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SUNDAY POST

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P 3,4
COVER
STORY

Romancing the rain



New age actress Purnima Baral aka Lovely Puja from Kendrapara is one of the most sought after names in Odia as well as Telugu film industry after she signed movies like 'Chorani', 'Shankar' and 'True Love Story'. The second year B.Sc. student, who looks forward to her next release 'Prema Lekhi Deli To Naa Re', loves to engage with the fans on social media



With sisters

Fitness freak

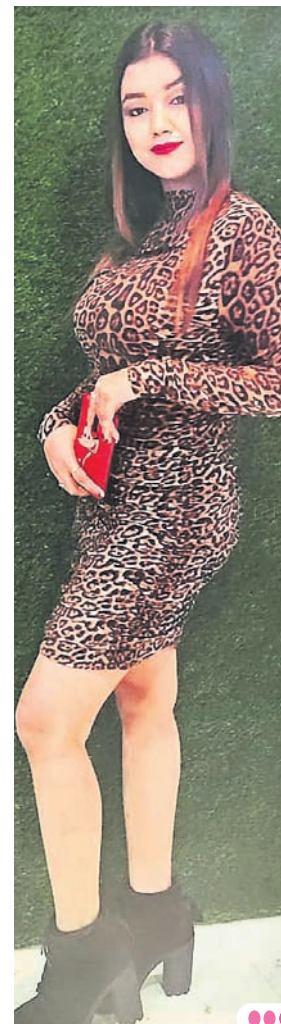
I keep a check on my fitness by hitting the gym regularly but Sundays for me are mostly for cardio and zumbas. The workout routine involves treadmill and aerobics while egg whites and brown bread are my go-to Sunday breakfast.

Sibling bond

My sister is also my bestie. On a non-working Sunday I would go out with her to explore nearby places and parks and the most liked in Bhubaneswar is Ekamra Kanan. So, I love to stay home and chill with my sister rather than going out and party.

Love for Odia food

Just as an Odia should be, I have a craving for *Mansa Kassa* and *Machha Bhaja*. But I am also a fitness enthusiast, so I keep a check on my diet. But on off days, I love to break rules and indulge in my favourite food. I also love Indian Bhindi recipes.



Balancing act

It is not easy to work in films and keep up with studies at the same time. But the friends and my sister have been a great help. I have been able to arrange books and attend online classes with their assistance.

Catching up with fans

It's great to talk with the fans directly but with Covid restrictions in place, I interact with them through my social media handles and live video chats.

Dancing diva

Though I started off as a model and doing music videos, my heart lies in Odissi dance. Dance being a vital part of Indian movies, I don't miss the opportunities to upgrade my dancing skills when I don't shoot.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- I am not lazy, I was just saving my energy.
- Almost everything should be fair in love and also in final exams !!
- You are like my brother but from a different mother.
- Never give up on your dreams. Keep sleeping.

PRIDE OF ODISHA

Sir, It is a matter of pride for all Odias that Shreya Lenka, a Rourkela-based girl, has managed to beat over 4,000 applicants across the world to become the first K-pop star from India to join as the fifth member of South Korean girl band Blackswan. For the unversed, this band is bonded not by nationality, age or skin colour but by talent. It is heartening to learn about the camaraderie Shreya shares with Gabi, her Brazilian counterpart. I appreciate the journalist of **Sunday POST** for speaking to her and presenting some interesting information about the wonder girl of Odisha. It is certainly a collectors' item for a fan like me. I am a great fan of Korean art and culture including their drama shows. Now, I expect that Shreya's joining the girl band will only expand the fan base in Odisha.

SOUBHAGYA MAHARANA, SAMBALPUR

LETTERS

A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948

ROMANCING THE RAIN

The monsoon air remains heavy with romance in all its colours, shades and nuances where the fluid 'magic' of nature triumphs over the bland and dry 'logic' of textbooks, says bilingual poet Durga Prasad Panda

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

A drop fell on the apple tree -
Another - on the roof -
A half a dozen kissed the eaves -
And made the gables laugh -
A few went out to help the brook,
That went to help the sea -
Myself conjectured were they pearls -
What necklaces could be ...
---Emily Dickinson

Rains have not only fired the imagination of this American poet of 19th century, since ages they have stirred a part of every soul on all parts of the globe. Be it Robert Frost, William Wordsworth or back home Rabindra Nath Tagore, poets have captured the beauty of rain in their poems. Not just in poems, rains have been eulogised in all forms of literature.

