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RANG, BHANG & GUJIYAS: TOLLYWOOD DIVAS GET IN THE MOOD FOR HOLI

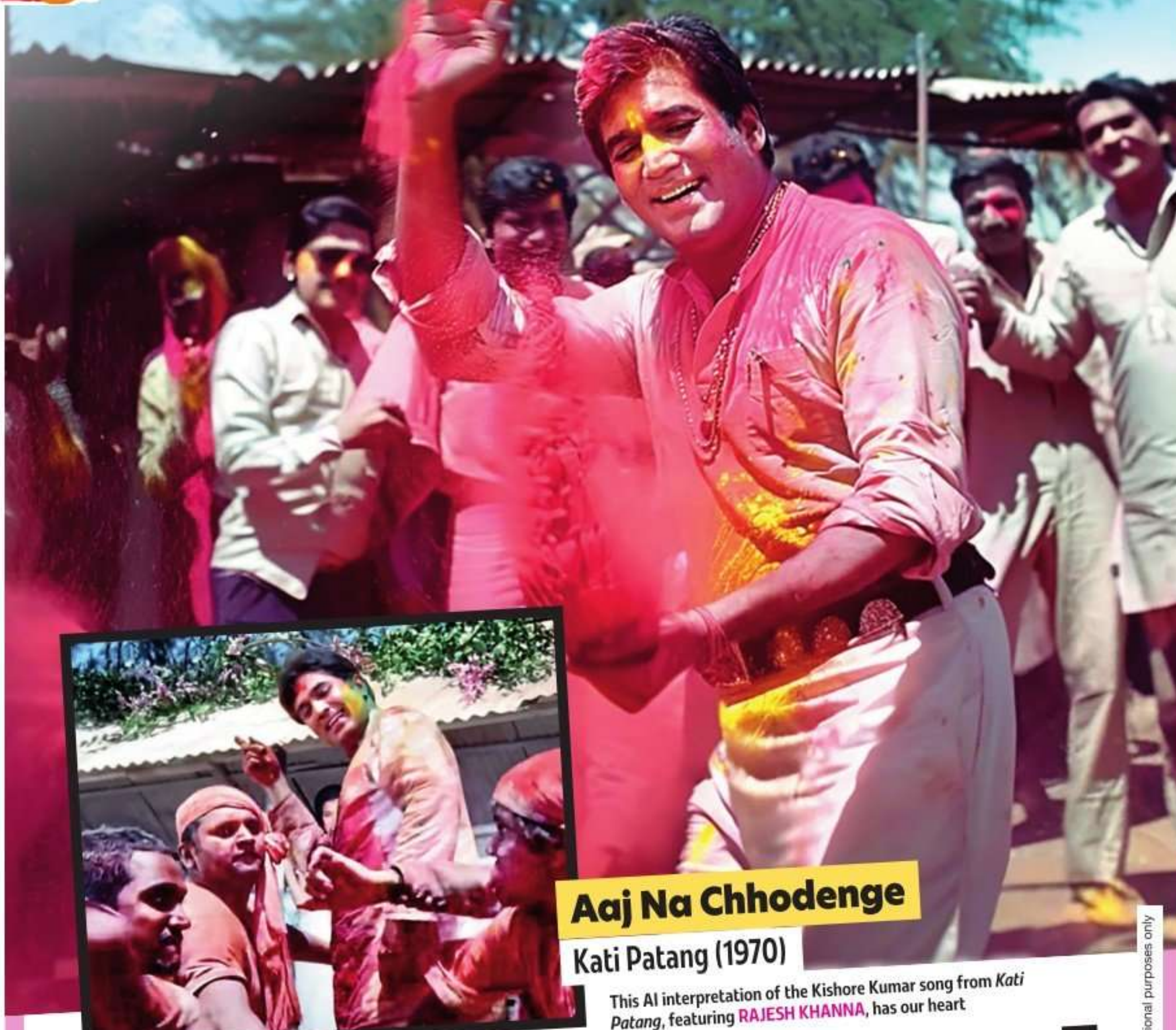
On Holi, my sweet tooth gets a free pass. I ditch my diet and devour the laddoos & gujiyas. This year, I'll be celebrating with my girl gang
— Pragya Jaiswal

I once had bhang thandai by mistake. OMG! It turned technicolour on me. I was laughing uncontrollably one moment and tearing up the next. I'll never forget that
— Payal Rajput

The celebrations have mellowed. It's more about catching up than chaos. Holi may be calmer now, but it still stirs the childlike joy within me
— Tejaswi Madivada

Embracing the vibrant spirit of the festival of colours, Tollywood stars Pragya Jaiswal, Tejaswi Madivada, and Payal Rajput share what they cherish most about this celebration

P3



Aaj Na Chhodenge

Kati Patang (1970)

