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See page 29



# Making the finals

Two community stalwarts, both from Bradford, nominated for coveted national award

A West Yorkshire police officer, along with a prolific fundraiser, have both made the finals a coveted national award.

Having beaten off some 90,000 applicants for the awards, PC Dharmesh Mistry,

and prolific fundraiser - Nazim Ali, have both made it into the final eight of the 'Positive Role Model for Race, Religion and Faith' category of this year's National Diversity Awards.

Hailed as the 'Golden Globes' of the diversity world,

the National Diversity Awards unites UK citizens irrespective of race, faith, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability and culture.

**Continued on page 8**

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**“I was at my friend’s house, watching the fight on a massive projector, and seeing Tommy Fury wearing our gloves was a dream come true.”**

**DYNAMIC DUO:** Pharmacist-turned-entrepreneur Anas Rehman with his brother-in-law and business partner Muhammed Tayyub



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# From pharmacy to the ring...

## How an entrepreneur dove head first into the world of high quality boxing accessories and equipment

**In the world of sport, where innovation often meets tradition, two entrepreneurs have punched their way into the spotlight by revolutionising boxing equipment.**

Meet trailblazers Anas Rehman and Muhammad Tayyab, the men behind Bravose, a brand that's redefining the game with cutting-edge gear designed to keep fighters at their best.

Bravose has fast become a fearless and ambitious brand born out of a true, long-lasting passion for boxing and combat sport.

The story begins with a unique twist. From a background steeped in pharmacy and medicine, Anas Rehman turned his attention to a sport he'd long admired: Boxing.

A keen footballer in his youth and an avid boxing fan - he even met his idol, Prince Naseem Hamed - this entrepreneur saw a gap in the market for safer, more effective boxing gloves.

In 2018, amidst the hustle of daily life and a global pandemic on the horizon, Anas and his brother-in-law Muhammed Tayyab set out to create something extraordinary.

Armed with a modest budget, they invested in developing a revolutionary boxing glove. "We saw a lot of gloves on the market with poor wrist protection, leading to injuries," says

Anas.

"We took it upon ourselves to design a glove that offered enhanced protection.

"Working closely with boxers, fighters and gyms across the UK, we developed a truly outstanding boxing glove through refinement and consultation, approved by the British Boxing Board of Control."

**"Bravose: Where every punch thrown is backed by the best gear on the market."**

Fast forward to 2020, and just as the world was thrown into chaos, Bravose faced its own hurdles. Balancing his job as a pharmacist with the fledgling brand, Anas poured countless hours into both.

Then came a pivotal moment: he made the daring decision to leave his secure job and dive headfirst into the boxing world.

"Leaving my stable job was terrifying, but it turned out to be the best decision ever. Sales soared, and the whole operation started to come together," recalls Anas.

And soar they did. Bravose not

only weathered the storm but emerged stronger, gaining traction in the highly competitive arena of boxing gear.

The real knockout came when Bravose equipment hit the big stage. The brand secured a place in high-profile boxing events and drew attention from major figures in the sport. Tommy Fury donned Bravose gloves during a spectacular Pay-Per-

View showdown, a moment Anas describes as 'completely' surreal. "I was at my friend's house, watching the fight on a massive projector, and seeing Tommy Fury wearing our gloves was a dream come true," he said, still in awe.

expanding its reach, with upcoming exhibitions in Germany, and a growing presence on Amazon. The co-founder's dedication to improving boxing gear is evident in every product they offer, from gloves to head guards.

"My brother-in-law Tayyab is the backbone of the brand, and us working together has proven great success. We both have completely different skill sets which, we're able to pull together.

"And then, there's teamwork - it's crucial that you're all on the same wavelength- that's invaluable. We're incredibly fortunate to have an exceptional team, with the same passion as Tayyab and myself, working with us.

The journey hasn't been without

its challenges, but it's also been filled with triumphs. With his brother-in-law managing the technical side and the Anas focusing on professional relationships and marketing, Bravose is set to continue its ascent in the boxing world.

As the co-founder reflects on his journey from pharmacist to boxing innovator, he remains driven by a single goal: to build a global community around Bravose, where every punch thrown is backed by the best gear on the market.

"In sports, it's all about trust and credibility," he says. "When a fighter chooses our gear over established brands, it's the ultimate endorsement. We're just getting started, and there's so much more to come."



(Picture credit: David Cavan)

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# Love and kindness

## Nazim Ali Foundation celebrates Islamic date by spreading joy across Bradford and Keighley

In a heartfelt celebration of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday, the Nazim Ali Foundation hosted its second annual 'Mawlid in the City' initiative, spreading joy and kindness throughout the community.

On the 12th of Rabbi Ul Awwal, which marks the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the foundation organised various charitable activities, including the 11th Annual 'Creating Smiles Gifts Initiative.'

This year, over 30 gifts were distributed to children in need, alongside roses for the dedicated nursing staff at Airedale Hospital's Children Ward 17.

The foundation served 183 three-course meals at its weekly Khidma Community Kitchen in Manningham, reaching out to the homeless and vulnerable. In just six months, nearly 5,000 meals have been provided to those in need.

As part of the celebration, 110 roses were handed out in Keighley Town Centre, promoting peace, love, and harmony. Many community members expressed their gratitude, with emotional responses highlighting the positive impact of these gestures.

Nazim Ali, founder of the initiative, dedicated the celebrations to the memory of his late father and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), emphasising the importance of kindness and compassion. "These values bring us together, regardless of faith," he stated.

The foundation also delivered over 30 gifts to poorly children at Airedale Hospital, including cuddly toys and play sets, aimed at uplifting the spirits of young patients. Nazim reflected on his own childhood experiences in hospitals, expressing a deep empathy for the children and their families.

Support from local businesses has been instrumental. Shiraz and Fairaz Ahmed of Saveco Cash & Carry have been long-time sponsors of the initiative, furthering their commitment to community welfare.

Karen Reece, Play Leader at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, expressed gratitude for the foundation's continued support, noting how the toys always bring cheer to the children.

With nearly £975,000 raised for charity over 27-years, the Nazim Ali Foundation remains committed to fostering community spirit and helping those in need, embodying the teachings of compassion and service to others.



(Back Left to Right): Wajid Khan (Friend of Airedale Hospital), Ward Staff including Maria Barrick (Play Specialist) & Nazim Ali (Founder of the Nazim Ali Foundation)



Nazim Ali (Founder of the Nazim Ali Foundation) with members of the Keighley public

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# LEBANON: £10M Emergency Appeal

## Islamic Relief charity calls for an end to attacks on innocent civilians

Following Lebanon's deadliest day in decades, Islamic Relief has launched a £10 million emergency appeal to support people affected by the escalating Israeli attacks.

More than 558 people, including over 50 children, have now been reported killed since yesterday, and more than 1,800 people wounded. Thousands of families are fleeing their homes in panic and are now seeking shelter in crowded schools, as more Israeli airstrikes tear through neighbourhoods today.

After almost a year of gradual escalation, more than 116,000 people in Lebanon have been displaced and are in desperate need of aid.

Islamic Relief's appeal is looking to raise an initial £10 million to expand their efforts to provide vital aid to displaced families.

With Israeli attacks on Gaza also continuing unabated, Islamic Relief continues to call for an immediate ceasefire across the region, and for all parties to respect international law and protect civilians.

Akram Sadeq Ali, Islamic Relief's Country Director in Lebanon, says: "The past few days have seen the heaviest attacks on Lebanon in many years. The country has turned upside down and is in complete chaos, with more people fleeing their homes every hour and taking refuge in crowded schools.

"Our team is delivering mattresses and blankets to new arrivals at some of the schools, and we will be providing displaced families with food and medical supplies for clinics. We're exhausting all efforts to deliver aid to those affected by this crisis."



People can make donations to the 'Lebanon Emergency Appeal' by visiting: [www.islamic-relief.org.uk](http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk)

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# Making the finals

## Two community stalwarts, both from Bradford, nominated for coveted national award

### Cover story continued

PC Mistry has been a serving officer with West Yorkshire Police since 2005 and currently works in the force's People department as an Internal Quality Assurer.

Despite suffering with arthritis in both knees, PC Mistry is an active volunteer with numerous initiatives across West Yorkshire, helping the homeless and vulnerable with food and clothing.

The trustee of the Bradford Hindu Council and the current Temp Chair of the WY Hindu Police Association, he's also a member of the National Police Chiefs' Council Race and Religion Team and part of the Leeds Council Strategic Faith Leaders Board.

More recently, he's organised and implemented the Leeds Faith Trail, which takes colleagues and members of the community to experience different faith establishments - visiting a Mosque, Hindu Temple, a Church, Gurdwara and a Synagogue.

PC Mistry, said: "My passion of bringing awareness of my Hindu faith and its community to mine and other organisations, and to other faith communities has been at the forefront of my work.

"Volunteering has helped me get through the dark days in my life and has allowed me to make a positive difference to people less fortunate than myself, so to be considered as a role model for the

things I do makes me feel very proud."

Nazim Ali, meanwhile, has been shortlisted for his unstinting dedication and relentless commitment to community, charity and humanitarian aid initiatives in the UK and overseas.

Nazim, known as the 'Ramadan Runner' for his running challenges whilst fasting, has been fundraising for over 26-years for numerous charitable causes both here at home and abroad. His astonishing endeavours have seen him raise a massive £950,000 for charity in the last 12-years alone, and he says he can't wait to hit the 'Magical £1M Milestone'.

"I am profoundly humbled to have been shortlisted for the National Diversity Awards 2024," said Nazim. "To be a finalist after over 90,000 nominations shows just how fierce the competition was just to get shortlisted. God willing as a proud Bradfordian I look forward to representing my city at the awards evening."

Winners will be announced on 4th October, 2024 at the prestigious 13th National Diversity Awards in the stunning Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.



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The University of Huddersfield has been recognised as a regional winner in the prestigious Chamber Business Awards 2024 for its new National Health Innovation Campus.

Its triumph comes in the Local Economy of the Future – Business of the Year category and the University will now advance to the national finals.

The Campus is a transformative project for the region which faces some of the biggest health challenges in the country.

It includes world-leading research facilities, specialist clinical teaching and a range of public-facing services – where the next generation of healthcare professionals will learn the skills and knowledge needed to address these challenges.

# University of Huddersfield wins Chamber Business Award

Located at Southgate in the centre of Huddersfield, the first building on the campus, named after the NHS's first black matron Daphne Steele, is already welcoming healthcare students through its doors.

Work is also underway on the second building, which will include a Community Diagnostic Centre in partnership with Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, providing access to thousands of additional diagnostic tests, including MRI and CT scanners.

The Campus will also allow the

expansion of courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, as well as into new course areas, such as Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, and Diagnostic Radiography.

In total, the seven-acre site has planning permission for up to seven buildings, which will all be built to the WELL building standard ensuring the highest standards for the health and wellbeing of students, staff and users.

The exciting development offers regeneration, investment,

employment and growth opportunities, delivering a major boost to the regeneration of Huddersfield town centre. It is also part of the West Yorkshire Investment Zone, the £160 million 10-year-long scheme which is focusing on local innovation in health and wellbeing.

The national winners of the awards, which are organised by the British Chambers of Commerce, are expected to be announced on 17 October.



## Man jailed after £5.7m worth of cocaine found in his vehicle

A man whose car was found to be laden with more than 100 packages of Class A drugs has been jailed for 10 years.

Garry Sinclair, 37, was sentenced on Tuesday (24 September) at Bradford Crown Court after he pleaded guilty to possessing Class A drugs with intent to supply.

Sinclair was driving a Volkswagen Passat along Valley Road in Shipley on 5 October last year when officers carried out a stop on his vehicle.

Sinclair, of Cliffe Lane in Gomersal, used his vehicle to ram two police cars as he attempted to flee, causing damage to the cars in the process, but was brought to a stop soon after and arrested for dangerous driving and criminal damage.

A search of the vehicle led to 111 packages being located inside.

These were found to contain a total of 57 kilos of cocaine, with an estimated street value of £5.7m. Sinclair was further arrested for possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply.

Sinclair refused to comment when quizzed by officers about how he came to be in possession of the drugs and was promptly charged with offences relating to the drugs and his driving. He was remanded to appear before magistrates in Bradford on 7 October, where he pleaded guilty to all charges.

Detective Sergeant James Gross, of Programme Precision, said: "This was a significant seizure of Class A drugs which would have no doubt ended up on the streets of West Yorkshire had they not been intercepted."

"Sinclair drove dangerously in an attempt to escape the officers who had stopped him, but they successfully detained him without serious injury. I would like to thank them for their efforts and their bravery in bringing this man to justice."

