

# Vishnu Manchu Interview: 'I think it is Lord Shiva who chose Akshay to play this character in Kannappa'



Vishnu Manchu is gearing up for the release of his ambitious film Kannappa, that co-stars Preity Mukhundan, Akshay Kumar, Prabhas, Mohanlal, Kajal Agarwal and a host of other actors. The movie is up for release on 27th June, 2025, and it releases in multiple Indian languages. Vishnu, along with Akshay Kumar, graced Pinkvilla with an interview of theirs, ahead

of the release of their fantasy-actioner with a devotional touch. In the interview, Vishnu Manchu was first asked about how he got the idea to cast Akshay Kumar in the role of Lord Shiva. The Dhee star answered, "For me, when I started writing the script, for me, the only vision that I had was of Mr Akshay Kumar; Who would look like Lord Shiva? Mr Akshay Kumar. His

face features, or the way he conducts himself, and the way he looks!". Watch Akshay Kumar And Vishnu Manchu's Interview With Pinkvilla, Ahead Of The Release Of Kannappa He continued, "I did have a lot of people ask me if I am sure about Mr Akshay Kumar. I said that he's the only man I can think of. But spiritu-

ally speaking, I think it is Lord Shiva who chose him to play this character and not me. I could only propose. I got the approval from Lord Shiva". Talking about playing devotional characters, Vishnu said, "It's not that easy to play roles of gods. In the Hindi Film Industry, it is lesser. But in the south, in lot of languages, we make a lot of movies on Ramayana or Mahabharata or other devotional movies. I feel you have to be destined to play certain characters. As much as I am destined to play Kannappa, it was Lord Shiva's blessings that he (Akshay Kumar) had to play Lord Shiva". In his concluding remarks, Vishnu Manchu said that for the current generation, if anyone has to think of Lord Shiva, it has to be Mr Akshay Kumar. Adding to what Vishnu told, Akshay Kumar said, "To be chosen to play this, I feel very lucky about it. I feel very empowered. It doesn't happen to many people. To play Lord Krishna or Lord Shiva; And the movie is also working. That is the big thing. I say to myself that I am one of the most luckiest person". Kannappa hits theatres on the 27th of June, 2025. It releases alongside Maa and F1.

## Actors celebrate World Music Day by sharing how music heals and inspires them!

Every year on June 21, the world comes together to celebrate International Music Day, more popularly known as World Music Day-a day dedicated to honouring the universal language of music. This year's theme, "Healing Through Harmony," shines a spotlight on music's incredible ability to soothe the soul, uplift the spirit, and foster emotional connection. To mark this special occasion, &TV artists open up about their relationships with music, revealing the ways it fuels their creativity and nurtures their inner world. They also share how music has become an essential part of their emotional well-being and personal expression. These include Geetanjali Mishra (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan) and Vipin Heero (Malkhan, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Geetanjali Mishra, who portrays Rajesh in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Very few people know this, but I have learnt to play the sitar. It has been one of the most enriching and transformative experiences of my life. I have always felt a deep connection to classical music, and the sound of the sitar has a calming, almost meditative quality that resonated with me from the beginning. A few years ago, I finally decided to pursue it seriously. The process



of learning was anything but easy. The discipline, the posture, the patience required, but over time, I developed a bond with the instrument that went far beyond technical. Today, the sitar is my sanctuary. I often turn to it in the quiet moments of the morning or the stillness of the evening. In those sessions, I find not just peace, but a deep sense of clarity. The sitar gives voice to emotions I cannot articulate and has become my form of meditation. Lately, I have been blending classical ragas with modern sounds, which are creatively fulfilling and spiritually grounding. For me, the sitar is far more than a musical instrument; it reflects my inner self and a true source of healing."

