative to how the depiction of gender politics in his films has evolved, Karan spoke on a range of topics at a recent film festival in Chandigarh.

CONTINUED ON P4

There are certain parts of cinema that I understand, there's a lot about cinema that I need to teach myself. I need to draw from what I read, from people that surround me. You can never be successful if you're surrounded by yes-men all the time

'I've often been a victim of preconceived notions'

Talking about how moviegoers or critics don't see his films for what they are, Karan said, "You've seen me cackling in a talk show, wearing shiny jackets and judge a reality show. You've seen me play many parts that you may or may not have liked. But you're coming with a whole truckload of opinions because you believe that's the person I am. You don't know me; why don't you just judge my film for what it is? Often I have been a victim of a preconceived notion."

I'm excited to celebrate my first Ugadi with Varun: Lavanya

M Priyanka Goud

Lavanya Tripathi is super excited about celebrating her first Ugadi with her husband Varun Tej, in-laws, and the mega family. In an exclusive conversation with Hyderabad Times, the actress revealed her excitement and plans for celebrating the Telugu New Year. "This is my first Ugadi after marriage, so of course, it's very special. I'm looking forward to starting this new tradition with Varun and I'm sure my aamma (mother-in-law) has planned something delightful for us at home," she says, adding, "Now that I'm part of a Telugu family, I consider myself a proper Telugu ammayi now and I'm looking forward to embracing the traditions."

CONTINUED ON P3

This is my first Ugadi after marriage, so of course, it's very special. I'm looking forward to starting this new tradition with Varun and I'm sure my aamma has planned something delightful

— Lavanya Tripathi

JNUSU protests shoot of Sudhir Mishra's web series in campus; meets director, shooting continues

'JNU STUDENTS HAVE NO ISSUE WITH THE SHOOT, THEIR ISSUE IS WITH THE ADMIN'

Security concerns pertaining to outsiders' entry on campus flared up at the JNU on Saturday with the Student's Union questioning the admin's decision to permit a nine-day shoot schedule for Sudhir Mishra's web series at the uni. Consequently, the shoot was stalled for a few hours

What happened:

On Saturday, the JNU Student's Union disrupted the shoot of Sudhir Mishra's upcoming web series. The filmmaker had taken necessary permissions and paid for a nine-day shoot schedule for his web series, which is on the Emergency period in India. On Sunday, while the shoot went on, a group of students also sat in protest.

Niharika Lal

Sudhir and I spoke to the students and they were very cordial to us and the crew: Anubhav Sinha

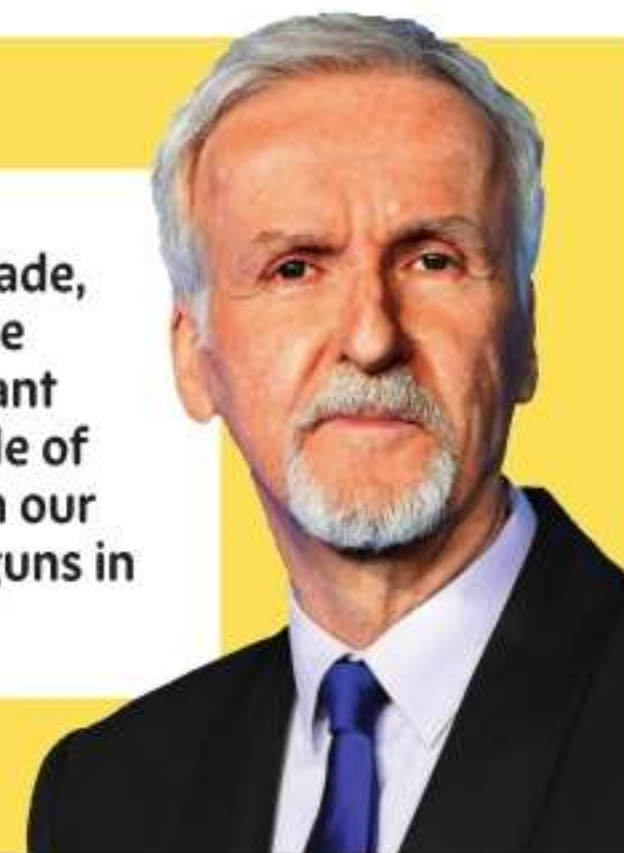
Anubhav Sinha, who was present on JNU campus during the shoot with Sudhir Mishra, told us, "Sudhir and I spoke to the students and they were very cordial to us and the crew. They didn't have any problem with the shooting or the film. All the claims about unruly conduct by students are not true. Their issue was with the administration of the university. They want that the students should be involved in the decision-making when such a big event (the nine-day shoot) is taking place in the campus. The concerns of the students are logical, and it needs a conversation with the admin, which they will hopefully have. The students told us that it is between them and admin, it has nothing to do with the shoot."