"Programme Precision works closely with partners to tackle organised crime in West Yorkshire and anyone with information about those suspected of being involved in the supply of drugs or weapons is urged to pass this to our officers by calling 101, or by using the livechat facility on the West Yorkshire Police website."

Information can also be reported anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online."

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# Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust officially registered as an NGO in the USA

H.E. Ambassador to USA Rizwan Saeed Sheikh pledged support for KORT's USA chapter

The Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) has registered itself as a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) for the Pakistani and Azad Kashmiri diaspora in America.

Kick-starting KORT's work in New York with an impactful orientation session for the local community early September, the event highlighted the charity's dedication to supporting vulnerable and orphaned children through education, healthcare, and empowerment initiatives.

Chaudhry Mohammed Akhtar said: "The audience [in New York], responded with immense appreciation for KORT's work in providing hope and opportunity to those in need.

"Following this event, we're so excited to announce the establishment of the 'KORT New Jersey Team', during a special event in New Jersey.

"This new chapter marks a major step forward in our efforts to support orphaned and vulnerable children. The team is eager to bring positive change and strengthen the local community's involvement in KORT's mission.

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and joined us in this important initiative. Together, we can make a lasting difference!"

In Washington DC, KORT Ch Mohammed Akhtar, met with His Excellency Ambassador to USA, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, who assured full support for the organisation's USA chapter.

KORT's reputation precedes itself, since the inception of its journey 18- years ago following the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that rocked the northern areas of Kashmir and Pakistan.

Ch Mohammed Akhtar says: "Back then, witnessing the plight of thousands – especially the orphan children compelled me to respond. In 2005, I took the first steps in opening my heart and home to those in need. I rented a building and established sanctuary for orphan children, but that was just the beginning.

"In 2008 fuelled by desire to provide even greater support, I took on what would become the most ambitious project of my life. With a vision in mind I set out to create a new purpose-built facility, that would redefine the very concept of an orphanage. And am proud to say that we've delivered educational and residential projects for over 1,500 children.

"But now our mission extends far beyond the wall of the orphanage. We have numerous on-going projects across Azad Kashmir to help better the lives of vulnerable individuals."

KORT's most latest endeavour includes the £32M three-year 'Jorian Hospital' project in Mirpur District. The new state-of-the-art 576 bed hospital complex will feature an A&E department, along with full hospital services such as outpatient care, radiology, paediatrics, pathology, pulmonary, dental and eye clinics. Also being developed are on-site educational and training facilities for nurses, doctors and dentists.

Other remarkable projects include the 'Education for ALL' project, which has so far built and delivered numerous schools in remote areas of Azad Kashmir; and the 'Houses for Widows' project, which has seen KORT build 30 homes and hand over keys to vulnerable widows and their children. This work is ongoing.



To find out more about KORT's mission, and how you can get involved, please visit: [www.kort.org.uk](http://www.kort.org.uk)



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# From Birmingham to Bradford

## Midlands-based street artist Mohammed Ali 'Aerosol' creates 32-foot mural for Yorkshire

32ft 'Fuelling Futures' mural will inspire young people to dream big



**If you drive into Manningham Lane, you're in for a BIG surprise!**

'Neon Intermission' a 32-foot mural commissioned by Bradford community arts and culture organisation 'The Leap', and created by Birmingham-based street artist Mohammed Ali 'Aerosol', is greeting motorists and pedestrians passing the historic Connaught Rooms building.

The street art depicts a young Muslim woman taking an intermission to read whilst she leans against her car, with a part of Bradford's cityscape reflected in a wing mirror.

The mural, along with several other pieces of public art, is part of The Leap's Fuelling Futures campaign, a partnership with Mission 44, Bradford College and Bradford Council, alongside a wide range of businesses in the motor industry.

The huge dreamscape style artwork, which the artists said was partly inspired stylistically by the Blade Runner films, is thought to be the largest piece of outdoor art in Bradford.

Mr Ali spent a year creating it in his Birmingham studio in several different pieces, which have now been installed with the help of a crane.

For the artist himself, it's all about empowering and inspiring young people to dream big. He said: "My desire was

to paint some messages that are about uplifting young people and the next generation, and trying to equip them with skills and the ability to alter their futures, their trajectory".

He added: "A lot of my work is around social justice and values that are about trying to uplift communities and bring people together. So the concept inspired me - using the arts on this big, bold scale on a giant building which you can't miss and you can see from afar.

"I've got a long history in Bradford, I love the city.

"For me, this is like my gift to plant into the Bradford landscape as a big bold mural that speaks to the everyday people in a very accessible way.

"For me, taking art to everyday people is really one of my missions, and the organisations I'm aligned with, I think we're totally on that same page.

"There's no better medium really of taking art into the everyday more than street art. It is such an amazing way of letting art spill out onto the streets and reach people that it wouldn't reach in a fancy gallery."

Mr Ali also hopes the mural will fuel further interest in people creating street art, and help it play a part in Bradford's upcoming year as UK City of Culture.

"Taking art into the streets like this at this important time, where the nation will be seeing what's coming out of Bradford, I think it's really timely and important to have," he said.

Mr Ali was invited by Bradford community arts organisation The Leap to paint the mural as part of its Fuelling Futures campaign in partnership with Mission 44, which is Sir Lewis Hamilton's charity. Its aim is to harness Bradford's well known car culture to raise aspirations.

Sabir Musaji from The Leap said: "A

piece of art like this can really make a difference and that's what we're about.

"This is now going to be one of three new cultural landmarks from The Leap.

"We've done the Living Wall on Leeds Road, we are also working towards an eco-park, and this.

"When people give directions, people are going to be referring to this as a landmark like 'take a left at the mural'. We've been very lucky to work with some amazing partners including Mohammed Ali."

The mural took a team of three people three days to install in its component parts, which included 16 separate wooden panels built together.

The artwork was already causing a stir just minutes after the completion of the installation.

Drivers and pedestrians stopped to admire it and take photos.

Also popping along to see it unveiled was visual artist and spoken work poet Asma Elbadawi, who is also a basketball player known for successfully campaigning to get a ban on hijabs for women partaking in the sport lifted.

She said she hoped the powerful image of a girl in a headscarf would inspire other girls and young people to follow their dreams.

"I think it's amazing. I'm dyslexic, I have my own way of communicating, mostly through art.

"Something like this, that has such a strong message that can be seen by people driving by and walking by, is pretty amazing.

"Having messages like this like across different areas in Bradford, but especially here on such a busy road, is really good for people to see.

"It's powerful - it sends a message straight away to young people, and tells them to dream."





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**76% of the public agree “Fathers these days want to be a bigger part of their children’s lives”**

# Statues across UK covered in baby slings in call for better paternity leave

**A major new campaign has been launched by British dads calling on Keir Starmer to increase paternity leave for new fathers and co-parents.**

The campaign is seeking to improve the UK’s paternity leave offer, which at just two weeks each paid £184.03 is the worst in Europe.

Campaigners put baby slings on statues across London and Edinburgh, highlighting the role many sportsmen, artists, historical figures and members of the public play as fathers and how this is often forgotten.

This comes as a poll of 4,043 adults found 76% agree that “Fathers these days want to be a bigger part of their children’s lives”, rising to 90% among dads and 83% among Labour voters.

With Labour committed to a review

of parental leave policies in their first year in office, The Dad Shift is inviting members of the public and major national figures to sign their letter to Keir Starmer, calling on him as a fellow father to get behind the campaign.

George Gabriel, co-founder of The Dad Shift said, “We’re celebrating the role these figures played as fathers as we launch this new campaign for better paternity leave. 90% of dads agree that fathers these days want to be a bigger part of their kids’ lives.

“Having seen Keir Starmer stand up for his right to spend time with his children we know he gets it and are sure that a better deal for British dads and co-parents is possible.”

Alex Lloyd Hunter, co-founder of The Dad Shift said, “Decent paternity leave is good for fathers, good for

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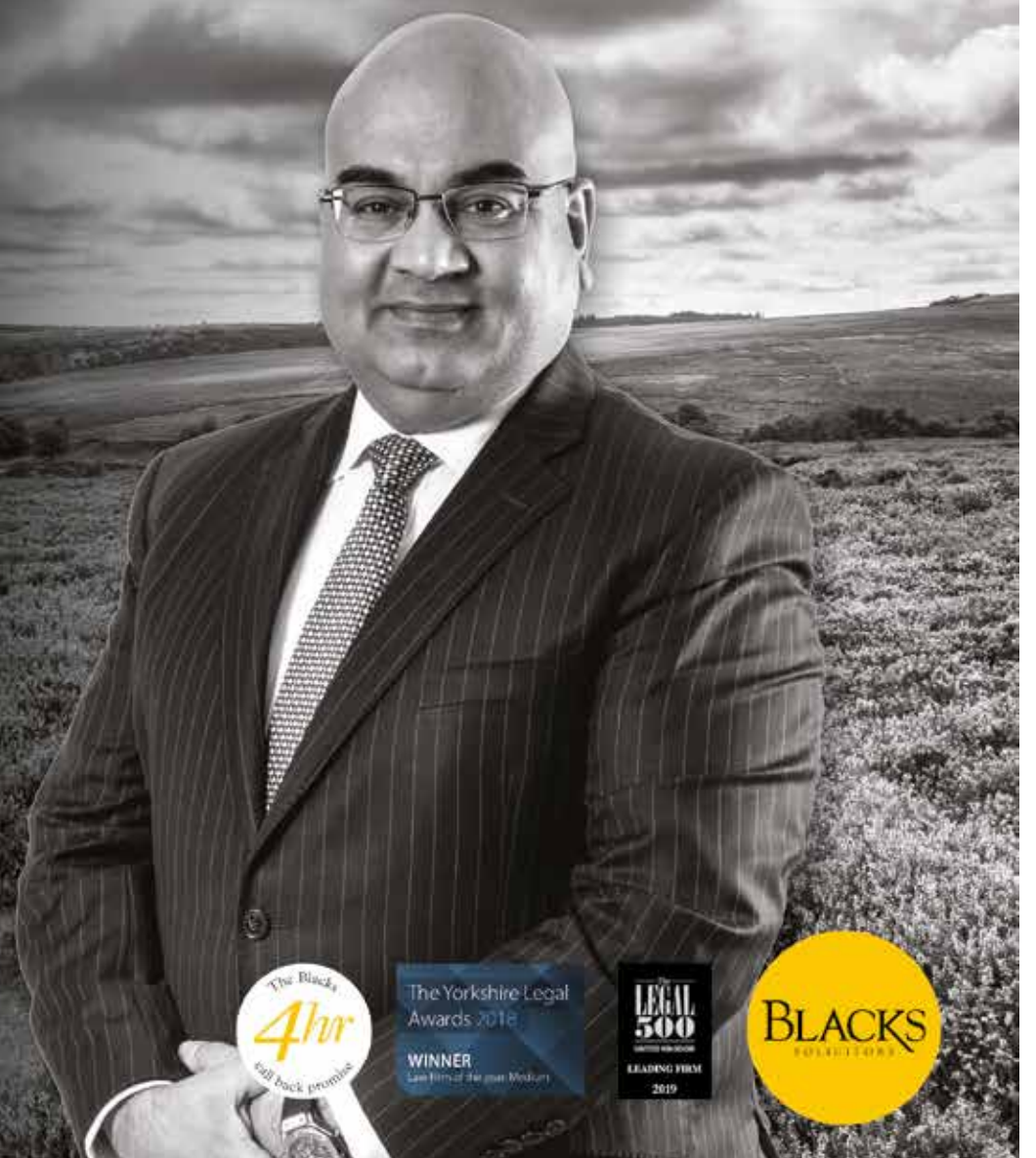
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mothers and good for babies too. We are calling for paternity leave that is affordable for people to take, gives a substantial allowance of time, and supports equality among parents. It's past time we caught up with the rest of Europe and backed British families."

