

The Raja Saab Review: Prabhas remains only solace in otherwise crass horror fantasy comedy



The Raja Saab, starring Prabhas in the lead role, released in theatres on Janu-

ary 9, 2026. Directed by Maruthi, the fantasy horror comedy features Sanjay

eral other notable actors in key roles. If you're planning to watch it in theatres, here is the Pinkvilla review for you to check out.

The Raja Saab follows the tale of Raja, a young man who lives with his grandmother, Gangamma. His grandmother suffers from Alzheimer's and only remembers her missing husband, Kanakaraju, and Raja.

Often, Kanakaraju appears in Gangamma's dreams, indicating a mysterious connection. As Raja stumbles upon a clue that could unravel his grandfather's disappearance, he is guided toward a haunted mansion.

What is the mystery behind the haunted mansion, and what happens when Raja comes across his grandfather's spiteful ghost, is explored in the rest of the story.

The Raja Saab's biggest

saying grace in an otherwise cringe fest is Prabhas. Unlike his previous ventures that focused on action, drama, and larger-than-life avatars, this time the Saaho actor takes a 180-degree turn from his earlier roles, becoming a true darling.

The pitch and tone of the content on offer are truly something else and could have connected with the audience if not for the excessive scale and flawed execution.

Apart from a few light-hearted moments, nothing else manages to earn enough attention or praise.

From a technical standpoint, Thaman S truly delivers as the music composer, offering several tracks and tunes, even though they feel unnecessary to the screenplay by the end. Additionally, Karthik Palani does a commendable job with the visuals.

What Happens When a Romantic Escape Goes Terribly Wrong? Catch Hungama OTT's *Prayagraj Ki Love Story* to Find Out!



Talking about his role, Gaurav Sharma, who essays Anshul Singh, said, "Anshul is a sensitive and understanding boy, but he's also heavily influenced by social media. When things spiral out of control, his instincts take over. What I enjoyed most was showing that transition from comfort to crisis. Shooting across real locations in Prayagraj added honesty to every scene. You feel the chaos, and you feel the fear."

Speaking about the series, Ambika Vani, who plays Sonia Shukla, shared, "This was my first project, and I couldn't have asked for a more rewarding start. Sonia begins as someone in love and slowly becomes someone fighting for her life. That shift was emotionally intense. What stayed with me was her resilience. Even when everything is taken away, she doesn't give up on herself or on love."

Pavitra Punia, who plays Rajni Singh, shared, "Rajni is a complex character who does not fit into easy definitions. She's layered, unpredictable, and emotionally driven. *Prayagraj Ki Love Story* challenged me as an actor, especially with its mix of romance, thrill, and survival. Working with Hungama OTT again felt like a natural creative partnership."

A Task Force of Honest Officers Takes on a Global Smuggling Empire - Netflix Drops the Trailer for 'Taskaree: The Smuggler's Web'

The new year begins on high alert as Arjun Meena's team takes position. Today, Netflix unveiled the electrifying trailer of Taskaree: The Smuggler's Web, an upcoming thriller that thrusts viewers into a relentless battle of wits inside government customs, where concealment is craft, intel is currency, and there are no second chances.

Spanning key smuggling corridors across Al-Dera, Addis Ababa, Milan and Bangkok, Taskaree opens up the complex machinery of the international smuggling world - a web built on coded routes, false manifests, and calculated misdirection. At its centre is a specialised customs task force at one of the busiest airports in the country, Mumbai International Airport, led by an uncompromisingly honest team of officers: Arjun Meena (Emraan Hashmi), Mitali Kamath (Am-

rutakhanvilkar), Ravinder Gujjar (Nandish Singh Sandhu), and Prakash Kumar (Anurag Sinha). These officers rely on instinct as much as intelligence, knowing one missed detail can undo weeks of surveillance. Standing in their way is the notorious kingpin, Bada Chaudhary (Sharad Kelkar), and his powerful syndicate, which operates through layers of deceit and global routes designed to stay off the radar.

A nail-biting suspense from the house of Neeraj Pandey, Taskaree captures the tense world of global smuggling with every suitcase, passenger and shipment concealing secret ripe for exposure and customs officers must stay three steps ahead in this relentless game of deception.

Creator Neeraj Pandey shares, "Customs has been a world I've always wanted to explore! The idea of stepping inside customs enforce-

ment, a space that operates quietly, precisely and under constant pressure, drew me in. Bringing this vision to life has been incredibly exciting, especially with a cast and crew who were completely invested from day zero and understood the rhythm and realism the story demanded. We're thrilled to collaborate once again with Netflix after a successful franchise with Khakee.

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Shahid Kapoor pushes all limits to sport a full body tattoo in Vishal Bhardwaj's O Romeo

Actor Shahid Kapoor and Vishal Bhardwaj have come together again for their fourth film, O Romeo. This has led to a lot of excitement and anticipation among fans. Slated for a theatrical release next month on February 13, 2026, the film is already being described by insiders as one of the most daring and emotionally charged projects of both Shahid and Vishal's careers. Now, Pinkvilla has exclusively learnt that Shahid Kapoor will appear in a striking, never-seen-before avatar for the film.

