

Abhishek Bachchan teams up with Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s assistant Shanmukha on an action film



Over the years, Sandeep Reddy Vanga has delivered blockbusters like Arjun Reddy, Kabir Singh and Animal. The maverick filmmaker is presently working on the pre-production of Spirit starring Prabhas and Triptii Dimri in lead. While the prep work is going on, Pinkvilla has exclusively learnt that Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s associate director, Shanmukha Gowtham Ghantasala is all set to make his directorial debut.

According to sources close to the development, Shanmukha Gowtham’s directorial debut will feature Abhishek Bachchan in lead role. “Abhishek Bachchan is teaming up with Shanmukha Gowtham on an action-packed thriller. The

actor will be seen playing the role of a butcher in the film, and is excited to embark on a film that breaks the norm of usual filmmaking in the commercial format,” revealed a source. Shanmukha Gowtham has worked with Sandeep Reddy Vanga as an Associate Director on Arjun Reddy, Kabir Singh and Animal.

The source further informed that the film will be produced by Peoples Media Factory, who recently ventured in the Hindi Film Industry with Jaat. “The makers are gearing up to take the film on floors towards the end of 2025, and the casting for other key characters are currently underway,” the source added.

Interestingly, the post credit scene of Animal featured Ranbir Kapoor as Aziz in the avatar of a butcher, and the look for Abhishek is expected to be on the similar lines. Meanwhile, Abhishek Bachchan is presently shooting for King with Shah Rukh Khan in the lead. The actor plays the negative lead in this Siddharth Anand directed action thriller.

Abhishek is in talks for a couple of other films, including a feature film with Dinesh Vijan, and the details have been kept under wraps for now. The source concluded saying that the yet untitled actioner will see Abhishek in a very different look, which is being designed at the moment.

First promo announcement of Ranbir Kapoor, Yash and Sai Pallavi starrer to have 3-minute long runtime?



Ranbir Kapoor, Yash, and Sai Pallavi starrer Ramayana is hands-down the most awaited movie of Indian cinema. The two-part magnificent epic saga is currently in production under the direction of Nitesh Tiwari. Ever since the movie went on the floors, fans have been eagerly waiting for its official announcement video. And now, we have learnt something exciting about the same.

Producer Namit Malhotra had submitted a fresh video asset of Ramayana 3D to get it censored. According to reports, the new censored promo is the official title announcement video, which has a runtime of 3 minutes. The promo has received a ‘U’ certificate from the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC). This ‘U’ censor certificate indicates that the video asset is

unrestricted for all age groups, and everyone can watch it.

The new announcement video is expected to have the first official glimpses of the lead star cast, which includes Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Mata Sita, and Yash as Ravana. Interestingly, the promotional asset might not include Sunny Deol’s footage as Lord Hanuman, as the actor is yet to begin his shoot. However, there is a little possibility that his look test might be used in the newly censored promo.

The official release date of the Ramayana 3D promo is yet to be decided. It will be interesting to see whether the makers release it in the coming couple of weeks or wait until the auspicious festivals of Dussehra and Diwali 2025.

This is the second time that a Ramayana announcement video has

been censored. The earlier announcement promo, which was censored to a duration of 2 minutes and 26 seconds, remained unreleased.

The makers of Ramayana had plans to release the official announcement video during WAVES 2025 in the first week of May. However, producer Namit Malhotra had decided to call it off later.

For the unversed, Ramayana Part One is slated to hit the screens on Diwali 2026, while its concluding installment will release on Diwali 2027. In addition to the already mentioned lead star cast, the movie boasts an ensemble of supremely talented actors, including Kajal Aggarwal, Arun Govil, Indira Krishnan, Sheeba Chaddha, Ravi Dubey, Adinath Kothare, Vivek Oberoi, Rakul Preet, and many others.



This is Ananya from earlier this year, when she was on a family holiday to Seychelles. (Image: Instagram)

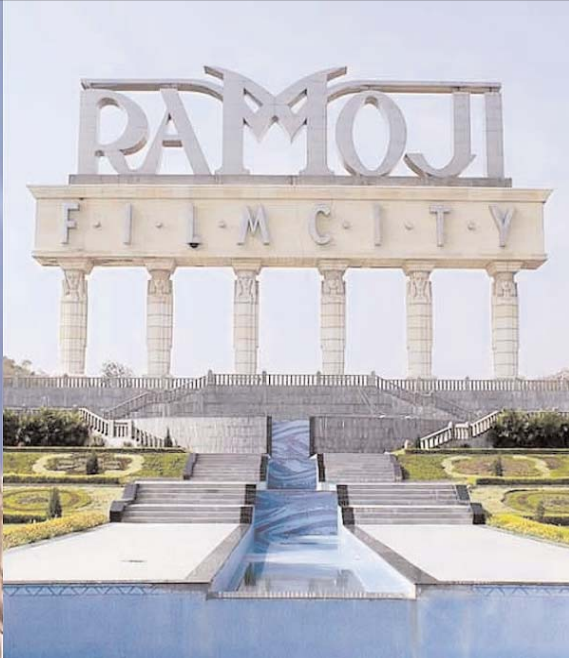
Kajol issues clarification after calling Ramoji Film City a ‘haunted place’: ‘It’s a great destination and absolutely safe...

