

Emraan Hashmi Calls Awarapan 2 ‘Rarest Of Rare Phenomenon’ Amid Its Success



Emraan Hashmi is currently basking in the success of his recently released film *Awarapan 2*, which has reached a worldwide gross collection of Rs 210.20 crore. Amid the film's success, the actor penned an emotional note, calling it his best film yet. He said that he is genuinely proud of being part of the sequel despite the fact that the first film *Awarapan* (2007) tanked at the box office. Emraan then urged people to watch the film in theatres before it's too late.

In his note, Emraan wrote, "There are films you work on, and then there are films you are genuinely proud to be a part of. *Awarapan 2* belongs to the latter. It has become a rarest-of-rare phenomenon- an unprecedented feat."

He further noted that while the 2007 film *Awarapan* struggled to find an audience when it was re-

leased, its sequel *Awarapan 2* is determined to write box office history almost two decades later.

"A film that didn't find its audience two decades ago returning with a sequel, determined to rewrite history at the box office. An emotionally charged action musical, mounted on a stunning visual scale and powered by incredibly diverse, timeless music, this is a film I truly believe is best experienced with an audience, in cinemas," he wrote.

"At the heart of it all is Vishesh, the creator of the world of *Awarapan*. His vision and unwavering conviction shaped everything and everyone. I'm so glad we took the leap together and made this journey. To be part of a film with such an incredible cast, musical genius, and creative brilliance has been super special. This is My Best Film

Yet," wrote Emraan.

Emraan then urged people to watch the movie in theatres before it's too late. "Feel the emotional roller coaster. Let the music take over. And celebrate it the way it was meant to be celebrated, Big Screen, Big Sound Cinematic Experience," he added.

Awarapan 2 is directed by Nitin Kakkar and produced by Vishesh Bhatt under the banner of Vishesh Films. The film is a sequel to the 2007 film *Awarapan* and stars Emraan Hashmi, Disha Patani and Shabana Azmi in key roles. The film was theatrically released on August 14, 2026.

The cast includes Emraan Hashmi as Shivam Pandit, Disha Patani as Zara, Shabana Azmi as Nafisa Nawaz, Puran Gabbi as Zorawar, Suvinder Vicky as Jaideep and Vijayant Kohli as Mehmood.

Sunita Ahuja Heartbroken Over Nepal Floods, Pledges Support For Relief Efforts



Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja has expressed solidarity with flood-hit Nepal. She said that she wants to do whatever she can to support those affected by the devastating situation. While she was born in India, Nepal has always been close to her heart, thanks to her family roots in Kathmandu. In a conversation with *Bombay Times*, Sunita said she is deeply saddened by the destruction and is trying to find a reliable channel through which she can contribute to relief efforts.

Sunita Ahuja's connection with Nepal goes back to her family. Her mother and grandmother are both from Kathmandu, and she continues to visit the country regularly. She makes it a point to travel to Nepal with her daughter Tina every year

for New Year. One tradition that remains particularly special to them is visiting the Pashupatinath temple on Jan 1.

"It is heartbreaking to see such devastating floods hit Nepal. I wasn't born there, but my mother and grandmother are from Kathmandu. I visit Nepal every year with my daughter for New Year. On January 1, we make it a point to visit the Pashupatinath temple and begin the year with His blessings," she said.

With the situation in Nepal weighing heavily on her, Sunita is now trying to find a trustworthy way to contribute to relief efforts. She wants to make sure that whatever she contributes reaches people who genuinely need help. "I am trying to connect with someone who

can ensure that my donation reaches the right people. I would like to donate as much as I can because they are very close to me and Nepal is my matrabhoomi. I request everyone in the industry to come forward and contribute towards helping the people of Nepal," she said.

She further added, "Manisha Koirala is like my sister, and I am sure she must be doing her best for the people there. I pray to Pashupatinath Baba that everything returns to normal soon and that Nepal never has to face such a crisis again. It has my heart."

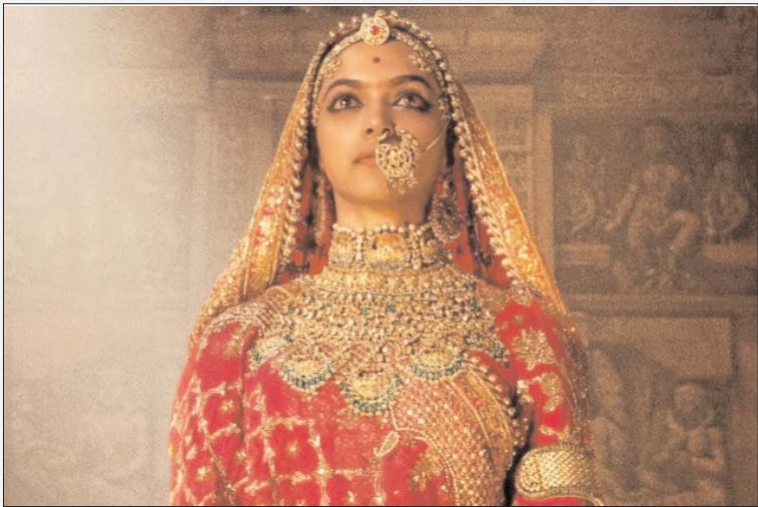
On the professional front, Sunita Ahuja was last seen in Netflix's reality series 'Lock Upp 2: Sach Ya Sazaa'.