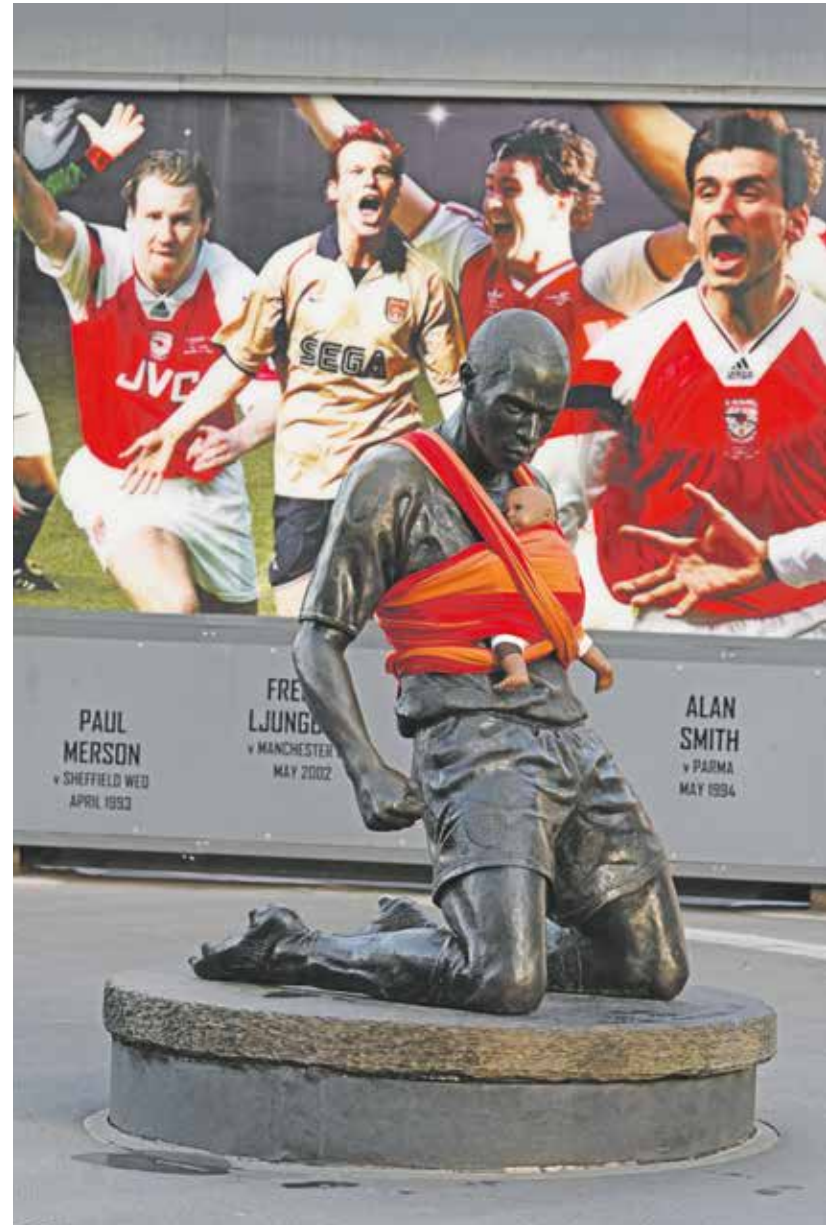
The UK's current statutory paternity offer ranks 40/43 across the entire OECD in financial terms, but a growing number of employers offer substantially more generous and appropriate leave. These include Aviva, who offer 6 months parental leave to both mums and dads.

Influential Labour MP Josh Simons said, "As the dad of two young kids, I know that parenting in Britain is exhausting and expensive. Hardworking parents have less time and money to give to their local communities and economies than they should and I want that to change. I look forward to the government's review of parental leave and hope it begins to build a fairer approach to paternity leave that strengthens families and unlocks growth."

Marvyn Harrison, co-founder of The Dad Shift and founder of Dope Black Dads said, "One in three British dads take no paternity leave at all and one in two of those who do face financial hardship as a result. We need to set dads and co-parents up for success and there's more and more evidence that doing so will help grow businesses and the economy too."

Thomas Lynch, CEO of Dads Rock Scotland said, "Scottish dads and co-parents want to play a full role in the lives of their kids from day one. We need Westminster to play its part and deliver better paternity leave. With the UK's offer the worst in Europe it's well past time."

Jeremy Davies, Deputy CEO of the Fatherhood Institute said, "There's been a quiet revolution going on for many years in UK families, with fathers doing more hands-on caregiving than ever. But the UK's paternity offer is now the worst in Europe, and dads from all walks of life have had enough. Fathers want more time with their children, and the evidence is clear that children, mothers and the UK economy – not to mention dads themselves – would benefit as a result."




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A sensational line-up, from world-famous magician Dynamo to the prestigious Turner Prize, were announced to an eager packed out audience at St George's Hall for Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.

Hosted by TV presenter Dr Amir Khan and BBC News Voices rising star Irene Kaali,

Creative Director of Bradford 2025, Shanaz Gulzar, was joined by artists and creatives from across the programme.

Taking place across the district throughout 2025, the programme will celebrate contemporary culture in all forms and showcase the rich history and heritage of the area.

Events, performances and activities will spread from the city to the towns, villages and green spaces across the district, running from January to December 2025.

Among the highlights were a national drawing project backed by artist David Hockney, a show created by magician Steven Frayne (formerly known as Dynamo), an Asian Dub Foundation performance, and the prestigious Turner Prize to held in the city.

Among Bradford 2025 events, music is a big feature in with brass bands and South Asian music featuring alongside the Bassline music genre which has its origins in Yorkshire.

Renowned dancer and choreographer Akram Khan is set to collaborate with Dance United Yorkshire for a new intergenerational project, featuring 60 dancers from across Bradford communities.

Shanaz Gulzar, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture Creative Director, said: "I am delighted to announce the first events in the programme for Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, which showcase the exceptionally rich, diverse talent that Bradford holds.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate our extraordinary cultural heritage, and for our young population to become leaders and changemakers, starting a new chapter in the story of Bradford."

# Stellar line-up!

Bradford 2025 to host magic, music, film and theatre performances celebrating local talent, plus the prestigious Turner prize





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## Programme highlights of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture

- A large-scale outdoor theatrical event created by the district's own magician, Steven Frayne (formerly known as Dynamo) and directed by Kirsty Housley, will launch Bradford 2025. (10 & 11 January).
- Inspired by Hockney, Bradford 2025 is inviting people of all ages across the UK to take part in a drawing project, 'DRAW!', to reflect our everyday lives (throughout 2025).
- For Paraorchestra, Charles Hazlewood and Jeremy Deller's The Bradford Progress, the district will come alive with music made by the singers and musicians who call it home – a sonic journey ending in the centre of the city (May).
- The Turner Prize, which showcases and celebrates the most exciting new developments in British art, will be hosted at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, in the year that the UK celebrates the 250th anniversary of JMW Turner's birth (from September).
- Akram Khan collaborates with Dance United Yorkshire for a new intergenerational project Memories of the Future, featuring 60 dancers drawn from communities across Bradford, inspired by Akram Khan's Jungle Book reimagined (July).
- The wide skies and expansive moorland that spurred Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights is the stage for Wild Uplands, four new contemporary visual artworks created by national and international artists placed across Penistone Hill Country Park (from May).
- Four fantasy writers and illustrators from Ghana and the north of England revisit the Brontës' imaginary world of Angria for a new collection of stories and animations to be published as part of the annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing (September).
- The National Science and Media Museum reopens in January 2025 and will feature a new digital installation by Marshmallow Laser Feast (from April 2025).
- Film director Clio Barnard (Ali & Ava, The Selfish Giant) will curate a series of films from working-class northern women, behind and in front of the camera at the National Science and Media Museum's Pictureville, Yorkshire's biggest independent cinema (February).
- Mike Kenny's Olivier Award-winning adaptation of E Nesbit's The Railway Children will take place on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway line (from July).
- Ice Age Art Now presents work by people living in Europe at the end of the last Ice Age, some as much as 32,000 years old. This exhibition features a wealth of rare items from the British Museum and local treasures from the collections of Bradford District Museums & Galleries. (from June).
- The first UK City of Culture exhibition to include all four nations of the UK will travel to four cities, featuring local heroes from Bradford, Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast photographed by Aida Muluneh, as part of a series of new artworks from the acclaimed Ethiopian artist (from January).
- Opera North takes up residency across the year with an immersive sound walk featuring new music from three leading composers inspired by the music of Bradford-born composer Delius (from May); the Orchestra of Opera North join forces with bassline musicians, singers and DJs for Bassline Symphony (May); singing and performance workshops in schools (year-round), and the company's first ever performances of Verdi's Simon Boccanegra (April).





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here

# BRADFORD 2025

## UK City of Culture

→ #Bradford2025  
→ bradford2025.co.uk



University of Bradford has been rated outstanding for its commercialisation and business start-up activities in the latest Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) results, published by Research England (part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation).

This year's KEF results (the fourth so far published) show the university is rated highly for continuous professional development, business start-ups, intellectual property and commercialisation. The results also said the university "generated excellent research across all disciplines."

The ratings, published earlier this month, reflect the university's investment in a new 'enterprise ecosystem' that encourages staff, students and members of the public to pitch business ideas.

Commenting on the results, Professor Sherif El-Khamisy, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, said: "The latest KEF results show the University of Bradford excels in what we call 'knowledge transfer', which means taking cutting-edge academic knowledge and applying it to real-world situations, often helping companies innovate or improve products. We have a track record of working with businesses to help them improve their processes and also for commercialising intellectual property.

"We have also invested heavily in our enterprise ecosystem, where we actively encourage staff, students and members of the public to submit business ideas. We then use our expertise to help them take those ideas from concept to market. We aim to become the UK's number one destination for business start-ups."

**Activity**

**Enterprise ecosystem:** the £2.5m

Bradford-Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem was launched in January and aims to accelerate business start-ups.

**Digital Health Enterprise Zone:** delivers services to our local community through a network of partnerships, nurtures business enterprise, and demonstrates excellence in interdisciplinary digital health research.

**Project CAYMAN (Chemistry Assets for Yorkshire MANufacturing):** a European Regional Development Fund part-funded programme which started in 2019 and ran to June 2023 delivering analytical projects and training to Leeds City Region SMEs. The £2.2m programme saw £1.5m capital investment in advanced instrumentation, delivering free-of-charge innovation projects and training provision with over 50 business interactions, including 11 new products. Project CAYMAN has since been succeeded by Project SIBLING (Scientific Instrumentation for Business Leadership in Innovation and Growth), a £1.9 million programme co-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, allocated via West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

**Careers and Employability:** 70% of graduates progress into employment in West Yorkshire and 78-80% who enter employment do so into high-skilled jobs. Careers support also extends up to five years after graduation.

**Experts by Experience:** a group of people who are living with dementia, who have been actively engaged by the university to enhance its teaching provision, with group members involved in designing the 'Me in Dementia MSc', which has been shortlisted for a Times Higher Education award in the Outstanding Contribution to Local Community category.



Professor Sherif El-Khamisy, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation (credit: University of Bradford)

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The dangers of nitrous oxide use are being highlighted to young people in Bradford thanks to funding from the Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin.

Hollings Youth Association (HYA), based in Manningham, has been delivering a series of workshops around the drug, commonly referred to as 'laughing gas'.

The project was made possible due to £6,500 funding from the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund, which takes money recovered from criminals and passes it on to community projects making their areas safer.

Alison Lowe, West Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, recently met with the project leaders to find out more.

She said: "The use of nitrous oxide can have a devastating impact so it's crucial that we educate our young people on the dangers.

