

#LockdownSpecial

May 2020

A Times Of India Publication

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Akshay, Hrithik...**

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**FILMFARE LISTS  
FILMS THAT FORETOLD  
THE PANDEMIC**

**Kartik Aaryan and  
Rakul Preet Singh**

speak about the highs  
and the lows of showbiz

THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Optimist RAJKUMMAR RAO shot by ladylove Patralekhaa

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PHOTOGRAPH / STYLING / HAIR AND MAKE-UP: PATRALEKHA

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# Letter from the Editor

## Prince of performance

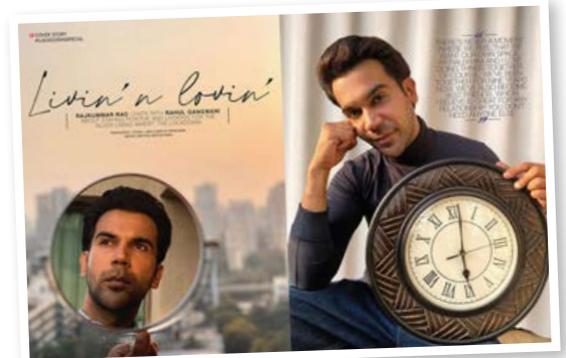
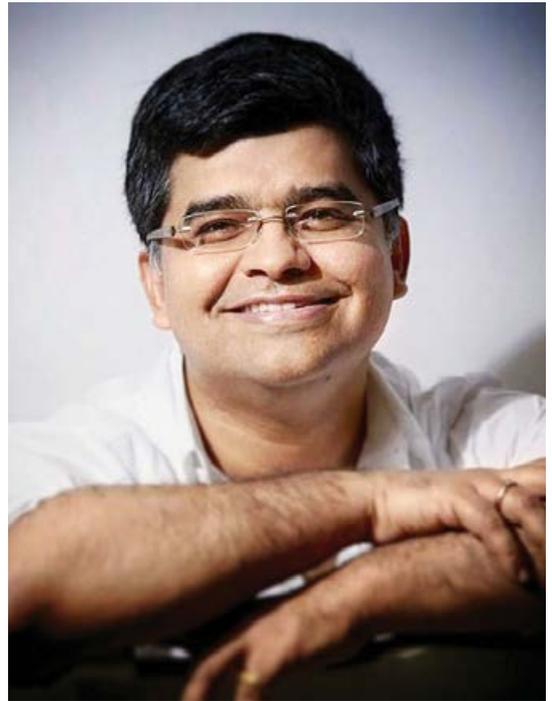
Rajkummar Rao is literally the man for all seasons. Cast him in any role and he makes it his own. I remember watching him in *In Love Sex Aur Dhokha* (2010). He plays a man, who makes a sex tape for money. It was a bold choice for an actor to do such a role. The next he impressed in *Shahid* (2013). He essayed the role of the controversial human rights lawyer Shahid Azmi. *Shahid* was allegedly killed for representing Faheem Ansari, accused of doing the reconnaissance for the 2008 Mumbai attacks. It was again a brave choice. Rajkummar brought out the angst of a young lawyer battling with different issues everyday. The film might not have done well commercially but his star was on the rise indeed. No wonder he won the Filmfare Critics' Best Actor Award.

He was seen in *Kai Po Che* the same year, where he played a geeky character, who develops the hots for his friend's sister. It was a role carrying many shades and Rajkummar excelled in each one of them. One saw him in a negative role in *Queen* (2014) playing Kangana Ranaut's cad of a fiance. He didn't have much of a role there. But in his next outing with Kangana, *Judgementall Hai Kya* (2019), he matched her move by move. *Trapped* (2016) was a single character film, where he played a man locked inside his own apartment in an abandoned building. It was a gritty survival tale and Rajkummar excelled. He played a naive election official in *Newton* (2017), who despite being posted in a remote Naxal infested area wants the voting to take place. He earns the ire of other officials, as well as of the police, for sticking up for rules. His bewilderment at the apathy of all concerned represents the emotions felt by the common man, who still believes in fair governance and the judiciary.

The horror-comedy, *Stree* (2018), saw him play a young man investigating the mysterious happenings in his small-town to impress the girl he admires. The scene where he mimics Shah Rukh Khan to placate a spirit had you rolling in the aisles. He may have started off as an actor but Rajkummar's a bonafide star now, capable of carrying a film on his shoulders. He belongs to the brave new breed of performers, who can wow both the critics and the masses. He has exciting releases in *Ludo*, *Roohi Afzana* and *Chhalaang* coming up. Here, Raj talks about dealing with the lockdown. Let's hope the isolation ends soon and we all can take a much-needed escape to the movies...



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

# masala fix



## MASK OUT!

**Better safe than sorry. Actress Sara Ali Khan was seen sporting a mask at Mumbai airport amid the coronavirus outbreak. Reportedly, she was snapped while returning from the set of Aanand L Rai's Atrangi Re in Varanasi. The shoot had to be halted due to the pandemic. The film also stars Akshay Kumar and Dhanush.**

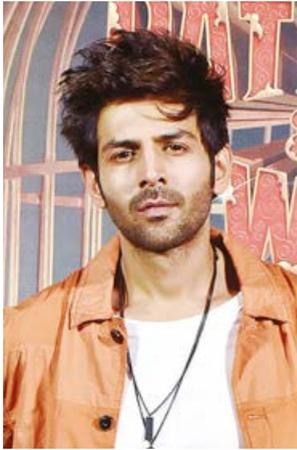
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Hrithik's Super 30 to  
release in China *pg 06*

SRK - Real Badshah  
*pg 08*

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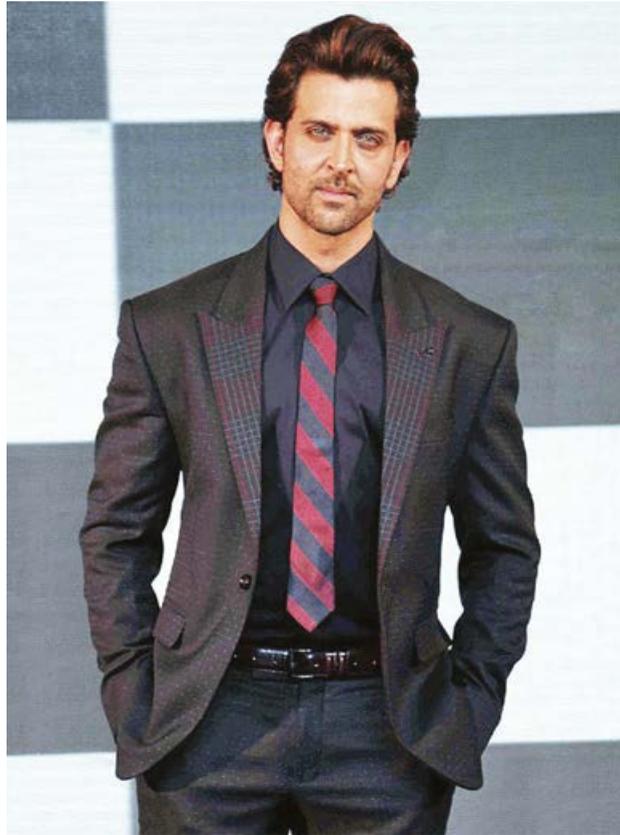
# Rumours & More



## Kartik's Koki Poochega is a hit

**Kartik Aaryan**, whose #CoronaStopKarona monologue went viral a few weeks back, has come up with another unique idea during the COVID-19 outbreak. His latest initiative, Koki Poochega (Kartik's fans call him Koki), will have him interviewing people, who've been working tirelessly during the pandemic including doctors, policemen and social workers. He will also be speaking to the survivors of this illness. His first post was with **Sumiti Singh**, one of the first-ever coronavirus survivors in India. We applaud Kartik's initiative.

A BOOK ON JANHVI KAPOOR STARRER GUNJAN SAXENA: THE KARGIL GIRL, IS BEING PLANNED BY KIRANDEEP SINGH AND NIRVAN SINGH. THE FILM IS A BIOPIC AND ALSO STARS ANGAD BEDI.



## HRITHIK'S SUPER 30 TO RELEASE IN CHINA

Coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan, China has affected the entire world. But now the lockdown has ended there and the situation is getting better. According to reports, once the situation returns to normal, the first Bollywood film to be screened in China will be the **Hrithik Roshan** starrer Super 30. It is based on the life and struggles of Anand Kumar, a mathematician and founder of the Super 30 programme in Patna, India. Hrithik played the role of the genius mathematician in the film, directed by **Vikas Bahl**.

### MEANWHILE...

Veteran filmmaker **Rakesh Roshan** revealed that he's waiting for the coronavirus situation to ease before starting work on **Krish 4**, which is at the scripting stage right now. Toplined by son **Hrithik Roshan**, the lead actress will be roped in only after the script is complete.



## PRIYANKA HELPS STUDENTS

**Priyanka Chopra** Jonas' latest initiative is helping students in Los Angeles to adapt to virtual classrooms in times of the coronavirus outbreak. The actress has collaborated with a brand to provide headphones to children in LA, who are adapting to the new virtual classrooms. She took to Instagram and shared a video explaining her efforts, "In this crazy time, it is so important for people to help out where they can. Youth empowerment, success in education have been two causes close to my heart..." Kudos to you girl!



# LAUGH RIOT

YOUTUBE ROYALTY, **ROHIT GUPTA**, NOW WANTS TO EXPLORE HIS 'ACTING' TALENT. **AKASH NIHALANI** CHATS WITH THE PRANK-MASTER

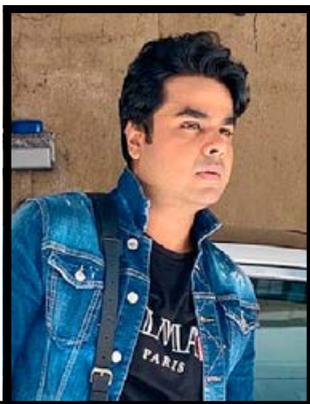


Rohit Gupta

**T**he coronavirus pandemic has everyone locked down at home. But one person, who can break the stillness and bring in laughter is Rohit Gupta. Since his first video in 2016, the YouTuber has taken social media by storm. His flair for mimicking stars and pranking unsuspected strangers and celebrities, has won him global fame. His prank videos on Nora Fatehi, Sunny Singh, RJ Malishka and others, mimicking in the voice of Sanjay Dutt, Shah Rukh Khan, Ranbir Kapoor and more has made him a 'virtual' celebrity. The artiste, who enjoys 700k followers on Facebook and 195k subscribers on YouTube, now wants to debut on the big screen...

## What made you switch from being a management graduate to entertainment?

Education is a must for everyone. During my college days itself, I knew I wanted to be an actor. But I needed to have a plan B. Hence, I pursued MBA. But now I'm following my passion. I'm going to continue till I make it to the top.



With Kareena Kapoor Khan

**Facebook, YouTube and Instagram are good platforms to showcase your talent. There's no money power or nepotism here**

## You're the first Indian actor-YouTuber to be interviewed by BBC Radio...

It was fortunate that BBC Radio interviewed me. A guy, who started making videos in the car, impersonating and pranking celebrities. It makes me want to work harder.

## Is digital the future?

Today, 80 per cent of the population is on social media. Facebook, YouTube and Instagram are good platforms to showcase your talent. There's no money power and nepotism here. Today, if my watchman is talented and if he's a good singer, he can get millions of views. Thanks to social media, people from Bollywood and the

television industry know me. Digital is the future.

## You're a huge fan of popstar Katy Perry.

Yes, I've been a huge fan of Katy Perry. The feelings that I had for her were multiplied 10 times more, after I met her. She's so nice as a person. She loved the dialogue, "Bade bade deshon mein, choti choti baatein hoti rehti hai," from Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. It was special for a guy like me to meet a Hollywood pop star.

## Any acting offers?

I've undergone an acting course with Mr. Kishore Namit Kapoor. I've received some offers from directors. But I'm waiting for something substantial.

# SRK – THE REAL BADSHAH

**Shah Rukh Khan** and **Gauri Khan** have outdone themselves when it comes to helping people during this unprecedented time. Ever since the outbreak, the Khans, under the names of their companies, Red Chillies, Kolkata Knight Riders and Meer Foundation have donated money to PM CARES and CM of Maharashtra's relief funds. They also offered their 4-storey building to the BMC to convert into quarantine facilities for patients in Mumbai. Moreover, SRK also donated 25,000 Personal Protective Equipment kits to hospitals around Maharashtra. Truly king-like magnanimity.



## Jaggu Dada's organic holiday

When the lockdown was imposed, **Jackie Shroff** was at his farmhouse located between Mumbai and Pune. While his family including wife **Ayesha**, son **Tiger Shroff** and daughter **Krishna** are in Mumbai, the actor is happy in the company of plants in his huge garden. Wife Ayesha revealed he was there to do some pre-monsoon work and got stuck there. Jackie shared a video urging his fans to follow the rules of lockdown. He said, "*Sudhar jao. Even God is relaxing above. Breathe a bit, just relax at home.*"

### MEANWHILE...

To spread awareness about coronavirus, the police department is adapting newer methods to appeal to the masses. Mumbai Police recently tweeted a scene from **Farah Khan's** *Main Hoon Na*, where **Shah Rukh Khan** is seen dodging a spit-attack by **Satish Shah** to save himself from germs. Mumbai Police tweeted the video and captioned it, "@iamsrk wouldn't need to do such stunts any longer - *Mask Hai Na!*" Witty indeed.



# Manoj stuck in Uttarakhand

**Manoj Baypayee** was shooting a film in Uttarakhand when the lockdown was announced. The actor got stranded in the outskirts of Uttarakhand, where there's no proper network. A source close to Manoj informed, "He was shooting for a film with **Deepak Dobriyal** in the wilderness when disaster struck. Luckily, he has his wife **Shabana** and daughter **Ava Nyla** with him." **Deepak Dobriyal**, who was shooting with Manoj in Uttarakhand, is there too.



PRASOON PANDEY'S SHORT FILM, *FAMILY*, WENT VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THE FILM FEATURING AMITABH BACHCHAN, RAJINIKANTH, RANBIR KAPOOR, ALIA BHATT, PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS, DILJIT DOSANJH, CHIRANJEEVI, MOHANLAL, MAMMOOTY AND PROSENJIT CHATTERJEE AMONG OTHERS, URGES FANS TO STAY AT HOME.

# SAIF MISSES MOM SHARMILA

**Saif Ali Khan** is spending his quarantine with **Kareena Kapoor Khan** and baby **Taimur Ali Khan**. According to a picture that Kareena posted on her Instagram, her boys are keeping themselves busy with planting and painting among other things. It seems Saif is worried about mom **Sharmila Tagore** and sister **Saba Ali Khan**, who are in Delhi. But he's glad they are safe at home. He compared the social distancing during the lockdown to a voyage, where you can see the shore from afar but there's water in between.





DR ANEEL KASHI MURARKA

DR ANEEL KASHI MURARKA

# FILM AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

**DR ANEEL KASHI MURARKA** says, "All that's needed is the belief in the power of story to inspire social change."

"I'm often asked: Do you really believe in social change? And while I acknowledge that it's hard to be hopeful sometimes, I do, undeniably, believe that a better world is always possible. This is where Short Films on Social Awareness play a significant cultural role. They are the narratives of our times," says Dr Aneel Kashi Murarka.

The well-known industrialist and philanthropist's foray into producing short films for social awareness is purely accidental. He realised short films are a great opportunity to identify social issues that need to be amplified through the

power of films. Soon he collaborated with like-minded filmmakers to make quality films with a social message. With conviction Dr Murarka says, "In India only two things attract the masses, one Bollywood celebrities and the other the fear of God. So, I infuse both these elements in my short films to create a maximum impact on people."

Short films can educate, raise awareness and inspire change like few other forms of media. In a world, where visual media dominates and social media is the channel through which we communicate, there's no better tool for changing

hearts and minds than the short film segment. All that's needed is the belief in the power of a concept to inspire social change.

"Film is the art form to create social change," says Dr Murarka. "You see something that excites you or enrages you while watching something outside of yourself. And that spurs you to become more engaged. Cinema has the ability to change someone's perspective."

Ample Mission is the social enterprise that Dr Aneel Murarka founded along with his son, Sidhaant Murarka, for social upliftment of the underprivileged and to create awareness. Among its numerous initiatives are a string of successful Public Awareness Short Films. Those, which went viral on social media and impacted the masses include:

- #11-minute film featuring Deepak Dobriyal, Alok Nath and Sunny Leone, it brought out the issue of smoking and its ill effects
- #DontLetHerGo starring Kangana Ranaut and Amitabh Bachchan spoke for a cleaner India

- #DetectToDefeat – Breast Cancer Awareness endorsements from a well-known actress
- #Jump - Suicide Prevention for youth
- #SixGems - Music Album of artistes from the streets of Mumbai
- #CupRevolution - Menstrual Cup awareness
- #HelmetYourLifeguard - On Road Safety
- #NationalAnthem - Featuring BMC sweepers with dignity
- #Freedom - Independence Day Special awareness film
- #PadMang - Don't hesitate – on Sanitary Pads
- #Beti - Girl Child Empowerment
- #Harkat - Highlights the issue of 'Drunk Driving' in the country

Prime Minister Narendra Modi retweeted Dr Aneel Kashi Murarka's short film on Swachh Bharat titled #DontLetHerGo, resulting in him being appointed as a Swachh Bharat Ambassador - an honour hitherto reserved only for national celebrities by the Ministry of Urban Development.

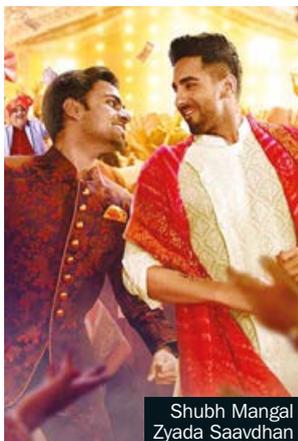
Dr Murarka has never sought rewards neither for his philanthropic deeds nor for the short films. So far, he has produced over two dozen Public Awareness Short Films but has never sent them for any film awards' nominations. He continues to produce them as his way of giving back to society by bring in the much-needed social awareness through them. "Yes, change is possible, a better world is always possible and Public Awareness Short Films can have a lot to do with that," he concludes.

# A BOY'S LIFE

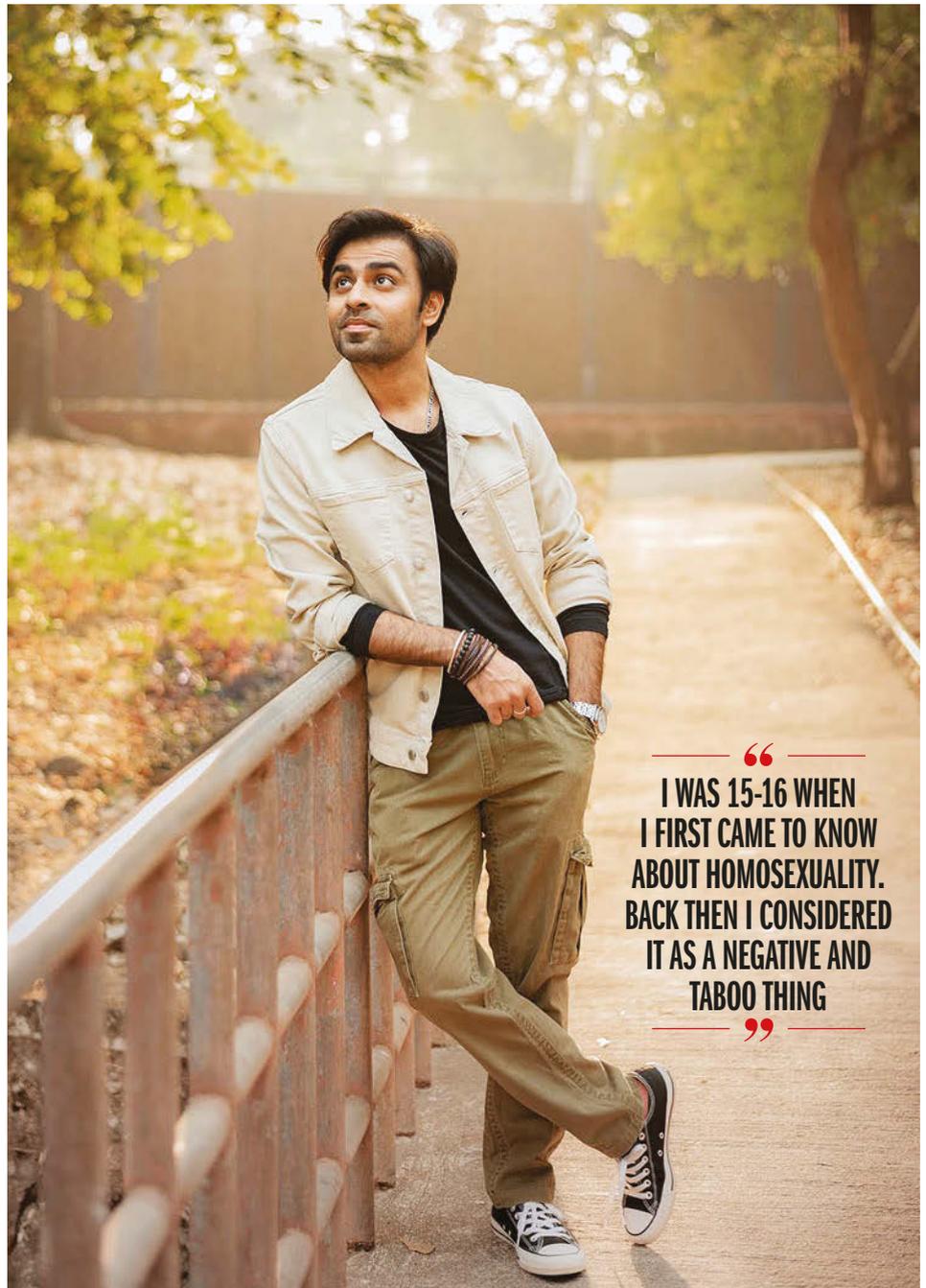
Popular online actor **Jitendra Kumar** was recently seen in *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*. He shares details of his 'gay' journey with **Suman Sharma**

**H**e took baby steps as an actor, while studying engineering at IIT Kharagpur. He was part of the Hindi Dramatic Society, where he did plays by such stalwarts as Rabindranath Tagore, Vijay Tendulkar and Mahesh Dattani. He informs that Tendulkar's *Sakharam Binder* used to be his favourite play. It was during his time at the IIT that Jitendra Kumar met Biswapati Sarkar, who would later invite him to join the comedy sketch TVF (*The Viral Fever*).

The engineer found his calling doing comedy sketches and soon got a huge fan following for his acting in series like *Permanent Roommates* (2015), *TVF Pitchers* (2015), *TVF Bachelors Season 2* (2017) and *Kota Factory* (2019) among many more.



Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan



“ I WAS 15-16 WHEN I FIRST CAME TO KNOW ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY. BACK THEN I CONSIDERED IT AS A NEGATIVE AND TABOO THING ”



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Jitu Bhaiya from Kota Factory became one of his most famous online characters. Youngsters took to him because of the benevolent nature of his character, who always looked out for his students. “Most of us are from middle-class backgrounds. There’s tremendous pressure to do well in the exams as parental expectations are high. We tackled all that in the show. Hence it became popular,” he reflects. His decision to quit engineering too wasn’t met kindly by his family. But now they are happy with his success.

Jitendra is a good mimic. His most iconic moment was when he mimicked Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in a TVF video. The video was highly appreciated and gathered 6.1 million views on YouTube. Sometime later, Arvind Kejriwal himself was invited for the episode of a TVF show. Jitendra mimicked Kejriwal again in front of him posing as Arjun Kejriwal, winning praise from the politician.

