Riteish Deshmukh fronts Pitambari's 'Devbhakti Agarbatti' campaign

From kitchen counters to prayer rooms, Pitambari has been a part of Indian homes for decades. Now, the brand is lighting up a new space — with the launch of Pitambari Devbhakti Agarbatti.

Made with natural ingredients and infused with real flower fragrances, the new range promises what most agarbattis don't — a long-lasting scent without the heavy smoke. The varied range includes popular fragrances: Chandan, Mogra, Rose, Champa and more. The idea is to make everyday pooja feel a little more pure, a little more personal.

To tell that story, Pitambari has partnered with actor Riteish Deshmukh to lead a nationwide campaign. Built around the belief that God is always with us.

Talking about the collaboration, the actor says, "I am delighted to be associated with Pitambari Devbhakti, a brand that celebrates Indian values and traditions."

For the makers behind the brand, this is more than a product launch. Ravindra Prabhudesai, Managing Director, says, "The product enriches the prayer experience with natural ingredients and authentic flower fragrances."

Parikshit Prabhudesai, Vice Chairman adds that, with nationwide availability, Pitambari is among India's first mass-produced natural fragrance agarbattis, while Director Priya Prabhudesai says the campaign is designed to make Devbhakti a part of everyday pooja across India.

From tradition to a new beginning — Pitambari is betting that devotion, like fragrance, should linger.

HTC



(L-R): Ravindra Prabhudesai, Managing Director, Pitambari Products Pvt. Ltd.; Riteish Deshmukh, Actor, director and producer; Parikshit Prabhudesai, Vice Chairman, Pitambari Products Pvt. Ltd.; and Priya Prabhudesai, Director, Pitambari Products Pvt. Ltd. PHOTO: HTCS



Glaw Lake becomes Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar site, India's 101st

On Monday, Arunachal Pradesh's Glaw Lake, nestled within the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, was designated the state's first Ramsar site and India's 101st wetland of international importance, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced.

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance recognised under the Ramsar Convention, adopted in 1971 and signed in the city of Ramsar in Iran. They are designated for their ecological significance and role in conserving biodiversity and supporting wildlife.

Taking to X, Yadav wrote, "Powered by 101. India continues her journey beyond a century in designating Ramsar sites." He noted that the lake is fed by perennial mountain streams and is home to more than 150 tree species and 49 orchid species.

The minister added that India has expanded its network of Ramsar sites from 26 in 2014 to 101 today, calling it a reflection of the country's commitment to wetland conservation and sustainable development.

HTC

OTHER MAJOR RAMSAR SITES IN INDIA

- Wular Lake, Jammu and Kashmir
- Chandra Taal, Himachal Pradesh
- Deepor Beel, Assam
- Rudrasagar Lake, Tripura
- Vembanad-Kol Wetland, Kerala
- Chilika Lake, Odisha
- Loktak Lake, Manipur:





PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

How to recreate the kiss curl

Aadrika Sominder
aadrika.sominder@hindustantimes.com

A century-old hairstyle detail is making a comeback in 2026. Known as the kiss curl, the tiny "S" shaped curl first gained popularity during the Victorian era before becoming a Hollywood favourite from 1920s to '50s. Now, more than a century later, the hairstyle has returned as part of the 'romantic girl' aesthetic, with a new generation of fans, including actor Sanya Malhotra, model Subiksha Shivakumar and American actor Odessa A'zion, flaunting it.