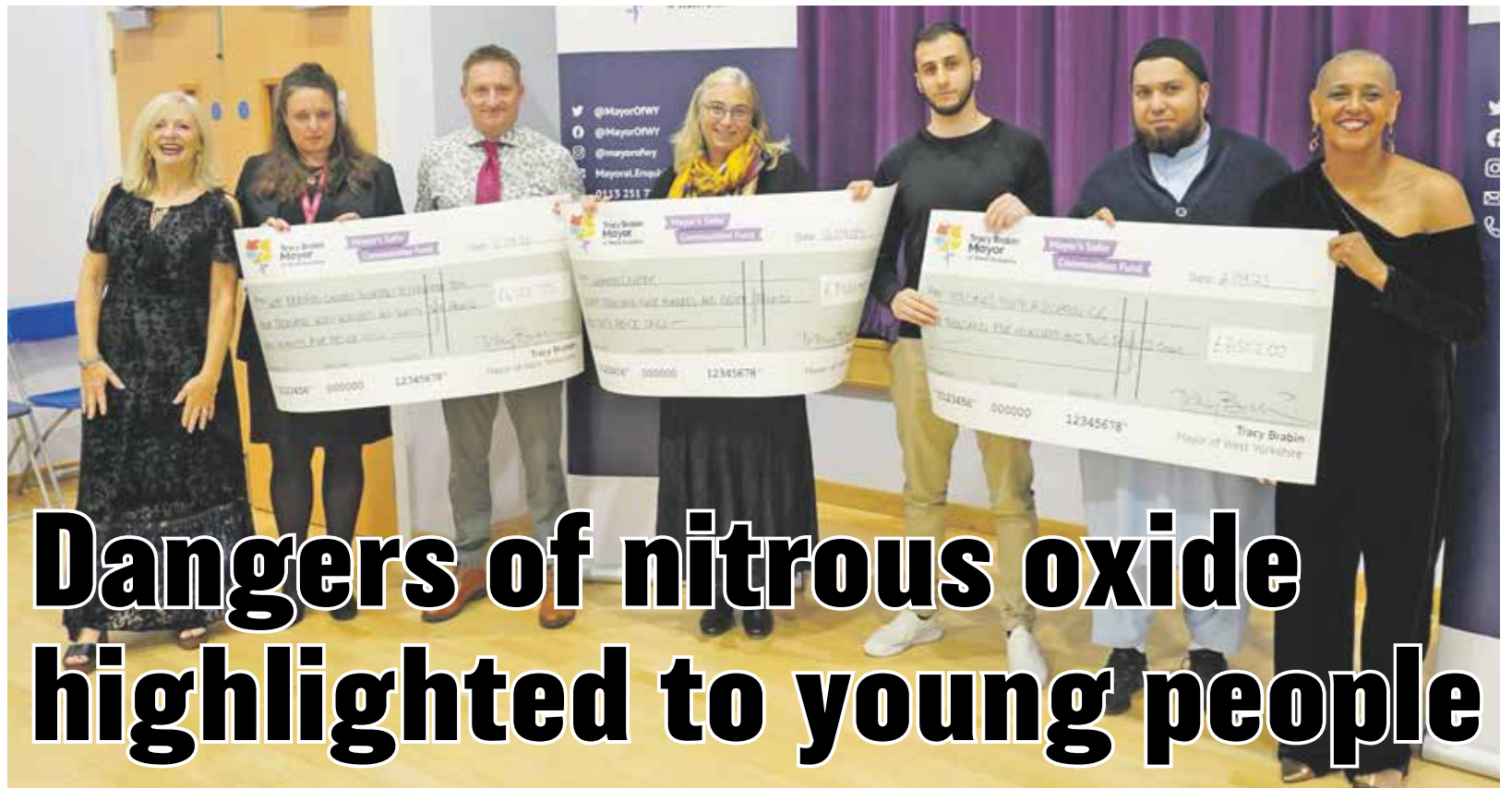
"It was fantastic to visit the Hollings Youth Association and hear first-hand about the important work they are doing to highlight the serious and sometimes fatal consequences of nitrous oxide use.

"The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund is one of the many ways we are working with our community to help make West Yorkshire a safer place to live and work."

HYA decided to host the workshops on nitrous oxide use after the young people it works with raised it as a concern in their area.

The project has focused on educating people about the risks of nitrous oxide use, which can lead to suffocation or paralysis, and on the dangers of driving whilst under the influence of the Class C drug.

One workshop, organised in partnership with West Yorkshire Fire



# Dangers of nitrous oxide highlighted to young people

& Rescue Service, saw young people experience a live demonstration of what it would be like to be cut out of a crashed car, reminding them of the potential consequences of drug driving.

Other workshops have been held in the nearby community centre and in the local mosque to help educate parents and guardians on what to watch out for.

A steering group of young volunteers was also set up to establish a peer support system and to help educate their friends about the harms of drugs.

***"It was fantastic to visit the Hollings Youth Association and hear first-hand about the important work they are doing to highlight the serious and sometimes fatal consequences of nitrous oxide use."***

Tausif Mohammed, manager at YHA, said: "Thanks to the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund, we have

been able to educate young people on the dangerous and often devastating consequences of using nitrous oxide.

"The young people we work with really drove this project and they have been involved in all the activities and events, which we have tailored to different age groups, as well as getting the message out to parents.

"So many people reached out to get involved, such as Public Health Bradford, and we are pleased with how successful it has been so far working with partners and hope it will make a lasting difference."

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# Thousands of illegal vapes and cigarettes seized

**Thousands of illegal vapes and cigarettes have been seized in Birstall in the latest Kirklees operation to take money away from organised criminals.**

Officers from the Batley and Spen Neighbourhood Poling Team and colleagues from West Yorkshire Trading Standards are continuing to investigate after raiding a shop in Birstall town centre this week.

In a joint operation on Monday September 23, officers and officials recovered between 2000 to 3000 cigarettes and vapes after executing a warrant at a shop.

Illegal vapes can often have higher nicotine content than normal licensed products with cash from sales providing a revenue stream for organised crime.

The seizures were the latest of several such operations in Kirklees so far in 2024 aimed at withdrawing sources of potential revenue from organised criminality.

An operation in August resulted in police and trading standards seizing £17,000 of illegal cigarettes after raiding two shops in Dewsbury and one in Batley.

In joint operations the teams recovered 281 packets of 20 carton cigarettes from one shop as well as 62 packets of tobacco and 91 oversized

vapes.

Two hundred and forty eight cartons of cigarettes and 27 fifty gramme pouches of hand rolling tobacco were seized from another premises while 250 packets of cigarettes were also found in a car.

Operations in May resulted in more than 26,000 illegal cigarettes being recovered following warrants at two convenience and food stores in Dewsbury.

Inspector Charlotte Nicholls of the Batley and Spen NPT, said: "It is proven that money raised from illegal vape and tobacco sales can be used to fund organised crime and these illegal products can also be more harmful to public health.

"The vapes can contain higher nicotine content and are not regulated or tested, making them potentially hazardous, especially to young people.

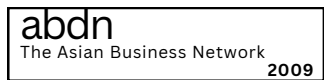
"For these reasons it is really important we act to restrict the sale of such products and take revenue streams away from those who create misery in our communities."

She added: "None of us want to see organised crime in our neighbourhoods and I encourage residents to keep contacting us with any information which can help us disrupt criminal activity and the sale of illegal goods."



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# A celebration of legacy

Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA honoured with Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bradford

**T**he 'A Team', alongside distinguished guests, celebrated the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Bradford to Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA.

The prestigious accolade was conferred during a distinguished gathering on Saturday, September 7, 2024, held at the De Baga Restaurant in Leeds, where members of "The A Team" and esteemed guests came together to mark the occasion and celebrate his outstanding contributions to both the city and its wider community.

Dr. Nirmal Singh's journey from the verdant fields of Punjab to the industrial heart of Bradford is nothing short of extraordinary.

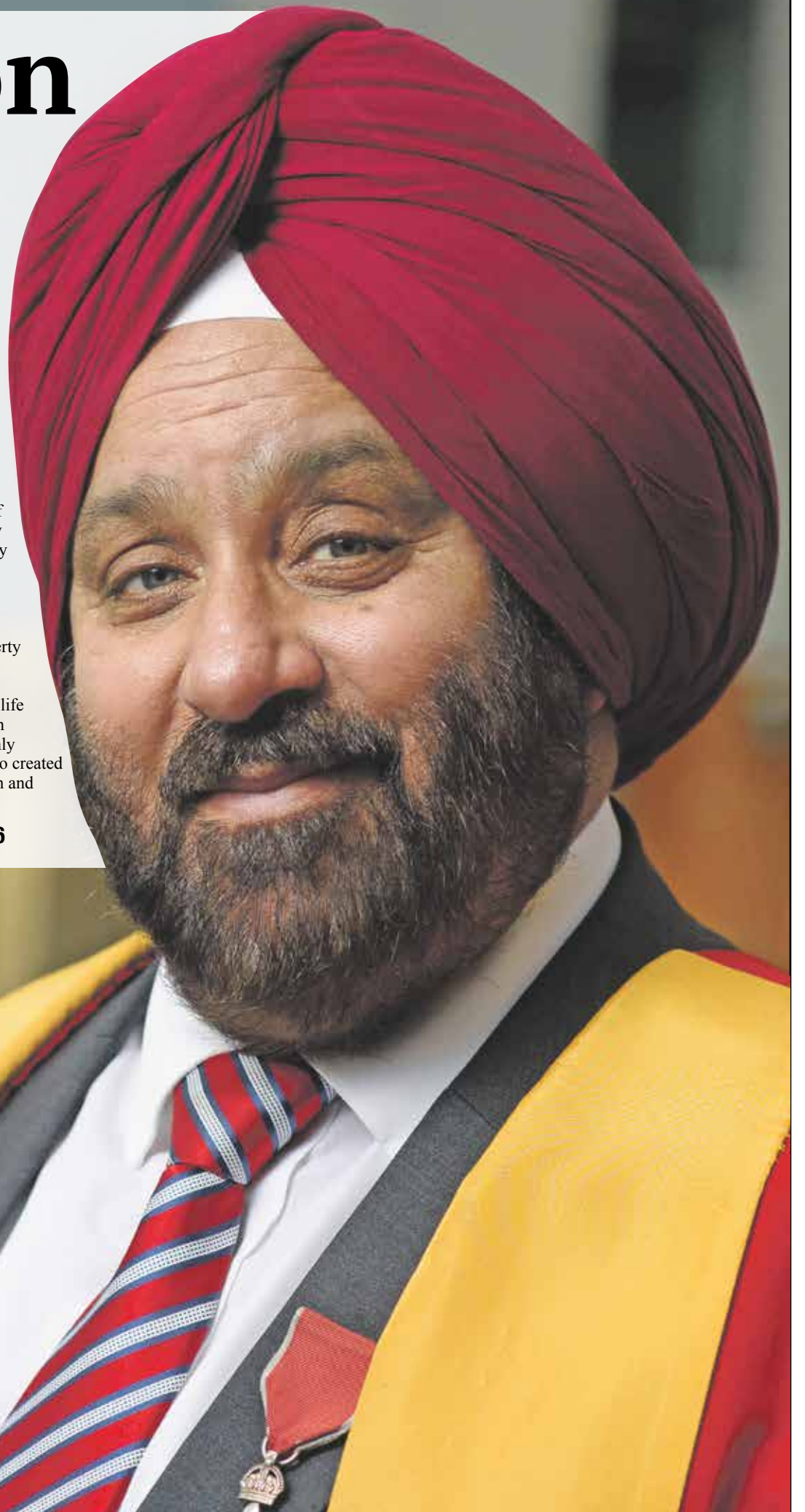
Born into humble beginnings on his family's farm, he embarked on an ambitious journey to the United Kingdom at just 15 years old in 1967.

What was initially intended as a brief sojourn evolved into a life defined by determination, vision, and community leadership.

Over the course of five decades, Dr. Singh's entrepreneurial acumen transformed the textiles industry and led to the creation of a thriving property empire, playing a key role in the regeneration of Bradford.

His commitment to breathing new life into the city through the revitalisation of iconic but derelict mills has not only preserved Bradford's heritage but also created jobs, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

**Continued on page 26**



# BUSINESS



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**I**n court proceedings the unsuccessful party will usually be ordered to pay the successful party's legal costs. The amount of those costs can either be agreed between the parties or, in the absence of agreement, they will be determined by the Court under a procedure known as Detailed Assessment.

This is a separate court procedure that takes place after the main trial has concluded. Typically, unless the original trial was listed for not more than one day, although the Trial Judge will order that the unsuccessful party to pay the successful party's costs, he would not usually assess the amount of those costs at the end of the trial. However, the successful party can ask for an interim payment on account of the costs pending the determination of the final amount, either by agreement or by Detailed Assessment.

In the case of Patel and Others v Awan and Another, the High Court confirmed for the first time that an order for payment on account of costs could be enforced in the same way as any other money judgment or order. Prior to that

case it was thought that was not possible.

The case related to a claim for an order for sale in respect of a property. The matter proceeded to trial and the Claimants were successful. The Court ordered that the Defendants were jointly and severally liable to pay the Claimants' costs to be assessed if not agreed and that they should pay the sum of £118,800 on account to the Claimants by a specific date.

The Defendants argued that their liability to make an interim payment was a contingent liability on the basis that, until all of the costs in the claim had been assessed by the Court, the amount due could not be properly ascertained. Their argument was that only limited forms of enforcement would be available for interim orders.

The Court rejected these arguments and held that orders for an interim payment on account of costs could be enforced in the same way as any other money judgment or order as an order for payment on account of costs was a final judicial determination.

This decision will provide clarity on the enforceability of interim costs orders. Judgment creditors can swiftly enforce such orders to recover money due from defendants without having to wait for Detailed Assessment which can be a lengthy process. The case will also act as a warning to unsuccessful litigants that where an interim payment is ordered, it is enforceable if unpaid regardless of whether Detailed Assessment proceedings have concluded or not.

If you are involved in any civil or commercial dispute, then Blacks Solicitors can assist. Please contact Luke Patel by telephoning him on 0113 227 9316 or email him at "L.Patel@LawBlacks.com".



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# A celebration of legacy

## Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA honoured with Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bradford

Continued from page 25

Dr. Singh's achievements, however, transcend his business success. Appointed a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1999, he has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to philanthropy and community service.

As Chairman of the Yorkshire Sikh Forum, Dr. Singh has been a tireless advocate for cross-cultural dialogue, working to bridge divides between different faiths and communities.