## Sitaare Zameen Par Box Office Preview: Aamir Khan starrer run time, screen count, advance booking & opening day



Aamir Khan is back on the big screen after 3 years with the RS Prasanna-directed Sitaare Zameen Par, a sequel to his 2007 film, Taare Zameen Par. Much like the first part, the sequel too is set against the backdrop of Aamir and specially-abled kids. The film has been certified U/A by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with an approved run time of 2 hours and 39 minutes. The film is being released in India by PVR Pictures, and the distributor is looking to give the film a wide release on 3250 screens. The makers were looking to give a platform release on 1000 to 1500 screens, but things took a U-Turn at the last minute, resulting in a wide release. The advance bookings for Sitaare Zameen Par opened on Wednesday morning, and the response has not been so encouraging, but that was always expected for a WOM heavy film like Sitaare Zameen Par. As on Thursday at 1 PM, the Aamir Khan starrer has sold approx. 20,000 tickets in the top 3 national chains – PVRInox and Cinapolis – with the former leading the show with 16,500 tickets. Sitaare Zameen Par will be looking at a final pre-sale in the range of 45,000 tickets in the national chains, and the advances

outside of them metros are not upto the mark. There are some block bookings, as is the case with most of the feature films in the last year, but that's not of consequence at the moment, as the same are nominal and not attempting to change the verdict of the first-day collection. Given the advance booking trends, the first-day business of Sitaare Zameen Par will be around the Rs 7.50 crore to Rs 8.00 crore mark, though the hope is on the film to command good walk-ups and go as close as possible to the double-digit number. A low start is a forgone conclusion, as this genre has limited appeal in the post-pandemic world, and on top of it, the music has not worked to create an impact. The hope on Sitaare Zameen Par is to find appreciation in the audience, and show a strong spike in business on Saturday and Sunday, followed by a Monday close to Friday to have a shot at reaching a respectable number in the long run. The fate of Sitaare Zameen Par depends on the word of mouth, and Saturday jump, as an Aamir Khan starrer (even in a slice-of-life-drama, with controlled costs), needs to do a bare minimum business in the North of Rs 120 crore in India to sail safe and emerge a moderate success.

## Lovebirds Janhvi Kapoor-Shikhar Pahariya secretly captured holding hands on streets of London, Khushi Kapoor goes unnoticed

Romance is blooming between Bollywood lovebirds Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya. The couple has been in a relationship for a while now, though neither of them ever confirmed it officially. However, the Dhadak actress hinted about it indirectly on Koffee With Karan. Interestingly, they were caught on camera holding hands and strolling through the streets of London, spending quality time together. A video is swirling on the internet where Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya can be seen walking hand-in-hand while vacationing in London. Janhvi Kapoor opted for a black tube top with relaxed joggers. She kept her hair



open, had minimal make-up, and looked chic. Her beau kept it simple and comfortable with a t-shirt paired with white pants. The moment was captured secretly by a passerby. Janhvi's sister, and actor



Khushi Kapoor, was also spotted in the video; however, she almost went unnoticed. The Nadaniyaan actress was dressed in a white outfit, making a perfect trio for the day out. Though the couple has

Cannes Film Festival. She graced the prestigious film festival for the premiere of her movie, Homebound, co-starring Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa. The couple was also spotted together while visiting sacred sites and temples, doing puja together, and taking blessings. Moreover, the actress was also seen donning a necklace imprinted with Shikhar's name. The lovebirds are currently enjoying some time off in London. On the work front, Janhvi Kapoor was last seen in Devara Part 1 opposite Jr NTR. She is gearing up for the release of Param Sundari, paired for the first time with Sidharth Malhotra.

## Karisma Kapoor's son Kiaan breaks down as he bids farewell to father Sunjay Kapur at his last rites

Businessman Sunjay Kapur, Karisma Kapoor's former husband, was laid to rest today (June 19). The last rites were held in New Delhi, and the funeral marked the attendance of his family and close ones. Karisma and their kids, Samaira and Kiaan, were also present during the gathering. A few pictures from the site have surfaced that show the boy getting emotional as he bids farewell to his father. Kiaan broke down in tears as he mourned the loss of his father. He was dressed in a white ensemble. As he gets emotional and cries inconsolably during the last rites, the Dil Toh Pagal Hai actress was seen offering support to him. In the frame, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan are also visible, who were also present at the funeral. The pictures from the cremation site show a canopy of long garlands of white flowers, symbolizing puri-



ty and peace. It surrounded a raised platform, which is likely where the late industrialist's body was placed for the people to pay their last respects. As evident from

the pictures, a large crowd attended the funeral to honor and bid a final goodbye to him. Earlier in the day, Karisma and her kids were clicked leaving for

Delhi. Kareena was also spotted departing. For the unversed, Sunjay Kapur reportedly died because of a heart attack after he swallowed a bee during a polo game. According to a note issued by his family, a prayer meet has been scheduled to take place on June 22 in Delhi at the Taj Hotel. Sunjay is survived by his wife, Priya Sachdev, son Azarius, stepdaughter Safira Chatwal, Samaira, and Kiaan Kapoor. Talking about his and Karisma Kapoor's marriage, the two got hitched in 2003 after the former and his first wife, Nandita Mahtani, got separated in 2000. The actress and his wedding turned out to be a huge affair. The couple has two children together, daughter Samaira and son Kiaan. However, in 2014, they parted ways, and Sunjay went on to marry Priya Sachdev.

Sudoku-1653

	4		7					3
3		5		4		1		
	2				8			
4		3						
	8			2			1	
						8		6
			2				3	
		9		8		2		4
1					6			9

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column, and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating a digit. Please see example given below.

The solution to each day's puzzle will be published the following day, along with the next puzzle. Each puzzle has only one solution.

Result: Sudoku-1652

4	1	5	6	3	2	8	9	7
7	2	9	4	8	1	6	5	3
3	6	8	5	9	7	1	4	2
1	9	3	7	5	4	2	6	8
8	4	2	1	6	3	9	7	5
5	7	6	8	2	9	3	1	4
2	5	1	9	4	8	7	3	6
9	8	4	3	7	6	5	2	1
6	3	7	2	1	5	4	8	9

CROSSWORD - 370

1	2				3		4	
5								
					6			
7								
					8			
9			10					
12								

Across

1. Issued each day - 5  
3. A inclosure - 4  
5. Begrimed with smoke - 5  
6. To lose brightness - 4  
7. The data fed into a computer - 5  
8. Light-colored - 5  
9. A rapid bustling commotion - 4  
11. The first letter in the Greek alphabet - 5  
12. A former monetary unit of Peru - 4  
13. An ancient kingdom in NE Africa - 5

Down

2. A gentle reproof - 10  
3. Young of domestic cattle - 4  
4. Horticulture - 10  
10. East Indian cereal grass - 4

Solution- 369

S	C	A	B	S	V	E	I	N
P	R	A	O		O			A
I	N	T	E	S	T	I	N	E
T	E	O		C	E			A
R				P	E	R	I	L
M	A	B	E		I			
U	A		D	P				A
C	H	I	C	K	E	N	P	O
U		O		A	E			L
S	H	I	N		F	U	D	G

## AA22xA6: Allu Arjun and Mrunal Thakur shoot for Atlee directorial's VFX portions in Mumbai

Allu Arjun and director Atlee are joining hands for the first time with the movie AA22xA6. As various rumors about the movie are doing the rounds, it appears that the film is currently undergoing a shoot for visual effects portions in Mumbai with Mrunal Thakur. According to rumors, including an X post by Laxmi Kanth, the upcoming magnum opus is filming for VFX portions with both actors coming together for the very first time. Advertisement Following the shoot, the team is expected to erect a massive set for the "parallel universe" movie touted to be made on a budget of Rs 800 crores. Talking about the movie, AA22xA6 is considered one of the most ambitious projects to be made in Indian cinema. The film is reported to feature extensive use of visual effects, with various international studios collaborating on its production. While more details about the film are yet to be confirmed, the cinematic venture is expected to present Allu Arjun in multiple different roles, including an animated version. Recently, the makers



revealed that Deepika Padukone will be playing one of the lead roles in the film. With a total of 5 different heroines expected to feature in it, the names of actresses like Janhvi Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur are doing the rounds. Interestingly, Deepika was initially considered for a role in Prabhas starrer Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. However, owing to a failure in negotiations, the actress is said to have walked out of the project. Coming to Allu Arjun's work front, the actor was last seen in Pushpa 2: The Rule, directed by

Sukumar, which is the sequel to Pushpa: The Rise, starring Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil alongside him. The film tells the story of Pushparaju, a daily wage worker who transitions into becoming a sandalwood smuggler, eventually rising to become the kingpin of the syndicate. As the movie ended on a high note, the film is set to have a 3rd installment titled Pushpa 3: The Rampage. Furthermore, the actor is reportedly in talks with Minnal Murali director Basil Joseph for a potential movie project.