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VOICES

I look back on some films that I have made, and I don't know if I would want to make that film now. I don't know if I would want to fetishise the gun, like I did on a couple of Terminator movies 30-plus years ago, in our current world. What's happening with guns in our society turns my stomach

— James Cameron at a masterclass in Paris following a sold-out screening of his 1984 breakout The Terminator



Dushara Vijayan joins the cast of Vikram's next

@dushara_vijayan

Dushara will be pairing up with Vikram (below) for the first time



Roopa Radhakrishnan

Dushara Vijayan has joined the cast of Vikram's upcoming film directed by SU Arun Kumar, featuring Suraj Venjaramoodu and SJ Suryah. About Dushara's casting in the film, producer Riya Shibu tells us, "The casting has been purely the director's call. There's a lot of clarity in Arun Kumar's writing. He wanted someone who brought in a sense of freshness and who would make for a fresh pair with Vikram. He found Dushara to be the perfect actress for this role." Revealing that it will be a mainstream film, Riya adds, "The film will be a commercial script made on a huge canvas, but with an Arun Kumar touch. In fact, when SJ Suryah heard the narration, he wanted to be a part of the project even though he had no dates due to his busy schedule."



Buzzstop

MY PAY WAS A LOT DIFFERENT: KIRSTEN DUNST ON PAY PARITY



Kirsten Dunst, who famously played Mary Jane in the Spider-Man franchise, recently revealed to Variety how "different" her pay was from Tobey Maguire, after the first film became a blockbuster. Maguire pulled down a reported \$17 million to reprise his role. "It might have been more, actually," she says. As for her salary, "It was different. A lot different. And I was in Bring It On and had a track record." She adds, "When I was younger, in my 20s, I didn't have the best guidance, I'd say."



JNUSU has no authority to stop any film shoot: Admin

The shoot of Sudhir Mishra's (below) web series got stalled on Saturday due to the JNUSU protests

Days after protest against sexual

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Our star cricketers' fitness deets to keep you inspired

@virat.kohli

It took Rishabh Pant 16 months to get back to playing after his shocking car crash. Here's how he did it, plus a sneak peek into other players' fitness regimens



Virat Kohli

The man, whose fitness regimen draws as much applause as his aggressive batting, has spoken about the importance of leg workouts. Sharing a photo, Virat wrote: "Every day should be a leg day. 8 years and counting." He has also spoken about the importance of goblet squats, which he calls his go-to exercise. Goblet squats involve doing squats while holding a dumbbell at the chest. The exercise engages multiple muscles, targets the entire core, and improves grip strength.

Shubman Gill

His hot bod and sculpted abs are as much a talking point as his aggressive strokeplay on the field. But as his fitness trainer, Sagar Diwan, revealed in a recent interview, a lot of hard work goes into maintaining that physique. Diwan shares that Shubman focuses on weight training at least thrice a week. His fitness routine also includes — squats, deadlifts, lunges, bench presses, and chin-ups.



As the Delhi Team captain, he might have been slapped with a ₹12 lakh fine for slow over rate, but Rishabh Pant's journey back to the cricket pitch — after his shocking car crash back in December 2022 — has been fast and spectacular. From being on crutches to a full recovery took the wicketkeeper-batsman just 16 months.

The journey was made possible because of high-intensity exercises with heavy weights and dumbbells. Rishabh has been giving a sneak peek into his workout routine — power cleans, rowing, deadlifts — on Instagram almost every week to keep his fans updated about his fitness. Only a week ago, he shared his workout session videos with the caption: "Stronger with every rep! Each day is a new day!"

