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FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

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SHINING NIGHT

THE MAGIC AND GLORY OF THE FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

GALA NIGHT... BEHIND THE SCENES

From (L-R) Priyamani, Tripti Dimri, Jaideep Ahlawat, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Manoj Bajpayee

contents

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PHOTOGRAPH: MEETESH TANEJA











Editor's Choice

04 The FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards were a resounding success

82 Looking back at the eventful 2020

Masala fix

08 Akshay Kumar to do a double role in a sci-fi film, Aamir Khan's son Junaid to be launched by YRF, Katrina Kaif's superhero film gets a title and other grist from the rumour mill



Awards fashion

12 All the glamour and glitz from the FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards function

Exclusives

20 Awards Show Report: Encapsulating all that happened at the FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards

26 Award Winners: Profiling the winners from the FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards

62 Newsmakers 2020: The stars who created the maximum buzz last year

68 Sunny Leone talks about her LA sojourn

72 Anupam Kher feels every day is your best day

Your say

78 Readers send in their rants

80 Shatrughan Sinha's wacky witticisms


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Letter from the Editor

Binge beginnings

I have been a part of award functions ever since I joined *Filmfare,* when the ice age was just about thawing. And let me tell you no award ceremony has given me the most amount of anxiety prior to it and the least amount of heartache on the day itself than our recently held FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards 2020. It was the worst of the times and then it became the best of the times. I was so relaxed I even took a selfie backstage with my tireless elves from On-Cue, something that I never do. They are the backstage and stagecraft gals who for years have been making sure the shows run like clockwork. The anxiety got mass produced because it was a new property that was being organised when the threat of the pandemic was very much in the air. We had to assemble it in batches and were practically at the venue for close to 15 hours. And let me tell you that after that much time, your *bandhgala* starts feeling like a corset.

This new property was aimed at awarding excellence in the OTT space. Thanks to its ease of accessibility, OTT has become the preferred entertainment venue of the masses. The COVID-19 crisis and subsequent lockdown further increased the numbers on OTT. The pandemic has resulted in making me a glutton for the long-form content. I can personally vouch for the fact that shows like *Paatal Lok, Panchayat, The Family Man, Special OPS, Aarya* et al were lip-smackingly good. And the best part is that unlike in our films, where the winning formula is often repeated, the content here was as diverse as the cheese platter on a Sunday brunch. *Paatal Lok* was a police procedural, *Panchayat* was a situational comedy, *Aarya* was a crime drama, while *Special OPS* was an actioner. The production values of most were akin to those of big-budget films and so was the cinematography, writing, editing and direction.

Our films are ruled by a star system. And stars often have to cater to a certain image. Hence, their performances become increasingly formulaic. On OTT, that's not the case. Here, the emphasis is on creating a version of reality which is as close to the real thing as possible. Our performers, like Manoj Bajpayee, Amit Sadh, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Kay Kay Menon, took to it like fish to water and blew everyone by their performances. Stars like Priyamani, Nithya Menen and Abhishek Bachchan too benefited from working in a no-strings-attached environment. We hear Shahid Kapoor and Akshay Kumar too are coming up with OTT ventures. Let's see what happens.

My personal man-crush that evening was Jaideep Ahlawat, the leading man of *Paatal Lok.* He's the real outsider who struggled anonymously for years before striking it rich with this series. His is the kind of success story that makes others dream big. May his tribe increase. The present issue is dedicated to the FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards. Turn the pages to know more about the winners and read about what happened that day...





For more on tinseltown's news and updates
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a bird's-eye view of show town's happenings

masala fix



Riddhima and mother Neetu Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor



Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone

TRAVEL TALKIES

Our A-listers were majorly tired of being cooped up inside their houses for so long and took out their angst by putting on their travelling pants during the New Year break. Ranbir Kapoor travelled to Jaipur and then Ranthambore along with girlfriend Alia Bhatt, sister Riddhima and mother Neetu Kapoor. Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone bumped into them there and a good time was had by all.

