

Three new releases, three very different engineering approaches. From immersive vocal intimacy and cinematic acoustic layering to dance-floor-ready groove architecture, these tracks remind us that great records are often shaped as much by the people behind the console as those behind the microphone.

Dopeher Blues | Aamir Aziz x Bombay Noor

Aamir Aziz's socially conscious poetry drives this track. The engineering story belongs to **Ayan De**, who handled mixing and mastering. A Mumbai-based engineer, producer, sound designer and founder, De's practice extends well beyond conventional record production into immersive audio, acoustics, speaker-system design and creative audio technology, built across nearly two decades working in music, film and television sound. Projects associated with his engineering have collectively generated 33 billion streams, 62 million Shazams and 65 billion short-form video views — a scale that speaks to how widely his sonic fingerprint travels. On Dopeher Blues, that experience shows in restraint: De's stated philosophy of making a record "translate everywhere" plays out as spacious, uncluttered mixing that keeps Aziz's vocals intimate and intelligible while retaining the track's brooding ambience,

with Aditya Ahir's keyboard textures folded in without ever crowding the arrangement.

Yeh Duniya | Curtain Blue

Curtain Blue's living-room-experiment-turned-production combines electronica with live sarangi, violin and brass. The mix comes courtesy of **Prathamesh Dudhane** of Bombay Live Studios, one of India's most respected independent mixing and mastering engineers, working across music, film and commercial projects. He's an **IRAA Award winner**: at **2022 IRAA Awards**, he won in the **Independent Music category for Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Electronic on OAFF x Kayan's So Good (mixing and mastering) and Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Pop on Kamakshi Khanna and Karun Kannampilly's Duur (mixing, alongside Jason Dsouza)**. That pedigree is evident on Yeh Duniya, where brass, sarangi and violin each hold their own space around the vocal without masking it — a genuine mixing achievement given the layer count. Mastering fell to Mike Marsh of Exchange Mastering, one of the UK's leading mastering engineers, with credits including **Massive**

Attack, Björk, Oasis, the Chemical Brothers, Basement Jaxx, Depeche Mode, Calvin Harris and Prodigy, built over nearly three decades at the legendary **Exchange Studios** before he launched his own facility.

LAAPATA | Bir x Daaku x Kunwarr x Yahvi Chavan

Bir, Daaku, Kunwarr and Yahvi Chavan front this Afro-Punjabi fusion track, engineered for both streaming

prioritise movement — engineered as much for streaming platforms and dance floors as for radio play, with Lewis's low-end control doing much of the work of keeping the groove uncluttered.

For our esteemed readers, these releases offer more than new music to discover. They serve as a reminder that behind every compelling performance



Official Album art for the latest Punjabi hip-hop banger **LAAPATA**

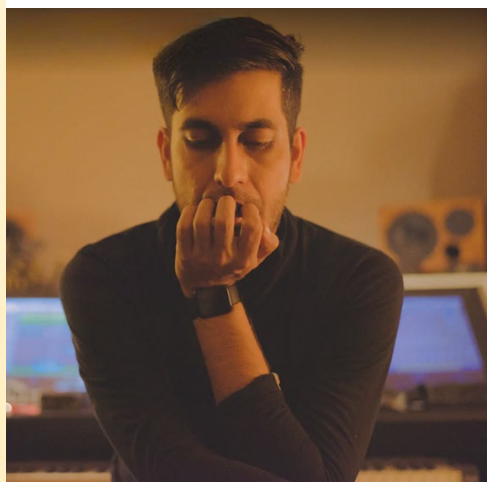
and the dance floor. The engineering standout is **Damien Lewis**, who handled mix and mastering while also contributing bass guitar — a dual role that shows directly in the low end. The bass interacts tightly with the percussion without overwhelming the vocals, a critical balancing act in groove-driven pop production, and the rhythmic architecture holds together even with multiple vocalists sharing space across the arrangement. It's a mix built to

lies a series of technical decisions, from microphone placement and arrangement choices to mixing and mastering, that ultimately shape how a song is experienced.

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*All record labels, independent artists and channels are requested to share new projects with the **PALM Expo Magazine** team if they wish to get featured in the 'Unequal Music' column as the team explores the voice and talent of budding artists in this recurring feature. To share releases for this column, contact:*

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Ayan De, helmed mixing & mastering for Dopeher Blues; IC - SoundBetter



Prathamesh Dudhane lent his mixing prowess for Yeh Duniya; IC - Dudhane's Instagram