But apart from their role in literature, they also stir your emotion as monsoon and love have an unbreakable connection. Be it getting drenched to the bones with your significant other, or being sheltered from rain together sharing the same umbrella, rains bring you closer than before. Yes, rain does strange things to your feelings and makes you savour emotional intimacy.

Asked how monsoon is interwoven with love, accomplished poet Durga Prasad Panda, shares, "If the pattern and intensity of romance were quantifiable, then the statisticians could certainly have established a strong and positive correlation between love and the rains. There is something about the magic of monsoon that casts its spell on everything around, penetrating through and captivating the entire existence, within and without, pervading all over."

For the uninitiated, Panda is a bilingual poet, translator and critic whose works have appeared in prestigious journals like 'Indian Literature', 'Debonair', 'Kavya Bharati', 'The Little Magazine', 'Gentleman', 'Stag Hill Literary Journal', 'Outlook' among so many others. Most recently he has edited a book on Jayanta Mahapatra's life and works for Sahitya Akademi.

Panda, who claims to be a rain man all his life, adds, "Rain has been a great metaphor for a life full of vibrancies and resurgence

ushering in all round creativity. Monsoon, actually, lets loose a whole range of emotions and stirs not just the lives of human beings but also in other organisms. In the monsoon, even a rugged block of stone looks green covered with moss."

He continues: "The monsoon air remains heavy with romance in all its colours, shades, inflections and nuances; where the fluid 'magic' of nature triumphs over the bland and dry 'logic' of textbooks. Otherwise, how does one explain the passionate surge of creativity in poets, writers and artists, the urge to create; the spark and ignition to give one's soul a depth, an immense spread, and an aesthetic elevation, all ushered in by the monsoon rains. And at the onset of rains, life appears so lyrical in all its aspects."

"I sincerely believe that there could not have been any genre of art and literature which has not celebrated 'rain' in its oeuvre. In the annals of history, man's innate longings to reach out, communicate and express love have sparked off so much of great poetry, in every language across the whole world; with rain, monsoon, clouds being some of the prime movers of his fertile imagination."

Quoting from one of his own poems titled *Menstruating Skies* that symbolises rain as earth's inherent force of renewal, resurgence and sustenance, he concludes:

*Rain is
Nothing but
Blood
In Crystal
Transparence !*





If poets have shown the monsoon in all its glory in their poems, Indian filmmakers are not too far behind. From *Pyaar Hua Ikrar Hua* of *Shree 420* showing an eternal screen couple sharing an umbrella, to Raveena Tandon seducing Akshay Kumar in *Tip Tip Barsa Pani* of *Mohra*, rain songs have always given romanticism a new height. Who can forget Amitabh getting drenched with Mousumi Chatterjee in *Rimjhim Gire Saawan* of *Manzil* or his duet *Aaj Rapat Jaye Toh* with Smita Patil in *Namak Halaal*. And then no heroine, draped from head to toe in a saree, has been presented on Indian screen in a sensuous manner the way Sridevi was in *Kate Nahin Kat Te* from *Mr India*.

In these commercial potboilers, rain has played a small part to woo the audience and not the central role like it portrayed in Amol Palekar's *Thodasa Roomani Ho Jaye*. Rain, here, not just plays the main character, it has been portrayed as a picture of optimism for all its characters with Nana Patekar playing the Barishkar or rainmaker.

If there are so many movies made in Hindi to highlight the magic of rains, Odia film industry too has its share of romance with the monsoon. And no prize for guessing the film that tops the chart in Odisha. Yes, it is the critically acclaimed and commercially successful *Shesha Shravana* or

Last Monsoon released in 1976. So much so that director Prashanta Nanda, known as the showman of Odia film industry, remade it in Hindi as *Naiya* playing the lead opposite Zarina Wahab. *Dora*, one of Nanda's most successful commercial films, too had a rain song *Tap..tap.. jhrip..jhrip..jbar..jbar Barasha Rani Ra Paunji Chham Chham* which was a chartbuster in the 80s.

