AN INVITATION FROM DELHI TOURISM TO FILM MAKERS AROUND THE WORLD TO COME AND CREATE IN DELHI

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Dilli Chalo
Cinema Chronicles. Imagine

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NARESH SHARMA, RAMESH LALWANI, RAJIV SOLANKI.......

TEXT & DESIGN BY SANJOG SHARAN FOR KARMIC DESIGN
Delhi CineMagic
You Are Invited
The Raisina Hill is one of the most spectacularly beautiful built spaces in the world. Imposing architecture, wide open avenues and India’s seat of power, they all sit here. In quiet elegance.
Purana Qila
this brilliance

Ancient. Contemporary
The Grand Sweep of History

the cathedral
Delhi is the city of gardens, wide avenues and imposing monuments. The eternal city is the junction where cultures from across the globe have gathered, mingled and created a synthesis unique to the capital of India, since eternity. This veritable melting pot is the site for many qissas, stories, adab, shayari, poetry and cinematic magic and excellence. This City has the proud legacy of having three World Heritage Sites in its midst.

Of late there has been a surge in the number of Indian and International film productions that have placed their tales within the majesty of Delhi. As a proud industrious city, the people of Delhi have quickly fallen in step with the challenges of movie making. A host of legendary Indian actors, musicians, technicians and filmmakers trace their journey back to Delhi. The cinematic infrastructure here is enviable and state of the art. A number of audio-visual and special effect studios, along with editing suites are based here.

The roster of blockbusters is increasingly being added to with a majority of films shot here breaking records at the box office. The ancient city is also a modern metropolis with an enviable metro rail service, a top quality international airport, pan-Indian railway network and an efficient, precise service sector, hotels and inns. Couple this with the unique sense of hospitality of the people of Delhi, global cuisine and gourmet fair, a thriving fashion industry and you find the secret to Delhi being the zone for quality cinema where more than 20 movies are shot every year now.

Delhi Tourism offers a single window clearance system for Filmmakers interested in shooting their films in our city. All legal formalities and permissions can be obtained with us being top drawer facilitators working in step and conjunction with directors and production houses. We are committed to easing the anxieties of each producer and add to their strengths in multi-dimensional ways, which thrives on mutual trust and respect. We are in service of Quality Cinema. Forever.
Spectacular Delhi expansive. open. cinematic

The Open Vistas of the Indian Capital is a magnificent experience. Grand structures surround the Rajpath leading up to the Raisina Hills. The Indian Parliament, central government offices, art museums all form a part of the magnificent hub of our capital.

films shot at raisina hills gandhi sardar pk wazir delhi by day... & night

start. camera. action Teenscope delhi
India Gate is a memorial raised in honour of the Indian soldiers who died during the Afghan wars and World War I. The green lawns at India Gate are a popular evening and holiday rendezvous for young and old alike. Central Delhi in general is known for its tree-lined, wide roads driving through which is an experience.
For filmmakers, Delhi has become the essential cinematic experience. Like New York, Toronto, London, Moscow, Istanbul, Paris, Rome and Mumbai. Always a magnificent backdrop to weave a fine story in, Delhi is many cities forged into one.

Bearer of multiple identities, Delhi is singular in its virtue, beauty and intrinsic charm. Like all great cities, its cosmopolitan nature lets each language multiply, each idea to find expression, every individual dream, hope and realisation.

RajGhat
Memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation
Chandni Chowk, the main marketplace in Old Delhi, keeps alive the city’s living legacy of Shahjahanabad. Created by Shah Jahan, the builder of Taj Mahal, the old city, with the Red Fort as its focal point and Jama Masjid as the praying centre, Chandni Chowk remains Asia’s largest wholesale market.

With the most famous mosque of Delhi Jama Masjid in the vicinity, along with Sis Ganj Gurudwara, Jain Mandir and a lot of small temples, the zone is the citadel of cultural harmony. It also embraces all with its old world charm, hospitality and culinary delights.
faith
Old Delhi

Old Delhi is the heart of Delhi city and is home to many historical monuments. Films shot in Old Delhi include Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Fan, Delhi 6, and Shagird.