Deepika Padukone, Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan in *Housefull 5?* pg 08

Prabhas to unleash his dark side in *Salaar* pg 10

PHOTOGRAPH: YOGEN SHAH

KATRINA KAIF'S SUPERHERO FILM GETS A TITLE



One film that Bollywood fans are eagerly waiting for is **Katrina Kaif's** upcoming superhero flick. Bollywood has given a go at the superhero genre several times before, however, a female superhero is definitely a first. And who better than Katrina Kaif to kickstart this concept. If reports are to be believed, the film will be called *Super Soldier*. Katrina Kaif has already begun her prep for the film which is expected to go on floors next year. The film will be directed by **Ali Abbas Zafar.** The director shares a good equation with Katrina, thanks to their work in the *Tiger* series. The film is currently in pre-production. Zafar has even visited locations like Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Poland, Georgia, and Uttarakhand for a recce.

VIRUSHKA FEATURES HIGH AMONG THE TOP 25 GLOBAL INSTAGRAM INFLUENCERS



A new statistical report compiled by a global data collection and analysis platform has ranked **Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma** in the Top 25 Global Instagram Influencers Ranking. The qualitative analytical report ranks 1000 top Instagram accounts by the quality of the audience and the authentic engagement that they can drive to create awareness, to empower, inspire or impact people through their voice and clout. While **Cristiano Ronaldo** is number 1, Virat Kohli ranks 11th in the list, just after **Beyonce** and Anushka Sharma ranks 24th above **Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber.** Collectively, Virushka have around 240 million followers across social media platforms. Anushka and Virat have massive strengths as a pair with strong equity qualities like being real, trustworthy, honest, self-made icons, outsiders who have carved a name for themselves, dependency, vocal about issues that impact citizens, among others. The couple, who completed three years of married bliss in December, are expecting their first child in January. Virat has even taken paternity leave for the same.



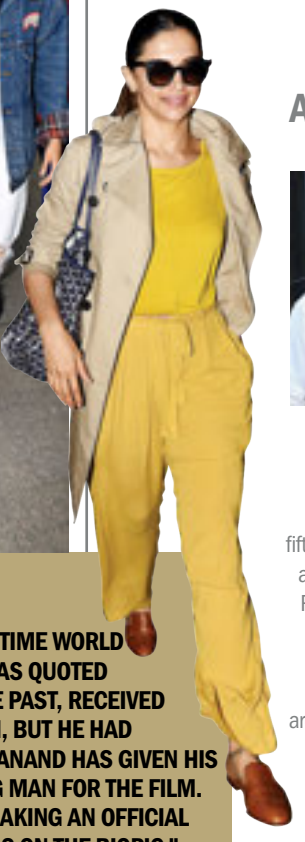
AANAND L RAI TO DIRECT A BIOPIC ON VISWANATHAN ANAND

DIRECTOR AANAND L RAI **WILL MAKE A BIOPIC ON FIVE-TIME WORLD CHESS CHAMPION,** VISWANATHAN ANAND. **A SOURCE WAS QUOTED THUS IN A REPORT, "VISWANATHAN ANAND HAD, IN THE PAST, RECEIVED NUMEROUS OFFERS FOR A BIOPIC TO BE MADE ON HIM, BUT HE HAD REFUSED. THIS TIME, THINGS JUST FELL IN PLACE AND ANAND HAS GIVEN HIS NOD..." THE TEAM HAS STILL NOT LOCKED ANY LEADING MAN FOR THE FILM. THE SOURCE SAID, "THE PRODUCTION TEAM WILL BE MAKING AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SHORTLY AND GIVE OUT MORE DETAILS ON THE BIOPIC."**