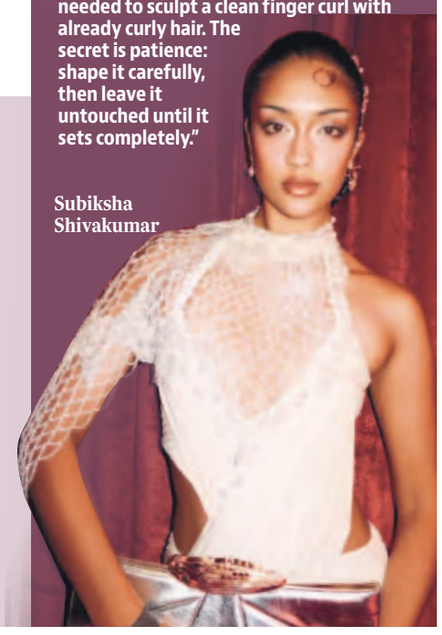
Steps to nail the look at home

- **Prep first:** Always start with a heat-protectant spray before styling, especially for Indian weather
- **Shape the curl:** Use a mini curling iron or an edge brush to create a soft 'S' curl along the hairline
- **Set with lightweight hold:** Smooth the curl into place using a styling gel or wax for definition without weighing it down
- **Fight humidity:** Finish with a humidity-resistant hairspray to lock the curl in place
- **Add shine:** Apply a few drops of an anti-frizz serum to keep the curl sleek, glossy and flyaway-free
- **Layer, don't overload:** The secret is combining light-hold products for lasting definition, shine and flexibility, without making the curl stiff or crunchy

Inputs by Nisha Popat, national technical head, BBLUNT Salon

HACKS FOR TEXTURED HAIR

For textured or curly hair, the process for creating a kiss curl looks a little bit different. "If you have textured hair, you have to smooth it out with a blow-dryer or straightener first for a workable base," explains Olesya Ponomoreva, area creative director, LOOKS Salons. She adds, "An edge control wax gives you the grip needed to sculpt a clean finger curl with already curly hair. The secret is patience: shape it carefully, then leave it untouched until it sets completely."



FSSAI takes action against misleading labels on food, flavouring of alcohol

Unverifiable purity claims

A social media statement by the FSSAI on August 3 informed that it had barred Dabur India from selling certain food products such as ghee, honey, coconut milk and others, carrying misleading '100%' claims. The regulation states that the brand's labels, such as '100% Natural', '100% Pure', '100% Organic' and '100% Purity Guaranteed', are ambiguous, unverifiable, and violate the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018. The regulator also found that Dabur Himalayan Organic Apple Cider Vinegar and Dabur Organic Honey displayed the Jaivik Bharat logo (an official identification mark) without valid organic endorsement by FSSAI. At the same time, Dabur Hommade Coconut Milk was marketed with an impermissible '100% Purity' claim. FSSAI further said the company failed to take satisfactory corrective action despite an earlier notice and has directed it to immediately stop selling the concerned products.



India's food regulatory authority, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), recently barred Dabur India from selling certain food products with unverifiable claims, and issued notices to multiple alcoholic beverage manufacturing brands over alleged flavouring violations. Here's why



Flavour-added alcohol

Some alcohol brands also came under scrutiny. On August 2, the authority released a statement restricting the sale of select variants of popular brands, such as Old Monk (including The Legend, Gold Reserve and XXX Matured Rum variants), Royal Challenge, Antiquity Blue and Bagpiper, over alleged violations related to flavouring practices. As per FSSAI, some companies were using flavours that replicate the drink's own profile instead of relying on standard ageing processes and ingredients required to develop taste and aroma.

As per the statement, the claim of '7 years old blended' for Old Monk XXX Rum variant was misleading as the major ingredient of the rum is neutral (unmatured/unaged) spirit, while the matured rum spirit is less than 5%. It also clarified that adding permitted flavouring substances is allowed, but certain manufacturers, including Diageo-owned United Spirits and INBREW Beverages, were allegedly adding flavours such as rum flavour to rum and whisky flavour to whisky, which is not permitted. United Spirits has reportedly moved the Bombay High Court against the order restricting the sale of one of its rum products.

