

'I'm amazed, Tollywood has no offers for me'

Which song gave you your first break?

My first was a chorus song, which I sang along with Shankar Mahadevan and Kunal Ganjawala. The film was *Yeh Kya Ho Raha Hai*. But my first break was *Khakee's Vaada raha pyar se pyar ka*.

Where did you get your training in music?

I got my training in Western music from Calcutta School of Music. Then I did my PGDM in light music from Mumbai University. After that I took training under Pandit Achyut Thakur and currently I am learning under Gautam Mukherjee who is Hemanta Mukhopadhyay's son-in-law.

Being a Bengali, why didn't you start your career in Bengal?

Two factors played a vital role. One, I always wanted to start my career from a national level. Two, I always had an inclination towards Hindi songs and always dreamt of singing in that language one day.

Have you got any offers from Tollywood?

Unfortunately, not yet. I have sung quite a few numbers in Bhojpuri, Gujarati, Assamese and Telugu, but I am amazed why Tollywood has no offers for me.

How do you see the remix industry?

'Remix songs provide platform for newcomers'

I believe everything has a positive and negative aspect. When I started my career, I sang a few old numbers in remixed form. As these are made on a modest budget, I feel, it sometimes provides a

great platform for newcomers like me. I feel composers should keep the songs' aesthetics intact.

What are your forthcoming projects?

I have worked with music director Ram Sampat for *Family* and I am now working with Daboo Malik. By the end of this year, I hope to cut my first non-filmi Hindi album.

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STRAIGHT
ANSWERS



ARNAB CHAKRABORTY

Singer

On making it in the Mumbai film industry