SHAH RUKH KHAN'S TIMELY AID TO COVID-19 PATIENTS



Shah Rukh Khan and his noble gestures are known to all. He'd donated 20,000 N-95 masks in Kerala in November. Earlier. he 'd donated 2,000 PPE kits to health workers in Chhattisgarh. Recently Shah Rukh Khan donated 500 Remdesivir injections for the Covid-19 positive patients in Delhi. We wouldn't have known about this golden gesture if the Delhi Health Minister **Satyendar Jain** hadn't tweeted about it. The Health Minister said, "We are extremely thankful to Sh. @iamsrk and @MeerFoundation for donating 500 Remdesivir injections at a time when it was needed the most. We are much obliged for the support extended by you during the time of crisis." Shah Rukh Khan soon replied to him with his own tweet, "Thank you @SatyendarJain ji for the appreciation towards @MeerFoundation. This crisis will be overcome only if we continue to maintain a united front. My team and I are available to help in the future as well. Thank you to your team for all their service." Deeds like these warm the heart.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE, AKSHAY KUMAR, ABHISHEK BACHCHAN IN *HOUSEFULL 5*?



Sajid Nadiadwala's *Housefull* franchise has done phenomenally well over the years. We have seen four parts of the franchise so far and the makers want the fifth edition to be bigger and better. Sajid is apparently hunting for a script for the film. Reportedly, they want to make the film in Imax format. We've heard that Sajid and **Akshay** want to make their own Comedy Universe in Bollywood and for that, they are ready to bring in all the characters that have been part of the Housefull series so far. **Deepika Padukone, John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan,** Akshay Kumar, **Kriti Sanon** are set to collaborate for the project, according to reports.

AKSHAY KUMAR TO CHARGE RS 99 CRORES FOR *BACHCHAN PANDEY*

Akshay Kumar is one of the highest-paid actors in our country. According to reports, the actor has slashed down his price for his good friend producer **Sajid Nadiadwala** because of the ongoing pandemic. The actor will now charge 99 crores for *Bachchan Pandey*. Yes, you heard that right. According to the trade circuit, Akshay Kumar charges approximately Rs 110-120 crores for a film, but for his friend Sajid Nadiadwala he is ready to give a discount. Since both Akshay Kumar and Sajid Nadiadwala believe in the number 9, they locked on Rs 99 crores which has two nines in it. *Bachchan Pandey* stars **Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez** and **Arshad Warsi** and is directed by **Farhad Samji**. Akshay Kumar plays a dreaded gangster, who aspires to be an actor, in the film. Akshay's other films include *Sooryavanshi, Atrangi Re, Bell Bottom, Raksha Bandhan, Prithviraj, Ram Setu* and *Housefull 5*. Seems like he has a full house indeed.





Prabhas to unleash his dark side in *Salaar*

Production house Hombale Films of *KGF* fame made a big announcement about their next film. Even though they didn't reveal much about the upcoming project, they assured viewers it'd be the biggest film of 2021. Titled *Salaar,* the action flick is produced by **Vijay Kiragandur** and directed by ace filmmaker **Prashanth Neel,** who has helmed the KGF franchise as well. The film features superstar **Prabhas** in the lead and the actor's role is said to have shades of grey to it. Sharing his excitement about the project, Vijay Kiragandur said, "At Hombale Films, we have always aimed at providing a larger than life cinematic experience to our audiences. This is very special for us and am really happy to collaborate with Prashanth Neel and Prabhas for this. They're both so good at what they do and we can't wait to begin the shoot soon. I'm hopeful that the audiences will continue to give us the same amount of love."



KIARA ADVANI TO STAR IN ASHUTOSH GOWARIKER'S *KARRAM KURRAM*

IT LOOKS LIKE BIOPICS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. AND THE LATEST STAR TO JUMP IN ON THE BIOPIC BANDWAGON IS NONE OTHER THAN KIARA ADVANI. **SHE HAS BEEN ROPED IN AS LEAD FOR THE BIOPIC CALLED *KARRAM KURRRAM,* BASED ON THE LIVES OF THE HOUSEWIVES WHO STARTED LIJJAT PAPAD. THE FILM IS PRODUCED BY** ASHUTOSH GOWARIKER **AND WILL HAVE KIARA IN A NON-GLAMOROUS ROLE FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THIS ONE.**

AKSHAY KUMAR TO PLAY A DOUBLE ROLE IN A SCI-FI PROJECT?

