

MOVIE REVIEW

Hocus Focus



Director: Paierry Dodeja
Cast: Suchhi Kumar, Sona Bhandari,
Satinder Singh Gahlot,

STORY: A perfectly planned bank robbery turns into a deadly conspiracy when hidden cameras reveal a shocking truth. As the heist unfolds, the eight participants are shocked to discover they are trapped in a dangerous game of cat and mouse, manipulated by a shadowy figure with a ruthless motive.

REVIEW: Bank heist movies have an enduring appeal, offering a thrilling blend of suspense, intricate planning, and high-stakes drama. Combined with the raw and immersive quality of found footage or spy cam perspectives, these films elevate the tension to new heights. Writer-director Paierry Dodeja attempts to combine these two gritty qualities in Hocus Focus. The movie introduces us to Bubli Khan (Sona Bhandari), who likes to live the good life and has a string of lovers, one being a married man, whom she insists on divorcing his wife and marrying her instead. Her other paramours include a criminal, Ajit Pandit (Suchhi Kumar), and a cop, Inspector Khan (Satinder Singh Gahlot). An unknown figure has been watching her through a spy cam, and he coaxes her into participating in a bank robbery. She joins Inspector Khan, Aji Pandit, and other criminals to pull off the perfect heist. Each one, including the bank's manager, has their own motivation to agree—Bubli does it for money, Ajit Pandit for his love for her, two of his friends want one last big gig to lead a luxurious life, the bank manager is a gambler who owes people money, etc.

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

Striking Asymmetries



Author: Raj Chengappa
Pages: 312
Price: INR 596

Review: Twenty-five years after India and Pakistan conducted a series of nuclear tests in May 1998 and declared themselves as nuclear weapon states, it's a good time for stocktaking. There is no better expert than Ashley J. Tellis, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC, to do that. Tellis has been involved in the evolving nuclear scenario in the greater South Asian region for over four decades. His book, Striking Asymmetries: Nuclear Transitions in Southern Asia, goes beyond the nuclear dyad of India and Pakistan and rightly brings in the China factor: For it was China, not Pakistan, that drove India into developing its own nuclear arsenal after its defeat in 1962. By juxtaposing the two dyads, Tellis reveals fascinating parallels. As he puts it, in each case, the weaker state—Pakistan vis-à-vis India and India vis-à-vis China—is far more concerned about the stronger one, yet the stronger entity is compelled to keep the weaker in its strategic view. In both dyads, the disputes involve struggle over territory, besides ideological antagonisms and a quest for parity or primacy. These get further complicated by the larger geopolitical contest between China and Russia vis-à-vis the US.

While tracing the history of the Chinese and Indian quest for nuclear weapons, Tellis points out how both were reluctant nuclear powers. Mao Zedong, China's supreme leader, had famously disparaged nuclear weapons as "paper tigers" but came to understand their importance, describing them as "defensive weapons because we don't want to be bullied by others". In India, Jawaharlal Nehru was against making nukes but sanctioned the infrastructure for developing them. The go-ahead was given by Lal Bahadur Shastri a year after China exploded its first atomic bomb in 1964, as a deterrent against the country's military capability.

GADGET REVIEW

Redmi Note Pro Max 14



Expected Price	Rs 17,990
Display	6.67-inch
Resolution	1080x2400 pixels
Front Camera	13
Rear Camera	108+8+2
RAM	6GB, 8GB, 12GB
Storage	128GB, 256GB, 512GB
Battery Capacity	5000mAh
OS	Android 13
Processor	MediaTek Dimensity 9200+
Wi-Fi	Yes
GPS	Yes
Bluetooth	Yes
NFC	Yes
USB Type-C	Yes
Face unlock	Yes
Fingerprint Sensor	Yes
Magnetometer	Yes
Proximity sensor	Yes
Accelerometer	Yes
Ambient light sensor	Yes

Good

- * Great display with slim bezels.
- * Value for money.
- * Main camera produces good results in daylight.
- * Good battery life.

Bad

- * Runs Android 13.
- * Bloatware.
- * Lowlight camera performance

VEHICLE REVIEW

SONET



Starting Price	Rs. 8-15.77 Lakh
Fuel Type	Diesel
Engine Displacement	1493 cc
No. of Cylinders	4
Max Power	114bhp@4000rpm
Max Torque	250Nm@1500-2750rpm
Seating Capacity	5
Transmission Type	Automatic
Boot Space	385 Litres
Fuel Tank Capacity	45 Litres
Body Type	SUV
Front Suspension	McPherson Strut with Coil Spring
Rear Suspension	Coupled Torsion beam Axle (CTBA) With Coil Spring
Front Brake Type	Disc
Rear Brake Type	Disc
Connectivity	Android Auto, Apple CarPlay
No. of Speakers	9
No. of Airbags	6
Alloy Wheel Size Rear	16 Inch
Alloy Wheel Size Front	16 Inch

Pros

- * Tachometer
- * Glove Box
- * Dual Tone Dashboard

Cons

- * Leather Wrapped Steering Wheel
- * Leather wrap gear-shift selector
- * Cigarette Lighter
- * Folding Table in The Rear

Health and Lifestyle

DIY ways to make the planet greener: Small actions, big impact



Early monsoons in cities, delayed snowfall in the mountains, and flooding of entire countries are the results of our world dealing with global warming. To survive as a species in the long run, all of us must come together and make changes in our lifestyle. Here are 10 easy ways to help the planet heal:

Upcycling and repurposing: Don't discard old items! Consider giving them a new life. Turn old glass jars and bottles into plant pots or repurpose clothing into reusable bags. Not only does this reduce waste, but it also encourages creativity and reduces the demand for new products.

