

# Mirra makes merry!

Usha Stud Farm product, ridden by Antony Raj, races to glory at Mahalaxmi

## INDIAN DERBY

PRAKASH GOSAVI

gosavi@mid-day.com

MIRRA ensured it was a special Sunday for racegoers by winning the Indian Derby (Gr 1) at the Mahalaxmi racetrack.

Owned and bred by Ameeta Mehra of the Usha stud farm, Mirra was trained by Bangalore-based Arjun Mangalorkar and ridden by Antony Raj S. This was the first Indian Derby victory for both, trainer and jockey while it was a record 15th Derby triumph for Usha Stud.

### Historic moment for farm

The farm created history on Sunday when all the first four finishers in the Derby—Mirra, King's Ransom, Wall Street and Imperial Power—were their products. Interestingly, this is the golden jubilee year for the leading Indian stud farm, started in 1973 by Ameeta's father Major PK Mehra.

"My thoughts go out to my father," said an emotional Ameeta in a post-race interview. "I am very pleased with Mirra's victory for another reason. I had sensed she was special and named her after my guru, Mother Mirra of Pondicherry."

Jockey Antony Raj settled Mirra in mid-bunch as the starter flagged off the biggest derby field (19) in recent years. Hot favourite, King's Ransom (PS Chouhan up) chose to bide his time and raced near the rear end of the field, almost more than 20 lengths off the pace. Around the final turn, Chouhan skirted the field from the outside, and though King's Ransom put in a gallant effort to seriously threaten Mirra in the final furlong, it was clear King's Ransom had exhausted herself, and Mirra, goaded by Antony Raj, kicked on to inscribe her name in the Indian Derby record books.

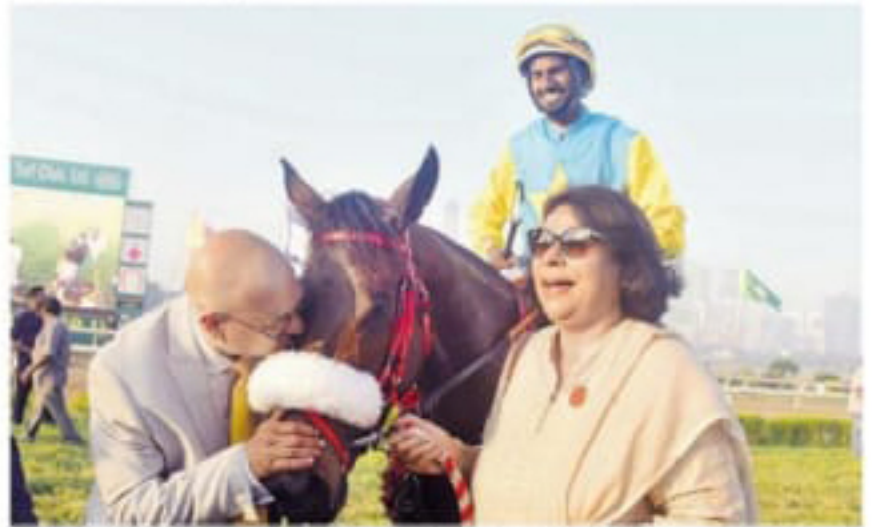
"Antony Raj rode an absolutely perfect race," said trainer

Mangalorkar. He also thanked owner/breeder Ameeta and her team at the farm.

### Trainer enamoured

Interestingly, the trainer, after winning the Bangalore Oaks with Mirra, was so enamoured with Mirra that he decided to skip the Bangalore Derby, and requested Ameeta to give him permission to pitch Mirra for the Indian Derby at Mahalax-

mi. Interestingly, Mirra is the daughter of Myrtlewood who had narrowly missed winning the Indian Derby—ironically, in the hands of jockey PS Chouhan—in 2016. Mirra made Myrtlewood proud by vicariously fulfilling her dream of winning the Indian Derby, again, ironically, when jockey PS Chouhan astride King's Ransom, had to play second fiddle to her.



