

# FEMINA

WHAT'S A BARESEXUAL?

**SEX  
SLANG  
YOU MUST  
KNOW**



MVVD4091104

WOMEN FIGHT BACK  
**YOUR RIGHTS  
AGAINST  
VIOLENT  
LANGUAGE**

GET 'EM NOW!  
**Bondage  
stilettos**

**MISSION  
PRAGUE**  
YOUR TICKET  
TO MOVIE-CITY

WHAT IT  
TAKES TO BE  
**FARAH  
KHAN**

**Believe**

Pantaloons Femina  
Miss India-World 2009

**POOJA  
CHOPRA**

**ENJOYS  
NOT HAVING  
A LIFE!**

Have  
you met  
tinseltown's  
**GIRLS IN  
SUITS?**

BOLLYWOOD'S  
BIG HOPE

**THE  
FEMALE  
FACTOR**

WOMEN, FILMS,  
THE GLASS CEILING





# Mission Prague

Aparna Pednekar brings you the city of Mozart, Kafka, art nouveau and Bohemian crystal



A couple at a cafe table in  
the heart of Prague, capital of  
Czechia. Behind them, the  
city's historic architecture is  
on display.



Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, is mysterious and alluring. It's a city with an intense past—surviving the Communist takeover in 1948, the Russian invasion 20 years later, emerging intact from the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and joining the European Union in 2004.

Prague preps for winter in November, which means it's cold and rainy but not as severe as it is in December. If you're lucky you'll get your fair share of warm days now. Also, the tourist traffic is low and you can get rich discounts on hotel fares. All you need to do is get yourself some sensible thick-soled shoes (to tackle the city's cobbled streets) and prepare to fall in love with Prague.

The compact historical core of Prague is listed in the UNESCO World Cultural Register. It's composed of four quarters: Old Town, Lesser Town, Hradcany (with the Prague Castle) and New Town. The city, especially Old Town, is a study in remarkable structural design with Gothic, renaissance, baroque and rococo styles. The most exclusive to Prague is cubist architecture. Cubism, originally associated with largely French painters such as Picasso, Gris and Braque, is based on the principal idea of the cube as the basic shape and every other work of art as derived from this shape. A must-visit is House of the Black Madonna in Celetná Street, with its grand central staircase. The café on the first level is a good place to relax over an apple strudel and coffee.

## BRIDGE THE CELLULOID DREAM

Prague's existentialist and romantic landscape has always been a big draw for art house film crews. In 1988, however, the city shot to global fame when American director Philip Kaufman chose it to film Milan