HTC

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK

A grand homecoming for CWG '26 stars



PHOTOS: ATUL YADAV/ PTI

{ DAILY HOROSCOPE }

Wednesday, August 05, 2026

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vaastu expert) can be contacted at: **Delhi:** 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); **Panchkula:** 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); **Mumbai:** 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

PREMASTROLOGER | PREMASTROLOGER | ASKPREMASTROLOGER

ARIES
MAR 21-APR 20

There will be a celebratory atmosphere in the family. Frequent interruptions could make it difficult to maintain your usual pace. Real estate matters may progress more smoothly when handled with patience.
LOVE FOCUS: Understanding another perspective may deepen closeness.
LUCKY NUMBER: 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Golden

TAURUS
APR 21-MAY 20

An overlooked source of value could unexpectedly strengthen your financial position. Mixed signals and conflicting instructions in the workplace may require extra caution before decisions are made.
LOVE FOCUS: Warm interactions may brighten your mood.
LUCKY NUMBER: 3 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Purple

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUN 21

An interesting invitation may lead to an enjoyable outing that leaves a lasting impression. Reviewing service costs carefully may help prevent unnecessary spending.
LOVE FOCUS: Clear up everything with your partner in advance.
LUCKY NUMBER: 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Sky Blue

CANCER
JUN 22-JUL 22

Focus on improving your concentration. Changes in pricing or fees may encourage a reassessment of financial priorities. Adjusting to new workplace procedures could take time before they feel familiar.
LOVE FOCUS: Emotional reassurance may strengthen trust.
LUCKY NUMBER: 17 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Green

LEO
JUL 23-AUG 23

Competing priorities within the household could make decisions slightly more complicated. Pushing beyond your limits may leave less time for proper recovery, making balance important.
LOVE FOCUS: An unexpected moment may renew warmth.
LUCKY NUMBER: 1 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Maroon

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEP 23

Renting your property could provide you with an excellent income stream. A timely financial decision may place you in a stronger position. The ability to anticipate challenges could provide a valuable professional advantage.
LOVE FOCUS: Patience may bring valuable answers.
LUCKY NUMBER: 6 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Grey

LIBRA
SEP 24-OCT 23

Professional credibility may continue to grow through steady effort and dedication behind the scenes. Minor travel delays may require flexibility and calm thinking.
LOVE FOCUS: Appreciation may bring emotional warmth.
LUCKY NUMBER: 8 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Yellow

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

A practical matter linked to the home environment may require cooperation from everyone involved. Exploring unfamiliar surroundings may provide a refreshing change of pace.
LOVE FOCUS: You may go out with your partner.
LUCKY NUMBER: 11 **LUCKY COLOUR:** White

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

A well-planned outing appears likely to unfold smoothly. A disciplined approach to learning may strengthen performance and deliver encouraging results. Opportunities linked to an existing friendship could prove rewarding.
LOVE FOCUS: Emotional balance may prevent complications.
LUCKY NUMBER: 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Pink

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 21

Long-term financial opportunities could become easier to identify and evaluate. Consistency in educational pursuits could become one of your greatest strengths. Real estate matters may show gradual yet noticeable progress.
LOVE FOCUS: Thoughtful moments may strengthen connection.
LUCKY NUMBER: 18 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

AQUARIUS
JAN 22-FEB 19

Revisiting fundamentals could strengthen future academic performance. Coordinating efforts across different groups may require extra attention and patience.
LOVE FOCUS: Positive developments may renew optimism.
LUCKY NUMBER: 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Maroon

PISCES
FEB 20-MAR 20

Growing confidence in a financial direction could encourage thoughtful future planning. Accuracy and consistency are likely to be more important than speed in professional matters.
LOVE FOCUS: Your partner's company will bring you comfort.
LUCKY NUMBER: 2 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Saffron

HT City Mumbai

LOVE, RINGS, AND GOLDEN FINALE

From a loved-up red carpet to mystery rings and a saucy, show-stopping stage act, Hollywood kept it sparkling







DID GIGI HADID AND BRADLEY COOPER SECRETLY TIE THE KNOT?

