

## Taapsee Pannu Says Even OTT Platforms Are Not Interested In Issue-Based Films Like Assi: 'Only Box Office Hits'



Taapsee Pannu, whose latest film Assi has just released, is currently using the platform to spotlight one of the most urgent conversations of our time, the injustice faced by survivors of sexual assault. While the film has sparked important dialogue, Taapsee has candidly addressed the growing challenge such content-driven cinema faces in finding support from both theatres and streaming platforms.

Appearing on The Right Angle podcast, Taapsee reflected on the narrowing space for mid-scale, issue-based films in today's entertainment ecosystem. "All types of cinema have a different flavour, a different

palette. If you decide you'll only watch one type of cinema, our cinema is going to start looking like a template. Then we'll not be able to show the variety that our industry and our country are capable of producing," she said.

The actress emphasised that limiting audiences to only "event films" risks stifling creative diversity and weakening Indian cinema's ability to compete globally. "How will we compete with world cinema, which is challenging norms and templates on a yearly basis?" she questioned.

Addressing the perception that meaningful, smaller films can easily find an audience on OTT platforms, Taapsee revealed a stark reality. According to her, streaming services are increasingly prioritising large-scale, box office-backed films. "There's an ignorance out there that this certain type of film is okay to be watched on OTT. You know now that event films are working, and I've been telling them during the course of the promotion of Assi, the reality of the matter is OTTs don't want this kind of film either," she stated.

She further added, "Films that are not big scale or event-based, there is a clear mandate that they want to take only those films which are box office hits. So soon there will be a time when you won't even have these kinds of films like Assi for even OTT. So that's the reality of the matter."

While acknowledging the common belief that "good films eventually find their audience online", Taapsee expressed uncertainty about whether that will remain true in the future. Her remarks open up a larger debate within the industry about creative freedom, commercial viability, and the shrinking space for socially relevant storytelling. The actress is slated to star in Netflix's Gandhari and other untitled projects.

## Nysa Devgan Channels Her Inner 'Poo' In Backless Ombre Lehenga



Kareena Kapoor's iconic character 'Poo' still remains relevant, and Nysa Devgan is here to prove it. The Gen Z star kid gave a modern flair to Poo's iconic Bole Chudiyan look with a bold 2026 twist.

Decades after Kareena Kapoor won hearts with her pink embellished lehenga choli, Nysa Devgan recreated the look with a gorgeous Manish Malhotra lehenga.

The official Instagram handle of Manish Malhotra shared a few glimpses of Nysa donning the gorgeous Poo-inspired lehenga. Nysa was seen wearing an ombre lehenga that flowed down from a delicate peach to a rich coral tone at the hem. The skirt of the lehenga was adorned with silver sequins and intricate floral thread-work all over it.

For the top, Nysa swapped the classic short-sleeved choli for a bold strapless bandeau blouse. The blouse features a sweetheart neckline and three horizontal criss-cross straps at the back, giving an edgy vibe to the otherwise traditional look. To complete her outfit, Nysa opted for a matching dupatta adorned with sequins and crystals all over it.

While the DNA of the outfit remained the same, the styling took a massive shift 25 years later. While Kareena wore an asymmetrical U-cut choli with a modest back, Nysa's open back added an extra layer of boldness to the look. Kareena's flared palazzo featured silver sequins in a scattered pattern, while Nysa's lehenga was covered with linear sequin detailing with a heavy border at the base, making the ensemble lean more towards the traditional side.

Nysa Devgan has recently graduated with a

bachelor's degree in international hospitality and luxury brand strategy. Although there have been a lot of rumours surrounding Nysa's Bollywood debut, Kajol confirmed that her daughter is not currently planning to pursue a career in acting.

Previously, during an interview with Subhankar Mishra, Kajol revealed that Nysa had received a couple of calls from directors, but she has no plans of joining the industry right now. "If she wants to do... whatever she wants to do, she will tell us, and we are with her 100 per cent, whatever she wants to do," Kajol shared at that time.

## Kajol Is Proud Of Her First Crochet Bag Creation: 'A Lot Like My Life Choices...'

Kajol likes to keep fans engaged by sharing glimpses of her daily life on social media. In a latest update, the actress shared a little personal achievement where she made her first crochet bag.

In the picture, Kajol was seen standing in her living room donning an all-black attire. She stood happily holding a grey-coloured crochet bag in her hands. "Made my first crochet bag! A little bulky, slightly unpredictable but all me... a lot like my life choices, I think," she wrote in the caption.

