Preity Zinta says she's back home after Dharamsala stadium evacuation, apologises to fans for refusing pictures: 'Need of the hour was'



Kings XI Punjab co-owner Preity Zinta was one of the many who had to evacuate the Dharamsala stadium on Friday after the Indian Premier League (IPL) match with Delhi Capitals was called off midway amid the escalating cross-border tension between India and Pakistan. The actor revealed on Sunday afternoon that she's finally made it home after the incident.

"Finally back home after a crazy last few days. A heartfelt thank you (folded hands) to Indian Railways & our Railway minister Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw for helping both IPL teams and all officials & families leave Dharamshala in a safe, swift & comfortable way," wrote Preity on X. Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals contingents were escorted to the Jalandhar railway station in batches through Hoshiarpur amid tight security on Friday. These included players, coaching staff, and broadcast personnel, moved in around 40 to 50 small vehicles from Dharamsala to Hoshiarpur, located at the Punjab border. The convoy was escorted by the Kangra Police and the Punjab Police took over the security arrangements once the vehicles reached Hoshiarpur. From there, they were moved to Jalandhar to board the specially arranged train. They were then transported to Delhi via a special train. Preity Zinta also thanked International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah, IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal, the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI), Kings XI Punjab CEO Satish Menon, and the operations team for "helping co-ordinate the evacuation of our stadium in Dharamshala safely & in an orderly manner." She also thanked the audience at the stadium "for not panicking & for any stampedes." "You guys are absolute rock stars. I'm sorry I was a bit curt & said no to pictures with everyone but the need of the hour was the safety of everyone and it was my duty & responsibility to make sure everyone stayed safe (red heart emoji)," Preity added. The IPL was suspended because of the military confrontation, which was triggered by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were gunned down. The BCCI stated that national interest trumps other considerations at a time when the country is responding to a terror attack and unwarranted aggression from across the border.On the work front, Preity Zinta will be next return to the big screen seven years after Bhaiaji Superhit, with Rajkumar Santoshi's period drama Lahore 1947, in which she'll reunite with Sunny Deol. The film is backed by Aamir Khan Productions.

Sunita Ahuja says she was against Govinda joining politics, admits it affected their kids childhood: 'People started asking why we lived separately'

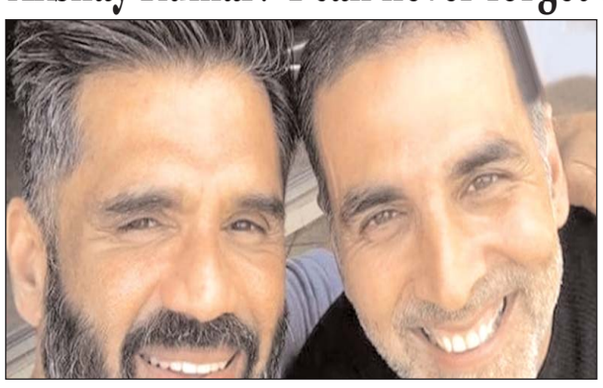


Rumours of a separation between Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja started doing the rounds after she commented that they live separately. However, in a recent interaction, Sunita clarified her statement and also explained why she was against Govinda entering politics.

Speaking to Zoom, Sunita said, "I wasn't happy when he joined politics just because his brother told him to. I always tell Govinda to focus on his own work, and politics isn't his job. I've seen many actors, but not all can handle everything. If he doesn't go to parliament, people will talk. That's what happened."

Sunita Ahuja shared that since Govinda joined politics, she and her children lost their freedom and had to be surrounded by security. She claimed that this affected their son Yash's childhood. "My son faced problems in school, and we had to arrange security. He told me also to keep tight security around, but I said I don't need to be told; I can take care of my own security. This affects the children a lot when they can't do things freely. Yash's childhood went by like this, which isn't good."

