

HT @100 MY COUNTRY MY LENS

'I had natural affinity for photography, my dad loved it'

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Dia Mirza Rekhi wears many hats — model, actor, environmentalist, and photographer. Her passion for photography traces back to her childhood. Watching her late father, German artist Frank Handrich, with a camera in hand sparked her interest in the art form.

"My father loved photography. In fact, some of my prized belongings are photographs shot by him. He even developed the films himself. So, I have always had a natural affinity for photography," shares the 43-year-old.

Given her deep involvement in environmental causes, even working on the ground to support them, she felt a natural pull toward capturing the beauty of nature. "Once I started spending time in forests, I picked up a camera to document the wonders I was witnessing," adds Dia.

Over the years, she has nurtured this passion for photography. Reflecting on some of the stunning images she's captured, she says, "The most special pictures I have taken in the wild are tender playful moments of a lions' pride."

Her dream as a photographer? "India has 573 wildlife sanctuaries! I hope to visit each of them." When it comes to her photography subjects, her focus she says has evolved. "My subjects for the pictures I take are wildlife and nature. And since I've become a mother — my children," she signs off.

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/DIAMIRZAOFFICIAL

Dia Mirza; (inset) her photographs of wildlife



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India's key investments at WEF 2025 driving growth and innovation

During the 55th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, **Sunil Kumar Gupta**, Founder of SARC Associates and Indo European Business Forum, led a high-powered delegation to showcase India's investment potential. The delegation included Rajendra Bagade (India Global Chamber of Business), Chandra Sekhar Akula (SARC Associates), Probir Roy (Nazara Tech and PayMate) and Ashutosh Verma (Anvi).

Key discussions were held with leaders such as Ashwini Vaishnav, Devendra Fadnavis, and Manoj Singh to foster growth in gaming,



Rajendra Bagade, Director of India Global Chamber of Business; Uday Samant, Minister of Industries, Maharashtra; and Sunil Kumar Gupta, Founder of SARC Associates

fintech and digital economies. Gupta emphasised developing youth-centric sunrise industries. Maharashtra emerged as a fintech and gaming hub with ₹6.25 lakh crore in investments, while Uttar

Pradesh attracted Coca-Cola and AB InBev partnerships. Verma showcased AI-driven financial inclusion through Anvi, highlighting India's innovative vision for its \$10 trillion economic goal.

Asha Bhosle on recent Tauba Tauba stint: I love to break boundaries

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In December last year, Asha Bhosle surprised everyone when videos of her singing and grooving to the hit number *Tauba Tauba* (*Bad Newz*; 2024) went viral from a concert in Dubai. Sharing how that idea came about, the veteran says, "If anything, I shall be remembered as a person who did the unexpected. I can't conform to a set style of performance. I love to stretch and sometimes even break boundaries. Maybe, this has made me attempt varied musical styles that purists frowned upon. Perhaps, that's why I am referred to as a versatile artiste."

So, does that mean she follows the music of today, which is also high on genres like hip-hop and Punjabi party bangers? "I listen to anything that is good to my ears. I don't differentiate between old music and new music. There's only good music and bad music. Having said that, what may be good for my ears could be bad for yours. It's very subjective," she says, adding, "When I was growing up, there was a lot of forgettable music, too. And then there was a ton of classic music that has survived time."

Meanwhile, ask what a day in the life of Asha Bhosle is like these days, and the 91-year-old says, "My life is less strenuous now. I'm not rushing from one studio to another. I have more leisure time that I spend with my grand kids and Great grandchildren. When my kids were growing up, I didn't have the liberty to spend much time with them, but now that I have the time, I'm trying to undo my mistakes. Of course, I still record songs (*Saaiyan Bina* is her new song) and do selective concerts, where I get to shake a leg to *Tauba Tauba* (laughs)."



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

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