We've just told you that **Akshay Kumar** has several projects in his kitty. It seems he's busier than we knew as there are reports that he might do a VFX laden sci-fi project as well. The latest reports suggest that he will soon do a sci-fi project for which he has roped in his *Mission Mangal* director **Jagan Shakti.** A source close to the development said, "After Jagan Shakti's direction of *Mission Mangal,* it was an easy choice for Akshay Kumar to rope him in as the director of this new venture. The two of them, Shakti and Kumar have established a working relationship that has paid off in the past so it made the choice of Shakti directing this new venture that much easier. Interestingly, the film that Shakti will be directing will feature Akshay Kumar in a double role. Though at the moment details of each of the roles are unavailable, it is safe to say that both roles Kumar will portray in the film are sure to keep fans grinning." Akshay in a double role sure means double the fun.





DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S SCULPTURE FEATURED AT THE ATHENS AIRPORT

It is no secret that **Deepika Padukone** is one of the biggest stars in the world. The popularity of Deepika Padukone was evident once again when she was included in an exhibition at the Athens airport. Titled as 'The Authentic Smiles' this exhibition featured sculptures of faces of people from different parts of the world. The exhibition was a gesture on behalf of the airport to welcome tourists post the break out of COVID-19. The description under the picture of Deepika's sculpture reads, "Indian Bollywood Actress smiles at Athens International Airport. Grey Marble, 2020 A.D." Deepika does have a world-class smile indeed and now it's been preserved for posterity.

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STARRY STARRY NIGHT!

A first of its kind award show amidst the coronavirus pandemic, the FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards was a success story with the divos and the divas of the OTT space gracing the red carpet. The fear of COVID-19 didn't diminish the fetish for princess gowns and sharp tuxedos. The ceremony was a shimmering fiesta with style, glamour and loads of talent on display. Decoding the looks of OTT's best, we present the trailblazers of the night.



NORA FATEHI



RAJKUMMAR RAO

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

SOME LIKE IT HAUTE!

The stars graced the first ever FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards 2020 in their sartorial best. Analita Seth analyses their fashion game


PRIYAMANI


AMRUTA KHANVILKAR


JENNIFER WINGET


NORA FATEHI

The beauty from the South, **Priyamani** has not only taken the OTT space by the storm but also strutted down our red carpet in the most stunning drape. Handcrafted by Udd, Priyamani's modern geometric saree, was a hit and she accentuated her look with shimmering smokey eye makeup. The beautiful *jhumkas* added to the overall impact. **Jennifer Winget** rocked the Christmassy green Surabhi Chopra creation for the night. Her dark amber locks with minimal jewellery took the look to the finishing line with perfection. **Amruta Khanvilkar** also took the ethnic route to the red carpet in her sheer saree Premya by Manishii saree. Her emerald necklace and the teased low pony were a good way to finish this look. Working an elaborate princess gown by Marchesa was **Nora Fatehi.** The tiered tulle gown in ombre shades of pink was the ultimate head-turner of the night.