Here's looking at how some of our cricketers are staying fit this cricket season.

Hardik Pandya

Apart from his gym routine, the Mumbai Team captain, Hardik Pandya, depends on yoga to bolster his mental health and physical fitness. On top of his list are Surya Namaskar and meditation, apart from exercises such as Trikonasana, going by the regular updates of his morning routine that he shares on his Insta account.



Fitness Fundas

@hardikpandya93

Ishan Kishan

This attacking wicket-keeper batsman from the Mumbai Team depends on a mix of high-intensity exercises to stay fit. He shared as much on an Instagram reel a few weeks back, captioning it "Vital energy". In the reel he can be seen engaging in a mix of high-intensity training, cardio, and resistance exercises.



KL Rahul

For the Lucknow Team captain, outdoor workouts are as important as sweating it out in the gym. Rahul's outdoor workout routine includes running, swimming, and cycling — all cardio exercises that are aimed at increasing his stamina and flexibility on the cricket field.



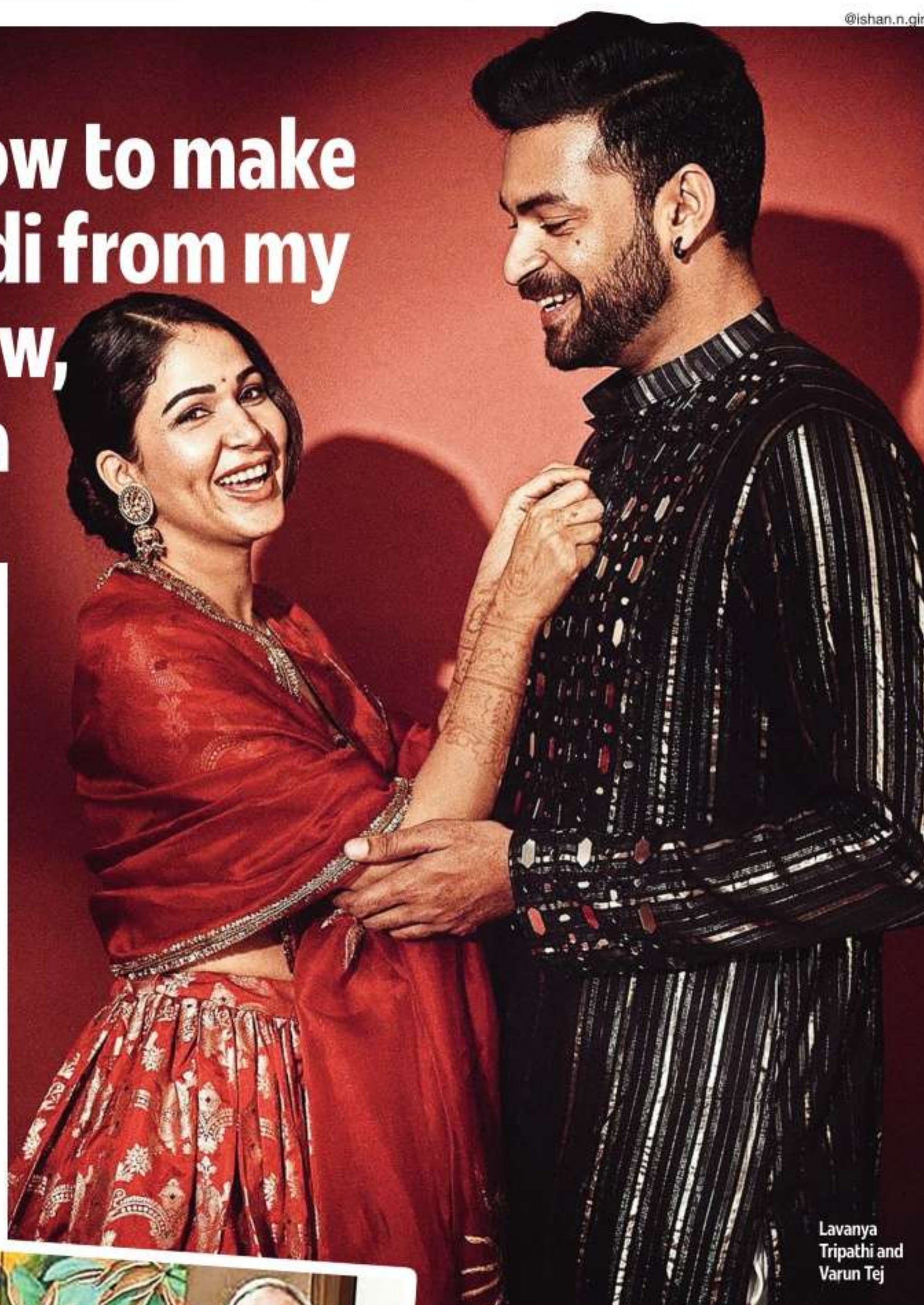
I will learn how to make Ugadi pachadi from my mother-in-law, says Lavanya