Composting: Composting is a simple and effective way to reduce household waste while enriching soil. Home composters that take up minimal space and emit no foul odors are easily available. By composting food scraps and yard waste, you can divert organic matter from landfills and create nutrient-rich soil for your garden.

Urban gardening: No matter how small your living space, there are creative ways to grow your own food. DIY vertical gardens, container gardens, and rooftop gardens make it possible to cultivate herbs and vegetables in urban environments. This not only reduces the carbon footprint associated with food transportation but also provides habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

Energy efficiency upgrades: Simple DIY upgrades to improve energy efficiency can reduce both utility bills and carbon emissions. Installing energy-efficient electronics and



adding insulation to walls are easy steps. Additionally, consider installing solar panels on the rooftop, which not only reduces electricity bills but also acts as a barrier from the heat.

Eco-friendly cleaning products: Many conventional cleaning products contain harmful chemicals that can harm both human health and the environment. DIY alternatives using natural ingredients like vinegar and baking soda are safer, cheaper, and more sustainable. You can also make Bio-enzymes at home from leftover lime and orange peels.

Reduce, reuse, recycle: The 3 R's remain a cornerstone of environmental stewardship. Reduce waste by opting for products with minimal packaging and avoiding single-use items whenever possible. Reuse items such as shopping bags, water bottles, and containers, and recycle materials like paper, glass, and plastic according to local guidelines.

Plantation: Plant a tree or trees with your loved ones on your birthday or any special occasion. Take care of it until it grows tall and sturdy and cherish its shade, fruits, and the happiness of contributing towards making the planet greener.

By embracing these DIY strategies, individuals can play a vital role in making the planet greener for future generations. Whether through upcycling, composting, urban gardening, energy efficiency upgrades, eco-friendly cleaning, or advocacy, every action counts in the collective effort to protect our environment. Together, we can create a more sustainable and resilient world.

ASTROLOGY

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS 11TH – 17TH AUGUST 2024

<p>ARIES</p> <p>MAR 21 - APR 19</p> <p>This week, you create an opportunity for yourself. Mars conjoins the North Node in your own sign of Aries and your house of confidence and conviction. Aries, you have the will to take on a big project, but you need a partner. Today, you could find someone to work with for a business venture, home project, or the next step in your career.</p>	<p>LIBRA</p> <p>SEP 23 - OCT 22</p> <p>This week, your positive attitude is contagious. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of relationships. Libra, you could be around a lot of new people today. You might attend an event or festival. You have the opportunity to make a connection with someone while you're enjoying an activity. If you're looking for a friend or love relationship.</p>
<p>TAURUS</p> <p>APR 20 - MAY 20</p> <p>This week, your capabilities are boundless. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of universal connection. Today, you can tap into the bigger Universe. Taurus, you might feel like information is being downloaded into your brain. You could have more energy and confidence now. The tools you need for your life path are within your grasp.</p>	<p>SCORPIO</p> <p>OCT 23 - NOV 21</p> <p>This week, you're getting to the heart of the matter. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of health and well-being. Scorpio, you could feel very motivated to change habits and routines to better support your body, mind, and spirit. You might start a new exercise program. You could set up equipment in your garage or spare room. You might connect with a personal trainer.</p>
<p>GEMINI</p> <p>MAY 21 - JUN 20</p> <p>This week, your resilience inspires others. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of friendships. One of your friends might have a brilliant idea, and this could lead to starting a business together or going on a trip to an exotic location. This helps both of you, especially if you've been stuck in a rut or feeling bored. If you're looking for love, you could find a special someone.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS</p> <p>NOV 22 - DEC 21</p> <p>This week, you see brighter days ahead. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of fun and adventure. Today, you can do something that is outside the box and even outside your comfort zone. Sagittarius, you might be climbing to new heights or swimming to new depths. Or you could be displaying your talents in front of an audience. By tomorrow, you could have some great stories to tell.</p>
<p>CANCER</p> <p>JUN 21 - JUL 22</p> <p>This week, you're following your heart. May 19, Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of reputation. What you do in the world today is very visible. If you're on social media, you might get more followers now. In your social circle, you could be at the head of the table. But note that if you're speeding down the highway, you could end up with a ticket.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN</p> <p>DEC 22 - JAN 19</p> <p>This week, your contributions in the world are noticed. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of family. Capricorn, you might come together with relatives for a joint project. Success is more likely when you partner with people you know well. You could combine resources for an investment or combine talents to build a business. This is a good day to start.</p>
<p>LEO</p> <p>JUL 23 - AUG 22</p> <p>This week, you turn challenges into opportunities. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of travel and adventure. Leo, this is a good day to plan a trip. You might find good prices for flights or accommodations. If you're traveling now, you could have an exceptionally good time. You might get involved with an organization or you could be voted into a position of authority in a group you belong to.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS</p> <p>JAN 20 - FEB 18</p> <p>This week, others admire your unique perspective. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of contracts and agreements. Aquarius, you might be looking over some paperwork today. This is a good day to fill out applications or commence an important project. If you're negotiating for a new car or apartment, you could do very well today. Friends and strangers might compliment your work.</p>
<p>VIRGO</p> <p>AUG 23 - SEP 22</p> <p>This week, you are pursuing a passion. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of resources from others. This is a good day to apply for a loan online or launch a business funding campaign. Virgo, you might go through the paperwork required by the SBA or talk to your wealthy uncle about giving you a loan.</p>	<p>PISCES</p> <p>FEB 19 - MAR 20</p> <p>This week, you're finding your own path. Mars conjoins the North Node in Aries and your house of financial gain. A moneymaking opportunity could open up for you, and you are ready to take action. This might be something you've been working on for some time, and now everything seems to come together for a profitable outcome.</p>