Jitendra’s foray into Hindi films happened with *Gone Kesh* (2019), a film about a girl (Shweta Tripathy), who suffers from alopecia, a disease where hair suddenly fall off. “Sadly, few people saw it. I wish more people had seen it,” he rues. His wish for being seen by more people came true with his recent release, *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, directed by Hitesh Kewalya and



Gone Kesh

“**THERE SHOULD BE COMPATIBILITY. MY PARTNER SHOULD ACCEPT ME AS I AM. SHE SHOULD HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR. I’M LOOKING FOR AN INTELLIGENT, MOTIVATED AND OPEN-MINDED GIRL**”



co-produced by Aanand L. Rai. Here Ayushmann Khurrana and he play lovers. The film presents the life of two men in love. It depicts their struggle to convince their families to accept the relationship. Like the majority of people, Jitendra too didn’t know much about homosexuality to begin with. “I was 15-16 when I first came to know about homosexuality. Back then I considered it as a negative and taboo thing,” he confides. His first encounter with homosexuality happened when he was working in Bangalore. “A guy there became a good friend of mine. Later, he expressed his feelings for me. Kindly, I explained to him that I am a straight guy,” reminisces the actor.

He informs that the LGBT community has taken to his performance and he has received appreciation from them. Playing gay characters was a brave decision for both Ayushmann and him. Jitendra agrees it was a risk. He believes the film has come at the right time. It will enable many homosexuals to open up to their parents. Jitendra had no difficulty in working

with Ayushmann, since he already knew him. He first met Ayushmann in 2009 at an event at Kharagpur, West Bengal. He met him again when he came to the TVF office to promote his film *Nautanki Saala*. Jitendra is impressed by the fact that Ayushmann has managed to stay grounded even after huge success. “During the shoot, he would listen to my suggestions despite being such a huge star. He has no airs. We shared a wonderful camaraderie,” adds Jitendra. In fact, the two had a kissing scene in the film, which thanks to the ease between them, appeared real on screen. Jitendra’s popularity has increased after doing the film. “Recently, I went to a pub in Powai, which I often visit to chill. The crowd there just gathered around me. I even got hurt by someone’s nails. One girl, who came to click a photo dropped her phone. It broke. It was chaotic,” he recollects. The actor is interested in poetry and is a huge fan of Gulzar. In fact, his Twitter handle reads as @Farzigulzar. “I chose this one as a tribute to the poet I admire the most,” he smiles.

The actor is single and doesn’t want to be in a relationship right now. Though he has some set qualities in mind when it comes to a partner. “There should be compatibility. My partner should accept me as I am. She should have a good sense of humour. I’m looking for an intelligent, motivated and open-minded girl.”

Now all he needs is a photo for his Tinder profile... ■



Shannon K



# ON SONG

Singer/songwriter **Shannon K** has inherited the flair for music from father Kumar Sanu. But the rhythm is her own writes **Analita Seth**

**B**eing the daughter of celebrated singer Kumar Sanu, music is her heirloom. Shannon K attended The Royal School in London and in 2018 kick-started her musical journey. She won accolades in the US for her anti-bullying song - Give Me Your Hand in 2018. She then collaborated with singer Sonu Nigam on a fusion song titled OMT the same year. She made her Bollywood debut with the song Tik Tok, produced by Himesh Reshammiya for Happy Hardy And Heer this year. The talented singer/songwriter released her first single, A Long Time, produced by Jason 'Poo Bear' Boyd. That it garnered over 40 million views proves that she's an artiste of global proportions...

## Was music always the career choice for you?

Music and drama – these were my hobbies. Since I was raised in a musical family, I was pulled in by the atmosphere. I had no plans of making a career in music. I was an introvert and also lisped. I'd like to give credit to my dad for recognising the talent in me.

## Are you perturbed by the comparisons with your legendary father?

It took me a while to get over the fact that no matter what I do, I'll end up getting compared to

him. Despite the fact that I'm too young to be compared with a legend. We are different from each other whether it's our voices, or the genre and language of our music.

## How has the music industry evolved since the time of your father?

A lot has evolved over time especially the sound and technology. Now you can create music from anywhere in the world – be it your bedroom or garage. There are several platforms to showcase talent. There's more competition too.

## How would you sum up your journey so far?

My journey has been a rollercoaster ride. There were highs and lows. It was hard to balance studies and music. But every single experience was memorable. I was honoured to collaborate with artistes such as Poo Bear, Kyle Townsend, Infinity as also Mr Himesh

Reshammiya, Mr Sonu Nigam and Mr Shaan from India.

## What genres of music do you enjoy listening to?

I enjoy all genres of music. But my favourites are Pop, Soul and R&B. Hindi film music is my favourite too. There's always a song for every occasion. That's the beauty of Bollywood.

**“I was honoured to collaborate with Poo Bear, Kyle Townsend, Infinity... Mr Sonu Nigam and Mr Shaan”**

What's hot?

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

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FILMFARE



# F&B

*fashion and beauty*

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



Mehak Oberoi



## MASTER STROKE

“Every girl should possess a foundation with SPF, a good powder compact, a lip and cheek tint, a multi-purpose brow pencil and a waterproof mascara... When resources are limited, you can use lipstick as a blush. Also I remember being stuck once and using a Q-tip and gel liner to create smokey eyes. You just have to be on the ball with what you have.”

Celebrity make-up artist, **Mehak Oberoi**, on why beauty is a thing of art and more...



# A THING OF BEAUTY...

*Celebrity make-up artist, Mehak Oberoi, believes every face tells a story. A quick chat with Analita Seth*



From a conservative upbringing in Delhi to choosing a profession that's erratic and demanding, it was perhaps karma calling for Mehak Oberoi. Making-up a face for her is no less than a creative pursuit. With deft strokes and an ability to enhance the natural, she's the hand behind the most stunning faces in showbiz. Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tara Sutaria, Sonakshi Sinha, Kiara Advani, Katrina Kaif, Madhuri Dixit Nene, Kajol, Malaika Arora... her strength lies not in the numbers but the nuances she lends to their beauty... making portraits out of pancake. Excerpts...



Katrina Kaif

**WHEN DID YOU REALISE THAT YOU WANTED TO GET INTO THE BEAUTY AND GLAMOUR BUSINESS?**

I enrolled myself into the Pearl Academy of fashion in Delhi and learnt make-up and hair. I realised it's something I was good at and wanted to do. As for the glamour world, I realised it was for me when I got a call from Anushka Sharma's manager early in my career. It was the start of my professional journey as a make-up artist.



Alia Bhatt

**HOW IMPORTANT IS MAKE-UP WHEN PUTTING A LOOK TOGETHER?**

It's extremely essential. Your face is generally the focus point. Also, it's not about putting a lot of make-up. It's about the right amount for holding the look together.

**HOW DIFFERENT IS AN EDITORIAL LOOK FROM A RED-CARPET OR A REGULAR OFF-DUTY LOOK?**

Editorial looks may or may not be different from the red carpet or a regular off-duty look. It depends on the lighting and the

overall theme, which has been decided. It can be as simple as flaunting a clean beautiful skin or it could be experimental.

**WHAT ARE SOME MAKE-UP TRENDS THAT WILL NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE?**

Few make-up trends that will never go out of style would definitely be sheer glass skin with rosy cheeks, soft-winged liners and brown and black smokey eyes. Also the signature look of the '40s with vintage curls and winged-liners, I believe, will always be in.



Tara Sutaria



Kareena Kapoor Khan

**WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FROM YOUR OWN LOOK BOOK?**

Tara Sutaria's look from the Bobbi Brown campaign and Sonakshi Sinha's look from a beauty campaign would be my all-time favourites.

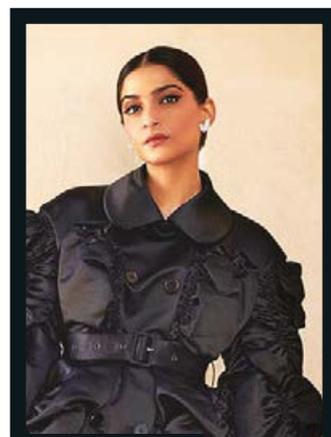


Sonakshi Sinha

*"Make-up trends that will never go out of style would be sheer glass skin with rosy cheeks, soft-winged liners and brown and black smokey eyes. . . The signature look of the '40s with vintage curls and winged-liners will always be in"*



*“Make-up is extremely essential. Your face is the focus point. It’s not about putting a lot of make-up. It’s about the right amount for holding the look together”*



Sonam Kapoor Ahuja

**WHO WOULD YOU CITE AS YOUR INSPIRATIONS?**

I look up to make-up artists like Scott Barnes, Alex Box and Pat McGrath. They’re all incredible at what they do.



Malaika Arora

**WHAT ARE SOME MAKE-UP ESSENTIALS EVERY GIRL MUST POSSESS GIVEN THE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN INDIA?**

Every girl should possess Bobbi Brown’s long-wear weightless foundation with SPF, a good powder compact, a lip and cheek tint, a multi-purpose brow pencil and a waterproof mascara.

**A MAKE-UP TREND YOU DON’T LIKE...**

Extreme strobing and highlighting, which makes the skin look oily. It’s something I stay away from.

**HOW DIFFERENT IS SCREEN MAKE-UP FROM WHAT YOU DO OTHERWISE?**

For movies, the make-up has to be extra matte. We tend to use less of it. Also, sometimes it’s the exact opposite, we tend to use a lot of it to make the look appear natural.

**OF THE STARS YOU’VE WORKED WITH, WHO’S EXPERIMENTAL AND WHO STICKS TO COMFORT AND BASICS?**

The most experimental would be Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, Sonakshi Sinha and Tara Sutaria. Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif and Malaika Arora like to stick to their comfort zone.

**ONE MAKE-UP MYTH YOU WANT TO BUST...**

You needn’t go with all the steps – correct, bake,

contour and highlight – on the same face.

**ONE BEAUTY HACK YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB...**

When resources are limited, you can use lipstick as a blush. Also I remember being stuck once and using a Q-tip and gel liner to create smokey eyes. You just have to be on the ball with what you have.

**WHO IN THE INDIAN MAKE-UP FRATERNITY ALWAYS GETS THE LOOK ON-POINT?**

Make-up artists like Anil Chinnappa, Puneet

B Saini, Daniel Bauer and Mario Dedivanovic have done some great looks.

**ONE RECENT LOOK YOU ADMIRED...**

Alia Bhatt’s look for Gangubai Kothiwadi by Puneet Saini. It added to her character.

**CELEBRITIES YOU WISH TO WORK WITH...**

I want to work with Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Rihanna, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga and Oprah Winfrey.

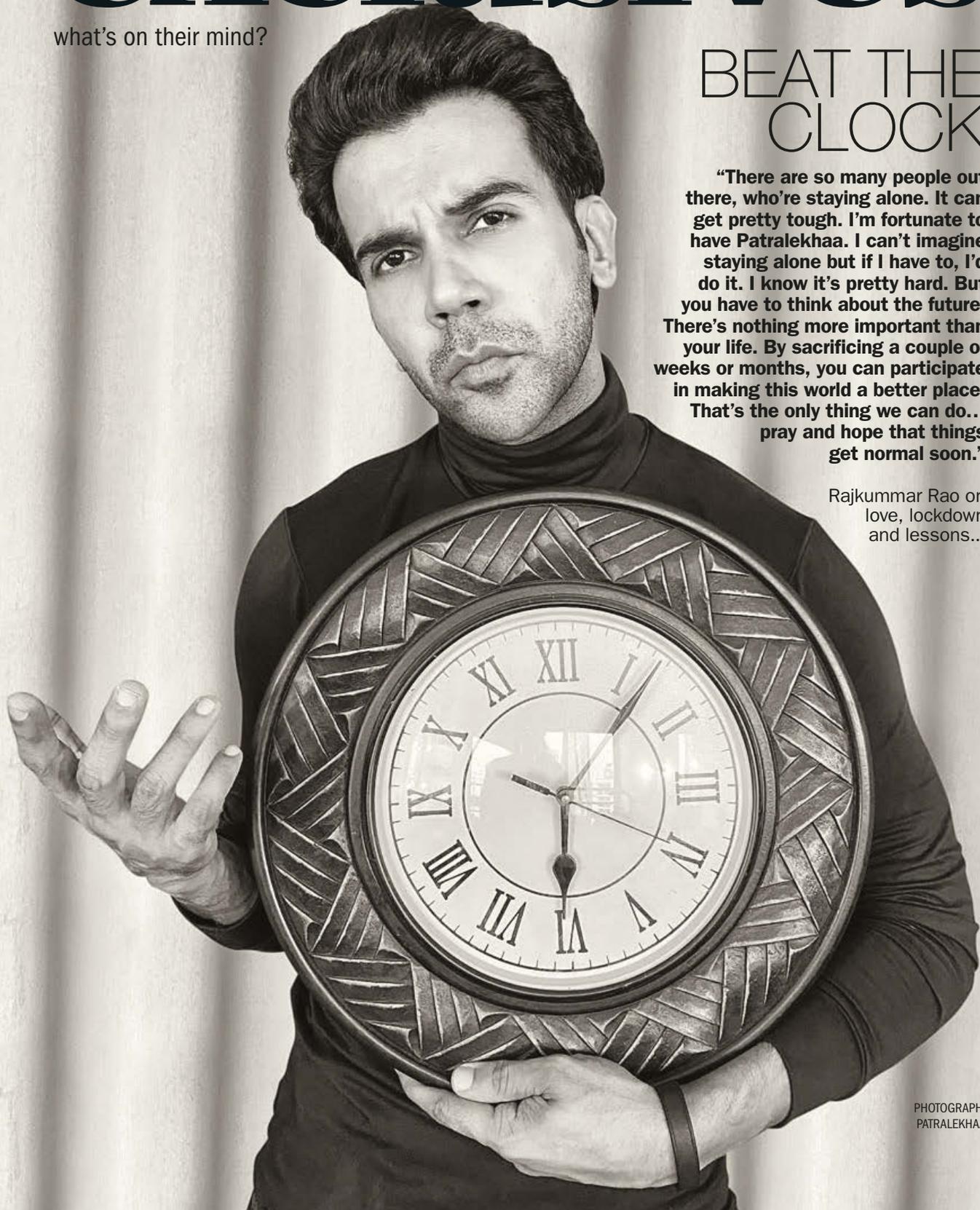
# exclusives

what's on their mind?

## BEAT THE CLOCK

**"There are so many people out there, who're staying alone. It can get pretty tough. I'm fortunate to have Patralekhaa. I can't imagine staying alone but if I have to, I'd do it. I know it's pretty hard. But you have to think about the future. There's nothing more important than your life. By sacrificing a couple of weeks or months, you can participate in making this world a better place. That's the only thing we can do... pray and hope that things get normal soon."**

Rajkumar Rao on  
love, lockdown  
and lessons...



PHOTOGRAPH:  
PATRALEKHA

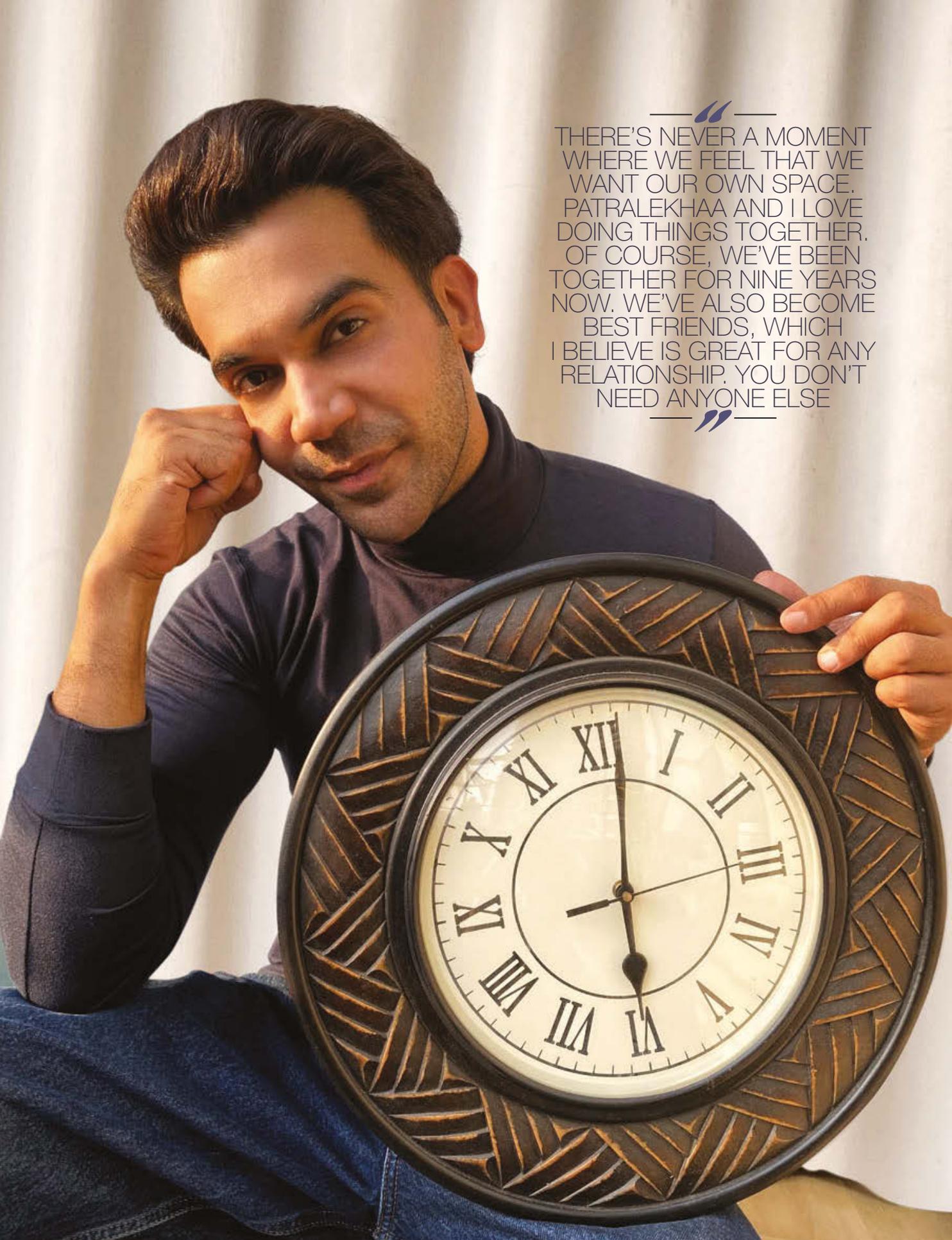
**F** COVER STORY  
#LOCKDOWNSPECIAL

# Living a Covidin'

**RAJKUMMAR RAO** CHATS WITH **RAHUL GANGWANI**  
ABOUT STAYING POSITIVE AND LOOKING FOR THE  
SILVER LINING AMIDST THE LOCKDOWN

PHOTOGRAPHS / STYLING / HAIR & MAKE-UP: PATRALEKHA  
CREATIVE DIRECTION: MEETESH TANEJA



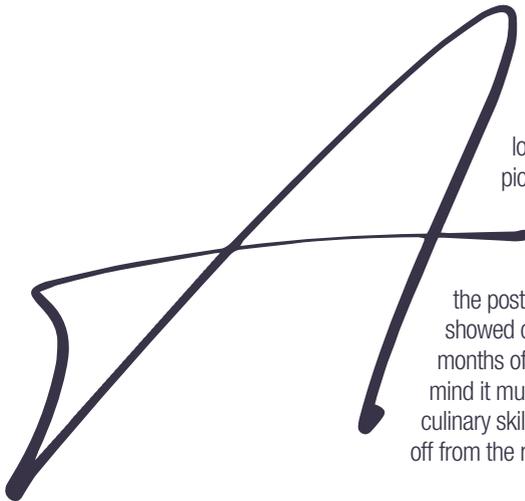


— “ —  
THERE'S NEVER A MOMENT  
WHERE WE FEEL THAT WE  
WANT OUR OWN SPACE.  
PATRALEKHA AND I LOVE  
DOING THINGS TOGETHER.  
OF COURSE, WE'VE BEEN  
TOGETHER FOR NINE YEARS  
NOW. WE'VE ALSO BECOME  
BEST FRIENDS, WHICH  
I BELIEVE IS GREAT FOR ANY  
RELATIONSHIP. YOU DON'T  
NEED ANYONE ELSE

— “ —



— “ —  
I REALISE HOW AMAZING IT IS  
TO SPEND TIME WITH LOVED  
ONES... I'VE BEEN VIDEO  
CALLING MY BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS. WE'VE BEEN  
TALKING ABOUT OUR  
CHILDHOOD DAYS. GETTING  
NOSTALGIC AND SHARING  
MEMORIES IS BEAUTIFUL  
— ” —



A few days ago, Rajkumar Rao gave girlfriend and actor Patralekhaa a haircut, the video of which went viral. She returned the sweet favour by turning into a make-up and hair person cum stylist cum photographer, all rolled into one, for the Filmfare cover star. As they say, desperate times need desperate measures. Since we couldn't do the shoot because of the lockdown, we thought it would be a good idea to have the star shoot himself and send us the pictures. Also it would be a strong message for social distancing. We must say, we're rather impressed with the results. Patralekhaa sure did a fab job. If she ever gets bored of acting, she can try her hands at these alternative professions. During the 'social distance' interview done via video call, Rajkumar turned philosopher and talked about the future of mankind in the post-corona world. He ruminated on the nature of love and relationships in these troubled times and showed concern about the future of filmmaking. The actor chose to take a sabbatical for the first three months of the year. While that has been forcefully extended much further than he intended to, he doesn't mind it much. He's been reading a lot, binge-watching films, doing domestic chores and exploring his culinary skills as well. With Patralekhaa giving him company through these days, he doesn't mind being cut off from the rest of the world. Excerpts from a freewheeling interview with the talented Mr Rao...

**IN THIS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND FILMFARE COVER SHOOT, PATRALEKHAAS WAS YOUR HAIR AND MAKE-UP ARTIST/STYLIST/PHOTOGRAPHER. TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT...**

Given the lockdown, we didn't have all the required hair and make-up products. But still Patralekhaa did a great job. She gave me a fine haircut and styled me for this Filmfare cover shoot with whatever was available. It reminded me of our days in Amsterdam while shooting Queen. Patralekhaa used to style my hair there as there was limited crew. I've never bothered about my clothes. But Patralekhaa changed that. She urges me to be more creative about what I wear in my day to day life as well.

**SINCE PATRALEKHAAS HAS MOVED IN WITH YOU DURING THE LOCKDOWN, WHAT HAVE YOU BOTH DISCOVERED ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP?**

It's amazing to realise I can spend so much time with her. There's never a moment where we feel that we want our own space or we want to do our own thing. Of course, we've been together for nine years now. We love doing things together. We watch a whole lot of shows and films. Through time, we've also become best friends, which I believe is great for any relationship. You don't need anyone else. You can spend all your time with your partner. You laugh together. You discuss your passion together. We both love films. We discuss cinema all the time. It's fun to discuss what we liked and what we didn't like about a film.