Bajrangi Bhaijaan
Fan
Delhi 6
Shagird
Humayun's Tomb
In memory of a philosopher king

Humayun's Tomb was built by the widow of Humayun, Hamida Bano Begum and designed by a Persian architect named Mirak Mirza Ghiyas. The structure is the first matured example of Mughal architecture. Humayun's Tomb is a World Heritage Site. This predecessor to the Taj Mahal has small octagonal chambers, diagonal corners, arched lobbies and symmetrical gardens. The meticulous and splendid architecture of the tomb makes it one of the most alluring sites to explore – a perfect backdrop that creates maximum impact.
Humayun’s Tomb
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Qutub Minar

Qutub Minar is the second tallest minaret in the world after the minaret of the Mosque of Hasan in Cairo. It is a tower of victory as well as attached to Quwwatul Islam Mosque for giving call to the people to come for prayer. The construction was completed by son-in-law Shamsuddin Iltutmish. Qutub Minar is among the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
Lodi Garden is the beautiful park containing 15th and 16th century monuments made by the Sayyid & Lodhi Sultans built within its well-kept lawns, flowers, massive trees and ponds. During the early morning and evening hours, the sprawling garden is a favorite spot for fitness people and those in search of calming solitude. Some of Yashraj's major films like Chak De India! and Fanaa have been shot here.
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The majestic fort of Purana Qila began its construction in Humayun’s reign in 1530 as the city of Dinpanah or ‘asylum of faith,’ only to be completed by Sher Shah Suri. The Purana Qila (Old Fort) is an excellent example of Mughal military architecture. Its three gates show a remarkable fusion of Indo-Islamic style of architecture. The lake at the Old Fort adds to its scenic beauty.

This is the last Mughal architecture & enclosed garden tomb in Delhi. It is constructed under the supervision of Bilal Muhammad Khan by Safdarjung’s son in 1754 AD. The garden as well as the layout is similar to that of Humayun’s Tomb. The tomb has several multi-chambered and spacious pavilions, called Moti Mahal, Badshah Pasand and Jungli Mahal. The tomb complex also has a madarsa, still operating today.
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Tughlaqabad Fort stands on a high outcrop of rocks and was built to guard from the attack of Mughals. In order to enter the fortress, one has to walk a causeway which originally supported 27 arches. At the south end of the fort is an escape route leading out of the fort. In the western part are the ruins of a palatial building, further to which is a 15.5 meter deep water tank called Jahannum ka Rasta or Road to Hell. Close to the ruins of Tughlaqabad Fort is a small fort called ‘Nai Ka Kot’. Tughlaqabad Fort
Rugged Immense Beauty

Delhi is the major centre for Sufism along with Ajmer. Nizamuddin Aulia was a mystic monk who lived in Delhi in the 14th century. He was the patron of thousands of souls in search of inner peace, providing comfort in times of excess and in destitution. He provided balance to a city like Delhi by spirituality. His example led to what Delhi is today; a stature of a city with varied religions and saints. Amir Khusrau, the great poet and Sufi saint was his prime disciple. Progenitor of Hindustani, the language we speak today his timeless compositions illuminate our heart and soul till today. The great Shayar Mirza Ghalib stayed here. This Dargah is where Hazrat Sahib rests now. This is the place visited by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs alike, who come like one family here to pay their respect to Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, for whom religious distinctions never mattered.

Nizamuddin
Music. Knowledge. Divine

Rock Star

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Connaught Place was beautifully designed by Robert Russell in a shape of Horse-shoe style and surrounded by two circular roads; the double storey European style buildings have spaces and airy corridors. Connaught Place is one of the largest commercial areas in Delhi, India. CP is a heritage complex and a great place to go shopping along with a lot of restaurants for every taste and budget. It is one of the most popular hangout spots among the youth of the City.
Agrasen ki Baoli, is a 60-meter long and 15-meter wide historical step well on Hailey Road near Connaught Place, a short walk from Jantar Mantar.