Fans Appreciate Kajol's Craft

Soon after she shared the update, fans flooded the comment section with appreciation. "Miss super talented," one wrote.

"Even 'imperfect' things become beautiful when they carry your personal touch. It's clear that creativity is a part of who you are," another commented.

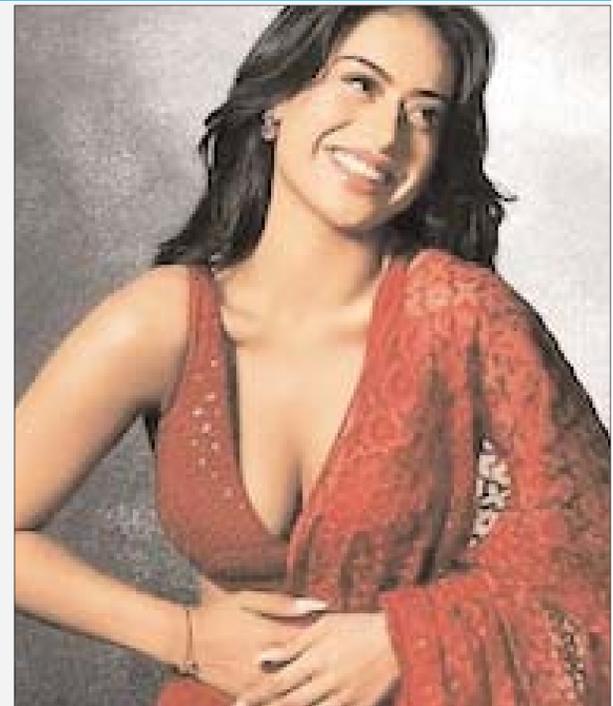
"I never really paid attention to crochet before, but you honestly made me love it. Now I really want to learn it myself," someone else added. "I am captivated by your talent," one fan said.

for those who do not know, crocheting is not something that Kajol picked up recently. It has been years since the actress started to crochet. Previously, she was seen crocheting while doing her hair and makeup ahead of an event. The actress was even spotted passing her time crocheting a throw blanket in her car while travelling to some place.

Kajol on the Work Front

Kajol was last seen appearing in the action-thriller film Sarzameen. Directed by Kayoze Irani, the film is set in Kashmir and follows an Indian Army officer who discovers his estranged son has joined a militant group. Alongside Kajol, the film also starred Prithviraj Sukumaran and Ibrahim Ali Khan in the lead roles.

Up next, Kajol is all set to appear in another action-thriller film titled Maharagni: Queen of Queens. Directed by Charan Tej Uppalapati, the film stars Kajol in the titular role. Other stars of the film include Prabhu Deva, Naseeruddin Shah,



Samyuktha, Jisshu Sengupta, Aditya Seal, Pramod Pathak, and Chhaya Kadam, among others.

The film marks Kajol and Prabhu Deva's reunion after nearly two decades. They last appeared together in the 1997 Tamil film Minsara Kanavu. The release date of Maharagni: Queen of Queens still remains under wraps.

## Swastika Mukherjee All Set To Star In Indo-American Thriller, Chheledhora

Swastika Mukherjee will star in Indo-American co-production Chheledhora, a Bengali thriller directed by Shieladitya Moulik, with shooting set to begin in Arunachal Pradesh.

All is going good for Swastika Mukherjee as she gears up for her next big project. The actor is set to headline an Indo-American co-production titled Chheledhora, a Bengali-language thriller that will begin principal photography on March 1. The film will be shot across Itanagar and Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh. The project is written and directed by Shieladitya Moulik and mixes family drama, dark humour and psychological tension.

The film is also being positioned for the international festival circuit, according to Variety.

The narrative centres on Brishti, a divorced woman who is impulsive, wounded and often misunderstood. In a desperate attempt to celebrate her daughter's birthday, she "steals" her own child, only to discover that the girl has actually been abducted. What follows is described as a volatile chain of events that pushes Brishti into a life-altering journey.

Moulik told Variety, "Chheledhora" is a story about broken parents discovering the courage and selflessness they didn't know they possessed." He added that the film unfolds like a road journey filled with unexpected twists, but at its heart, it is about healing and second chances.

The filmmaker further said, "It's a very intimate story about second chances and rediscovering one's humanity."