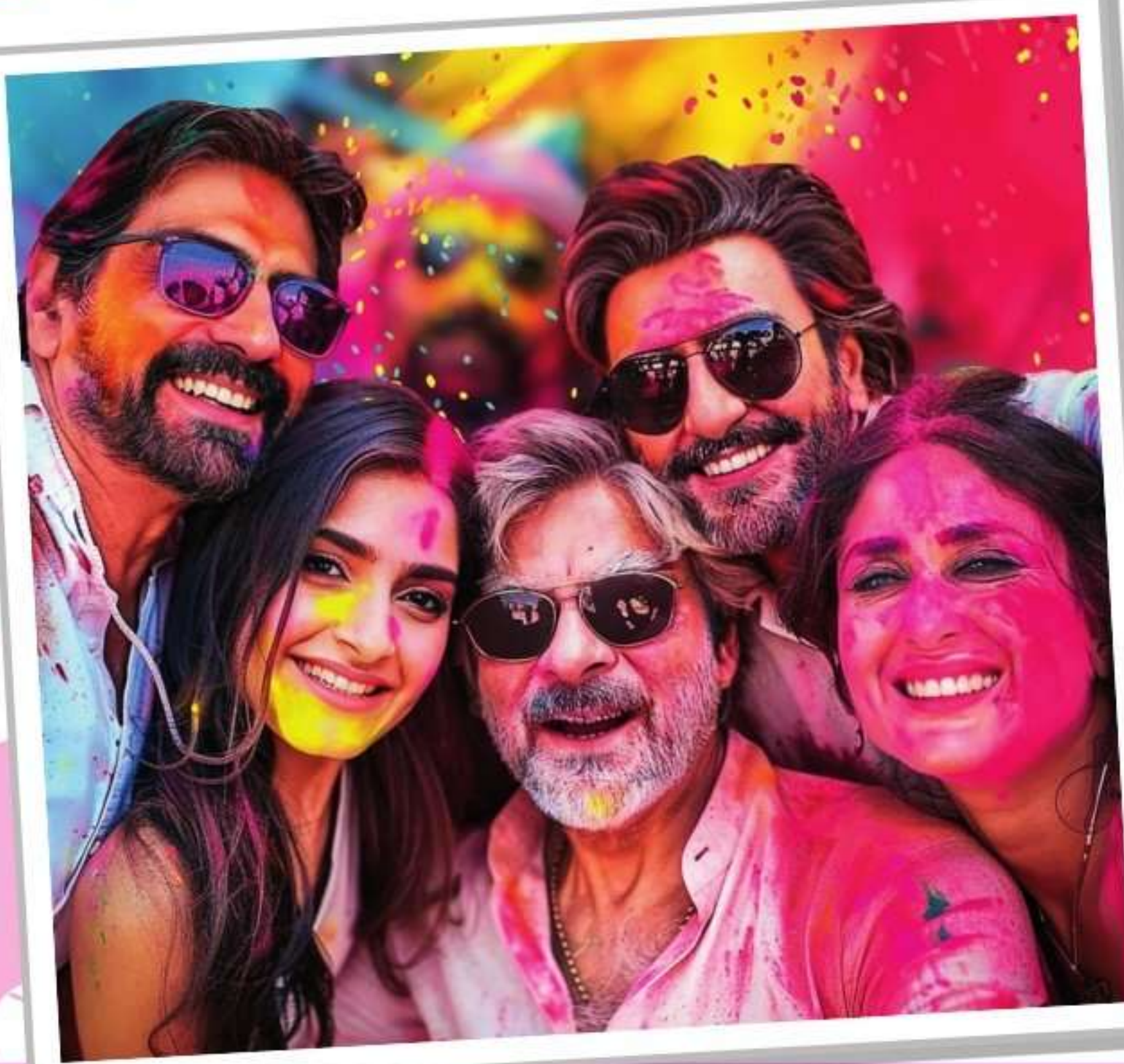
This AI interpretation of the Kishore Kumar song from Kati Patang, featuring RAJESH KHANNA, has our heart

#Holi-wood

There's Holi and then there is one featuring our Bollywood stars. From the timeless Holi songs to the iconic moments Hindi cinema has created, when it comes to Bollywood, you either go big or go home. Here's an AI-imagined Holi starring our desi celebs

ARJUN RAMPAL, SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA, ANIL KAPOOR, KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN and RANVEER SINGH gather around for a candid and joy-soaked frame for the books!

P4



I believe being in love is sort of a delusion, says Shruti Haasan

Roopa Radhakrishnan

Actress, singer, composer... Shruti Haasan is an artiste who wears many hats at once. The actress's first project in 2024 will see her teaming up with her father, Kamal Haasan and filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj — in his first acting gig — for an indie song, titled *Inimel*. Excerpts from an interview: **THE IDEA BEHIND THE SONG...** I wanted to show an entire relationship or an entire lifetime with someone you loved and then unloved in four minutes. It started out as an English song that I wrote on my piano in Mumbai. The question that I wanted to explore is, if you know how your relationship is going to be in the future, would you choose to be in the future, again or not? And why? For example, even if we're told that sugar is bad for your health, we still eat candy.

CONTINUED ON P3

Appa is a brilliant writer. He's also very hardworking; he gave me almost 10 options for the lyrics



On working with her dad...

I'm not saying this because he's my dad, but he's just a brilliant writer. He's also very hardworking; he gave me almost 10 options for the lyrics. He could have taken it for granted and said, 'Do you like those two options?'; but he did not. He was out of the country, travelling, but he called me three or four times and asked, 'How about this? How about that?' I'm honoured to have worked with appa again.

Pics: @shrutahaasan

SHRUTI HAASAN



Buzzstop

CAMERON AND BENJI WELCOME SECOND BABY

Cameron Diaz and her musician husband Benji Madden have announced the birth of their second child. The couple shared the news of the baby boy's arrival in an Instagram post, saying, "We are blessed and excited to announce the birth of our son Cardinal Madden. He is awesome and we are all so happy he is here!"

TNN

90 yrs of Telugu cinema to be celebrated in Kuala Lumpur

Pic: Paul Nicodemus



Madala Ravi, Siva Balaji and Vishnu Manchu (right) at the do

Paul Nicodemus

The Movie Artists Association unveiled the Navathi Utsavam 2024 on Saturday, a festivity celebrating 90 years of Telugu cinema. The event, scheduled for July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will honour the industry's enduring legacy and global impact. Speaking at the event, Vishnu Manchu highlighted the significant industry milestones, including Megastar Chiranjeevi's Padma Vibhushan and achievements by Allu Arjun, Prabhas, SS Rajamouli, MM Keeravani and others, asserting, "With such remarkable achievements, it has been a phenomenal golden era, now is the perfect time to celebrate."



