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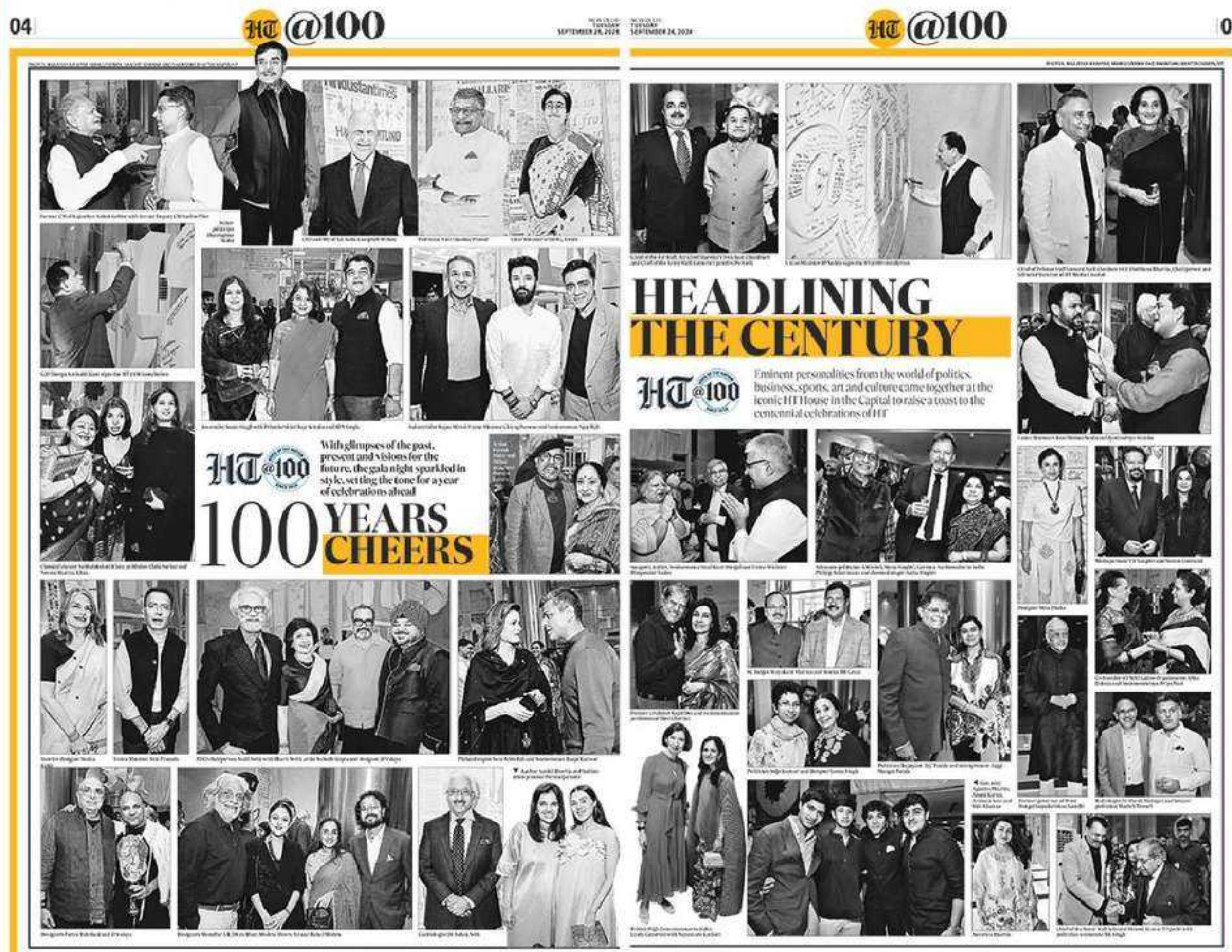
# Diljit-Ed bring the house down in Birmingham



Singer Diljit Dosanjh's Birmingham (UK) show had a surprise visitor — British singer Ed Sheeran. The duo performed together, bringing back memories of March, when Dosanjh joined Sheeran on stage during the latter's Mumbai gig. Sheeran performed a mashup of Shape Of You with Dosanjh's Naina. Dosanjh hyped up the crowd in his signature style, saying, "Ed Sheeran aa gaya oye", while Sheeran took to Instagram and wrote, "Returning the favour to my brother @diljitdosanjh tonight in Birmingham, what an amazing atmosphere, thanks for having me! (sic)."



## HT @100 HT's Centennial Celebration Kicks Off



# LAAPATAA KA NAYA PATA! OSCARS?



**I am thankful to the selection committee. Working with such passionate people has been a privilege.**  
KIRAN RAO, Director

As Laapataa Ladies becomes India's official entry to the 2025 Academy Awards, makers and cast rejoice

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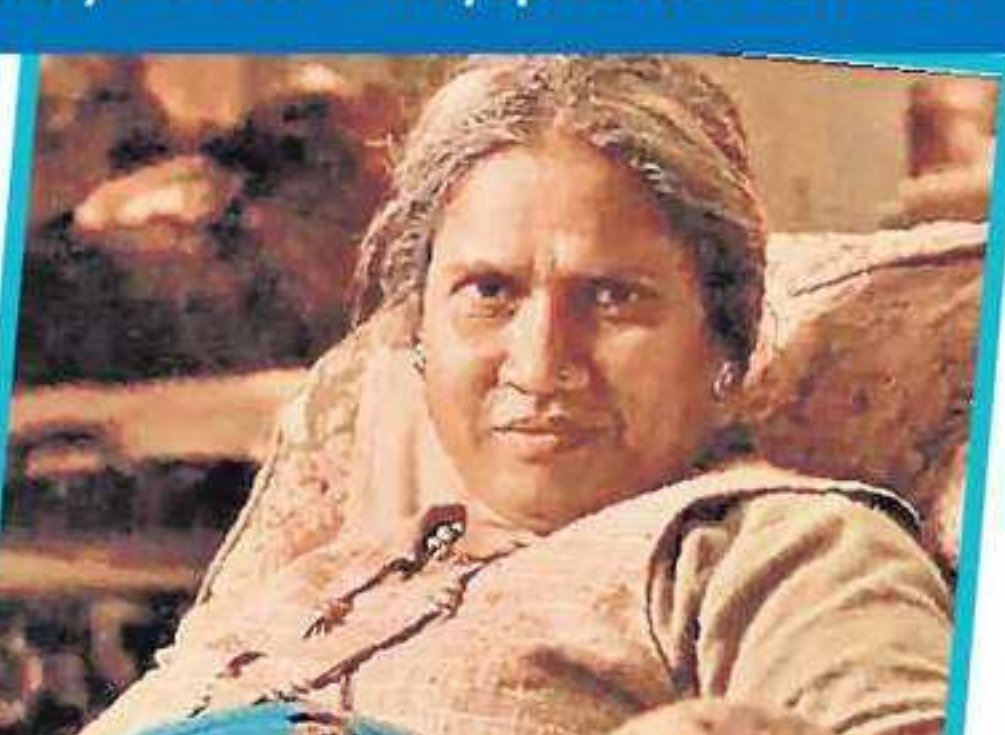
Talk about a small film having a big heart — and achieving big things! *Laapataa Ladies*, starring a newcomer cast and directed by Kiran Rao, has been selected as India's official entry to the Oscars 2025 in the Best International Feature Film category. And the team is over the moon. Rao tells us, "Cinema transcends all boundaries, kick-starts conversations, and I have the same hope from *Laapataa Ladies*. I am thankful to the selection committee. Working with such passionate people who formed the team of *Laapataa Ladies* has been a privilege." Aamir Khan, the film's co-producer, shares, "I am so proud of Kiran and her entire team. I would like to thank the selection committee of the Film Federation of India, which chose our film to represent India at the Oscars." The film's cast, featuring new



**NITANISHI GOEL, ACTOR**  
What I feel will connect with international audiences is the message conveyed through every character — they speak for themselves.



**RAVI KISHAN, ACTOR**  
Main bahut khush hoon. I am sure it will win the Oscars. It is about India, its villages, which form 80% of our population.



**CHHAYA KADAM, ACTOR**  
People call me Manju Mai now! Ek artiste ke liye isse badhkar aur kya ho sakta hai ki film Oscars mein jaa rahi hai?

actors on the block, can't believe this feat. Nitanishi Goel, who played Phool Kumari, exclaims, "I feel so grateful to the audience, Kiran ma'am, Aamir Khan sir. This has to be a beautiful dream, we all gave our everything to the film. What I feel will connect with international audiences is the message conveyed through every character — they speak for themselves." Actor Ravi Kishan as Shyam Manohar left viewers in awe with his stellar performance. He tells us,

"Main bahut khush hoon. I am sure the film will win the Oscar. It is about India, its villages, which form 80% of our population. It is totally deserving. I had said yes to the film only because of Kiran Rao." Actor Chhaya Kadam's portrayal of Manju Mai has led to people abroad recognising her: "They call me Manju Mai now, dekho kahan se kahan pahuch gayi woh! Ek artiste ke liye isse badhkar aur kya ho sakta hai ki film Oscars mein jaa rahi hai?"



Tamannaah Bhatia in a still from *Aaj Ki Raat* from *Stree 2*

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Item numbers often face criticism, with many arguing that their lyrics objectify women and perpetuate misogynistic views. However, director Amar Kaushik, whose film *Stree 2* features an item song, *Aaj Ki Raat*, with feminist undertone, feels they can be a device to serve the film's message while taking the narrative forward. He feels it's possible to deliver a "masala film with an item song" while maintaining thoughtful

content in the lyrics. "There's no denying that people come to theatres to watch item songs. However, I wanted to ensure it served the storyline without compromising on quality or respectfulness. Logon ko lagta hai item song hai toh gande bol hi hone chahiye. But I was clear that while the song should be entertaining, it should have meaningful lyrics," he says. The 41-year-old, who has directed movies such as *Bala* (2019) and *Bhedhiya* (2022), adds that he was sure to not go below the belt in the garb of an item song. "Cheezein

politically correct honi chahiye. Aap bolo aap jo bolna chahte ho aur adayein bhi honi chahiye, lekin jab aap lyrics suno toh lagey, 'Yeh toh badi baat bol di,'" he explains. Is this a way of challenging patriarchy that's often the core of most item songs? "If you look closely at my films, women have agency in them," he says, adding, "Main behnon ke saath bada hua hoon aur maine unka struggle dekha hai. Woh sab kuch aapke zehen mein hota hai and then when you make a film, you cannot portray it (women's struggles) as 'normal!'"

**Aap bolo aap jo bolna chahte ho aur adayein bhi honi chahiye, lekin jab aap lyrics suno toh lagey, 'Yeh toh badi baat bol di'.**  
AMAR KAUSHIK, Director

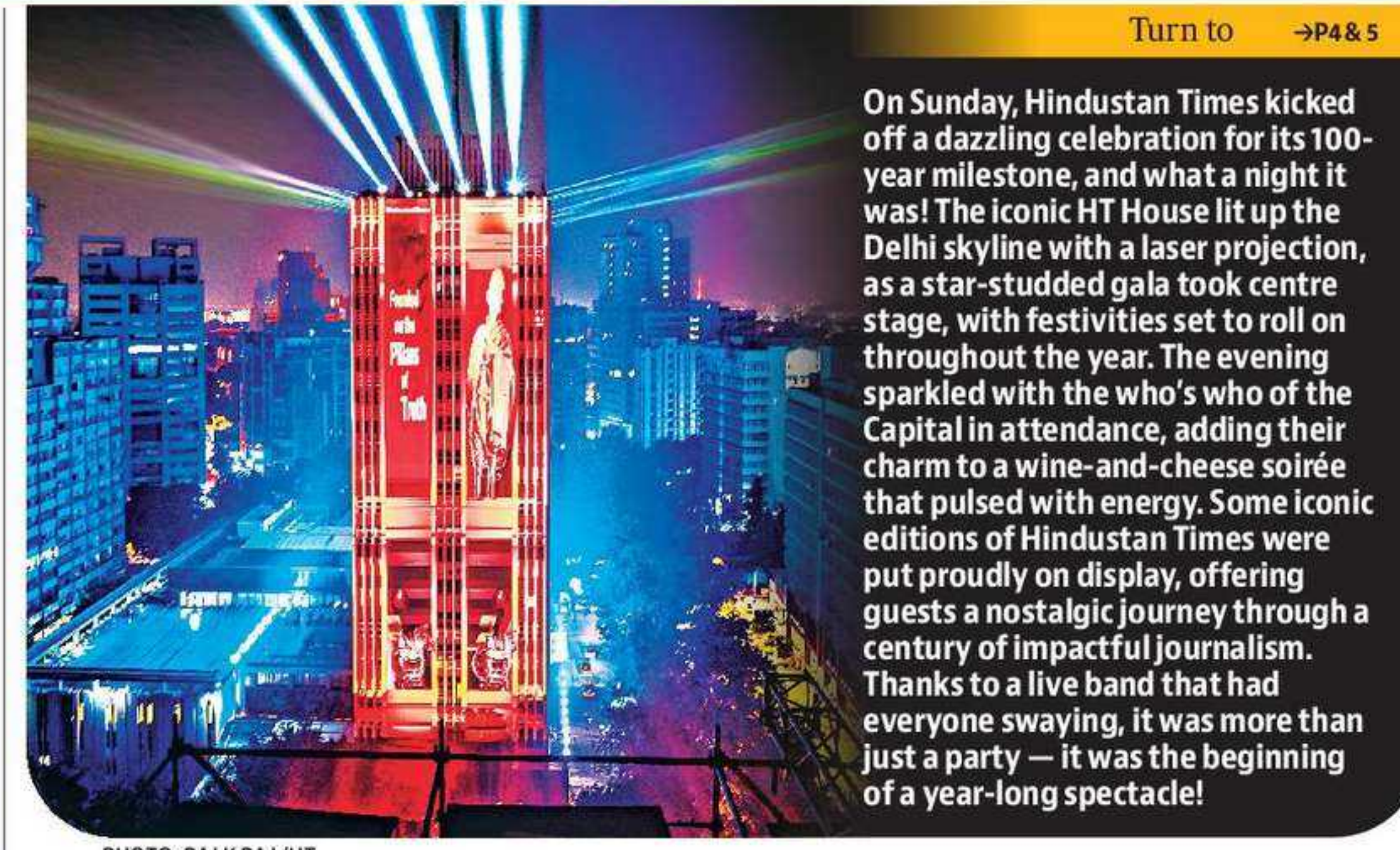


PHOTO: RAJ K RAJ/HT

On Sunday, Hindustan Times kicked off a dazzling celebration for its 100-year milestone, and what a night it was! The iconic HT House lit up the Delhi skyline with a laser projection, as a star-studded gala took centre stage, with festivities set to roll on throughout the year. The evening sparkled with the who's who of the Capital in attendance, adding their charm to a wine-and-cheese soiree that pulsed with energy. Some iconic editions of Hindustan Times were put proudly on display, offering guests a nostalgic journey through a century of impactful journalism. Thanks to a live band that had everyone swaying, it was more than just a party — it was the beginning of a year-long spectacle!



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

### STOP PRESS

Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has been seen without her wedding ring of late, fuelling rumours of a divorce from actor-husband Abhishek Bachchan. However, she was seen wearing it at the Paris Fashion Week.

## Sanjana on her address at the UN: The moment felt consequential



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Sanjana Sanghi recently delivered an address at the UN General Assembly during the opening ceremony of the Summit of the Future Action Days in New York. "To stand there as the only Indian woman, entrusted by the United Nations to be the voice of the youth was something I've never felt before. Seeing women from Ghana, Nigeria and young Indian girls saying that they finally felt heard made all the work and the efforts worth it. The moment felt consequential," says the actor. With this feat, the 28-year-old joined the list that includes names like former US President Barack Obama and actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Mention this to her, and she says, "I can't help but smile from ear to ear. I'm still trying to process all the emotions, as there are certain moments that you don't think can ever be possible, and this one is right up there for me. The 10-year-old me would be beaming with pride." The actor, who is also a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India Youth Champion, was also invited to speak at the Goalkeepers Summit to talk about mental health crisis affecting girls. Given the findings of the Justice Hema Committee Report, the Indian film industry, too, has gone into an introspective mode. Ask if it affects her mental health too, and Sanghi says, "I am aware of the challenges women can face, and it's disheartening to know that unsafe work environments still exist in various sectors."

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# #thatshot

## RASHMIKA MEETS DONATELLA VERSACE

Designer Donatella Versace, the current chief creative officer of Versace, recently shared photos from the Milan Fashion Week after-party on Instagram. The pics showcase a star-studded lineup of celebrities from around the globe, including actor Rashmika Mandanna who opted for an ivory blazer dress for the occasion.



## NIKE CEO STEPS DOWN AMID DECLINING SALES

Nike's board announced the sudden retirement of CEO John Donahoe on Thursday, citing merchandising struggles and a declining stock price. Elliott Hill, who stepped down from the company in 2020, is all set to return as the CEO next month. Hill had earlier revealed that he "begged" for six months to bag an intern position in 1988.

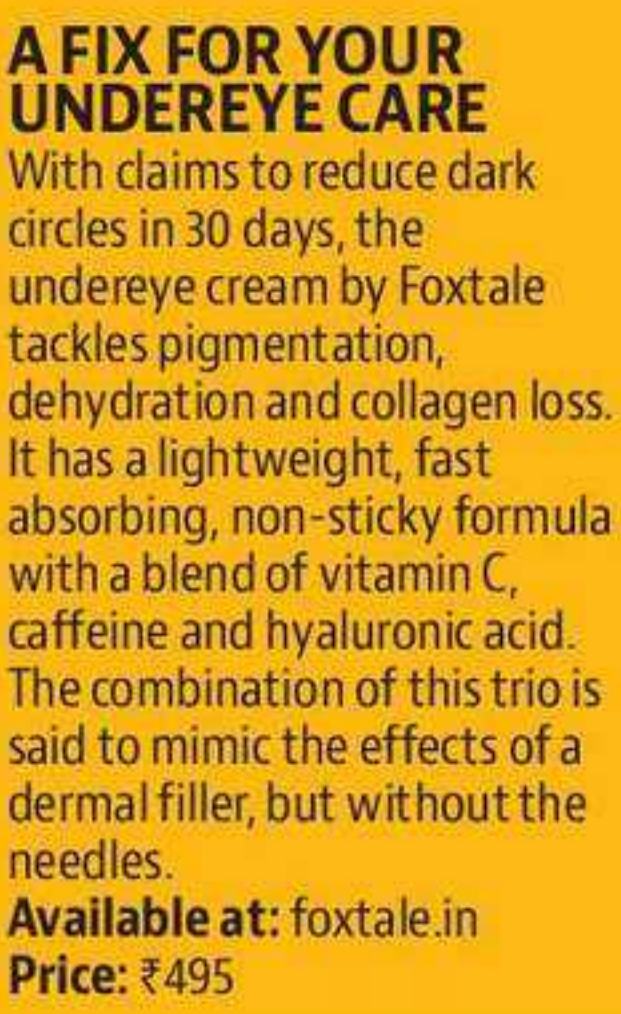
## GREY-ME OVER!

Looking for a solution for the pesky greys and bald patches? Give Nish's hair line powder a whirl. It comes with an applicator to dab on the preferred spots on your head. Suitable for all hair types, the powder gives the scalp a natural and fuller look, especially for those with thin or fine hair. There's no stickiness or residue, and quickly washes off. Available at: nishhair.com Price: ₹1,099



## A FIX FOR YOUR UNDEREYE CARE

With claims to reduce dark circles in 30 days, the under-eye cream by Foxtale tackles pigmentation, dehydration and collagen loss. It has a lightweight, fast absorbing, non-sticky formula with a blend of vitamin C, caffeine and hyaluronic acid. The combination of this trio is said to mimic the effects of a dermal filler, but without the needles. Available at: foxtale.in Price: ₹495



# DEATH OF THE TRADITIONAL TUXEDO ON RED CARPETS



Celebs have been flexing their fashion muscles when it comes to men's evening wear. Does this mean the traditional tux is a no go? Experts weigh in

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Traditional sartorialists may fret over the extinction of the traditional tuxedo from the red carpet. Case in point, the Venice Film Festival as well as the 76th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Brad Pitt turned up in a custom Louis Vuitton set to the Venice Film Festival

From Jude Law's satin twist with a classic Brioni tuxedo to Brad Pitt redefining the formal suit with his bell bottoms and semi-sheer tee, men are clearly

Jude Law added a satin scarf to his classic Brioni tux at the Venice Film Festival

parting ways with the quintessentially traditional black tie only tuxedo. Cue the Dowager Countess from *Downton Abbey* clutching her pearls at this unabashed reinterpretation of what constitutes men's evening wear. But does this imply the death of the penguin suit?

"While nothing can take away the charm of a classic tuxedo, reinventing the suit seem to be the need of the hour," opines designer Karttik Dhingra of label Karttik D, adding, "We are definitely done with seeing men wearing the same traditional tux with bow and cummerbands on the red carpet and a striking twist to

Tuxedo is witnessing several tweaks now. From how the lapel looks to the length of the blazer, it is all changing.

DHRUV VAISH, Designer

the suit only makes the look more refined and exciting to see."

A traditional tuxedo comprises satin or grosgrain jacket lapels with similar stripes around the outseam of the pants. It is accessorised with a bow, cummerbund, and vest, depending on whether the jacket is double- or single-breasted. Which

begs the question of whether the penguin suit, a sobriquet for the traditional tux, causing boredom for some?

Designer Dhruv Vaish explains, "Tuxedo is witnessing several tweaks now. From how the lapel looks to the length of the blazer, it is all changing... The modern flaneur doesn't want to dress up in a predictable manner. Therefore, the tuxedos have to bring in an element of surprise."

The gentlemen sure are bringing on the peacockery, be it through colour, texture, sparkle, embroidery, prints or accessories. The penguin suit is surely changing for good, and we are all up for this.

Ishaan Khatter switched the vest for a corset from Daniel w Fletcher



Dan Levy showed up in a Loewe tux with a structured blouse at the 2024 Emmys

# Indian model Nakul creates history at Versace show

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Indian model Nakul Bhardwaj has become the first Indian male model to step foot on fashion's moon aka the runway for Italian luxury fashion brand Versace at Milan Fashion Week. Incidentally, the first Indian model to open a show for Versace is Avanti Nagrath, who paved the way for Indian representation on the global runway in 2022.

## A nervous backstage grin

Walking alongside the likes of A-listers Gigi Hadid and Vittoria Ceretti is a tall order, but one Bhardwaj has been manifesting since the age of 18. "When Gigi and Vittoria strutted down and took their spots (backstage), my grin and nervousness were inevitably visible to everyone there. But as soon as I floated down the runway, all of it vanished and I was already feeling like a supermodel in my head," he recalls. It wasn't all last minute jitters either; Bhardwaj had quite a challenge healthwise, too: "Just before the show, I suffered from food poisoning

two times in a row. But I was locked in my head that this was my time. I hit the gym for two months and carefully crafted my physique without leaving room for errors. It all paid off in the end."

## Onto even bigger things

In an industry where male representation on the international stage has often been limited, the 21-year-old's excitement knew no bounds when he learnt about this first. The Delhi-based model did his schooling in Uttarakhand, and shares, "It was not an easy road to reach the place where I am right now. I wish my grandparents were still alive to watch me succeed. My grandfather especially would be proud of me for accomplishing this milestone."

But this is only the beginning for this young gun, and Bhardwaj shares, "I have even bigger things on my mind that I want to do and this is just the start of it. There is a really long way ahead from here on and even bigger milestones to achieve. Right now, I feel happy for everything I have achieved."



(L-R) Gigi Hadid, Nakul Bhardwaj and Vittoria Ceretti



Nakul Bhardwaj

**DELHI BOY'S BEGINNINGS**  
Nakul Bhardwaj, who hails from Delhi, recalls the moment he found out that he had been selected for the show. "I was at a friend's place in Milan and worried about not getting a callback from any of the castings I have been to. Just then, my phone rang and upon checking it was an email that said 'Job-Versace'. It was one of the best feelings I have ever experienced," he shared.

**A SENSE OF NATIONAL PRIDE**  
Talking about achieving this milestone and what it meant to him, especially as an Indian model in a global fashion space, he says, "When I see myself walking for brands like Versace, it feels so nostalgic to me. Some kid probably must be sitting at home at this exact moment and would feel even more motivated that an Indian has the capability and the will to achieve such a thing."

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM



## { DAILY HOROSCOPE }

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

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

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## ARIES

MAR 21-APR 20

You will need to put in extra time to complete a job that lagging on the professional front. You are likely to become a proud owner of a prime property. Your academic performance is likely to please you. **LOVE FOCUS:** Your relationship can experience rough weather. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 11 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Dark Blue

## LEO

JUL 23-AUG 23

You maintain good showing academically. A short vacation is on the cards. Don't burden others with your work. A health initiative taken by you will keep you in a fit state. **LOVE FOCUS:** Attempts to resurrect dull love life requires more efforts. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 17 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Orange

## SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

You may have to keep budget in mind while shopping. Purchasing property is possible. Some one may turn cold towards you on the social front. You may be made responsible for some event. **LOVE FOCUS:** Hurdles appearing on the romantic front may disappear. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 9 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Maroon

## TAURUS

APR 21-MAY 20

Those dealing in property may get a deal of a lifetime. You are likely to catch up on the gossip by participating in a festival or an event. You'll spend a quality time with your parents and friends. **LOVE FOCUS:** Chances of relationship going sour cannot be ruled out. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 6 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Brown

## VIRGO

AUG 24-SEP 23

Much fun is in store on the family front. Profits in a business venture promise to keep your financial front healthy. You will be able to get a good price for something that you decide to sell. **LOVE FOCUS:** You may hide romantic interest from near and dear ones. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Peach

## CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 21

A family get-together will provide a welcome break from monotonous routine. A trip gets postponed. A new exercise regimen will prove immensely useful. Property matters will progress satisfactorily. **LOVE FOCUS:** Lover can be in a complaining mode. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 2 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Cream

## GEMINI

MAY 21-JUN 21

An excellent opportunity is likely for those involved in trade. Wealth may come to you in the form of inheritance. A family member may make you proud. **LOVE FOCUS:** Cupid's arrow may find its mark and bring romance to life. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 1 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Purple

## LIBRA

SEP 24-OCT 23

You establish yourself firmly on the professional front. A leisure trip can unexpectedly materialise. This is an excellent time to go all out to achieve your dreams. **LOVE FOCUS:** Judge for yourself if it is the first sign of a budding romance! **LUCKY NUMBER:** 8 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Yellow

## AQUARIUS

JAN 22-FEB 19

Delays may take the fun out of a journey. The social scene will be to your liking today. The domestic front will be most peaceful. Outside help will prove better for handling a property issue. **LOVE FOCUS:** Someone you secretly admire sets your heart aflutter. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Beige

## CANCER

JUN 22-JUL 22

You will enjoy helping out someone on the family front. A journey or function may become the perfect setting for romance to happen! Eat healthy food at regular intervals throughout the day to keep fit. **LOVE FOCUS:** If love is what you seek, patience is a virtue worth developing! **LUCKY NUMBER:** 9 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

## SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Peace and tranquility may be difficult to achieve at home today. Shifting to a better residence is indicated for some. You will be able to proceed as per your plan on the academic front. **LOVE FOCUS:** Some appeasing may be required to make relationship strong. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Baby Pink

## PISCES

FEB 20-MAR 20

Be careful of your mood swings with the family. A much anticipated leisure trip is possible. Setting up a new house is in the pipeline. Good showing on the academic front is likely to keep your morale high. **LOVE FOCUS:** Tight schedule makes it difficult to have quiet time with lover. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Peach



S Jaishankar

Rama Vaidyanathan (centre)

## Honouring a master's legacy



Shovana Narayan

An evening of classical dance performance titled Nimagna unfolded in the Capital on Friday. Honouring her guru and late mother dance maestro Saroja Vaidyanathan, Bharatanatyam dancer Rama Vaidyanathan choreographed a 75-minute-long set to mark her legacy. Those present at the do include Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, Attorney General of India R Venkatramani with wife Vijaya Venkatramani, and author Meera Khanna, among others. HTC



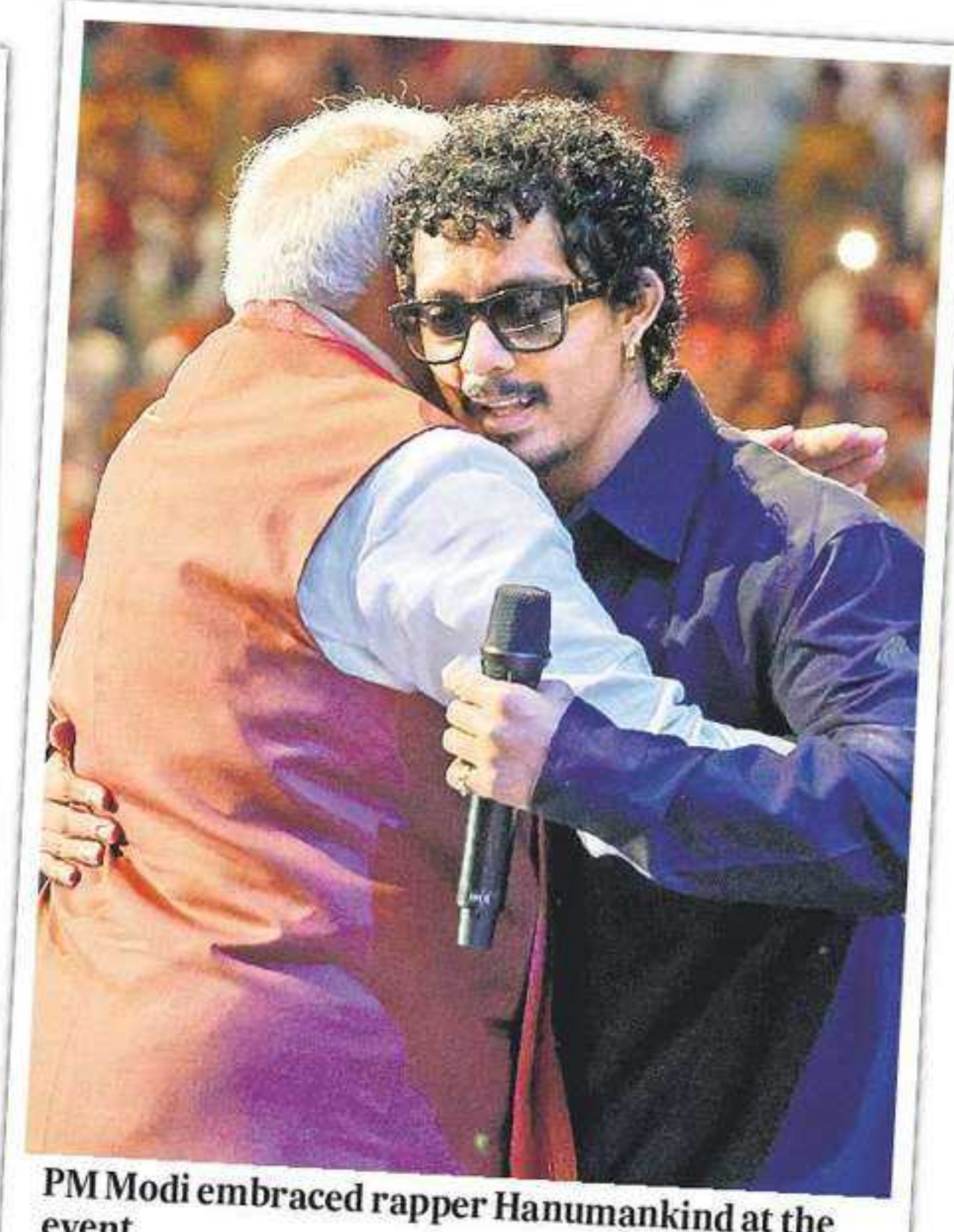
L-R: CV Kamesh, R Venkatramani and Vijaya Venkatramani



PM Modi with singer Aditya Gadhvi  
PHOTO: PTI

## Mighty hugs ft PM Modi at US event

A recent event in New York (US) titled Modi and US saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi patting and congratulating many Indian artistes who performed for an audience of over 15,000 members from the Indian diaspora. In a memorable moment, PM Modi also greeted rapper Hanumankind, who recently broke several records with his hit song Big Dawgs. HTC



PM Modi embraced rapper Hanumankind at the event  
PHOTO: ANI

## Celebs @ Milan Fashion Week

The recently-concluded Milan Fashion Week (MFW) might have had many head-turners on the runway, but the front rows were no less either, when it comes to style quotient. Take a dekho of some of the hottest celeb spottings at MFW in Italy

Actor Dakota Johnson attended Gucci show in a white maxidress and layered it with a leather jacket  
PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

Singer Madonna turned heads at the Dolce & Gabbana show in a goth fairy-inspired look, as she donned an all-black dress, featuring a lacy black veil

Model Kendall Jenner chose a knotted chocolate brown gown with a mock neck for her appearance at Bottega Veneta's show

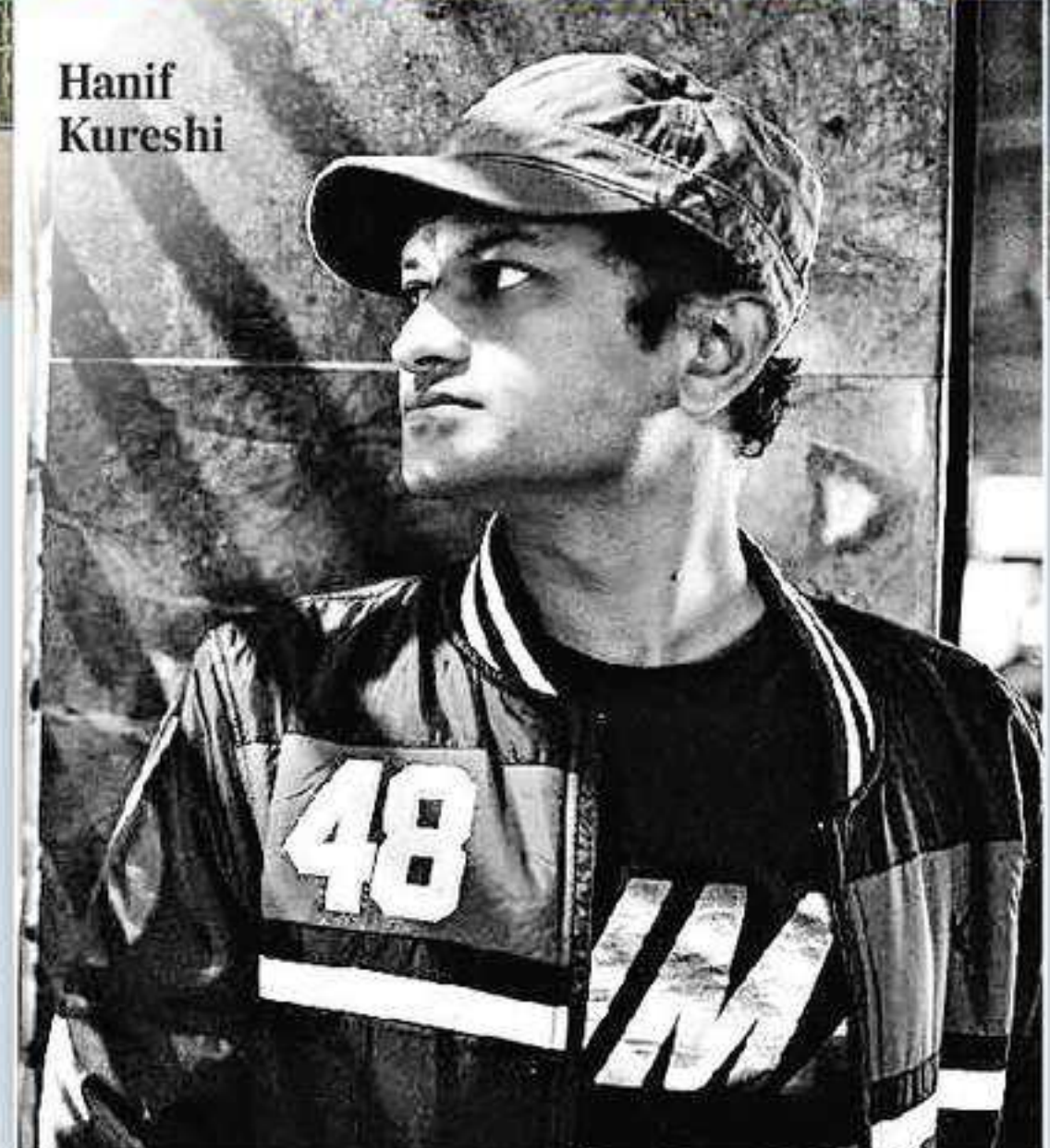
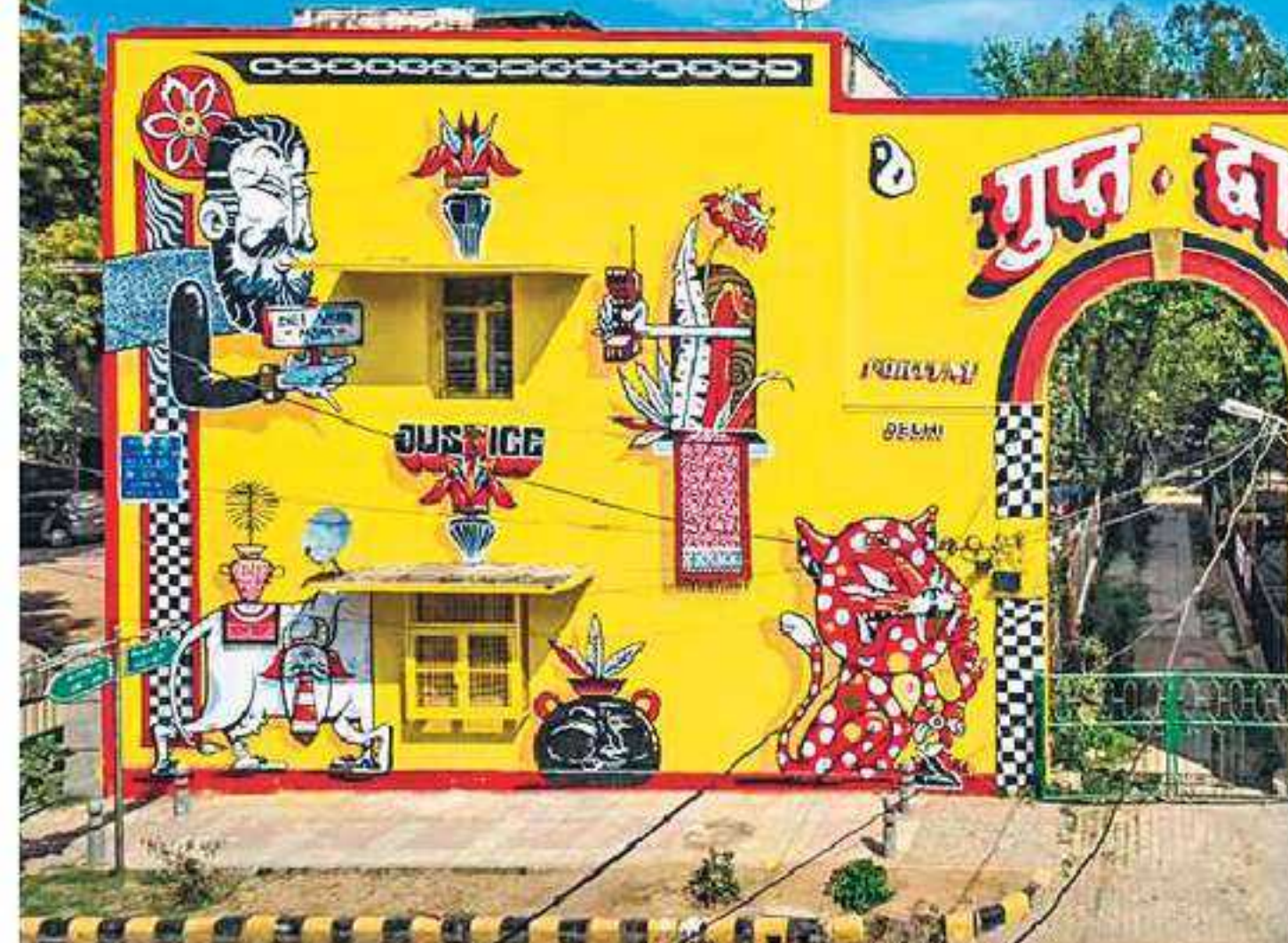
Former British footballer David Beckham kept his look sharp with a deep navy suit, featuring a single-breasted jacket at the BOSS event

Actor Jacob Elordi kept it classic in a speckled wool cardigan and white trousers as he attended the Bottega Veneta's show

Actor Julia Garner stunned in a wine-red blazer, sheer blouse and leather shorts at the Gucci RTW show

## my city

Mural titled Letters for Lodhi at Block I6, Lodhi Art District  
PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/HANIF KURESHI



Hanif Kureshi

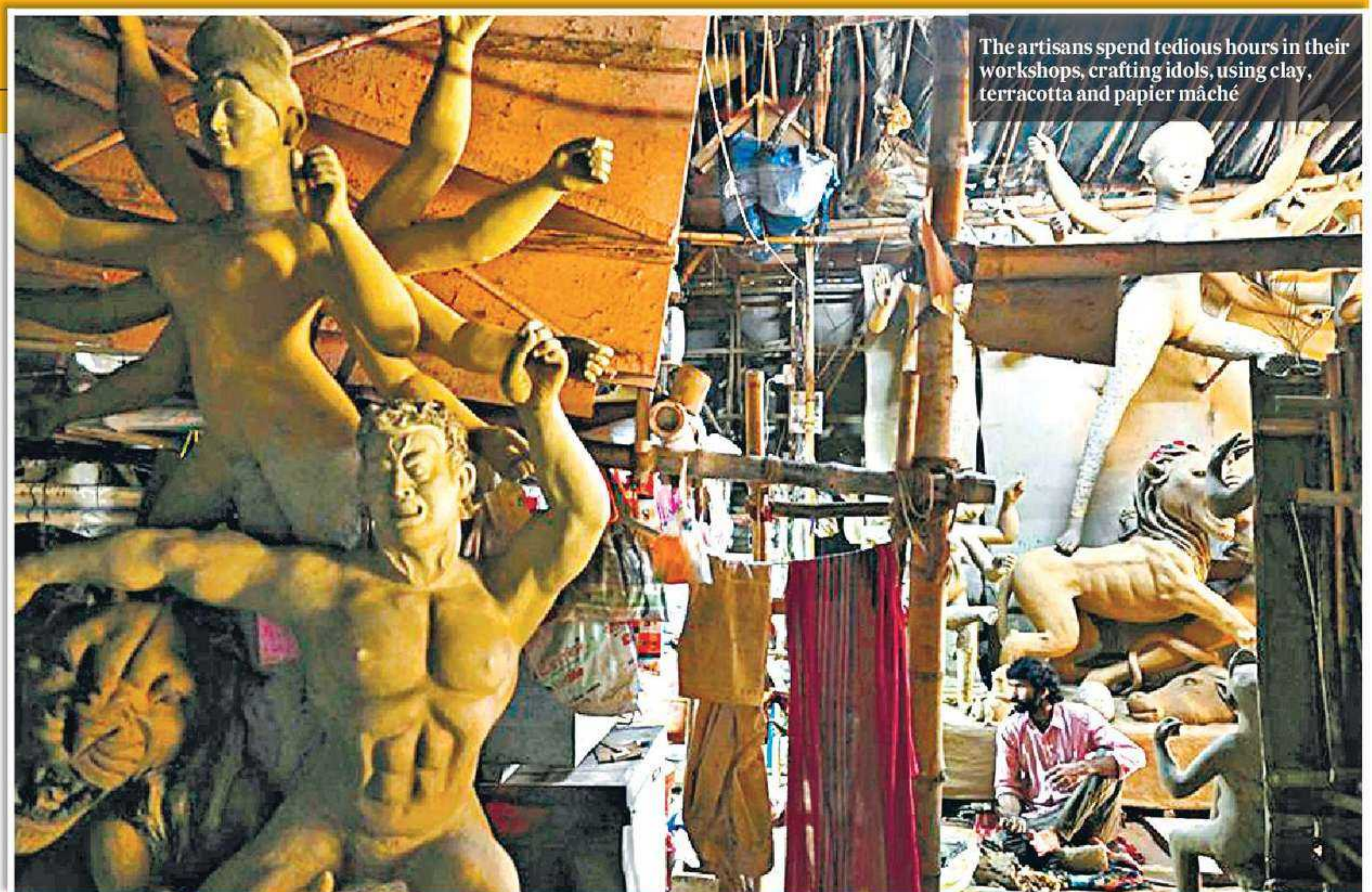
## The street as a canvas: Artist Hanif Kureshi's legacy lives on

Delhi's street art has lost its lustre with the passing away of Hanif Kureshi, co-founder of St-art India. He died after succumbing to lung cancer on Sunday. Kureshi, instrumental in establishing the Lodhi Art Project, transformed the Delhi's walls into an outdoor gallery. Throughout his career, Kureshi championed the need for public art spaces accessible to all. In a 2016 interview with Hindustan Times, he had remarked: "You might have a great studio to work and might display your work in a famous gallery, (but) it is all meaningless if no one gets to see it, so the street is the most important art gallery." Known for his kitschy and 'desi' style, which drew inspiration from signage across the subcontinent, Kureshi graduated from MS University in Baroda before a brief stint in advertising.

**IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE PERFECT URBAN CANVAS, KURESHI THOUGHT OF LODHI COLONY, WITH ITS EXPANSIVE WALLS, AN IDEAL SITE FOR LARGE-SCALE MURALS**

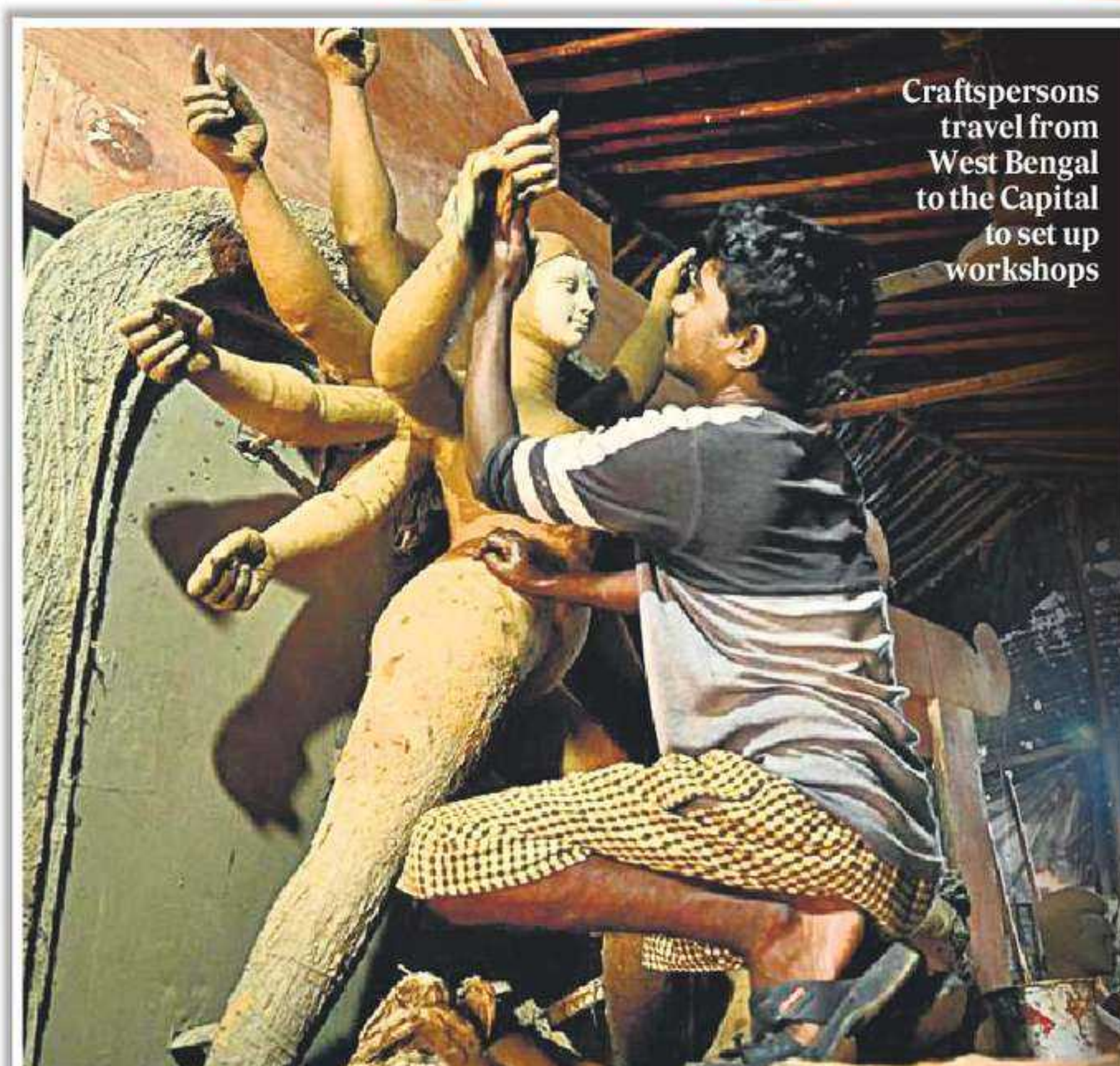
His fascination with hand-lettering and sign board painting led him to explore India's by-lanes, where he commissioned local sign-painters to create alphabets in their distinct styles for the Handpainted Type project. Later on, in his search for the perfect urban canvas,

Kureshi thought of Lodhi Colony, with its expansive walls, an ideal site for large-scale murals. "Delhi is a large city with diverse geography, culture and history. It has enough wall space to support diverse artistic narratives. Our aim was to bring art to everyone and reshape the visual landscape of Delhi through murals and installations," he had said. The Lodhi Art Project soon took on a life of its own, attracting visitors from all walks of life who flocked to marvel at the murals and capture the artistry on camera. Today, the organisation that Kureshi helped build continues to curate art festivals across the country, leaving its mark on the walls of cities like Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, ensuring his legacy lives on. HTC



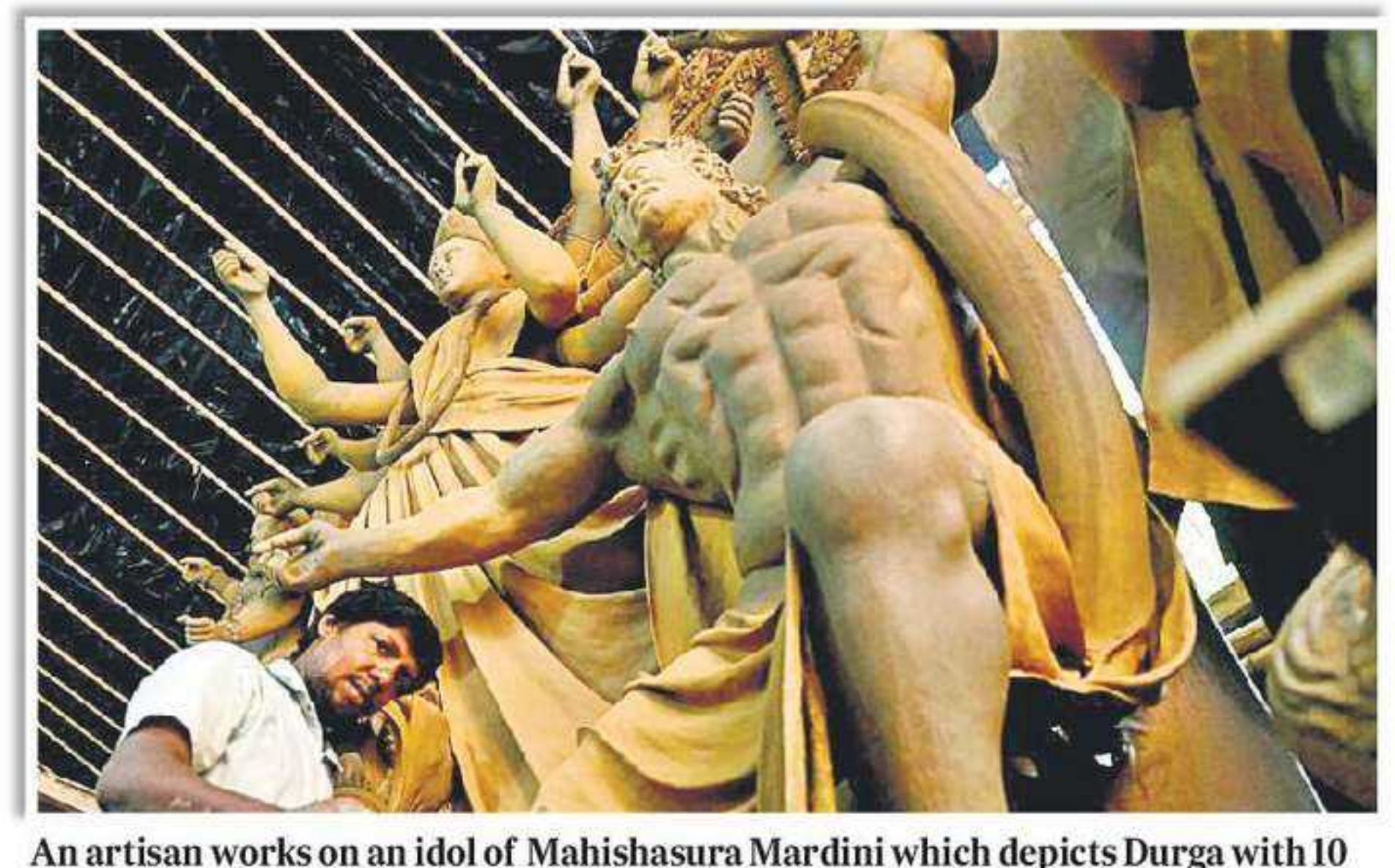
The artisans spend tedious hours in their workshops, crafting idols, using clay, terracotta and papier mâché

## Crafting divinity: Durga idols come to life in the city ahead of Pujo



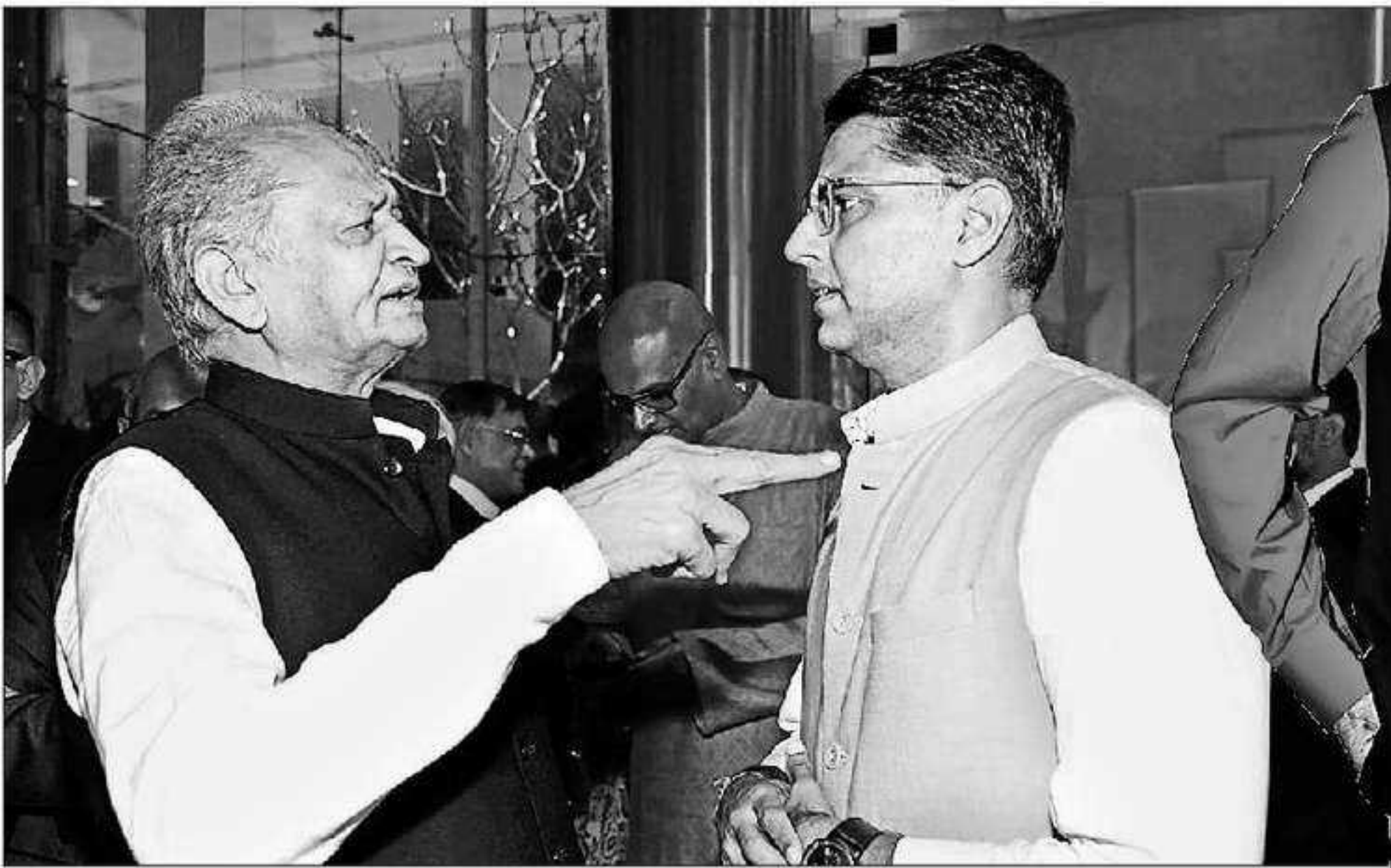
Craftspersons travel from West Bengal to the Capital to set up workshops

As Durga Puja, which starts on October 9, is right around the corner, the city's nooks are buzzing with activity as artisans transform clay into divine figures of the goddess Durga. Idols will be worshipped throughout the 10-day festivities. Here's a sneak peek into the laborious idol preparations



An artisan works on an idol of Mahishasura Mardini which depicts Durga with 10 hands defeating demon Mahishasura  
PHOTOS: MONEY SHARMA / AFP

PHOTOS: RAAJESSH KASHYAP, MANOJ VERMA, SANCHIT KHANNA AND SHANTANU BHATTACHARYA/HT



Former CM of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot with former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot



Actor and Member of Parliament Shatrughan Sinha



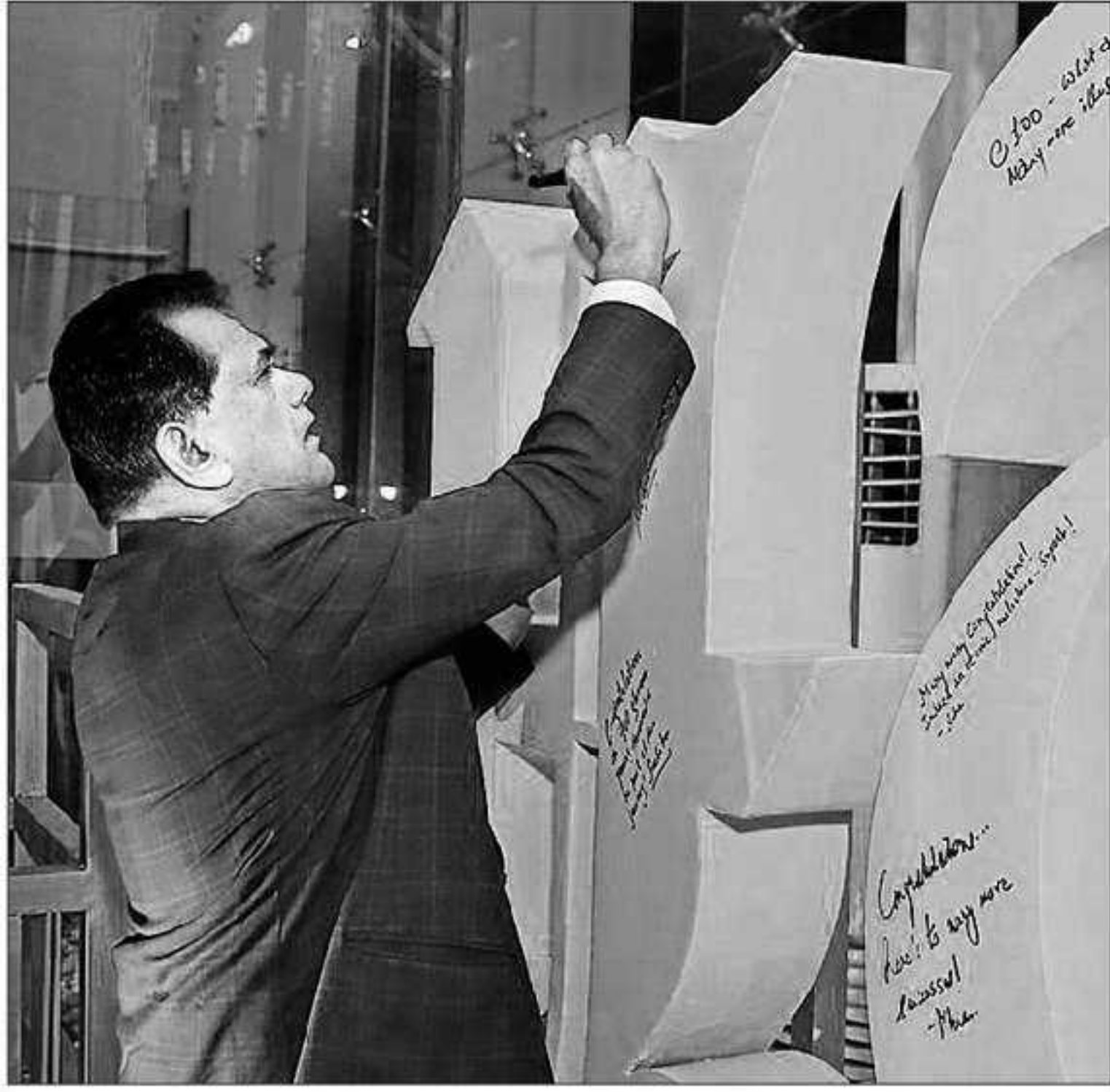
CEO and MD of Air India, Campbell Wilson



Member of Parliament Ravi Shankar Prasad



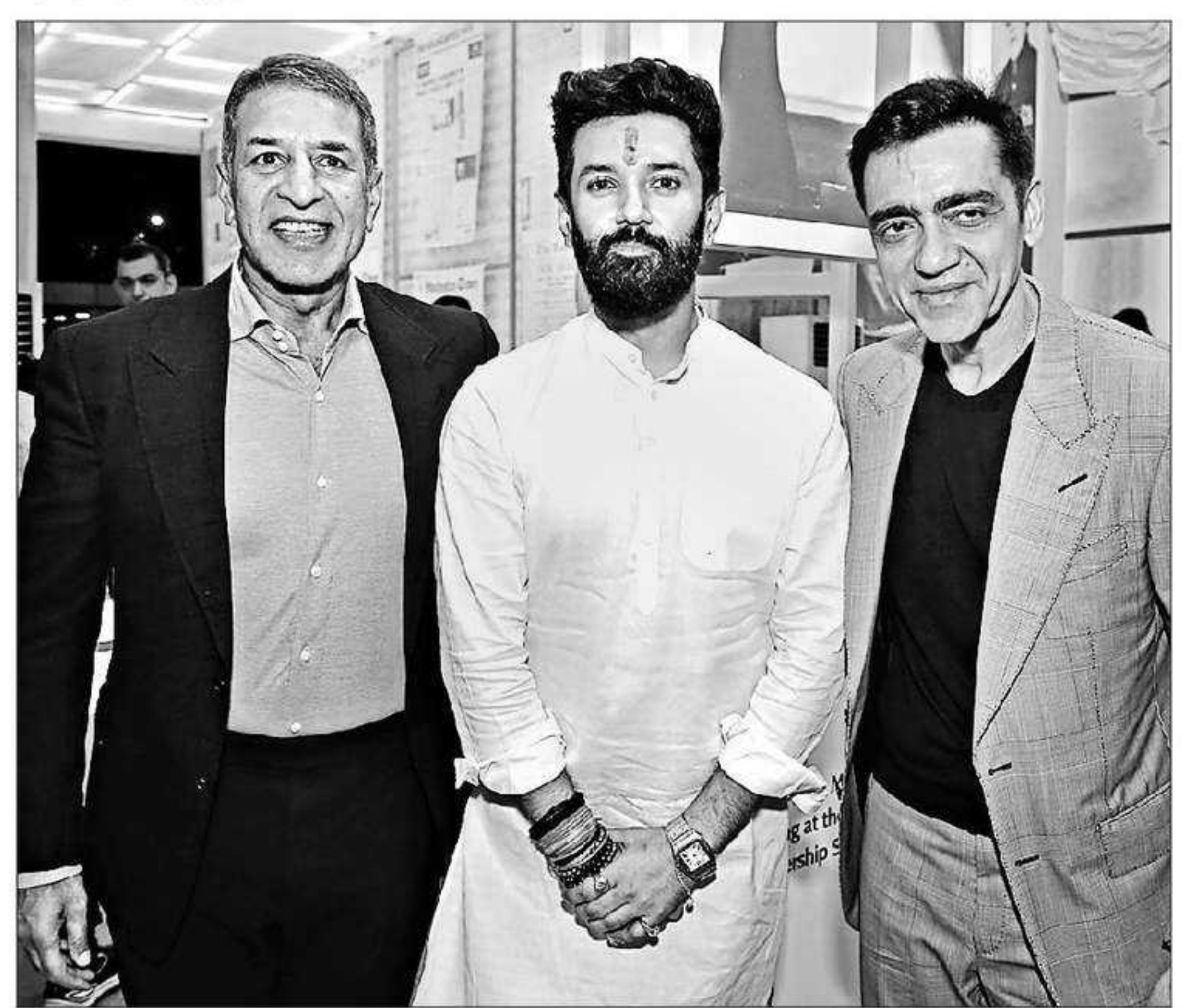
Chief Minister of Delhi, Atishi



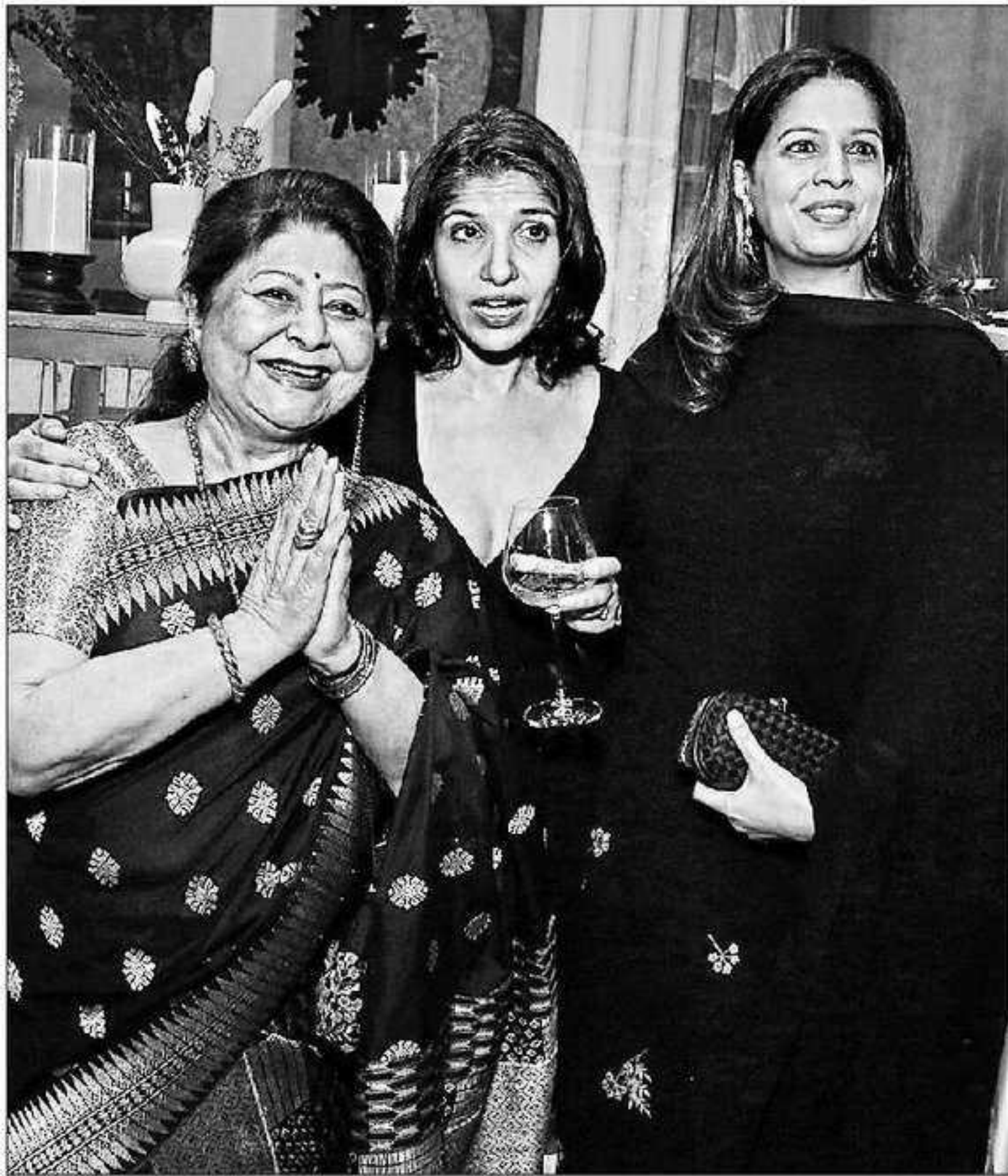
G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant signs the HT@100 installation



Journalist Sonia Singh with Priyadarshini Raje Scindia and Member of Parliament RPN Singh



Industrialist Rajan Mittal, Union Minister Chirag Paswan and businessman Ajay Bijli



Classical dancer Subhalakshmi Khan, publisher Chiki Sarkar and Neema Sharma Khan

HT @100 VOICE OF THE NATION SINCE 1924 With glimpses of the past, present and visions for the future, the gala night sparked in style, setting the tone for a year of celebrations ahead 100 YEARS CHEERS



Artist Paresh Maity and Odissi exponent Sharon Lowen



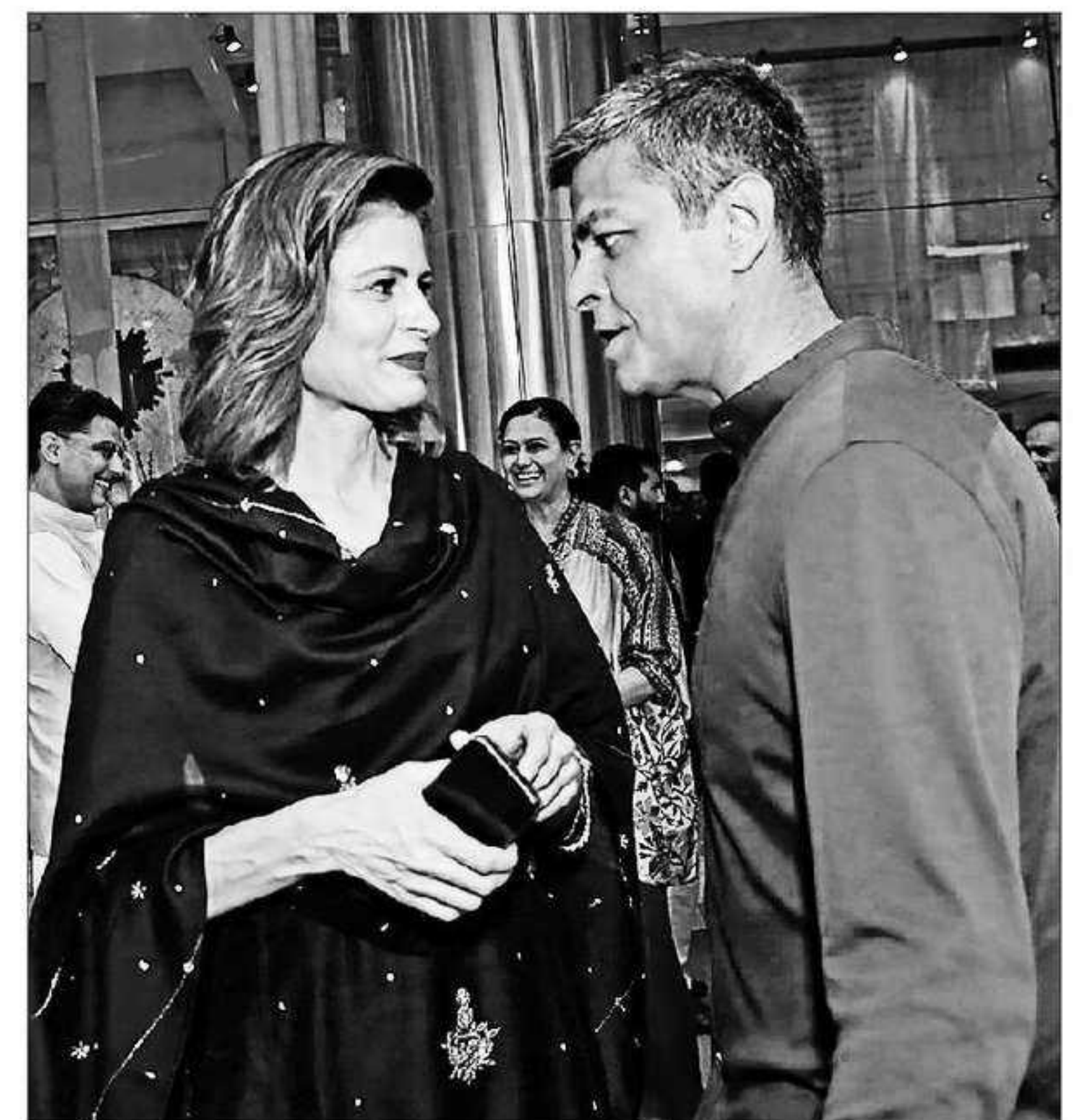
Interior designer Sunita Kohli



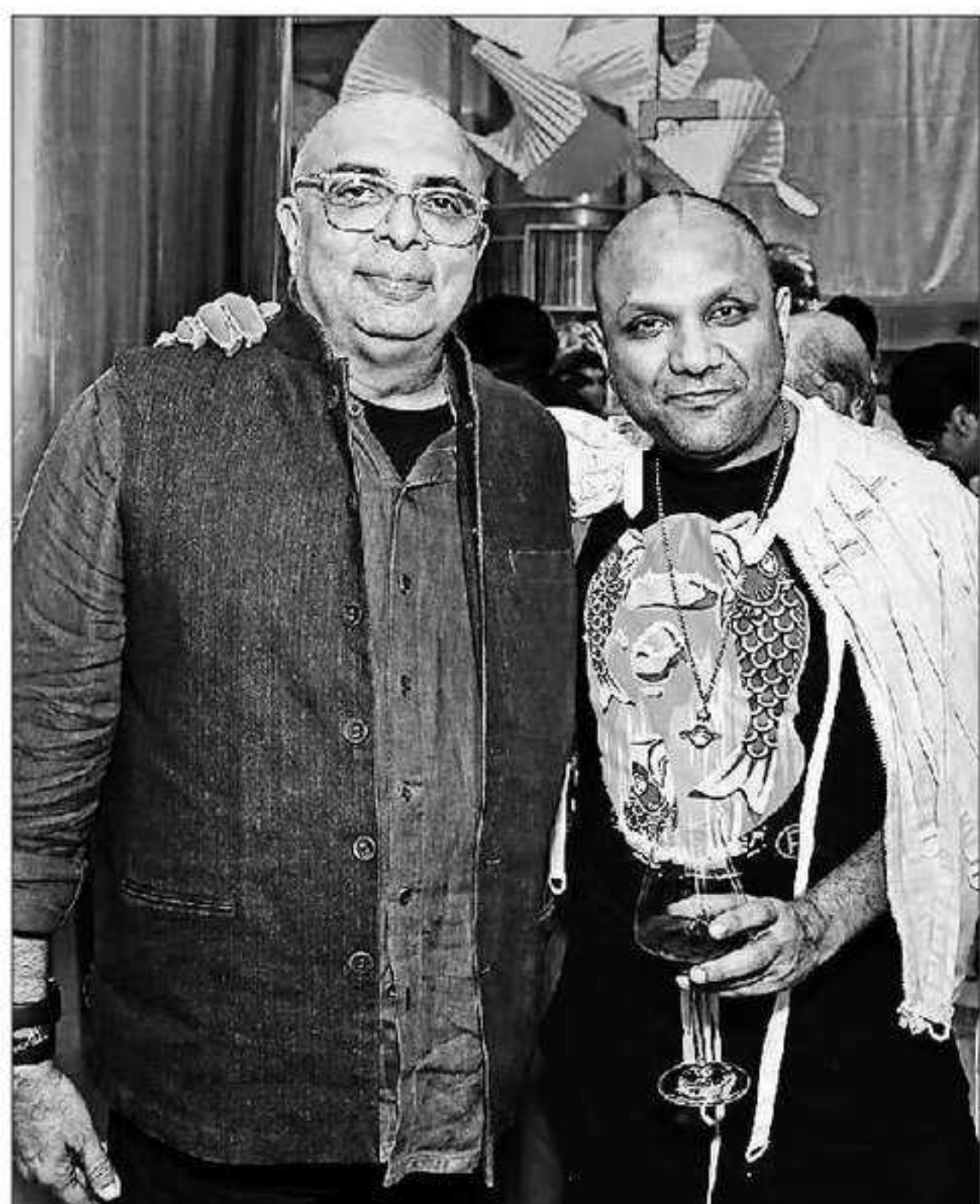
Union MoS Jitin Prasada



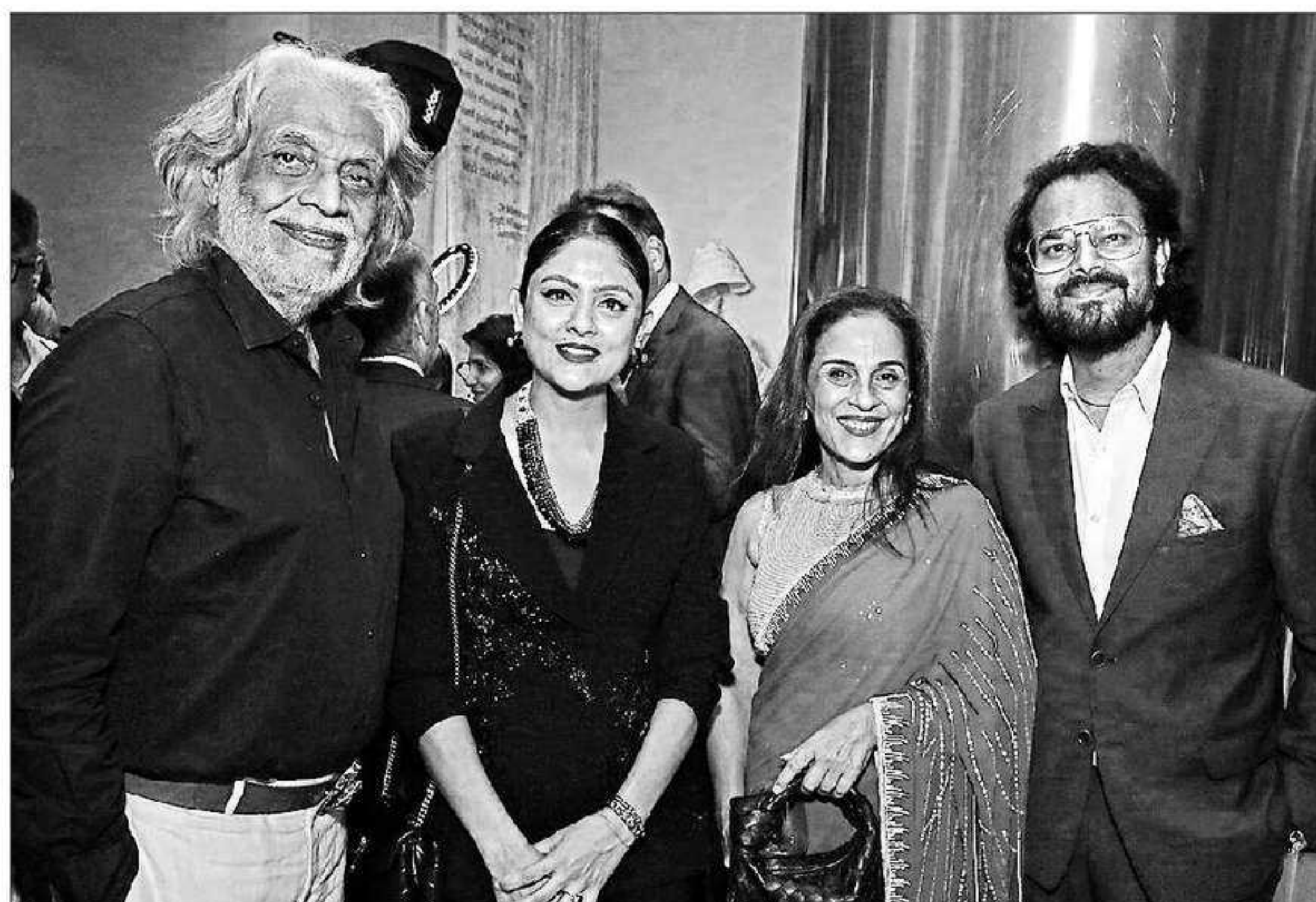
FDCI chairperson Sunil Sethi with Bharti Sethi, artist Subodh Gupta and designer JJ Valaya



Philanthropist Sara Abdullah and businessman Raaja Kanwar



Designers Tarun Tahiliani and Gaurav Gupta



Designers Muzaffar Ali, Divya Bhatt Mishra, Meera Ali and Rahul Mishra

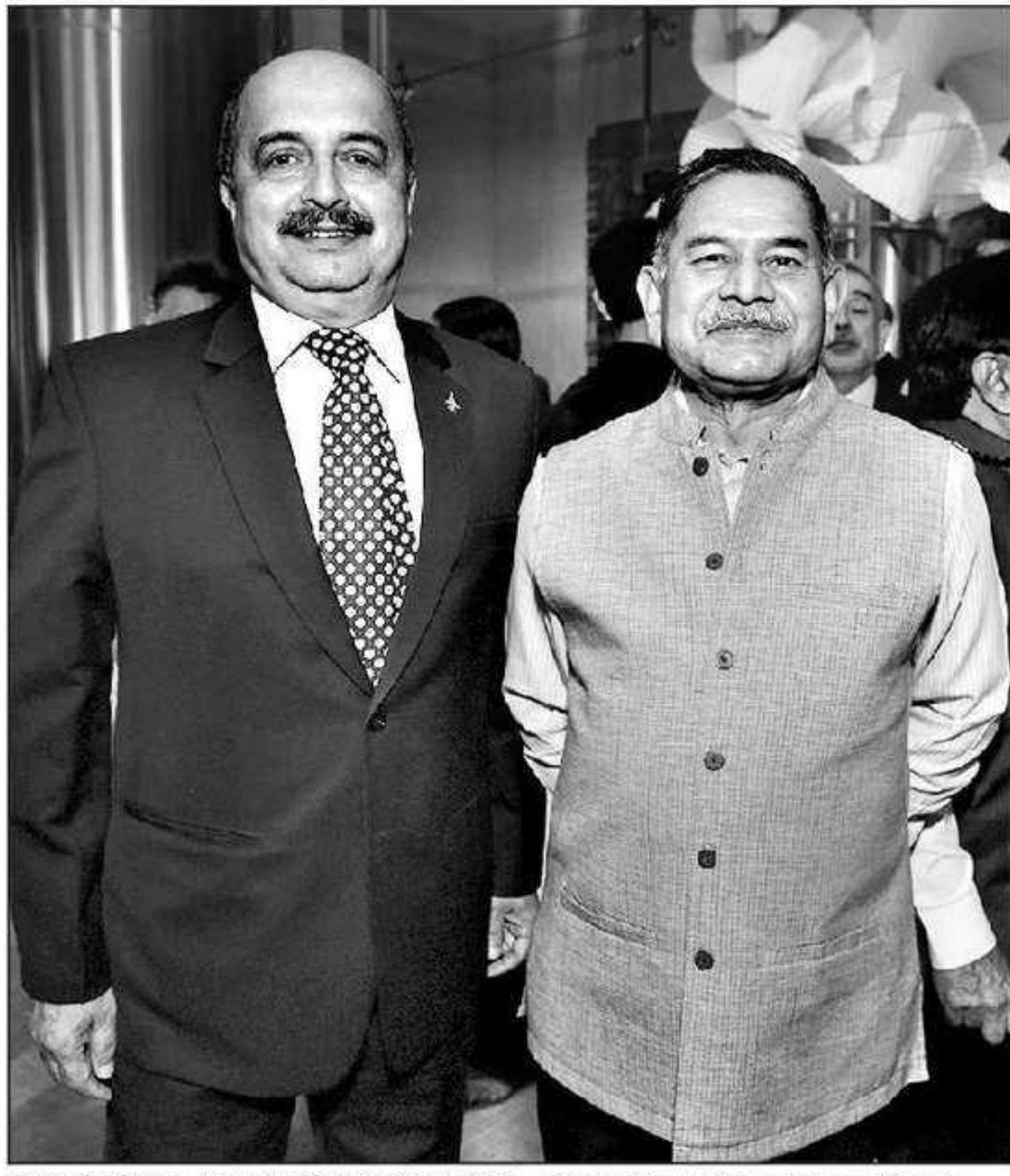


Cardiologist Dr Ashok Seth

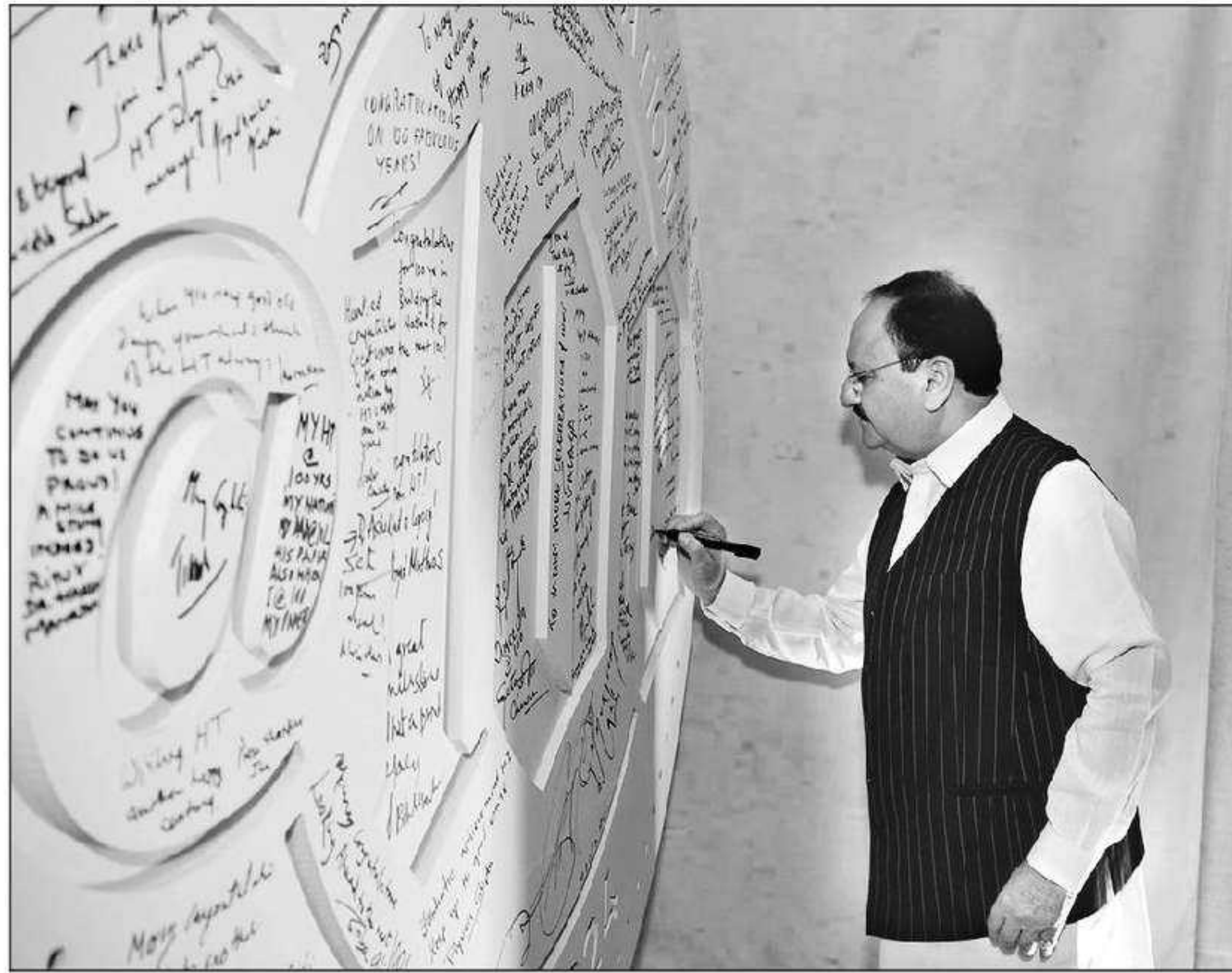


Author Aashvi Bhartiya and fashion entrepreneur Pernia Qureshi

PHOTOS: RAAJESH KASHYAP, MANOJ VERMA AND SHANTANU BHATTACHARYA/HT



Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari and Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi



Union Minister JP Nadda signs the HT@100 installation



Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan with Shobhana Bhartia, Chairperson and Editorial Director of HT Media Limited

# HEADLINING THE CENTURY



Eminent personalities from the world of politics, business, sports, art and culture came together at the iconic HT House in the Capital to raise a toast to the centennial celebrations of HT



Union Ministers Ram Mohan Naidu and Jyotiraditya Scindia



Sangeeta Jaitley, businessman Sunil Kant Munjal and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav



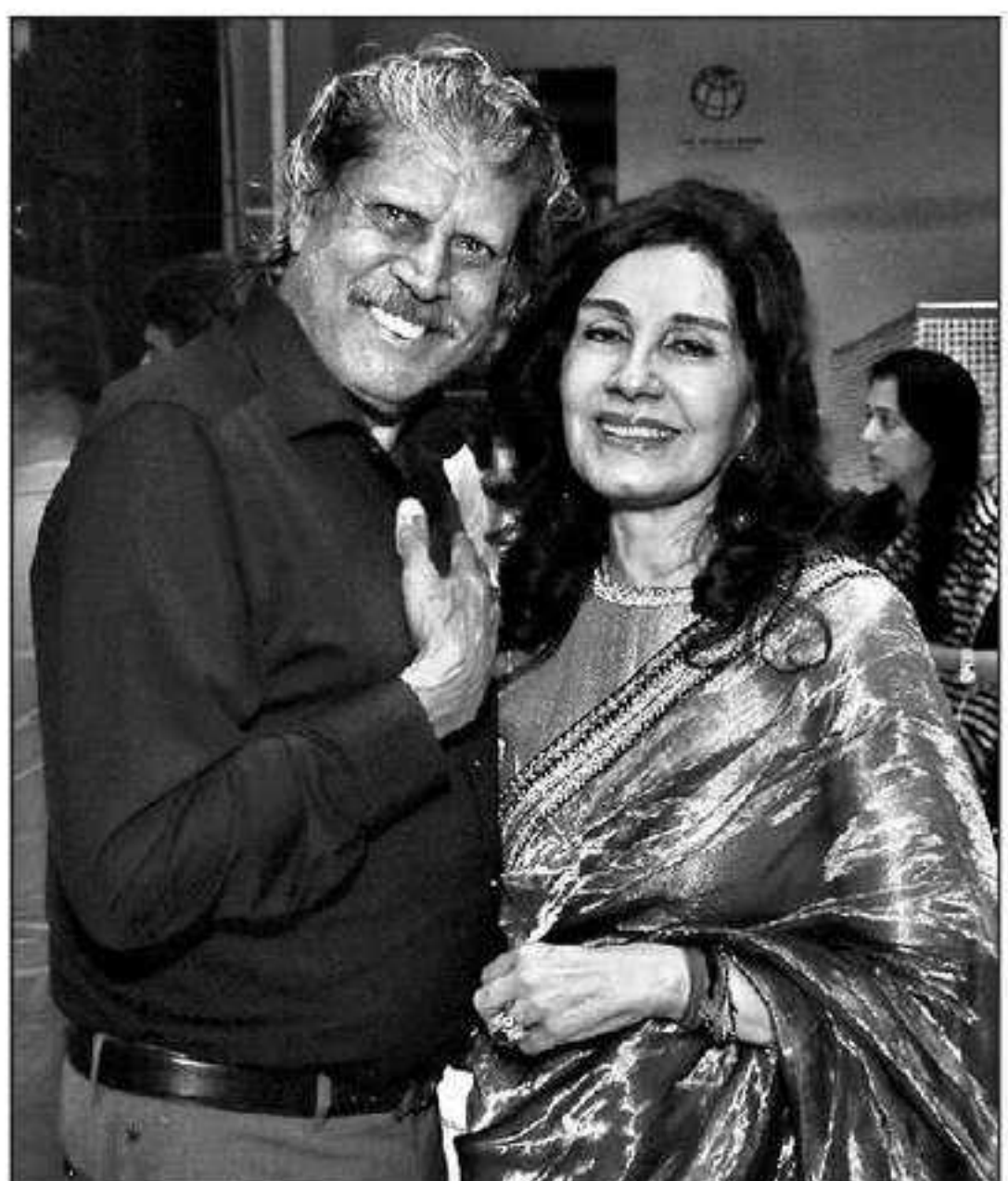
Advocate-Member of Parliament Abhishek Manu Singhvi, German Ambassador to India Dr Philipp Ackermann and classical singer Anita Singhvi



Designer Rina Dhaka



Mediapersons Vir Sanghvi and Seema Goswami



Former cricketer Kapil Dev and communications professional Devi Cherian



SC Judges Justice Surya Kant and Justice BR Gavai



Politician Baijayant 'Jay' Panda and entrepreneur Jagi Mangat Panda



Former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi



Co-founder of FICCI Ladies Organisation Abha Dalmia and businesswoman Priya Paul



Member of Parliament Kumari Selja and designer Leena Singh



Radiologist Dr Harsh Mahajan and Member of Parliament Manish Tewari



British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron with Nayantara Kothari



Gen next: Agastya Bhartia, Azaan Karan, Armaan Soni and Shiv Khanna



Namrata Bhartia



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi with Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission NK Singh

## WOULD NOT HAVE BAGGED MY DEBUT ROLE IF I WASN'T AAMIR KHAN'S SON, SAYS JUNAID

PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH

Actor Aamir Khan's son Junaid debuted earlier this year with the Siddharth P Malhotra directorial *Maharaj*. Talking about his debut and his experience in the film industry so far, Junaid recently admitted that he would not have gotten the role if he wasn't Aamir's son. "Kabhi kabhi kuch part aapko milte hain, kuch nahin milte. It is true that *Maharaj* ke pehle maine kuch auditions diye the. Woh nahin hue uss waqt. But, I will also admit ki if I was not Aamir Khan's son, I would probably not have gotten the role," he said during a chat with NDTV Yuva recently.

The 31-year-old also opened up about not getting a role in his dad's film *Laal Singh Chadha* (2022), despite doing an audition that Aamir had liked. "Dad has already talked about it; jab maine test kiya tha, papa ko kaafi pasand aaya tha. Par the film was budgeted at a place jahan aap naye actor ke saath woh film nahin bana paoge. Isliye mujhe mauka nahin mila woh film karne ka," Junaid shared.



Ishita Dutta Sheth with son Vayu

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/ISHIDUTTA

## It was a tough decision: Ishita on returning to work postpartum

Navya Kharbada

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Actor Ishita Dutta Sheth, who welcomed her first child, son Vayu, with actor-husband Vatsal Sheth in June last year, is returning to work after two years.

While she is excited to make her comeback, Ishita says it was a difficult choice to make: "The decision to get back to work was very tough. I thought I would come back after six months, but when the time came to say yes to any project, I felt reluctant. But, my parents, in-laws and husband all said, 'We are here to take care of Vayu.' Vatsal and I both plan our schedules according to him."

The 34-year-old continues,

"Every working woman goes through that guilt. That first day when you have to leave your child and go to work, it will always be hard, be it six months or two years. A mother will always have that separation anxiety; I had it too, but I made it."

Despite the "mom guilt," the actor is glad to be back in action. She reveals that she is currently shooting for a film, but keeps the details sparse. "While I am really enjoying my shoot, I keep checking on the baby monitor to see what Vayu is up to. This is the first time I have been away from him for so long," she tells us.

Ishita adds that she plans on bringing Vayu to the shoot location soon. "We are getting him here. We will see how it goes. If he is able to adjust then,

I thought I would come back after six months... but leaving your child to go to work is always hard.

ISHITA DUTTA SHETH, Actor

he will stay with me till the end of the schedule. I want to start working properly but I will take a month or two between projects to spend time with him," the actor concludes.

## Jayam Ravi on divorce: If Aarti wanted to reconcile, why didn't she reach out? I want custody of my kids

Aarti and Jayam Ravi

Latha Srinivasan

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Actor Jayam Ravi and his wife, Aarti Ravi, have been making headlines the last few weeks, thanks to the announcement of their divorce. Talking exclusively to us about the divorce and the reports that he was dating singer-spiritual healer Kenishaa Francis, Jayam says, "I want a divorce. If Aarti wanted to reconcile as she states, why has she not reached out to me? Why has she not responded to the two legal notices I sent? Does this behaviour look like she wanted to reconcile with me?"

The actor, seen primarily in Tamil films, adds, "Will there be news about a 'girlfriend' if the intention was to reconcile? How did these rumours about this person (Francis) start? Why should anyone drag a third person unnecessarily into this issue? I plan to start a spiritual healing centre with Kenishaa and we are looking for some suitable location. My divorce has nothing to do with this."

Jayam reportedly wants custody of his sons, Aarav and Ayaan. Ask him if it's true, and the actor says, "Yes, I want custody of my children. I am ready to fight this divorce out in the court for 10 years, or 20 years, or however long it takes. My future is my children; they are my happiness."

## Chiranjeevi honoured by Guinness World Records as 'most prolific star' in the Indian film industry

Chiranjeevi was recently honoured by the Guinness World Records in Hyderabad, Telangana, as the most prolific star in the Indian film industry. The day of the event, September 22, also happened to be the anniversary of the actor's debut in 1978.

"This moment is unforgettable. I never sought recognition from the Guinness World Records, but it feels incredible to be honoured [this way]. In all these years of my film career, dance has become part of my life. I owe this recognition to the directors, producers, music directors and choreographers who always made sure to showcase my dance performances in films," Chiranjeevi said.

The certificate awarded to the actor read: "The most prolific film star in Indian Film Industry - actor/dancer is Konidela Chiranjeevi aka Mega Star."

Actor Aamir Khan, who was also present at the event, shared that he was a "huge fan" of the Telugu actor. "I see him as my elder brother. I was so happy that Chiranjeevi garu is being given this honour. I was really thrilled to find out about it. If you notice him in any of his songs, you can see his heart is in it and he is enjoying himself," Aamir said.



PHOTO: X

## Neeti Mohan: If you only run after numbers and hits, you might get disappointed

Rishabh Suri

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Holding one's own in a field as competitive as playback singing is no mean feat. But singer Neeti Mohan, who is set to complete 15 years in the industry, has managed to pull off just that.

Mohan, who first stepped into the limelight with the reality show *Popstars* in 2003, began her playback journey six years later when she recorded a track for the 2009 film *Fruit and Nut*. Reflecting on her career, the singer says she has learnt to "enjoy the process". "If you only run after numbers and hits, then you might get disappointed," she tells us, adding, "However, if you enjoy going to recording studios for rehearsals, meeting bands and travelling, you are living a life that many people don't get the chance to."

Although her breakthrough came in 2012 with tracks such as *Ishq Wala Love* (*Student of the Year*) and *Jiya Re* (*Jab Tak Hai Jaan*), she feels that making the transition to playback was no cakewalk.

Singers often wait for long periods of time for a good song to come their way and Mohan admits that the uncertainty of her early days was all too real: "There was this pattern in my career initially. You have to get used to it, sometimes days are nights and vice versa."

In an industry that can be so fast-paced, how does she keep herself grounded? "I have pani puri on the streets or go for a walk in the mall, it keeps me normal (laughs). I got used to this nature of the field very fast and learnt to disconnect from successes or failures; you need to do your job and move on to the next," she wraps up.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/NEETIMOHAN18



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