**WHAT'S YOUR ROUTINE LIKE THESE DAYS?**

Patralekhaa and I wake up around 7:30 am. After freshening up, we sit in the balcony just to smell the fresh air and hear the birds chirp. We read as we have coffee. Later, we



I KEEP MYSELF ENGAGED WITH READING. I'VE ALSO STARTED MEDITATION, WHICH IS A GREAT THING. I BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD DO IT... THERE WERE HARDLY JUST ONE OR TWO MOMENTS WHEN I WAS LOW AND FELT THE NEED TO GO OUT. BUT THEN WE'RE ALL STAYING AT HOME FOR A BIGGER CAUSE



start our workouts. We work-out for almost one and a half to two hours every day. Then we cook and have lunch. Later, we watch a show or film together for a few hours. Then around 6:30 pm, when it's a little cool, we sit in the balcony again. We may have some snacks or we play Ludo with our friends online. That's also fun. Then Patralekhaa does

## F COVER STORY #LOCKDOWNSPECIAL

her cardio because she works out twice a day. Meanwhile, I play my guitar and then do some meditation. We have dinner. Around 10 pm we hit our bed. We watch a film or a web series. Before midnight, we're knocked out.

### HOW ARE THE DUTIES SPLIT?

She cooks most of the time. I help her as well. (Smiles) I do all the stirring. I also whip up some dishes. Like I prepared sabudana khichdi and some dals.

### DID YOU ALWAYS COOK?

Never man! I didn't know cooking. But it's not bad... it's not that difficult. I'm enjoying trying out stuff. But I'm also missing being on a film set.

### ANY CONSCIOUS CHANGE YOU'VE BROUGHT IN YOUR LIFE IN THIS PERIOD?

I'm working out regularly. I used to work out earlier as well. But I did more of cardio. Now, I'm maintaining a balance of both cardio and muscle building.

### YOUR DOG GAGA MUST BE EXTREMELY HAPPY NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME ALL THE TIME.

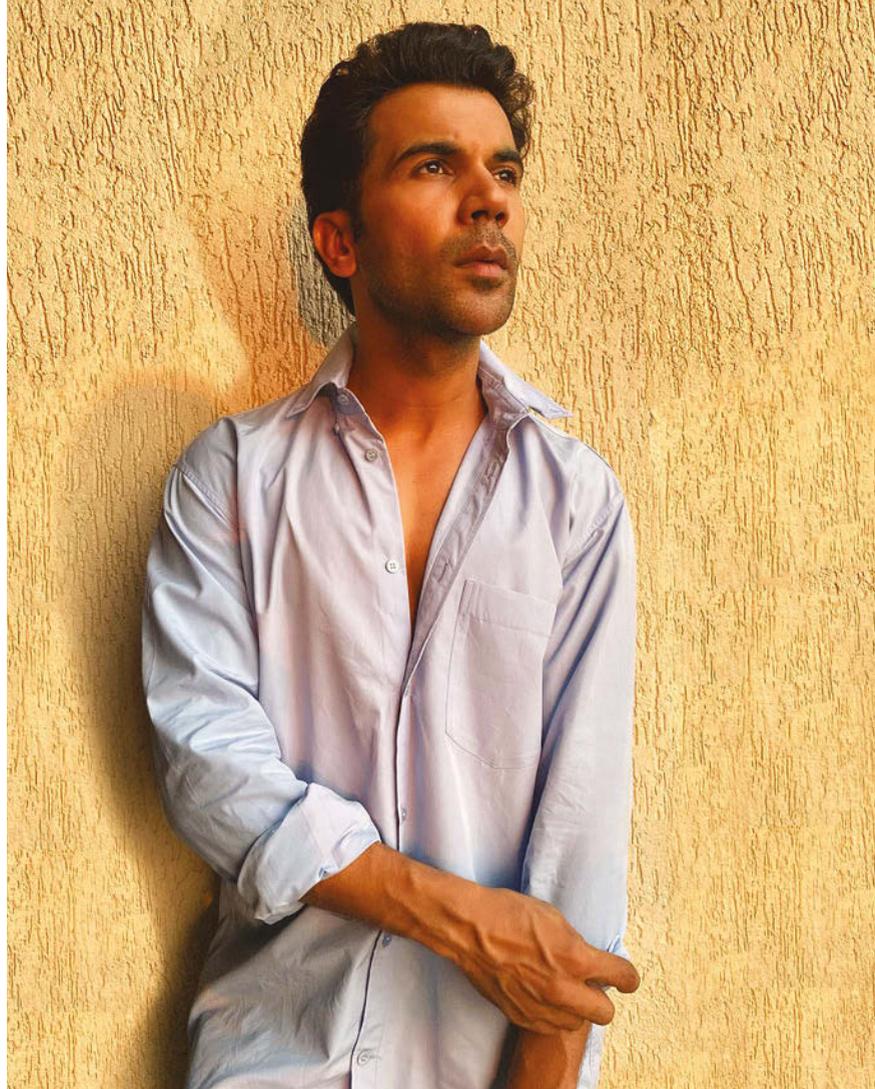
Yes, she's so happy. She's thrilled because she's getting to spend all the time with us. I'm sure she must be wondering what's happened to these people. Why aren't they stepping out?

### YOU MENTIONED YOU WATCH A LOT OF CONTENT. WHAT HAS CAUGHT YOUR FANCY?

Right now, I'm about to finish the series, *The Outsider*. We follow a daily schedule in the afternoon and at night. We must watch something for around one and a half hour. We finish three episodes in a day.

### FOR SOMEONE, WHO HAS BEEN LIVING OUT OF SUITCASES ALL THE TIME, HOW HAS THIS SUDDEN CHANGE BEEN?

After I finished the *White Tiger* in Delhi at the end of December last year, Patralekhaa and I went for our annual holiday. I made a conscious decision to start my next film in March. I decided to take a break during the first three months of 2020. Then the virus struck. Never did I imagine that those three months would be extended till God knows when. Since the past three years, I've been constantly working. This is a break I could've never planned for myself.



“GIVEN THE LOCKDOWN, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE REQUIRED HAIR AND MAKE-UP PRODUCTS. BUT STILL PATRALEKHA DID A GREAT JOB. SHE GAVE ME A FINE HAIRCUT AND STYLED ME FOR THIS FILMFARE COVER SHOOT WITH WHATEVER WAS AVAILABLE



With Patralekhaa

### ARE YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES?

They're waiting, like the rest of us, for the lockdown to end. I've done four films, which are ready for release. *White Tiger* is a Netflix original, so it'll go online. But, apart from that, there's Hardik Mehta's *Roohi Afzana*, Anurag Basu's *Ludo* and Hansal Mehta's *Chhalaang*. I don't know what's going to happen as I don't see theatres opening anytime soon. I came across some articles saying that producers are pondering upon the idea of releasing films straight on the OTT platforms. We just have to wait and watch.

**REPORTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWS CHANNELS CAN PUT YOU OFF. HOW DOES ONE STAY POSITIVE AMIDST IT ALL?**

I'm not on Twitter so much. I watch a lot of stuff on the OTT platform. I keep myself engaged with reading. I've also started meditation, which is a great thing. I believe everyone should do it. I've started cooking as well. Patralekhaa has been preparing some



WE WORK-OUT FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS EVERY DAY. THEN WE COOK AND HAVE LUNCH. LATER, WE WATCH A FILM TOGETHER FOR A FEW HOURS. AROUND 6:30 PM, WE SIT IN THE BALCONY AGAIN. WE HAVE SNACKS OR WE PLAY LUDO WITH OUR FRIENDS ONLINE... LATER, I PLAY MY GUITAR AND THEN DO SOME MEDITATION



awesome food. I help her out a little bit here and there. There were hardly just one or two moments when I was low and felt the need to go out. But then we are all staying home for a bigger cause.

**WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO STAY CALM DURING THESE TIMES?**

That's the only thing you can do. There's no other option. Of course, there are so many people out there, who're staying alone. It can get pretty tough. I'm fortunate to have Patralekhaa. I can't imagine being alone but if I had to, I'd do it. I know it's pretty hard. But you have to think about the future. There's nothing more important than your life. By sacrificing a couple of weeks or months, you can participate in making this world a better place. That's the only thing we can do... pray and hope that things get normal soon.

**HOW HAS THIS PERIOD CHANGED YOU AS A PERSON?**

I'm not going to take things for granted anymore. I realise how amazing it's to spend time with your loved ones. I'm talking so often to my family right now. I mustn't have spoken to them so much in the past couple of years. I've been video calling my brothers and sisters. All this while, I was occupied with work. We've been talking about our childhood days. Getting nostalgic and sharing memories is beautiful. At the end, you need to live for your loved ones. Nothing matters more than them. This race that we're all in... I don't know why we're running so hard. Eventually, nothing will matter.

**PEOPLE SAY THE WORLD DESERVED THIS BREAK...**

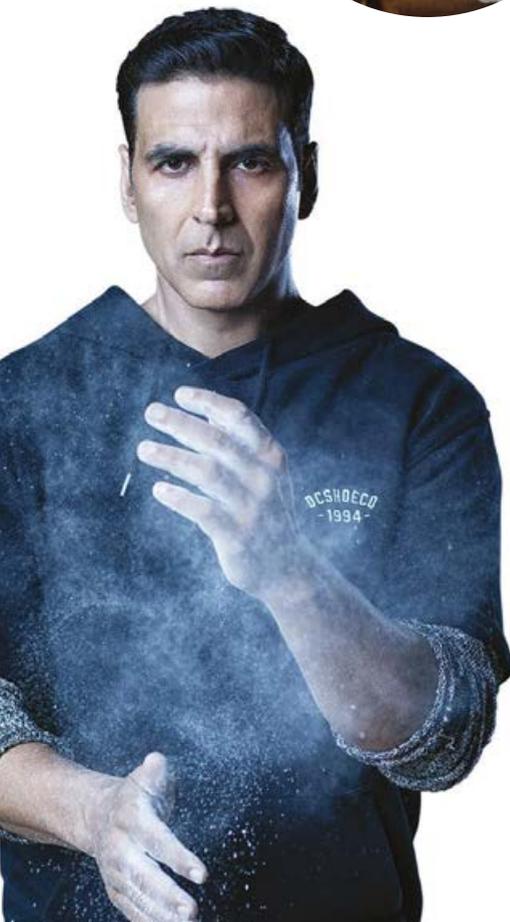
Yeah... (Smiles) Now, we can hear birds chirping. I feel nature is rebooting itself. We were just taking it for granted for many decades. I was talking to one of my producer friends last night. He said he hoped people come out of this situation as better human beings.

**ONCE THE LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING?**

I'm going to meet my team, the people who've been with me for so many years. My hairstylist, my make-up man, my personal assistant... everyone from my management team. I'm going to meet them and enquire about their wellbeing and whether things are fine with them. After that I just can't wait to go on a film set. ■

# CORONA RELIEF WARRIORS

**DEVESH SHARMA**  
LISTS THE REAL HEROES  
FROM THE FILM INDUSTRY,  
WHO HAVE COME OUT TO  
SUPPORT INDIA'S FIGHT  
AGAINST THE **COVID-19**  
PANDEMIC



**BE** it flood, drought, famine or earthquake, the denizens of the film industry have always come forward to help their fellow citizens in time of need. Currently, when India is suffering from the corona pandemic and is under lockdown, our stars have been keeping us entertained through fitness, food and videos of them being goofy. But apart from the feel-good factor, they have also opened up their coffers and displayed a large-heartedness that should be appreciated.

**Shah Rukh Khan** and **Gauri Khan**, for instance, through their various companies - Kolkata Knight Riders, Red Chillies Entertainment, Meer Foundation and Red Chillies VFX – have pledged their support to various initiatives. Meer Foundation will supply 50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Maharashtra and West Bengal governments for healthcare professionals. It has also tied up with Ek Saath - The Earth organisation to provide food to over 5500 families for a month in Mumbai. Meer Foundation will also provide three lakh meal kits to 10,000

underprivileged people and daily wage labourers daily in Mumbai, in association with the Roti Foundation. SRK has also pledged support to the Working People's Charter to provide essentials to over 2500 daily wage workers in Delhi for a month. SRK and Gauri also offered their 4-storey office space to the BMC to help expand their quarantine capacity, equipped with essentials for children, women and the elderly.

**Salman Khan** has pledged to financially support 25,000 daily wage workers from the film industry till the end of the lockdown. He has also extended help to 50 female ground workers in Malegaon after he heard of their financial plight.

**Amitabh Bachchan** too has pledged to provide monthly ration to one lakh daily wage workers belonging to the All India Film Employees Confederation amid the coronavirus pandemic. The initiative is supported by Sony Pictures Networks India and Kalyan Jewellers.

**Ajay Devgn** and **Rohit Shetty** too have contributed 51 lakhs each to the fund set up by Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) to



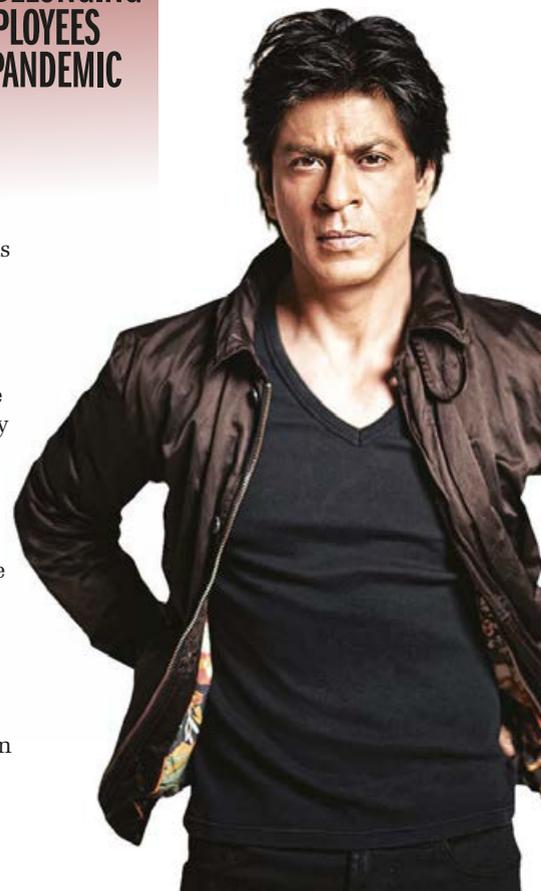
bring relief to daily wage workers. **Hrithik Roshan** transferred 25 lakhs to the Cine Artiste Welfare Trust (CAWT). He has also partnered with an NGO to facilitate 1.2 lakh meals for senior citizens, daily wage workers and low-income groups during the lockdown period. He reached out to the paparazzi fraternity too in their hour of need. The actor's helped in procuring N95 and FFP3 masks for the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) workers and other caretakers as well.

**Akshay Kumar** donated 25 crores in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. He also pledged to contribute three crores to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to assist in the making of personal protection equipment. The **Yash Chopra Foundation** declared it would donate 5000 each to 3000 daily wage earners — 250 randomly selected members of Mahila Kalakar Sangh, 250 members of Junior Artistes Association and 25000 members of Film Studios Setting and Allied Mazdoor Union — from the film fraternity. **Karan Johar** will be donating to PM-CARES and

## AMITABH BACHCHAN HAS PLEDGED TO PROVIDE MONTHLY RATION TO ONE LAKH DAILY WAGE WORKERS, BELONGING TO THE ALL INDIA FILM EMPLOYEES CONFEDERATION AMID THE PANDEMIC

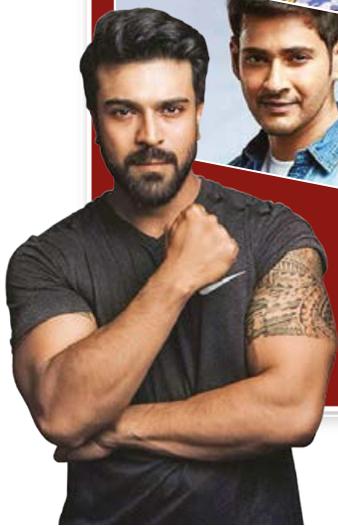
Maharashtra Chief Minister's Relief Fund through his banner **Dharma Productions**. The production house will also be helping out not-for-profits such as Give India Fundraisers, GOONJ, Zomato Feeding India, International Association for Human Values (IAHV) and Producers Guild of India. **Netflix India** will contribute 7.64 crores to the relief fund set up by Producers Guild of India, which will be distributed to daily wage earners hit by the complete lockdown.

**Saif Ali Khan** and **Kareena Kapoor Khan** have decided to donate to UNICEF, GIVE INDIA and the International Association for Human Values (IAHV). **Priyanka Chopra** and **Nick Jonas** too donated an undisclosed amount to 10 charities including the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency





# SOUTH CRUSADERS



The South industry too rallied their support in a big way. **Rajinikanth** donated 50 lakhs to the daily wage workers of the South film industry. The actor donated the amount to the Film Employees Federation of South India (FEFSI) Union workers, who were facing a shutdown due to the coronavirus outbreak. **Prabhas** donated three crores to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and 50 lakhs each to the Chief Minister's relief fund of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. **Mahesh Babu** contributed one crore to the CM Relief Fund of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. **Pawan Kalyan** announced a donation of one crore to the PM Relief Fund and added he would be donating 50 lakhs each to both the AP and Telangana CM Relief Fund to fight against the pandemic. **Ram Charan** announced that he would be donating 70 lakhs to the PMO and the state governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. His father, superstar **Chiranjeevi**, donated one crore for providing relief to the film workers. While **Kamal Haasan** and **Dhanush** contributed 10 lakhs each to the Film Employees Association of South India, director **Shankar** contributed 15 lakhs. **Ajith Kumar** donated 50 lakhs each to the PM and the CM's Relief Fund. He also contributed 25 lakhs to the Film Employees Federation of South India (FEFSI).

Situations Fund (PM-CARES), UNICEF, Goonj, Doctors Without Borders, No Kid Hungry and SAG-AFTRA.

**Ayushmann Khurrana** contributed to the PM-CARES Fund and along with wife **Tahira Kashyap**, has extended support to a non-profit organisation in Delhi, Gulmeher - a women's collective of waste-pickers turned artisans. The organisation works with about 200 women ragpickers. **Rakul Preet Singh** and her family are feeding 200 families from a slum near their Gurugram home daily. **Arjun Kapoor** went on a virtual date with five lucky winners to raise funds for out of work daily wage earners. Arjun made this possible through his sister **Anshula Kapoor's** online fundraising platform Fankind. He raised enough funds





to feed the families of 300 daily wage earners for a month. **Tamannaah Bhatia** has joined hands with an NGO, Letsallhelp.org, to help migrant workers. She mobilised almost 50 tonnes of food products to help 10,000 migrant workers in Mumbai. **Rohit Shetty** has put eight of his hotels at the disposal of on-duty police officers to rest, shower and change. He's also made arrangements for their breakfast and dinner. He too has donated 51 lakhs to help daily wage workers.

**Bhushan Kumar** donated 11 crores to the PM-CARES Fund. He also gave one crore to the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). **Deepika Padukone** and **Ranveer Singh** also pledged their support towards the PM-CARES Fund to help combat the coronavirus pandemic in the country. **Vicky Kaushal** said he would be contributing one crore to the PM-CARES Fund and Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund. So did **Kartik Aaryan**, who mentioned that whatever money he had earned, was only because of the people of India. **Nana Patekar** sent out a tweet along with a video message, announcing

## ARJUN KAPOOR WENT ON A VIRTUAL DATE WITH FIVE LUCKY WINNERS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DAILY WAGE EARNERS

that he would be donating 50 lakhs to the PM CARES Fund to support India's fight against COVID-19. Patekar donated the amount on behalf of Naam foundation.

**Shilpa Shetty Kundra** pledged to donate a sum of 21 lakhs to the PM-CARES Fund. **Varun Dhawan** pledged 30 lakhs to the PM-CARES Fund and 25 lakhs to Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund. India's Nightingale, **Lata Mangeshkar** contributed 25 lakhs to Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund to combat the crisis. **Diljit Dosanjh** pledged to donate 20 lakhs to support the ongoing battle against the coronavirus pandemic, while singer **Badshah** pledged 25 lakhs. Comedian **Kapil Sharma** has also donated a sum of 50 lakhs to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

**Amir Khan** too contributed to the PM-CARES Fund and the

Maharashtra CM's Relief Fund. In addition to donating to the funds, the actor will also be extending support to the daily wage workers, who are employed in his upcoming film *Laal Singh Chaddha*. **Alia Bhatt, Sonam Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Bhumi Pednekar, Kriti Sanon** and **Sara Ali Khan** too have donated to the PM-CARES Fund but didn't mention the amount. **Rajkumar Rao** voiced his support and donated to the PM's Relief Fund, CM's Relief Fund and also to Zomato Feeding India.

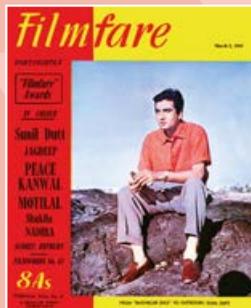
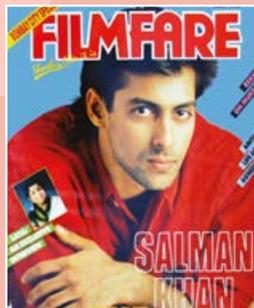
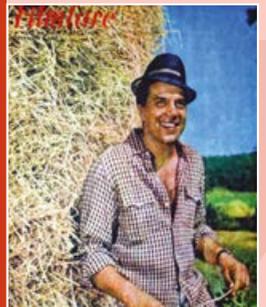
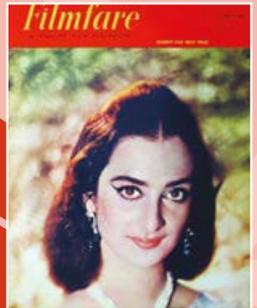
In such a scenario, we're reminded about what the late President of the United States, John F Kennedy said in his famous inaugural address, "Ask not what your country has done for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Back home too, our stars, who keep us entertained during peacetime, have come out all guns blazing while we are at war with an invisible enemy. The above-mentioned names are just some shining examples. We're sure there are many, who have anonymously contributed to this cause. We would like to thank them as well. And see you at the movies. Hopefully soon... ■

Breaking News

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

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

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**FILMFARE**

# BOY WONDER!

Meezan is confident Priyadarshan's *Hungama 2* will create the right noise. Akash Nihalani chats with the handsome actor



**T**alent runs in his veins. Son of actor Jaaved Jaffrey and grandson of veteran Jagdeep, Meezan impressed with his debut film, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's production *Malaal*. The love story with Sharmin Segal won him hordes of young fans. The actor is now exploring yet another facet of his personality with Priyadarshan's *Hungama 2*. Excited about the future,

Meezan reveals why the camera brings out the best in him...

### **Belonging to a film family, how was your childhood?**

My family kept us children (Meezan, Abbas and Alaviaa) away from the filmi life. They weren't against it. But they never pushed us towards it. However, they were only too happy to support me when I wished to join the industry.



### **How did that happen?**

One day I just ran into Sanjay Leela Bhansali while he was doing a costume trial for *Bajirao Mastani*. He told me, "You should become an actor." A week later, he revealed that he wanted to launch me with his production *Malaal* (directed by Mangesh Hadawale). Then I told my parents (Jaaved and Habiba Jaffrey) about it.

### **Malaal won you praise. What was the feeling like?**

Unfortunately, *Malaal* didn't do too well. But people appreciated Sharmin (Segal) and my performance. It's your first film. You get attached to it and you want the movie to do well. There are hundreds of people, who've put in effort to make it. My job as an actor, is to give my best. I'm glad that people recognised that.

### **Your next release, Priyadarshan's *Hungama 2*, is eagerly awaited...**

Priyadarshan is such a

respected name. As a kid, I grew up watching his films. He actually quizzed me about his movies, the dialogue, the names of his characters... I knew all of it. This movie is a dream come true for me.

### **Actors and directors on your wish list...**

I'm hoping to do an action movie. I want to work with Rohit Shetty, Rajkumar Hirani, Zoya Akhtar and Sanjay Leela Bhansali – now as a director. I'd love to work with Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan saab and of course my father and grandfather.