His generous support of charitable initiatives, including the MRI scanner appeal at Bradford Royal Infirmary, underscores his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those around him.

**From his modest beginnings in Punjab to becoming an iconic figure in Bradford, his life serves as an inspiration for future generations.**

A cornerstone of Dr. Singh's legacy is his long-standing relationship with the University of Bradford. For years, he has championed the university's mission of inclusivity and diversity. He has been instrumental in celebrating cultural events such as Indian Independence Day and Holi festivals, fostering unity within the student body.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Singh's compassion shone through as he provided meal parcels, emergency accommodation, and critical resources for international students in need. His efforts not only supported students in a time of crisis but also enriched the broader university community through his enduring relationships with local temples and Gurudwaras.

In recognition of his lifetime of achievements, 'The A Team', led by Senior Grandee Mr. Ashwani Kumar Gautam, Dr.

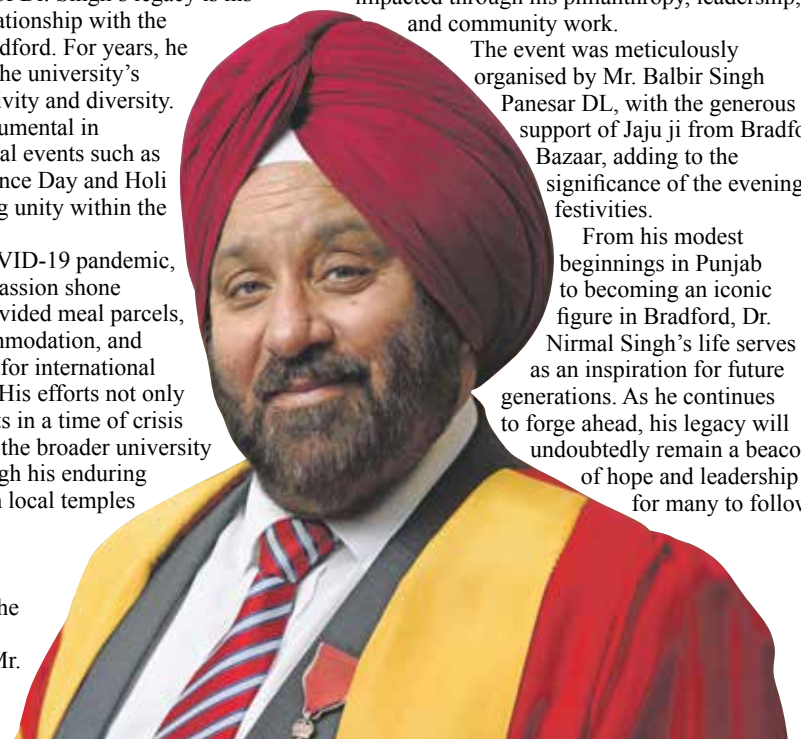


Harjap Singh Pooni, and Dr. Manoj Joshi MBE DL, extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Singh on receiving the Honorary Doctorate.

They emphasised that this honour is not just a reflection of his personal accomplishments, but a celebration of the many lives he has positively impacted through his philanthropy, leadership, and community work.

The event was meticulously organised by Mr. Balbir Singh Panesar DL, with the generous support of Jaju ji from Bradford Bazaar, adding to the significance of the evening's festivities.

From his modest beginnings in Punjab to becoming an iconic figure in Bradford, Dr. Nirmal Singh's life serves as an inspiration for future generations. As he continues to forge ahead, his legacy will undoubtedly remain a beacon of hope and leadership for many to follow.



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# Top aging concerns for women

**How are women today approaching aging? According to a new survey, almost half of women express that aging causes them stress.**

A survey of 2,000 women split evenly by generation revealed that Gen Z and millennials are more stressed about getting older than Gen X and baby boomers. In fact, both millennials and Gen Z lead the charge with feeling older than their age.

18% of Gen Z believe that they appear older, more than any other generation.

Still, more than three-quarters say they are trying to embrace aging with grace, and results reveal that over half of women are concerned others will notice signs of them aging.

Almost half of women noticed the first signs of aging skin by the age of 40.

Fine lines on their face (44%) and forehead wrinkles (32%) were two signs that women noticed most often, along with age spots (32%) and creases or lines in their neck (15%).

To help combat aging skin and avoid these signs from appearing, 70% of women surveyed take their skincare routines seriously, with most using between one and four different products on any given day.

Those products target the whole face, but when asked if they use products that target areas beyond the face or products that address specific concerns, such as the neck, eyes or arms, less than 40% of women confirmed they were using these types of skincare products.

**Continued on page 31**

# ‘Being Muslim Today’

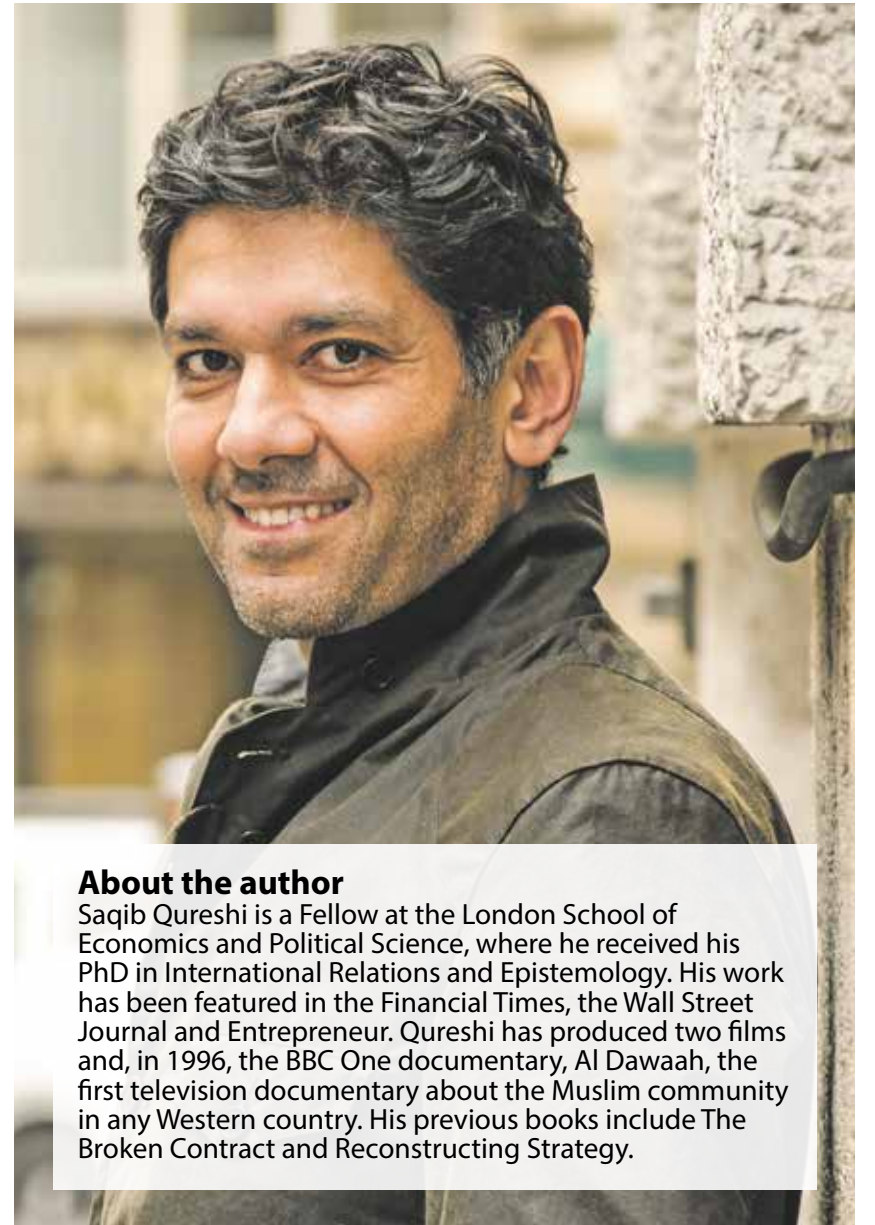
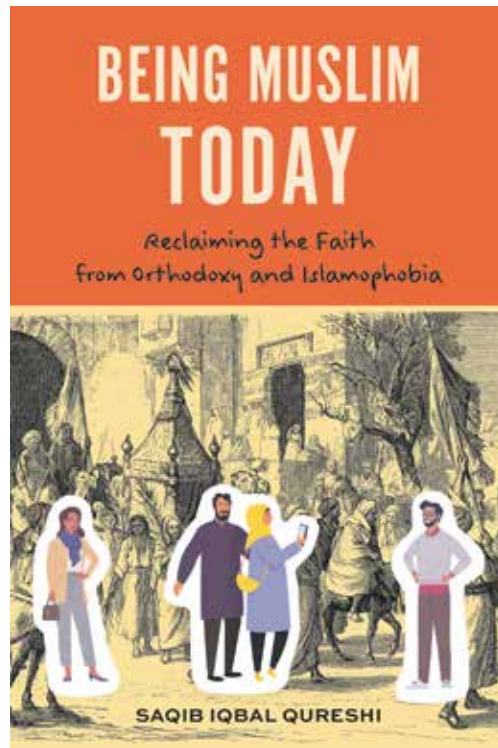
Islamophobes cultivate damaging stereotypes that present a religion that most Muslims cannot relate to.

Now, in a new book ‘Being Muslim Today: Reclaiming the Faith from Orthodoxy and Islamophobia’, author Dr. Saqib Iqbal Qureshi provides an honest, accurate understanding of the faith’s journey throughout the last fourteen hundred years.

He simplifies complicated language and reveals the heart and soul of a growing faith tradition that claims more than two billion adherents.

Chapters include a fascinating assessment of the origins of Islam, the Prophet, and the changing sources of Islam through the ages. Qureshi also describes the twin perils of Orthodoxy and Islamophobia, both of which, he contends, ignore the few historical records to misinterpret the faith and its origins.

Qureshi confronts the stereotype of Islam as an inherently violent religion and asks the West to consider its own appetite for conflict and colonisation. Throughout, he encourages Muslims to reject pious certitude and adopt an attitude of theological humility that acknowledges the diversity of approaches and principles in the Islamic tradition.



### About the author

Saqib Qureshi is a Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he received his PhD in International Relations and Epistemology. His work has been featured in the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal and Entrepreneur. Qureshi has produced two films and, in 1996, the BBC One documentary, Al Dawaah, the first television documentary about the Muslim community in any Western country. His previous books include The Broken Contract and Reconstructing Strategy.

**“I defy anybody to read this book and not come away enlightened.” -**

Peter Osborne, Middle East Eye, Byline Times



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# Top aging concerns for women

## Continued from page 29

In fact, only 17% of women say they pay significant attention to caring for their neck, with less than one-third of women using a skincare product on their neck on a daily basis.

Further, only a third of women are confident they know how to properly care for their neck to prevent signs of aging. Almost three in five say they take steps to avoid behaviours or habits that are bad for their skin.

But still, women more so attribute aging to factors such as stress levels, bad habits - such as smoking or lack of sleep, or lack of using sunscreen.

Surprisingly, less than one in 10 blame technology and only 25% are aware of the concept of "tech neck."

'Tech neck' refers to wrinkles that can appear across the neck due to the position of the head and face when looking down at a laptop or phone for long periods of time.

Skin experts say that with technology playing an integral part in our everyday lives, it's important to modernise skincare routines and introduce products, such as a neck cream, to target the fine lines and wrinkles that can be caused by 'tech neck.'

The skin on our neck and décolletage area is very sensitive and will inevitably be the first to give away our age. Time spent on preventing these key signs of aging will help women to feel and look their age in the long-term.

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# ‘Rooza’:

**Nadiya Hussain’s new book inspired by variety of dishes from across the Islamic world**

During the month of Ramadhan, the long hours of daylight fasting mean that when mealtimes do arrive, food takes on new significance, as families come together to break their fast while observing the customs of the period and reflecting on their faith. Meals become an event, planned and anticipated, a chance to revisit favourites, embrace the traditional, or try new things.

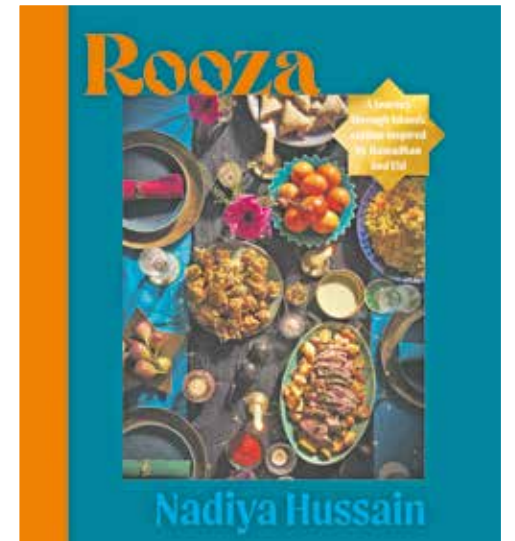
Nadiya Hussain’s new book ‘Rooza’ is a culinary tribute to the holy month, taking the reader on an exploratory journey of Muslim cuisine, and shining a light on the rituals, traditions and incredible variety of dishes from across the Islamic world.

