

# Hindustan Times

## Fired up to create music

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# Fired up to create music

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**T**his is Agnee but don't confuse it with the earlier one. The only thing common between Hindi rock outfit Agni (they even spell the name differently), which disbanded four years ago and the new band is Koko, the guitarist. "This band is completely new, only the name is the same," says Koko.

The band is not only excited about its new album, *Agnee* (Sony BMG) but also ecstatic to be working with director Prakash Jha in his next film, *Dil Dosti Etc.* "We are hardly a year old but are lucky to have caught the attention of Prakash Jha," says Koko.

The band plays classical and folk-rock and uses a lot of ragas and classical Indian instruments. One of the songs in the film is a thumri while the other is a classic rock number. "Prakashji approached us when we were not even

ready with our album. He had heard a rough recording of a thumri and asked us to work on the film's music," says Koko. The songs have been sung by Aarti Angalikar, who sang in *Sardari Begum*, and will be released in July.

The album, too, reflects the same kind of music, with a lot of folk flavour and heavy use of guitars.

Why did Koko not stick to the earlier band's sound? "This band has new musicians and all come from different backgrounds," says Koko. The three-member band comprising guitarists Koko and Arijit and vocalist Mohan met by chance last year at a friend's wedding. Agnee was formed within a week. "It was formed over phone and suddenly we got busy composing music and the album was ready within six months," says vocalist Mohan.

While Mohan is from Kolkata, Arijit comes from Pune and Koko was in

Mumbai after the earlier band broke up.

The band is open to the idea of working in more films. Right now, though, it is concentrating on promoting its album, two numbers from which — *Sadhao re* and *Kabira* — are already climbing the charts. "We have used Kabir's lyrics written 800 years ago and listeners are interpreting them in their own way, which is even more encouraging. Even Sandeep Chowta, who produced and arranged the songs, was excited with the effect we had given to the numbers," says Koko. The band, which has recently finished the theme music for *MTV Roadies*, has shot the videos of *Sadhao re* in Mumbai and Varanasi and will soon start shooting one for *Kabira*. "We are also ready with our second album and have already composed eight tracks," says Mohan.

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**Destined to band together:** (From left) Arijit, Koko and Mohan met at a wedding and formed *Agnee* within a week