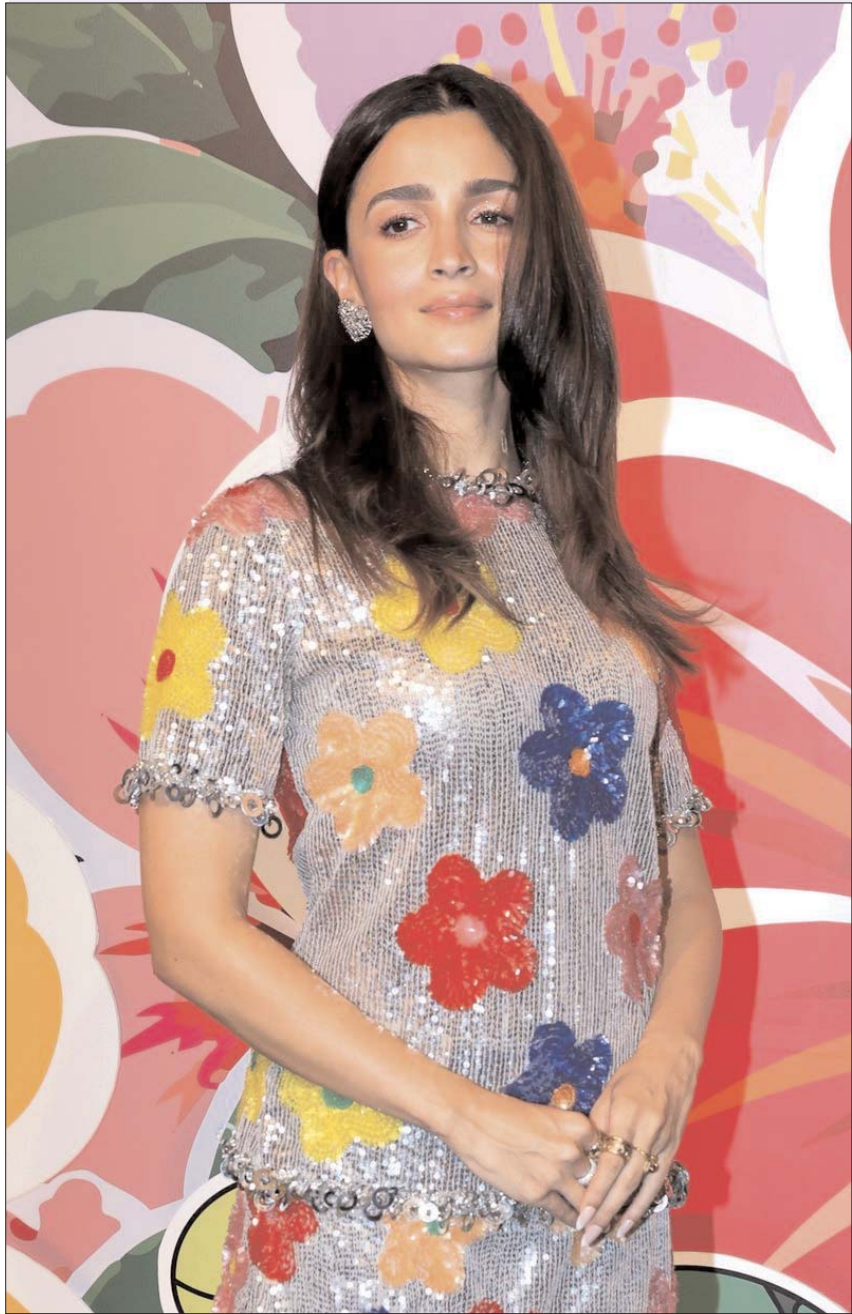


Alia Bhatt to present Earthshot award

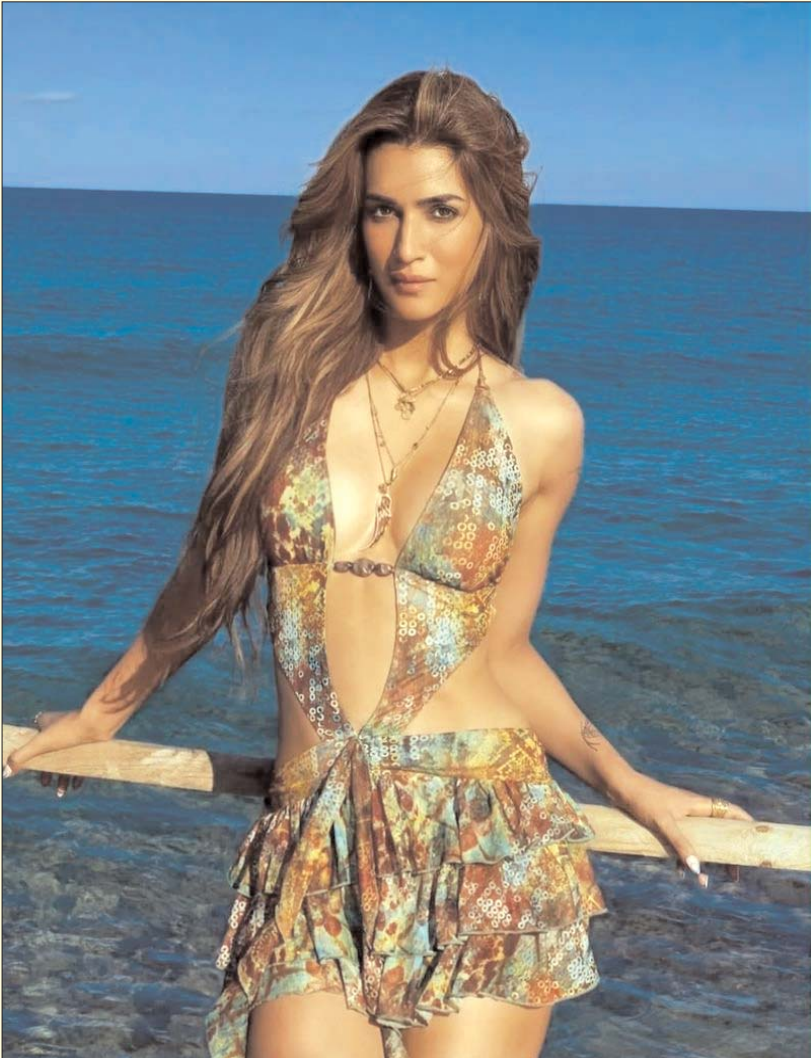


Alia Bhatt will present one of the five awards at The Earthshot Prize 2026 Awards Night in Mumbai. The ceremony will bring together guests from the film, music, sport and entertainment industries, as well as people and organisations involved in environmental initiatives. About 5,000 guests are expected to attend the event. Alia will join Oscar-winning actor Rami Malek, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and British actress Simone Ashley, who are also among the presenters and special guests. The event will be hosted by Karan Johar.

Speaking about her involvement, Alia said, “The Earthshot Prize is really about hope... but hope that comes with ideas, action and people who are finding new ways forward. That’s what makes it so inspiring to be a part of. There are people across the world doing incredible work to protect and repair our planet, often in ways we may never have imagined. And to have Mumbai bring all these people together feels very special. I’m proud that India gets to be part of this moment, and I’m really looking forward to celebrating the people behind these solutions and the work they’re doing for all of us.”

The 2026 ceremony will stream on Prime Video for the first time.

The 'Cocktail 2' actress wants to go darker — and become India’s next female superhero