Swara Bhasker On Deepika Padukone's Padmaavat Jauhar Scene: 'Is This What We Tell Rape Survivors?'

Swara Bhasker has opened up about the controversy that followed her 2018 open letter to filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali after watching *Padmaavat*. Years later, the actor has explained that the discussion around her letter focused heavily on one line, while the larger point she was making about women, sexual violence and the film's depiction of jauhar was largely missed.

Speaking at an event hosted by the India International Centre (IIC) in Delhi, Swara recalled her reaction to the film's climax. *Padmaavat*, starring Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh, had released in January 2018 after months of controversy. Inspired by Malik Muhammad Jayasi's 16th-century epic poem *Padmavat*, the film centres on Rani Padmavati and the conflict between Rajput ruler Ratan Singh and Alauddin Khilji.

For Swara, the depiction of jauhar in the climax raised questions about the message being sent to survivors of sexual violence. She recalled watching hundreds of women choose collective self-immolation and wondering how a survivor might interpret the scene. "I'm



watching this, these 800 women committing jauhar, and I was like, yaar, if I had been, God forbid, if I was a rape survivor, what is this film telling me? I would feel like a coward, that I didn't kill myself to save my honour. Is that what you want to tell in a society like ours, where I feel like there's anyway a rape epidemic?" she said.

Swara said she was disturbed by the idea that a woman's life could be connected to her sexual purity. "Is this what we want to tell our survivors, that you didn't deserve to live? That if you actually had been honourable and brave women, you would have

killed yourself. Are we saying that rape is the end of a woman's life?" she said.

Another scene also stayed with her. Swara recalled seeing a close-up of a pregnant woman during the jauhar sequence and questioned what that image suggested about the value of a woman's life. "And then there was that one shot, it made me so mad, I was like, chiii, in the audience loudly. There is a close-up of a pregnant woman's belly. And she is going, so you're saying that a foetus that might be female doesn't deserve to be born, because she might be raped by a Muslim ruler?" she said.

Despite later being associated with the controversy, Swara said she did not write the letter immediately after watching the film. She waited five days before deciding whether she still felt strongly about what she had seen. "And then I came out and I was like this is terrible. And normally people think that I do these things out of rage. But I waited for five days. And I was like, let me check if I still feel like this. And then at the end of five days, I wrote this letter," she recalled.

Her open letter, published by *The Wire* in January 2018, questioned the glorification of jauhar and the idea that a woman's worth is tied to her sexual purity. However, Swara said the subsequent conversation centred on one particular phrase from the letter. "I just want to say that when it got published, there was one line in the letter where I was trying to say that women are more than their private parts. And watching this film made me feel that I'm reduced to a vagina," she said.

Padmaavat, starring Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh, had released in January 2018.

Shefali Shah Turns Author With 'The Audacity Of Being', Pens Heartfelt Note As She Launches Her Book

Bollywood actor Shefali Shah has now donned an author's hat with the launch of her first-ever book 'The Audacity Of Being'.

On Tuesday, Shefali expressed her joy at embarking on a journey she had never imagined in her wildest dreams. Reflecting on her childhood, she recalled how she would often score "zero" in dictation, and have her essays covered in red scratches."

She also admitted that, back then, she didn't necessarily believe every sentence had to begin with a capital letter. And many years later, in 2026, Shefali surprised herself by writing a book.

"For someone who used to get zero in dictation, had multiple red scratches puncturing my essays, believed punctuation meant a generous spill of ellipsis, and didn't necessarily think a capital letter had to start a sentence, it's absurd that I was audacious enough to write not just a monthly budget but an actual book. And was crazy enough to agree with my delulu publishers to publish it. Yes,



I wrote a book. An actual, physical, hold-it-in-your-hands kind of book. This book is a perfect example of 'THE AUDACITY OF BEING.'"

"I believed books are written by important people with something even more important to say. And I'm no literary genius. I used to write my musings in a diary or

behind a ticket or alongside a receipt, and then just like that, one day I decided to share it with you all. Not because it was brilliant but just because social media is far more interactive than a diary. I never expected anyone to read it, let alone appreciate it. Surprisingly, you did. Suddenly, my conversations weren't one-sided. You

responded, replied, indulged my banter, and encouraged me to write some more," she added.

"Nothing in my life warrants a memoir. And yet I chose to tell a story only I have the copyrights to. I don't promise an ingenious book, but what I do promise is absolute honesty. Do I hope it becomes a number one bestseller? Ofcourse I do. Will it top the charts? I don't know. But even if one of you reads it and it rings true, I'd believe I did well. My expression, whether on screen or on paper, becomes complete only when you accept it as your own. Up until now, this book was mine. But from now on, it belongs to you," Shefali's post read.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Shefali was last seen in 'Delhi Crime Season 3'. The third season of 'Delhi Crime' shows Shefali Shah back as the fierce and fearless DIG Vartika Chaturvedi, alongside Rasika Dugal, Rajesh Tailang, Huma Qureshi, Sayani Gupta, Mita Vashisht, Anshuman Pushkar, and Kelly Dorji.

Disha Patani flaunts her perfectly toned tanned body in a magenta gown and bold hair.