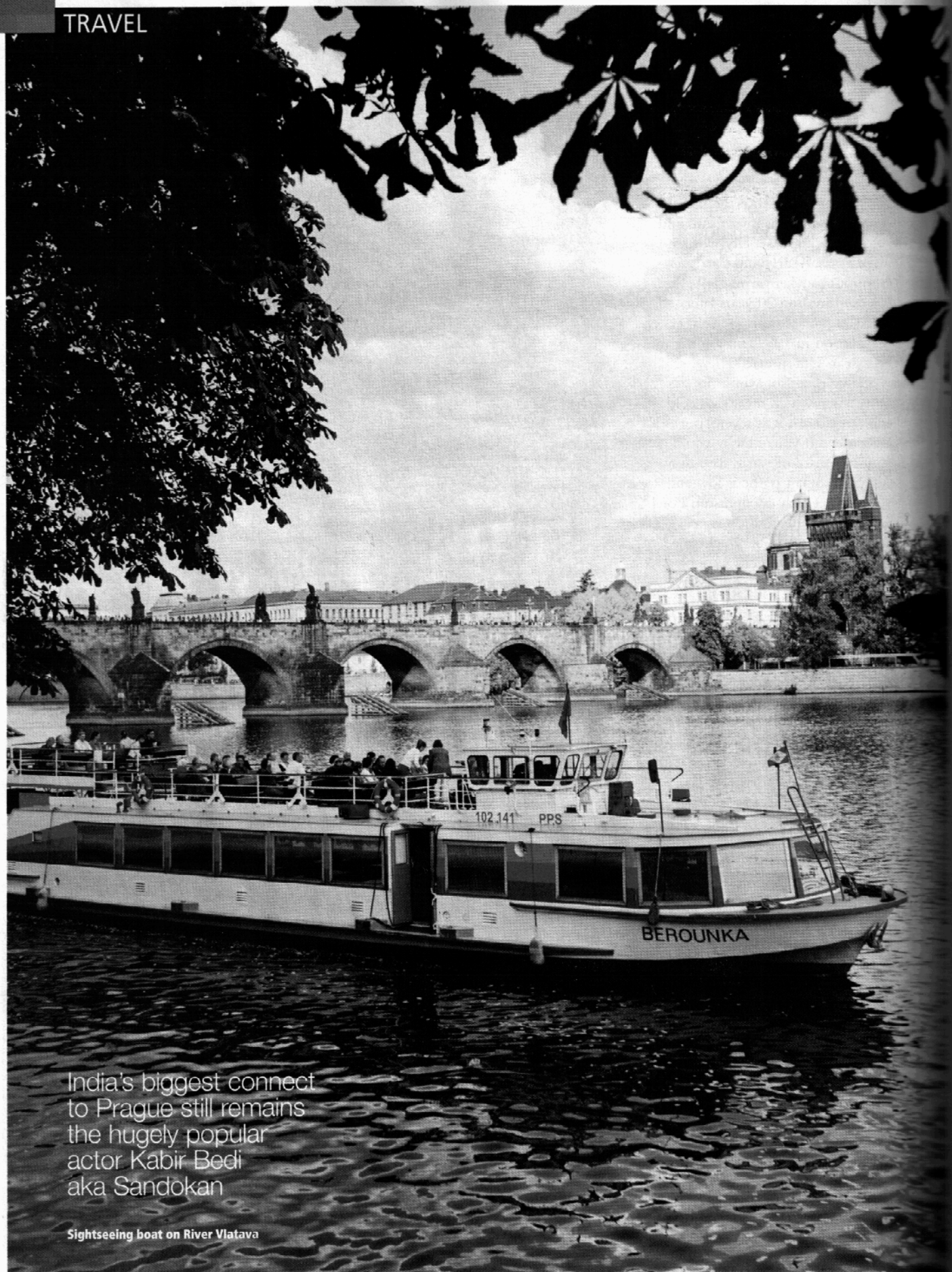
“Prague’s existentialist and romantic landscape has always been a big draw for art house film crews.”

Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Juliette Binoche. The next biggie shot in Prague was Steven Soderberg's *Kafka* starring Jeremy Irons. Ever since, Prague has seduced Hollywood. Among the most famous films shot here are *Casino Royale*, *Mission Impossible* and *The Bourne Identity*.

Fans of Tom Cruise's epic action franchise can drop in at the rather ramshackle Natural History Museum at Václavské nám, which was the 'embassy' where Ethan's first operation begins. Incidentally, the

same location was transformed into a grand Venetian hotel for *Casino Royale*. Other *Mission Impossible* locations are popular tourist spots, like Wenceslas Square and the Lichtenstein Palace on Kampa Island, where sequences from *The Bourne Identity* were also shot. Prague's must-see Charles Bridge also played a part in *Mission Impossible*. It is the bridge from where Jim (Jon Voight) falls to his death in the Vlatava River. The 12-day shoot at the bridge was preceded by almost a month of prepping to get a back-lit old Europe feel to the bridge! >





India's biggest connect  
to Prague still remains  
the hugely popular  
actor Kabir Bedi  
aka Sandokan

Sightseeing boat on River Vltava



## OF SANDOKAN, SEQUINS AND SAMOSAS

It's been two decades, and India's biggest connect to Prague remains the hugely popular actor Kabir Bedi aka Sandokan of the eponymous superhit '80s TV show. But if you think you'll miss the shimmy and sparkle of *desi* cinema here, you're mistaken.

The Festival of Bollywood in Prague (October 12-18, 2009), now in its third year, is a popular local event. This year there is a follow up Festival Echoes screening in Brno (another Czech town) on November 26, 2009. Besides screening new hits, the festival will also showcase classics like *Zanjeer* and Guru Dutt's *Aar Paar*. The event is action-packed and whips up a local craze for *bindis* and samosas. There are also Bollywood dance competitions



Tourists at Old Town Square in Prague

with DJs and dance troupes from other European countries. The festival's programme director Sangita Shreshtova, a Czech-Nepalese dancer and media scholar, whose vibrant dance company ([www.bollynatyam.com](http://www.bollynatyam.com)) focuses on the intersections between technology and dance, is excited about the increasing

popularity of Bollywood in Prague. "Contrary to most South Asian events in other European countries, our audience is predominantly local," says Sangita. "Many come for a tinge of escapism, to experience something different or out of curiosity."

### PRAGUE ON YOUR BUDGET

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