Kriti Sanon appears to be entering a particularly adventurous phase of her career. From her National Award-winning turn in Mimi to the psychological thriller Do Patti and Tere Ishk Mein, the actress has steadily moved beyond conventional roles, choosing characters that allow her to stretch as a performer. Her latest outing, Cocktail 2, where she plays Ally, has added another dimension to that evolving repertoire.

Now, Sanon wants to go even further. In a conversation about the roles she would like to explore next, the actress revealed that she is drawn towards characters that inhabit morally complicated spaces — the kind that can take her far away from her own personality.

“I would love to get into the psyche of a really grey character,” she said. “As an actor, it gives you an opportunity to play something that you’re not. Completely away. So I would love to explore a little more grey.”

Sanon also has something considerably bigger in mind — quite literally. The actress expressed her desire to headline a female superhero film, pointing out that India’s most recognisable superhero characters have traditionally been male.

“I also want to play, like, a superwoman,” she said. “I feel like the only superhero that we have in India is Krish. And of course, we have Shaktimaan.

But they’re all men.” For Sanon, the prospect is not simply about wearing a superhero costume. It is about embracing the physicality and scale of an action-driven role. “I would love to, you know, there should be, like, a female superhero. I have to do action. I’d love to do that. That would be really cool. Putting it out there.”