Mukherjee, known for performances in projects like Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!, Paatal Lok and Qala, described Brishti as a challenging character.

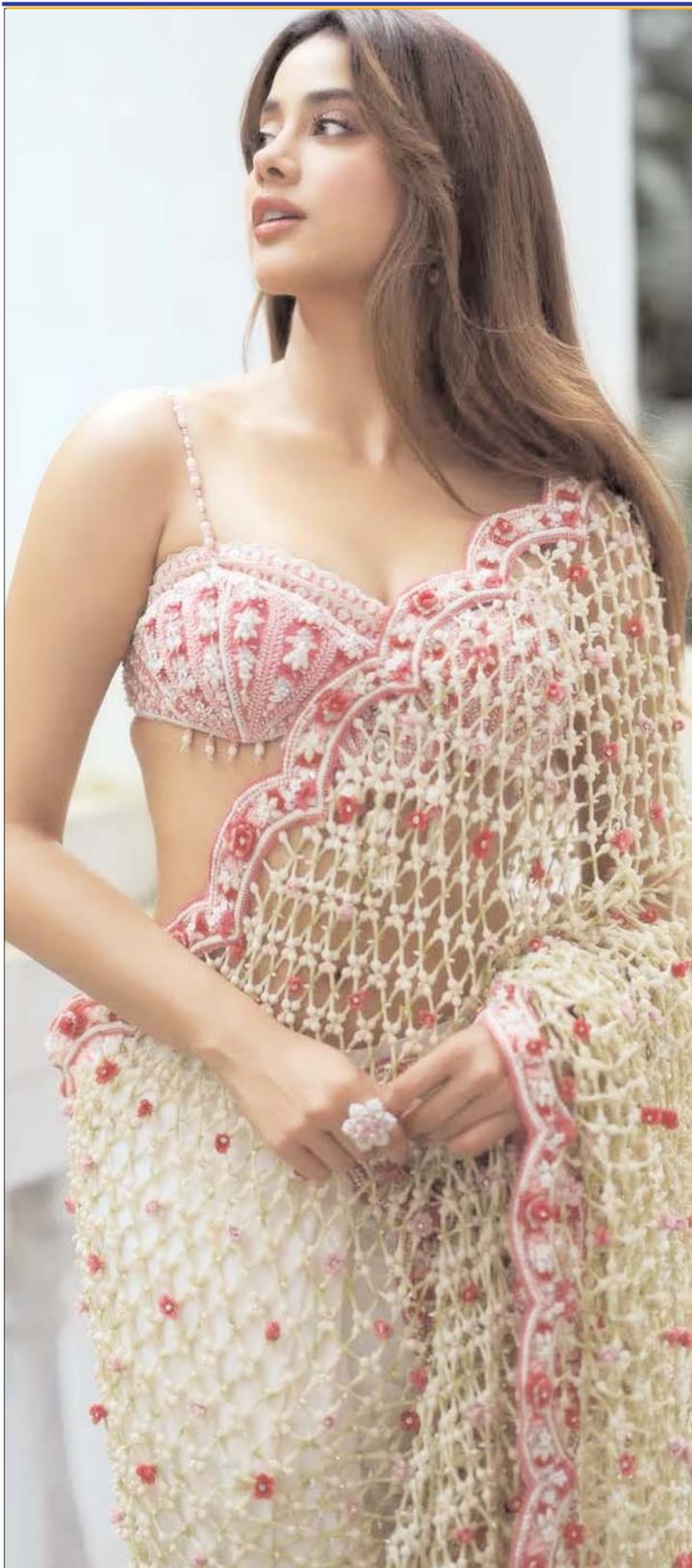
"Brishti is not an easy woman to like, and that's what moved me. She is impulsive, wounded and deeply flawed, but her love for her



daughter is instinctive and fierce," she told Variety. She added that the emotional vulnerability of the character drew her in.

According to the publication, the film aims to present a morally complex female protagonist rarely seen in mainstream thrillers.

Chheledhora is co-produced by India's Handyman and Sita22 Films, the latter founded by Anindita (Ann) Mukherjee. Protique Mo-joomdar of Handyman said the script had both "emotional depth and commercial energy."



**Sweetheart Bralette:** Inspired by Janhvi Kapoor's chic and contemporary style, this sweetheart bralette blouse design perfectly balances elegance with elegance. Featuring a flattering sweetheart neckline and structured fit, the blouse offers a modern twist to traditional wear. (Image: Instagram)