



Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota



Sonchiriya

NEXT CHANGE

Sometime ago, I finally caught up with Vasan Bala's *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*. Tons of people had suggested that I should watch this whacky comedy. For once, the film lived up to its hype. The action was truly well-crafted and the film offered an irreverent take on growing up, on being different. The acting was top notch. Gulshan Devaiah aced his twin roles. Playing a karate expert was a sort of departure for him but he pulled it off. The volatile Radhika Madan was in fine fettle here too. She was in sync with a character that must have been physically challenging for her. Even Mahesh Manjrekar was good as the grandfather, who understands the

needs of a growing boy. And Abhimanyu Dasani, actress Bhagyashree's son, got a unique debut alright.

Then there was Abhishek Chaubey's *Sonchiriya*. What's a *daaku* film doing in this day and age was my first thought when I learnt about it. But when I began watching it, I was slowly hooked. The film is set in an era when the government was desperately trying to rehabilitate the Chambal dacoits. While it's not necessary to know the geopolitical reality of the time to enjoy the film, the insight does add to the film's flavour. But it's the performances that truly grip you. Be it the ever reliable Manoj Bajpayee playing a man haunted by crimes and yearning

for redemption, the chameleon-like Sushant Singh Rajput cutting his teeth in a new genre or Bhumi Pednekar as a resilient woman in a man's world - they all essayed palpable emotions. And how could one forget that gem of an actor, Ranvir Shorey? As the hot-headed second-in-command, he was very much the unpredictable dacoit that we hear about.

The point I'm trying to make here is that despite their unique take, such films didn't go on to become blockbusters. Reportedly, *Mard...* managed to garner barely two crores while *Sonchiriya* gathered around seven.

Has the hardcore Hindi viewer become so accustomed to escapist cinema that he or she doesn't want to

invest their money and emotions in something real and unique?

Regional cinemas, be it Bengali, Marathi, or down South are actively investing in good stories and are reaping rich dividends. So why not here? Is it because the stars don't wish to step out of their comfort zone? If Vijay Sethupathi is happy playing a character belonging to the third gender after playing a gangster in an earlier film, then what's stopping Hindi stars from exploring? Strangely, it's unusual fare, which is driving the OTT platform. If the mainstream viewer has shifted base on the small screen, then why this reluctance when it comes to the big screen? Answers... anyone?

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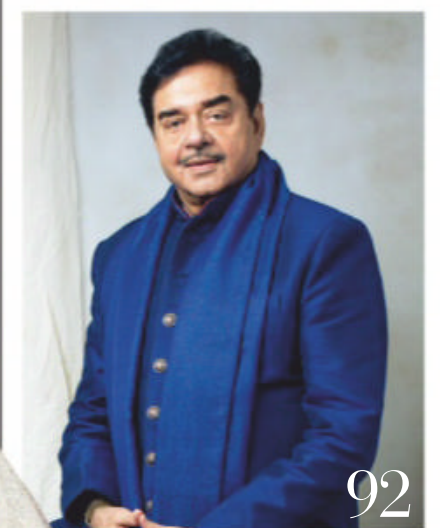
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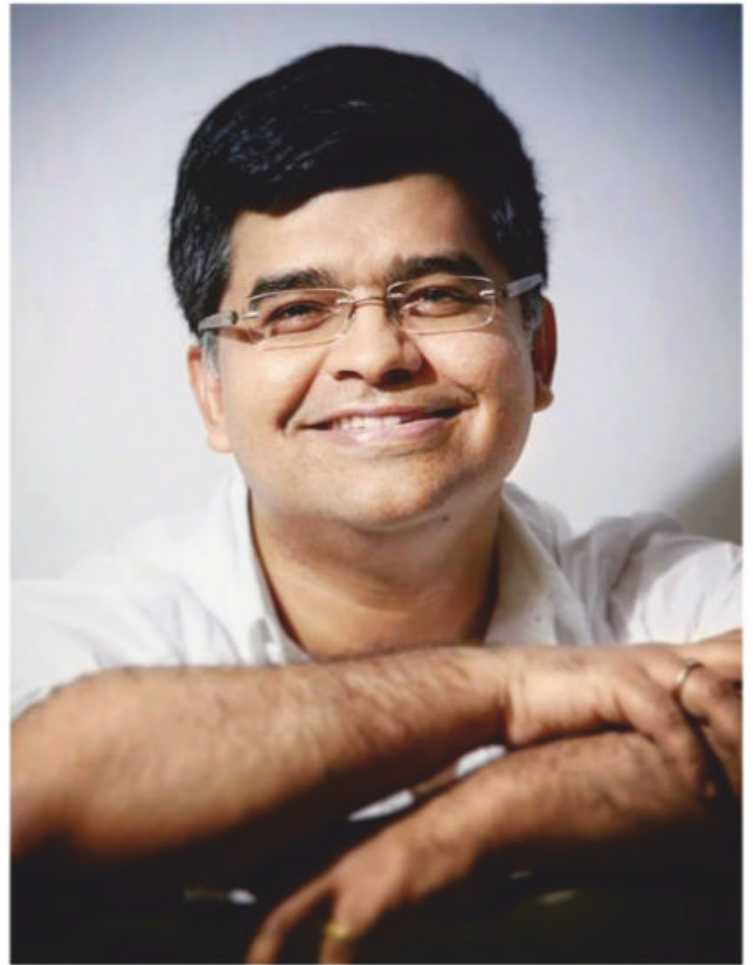
The latest song from *Bharat*, featuring Katrina Kaif, *Aethe aa*, is all the rage right now. The ravishing actor has made the saree look so sexy with her moves. Perhaps that's her superpower - to make the most mundane stuff look both hot and haute. *Bharat* is set in the Salman Khan universe and we all know that in *Bhai's* films the heroines generally have supporting roles. And that by and large is the general perception around Katrina's career as well - that she has always chosen to do male-centric films. Or is only interested in doing item numbers that require her to show her agile moves, seemingly not caring for roles that require her to perform. Given these facts, her bright and bold arc of a self-destructive heroine in *Zero* was a bolt from the blue indeed. It's sad that the film didn't perform as well as expected at the box-office. And hence the masses couldn't appreciate her nuanced performance as much as it deserved to be.

It's hard to pinpoint why she's so universally loved. It can't be just her beauty or her sex-appeal. There are a number of actors and models who are as beautiful. Yet they don't enjoy her kind of fan and Insta following. Maybe she has what's been called the X-factor aplenty. That's what sets her apart from the rest and makes her shine amongst the top stars of the industry.

Today, few know of her uneventful beginnings. That she acted in a dud called *Boom* (2003), reviled for its sleazy content. That she went down South and did Telugu and Malayalam films before finding her feet again in Hindi films. It must have been hard for her to adjust there, given the fact that she isn't an Indian but is of European descent. Her Hindi isn't yet perfect. And yet she's one of the highest earners in Hindi cinema.

She has been linked to some of the biggest stars. Her affair with Salman Khan was much written about. Later, her relationship with Ranbir Kapoor made headlines as well. That she has managed to remain cordial with both speaks of her evolution as a human being.

Katrina has been reticent in her interviews but of late there's been a noticeable change in her answers. She's more forthcoming, more candid in her replies. She's on our cover this month, so turn the pages to discover her beautiful mind and to feast on some lovely pictures...



Jitesh Pillai

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a bird's-eye view of show town's happenings

masala fix



F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

Beginning their journey with *Student Of The Year*, Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan have literally grown up together. Their playful chemistry is palpable, on screen and off it too.

SRK grows
selective *pg 07*

Why Arjun-Malaika may
not marry soon *pg 08*

PHOTOGRAPHS: YOGEN SHAH

Rumours & More



SRK TURNS SELECTIVE

There's no doubt that **Shah Rukh Khan** is the busiest star around. Films, endorsements, events and managing his production house Red Chillies Entertainment... the superstar is busy juggling his various commitments. While fans are eagerly waiting to hear about his new projects, we hear SRK has declined more than 13 films last year – including *Saare Jahaan Se Achcha* and *Don 3*. Latest reports however hint that he may play a cameo in **Vijay's** and **Nayanthara's** upcoming Tamil movie *Thalapathy 63*, directed by **Atlee**. The superstar isn't rushing to sign movies for the time being. Apparently, he wants to concentrate on his production house right now. The King surely knows what works best for him.

GUESS WHO?

This hot actress, known for her perfect figure, has lost out on a big banner film. One of the reasons being the fact that she spilled the beans about her involvement with the film way too early, much before the makers could make the official announcement. That irked them no end, especially the director of the project. Bad luck.

Sara-Kartik going strong

The lovely **Sara Ali Khan** had grabbed headlines when she revealed she had a 'crush' on hottie **Kartik Aaryan** in a chat show. As luck would have it, the two were soon signed up for **Imtiaz Ali's** romcom *Aaj Kal*. The co-stars are often spotted visiting each other's homes. Know-alls insist there's more to their friendship than meets the eye. Insiders say Sara's mom, **Amrita Singh**, has also taken a liking for the lad. Sources reveal the two have been approached by mega brands for endorsements. All eyes then on the latest B-town couple.



DEEPIKA-RANBIR TO ROMANCE AGAIN!

Looks like **Deepika Padukone** is all set to reunite with **Ranbir Kapoor** after their last film *Tamasha*. The popular onscreen pair will be teaming up for **Luv Ranjan's** next, which stars **Ajay Devgn** as well. A source revealed that the production team was in talks with **Alia Bhatt** before as beau Ranbir was keen to have her in the film. However, Alia couldn't allot dates because of her prior commitments. So, they approached Deepika, who was only too glad to give the nod as the story revolves around her character. Lucky gal.



Ayushmann-Rajkummar to team up?

The sequel to the superhit *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, which dealt with erectile dysfunction, is being planned. While *Shubh Mangal...* was directed by **R.S. Prasanna**, sources reveal writer **Hitesh Kewalya** will helm the sequel this time. **Ayushmann Khurrana** has already given his nod to the sequel. The makers are now in search of an actor to play the second lead. It seems they have approached **Rajkummar Rao** for it. Producer **Aanand L Rai** has already met the actor. We hear that the film will once again touch a sex-related issue but with a twist. With the two powerhouse actors, this promises to be a sex-citing film.



IN AUTO MODE: One actress, who's aged gracefully, is Bobby girl, **Dimple Kapadia**. While reams have been written about her 'crowning glory', her gorgeous hair, the 60-plus Dimple today has no qualms revealing her silver strands or hopping into an auto, unmindful of her starry status. She's a beauty of the 'real' kind.

WHEN MEGHNA WAITED FOR RANVEER...

Meghna Gulzar is currently shooting *Chhapaak* with **Deepika Padukone**.

Apparently, she had another story in mind before *Chhapaak*, for which she had approached **Ranveer Singh**. The actor, reveal insiders, showed great interest in the subject. Then Meghna kept waiting for him to give her time to take the discussion forward. Ranveer, being the most sought after actor, perhaps couldn't accommodate her. Now we hear, she has decided to move on and approach another actor for the same film, which she will direct after *Chhapaak*.



THIS ACTRESS, KNOWN AS MUCH FOR CONTROVERSIES AS FOR HER ACTING CHOPS, HAS GIVEN RISE TO A NEW RUMOUR. ACCORDING TO INSIDERS, SHE'S HELL-BENT ON HAVING HER CO-STAR'S SCENES CHOPPED FROM THEIR UPCOMING FILM. SHE WANTS HERS TO BE THE STRONGEST PORTRAYAL IN THE MOVIE.

WHY ARJUN-MALAIKA MAY NOT MARRY SOON

The grapevine has been abuzz with numerous reports about **Arjun Kapoor** and **Malaika Arora** tying the knot soon. Some even said that the two have asked their respective staff to keep certain dates free. It was also hinted that it would be a Christian wedding in Goa for the lovebirds. However, sources close to the actor inform that none of this is true. Devoted brother Arjun, say sources, wants to see sister **Anshula Kapoor** married first. Only then will he go ahead with his own plans. Hmm...

GUESS WHO?

The unit of a mega project couldn't help complaining. The lead pair of the film, also in a steady relationship, has been spending a bit too much time in the vanity van and often keep the crew waiting. In a high-cost and time-tight schedule, this has been a speed-breaker of sorts. But then who said love has anything to do with reason?





BIKERS' PARADISE: Beating the city traffic are savvy B-towners, who've adopted the smarter option. **Harshvardhan Rane, Soha Ali Khan** and **Kunal Kemmu** and youngster **Ishaan Khatter** prove how bike proud they are. Life in the fast lane... just got more cooler.



Vikrant Massey hits bigtime

Vikrant Massey, who's presently shooting for **Meghna Gulzar's Chhapaak** opposite **Deepika Padukone**, is going places. Fox Star Studios has signed the intense actor for a big-budget film. The actor, who's been doing much work on the digital platform, has been asked to go easy with web shows as of now. The studio wants to present the actor in a big way. We're truly happy for the talented Vikrant.

KARAN SEEKS ADI'S HELP



As we know **Karan Johar** is extremely excited about his production *Brahmastra*, which is being directed by **Ayan Mukerji**. The team is leaving no stone unturned to present a quality product. Hence, they reportedly needed a few more dates from **Ranbir Kapoor**. But he had already allotted them for Yash Raj Films' *Shamsher*. So KJo reached out to good friend **Aditya Chopra**, who graciously agreed to push back his production and give those dates for *Brahmastra*.

KANGANA HIKES HER FEE

Post the success of *Manikarnika: The Queen Of Jhansi*, **Kangana Ranaut**, reportedly, has hiked her fee. Sources reveal that she was apparently paid around 10 crores for **Ashwini Iyer Tiwari's Panga**. The actor, who has yet again proved her box-office might with *Manikarnika*..., has now reportedly doubled her remuneration. As they say, nothing sells like success.



GUESS WHO?

This acclaimed actress was approached to play a huge personality related to films and politics down South. She was interested in playing the iconic character but requested some changes in the script. The team agreed but every time the actress asked for the reworked draft, she was told that they were awaiting permissions from the party high command. A bit tired, the actress finally declined the film. And guess what? Within a week, the makers announced the same film with another actress. Strange na?

JANHVI ON A ROLL

Janhvi Kapoor made a confident debut with *Dhadak* last year. Since then the young actress has found herself neck deep in work. She's currently shooting for the biopic on IAF pilot Gunjan Saxena, who evacuated injured soldiers from Kargil in 1999. She also has the horror comedy, *Rooh-Afza*, opposite **Rajkummar Rao**. Latest we hear, that Janhvi is ready to star in BR Films' romcom set in a small town. Interesting.



MARATHI POWER: Veteran **Asha Bhosle** seems to be enjoying her moment with the gorgeous **Madhuri Dixit** as **Dr Sriram Nene** and **Zanai Bhosle**, Asha's entrepreneur granddaughter, look on. Two icons in one frame was a treat for the paparazzi.

JOHN GETS INTO BIKER MODE

Macho star, **John Abraham**, has always been crazy about bikes. In fact, the actor has one installed in his house too. John's now taking his love for bikes to another level. Soon, he will be seen in a film revolving around bikes to be directed by **Rensil D'Silva** of *Kurbaan* fame. The adrenalin-pumping film will also spotlight relationships. Reportedly, the film's action sequences will be shot in the Isle of Man, the home of racing. The film is being produced by **Ajay Kapoor** of Kyta Productions, who has also co-produced John's espionage thriller *RAW* (*Romeo Akbar Walter*).



GUESS WHO?

The senior actor-turned-director isn't too happy with the way his superstar son's career is going. The son's recent choice of films has left the father disappointed. The senior filmmaker believes the actor should do big commercial films and stay away from mediocre films and filmmakers. He made his disapproval quite clear to his son, who has an upcoming release now. Hope the tide turns for the talented star.

GUESS WHO?

THIS BIT OF NEWS IS HEART-BREAKING. THIS VERY-MUCH-IN-LOVE COUPLE IS NOW SAID TO BE HEADING TOWARDS SPLITSVILLE. THAT THEY HAVE A LOVELY CHILD MAKES THE PARTING EVEN MORE PAINFUL. THE DUO HAD TIED THE KNOT AFTER HAVING DATED FOR A DECADE. THE ACTOR HAD MADE A SMASHING DEBUT. POST THAT HIS CAREER FALTERED AND THEN NOSEDIVED. COULD THAT BE ONE OF THE REASONS THAT STRAINED THEIR RELATIONSHIP? WE DO HOPE THEY MEND THEIR BOND.



Ash to unite with Mani Ratnam?

Reportedly, **Mani Ratnam** is planning to adapt the novel *Ponniyin Selvan*, written by Tamil novelist **Kalki**, for a film. According to sources, the ace filmmaker is in talks with **Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Vikram, Mohan Babu** and **Jayam Ravi** for it. Apparently, Aishwarya has been approached to essay a significant character from the novel named Nandhini, who's said to have shades of grey. Insiders say, Telugu actor **Mohan Babu** may play Aishwarya's husband in the film. Even as confirmations are awaited, we can't help being excited.



MY FAIR LADY: Anand Ahuja's popularity soared to a new high when he was spotted tying wife **Sonam Kapoor's** shoelaces at a shoe store. Well, chivalrous men sure know how to put their best foot forward.



VICKY'S LOSS IS SUNNY'S GAIN!

Vicky Kaushal's younger brother, the talented **Sunny Kaushal**, has also impressed viewers with *Gold*. Recently, the much-in-demand Vicky was offered a film but his dates were allotted to **Karan Johar's** *Takht*. After the *Sanju* actor declined the offer, the makers approached Sunny and he naturally grabbed the opportunity. The film, a romcom set in Uttar Pradesh, is produced by **Shailesh R Singh** and will be directed by **Nikhil Bhat**.

SIDHARTH GETS CAUTIOUS

Sidharth Malhotra is excited about his upcoming romcom, *Jabariya Jodi*, where he's paired with **Parineeti Chopra**. The film, co-produced by **Ekta Kapoor** and directed by **Prashant Singh**, is based on an unusual subject – the practice of groom kidnapping prevalent in Bihar. The actor, who's going through a career lull, is keen that the film does well. Insiders reveal, that Sid is taking an interest in every aspect of the post production. He doesn't want anything to go wrong this time. And rightfully so.



Guess who?

He's a star kid, who's waited long for his debut. The mean machine has already garnered a lot of female attention. He's now finally signed a film, a remake of a South biggie with a hot actress, whose debut with a huge banner is around the corner. Naturally, this got the lad's rich girlfriend jittery. She was heard saying that she'd be dropping in on the sets more often to keep tabs on her beau and his beautiful heroine. Oh the shenanigans of showbiz!



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movies on the block, set-talk,
talent-buzz, hotties to watch out for

preview

GLOBAL ACT

VINNY CHHIBBER

X FACTOR: A COMPLETE ARTISTE

Born in New York and brought up in West Virginia, Indian-American Vinny Chhibber's first love was acting. A graduate of Emory University and the Stella Adler Conservatory in New York, he has acted in, created, and developed award-winning films and television projects. His small-screen appearances include *No Tomorrow*, *Brothers & Sisters*, *Taken* and *Rules of Engagement* on CBS. He's currently starring in Ava Duvernay's *The Red Line* and has wrapped filming Noah Baumbach's film for Netflix. He's also filming *Animal Kingdom* with John Wells. A Bollywood buff, Vinny's dream role would be in mainstream movies like *Kapoor & Sons* and *3 Idiots*. Truly, the world seems to be his oyster.