The recipes are inspired by countries that have worshippers who observe Ramadhan, and foods that are enjoyed by them all year round and during this holy month.

With main meal and dessert inspiration for each of the 30 days, plus a selection of glorious feasting recipes ideal for the Eid festivities, this is a beautiful and timeless book to treasure, gift and return to year after year.

Nadiya Hussain said: “For me as a mum and as the head of the kitchen, what we eat during the holy month of Ramadhan is so important. It is this month that binds us as a family, intertwines us and holds us together through faith, worship, dedication and the meal we share at the end of another day.

After not having not eaten from sunrise, what I lay on the table at sunset really matters to me. It has to be nutritious, filling and, most of all, it has to be delicious.



From my table and my family, to you and yours: I hope that these recipes will bring you joy and keep you feeling excited about each meal you lay on the table.”

Ione Walder, Non Fiction Publisher at Penguin Michael Joseph, said: “This is such a special, personal book from Nadiya and one we are incredibly proud to be publishing.

“It has been a joy to work together to spin her recipes into a beautiful, inspirational resource that can be used year after year by those who observe Ramadhan, while offering a journey of discovery to those who don’t.”





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ALIA BHATT

## JIGRA

### COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO KARAN JOHAR'S NEXT 'MOST-ANTICIPATED' CINEMATIC JOURNEY

The countdown to one of the most anticipated Bollywood films of the year, *Jigra*, starring powerhouse actor Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) alongside Vedang Raina (*The Archies*), has officially begun.

Slated to hit cinemas on 11th October, *Jigra* promises to take audiences on an unforgettable emotional and cinematic journey, packed with action, romance and heartfelt melodies.

*Jigra* is an emotional action thriller. It is a tale about a sister and brother forged in fire. A series of unfortunate events leads the sister to set out on a journey of excruciating pain, vigour and a will that cannot be bent until her brother is free.

With the recent launch of eye-catching posters, a nostalgic teaser trailer, and the release of its homage to women, "Chal Kudiye" featuring Diljit Dosanjh, the film is already generating huge buzz across the globe.

The official posters for *Jigra* offer fans a first glimpse of the epic tale of a sister who will go to extreme lengths to protect her brother. The visuals capture the film's larger-than-life essence, showcasing the film's emotional intensity and thrilling action, setting the tone for a story that blends tradition, modernity and sheer cinematic grandeur.

PRODUCED BY  
KARAN JOHAR, APOORVA MEHTA, ALIA BHATT  
SHAHEEN BHATT & SOMEN MISHRA  
CO-PRODUCER: MARIJKE deSOUZA  
WRITTEN BY DEBASHISH IRENGBAM & VASAN BALA

DIRECTED BY  
VASAN BALA

IN CINEMAS  
11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

NETFLIX

MOVIE GOERS PFF

Continued on page 35

## TOUR DATES

### Leeds Playhouse

18 December 2024 – 25 January 2025  
www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk/

### Curve Theatre, Leicester

30 January 2025 – 8 February 2025  
www.curveonline.co.uk

### Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

11-15 February 2025  
www.wmc.org.uk/en

### Liverpool Empire

18-22 February 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
liverpool-empire/

### Theatre Royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

25 February – 1 March 2025  
www.theatreroyal.co.uk

### Theatre Royal Brighton

11-15 March 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
theatre-royal-brighton/

### New Victoria Theatre, Woking

25-29 March 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
new-victoria-theatre/

### Princess Theatre, Torquay

1-5 April 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
princess-theatre-torquay/

### Swan Theatre, High Wycombe

8-12 April 2025  
www.trafalgartickets.com/  
wycombe-swan-theatre/en-GB

### Cliffs Pavilion Theatre, Southend

15-19 April 2025  
www.thecliffspavilion.co.uk/

### Grand Opera House, York

22-26 April 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
grand-opera-house-york/

### Grand Opera House, Belfast

29 April – 3 May 2025  
www.goh.co.uk

### Bord Gais Energy Theatre, Dublin

6-11 May 2025  
www.bordgaisenergytheatre.ie

### Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

13-17 May 2025  
www.capitaltheatres.com

### Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

27-31 May 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
the-alexandra-theatre-birmingham/

### Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

3-7 June 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
regent-theatre/

### Theatre Royal, Glasgow

10-14 June 2025  
www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
theatre-royal-glasgow/

### His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

17-21 June 2025  
www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

### Eden Court Highlands, Inverness

24-28 June 2025  
https://eden-court.co.uk

### Theatre Royal Norwich

8-12 July 2025  
https://norwichtheatre.org

### Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

15-19 July 2025  
https://marlowetheatre.com

### Milton Keynes Theatre

22-26 July 2025  
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
milton-keynes-theatre/

### Winter Gardens, Blackpool

29 July – 2 August 2025  
https://www.wintergardensblackpool.co.uk

### Venue Cymru, Llandudno

5-9 August 2025  
https://www.venuecymru.co.uk

### Congress Theatre, Eastbourne

12-16 August 2025  
https://www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk/  
whats-on

### Sadlers Wells Theatre

20 August – 7 September 2025  
https://www.sadlerswells.com Tickets  
on Sale from 28 October 2024

### Bristol Hippodrome

16-20 September 2025  
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
bristol-hippodrome/

### Alhambra Theatre, Bradford

22-27 September 2025  
https://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/al-  
hambra-theatre Tickets on Sales Soon

### Hull New Theatre

30 September – 4 October 2025  
https://www.hulltheatres.co.uk/  
hull-new-theatres

### Waterside Theatre Aylesbury

7-11 October 2025  
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
aylesbury-waterside-theatre/

### Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

28 October – 1 November 2025  
https://www.grandtheatre.co.uk

### Nottingham Theatre Royal

4-8 November 2025  
https://trch.co.uk

### Sunderland Empire

11-15 November 2025  
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/  
sunderland-empire/

### Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

18-22 November 2025  
https://www.mayflower.org.uk

### Plymouth Theatre Royal

25-29 November 2025  
https://theatreroyal.com

### The Lowry, Salford

3 December 2025 –  
Sunday 11 January 2026  
https://thelowry.com



# The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Celebrating the 75th anniversary  
of C.S. Lewis's best-selling novel

**Producers of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the publication of C.S. Lewis novel which opens at Leeds Playhouse on 14 December 2024, today announced its full cast as well as additional tour venues, including a return to London this summer.**

C.S. Lewis' book was first published in October 1950. Since then, over 85 million copies in 60 languages have been sold. It is one of the top ten best-selling books of all time. The stage adaptation of Lewis' iconic book enjoyed a hugely successful, critically-acclaimed London run in 2022/3.

Producer Chris Harper said: 'We can't wait for children and adults alike to join us on this spectacular new journey through the wardrobe, and are proud to be marking the 75th anniversary of the publication of CS Lewis' novel with this

tour.'

Director Michael Fentiman added: 'I'm delighted to be taking our beautiful production of The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe on a major tour of the UK and Ireland in 2025. The production celebrates the magic of live theatre and is led by a multi-talented cast of actors, singers, musicians, dancers and puppeteers; it is a celebration of the possibilities of the collective imagination and the boundless wonders of individual skill.'

Step through the wardrobe into the enchanted kingdom of Narnia. Join Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter as they wave goodbye to wartime Britain and embark on the most magical of adventures in a frozen, faraway land where they meet Mr Tumnus the faun, talking beavers, Aslan (the noble king of Narnia) and the coldest, most evil White Witch.



## Akshay Kumar reveals star-studded cast of 'Housefull 5'

Indian film sensation Akshay Kumar has given fans a first look at the star-studded cast of his highly anticipated comedy, Housefull 5.

In an Instagram post that quickly went viral, the actor shared a photo from the film's set, showcasing himself with the other cast members Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, and Dino Morea.

Akshay captioned the image with, "Just another day with this incredible cast. Housefull of actors, one cruise, and endless stories to tell!"

The fun-filled snapshot captured the playful energy fans have come to expect from the Housefull franchise. While Akshay, Riteish, Dino, and Abhishek opted for casual looks, Jacqueline stunned in an all-black

ensemble.

Housefull 5 has been generating buzz for months, especially with the announcement of its stellar lineup. Producer Sajid Nadiadwala has confirmed the inclusion of leading actresses Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, Chitrangda Singh, and Soundarya Sharma, amplifying the film's star power.

On the work front, Akshay Kumar has a stellar line-up of diverse and promising films including "Singham Again", "Sky Force", "Welcome 3," "Shankara," the threequel to Hera Pheri, "Bhooth Bangla" and more.

The fifth instalment of the beloved franchise is set to release in theatres on June 6, 2025, and fans are already eagerly counting down the days.

## COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO KARAN JOHAR'S NEXT 'MOST-ANTICIPATED' CINEMATIC JOURNEY

Continued from page 33

The teaser trailer of Jigra features a soulful rendition of the classic Bollywood melody "Phoolon Ka Taaron Ka," sung by Vedang Raina and penned by Varun Grover. It taps into a deep sense of nostalgia while giving a glimpse of the film's poignant narrative. The recreation of this beloved song is sure to stir emotions, setting the stage for what will be an unforgettable journey of love, loyalty and resilience.

The new song from the film, "Chal Kudiye," is out now and already climbing the charts. Sung by the incredibly talented Diljit Dosanjh and Alia Bhatt, the track is a vibrant ballad of women's power and perseverance.

Penned by Harmanjeet Singh and composed by Manpreet Singh, it honours the determination and bravery of women across various fields. The video also highlights the struggles women face and the growing global call for justice and reform.

Helmed by visionary director, Vasan Bala, Jigra boasts an all-star cast featuring some of Bollywood's brightest talents, who are set to deliver power-packed performances. The ensemble cast includes Aditya Nanda, Yuvraj Vijan, Ishan Jack, Jason Shah and Harsh Singh, each bringing their unique flair and energy to this blockbuster production.

The film is produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Alia Bhatt, Shaheen Bhatt, Somen Mishra and presented by Viacom18 Studios, Dharma Productions and Eternal Sunshine Productions.

Jigra brings together a dynamic team of creators, combining state-of-the-art filmmaking techniques with rich, heartwarming storytelling. Distributed overseas by Moviegoers Entertainment, Jigra will be released in cinemas worldwide on 11th October 2024.

# JIGRA



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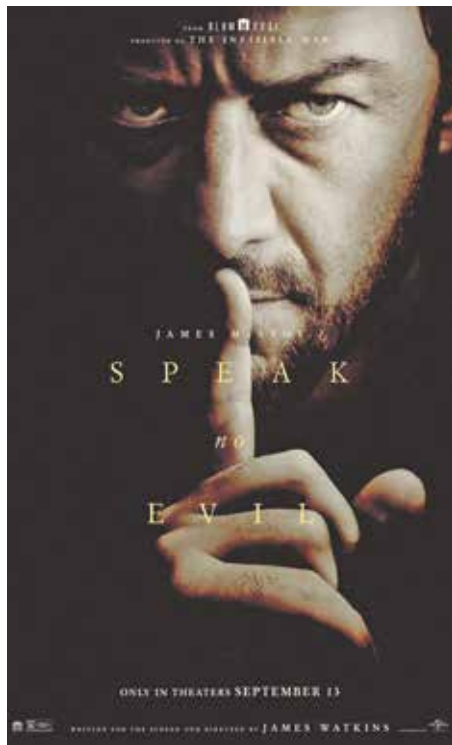
# WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month

## Speak No Evil

**Starring:** James McAvoy, Mackenzie Davis, Scoot McNairy, Aisling Franciosi, Alix West Lefler, Daniel Hough  
**Director:** James Watkins  
**Cert:** 15  
**Genre:** Thriller  
**Release Date:** 12/9/2024

When an American family is invited to spend the weekend at the idyllic country estate of a charming British family they befriended on vacation, what begins as a dream holiday soon warps into a snarled psychological nightmare.



