

Forest Hill Resort collaborates with Afforestt to rewild landscape into a sustainable eco-sanctuary

In a significant step towards sustainable hospitality and ecological conservation, Forest Hill Resort (FHR), located near Chandigarh, has partnered with Afforestt to undertake a large-scale native rewilding and habitat restoration initiative across its landscape in the Shivalik foothills. Afforestt is internationally recognised for ecological restoration and native forest regeneration projects.

According to Devinder Sandhu, director, FHR, the initiative reflects the resort's commitment to preserving the natural character of its nearly 2,000-acre property, situated adjacent to the 10,000-acre Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary. "The initiative will redefine eco-conscious hospitality. We want to build awareness around conservation and sustainable tourism," said Sandhu, adding that the aim is to place the Chandigarh-Shivalik region prominently on the national and global eco-tourism map.

Afforestt director Gaurav Gurjar, who visited the site along with designer Varsha Gurjar, described the property as having 'maximum ecological advantage' due to its biodiversity and location within the watershed of several seasonal streams.

"We think of this as a journey, not a project with a fixed endpoint. In five years, the landscape will show



Rewilding and habitat restoration being done at Forest Hill Resort in collaboration with Afforestt PHOTOS: HTCS

visible ecological transformation, while in twenty years it can evolve into a lasting ecological legacy," he said.

Gaurav said ecological audits, soil studies, PNV mapping, species identification and the removal of invasive plants are already underway, alongside plantation of native species. The restoration focuses on reviving the region's mixed deciduous forest ecology using native trees and shrubs such as Jhingan, Phulai, Surteli, Dhavda, Kaim and Khair.

Varsha said the area supports more than 60 bird species, including migratory

varieties, along with peacocks, bee-eaters and grey hornbills. She added that hydrological restoration, including lakes, trenching systems and rainwater retention channels, is also being developed to support groundwater recharge and biodiversity.

"Guests today seek meaningful and immersive experiences connected with nature. This initiative will allow visitors to experience a living ecosystem rather than an artificially landscaped property. Our aim is to create a peaceful eco-haven where ecological conservation and hospitality exist together," Sandhu concluded. **HTC**



OTT REVIEW

Saif Ali Khan's watchable drama never becomes truly gripping

As the end credits roll for *Kartavya*, it leaves you thinking (and feeling) nothing. The film follows cop Pawan (Saif Ali Khan), assigned to protect a journalist who is shot dead in front of him. Desperate to save himself from suspension, Pawan vows to catch the killers within a week. Parallel to the investigation runs another track involving his younger brother, who elopes with a village girl, triggering calls for an honour killing.

On paper, *Kartavya* has all the ingredients of a gripping emotional drama. Yet it struggles to get you invested. It begins on an intriguing note, drawing you into Pawan's race against time. But as the narrative progresses, the beats become

KARTAVYA
Direction: Pulkit
Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Mishra, Rasika Dugal, Yudhvir Ahlawat
Rating: ★★★

increasingly predictable. Two major factors hold the film back. First is the antagonist, Anand Shri (Saurabh Dwivedi), who doesn't leave the impact the story wants him to. His henchmen repeatedly build him up as a terrifying force, but his character remains underwhelming. The second stumbling block is Saif himself, whose accent and body language don't fully blend into this world.

Rasika Dugal, as Pawan's wife, has a limited role and

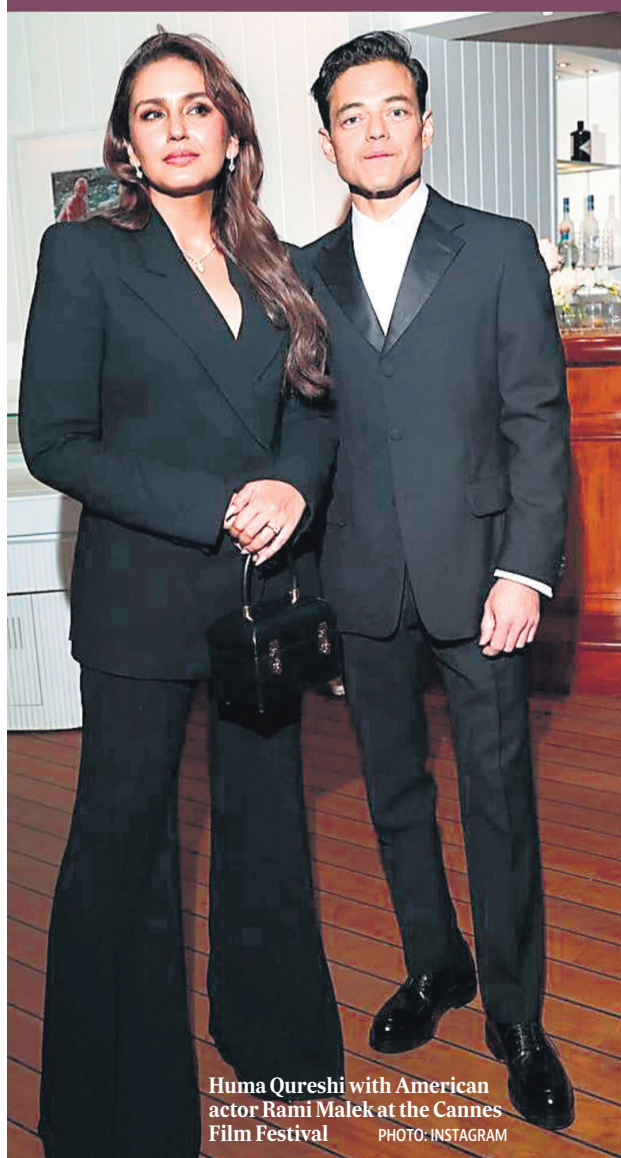


does fairly well with the material she gets. The performance that truly stands out is Yudhvir Ahlawat, essaying the killer with remarkable ease. Sanjay Mishra returns to yet another morally grey character after *Vadh 2* and delivers a sincere performance. Zakir Hussain plays Saif's father; however,

the two don't make a believable father-son duo. Overall, *Kartavya* feels like a film that had all the right ideas but didn't find the emotional depth to bring them to life. What should have been a tense, emotionally charged thriller ends up feeling oddly distant.

Rishabh Suri

I'm most excited about meeting exciting people: Huma on Cannes



Huma Qureshi with American actor Rami Malek at the Cannes Film Festival PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

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Actor Huma Qureshi, back in the French Riviera, is most excited "about meeting excited people". "There's so much going on. I'm excited for the screenings, the discussions, meeting different artistes, directors and producers and the bazaar. I love coming here; it feels like home, especially after *Gangs of Wasseypur*," she gushes. Her film *Gangs of Wasseypur* premiered at the

Cannes Film Festival in 2012. As for her next appearances on the carpet, Huma says she enjoys working with stylist Nikhil Mansata: "I'm not in that space where the clothes are wearing me as opposed to me wearing the clothes. That's an important distinction in our heads." Her other stylist Leepakshi Ellawadi is also accompanying her, which Huma says has also helped her showcase her best at the festival.

Natasha Coutinho

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