Nanda turns nostalgic when asked to talk about rain and romance. Taking a trip down the memory lane, he recalls, "I never knew Rimjhim- the melody of rain – can be so thrilling until I attained my adolescence. I was growing up with the scent of the wet soil, the pitter-patter sound and with the caressing of raindrops on my whole body but never realised when I turned the lover of rain and went on to make my first film *Shesha Shravana* with rain as the central theme."

His Sania and Manika of *Shesha Shravana* also chose rain as a catalyst to express their love for each other



For me, rain is my much-admired beloved as well as a revered goddess who fills my heart and soul. To not hurt 'rain' - my eternal beloved, I couldn't love the spring and its graceful aura

PRASHANTA NANDA | ACTOR-DIRECTOR

to escape social vigilantism. He says, "Rain not only captivated me, Raga Megha Malhar also became a part of my being. Many of my movie plots took birth amid rains and ragas."

Talking about the role of rain in his life the veteran filmmaker adds, "A rainy morning infuses life in me, afternoon gives me confidence to express my love, evening makes me worship the love and a monsoon night intoxicates me. For me, rain is my much-admired beloved as well as my revered goddess who fills my heart and soul. To not hurt 'rain' - my eternal beloved, I couldn't love the spring and its graceful aura."

He continues: "Even at this age, I get romantic with the arrival of monsoon. Perhaps rain and love are a single entity and inseparable. Rain washes away the ages that have been added to your life span and makes you younger."

"Oh rain! I welcome you to my life. I still long to live eternally as your lover," concludes the filmmaker.

While the monsoon puts creative people in a different zone, let's listen to Rupali, a corporate executive, about what role the monsoon plays in her life.

"Monsoon romance is something that you don't notice when it's sunny," she says, who had the most romantic experience in the rain with her first love.

"It was a memory that would always remain with me forever. It was a sunny afternoon in June. With black clouds hovering in the sky, we rushed to our balcony to witness the first Norwester of the season. But the rain came suddenly to drench us to the bones. We couldn't resist the temptation of rushing to the terrace to dance with my partner and even wrestled at times. Later, we had a warm shower together and sat for the next couple of hours on the balcony sipping coffee. It was an amazing feeling," recalls Rupali.



She also enjoyed a long drive with her significant other from Bhubaneswar to Puri via the Marine drive of Konark. "It was a day to remember. Away from the hustle bustle of city life, we planned a short trip to Puri on a rainy weekend. The greenery on both sides of Marine drive route coupled with occasional view of blue sea and a lavish lunch at picturesque Lotus Resort made our day," she says.

For those who are wander-lusted, Rupali advises to take a collection of top 25 rain songs from Hindi films and an umbrella to make the most of the trip.



Chail - A valley of dream

Apart from adventure lovers who want to explore the beauty of valleys and mountains, Chail, a hill station in Himachal Pradesh is a perfect destination for those who have no specific agenda and want to travel for the sheer delight of it

Mountains are a fascination for most travellers who love adventure of rock climbing and trekking. But mountains are also a getaway for lazy travelers like me who want to sit back and treat my eyes watching sunrises and sunsets and walk leisurely through trails under the canopy of tall pine trees.

Many a time it has been found that travellers come back dissatisfied after a trip. They often confess that they get disillusioned after reaching a place because the place doesn't even remotely resemble to the pictures they had seen on the internet or travel blogs. Why does it happen?

A few important reasons are - lack of authentic information about the place and picking a wrong time to visit or simply because of wrong travel partners. So, next time you make plans for a trip, make sure that you gather relevant information, and choose right time and the most vital is choosing the right travel partners.

I chose the right travel partners and it was a sudden decision when two of my friends and I planned a trip all by ourselves. The purpose was to get a break from our mundane routine, respective husbands and children. So, the prospect itself was absolutely exciting for us. Needless to say that while the universe

conspired, our families wholeheartedly supported us. All of them looked even more excited because four days of complete freedom and no hovering around of wives/moms which means party time.