## 200% Wolf

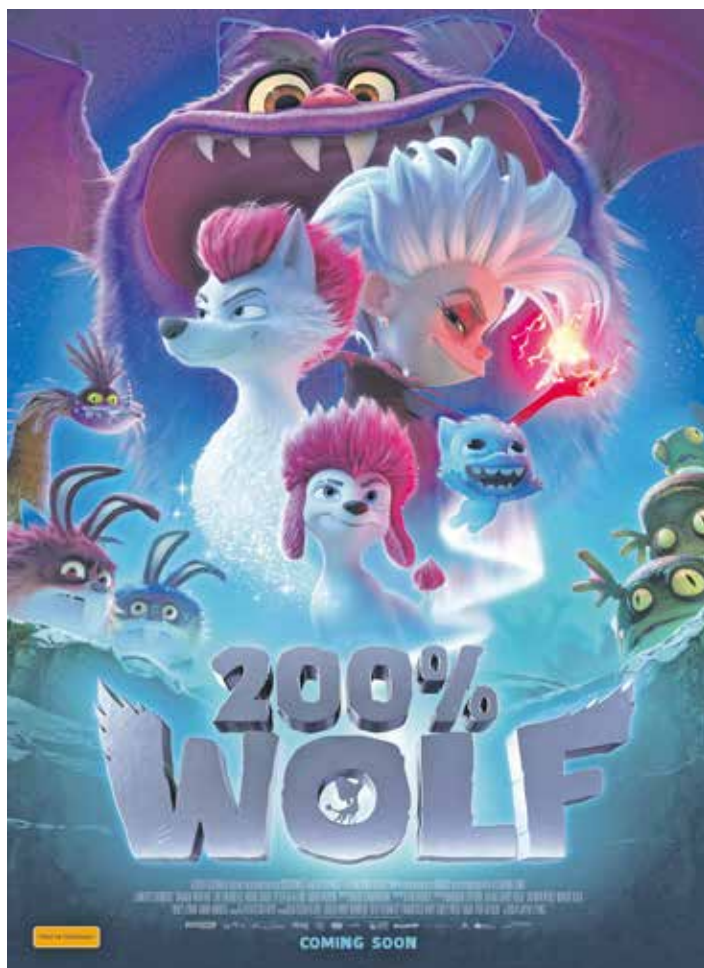
**Starring:** Alexs Stadermann, Akmal Saleh, Peter McAllum, Ilai Swindells, Samara Weaving  
**Director:** Alexs Stadermann  
**Cert:** U **Genre:** Animation/Family  
**Release Date:** 20/9/2024

Prepare for a howling good time in this fun-filled cosmic adventure, 200% Wolf.

Heroic poodle Freddy Lupin thinks he has everything it takes to lead his werewolf pack, but earning the respect of his packmates proves to be a challenge. If only he were more... wolfish.

But when a wayward wish transforms him into a werewolf and deposits a mischievous moon spirit on earth, Freddy must restore the cosmic order before it's too late.

With Batty and his dog pals along for the ride, Freddy must seek out a dangerous sorceress with a grudge against the wolf pack, before his new moon spirit friend runs out of life energy and fades away. One thing's for sure – Freddy will never question being a poodle again.



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## The Substance

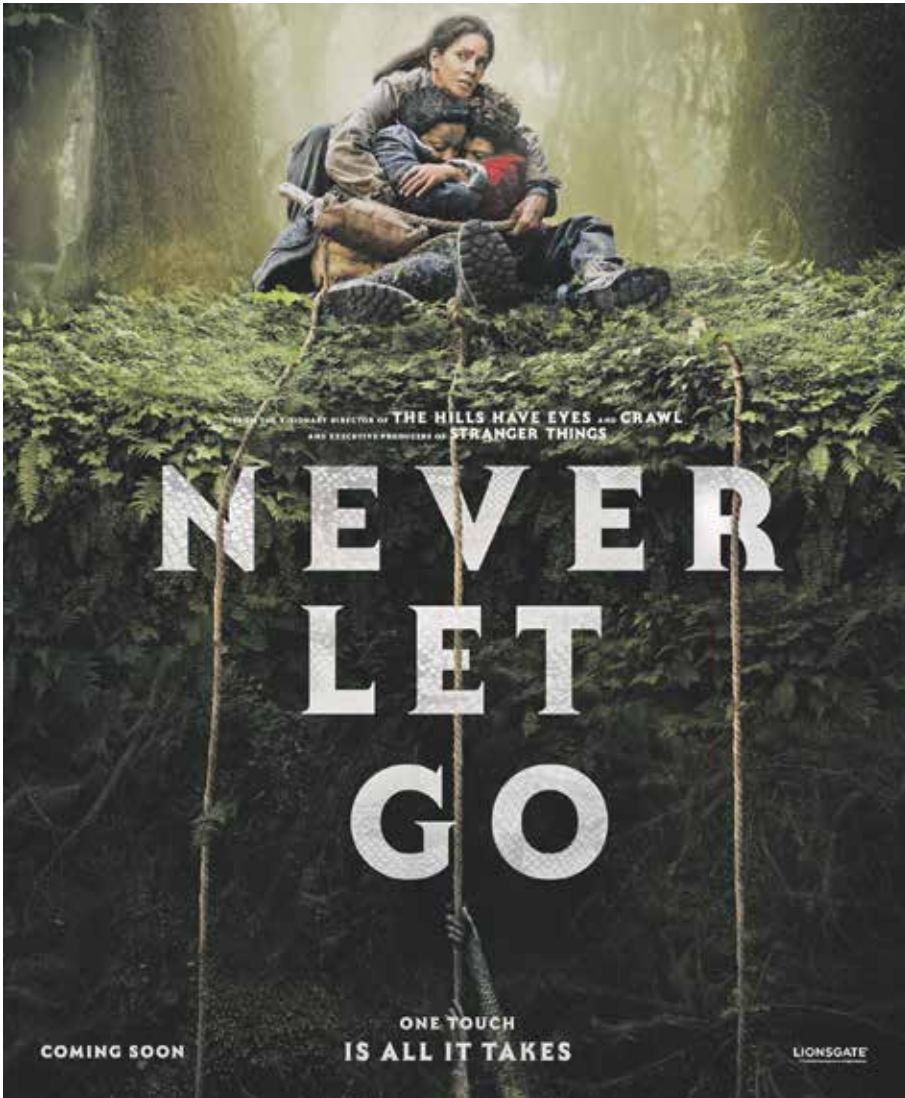
**Starring:** Demi Moore, Margaret Qualley, Dennis Quaid, Hugo Diego Garcia, Alexandra Papoulias Barton, Oscar Lesage, Joseph Balderrama  
**Director:** Coralie Fargeat  
**Cert:** 18 **Genre:** Drama/Horror  
**Release Date:** 20/09/2024

Demi Moore gives a career-best performance as Elisabeth Sparkle, a former A-lister past her prime and suddenly fired from her fitness TV show by repellent studio head Harvey (Dennis Quaid).

She is then drawn to the opportunity presented by a mysterious new drug: THE SUBSTANCE. All it takes is one injection and she is reborn – temporarily – as the gorgeous, twenty-something Sue (Margaret Qualley).

The only rule? Time needs to be split: exactly one week in one body, then one week in the other. No exceptions. A perfect balance. What could go wrong?

Deliriously entertaining and ruthlessly satirical, Coralie Fargeat's Cannes sensation turns toxic beauty culture inside out with a be-careful-what-you-wish-for fable for the ages. Explosive, provocative and twisted, The Substance marks the arrival of a thrillingly visionary filmmaker.



**Never Let Go**

**Starring: Halle Berry, Matthew Kevin Anderson, Christin Park, Percy Daggs, Anthony B. Jenkins**

**Director: Alexandre Aja**

**Cert: 15 Genre: Horror/Thriller**

**Release Date: 27/09/2024**

From visionary director Alexandre Aja (The Hills Have Eyes, Crawl) and executive producers of Stranger Things and Arrival comes Never Let Go. In this new psychological thriller/horror, as an Evil takes over the world beyond their front doorstep, the only protection for a mother, played by Academy Award® winner Halle Berry (Actress in a Leading Role, 2001 – Monster’s Ball), and her twin sons is their house and their family’s protective bond. Needing to stay connected at all times – even tethering themselves with ropes – they cling to one another, urging each other to never let go. But when one of the boys questions if the evil is real, the ties that bind them together are severed, triggering a terrifying fight for survival.



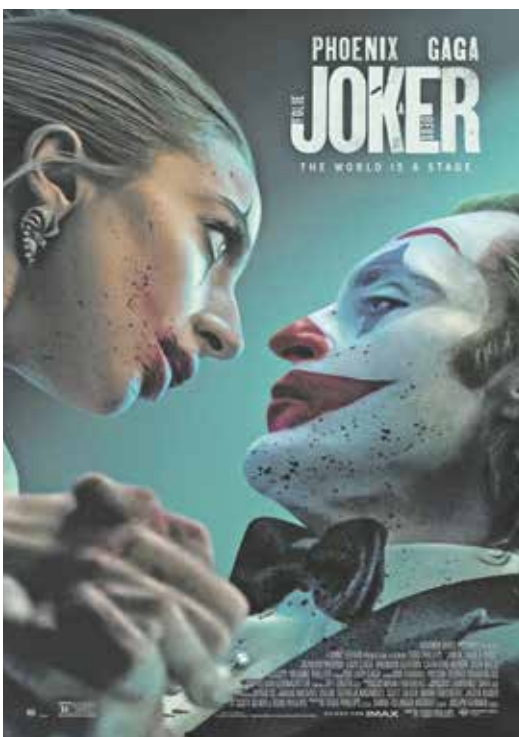
**Megalopolis**

**Starring: Adam Driver, Giancarlo Esposito, Nathalie Emmanuel, Aubrey Plaza, Shia LaBeouf, Jon Voight, Laurence Fishburne, Talia Shire, Jason Schwartzman, Kathryn Hunter, Grace VanderWaal, Chloe Fineman, James Remar, D.B. Sweeney, Isabelle Kusman, Bailey Ives, Madeleine Gardella, Balthazar Getty**

**Director: Francis Ford Coppola**

**Cert: 15 Genre: Sci-fi/Drama**

Megalopolis is a Roman Epic fable set in an imagined Modern America. The City of New Rome must change, causing conflict between Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver), a genius artist who seeks to leap into a utopian, idealistic future, and his opposition, Mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito), who remains committed to a regressive status quo, perpetuating greed, special interests, and partisan warfare. Torn between them is socialite Julia Cicero (Nathalie Emmanuel), the mayor’s daughter, whose love for Cesar has divided her loyalties, forcing her to discover what she truly believes humanity deserves.



**Joker: Folie à Deux**

**Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Lady Gaga, Zazie Beetz, Brendan Gleeson, Catherine Keener**

**Director: Todd Phillips**

**Cert: 15**

**Genre: Action/Crime/Drama**

**Release Date: 04/10/2022**

Director Todd Phillips returns for the sequel to 2019’s Joker, starring Lady Gaga as Harley Quinn and Joaquin Phoenix, who reprises his role as failed stand-up comic Arthur Fleck.

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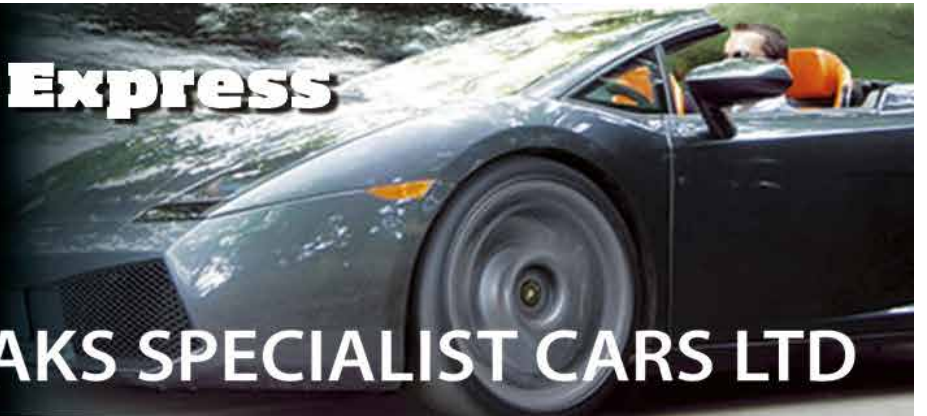
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# MUDDY ADVENTURES



## Isuzu's offers expert tip to guide you through the thrilling yet challenging world of mud-driving

Isuzu UK offers expert tips for mud driving with the Isuzu D-Max, highlighting its 4WD modes, rear differential lock, and lightweight design to navigate through tough terrains.

A 10-step guide covers preparation, driving techniques, recovery tips, and post-drive vehicle maintenance to ensure a smooth and safe mud adventure.

The guide emphasises key practices such as maintaining steady momentum, using the rear differential lock for extra traction, and thorough cleaning to

prevent damage after mud driving and ensure safety on the next trip.