First look: *Kabir Singh* pg 14

Meet AR Rahman's discovery Ehan Bhat pg 18





Angry young man: Shahid Kapoor

KABIR SINGH

Release Date:

June 21, 2019

Banner:

T-series
and Cine1
Studios

Director:

Sandeep
Reddy Vanga

if looks could
kill: Shahid



Producers:

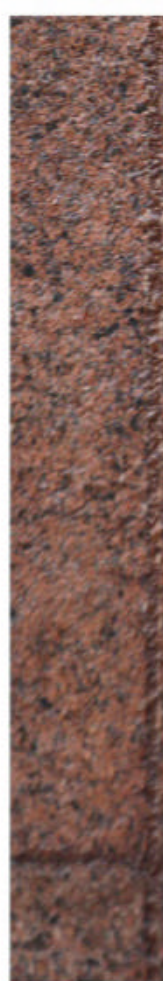
Bhushan Kumar, Murad Khetani, Krishan Kumar
and Ashwin Varde

Music:

Amaal Mallik, Vishal
Mishra, Mithoon,
Sachet- Parampara

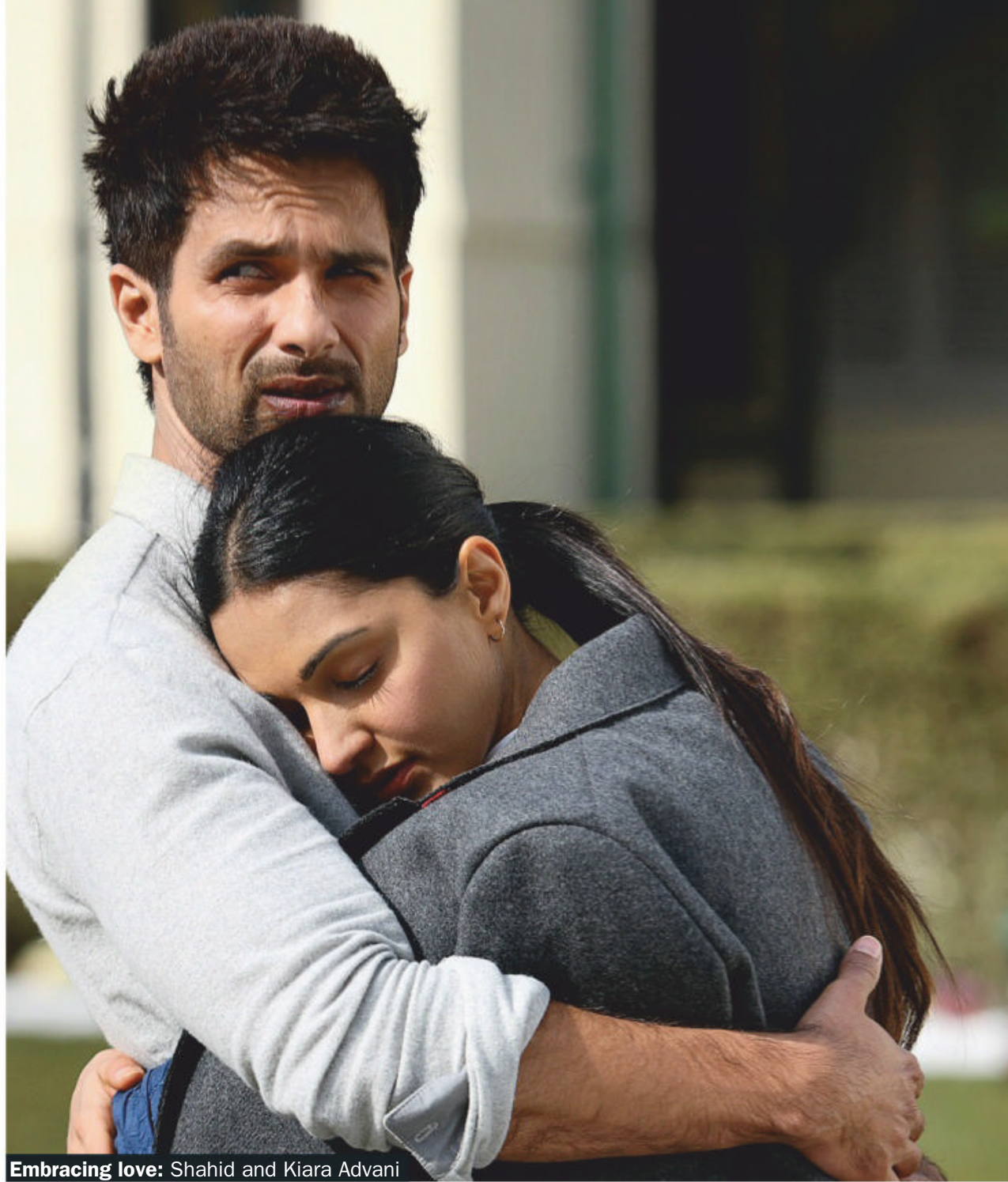
Cast:

Shahid Kapoor,
Kiara Advani



The Plot

Kabir Singh (Shahid Kapoor) is an angry young final year medical student. Preeti (Kiara Advani), a first-year student, walks into his life and it's love at first sight for him. Eventually, the two get involved in an intense relationship. Circumstances separate them and the volatile Kabir hits rock bottom. He becomes a raging alcoholic. So much so that he loses his medical license. Then he comes face to face with a truth that can perhaps change his life. Will he redeem himself? *Kabir Singh* is an official Hindi remake of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Telugu film *Arjun Reddy* (2017).



Embracing love: Shahid and Kiara Advani



Medical issues: Shahid



Crazy turn: Shahid

Taking stock:
Ayushmann
Khurrana



ARTICLE 15

Release Date:

June 28, 2019

Banner:

Benaras
Mediaworks

Producer:

Anubhav Sinha

Cast:

Ayushmann
Khurrana, Isha
Talwar, Manoj
Pahwa, Kumud
Mishra, Nassar,
Zeeshan Ayub,
Sayani Gupta

Director:

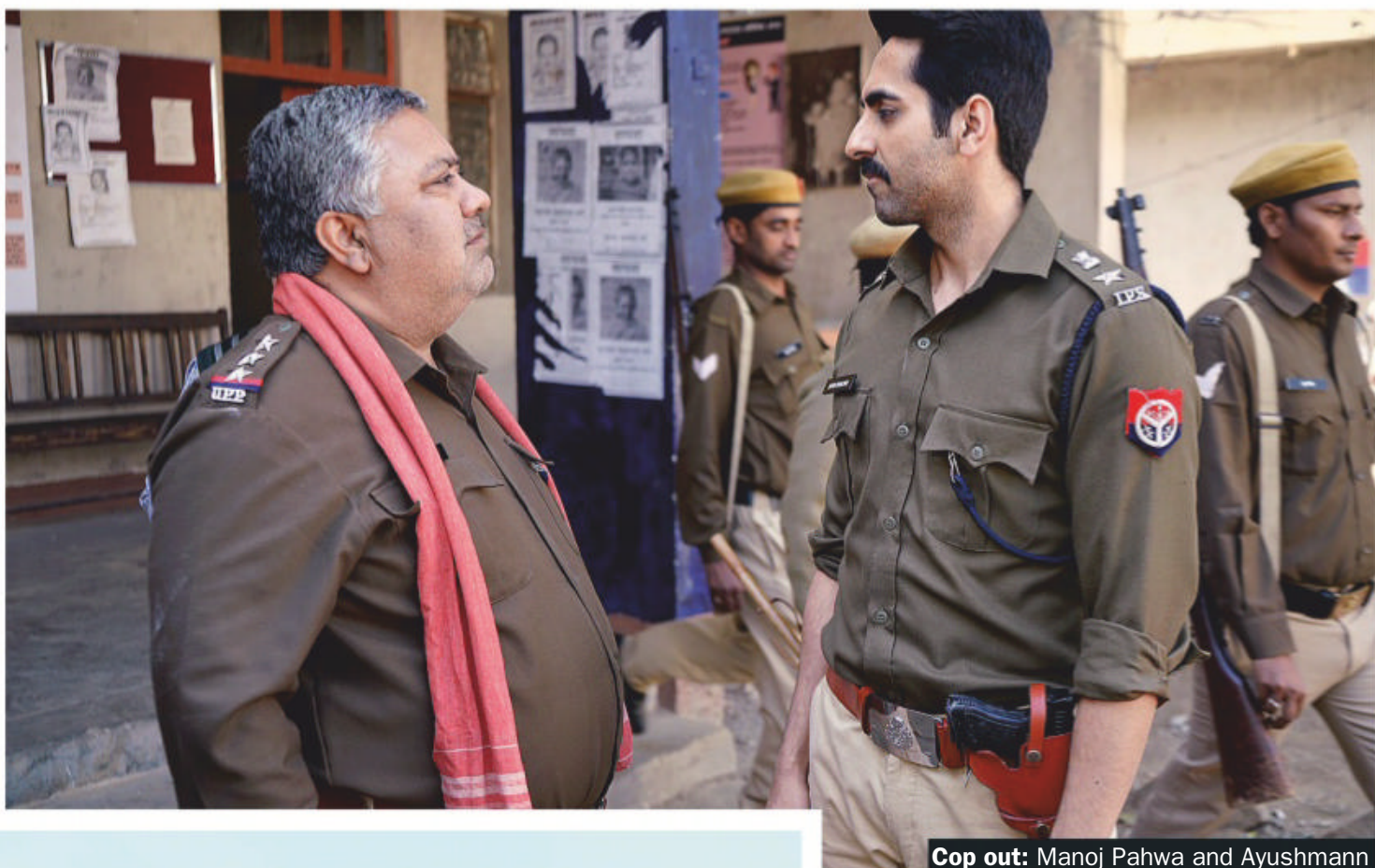
Anubhav Sinha

Music:

Anurag Saikia



Documenting truth: Ayushmann



Cop out: Manoj Pahwa and Ayushmann



Torchbearer: Ayushmann

The Plot

Set in a *tehsil* in Uttar Pradesh, this is the story of IPS officer Ayan Ranjan (Ayushmann Khurrana). On his first day in office, Ayan witnesses a horrific crime against three minor Dalit girls. He finds himself entangled between societal prejudice and his conscience. A conflicted Ayan can see law and justice drift away. While one of the three girls is still missing, Ayan can either take an easy escape route or decide to take on the forces.



Speak up: Akash Dabhade and Ayushmann



Operation oppression: Zia Ahmad Khan, Raju Pandey and Sayani Gupta

Musical Dreams

Raghuvendra Singh meets Ehan Bhat, who's all set to make his debut with AR Rahman's *99 Songs*



His exotic looks are in sync with the beautiful topography of the valley he hails from. Born and bred in Kashmir, the handsome Ehan Bhat was often told he was meant for showbiz. But he never took the suggestions seriously since his family was academically inclined. He pursued engineering for a while in Delhi before dropping out. The course left him unmotivated. He realised his interest lay in the movies. "I enjoyed all kinds of films, even the serious ones. I'd identify with the characters. The curiosity to be on the other side made me pursue acting," he says. Dance fascinated him too. "I enjoyed dancing to *Satrangire (Dil Se)*, composed by AR Rahman sir," he smiles.

Little did he know that he'd one day be launched by the Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman who's debuting as producer and writer with his most ambitious project *99 Songs*. Directed by debutant Vishwesh Krishnamoorthy, it's a passionate love story with



With AR Rahman on the set of *99 Songs*

“I LEARNT HUMILITY FROM RAHMAN SIR. WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM YOU REALISE THAT BEING A GOOD HUMAN BEING IS THE ONLY CHOICE YOU HAVE. HE'S ALWAYS KEEN TO SERVE HUMANITY”



music as its soul. Ehan plays Jay, whose life centres around music and his sweetheart played by Edilsy Vargas. The film is a journey of adversity and redemption, of loss and faith. “Where there’s love, there’s bound to be heartbreak. You can sum up Jay, my character, in three words - raw, cooked and burnt,” he says esoterically.

While Ehan was still studying in Delhi when he was offered films. He even visited Mumbai on two occasions. But both the times the projects were called off. Though dejected, he wasn’t ready to give up on his dreams. So after graduation he moved to Mumbai. Ehan’s family however wasn’t supportive of his decision of becoming an actor. “They feared it was a big world out

“MY PARENTS FEARED IT WAS A BIG WORLD OUT THERE AND THAT I HAD ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE TO MAKE IT... I HAD TO STARVE AT TIMES OR MAKE DO WITH INSTANT NOODLE PACKS. THE GOAL WAS SIMPLY TO SURVIVE”

there and that I had one in a million chance to make it,” he shares. Like most aspirants he has memories of struggle. “I had to starve at times or make do with instant noodle packs. The goal was simply to survive,” he recalls. He kept messaging random people in the hope of striking gold. Out of the blue, one day he was offered a catalogue shoot. “I was

paid 10,000 rupees. I had tears of joy. I was relieved that I could manage my rent that month,” he says. As luck would have it, he soon got a call from Mukesh Chhabra’s casting company. He did a series of auditions with Mukesh. “My gut instinct was that they’d call me again. And they did. They called me for a 10 am meeting. I was so excited that I reached the office at 8 am.” There AR Rahman’s manager informed him that he had bagged *99 Songs*. “He asked me if I wanted to discuss the numbers. I replied, ‘What are numbers for an AR Rahman film?’” recalls Ehan.

If being a musician isn’t easy, then playing one is even harder. Since *99 Songs* is set in the world of music, Ehan trained on the piano at Rahman’s KM music conservatory in Chennai for nearly a year. This was followed by acting workshops in Los Angeles and voice training back in Mumbai. Like everyone else, Ehan is also awed by Rahman. “He carries such an aura that you’re left speechless in his presence. During our first meeting, all that Rahman sir said was you need to do something about your hair,” he laughs. “It’s been an unbelievable journey with him. He’s phenomenal. He’s always trying to push his limits, break the boundaries. He’s interested in human behaviour. He’s a keen observer,” he points out. “I learned humility from him. When you’re with him you realise that being a good human being is the only choice you have. He’s always keen to serve humanity. With his AR Rahman Foundation, he’s helping underprivileged children learn music,” gushes the muse about his mentor.

99 Songs, is set to release towards June end in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Says Ehan, “It’s a dream debut. I’m forever grateful to Rahman sir for giving me this opportunity. But it’s only after doing a film, you realise that a good face is just one aspect of being an actor. It’s more about what’s inside.” ■

F&B

fashion and beauty

They are hot, they are cool.
Meet our trend makers and breakers

MRS & MR WORLDWIDE

**PRIYANKA CHOPRA
AND NICK JONAS**

WHERE: BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS 2019
THE X FACTOR: MIX & MATCH

Priyanka Chopra and **Nick Jonas** stirred a style storm at the Billboard Music Awards 2019. While Priyanka sparkled in a white Zuhair Murad creation, Nick opted for an unapologetic double-breasted plaid suit by Missoni. Complementing each other with their contrasting choices, Nickyanka was all about the yin and the yang at the ritzy event.

Cool down *pg 21*

Summer
shimmer *pg 22*

Shoe-down *pg 26*

COMPILED BY: ANALITA SETH
PHOTOGRAPHS: YOGEN SHAH

TABU



KRITI SANON

SANYA MALHOTRA

COTTON DRESSES
You cannot get through the summer without maybe a hundred of these. While we do love the perennial pair of denims, comfy cotton dresses are the best way to cheat the heat.



Tibi



Tibi

BEAT THE HEAT

KANGANA RANAUT



PASTEL KURTAS
Breaking the monopoly of Western wear are pastel kurtas. Easy on the eye and easygoing in style... the desi attire is season friendly.



KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN

COOL DOWN
Here are four wardrobe essentials for this hot season

SHORTS

No summer wardrobe is complete without a pair of shorts that help you survive the clammy period. You can wear these with t-shirts, shirts and even short kurtas. This short cut is worth it.



POOJA HEGDE



Alanui

CROP TOPS

Don't worry about being able to shoulder them. Flaunt crop tops like your fundamental right. Fuss free and breezy, these are a summer must have.



DISHA PATANI



RADHIKA MADAN



Framed

"Fashion is anything, which is you and reflects your personality. If you're comfortable with what you're wearing, you'll look trendy and fashionable." -Yami Gautam

SHIMMER THIS SUMMER

In a world of tame mattes, be the glitter girl



SONAM K. AHUJA



PATRALEKHA

SHINE ON!



POOJA HEGDE



CHITRANGDA SINGH



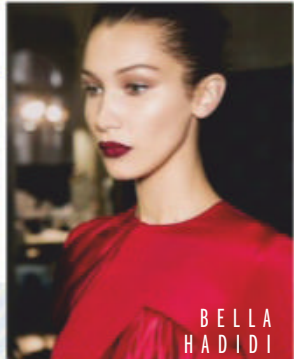
JANHVI KAPOOR

Think mercury rising. Think dewy make-up. But our trailblazers won't settle for anything that doesn't dazzle. Going full throttle with glittering lips and sparkling eyes, our stars have added unicorn shades to their make-up in defiance of the melting season.

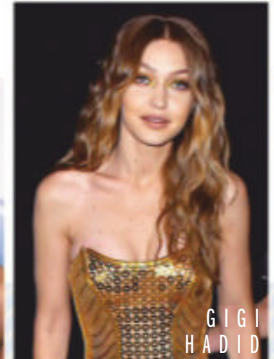
LADY GAGA



NAOMI CAMPBELL



BELLA HADIDI



GIGI HADIDI

ISSA RAE



"Make-up is not a mask that covers up your beauty; it's a weapon that helps you express who you are from the inside." -Michelle Phan



MSGM

Halpern

STEP UP!



DISHA PATANI



POOJA HEGDE



BHUMI PEDNEKAR

SHINE ON

More is less when it comes to the glamour gang. So get inspired by their shimmer...

The '80s disco era reflects in contemporary sartorial choices. From runways to events, stars and designers can't resist shimmering outfits that make them stand out in the crowd. A sober couture piece can look red-carpet appropriate when smeared with glitter. These clear cut yet glossy outfits are amongst the most spotted trends this season.



KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN



ADAH SHARMA

*"The best fashion show is definitely on the street. Always has been, and always will be."
- Bill Cunningham*



Self-Portrait

Marchesa Notte

Oseree

Halpern

COAT AND BOWLED

Summer has embraced a new trend – the light overcoat is a stylish answer to the warm spell

Layering is a no-no when the sun turns harsh. But B-town stylistas always find a way to keep the chic quotient high. Summer friendly overcoats are a marked trend right now. Lightweight fabrics and season appropriate hues make the throw over a cool option.



NEHA DHUPIA



PRIYANKA CHOPRA



HUMA QURESHI



SONAM KAPOOR



KIARA ADVANI



PARINEETI CHOPRA



MSGM



Harris Wharf London

LAYER SLAYER



N Duo



Mansur Gavriel



Palm Angels

"You can pull off anything if you have the right attitude. Being cool is whatever you think it is. Own your style"
- Freja Beha Erichsen

THIS IS THE WAY!

Here's helping your reboot this monotone look by Alia Bhatt

Simplicity is a layered choice. You can opt for a slip dress, level it with a self-work jacket and add a pair of sporty sneakers to give the look a photo finish.



Jacquemus



Natasha Zinko



Saint Laurent



Prada



Stella McCartney

LOOK 1



Rejina Pyo



Molly Goddard



Paris Texas



Alessandra Rich



Gucci

LOOK 2

"Just find what works for you, what style suits you best, and just be confident enough to rock it." -Odell Beckham, Jr.

SHOE-DOWN

Neon is more than just an Instagram fad now

You can jazz up any outfit with the right pair of shoes. As summer kicks in with full force, breezy light shades are the best hack for the period. Neon coloured shoes lend a refreshing zing to your style as the sun turns harsher. What's more, the trend can easily be worn throughout the year. So, slip into a pair of this season-agnostic footwear and get going.



PRIYANKA CHOPRA



SONAKSHI SINHA



RADHIKA MADAN

"Shoes are the finishing touch on any outfit. It is important to complete a look with the perfect pair!" - Tracy Reese



SONAL CHAUHAN



PARINEETI CHOPRA



MALAIKA ARORA

BRIGHT SIDE!

IT'S A WRAP!

Trendy pashminas and intricately woven shawls are a man's thing now

With self-work and contrasting weaves, handcrafted shawls enjoy classic status. While we generally associate these wardrobe essentials with women, men have adopted and added these to their formal attire. Often spotted wearing a finely-worked shawl at events, fashion maverick **Ayushmann Khurrana** has pioneered this look. Taking inspiration from him, you can throw them over well-fitted kurtas and short *bandhgala* jackets.

Pashtush is India's leading luxury scarves and shawl store. From intricate hand embroidery to extra soft lambs wool and pashmina, there's something in store for ladies and gentlemen.

WRAP AROUND



Seen left, actor **Rohan Mehra** styled in a bottle green Pashtush stole.

Shop online with Pashtush at www.pashtush.com

ROHAN MEHRA

Pashtush

To achieve the nonchalance, which is absolutely necessary for a man, one article at least must not match: Hardy Amies

What's hot?

HEMA MALINI
TURNS DIRECTOR WITH
DIL AASHNA HAI.
CASTS AN UNKNOWN LEAD
NAMED SHAHRUKH KHAN.



Get your recap of Bollywood with Filmfare issues from 1954 to 1999.
The Filmfare Vintage Collection. Only on magzter.com



FILMFARE

exclusives

what's on their mind?

BORN AGAIN

"A lot of things have changed for me personally and professionally. After my last relationship ended, I was forced to analyse many things about myself, my life... and the way I was living it. Whatever was supposed to happen, happened. It happened for a reason. I remember I was getting on a plane to shoot *Baar Baar Dekho* in Thailand. It was January. There was a repetitive thought in my head. When you're stuck on something, it's deeply disturbing. It doesn't leave you. It was bad. It was sad. But I wondered how could something trouble you to this level? That phase made me read a lot. I wanted to understand how we as human beings function. In one night, my attitude and approach to the world opened up."

Katrina Kaif on rediscovering herself...

