

GIVA withdraws Kriti Sanon’s Raksha Bandhan ad after controversy



What began as a festive advertising campaign featuring Kriti Sanon has now turned into a wider debate over fashion, culture, women's choices and the way Indian festivals are represented in modern advertising. Jewellery brand GIVA has withdrawn its Raksha Bandhan advertisement after it faced criticism online, bringing Kangana Ranaut, Rahul Gandhi and Kriti's sister Nupur Sanon into the conversation.

The advertisement featured Kriti in an ivory ethnic ensemble while celebrating Raksha Bandhan. The campaign also presented a contemporary take on the festival by showing Kriti tying a

rakhi to her pet dog, with the brand attempting to portray pets as part of the family.

However, the campaign soon came under criticism, particularly over Kriti's outfit and the way the traditional festival was portrayed. Kangana Ranaut was among those who strongly objected to the advertisement. Questioning Kriti's choice of outfit, Kangana criticised the campaign on social media and described it as "intentionally creepy."

Kriti Sanon later responded to the criticism, arguing that a woman's clothing should not be used to determine her connection with Indian culture or traditions. Defending the spirit of Raksha Bandhan, she emphasised that traditions are ultimately about emotions, relationships and family. "Culture & Traditions are in her heart, not in her neckline!" Kriti said in her response. She also explained that Raksha Bandhan represents a bond of protection in her family and that she and Nupur tie Rakhi to each other. She added that their pets are also considered family.

Nupur Sanon subsequently came out in support of her sister. Sharing Kriti's response, Nupur questioned why another woman's clothing should become a matter of such intense public concern. Her reaction added another voice to the debate over whether cultural values should be judged through a woman's appearance.

The controversy took another turn when Rahul Gandhi joined the discussion. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi shared Kriti's statement on Instagram Stories and backed her broader argument about women having the freedom to make their own choices without being subjected to moral policing.

Kaziah Liz Mejo crowned Miss Universe India 2026

Nineteen-year-old law student Kaziah Liz Mejo from Kerala was crowned Miss Universe India 2026 at a grand finale held at Zee Studios in Jaipur on August 23.

Mejo emerged as the winner from a field of 52 national finalists, succeeding Miss Universe India 2025 Manika Vishwakarma, who passed on the crown during the finale.

Tamil Nadu's Vaishnavi Ganesh was named first runner-up and was also crowned Miss International India 2026.

Anushri Satavlekar of Gujarat finished second runner-up, while Maharashtra's Tejaswini Shrivastava and Uttarakhand's Anubha Vashisth were named third and fourth runners-up, respectively.

The judging panel included Bollywood actor and India's first Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen; actress and former Miss Universe India, Urvashi Rautela, Miss Universe India 2024 Rhea Singha, and environmentalist and film producer Pragya Kapoor. Former Miss India Universe and Miss Universe Runner-up, Celina Jaitley was also a part of the selection process.

The contestants were evaluated on confidence, eloquence and stage presence during the competition.

Following her national title, Mejo will begin preparations for the global Miss Universe competition.

Mejo is set to represent the country at the 75th Miss Universe pageant, scheduled to take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in November 2026.



Pooja Hegde Sets Internet on Fire With Her HOT Looks
Pooja Hegde's hairstylist tied her hair in a very chic bun with hair strands falling on the side.

Himanshi Khurana threatens to release CCTV footage and recordings in Asim Riaz row, alleges violence

The public feud between former Bigg Boss 13 couple Himanshi Khurana and Asim Riaz has turned significantly more serious.

Asim denied ever asking Himanshi to convert, he wrote, "I never asked anyone to change their religion. Not once. Matter of fact, I was the one who pushed you towards fitness. You've been in this shape only after meeting me, before that, everyone knew how you looked. So please, don't use religion as a weapon."

Hours after this statement by Asim, along with his threat to release screenshots, Himanshi fired back with a statement that raised the stakes considerably.

In a lengthy social media post, Himanshi said she is prepared to share CCTV footage and recordings connected to what she called the "conversion-related matter"—and went further, alleging violence during their relationship. She pointedly referenced the early hours of November 27, 2023. "Hope you remember that early morning of 27.11.23," she wrote. Indianews updates

She also corrected what she called a media-driven narrative. "I never said 'forceful conversion' was there. People and media set that narrative," she clarified, adding that she had always spoken about her personal life, including her Bigg Boss experience, spiritual journey and health struggles, with honesty and without targeting anyone.

Nepal flash floods: Chilling videos show gushing waters from Tibet side sweeping away villages, hydropower projects, bridges'

What shifted her was being mocked for her health issues. "When my health is mocked and my struggles are questioned, I believe it is time to draw a line," she wrote.

She also made clear she was done protecting him. "I am not someone who will continue covering up to protect your so-called image. People from different production houses and channels covered your shit but I am not like them now," she said.



Dolly Parton: A life and legacy remembered through the tributes

Dolly Parton's death at 80 has prompted an extraordinary wave of grief across music, Hollywood and beyond, with artistes and longtime friends remembering not only the country music icon's incomparable career but also her warmth, generosity and ability to make people feel seen.

From Beyoncé and Taylor Swift to Elton John, Sabrina Carpenter, Billy Ray Cyrus and Eminem, tributes have painted a portrait of a woman whose influence stretched far beyond her songs.

Sabrina Carpenter, who collaborated with Parton on a deluxe version of "Please Please Please", remembered the country legend as an "angel walking the earth". Carpenter said she would cherish their laughter and conversations, along with Parton's wisdom, playful outlook and sense of humour. She also praised her "once in a lifetime voice", adding that there would "never be another" Dolly Parton.

Ronit Roy and Seema Biswas join Salman Khan and Nayanthara in Monster'

Beyoncé, who reimagined Parton's classic "Jolene" on her album Cowboy Carter and featured the country icon on "Tyrant", described Parton as a "barometer" and a "North Star". She thanked Parton for showing generations of people how to be unapologetically themselves, while celebrating her artistry, generosity, humour and entrepreneurial spirit.

Taylor Swift: "True grace and true grit"

Taylor Swift said a world without Parton did not feel "possible, real, or right", while reflecting on the enduring legacy of a woman she described as "true grace and true grit". Swift praised Parton's generosity, humour and honesty, saying she had encouraged people to remain true to themselves while using her platform to help others. She also highlighted Parton's philanthropic work, particularly her Imagination Library, which has provided millions of books to children. "Dolly, I'll think of you each step of the way," Swift said.