Isuzu UK is here to guide you through the thrilling yet challenging world of mud driving with the unstoppable Isuzu D-Max pick-up. With its rugged build and high-performance features, the D-Max is designed to power through the stickiest of terrains.

Equipped with a versatile 4-wheel-drive system, the Isuzu D-Max's 2H, 4H, and 4L modes ensure you're ready for any off-road adventure.

**Continued on page 40**

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# MUDDY ADVENTURES



## Isuzu's offers expert tip to guide you through the thrilling yet challenging world of mud-driving

Continued from page 39

The rear differential lock proves invaluable when traversing deep, slick mud, providing extra traction where it's needed most. Its lightweight design (around two tonnes), electronically assisted steering, and excellent ground clearance make the D-Max a master of navigating rough, muddy paths.

To showcase D-Max's exceptional off-road capabilities, Isuzu has recently built a one-off special project, the Mudmaster. Building on the V-Cross trim, it comes fully accessorised to enhance your muddy adventures. It features a snorkel for water wading, a winch for self-recovery, lifted

suspension for increased ground clearance, and powerful lamps for superior visibility.

These enhancements ensure you're well-equipped to tackle the toughest muddy terrains. To explore the Mudmaster's remarkable features, visit [www.isuzu.co.uk/mudmaster](http://www.isuzu.co.uk/mudmaster).

George Wallis, Isuzu UK Head of Marketing, shared, "When it comes to mud driving, the 4x4 Isuzu D-Max pick-up is built to tackle the toughest terrain, so you can get down and dirty with confidence. Also, being responsible off-road doesn't mean being a stick in the mud, the 4x4 D-Max will help you really enjoy the madness."

### Isuzu's 10-step guide to mud driving with your Isuzu D-Max:

- 1 Pack for the Mud:** Before heading out, pack a recovery kit with essentials like a tow strap, shovel, traction aids (recovery boards), gloves, and an air compressor in case of tyre pressure adjustments.
- 2 Check Your Tyres:** Opt for all-terrain or mud-terrain tyres to improve grip. Mud tyres with larger, self-cleaning treads are ideal for dispersing the mud and maintaining traction.
- 3 Engage 4WD Mode:** Switch to 4H or 4L depending on the depth of the mud. 4H is suited for general muddy conditions, while 4L offers more torque for deeper or thicker mud.
- 4 Maintain Steady Momentum:** Keep a consistent speed without sudden acceleration or braking. A smooth, steady pace helps avoid wheel spin and sinking.
- 5 Keep Your Wheels Straight:** Keep your wheels pointed straight ahead as much as possible. Turning in thick mud increases resistance and the risk of getting stuck.
- 6 Use the Rear Differential Lock:** Activate the rear differential lock when facing
- 7 Avoid Over-Revving:** Spinning the wheels too fast in mud will dig them deeper. If you feel a loss of traction, ease off the accelerator to let the tyres regain grip.
- 8 Recovery from Stuck:** If you get bogged down, don't panic. Gently rock the vehicle back and forth by alternating between forward and reverse gears. Using traction boards or shovelling mud away from the tyres can also help.
- 9 Post-Mud Cleanup:** After the adventure, clean your D-Max thoroughly, focusing on the undercarriage, wheel wells, and brakes to remove all traces of mud and prevent potential long-term damage.
- 10 Inspect for Damage:** Check for any damage to your tyres, suspension, and undercarriage to ensure everything remains in top condition. Pay particular attention to steering and braking systems to ensure there's no issues.



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# Has the *classic car market* reached the bottom?

In an ever-changing year for classic cars, Hagerty Price Guide UK Editor, John Mayhead, analyses the trends that suggest the market may have finally reached a plateau.

The last few years have been interesting times for the classic car market. After Covid came a surge in buyers looking for the car they've always promised themselves, and Hagerty's six UK indices, each of which tracks a different sector of the market, all showed a spike in values as demand outstripped supply and sellers pushed up asking prices. For a while, buyers were willing to pay them.

But just as memories of the

lockdown started to fade and the working-from-home revolution turned out, in many cases, to be a blip rather than a permanent change, so many potential classic car buyers came back down to earth with a bump.

Rising interest rates, a higher cost of living, and the uncertainty caused by pending governmental elections both in the UK and US encouraged people to be careful with their money. That, and some of those who had bought classic cars on impulse after the pandemic decided that they had scratched that itch and put their cars on the market.

So, in the summer of 2023, Hagerty watched as sale rates fell,

both through dealers and at auction. Values followed, and in the year to 1st September 2024, 40 percent of models covered in the UK Hagerty Price Guide dropped in value, around 35 percent in the US Guide, both unprecedented falls. Combined sales results at the Monterey auctions in August 2024, the bellwether of the US market, were nine percent under Hagerty's most pessimistic pre-event forecast.

There's also data to suggest that sellers at UK auctions may be more willing to take less for their cars now compared with last year.

Analysis of the two Bonhams Goodwood Revival auctions, comparing 2023 results with 2024,

shows that, compared with the mean low estimate figure, both the sale price and high bid (if the car failed to sell) dropped. That, combined with a 15 percent drop in the number of cars consigned and an 11 percent drop in the sell-through rate, year-on-year, could back up anecdotal evidence that people know it's the bottom of the market and both buyers and sellers are minded towards care.

But there are some signs that the market may have stabilised over the summer. In the last quarter to 1st September, nearly 90 percent of UK Hagerty Price Guide values remained static, with five of the six indices remaining within one

percentage point of neutral, well within the bounds of data error. The auction results we've seen at the end of the summer – Goodwood Revival included – may not fully reflect this yet due to the longer consignment process for live auctions.

There is a flurry of fall auctions in America, but now only a few notable sales in the UK and Europe until next year, specifically the Paris auctions in February. By then, a new president will be in the White House, Labour's fiscal plan for the next five years will be clear in the UK, and France's new government will have laid its cards on the table, all of which could enhance confidence in purchasing.







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# Shortlisted

Community work by football supporter group recognised with national award nomination

A club set up to strengthen and deepen the connection between Birmingham City FC and the South Asian community, has been shortlisted in the Fan Group category of the 2024 Asian Football Awards (AFA).

The Blues 4 All group's commitment to promoting inclusivity and diversity in football by providing access to match day experiences for underrepresented communities, coincides with the 10th anniversary of the supporter-driven initiative and a new era of investment at the Club.

Continued on page 45



Birmingham City FC player Lukas Jutkiewicz with young fan Armaan Singh at Blues 4 All event



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# Shortlisted

## Community work by football supporter group recognised with national award nomination

Blues 4 All, led by father and son Micky and Bik Singh, has grown into a powerful force for positive change. Helping to transform and extend the fanbase of Birmingham City FC's Men and Women's teams, the group has been engaging with thousands of members from local churches, gurdwaras, mosques, mandirs, grassroots, and community organisations.

The group has been shortlisted three times at the prestigious National FSA Awards and won the Fans for Diversity Award in 2017. Boosted attendance and involvement in the women's game, particularly among local South Asian communities, and supported fans during the COVID-19 pandemic - presenting virtual watch parties, mental health-focused social events, a running club, and food parcel deliveries are all part of their outreach work.

Winners of the AFAs will be announced during a star-studded ceremony hosted by Sky Sports News presenter Dharmesh Sheth held at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday 25th September with appearances from pioneering figures within the footballing community including BCFC's rising star Brandon Khela.

primarily composed of members from South Asian communities, the Blues 4 All key objective remains to ensure that every child in Birmingham experiences the excitement of a Birmingham City FC match, building a lifelong connection with the club.

With senior members on the Football Supporters Association's Fans for Diversity guidance group, Blues 4 All also helps, advises and inspires other club fan groups on best practice for promoting diversity and inclusion in English football.

Their influence extends beyond the terraces, with the group actively involved in fundraising efforts for causes such as Cure Leukaemia, Love Brum, and the Birmingham City Foundation, cementing their place as true community champions.

Bik Singh, Club Secretary of Blues 4 All, said: "We're absolutely chuffed to have made the shortlist for the Fan Group Award.

"A lot of heart, energy, and soul has gone into Blues 4 All, and we're delighted that our efforts have been recognised on a national scale by the South Asian football community.

"We look forward to sharing and celebrating our collective work at Wembley."

The primary objective is to showcase the diverse talents of coaches, volunteers, players, administrators, and fans within the South Asian community who share a profound love for the game.

The Asian Football Awards recognises British South Asians with heritage from the countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives.



Blues 4 All founder Micky Singh said, "This nomination is a true testament to everyone who has contributed to the Blues 4 All initiative over the years.

"As we approach our tenth anniversary, it feels especially fitting that our work is recognised through a shortlist for this award.

"We look forward to the event and wish all the nominees the best of luck."

As a multicultural fan group

The Asian Football Awards celebrate excellence in the industry while also providing a vital space to acknowledge community and voluntary contributions. The awards aim to honour inspiring role models who have shown remarkable dedication and effort in their respective fields.

Established to acknowledge and reward the contributions of British South Asians in the football industry, the Asian Football Awards (AFA) serve as a significant platform.



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# Powerhouse

## How Izzy Asif and GBM Sports is shaking up the boxing promotions industry

Continued from page 48

Despite stepping away from boxing, sport remained central to his life. After returning to cricket in 2008 and playing in India, he was eventually drawn back to the ring.

In 2010, Izzy made his professional boxing debut, winning three out of four fights. Yet it was outside the ropes where he found his true calling.

### The Birth of GBM Sports

The turning point came in 2019 when Izzy was unexpectedly invited to be part of the Amir Khan vs. Billy Dib event in Saudi Arabia.

His involvement in the high-profile fight gave him the spark he needed to dive into boxing promotion. That same year, he founded Global Boxing Management (GBM), initially with the goal of managing fighters.

But in 2021, the visionary sportsman realised he could do more. Not satisfied with merely managing talent, he transitioned GBM into GBM Sports, a full-fledged promotional company. The rest, as they say, is history.

“There’s actually never been a Pakistani promoter in this country - I’m the first,” Izzy adds.

“There’s actually a book currently being written about my whole journey as a promoter - there are other things that I’ve not really put out in the open yet, but I’ve obviously come out the other end despite adversity and difficulties, family-wise and business-wise.”

### Making History and Breaking Barriers

GBM Sports made an explosive debut with its first show in March 2022 in Rotherham, which turned heads across the industry. From dazzling lights to an electric atmosphere, the event was a statement of intent - this wasn’t just a boxing match, it was a spectacle.

And the accolades didn’t stop there. In just a short time, GBM secured a coveted partnership with DAZN earlier this year, one of the world’s largest sports streaming platforms.

What makes GBM’s rise all the more remarkable is Izzy’s background.

In a sport traditionally dominated by privileged, generational wealth, Izzy, a working-class British Pakistani from Sheffield, has shattered the glass ceiling. He now stands as the only British Pakistani boxing promoter in the country’s history.

Today, GBM Sports continues to grow, with a stable of talented fighters and more high-profile events in the pipeline. Izzy and his team, which includes his right-hand man, Mitchell Costolo, are laser-focused on taking GBM to even greater heights.

With passion, grit, and a commitment to excellence, they are set on building a legacy that will transform the landscape of boxing for years to come.

It’s safe to say that GBM Sports isn’t just a contender in the world of boxing promotions - they’re ready to take the title.

Boxing’s New Powerhouse Is Here. Keep an eye on GBM Sports as they continue to make waves in the sport, one thrilling fight at a time.





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**In just a few short years, Global Boxing Management (GBM) Sports has gone from a fledgling venture to one of the fastest-growing boxing promotions in Europe, taking on the likes of sporting giants such as Eddie Hearne and Frank Warren.**

Led by Sheffield-born entrepreneur and former professional heavyweight boxer, Izzy Asif, GBM Sports is rewriting the script of British boxing, making a name not just for its fighters, but for itself as a revolutionary force in the industry.

Izzy Asif's journey to the top is as unconventional as it is inspiring. A cricket prodigy in his youth, he represented Yorkshire and Sheffield, playing at some of the best clubs in the country.

But in 2004, a family tragedy changed the course of his life. After losing his 12-year-old brother to leukaemia, he put his amateur boxing career on hold to support his family.

"I grew up in Sheffield, sport was always a big part of my life - I played cricket at a very good standard in my younger years, and then took up amateur boxing in 2004" says Izzy.

"In 2005, I lost my younger brother to leukaemia. It was devastating. It was the kind of turning point where I thought, I want to take a break from amateur boxing - I've got other stuff to concentrate on with family-wise, looking after mum and dad, and my five sisters."

**Continued on page 47**

# Powerhouse



How Izzy Asif and GBM Sports is shaking up the boxing promotions industry

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