Jantar Mantar

Finding the Cosmic Centre

Built by Maharaja Jai Singh II in the 17th century, the Jantar Mantar in Delhi is one of the 5 observatories built by him. Consisting of 13 architectural astronomy instruments, the cosmic centre is a visual and thought masterpiece.

Agrasen ki Baoli, as seen in the blockbuster, is the living space for the alien in Delhi.
The Lotus Temple

harmony
quiet
compassion
clarity
The Raisina Hill is one of the most spectacularly beautiful built spaces in the world. Imposing architecture, wide open avenues and India's seat of power, they all sit here.
Situated in the heart of Delhi, the unique Dilli Haat is a modern uptake on the traditional weekly market, the Haat or Bazaar, offering a delightful amalgam of craft, food and cultural activities. It offers a kaleidoscopic view of the richness and diversity of Indian handicrafts and artefacts.

A plaza paved with stone and brickwork skilfully interspersed with grass, flowering shrubs and towering trees, plus a play corner for children have conjured up an oasis in which visitors can browse at their leisure. Festivals promoting art, craft, food and music are held regularly here.

Haat Beat was the brief for the design of Dilli Haat, Janakpuri. A massive site with a large residential audience, in a part of Delhi that had very few places to go out to. We have promoted music all across Delhi through concerts and soirees. The idea was to find a home for playful music and give these homes a place to play with music. This was the bond where formal and informal shops come together to sell crafts and celebrate culture; to inject a new life into this part of Delhi and be its rhythmic ‘heart beat’.

From the Architects’ Note
We heard this at the music giant Sting’s concert at Dilli Haat, Pitampura while metro trains kept appearing and disappearing at the station, 75 feet up. Close by was the majestic TV Tower. She said it all looks so splendidly post-modern the way the live stage got contextualised. A Magnificent backdrop if there is one.

Dilli Haat, Pitampura has the ambition and scale to become a major platform that attracts all art and in particular the supreme art, Cinema.

Garden of 5 Senses. Set within the bustle of Mehrauli and South Delhi, is the idyl, the haven of tranquility. Which since its inception has become the ideal of how we can preserve and nurture our habitat. The zone where creation, natural and human, evolve through a conscious common goal.

Lovingly touched by the hardworking gardeners, Malis, experts, architects and artists, the Garden is an achievement in modern times. An amphitheatre, a sculpture park, water fountains, undulating walkways in tune with the Aravallis. All features where spectacle can be created through silence and quiet.
Picturesque, youthful and alive, the Hauz Khas in South Delhi houses a water tank, an Islamic seminary, a mosque, and pavilions built around an urbanized village with medieval history traced to the 13th century of Delhi Sultanate reign. The lake is adjoined by the famous Deer Park with a grove boasting of majestic trees.

The extended complex is an upscale tourist cum commercial area with numerous art galleries, boutiques, and restaurants. Hauz Khas Village is a spot in the capital to shop, eat and to enjoy the vibe. It has manicured park, more than 40 designer stores and restaurants that catered to a foreign clientele.

Progressive and a zone for the avant garde in Delhi, Musicians, designers, travelers, foodies, readers of journals and little books, art and poster collectors, map makers, socially responsible community have set up homes and shops here.

Khan Market has been named in honor of Khan Abdul Ghafrar Khan. It is located almost at the heart of the city, close to India Gate, surrounded by residential complexes. Its environs are home to a significant number of bureaucrats from the central government, and celebrities. It is one of the greenest pockets of the city, very close to the famed Lodhi Gardens. It has a wide variety of stores, including modern showrooms of most of well-known brands. Some of the stores and eating joints include Fab India, Route 04, The Kitchen, Cafe Turtle, Al-bake, Big Chill and many more.
Malls in Delhi

The city of Delhi is a shopaholic’s utopia. The shopping malls in Delhi represent the ultimate cure in retail therapy. You can purchase a wide range of goods within the shopping malls in Delhi. Spread over large acres of land, these malls provide a complete fun filled experience in terms of shops, eateries, lounges, and much more. Some of the famous malls are Select City, Saket; Promenade, Vasant Kunj; Ansai Plaza etc.