PHOTOGRAPHS: TARUN VISHWA




THE TIDE TURNS

MOMENTS OF PERSONAL EPIPHANY AND PROFESSIONAL RENEWAL
HAVE PUT KATRINA KAIF IN A HAPPY SPACE. JITESH PILLAAI
ENJOYS THE SOUL TALK WITH THE MATINEE GODDESS

PHOTOGRAPHS: TARUN VISHWA | STYLIST: ALLIA AL RUFAl
MAKE-UP: SUBHASH VAGAL | HAIR: YIANNI TSAPATORI
Turtleneck sweater: Nikita Mhaisalkar

W

hile an afternoon sun slants through the roof of her well-appointed house, Katrina Kaif is in a tizzy. There's an Instagram live to be done, several outfits to be tried. She also has me to contend with and then a meal of salad and cutlets to polish off. Her business manager Prarthana hovers around protectively. Besides the much-touted Bharat opposite Salman Khan, Katrina is also slated to do Sooryanvanshi with Akshay Kumar. There's talk that she will sign up with a topnotch Indian cosmetic brand soon. She also plans to do something with India's unsung athletes. But right now all focus is on Bharat, which will have her show her acting chops after she wowed the critics in Aanand L Rai's Zero. For the longest time, her beautiful movie-star looks made her the favourite whipping girl of critics, even as she starred in one big hit after another. Last year was a lull when Thugs of Hindostan and Zero came unstuck. But she's like the proverbial boxer in the ring waiting to feint and parry and strike yet another knockout punch...



“OUT OF ALL THE
FILMS I’VE DONE
WITH ALI ABBAS ZAFAR,
I WAS WITH HIM
THE MOST DURING
BHARAT. EVEN IF
I WAS NOT SHOOTING,
I’D SIT AND WATCH
THE SHOTS...

*I was firm about staying
in this bubble and not
allowing anything to take
my focus away”*



Sheer dress:
Urvashi Kaur
Slip: La Perla

Tell me all the New Year resolutions that you've broken this year.

I genuinely didn't make any New Year resolutions. The year before last I made a bunch of them. But the things I'd asked for, the things I'd wanted so desperately, which I don't want anymore, didn't happen.

What were the things you wanted?

(Smiles) No chance. No chance. That I won't get into. But this year, I didn't make any resolutions. I'd rather speak about what I'm doing right now. Ali (Abbas Zafar) approached me for *Bharat* towards the end of July. I decided I'd work on this film with a different approach because as an actor you get fatigued after a while. You've got to excite yourself. You can't just put on

Corset:
La Perla

and not allowing anything to take my focus away.

In the middle of the schedule, around New Year, unfortunately, I realised I wouldn't be able to do the dance film with Varun Dhawan (Remo D'Souza's *Street Dancer 3*). He wanted to shoot on particular dates in London, which I couldn't give. He was the right person to do a film in this space. You need his energy for this kind of a film. So, that was the only thing on my mind. Other than that, I didn't let anything come into my space.

You seemed to have eased out a lot.

Earlier you seemed on the edge...

Maybe. A lot of things have changed for me personally and professionally. After my last relationship ended, I was forced

certain. So, we can't be doing this to ourselves. There's anyway a lot of struggle and pain around us. There are many, who're in turmoil.

I wanted to understand what one could do about it. If I wanna look slim, I can't sit here and eat a pizza. I'll have to go to the gym, work out for two hours and pay attention to my diet. It's the same with our emotions. Reading and certain things like yoga helped me. That doesn't mean that I've achieved a state, where nothing affects me. I still get upset. I still get emotional. People can still play with my feelings. I still hurt. But it doesn't keep me down for long. So, before something pulls me down in a black hole for weeks or months, I can reset my mind in 24 or 48 hours.

What has given you the strength to do that?

A sense of trust has come in. It's not from some spiritual, hokey-pokey stuff that I cooked up. It's logical and explanatory. The bottom line is that you shouldn't believe every thought that comes to your mind. That's fundamental to yoga as well. It's about observing your emotions and thoughts. And then getting out of the grip of those thoughts that trouble you.

A lot of celebrities have begun talking about their anxieties and fears. Have you ever addressed these problems?

Absolutely. Everyone has their own battles and their own way to overcome them. Like Alia (Bhatt) has spoken about the anxiety she faces at times and said that it's okay to not be okay. This is an important statement. Deepika (Padukone) has spoken about her battle with depression and how she reached out to certain people, who helped her. In my case, books and other things helped me understand not to be a slave to every thought that comes to your mind or every emotion you feel. You don't need

“You have to respect anyone, who has been in your life in the past. You've shared something with that person...

BITTERNESS WEIGHS YOU DOWN... I'D RATHER GO THROUGH THE JOURNEY WITH A LIGHT BACKPACK THAN A HEAVY SUITCASE OF RESENTMENT”

make-up and do your hair day after day. I decided until the day *Bharat* wraps up, I wouldn't think an iota about the future. Even if the world is falling on my head, I'll deal with it after the film. Luckily, the world did not fall on my head. I had the most peaceful, smooth and exciting shoot. It gave me a lot. I felt fulfilled.

In what way?

Ali is a friend. Out of all the films I've done with him (*New York, Mere Brother Ki Dulhan* and *Tiger Zinda Hai*), I was with Ali the most in this one. Even if I was not shooting, I'd sit and watch the shots. But if I was in the scene, I'd understand fully what his take on it was. If there was a five-day or 10-day gap, then you can't stop your mind from wandering. But I told myself that I wouldn't permit that on this film. I was firm about staying in a bubble

to analyse many things about myself and my life and the way I was living it. Whatever was supposed to happen, happened. Everything happens for a reason. I remember I was getting on a plane to shoot *Baar Baar Dekho* in Thailand. It was January. There was a repetitive thought going on in my head. When you get stuck on something, it's deeply disturbing. It doesn't leave you alone. It was bad. It was sad. I wondered how could something trouble you to this level? That phase made me read a lot. I wanted to understand how we human beings function. On one particular night, my attitude and approach to the world opened up again.

How?

It may sound far-fetched and crazy but I realised we have just one life and one day we're going to die. These two things are

Corset: La Perla



to crumble under the pressure. This complex crazy Universe is not running because of you and me. It's running on its own. Have faith in it. Whoever is running this Universe has got your back. Put out what you want. Discard any thought that's not constructive.

How much has your family contributed to the change in you?

My mom (Suzanne Turquotte) has been involved in charitable work even before I was born. She was not around as much. So, we didn't get that individual

“ONE DAY I CAME ACROSS SOMETHING, WHICH HURT ME AND BOTHERED ME. WHILE I WAS DOING YOGA, MY TEACHER ASKED, 'ARE YOU OKAY?' I SAID I WAS FINE.

She said, 'But you're crying.' I had begun crying... Now, I don't push things away. What you resist, persists”

attention one normally receives from their parents. My mind was free to perceive and understand the world without any parental or outside influence. I was always a dreamer and procrastinator. I'd daydream about things I wanted to happen in life. I was always creating things. I was too young. If you have exposure, it teaches you not to keep yourself isolated from people. It teaches you the importance of being out there in the world.

Did you miss having a strong male influence considering your parents had separated?

Yeah. Not having a father figure does create a certain vacuum and makes any girl feel vulnerable. When I have kids, I want them to have the experience of being with both parents.

Bralette: Zara
Pants: H&M



Can you recall an instance where you felt the vacuum the most?

Each time I've gone through something emotionally hard, I was compelled to reflect that it must be nice for those who have a strong fatherly support from a male figure, who loves you unconditionally.

Did you look for strong male figures in your relationships or even outside them – maybe in a friend or director?

I don't think I did that. People say you are lucky if you can count your true friends on your fingers. My trustworthy, inner circle of friends know me well. They understand where you're coming from, your fears and your insecurities. Of course, my parents being separated had a part to play. My mom had a family of seven daughters and a son.

Do you ask her what she was thinking when she gave birth to seven girls?

(Chuckles) Ya, I did. I asked her what were you thinking when you had so many children and how did you do it on your own. But in the last few years, what my mom had to say about life, has been much more helpful to me. It bears more weight. Now that you can see things from a distance, you realise it must have been tough for her.

Did you sisters have ideological differences and stormy rows as teenagers?

No, I was a quiet girl, who kept to myself. I was an extremely introverted Cancerian. I don't know how I managed to become an actor.

Sometimes, people tend to lose their identity in a relationship. Did you ever go through that? What has your last relationship taught you?

I don't have regrets about anything because that was also an experience, a journey. Had it been balanced, calm and stable, I wouldn't have come to learn so many things. These are just wonderful experiences. My last relationship was an experience, which was extremely important for me at so many levels. I've gained a lot more maturity, more understanding. Now, I don't have any fixed plan that this is how it has to go or this is how I have to be. That's the openness I want to maintain. I don't want to burden the other person or carry any baggage. It's important for a person to maintain their identity, have your own goals and purpose in life and to protect the friendships you have.

So you're saying your life revolved around your male companion?

We're all responsible for how we behave. But I allowed myself to not maintain a balance in all areas of my life. That obviously doesn't result in something healthy. Having said that, there's no assurance that had I maintained a balance, the outcome would have been different. So, it doesn't really matter.

How have you managed to remain friends with your exes, be it Salman Khan or Ranbir Kapoor?

You have to respect anyone, who has been in your life in the past. You've shared something with that person and you respect that.

Also, holding onto past bitterness weighs you down. Life can be difficult enough; it can be trying enough on its own. Life's going to bring obstacles and tough times, ups and downs. I'd rather go through the journey with a light backpack than a heavy suitcase of grudges and resentment. It ages you because your cells hold on to so many things.

So you've made your peace?

Some things can still upset you. But that's fine. I face it. I stare at the ghost in the room until it just fades away. When something triggers an emotion, I let it happen. Like one day I came across something, which I kept pushing away. But it hurt me and bothered me. While I was doing yoga, my teacher asked, 'Are you okay?' I said I was fine. She said, 'But you're crying.' I had actually begun crying. It had to come out. Now, I don't try to push things away. I stare at them. What you resist, persists.

Does age help in dealing with challenges?

Not age, it's the experience that helps.

Did the failed relationship leave you cynical?

If you're bitter and cynical, do you feel good about yourself? No. So why be so? It's in your own interest not to be bitter. Either you allow someone to make a mess of your life or you believe you know better than the whole world. It's your choice, the way you want to see it. It's hard. I have to work on this

“I DON'T HAVE REGRETS ABOUT ANYTHING BECAUSE THAT WAS ALSO AN EXPERIENCE, A JOURNEY. HAD IT BEEN BALANCED, CALM AND STABLE, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO LEARN SO MANY THINGS. MY LAST RELATIONSHIP WAS AN EXPERIENCE, WHICH WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ME AT SO MANY LEVELS. *I've gained a lot more maturity; a lot more understanding. But henceforth I don't have any fixed plan that this is how it has to go or this is how I have to be. That's the openness I want to maintain. I don't want to burden the other person or carry any baggage*”



actively every day. You don't succeed every day. But isn't it a nicer way to live with the trust that a force is watching over you? Rather than wanting everything to be in your control.

Are you in a new relationship?

I am single.

You said you were single when you were dating Salman Khan and later Ranbir Kapoor as well...

I did not.

Of course, you did...

(Laughs) We all make mistakes and I may not have been entirely honest. And my punishment is that when I'm telling the truth, no one believes me. I am single.

Because you've always been in denial...

Earlier, I had said, until I get married, I'm single. I still stand by that. If you have a boyfriend, you're not single. If you're in a serious relationship, then you're not single. I am single.

It means you're not in a serious relationship but you're getting there?

Nope, that's not what it means. It means I am single.

Okay, coming to your work, you got a stupendous response for Zero...

(Grins) Which *Filmfare* didn't give me an award for. You should have. How sad!

How did you feel when biggies like Zero and Thugs of Hindostan didn't do well?

My part in *Thugs of Hindostan* was more like a special appearance. So it was easier for me to accept its fate. My role in *Zero* was also small. But the intent with which you do the role

“Get out there and travel, switch off from everything, get off the phone... If you can't do it here at home, go to Europe, walk the streets, sit in a coffee shop, read, talk to people.”

FILL YOURSELF WITH LIFE EXPERIENCES SO YOU CAN POUR THAT INTO YOUR WORK. IF YOU COME FROM A NARROW SPACE, HOW IS YOUR WORK GOING TO FEEL OPEN? ”

is also important. Aanand (L Rai) was clear about my chapter being a game-changer in the film. It was a chance for us to create something. The feedback is hence understandable. We poured our heart and soul into that. Same with *Bharat*.

Your look in *Bharat* is interesting...

When I read the script, the character got me crazily excited. Someone else would have found it something they've already done. But for me it was new.

When Priyanka Chopra declined the film, were you expecting it to be offered to you?

No. I wasn't eyeing it.

Didn't you expect Salman Khan to call you any minute?

No. Ali is a strong director and has a strong voice. He's had 200-300 crore films to his credit. So, he takes his own decisions and everyone respects that. When Ali sent me the script, I loved the character. He hadn't written it for me but we said let's do it as it is. Salman had genuinely nothing to do with it. The first day he was shooting a mine sequence while we were doing a costume fitting at Yash Raj Studio. 'Hello', he said and I was like, 'Yeah hi, remember me?'

As an actor how has your relationship with Salman evolved?

Salman is receptive towards what you bring as an actor. When I came on the set, I was a 1000 per cent prepared. Salman accorded me respect for that. He acknowledged that I had put in so much effort. We share a respectful equation. Honestly, I don't cross the line with him. People outside may not understand this. Ours is a healthy equation.

Does your personal relationship get in the way?

Not at all. There's no unnecessary baggage. Ours is a respectful friendship.

Do you consider marriage as a patriarchal concept?

Not at all. I believe marriage is a wonderful thing. Romance is wonderful too.

Did you hit your issues when your colleagues Anushka Sharma, Sonam Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra got married?

No ya, it's so nice. It's such a wonderful thing to be in love and enjoy companionship.

You also attended Deepika Padukone's wedding.

I wanted to. I've known Deepika ever since she walked her first fashion show. Before that, she was associated with the same talent management company as mine. I remember we having a chat about ramp walking. That time she was starting out as a model. Deepika and Ranveer (Singh) had extended a wedding invitation to me. So I wanted to attend. I didn't analyse anything. People analyse too much.

Sheer Dress:
Urvashi Kaur
Slip: La Perla

“EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN BATTLES...

LIKE ALIA (BHATT) HAS SPOKEN ABOUT THE ANXIETY SHE FACES... DEEPIKA (PADUKONE) HAS SPOKEN ABOUT HER BATTLE WITH DEPRESSION.

In my case, books and other things helped me understand not to be a slave to every emotion you feel. You don't need to crumble under the pressure ”

Obviously, because you two have history...

I don't get all this at all. What does one gain out of it? Sitting on a mountain and holding on to what?

You're a less guarded person now...

Arrey dost, my life has nothing to hide. Maybe, before I had to defend and protect. You felt like it's you against the world. But I don't feel like that anymore. Now I feel the world is with me.

Actors tend to get influenced by people around them as they don't step out in the real world...

Yes but I try to maintain that balance. I guess actors in America do this more. They live in the real world. Be it Nashville, Alabama or New York... they make an effort to experience it all and put it out in their work. Here, because of the nature of our lifestyles, we can't just go and walk down the road. Or maybe you can. It's a catch-22 situation. But it's important to get out there and travel, switch off from everything, get off the phone... If you can't do it here at home, go to Europe, walk the streets, sit in a book shop, a coffee shop, travel, read, talk to people. Fill yourself with life experiences so you can pour that back into your work. If you come from a narrow space, how is your work going to feel open?

Earlier, I didn't get feedback for a few films perhaps because, my mind, my emotional centre, was so tightly closed. The camera is not just a technical thing that captures physical movement. It captures emotion. You have to resonate that enthusiasm, those experiences. (She then scrolls down her phone) I'm trying to read you something that Meryl Streep said...

"Take a broken heart and make art."

Is it that?

Wow that's nice. That's what I've said earlier in the interview but in a different way. Get out there, experience, interact, feel...

Corset:
La Perla

“SALMAN IS RECEPTIVE TOWARDS WHAT YOU BRING AS AN ACTOR. WHEN I CAME ON THE SET OF BHARAT, I WAS A 1000 PER CENT PREPARED. SALMAN ACCORDED ME RESPECT FOR THAT. *He acknowledged that I had put in so much effort... I don't cross the line with him. People outside may not understand this. Ours is a healthy equation... There's no unnecessary baggage. Ours is a respectful friendship*”





“***Not having a father figure does create a certain vacuum and makes any girl vulnerable.***”

WHEN I HAVE KIDS, I WANT THEM TO HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING WITH BOTH PARENTS... EACH TIME I'VE GONE THROUGH SOMETHING EMOTIONALLY HARD, I WAS COMPELLED TO REFLECT THAT IT MUST BE NICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A STRONG FATHERLY SUPPORT, WHO LOVES YOU UNCONDITIONALLY”

Take that experience of your relationships and put it into your work. Pour your life into the character. That's something I started realising and doing now. Before I was just a positive light. During *Mere Brother Ki Dulhan* and *Rajneeti*, I just brought my natural self. That was also a phase. Now, I bring along what has happened in life.

Turtleneck sweater:
Nikita
Mhaisalkar

But then what made you sign an out and out commercial film like *Sooryavanshi*?

I'm a person, who does things in extreme. Having said that, Rohit Shetty is a sensible filmmaker. He makes a particular genre of cinema. But he's not a senseless maker. He's created a whole universe on his own. He's given us films like *Chennai Express*, which we remember for the characters. I thought out the decision of doing this film. I'm teaming up with Akshay Kumar after nine years (after *Tees Maar Khan*). Our onscreen pair

has received a lot of love and success. As a team, we're trying to create something special this time too.

Is it true that you actively sought Akshay and Rohit for this film?

No. As far as I'm aware, Rohit sir always had me in mind as his first choice. He'd approached me with a few films before too.

Admirably, you've never spoken about the films you've refused in the past...

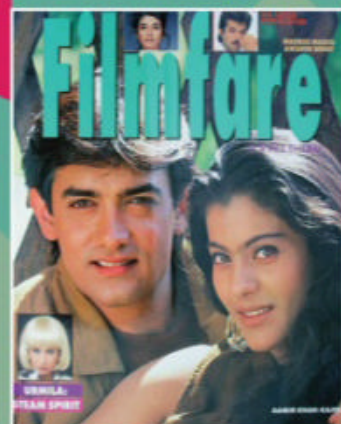
It's pointless. If I'm not doing it, I'm not doing it. Oh ya, now, I remember that Meryl Streep quote... "Put blinders on the things that conspire to hold you back. Especially the ones in your head." So, do your own investigation and find out for yourself what works for you. ■

What's new?

**WITH JUST 5.5 CRORES
FROM THE BOX OFFICE,
ANDAZ APNA APNA
DECLARED A FLOP.**

Get your recap of Bollywood with Filmfare issues from 1954 to 1999.

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FILMFARE



YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

FOR THE 66TH FILMFARE AWARDS SOUTH 2019

Log on to <http://awards.filmfare.com> and vote for the
Best Film | Best Director | Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) and much more...

FILMFARE INVITES MOVIEGOERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLL FOR THE 66TH FILMFARE AWARDS SOUTH 2019

- Readers should confine their choice to films released between January 1 and December 31, 2018. An alphabetical list of the eligible films is provided.
- There is no entry fee for this poll.
- Fifty per cent weightage will be given to the readers' choice and an equal weightage will be given to the judgment of a specially appointed panel of judges.
- The management shall have the absolute right and discretion to reject votes that it has reason to believe have been manipulated or are not genuine. The decision of the management in that respect shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

POINTS TO NOTE WHILE FILLING IN THE POLLING FORM

- The closing date for all entries is **June 25, 2019** and no entries received thereafter will be accepted.
- Please fill up the form in your own handwriting and make sure to sign it at the place marked.
- Typewritten forms, carbon copies and unsigned forms will be treated as invalid.
- Only one nomination is to be made in each category. In each case, the film must also be mentioned.

ENTRIES ARE TO BE ADDRESSED TO

- The Editor, Filmfare,
The Times of India building,
Dr D N Road, Mumbai 400 001
with the word 'POLL' marked
on the envelope.