SUNITHA, DINKER & CO TAKE FANS ON A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



Sunitha is one of my favourite singers. She can sing all genres with ease. My personal preference is her melodious songs. I'm a big fan
— KS Chithra, singer, in a video message during the concert

Paul Nicodemus

Fans gathered at Shilpakala Vedika in the city on Friday evening, holding 'We love Sunitha garu' signs to greet singer Sunitha Upadrashta as she returned to the stage. The concert began with Sunitha expressing her appreciation, saying, "I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the love you've showered upon me."

During the event, she was accompanied by singer Dinker Kalvala and the band, performing familiar tracks such as *Ee Velalo Neevu* and *Em Sandeham Ledu*. A highlight of the night was when music director Mani Sharma joined her for the song *Avunu Nijam* from *Athadu*, adding depth to the performance. Sunitha also paid homage to the legendary singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, marking a touching moment in the concert.



MELODY QUEEN: Singer Sunitha Upadrashta captivated the audience with her enchanting voice, delivering a mesmerising performance on Friday



MAGICAL MOMENT: Composer Mani Sharma joined singers Sunitha and Dinker on the stage



The musical arrangement, featured a chorus of young singers and an ensemble of musicians on violin, keyboards, guitar, drums and percussion



Producer Dil Raju was accompanied by his wife Vygha Reddy

EVENTS

COMEDY

Shilpakala Vedika: Kisi Ko Batana Mat Ft Anubhav Singh Bassi - A comedy show with relatable storytelling and amusing anecdotes. On March 28. At 07:00 PM, Shilparamam, Hitech, Hitech City Rd, Jubilee Enclave, HITEC City

ART

Lamakaan: Aadhe Adhure - A play on the intricacies of human relationships. On March 30. At 07:30 PM, Off Road No 1, Banjara Hills, Opposite GVK One

Email us at hyderabadtimesevents@gmail.com

BETTER HALF

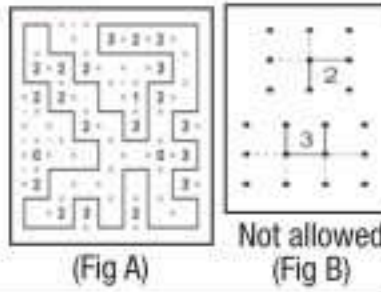


"I had my nails done today. Instead of little flowers, I had them paint on all of my passwords and PIN numbers."

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).

TIMES HITORI

HOW TO PLAY

- A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
- Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
- Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
- Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
- Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6, 4, 6)
- A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cell, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6, 6, 6)

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

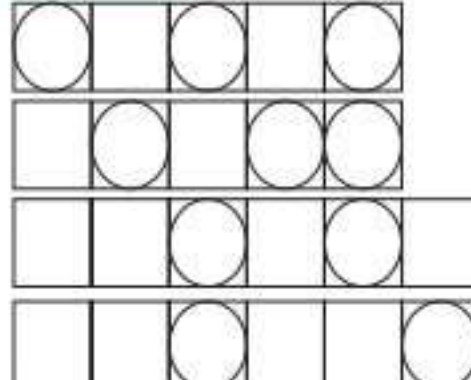
8	5	7	3	5	4	6
4	5	1	6	7	6	5
2	5	7	1	5	4	6
5	6	2	4	3	7	6
2	7	5	6	1	7	2
1	6	6	4	3	5	7
7	8	4	6	2	3	7
8	4	5	2	3	6	7

Example

SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

MNAEE
CGAIR
LMNUIS
EITUDM



Greater than the tread of mighty _____ is an _____ whose time has come. - Victor Hugo (6,4)

HOW TO PLAY

Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

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

HOW TO PLAY

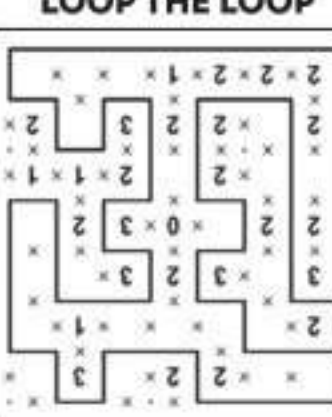
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

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

LOOP THE LOOP



TIMES HITORI

1	5	2	6	8	9	7
2	9	5	8	1	7	6
9	6	8	7	1	5	2
6	5	4	8	9	1	2
8	7	2	6	5	1	9
5	4	8	2	6	9	1
9	1	5	2	6	8	7

SPELLATHON

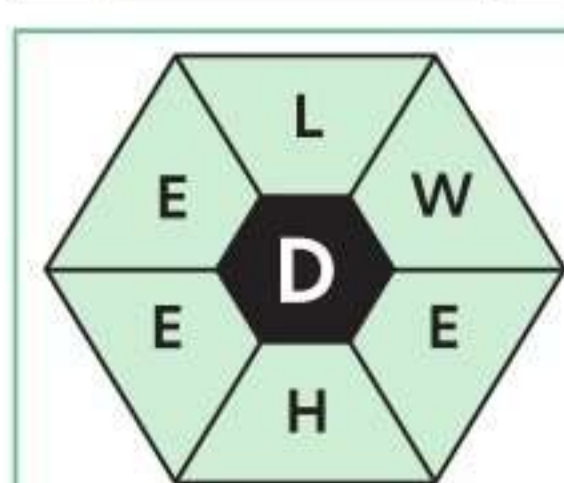
wee, weid, wheedle, wheeled

SCRAMBLE

wee, weid, wheedle, wheeled

For more pictures, go to: www.photos.timesofindia.com

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SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:

06-average | 07-good | 09-outstanding

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.

