

Faria hits back at trolls



Telugu actress Faria Abdullah, who was trolled for participating in Bonalu celebrations in Hyderabad, has responded with an emotional social media video against the backlash The Jathi Ratnal actor shared a video of herself on Instagram in which she breaks down while describing her experience and says that she continues to believe in "love", "unity" and peace. Faria had taken part in the Bonalu celebrations (major annual Hindu festival celebrated in Telangana to honour Goddess Mahakali) at the Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Temple in the Old City of Hyderabad on August 9. Videos from the celebra-

tions showed her carrying a traditional Bonam and joining the procession with Pothuraju performers.

The actress, born to a Hindu father who later converted to Islam, slammed trolls for calling her a 'kafir' for questioning her religious beliefs. She further explained her ideology on religion and stated that she sees life in everything around her.

My dad is a converted Muslim bro. Do you understand what that means? He got converted to Islam because he liked the religion." What kind of an upbringing would I have had if someone is bringing me up with showing me all the good things about a religion because they loved it so much that they wanted to accept it? I've always seen the good about Islam. I really wish good things for you bro, actually," she said.

Faria then lashed out at those who called her "kaafir" and said she does not wish them any harm. She also shared how she finds a sense of life and spirituality in nature and the world around her.

"Whoever is hating on me, whoever thinks that main wrong jaa rahi hoon, kaafir hoon, whatever you want to say, I wish well for you. I wish well for you. I see life in trees, I see life in rocks, I see life in butterflies; it's everything, and if that doesn't amaze you, if that doesn't make you believe more in God instead of taking you away from it, I'm sorry, my friend, you're missing out," she added.

"If that's about it, if you don't choose to see magic or God in everything or every person you meet, you're missing out. I pray for love; I pray for unity; I pray for peace, and I will do that because that's my rebellion, that's my revolution," she further said.

Beyond posts & patriotic songs on Independence Day: Celebs share what freedom means to them

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, celebrities from the entertainment industry share their thoughts on patriotism, freedom and the responsibility that comes with it.

From remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters to reflecting on what independence means in their personal lives, they share their heartfelt perspectives on the spirit of a free India.

Patriotism shouldn't be limited to flags, posts or patriotic songs. True love for our country is reflected in how we live every day, by respecting the law, caring for others, protecting the environment and giving back to society. Mahatma Gandhi's belief in non-violence continues to inspire me. This Independence Day, let's remember the sacrifices behind our freedom and do our bit to make India better. Jai Hind.

Patriotism is not just about social media posts or patriotic songs; it is about our actions every day. Being responsible, kind and respectful is also a way of serving our country. Bhagat Singh's courage and conviction have always inspired me. This Independence Day, let's value our freedom and celebrate it through our actions. Jai Hind.

Freedom from regression: Gul-fam Khan Hussain

Freedom is something we often take for granted. As we celebrate Independence Day, I feel we must also strive for freedom from regression, oppression and injustice. Painting gives me a deep sense of freedom, and throughout my life, I



have believed in choosing my own path. I hope India never loses its freedom of speech, cultural beauty and spirit of unity. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam continues to inspire me with his vision and values. To the youth, I would say, choose courage, unity and virtue. Vande Mataram.

Of rights & courage: Roma Navani

Freedom is not just about having rights; it is also about having the courage to be authentic and the responsibility to use that freedom wisely. As an artiste, I feel most independent when I can explore different emotions and perspectives through my work. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam inspires me with his vision and belief in young minds. I hope we always preserve India's unity in diversity and use our freedom to build, uplift and make a positive difference.



Janhvi Kapoor stands as industry's ultimate style icon, effortlessly blending grace and trendsetting flair. With a keen eye for fashion, she consistently dazzles in every appearance, setting benchmarks for contemporary elegance. Kapoor's ability to seamlessly navigate diverse styles, from traditional to cutting-edge, cements her status as a versatile trendsetter. Whether gracing red carpets or embracing casual chic, she infuses each look with a distinctive charm. Janhvi Kapoor's influence extends beyond fashion; she embodies a modern, confident persona that resonates with admirers globally. As our ultimate style icon, she continues to inspire, elevating the fashion landscape with her impeccable taste and bold choices.