**NOMINATE
TODAY!**

TO VOTE ONLINE, LOG ON TO
<http://awards.filmfare.com>



LIST OF FILMS RELEASED IN 2018 (SOUTH)

MALAYALAM FILMS

In alphabetical order

- 369
- 2 DAYS
- 21 DIAMONDS
- AABHAASAM
- AADHI
- AALORUKKAM
- AAMI
- AANAKALLAN
- AASHIQ VANNA DIVASAM
- ABHIYUDE KADHA ANUVINTEYUM
- ABRAHAMINTE SANTHATHIKAL
- AICKARAKKONATHE BHISHAGUARANMAR
- ANGANE NJANUM PREMICHU
- ANGARAJYATHE JIMMANMAR
- ARAKKIRUKKAN
- ARAVINDANTE ATHIDHIKAL
- AVARKOPPAM
- B.TECH
- BHAYANAKAM
- BONSAI
- CAPTAIN
- CARBON
- CHALAKKUDIKKARAN CHANGATHI
- CHANAKYA THANTHRAM
- CHANDRAGIRI
- CHARMINAR
- CONTESSA
- CUBAN COLONY
- DAIVAME KAITHOZHAM K.KUMAR AAKANAM
- DAKINI
- DEVASPARSHAM
- DIWANJIMoola
- DRAMA
- DUSTBIN
- EADA
- EE. MA.YAU
- ENNALUM SARATH
- ENTE MEZHUKUTHIRI ATHAZHANGAL
- ENTE UMMANTE PERU
- FRENCH VIPLAVAM
- HEY JUDE
- IBLIS
- IPPOZHUM EPOZHUM STHUTHIYAYIRIKKATE
- IRA
- JANAKI
- JOHNY JOHNY YES APPA
- JOSEPH
- KAAMUKI
- KADHA PARANJA KADHA
- KAITHOLA CHATHAN
- KALA VIPLAVAM PRANAYAM
- KALI
- KALLAI FM
- KALYANAM
- KAMMARA SAMBHAVAM
- KARINKANNAN
- KATTUVITHACHAVAN
- KAYAMKULAM KOCHUNNI
- KENALUM KINARUM
- KHALEEFA
- KHARAM
- KIDU
- KINAR
- KINAVALLI
- KOODASHA
- KOODE
- KRISHNAM
- KUNJU DAIVAM
- KUTTANADAN MARPAPPA
- KUTTANPILLAYUDE SIVARATHRI
- LADOO
- LAUGHING APARTMENT
- LILLY
- LOLANS
- MADHURAMEE YATHRA
- MANDHARAM
- MANGALYAM THANTHUNANENA
- MARADONA
- MARUBHOOMIYILE MAZHATHULLIKAL
- MATTANCHERRY
- MAZHAYATHU
- MERCURY
- MOHANLAL
- MOONNAM NIYAMAM
- MOTTITTA MULLAKAL
- MUTHALAQ
- MY STORY
- NAAM
- NEELI
- NEERALI
- NERVARENNU IMMANI CHERINJUTTA
- NIMISHAM
- NITHYAHARITHA NAYAKAN
- NJAN MARYKUTTY
- NJAN PRAKASHAN
- NONSENSE
- ODIYAN
- ONNUMARIYATHE
- ORANGE VALLEY
- ORAYIRAM KINAKKALAL
- ORU KUPRASIDHA PAPPAN
- ORU KUTTANADAN BLOG
- ORU PAZHAYA BOMBU KADHA
- OTTAKKORU KAMUKAN
- OTTERSHA
- PADAYOTTAM
- PAIKUTTY
- PANCHAVARNA THATHA
- PAPAS
- PAROLE
- PATHIRAKALAM
- PAVIETTANTE MADHURACHOORAL
- PEN MASALA
- PETTILABATTRA
- POLICE JUNIOR
- POOMARAM
- PREMA SOOTHRAM
- PREMANJALY
- PRETHAM 2
- QUEEN
- RANAM
- ROSAPOO
- S.DURGA
- SAKHAVINTE PRIYASAKHI
- SAMAKSHAM
- SAVAARI
- SCHOOL DIARY
- SHABDAM
- SHADOW
- SHIKKARI SHAMBHU
- SHIRK
- SREEHALLI
- STHAANAM
- STREET LIGHT
- SUDANI FROM NIGERIA
- SUKHAMANO DAVIDE
- SUVARNA PURUSHAN
- SWARGAKUNNILE KURIAKOSE
- SWATHANTHRIAM ARDHARATHRIYIL
- THANAHA
- THATTUMPURATH ACHUTHAN
- THEEKUCHIYUM PANITHULLIYUM
- THEETTA RAPPAL
- THEEVANDI
- THENEECHAYUM PEERANKIPPADAYUM
- THOBAMA
- UNCLE
- URUKKU SATHEESHAN
- VALLIKUDILILE VELLAKKARAN
- VARATHAN
- VELAKKARIYAYIRUNNALUM NEEYEN MOHAVALLI
- VIKADAKUMARAN
- WHO
- WONDER BOYS
- YOURS LOVINGLY

Best Film (BF) _____

Best Director (BD) _____ Film _____

Best Actor (BAM) _____ Film _____

Best Actress (BAF) _____ Film _____

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (BMS) _____ Film _____

Best Actress in a Supporting Role (BFS) _____ Film _____

Best Music Director (BMD) _____ Film _____

Best Lyricist (BL) _____ Film _____

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Male) (BMP) _____ Film _____

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Female) (BFP) _____ Film _____

Song _____

FULL NAME (In block letters) _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE

SIGNATURE

MOBILE NUMBER

MALAYALAM FILMS

(The list of releases is complete as per trade information. In case of any omissions or change in release date, producers are requested to bring it to the notice of Filmfare.)

TAMIL FILMS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 • 18-05-2009 • DEC-13 • 2.0 • 3 RASIGARGAL • 6 ATHIYAYAM • 60 VAYADU MAANIRAM • AADAVAR • AAN DEVATHAI • AARUDRA • ABHIYUM ANUVUM • ADANGA MARU • ADANGA PASANGA • ALAI PESI • AMAVASAI • ANDHRA MESS • ANNANUKKU JEY • ANTONY • ARALI • ASURAVADHAM • AVALUKKENNA AZHAGIYA MUGAM • AZHAGU MAGAN • BAYANGARAMANA AALU • BHASKAR ORU RASCAL • BILLA PANDI • BOTHA • BRAMMAPUTHRA • CHEKKA CHIVANTHA VAANAM • DHONI KABADI KUZHU • DIYA • ECHARIKKAI ITHU MANITHARGAL NADAMADUM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDAM • EDTHUKKUDI KADHALICHA • EGHANTHAM • ENGA KAATULA MAZHAI • ENNA THAVAM SEITHENO • ENNODU NEE IRUNDHAL • EVANUKKU ENGEYO MACHAM IRUKKU • EZHUMIN • GENIUS • GHAJINIKANTH • GOLI SODA 2 • GULAEBAGHAVALI • IDLY • IMAIKKA NODIGAL • IRAVUKKU AAYIRAM KANGAL • IRUMBU THIRAI • IRUTTU ARAIYIL MURATTU KUTHU • JARUGANDI • JOHNNY • JUNGA • KAALA • KAALA KOOOTHU • KAALI • KAATHIRUPPOR PATTIYAL • KAATRIN MOZHI • KADAIKUTTI SINGAM • KADAL KUDHIRAIGAL • KADHAL ENAKKU ROMBA PIDIKKUM • KADHALARGAL VALIBAR SANGAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KADIGARA MANIDHARGAL • KALAKALAPPU 2 • KALARI • KALAVANI MAPPILLAI • KALAVANI SIRUKKI • KANAA • KANNAKKOL • KARGIL • KARIMUGAN • KARTHIKEYANUM KANAMAL PONA KADHALIYUM • KASU MELA KASU • KATCHI PIZHAI • KATHADI • KATTUPAYA SIR INDHA KAALI • KAVALI • KENI • KILAMBITTANGAIYA KILAMBITTANGAIYA • KOLAMAABU KOKILA • KOOOTHAN • KOOTALI • LAKSHMI • MAARI 2 • MAAYA BHAVANAM • MADURAI VEERAN • MANIYAR KUDUMBAM • MANNAR VAGAIYARA • MANUSANA NEE • MANUSANGADA • MARAINTHIRUNTHU PARKUM • MARMAM ENNA • MEDAI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MELNAATTU MARUMAGAN • MERCURY • MERKU THODARCHI MALAI • MERLIN • MOHANA • MOHINI • MOONAVATHU KANN • MR CHANDRAMOULI • MUNTHAL • NAACHIYAAR • NADODI KANAVU • NAGESH THIRAIYARANGAM • NARI VETTAI • NIMIR • NOTA • O KADHALANE • ODU RAJA ODU • ONAAIGAL JAKKIRADHAI • ONDI KATTA • ORU KUPPAI KATHAI • ORU NALLA NAAL PAATHU SOLREN • PAALKARI • PADAI VEERAN • PADAM • PADITHAVUDAN KIZHITHU VIDAVUM • PAKKA • PANJU MITTAI • PARIYERUM PERUMAL • PARKA THONUDHE • PATTINAPAKKAM • PEI IRUKKA ILLAIYA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POYA VELAYA PATTHUKKITTU • PRABHA • PRANMALAI • PUTHIYA BRUCELEE • PYAAR PREMA KADHAL • RAAGA THALANGAL • RAJA RANGUSKI • RAJAVIN PAARVAI RANIYIN PAKKAM • RATSASAN • ROJA MAALIGAI • SAAMY 2 • SAAVI • SAGAVASAM • SAMOOGA VALAITHALAM • SANDAKAOZHI 2 • SANTHOSHATHIL KALAVARAM • SARANALAYAM • SARKAR • SAVARAKATHI • SEEMARAJA • SEEMATHURAI • SEETHAKATHI • SEI • SEMMA • SEMMA BOTHA AAGATHEY • SEMMARI AADU • SEYAL • SILUKKUVARPATTI SINGAM • SKETCH • SOLLIVIDAVA • TAMIZH PADAM 2 • THAANAASERNDHAKOOTTAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THAMIZHANANEN .KA • THARAVI • THIMIRU PUDICHAVAN • THIRU • THODRA • THULAM • THUPAKKI MUNAI • TIK TIK TIK • TOURCHLIGHT • TRAFFIC RAMASAMY • U TURN • UPPU PULI KAARAM • UTHARAVU MAHARAJA • VADA CHENNAI • VANDI • VANJAGAR ULAGAM • VANMURAI PAGUTHI • VAYAKATTU MAPPILLAI • VEERA • VEERATHEVAN • VIDHI MADHI ULTAA • VINAI ARIYAAR • VINVELI PAYANA KURIPPUGAL • VISIRI • VISWAROOPAM 2 • X VIDEOS • YAAGAN • YEMAALI • YENDA THALAIYILA ENNA VEKKALA |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|

Best Film (BF) _____

Best Director (BD) _____ Film _____

Best Actor (BAM) _____ Film _____

Best Actress (BAF) _____ Film _____

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (BMS) _____ Film _____

Best Actress in a Supporting Role (BFS) _____ Film _____

Best Music Director (BMD) _____ Film _____

Best Lyricist (BL) _____ Film _____

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Male) (BMP) _____ Film _____

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Female) (BFP) _____ Film _____

Song _____

FULL NAME (In block letters) _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE

SIGNATURE

MOBILE NUMBER

TAMIL FILMS

(The list of releases is complete as per trade information. In case of any omissions or change in release date, producers are requested to bring it to the notice of Filmfare.)

TELUGU FILMS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 FRIENDS • 24 KISSES • 3 MUKHI • AAME KORIKA • AATAGADHARAA SIVA • AATAGALLU • ACHARI AMERICA YATRA • ADHUGO • AGHORA • AGNYAATHAVAASI • AINDAVI • AITHE 2.0 • ALA JARIGINDI • AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY • AMEERPET 2 AMERICA • AMMAMMA GARI ILLU • ANAGANAGA O PREMAKATHA • ANAGANAGA OKA VULLO • ANNADATA SUKHIBHAVA • ANTARIKSHAM 9000 KMPH • ANTHA V CHITRAM • ANTHAKU MINCHI • ANTHARVEDHAM • ANUVAMSHIKATHA • ARAVINDHA SAMETHA VEERA RAGHAVA • ARUNDHATHI AMAVASYA • AWE! • AYYAPPA ANUGRAHAM • BANGARI BALARAJU • BEST LOVERS • BEWARS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHAAGAMATHIE • BHAIRAVA GEETHA • BHALE MANCHI CHOUKA BERAM • BHARATH ANE NENU • BLUFF MASTER • BRAND BABU • C/O KANCHARAPALEM • CHAL MOHAN RANGA • CHALO • CHALTHE CHALTHE • CHI LA SOW • DESA DIMMARI • DESAMLO DONGALU PADDARU • DESAMUDURS • DEVADAS • DIVYA MANI • EE MAAYA PEREMITO • EE NAGARANIKI EMAINDI • EGO • ENDHARO MAHANUBHAVULU • ENDUKO EMO • GAYATRI • GEETHA GOVINDAM • GOODACHARI • HAPPY WEDDING • HBD - HACKED BY DEVIL • HELLO GURU PREMA KOSAME • HOWRAH BRIDGE • HUSHAARU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HYDERABAD LOVE STORY • IDAM JAGATH • INTELLIGENT • INTHALO ENNENNI VINTHALO • IPC SECTION: BHARYA BANDHU • ISHTANGAA • JAI SIMHA • JAMBA LAKIDI PAMBA • JUNCTION LO JAYAMALINI • JUVVA • KANAM • KANNULLO NEE ROOPAME • KARTHA KARMA KRIYA • KATHANAYAKULU • KAVACHAM • KIRRAK PARTY • KRISHNARJUNA YUDHAM • LAW • LOVER • MAHANATI • MANASAINODU • MANASUKU NACHINDI • MANCHU KURISE VELALO • MANU • MANYAM • MARLA PULI • MASAKKALI • MEHBOOBA • MLA • MOODU PUVVULU AARU KAYALU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR. HOMANAND • MY DEAR MARTHANDAM • NAA LOVE STORY • NAA PERU SURYA, NAA ILLU INDIA • NAA ROUTE SEPARETU • NAA... NUVVE • NAATAKAM • NAKOO MANASUNNADHI • NANNU DOCHUKUNDUVATE • NARTANASALA • NEE PREMAKOSAM • NEEDI NAADI OKE KATHA • NEEVEVARO • NELA TICKET • NELLORE PEDDA REDDY • NENU NAA DESAM • NEXT ENTI • NIVURU • NOTA • OFFICER • OOLLO PELLIKI KUKKALA HADAVIDI • OPERATION 2019 • PADI PADI LECHE MANASU • PANTHAM • PAPER BOY • PARICHAYAM • PEDAVI DATANI MATOKATUNDHI • PREMAKU RAINCHECK • PREMANJALI • RAA.. RAA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RACHAYITHA • RAJARATHAM • RAJU GADU • RANGASTHALAM • RANGU • RANGULA RATNAM • RATHAM • RED MIRCHI • RULE • RX 100 • SAAKSHYAM • SAGIPO NESTHAMA • SAHACHARUDU • SAINYAM • SAMEERAM • SAMMOHANAM • SANJEEVANI • SARABHA • SARADHI • SATYA GANG • SAVYASACHI • SEENUGADI PREMA • SHAILAJA REDDY ALLUDU • SHAMBHO SHANKARA • SILLY FELLOWS • SIVAKASIPURAM • SODA GOLI SODA • SRI CHILUKURU BALAJI • SRINIVASA KALYANAM • STUDENT POWER • SUBHALEKHA+LU • SUBRAHMANYAPURAM • SUPER SKETCH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TANTRIK • TARUN'S IDI NAA LOVE STORY • TAXIWALA • TEJ I LOVE YOU • THARUVATHA EVARU • THOLI PREMA • TOUCH CHESI CHUDU • U • U TURN • VAADENA • VEERA BHOGA VASANTHA RAYALU • VIJETHA • VISHAPURAM • W/O RAM • YE MANTRAM VESAVE • YUVATARAM |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|

Best Film (BF) _____

Best Director (BD) _____ Film _____

Best Actor (BAM) _____ Film _____

Best Actress (BAF) _____ Film _____

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (BMS) _____ Film _____

Best Actress in a Supporting Role (BFS) _____ Film _____

Best Music Director (BMD) _____ Film _____

Best Lyricist (BL) _____ Film _____

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Male) (BMP) _____ Film _____

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Female) (BFP) _____ Film _____

Song _____

FULL NAME (In block letters) _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE

SIGNATURE

MOBILE NUMBER

KANNADA FILMS

- 1098
- 3000
- *121#
- 2ND HALF
- 3 (DANDUPALYA)
- 3 GANTE 30 DINA 30 SECOND
- -3+1
- 6 TO 6
- 6NE MAILI
- 8MM BULLET
- A+
- AA KARAALA RATRI
- AA ONDU DINA
- AADI PURANA
- AAROHANA
- ABHAYA HASTHA
- ABHISARIKE
- ADARSHA
- AJJA
- AMALU
- AMAVASE
- AMBI NING VAYASSAYTHO
- AMMA I LOVE YOU
- AMMACHI YEMBA NENAPU
- AMRUTHA GHALIGE
- ANANTHU VS NUSRATH
- ANDHAGAARA
- ANNA PARABRAHMA SWAROOPAM
- APPLE CAKE
- ARANYAKANDA
- ARANYANI
- ARKAVATH
- ASATHOMA SADGAMAYA
- ATHANTRA
- ATHARVA
- ATHRUPTHA
- ATTEMPT TO MURDER
- AVANOBANE
- AYOGYA
- AYYO RAMA
- BAKASURA
- BHAIRAVA GEETHA
- BHOOTAYYANA MOMMAGA AYYU
- BICYCLE BOYS
- BINDAAS GOOGLY
- BRIHASPATHI
- CHARANTI
- CHINNADA GOMBE
- CHITTE
- CHOWKUR GATE
- CHURIKATTE
- DALAPATHI
- DAYS OF BORAPURA
- DEVRANTHA MANUSHYA
- DHANGADI
- DHOOLIPATA
- DHWAJA
- DIVANGATHA MANJUNATHANA GELEYARU
- DOUBLE ENGINE
- DR SUKANYA
- DVAITA
- EDAKALLU GUDDADA MELE
- FRIENDLY BABY
- GAANCHALI
- GADDAPPANA DUNIYA
- GALLI BAKERY
- GANDA OORIGE HODAGA
- GOOD BYE
- GOOGLE
- GULTOO
- HASANAMBE MAHIME
- HASIRU RIBBON
- HEBBET RAMAKKA
- HEEGONDU DINA
- HELLO MAMA
- HOSA CLIMAX
- HOTTEGAGI GENU BATTEGAGI
- HUCCHA 2
- HUMBLE POLITICIAN NOGRAJ
- HUTTADA SUTTA
- HYPER
- I DASH YOU
- IDAM PREMAM JEEVANAM
- IDEEGA BANDA SUDDHI
- IRUVUDELLEVA BITTU
- J
- JAGATH KILADI
- JANA GANA MANA
- JANTAR MANTAR
- JAVA
- JAYAMAHAL
- JEERJIMBE
- JEEVANA YAJNA
- JOHNNY JOHNNY YES PAPA
- K.G.F: CHAPTER 1
- KAARNI
- KANAKA
- KANNADA DESHADOL
- KANNADAKKAGI ONDANNU OTHI
- KANOORAYANA
- KANTRI BOYS
- KARSHANAM
- KARSHANAM
- KATHALE KONE
- KATHEYONDU SHURUVAGIDE
- KATTU KATHE
- KAVI
- KEECHAKARU
- KELAVU DINAGALA NANTHARA
- KICHCHU
- KINAARE
- KING OF BIDAR
- KISMATH
- KOTTI PAISE
- KRANTHIYOGI MAHADEVARU
- KRISHNA TULASI
- KUCHIKU KUCHIKU
- KULFI
- KUMARI 21F
- LIFE JOTHE OND SELFIE
- LOOTY
- LOUD SPEAKER
- LOVE UZ
- MADUVE DIBBANA
- MALEGALA
- MANASINA MAREYALI
- MANE NO.67
- MANJARI
- MANORATHA
- MARI TIGER
- MAST KALANDAR
- MAY 1ST
- MEGHA ALIAS MAGGI
- MERCURY
- MESTHRI
- MLA
- MMCH
- MOGAMBO
- MR. CHEATER RAMACHARI
- MR. LLB
- MUKHYAMANTRI KALDODNAPPO
- MUKTHI
- MUNDINA BADALAAVANE
- MUTTINA PALLAKKI
- NAANU L/O JAANU
- NADUVE ANTARAVIRALI
- NAGAVALLI VS APHAMITHRARU
- NAMMAVARU
- NANAGISHTA
- NANJUNDI KALYANA
- NATHICHARAMI
- NAVILA KINNARI
- NAVODAYA DAYS
- NEE NANNA USIRU
- NEENILLADA MELE
- NEEVU KARE MADIDA CHANDADARARU
- O PREMAVE
- OL MUNISWAMI
- ONDALLA ERADALLA
- ONDU SANNA BREAKNA NANTARA
- ONTHARA BANNAGALU
- ORANGE
- PADARASA
- PARADESI C/O LONDON
- PARASANGA
- PARASANGA
- PARADHII
- PARTHASARATHI
- PATHIBEKU.COM
- PRAYANIKARA GAMANAKKE
- PREETHI KELI SNEHA KALEDUKOLLABEDI
- PREETHIYA RAAYABHARI
- PREMA BARAHA
- PUNARAPI
- PUNARARAMBHA
- PUTA 109
- PUTTARAJU LOVER OF SHASHIKALA
- RAAHEE
- RAAMBO 2
- RAGHUVEERA
- RAJA LOVES RADHE
- RAJARATHA
- RAJASIMHA
- RAJU KANNADA MEDIUM
- RAMA DHANYA
- RAMARAJYA
- RANGADA HUDUGARU
- RANGBIRANGI
- RANKALRAATE
- REAL REAL 2
- RUDRAKSHIPURA
- RUKKU
- SAAGUVA DAARIYALLI
- SAAHASI MAKKALU
- SAAKSHI
- SADDU
- SAMARTHA
- SAMHAARA
- SANJEEVA
- SANKASHTAKARA GANAPATHI
- SARAKARI HIRIYA PRATHAMIKA SHAALE KASARAGODU
- SARKAAR
- SAVITRIBAI PHULE
- SED
- SEIZER
- SHANKHANADA
- SHATHAYA GATHAYA
- SHIVU PARU
- SNEHAVE PREETHI
- STATEMENT
- SUR SUR BATTHI
- SURYA EVA VRUKSHAMITRA
- SWARTHARATNA
- TAGARU
- THARAKASURA
- THAYIGE THAKKA MAGA
- THE TERRORIST
- THE VILLAIN
- THEORY
- THRATAKA
- TRUNK
- TUNTURU
- UDDISHYA
- UN2
- V2
- VAASU NAAN PAKKA COMMERCIAL
- VAJRA
- VANDANA
- VANILLA
- VARNAMAYA
- VARTHAMANA
- VICTORY 2
- VIRAJ
- VISHWARADHYA ABBE TUMAKURU SIDDHAPURUSHA
- VOL MUNISWAMI
- YARYARO GORI MELE
- YOGI DUNIYA