Purple membership of Club Mahindra of my friend ensured our booking into the beautiful property at Kandaghat. We chose to go by car from Delhi. We started as early as 6 am in the morning. We were rejoicing our journey and an escape with the nature. We had our breakfast around 10 am in a roadside dhaba. The GPS was on and we didn't even bother to look at the screen or listen to the assistant. We knew that our expert driver will take us to our destination by 2.30 pm. We sipped on sugarcane juice around 1 pm. After about an hour, we were just looking outside and were amazed at so many resemblances we were witnessing on our way. But, to our utter shock, we were crossing the same juice stall again. Needless to say, the driver had taken a wrong turn. Instead of freaking out, we had a hearty laugh. So, the point to remember here is, if you are driving yourself or have hired a taxi where the driver is new, make sure you keep your eyes on the GPS.

Chail can be recommended to the newlyweds



Rare view of a blanket of cloud covering the valley

who love nature and quietude and the ideal time for them would be anytime between October and March. For people planning a family trip during summer vacation, it can be an exciting place. If you are a solo traveler who loves observing beautiful landscapes for hours, climb mountains, walk on paths less travelled, meet strangers, observe other travelers, draw and paint, click pictures, watch the pace of life, feel the mountain breeze or glistening snow, you must choose Chail as your next destination.

Though we had a booking of two studio units, we stayed put in one and no one wanted the luxury of one huge room and blissful solitude all to herself. We would just keep blabbering and carry on for hours. No check, no pretension, no expectation and no worry of being judged and no routine to follow.

We had no plans to touch all the tourist points. We just wanted to enjoy and that's what we did. However, one of us who were most enthusiastic about trekking dropped the idea after we realized our limitations when we visited Shimla the next day. We almost lost our breaths while climbing the stairs to reach the Mall Road in Shimla. We realized that vacation is no fun if we are feeling tired and breathless.

We had plans of going to Kufri. But, Shimla experience forced us to drop the idea of going to Kufri and we happily settled for Chail instead. I think it was one of the best decisions that we took. The journey from Kandaghat to Chail was an awesome experience. We felt the nature is welcoming us and the trees have spread their arms for us. We started early so couldn't have our usual heavy breakfast. The Concierge at Club Mahindra had highly recommended Sony Dhaba at Chail for lunch. We were very hungry and wanted to head to Sony Dhaba as soon as we reached Chail. We were in doubt when we located it because it looked very small and there were only two people having food. However, our hunger was the bigger dictator and we settled inside the rustic and unsophisticated place hoping for a decent meal. But, the first hot chapati with ghee dripping from it and the aroma of

paneer bhurji brought bright smiles.

We started from there highly satisfied and happy. We stopped on our way nearby which was leading nowhere and started walking in that narrow path. The climb was easy because of a natural ramp like trekking path. The trees were tall and looked beautiful with the sun rays peeping from gaps. We kept walking and didn't see a single soul anywhere. After spending about an hour walking in that path that was leading to some unknown place, we decided to return. Neither of us wanted to, but we knew that we had to.

We had sometime in hand so we visited the famous palace in Chail. The king of Patiala had made it his summer abode. The palace has now been converted into a hotel. One can book a room and stay there to feel the touch of royalty.

There were other places like the highest cricket ground maintained by Indian Army in Rashtriya Military School campus, some temples and gurudwara, wildlife sanctuary etc. We chose to go to Kali Tibba on our way back. It is situated on a mountain peak and one can see the beauty of breathtaking mountains and valleys from the temple. We spent about half an hour there and returned to our resort. We had plans to reach there before sunset because the resort has an amazing sunset point and the weather was in our favour.

After watching the sunset as we were entering our room, all three of us thought aloud, "Wish we could extend our stay by few more days." But, we knew we had only limited freedom. We started early next morning because one of my friends had a meeting at 2pm. Though we had given her our choicest abuses for making us wake up at 4am, we thanked her later because we saw a rarest of rare view while returning. The blanket of soft feather like dense white clouds covering the valleys looked out of this world. That was a gift to us from Divine Nature which we will carry in our heart forever.



SASWATI KAR



Sara, Janhvi reveal their near-death misadventures



Actresses Sara Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor have opened up about their near-death travel misadventures in an episode of *Koffee With Karan Season 7*.