FINOLEX FORTUNE

See what the stars have in store for you - according to your moon sign.

you from beauty in all its forms. You can exert impressive physical energy. You aspire to positions of power and authority.

VIRGO: Watch your health and include a well-planned regime of disciplined exercise and diet. We're led to understand that if we give, we will receive. Some people believe wholeheartedly in this theory whilst others have reservations about whether we do actually get anything in return through giving.

LIBRA: It's becoming apparent that an arrangement between you and an individual or possibly an organisation needs to change. A new level of understanding must be introduced with what has possibly involved little more than a verbal agreement or handshake.

SCORPIO: You may get easily bored and can become frustrated by things moving too slowly. You are vitally interested in what's new and fashionable. With your strong intuition, you can overcome your problems.

SAGITTARIUS: We're all blessed with an ability to communicate with colourful words that create amazing images in the minds of listeners. Some people have no interest in doing this though. You can make wonderful progress now if you can speak with touching words that inspire others.

CAPRICORN: You appear unsure about how to improve something that is, in your mind, far from ideal. The first step must involve accepting that something must change. The second step should involve confronting and not being fearful of it.

AQUARIUS: The intense feeling continues today. You are kind and generous with friends, with whom you develop an unspoken rapport. You need to be fair and even-handed otherwise you may have difficulty in making decisions quickly.

PISCES: Tensions may erupt. Keep your eyes open and try not to miss out anything big. Self-control is important. You are reluctant to face confrontations. You have a tendency to overstep.

PRAGYA JAISWAL

'Colours, music & great company define my idea of a perfect Holi'

Holi is Pragya Jaiswal's favourite festival and the actress is super excited to celebrate with friends. "Holi is one of the most fun and colourful festivals of the year. I truly love the lively atmosphere and excitement surrounding Holi. It is a celebration of togetherness and happiness, I love celebrating it with my loved ones."

Pragya always celebrates Holi. "This year won't be an exception," she shares, adding, "I'll be celebrating with my girl gang and other friends. It's going to be full of *masti*, with singing and dancing to great music, traditional beats of *dhol*, and playing with organic colours while ensuring safety. On Holi, my sweet tooth gets a free pass. I ditch my diet and devour the *laddoos & gujiyas*."

Recalling her childhood Holi celebrations, the *Akhanda* actress reminisces, "We used to play like crazy people. Back then, there weren't any organic colours, so we ended up covered in colour from head to toe, and those colours wouldn't wash away even three to four days after the festival. As a kid, the first thing to do in the morning with friends was to make water balloons, fill buckets with water, mix them with colours, and just play on the streets until evening. And after spending the whole day playing and getting exhausted, coming home and indulging in sweets made by my mom was my favourite part."

Pragya ensures her celebrations are eco-conscious by using only organic colours and opting for a dry Holi with just *gulaal*. "I believe that dry Holi with just colours, music, food, and great company makes the celebrations enjoyable while also being beneficial for the environment," the actress elaborates. "In recent years, I have become very conscious of playing Holi in an environmentally friendly manner, considering the impact on my skin as well. Also, given the water scarcity issues in summer, it's important to celebrate Holi without excessive water usage."

Gujiyas are an integral part of my family's Holi celebrations. The process of making them at home is something we all look forward to and has become a family event with my mother, aunts, and other relatives coming together for the preparation

- Payal Rajput

PAYAL RAJPUT

'Making gujiyas with the family is a big part of my Holi celebrations'

Having lived in Delhi for two decades, Payal Rajput shares a special connection with *gujiyas*, a staple sweet during the Holi festival. She shares, "These sweet treats have become an integral part of my family's Holi celebrations. The process of making them at home is something we all look forward to and has become a family event with my mother, aunts, and other relatives coming together for the preparation; it involves using *maida* to prepare the dough and then filling it with either a rich coconut paste or a sweet jaggery mixture. Despite their high caloric content, I can't help but indulge in two to three *gujiyas* daily, even though I work out twice a day."

Reminiscing about a Holi celebration that stands out in her memory, Rajput shares an amusing anecdote from four years ago: "I once had *bhargh thandai* by mistake. OMG! It turned technicolour on me. I was laughing uncontrollably one moment and tearing up the next. I'll never forget that."

When asked about where she'd be celebrating Holi this year, the actress shared, "I had hoped to celebrate Holi in Hyderabad. However, due to my mother's knee surgery, I am staying with my family in Delhi. Nonetheless, I am already planning to make next year's celebration in Hyderabad a grand family affair, bringing everyone together for what I hope will be an unforgettable experience."

Inputs by: M Priyanka Goud & Paul Nicodemus

In recent years, I have become very conscious of playing Holi in an environmentally friendly manner, considering the impact on my skin as well. Also, given the water scarcity issues in summer, it's important to celebrate Holi without excessive water usage

- Pragya Jaiswal

TEJASWI MADIVADA

'Holi maybe calmer now but still stirs childlike joy'

Reflecting on how her celebrations evolved from childhood to now, Tejaswi Madivada says, "During childhood, Holi was a sensory explosion—a frenzy of chasing friends and siblings, with laughter filling the air as water balloons burst. We'd leave trails of vibrant colours on the floor, like miniature rainbow explosions, it was pure unadulterated fun. Now, the celebrations have mellowed. Attending Holi parties with friends means focusing on responsible fun with eco-friendly colours. It's a different energy, more about catching up than chaos. Holi maybe calmer now, but it still stirs the childlike joy within me."