### **What kind of characters would interest you?**

My goal as an actor is to first establish myself. After that, it would be about enjoying the process and challenging myself with different roles. I want to do something like Ranveer Singh. He's played such diverse characters with interesting graphs.

# “I’m waiting to fall in love”

**RAKUL PREET SINGH** ON LIFE, LOVE AND LESSONS IN AN INTIMATE  
CHAT WITH **SUMAN SHARMA**

PHOTOGRAPHS: TARAS TARAPORVALA | HAIR: ASHIS BOGI | MAKE-UP: SALIM SAYYED | STYLIST: AASTHA SHARMA  
Sweat shirt: Amy Winehouse Foundation, Collective India | Jewellery: Confluence Official Zariin, Bhavya Ramesh Jewellery, Mukuchyan

**F**rom the stark military background to the shimmery showbiz stage... dreamy-eyed Rakul Preet Singh has traversed the two worlds effortlessly. Armed with discipline, focus and willpower, the army girl applied these in her mercurial vocation and emerged trumps. The Femina Miss India made her Telugu debut in *Keratam* (2011) and Tamil debut in *Thadaiyara Thaakka* the next year. Going on to enjoy massive popularity in the Telugu industry with films like *Current Theega*, *Rough* and *Loukyam*, the South megastar made her Bollywood debut in *Yaariyan* in 2014. *Aiyaary* and *Marjaavaan* were add-ons to her Hindi repertoire. But it was *De De Pyaar De* (DDPD) opposite Ajay Devgn that made Hindi audiences thaw to her talent and charm. Coming up are *Attack with Arjun Kapoor* and *Indra Kumar's* comedy, *Thank God*, with Ajay Devgn, confirming she's come home to the maximum city. Widely followed on Instagram, the millennial star says her postings are only to show her fans and followers how much she's like them. Excerpts...

## What took you so long to make a mark in Hindi films?

I've been busy doing South films. I thought I'd manage both. But both the industries work differently. So it became difficult. I've shifted my base to Mumbai now. I'm happy that it happened after so many years because I gained experience being before the camera. I grew in touch with my craft. Or

else I couldn't have pulled off Aisha's character in *De De Pyaar De* (DDPD). I was a kid when I did *Yaariyan*. My role in DDPD was full-fledged, a show reel where I had to dance, show emotions... everything. I want to keep experimenting and do different roles. Modern, girl-next-door, glam, no-glam... Playing varied roles is a high for any actor. Even if I act in one

cult film – like *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* or *Jab We Met* – in my career I'll be happy.

## Did you always aspire to be an actress?

I was not filmi. My father was in the army. We used to stay around the border. We used to watch films on VCR, months after they were released. We didn't have TV till I was in class four. Dad wanted us

to do outdoor activities. I began watching and enjoying films only after the ninth standard when we came to Delhi. Every girl somewhere wants to be an actor. After finishing my studies, I thought I'd give it a try. I gave myself two years to try my luck in films. I moved to Mumbai. Luckily, things worked out.



— “ —  
*I am spiritual so I hate the word struggle. It's so negative... Acting is my passion. So the struggle itself becomes sweet... Choose a job from which you don't need a vacation. I can work 360 days a year*  
— ” —



— “ —  
*Love is a beautiful emotion, which has lost its meaning today... In a way self-love and being selfless go hand in hand. Caring for others and at the same time respecting yourself*  
— ” —

Shirt: Versace, Collective India  
Jacket: Vipul Shah Bags  
Denims: The Ikat Story  
Jewellery: Sabyasachi Official,  
Hm, Amrapali Jewels,  
Bhavya Ramesh Jewellery  
Shoes: Louboutin World

### How has the trek been?

Nothing comes without a struggle. I am spiritual so I hate the word struggle. It's so negative. You'll only find it a struggle when you do something, which you don't want to. Acting is my passion. So the struggle itself becomes sweet. I had never faced a camera in my life. I learnt everything on the job. That's the beauty of it.

### What are your takeaways from the

the more. You just become stronger emotionally and mentally.

### What have you discovered about yourself in the last few years?

That I am a workaholic. Feeling tired is just a state of mind. I love my work so much that I can go on working. I have that drive. I can push myself. My willpower has been tested time and again. I'm

concerns are the ones that matter the most.

### What do you love the most about your profession?

Just being in front of the camera. I love being a different person every day. I love to go on the set, act, feel... It's such a beautiful job where you get to express different emotions. You might not have love in your life but on

can still yell at you... be it your school friends, parents or relatives. My family and friends give me a reality check.

### You're active on social media. Is it a necessity or do you enjoy it?

I'm more active on Instagram than Twitter. I can handle Insta myself. It's a happier platform where people come together and share happy things. Twitter can sometimes get negative. There's so much hatred in



De De Pyaar De



Aiyaary



NTR Kathanayakudu

— **“** — *I love being a different person every day. I love to go on the set, act, feel... It's a beautiful job where you get to express different emotions. You might not have love in your life but on screen you create the idea of romance* — **”** —

### disappointments?

When you've auditioned from door to door and waited so many years — you value your work. You value time. I knew the journey would be tough. But what's the fun if it's easy? I don't crib about it. The profession taught me to have a strong willpower, believe in myself and remain focussed and disciplined. If you don't give your 100 per cent, you'll never get 100 per cent. Before Yaariyan, I was told I had a generic face. But I accepted it. It made me believe in myself all

glad I possess it. Choose a job from which you don't need a vacation. I can work 360 days a year.

### Do you believe socialising/networking is necessary to further opportunities?

In any profession, networking is important. But partying is not going to get you a film. Ultimately, it's your talent that will work. I like to hang out with people. I love socialising. But I don't like to talk work when I socialise. Relationships forged without career

screen you create the idea of romance. It gives you so much to tap internally.

### How do you stay real in a glamorous world?

Acting is just a job for me. Once I come home, I'm like a girl-next-door. I don't take myself so seriously. We should have a life beyond films. Life needs to include other things. I read, I play golf, I hang out with my friends. I enjoy baking. It's important to disconnect and be normal. It's important to surround yourself with people, who

the world, which is why I don't interact much there. Insta is a great platform to connect with people, who give you so much love. When they see my day-to-day life, behind-the-scene videos, they realise I'm a normal girl. I'm like anyone of you.

### Are you single or attached?

(Smiles) Single since the past four years. My brother jokes saying I intimidate guys. I guess, work has taken priority. But if you find the right person you can always

# RAPID FIRE

## EXTROVERT OR INTROVERT...

An extrovert. Some people find me intimidating. But after knowing me, they find me clumsy.

## EMOTIONAL OR PRACTICAL...

A mix of both. I'm an emotional person but I take time to invest my emotions in someone. I don't wear my heart on my sleeves.

## SUCCESS MEANS...

How happy and content you are. What's the point of all the money and fame if you don't wake up happy?

## WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Life. Actually, I'm spiritual. So nothing should make you happy or unhappy.

## WHAT IRRITATES YOU?

People, who don't take their job seriously, who don't value time.

## DO YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

No. That's infatuation. Love is deep-rooted.

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST FALL IN LOVE?

I'm waiting to fall in love.

## A QUALITY THAT DRAWS YOU TO A MAN...

Intellect.



**THE SEXIEST GUY IN BOLLYWOOD..**  
Ranveer Singh.

**A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE TO ASK RANVEER SINGH...**  
Yeh energy ka raaz kya hai?



**...TO AJAY DEVGN?**  
How do you remain so calm always?



**...TO ARJUN KAPOOR?**  
Do you crack jokes even in your sleep?

**A TRAIT THAT PUTS YOU OFF...**  
Showing off.

**A DATING TIP...**  
Be who you are.

**DESCRIBE A PERFECT KISS...**  
A perfect kiss doesn't have to be described. It has to be felt.

**IF YOU CATCH YOUR BOYFRIEND CHEATING ON YOU?**  
I'll first ask why. But you can't justify cheating in a relationship. So I'll leave him.

**THREE THINGS YOU DO ON THE SET...**  
If it's an easy day, I read some scripts. I watch Netflix on my iPad or phone if I have a longer break.

**YOUR TRAVEL WISH LIST...**  
I want to go on a world tour and enjoy the cuisines in different countries. I am a foodie.

**WHAT MAKES A WOMAN SEXY?**  
Self-confidence.

**YOUR SEX-APPEAL LIES IN...**  
My soul.

**ONE THING YOU WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF:**  
I'm too harsh on myself. Like if I have a 6 am shoot, I'll work out at 4 am and then do yoga. I don't let go.



Dress: Hemant and Nandita | Bralette: Nikita Mhasalkar

Skirt: The Ikat story | Boots: Truffle Collection India

Jewellery: Sabyasachi Official, Hm, Amrapali Jewels, Bhavya Ramesh Jewellery

make time. I haven't found the right person. But I truly will. I'm a believer in love.

### **What's your kind of a guy?**

My dream man has to be six-feet tall. I'm tall myself and I wear heels. Someone who's a happy person with no hang-ups. Someone who's driven. I don't want all the money with no intellect and drive. Someone who's focussed about his work and what he has to achieve. Someone who's not only intelligent but an intellectual.

### **Your concept of love...**

Love is a beautiful emotion, which has lost its meaning today. In a way self-love and being selfless go hand in hand. Caring for others and at the same time respecting yourself. I should have been born in a purana zamana. I've an old-world view about love. Like how my parents are each other's pillars. When I see Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma I'm like wow! Unko dekhkar you believe in love. You don't have to be demanding in love. You just have to make each other's lives better. It's about giving and taking at the same time. Whether it's with your friend, parents or your partner... it's all about making the relationship worthwhile.

### **What cements a relationship?**

Common interests. Because the initial attraction will fade if you don't have anything to do beyond meeting for a few hours. Marriages are not surviving



— ☪ — *I should have been born in a purana zamana. I've an old-world view about love... When I see Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma I'm like wow! Unko dekhkar you believe in love. You have to make each other's lives better*



today because they were based on infatuation. If two people are first good friends, if they can sit for hours and share a conversation... it makes a relationship strong.

### **What kind of wedding would you like to have?**

A destination wedding on the beach with just about 100 people. It will be a complete party. I have it all planned. I just have to find the guy. ■

# PRINCE CHARMING

**KARTIK AARYAN ON LOVE, RUMOURS AND REALITY...  
IN A CANDID CHAT WITH ANURADHA CHOUDHARY**

**If there's one actor, whose success story is the stuff of blockbusters, it's definitely Kartik Aaryan.**

The young boy from Gwalior, went through an extended struggle to make it at the movies. But once he did, the outsider received immense love and recognition. Good looks mixed with talent and a humble persona has made him the poster boy of millennials. A determined Kartik balanced attending engineering lectures with giving auditions till he finally made his acting debut with *Pyaar Ka Punchnama* (2011). The small-town boy was on his way to realise his big dreams. His popularity soared with *Pyaar Ka Punchnama 2* (2015) and *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti* (2018) – his lover boy charm having a pan-India appeal. His latest release *Love Aaj Kal* won him praise for his double take while *Pati Patni Aur Woh* is yet another superhit in his profile. With biggies like Anees Bazmee's *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and Karan Johar's *Dostana 2* in the pipeline, there's no denying that Kartik Aaryan has slalomed into the elite showbiz club...



↓  
Love Aaj  
Kal

**LOVE AAJ KAL DIDN'T DO AS EXPECTED. WHAT DID IT TEACH YOU?**

Love Aaj Kal has been a journey like no other. Imtiaz Ali sir changed me as an actor. He's a Sufi in his outlook. Playing two characters in a film could have been difficult. But he made it easy. For both my characters, Veer and Raghu, we had separate body language classes. I had to lose 10 kilos for Raghu, who's in school. I had to be lanky while shooting those portions. Through conversations, through workshops, through his direction, I learnt a lot from him. Every day was a new learning.

**ARE YOU ROMANTIC IN REAL LIFE AS IN YOUR FILMS?**

At heart, I'm a romantic. In a relationship, I'd do anything to make the other person smile. I'd keep gifting her things. It could be the biggest of things or the smallest of them. The thought is all that matters. Even if it's gifting her a rose, a chocolate, toffees... every day to make her feel happy and special. I love it when a loved one is happy and there's a smile on their face. That's my idea of love.

**YOU'VE BEEN ROMANTICALLY LINKED WITH ALL YOUR CO-STARS – SARA ALI KHAN, ANANYA PANDAY AND NOW JANHVI KAPOOR. WHAT'S THE TRUTH?**

If there's a rumour linking

● ●  
**THE THOUGHT  
MATTERS. EVEN IF  
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ROSE, A CHOCOLATE,  
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FEEL HAPPY AND  
SPECIAL. I LOVE IT  
WHEN A LOVED ONE  
IS HAPPY**  
● ●

me to a co-star, I don't know what to say about it. It's not in my hands.

**WHOM ARE YOU SEEING - ANANYA OR JANHVI?**

Technically, I'm single. I am a romantic person but currently only interested in work. (Laughs) I only talk about my work and professional life.

**DID YOU EVER IMAGINE THIS KIND OF SUCCESS?**

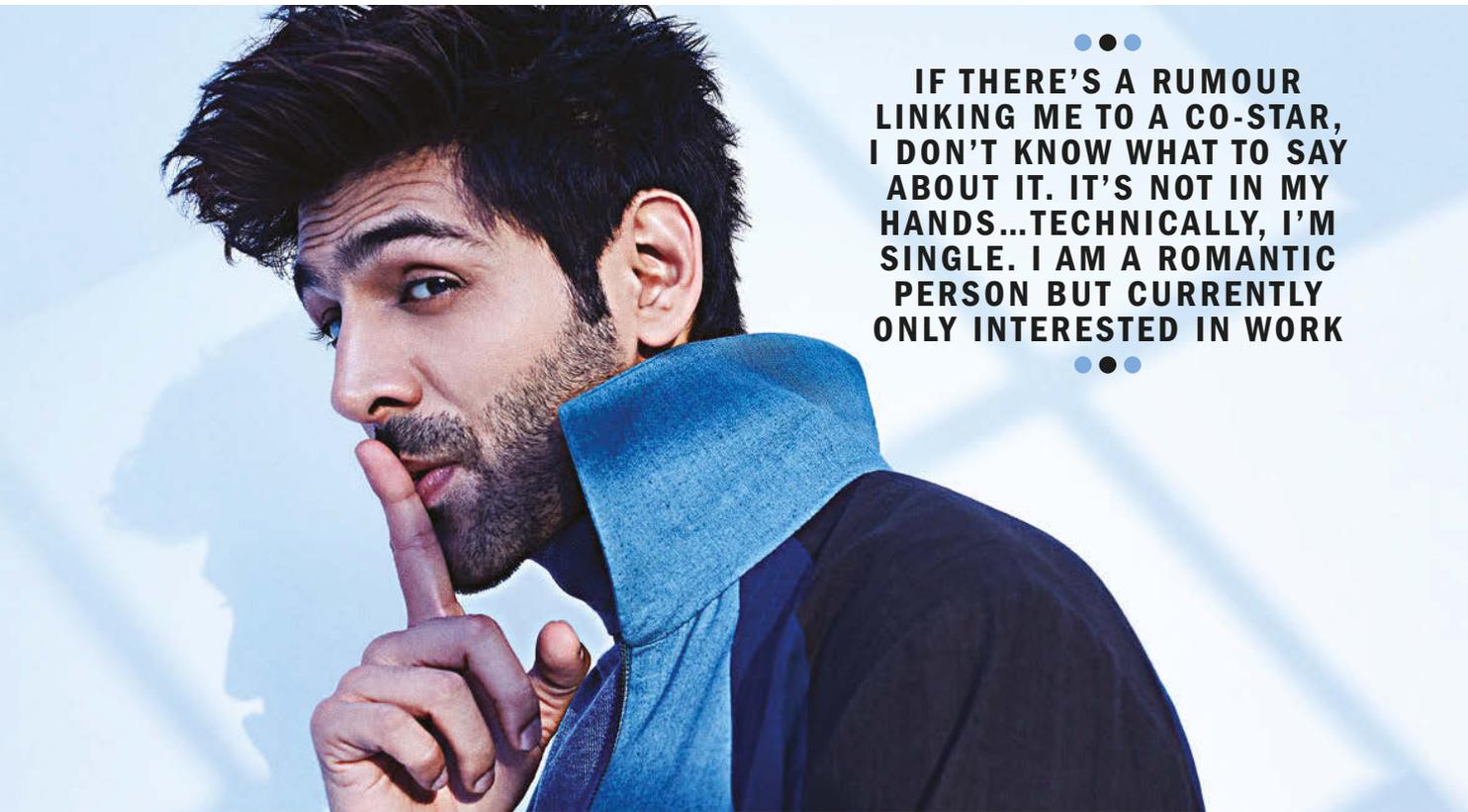
You do dream about such days. Then one day when it finally happens it feels unreal. As a child, I've witnessed the difficult journeys of both my parents. That inspired me. Hence, I was never let down by failures. I learnt from them and tried to do better each time.

the characters Raghu and Veer. There was a method involved. I got emotional when we shot the last scene. Imtiaz sir hugged me and said, "I understand... it's after all the journey of living those characters."

**YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER WHO'S MADE IT. WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON NEPOTISM?**

Of course, nepotism exists

through. I'm blessed that the industry welcomed me. I am from Gwalior. I feared my parents wouldn't allow me to leave the place. So I told them I'm going to Mumbai to study engineering. I'm proud of my struggle because what it has taught me, no school would have been able to. You have to create your own path. It's a different



● ● ●  
**IF THERE'S A RUMOUR LINKING ME TO A CO-STAR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT IN MY HANDS...TECHNICALLY, I'M SINGLE. I AM A ROMANTIC PERSON BUT CURRENTLY ONLY INTERESTED IN WORK**  
● ● ●

**OKAY, TELL US ABOUT JANHVI.**

She's a great co-star. I've done just one schedule of Dostana 2 with her. Our next schedule is in London, the last one was in Patiala. I'm looking forward to starting the second one. Janhvi's a quiet person but once she opens up, you want to spend time with her. That's a quality she has. We bonded well during our shoot. I hope people like Dostana 2.

Once you're content, your journey ends. I relish my journey. I'm glad I'm still not content. I am constantly working. Every second for me counts. The smallest of things and the biggest of things matter to me.

**ARE YOU A NATURAL OR METHOD ACTOR?**

Most of my films have been comedies. So they didn't require method. For Love Aaj Kal, I was living

big time here and outside. Initially, you don't get the chances. You don't get to meet the right people as you don't know anyone in the industry. It's a task to crack it or be in the same room as the star kids. It's always difficult for an outsider in terms of getting his/her first break and then to get the second and the third. But at the end of the day, your hard work and talent sees you

journey for each person. I value everything because it hasn't come easy to me. Today, filmmakers are just a phone call away. Earlier getting their numbers was also a big deal.

**DO YOU FEAR SUCCESS CAN GO TO YOUR HEAD?**

No. I've always believed in myself. When I was a struggler that confidence was rubbished by people saying, 'Arre paagal hai'.

Today it can be seen as 'overconfidence'. When people you trust begin to think like that about you it's sad. At the end of the day we're just humans, not 'stars'.

**YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF A SMALL-TOWN BUT YOU CANNOT TAKE THE SMALL TOWN OUT OF THE BOY. DOES THAT HOLD TRUE FOR YOU?**

Yeah. I'm a complete small-town boy. I don't know whether that's good or derogatory. I've seen so much of life because I'm from Gwalior. I didn't live in a pampered bubble. Being a small-town boy has been my strength.

**WILL YOU DO FILMS BEYOND THE ROM-COM GENRE?**

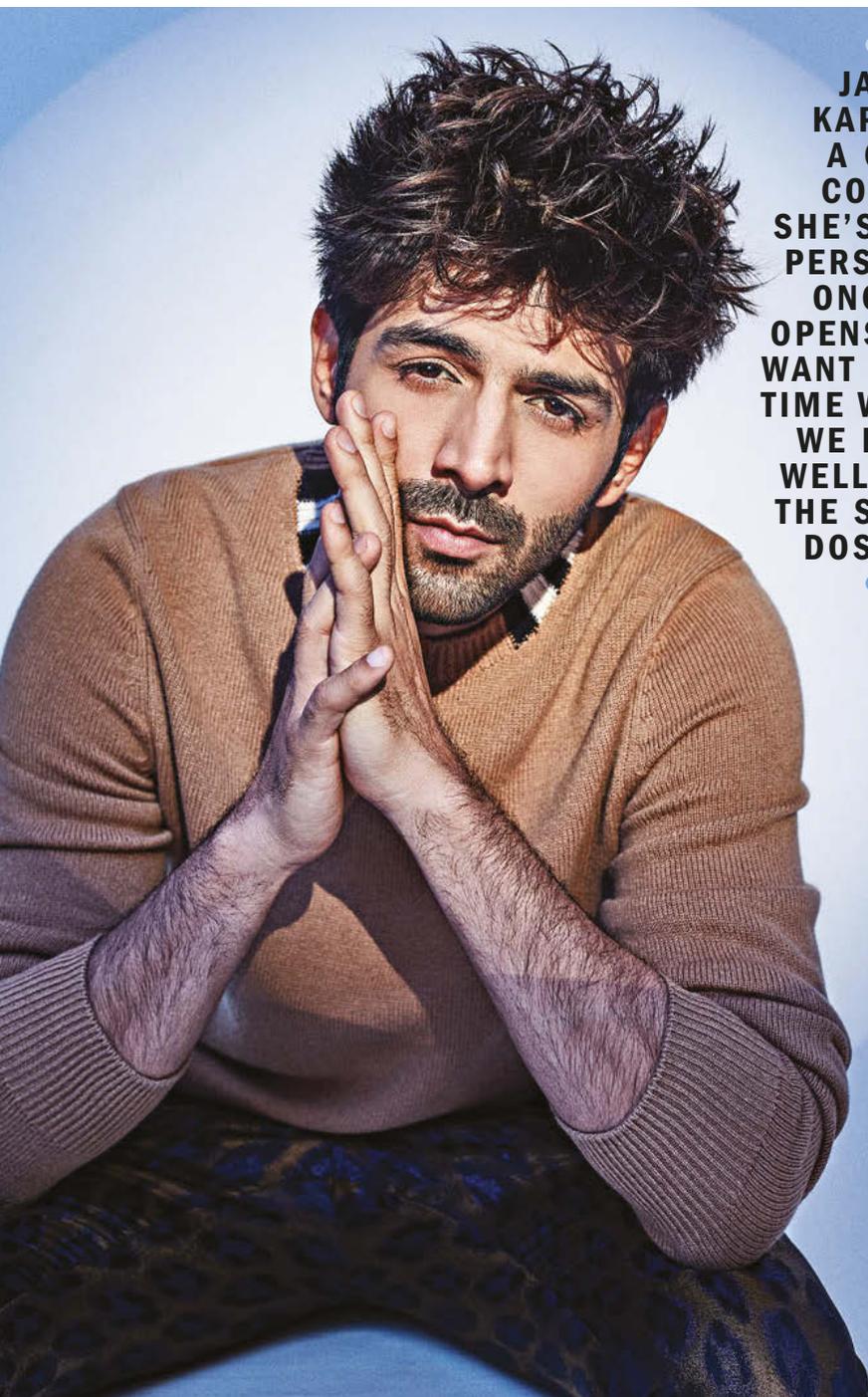
I want to do action after

this. I love thrillers. My favourite series is Breaking Bad. I'm a diehard fan of Game Of Thrones. I'd love to do something like that. But I love comedies as well. I loved playing Sonu (Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety), Guddu Shukla from Luka Chuppi or Chintu Tyagi from Pati Patni Aur Woh and now Raghu and Veer from Love Aaj Kal.