Bonding over the scenic beauty of Kedarnath, Janhvi and Sara's trip hit a roadblock as they faced two near-death experiences. When Janhvi chose a hike at Bhairavnath over walking a normal path, the duo were faced with an unexpected twist in their adventure. Sara said: "We decided

to go to Bhairavnath and there was a normal path for walking. But we thought ourselves to be better. We chose to hike instead. There was an 85 incline of just rocks and Janhvi is like let us just climb this."

Admitting fear of kicking in, Sara mentioned how at one point, she was sure they would fall off owing to shaky rocks.

With no escape in sight, they found solace when they saw a fan coming towards them as they hung off the cliff.

Much to their dismay, he was of no help, as he only wanted to take a selfie with them. Eventually, Sara's driver found them after almost 30 minutes of being stuck, and they were rescued with the help of special forces.

When Rajkummar survived on biscuits



The actor, who is busy promoting his film *HIT: The First Case*, was in Delhi with co-star Sanya Malhotra and director Saitesh Kolanu.

During a conversation, he revealed about his early days of struggle when he had to survive on Parle-G biscuits.

Rao, who was born in Gurugram, and studied acting at the Film and Television Institute of India, had to see a lot of ups and downs to reach this point of his career.

Recalling his initial years in Mumbai he says: "It was not an easy journey. My first two years in Mumbai were quite tough as it is a very expensive city. I came from Gurgaon (Gurugram), which was a small town at that time. I was not financially very strong. As there was no work, there were times when there was almost no money and nothing to eat. I literally survived on a packet of Parle-G biscuits for a couple of days when there was nothing there."

He added: "I see it as a very fond memory. I don't really see it as, like, why did this happen to me? whatever we are today, it's because of those days."

Actor Rajkummar Rao is known for giving incredible performances in movies such as *Kai Po Che!* and *Shahid*.

IAN S

Learning to disconnect from characters: Vaani



Acting is a job that requires artists to make rapid changes to their personality because of the varied characters they portray. While some may find it easy to jump from one character to the other, actress Vaani Kapoor is still learning to let go of her characters.

She said, "I am still learning to fully disconnect from what I have done in the past because your characters are an extension of your personality and they stem from you. It gets difficult to detach because I hold these characters very close to my heart, having lived with them and nurtured them for so long."

Interestingly for her, the scenes which are fairly easy to pull off are the most difficult in her own words. While doing complex scenes or sequences come naturally to her, the simplicity of a scene is something that she gets perplexed with.

IAN S



Muhurat held for Prema Lekhideli To Na Re

Bhubaneswar: Muhurat ceremony of new Odia movie *Prema Lekhideli To Na Re* was organised here recently. Presented by Moon TV Movies, the shooting of the movie will start in the first week of August, it was learnt.

Film's director Satya Narayan Sahoo said, "The viewers will see a fresh romantic pair- Prem and Susmita - in the edge-of-seat thriller. Others who play pivotal roles include Puja, Ashutosh, Rabi Mishra, Devdutta and Tapaswini."

Produced by Bini Pattnaik and Sachikanta Jena, the movie has its music scored by Prashant Padhy while Lubun-Tubun has done the choreography.

PNN

Poster launch of Bhai

Bhubaneswar: Poster of upcoming action packed Odia movie *Bhai: The opening part* was released here recently in the presence of cast and crew of the film.

Amlan, Divya, Sujeet and Ananya play pivotal role in the movie to be directed by Prithvi Raj Pattnaik who had previously directed *Tandav* and *Gupchup*.

Talking to Orissa POST, Pattnaik said, "Though some breathtaking action sequences are to be canned in our next schedule, the plot revolves around brother-sister love, relationship and sacrifices."

"We also have plans in place to make a sequel to this movie and create a franchise of it in future. The shooting will start from the last week of July at various locations of Odisha and Himachal Pradesh," he added.

The director of Photography is Rudra Pratap Singh is the director of photography of the movie while Nabs and Saroj have scored the music. The makers are planning to release it in 2022 and the date will be finalised once the shooting is completed.