Kriti and Pulkit's skin-friendly haldi bash

Pics: @kriti.kharbanda



Kriti Kharbanda and Pulkit Samrat gave us a sneak peek into their *haldi* celebrations. She wrote, "Hamari *haldi* thodi unconventional thi. *Haldi ki ek chuthi* for *sagan* in a pack of *multani mitti*, created especially for us, keeping our skin in mind"

HOW TO: Safely remove and prevent Holi colours from seeping into the skin

MOISTURISE

Before playing Holi, apply a generous amount of moisturiser or coconut oil to your skin. This creates a protective barrier that makes it easier to wash off the colours later.

WEAR FULL-SLEEVED CLOTHES

Opt for full-sleeved clothes that cover most of your skin to minimise direct contact with the colours.

USE OIL OR SUNSCREEN

Apply a layer of waterproof sunscreen or oil on your exposed skin areas. This helps in easy removal of colours and prevents them from seeping into the skin.



THIS YEAR, I WANT TO ENJOY MY ARTISTIC LIFE: SHRUTI

CONTINUED FROM 1

I think love is a lot like that. Hence the tagline 'Delulu is the new Solulu'. It's very Gen Z lingo. People who knew it were like, 'Delulu... okay, I get it', but for those who don't know what it means, it piques their curiosity. I believe being in love is sort of a delusion, sometimes. I worked with Johnson, a music producer from Canada. The team slowly got bigger and bigger. Then, *Appa* (Kamal) got involved as the lyricist. I will never not be fascinated by the process of seeing an idea take shape. I hope the listeners see bits of their relationship in this song.

'I HAD NO IDEA LOKESH WOULD BE SO GOOD AT ACTING'

I think people are very excited to see Lokesh as an actor. It was really lovely working with him because he was very excited and down to earth about it. We all know he's a fantastic director. I knew he would know how to do this because he's such a creative genius at direction. But I had no idea he'd be so good at acting. I was surprised how easily it came to him. We shot the music video for over three days in nine different locations. So, it was hectic. Everyone was exhausted, but it was amazing. It was completely different from shooting for my previous song, *Monster Machine*, which was

'I don't think I'll score for films again'

Shruti, who had done the music for her dad's *Unnaipol Oruvan*, in 2009, has not composed for a film after that. She says, "I don't think I'll score for films again, but I definitely have independent music on the cards. I am actually going to have no time to write anything new for the next couple of months for sure because I am shooting like a crazy person. When I come home and inspiration strikes, I immediately note it down."

shot with me alone in one set. The idea for the video came up very quickly. But it was a two-month process to execute and rewrite it, because we shot it like a movie.

'I FIND IT INTERESTING HOW INDIAN I AM IN WESTERN PROJECTS'

I like international work because I'm very comfortable with those stories as well. I find it interesting how Indian I am in those projects, because here, it's like, 'Shruti is westernised'. It's fascinating to work with people from different countries.

'I AIM TO KEEP WORKING HARD, AND TO KEEP DOING GOOD WORK'

This year, I want to be happy and free and enjoy my artistic life. I aim to keep working hard, to keep doing good work and to keep growing. I was very thankful for the success that came my way last year, and now, I'm moving on to the next phase.

I don't consider my independent compositions a break from work; it's another part of my job