Suniel Shetty says he was 'scared' of working with Akshay Kumar: 'I can never forget that first meeting'



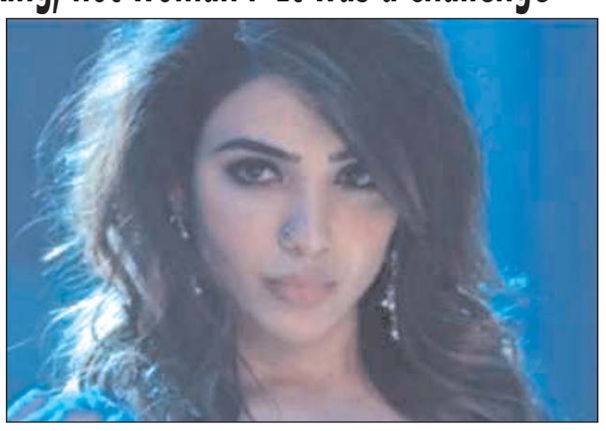
Actors Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty share a long-standing friendship, having appeared together in several films, including Pehchaan (1993), Mohra (1994), and Hera Pheri (2000). In a recent interview, Suniel reminisced about his first meeting with Akshay and how the actor resembled his late cousin, who tragically passed away at a young age.

Radio Nasha, Suniel was asked about his memories of the first day of shoot with Akshay. He said, "I can never forget that first meeting. I had a cousin named Ullaas, who was the first person to send my photographs out and I got my first modelling assignment. At that time, I had just lost him in a car accident. He was hardly 27-28." Reminiscing about the resemblance Akshay Kumar had with his cousin, Suniel shared, "When I saw Akshay, for a second, I felt that he had the exact same body language, clean shaved look, good-looking boy, and tall. The first thing I said to Akshay was that you remind me of my brother I have lost in an accident."

The actor added, "I also told him that it's scary that I have to sit down and work with you every day because whenever I will see you, I'll miss him. And, that's exactly what happened. When we got a long night, he lightened the vibe. Akshay se bada masti khor koi nahi hai iss duniya mein."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Suniel Shetty will next be seen in Kesari Veer, also starring Vivek Oberoi and Sooraj Pancholi. It is set to release on May 23. On the other hand, Akshay Kumar will next be seen in Housefull 5. He also has Welcome To The Jungle and Hera Pheri 3 in the pipeline.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu says she took on 'Oo Antava' to fake being a 'good looking, hot woman': 'It was a challenge'



Samantha Ruth Prabhu broke the internet when she danced to the item song "Oo Antava Oo Oo Antava" in the film Pushpa in 2021. In a recent interaction, Samantha admitted that she was surprised to be approached for such a sensuous dance number, especially since she had predominantly played girl-next-door characters. The actor also added that she agreed to do the song because she wanted to prove to herself that she could 'fake' being a 'good looking, hot woman'.

Galatta Plus, Samantha said, "As much as people think that I do things to make statements for other people, but more often than not I do things to challenge myself. Throughout my life I never considered myself as a good looking, hot woman. I think Oo Antava was an opportunity for me to see if I can fake it and pull it off. I have never done that before. It was a challenge to myself and I was only going to do it once."

Agreeing that she was surprised when she was approached for the song, Samantha said, "Who thinks of me for a special song and something where I have to look really hot? I was always playing the cute, bubbly, demure characters. It was not just about the dance; it was about attitude, confidence, and comfortable in her sexuality, which I'm not."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu had shared that she was offered "Oo Antava Oo Oo Antava" during the time she was going through a separation from her ex-husband and actor Naga Chaitanya.

Amitabh Bachchan calls Operation Sindoor 'a brilliant thought' amidst escalating tension between India and Pakistan

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan took to his blog on Saturday to share a lengthy post on Operation Sindoor, amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. In his post, Amitabh lauded Operation Sindoor as a "brilliant thought".

Big B began his post by revisiting the Pahalgam terror attack, recalling how a wife lost her husband while they were on their honeymoon. He also went on to share lines from several poems. The veteran actor then expressed his thoughts on Operation Sindoor. He wrote, "The Government, which has been telling the neighboring authorities to stop terrorist camps and activities in our Country, has never been heeded… Hence, Modi and the Government decided to respond to the terrorist base camps in the neighbors and launched a military procedure, the results of which are well known; nine of their terrorist camps and outfits were destroyed militarily. AND this is important to note, the military Operation was titled: OPERATION SINDOOR."