CONTINUED FROM R 1

Though originally from Dehradun, Lavanya says she's developed a great fondness for Telugu culture. "My introduction to Ugadi happened in Hyderabad, and ever since then, I've been captivated by Ugadi pachadi and the array of festive dishes. To me, Ugadi embodies a celebration of our rich cultural heritage. The concept behind Ugadi pachadi, with its blend of six flavours — sweet, sour, salty, bitter and astringent, representing various phases of life happiness, sadness, anger, disgust, fear, and surprise is truly profound," she shares.

This will be the year, I will learn how to make Ugadi pachadi from Varun's mom, my athamma Padamaja and will make sure to continue the tradition

— Lavanya Tripathi



Lavanya Tripathi and Varun Tej

'Looking forward to preparing some Telugu delicacies too'

As Ugadi pachadi is a staple dish for the festival in Telugu households, the new bahu of the mega family is looking forward to learning the recipe from mother-in-law Padmaja Konidela. Lavanya shares, "I think this will be the year, I will learn how to make Ugadi pachadi and will make sure to continue the tradition. I'm going to cook the dishes I like for the festival, kheer and saag curry and probably learn some Telugu delicacies too."

HAPPY UGADI: Lavanya will be celebrating Ugadi with her family, husband Varun Tej, sister-in-law Niharika, and mother and father-in-law Padmaja, Naga Babu in Hyderabad



Did You Know? **Jemmy Renner was trained by Olympic archers**

Sources have revealed that Olympic archers trained Jemmy Renner for his role as agent Clint Barton in the movie *The Avengers*.

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Karan Johar was speaking at Cinevesture International Film Festival (CIFF) in Chandigarh

I still hope to make a movie like Lagaan one day: Karan Johar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'ROCKY AUR RANI CAME EASILY TO ME BECAUSE THOSE ARE MY PERSONAL POLITICS'

Karan's last film, *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, talks about how our upbringing and surroundings influence us, suggesting that instead of jumping to cancel someone, we should give them space to learn, change, and evolve. Karan shares, "*Rocky Aur Rani* came easily to me because those are my personal politics and they have evolved over the years. I believe *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* had a lot of flawed gender politics, but I didn't know any better at that time."

Sharing how he realised that a man chasing a woman romantically is stalking, Karan said, "I thought *yeh toh aashiqui hai, yeh toh pyaar hai, yeh mohabbat hai*, till Zoya Akhtar fired me one day. I told her that I loved a film which was predominantly about it (stalking). In the interval, she was shivering. I looked at her and asked, 'What happened? I'm loving it.' She was like, 'Because you're stupid.' While driving back, she told me, 'You got to change the way you think.' Then she planted the thought in my head (about stalking being just that) and I completely agreed."