Best Film (BF) _____

Best Director (BD) _____ Film

Best Actor (BAM) _____ Film

Best Actress (BAF) _____ Film

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (BMS) _____ Film

Best Actress in a Supporting Role (BFS) _____ Film

Best Music Director (BMD) _____ Film

Best Lyricist (BL) _____ Film

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Male) (BMP) _____ Film

Song _____

Best Playback Singer (Female) (BFP) _____ Film

Song _____

FULL NAME (In block letters) _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE

SIGNATURE

MOBILE NUMBER

Singing a new tune

VIDYA BALAN IS ON A ROLL WITH HER NEW RADIO SHOW. RAGHUVENDRA SINGH MEETS THE ARTISTE OF ALL MEDIUMS

Her voice has both - the mystique of a temptress and the lilt of a playful stream. You don't have to see Vidya Balan to fall in love with her. Hearing her is mesmerising enough. After playing an enthusiastic radio jockey in the award-winning *Tumhari Sulu*, the actor is now ruling the airwaves with her radio show *Dhun Badal Ke Toh Dekho*.

Given her sensitive disposition and compassionate outreach, the actor is doing a fabulous job of discussing issues that affect our society and women in particular, along with an array of star guests. What's more, she elevates



Vidya Balan hosts *Dhun Badal Ke Toh Dekho*

“I LOVE THE CAMERA. SO WHETHER IT’S A FULL LENGTH FEATURE, A WEB SERIES OR A SHORT FILM, THE FORMAT DOESN’T MATTER. THE CAMERA COMFORTS ME, SEDUCES ME, IT’S INVITING, IT’S CHALLENGING. AS LONG AS THE CONTENT EXCITES ME, I’M GAME”

the banter with her fun vibe and regales listeners with some great music as well. That she's on song doesn't surprise. "I've been offered radio shows in the

past, considering I've done *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* and *Tumhari Sulu*. But the concept of this show appealed to me," she says. The title *Dhun Badal*

Ke Toh Dekho has a positive vibe she insists. It urges you to sing another tune and see the world through a new lens. "It's about offering different perspectives to people and then maybe effecting change gently, not through preaching," she explains. The show touches upon serious topics and fun themes like mother-in-law and daughter-in-law issues, new-age parenting or the romance between parents... "Most people are uncomfortable with the thought of their parents romancing," she smiles.

The actor was last seen in the South biopic *NTR Kathanayakudu*, where she played the late politician's first

wife Basavatarakam. "I liked the idea of playing this character, who's shown from 25 to 56," she reasons. "She was married to a demigod but she remained a simple person. I wanted the experience of doing a Telugu film."

She's also doing *Mission Mangal*, co-produced by R Balki and directed by Jagan Shakti. The film is based on the Mars Orbiter Mission launched in 2013, which marked India's first interplanetary expedition. She's doing a special appearance in the Tamil remake of *Pink* titled *AK 59* as well. Directed by H. Vinoth, it will mark her Tamil debut. "Boneyji (Kapoor) is producing it and



PHOTOGRAPHS:
ROHAN SHRESTHA / FEMINA

when he offered it to me, I said, 'Aapke liye I will do it'. I hold a special affection for him," says she. What's further got her enthused is the prospect of playing 'human computer' Shakuntala Devi in Anu Menon's directorial to release in 2020.

Reportedly, she's also venturing into the digital space with a series on late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. "I love the camera. So, whether it's a full length feature, a web series or a short film, the format doesn't matter. The camera comforts me, seduces me, it's inviting, it's challenging. As long as the content excites me and there is a camera, I'm game," she explains her across-genre experiments.

On camera, the actor is always raring to go. But off it, she's happy being in her skin. "Earlier, when I stepped out of the house, I'd switch on the public persona," she reveals. "With time I don't feel the need to do that. Before, I was scared about how people would perceive me, how they'd judge me. With time, I care less and less." Previously, she believed she needed to smile and be happy all the time for the world. But now she

“EARLIER, WHEN I STEPPED OUT, I'D SWITCH ON THE PUBLIC PERSONA. WITH TIME I DON'T FEEL THE NEED TO DO THAT. BEFORE, I WAS SCARED ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WOULD PERCEIVE ME, HOW THEY'D JUDGE ME. WITH TIME AND EXPERIENCE, I CARE LESS AND LESS”



clearly doesn't feel the need. "There are days when I'm in a bad mood. There are days when I don't feel like giving pictures." Formerly, she'd remind herself that these were people, who had made her. How could she not give them a picture? "I'm a human being after all. I could have had

Along with her candour, comes also a deep concern for women. She has her own take on the #MeToo movement. "I refuse to give any comments on the movement because it's not something that everyone needs to have an opinion on. It's for those who endured those unfortunate

She believes the crusade does have its pros and cons. "Unfortunately, there will be collateral damage sometimes. I'm told some women could abuse this movement. But this will definitely stop people from abusing their power. Those who have been shamed will have to deal with it," she asserts.

Initially, my father paid the EMIs. Later, I took over," she smiles. "When you buy your own house, you feel a sense of security. Women are often told 'your father's house is a waiting room and finally you'll go to your husband's house'." Of course, Vidya wasn't brought up to believe that. But once in a while when her mother would say, 'Yeh sab yahan nahin chalega, jab tum apne ghar jaaogi tab karna', Vidya would get upset. "I'd say this is my house too," she laughs today.

She's a feminist also in the sense that she values self-reliance. She recalls the feeling of jubilation when she bought her first house at the age of 24. "I bought my first house in 2004, one year before *Parineeta*. The flat next to ours was on sale. So, I bought it.

She reveals an incomplete dream. "Woody Allen is



On the set of *Mission Mangal*

“RECENTLY, ON A FLIGHT I FELL FAST ASLEEP WHEN AN AIRHOSTESS WOKE ME UP ASKING FOR A PICTURE. THAT WAS PLAIN INSENSITIVE. I LET HER TAKE THE PICTURE... SHE APOLOGISED BUT THE DAMAGE WAS DONE”

a bad day. I could be dead sleepy," she expresses her reluctance to be obliging always.

She goes on to share an unsavoury experience, "Recently, on a flight I fell fast asleep when an airhostess woke me up asking for a picture. Now that was plain insensitive. I let her take the picture but mentioned that I was tired and hence sleeping. She apologised but the damage was done."

experiences and are now able to express what they went through," she maintains. "Imagine the amount of anger they must have harboured for so long. Obviously, they want to lash out at those people." She's disturbed by the fact that the women had to stay silent for so long. "Social conditioning forces women to keep quiet. They feel they are to be blamed. So, imagine how freeing this movement is."

a long shot. Isn't he?" she laughs. "Few years ago we were in Paris, when Siddharth (Roy Kapur) asked me what I wanted in life as an actor. I said next year I want to reach out to Woody Allen. It's been seven years. But I've not chased the goal. I should have met an agent. I should have sent across my tapes," she says. "I'm not a go-getter," she rues. "Guess, some things are unachievable." ■

VIDYA'S ALL-TIME FAVOURITE SONGS

- ▶ **TERE BINA ZINDAGI SE** (AANDHI)
- ▶ **AAJ KAL PAON ZAMEEN PAR** (GHAR)
- ▶ **DIL TOH BACCHA HAI JI** (ISHQIYA)
- ▶ **JAI JAI SHIV SHANKAR** (AAP KI KASAM)
- ▶ **BREAK-UP KARLIYA** (AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL)
- ▶ **BAN JAA TU MERI RANI** (TUMHARI SULU)



PHOTOGRAPHS: ROHAN SHRESTHA
TOP: H&M | JACKET & PANTS: SEEMA KHAN
SHOES: LOUBS | EARRINGS: OUTHUSE
BRACELETS: DEEPA GURNANI

LIVING *the* DREAM

SARA ALI KHAN IS ON CLOUD NINE AFTER WINNING THE FILMFARE BEST DEBUT TROPHY.

ASHWINI DESHMUKH MEETS THE GEN-NEXT STAR

Her debut vehicle, Abhishek Kapoor's *Kedarnath*, may have been delayed due to several controversies. But when the love-in-the-times-of-tragedy saga finally released in December 2018... a star was born. Sara Ali Khan, as the love-struck Mukku, who dithers between hope and despair, wowed audiences with her prodigious talent. The graduate from Columbia University had chosen to live up to the legacy of her actor parents – Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh. The audience taking to her so effortlessly only reiterated

that she's to the manor born. In an interesting contrast, she went full throttle as the potboiler princess in Rohit Shetty's blockbuster *Simmba*, released a few weeks later. Her *Aankh maare* number was nothing short of a tribute to all the *masala* movies that spiced up her childhood memories.

That she was honoured with the Filmfare Best Debut Award 2019 was only natural. She was shooting in Delhi for Imtiaz Ali's *Aaj Kal*, said to be a sequel to his 2009 *Love Aaj Kal*, which starred dad Saif and Deepika Padukone. Sara took special permission from the director and

flew down to attend the function. The rushed journey was worth it as life seemed to have come full circle for her the moment she was on stage. In her acceptance speech, she shared how as a kid she had attended many Filmfare Awards but never envisioned she'd be holding the Black Lady one day. In the past, Sara as a little girl, was often spotted seated in the front row with the Bachchans at the Filmfare Awards. "Mom used to send me with Jaya aunty to watch the show. That way, I was let in though the event doesn't allow kids. I'd have a blast," she laughs at the memory. As a

starry-eyed kid, she was taken in by the razzmatazz of the spectacle. Silver dreams perhaps took wings then.

The granddaughter of the late cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and actor

With the Filmfare Best Debut trophy



“IF YOU WERE TO TELL A 17-YEAR-OLD ON HER WAY TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND ALSO ON HER WAY TO BECOMING A BALLOON, ‘YOU GONNA BE DANCING ON AANKH MAARE WITHIN FOUR YEARS’, I’D PROBABLY LAUGH IT OFF. IT WAS A DREAM FOR SURE. BUT DID I BELIEVE IT WOULD COME TRUE? WELL, NO!”

Sharmila Tagore, Sara grew up to be a plump teenager. Being academically bright, she opted to study at Columbia University in the US. “If you were to tell a 17-year-old on her way to Columbia University and also on her way to becoming a balloon, ‘You gonna be dancing on *Aankh maare* within four years, I’d probably laugh it off,” she chuckles. “It was a dream for sure. But did I believe it would come true? Well, no!”

The change in her physicality and demeanour is miraculous. From a chubby teenager, she now flaunts an enviable silhouette. The nerdy Sara completed her graduation a bit early, within three years, and utilised the remaining one-and-a-half year for weight training. From 96 kilos to her current svelte avatar, it has been a journey of unwavering commitment. Someone who was averse to exercise is now a gym fanatic. “My day doesn’t end well if I don’t get at least an hour of workout,”

“IT SEEMS SURREAL WHEN I HEAR MY NUMBERS AANKH MAARE AND MERA WALA DANCE FROM SIMMBA BEING PLAYED AT THE GYM. THE ENORMITY OF IT ALL HASN’T SUNK IN YET”



Kedarnath



With Kartik Aaryan

“MOM (AMRITA SINGH) USED TO SEND ME WITH JAYA (BACHCHAN) AUNTY TO THE FILMFARE AWARDS. THAT WAY, I WAS LET IN THOUGH THE EVENT DOESN'T ALLOW KIDS. I'D HAVE A BLAST”

she smiles and adds, “It seems surreal when I hear my numbers *Aankh maare* and *Mera wala dance* from *Simmba* being played at the gym. The enormity of it all hasn't sunk in yet.” Dance is also her forte. She learnt Odissi as a child and took it up again after college. “I'm close to my Odissi teacher and every time I have time off, I practise dance. I've done it even in between the *Kedarnath* and *Simmba* shoots,” she says.

Her film choices have been discerning but Sara insists that there was no game plan rather things just fell into place. She reasons that *Kedarnath* and *Simmba* were diametrically different. As a newcomer, what's utmost for her is

conviction. “I need to have conviction in my director, the script, the role or preferably all. People talk about that one Friday. What people don't realise is how many Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays are spent making a film. You've got to live far away from home, in an alien environment, working on something that means a lot to you. The only way I can work is with honesty and belief. That's the only strategy that I follow,” she asserts.

Her childhood is replete with memories of visiting the sets of her actor parents. “As a child, being on a set was only about seeing either mom putting

on make-up or seeing my father's co-actor's make-up being done. Sets meant the vanity van for me,” smiles the actor. When she hit her teens, her parents steered her away from the limelight and ensured she lived a normal life. Her mom's constant refrain was, ‘You have to earn to be here’. “I understood this when I held the trophy in my hand. Finally, I had earned the right to be here,” she says with pride. She goes on, “As a star kid, it's fun and games. But as an adult, you have to discover yourself to belong here. Today, when I attend an event or even give an interview, I know I've done something to be here. I'm not this random child floating around *jisne kuchh nahi kiya*. I thank my parents for that.”

The glory of the past year behind her, she's now neck deep in work. Currently, she's shooting with self-professed ‘crush’ Kartik Aaryan for *Aaj Kal* but with a newfound seriousness. She'd rather concentrate on work than be drawn into distracting banter. She will also feature in David Dhawan's adaptation of his timeless comedy *Coolie No. 1* opposite Varun Dhawan. Meaningful fare and *masala* fun... Sara Ali Khan seems to have struck the perfect balance. ■



99 Dreams

MUSIC MAESTRO **AR RAHMAN** IS TURNING PRODUCER WITH *99 SONGS*.
DEVESH SHARMA CHATS WITH HIM ABOUT HIS EXCITING NEW JOURNEY

Last we met, he was shooting for the promotional video of the *Patakha guddi* song for *Highway* (2014) at the helipad situated atop a hill in Film City. The sun was merciless but AR Rahman was totally lost in the moment, unmindful of the heat and the dust, making sure director Imtiaz Ali got what he wanted. One of the topics discussed during our chat, as we drove from Film City to his studio in

Powai, was the possibility of him turning a filmmaker. Now, five years later, I'm interviewing him at the swanky new office of Jio Studios in BKC, Mumbai. His first film as a producer, *99 Songs*, is finally ready and is going to release on June 21. A dream fulfilled.

He looks fitter than before and even after marathon meetings is bubbling with enthusiasm as he talks about his new baby. Rahman is said to approach everything with a childlike intensity, perhaps

the reason for his longevity as an artiste. The film started as a 'fairytale' of an idea, which he developed over long flights, during breaks, writing down things on his iPad as and when thoughts bombarded his mind. He mentions it's easier to write music for others as that's just about ideating on a story brief. But here, he was writing the story from scratch, something he's never done before. "It's a love story. I'm an Academy member; I frequently visit

“99 Songs is about music and has layers. It's not just a love story... It's about self-discovery... I'm an Academy member; I frequently visit Broadway and London to watch the theatre there. All those associations opened my mind towards the possibility of a musical”



With Ehan Bhat, the hero of *99 Songs*

Broadway as well as London to watch the theatre there. All those associations opened my mind towards the possibility of a musical,” says he. He began by writing a fairytale. “Later, I started asking myself questions about the central character and those questions formed themselves into a story.”

In Islam, we hear of 99 names of Allah. Rahman, who’s hugely spiritual, was perhaps inspired by that to name the film *99 Songs*. He mentions that although the film beats with a spiritual heart, it has no connection with any religion. Neither is it a biopic, despite revolving around a musician, who wants to be a composer. “It’s about music and has layers,” he elaborates. “It’s not just a love story. Those who want to get the layers will grasp it. It’s about self-discovery, more than anything else.” It’s said that being a producer is the toughest job in showbiz. Rahman asserts it’s been a great learning experience so far. “You don’t want to let down people as big money is involved,” he points out. “You have to involve yourself in everything, from choosing the cast, posters, promotions - overseeing the smallest and the biggest thing.” He mentions Jio came on board after watching a 40-minute version of the film and he couldn’t have asked for better partners.

Rahman is introducing two new faces, Ehan Bhat and Edilsy Vargas in the film. He mentions doing almost 500 auditions



Sanju



Highway

before zeroing in on Ehan. He could have got any superstar from Mumbai or the South to play the lead. But he chose to cast a newcomer instead as he wanted total commitment for the project. “I wanted someone who could play the piano. Ehsan came to our academy in Chennai, where he learnt the piano for a year. Then he was coached by director Vishwesh Krishnamoorthy to play his character.”

Not so long ago, Krishnamoorthy was the lead vocalist for the Mumbai-based band Scribe. He has since dabbled in advertising and direction, winning accolades for the musical travelogue *The Dewarists*, which aired on MTV. A shared worldview and a similar taste in music made Rahman gel with Krishnamoorthy from their first meeting itself. Rahman is known for his close association with Mani Ratnam. One would have thought that the maestro would ask his



Mom

mentor to hold the reins of his first venture as a producer. Rahman has his reasons. He says, “He’s such a senior; I can’t dare to approach him. Another reason is that Mani sir writes his own films, it’s his voice. Everything comes from within. He has not worked on anyone else’s script in all the years I’ve known him.”

One reason Rahman is making the film is because he wants to celebrate the vast richness of India. “How many of our films have actually won appreciation abroad?” he asks. “Other than those showcasing poverty? We want to show the best of India. And also to show

“I did *Ruby ruby* (*Sanju*) because of Vidhu Vinod Chopra... I had received a fax from him in 1994. A producer, sitting next to me, said don’t respond to the fax. I’ve always felt guilty about it. Over the years, Vidhu has only praised me. If someone loves you so much it’s worth reciprocating”





that these stories are universal. They can be from anywhere.” Rahman, who did the web series *Harmony* for Amazon Prime, got fascinated with the North East when he travelled there for the show. In Manipur, he interviewed folk singer Lourembam Bedabati Devi. In Sikkim, he chatted with singer and flautist Mickma Tshering Lepcha. He informs that North East is a big part of the film. He rues the fact that the North East has never been presented in a way it should have been. The film promises to showcase the region in all its glory.

The film has been made in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Rahman has given music for all three versions. In Hindi, again instead of working with stalwarts like Gulzar or Javed Akhtar, he has given young guns a chance to shine. “The main lyricist is Navneet Kaur,” he reveals. “We met when she was transcribing my script, while I was ideating. She has a sense of poetry.” Curiously, Rahman hasn’t sung in the film. The main singer is Shashwat Singh, the guy who sang the *Ruby ruby* song from *Sanju*. Singh happens to belong to Rahman’s conservatory. Armaan Malik too has sung in the film. Bela Shende, Poorvi Koutish, and Shashaa Tirupati are amongst the female vocalists, who feature in the film.

The film’s heroine, Edilsy Vargas, has been kept under wraps for now. Rahman hints she’s the

surprise element of the film. He's confident that both Ehsan and Edilsy have a bright future ahead. "We believe they have what it takes to make it big. That's why we have invested in them in the first place," he reflects.