Indian Derby winner Mirra with jockey S Antony Raj, owner Ameeta Mehra (right) and trainer Arjun Mangalorkar (extreme left)



Jockey S Antony Raj guides Mirra across the finish to win the Indian Derby at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse yesterday. PICS/SHADAB KHAN



# Mirra shock for King's Ransom

SL Shanth Kumar

## B'lore Filly Keeps Favourite At Bay To Win Indian Derby

Shailendra Awasthi  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The Indian Derby, the most prestigious race of the Indian turf, has always been considered a graveyard for favourites as not many have gone on to win. On Sunday too, public choice King's Ransom met her match in Mirra, the 10/1 Bangalore challenger who slipped into the lead 300 metres from the winning post and staved off a spirited challenge from the favourite to land the coveted crown.

To avoid traffic issues in a big field, jockey Pradeep Chouhan brought Pesi Shroff-schooled filly King's Ransom from wide of the field to come into contention heading down the homestretch and that perhaps went in favour of the Arjun Mangalorkar-trained and Antony Raj-guided winner.

"There were always many issues in such a reputed race where the best of the horses are in the hunt. So I did not try to track any rival and rode as if I was riding alone," the 34-year-old Antony, who had won the Hyderabad Derby astride Salento last Sunday, told **TOI**. It was the third time lucky for Antony who rode in the previous two editions of this mega race. "It's a dream come true for me as like every jockey, I had always dreamt of winning Indian Derby," he added.

Antony had settled down Mirra



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in the rear bunch of contenders from the start alongside King's Ransom and Once You Go Black. As the field travelled for the final turn led by Shamrock, Antony, who was making gradual progress atop Mirra all along, hit the front and established a winning lead. Chouhan brought King's Ransom from the wide of the field to chase the leader but failed to overtake her and lost by a length.

Trainer Mangalorkar said he had the faith in his filly. "I brought her to Mumbai skipping the Bangalore Derby. I could have brought her here earlier but waited for her to win a classic. It was only after she won the Bangalore Oaks almost a month ago, we decided to bring her here," said the 51-year-old for whom

it was his first Indian Derby success. He is having the most successful season in his 25 years as a trainer having won four classics through Salento in Hyderabad.

For Mirra's owner Ameeta Mehra, who runs a very successful stud farm called Usha in Gurugram, Haryana, it was 15th Indian Derby success but the first in her colours. "It is a great moment for us as we created Indian Derby history when all the first four finishers were bred at our stud farm in the golden jubilee year of its existence."

Wall Street, owned by former RWITC chairman Vivek Jain and other partners, whom not many believed even existed in the race having available at 100 to 1 and above,

finished an impressive third.

It was the most successful Derby day for the Royal Western India Turf Club too in recent years as more than 15000 people thronged the Mahalaxmi racecourse to soak into the glamorous atmosphere of the big day it is known for.

The ninth and the last race of the evening, the North Alley Million was canceled due to smog. "The jockeys made a representation to the stewards stating due to smog the visibility was extremely poor hence the stewards of the club, taking the same into consideration for the safety of the horses and jockeys, decided to cancel the last race of the day today," read the statement issued by the RWITC.



# Mirra produces a superb run to take the bragging rights in the prestigious Indian Derby

**RACING**

MUMBAI: Miss Ameeta Mehra's champion filly Mirra, piloted by Antony Raj S, won the Indian Derby (Gr.1), at the Mahalaxmi race course here on Sunday. The winner is trained by Arjun Manglorkar. Mirra, who was racing comfortably in the eighth position throughout the trip, improved to sixth position at the bend before Antony the daughter of Speaking of Which-Myrtlewood into top gear. She quickly took the lead and fought a close battle to overcome the challenge from King's Ransom and win by a length.

**Impressive record**

The Usha Stud Farm was established by Maj. P.K. Mehra in 1973 and Ameeta Mehra, who continues her father's legacy, not only achieved the 15th Indian Derby win for the farm on Sunday but the first four horses in the Derby were bred at the farm which is truly historic.

Trainer Karthik Ganapathy's wonder mare Juliette, which won the Eclipse Stakes Of India in a great style, will be participating in the Indian Turf Invitation Cup at Bengaluru next month.

Trainer P. Shroff saddled three winners on the day.