'SHABANAJI DIDN'T DOUBT THE GENDER POLITICS OF ROCKY AUR RANI'

Karan shared how Shabana Azmi, with

At a very early stage, I would read my criticism more than my praise. A problem that people in my fraternity have is that they believe if someone writes something negative, they have some personal agenda. People have personal opinions. It is very critical to listen to all the voices

whom he collaborated for *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, had blasted him after watching *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* because she was offended by the skewed gender politics in the film. While filming *Rocky Aur Rani*, Karan says Azmi came with notes, "but those were not about gender politics." He shares, "She didn't doubt the politics of this film. What was non-negotiable for me was that (I told her) Shabanaji, you have to wear hair and makeup even when you're distraught. She was like, '*Kya matlab hai; main fish bana rahi hoon kitchen mein aur mere baal khule hain? Itni khoobsurat sari pehni hai aur itni jewellery kyun pehni hai kitchen mein?*' I was like, '*Kyunki yeh meri picture hai!*'"



Sharing an anecdote, Karan says, "(In *Rocky Aur Rani*) When Shabanaji's character meets Dharmanji and they have that *Abhi na jao chhor kar moment*, I had put a fan on her. And Shabanaji tried telling me that it wasn't making any sense. I told her, 'You're working with me, obviously it is not supposed to make any sense'

'There's something exotic about the interval'

Karan reveals that he loves the concept of intervals in Indian cinema. "I understand how frustrating it can be for writers and directors who don't want to break the narrative, but we got to sell popcorn. You have put all narrative in first half and then you have to create magic in second half. It is not easy. I love the interval, there is something exotic about breaking the narrative - leaving (the audience) on an emotional high or cliffhanger."

Explaining why his father, filmmaker Yash Johar, used to say, "Interval ke baad buffer scene rakho," Karan shared, "Woh jab log (theatre se) bahar gaye hai aur aate hain toh aisa scene chahiye jiska koi matlab na ho. Characters kuch-kuch kar rahe hain. We have all written those buffer scenes."

I still hope that one day I'll make my *Lagaan*, and why I say that is because *Lagaan* is that film that will be in archives with *Mughal-e-Azam* and *Mother India*, *Charulata*, *Pyaasa* and *Kagaz Ke Phool*. I haven't made that film yet

I still have anxiety about being a good dad, says Shekhar Kapur

Shiv Gautam



Shekhar Kapur and (inset) his daughter Kaveri

Jaspreet Nijher

When Shekhar Kapur and his daughter Kaveri engaged in a discussion on stage at a film festival in Chandigarh, the filmmaker opened up about his innermost fears about various topics, including parenting. Shekhar and ex-wife Suchitra Krishnamoorthi's daughter Kaveri has admitted to facing mental health issues.

When Kaveri, who is being launched by her father in his next film, *Masoom 2*, asked him, "What is your biggest fear?" Shekhar replied, "The fact that, have I been a good dad?"

Shekhar added, "Every morning, I wake up with anxiety about whether I have done enough for my daughter because she went through a lot. My biggest regret as a parent is that I was busy working when Kaveri was growing up."

Shekhar is known for much-acclaimed films like *Bandit Queen* and the Hollywood film *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*. However, the filmmaker says that his fear also extends to his profession. He said, "People say I have a cool aura, but inside I am really scared. I panic that people will find out that I am a con (laughs), and even I don't know the real me."



I wonder whether I have done enough for my daughter, because she went through a lot. My biggest regret as a parent is that I was busy working when Kaveri was growing up