I also want to do negative characters as in films like Baazigar and Darr. I want to attempt all genres.

**YOU'RE GOING TO START BHOOOL BHULAIYAA NOW...**

I can't wait to go on the sets of Bhool Bhulaiyaa. Anees (Bazmee) sir and the team have had several meetings already. There's great energy amongst us. Dostana



● ● ●  
**JANHVI  
KAPOOR'S  
A GREAT  
CO-STAR.  
SHE'S A QUIET  
PERSON. BUT  
ONCE SHE  
OPENS UP, YOU  
WANT TO SPEND  
TIME WITH HER.  
WE BONDED  
WELL DURING  
THE SHOOT OF  
DOSTANA 2**  
● ● ●



↓  
With Janhvi Kapoor



↑  
With Ananya Panday

2 is something, which will push the envelope.

**YOU'VE BECOME THE GO-TO-GUY FOR FILMMAKERS. HOW DO YOU ANALYSE THAT?**

I'm happy about it. For the first time in the last two years, I'm facing date issues. For the last eight years, I had all the dates available and they were hardly needed. I'm gathering momentum. But I don't want to hamper the quality of my work. Box-office figures should be maintained along with your calibre as an actor. ■



# WE'RE ALL IN THIS *together*

**WHILE NEHA DHUPIA IS ENJOYING HER TIME AT HOME, SHE CAUTIONS THAT SOCIAL DISTANCING IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR. RAHUL GANGWANI REPLAYS THE CHAT**

The coronavirus pandemic has got the entire world to a standstill.

The film industry, which works round the clock, has also been forced to shut shop.

Shootings, events, endorsements... all have been cancelled. Our busy stars have also pressed the pause button to enjoy this forced downtime. We caught up with wonder woman Neha Dhupia, who's making the most of this family time with husband Angad Bedi and daughter Mehr. And even as she's enjoying the small joys at home, she cautions her fans and readers about the big threat that the pandemic poses...

## **WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU PANICKED ABOUT WHEN THE LOCKDOWN WAS ANNOUNCED?**

We're not panicking about anything yet. I'm just focusing on the positive. I'm a little worried about daily wage workers, who don't have access to basics like food and shelter. I'm more than happy to help. I've already been helping in whichever way possible. What I worry about is that as a nation we



need to understand the intensity of the situation and practise social distancing. I've seen some worrying videos that surfaced on WhatsApp and even on the news. I hope we

understand the need for social distancing.

## **HOW ARE YOU KEEPING YOURSELF CALM DURING QUARANTINE?**

The only way to get past the quarantine is to stay calm and

**AFTER THE LOCKDOWN ENDS, I WANT TO TAKE MEHR TO THE PARK OR MAYBE FOR A SWIM. WE'RE CRAVING FOR PARK TIME AND POOL TIME. I HOPE THIS ENDS SOON**

positive. There's a huge blessing in being around your loved ones. I'm focusing on that.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PASTIME WHILE YOU'RE AT HOME?**

Angad and I enjoy doing things together for our daughter Mehr as parents. We watch shows when she's asleep. We catch up on reading or check what's going on online. I spend time in the kitchen because I'm trying to work on my cooking skills. (Smiles) It's a bit weak.

**NAME THREE DISHES THAT CAN BE COOKED QUICKLY...**

Gluten-free pancakes, gluten-free cookies, beet

**PEOPLE NEED TO STAY AWAY FROM EACH OTHER... I DON'T KNOW HOW CLOSE WE ARE TO FINDING A CURE. BUT I BELIEVE SOCIAL DISTANCING IS SOMETHING THAT WILL GET US PAST THIS**

yoghurt. I do a little cooking for my daughter. That goes without saying.

**ONE CHANGE YOU'VE MADE IN YOUR ROUTINE THAT WILL CONTINUE EVEN WHEN THE LOCKDOWN ENDS...**

We haven't really changed our routine. Angad and I are early risers anyway. We





**ANGAD AND I ENJOY DOING THINGS FOR OUR DAUGHTER MEHR. WE WATCH SHOWS WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP. WE CATCH UP ON READING... I'M TRYING TO WORK ON MY COOKING SKILLS**

← Family time with husband Angad Bedi and daughter Mehr

follow a schedule best suited to our daughter. We're sticking to that. We don't want to add more changes in her life. It's bad enough that she can't step out. We don't want her to realise that and miss it.

**NAME THE SHOWS/ MOVIES YOU'VE BEEN BINGE WATCHING.**

We watched Special OPS (Neeraj Pandey's espionage thriller series), Unbelievable (American series on serial rapes in Washington and Colorado) and The Crown (the series follows the political rivalries and romance of Queen Elizabeth II). I can't believe I took so long to start watching The Crown. I'm glad I saved it for now. It's a great show to watch during quarantine.

**THE LOCKDOWN HAS FORCED PEOPLE**

**TO STAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA LONGER. ARE YOU SPENDING MORE TIME ON YOUR PHONE TOO?**

Actually no. I'm not spending much time on the phone. I'm not born for workout videos. I believe it takes away from my workout. Also, there's so much to do when you have a child at home. My hands are full.

**THIS WAS AN UNPLANNED QUARANTINE. GIVEN A CHOICE WHOM WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR LOCKDOWN WITH. WHAT WOULD YOU STOCK ON?**

I'd still want to be in quarantine with my husband and daughter. I'd like to have big play area, for our daughter to run around – something we don't have now. I'd also like to have a running track because I miss my



jog. And of course an endless supply of food and OTT entertainment.

**WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU PLAN TO DO ONCE THE LOCKDOWN IS OVER?**

Just focus on the simple pleasures in life. Take Mehr to the park or maybe for a swim. We're craving for park time and pool time. I hope it ends at the correct time. Even if it means we need to stay in for more time to stay safe, I'm up for it.

**RECALL THE MEMES YOU SAW ONLINE RELATED TO THE SHUTDOWN...**

I saw a funny meme about husbands and wives not getting along. The wife tells the husband, "You do the *jhadu* and I'll do the cooking because we're 'maid' for each other."

**WHAT BIT OF ADVICE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE TO YOUR FANS?**

People are not taking social distancing seriously. People need to stay

away from each other. They need to keep washing their hands, they need to go for a check-up if they have symptoms. Information about coronavirus should be circulated as a certain section of society is still unaware. I don't know how close we are to finding a cure. But I believe social distancing is something that will get us past this. We have to be patient. Stay home. Stay safe. ■

# Escape to fantasy

**NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI TELLS SUMAN SHARMA  
ACTING HAS BEEN CATHARTIC FOR HIM**

PHOTOGRAPHS: PRATHAMESH BANDEKAR

**N**awazuddin Siddiqui was perhaps a chameleon in his previous birth. That possibly explains his penchant for immersing himself into his characters. An unassuming presence off-screen, the effect is totally reversed on screen. You can't take your eyes off him. His gestures say a thousand words and he steals the scene even with his silences. He can be the legendary writer Saadat Manto, Shiv Sena supremo

Bal Thackeray as well as the fictional crime lord, Ganesh Gaitonde, with equal ease. Who would have thought that the no-name actor, who was beaten up by the police in *Sarfarosh* (1999), would one day rub shoulders with top stars and make them a fan of his talent? But showbiz dreams are made up of such improbabilities.

I first met Nawaz on the set of *Gangs Of Wasseypur* (2012). He had made waves as a maverick police inspector in Sujoy Ghosh's



Motichoor Chaknachoor

**“TEN YEARS AGO, LOOKING AT MY FACE, PEOPLE USED TO REJECT ME FOR ROMANTIC ROLES. NOW, FILMMAKERS BELIEVE I’M CAPABLE OF SUCH CHARACTERS. WHY SHOULD I SAY NO TO THEM? THIS IS THE RIGHT AGE TO DO IT. I CAN’T DO ROMANTIC ROLES AT 60”**



Kahaani (2012) and was basking in his newfound success. Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Wasseypur escalated that even further and made him a household name. The National School of Drama graduate since then has wowed viewers with a medley of portrayals in hordes of films. Aamir Khan's Talash, Salman Khan's Kick and Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Varun Dhawan's Badlapur, Shah Rukh Khan's Raees and Ketan Mehta's critically acclaimed Manjhi – The Mountain Man comprise just a few of those.

**N**ow, hurrying through numerous interviews in a five-star hotel in Mumbai, he seems to be the same person I first met. Ask him whether he's changed and he grins. "A person has to change with time. But your honesty shouldn't get corrupted, otherwise you'll lose out as an actor. I believe I've been able to retain my truthfulness and integrity." Back in the '80s, an actor like him would have been relegated to just art cinema. But Nawaz today is thriving in the mass space. His last release, Debamitra



like Munna Michael for instance, which had him co-starring with Tiger Shroff. He counters saying all actors work for money. "Signing a film purely for money doesn't mean you have to give less than your best as an actor. I've given my 100 per cent and more to such films too." He adds that variety helps him grow as an actor. Or else the industry is quick to typecast actors.

It's said that there are two kinds of actors. One type is always in character and the other can snap out of it at will. What's Nawaz's approach towards his roles? He states that it depends from role to role. He needs to know the mindset of the character he's portraying. For that he works closely with the director, as well as the writer of the film.

"I listen to everyone's views and pick out a common element from them. Basically, my aim is to start thinking like my character. The rest follows," he says. He gives the example of bringing to life the late Balasaheb Thackeray in Abhijit Panse's Thackeray. He said he didn't want to mimic the politician. He wanted to convey the essence of his personality. "I wanted to look like him but not imitate him. It was a challenge to be able to portray his charismatic persona. Seeing the response, it seems to be well-received."

Sometimes a role does get to him and interferes with his off-screen life. For instance, Nandita Das' Manto acted as a sort of truth serum. "After doing Manto, I wanted to speak

“**SATYAJIT RAY ROCKED THE WHOLE WORLD SITTING IN KOLKATA. I DON'T NEED TO WORK IN HOLLYWOOD TO PROVE THAT I'M A GOOD ACTOR. WHEN I AM GETTING GOOD ROLES HERE, WHY SHOULD I GO TO HOLLYWOOD?**”

Biswal's Motichoor Chaknachoor, for example, saw him as a leading man opposite Athiya Shetty. "I don't understand what mainstream cinema is. I'm doing the work that I wanted to do," he cites modestly.

He agrees that he does not have to struggle to get films now. He states that he wanted to do romantic roles from the beginning of his career. He reminds you that apart from romancing Athiya, he has also romanced Sanya Malhotra in Ritesh Batra's Photograph. He smiles, "Ten years ago, looking at my face, people used to reject me for such roles. Now, filmmakers think I'm capable of such characters. Why should I say no to them? This is the right age to do it. I can't do romantic roles at 60." He's amazed when people accuse him of doing films strictly for money. Something



the truth however bitter it was," he laughs. "I had to face many difficulties because of that. I realised that if you want to live peacefully you have to lie sometimes."

He does comedies because they give him relief from hardcore roles. Interestingly, comedy is considered a tough nut to crack for actors but Nawaz bounces to a different beat. He jokes that films where he has worked the hardest on his characters have mostly not done well at the box-office. "So it's better to take up something, which has more chances of earning money," he chuckles. More seriously, comedy helps him maintain a balance. "An actor can easily fall into a comfort zone. It's good to keep changing genres."

**T**he talk veers to his recent web series *Sacred Games*. Celebrated author Paulo Coelho had even recommended *Sacred Games* to his Twitter followers calling Nawazuddin a 'great actor'. In the web series, Nawaz plays Ganesh Gaitonde, a Mumbai don with a God-complex. His dialogue, "Kabhi kabhi lagta hai apun hi Bhagwan hai (sometimes I believe I am God)!" has acquired cult status. Based on Vikram Chandra's book of the same name, it centres around police officer Sartaj Singh (Saif Ali Khan), trying to save the city from an attack. Gaitonde tips him off before killing himself. Nawaz is all praise for his co-star. "Saif has balanced his role well.



Hollywood to prove that I'm a good actor. When I am getting good roles here, why should I go to Hollywood?"

Cinema is often called an escape door from life's mundanities. Nawaz says that's why he became an actor in the first place. Acting helps him escape the real world into a world of fantasy. "You face a lot of lies in the real world. In cinema too, you put on a mask and live a character's life truthfully for some time," he explains.

He adds it's important for an actor to have emotional support in the form of family and friends, who help him stay grounded. Nawaz and his wife Anjali



**“**  
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**YOU HAVE TO LIE**  
**SOMETIMES**

He experiments a lot. He has experimented in *Laal Kaptaan* as well. That's why I like him."

Part one of the series (co-directed by Anurag Kashyap, and Vikramaditya Motwane) was much appreciated but part second (co-directed by Kashyap and Neeraj Ghaywan) didn't match up to the hype. But it won Nawaz worldwide notice so much so that offers from Hollywood have come his way. But Nawaz is in no hurry to go there. "Satyajit Ray rocked the whole world sitting in Kolkata. I don't need to work in

have two kids, son Yaani and daughter Shora. He admits he should be spending more time with his family. "If I reach home early, it's a surprise for my wife," smiles the actor who has Kushan Nandi's *Dimple Kidnap Ho Gai Hai* (DKHGH) and *Mysskin's* Tamil film in the pipeline. "When my daughter complains, my wife tells her about the struggles we've been through, to enjoy these better days. Kids should know about your hardships. So that they don't take things for granted," he reflects.

True that. ■

“I  
WANT  
TO  
HUG  
MY  
PARENTS”

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**RADHIKA MADAN TELLS SUMAN SHARMA THAT  
THE CORONA PANDEMIC HAS MADE HER LOVE  
HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS ALL THE MORE**

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**D**elhi girl, Radhika Madan, first won notice with her show Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi. She made her feature film debut with Vishal Bhardwaj's comedy drama Pataakha in 2018. Last year, she appeared in Vasan Bala's award-winning action comedy Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota. Both feisty and feminine, she packed a punch in her action-oriented performance. Recently, she was seen alongside Irrfan Khan in the drama Angrezi Medium. Though the film was enjoying good-word-of-mouth, it had to be pulled out of the theatres due to the lockdown. The film has now dropped on the OTT platform and has only won her more fans. We caught up with the young actress, who's learning newer skills during her time at home...



With her parents

**HOW ARE YOU STAYING POSITIVE IN THIS DIFFICULT HOUR?**

It's important to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. What we don't realise is that our immunity is related to our mental health. Of course, we should be aware about what's happening around. But I also keep myself disconnected. I make sure that I learn something new every day. I am thankful for the blessings I enjoy – food, health... That's how I keep myself positive.

**WHAT ARE YOU ENJOYING THE MOST ABOUT THIS QUARANTINE PERIOD?**

Usually, we keep complaining that we don't have time to do the things we want. Now we have all the time. I always wanted to learn tap dancing. I'm learning it online. I'm learning to play the piano. I'm cooking, writing, reading and doing yoga as well.

**ONE MOVIE OR SHOW, YOU'VE BEEN BINGE WATCHING.**

I watched the Oscar-winning Parasite. I also saw Angrezi Medium with my house help yesterday. We enjoyed ourselves.

**AFTER THE LOCKDOWN ENDS, WHO ARE THE TWO PEOPLE YOU'D WANT TO MEET?**

I'd want to meet my family. I want to hug my parents. I'm here and my parents are in Delhi. As soon as the lockdown is over, I'll fly across to meet them.

**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT FROM THIS CRITICAL PERIOD?**

I've learnt to be thankful for everything. People behave as if they have all the power in the world. At the end of the day, it just comes down to washing your hands and sitting at home. No matter how rich or powerful you are. Everyone is at home doing nothing, just making sure they're eating well and washing their hands. This time has made me realise the value of family and friends.

**WHICH IS THE ONE BOOK/SERIES/ FILM, YOU'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND TO YOUR FANS?**

I'm reading The Goose Is Out by Osho. It's a lovely book.

**ANGREZI MEDIUM HAS RELEASED ON THE DIGITAL PLATFORM. WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE ARE YOU EXPECTING?**

Unfortunately, the lockdown happened when

**“ I CAN'T SAY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER THE PANDEMIC. BUT I HOPE WE REALISE THE VALUE OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN OUR LIVES. AND WE GET OUT OF THIS AS BETTER PEOPLE, MORE AWARE ABOUT THINGS ”**



Angrezi Medium released. The film is far bigger than our personal interest in it. You make a film to entertain the audience. So, our main motto was to entertain people. That's the reason we released it digitally. We want people to see the film with their families. We just want to put a smile on their faces. The response I've received is humbling. It's positive and encouraging.

**WHAT KINDS OF ROLES ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING?**

I want to do whatever excites me. I don't want to live the same character twice. That's the reason Angrezi was different

from Pataakha. Shiddat is going to be different from Angrezi. I want to explore different shades of me as an actor.

**TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT SHIDDAT.**

It's a love story with Sunny Kaushal directed by Kunal Deshmukh. I play a swimmer in it.

**WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR BOLLYWOOD POST THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?**

I can't say what's going to happen after the pandemic. But I hope we realise the value of the important things in our lives. And we get out of this as better people, more aware about ourselves. ■

# DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY

**ALAYA  
FURNITUREWALA**  
BELIEVES IN  
MAKING THE MOST  
OF HER LOCKDOWN  
EVEN AS SHE PINES  
FOR THE SUNLIGHT,  
WRITES **VEDANSHI  
PATHAK**



**Alaya Furniturewala** made her debut in *Jawaani Jaaneman* starring Saif Ali Khan and Tabu. The pretty girl did a commendable job in her first film and was welcomed warmly by the audience. Her effervescence and easy presence on screen won her extra brownie points. Much to her glee. Alaya is currently spending time with her family during the ongoing lockdown due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. Here she chats with Filmfare about the highs and the lows of quarantine. Read on...

#### TELL US ONE THING YOU'RE PANICKING ABOUT DURING THE LOCKDOWN?

Our country has a large population. Sometimes, social distancing isn't even an option, for example in the slums. Here, people live in close proximity. It's hard to maintain distance. There's only so much you can do to control the pandemic. That's worrisome.

#### WHAT TROUBLE HAVE YOU FACED DURING QUARANTINE?

I'm staying with my mom (actor Pooja Bedi) and my brother (Omar). I was travelling within India a while ago. When I returned, the city got into a lockdown. I haven't been able to meet my father (entrepreneur Farhan Furniturewala), my half-brother (Zaan), my stepmother (Laila Khan), my grandparents ... even my Nana (actor Kabir Bedi), although I did see him before the lockdown. Also, keeping good mental health is a challenge as you're enclosed all the time. You can't step out in the sunlight. That does take a



**IF I STAY INACTIVE FOR TOO LONG, IT BOTHERS ME. JUST TAKING A SHOWER, FEELING FRESH, WEARING NICE CLOTHES, DOING MY HAIR... THOUGH I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO, MAKES ME FEEL GOOD**

With mom Pooja Bedi



toll on your mental health. But you have to be aware of that and do things to lift your spirits. Having said that, we're fortunate we have proper food to eat and the company of our family.

#### HOW DO YOU KEEP CALM?

I'm trying to keep myself busy as much as possible. That's helping. Even in my regular life, if I stay inactive for too long, it bothers me. Just taking a shower, feeling fresh, wearing nice clothes, doing my hair... though I have nowhere to go, makes me feel good.

#### WHAT DO YOU INDULGE IN BEING AT HOME?

I love drawing, spending time with my mom and brother – something I don't usually get to do. I also cook when I get the chance. I work out too. But I don't love doing that. That's something I don't really want to do. It's something I have to.

#### THREE QUICK DISHES YOU CAN PREPARE DURING THE LOCKDOWN...

Pasta with readymade sauce. Maggi noodles and eggs are quick and easy to prepare. Also sandwiches are quick fixes.

#### THE LOCKDOWN HAS FORCED PEOPLE TO STAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA LONGER. IS THAT TRUE FOR YOU TOO?

Yes, it's a bit more than usual. But I do get frustrated with my phone. The worst thing to happen was that my phone gave up on me. My main phone has become dysfunctional. Now, I'm using my backup phone. So even if I want to be on my phone, I can't be on it for too long because it's slow. Generally, I don't

like being on my phone too much. This was the Universe's way of saying, 'You don't like it, you don't do it'. So yeah, be careful what you wish for.

#### RECALL SOME MEMES YOU SAW ONLINE RELATED TO THE SHUTDOWN.

I saw a meme that said people are making Dalgona Coffee like it's gonna be the cure for the coronavirus. It was funny and had a personal touch to it. There was one by Filmfare too, a video of me doing kathak chakkars in my dance class. It showed getting out of home after this lockdown would be like... It was related to me so I liked it even more.

#### TWO NEW THINGS YOU PLAN TO LEARN DURING THE LOCKDOWN...

I want to learn to cook well. I was studying in New York, so I can survive on my own cooking. I can cook eggs and pastas. Recently, I learnt to prepare protein pancakes. But I want to learn authentic cooking. Also, I'd want to keep up the discipline of working out at home every single day. I'm not a workout fan. I like doing Pilates, dancing, gymnastics... as exercise. I must adhere to some discipline when it comes to working out at home.

#### HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED ANY GAMES TO AMUSE YOURSELF?

I'm not a game person. But I'm 'house partying' a lot. I can talk to my friends all over the world and even in India. You can chat with many people at once on this video app. It's fun. ■



SAAND KI AANKH



MARDAANI 2



TUMHARI SULU



RAAZI



THAPPAD



QUEEN

CHHAPAAK

# WOMEN ≠ STOP

THE HINDI FILM HEROINE IS GETTING MORE CHANCES TO BE A HERO THAN EVER BEFORE. DEVESH SHARMA ROUNDS UP THE EVIDENCE

You don't have to google the fact that Hindi films have always been male centric. Heroines, till very recently, were considered interchangeable. The leading man was the king of all he surveyed. He was the 'sun', who made sure everything revolved around him. Especially, the film's story. Mothers made his favourite gajar ka halwa even when carrots weren't in season, sisters wept with joy when they tied a rakhi on him, the wife was a charnon ki dasi of sorts, ready for any kind of sacrifice. Bullets missed him by miles, he survived every kind of disaster. And if, God forbid, he died, it was for a heroic cause. And he always cared more for his best friend than for his beloved.

That kind of onscreen power sometimes went to a male star's head.

From turning up at evening for a morning shoot, to cutting a co-star's lines, recommending his favourite heroine... we have heard of many such horror stories. Pay parity too was a sore point, what with the heroines getting around a tenth of what the leading man was paid. It's not that women didn't get the roles they deserved. Madhubala in Mughal-e-Azam (1960) was the fulcrum of the film, so was Rekha in Khoobsurat (1980) or Sridevi in Chandni (1989). But such roles were few and far between. At the time when Amitabh Bachchan was ruling the roost and Smita Patil was known as the queen bee of art cinema, getting author-backed roles in films like Bhumika and Umbartha, she was given a lesser role in Namak Halal. And she wasn't indispensable to the film the way Bachchan was. Strangely, women on screen were never shown pursuing a vocation. Their choice of career was mostly being a homemaker. This cut-across both class and religious divide. Satyajit Ray showed the challenges a homemaker faces when she goes out to work in his Bengali film Mahanagar (1963). A forgotten Humkadam (1980), starring Raakhee and Parikshat Sahni, was made as a Hindi remake. These were rare outings. However, things seem to be turning for the better of late. Maybe, it's because more and more women are breaking the glass ceiling in real life too. Perhaps it's because filmmakers have realised that today's generation would certainly like to see films about empowered women. Call it art imitating life or whatever... we're surely seeing a spurt in heroine-oriented films of late.