**1. USHA STUD MILLION: JAMARI** (P. Trevor) 1, Smiles Of Fortune (Yash Narredu) 2, Granpar (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Big Red (Sandesh) 4. Not run: Capitolium. 7, 1-1/2 and 3. Im, 37.46s. ₹26 (w), 14 and 14 (p). SHP: 19, FP: 130, Q: 155, Tanala: 164 and 46. Favourite: Granpar. Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy and Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul Sonawala & Mr. D.R. Thacker. Trainer: P. Shroff.



**Proud champion:** Ameeta Mehra, right, trainer Arjun Manglorkar, second from left, and Allen Singh representing Usha Stud Farms leading in the Indian Derby winner Mirra (Antony Raj up). EMMANUAL YOGINI

**2. DIEGO RIVERA RUSI PATEL TROPHY: NORTHERN LIGHTS** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Ahead Of My Time (Sandesh) 2, Coeur De Lion (Mustakim) 3 and Successor (S. Saqlain) 4. 3/4, Nk and 4. Im, 36.57s. ₹43 (w), 16 and 13 (p). SHP: 23, FP: 90, Q: 25, Tanala: 127 and 118. Favourite: Ahead Of My Time. Owners: Mr. Vijay B. Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke, Mr. Dara K. Mehta rep. Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Bhupinder Singh. Trainer: P. Shroff.

**3. SIR HOMI MEHTA BREEDERS' PRODUCE STAKES: IRISH GOLD** (S. Saqlain) 1, Sea The Sun (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Dream Alliance

(Sandesh) 3 and Waikiki (Parmar) 4. 2-1/2, 1-3/4 and Nk. Im, 23.51s. ₹35 (w), 15 and 18 (p). SHP: 26, FP: 128, Q: 73, Tanala: 221 and 74. Favourite: Dream Alliance. Owners: Mr. Mukul Sonawala, Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeders LLP & Mr. Nozer Panthaky. Trainer: Dallas Todywalla.

**4. D & A REALTY ECLIPSE STAKES OF INDIA: JULIETTE** (C.S. Jodha) 1, Forest Flame (Sandesh) 2, Truly Epic (Imran Chisty) 3 and In Contention (S. Saqlain) 4. 2m, 00.43s. ₹15 (w), 11 and 13 (p). SHP: 18, FP: 12, Q: 11, Tanala: 44 and 43. Favourite: Juliette. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust.

Trainer: Karthik Ganapathy.

**5. B.K. RAYTONSEY MEMORIAL MADHEN MULTI-MILLION: FIGATON** (N.S. Parmar) 1, The General (Bhawani) 2, Dream Seller (Ajirkyia) 3 and She's A Teaser (S. Saqlain) 4. Not run: Pride's Prince. 2, 1-1/4 and 7-1/4. Im, 10.07s. ₹16 (w), 12, 11 and 21 (p). SHP: 30, FP: 46, Q: 32, Tanala: 207 and 130. Favourite: Figaton. Owner: Mr. Prashant Nagar rep. SKJ Thoroughbreds Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: A.M. Jadhav.

**6. THE INDIAN DERBY: MIRRA** (SPEAKING OF WHICH-MYRTLEWOOD) (ANTONY RAJ S) 1, King's Ransom (Multidimensional-China Creek) (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Wall

Street (Speaking Of Which-Nifty) (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Imperial Power (Multidimensional-Majestic Opinion) 4. Not run: King Louis. 1, 1 and 1-1/2. 2m, 29.34s. ₹88 (w), 21, 15 and 121 (p). SHP: 35, FP: 396, Q: 230, Tanala: 14,930 and 12,797. Favourite: King's Ransom. Owner: Miss Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Arjun Manglorkar.

**7. COHOMANDEL GROMOR MILLION: EMPEROR RODERIC** (C. Umesh) 1, Raffaello (S. Saqlain) 2, Magileto (Parmar) 3 and Flying Scotsman (Neeraj) 4. 1-1/2, Shd and 2-1/2. Im, 9.34s. (record time). ₹40 (w), 18, 29 and 27 (p). SHP: 65, FP: 562, Q: 272, Tanala: 4,303 and 1,712. Favourite: Baby Bazooka. Owners: Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Mukul Sonawala, Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeders LLP & Mr. S.R. Sanas. Trainer: P. Shroff.

