



**Single: Baaghi Howa**  
**Artist: Bilal Inayat**  
**Release: Out now**

This is a decent love song which could have been really great if a better singer was on vocal duties. Although Bilal Inayat has a decent voice, it just isn't strong enough to lift this song to where it should be. There are some nice moments but they aren't catchy enough to keep you interested. Those who enjoy slower power ballads may like this, but even they won't remain with the song long. This will ultimately go down as a wasted opportunity. Watching the interesting music video online a few times will be enough to get a fill of this release.



**Single: Qarar De**  
**Artist: M. Shahid Shadaa**  
**Release: Out now**

This is like a watered down version of a love song you would perhaps find in a commercial Bollywood movie. Although the lyrics, music and vocals are decent, the romantic number comes across as the poorer cousin of better songs in the same genre and becomes dull after a while. Having said that, there is something for die-hard romantics to bite into, but they will need a lot of patience and more than a few spins to savour it. This is an average love song that blends into the background, comes across as cheesy and one that won't stay on repeat.



**Single: Nakhre**  
**Artist: Jassie Gill**  
**Release: Out now**

This is one of those watered-down Punjabi pop numbers that will most appeal to those living in the sub-continent. The song does have a catchy beat that will make you want to bust a dance move or three, but not enough power to light up your music system for a long period of time. Some may find the lyrics cheesy and the vocals too lightweight. Ultimately this is a fast food number that would give you a quick Punjabi music fix and not much else. Listen to this with lower expectations if you are bored and with not much else to do.



**Album: Noor**  
**Artist: Various**  
**Release: Out now**

Rising music star Amaal Mallik has composed the songs for the forthcoming film starring Sonakshi Sinha. The title track *Uff Yeh Noor* and *Jise Kehne Pyaar Hai* have a peppy energy about them but seem like they are more suited to a stage musical. Meanwhile likeable love song *Hai Zaroori* had some potential but runs out of steam as it progresses. There is an EDM and remix version of classic Bollywood song *Gulabi Aankhen*, but it is not nearly as great as the original. Overall the music comes across more as background songs than commercial Bollywood numbers.



# Rise up and shine

## BHAVINI SHETH HAS HIGH HOPES FOR HER BAND DAKU LIGHTS

by PRIYA MULJI

**A TRIP to holiday camp Butlins as a seven-year-old turned into a life-changing experience for Bhavini Sheth after she volunteered to get up on stage at a kid's club. She absolutely loved the limelight and asked her mother for singing lessons soon after.**

From there an interesting musical journey started, which led towards a solo stint as a singer/songwriter before being selected to be a part of unique three-piece band Dakú Lights.

Today the talented 19-year-old is a part of an exciting band with their eyes firmly fixed on the western mainstream. They have gone from releasing cool cover versions to recording an EP that has a melting pot of musical influences.

*Eastern Eye* caught up with Bhavini to talk about Dakú Lights, their music, challenges they are facing as newcomers, future hopes, inspirations and more.

**What led you towards joining Dakú Lights?**

Sharing my passion for music and the entire journey with like-minded talented people was very appealing. More than anything, I knew it would be so much fun. I liked the idea of bouncing music-related ideas off one another and together reaching great heights. In my opinion, having band members on board can be more rewarding and more motivating. When you work with others, you not only bring out the best in them but they also bring out the best in you. Working with them has not only made me more innovative when it comes to the music I write, but it's pushed me to keep working hard.

**Tell us about Dakú Lights?**

Dakú Lights are an upcoming, culturally diverse British band based in London made up of myself (British-born Indian), Panda (Trinidadian, English and Irish) and Haiiro (Chinese and English). We are three like-minded musicians who want to bring catchy, sophisticated, enjoyable yet meaningful music to the industry that a wide range of people will appreciate and support. We've been working tirelessly in the studio on our EP *Illuminate* (there are 3 of us because each one is represented by one of us).