According to the sources, he highly talented actor will be seen sporting a full body tattoo for the visionary filmmaker's movie. This radical transformation is said to be central to his character's identity and psychological depth, marking a first-of-its-kind look not only for the actor but also possibly for the Indian cinema as a whole. The sources revealed the physical transformation demanded intense preparation, with the creative team paying meticulous attention to the tattoo's design, placement, and narrative relevance. The look is re-

portedly not cosmetic but deeply embedded into the story, reflecting the character's inner turmoil, rage, and emotional scars. Those familiar with the project describe O Romeo as Shahid Kapoor and Vishal Bhardwaj's most ambitious and intense collaboration to date. Every department, from performance and

aesthetics to storytelling, is said to be operating at peak precision.

The actor-director duo, known for pushing boundaries in films like Haider and Kaminey, is reportedly leaving no stone unturned to deliver a cinematic experience that is raw, unsettling, and unforgettable.

With its courageous creative

choices and a fearless central performance, O Romeo is shaping up to be far more than a conventional release. As anticipation continues to build, all eyes are going to be on Shahid Kapoor's dramatic transformation and what promises to be one of the most audacious roles of his career.

&TV Actors Share Their Favourite Makar Sankranti Traditions and Delicacies!

As the sky fills with colourful kites and the aroma of sesame and jaggery fills the air, Makar Sankranti brings with it warmth, togetherness, and the joy of celebrating harvest and new beginnings. &TV actors Seerat Kapoor (Savi in GharwaliPedwali), Geetanjali Mishra (Rajesh in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Vidisha Srivastava (Anita Bhabhi in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) share their fond memories, favourite delicacies, and special family traditions that make the festival truly special for them. Seerat Kapoor, who essays the role of Savi in GharwaliPedwali, shares, "Makar Sankranti has always been one of my favourite festivals because of the vibrant energy it brings. I absolutely love kite flying! Since childhood, it has been a friendly family competition who can fly the highest kite or cut the most! I still remember one hilarious incident when I got so excited after cutting a neighbour's kite that I was not watching mine it flew straight into the water tank! Everyone burst out laughing, and it became a running joke in the family."

Even now, whenever I am home during Sankranti, we make it a point to go up to the terrace, blast some music, and enjoy the day. And of course, the food is a huge part of the celebration! Tilguladdoos and chikkis are my absolute favourites. My mom makes them at home with pure ghee and jaggery, and the aroma itself feels festive. It's a day filled with laughter, sunshine, and the sweetness of togetherness."

Geetanjali Mishra, known for her role as Rajesh in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, adds, "For me, Makar Sankranti is about nostalgia and flavours that re-



mind me of my roots. Growing up, I remember waking up early, helping my mother prepare traditional dishes like tilguladdoos and puran poli. The entire house would smell of roasted sesame and jaggery it still takes me back to those simple, happy times. Even now, no matter how busy I am, I make sure to prepare puran poli at home."

My family and neighbours come together, and we share sweets and kites. It is not just about celebrating the harvest; it is about celebrating togetherness, warmth, and gratitude." Vidisha Srivastava, who plays Anita Bhabhi in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, shares, "Makar Sankranti is such a beautiful festival that marks positivity and change. I love everything about it the cool breeze, the colourful skies, and especially the food! At my home, we have a little tradition of making tilguladdoos and gur chikki together."



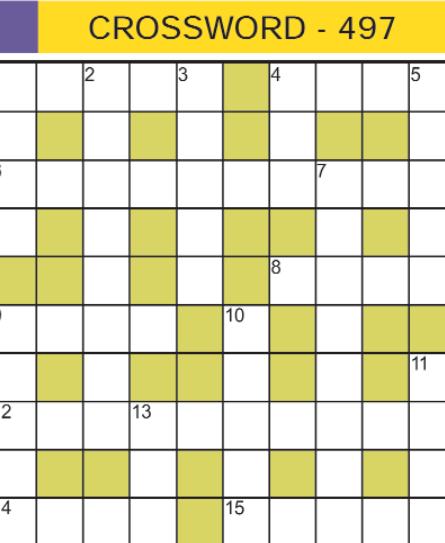
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating a digit. Please see example given below.

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-2106



CROSSWORD - 497

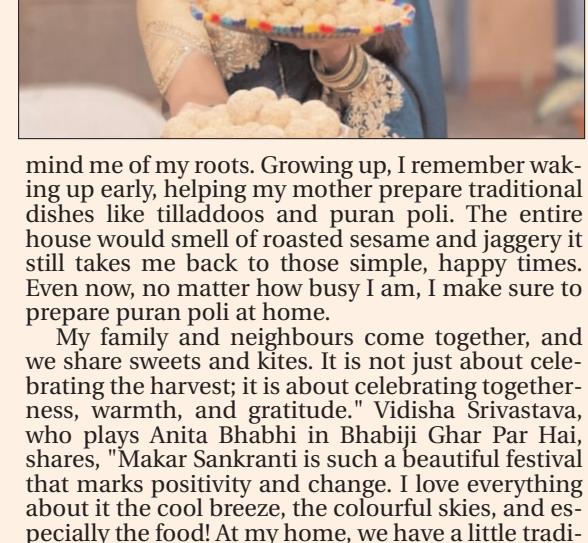


Across

1. A cylindrical glass vessel with a large neck - 5
4. Not fair - 4
6. Not nice - 10
8. Tall - 4
9. Far away - 4
12. Based on analogy - 10
14. A verge - 4
15. A sluice in a river - 5

Down

1. A wrestling match - 4
2. A South American tailless rodent - 8
3. A person holding a fief - 5
4. Former computer operating system - 3
5. A sailing vessel - 5
7. A saber - 8
9. To astonish greatly - 5
10. Protection - 5
11. To swing around - 4
13. A falsehood - 3



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