It is an intriguing wishlist for an actress whose career has increasingly been defined by experimentation. After establishing herself in

mainstream Hindi cinema, Sanon has gradually gravitated towards characters with greater emotional and psychological complexity.

A morally grey role would take that evolution into darker territory, while a female superhero could allow her to explore an entirely different cinematic language — action, physical transformation and larger-than-life spectacle.

For now, both remain ambitions rather than announced projects. But Sanon seems clear about the direction in which she wants to move: less familiar, more challenging and, quite possibly, a little more dangerous.



Shama Sikander Glam Queen looks ethereal and vivacious in this hot and sexy outfit as she strikes a candid pose.

Toral Pandya’s Creative Dialogue explores how places are shaped by light, memory, movement

What happens when a building becomes more than a backdrop for art? At Chandigarh’s Le Corbusier Centre, a shadow becomes a surface and an unfamiliar space begins to look strangely familiar. These shifting visual conversations form the heart of Toral Pandya’s Creative Dialogue, an exhibition of prints created during her 2026 artist residency at the centre.

Pandya, who also received the Lalit Kala Akademi Painter Award in 2020, exhibits her work to explore how a place can be experienced not only through its architecture, but also through light, memory, movement and perception.

The exhibition explores the idea of ‘formlessness’, where forms are not presented as solid or clearly defined entities, but continually emerge through memory and experience. Inspired by the architectural environment of Le Corbusier’s studio, the prints respond to changing light, surfaces, textures, objects and shadows through lines, impressions and layers. The architecture becomes less a subject to be documented and more a point of departure — an environment that prompts observation, interpretation and experimentation.

As an artist who grew up in Vadodara, Pandya’s work is rooted in her engagement with nature and an ongoing dialogue with her surroundings. She does not restrict herself to a single medium, allowing the subtle nuances of an environment to find expression through different materials and processes. In her practice, the visual and the material constantly inform one another, creating possibilities that may not have been apparent at the beginning of the process.

Her studio practice begins with a close observation of everyday experiences and the conscious encounters that shape her visual world. These experiences gradually find their way onto paper through sketching, writing, collecting references and research. Rather than treating these as separate exercises, she allows them to overlap and accumulate, creating layers of thoughts, impressions, memories and visual fragments.

It is within this layered process that her ‘formless forms’ begin to emerge. Drawn from a wide range of references and explored through different media, these shapes are continuously re-worked, fragmented, transformed and manipulated until they acquire an artistic language of their own. What may begin as an



instinctive mark or an everyday observation slowly evolves into a form that exists somewhere between the familiar and the abstract.

For Toral Pandya, the act of making is therefore as important as the finished image. Each layer carries traces of what came before, while leaving room for something unexpected to surface.

Ankur Rathee makes Hollywood debut in Netflix’s ‘Best of the Best’

Indian actor Ankur Rathee makes his Hollywood feature-film debut with Netflix’s Best of the Best, a South Asian dance drama that explores identity, ambition, friendship and the competitive world of collegiate dance teams in the US. The film, starring Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, Priyanka Kedia, Rathee and Chaneil Kular, is currently the No. 1 movie worldwide on Netflix.

Rathee, who has built a diverse body of work across Hindi cinema and streaming, plays Ronak, the charismatic and fiercely competitive captain of UCLA’s South Asian dance team. Larger than life and deeply invested in his team’s success, Ronak projects confidence and ambition while grappling with the vulnerability beneath his persona.

The role also took Rathee back to his own college years. Nearly a decade older than the character he plays, the actor drew on his experience as a member of South Asian and contemporary dance teams at Princeton to channel Ronak’s youthful energy and competitive spirit.

“I’ve spent the last decade building my career in India, working across film and streaming, so this opportunity feels like a meaningful evolution rather than a departure from where I come from,” Rathee says. “To make my Hollywood debut with a film that is so deeply connected to the South Asian experience makes it even more special.”

He adds, “What made Ronak particularly exciting was the opportunity to revisit a part of myself I hadn’t accessed in years. I was a college dancer, I’ve lived the intensity of these teams, and I remember what it felt like to be 22 and believe that charisma could carry you through anything.”

Rathee’s familiarity with South Asian culture and Bollywood also proved valuable on a production that incorporates dance,



Hindi dialogue and Bollywood-inspired sequences. He also dubbed Ronak himself in Hindi and Urdu for Netflix’s international release.