**Where does the band name come from?**

Dakú is derived from the Japanese language and can be translated in English to 'dark'. We wanted to make the name of our band multi-lingual! The second word of the band name is 'Lights' as we all

individually represent one coloured light. Bhavini represents red, due to her passion, fire and determination. Haiiro represents orange, due to his enthusiasm and creativity. Panda represents lilac due to his spirituality and love for music. We combined the two words to indicate the dark/light theme in our music. The 'lights' side of our music is very upbeat and fun, for example our singles *Set Me Free*, *Run Away* and *Bubblegum* all depict this mood. Whereas the 'Dakú' side is more moody and slightly darker in tone, for example our singles *Say No More* and *Over* can be seen to depict this mood.

**How would you describe the music you make?**

Dakú Lights are trying to bring a new flavour to pop music. As all the tracks in our EP are self-produced and self-written, they are very dear to our hearts. We have future bass, dub step, r'n'b, Indie, KPOP and EDM elements all combined in our music, along with our experimental harmonies, which create a new sound all together.

**How does it feel to be in a band with two guys?**

It feels great! Panda and Haiiro are two of my closest friends. They are great guys and look out for me just like my brother Kishan does. I feel at complete ease when I'm with them and they are two of the few who know how crazy I really am! (Laughs) Haiiro and I tend to have these occasional laughing fits with each other, which have been known to last for a solid 40 minutes. Being the only girl I do get spoiled a bit too, which I never complain about. More than anything, we are a team working towards a common goal of producing the best music we possibly can.

**What has been the response to your songs so far?**

The response has been very positive so far from our fans, family and friends. I believe we may be onto something as the type of music we produce is popular with all walks of life. People of all ages can relate to the songs we have produced and most importantly people want to hear more of us, which is a really good sign!

**Who is your music aimed at?**

Our music is aimed at anybody and everybody so I believe that we will appeal to people of all age groups, especially those who like pop music with an edge due to our additional elements of future bass, dub step, r'n'b, Indie, KPOP and EDM, which blend it into one coherent sound, making us very accessible to people.

**You have done some great cover versions and put them online; what has been your favourite?**

The cover we did of *The Hills* by The Weeknd is definitely my favourite. We took the original song, which is quite dark, and implemented an original production as means of giving a taste of our personal sound. Our version combines a much lighter mood with vocal harmonies.

**What is the Dakú Lights masterplan?**

Currently we have self-produced and self-written our EP. The next stage is to get signed to management who will help us land a record deal, enabling us to release our music both domestically and internationally. We'll then release an album, tour and perform at festivals around the world, and build up a large fan base along the way. We'd love to be able to dip our toes in as many projects as possible, and expand the Dakú brand.

**Who would you all love to collaborate with?**

We would love to collaborate with Adele. She is an inspiring, remarkable woman who has achieved so much despite how impossible it seemed for her to reach her goal. She is a role model, and the amount of energy and soul she puts into each and every song gives her respect in our eyes.

**Which of your unreleased songs are you most excited about?**

I'm most excited about *Set Me Free*, which is a song I solely wrote for the band. It's about the inner struggle and how freedom is necessary. I think it has the potential to reach the top 40 charts! We really think it's going to be a hit due to the meaningful lyrics and its catchy nature.

**What is the biggest challenge you are facing as an upcoming band?**

We are still at the early stage of our career so have to put the funds together to source our equipment for live performances, upcoming shows and festivals. This has been a struggle for us.

**What has been your most memorable live performance so far?**

A friend's birthday party was the most intimate setting we've performed in. Having lots of close friends there, right in front of our faces, was a real challenge and quite daunting. It was far more terrifying than performing in front of hundreds of strangers!

**What inspires you as a songwriter?**

My feelings, emotional state and people surrounding me tend to inspire me as a songwriter, and it's often that when I'm going through a certain emotional phase in my life that some of my best work has been produced. It's how I express myself!

### 'I wrote a song stuck in a lift!'

**What is the strangest place you have come up with a song?**

I once wrote a song when I was stuck in a lift at a shopping centre for two hours. I made use of my time wisely in there!