American model Gigi Hadid, 31, and American actor Bradley Cooper, 51, have sparked marriage rumours after they were spotted wearing what appeared to be wedding bands on their left ring fingers during an outing in Paris on Monday. But, neither Gigi nor Bradley has commented on the speculation. Rumours about the two dating first emerged in 2023 after they were spotted having dinner together in New York City. The couple later made their relationship public in May last year, with Hadid sharing a picture of them kissing at her 30th birthday celebration.

TATE MCRAE GOES GOLD AT LOLLAPALOOZA

Canadian singer-dancer Tate McRae surprised fans during her set at Lollapalooza in Chicago on Sunday when she dipped into a pool of gold paint while performing her song Sports Car. Tate walked barefoot up a set of stairs on stage in a white bralette and matching hotpants before lying in the pool for a few seconds and crawling out covered in gold paint. The 23-year-old then stood on a podium, rubbed the paint across her body and struck a pose with her arms raised. Tate had pulled off the same stunt the previous night during her performance at the Osheaga Festival in Montreal. Interestingly, the gold paint wasn't actually conventional paint. Her makeup team later revealed in an interview that it was a specially formulated, skin-safe metallic liquid made from methyl cellulose, copper and water,

DUA LIPA AND CALLUM TURNER MAKE RED CARPET DEBUT AS NEWLYWEDS

Nearly two months after tying the knot in Sicily, Italy, on June 6, English singer Dua Lipa and British actor Callum Turner have made their first red-carpet appearance as a married couple. The duo stepped out on Monday for the NYC premiere of Callum's upcoming film, One Night Only.

Dua, 30, wore a custom Ferragamo gown featuring a plunging halter neckline, while Callum, 36, opted for a navy double-breasted Louis Vuitton suit.

The couple had first sparked romance rumours in early 2024 and made their relationship Instagram official in July that year.

PHOTOS: AFP, X AND BACKGRID

'Women on screen are more than just side plots now'



Kajol

Vishakha Pandit
vishakha.pandit@hindustantimes.com

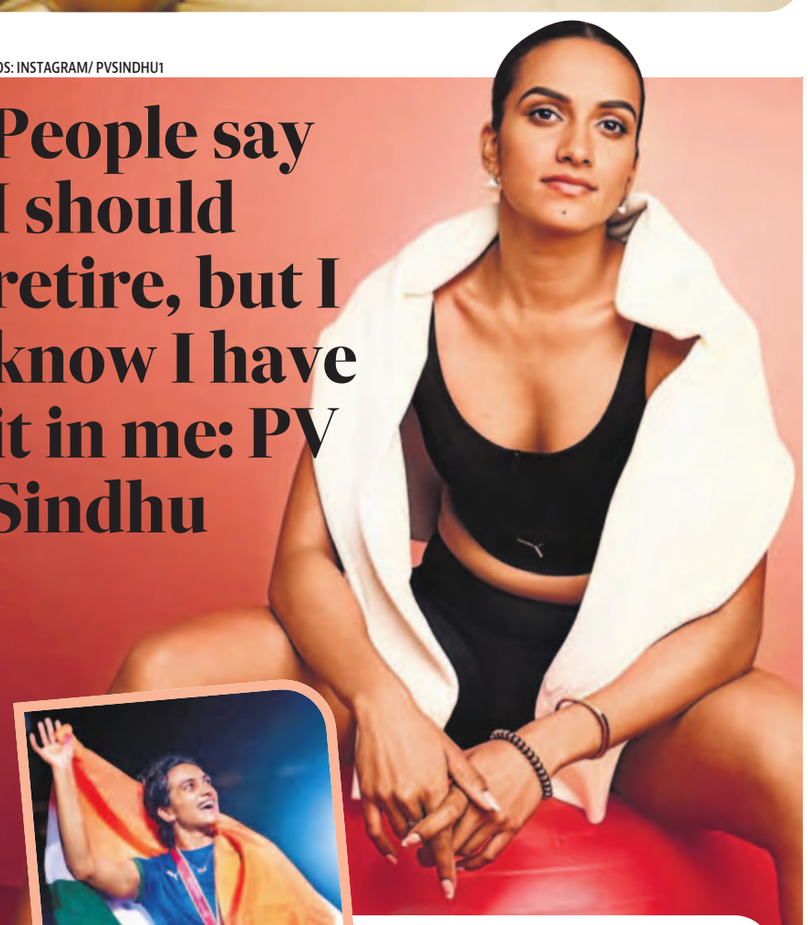
As conversations around Alia Bhatt and Sharvari-starrer *Alpha* continue to divide opinions, actor Kajol has come out in support of the film. "You have a film like *Alpha* that's come out, which is an action film. I think the idea of it was absolutely fantastic," she says, adding that the portrayal of women on-screen have drastically changed over her three decades in the industry.

