

From Raakh to reality TV: Sonali Bendre calls Pati Patni Aur Panga a welcome change after the emotional intensity of the crime thriller



Actor Sonali Bendre says streaming platforms have opened up new avenues for actors to explore different facets of their craft, something that's not always possible in mainstream cinema. Bendre played a grieving mother in Prime Video's series Raakh, a story that was inspired by

the Ranga Billa case in the 1970s. She is returning to the small screen as the host of reality show, Pati Patni Aur Panga, which is currently airing on Colors TV channel and JioHotstar.

"Everything has its own time. Due to OTT and multiplexes, the scope of narrating different kinds of stories has increased. At that time (90s), in mainstream cinema, you had to show a kind of film in which some things are necessary because you needed to cater to every strata of society... Business compulsions are different," Bendre said.

"From the time multiplexes came in, these compulsions changed. Like, niche audience can be entertained and you can tell different kinds of stories. When different types of stories can be told, then as an actor, you get a chance to play different type of roles. So, it's a great opportunity that, we have now," she said.

One of the most popular Bollywood actresses of the 1990s, Bendre worked in hits such as Diljale, Zakhm, Duplicate, Hum Saath Saath Hain and Sarfarosh.

She made her OTT debut with the critically-acclaimed series, The Broken News (2022), in which she played the role of Amina Qureshi, a strong, principled woman.

Bendre said she is open to returning to the big screen, which she believes offers a distinct experience. Her last theatrical film was Akshay Kumar-starrer, "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara!" in 2013.

"Big screen is big screen and it has its own charm. Some stories are such, which are fun to watch on the big screen.

Kannada Sci-fi film Lambodhara 2.0 to be released on November 20



Kannada sci-fi film Lambodhar 2.0 has got a release date. As per trade analyst Taran Adarsh, the film, which marks the debut of Bollywood actor Kunal Kapoor in Kannada cinema, will hit the theatres on November 20. Sharing the update, he wrote on X, "MAHAVEER JAIN FILMS TO PRESENT KANNADA SCI-FI SOCIAL THRILLER 'LAMBODHARA 2.0' – 20 NOV 2026 RELEASE... #Lambodhara2 – an ambitious #Kannada sci-fi social thriller directed by acclaimed filmmaker #SimpleSuni – stars debutant #AnilShetty alongside #SaachiBindra and #KunalKapoor... The film also features a real-life humanoid robot, #Jia. First look on 14th Oct 2026... Arrives in cinemas on 20 Nov 2026."

Lambodhar 2.0 is directed by Simple Suni and stars a humanoid robot in the lead role, which is developed

by Machani Robotics in Bengaluru. The character of the robot is named Jia. The film also stars Anil Shetty, Saachi Bindra, Mac D'Souza and Meghana Gaonkar in the lead roles. It is produced by Anil Shetty and Mass Productions.

According to the makers of the movie, the film is an "AI-driven social thriller rooted in the chaos of Gen Z life on social media. It explores contemporary themes of artificial intelligence, youth, and the ever-evolving digital ecosystem."

"Positioned as a socially relevant, high-concept thriller, Lambodhara 2.0 aims to strongly resonate with today's digitally connected generation," added the synopsis.

The shooting of the film started in January and was wrapped recently by the director, Simple Suni. (ANI)



Priyanka Chopra turns a vintage Banarasi silk sari into a sculptural, high-fashion masterpiece, proving heritage fabrics can be every bit as striking as couture.

Veteran actress Micky Singh makes international feature debut with 'A Mosquito in the Ear'

Veteran actress Micky Singh is stepping into the international spotlight with A Mosquito in the Ear, the Indo-American feature directed by Nicola Rinciari and starring Jake Lacy and Nazanin Boniadi.

For Micky, however, it was the story and the character of Sister Aruna that drew her to the project, rather than the prospect of working on a Hollywood production. "I was the most excited about the story. The fact that it was a Hollywood film and what that meant has honestly sunk in only after the release. When I was told what the film was about and what my role — Sister Aruna — was, that excited me more than anything else," she says.

The film was completed in just twenty days, an experience Micky describes as a testament to the production's rigorous preparation and professionalism. "We went on to make the movie in twenty days, and that is what is so incredible about the way this project was handled. The professionalism was at its peak. So much homework had been done so perfectly by the production and direction teams."

Working alongside Jake Lacy and Nazanin Boniadi proved equally memorable for Micky, who was struck by how grounded and collaborative the international cast was. "Jake and Naz were such down-to-earth, humble people. Not for a minute did I feel that I was acting with international celebrities who have such a massive body of work behind them. She recalls spending considerable time with both actors while shooting their scenes together in Goa, often walking through the streets in the sweltering heat.

Director Nicola Rinciari, she adds, created an atmosphere that balanced collaboration with clarity. "Nico was also wonderful to work with. He created such a collaborative and comfortable atmosphere on set, while being very clear about what he wanted from every scene.



Chaali Din: Dr Gurpreet Singh Dhugga on turning his Punjabi novel into a film

For Dr Gurpreet Singh Dhugga, storytelling has always been about making sense of life. A physician by profession and a writer by passion, Dhugga's creative journey has taken him from the pages of Punjabi fiction to the world of cinema, with his novel Chaali Din now available to audiences worldwide through OTT release.

Born in Khambra village in Jalandhar, Punjab, Dhugga completed his MBBS from Government Medical College, Patiala, before moving to the United States, where he pursued an MD in Medicine from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He went on to specialise in Palliative Medicine and Geriatric Medicine. Yet alongside a demanding medical career, literature remained a constant presence in his life.

That intersection between professional experience, personal observation and imagination lies at the heart of Chaali Din. "Any writing is a mix of author's observations, experience and imagination," Dhugga says. For him, authenticity is what allows a story to connect with readers, and he believes it is one of the reasons Chaali Din touched such a wide audience.

The idea for the novel emerged from Dhugga's lifelong love of reading. He was particularly drawn to books that explored the philosophy behind human struggles, desires and the things people pursue throughout their lives. The concept of Chaali Din remained with him for more than a year before he finally began writing it. The first draft took approximately six months, followed by another six months of revisions and refinement.

The novel eventually found an audience far beyond what its author may initially have imagined. With around 1.5 lakh copies sold, Chaali Din travelled across the Punjabi diaspora, reaching readers in different parts of the world. It was the readers themselves who first began asking whether the story could be brought to the screen.