SHRUTI HAASAN

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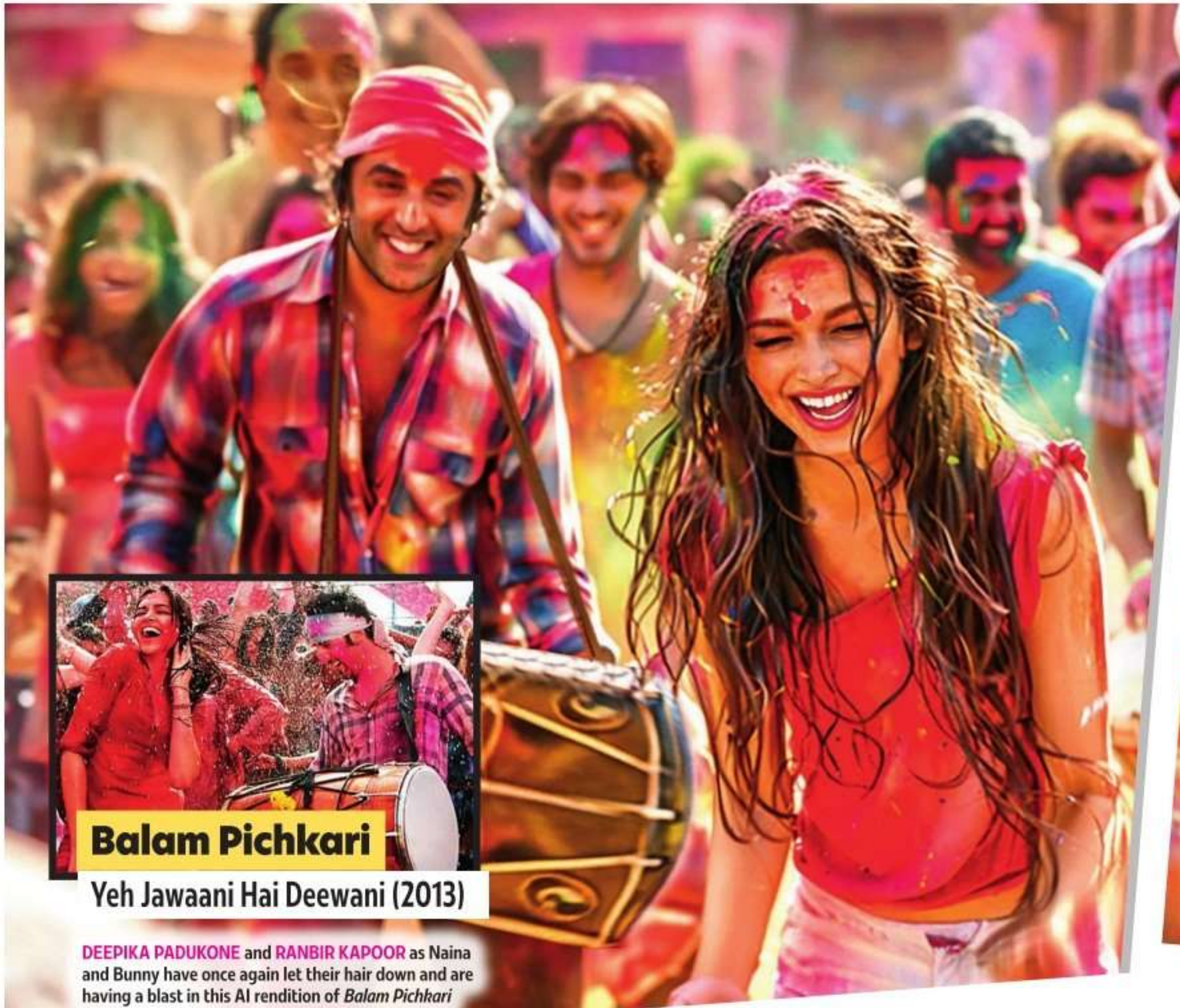
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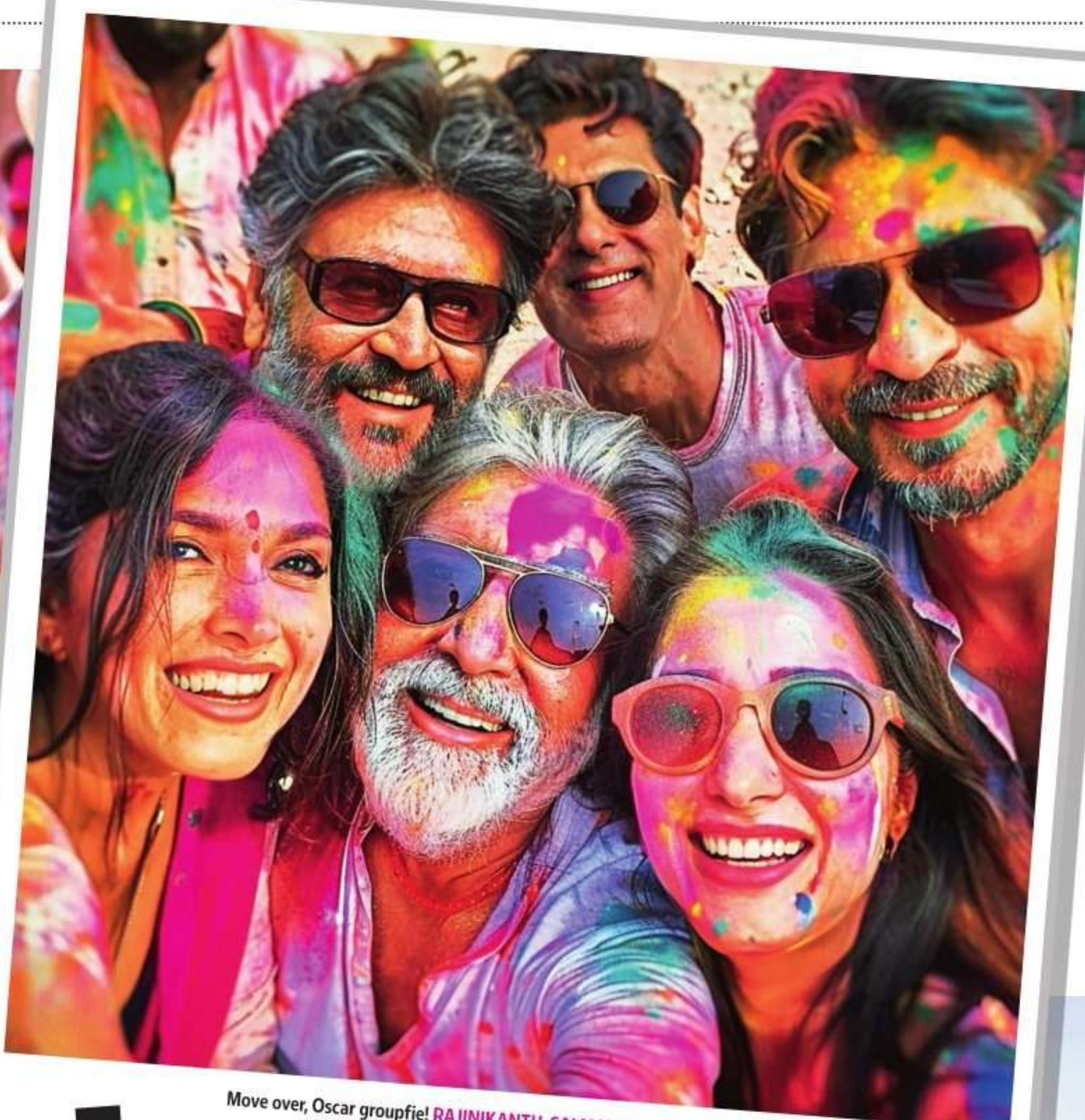
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Balam Pichkari

Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani (2013)

DEEPIKA PADUKONE and RANBIR KAPOOR as Naina and Bunny have once again let their hair down and are having a blast in this AI rendition of *Balam Pichkari*



Move over, Oscar groupie! RAJINIKANTH, SALMAN KHAN, SHAH RUKH KHAN, TAMANNAAH BHATIA, AMITABH BACHCHAN and DEEPIKA PADUKONE pose together for the perfect group shot

#Holi-wood

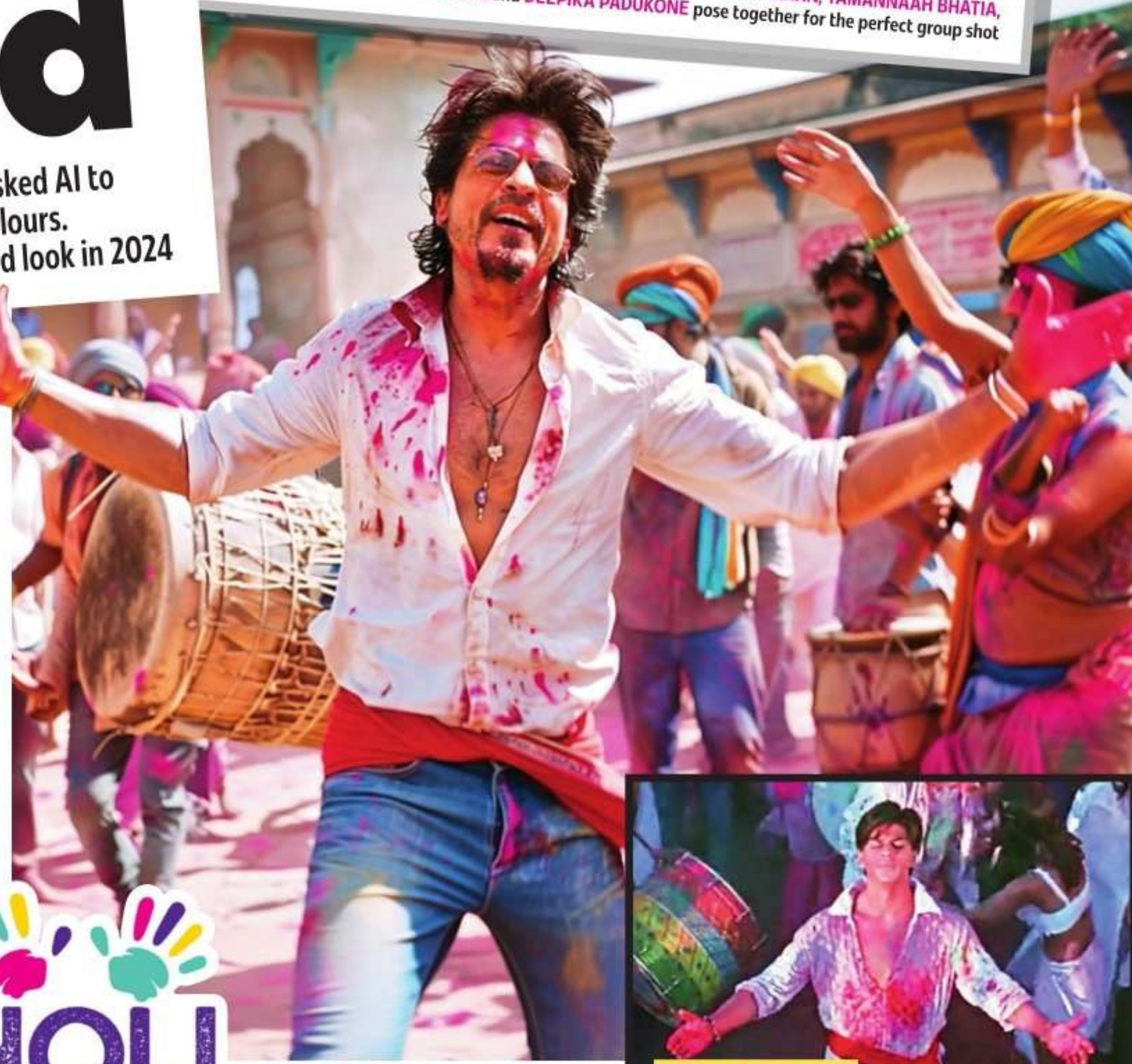
We just couldn't wait any longer for the stars to post their *gulaal*-drenched Holi pics, so we asked AI to imagine the biggest, brightest Bollywood bashes possible celebrating the festival of colours.
PS: AI also imagined for us how Holi anthems like *Rang Barse*, *Aaj Na Chhodenge*, *Soni Soni* would look in 2024



Rang Barse

Silsila (1981)