Meet Geetu Mohandas: The director behind Yash starrer gangster actioner 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups'

'Toxic' marks a striking new chapter in Geetu Mohandas' life. With decades of acting accolades and films, that won big on the festival circuit, her 'Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' marks a move from critically acclaimed cinema to one of the biggest commercial productions of her career, starring pan-Indian star Yash.

The very woman, dismissed infamously as "the girl whose name appears in the director's credit" by Kamaal R Khan, turns out to be real star at the much-anticipated film's trailer launch!

Yet, in an auditorium full of stars, the first person Geetu mentioned was her 'Amma'... "I want to start by thanking my Amma (mother) for taking care of my daughter, my child, for all these years, so that her child could fly. As Nayan (Nayanthara) said 'it's very, very difficult to leave your family behind'. I have never thanked my mum enough," she shared as she struggled to hold back tears...

Born Gayathri Das, this filmmaker has travelled an unusual distance in Indian cinema. Having started acting at a very young age, she appeared in Malayalam film 'Onnu Muthal Poojyam Vare' that won her Kerala State Film Award for Best Child Artist. She later became a leading star in Malayalam cinema, appearing in numerous films, including 'Life Is Beautiful', 'Akale', 'Rap-pakal', 'Bharathan Effect' and 'Naalu Pennungal'. Her performance in 'Akale' brought her the Kerala State Film Award for Best Actress and the Filmfare Award for Best Actress – Malayalam.

But acting was only one chapter. In 2009, Mohandas moved behind the camera with 'Kelkkunnundo' ('Are You Listening?'), a short film that announced a very different creative voice. The film premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam and won the Golden Lamp Tree in the international competition for short films and documentaries at the International Film Festival of India. Movies

Her first feature, 'Liar's Dice', established her internationally as a serious filmmaker. The film premiered at Sundance and Rotterdam, received the Hubert Bals Fund for development and became India's official entry for the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 87th Academy Awards. It also collected two National Awards and major international honours, including awards at Sofia, Pesaro and the Granada Cines del Sur festival.



Then came 'Moothon', starring Nivin Pauly. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, while Mohandas received the Global Filmmaking Award at Sundance for the story. The next big step is 'Toxic'...the film has been surrounded by speculation that Yash was actually directing the film behind the scenes. And perhaps the most powerful response to the noise came not through an argument but through her team hailing her as the most 'present' director ever!

Why Did Pooja Hegde Join Vijay's Jana Nayagan Despite Less Screen Time? Insider Reveals

Pooja Hegde and Thalapathy Vijay share a rapport that's all set to take center stage in their upcoming film Jana Nayagan, for one last time. After director H Vinoth revealed that the actress has a limited screen time with Vijay in the upcoming political thriller, sources close to Pooja have now shared that she gave a nod to Jana Nayagan purely because it's Vijay's last, ambitious theatrical spectacle and she was keen on making it memorable.

"Pooja has several crucial scenes. It was incredibly sweet of her to onboard Jana Nayagan because it marks Thalapathy Vijay's last film before he invests himself entirely into politics. She was keen and equally excited to make it memorable. Considering that Pooja and Vijay's pairing has connected well with the audience through Beast, it was her respect and bond with Vijay that made her say yes to the film," reveals a source close to the actress.

Besides Vijay and Pooja Hegde, Jana Nayagan also stars Bobby Deol and Mamitha Baiju among others.

While details about the film's plot aren't known, the official synopsis of the movie states, "An ordinary man becomes an unexpected figure of resistance when a local injustice pushes him into the public eye. As his actions inspire others, he faces increasing pressure from those threatened by his rise. The story tracks his evolution from bystander to reluctant leader as he navigates danger, ideals, and community expectations."

Helmed by director H Vinoth, the film was initially scheduled to hit theatres on January 9, 2026. However, it was then postponed due to



certification issues. The film was referred to a Revising Committee following complaints alleging that certain scenes portraying religious sentiments and the armed forces in an objectionable manner. The film was granted an 'A – Adult Only' certificate earlier this month. Directed by H Vinoth, Jana Nayagan will now hit theatres on July 23, 2026.