PNN



Monsoon makeup tips



Makeup is all about enhancing your features. Since humidity is at its peak, keep it minimal and use a lightweight foundation or powder-based foundation as these last longer in humid weather

Summer's sweltering heat may be gone, but the humidity is here to stay.

With the advent of the monsoon, the humidity will be at its peak and that will lead to sweating and dripping of makeup.

While rainy days are fun and romantic if you stay in. Heat, humidity, and rain; all put together can be pretty disastrous if you have to step out, especially for a date night or a special occasion.

Monsoon and makeup traditionally never went hand in hand and it has always been really difficult to maintain your look. The rainy season brings patchy foundation, dripping mascara, smudging lip colour, and unmanageable hair. Monsoon may be the worst season for makeup lovers. Dealing with melting makeup is certainly a big task during monsoons.

While it may not be the wisest idea to step out with layers of make-up and succumbing to nature's tantrums, going completely barefaced isn't an option either. So, what do you do?

Waterproof make-up products may be more suitable. They contain ingredients like fats, waxes, and silicon, which do not allow the make-up to get wet and become runny.

A powder-based foundation will last longer in the humid weather. Also, using a primer is very essential before applying the makeup, the reason being that it acts as a barrier between your skin and the makeup. This is the most essential step for prepping up your skin and holding the makeup for a longer time.

If you can get hold of a light-textured primer, it would be good for the monsoons. It would help to absorb oil and sweat and thus help the foundation last longer. During

the monsoons, a powder or gel primer may be better.

Stay away from heavy foundations. Or, leave out foundation and go for compact powder. Compact powder is pressed powder and lasts longer than loose powder. Also, they reduce the oily look. Compact powders are also ideal for touching up. Carry wet tissues and compact powder in your handbag, to refresh both skin and make-up.

If you want to apply foundation, apply an astringent lotion first, using cotton wool. After a few minutes, wrap an ice cube in a clean cloth and apply it on the skin, for a few seconds at a time. This also helps to close the pores. Or, try cold compress with chilled rose water. It closes the pores, refreshes the skin, and adds a glow. Go for a water-based foundation, adding a drop or two of water for a lighter coverage.

The trend is towards the natural look, with less blush-on. A faint flush would be suitable. Powder blushers are easier to apply and are best for humid weather. Apply on the cheekbones and slightly below it. You can use your fingertips to dot the area with a blusher. Then, blend with the brush, outwards and slightly upwards, making sure there are no harsh lines or a blotchy effect.

Using waterproof eye makeup basics (liner, kohl, and mascara) are recommended in rainy weather to save your makeup from dripping away.

First apply a light shadow over the eyelid and a dark one in the crease of the eyes. Light grey on the eyelid would look glamorous.

Apply a line of black waterproof eyeliner close to the lashes on the upper lid. Extend the liner outwards and slightly upwards, beyond the outer corner of the eyes. For the lower lid, apply liner as close to the lower lashes as possible, but start from the middle of the lower eyelid and take the line towards the outer eyes. Apply waterproof mascara, in two coats, waiting for a few minutes

after applying the first coat.

Use brow gel for your brows to give it the best look. Also, try using brown waterproof mascara for your eyebrows.

Gloss and cream lipstick should not be used as they would bleed in the humid weather.

For the lips, frosted sheen, or glimmer would be good, instead of too much gloss. Opt for soft mattes, pink shades, or soft browns instead of the

bold and bright reds. Go for earthy colors. Keep your lipsticks in the fridge during the monsoons.

Tips to make your makeup last longer:

For oily skin, the use of an astringent lotion before foundation or the powder will help make-up last. After applying astringent lotion, wait for a few minutes, and then apply foundation.

When you apply powder, press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer.

Compact powder, rather than loose powder lasts longer and provides a smooth finish. Carry powder compact to touch up make-up. Blot the make-up with tissue. Liquid eyeliners last longer than eye pencils.

Applying foundation on the lips before helps lipstick last longer.

Makeup is all about enhancing your features. Since humidity is at its peak, keep it minimal and use a lightweight foundation or powder-based foundation as it lasts longer in humid weather.

It's best when it's neither too much nor too little. The right kind of shades matter. Less is more, that's the beauty of makeup.



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN





Priyanka



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP