

MOVIE REVIEW

Bhakshak



Director: Pulkit.
Cast: Bhumi Pednekar, Sanjay Mishra, Aditya Srivastava
STORY: An independent TV reporter Vaishali Singh (Bhumi Pednekar) and her only colleague Bhaskar (Sanjay Mishra) stir up a hornet's nest. In pursuit of truth, these small-town journalists strive to expose a human trafficking racket in Bihar.

REVIEW: The subject is important and the lead performance sincere, but execution has a 90's melodramatic hangover. Everyone mouths Bansi Sahu's name at least 100 times in the movie and he doesn't seem as menacing or influential as he is made to look like. Strangely, everyone has access to him at all times. The investigative-crime thriller lacks both investigation and thrill, making the film more exhausting and less gripping. The storytelling lacks a sense of urgency or even fear that are essential to make a hard-hitting issue like this deeply engaging. At no point are you emotionally invested in the characters or their trauma. Vaishali's supportive husband too doesn't get enough scope to express his inhibitions.

Bhumi Pednekar has emerged as one of the most bankable performers, who has consistently portrayed strong female characters. The Marathi girl from Mumbai has her north Indian accent on point and it is her fearless presence that fights patriarchy in the movie more than the writing. Sanjay Mishra feels wasted and CID fame Aditya Srivastava isn't as convincing as the evil antagonist.

In-depth Analysis			
Our overall critic's rating is not an average of the sub scores below.			
Direction	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		3/5
Dialogues	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		3/5
Story	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		3/5
Music	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		3/5
Visual appeal	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		3/5

BOOK REVIEW

The Sorcery of the Senses



Title: 'The Sorcery of the Senses'
Author: Tanima Das
Genre: Fantasy- contemporary Fiction
Publisher: ArtoonsInn
Pages: 220
Price: Rs 335

Review: Tanima Das is an Indian author whose short stories have been published internationally. She is also one of the winners of season 2 and season 3 of the Write India contest conducted by The Times of India. Salman Rushdie praised her imagination in the winning entry. By profession, she is a software engineer but writing remains the work that gives her maximum fulfilment. 'The Sorcery of the Senses' is her first novel. This genre-bending novel mixes fantasy, mythology, and contemporary threads to present a seamless integration. The story begins with the protagonist Dhruv finding himself completely alone following the successive deaths of his parents and a sudden divorce with his wife Juthika. He stumbles upon an heirloom jewellery that transports him to another dimension where he meets the first sense, Dristi.

Dristi shows Dhruv his previous lifetime as Grhiz, a tribal girl, with superpowers. Next, Dhruv meets Sparsha, who shows him his life as Mong, a blind girl with healing powers. In both these lifetimes, Dhruv had obtained a magical stone but accidentally lost possession of it.

In his current lifetime, Dhruv is yet to come to terms with his break up and yet, he now knows that he has been entrusted with a bigger mission. He must find the lost stone and finish the task that was left midway in the previous lifetime.

The storyline moves fast and keeps the reader enchanted with its absolutely original premise. The author's coherent presentation ensures that the end product is not a potpourri of conflicting thoughts despite the presence of widely varying themes, timelines, and philosophies.

GADGET REVIEW

Moto G04



Expected Price	Rs 73,999
Display	6.60-inch (720x1600)
Resolution	Unisoc T606
Processor	5MP
Front Camera	16MP
Rear Camera	4GB
RAM	64GB
Storage	5000mAh
Battery Capacity	Android 14
OS	Yes
Wi-Fi	Yes
GPS	Yes
Bluetooth	Yes
USB Type-C	Yes
Headphones	3.5mm
Face unlock	Yes
Fingerprint sensor	Yes
Proximity sensor	Yes
Accelerometer	Yes
Colours	Concord Black, Sea Green, Satin Blue, Sunrise Orange

Pros	Cons
* Relatively affordable.	* Can't handle high-end games.
* LTE bands for all carriers.	
* Solid battery life.	
* Useful AI features.	
* Expandable storage.	

VEHICLE REVIEW

Skoda Kushaq



Starting Price	Rs. 11.89 - 20.49 Lakh*
Fuel Type	Petrol
Fuel Tank Capacity	50 Litres
Engine Displacement	1498 cc
No. of Cylinders	4
Max Power	147.51bhp@5000-6000rpm
Max Torque	250Nm@1600-3500rpm
Seating Capacity	5
Transmission Type	Automatic
Boot Space	385 Litres
Body Type	SUV
Ground Clearance	188mm
Gear Box	7-Speed DSG
Drive Type	FWD
Clutch Type	Dry Double Clutch
Steering Type	Electric
Steering Column	Tilt & Telescopic
Front Brake Type	Disc
Rear Brake Type	Drum
Touch Screen size	10 inch
Connectivity	Android Auto, Apple CarPlay

Pros	Cons
* SUV-like ride quality.	* Quality of materials in certain areas isn't Skoda level.
* Impressive cabin design and build.	* Lack of premium feature.
* Excellent infotainment and sound experience.	* Narrow cabin, especially at the back.

Health and Lifestyle

Innovative hacks to cut down the cost of interior décor



People who are homeowners are continually trying new things and different methods of doing things. They prefer to shake things up a little and think outside the box of what we've seen on TV and in publications. Most homeowners begin their interior design journey with the preconceived notion that if they truly desire something, it must be pricey. However, when it comes to interior design, effective design is about being inventive rather than ostentatious. An experienced interior designer will also understand how to save on interior design costs without sacrificing the quality of their work.

Using the colour scheme in various fabrics, furniture, or wall hangings may create a one-of-a-kind design while keeping the added space constant. A splash of colour or a piece of art, as well as an area rug or toss cushions, may help to enliven any space and provide a focal point.

Here are some ways in detail on how to cut down on the cost of interior décor of a luxury furniture brand:

Restoring and repurposing vintage furniture -
Remodel your house using your old furniture rather than buying new furniture, which may be expensive. Reusing and refinishing antique furniture is a highly cost-effective way to decorate your home. You may add a touch of elegance to your old furniture by repainting it and utilising vibrant and colourful upholstery, making your home's interiors seem as good as new. When you refurbish your furniture, make sure it's easy to keep. Cleaning is also necessary because your carpets, walls, and upholstery are all comprised of natural materials.

Instead of painting, use wallpaper -
As we all know, paint is a popular pick for interior design, but it can also burn a hole in your budget. Texture paint is fairly expensive; however, wallpaper is a far superior option or alternative to paint because it provides the same aesthetic treat at a much lower cost.

You can use a light blue wallpaper that matches the light and neutral tones of the room. Using a more muted colour scheme, we can achieve a similar effect to wallpaper but without the extra cost. This is an area where wallpaper can be a better option.

Multi-functional furniture -
Choosing furniture that maximises your limited area will suffice. Picking a multipurpose object for each area may add a wonderful touch to the surroundings. As the name implies, they are one-of-a-kind and modern modular furniture designs with at least two qualities.

A Sofa Day Bed
A well-sized daybed is the ideal two-in-one item for rapidly transforming any room into an area for sitting and sleeping. By bringing in a daybed that serves as a sofa, you can effortlessly transform any den, spare room, or basement living area into a combined guest room design. You may also utilise a daybed for work by bringing up a C-table for your laptop—and who can resist working from a sofa that also serves as a bed?

A Console Desk
For many of us, working from home has required us to carve out home offices once and for all. One stylish and space-saving solution we came upon is using a console table as a desk. Because consoles tend to be narrow, they're perfect for small spaces and easy to pull up along a wall in any room—think a hallway, in front of a window, behind a sofa. If what you're looking for is a simple surface for you to set up your laptop, a console desk is definitely the way to go!

Plants and basic lighting for interior design decorating -
Plants improve our health while also making our surroundings more pleasant and bright. It's becoming increasingly popular, and if you're low on room, go for little plants distributed around the home. Place pots on tables in the living room and bases in the dining room to improve the interior design of your home or apartment.

On the market, we have a plethora of diverse and lovely lighting options. When it comes to interior design, light plays an important part in producing cost-effective home interiors. When shopping, we should always consider basic light fixtures that will not only brighten up your house but will also be cost-effective. LED lighting is said to be exceptionally long-lasting and energy-efficient. When compared to other types, it is thought to be eco-friendly and pocket-friendly.

ASTROLOGY

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS 18TH — 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

<p>ARIES</p> <p>MAR 21 - APR 20</p> <p>This week, a relationship gets interesting. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, it's time to appreciate the good things in life. Recognize what's within your control, and if something is out of your control, let it go entirely. Allow fate to play its role in your life. Notice what the Universe puts in your path.</p>	<p>LIBRA</p> <p>SEP 24 - OCT 22</p> <p>This week, your plans prove to be good ones. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, you have an opportunity to establish new routines that can make a profound difference in your life. You might add daily exercise through an app or personal trainer. You could see big changes in your life in a very short time.</p>
<p>TAURUS</p> <p>APR 21 - MAY 20</p> <p>This week, your personal magnetism is high. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, you could have more interaction with the community. Taurus, you might be involved in charity work or doing something to help a political candidate. There might be an opportunity to work with a religious organization. This is a good time to volunteer some time to a worthy cause.</p>	<p>SCORPIO</p> <p>OCT 23 - NOV 22</p> <p>This week, you are helping and can be helped. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, you could have a very strong interest in creativity, music, or design. Scorpio, you might study an app for creating pictures or mixing musical scores. This is a good time to show your art to the world through a gallery or website. This is a good time to show the world what you can do.</p>
<p>GEMINI</p> <p>MAY 21 - JUN 20</p> <p>This week, you come into harmony with the energy of action. During this time, you are in harmony with the energy of Mars. This means that the actions you need to take are clear. You know what to do, and now you have a timeline in which to get it done. This is true if you're in school, hoping to travel. Any of these can get a burst of energy from Mars to help you complete it in a satisfactory manner.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS</p> <p>NOV 23 - DEC 22</p> <p>This week brings some stimulating activities. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, you have a great deal of focus on your dwelling. This could indicate that you're moving or doing some major renovations. Or you might decide to declutter and move the furniture around for better feng shui flow. Someone could be moving in or moving out of the house.</p>
<p>CANCER</p> <p>JUN 22 - JUL 23</p> <p>This week, friendships and strong emotional connections are highlighted. During this time, there are opportunities and lessons around giving and receiving. You're an expert at giving to the point of giving too much, but you could get some life lessons about receiving. You might receive things from new sources and new connections, including money, career opportunities, relationship connections, and new friends.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN</p> <p>DEC 23 - JUL 20</p> <p>This week, trying something new brings opportunities. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, you might be focused on how you get from point A to point B. Capricorn, you could be looking to get your vehicle repaired or upgraded in some way with paint or aftermarket accessories. You might also look at electric bikes, boats, or even flying lessons.</p>
<p>LEO</p> <p>JUL 24 - AUG 23</p> <p>This week, you're making new, important connections. Mars enters the sign of Aquarius, where it will remain until March 22. During this time, you have strong relationship opportunities. These include love relationships, friendships, business partnerships, and work collaborations. Focus on meeting new people and you'll make some great connections. Reach out to people to start a conversation.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS</p> <p>JAN 21 - FEB 23</p> <p>This week, small shifts can lead to valuable insights. The week begins with the sun entering the sign of Pisces. For the next four weeks, you might be very focused on finances. Aquarius, you have more financial opportunities now than you've had in a while. These could indicate an expansion of your business or an opportunity to get a raise at your job.</p>
<p>VIRGO</p> <p>JUL 24 - AUG 23</p> <p>This week, financial gain is possible. Mars enters the sign of Aquarius, where it will remain until March 22. During this time, you might look at changing your routines. Sometimes you can get so caught up in efficiency and productivity that you get stuck in a routine. But doing things differently can be stimulating, interesting, and exciting.</p>	<p>PISCES</p> <p>FEB 20 - MAR 20</p> <p>This week, it's good to trust your instincts. Mars enters the sign of Aquarius, where it will remain until March 22. This is a good time to put the finishing touches on a manuscript, home renovation, school project, or work for your job. Things you've been sitting on for a while can come to a natural conclusion. Pisces, you can see the light at the end of the tunnel.</p>