PIKU



DEEPIKA  
PADUKONE

CHHAPAAK



**WITH** Shoojit Sircar's Piku (2015), Deepika Padukone got her first heroine-oriented role, which pitted her against a cantankerous father played by Amitabh Bachchan. Given the formidable presence of Amitabh and Irrfan Khan, we can't truly say it was her film alone. Yet she excelled as a woman, who's modern in her choices yet old-world in her commitment to family. Meghna Gulzar's Chhapaak (2019) took Deepika leagues further. Here was a top-rated commercial heroine, arguably one of the most beautiful faces on screen, playing an acid-attack survivor. It was the bravest decision she has taken in her career. A stunning superstar was willing to sport a scarred face. As said earlier, she played a survivor. That means coming to terms with what you have. The best line from the film is when someone tells her that she's looking so happy. "Ab khush hoon toh kya karun," she retorts telling us that life isn't just made of tears. It's these little nuggets that made her role so powerful.

# ANUBHAV

Sinha's recently released *Thappad* addressed domestic violence. A husband (Pavail Gulati) strikes his wife (Taapsee Pannu) in a fit of misdirected rage - in a one-off incident. The film underlines that he cannot do it even once. The wife stands tall, both defiant and vulnerable, ready to leave her husband's house because she can't tolerate the disrespect. She's the everywoman in the film. The metaphor of thousands, nay millions of women, who suffer abuse - in some form or the other - daily. While most have lauded the film, some found the cause and the conclusion absurd. That it was just one slap after all. But that's the point. Even once is not legitimate. Violence is just not okay - no matter what the intensity or intention - contrary to the justifications that Kabir Singh may have provided. Taapsee Pannu is the unlikely hero of the film. She cannot carry on with a man whom she no longer loves and respects. Taapsee coincidentally was the protagonist in another film championing the rights of women. Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's *Pink* (2016) talked about sexual violence against women and underlined the resounding mandate that when a woman says no, it means no. In *Pink*, the violence was more graphic, more in your face. It also pointed out that law, often, isn't kind to victims of rape or abuse. Amitabh Bachchan's character took over the film in the climax. But the focus of the film was very much on the three victims played by Taapsee Pannu, Kirti Kulhari and Andrea Tariang. However, the point is not that actresses are only portraying roles that champion women rights. Taapsee herself played a scheming vixen in last year's *Badla*. She played an anti-heroine in the Sujoy Ghosh film. That was a rare breed indeed.



THAPPAD



PINK



BADLA

TAAPSEE  
PANNU

**THAPPAD  
ADDRESSED  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.  
TAAPSEE PANNU'S  
EVERYWOMAN IN THE FILM,  
A METAPHOR OF THOUSANDS,  
WHO SUFFER ABUSE**

**A** rare animal is a woman playing a hardcore cop on screen. While Vijayashanti played tough cop roles down South, a Hindi film equivalent was hard to find, till Rani Mukerji came along in *Mardaani* (2014). While she traded punches with a drug dealer, who also ran a child prostitute racket in the first film, in *Mardaani 2* (2019) she played a cat-and-mouse game with a serial rapist and killer. Her very Bachchan-like beating-up of the culprit in the end was goosebump-inducing. That's what the viewers wanted every rapist to go through, police brutality or not. The women audience particularly felt vindicated.

**MARDAANI 2**



**RANI  
MUKERJI**

**MEGHNA** Gulzar gave Alia Bhatt one of the best roles of her career in *Raazi* (2018). It's an adaptation of Harinder Sikka's novel, *Calling Sehmat*, a true account of an Indian Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) agent. Alia plays an Indian spy infiltrating the household of a Pakistani army general and relaying information to Indian authorities in the '70s. We've grown up on spy films, starring glamorous men pulling off improbable stunts. But here we have a petite girl, leading a double life, trying her utmost to fit in. The audience's acceptance of a female spy in a patriotic film, was another indicator that women aren't just mere arm candy in our films anymore. They can fill in cinema halls as much as their male counterparts. Also, Alia's role, as the jealous girlfriend Safeena, in Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy*, was so powerful that it threatened to take over the film revolving around backstreet rappers.

**RAAZI**

**GULLY BOY**

**ALIA  
BHATT**





TANU WEDS MANU 2



PANGA



MANIKARNIKA: THE QUEEN OF JHANSI



QUEEN

**PANGA RAISED A PERTINENT QUESTION - DON'T WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO EXCEL AT SOMETHING JUST FOR THEMSELVES? IT'S DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE SUCH A ROLE WRITTEN A DECADE AGO**

## KANGANA RANAUT

# THANKS

to Baahubali, the mood in Bollywood has veered towards costume dramas. Our macho stars are hell-bent on out-muscling each other in historical dramas. In such a scenario, Kangana Ranaut took up the gauntlet of doing a film on Rani Laxmibai. Manikarnika: The Queen Of Jhansi (co-directed by Radha Krishna Jagarlamudi and Kangana Ranaut) was a grand celebration of the brave warrior queen. The action scenes were a gorefest. The fiery intensity of its protagonist made you root for her. Kangana faced an uphill struggle making the film. Her director left the film and so did the initial team. She took up the reins, brought in another set of technicians and pulled off her labour of love. It speaks volumes of the rising level of commercial clout women have today in our industry. Kangana has always managed to grab women-centric roles, be it in Aanand L Rai's Tanu Weds Manu part 1 and 2, Vikas Bahl's Queen or Prakash Kovelamudi's quirky Judgementall Hai Kya. But her role in Panga was different. She played a mother, who wants to get back to the sport she once excelled in - kabaddi. She played a middle-class working woman, juggling the twin responsibilities of her job and looking after her family. Initially, she takes up the practice to satisfy her son's whim. But somewhere along the way, she starts doing it for her own self. The film raised a pertinent question - don't women have a right to excel at something just for themselves? It's difficult to imagine such a self-assertive role been written a decade ago. Perhaps the fact that the film is made by a sensitive woman director, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, has got something to do with it.

**THIS** story has to mention Vidya Balan. She's the pioneer of this trend on screen. R. Balki's *Paa* (2009) had her playing single mother to a son suffering from progeria - Amitabh Bachchan. Milan Luthria's *The Dirty Picture* (2011) had her play a character modelled on the late South star, Silk Smitha. Vidya shed inhibitions and carried the film on her shoulders. Sujoy Ghosh's *Kahaani* (2012) saw her as a pregnant avenging angel. Suresh Triveni's *Tumhari Sulu* (2017) had her as an enthusiastic housewife -turned- radio jockey for a late-night show. In *Mission Mangal* (2019), she plays a scientist at ISRO, who uses hacks she's learnt as a homemaker to send a probe to Mars. It was a far-fetched approach. But we still believed in it because of her flawless performance. Shattering the stereotype of the conventional Hindi heroine, Vidya Balan is a genre by herself.

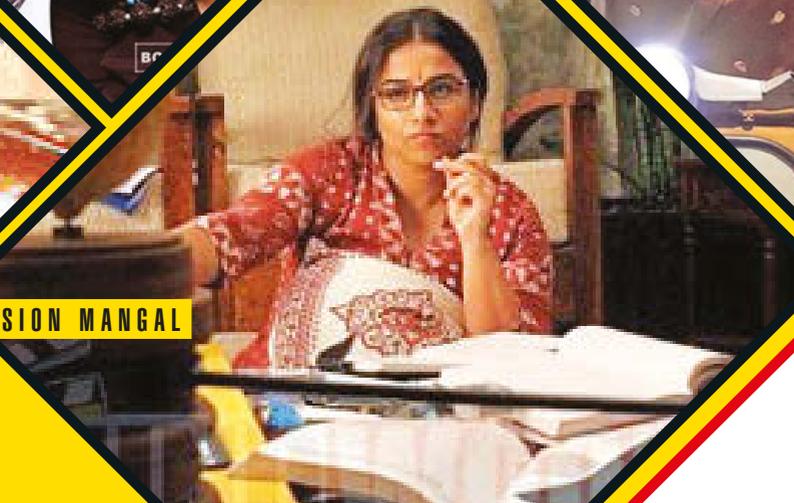
**THE DIRTY PICTURE**

**VIDYA  
BALAN**

**PAA**

**TUMHARI SULU**

**MISSION MANGAL**



**BHUMI** Pednekar started her career playing a 'heavyweight' character in Sharat Katariya's Dum Laga Ke Haisha (2015). Our heroines are supposed to have hour-glass figures and hence seeing a woman with girth was a revelation. In her most recent film, Tushar Hiranandani's Saand Ki Aankh (2019), Bhumi plays a 70-plus woman, who along with her sister-in-law, (Taapsee Pannu) becomes a champion pistol shooter. The story was based on the life of two real-life 'Revolver Dadis'. In a country where fairness is considered synonymous with beauty, Bhumi played a dusky character in Bala (2019). Heroines in the past would have been wary of accepting such a role. Yes, the future seems to be truly female.

**HEROINES ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE HOUR-GLASS FIGURES... SEEING A WOMAN WITH GIRTH IN DUM LAGA KE HAISHA WAS A REVELATION**

**NEXT CHANGE**

Here's looking at what the future holds for our heroines

**BHUMI PEDNEKAR**



SAAND KI AANKH



**TAAPSEE PANNU**

➔ **RASHMI ROCKET**  
Will be playing an athlete



**DEEPIKA PADUKONE**

➔ **MAHABHARATA**  
The epic will be told from Draupadi's point of view



**VIDYA BALAN**

➔ **SHAKUNTALA DEVI BIOPIC**  
Will essay the proclaimed math genius



**BHUMI PEDNEKAR**

➔ **DURGAVATI**  
Will be playing a double role in this horror film



**ALIA BHATT**  
➔ **GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI**  
Will be essaying the role of a brothel madam



**KANGANA RANAUT**  
➔ **TEJAS**  
Will be flying high as an air force pilot soon

➔  
Gangubai Kathiawadi








PRESENTS

# D/code

A Times Group Initiative

CURATED BY  
KRUPA ZUBIN &  
ZUBIN ZAINUDDIN  
OF Z Z ARCHITECTS

# 2020

PARTNER  
**plusch**

An initiative by Home & Design TRENDS magazine, D/code is India's first curated luxury living show presented by the Times Group. Redefining the way we experience the luxe life, D/code brings together the best of design under one roof to create a platform that celebrates and recognises creative thought.

*D/code 2020, presented by Classic Marble Company, with Plusch as partners was once again curated by Krupa Zubin and Zubin Zainuddin of ZZ Architects. In its third edition, D/code showcased over 50 luxury design brands, specially curated events and power talk sessions. Here, we give you a glimpse of D/code 2020 held at Dome NSCI, Worli.*

1. Amit Shah of Classic Marble Company, Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia, Subodh Shah of Classic Marble Company, Sunil Wuthoo, Business Director, Worldwide Media 2. Sukriti Sharma of Plusch Living, Architect Krupa Zubin, Rati Sharma of Plusch Living, Architect Zubin Zainuddin, Rupal Maru of Plusch Living 3. Editor In Chief Ronitaa Italia, Amit Shah of CMC, MasterChef Sarah Todd, Architect Xerxes Talati 4. Yogesh Chaudhary of Jaipur Rugs 5. Miti Jhunjhunwala of MJ Label 6. Sunil Wuthoo, Business Director, Worldwide Media, Kekin Shah of C. Bhoigilal West-End, Sanjay Arora of D'Décor 7. Chef Pallavi Nigam 8. Hazel Wolf, Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia, Sonal Das, Project Head, D/code, Jurgen Wolf, Managing Director, Häfele 9. Guest with Falgun Shroff of Sources Unlimited, Architect Krishna Murthy, Aamir Fruitwala of AK International 10. Artist Radhika Rawat Chopra, Khanakh Sharma, Jai Sharma, Abhimanyu Chopra 11. Architect Ahmad Furniturewala, Architect Noshir Talati, Architect Xerxes Talati 12. Mandeep Singh of Emery Studio with guests 13. Architect Rooshad Shroff, Designer Ravi Vazirani, Architect Rajiv Parekh, Architect Annkur Khosla, Designer Iram Sultan, Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia 14. Guest, Dhruv Chandra of The Carpet Cellar, Purav Mehta of Sources Unlimited, Subodh Shah of CMC 15. Architect Zubin Zainuddin, Kekin Shah of C. Bhoigilal West-End, Architect Krupa Zubin with guests 16. Iram Habib, Designer Aakif Habib, Sonal Das, Project Head, D/code 17. Sanjay Arora of D'Décor 18. Hamendra Sharma of Plusch Living, Editor in Chief Ronitaa Italia 19. Designer Monica Chawla, Falgun Shroff, Sources Unlimited, Kekin Shah 20. Guests at the VIP lounge





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1. Sunil Wuthoo, Business Director, Worldwide Media, Editor In Chief Ronitaa Italia, Designer Shantanu Garg 2. Guests at Trends Excellence Awards 3. Designer Iram Sultan, Architect Rajeev Thakker, Artist Arzan Khambatta, Architect Anand Menon 4. Architect Nozer Wadia 5. Architect Husna Rahaman, Architect Zubin Master, Architect Annkur Khosla, Architect Rajeev Parekh, Designer Iram Sultan 6. Architect Shimul Javeri Kadri 7. Architect Abha Narain Lambah 8. Architect Seema Puri 9. Architect Zarir Mullan 10. Designer Shabnam Gupta 11. Architect Nandini Somaya Sampat 12. The Design Corridor curated by Home & Design TRENDS 13. Jaipur Rugs 14. D'Décor Blinds 15. Valcucine 16. C Bhogilal West-End 17. Sources Unlimited 18. Title Sponsor Classic Marble Company 19. The Souk of Emotions, curated by Designer Shantanu Garg in collaboration with six branding partners – Tejas, S&B Designs, Orvi Surfaces, Credo Planters, Chopra's, Attitudes Deco. 20. Amit Shah of CMC, Falgun Shroff of Sources Unlimited, Kunj Shah of Sources Unlimited 21. Sameer Wadekar, Architect Zaki Sheikh, Designer Jannat Vasi, Meghna Jain of Orvi Surfaces, Designer Shantanu Garg, guest, Designer Fenny Ganatra, guest, Designer Neesha Alwani 22. Designer Shantanu Garg, Designer Iram Sultan, Kunal Maniar 23. Title Sponsor Classic Marble Company 24. Partners Plusch Living



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# The good doctor

**DEVESH SHARMA** PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY BY LISTING DOWN HINDI FILMS, WHICH REVOLVED AROUND NOBLE PRACTITIONERS. A QUARANTINE MUST-WATCH...

Medicine is often dubbed as a noble profession. The present coronavirus crisis has once again proved why that's the case. It's the medical professionals, who're at the forefront of the battle against this fatal disease. They're combating it day and night despite the risks, going beyond the call of duty. Our films have always portrayed doctors and nurses in a good light. As a salute to the bravehearts fighting this war for us, we bring you a list of films where healthcare professionals exemplified the noble traits of their profession.

## DR. KOTNIS KI AMAR KAHANI (1946)

The film is based on the life of an Indian doctor, Dr Dwarkanath Kotnis, who worked in China during the Japanese invasion in World War II. He gave up his life treating his patients. The idealistic doctor, played by V Shantaram (also directed the film), learns that medical help is required by the Chinese, held under siege by the Japanese. He travels there at the height of the World War II. He meets a Chinese girl there, who becomes his assistant. In due course, they marry. Such is their zeal that on the wedding night itself, they set out to help the wounded. A plague sets in and in order to find a cure, the good doctor self-injects himself with it in order to develop anti-



**THE IDEALISTIC YOUNG DOCTOR IS PLAYED BY V SHANTARAM, WHO ALSO DIRECTED THE FILM. HE LEARNS THAT MEDICAL HELP IS REQUIRED BY THE CHINESE, HELD UNDER SIEGE BY THE JAPANESE**

bodies. He's able to develop a vaccine but later succumbs to the rigours of the profession. His young wife returns to India along with their infant son.



## ANURADHA (1960)

Hrishikesh Mukherjee's film is based on a short story written by Sachin Bhowmick. It's a love triangle between a young woman, who marries an idealistic doctor but later develops feelings for a rich friend. Dr Nirmal Chowdhary (Balraj Sahni), who loses his mother to illness decides to dedicate his life to serving the poor and moves to remote Nandgaon. A rich heiress, Anuradha (Leela Naidu), is smitten by him and wants to marry him, despite him warning her of the hardships she'd face in a remote village. Soon the toil of running a household without any help begins to take its toll. Her husband too cares more for his patients than for marital bliss. Chance gets her close to a rich man Deepak (Abhi Bhattacharya), whose injured girlfriend is operated upon by Nirmal. Anuradha longs to get back to the luxurious life of the city, only to change her mind at the last minute when she learns how high in esteem her husband is held by his peers. The story highlights the fact that doctors serving in remote areas sometimes have to sacrifice their family life for duty.

## DIL EK MANDIR (1963)

C.V. Sridhar's film is a love triangle between a doctor, his lover and the man she eventually marries. It was melodramatic in content but depicted the dedication of a doctor nevertheless. Dr Dharmesh (Rajendra Kumar) only lives to serve his patients. He's nursing a broken heart because the love of his life Sita (Meena Kumari) has married a rich businessman Ram (Raaj Kumar). Ram suffers from cancer and comes to Dharmesh's hospital for treatment. Sita isn't sure Ram is the right doctor for her husband as she fears his feelings might come in the way.



To prove to her that his zeal for curing patients is bigger than his feelings for her, he dedicatedly works day and night to find a line of treatment. He successfully operates on Ram but later dies out of exhaustion. Ram and Sita later erect a hospital in his memory.



## KHAMOSHI (1970)

This time it's not a doctor but a nurse, who is at the forefront. The film is based on the Bengali short story, titled Nurse Mitra, by noted Bengali writer, Ashutosh Mukherjee. It's a remake of director Asit Sen's own Bengali film, Deep Jwele Jaai (1959), starring Suchitra Sen. It's a poignant tale of a nurse's dedication towards curing mental patients and the breakdown she undergoes because of it. Nurse Radha (Waheeda Rahman) cures a patient Dev Kumar (Dharmendra), of his mental

instability through her affectionate care. She crosses professional boundaries and falls in love with him. She's heartbroken when he leaves the hospital. A new patient, Arun Choudury (Rajesh Khanna), suffering from acute mania gets admitted. Radha initially refuses to treat him but later relents. They both share memories from their past and Arun is gradually cured. Convinced that he too will eventually leave her, Radha suffers a mental breakdown. However, Arun promises to wait for her till she's cured. The film is remembered for Hemant Kumar's haunting song Tum pukar lo.

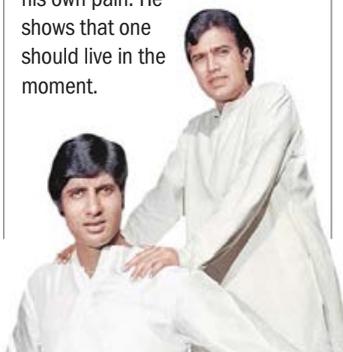
## ANAND (1971)

Hrishikesh Mukherjee's film depicted the friendship between a doctor and a cancer patient. It starred two superstars - the reigning one, Rajesh Khanna and the one in the making, Amitabh Bachchan. Dr Bhaskar (Bachchan) is a cancer specialist. Anand (Khanna), a man at the terminal stage of cancer, enters his life and both become friends. Anand lights up everyone's life in the short span that he has, hiding his own pain. He shows that one should live in the moment.



## EK DOCTOR KI MAUT (1990)

Tapan Sinha's film based on real-life events, is perhaps Pankaj Kapur's finest performance. He plays a researcher, who at the cost of his health and family, discovers a vaccine for leprosy. However, jealousy by those in power makes his life hell. His discovery is credited to American scientists. Redemption comes at last when a prominent foreign institute invites him to be on the panel of doctors researching other life-threatening diseases.



# Coronavirus *Consciousness*

UNCANNILY, SOME FILMS KIND OF PREDICTED THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. DEVESH SHARMA LISTS THEM FOR YOU...

**I**magination knows no boundaries. It can penetrate time and space and envisage imminent occurrences that leave us astonished with its accuracy. It's said that Morgan Robertson's novel, *The Wreck Of Titan*, published in 1898, predicted the sinking of the Titanic full 14 years before it actually happened. Dean Koontz's 1981 novel, *The Eyes Of Darkness*, mentions a Wuhan virus, which was developed as a bio-weapon. We trace some of the films and web series, which bear a close resemblance to the present coronavirus crisis...



## **VIRUS** (1980)

**DIRECTOR:**  
**KINJI FUKASAKU**

This Japanese movie mentions the outbreak of an 'Italian Flu', which has wiped out most of the world's population. Given that Italy leads the death count right now, the coincidence is mind-boggling. A group of survivors find sanctuary on

Antarctica. But the threat of a nuclear war, perpetuated by Russia looms large over the motley of virus-free individuals. The film was the costliest Japanese film made then. It boasted of several Hollywood faces as well.



## FATAL CONTACT: BIRD FLU IN AMERICA (2006)

DIRECTOR: **RICHARD PEARCE**

Some people predict a doomsday-like scenario. This depressing film shows all their grim predictions coming true. An American businessman, visiting China, is infected with a mutated bird flu virus. Soon, America and then the rest of the world is infected. There are food

shortages everywhere, rioting and looting become routine and up to 350 million people die worldwide. The end is bleak indeed. Just when the authorities think they have beaten the virus, news comes that a remote Angolan village is wiped out by a new mutation of the virus.



## PANDEMIC (2007)

DIRECTOR: **KINJI FUKASAKU**

At the beginning of this mini-series, two American surfers bid goodbye to each other at an Australian beach. They fail to notice the bird corpses lying around. On the way back on the flight, the surfer starts coughing up blood and dies before the plane lands. The other surfer is found dead in Australia. The authorities start

processing people to be put in quarantine until they can be evaluated for exposure. During their transfer to a remote place, one of the passengers escapes to complete a business deal. Unknowingly, he spreads the virus throughout Los Angeles. Outbreaks of the virus occur in other cities around the world as well.

## CONTAGION (2011)

DIRECTOR: **STEVEN SODERBERGH**



Even scientists agree that the portrayal of how the virus came about and how it spread in the film is the closest to real-life happenings. The disease in the movie, called MEV-1, is zoonotic in nature. A bulldozer is razing trees where bats live. A pigpen is constructed in the cleared space. A bat drops a piece of banana that it's eating. A pig, in turn, eats it and gets infected. A chef later butchers

the pig and prepares it as a dish. He later shakes hands with Gwyneth Paltrow's character, infecting her. Whoever she comes in contact with is a potential victim and host. The rest of the film is spent in coding that chain, which doctors are currently doing in real life. Her husband, played by Matt Damon, however, doesn't get infected. That's also not impossible as some individuals do have immunity to such things.

## MY SECRET TERRIUS (2018)

DIRECTOR: **PARK SANG-HUN**



An episode of this hugely popular South Korean series mentioned coronavirus as a man-made bioweapon. The episode has a man telling his partner to stay home to be safe. This is much like the 'social distancing' we're currently adhering to. The episode also has a doctor explaining that this mutant coronavirus attacks

the respiratory organs, which is true of the real-life coronavirus as well. The 1995 film Outbreak too talked about the US developing a superbug as a bioweapon.

## TANGLED (2010)

DIRECTOR: **BYRON HOWARD & NATHAN GRENO**

Let's end this rather morbid tale on a lighter note. We all love Disney's animated take on Rapunzel's story. Well, if you google the name of the town where she was born, you'll come up with Corona. This has led to conspiracy theorists putting forward a new twist to the fairy tale. They claim Mother Gothel was quarantining Rapunzel from Corona by locking her in the tower -- basically enforcing social distancing...