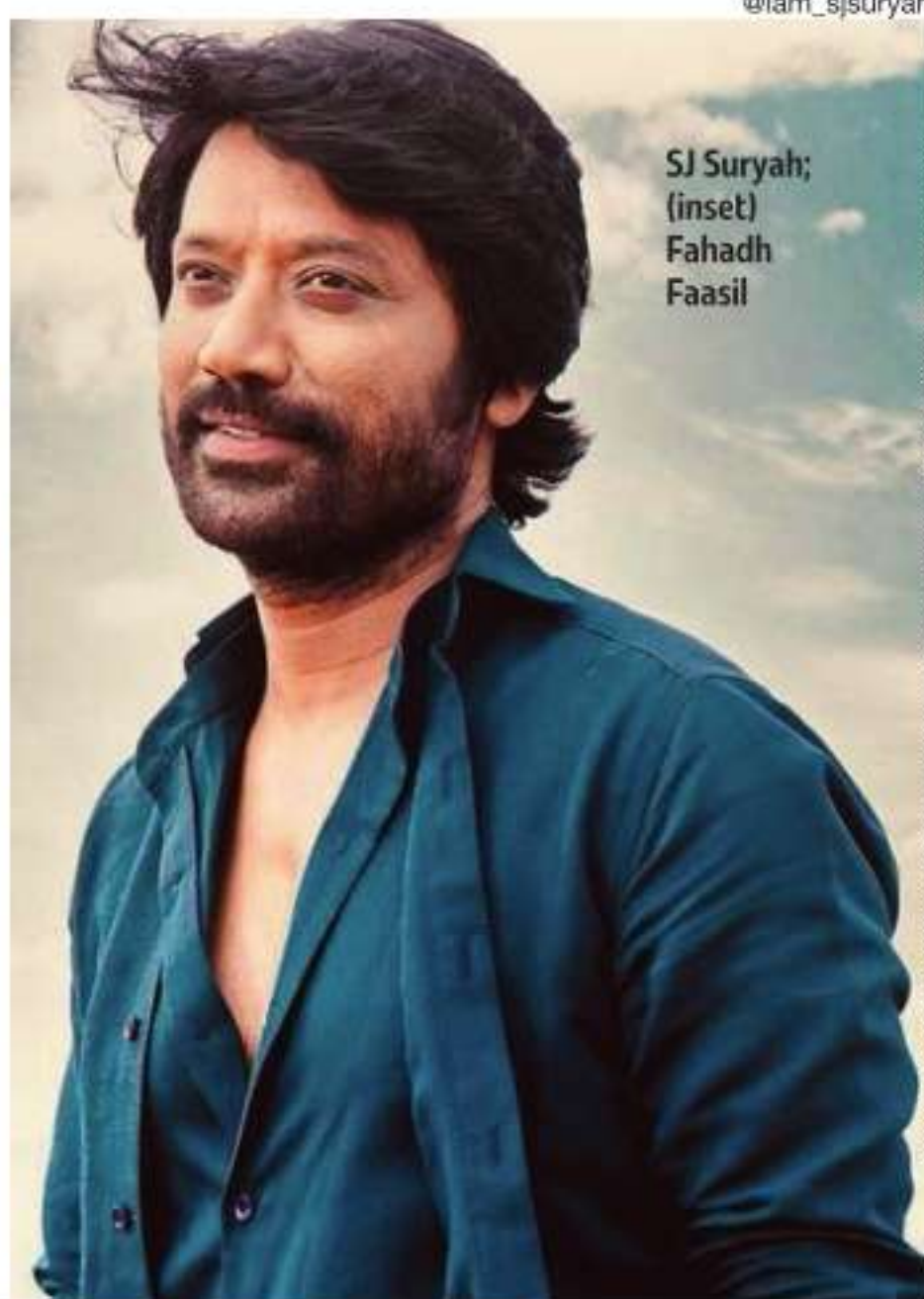
— Shekhar Kapur

SJ Suryah to share screen with Fahadh?

After the success of *Mark Antony* and *Jigarthanda DoubleX* last year, SJ Suryah seems to be having a busy and big 2024, with a couple of Telugu projects underway, apart from *Indian 2*, Dhanush's directorial *Raayan* and Vikram's next film.

Now, the actor is reportedly all set to make his Malayalam debut in a Fahadh Faasil film, directed by *Jaya Jaya* director Vipin Das. A source close to the project says that the team is currently in discussions with the actor.

Vipin Das has wrapped up the shoot of his comedy *Guruvayoor Ambalanadaiyil*, with Prithviraj, Basil Joseph and Anaswara Rajan, and is expected to take up this project after that film's release.



@iam_sjsuryah

SJ Suryah; (inset) Fahadh Faasil

We are ready to work out issues with Vashu ji: Govinda

@govinda_herono1



Govinda's manager said, "It doesn't make sense for him (Vashu) to say all these things now after all these years"

Govinda's team on Vashu Bhagnani's comments about the actor stalling *Hero No 1* shoot

Vashu Bhagnani had recently commented on Govinda missing from the set of *Hero No 1* for three days in Switzerland. The comment did not go down well with Govinda's team.