The mall culture of Delhi is been magnificently filmed in films like Aisha, Piku, Bewakoofiyaan, Delhi Heights among others.

Delhi University

The University of Delhi is the premier university of the country and is known for its high standards in teaching and research and attracts eminent scholars to its faculty. North Campus, Delhi University is a township in itself consisting of different colleges, shopping places, paying guest accommodations etc. Located in the northern part of Delhi, this campus has some of the most acclaimed colleges like SRCC, St. Stephen’s, Hansraj, Hindu, Miranda House, Kirori Mal and the iconic Delhi School of Economics.
In memory of a philosopher king

Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU)

Mainly a research-oriented postgraduate university, JNU has approximately 8,000 students and faculty strength of around 550. Located in the southern part of New Delhi and spread over an area of about 1000 acres (4 km²), the campus occupies some of the northernmost reaches of the Aravali Hills. The campus still maintains large patches of scrub and forestland - the JNU ridge, home to over 200 species of birds and other wildlife such as, Nilgai, Indian Crested Porcupines, Common Palm Civet, Jackals, Mongoose, Peacocks as well as a large number of Snakes.

The Anand Rai directed movie Raanjhanaa was shot at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in the JNU Campus.

The Delhi Metro

The Delhi Metro is a rapid transit system serving Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida and Ghaziabad in the National Capital Region of India. The network consists of six lines with a total length of 189.63 kilometers (117.83 mi) with 142 stations of which 35 are underground. It has a combination of elevated, at-grade and underground lines and uses both broad gauge and standard gauge rolling stock.

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Delhi in Cinema

DELHI TOURISM: TAKING IT FORWARD

Delhi as the capital of India is home to the best cities for film shootings and production:

- Delhi is home to the National School of Drama, one of the foremost theatre training institutions, and along with Delhi University which has a number of Theatre Societies, the city offers a plethora of theatre training institutions, and along with Delhi University which has a number of Theatre Societies, the city offers a plethora of opportunities for aspiring actors and playwrights. The city is also home to the National School of Drama, one of the foremost theatre training institutions, and along with Delhi University which has a number of Theatre Societies, the city offers a plethora of theatre training institutions, and along with Delhi University which has a number of Theatre Societies, the city offers a plethora of opportunities for aspiring actors and playwrights.

- Delhi is a city with a blend of the old and new – An ancient history and a modern present. The city is a place of great resonance and potential.

- Delhi is one of the best cities for film shootings and production:
- Delhi has becoming a hub for film shootings in recent years, with an increasing number of filmmakers choosing the city as the location for their productions.
- Delhi has a number of film studios and locations that are ideal for film shootings, including the Film City complex in Shastri Park and the Delhi Film Festival complex in Lajpat Nagar.
- Delhi has a well-developed infrastructure and a well-connected transportation system, which makes it easy for filmmakers to transport their equipment and crew to and from the shooting locations.
- Delhi has a large and diverse talent pool, with a wide range of actors, directors, and technicians who are available for hire.
- Delhi has a rich and diverse culture, with a wide range of locations and landscapes that are ideal for film shootings.
- Delhi has a strong film industry, with a large number of film productions taking place in the city each year.

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Availability of such a wide range of locations coupled with the following facilities has made Delhi one of the best cities for film shootings and production:

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REASONS WHY DELHI IS ONE THE BEST CITIES FOR SHOOTING FILMS

Delhi is economical to shoot in and permissions are easy to get:

- Shooting in Delhi has been made easier with Delhi Tourism’s very own Film Shooting Facilitation Cell. One need not get in touch with intermediaries and multiple agencies to get permissions to shoot at various locations with the Single Window Clearance Mechanism soon to be implemented by Delhi Tourism. All one needs to do is get in touch with Delhi Tourism and the process would be taken forward.

MARKET ASSOCIATIONS NOT A HURDLE

Delhi’s market associations allow film shootings without any problems. Chandni Chowk is one of the markets which are widely seen in movies shot in Delhi. If a scene is set inside a restaurant or within a marketplace, one can easily get the shoot done in Delhi. The only condition owners keep is that the restaurant or shop’s name should appear on the screen.