# IT'S A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

It's been a platinum innings for **Kamini Kaushal**, who at 90 plus won critical acclaim for her act in Kabir Singh. **Farhana Farook** profiles the veteran

Her life script is perhaps more dramatic than the films on her resume. For someone, who created her own puppet theatre at the age of 10, young Kamini Kaushal herself became a puppet in the hands of destiny. She was barely in her 20s, and on the threshold of stardom when her sister passed away. She was asked to marry her brother-in-law. Young Kamini took on the responsibility of her bereaved nieces, thus silencing her dreams for the wellbeing of her family. And she honoured this commitment through the duskiest of phases. She even sacrificed her love for Dilip Kumar because she couldn't 'dump' her husband and family to follow her heart. "I'd taken on the girls. I wouldn't be able to show my face to my sister. My husband, a fine human being, understood why it happened. Everyone falls in love," Kamini once confided in an interview with *Filmfare*. She didn't allow the heartbreak to limit her life. She went with the drift, exploring motherhood, movies, writing, hosting TV shows and even turned producer. "If it doesn't change, it's not life," she rightly says. What remains unchanged though is her desire to live fully. At 93, she impressed critics with her act as a discerning grandmother in *Kabir Singh*. Completing 75 years in the industry, it's a game well played by Kamini Kaushal...



**HE (DILIP KUMAR) DIDN'T RECOGNISE ME AT A RECENT EVENT. I WAS HEARTBROKEN. HE GAVE ME A BLANK LOOK. HE FINDS IT HARD TO RECOGNISE ANYONE. WHAT AN ERA WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH!**

— Kamini to *Filmfare*

## MATINEE TIME

Daughter of famed botanist Professor SR Kashyap, Uma Kashyap was born in 1927. She was the youngest among two brothers and three sisters. A student of Kinnaird College in Lahore, the talented Uma did radio plays on Akashwani. Filmmaker Chetan Anand heard her on radio and charmed by her honeyed voice, offered her a lead role in *Neecha Nagar* (1946). Chetan Anand gave her the name Kamini because his wife was also called Uma (Anand) and was part of the film. *Neecha Nagar* was the first Indian film to be sent to the Cannes Festival. It won the Grand Prix Award, while Kamini Kaushal won an award at the Montreal Film Festival for her debut. In 1948, Kamini, barely in her 20s, was urged by her family to marry her brother-in-law



I LOVED MY SISTER DEEPLY.  
I FEARED MY NIECES, WHO WERE  
JUST AROUND TWO AND THREE,  
WOULD FLOUNDER WITHOUT A  
MOTHER AFTER SHE DIED...  
**IT (GETTING MARRIED TO HER  
BROTHER-IN-LAW B. S. SOOD)  
SEEMED AN IDEAL SOLUTION.  
IT WAS NOT A SACRIFICE.**

— Kamini to *Filmfare*

BS Sood (chief engineer at the Bombay Port Trust) after her older sister, Usha, tragically died in a car accident leaving behind two girls Kumkum and Kavita.

By then Kamini had already signed Raj Kapoor's maiden production Aag and Gajanan Jagirdar's Jail Yatra in 1947. "Raj was like an imp always thick on pranks. He'd say, 'I am desi tharra (country liquor), you're just a kid'," she recalled in a Filmfare interview. Kamini did films with Ashok Kumar too including Poonam (1952), which she also produced and Night Club (1958). She worked with Dev Anand in Ziddi (1948) and Shair (1954). "Suraiya wanted me to pass on her letters to Dev. Her aunt would always be around. I felt sorry for them," Kamini reminisced about the ill-fated Dev-Suraiya affair.

With Dilip Kumar, Kamini gave hits including Shaheed (1948), Pugree, Nadiya Ke Paar, Shabnam (all in 1949) and Arzoo (1950). Her popularity soared with Filmistan's Do Bhai (1947), aided by Geeta Roy's track Mera sundar sapna. A film that won

Kamini laurels was Bimal Roy's Biraj Bahu (1954), based on Saratchandra Chattopadhyay's novel. Her portrayal of a devoted wife won her the Filmfare Award. "I broke down several times while enacting the role. My character had a sense of righteousness. She believes her husband (Abhi Bhattacharya) would never dismiss her as unfaithful," she told Filmfare. The film won the Golden Palm at Cannes.

In Sohrab Modi's Jailor (1958), Kamini played a wife pushed towards adultery by her husband's insensitivity. Revered as an actor, Kamini's name used to appear before the hero's name in the credits, except in films with Ashok Kumar. Her fan base was huge. Once when the team of Poonam was travelling to Kolkata by train, a fan sneaked into her compartment, stole her pillow and left a note saying, "Agar aap ko takiyeki chori mein koi romance dikhai deta hai, to main aap ka chor premi hoon!"

### THE CURVE

Kamini moved to playing character roles with Manoj



Being felicitated



With son Vidur, husband B.S Sood and Utpal Dutt

Kumar's Shaheed (1965). "Manoj insisted on me playing his mother. I protested because I was only 40 and so tiny in front of him. But he made such a beautiful film!" says the actor who later played mother in all his films from Upkar, Purab Aur Paschim, Sanyasi, Shor, Roti Kapda Aur Makaan, Dus Numbari and Santosh. She also played sister-in-law to superstar Rajesh Khanna in Do Raaste (1969) and mother to him in Prem Nagar (1974) and Maha Chor (1976). Her bitter-sweet portrayal as Jaya Bhaduri's mother-in-law in Uphar (1971) was also endearing. In

the recent years, she was seen in Yash Raj Films' Laaga Chunari Mein Daag (2007), Chennai Express (2013) and last year in the blockbuster Kabir Singh. As Shahid Kapoor's 90-plus grandmother, who can understand the volatile Kabir, her short but sensitive act in Kabir Singh, won her a Filmfare nomination. Her dialogue, "Suffering is very personal. Let him suffer!" was a watershed moment.

### HEARTBREAK

An intriguing chapter of Kamini's life remains her sudden marriage to brother-in-law BS Sood, something she did 'for

**KAMINI HOSTED PUPPET SHOWS ON TV... SHE LENT HER VOICE TO THEM. "PUPPETS HAVE SOUL," SHE SAYS ABOUT HER EQUATION WITH THE DOLLS**



A candid picture



With Manoj Kumar



New mom Kamini



The girl gang with late PM Indira Gandhi

duty, not love' as summed by son Rahul Sood in a Filmfare interview. Kamini too had commented on the sudden turn in her life saying, "I loved my sister deeply. I feared my nieces, who were just around two and three, would flounder without a mother... It seemed an ideal solution. It was not a sacrifice. More so, my husband was a genteel and decent human being." The couple went on to have three sons Rahul, Vidur and Shravan.

The marriage survived despite undergoing an upheaval – her reported romance with Dilip Kumar. The thespian too has mentioned in

his biography that he was 'shattered' with the parting. Kamini reiterated that when she spoke to Filmfare, "We were both shattered. We were very happy with each other. We shared a great rapport. But that's life. I can't dump people and say 'Enough now, I'm going!' I had taken on the girls. I wouldn't be able to show my face to my sister. My husband, a fine human being, understood why it happened. Everyone falls in love."

A few years ago, Kamini happened to meet Dilip Kumar at an event but time and age had taken its toll by then. "He

didn't recognise me. I was heartbroken. It broke my heart to see him give me a blank look. He looked at me and I looked at him. He finds it hard to recognise anyone. I felt sad. What an era we have been through!" she told Filmfare.

## BEYOND FILMS

Kamini was never the usual heroine obsessed with vanity or 'catfights' as she put it. In her free time, she wrote stories for the children's magazine Paraag. In the late '70s, she chaired the Children Film Society. She also did a number of TV serials for kids on Doordarshan including Khel Khilone. She went on to host puppet-based TV programmes like Chand Sitare, Chaat Pani and Chandamama, under her banner Gudra Ghar Productions (1989 to 1991). She made the puppets herself and modulated her voice to suit the different characters. "Puppets have soul," she said describing her equation with her dolls. Her act as Aunt Shalini in the British TV serial, The Jewel In The Crown (1984), was much loved as those back home in Shanno Ki Shaadi and Waqt Ki Raftaar. At 90-plus, the veteran hit the headlines for her applause-worthy act in Kabir Singh. Otherwise, she enjoys her quiet time in her penthouse in Malabar Hill. A lush terrace, festooned with jasmine and bougainvillea, the verdant trees around it home to chatty birds that befriend her from dawn to dusk... it's a beautiful autumn. ■

**WHEN THE TEAM OF POONAM WAS TRAVELLING TO KOLKATA BY TRAIN, A FAN SNEAKED INTO KAMINI'S COMPARTMENT, STOLE HER PILLOW AND LEFT A NOTE SAYING, "AGAR AAP KO TAKIYE KI CHORI MEIN KOI ROMANCE DIKHAI DETA HAI, TO MAIN AAP KA CHOR PREMI HOON!"**



Kamini Kaushal with family



“My sister Madhubala has been defamed saying she had many love affairs. Who would not be enamoured by such a beautiful woman? She was like marble. Like many others, Pradeep Kumar and Bharat Bhushan were infatuated with her. Premnath was in love with her”

— (14 FEBRUARY 1933 - 23 FEBRUARY 1969) —

# “She was a caged bird”

DECADES LATER **MADHUBALA'S** SURREAL CHARM AND TRAGIC LIFE CONTINUE TO INTRIGUE FANS. SISTER **MADHUR BHUSHAN** HOPES TO SEE A BIOPIC MADE ON THE LEGENDARY ACTOR SOMEDAY

“Darkness is the beauty I am made of...”

—Kelli Russell Agodon,  
Hourglass Museum

Too much in too little time. Beauty, fame, love and heartbreak... Madhubala had lavish doses of this in her ephemeral life. She seemed to be in a great hurry to play out her karmic trysts. Bestseller at the age of 16. Beloved at 18. Broken at 23. Bedridden at 27. Buried at 36. Yet five decades later, her photographs and memories

ignite social media. Her beatific face continues to mesmerise generations. In a career span of two decades, she did around 75 films, most of them hits. But what continues to consume fans, biographers and cineastes is her life off the camera. Her doomed affair with superstar Dilip Kumar. The chimera of a marriage with Kishore Kumar. The excruciating illness. The desertion of her celestial looks and dreams... Her extreme rise and fall are compared to that of her Hollywood counterpart

— Marilyn Monroe. Their heads thrown back in similar abandon, their full smiles concealing their hollow hearts. Once featured in the Life Magazine, as ‘the biggest star’ in the world... an ailing and anguished Madhubala had died in spirit years before she was buried. Such a story as hers deserves to be told believes sister Madhur Bhushan. Disappointed that the biopic on Madhubala by Imtiaz Ali was stalled due to familial opposition, Madhur isn’t yet willing to give up on the celluloid dream... In her words...



## THE STAR SISTER

My parents (Ataullah Khan and Ayesha Begum) had 11 children - seven girls and four boys. I’m the youngest. Madhu Apa (Madhubala) was the fifth child. In the ’40s, Abba lost his job in the Imperial Tobacco Company in Delhi and came to Mumbai. My parents saw extreme

poverty. Also, not one of my brothers survived. There was no money even for their kafan (shroud). Abba used to take Apa (Madhubala) from studio to studio in search of work. She was nine when she first appeared in *Basant* (1942 as Baby Mumtaz). Her first lead role, at 14, was in *Kidar Sharma’s*

“Dilip Kumar saab and Apa (Madhubala) were not even on talking terms whilst shooting some portions of *Mughal-E-Azam*. The thappad scene, the iconic feather scene... were shot after their break-up... In the feather scene, she looks so much in love with him. They were made for each other... She could never forget Dilip saab”

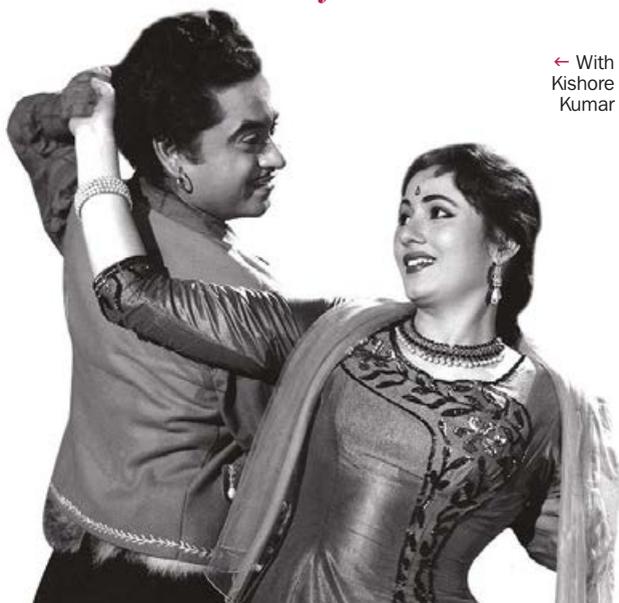
Neel Kamal (1947). Kamal Amrohi signed her for Mahal (1949) when she was only 15. After Mahal, there was no looking back. Hits like Dulari, Tarana, Amar, Mr. & Mrs. '55, Barsaat Ki Raat... established her as a star.

I was born in a chawl in Kandivali when Apa was around 16. But my parents believed I was lucky, because Apa became a top heroine after that. There's a reason why Abba was strict. A journalist once wrote that we were not Ataullah Khan's daughters. That he had brought us girls to Mumbai to earn money out of us. My father took him to court. Since then, Abba didn't allow journalists on the sets or at home. He hung a board on the sets saying, 'Journalists not allowed'. Apa wasn't allowed to attend any parties. People called him Hitler.



A candid picture

***“When at first Kishore (Kumar) Bhaiyya told Apa, ‘I want to marry you,’ she didn’t respond. She wouldn’t take his calls. She would shut the door when he came to meet her. He’d say things like, ‘I will die. I’ll take poison. I’ll put my hand in the fan...’”***



← With Kishore Kumar

Apa has been defamed saying she had many love affairs. Who would not be enamoured by such a beautiful woman? She was like marble. Like many others, Pradeep Kumar and Bharat Bhushan were also infatuated with her. Premnath was in love with her. But at that point Apa feared an inter-religious marriage would not be approved by the family.

### THE ROMANCE

Dilip Kumar and Apa first met on the set of Jwar Bhata (1944). Their relationship began during Tarana (1951). They went on to pair in Sangdil (1952) and Amar (1954). They were engaged to be married. But the Naya Daur court case in 1956 changed

it all (Ataullah Khan didn't want Madhubala to shoot outdoors. Dilip Kumar testified against Khan in favour of director BR Chopra). Apa asked Dilip saab to apologise to Abba. She was a devoted daughter and didn't want her father to be disrespected. But Dilip saab refused to say sorry. I wonder why he became so hard on her when he loved her so much? Abba told Apa, "He will say sorry in a room. What about the thousands, who heard and read about what he said in court?"

Coming to Apa's illness, it was first noticed when she spat blood during the shooting of SS Vasan's Bahut Din Huwe (1954). Dilip saab had then flown



Kala Pani



Barsaat Ki Raat



Sangdil

in with Dr Rustom Jal Vakil from Mumbai. He diagnosed she had a hole in the heart (ventricular septal defect). Apa found it hard to believe. So did others. She was a well-built girl with a healthy pink complexion. She didn't take it seriously. She kept on working. While shooting in chains as Anarkali in Mughal-E-Azam (1960, K Asif's film took 16 years to complete), she fainted several times on the set. Dilip saab and Apa were not even on talking terms whilst shooting some portions. The thappad scene, the iconic feather scene... were shot after their break-up... In the feather scene, she looks so much in love with him. They were made for each other. Apa never played the songs of Mughal-E-Azam as they made her emotional. Though they were estranged, she could never forget Dilip saab.

## THE MARRIAGE

Kishore Bhaiyya and Apa got to know each other while doing Dhake Ki Malmal (1956) Chalti Ka Naam Gadi (1958) and Mehlon Ke Khwab (1960). Kishore Bhaiyya loved



↑ With father  
Ataullah Khan

**“After her illness was detected, Kishore Bhaiyya insisted Apa stay with my parents. He said he wouldn't be able to look after her as he'd be out for recordings, shows and shootings... She couldn't work as an actor. They couldn't have a man-woman relationship nor could she give him the happiness of a child”**

her a lot at one point of time. When he showed an interest in her, at first, she didn't react. When he told her, 'I want to marry you,' she didn't respond. She wouldn't take his calls. She wouldn't meet him and would shut the door when he came to meet her. He'd say things like, 'I will die. I'll take poison. I'll put my hand in the fan...' I don't know how he convinced

her finally. Perhaps, she married him to forget the sorrow of losing Dilip saab. They had a registered marriage (1960). She draped a white saree. She was impressed by Nargisji and like her only dressed in white. She liked light jewellery. She hardly ever wore bangles.

After that they flew to London with Dr SV Golwala to consult a

specialist. The doctor there point blank told her that she had just two years to live and no medicine could be prescribed for her (sadly the cure was found within one and a half year of her death). After sometime, Kishore Bhaiyya insisted she stay with my parents. He said he wouldn't be able to look after her as he'd be out for recordings, shows and shootings. She asked him to keep a nurse. He said how can I leave you behind alone? She couldn't work as an actor. They couldn't have a man-woman relationship nor could she give him the happiness of a child. But she wanted to be with him.

She returned to us devastated. But she never gave up. "Aap dekhiye Abbaji... main kahan beemaar hoon? Main koi do saal mein marne wali nahin hoon. Doctors will invent a cure. I'll rest for a few months and be back on the sets," she'd say. She did go on the sets to complete some films but couldn't shoot. She fainted. Initially, Kishore Bhaiyya came every evening and sat for around two hours. He'd take her for a drive. But she'd get tired and

they'd soon return home. Gradually, his visits lessened. At times, she'd get possessive and say, 'You're shooting with so many heroines. Why don't you take me along? I'm your wife. Give me some rights too'. During the last three-four years he hardly came. He'd say, 'I get disturbed seeing you. I can't get you off my mind then'.

## THE ILLNESS

She'd spend her time reading Urdu poetry. She loved the shairi of Mirza Ghalib and Daagh Dehlvi. Her favourite song was Rulake gaya sapna mera (Jewel Thief), which summed her life. Gradually, she began losing too much weight. She became a skeleton. Her beauty paled. She didn't want to meet anyone. She was like a caged bird. Blood would ooze from her nose and mouth. She was given the oxygen cylinder whenever she felt breathless. But she never took any help from us. Till the last, she'd bathe by herself. She would perform the fajr (morning) namaz regularly.



Mughal-E-Azam

The other times, she'd pray lying down.

She was worried for our parents. She had bought a property in Pali Hill, which my father, in time of need, sold to actress Sadhna. That property proved to be unlucky for Sadhna too. She developed an eye problem after that. Often, Apa would cry saying, 'I want to live, I don't want to die'. She lived for nine years when she was given two. Such was her desire to live. Once when she was hospitalised in Breach Candy, Apa sent for Dilip saab. He did come. 'Tum acchi ho jaaogi Madhu. Tum kyon depressed ho? Hum wapas karenge kaam,' he said. She asked him, 'Tum mujhe yaad karte ho ya nahin?' He

replied, 'Agar yaad nahin karta toh kaise aata tumhare bulane par.' He sat for an hour. He was not married to Sairaji then.

## A SAD END

When Apa was in her last days, I'd developed chicken pox. So I was staying away from her. But I rushed to her room the day her health began deteriorating and she was bleeding profusely. Abba called Kishore Bhaiyya. He was flying for a show. Abba said, "Cancel the flight Kishore! She won't last." He came. She was sinking, unconscious, eyes closed... She passed away on February 23, 1969 at 9.30 am. It was a miserable death. She died as Mrs Kishore Kumar Ganguly.

Dilip saab was in Madras shooting for a film. When he heard that Apa was critical, he flew down immediately. But by the time he landed, she was buried. He then went to the kabrastan to pay his last respects. Food was sent from his house to ours for three days. My father would visit her grave and cry every day. He suffered a series of heart



↑ Ataulah Khan at Madhubala's grave

attacks. He passed away six years after Apa in 1975. My mother developed tuberculosis but carried on for 18 years. Recently, my Guruji, Arvindji (Kumar Malviya) visited the cemetery in Juhu and asked for Madhu Apa's grave. Pointing to her grave, the caretaker said, "Every week someone or the other comes to place flowers on it."

The biopic on Apa with Imtiaz Ali, a fine filmmaker and human being, couldn't be made. My sisters (Altaf 91, Zaibunissa 87 and Kaneez 93) didn't want it to happen. The film wouldn't have maligned anyone. If I humiliate my elders, I'd be humiliating myself. My Guruji, who lives in Jodhpur, offered me a place to build a home for the old. It was Apa's wish to start such a home and a school for girls. I was only planning to fulfill Apa's dreams.

Maybe, someday I will... ■

**“Once when she was hospitalised, Apa sent for Dilip saab. He did come. ‘Tum acchi ho jaaogi Madhu. Hum wapas karenge kaam,’ he said. She asked, ‘Tum mujhe yaad karte ho ya nahin?’ He replied, ‘Agar yaad nahin karta toh kaise aata’”**



← Madhubala

# your say

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

## INSTA LIKE

### Lockdown tales

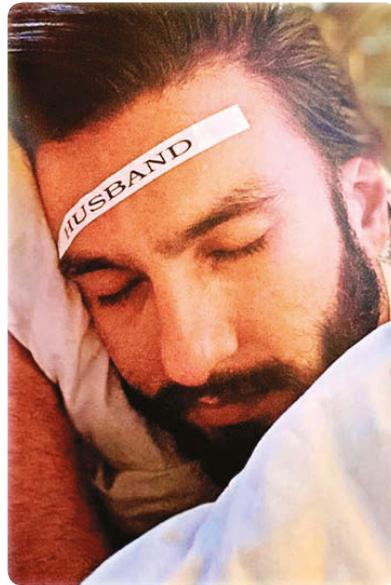
Check out what your favourites are upto on Instagram...



@aliaabhatter: Still believe in magic? Oh yes I do 🧙  
*Alia Bhatt has been keeping busy at home with work, baking and having some magical pictures clicked. Hmm...*

@iamsrk: I believe this moment in our lives will finally be a memory of when we had all the time on our hands & our loved ones in our arms. Here's wishing this for every1. Stay Safe. Stay Distant. Stay Healthy. PS: The selfie has nothing to do with the msg, thought I look good, so I sneaked it in

*He first caught our attention with his flawless selfie. Then SRK passed on an important message. That's the King's style.*



@deepikapadukone : Season 1: Episode 7: & while I was at it...  
👤@ranveersingh  
#wannabem-  
ariakondo  
#thinkitookittoofar  
👤 Productivity in the time of COVID-19! 😊  
*Deepika Padukone turned organiser Marie Kondo during lockdown and here's what she marked first.*



@vickykaushal09:  
माँ-ए नी मेरीए 🙏  
*Time spent with mom is the most precious. Vicky Kaushal will vouch for it.*



@janhvikapoor:  
Self isolation productivity 🍷🍷  
#ilovepineapple  
#stayhomestaysafe  
#fightcorona  
*Pineapple, paints and pretty girl Janhvi Kapoor. This picture has it all.*

Readers send in their feedback pg 76

Shatrughan Sinha's racy rejoinders pg 80



# IN THE MAIL

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

## → STAY #ATHOMEWITHFILMFARE

We readers thank Filmfare for moving with the times. We were looking forward to the bumper 65th Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 @Awesome Assam issue. But given the coronavirus pandemic, we feared we wouldn't be able to lay our hands on it. And lo and behold! You presented the April 2020 FREE e-issue to keep us company during our stay at home. The issue was scintillating to say the least. The choicest moments and pictures were compiled for our reading pleasure. This year the awards were held in Guwahati. We thoroughly enjoyed the @Awesome Assam experience put together as a bouquet of memories for us. Thank you Filmfare for lighting up the lockdown days with such a starry gift.