Amitabh added, "Brilliant thought… it signified that the demons wiped out the sindoor from the married women, made them widows and India through the attack and naming it Operation Sindoor signified symbolically that we shall fight to restore it… and they did. Here is the best part: two personnel from the Indian Army were chosen to give a title to the Operation. You know who they were? They were two Women Officers – A Colonel in the Armed Forces and the other a Wing Commander in the Air Force.

Netflix India content head endorses Aryan Khan's debut show, calls it 'emotional': 'It's everything you see in best kind of Bollywood films'



As fans wait with bated breath for Aryan Khan's debut series The Ba**ds of Bollywood* to release on Netflix India, the platform's Vice President of Content, Monika Shergill, has shared new insights into the highly anticipated project. She also reflected on working with other prominent creators like Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Heeramandi, Karan Johar for The Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, and Shah Rukh Khan.

Speaking about Aryan's directorial debut, Shergill said, "I am so excited about Aryan Khan's debut series. It is going to be a very delightful and emotional ride for everyone. It will have laughter and everything that you see in best kind of Bollywood films."

While reflecting on Netflix India's collaborations with a range of filmmakers and storytellers, she said, "If you look at the journey we have had, we have worked with some of the best creators." She explained that while some filmmakers were enthusiastic about exploring streaming, others needed a little 'cajoling'.

Recalling one such moment, Monika Shergill spoke about filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and the quirky way they engaged with him. She said, "With SLB, when you are discussing thing with him, it is important to have street food on the table, he loves having street food." Sharing how each creator has a unique process, she said, "With Aditya Chopra, it's an intense discussion. He likes to know how the audience is thinking and what becomes successful. It helps him create for the audience who goes to theatre but behaves differently on streaming. It is very joyful with Karan, had a great time making The Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives. With Shah Rukh, it has been an enduring relationship across formats."Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos also endorsed Aryan Khan's show and said, "It is really fun, and I am going to leave the audience to try to figure out the title completely, but it is so fun. I am four episodes in."

Maa ke paas bhi desire hain: Why do we strip women of their sexuality when they become mothers?



Mother's Day 2025: There is a lot that women lose when they become mothers — our hairlines, waistlines, a full night's sleep, and the ability to put ourselves first. But what I miss most is the permission to be wrong, mediocre, selfish, unhappy and imperfect in the way everyone else, fathers included, are allowed to be. The moment you become a mother; people start looking at you differently. You become a human unicorn; magical, special, and a beacon of all that is good and hopeful. Perhaps this forced reverence also impacts how women are presented in cinema and OTT content. As I thought more about how mothers are portrayed on screen, I realised that women who are mothers, especially older women who are mothers, are never shown as individuals with sexual desire, or as sexually desirable. More alarmingly, they are seldom shown getting physically intimate with their partners on screen. Women characters who are vocal about feeling amorous are either laughed at in comedies or bad TV shows (remember the erotically charged dadi in Kapil Sharma's show), portrayed as scary cougars, unfaithful wives who are cheating on their husbands, or are divorced and looking to move on. Kirti Kulhari's character Anjana in Four More Shots Please is one of the few examples of a mother getting intimate with multiple partners on screen. It helps that Anjana is in her early thirties, attractive, and single. But when Neena Gupta's character Priyamvada in Badhai Ho gets pregnant in her late forties or early fifties, their intimacy is merely hinted at with thunder, rain and physical proximity. Even in the short film Khujli, where Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta's characters decide to add an element of kink to their sex life, the film ends with him clipping the handcuffs back on to her hands, leaving the rest for us to assume and imagine. Dimple Kapadia played an older woman who gets physically involved with a younger man in the film Leela. However, the scene where they make love is shot using the shadows of a man and a woman. So, why don't the words mother and sexy or mothers and sex coexist more often in the movies and content we watch? There are perhaps several reasons for this. One maybe that female and/or male actors over a certain age are uncomfortable or reluctant to perform physically intimate scenes while playing parents. Second, we don't think of older female bodies or bodies that aren't skinny after childbirth as sexy or desirable. Thirdly, it is very difficult for us to imagine our mothers, and by extension, mothers in general, having or enjoying sex like young women.