While Bhagnani attempted to provide a positive outlook, stating that the actor's delay was followed by completing the shoot upon arrival on set, Govinda's manager, Shashi Sinha, expressed dissatisfaction with the timing of the interview. Sinha said, "I don't recall such an incident, and I was responsible for coordinating Govinda's film shoots."

He further added, "Even if he has been late for 2-3 hours in a day, it must have been because of health reasons or a flight delay. And even Vashu Bhagnani ji has admitted that even if Govinda ji was late, he completed his work on time. We all respect Vashu sir a lot. We have worked a lot with him during our initial days. I have been a link between actors and producers all these years. It doesn't make sense for him to say all these things now after all these years. If he has any issues, we are ready to sit down with him and work it out."

Recently, Govinda hit headlines when he joined Shiv Sena in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.



In a recent interview, Vashu Bhagnani had claimed that Govinda didn't show up on set in Switzerland for three days, but when he arrived, he managed to complete his work within a single day

I don't recall such an incident, and I was responsible for coordinating Govinda's film shoots. Even if he has been late, it must have been because of health reasons

— Shashi Sinha, Govinda's manager



Karisma and Govinda in *Hero No 1*

Woody Allen: Romance of filmmaking is gone

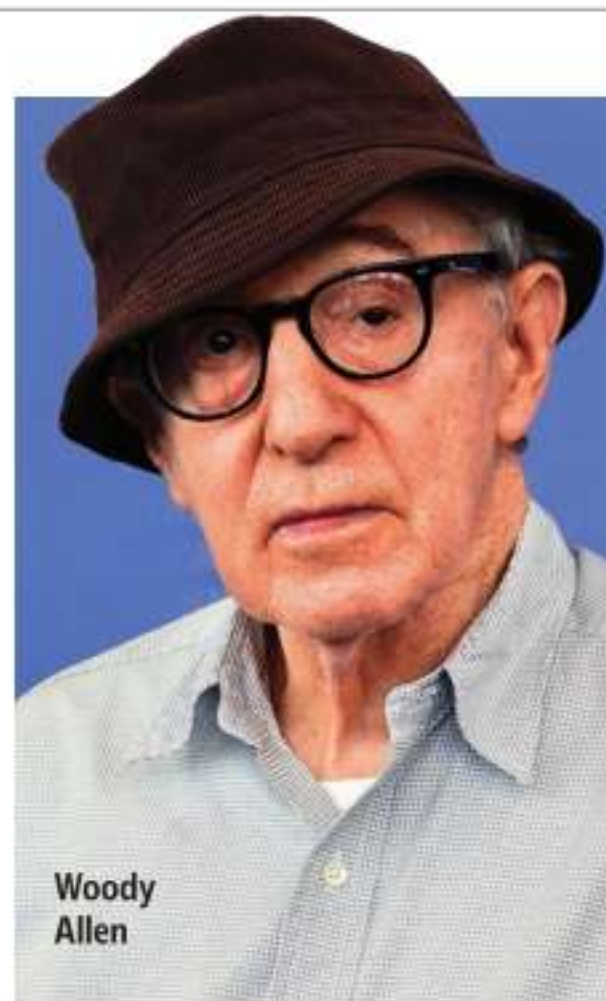
Woody Allen is sitting "on the fence" about whether his latest movie, *Coup de Chance*, his 50th feature, will be his last cinematic outing. 58 years after making his debut feature, the veteran director isn't exactly sure what he wants to do next in the movie industry, as he feels "all the romance of filmmaking is gone."

In an interview with *Air-Mail*, the director was asked about his latest film *Coup de Chance* and the delay it faced for release in North American markets. He said, "I'm on the fence about it. I don't want to have to go out to raise money. I find that a pain in the neck."

But if someone shows up and calls in and says we want to back the film, then I would seriously consider it. I would probably not have the willpower to say no, because I have so many ideas."

"It doesn't matter to me whether I get distributed here or not," Allen said, adding, "Once I make it, I don't follow it anymore. Distribution is no longer what it was. Now distribution is two weeks in a cinema... And then that's it. The whole business has changed, and not in an appealing way. All the romance of filmmaking is gone," said Allen.

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Woody Allen

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