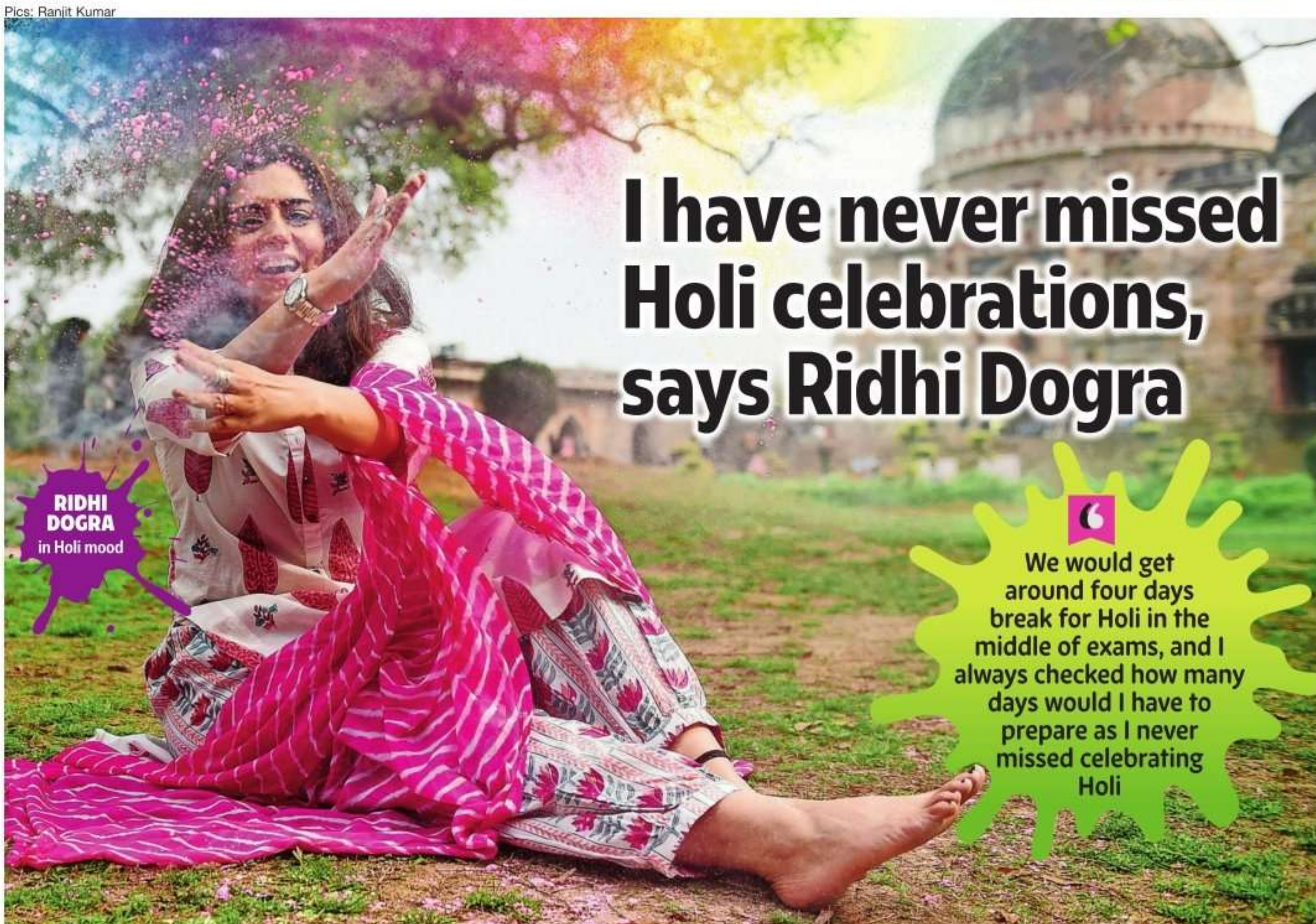
None. Absolutely no Holi celebration, in any part of the world, is complete without this iconic song blasting from the speakers. AI imagines AMITABH BACHCHAN and REKHA in the all-time classic



If SHAH RUKH KHAN as Raj Aryan Malhotra in *Mohabbatein* was extraordinary, the AI interpretation of SRK grooving to *Soni Soni* is simply phenomenal

Soni Soni

Mohabbatein (2000)



I have never missed Holi celebrations, says Ridhi Dogra

RIDHI DOGRA in Holi mood

We would get around four days break for Holi in the middle of exams, and I always checked how many days would I have to prepare as I never missed celebrating Holi

Divya Kaushik
No matter how busy she gets, Holi is one festival that **Ridhi Dogra** never misses. The actress, who grew up in Delhi, hasn't celebrated Holi in the capital in a long time. However, in Mumbai, she has never skipped the celebrations. "I love all festivals, but there is something special about Holi. For me, the celebrations have remained the same, over the years," says the actress.
Ridhi adds, "While earlier, it used to be Holi

gatherings with family, relatives and some friends in Delhi, in Mumbai, I am either attending a Holi party or celebrating with friends. I haven't gone to Delhi on Holi for years, as I am always busy with some work, but I make the most of one day off that I get."
Recalling her childhood Holi celebrations, Ridhi says, "I have always enjoyed Holi with lots of colours and have never been one of those who prefer staying indoors on Holi. When we were kids, I remember we would always end up in

a pool of coloured water, and there would be so many people in our colony roaming around with their faces painted silver. Also, Holi was one festival that would mostly come between annual exams, so I would start checking the calendar in advance to check which day is Holi. We would get around four days break for Holi in the middle of exams, and I always checked what exam is after Holi and how many days would I have to prepare as I would never miss celebrating Holi with my friends."

Divyanka & I celebrate Holi in Bhopal: Vivek



Vivek Dahiya
Starting at 10am, we go all out till sunset with a DJ playing chartbusters. We relish traditional food, including gujiya, jalebi, etc
house in the suburbs. Starting at 10am, we go all out till sunset with a DJ playing chartbusters. We relish traditional food, including gujiya, jalebi and pakore, and have lots of fun. It's refreshing."
Vivek adds that they ensure to celebrate an eco-friendly Holi. "We don't play Holi with water. Fortunately, my in-laws and their friends are equally conscious about conserving water. Also, we are against smearing animals with colour."
— Jaspreet Nijher