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Baapya Explores Acceptance, Understanding and Relationships: Director Samir Tewari

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 In his opening remarks, Samir Tewari emphasised that the film does not aim to preach or offer lessons to society, but simply tells a story about acceptance, understanding and relationships. "It's just a story about somebody wanting to become who they want to be, and people around them accepting them the way they are." he said.

Explaining his decision to make the film in Marathi, Tewari said he wanted to make an honest film rooted in a genuine script rather than one designed around an actor.

Recalling the challenges during production, Tewari said securing financial backing for the project was difficult, as potential investors considered its subject risky despite appreciating the script. Casting the lead character, Baapya, was another major challenge, as several actresses were hesitant about portraying a character whose gender identity differed from their own. He credited actress Rajashri Deshpande for taking up the role fearlessly and approaching it as a demanding creative challenge.

Reflecting on changing gender perceptions, Tewari said society is gradually moving towards blurring conventional distinctions between men and women. He observed that individual choices in clothing, behaviour and identity should not invite judgement or discrimination. " Within every man there is a woman and within every woman there is a man. The faster a society progresses, the more the lines will blur between gender," he remarked, emphasising the need to move beyond rigid social notions.

Actor Girish Kulkarni highlighted the importance of treating every individual with dignity and without prejudice. Drawing an analogy from nature, he said people accept the diversity of trees and plants without judging their forms, and the same spirit should guide human relationships.



Observing that art can play a significant role in shaping society, Kulkarni said cinema and other art forms serve not only as mirrors of contemporary realities but also as guides for social progress. He added that Baapya seeks to reinterpret traditions in the light of changing times without abandoning cultural roots. " We aren't forgetting our tradition; we are bringing it forward by interpreting it in a new way, and while strengthening our own roots, we are also thinking ahead. And then we have this immense love coming out of that process," he pointed out.