He has invested five years in the film, which is a long time in an industry that wants instant results. Rahman informs that he was also directing a one-of-a-kind project, *Le Musk*, in between. The idea for *Le Musk*, which revolves around the sense of smell, reportedly came from his wife, Saira Banu. The film is a virtual-reality project and apart from everything else, it will also provide the viewers with an olfactory experience. Currently, there's a lack of theatres to showcase such a product and Rahman's vision is to have special seats erected in different cities. "We will have to do installations. It will have 10 robotic chairs. They'll move, provide smells, will have amazing sound and 3D as well. *Le Musk* will give you the whole 360-degree emotional experience. "You'll leave the theatre wondering what you just experienced. You'll be talking about it for weeks," he asserts. Rahman adds that the third episode of the project is still being stitched as quality is a premium.

His association with his pet projects is one reason why we have seen, or rather, heard less of him in Hindi films. Another reason is that he doesn't like the multi-composer set up, which has become the norm today. He adds



With director Vishwesh Krishnamoorthy on the set of *99 Songs*

“I’ve experienced many things, which I felt I wasn’t capable of handling. But because of the energy I get by staying positive, I was able to overcome those hurdles. I tell my family you have to be positive, always have a helpful attitude... Let the outcome be a service to humanity. Whether you’re smiling or singing or doing anything else”

that he did a project like *Mom* because of its non-romantic narrative. "It felt great that *Mom* got a National Award for Sridevi. It was a dream-come-true to work for one of her films." He adds, "I was also catching up with the Tamil scene because people there feel I've abandoned them for Hollywood. Hence, I couldn't get time for Hindi projects." Despite his reluctance with multi-composer films, he did do a song, *Ruby ruby* for *Sanju*. How did that come about? "I did it because Vidhu Vinod Chopra has always said the nicest things about me," he replies. "I had received a fax from him in 1994. A producer, who was sitting next to me, said don't respond to the fax. I've always felt guilty

about it. Over the years, Vidhu has only praised me. If someone loves you so much it's worth reciprocating. So I did that song for them out of love," he explains.

He has won all the awards there are. Is proving himself still a motivation? Rahman says it has never been about proving something. Delving into his Sufi beliefs, he mentions that he has been gifted by God and the challenge is to serve God by expressing himself in the best way he can. Currently, thanks to working in Hollywood and Iranian cinema, he wants to express that gift through visuals. He wants to concentrate on his own vision rather than someone

else's. It's a miracle that he retains Sufi beliefs in what is said to be a cut-throat industry. He insists one has to strive for an internal balance. "I've experienced many things, which I felt I wasn't capable of handling. But because of the energy, which comes by staying positive, I was able to overcome those hurdles," he reflects. "I tell my family that as well. That you have to be positive, always have a helpful attitude towards everyone. Let the outcome be a service to humanity. Whether you're smiling or singing or doing



anything else.”

Despite being busy, he makes sure he has time for his family, especially his children Ameen, Rahima and Khatija. Sometimes, he goes on impromptu night-outs with them and at times, he surprises them with a vacation. Like he asks them to pack their bags because they are taking off to Disneyland. It must be hard for his children to stay grounded, having a superstar for a father. He says they try to lead a simple life as a family. “I want them to be with normal people. To travel economy, to

enjoy the beauty of life, to experience everything.”

He maintains that kids are bound to rebel. “Instead of telling them what to do, if you tell them the reason for your worry, they’ll respond better.” He believes he can better himself as a parent. “I have seen children of many great musicians suffer because they dedicated themselves to their art but failed as parents. You need to find time to be with the kids,” he explains. “They don’t need expensive gifts, they need quality time. Even if they have a teacher, if you teach them

it’s special for them.”

Coming back to his professional life, he came out with a reality show called *ARRived* and is a super judge on the Indian version of *The Voice*. Do reality shows actually unearth talent? Rahman has an interesting take on it. He says such shows aren’t about winning but learning. “It’s like a high-intensity workout both physically and spiritually. To experience both that kind of humiliation and adulation is amazing for those kids, whether they win or not.” He points out that some do get lucky and are offered work by composers. In a lighter vein, he points out that

Those who have followed the musician for ages, connect to it and younger fans too get to sample it through internet playlists. Recently, he made a promo track for the Hindi version of *Avengers: Endgame*. The anthem got some 10 million views on YouTube, though Rahman purists were reportedly not happy. He chuckles at that and says thanks to it, he got a whole new fan base. “It was scary as Marvel has some diehard fans but thankfully it was well-received,” he claims. *Black Panther* is his favourite Marvel film and he loved its score. “I sent a note to the composer (Ludwig Göransson) and

“I’ve seen children of many great musicians suffer because they dedicated themselves to their art but failed as parents. You need to find time to be with your kids. They don’t need expensive gifts, they need quality time”

he wouldn’t have lasted in those shows were they around when he started out. “I’m a performer now. But back then I was hiding behind the keyboard. When I brought a new sound with *Roja*, there was no pressure to be judged. Here, the contestants are under constant pressure.”

Music buffs sing hosannas about the Rahman kind of sound. The maestro believes it’s good to have a brand identity.

he responded back with a thank you. I’m glad he won the Oscar.”

Rahman prefers a live concert over making music in a studio. He says performing in front of a live audience goes beyond making music.

“A live concert is also like a movie, you don’t want to bore people. Everyone is recording you on their phones so you have to be on top of everything. It’s both exciting and terrifying. I see the audience as a soul. You become part of that soul. It’s a cathartic experience.”

TOWARDS *new* HORIZONS

THE SYNERGY OF CREATIVE INSTINCT AND COMMERCIAL INSIGHT MAKES **SIDDHARTH ROY KAPUR** A MOVIE MOGUL, WRITES **ASHWINI DESHMUKH**

Movies are his magnificent obsession, apart from gorgeous wife Vidya Balan. That explains why the MBA graduate took a leap into the capricious but creative world of films. With several blockbusters in his dossier during his stint with The Walt Disney Company India and UTV, Siddharth Roy Kapur moved on to set up his own production house, Roy Kapur Films (RKF) in 2017. While *Dangal* was his big-ticket project, his upcoming ventures offer a cinematic buffet including *The Sky Is Pink*, *Saare Jahaan Se Achcha* and *Yeh Ballet* apart from genre-agnostic digital content. The otherwise erudite entrepreneur is now glad to have come home to the artistic adventure of filmmaking, the genesis of which can be traced to his art-obsessed family...

After being part of Disney and UTV, how is it helming your own company Roy Kapur Films (RKF)?

There was always a sense of ownership, whether it was at UTV or at Disney. But the thrill of having your own organisation is different. Every film is your baby. What I'm enjoying most is the creatives. Earlier, we juggled multiple things. One didn't have

time to spend with writers and directors. But today that's a bulk of what I do.

What made you start your own production company?

There came a time when I asked myself, 'Am I a media guy, a movies guy or a content guy?' I realised I'm much more a movies guy than a media guy. The time I spent at UTV and Disney gave me incredible

experience. But then you realise it's time to start a new journey, which is being as close to content as possible.

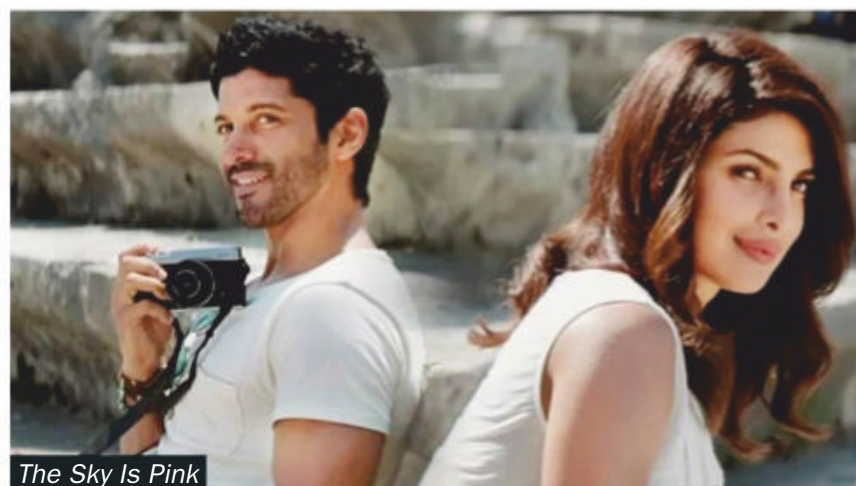
What did your previous experiences teach you?

The experiences in marketing, finance, programming... and the subsequent successes and failures hone your instinct. Any creative decision boils

down to instinct. Today, my instinct is way sharper.

What makes you decide on taking on a project?

The first thing I ask myself when I hear a script is, 'Can I imagine not making this film?' If the answer is no, then I make it. You're going to live with the chosen subject for almost two years. So, you must feel passionately about it.



The Sky Is Pink

“YOU NEED A THICK SKIN AND A STRONG HEART TO BE IN THIS BUSINESS... YOU’VE GOT TO LOVE THE MOVIES TO FACE IT ALL. IF THE THRILL GETS YOUR ADRENALINE PUMPING DESPITE HAVING TO DEAL WITH ISSUES, THEN YOU KNOW YOU’RE IN THE RIGHT BUSINESS”

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From being a management student, how did you navigate towards filmmaking?

I was a film-obsessed child. My grandfather lived near Strand Cinema. My grandparents were the first proponents of ballroom, Latin American dancing in India. My mother (noted dancer and ex-beauty queen Salome Roy Kapur) was a choreographer. Dancers and models would come home to learn. I grew up with artistes around me.

Gradually, I fell in love with theatre. Films were a natural progression. I'd watch every film, dragging my grandparents or mom along. I was a complete Amitabh Bachchan fanatic. I'd wait in queues for tickets or force my parents to buy them in black. I'd read every film magazine. I'd follow box-office figures. I'd keep tabs on mahurats. I was that obsessed. I did theatre in school and college. I used to act and direct. But for someone, who was doing well academically, films seemed a tough decision. So, I did my MBA as I needed stability. But I knew I'd find my way into the industry.

How did that come about?

I did a summer internship in college where I interacted with Ronnie Screwvala (now helms the production house RSVP). It was a small production house in a basement in Worli. I was thrilled to be spending hours at the edit table. I regarded Ronnie as a mentor. I stayed in touch with him. In 2005, he asked me to head the marketing of his company, which was making *Rang De Basanti*.



Dangal



Rang De Basanti

“IF SUCCESS GOES TO YOUR HEAD, A STRANGE KARMA BRINGS YOU BACK TO THE GROUND... IF YOUR INSTINCT IS CLOUDED BY EGO, THEN YOU CAN GO WRONG”

I was working in Hong Kong with Star TV then. I took the next flight back to Mumbai knowing that this would lead me to films.

Why didn't you opt for acting like your brothers Kunal Kapur and Aditya Roy Kapur?

I did. I enjoyed being on stage in college. It's a huge kick. But I also enjoyed putting productions together and raising sponsorships for them. I had a producer in me since then. I was a little impatient to be an actor. Being a producer gave me a breadth of experience.

What are the challenges a producer faces in our industry?

You need a thick skin and a strong heart to be in this business. Also, entertainment is highly taxed. It's difficult to get



With Vidya Balan



permissions to shoot. In fact, shooting in Mumbai is more expensive than shooting in Bangkok. You can also face hurdles during the release of a film. People can raise frivolous objections. You've got to love the movies to face it all. If the thrill gets your adrenaline pumping despite having to deal with issues, then you know you're in the right business.

What do you aim to achieve with your production house?

I wish to create cinematic experiences for which people are willing to buy a ticket worth 200 rupees, irrespective of whether it features a star or not. Then only will we progress. It's a great time for storytellers on the digital platform because we're able to tell varied stories on that.

Box-office success or great reviews – what would you prefer?

If I've to choose one, it would be box-office success. It's show business finally. But I try for both. Box-office success gives you the fuel to make more movies. But the Holy Grail is always box-office success plus great reviews.

What's your take on the dearth of good writers in the industry?

It's a chicken and egg situation. We need to accept the fact that we've not given writers the respect, the credit and the money they deserve. That has prevented quality writers from entering the profession. Good writers choose other commercially beneficial fields like

advertising and television. Writers too need to take responsibility when they come up with half-baked material. The rigour in writing is missing. Writing has held us back in the past, which is why we had to rely on stardom. Both need to change.

Can success be a dangerous habit?

The good part about the film industry is that you're quickly brought down to earth. Failure follows success. If success goes to your head, a strange karma brings you back to the ground. It's a subjective business. There's no black and white. There's no right and wrong. You just have to follow your instinct. If your instinct is clouded by ego, then you go wrong. Some people have enjoyed success after success but have remained grounded. Rajkumar Hirani is an example. He's under-confident and insecure before every release, regardless of how big his last one was. When someone like him, constantly questions himself, then no one should let success go to their head.

On a lighter note, what dinner conversations do you share with wife Vidya Balan?

Our sensibilities are similar. We both enjoy the same kind of cinema. There are times when we differ. But that leads to healthy debates. We have Sunday lunch regularly at my parents' place in Cuffe Parade. The conversation tends to be around films. But it's more about movies than movie people. ■

*Dreams cannot
be defined or
confined...*



*Softness has
strength.
Play around
with both...*

Outfit: Gaurav Gupta

BEYOND LIMITS

*BEYOND THE CLOUDS GIRL, MALAVIKA MOHANAN,
CAUGHT IN A CHIC AND SENSUAL PHOTOPLAY*

*Go wherever the
heart takes you...*

Outfit: Namrata Joshipura
Earrings: Deepa Gurnani





*Mind over
matter is all
that matters...*

Outfit: Namrata Joshipura
Earrings: Deepa Gurnani
Shoes: Intoto

*Hide-n-seek
is what life's
all about...*

Jacket: The Materialist
Bralette: Hunkemoller
Skirt: Kanika Goyal





*Frills and fire,
a real woman
takes to both...*

Outfit: Pankaj and Nidhi

Sunny *with a* Chance

SUNNY SINGH HAS FOUND HIS PLACE IN THE SUN.
ANALITA SETH CHATS WITH THE TITU OF *SONU KE TITU KI SWEETY*

PHOTOGRAPHS: MEETESH TANEJA

It's a happy time to be Sunny Singh. Last year, his romantic comedy *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety* (SKTKS) went on to rank among the highest-grossing films. His third collaboration with co-stars Kartik Aaryan and Nushrat Bharucha and director Luv Ranjan proved to be a high spot in his career. The quirky story about Sonu (Kartik Aaryan), who tries to separate his best friend Titu (Sunny) from his fiancée Sweety (Nushrat Bharucha), hit a chord with the audience given its relatable relationship dynamics. Has he ever been in a situation where he had to choose between love and friendship as his character Titu in *SKTKS*? "I've been in a situation like that but I know what to do," he chuckles. "I'm

a sorted person. I don't go crazy about it. One of my friends got married because of me. I told him that she's the right girl for you. I'm a peacemaker, not a third wheel."

He's glad that he's finally carved a niche for himself as an actor, an achievement that has come after years of dreaming and dedication. The son of action director Jai Singh Nijjar, who contributed to films like *Singham*, *Chennai Express* and *Shivaay*, Sunny grew familiar with a film set early in life. He recalls visiting the set of Ajay Devgn's *Vijaypath* (1994), "Dad and the team were practising with a white tiger, while I was scared just looking at it." His memories of being on the set of Salman Khan's *Kurbaan* (1991) are as



Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety

“KARTIK (AARYAN) AND I JUST HAVE TO EXCHANGE A GLANCE TO KNOW WHAT THE OTHER IS THINKING. THAT’S THE KIND OF BROMANCE WE ENJOY. THE SONG *TERA YAAR HOON MAIN* (SKTKS) SUMS UP OUR BOND”

vivid. "Salman sir offered me a packet of chips. I was so nervous that I just kept looking down. He was so sweet. He told me I was his friend," he grins. Another fun memory is that of being on the sets of Ajay Devgn's *Jaan* (1996)

in Manali. "I enjoyed the yummy food and had fun roaming around the place," he reminisces. "Also, I was awe-struck by the heroes. I wanted to wear their kind of clothes. I'd insist on buying their kind of shoes. I was that



crazy,” he laughs adding that perhaps the desire to be an actor took birth then. He enjoyed dance too and his father encouraged the latent performer in him. His favourite pastime was to ask young Sunny to perform on a Hindi song. “My first choice would be *My name is Lakhan* (Ram Lakhan, 1989). I was crazy about Akshay Kumar as well and loved dancing on his numbers from *Main Khiladi Tu Anari* (1994) in college competitions,” he chuckles.

When he shared his dream of being an actor with his father, he got honest advice. “Dad cautioned me it would be tough to make it as an actor,” he narrates. “Being a son of an action director would help me get an introduction. But after that I’d have to prove myself.” He adds, “I’d go to the terrace every morning and practise voice modulation. Then I’d rehearse popular dialogue from films.” When a friend suggested he give an audition for a TV show Sunny agreed. “I went for it to gain experience. It’s hard for an 18-year-old to make it in the movies. I had to be ready first. So, I worked in TV shows. Later, I did theatre,” says the actor who played the role of Saksham in the TV series *Kasautii Zindagii Kay* (2007) and Karan in *Shakuntala* (2009).

He began his film career with a cameo in Madhur Bhandarkar’s romcom *Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji* (2011). Meanwhile, casting director Vicky Sidana asked him to meet producer Kumar Mangat, who’s a family friend.

→
Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAMA 2



“That’s also how I met Luv Ranjan sir. We enjoyed a fine tuning. I did a look test and assured him that I’d work hard,” he reveals how *Akaash Vani* (2013) happened. The film was about two lovers, played by Kartik and Nushrat, who are separated when Nushrat is married to an abusive man played by Sunny. The film, though praised by critics, proved a damp squib at the box-office.

His big success came with the buddy-comedy, Luv Ranjan’s *Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAMA 2* (PKP2 in 2015), where he featured along with Kartik, Nushrat, Omkar Kapoor and Sonnalli Seygall. The film was about three friends, who fall in love with different types of girls. He swept the audiences away with his performance as ‘hopeless in love’ Siddharth aka Chauka. His dialogue from the movie, “*Chal jhoothi!*” became popular too. The role also earned him a nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Male Debut. “We did many workshops. We

poured our heart and soul into the film. I got great reviews but the credit goes to my director Luv Ranjan.”

There was a section of the audience that dubbed the film misogynistic. “I was born and brought up in Mumbai. I’m aware of the city’s culture and vibe. I was just portraying a character that one comes across in a metro. It’s also about taking it with humour,” he defends the film adding, “People have given so much love to the film. I met a girl on a flight, who said that she watches PKP2 whenever she’s depressed. Kartik too mentioned in an interview that an old couple came up to him and praised the film.”

He enjoys a fine camaraderie with co-stars Nushrat and Kartik. “Kartik and I share a great equation,” he shares. “We just have to exchange a glance and we can gauge what the other is thinking. That’s the kind of bromance we enjoy. The song *Tera yaar hoon main* from (SKTKS) sums up our bond.” He’s all praise for Nushrat too. “She’s the sweetest person to work with. You

“DAD (ACTION DIRECTOR JAI SINGH NIJJAR) CAUTIONED ME IT WOULD BE TOUGH TO MAKE IT AS AN ACTOR. BEING A SON OF AN ACTION DIRECTOR WOULD HELP ME GET AN INTRODUCTION. BUT AFTER THAT I’D HAVE TO PROVE MYSELF”



learn a lot from actors like Nushrat. She delivers her dialogue in a certain way. Her expressions are so nuanced,” he says. He values them as friends. “We keep texting or calling each other often. They are my closest friends. Not because they’re co-actors but because they’re fine people.”

It took him around a decade to make his presence felt in the industry. But at no point did Sunny ever doubt that he’d chosen the wrong profession. “Not for a second, did I ever feel that I didn’t want to continue here. In fact, my father had taken a vow that he wouldn’t visit his most frequented *mandir*, until I got work. Even then I took my time to choose. For me it’s about giving more than 100 per cent to acting,” he underlines his passion. So much so that he had no plan B in case he failed. “When a person wants to do something badly and gives it enough time, he’s surely rewarded,” he says with conviction. It’s now time to see his dreams actualise. His next is director Navjot Gulati’s romantic comedy *Jai Mummy Di* (2019), where he features with Sonnalli Seygall once again. His immediate future looks bright. He leans over and says softly, “I want to explore action-comedy like Akshay Kumar. Serious drama is also on my list, maybe something inspired by a true incident. A biopic would interest me too.” Hope all his wishes come true. ■



IN SEARCH

AT 83, VETERAN **DHARMENDRA** DARES TO DREAM AND DO, WRITES **SUMAN SHARMA**

OF LOVE

Six decades and his charisma is unfading. Six decades and his fans remain unflinching. Six decades and his sex-appeal is intact. “*Meri nekdili meri sehat ka raaz hai*. My soul is pure. My face is like a mirror. I think positive. I enjoy exercise. I take good care of my health.” That’s how the 83-year-old Dharmendra explains his appeal.