**Who is your own personal greatest musical influence?**

The late Michael Jackson really was the king of pop and I hugely miss his talent. From his great dance moves to his stage presence, to his enchanting music, he had the entire package of a superstar. Jackson's music proved that he wanted to make a difference in the world, which I applaud him for.

**If you could ask any alive or dead singer a question, who would it be and what would you ask them?**

I would ask the late Michael Jackson what inspired him to produce the kind of music he did, which included not only hits but also covered a range of topics and real issues in the world that he felt needed addressing.

**Which musical instrument would you love to learn to play?**

I would love to learn how to play the acoustic guitar. It's such a beautiful instrument to play while singing.

**Why should we all find out more about your band Dakú Lights?**

Dakú Lights are different! Our sound, concept and image are different. We have three people who represent various shapes, sizes and ethnicities. We've started something special and built it up from scratch. We are unlike anything else in the charts at the moment and really think we will appeal to not just teenagers, but many different markets a lot of current UK bands don't normally cater for.

**Why do you love music?**

I love music because it gives me a reason to wake up and get out of bed in the morning. It motivates me, drives me to continuously keep going and doing my best in everything I do. It gives me purpose and makes me feel alive in a way that nothing else can!

Log onto Soundcloud: @daku-lights to find out more

My Pod with Ishi



SWITZERLAND-born singer Ishi trained in western classical music. She then headed east to study Indian classical music and proceeded to producing tracks that are a fusion of her various influences. That eclectic taste was evident when the talented newcomer chose 10 songs she loves.

■ **Piya by Ishi Ft. Niraj Chag:** This song will always be special to me. Not only does it emphasise good feelings, but it is my first ever Hindi solo track. On top of that, your very own talented British Asian producer Niraj Chag made the beat. It's awesome to listen in spring/summer for positive vibes.

■ **Mangal Deep by Lata Mangeshkar:** When I was four years old, I would spend every waking moment singing along to Indian songs. This was my favourite. Whenever guests came, I stood in front of them and sang. Till today, my family still asks me to sing this song.

■ **Keep Their Heads Ringin' by Dr Dre:** The best hip-hop happened in the 1990s. There are so many songs to choose from, it was hard to pick one! The track is special to me as it kicked off my love for hip-hop.

■ **Bindiya Chamkegi by Bally Sagoo:** This track has the perfect pitch for me and is the first I performed on stage. Bally Sagoo, my other favourite British Asian producer (besides Niraj), makes crispy beats and his bass lines are very clean. It would be a wish come true if I could ever work with him.

■ **Fallin' by Alicia Keys:** Seeing Alicia Keys in concert, where she started off by playing the *Moonlight Sonata* by Beethoven on piano followed by *Fallin'*, got me all excited. Growing up I loved playing classical pieces on piano. *Fallin'* was the turning point for me to include pop pieces in my rehearsing.

■ **Queen Of The Night Aria by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:** Another classical piece that got stuck with me on my first opera experience. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is a truly great work. After hearing the *Queen's Aria*, I told my vocal teacher I wanted to learn it so badly. I hit the highest note with ease!

■ **Aaja by Nucleya:** Representing my love for Punjabi music. I confess that I have a minor obsession with anything Punjabi. I rarely listen to EDM but I found this track compelling because of the wonderful Punjabi vocals.

■ **DJ Waley Babu by Badshah Ft. Aastha Gill:** One of those songs when you are in India on a trip and you ask the driver to play some music and he keeps on playing the same song over and over again until it turns into an ear-worm. Actually most songs by Badshah are catchy!

■ **Swalla by Jason Derulo Ft. Nicki Minaj & Ty Dolla Sign:** The First song of 2017 in my playlist. I'm currently listening to it at least once a day. I love the rhythm, melody and Nicki's short appearance in this track. I've always liked Jason's voice. This tune is lit!

■ **Ghaltana by Saad Lamjarred:** My playlist would be incomplete without an Arabic track. I may not understand a single word, but the rhythm of this particular song always has me trying out my belly dancing skills.