Kajol is gearing up for the release of her upcoming movie, Maa, a supernatural mythos drama. While the actress is currently on a promotional spree, her statement about Ramoji Film City shocked netizens. Her ‘haunted place’ remark for Ramoji Film City (Hyderabad) is receiving a polarized reaction from all corners. The actress has now issued a clarification over her comment.

The actress took to her micro-blogging handle Twitter (now X) and issued the statement. The tweet reads, “I wish to address my earlier remark about Ramoji Film City in the context of promoting my film MAA. I have filmed multiple projects at Ramoji Film City and stayed there many times over the years.”

The actress further elaborated that it is a great destination for filmmaking and tourism. “I have always found it to be a very professional environment for filmmaking, and I have seen so many tourists enjoying themselves. It’s a great destination and absolutely safe for families and children,” concluded Kajol.

For the unversed, Kajol called Ramoji Film City among the



“most haunted places in the world”. In an interview with Galatta India, the actress was asked if she had ever experienced negative energy on the film sets. To which, she said, “I have experienced this multiple times. Call it negative energy or vibes, but sometimes, when you go to a place, you feel like something is-

n’t right. I’ve shot at places where I couldn’t sleep all night, where I felt it would be good if I could just leave this place.”

Furthermore, she mentioned, “A prime example is Ramoji Rao Studios in Hyderabad, which is considered one of the most haunted places in the world. I am lucky enough not to have seen

anything, though.”

On the work front, Kajol’s upcoming mytho-horror movie, Maa, is slated to hit the screens on June 27. Directed by Vishal Furia, the film is marketed as a part of Ajay Devgn-R Madhavan’s Shaitaan universe. It will be interesting to see how the movie performs at the box office.

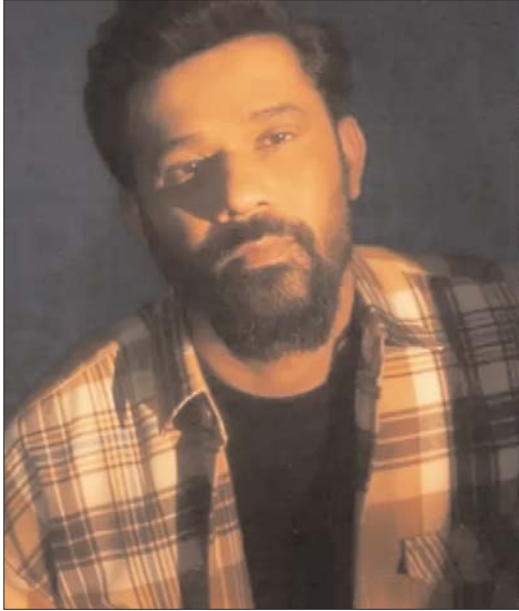
“Aamir Sir is one of the biggest superstars this country has ever seen,” says Sohum Shah as he praises Khan’s Sitaare Zameen Par

Sohum Shah recently took to Instagram to express admiration for Bollywood’s Mr. Perfectionist Aamir Khan, following the success of his recently released film, Sitaare Zameen Par. The heartfelt story, which has struck a chord with audiences across the country, has reignited conversations around the power of emotionally resonant and meaningful storytelling in mainstream cinema.

In his Instagram story, Sohum wrote, “Aamir Sir is one of the biggest superstars this country has ever seen, yet he chooses to lead with stories instead of just his stardom. The success of Sitaare Zameen Par gave me immense hope as a filmmaker — a reminder that stories with heart do matter. Thank you, Aamir Khan, for inspiring us to believe in meaningful cinema.”

Sitaare Zameen Par, a spiritual sequel to the 2007 cult classic Taare Zameen Par, has received critical acclaim for its sensitive portrayal of children with learning disabilities and its emphasis on empathy, education, and emotional well-being. Aamir Khan, who starred in both films, has long been known for choosing scripts that push cinematic boundaries while delivering powerful social messages. He is also someone who has proved through the decades that standing by the stories he believes should be told, stories with heart matter, and cinema can be an inclusive, emotional, and commercial experience.

Sohum has previously expressed admiration for Aamir Khan’s approach of making one film at a time, but with complete dedication, whilst backing stories with all his heart,



and that one should have the humility and courage to tell these stories. His ideology closely aligns with that of the ‘Perfectionist’ Aamir Khan. A prime example of this is representation of the differently abled in mainstream cinema - While Sitaare Zameen Par explores the world of individuals with learning disabilities and tells us a story of hope, inclusivity and equality, Sohum has also delved into a similar space with his film Crazy - wherein the lens of telling the story was more layered in a thriller, but the heart was empathy, love and acceptance of children with disabilities.

This is undoubtedly a courageous step, bringing such narratives into mainstream cinema. It reflects an inclusive approach, one that believes everyone should have representation, and offers an empathetic lens through which we view their stories.

Sohum Shah, best known for his roles in films like Tumbad, Ship of Theseus and Crazy, the new in the list, is himself a champion of offbeat, content-driven cinema. His words of appreciation for Khan reflects a broader shift in the Indian film industry, where audiences are increasingly valuing substance over spectacle.