The veteran was last seen in Navaniat Singh’s *Yamla Pagla Deewana: Phir Se* with sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. Earlier, the three had featured in Samir Karnik’s *Yamla Pagla Deewana* (2011), an emotional story of a boxer. The film, he says, left his fans moist-eyed. “This time round I wanted to make them laugh,” he explains why he did the comedy *Yamla Pagla Deewana: Phir Se*.

He concedes it’s a different high working with his sons but refuses to draw comparisons between them. “Both

my sons are equal to me. I’m proud of them both. They’re good human beings,” he maintains.

Born Dharam Singh Deol in Phagwara, Punjab, Dharmendra was fascinated with films right from childhood, often travelling miles to view the touring cinema

in his village. Married at the age of 19 to Prakash Kaur, he took up a job with an American drilling company boring tube wells. Fortunately for him, he was noticed in a *Filmfare* Talent contest and came to Mumbai. He was signed by Arjun Hingorani for *Dil Bhi Tera*,

Hum Bhi Tere (1960). Of his karmic bond with *Filmfare* he says, “*Filmfare* gave me my first break. I am what I am thanks to it.” He recalls the time he first laid his hands on the magazine. “I picked up a *Filmfare* copy from a stall on a railway station in Punjab. Kamini Kaushal was on the cover. I brought the magazine home. I tried to hide it from my father (the late Kewal Kishan Singh Deol). But he saw it and remarked, ‘Who will read school books?’” he smiles at the memory today.

He went on to play lead roles in women-oriented films in the ‘60s like *Anpadh*, *Soorat Aur Seerat* and *Phool Aur Patthar*. His earlier films were soft romances starting with Bimal Roy’s *Bandini* and continuing with Hrishikesh Mukherjee’s socials – *Anupama*, *Manjhli Didi* and *Satyakam*. Given his good looks, he was voted as one of the five best-looking men in the world in the 1960s. The ‘70s



With sons Sunny and Bobby Deol

“I’M AN EMOTIONAL PERSON. THIS MAY BE OF LITTLE VALUE IN THE INDUSTRY. BUT BECAUSE I’M A GOOD HUMAN BEING, I WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE HERE FOR 60 YEARS... CINEMA IS NOT JUST MY PROFESSION, IT’S MY BELOVED. SOMETIMES, I WOO HER. SOMETIMES, SHE WOOS ME BACK. THAT’S HOW WE’VE HAD SUCH A LONG RUN”

saw Dharmendra take to action in films like *Mera Gaon Mera Desh*, *Jugnu*, *Kahani Kismet Ki*, *Yaadon Ki Baraat* and *Sholay*. Between '80s-'90s films like *Ghulami*, *Batwara* and *Kshatriya* were prominent. While the 2000s saw him in *Johnny Gaddaar* and *Life... In A Metro*. "I didn't go to any acting school. People said I underplayed in my early films. I had no idea what underacting was. I was raw. I did whatever the director told me," he smiles.

He feels sad at the passing away of his peers. "I miss my colleagues. Whenever I go to the studios, they appear in front of my eyes. I've shared such wonderful moments with Mehmood, Johnny Walker... I miss my old directors like Bimalda, Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Dulal Guha, Asit Sen," he sighs. After a pause he continues, "I'm an emotional person. This may be of little value in the industry. But because I'm a good human being, I was able to survive here for 60 years. Apart from being a good actor, you should also be a good person." He elaborates that being sensitive enhances the craft of acting. "Acting is reaction. And an emotional person reacts effortlessly," he explains. "Cinema is not just my profession, it's my beloved. Sometimes, I woo her. Sometimes, she woos me back. That's how we've had such a long run," he explains in poetic terms. Humanity and relationships mean a lot



“I LIKE SALMAN KHAN. I’VE OBSERVED HIS LIFE CHART. HE SHARES SOME SIMILARITIES WITH ME... HE WAS SO SHY DURING JAB PYAAR KIYA TOH DARNA KYA, HE’D JUST GIVE HIS SHOT AND DISAPPEAR. HE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR ME AND I COULD SEE IT IN HIS EYES”

to him. "I form bonds with people easily. I keep on searching for love in people. Love is all I know." The Deols still uphold the joint family system. "It's a rare thing today. I give full credit for this to my mother (the late Satwant Kaur)," he points out. "When my mother was

alive the atmosphere in our house was warm and loving. We've retained the same today." He also values the spirit of hospitality that his mother displayed and practises the same. "My mother said that a full-stocked kitchen brings in prosperity. We have guests dropping in all the time.

Our house is open to all," he reveals. No wonder he shares an affinity with Salman Khan, someone said to be as family-oriented as him. "I like Salman. I've observed his life chart. He shares some similarities with me. He's a bit shy," he says. Dharam did *Jab Pyaar*



Chupke Chupke



Bandini



With Ahana, Hema Malini and Esha Deol

Kiya Toh Darna Kya (1998) with Salman. “He was so shy; he’d just give his shot and disappear. He did not talk much with anyone. He had great respect for me and I could see it in his eyes,” he reminisces. “Once, our camera fell in the lake. He jumped in and got it out. I was impressed by his spirit.”

Not many know that Dharam is a closet poet. “In 2001, I underwent a spine surgery in America. It went wrong. So they had to operate

again. One day, while I was sitting in the room, lonely and depressed, I heard someone ask, ‘May I come in?’ She came and sat next to me. I put my head on her lap and started crying. Ruffling my hair, she said, ‘Some call me a witch, some call me death. Everyone is afraid of me. *Main tanhai hoon*,’ he explains his turmoil metaphorically. Continuing with the allegory of ‘loneliness’ being a woman, Dharam shares, “She said, ‘Write

about your pain as you’re not able to share this with anyone and there’s no one to listen’. That’s how I began writing poetry.”

It’s strange that someone with such a poetic temperament would join the cutthroat world of politics. “I was inspired by the late Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji. I didn’t know the ABC of politics. I never wanted to join it. One day *Atalji* requested me to join the BJP. I told him that people in politics aren’t good. He said,

“IN 2001, I UNDERWENT A SPINE SURGERY... IT WAS PAINFUL. ONE DAY, WHILE I WAS SITTING IN THE ROOM DEPRESSED, I HEARD SOMEONE ASK, ‘MAY I COME IN?’ SHE CAME AND SAT NEXT TO ME. I PUT MY HEAD ON HER LAP... SHE SAID, ‘SOME CALL ME A WITCH, SOME CALL ME DEATH. EVERYONE IS AFRAID OF ME. MAIN TANHAI HOON’ ”

‘If good people like you stay away, then what will be the future of politics?’ This touched my heart,” says the actor, who was elected as an MP from Bikaner in 2004. “*Atalji* couldn’t move due to knee pain. But whenever I went to meet him, he’d get up and hug me saying, ‘My Dharam has come’.” Incidentally, Dharmendra’s son, Sunny Deol, has also joined the BJP.

It’s been a chequered life for this son of Punjab. Always a nature lover, today he spends most of his time at his farmhouse in Lonavala. Organic farming is something that interests him greatly. But his tinsel dreams are not yet done and dusted. He claims, “My best is yet to come. Life’s a beautiful competition. It’s human to want to be loved and admired. Everyone wants to be the best. So, never stop dreaming.” ■



Bidita Bag with Reshma Pathan on the set of *The Sholay Girl*



Bidita Bag essays stunt star Reshma Pathan in the latter's biopic *The Sholay Girl*

TAKE

TWO

The biopic, *The Sholay Girl*, is a tribute to stuntwoman **Reshma Pathan**. **Farhana Farook** in conversation with the woman, who had to 'fight' for survival

She has smashed deep-seated stereotypes. A conservative Muslim from the clustered bylanes of Pydhone, she decides to be a stuntwoman. At 14, she turns breadwinner for a family of seven, heedless of the risks of the vocation. She struggles for her place in a male-dominated bastion. She protects herself from the predatory propositions from heroes, stuntmen associates... Fatal accidents and filmmakers who play foul... she survives them all. She fights gender bias to become the first female member of the Movie Stunt Artistes' Association. She marries a stunt-master, rears up the children of her divorced sister and her own son into becoming qualified professionals. At 65, the woman who body-doubled for several heroines – her act as Hema Malini's duplicate in *Sholay* being legendary – has emerged from anonymity to applause. The biopic, *The Sholay Girl*, streamed on the OTT platform, inspired by Reshma Pathan's life celebrates the shero. Produced by Sai Deodhar, directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, the film has actress Bidita Bag essaying the resilient Reshma. "After 50 years in the industry... the film is my award," says the stunt goddess...



Hema Malini in *Sholay*

TOMBOY TALES

Reshma studied in an Urdu medium school. Her childhood was troubled with economic ennui. “My parents smuggled rice, cloth and other items from Wapi (Gujarat),” she recalls. When her

mother was taken into custody and her father’s illness left them helpless, Reshma, the oldest of her four siblings, took to doing stunts in films to support her family. “I was a tomboy. Fight director S. Azim uncle had seen my antics in the area.



“I INJURED MY LEG BADLY WHILE PLAYING HEMA MALINI’S DOUBLE IN *SHOLAY*. BUT I JUST GOT THE WOUND STITCHED AND RESUMED WORK. I NEEDED THE MONEY FOR MY SISTER’S WEDDING. STITCHES, IF RUPTURED, COULD BE SUTURED AGAIN. BUT IF MY SISTER’S *RISHTA* BROKE, THEN WHAT?”

Area ki behen banne ka bahut shauk tha. He suggested I do stunts," she laughs. Her father was angry when he got to know about it. He beat her up. But since it was a question of survival, he agreed. "Every day I left home, I feared whether I'd return in one piece," she smiles. She began by playing Laxmi Chaya's double in Vinod Khanna's *Ek Khiladi Bawan Patte* (1972). "I started with 175 rupees per day. I got 100 rupees in hand. I was swindled of the transport money. But I was happy. I wouldn't have been able to make this amount even if I was a graduate. Fulfilling the needs

RESHMA PLAYED BODY DOUBLE FOR...



Meena Kumari in *Mere Apne*



Helen in *Agent Vinod*



Durga Khote in *Karz*



Bindiya Goswami in *Shaan*



PHOTOGRAPH: YOGESH CHIPLUNKAR
COURTESY: FEMINA



Bidita with muse Reshma Pathan

of my family was my priority," she says.

Earlier, Mary Ann Evans, aka Fearless Nadia, starred in several hits between 1930-1960s and also performed stunts. In the '60s, men dressed as women would do action for heroines. But Reshma was the first woman to attempt stunts for actresses like Waheeda Rehman, Rekha, Hema Malini, Sridevi, Dimple



“ I WAS PLAYING DURGA KHOTE’S DOUBLE IN KARZ, WHEN A TRUCK CAME AND ACTUALLY HIT ME. I WAS IN PAIN. BUT I COMPLETED THE SHOT... I BLASTED THE TRUCK DRIVER. HE SAID THE DIRECTOR HAD TOLD HIM, ‘THOK DO! FIGHTER LADKI HAI’ JUST TO GET A REAL SHOT. I NEVER WORKED WITH THAT DIRECTOR AGAIN ”

Kapadia and Meenakshi Sheshadri among others. She also played the duplicate in Bhojpuri and South Indian films and bilinguals like *Gandhi*, *Mangal Pandey* and *The*

Warrior. "Doing stunts doesn't require language," she asserts.

INDECENT PROPOSALS

Early in her career, she was offered a heroine's role.

"I was sent an agreement, which said that I'd have to come whenever they sent for me. It meant relation *rakhoge toh kaam milega*. I tore off that agreement in disgust." She chucked the thought



Reshma with Meenakshi Sheshadhri



...with Dimple Kapadia



...with Hema Malini



...with Sridevi



The Sholay Girl

“ WHEN ACTORS WOULD HIT ON ME, I’D SAY, ‘I’M YOUR FAN... AAP APNI IZZAT KYON GAWA RAHE HO.’ TO ACTION MASTERS I’D SAY, ‘IF I HAD TO DO THIS ONLY, WHAT’S THE NEED TO BREAK MY HANDS AND LEGS?’ I TACTFULLY USED MY TONGUE THOUGH I COULD HAVE USED MY FISTS TO DEFEND MYSELF ”

of becoming a heroine. The stamp of a stunt woman, however, stuck with her.

She encountered indecent proposals from actors too but handled them with tact. “I’d tell them, ‘I’m your fan but if you behave like this I’ll be compelled to think differently. *Aap apni izzat kyon gawa rahe ho?*” was her retort. Some action masters also tried to hit on her. Her refrain was, ‘If I had to do this only, what’s the need to break my hands and legs?’ If they unnecessarily flattered me, I’d say, ‘I see myself in the mirror every day, you don’t have to praise me.’”

Eventually, they understood they could not have their way with her. “If you remain quiet the first time someone misbehaves, they’re encouraged. I tactfully used my tongue, though I could have used my fists to defend myself,” she chuckles. They’d threaten her that they wouldn’t give her work. “But I knew there was a dearth of stunt women and they couldn’t do without me. Through time, I earned respect,” she maintains.

COURTING DANGER

She’s had several brushes with danger in her five-decade

long career. But two instances stand out for the trauma they brought her. Movie buffs for years have enjoyed the thrilling scene in *Sholay*, where Hema Malini as Basanti is being chased by Gabbar Singh’s men and urges her mare, “*Chal Dhanno, aaj teri Basanti ki izzat ka sawaal hai!*” Few know that it wasn’t the star, who rode the hurtling *tonga*. It was Reshma, who did the daredevilry and even suffered a mishap as the wheel fell off. She was advised hospitalisation because the injury on her leg was grave. “But I just got the wound stitched and stayed

put in the hotel. I had 105-degree fever,” she recalls. She told the stunt director, she wouldn’t go back. “I needed the money for my sister’s wedding. Stitches, if ruptured, could be sutured again. But if my sister’s *rishta* broke, then what?” She remained there for 15 days and completed the shooting. “My foot was swollen. I couldn’t put on slippers. So I wore a long maxi to cover my bare feet and flew back home from Bangalore.” Naturally, her family was shocked to see her condition.

Another brush with death was while shooting for

Karz (1980). She was playing Durga Khote’s duplicate, who was to be hit by a truck in the scene. “A handkerchief had to be waved as an indication of ‘cut’. The truck advanced towards me and hit me even as I kept waiting for ‘cut’. I was in excruciating pain. With presence of mind, I hid my face from the camera, because it would then show on film and I’d have to give a retake. I completed the shot,” she recalls the horror. Thankfully, she didn’t break any bone. But she suffered a nasty bruise. The blood had clotted. “I blasted the driver. He said the director

“ IN 1984, A LAW BANNED STUNTS IN FILMS... ONE DAY, I REALISED I HAD NO MONEY LEFT FOR OUR NEXT MEAL... I FRANTICALLY SEARCHED BOXES, CONTAINERS... HOPING TO FIND SOME MONEY... LUCKILY, I FOUND SOME 1600 RUPEES AND CRIED WITH RELIEF ”

had told him, ‘*Thok do! Fighter ladki hai*’. I gave a piece of my mind to the director and never worked with him again,” she fumes at the memory. At that time, she was also playing Bindiya Goswami’s double in *Shaan* (1980). But because of the accident, she lost three months of work.

She body-doubled for Hema Malini during the bullfight in *Jyoti* (1981). “The bull knocked me off twice. Later, it became so friendly, it wouldn’t move. I had to shake him,” she laughs. She also duplicated for Rekha in *Mujhe Meri Biwi Se Bachao* (2001), where the actor played a fat woman. She has fond memories of working with Meena Kumari during *Mere Apne* (1971). “Meenaji had to intervene in a fight between Vinod Khanna and Shatrughan Sinha and had to fall as

a result. I did that shot for her as she was unwell those days,” says she. “I loved Meenaji’s *adas* on screen. I had a tough life. So I could identify with the pain her characters portrayed,” she says.

She’s all admiration for Helen. She recalls shooting with her one night for *Agent Vinod* (1977) at Ballard Pier. When Helen saw her sitting with the technicians and having unit food, she sent for the stunt girl. “I thought she hadn’t liked my work or the way I was dressed as I was playing her duplicate,” shares Reshma. “When I went across to her car, she insisted I eat with her till the shoot was on. Helenji made me have her specially prepared meal,” she smiles. She also mentions the time Moushumi Chatterjee took her home after shoot



With actor Bidita Bag and producer Sai Deodhar during the promotions of the web biopic *The Sholay Girl*

PHOTOGRAPH: YOGEN SHAH



Reshma Pathan was honoured with the Critics Choice Film Awards for her Extraordinary Contribution to Indian Cinema

and treated her to pomfret made in milk. As also the time she was stuffed with yummy South Indian fare at Hema Malini’s house. “No heroine dismissed me. Hemaji once remarked, ‘You work so hard and we walk away with the credit’.” Reshma reveals she witnessed the Hema-Dharmendra romance during *Sholay*. “*Jhagda bhi chalta tha, pyaar bhi*,” she smiles.

MAN OF THE HOUSE

Reshma married stunt director Shakoor Pathan in mid ’80s. “Because he didn’t stop me from working, our marriage worked,” she says. In 1984, a law banned stunts in films. The embargo lasted for more than a year and left Reshma in dire straits. “One day I had no money for our next meal. I had the habit of leaving coins and

rupees in nook and corners of the house. I frantically searched cups, boxes, containers... hoping to find some money. I found some 1600 rupees and cried with relief,” she recalls. She saw to it that her sister’s sons and her own complete their education. “One is an engineer, the second a manager in a car company, while my son is a doctor.” She didn’t want them to be stunt-masters as the future is uncertain. “They respect me for it,” she says. In the early 2000s, with age catching up, Reshma stopped working as a body double and did bit roles in films, like in the recent *Golmaal Returns*. “I’m possessed by a ghost, who says, ‘*Aaj tu marega Vasu Reddy*,’” she grins. Reshma may have suffered many a broken bone but nothing can subdue her buoyant spirit. ■

your say

reader's reviews, box-office, celebrity column & more

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@iamsrk: Little one was a bit confused between 'Boating' and Voting, so took him along to experience the difference. *...and that's parenting done right. Gauri and Shah Rukh Khan take AbRam for the Lok Sabha Election 2019 voting.*

@deepikapadukone: cuddles & snuggles! smashed in the middle! ❤️
@ranveersingh @anishapadukone *It's pictures like these that we dig on social media. Keep 'em coming, DP. It's fun to be normal.*



@saraalikhan95: My Easter Bunnies 🐰🐣
#munchkins
#brothersinarms
#doubletrouble
Sara Ali Khan dropped this cute bomb of a picture of brothers Taimur and Ebrahim.



@rampal72: Blessed to have you and start all over again.... thank you baby for this baby
With Arjun Rampal's fine looks and Gabreilla Deemtrides' angelic face, we bet the baby is going to be gorgeous.



@vickykaushal09: Post shave look... *Now that's a transformation from cute to hot. Vicky Kaushal we're loving it!*

Readers send in their feedback pg 86

Shatrughan Sinha's racy rejoinders pg 92



IN THE MAIL

READERS WRITE AND BITE BACK... WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION



Winners of the 64th Vimal Filmfare awards 2019

1st Prize
₹1500

← FILM-FAIR AWARDS

The 64th Vimal Filmfare Awards 2019 truly honoured excellence. Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor deserved the Best Actor Awards for their incredible act in *Raazi* and *Sanju* respectively. Ayushmann Khurrana aptly won it for *AndhaDhun* as did Ranveer Singh for *Padmaavat*. Sanjay Leela Bhansali winning it for Best Music Album – *Padmaavat* – was a pleasant surprise for him as well as the audience. Gulzar’s lyrics for *Raazi* matched the soul of the film. Honouring Neena Gupta and Gajraj Rao for *Badhaai Ho* was an act of fair play. Proves that talent is timeless just as *Filmfare*.

Vedika Nathani, Jaipur

2nd Prize
₹1000

↓ BIOPICS – BANE OR BOON?

Biopics are a razor-edge option. *NTR: Kathanayakudu*, based on the life of actor and former

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), was co-produced by his son Nandamuri Balakrishna and directed by Krish. Balakrishna played his late father, while Vidya Balan played Basava Ramatarakam, the leader’s wife. The sequel, *N.T.R.: Mahanayakudu*, showcased the political journey of NTR. Both the films sank. Celluloid, which paved the way for his heroic success in real life, didn’t do justice to his stature. Conversely, Nag Ashwin’s *Mahanati*, the biopic made on legendary actress Savitri, did wonders to her image and was a huge success.