Varun Sood recalls participating in Roadies just to win a bike, had plans to join the Indian Army like his dad

Actor Varun Sood, whose grandfather and father served in the Indian Army, had initially planned to follow in their footsteps. However, at 19, he auditioned for Roadies to win the show and earn a bike, and his life took a completely different turn afterward. The Suvir Saran Show, Varun opened up about his Roadies days and shared why he did the show. The actor said, "Roadies is one of the oldest and the longest reality shows that has been running in India, and I purely went as I wanted a bike and mom was not giving it to me despite me requesting a lot. So I thought wow if I win the show, I do decently well on the show, I'll get a bike." Reflecting on his audition experience, Varun shared that he had to wait in long lines for six to eight hours and revealed that stampedes are not uncommon at Roadies auditions. Varun also shared that he joined the reality show with the mindset that even if it didn't work out, it was okay—since he intended to join the Army at the time. When asked why he ultimately didn't pursue a career in the Army, the actor explained, "Post the show, I got a contract with MTV, and I started liking that life."

He added, "I had seen the show as a child. Rannvijay (Singha) was the first person I saw on the show. He too was an army kid, and I grew up watching him. So I thought that if I got to be with him on the show, it would be fun and exciting."

Varun Sood went on to appear in several other reality shows, including MTV Splitsvilla, Ace of Space, and Khatron Ke Khiladi. He later made his acting debut with Ragini MMS: Returns and is also known for his roles in Karmma Calling and Call Me Bae.

Mathew Thomas responds to criticism of his 'overacting' in Bromance: 'When I approached the character of Binto'



For actor Mathew Thomas, collaborations with director Arun D Jose have played a key role in his career growth. From the filmmaker's debut movie Jo and Jo (2022) to later projects like Journey of Love 18+ (2023), Samadhana Pusthakam (2024) — in which Arun served only as one of the co-writers — and Bromance (2025), each film has contributed to Mathew's fame and also helped him hone his craft. Even in their latest movie, Bromance, he played a character, Binto Varghese, that required him to take on fresh challenges, including performing a full-fledged action set piece involving many characters. However, unlike their previous ventures, Mathew's performance in Bromance was not well-received, particularly his portrayal of Binto's outbursts as he struggles with anger management. While he is elated at the movie's success, Mathew has not turned a blind eye to the feedback. In an exclusive conversation with SCREEN, he addressed the criticism in depth and shared his perspective on what might have gone wrong.

Opening up about his frequent collaborations with director Arun D Jose, Mathew Thomas says, "I met him for the first time on the sets of Prakashan Parakkatte. He was the chief associate director on that project. Jo and Jo came along almost a year later. Our friendship didn't start with the idea of working together one day; it developed naturally. By the time we did Jo and Jo, we had become good friends. In the case of Journey of Love 18+, I wasn't a part of the project initially. But eventually, they needed a character like mine and considered me.

Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals that the film industry can get very 'toxic': 'Everyone is certainly frustrated'



Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh is currently gearing up for the release of his debut web series, Hai Junoon. While the show marks his entry into the digital space, Neil has been part of several noteworthy films. However, he has also experienced a side of the industry that many hesitate to talk about. In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, Neil opened up about his journey in cinema, navigating career setbacks, and shed light on the often-overlooked beauty standards that men face in showbiz. Revisting the time people said 'he is over', Neil shared, "At the beginning of my career, someone had told me to never wish to take a break, because then a time will come where you will keep hunting for work. I got so scared with that statement. My first film, Johnny Gaddar, got stuck. Sometimes you don't realize that your break is self-doubt, which you have not put in yourself; others have put it in you. People say things like you won't be able to do this. It is the one thing you will constantly keep hearing, and I have heard it so many times. Any time there is a lull, people will say he is over. But who are they to decide? I am still here, still working, trying to feed my family." Pointing out the double standards of the industry, Neil Nitin Mukesh recalled the time when a film critic made a mean comment about him, and the industry backed him. He said, "Once very long ago on Twitter, one of my films was coming, and a very reputed critic then wrote in his opening sentence that he wondered how someone was paying Neil Nitin Mukesh even now for a job. I responded to him that I didn't need his validation to work hard, prove myself, and provide for my family.