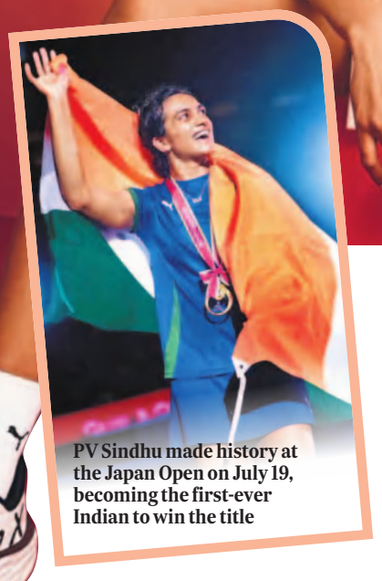
Kajol, who turns 52 today, has been a part of women-centric projects, including web-series *The Trial*, and films *Do Patti* (2024) and *Maa* (2025). The actor believes that Hindi cinema is finally moving towards giving female characters the space that they deserve.

"We're definitely moving in the right direction when it comes to women-led stories. I don't know whether it's a better light or not, but it's definitely more of a spotlight," she says, adding, "They're writing better characters for women. They are giving women more of a chance to be more than just a side plot, which I feel is a good trend that we're going towards."

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/ PVSINDHU1

People say I should retire, but I know I have it in me: PV Sindhu





PV Sindhu made history at the Japan Open on July 19, becoming the first-ever Indian to win the title

Karan Sethi
karan.sethi@hindustantimes.com

Having been through two difficult years marked by injuries, early-round exits and growing doubts over her future, many in the sporting world wondered whether ace shuttler PV Sindhu's best days were behind her. But, Sindhu never stopped believing. Her historic women's singles triumph at the Japan Open last month, which made her the first-ever Indian to win the tournament, is proof that the fire still burns. Now, just days away from the World Championships (August 17 to 23), Sindhu is all set to head into her next challenge with renewed confidence

Looking back at the difficult phase, the 31-year-old admits, "If you ask me, was there a day in that stretch where I seriously considered that the wins might not come back the same way? Yes, because the game is completely different now compared to a few years ago. But you just have to adapt and keep pushing. You have to change and strategise at every step."

Even through that challenging period, Sindhu says she never lost faith in herself. "There's been a lot of ups and downs recently... A lot of people said 'maybe she should retire, maybe she is done'. But I kept telling myself that I can do it, that I have it in me. And that kept me going every single day. It wasn't an easy phase, but I have believed in myself through it," she shares.