DELHI & NCR HAVE A MULTITUDE OF BACKGROUNDS AND BACKDROPS

Delhi is like a wide stage where film makers can come across from varied backgrounds to tell their intimate, personal stories. One can show any kind of situation in Delhi and NCR, for the region provides all sorts of backdrops from the lower middle class family of Fukrey, and the Lajpat Nagar Punjabi family with the Daryaganj fertility clinics of Vicky Donor to Aisha’s posh locales. Delhi is perfect for all kinds of shooting scenes. If a filmmaker wants to shoot in college campuses, they go to North Campus. And for a typical Delhi look, film-makers prefer the Old Delhi area. Delhi has a solution for everyone’s demands.
Delhi Tourism offers

- Delhi Tourism has been nominated as the Nodal Agency for facilitating film shootings in Delhi by Govt of NCT of Delhi. The soon to be implemented Single Window Clearance Mechanism of Delhi Tourism makes it convenient for the Film Producers to get shooting permissions as there is no need to contact multiple agencies to shoot at various locations. A film maker can send in their applications directly to Delhi Tourism stating the desired locations to shoot at and the Film Shooting Facilitation Cell, Delhi Tourism will pursue the application further. An application form (below) prepared by Delhi Tourism is to be filled.

- Delhi Tourism can also facilitate Air bookings, Hotel Accommodation, Ground Transport and Catering Support for the entire film unit in Delhi.

I. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
II. Central Public Works Department (CPWD)
III. Delhi Police / Delhi Traffic Police
IV. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
V. Department of Environment & Forest
VI. New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC)
VII. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) – East Delhi Municipal Corporation; North Delhi Municipal Corporation and South Delhi Municipal Corporation
VIII. Public Works Department (PWD)
IX. Sports Authority of India (SAI)
X. Department of Archaeology and Archives
XI. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
XII. Indian Railways
XIII. Delhi Development Authority (DDA)
XIV. Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL)

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS AGENCIES IN DELHI. DELHI TOURISM IS COMMITTED TO OBTAINING PERMISSIONS FROM THE RESPECTIVE AGENCIES AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.
DELHI IS AN OCEAN OF FABLES, TALES AND STORIES. Of people and homes, emperors and dynasties, darbars and mehfi. Layers upon layers of meaning, understanding and ideas in evolution have found voice and expression here through time. Those who chose to dive in will find splendid pearls of knowledge, wisdom and growth through time. The chroniclers of Dilli, the ancient city, have painted a vivid picture through words and visuals, prose and poetry. From the mythic Mahabharata to the very recent magnum opus Gandhi, a grand tapestry of the lives of the capital’s virtuous men and women and their triumph against overwhelming odds have won over people by their millions. To guide and inspire them. To mesmerise, to hold them captive and then release them. Towards liberty, harmony and joy. Such is the magic of stories. Such is the magnificence and splendour of Delhi.

In modern times cinema has become the kernel of human experience. The medium through which all modes of creativity and art find form and meaning. Cinema documents us and we are the bearers of all that is excellent within the moving image on the silver screen. From music to colour, from composition to art, from architecture to space, all that epitomises what is excellent within man, woman and the cosmos at large finds its vehicle in cinema. The mythic, mystic, magic beauty and grace of earth’s passage lies embedded, eternal in cinema. Just like the grand emperor’s vision in architecture which stand for centuries, cinema has found us, for eternity. We have found the cinema. The ultimate democratic symbol. The forbearer of our sorrow and our joy and happiness.

Sitting invisible within the darkened cinema theatre we find ecstasy and interconnectedness with fellow travelers, each sharing and dipping into our collective’s agony and ecstasy. The laughter that rings out through comedy.
The tears which well over through tragedy. The gasp of shock at a perfect horrifying moment. All together, Nirmaan in three hours woven around an interval. Through stories of people within a context and space. Of a locale and many a times within and belonging to a city. We are thus glad that cinema is finding Delhi to be the ideal destination. The ancient city, the ultramodern megalopolis. Delhi and Cinema complete each other. Through the city’s grand expanse and by the kind generosity of the capital that has welcomed one and all to make him and her its own. The grand family of the DilliWallah. For us, the guardian of each person’s passage through Delhi, the fact the both the Indian and World Cinema finds in Delhi the ideal destination to weave in their story, provides us great joy coupled with a huge sense of responsibility.