**8. RAGE2WIN.COM MILLION: SAN SALVATORE** (K. Nazil) 1, Inamorata (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Lord Fenicia (Akshay Kumar) 3 and My Princess (Parmar) 4. 4-1/4, 2 and Nk. Im, 22.68s. ₹272 (w), 59, 11 and 30 (p). SHP: 34, FP: 969, Q: 714, Tanala: 4,457 and 2,335. Favourite: Inamorata. Owners: Mr. Gaurav Sethi, Mr. Abhimanyu J. Thackersey, Kannika D. Kocchar & Mr. Vishal K. Doctor rep. Deciding Factor LLP. Trainer: Altamash A. Ahmed.

**9. NORTHALLEY MILLION:** Cancelled due to fog and poor visibility.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹3,714 (39 tkts.), 30%: 136 (458 tkts.); (ii) 100%: 49,344 (348 tkts.).

Treble : (i) 129 (199 tkts.), (ii) c/f, (iii) 5,417 (13 tkts.).

Super Jackpot: 100%: 38, 742 (7 tkts.).



# Mirra claims the prestigious Indian Derby



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**VEER IS THE MOST  
CHALLENGING CHARACTER:  
KARAN KUNDRRA**



**WEATHER**

**33<sup>0</sup>c. 23<sup>0</sup>c.**

Sunrise : 07:12 am

Sunset : 06:33 pm

## **HOOFS OF GLORY**



Mirra, a Bangalore-based horse, won the India Derby ahead of the favourite King's Ransom at the Mahalaxmi racecourse on Sunday. The jockey riding the winner was Antony Raj S and the filly came from the stable of Arjun Mangalorkar

# Mirra shock for King's Ransom

TNN | Feb 6, 2023, 08.39 AM IST



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It was the third time lucky for Antony who rode in the previous two editions of this mega race.

"It's a dream come true for me as like every jockey, I had always dreamt of winning Indian Derby," he added.

Antony had settled down Mirra in the rear bunch of contenders from the start alongside King's Ransom and Once You Go Black. As the field travelled for the final turn led by Shamrock, Antony, who was making gradual progress atop Mirra all along, hit the front and established a winning lead.

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# Mirra does a classic double

Feb 6, 2023, 08:11 AM IST



Kolkata: Arjun Manglorkar- nursed Mirra claimed the Indian Derby Grade I on Sunday at the Mahalaxmi. The daughter of Myrtlewood having come fresh from her conquest in the Bangalore derby and was confidently ridden by Antony Raj S.

Mumbai short results

(With Inter-Venue Dividends)

1. (7-6-4) Jamari 1:Smiles Of Fortune 2:Grandpa 3. Not run. Capitolium.

2. (2-1-6) Northern Lights 1:Ahead Of My Time 2:Coeur De Lion 3.

3. (1-5-3) Irish Gold 2:Sea The Sun 2: Dream Alliance 3.

4. (1-2-5) Juliette 1:Forest Flame 2:Truly Epic 3.

5. (4-6-3) Fight On 1:The General 2: Dream Seller 3.

6. (17-16-14) Mirra 1: King's Ransom 2: Wall Street 3.

7. (10-4-9) Emperor Roderic 1:Raffaello 2:Magileto 3.

8. (4-1-7) San Salvatore 1:Inamorata 2:Lord Fenicia 3

9th race CANCELLED 3.



Jackpot: Rs 45,064 paid on four legs. Mini Jackpot: Rs c/o. Treble: (I) Rs 196 (II) Rs 221 (III) Rs 1,566 pain on two legs.

Shivalik may win:

Sarfaraz Khan-nursed Shivalik may win the Himmat Nagar Plate on Monday at Delhi.

Delhi Selections

1.30pm: 1. Jet Sukhoi 2. Treasure 3. Franco.

2pm: 1. Shivalik Queen 1:Jet Rafle 3. Another Rainbow.

2.30pm: 1. Periwinkle 2. Shwetamber 3. Girl Power.

3pm: 1. Niche Storm 2. Bagi 3. Jet Space.

3.30pm: 1. Eliminator 2. Ashwa Frankie 3. Master Van Dyck.

4pm: 1. Colonel Harty 2. Oralie 3. Sir Ramon.

Day's Best: Periwinkle. Good Double: Jet Sukhoi and Niche Storm.