That belief was on full display at the Japan Open, where Sindhu ended a long-standing losing streak against Japanese rival Akane Yamaguchi and earned praise for a victory built on tactical adaptability. "In life and in sport, plan A doesn't always work. That is where preparations, mindset and that undying will to win come what may, come into play. You have to switch on the court within seconds and go to plan B. That is what I did in Japan and that is the approach I take forward with me now in the World Championships," she concludes.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK/ BHUMI PEDNEKKAR

Bhumi Pednekkar gets schooled by former teacher

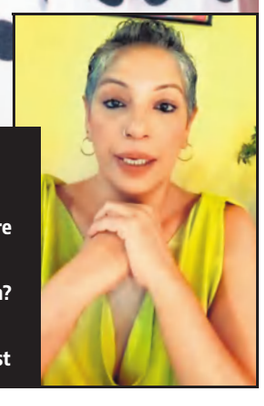
Actor Bhumi Satish Pednekkar has come under fresh scrutiny after her former acting teacher, Shruti Desai, publicly criticised her recent remarks on the student-led protests over the NEET paper leak. Bhumi had condemned the abusive language directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the protests.

Spiritual psychotherapist Shruti Desai, who says she briefly taught the actor at a Mumbai-based film school, took to Instagram on Monday to recall Bhumi as "disrespectful" towards her teachers while questioning her recent stance. "I remember how disrespectful, almost disdainful, you were about your teachers. Care to explain your new approach towards the concepts of respect and responsibility and how your world-view changed so drastically in the interim?" she wrote.

Shruti's remarks came after Bhumi shared a video recently wherein she said, "Looking at the videos surfacing now, the kind of language being used, and the way the youth of our country are speaking... this isn't how we talk, man. We are talking about someone who holds the highest office in the land today... would we ever speak like this to the elders in our own homes? Can we really resort to using abusive language? Guys, this isn't our culture; it's wrong... a country will only progress and move forward when, collectively and unitedly, we discuss our flaws as well as the good things."

While some social media users supported Bhumi, many criticised her for speaking out against the language used by demonstrators while remaining silent on the alleged police lathi charge and heavy-handed action against protestors. HTC





I remember how disrespectful, almost disdainful, you were about your teachers. Care to explain how your world-view changed so drastically in the interim?

SHRUTI DESAI, Spiritual psychotherapist

STOP PRESS



PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH

After weeks of speculation over his health, sparked by his noticeably lean and tired appearance in viral videos from an event in Mumbai last month, Salman Khan has finally addressed the concerns. During a conversation with his brother, actor Sohail Khan, in a promo video for a reality show, Salman revealed, "I am down 16kg." Amid the speculation, Salman had also addressed the chatter in his own unique way, taking to Instagram on July 19 to write, "Aap logon ki tabiyat kaisi hai?"

How ChatGPT turned henna designer for this bride



My mehendi was a last-minute affair. I wanted an unconventional design, but there wasn't even time to look for references.

ANUSHA JAIN, Content strategist

Sanchita Kalra
sanchita.kalra@hindustantimes.com

A bride's last-minute mehendi design, created with the help of an AI chatbot, has drawn attention after being shared on Instagram by Open AI recently. The personalised artwork was designed for Mumbai-based content strategist Anusha Jain's wedding in Jaipur this year, after she turned to the AI tool for inspiration.

Recalling how it all came together, Anusha tells us, "I did not get time to pick references. My brother, Anant, suggested, 'Didi, why don't you use ChatGPT?' He brought the phone to me, and I put in a prompt with little details about me and Dikshant."

The siblings fed the AI tool details about their story, such as Anusha being from Mumbai and Dikshant being from Jaipur. The chatbot then suggested creative ways to weave their journey into the henna design, including an auto-rickshaw representing Mumbai, an elephant symbolising Jaipur, and a family crossword.

Anusha adds that mehendi artist Teena Tomer brought the ideas to life with her own touch: "Instead of just copying, she improvised the structure." The final look cost around ₹10,000-12,000.

Teena says that while the concept was unique, the use of AI for customised designs is slowly becoming more common: "Ye ekdam hatke concept tha. Par haan, ab aisa hone laga hai ki log AI aur ChatGPT se designs banwa kar aane lage hain."

NOTE TO READERS: Some of the coverage that appears on our pages is paid for by the concerned brands. No sponsored content does or shall appear in any part of HT without it being declared as such to our valued readers.