For filmmakers, Delhi has become the essential site. Like New York, Toronto, London, Moscow, Istanbul, Paris, Rome and Mumbai. Always a magnificent, cinematic backdrop. Delhi is many cities forged into one. Bearer of multiple identities, Delhi is singular in its virtue, beauty and intrinsic charm. Like all great cities, its cosmopolitan nature lets each language multiply, each idea to find expression, every individual dream, hope and realisation. Delhi allows for variety, like spice, like colour, like musical notes. That sore into the skies rising Delhi to be the ideal destination. The ancient city, the ultramodern megalopolis. Delhi and Cinema complete each other. Through the city’s grand expanse and by the kind generosity of the capital that has welcomed one and all to make him and her its own. The grand family of the DilliWallah. For us, the guardian of each person’s passage through Delhi, the fact the both the Indian and World Cinema finds in Delhi the ideal destination to weave in their story, provides us great joy coupled with a huge sense of responsibility.

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the story emanates from the roots of Delhi. In this their passage goes through Delhi’s historic sweep of the old cities, its monuments, gullies and avenues. Important directors like Mani Ratnam and Raj Kumar Hirani have repeatedly found in Delhi as the site where their imagination flowers. In films like Dil Se, Mouna Raagam, Three Idiots and PK, Delhi is the verdant ground from which dreams find fruition. Imtiaz Ali from Love Aaj Kal to Highway to Rockstar and Tamasha locates his movies in Delhi to find resonance of the love of today reaching far and wide. Meera Nair made the wonderful whimsical Monsoon Wedding in the city and the comic caper Fukrey too was based here. Sai Paranjape with her 1980s classics Sparsh and Chashme BuDoor created a major splash with her high brow yet reachable movies. Manish Sharma first with Band.. and with Fan choses the city’s expanse to find his well etched characters here. The magic of each of these director’s storytelling has been forged by the basic distinct identity of Delhi.

One thing which may have been missing in the past is now firmly present. That is the existence of a state of the art infrastructure and personnel bred and trained by the finest. Thanks to the number of Indian and International film projects which have taken off here, Delhi is now regarded well for its array of high end equipment, audio and television studios, dance academies and theatre groups. Each of these entities nurture their talents well, so that whenever a travelling studio heads to Delhi they will find a well laid out foundation waiting for them. Exceptional hardworking talents well cognisant of the grind, the economics and the value of the moment. Efficient and evolved not only for Indian productions but also who have worked with great results in major international movies like Eat, Pray, Love, Holy Smoke and the blockbuster The Day after Tomorrow.

Delhi Dreams on. Plays On. Through its six seasons and its seven incarnations. With its ancient and modern monuments. With the grace of its remarkable, affable, industrious people. Working hard to realise their dreams, aspirations, assertions and aspirations. Through their food, dance, music, culture, fashion, writings, paintings, sculptures, visions. Each passage brings about the opportunities for immaculate dialogs, perceptive insights and a grandeur in movement. They all come naturally to you in Delhi. Cascading over you to find monumental experiences and flight for imagination. Each essential for Cinema.

Our list is long, not exhaustive, for Delhi and our Cinema. We know that many stories remain to be told emanating from our home. Delhi Tourism will be that ideal partner in this journey of chronicling. For big and small cinema. For spectacles like Sardar and Baby to the small, heart wrenching tale of Titli. In each case we offer our services to ease the exacting process of film making. We are at one with the vision of the director because we understand the centrality and importance of cinema in our lives. We seek confluence and synergies that works hard for the completion of each endeavour. So that the celluloid shines on the silver screen. To dazzle audiences worldwide. With wishes from the most beautiful city. May many more stories be told. In Delhi. Through Us and You the Filmmaker.