

## Dixit returns to TV hosting after 24 years as she takes over Marathi KBC show Kon Honar Crorepati



Twenty-four years after she last sat in a host's chair, Madhuri Dixit is back on television — and this time she is not dancing or judging. The Dhak Dhak girl has been announced as the host of Kon Honar Crorepati, the Marathi adaptation of the KBC fran-

chise, becoming the first actress to take on the role in the show's history. Her last turn as a host was Kahin Na Kahin Koi Hai in 2002. Since then, television audiences have seen her as a judge on Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa and Dance Deewane, but always on the other side of the table. Kon Honar Crorepati puts her in charge for the first time in over two decades. The show has been running since 2013 with familiar Marathi faces at the helm. Madhuri's arrival changes that dynamic entirely, and the makers seem aware of it — the new season launches under the campaign Aata Khel Badalnar, which translates to the game is about to change. For Madhuri, who grew up in Maharashtra, the connection to the show runs deeper than a hosting gig. "As a proud Maharashtrian, I am excited to meet contestants, hear their extraordinary stories and witness their dreams unfold on the iconic hot seat," she said, describing the show as a celebration of curiosity, aspiration and the courage to dream. Kon Honar Crorepati will air on Sony Marathi and Sony LIV. The premiere date is yet to be announced.

## Rukmini Vasanth begins shooting for her next film with Nivin Pauly

Rukmini Vasanth is keeping the momentum going as she begins shooting for her next film, adding yet another exciting project to her steadily growing filmography. The actress recently took to her Instagram stories to share a glimpse of the film's clapboard, officially announcing the commencement of the shoot. Currently referred to as NP51, the untitled Malayalam film pairs Rukmini with Malayalam star Nivin Pauly, bringing together an interesting combination of talent from across the South. "And so it begins?? #NP51 There's something very special about finding yourself in a place you've admired from afar for so long. To now be a small part of it feels like a very special first for me. So grateful for this one???" Adding to the intrigue is the film's team. The project is backed by acclaimed filmmaker-producer Martin Prakkat, known for films such as Charlie and Nayattu, while Nashid, who was among the writers of Jaya Jaya Jaya Hey, is directing the film. The coming together of these names with Rukmini Vasanth and Nivin Pauly makes NP51 one of the more interesting additions to the Malayalam slate. Having carved a strong identity for herself with performances in films such as Sapta Sagaradaache Ello and Kantara, Rukmini has steadily evolved from a promising Kannada talent into one of the most sought-after young actors working across South Indian cinema. Rukmini is now also gearing up for Toxic: A Fairy Tale for



Grown-Ups, while she has another highly anticipated big-ticket project, NTR Neel's Dragon, in her kitty. With acclaimed performances, diverse roles and major pan-Indian projects ahead, her latest Malayalam outing marks yet another exciting step in what has quickly become a remarkable career trajectory.



Ananya Panday: Be it a scorching day in Croatia or the shell-kissed shores of Seychelles, Ananya Panday never misses a beat when it comes to swim wear. Each time she slips into a bikini, she turns heads with her toned frame, breezy confidence, and signature Gen-Z glam. In her latest look, she sizzled in a hot pink bikini featuring a halter-neck top and tie-up bottoms, radiating effortless beachside charm. (Image: Instagram)

## Farah Khan hits back at bias allegations after Lock Up 2 winner Shreya Kalra's Qyuki connection surfaces

Farah Khan has addressed allegations of favouritism after Lock Up 2 winner Shreya Kalra's association with Qyuki Digital Media came to light, the same platform that manages Farah herself. The controversy erupted after Shreya lifted the trophy and the Rs 1 crore prize on the Netflix reality show, beating Shivangi Joshi in the finale.. Addressing the speculation in a YouTube vlog filmed at Shreya's Mumbai home, Farah went straight to the point. She asked Shreya on camera whether the two had ever met before the show. Shreya said no. Farah then explained that she only discovered the Qyuki connection two weeks into the show when viewers began flooding her comments with bias allegations. "I called Sagar Gokhale and said, 'Oh, Shreya is from Qyuki?' He said yes. I said, 'I didn't know about it,'" she said, adding that Qyuki manages around 70 content creators, making the overlap less remarkable than critics had suggested. She then turned to Shreya directly. "To main kaise biased thi tere liye?" Shreya's answer drew laughs. "Aapne mujhe first week mein bhi chillaya, jab main kuch acha karti tab bhi chillaya hai," she said. Shreya's win had divided viewers from the moment it was announced, with many arguing that Shivangi Joshi or Yogesh Rawat were more deserving of the title. The Qyuki connection added fuel to an already divided response.



## Amitabh Bachchan called out Preity Zinta on KBC 18 for ignoring his birthday wishes and had receipts

Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta and producer Aamir Khan walked onto the Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 set Monday night to promote Batwara 1947. What they did not walk in expecting was to be put on the spot by the host. Bachchan had a complaint for Preity, he said "Aap se humein ek complaint hai. Complaint yeh hai ke hum aapko 31 January ko birthday wish karte hain. Aapne humein ek baar bhi jawab nahin diya." Preity's response was characteristically breezy. "Nahin Amitji, aisa nahin hai. Main aapko jawab deti hoon, par ek hafte baad," she said, suggesting a week's delay was perfectly reasonable. Bachchan was ready for that. He produced an old post from X on the big screen, in which he had already called her out publicly for the same reason, proof that her habit of radio silence was both longstanding and well documented. The audience loved it. Preity had no comeback. Later in the evening she revealed that Bachchan holds a very specific kind of fame in her household. Her children have no connection to his films. They know him entirely as KBC uncle. Bachchan admitted this was not an unusual situation. Parents regularly tell him their children have no idea who he is beyond the show. Batwara 1947 is directed by Rajkumar Santoshi and opens in cinemas on August 14.