K Karamcheti, Hyderabad



NTR: *Kathanayakudu*



Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif

↑ JAB THEY MET

The front seats at the 64th Vimal Filmfare Awards 2019 were occupied by stars Ayushmann Khurrana, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal, Ranveer Singh, and Deepika Padukone. The highlight was when Katrina Kaif passed by and Alia graciously got up to meet

her. It was chivalrous on Ranbir’s part to greet Katrina. Such a gentlemanly gesture! It was a paparazzi’s dream come true.

Surekha Pillai, Chennai

ALIA – A GEM

She is the daughter of the acclaimed filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and talented actor

Soni Razdan. Apart from being a fine actor, Alia Bhatt has a heart of gold. The late filmmaker Kalpana Lajmi often mentioned that Alia was footing her hospital bills. More recently, Alia helped her staff – her driver and domestic help – buy houses. We love her for that.

Rhea Dutt, Delhi



Saif Ali Khan with Taimur

Saif Ali Khan is right when he says son Taimur should be spared the 24-hour stalking by the paparazzi. The attention is unwarranted for a kid.

Razia Patel, Baroda

Stars turning into RJs is a smart professional diversion. Bring it on Vidya Balan and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Smita Jairaj, Mumbai

Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor are grabbing headlines more for their May-December romance than their work. Hope they get married, so that we can move on.

Rati Dixit, Nagpur

The music of *Total Dhamaal* has bad remixes. One is the tacky version of Helen's cult item song *Mungada* from *Inkaar* (1977). The other is the equally poor remix of *Paisa yeh paisa* from *Karz* (1980).

Sumeet Nadkarni, Mahim

← THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST

"The truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth!" This line uttered by Amitabh Bachchan in *Badla* also endorses the truth of the Big B's power at the box-office till date. Apart from shooting for Nagraj Manjule's (of *Sairat* fame) Hindi debut *Jhund*, the Big B has also shot for Ayan Mukerji's *Brahmastra*. He's also starring in the thriller, *Chehre*, with Emraan Hashmi, helmed by Rumi Jaffrey. Apparently, he will be playing a transgender in Raghava Lawrence's *Laaxmi Bomb*, the remake of Tamil hit *Kanchana*. Amazing!

Shabana Pathan, Gwalior



Amitabh Bachchan

RADHIKA APTE: NEW-AGE SMITA PATIL

Radhika Apte was seen in films, web series and endorsements in 2018. With films like *Padman* and *AndhaDhun* and shows like *Sacred Games* and *Ghoul*, this dusky actor has invited comparisons with the late Smita Patil. *Manjhi: The Mountain Man*, *Badlapur* and *Parched* are her other landmark films. More power to the fine actor.

Abhijit Ghosh, West Bengal

ATTITUDE AND APTITUDE

Besides being an entrepreneur, the creative Anushka Sharma has over the years honed her acting skills. She soars every time she tries something different as in *Sui Dhaaga: Made In India*. The quote, "Treat success and failure as imposters," which she read at Wimbledon and mentioned in *Filmfare*, sums up her attitude as well.

Shobha Kaicker, Toronto



Savi Sidhu

↑ SAVE SAVI SIDHU!

Actor Savi Sidhu, a little-known name but a familiar face, who acted in films like *Patiala House*, *Gulaal*, *Black Friday*, *Paanch* and *Bewakoofiyaan*,

has fallen on bad days. He had to take up the job of a security guard. While one does applaud the dignity of labour, he should be helped. Singer Mika Singh has offered him a role in his upcoming production *Aadat*, starring Karan Singh Grover and Bipasha Basu. Nikkhil Advani has also reportedly promised him work. The industry should rally around its own and pull actors like him out of the mess.

Mehek Mahtani, Pune

A STAR IS BORN

Sara Ali Khan is the next big thing in Bollywood. Be it her performance-oriented role in *Kedarnath* or in an action comedy like *Simmba*, she has terrific screen presence. Even the way she speaks her mind, says a lot about this third-generation actor.

Abhijeet Sharma, Haryana

ALIA-VARUN STARKIDS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Karan Johar's *Student Of The Year* set the ball rolling for them. Alia Bhatt went on to impress with *Highway*, *Udta Punjab*, *Dear Zindagi*, *Raazi* and now *Gully Boy*. Varun Dhawan too balanced *masala* films with *Badlapur*, *October*, *Sui Dhaaga*... Though *Kalank* failed to work, they were loved in the film.

Thomas Pinto, Malad



Vicky Kaushal

← A SUITABLE BOY

Vicky Kaushal is the future of meaningful cinema. The versatile actor has proved that his quiver has a variety of arrows, which can pierce every heart. From *Masaan*, *Raazi*, *Sanju* to *Uri: The Surgical Strike*, he portrayed every character with skill. Above all, he's unconventionally handsome.

Kabir, New Delhi

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Avengers: Endgame



Kalank



Romeo Akbar Walter

GAME CHANGER

Avengers: Endgame registers an opening day collection of 53.10 crores, the biggest Hollywood opener in the country till date



AVENGERS: ENDGAME

Ten years and 22 films later, Marvel is saying farewell to its beloved characters, while laying the groundwork for the next set of superheroes. Taking off from *Avengers: Infinity War*, this film delves deeper into the pain of living with loss and surviving. It's the most emotive, most reflective of *Marvel* films, yet not gloomy. Screenplay writers Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely and directors, brothers Anthony and Joe Russo have added snappy one-liners and gags. Mention must be made of Mark Ruffalo and Chris Hemsworth, who play Hulk and Thor respectively. They explore their selves brilliantly. The film had been shot with IMAX cameras and the powerful cinematography is seen in the war imagery. The alien beauty of faraway worlds ignites the screen.

Purohit Sharma, Thane

KALANK

A lot was riding on *Kalank* with its mammoth star cast and it being a Dharma Productions' venture, directed by Abhishek Varman (of *2 States* fame). But it's a huge let-down. The pre-Partition era, serves as a mere template for showcasing the grand sets and costumes. Pritam's music doesn't stand out despite the evocative picturisation. *Ghar more pardesiya* has a Dusshera backdrop as Roop (Alia Bhatt) swirls in a *kotha* and has a confrontation with Zafar (Varun Dhawan), a blacksmith seeking vengeance. The film borrows from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's work. When Alia runs across in her bejewelled *ghagra choli* trying to catch a kite, it reminds you of Aishwarya Rai's

TWIVIEWS

Fans and readers tweet their mini reviews to @filmfare

[@spiderhocee](#) take me back to the start before it all ended #Avengers #ThankYouAvengers

[@DamnversCarol](#) Nothing but respect for the brave, amazing and beautiful ladies #MarvelStudios #Avengers

[@dineshsarvaiy19](#) #Romeoakbarwalter Everybody is around me saying good things about #RAW brilliant with outstanding performance John Sir He makes us feel proud once again. Tribute to unsung heroes.

[@spriggan_tail](#) Just watched *Avengers Endgame* and thought I'd recreate this scene from *Infinity War* with *Fairytale* and *Edens zero*.

[@franceecapili](#) Before vs after endgame. I'm emotionally damaged beyond repair thank you #AvengersEndgame.

[@nitesh_shahani](#) From the mischievous Nisha in *Didi tera devar* from *HAHK* as a four-year-old to #BahaarBegum in #Kalank @MadhuriDixit has been an irreplaceable constant in my life.

Manmohini introduction in *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*. Swaying chandeliers remind you of *Devdas* and *Bajirao Mastani*. Sonakshi Sinha's Satya seems to have recreated her *Lootera* avatar. Madhuri Dixit's *Tabaah ho gaye* dance does not hold a candle to her talent. Sanjay Dutt as the patriarch is bland. Aditya Roy Kapur's chemistry with Sonakshi and Alia is nothing to write home about. The film belongs to Varun and Alia, who hold it together.

Dr K. Karthik Rao, Chennai

ROMEO AKBAR WALTER (RAW)

Romeo Akbar Walter aka *RAW*, directed by Robbie Grewal, opens up with a brutal scene. A Pakistani cop plucks out a finger nail from John Abraham who's tied to a chair. The film then moves back in time to the Indo-Pak 1971 war and the formation of Bangladesh. Based on true events, it's an account of an ordinary man, Romeo Ali (John Abraham), who's pursued by the director of *RAW*, Shrikant Ray (Jackie Shroff) to become an undercover agent. Romeo is deported to POK and then to Karachi, where he establishes a relationship with an arms dealer. As he embraces the new identity of Akbar Malik, Romeo yearns for his mother and motherland. The writing by Robbie Grewal, Shreyansh Pandey and Ishraq Eba fails to generate excitement. But the second half has momentum. The film eschews melodrama. John Abraham, is stripped off the male swagger and is at his pensive best. Mouni Roy gets little screen time but is fairly. good Jackie Shroff is at his uber-cool best.

Rigved Padhee, Hyderabad



Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai?



ALBERT PINTO KO GUSSA KYUN AATA HAI?

Directed by Saeed Mirza, the 1980 *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyoon Aata Hai* was about a car mechanic (Naseeruddin Shah) discovering the plight of factory workers and joining their cause, thereby giving expression to his angst. The 2019 film, with *Kyoon* changed to *Kyun*, is a conceptual remake. But director Soumitra Ranade's film is more of a crime thriller.

The common thread is that the protagonist here too is full of rage. Albert Pinto (Manav Kaul) can't take corruption. He's devastated when his father, an honest official, is framed and commits suicide. His girlfriend Stella (Nandita Das) wants to start a family with him. But he joins a mafia don and deteriorates mentally. Manav steers away from cloning Naseer's character and keeps his Albert as the helpless everyman. The film's screenplay, camerawork and editing disappoint. The performances keep it afloat.

R. Shetty, Chennai

TWIVIEWS

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@anya95772772

Would've rather seen a 2hr 30 min film on the love story of Dev and Satya. They deserved so much better #Kalank

@TausifIntisar The film might be flawed but #Kalank should be noted for depicting 1940s Indian fashion. Madhuri, Alia, Sonakshi, Sanjay, Varun and Aditya's period looks were inspired from the archives.

@Addi_Salman First *Parmanu* and now *RAW*, John making better patriotic films than Akshay Kumar.

BADLA

The film is a scene-to-scene rehash of its original, the Spanish thriller *The Invisible Guest* (2017). Amitabh Bachchan plays Badal Gupta, a lawyer in Glasgow, UK, who hasn't lost a single case in 40 years. He has to prove his client, married businesswoman Naina Sethi (Taapsee Pannu), innocent. She's alleged to have murdered her lover, Arjun (Tony Luke). Ghosh recreates the gloomy atmospherics with the icy locales of Glasgow, thanks to the cinematography by Avik Mukhopadhyaya. But what's missing in the narrative is a sense of urgency.

Ahwaan Padhee, Hyderabad

BADLA

Amitabh Bachchan, as Badal Gupta, a lawyer in Glasgow, UK, dominates every frame. He has the best lines that keep your eyes fixed on him. Taapsee Pannu and Amrita Singh hold their scenes due to their screen presence.

Syed Nisar Mehdi, Hyderabad

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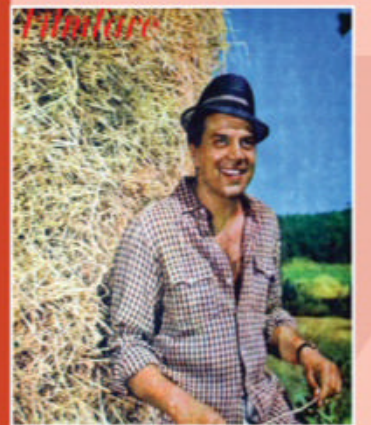
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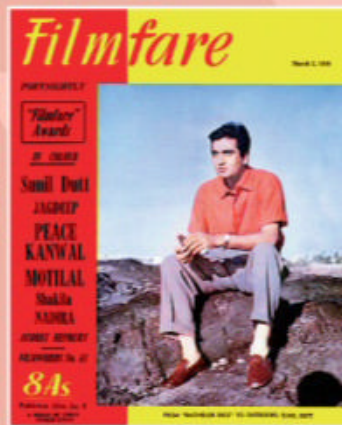
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**RAJESH KHANNA
TIES THE KNOT WITH
A 16-YEAR-OLD
NAMED DIMPLE.**



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FILMFARE

OVER THE HYPE

Romeo Akbar Walter (RAW) was a much-hyped story revolving around the exploits of an Indian double agent in Pakistan. *The Tashkent Files* was said to be a reveal-all about our second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's death. *Kalank* was touted as Dharma's biggest multi-starrer, while *Student Of The Year 2* was marketed as a cool college romance. None of the films managed to meet expectations. Though *Kalank* had an excellent opening, the business soon petered out. Ditto *Rome Akbar Walter*. The overall collections of *The Tashkent Files* remained below par. Snubbed by the critics, *SOTY 2*, managed a decent beginning. But only time will tell how much it will rake.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2

FIRST WEEK COLLECTION **38.83 cr**

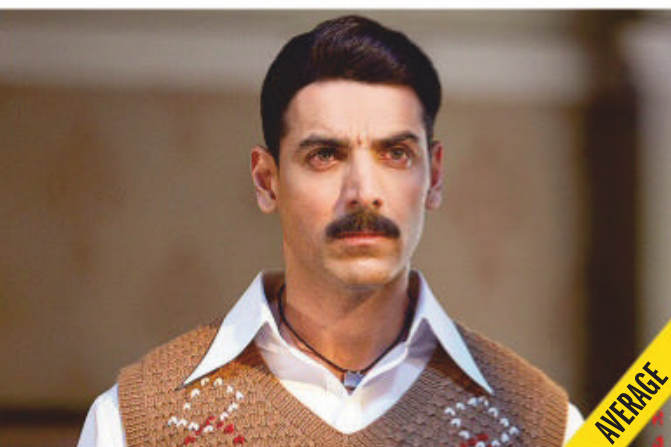
DIRECTOR: Punit Malhotra
CAST: Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, Ananya Panday

RELEASE DATE: May 10, 2019

RAPID REVIEW: The second installment of *Student Of The Year* (2012)

VIEWER'S VERDICT:
"The kabaddi sequence was nice."

Rohit Moghe, 20, student



ROMEO AKBAR WALTER

FIRST WEEK COLLECTION **₹30cr**

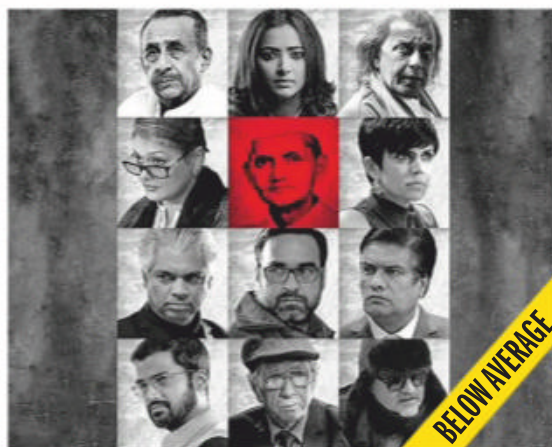
DIRECTOR: Robby Grewal
CAST: John Abraham, Jackie Shroff, Mouni Roy, Sikander Kher

RELEASE DATE: April 5, 2019

RAPID REVIEW: A fictionalised account of the life of a RAW agent.

VIEWER'S VERDICT:
"Quite improbable yet interesting in parts."

- Rakhi Adhikari, 30, art director



THE TASHKENT FILES

FIRST WEEK COLLECTION **₹3.50cr**

DIRECTOR: Vivek Agnihotri
CAST: Mithun Chakraborty, Naseeruddin Shah, Shweta Basu Prasad, Pankaj Tripathi, Vinay Pathak

RELEASE DATE: April 12, 2019

RAPID REVIEW: An examination of the secrecy surrounding Lal Bahadur Shastri's death.

VIEWER'S VERDICT: *"It put up some interesting conjectures."*

- Chetan Mendon, 31, businessman



KALANK

FIRST WEEK COLLECTION **₹73.90cr**

DIRECTOR: Abhishek Varman
CAST: Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Sonakshi Sinha, Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Aditya Roy Kapur

RELEASE DATE: April 17, 2019

RAPID REVIEW: A period love story set against the backdrop of the Partition.

VIEWER'S VERDICT: *"The acting was good all around."*

- Suraj Devadiga, 19, student





PHOTOGRAPH: MEETESH TANEJA



Shatrughan Sinha's Rapid fire

How can a person know whether he/she can become a politician?

R Lester Makang, Manipur

Politicians are meant to serve the people. Originally, *raajneeti* was *seva ka madhyam, meva ka madhyam nahi*. People should rise together to shake up the politicians and make them aware of this fact. Today, politicians aren't interested in serving people, only themselves. So, if you've been entertaining dishonest thoughts since childhood, you can safely try your hand at politics upon growing up.

You resemble Rex Harrison while Aditi Rao Hydari resembles Audrey

Hepburn. Why not remake *My Fair Lady* with you two?

D Aruna, Secunderabad

I'm glad you think so dear Arunaji. It seems surreal to be compared to Rex Harrison. I do appreciate the compliment. But what about the age difference? I'm not talking about her age but mine.

Like *The Accidental Prime Minister*, were there any accidental actors in the film industry too?

Manjeet Singh Ishar, Mohali

The acting profession probably sees more 'accidents' than does politics. I'd say most of the actors are accidental, they come by accident, get 'hits' by accident and if they learn to act along the way, that too is an accident.

If life on earth is temporary, what makes people think that their problems are permanent?

JP Singh Kaka, Mumbai

True, life is temporary



My Fair Lady: Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison



B-town's fair lady: Aditi Rao Hydari

but life's problems can be gruesome and seem never ending. We all want happiness. Problems make us unhappy and weary. Hence the sentiment.

Knowledgeable sources predict World War III if the present government is re-elected. Your comment.

N. K. Mani, Indore

Why do you think so? *Khamosh!* There's no connection whatsoever between the two.

Are radicalisation and terrorism the biggest threats to world peace?

Abhijit Ghosh, 24 Parganas (North)

You've hit the nail on the head. I also feel the same. Yes, they are the biggest threats and one should find a cure for them soon.

Why's there a conflict between religion and science?

Seema Sabharwal, Chandigarh
Science is based on facts and proof. Religions work on faith alone.

Why do older heroes act with much younger heroines in Bollywood?

Bumeja, Bangalore

Simple, it gives their egos a boost. They refuse to accept that they are growing old. They hide the obvious with make-up. It does work for a while but no one can defy the law of nature.



Power play: *The Accidental Prime Minister*

What is the best example of 'happiness in disguise'?

Abhijeet Sharma, Faridabad

When one is having an affair, especially an extramarital affair.

Why is life so unfair?

Santosh Bhatia, Panchkula

If you believe in the karmic theory you'll find the answer, my friend. Also, let me tell you I have been asking the same question to God but haven't received an answer as yet. When you find the answer, please do let me know.

There appears to be a huge gap between the rich and the poor.

How can this problem be solved?

Preetha Rengaswamy, Chennai

Only when the rich get poor, which they never will. I guess only a revolution could solve the problem of growing inequality.

What in your opinion is the solution to restore harmony in our country'?

Rajneesh Batra, New Delhi

Nationalism, patriotism and the evolution of our conscience.

1st Prize

What are some things I can do to show leadership qualities?

Anil Bhatia, Yamuna Nagar

Being honest and upholding morals, possessing a charismatic personality, having the capability to bring about change, respecting the sentiments of the common man and the party you belong to...

2nd Prize

What is one thing you'd like to change in the Indian political system?

Gaurav Pant, New Delhi

Get rid of all the politicians, except me! As I am a gentleman first and foremost.

How long does marital bliss last for the woman and the man?

Vijayalakshmi A, Bangalore

On a funny note, I guess it ends for a man the day he gets married. For the woman, it lasts as long as the man is rich and capable.

How can a man keep his girlfriend and wife both happy at the same time?

Karan Nangia, Gurgaon

On a light note, lying and trying to please them all the time is the only way for him. Also, by gifting them goodies regularly and by making sure they never meet. Otherwise, he will be in an unimaginable tight spot.

What should be the driving factor for voters even as they cast their ballot for Elections 2019?

Rashmi Nathani, Mumbai

The development, progress and overall welfare of the country.

Why do we tend to take comedians seriously and politicians as a joke?

Nirmala Khemlani, Pune

Politicians make false promises hence they make no sense. Comedians tell a serious story in a funny way. So, that makes sense.

(Feature co-ordinated by **DEVESH SHARMA**)

Please note: The column doesn't reflect Shatrughan Sinha's political or personal views. His answers are given in jest and humour.

Win!
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1st prize

₹3000

2nd prize

₹2000

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YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE FORWARDED TO: Shatrughan Sinha, who insists his answers do not reflect his political and social views.

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