

# Pentagram



Randolph, Shiraz, Papal and Vishal came together in 1994, with a strong need to play individual, original, unique music. This was as much a reaction to the stagnating Indian Rock scene, populated by bands playing mostly cover music, as it was a primal instinct. They did the rounds of college festivals, almost immediately becoming well known and popular, by winning three major rock competitions at the Kanpur, Delhi and Bombay IIT's. They signed a record deal and put out their first album (*We Are Not Listening*) in 1996. It was listed by Rhythm House (India's premier record store) as the fastest selling rock album. They released two videos ('The Ignorant 1' and 'Yoo') which were frequently played by all the music channels.

Pentagram were **MTV India's 'Artist of the Month'** in 1997. They also won the **Channel V** awards for **Best Live Band** and **Best Indian Band** in 1997 & 1998. They were featured on Channel V's Big Gig show, a showcase of an hourlong live performance.

They played gigs in the Seychelles and all across Indian Campuses, while figuring out their sound. When they put out their second album (*Up*, 2002), their audiences were taken by surprise. The alternative rock band they had known had added a huge electronic edge to their sound. Pentagram have always maintained that the new sound came out of a burning need to find a way to

- Pentagram is India's biggest rock band playing rock/electonica
- Pentagram were the first Indian band to play at Glastonbury music festival in 2005
- Pentagram are one of the oldest rock bands in India and have played a major role in defining the current Indian music scene.
- Pentagram have released 3 original albums
- 'We Are Not Listening' was listed as the fastest selling rock album
- 'Think of Me' on the album 'Up' went to no. 5 in the world on Billboard's talent. 'Up' was also one of the highest selling rock albums in India with 15,000 copies sold
- Their newest album 'It's Ok, It's All Good' spent 6 weeks on the Planet M national charts, a first for any Indian band.

During the Kargil war, Pentagram recorded and released India's first exclusive-to-internet song, 'The Price of Bullets', which featured famous poet Javed Akhtar and popular Indian Classical artist Shankar Mahadevan. The video, directed by Farhan Akhtar, one of India's most successful young filmmakers, was blacked out by channels across the board for being 'too politically loaded'. It was added as a bonus track on their second album "Up".

They became the first Indian Band to top Asian mp3.com charts with **six songs going to No. 1 for over two weeks** each. ('Drive', '**Strange**', '**Think of Me**', '**Don't Care**', '**Is there a Light?**', '**The Price of Bullets**' all featured on 'Up'). Their single, 'Think of Me', went to no. 5 in the world on Billboard's talent hunt site. 'Up' was later released and published by their self owned music label, 'Pentagrammusic', produced and distributed by Sony Music (India). It went on to become one of India's highest selling rock albums with more than 15,000 copies sold. A string of awards followed including **Best Live Act at the June Rock Out awards** in 2003, winning the readers poll for '**Best Indian Band**' by **Rock Street Journal** twice.

Their new edge brought them international recognition, in that the doors of several festivals were flung open to them. They headlined the Sundance Music Festival in Estonia in 2003, a first for any Indian band. They were also invited to, and played at the **Glastonbury Music Festival in 2005**. This was a real high point, as they not only became the first Indian Act to play there, but also became aware of the real possibilities of their music. They were able to share the stage with contemporary giants like Coldplay, Chemical Brothers, Tori Amos, Fat Boy Slim, White Stripes. Seeing how they stood up to huge acts, and how positive the audiences were, knee-jerked Pentagram into producing their current album. It's OK, It's All Good, released by Counter Culture Records in March 2007 has been very well received. The album spent **6 weeks on Planet M's national sales charts peaking at no. 3**, again a first for any Indian rock band. The first single off this album **Voice** won the **Song Of The Year** at the recent **Jack Daniel's Annual Indian Rock Awards**. The same night **Vishal** was **awarded Vocalist Of The Year**. Self assured, more mature, and yet, as edgy as ever, this year they hope to tour the festival circuit far more aggressively.

Pentagram is a band that is best experienced live. Take a look at a few videos of the band.

- Video for 'Voice' from 'It's Ok, It's All Good' - <http://tinyurl.com/pentagramvoice>
- Video for 'Electric' from 'It's Ok, It's All Good' - <http://tinyurl.com/pentagramelectric>
- Video for 'Disconnected' from 'Up' - <http://tinyurl.com/pentagramdisconnected>
- Live video from
- Live video from

For more details on the band, visit their website at - <http://www.pentagram.in/>

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