

Witness of time

Gauri Chadha's documentary film *Gawah* is a journey through the traumatic times from the Partition to recent terrorist attacks – the pain which unites people in a strange way – says the young filmmaker

DEEPA SOMAN

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Clad in a chic white outfit that complements her flame-coloured hair, Gauri Chadha exudes the aura of a modern care-free woman. Little does one expect her to speak at length, authoritatively, about traumatic emotions against a backdrop of terror attacks. The young filmmaker is in the capital with her documentary *Gawah* that will be screened at the International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK).

"It is my first time in Kerala and it feels great to be in God's Own Country," exclaims the multiple award winner, who has had prestigious stints in both Hollywood and Bollywood filmmaking. Gauri was part of the crew of *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol* and *Love Breakups Zindagi*, a 2011 Bollywood movie. She is an alumnus of many famed film schools such as Aiglon College, Switzerland, Met Film School, London and University

of Miami. "I have been exposed to different cultures at a very young age. I am an Indian, but my home is Dubai," she says, as she narrates her journey to filmdom.

Many movies have been made about terrorism, so what makes *Gawah* different? "*Gawah* is different as it showcases the mental trauma faced by survivors, its effect on their lives and rehabilitation. It traverses through the 1947 India Pakistan Partition to attacks that took place in the recent past. Times may have changed, it's the age of globalisation, technology may have improved by leaps and bounds, but the pain triggered by such massive events remain the same," observes Gauri, according to whom terrorism also manages to unite people, in a way. "All of us come

and leave this world in the same manner. The emotions, especially pain we go through during this time are also similar and that makes such situations relatable to all. A day before I screened *Gawah* in Arizona, the Boston bombings had happened. Post screening, many people came to thank me, a filmmaker from India, for having showcased such a subject," she says.

Gauri also works in tandem with various NGOs and charities. "The medium of cinema is very powerful and I want to make the best use of this tool to make voices heard," she says with conviction.

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Gauri Chadha

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Gauri Chadha

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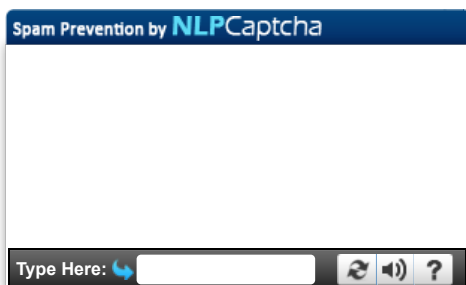
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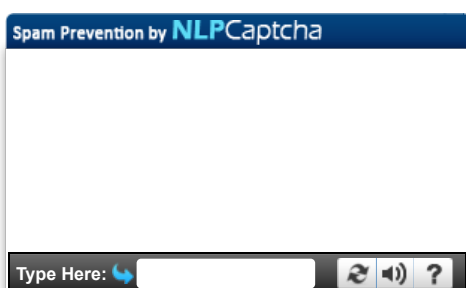
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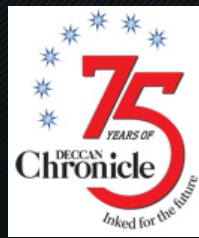
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