Jayesh Patel, Mumbai



Salman Khan

## ↑ CORONA DERAILS B-TOWN

B-town has also borne the brunt of the deadly coronavirus pandemic. Theatres being shut, films like Baaghi 3 and Angrezi Medium could not rake in the moolah. Films like Sooryavanshi and Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar have reportedly been delayed. The international schedule of Salman Khan's Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai has been put on hold. The shooting of Karan Johar's Takht, which was to be shot in Jaipur and Jaisalmer, has been cancelled. The filming of Laal Singh Chaddha, Brahmastra, Jersey and several others too has been put on pause. Hope the dark days pass.

Natalia Pinto, Mumbai



Chhapaak

**1st Prize**  
₹1500

## ↑ CHHAPAAK – A LAUDABLE EFFORT

Meghna Gulzar's Chhapaak, based on the real-life acid-attack survivor, Laxmi Agarwal, deftly portrayed by Deepika Padukone, is a grim reminder of our inability to stop the criminal act. The film showed that while acid-

attack victims are condemned to a life of agony, the perpetrators roam free. Laws must be enacted and strictly enforced to prevent such crimes. The National Crime Records Bureau reveals that 228 acid attacks occurred in 2018. Two out of every three victims were women. Only 28 were held guilty for this heinous crime.

Padmini Raghavendra, Secunderabad

**2nd Prize**  
₹1000

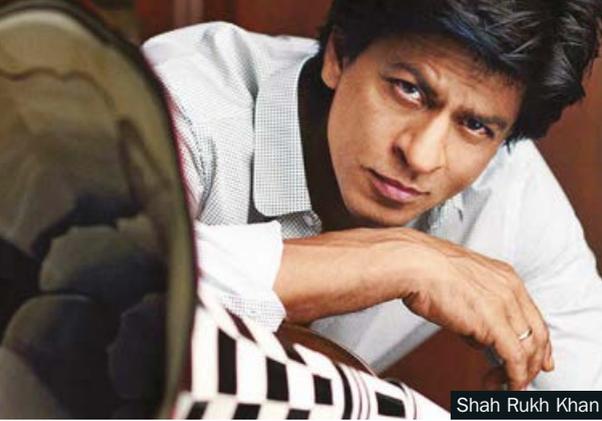
## → OSCAR-WORTHY

Zoya Akhtar's Gully Boy, starring Ranveer Singh as a street rapper from the underbelly of Mumbai, was India's entry for Best International Feature Film at the Oscars. It was thematically similar to Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire (2008),

where a boy from the Dharavi slums, makes it big with passion. The films that India sends to the Oscars should have a local theme but must be universally appealing too. For instance, Pink starring Amitabh Bachchan and Taapsee Pannu shows how three girls are framed in a molestation case by a politician. In Article 15, Ayushmann Khurrana, as a police officer, takes

on the police-politician mafia to save a rape victim. Section 375, starring Akshaye Khanna, depicts how girls can also manipulate the legal system to harm a man, who thwarts their ardour. Chhapaak is the story of an acid-attack survivor. Today, Indian cinema is about courage. The universal audience should be made aware of this.

Rajendra Aneja, Mumbai



Shah Rukh Khan

### ↑ CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Given the Covid-19 pandemic, several celebrities have come forward to help those in need. Shah Rukh Khan's Kolkata Knight Riders, Red Chillies Entertainment, Meer Foundation and Red Chillies VFX - have pledged to provide support to the needy. Salman Khan pledged to financially support 25,000 daily wage workers from the film

industry in the wake of the national lockdown. Priyanka Chopra along with popstar-husband Nick Jonas, donated an undisclosed amount to 10 charities including Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and PM-CARES. Other prominent names include Deepika Padukone - Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar, Vicky Kaushal and Alia Bhatt. God bless them.

Tanuja Bhaskar, Aurangabad

### → DANCING STAR

A choreographer, a filmmaker, and a reality-show judge, Remo D' Souza is a multifaceted entertainer. Remo has introduced new dance forms to choreography lending it vibrancy. His journey from a background dancer to a director has been eventful. After facing several rejections, he's carved a niche for himself. Street Dancer 3 D, his last outing, shows that nothing can stagger this young hooper. Abhishek Agnihotri, New Delhi

### → PARASITE - SHEER ART

Parasite, the South Korean black comedy thriller, directed by Bong Joon-ho won an Oscar for Best Picture. It follows the members of a poor family, who infiltrate a rich household, posing as highly qualified individuals. The film is a lesson for Indian directors. It was about being creative and crazy. The beauty of this simple film is that it has no pretence.

Sunil Melwani, Pune

### → RISK-TAKER AYUSHMANN

If there's anything common between Virat Kohli and Ayushmann Khurrana, it's their drive for excellence. Also, Ayushmann is no chocolate hero and dares to be different. His biggest critic, as he mentions, is his wife Tahira Kashyap. Her wisdom and his courage seldom go wrong.

Shoba Kaicker, Canada



Chiranjeevi

### ↑ CHEERS FOR CHIRANJEEVI

Chiranjeevi threw a party for his star colleagues of the 1980s as covered in the Filmfare article

(That '80s Show, January 2020). The pictures of the fun celebration at the superstar's swanky new home were lovely. The black and gold theme, as seen in the attire, lent a regal touch. Though he couldn't make it big in politics, Chiranjeevi's regarded as a mass hero in South India.

Srinath H. R. Bangalore

### → LESS IS MORE

Director Anurag Basu gave us a masterpiece in Barfi!. Convey more with less is his mantra. Barfi! reminds us of the silent era of Charlie Chaplin films. There's always subtext in Anurag Basu's films - be it Murder, Life In A... Metro, Gangster and even Jagga Jasoos. His upcoming Ludo, a dark anthology comedy, with Abhishek Bachchan and Rajkummar Rao seems promising.

Ranjit Nimbalkar, Pune



Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior

### ↑ HIS-STORY

We enjoy watching period films because they're visually appealing due to enhanced technology. Padmaavat and Bajirao

Mastani are examples of great cinematography. So is Ajay Devgn's recent Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior based on the life of the legendary Tanaji Malusare, Shivaji Maharaj's commander. Reportedly, Akshay Kumar will soon bring to life the valour of the Rajput warrior Prithviraj Chauhan. It's nice to revisit history.

Shoba Kaicker, Canada

## Just one Point



Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan

Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan will perhaps bring gay marriages in vogue. It's high time we respect and realise their right to love.

Reet Dubey, Pune

Due to the coronavirus and the subsequent lockdown, the paparazzi is enjoying a forced holiday.

Rasha Khan, Mumbai

While the poor struggle it out, our stars, so used to the limelight, are busy posting their food, exercise and romance videos.

Parveen Solanki, Mumbai

Imtiaz Ali is sabotaging his career by his obsession with his past work. The 2009 Love Aaj Kal didn't warrant a remake just as yet.

Mrudula Ghate, Ratlam

The Filmfare Awards venturing into territories outside Mumbai is a great move. It will make the world smaller and bring fans closer.

Mani Ghosh, Guwahati

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Angrezi Medium



Baaghi 3



Kaamyaaab

# MARQUEE MASALA

Before the lockdown, there was a buffet spread at the box-office. Varied genres, varied moods... there was a film for every palate



## ANGREZI MEDIUM

Saket Chaudhary's Hindi Medium (2017) was about a couple's desire to get their daughter admitted to a good school. Angrezi Medium applies it to higher education on foreign shores. Champak Bansal (Irrfan Khan) brings up his daughter Tarika (Radhika Madan) after the death of his wife. Tarika wants to study in Britain. The first half, focussed on the father-daughter, breezes smoothly. The second half becomes a Marx Brothers kind of comedy with gags involving Irrfan Khan and Deepak Dobriyal. It makes Radhika's track look redundant. The film should have been a journey of her self-discovery. Kudos to Irrfan for giving us a masterful performance.

Raiza Rajput, Nagpur

## BAAGHI 3

Ahmed Khan's Baaghi 3 follows the leave-your-brains-behind formula. A villain (Jaideep Ahlawat) kidnaps Indians and smuggles them to Syria to be turned into human bombs. Vikram (Riteish Deshmukh), a police officer, is dispatched to Syria. He's kidnapped by terrorists there. His brother, Ronnie (Tiger Shroff), shows up to save his sibling. Once scene has superhero Tiger fighting goons atop a helicopter. Tiger falters in the emotional scenes. Though the one with his real-life father, Jackie Shroff, is bang on.

Rizwan Rahim, Mumbai

## KAAMYAAB

Sudheer (Sanjay Mishra) is a character actor, who has acted in bit roles all his life

## TWIVIEWS

Fans and readers tweet their mini reviews to @filmfare

**@deepmehta97** Amazing movie #AngreziMedium Just saw it on @DisneyplusHSP Great work by @irrfank... Unfortunately, couldn't go to theatres for this but it would have been worth going...

**@nisu291998** Just saw #AngreziMedium. Brilliant Movie. @irrfank

**#DeepakDobriyal** and @radhikamadan01 have acted flawlessly. A movie with a heart.

**@butterfly\_gur10** Guys! apparently the official budget of #Baaghi3 is 85 crores... the film has grossed 92+ crores locally & 125+ crores worldwide. It has recovered its budget #Baaghi3 is a HIT Party popper

**@kaur\_nikki** Tiger is not just a star. He's the action superstar after War and Baaghi 3 he gonna continue his winning streak with Heropanti 2, Rambo and Baaghi 4.

**@sagarcasm** If you watch the movies Bhoot and Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan with your parents, I bet they will find the latter scarier.

but never made it big. He retire after 499 films. Circumstances force him to come out of retirement in order to complete the 500 mark. His character is largely based on the late Viju Khote. The film is dedicated to Viju, who also appears in it as himself. Viju's claim to fame was playing Kaalia in Sholay. His dialogue, "Sardar maine aapka namak khaya hai," is still remembered. Likewise, Sanjay Mishra's character Sudheer has a famous dialogue, "Enjoy life, choice hi kya hai."

Paresh Kasak, Pune

## THAPPAD

Amrita (Taapsee Pannu) is a devoted wife to Vikram (Pavai Gulati). She looks after her mother-in-law (Tanvi Azmi) too. She's the ideal bahu until it all shatters one day. During a party, Vikram slaps Amrita when she tries to stop him from getting physical with a senior. The slap triggers a journey of self-awareness. She decides to divorce him and seek a separate existence. Almost everyone, be it her own mother (Ratna Pathak Shah), wants her to forget the humiliation and move on. Her biggest supporter is her father (Kumud Mishra). Through him, director Anubhav Sinha urges men to change their attitude towards women. Taapsee's silences, her body language say it all.

Ritu Kamal, Noida

## LOVE AAJ KAL

Director Imtiaz Ali recreates his similarly titled 2009 film Love Aaj Kal. The leads Kartik Aryan and Sara Ali Khan play off each other with confidence. However, the acting



Thappad



Love Aaj Kal



Malang

honours are whisked away by a restrained Randeep Hooda and a subtle Simone Singh. Debutante Arushi Sharma makes an assured debut in the 1990s portion. Despite its technical brilliance, the film does not create the magic of *Jab We Met* or the soulfulness of *Socha Na Tha*. Imtiaz Ali should reinvent himself.

Dr. K. Karthik Rao, Coimbatore.

## MALANG

Mohit Suri's *Malang* is a tale of revenge set in the underbelly of drug peddlers and police circuits of Goa. The plot follows the killing of a policeman by Advait Thakur (Aditya Roy Kapur). He alerts the cocaine-snorting, crime branch cop Agashe (Anil Kapoor) and challenges if he can stop him. Agashe's notorious procedures are condemned by Michael (Kunal Kemmu), a special cell officer. The romance between Advait and Sara (Disha Patani) in Goa is shown in flashback. Advait accompanies Sara in accomplishing her bizarre bucket list that includes snorkelling, paragliding, jumping off the cliff and even making out with a stranger. The influences of Hollywood and Korean films are clear in the neo-noir *Malang*.

Ahwaan Padhee, Hyderabad

## JAWAANI JAANEMAN

This film starts with Saif Ali Khan recreating his *Ole Ole* (Yeh Dillagi - 1994) number. He plays a middle-aged guy, who doesn't want to settle down. Trying to hook up with a girl (Alaya Furniturewala) half his age, he gets the shock of his life



Jawaani Jaaneman



Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan



Bhoot: The Haunted Ship

## TWIVIEWS

Fans and readers tweet their mini reviews to @filmfare

@JustinJRao

I thought calling a horror film *Bhoot* is where it'd stop. But a ship, stranded on \*water\* is called *SeaBIRD*, inspected by a guy called... Prithvi.

@RaajVarshini My homophobic father watched *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* and liked the film. Seems like a small win but it's a win for sure.

@sasank\_sunkara Watching *Love Aaj Kal* made me realise how important Ranbir and Alia are in Imtiaz's films. I loved *Tamasha*, *Rockstar* and *Highway*. Those eccentricities Ranbir got so effortlessly in *Tamasha* feels artificial with the actors here.

@anishmohanty Imtiaz Ali has an affinity towards mountains. That explains *pahari* folk music in songs like *Yeh Ishq* (*Jab We Met*), *Phir se ud chala* (*Rockstar*) and *Aur tanha* (*Love Aaj Kal*).

@Rakeshkumarray8 #Malang is a clean hit. Congrats @kunalkemmu @AnilKapoor You both nailed it.

when the girl reveals that she's his daughter. Director Nitin keeps the narrative engaging. Full marks to Alaya F for choosing this film over the typical dancing-around-trees routine.

Sumeet Nadkarni, Mumbai

## SHUBH MANGAL ZYADA SAAVDHAN

Kartik (Ayushmann Khurrana) and Aman (Jitendra Kumar) are a much-in-love gay couple. Chance takes them to his cousin Goggle's (Maanvi Gagroo) wedding. His father Shankar Tripathy (Gajraj Rao) catches them making out. Mayhem ensues and after a lot of heartburn, love triumphs. Hitesh Kewalya's sensitively made film is a conversation starter. It urges the common man to let go off their homophobia. Coming in the wake of the repeal of Article 377, such films are just what the doctor ordered to cure society of its misgivings.

Dinesh Sharma, Raichur

## BHOOT: THE HAUNTED SHIP

Vicky Kaushal, an officer, suffers from guilt as he has lost his child and wife to a boating accident. A cargo ship gets stranded on Mumbai's Juhu beach. He experiences paranormal activity while inspecting the ship. Bhanu Pratap Singh's film boasts of superior production values. You feel a chill when you see the protagonist moving around the spooky passages. But the film is constraining for Vicky, given the space and pace of the film.

Raghu Puri, Lucknow



PHOTOGRAPH: MEETESH TANEJA

# Shatrughan Sinha's Rapid fire

**Why is the sin of pride so hard to overcome?**

**Dhawal Sahani, Bangalore**

Pride is a root cause of evil because we always want to do things our way. Hence pride's actions and the resultant consequences are irreversible. That is why we should avoid falling in the trap of pride.

**Why did the three Khans choose to keep quiet when the nation was burning over citizenship issues?**

**KS Sundaram, via email**

You have to ask the Khans. I'm certainly not their spokesperson. It's something I wouldn't like to speculate on. However, there seem to be several reasons to keep

silent in such a sensitive situation. You might not like them for it. But they aren't being cowards here. Rather just making sure they avoid controversy.

**Why is India still categorised as an underdeveloped nation even after 70 years of Independence?**

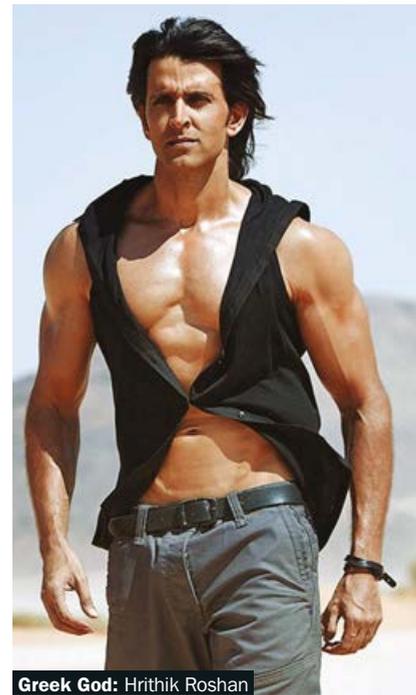
**Laxmi Ahuja, Kolhapur**

Seventy years have nothing to do with being a developed nation. As long as Indians choose to educate themselves and go straight for peace, prosperity and progress, with an anti-corruption attitude, we could still achieve a developed nation status. India is underdeveloped still due to several reasons. We need a strong watchdog, a strong judiciary. Corruption has to be minimised as well... among other things...

**Which Indian actor would make for a good James Bond?**

**Santosh Mohan Joshi, Miraj**

Do you still doubt the



**Greek God: Hrithik Roshan**

capacity of the handsome Greek God, our own Hrithik Roshan? Or even Tiger Shroff, the action star in the making?

**Film stars influence the young generation to a large extent. What's keeping them mum on so many burning issues in the country?**

**Rita Sharma, Noida**

The fear of the media, which is ready to pounce on anyone to make TRPs soar. Even if you want to say something positive, you never know how it's going to be manipulated. So I guess, it's wiser to keep mum if you want to avoid controversy.

**If cinema is a mirror of society then why do people make a hue and cry over some movies that show reality?**

**Kabir, New Delhi**

Tell me, who likes to be shown the mirror? No one likes to hear the truth.

**Do you agree the major reason why Indian universities fail to find a place in the world's top education institutions is that they have increasingly become an arena of political tussle?**

**Gaurav Pant, New Delhi**

To some extent this could be one of the reasons. However, we certainly need to work on the grey areas of our education system and also need to pay our teachers better. We need to adapt fast to a changing world as well so our students become world ready.





Action star: Tiger Shroff

tolerance, peace, and prosperity. Also united with a strong sense of brotherhood. I pray at least this prayer of mine is accepted.

**The year is all about setting new goals and changing things that are long overdue. Is there anything that you would like to change about yourself?**

Shubhankar Bhattacharjee,  
Nawabganj

At my age and stage, there isn't much, which can be changed about myself. However, it's said that there is always room for change and that change is always good for you. So I too would like to strive for betterment.

**In the year 2020, how can India overcome social turmoil?**

mit Jain, New Delhi

By finding one common cause that would benefit our country. Also, by making changes in the bureaucracy and our judicial system.

**How would you like to see the world in 2020?**

Anup Kumar Chakraborty,  
Bangalore

Given a chance and choice, I would like to see the world full of love,

**Is God both a spirit and energy?**

Dhawal Sahani, Bangalore

Yes. In my eyes, God is the ultimate supreme power. So one can say God is both spirit and energy.

**My wife always forgives me when she is wrong, what about Poonam Sinhaji?**

J P Singh Kaka, Bhopal

She's so accustomed to me being wrong that she's pleasantly surprised

## 1st Prize

**A dog chases a cow. The cow is harassed and gets hurt. If both the animals belong to powerful politicians who will be penalised?**

Rita Sharma, Noida

It's a complicated question. I find it difficult to answer. Dogs are considered a man's best friend. But in today's times we are getting more reverential towards cows with each passing day. So I guess the politician owning the cow would certainly have the upper hand.

## 2nd Prize

**The side effects of hatred can lead to heart disease and yet people don't let go of it. Your comments?**

Arvinder Kaur, Mohali

Hatred comes first then a heart attack. Hatred is an extremely strong emotion and does lead to people committing themselves to heinous acts. It does take a severe toll on our health as well. It's not that people are not aware of it. But like love, hatred too is blind.

whenever I'm proved right.

**Define modern love.**

Amit Jain, New Delhi

Love is love. There is nothing called modern love. The purity of love would remain the same in any era. If we have an intense and deep longing for someone and share a bond full of kindness and understanding, then these feelings are eternal. Hooking up isn't love. But even hooking up isn't modern. It has

been around forever. Though one can say that youngsters are more interested in instant gratification than in long-term commitment. But that doesn't mean that true love doesn't exist anymore. Love is an emotion forever.

(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!**  
CASH PRIZES

**1st prize**

**₹3000**

**2nd prize**

**₹2000**

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Question to



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4th floor, D N Road, Mumbai 400 001, INDIA  
(Please mention your full name, contact number and address)



SMS: FI <space> SJ  
<space> <your question>  
<your name>  
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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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# That '70s Show

**S**o the lockdown continues... You can either crib about it or use your time constructively. Being someone, who always veers towards the positive, I took this opportunity to revisit the cinema of my favourite era. The '70s. Why do I love the '70s so much? It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. The decade was like a masala potboiler. When it was good, you had the best of cinema. Everyone from Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Gulzar, Manmohan Desai to Yash Chopra and Prakash Mehra held sway. Yet it was a frenetic time. It was an unorganised industry. Money came in like a deluge. But froze like ice too. People without any understanding of the grammar of films made super hits. Films were ghost written and directed by some of the leading stars of the day.

Four or five shifts for each star was de rigueur.

Films took over two years to make, scripts changed alarmingly through the course of filmmaking. And yet this generation produced iconic films like *Kati Patang*, *Amar Prem*, *Sholay*, *Jai Santoshi Maa*, *Deewaar*, *Zanjeer*, *Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Kabhi Kabhie*, *Muqaddar Ka Sikandar*...

The early '70s saw the rise of the star system. Rajesh Khanna ruled the marquee for a brief but momentous period. The latter half of the '70s was dominated by Amitabh Bachchan. The significant heroines were Mumtaz, Hema Malini, Rekha, Zeenat Aman and Parveen Babi. The names of key marquee stars bankrolled projects. The music of RD Burman ruled the airwaves while Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle were the main voices of this generation.

It was a generation in transit. There was an uprising against the system. Cinema was

trying to echo the voice of the poor in the form of the 'angry young man'. Amitabh Bachchan became its chief totem. As did a softer Rajesh Khanna.

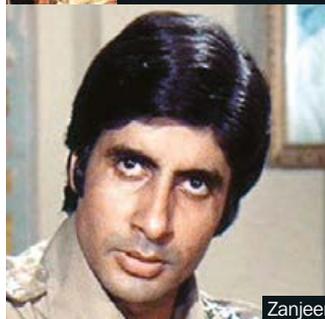
Movie biz known for its tawdry splendour was also known for its lavish parties. The Khan brothers, Feroz and Sanjay, threw frenetic parties in Juhu, where supposedly heroines gathered and whiled the night away. There was also the 'Juhu gang', which experimented with pot and free love. The spirit of Kabir Bedi, Danny Denzongpa, Parveen Babi, Mahesh Bhatt, Protima Bedi, Vijay Anand...



Hare Rama Hare Krishna



Bhumika



Zanjeer

embodied this iconoclastic time. It was also briefly captured in Dev Anand's *Hare Rama Hare Krishna*.

Tabloid and fortnightlies tried to capture this spirit of Bollywood through their pages. Rajesh Khanna's overnight marriage to Dimple Kapadia, Zeenat Aman's affiliation with Dev Anand, Parveen and Kabir's live-in relationship was the stuff fanzines highlighted. It was in these heady times that some of our most iconic movie stars were born and also faded away. Rajesh Khanna, Sanjeev Kumar, Parveen Babi, Smita Patil... Some succumbed to life, some to death and some withered away as they couldn't deal with the demons within. But not without leaving their own unique stamp. From the romantic thriller *Khel Khel Mein* to the raw *Ankur*, the '70s was a heady trip through the bizarre to the real, from the surreal to the ridiculous. Movie tastes were so eclectic that there was place for everyone. Vive la difference!

While I continue my exploration of the '70s, you guys stay home, stay safe. And watch some of the gems of the era if you can. See you on the other side of the lockdown soon.

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