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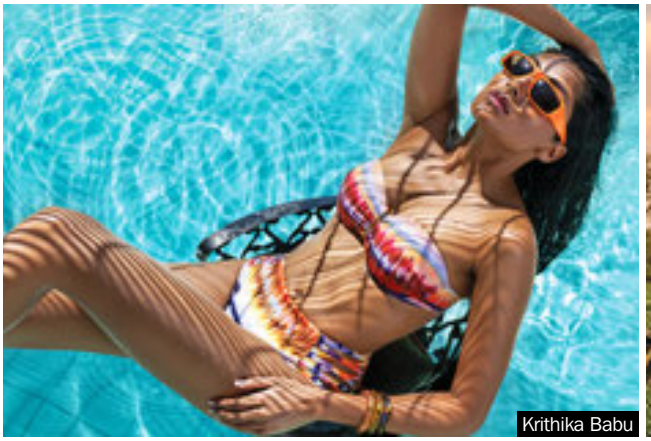
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Spreading some pixie dust and good vibes on the red carpet was the adorable **Alaya F.** Her Raisa Vanessa golden creation was refreshing, young and sexy, all at the same time. **Shriya Pilgaonkar** kept it simple in a classic velvet gown by Swatee Singh. A perfect fit for her, she pulled off the old Hollywood vibe with aplomb. **Mouni Roy** opted for an ensemble by Shehlaa Khan for the evening. The candy pink monotone outfit looked stunning with her loose curls and subtle makeup. **Tripti Dimri** chose an Amit Aggarwal creation for the night. The multi-textured gown with the heavy floral ornamentation was a fun pick for the stylist Tripti.

YEAR OF THE GOOD TIMES

A LEGACY OF STYLE, GLAMOUR AND BEAUTY, **KINGFISHER** CALENDAR IS BACK WITH ITS 2021 EDITION.


Krithika Babu


Sumita Bhandari


Anukreethy Vas

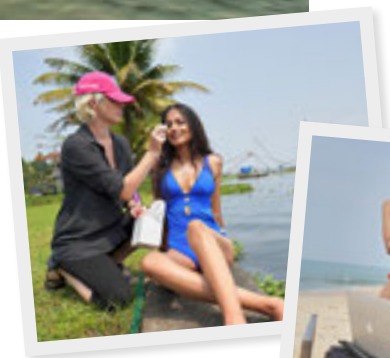
The illustrious Kingfisher Calendar is known for its grand visualisation of the good life and it is back with its sparkling new edition. Known for its scenic locations and fabulous models, the current edition of Kingfisher calendar was shot down South, in Kerala.

The shoot took place amongst the lush vegetation of Coconut Lagoon and the tranquil Marari Beach, Kochi. The picturesque journey included a Victorian-style boatyard called the Brunton Boatyard and the heritage resort, Chittoor Palace, as its landmarks. From the exotic wildlife and emerald green hills to the relaxed backwaters, Kingfisher Calendar 2021 is set to weave a tapestry of serenity and beauty.

It showcases a closer look of the behind-the-scenes action, swimsuit trends, dazzling models and the tranquil landscape of Kerala through the lens of Atul Kasbekar. Featuring five enchanting beauties - Gehna Mahiarya, Krithika Babu, Anukreethy Vas, Adline Castelino and Sumita Bhandari; the Kingfisher Calendar 2021 is an epitome of panache and élan. Backed by a stellar team- stylist Allia Al Rufai; make-up by Maniasha Fialkina and hairstylist Flavien Heldt, the calendar is sure to be fabulous and scintillating. ■

“THIS YEAR, THE CALENDAR COMES HOME TO GOD’S OWN COUNTRY, KERALA. KNOWN FOR ITS PICTURESQUE LOCALES, THE STATE WAS THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR THE KINGFISHER CALENDAR’S LATEST EDITION. WITH PREMIUM STYLE AND BRILLIANT PHOTOGRAPHY, THE CALENDAR IS A QUINTESSENCE OF GLITZ AND GLAMOUR”

GURPREET SINGH, HEAD MARKETING, UNITED BREWERIES LIMITED



← All that went in the making of the ever stunning pictures of the Kingfisher Calendar 2021



→ Photographer Atul Kasbekar captures the beauty of the landscape and ladies



Zareen Khan looked like a million bucks in her well-fitted scarlet gown. An embellished yoke and minimal jewellery complemented her subtle make-up and side-swept hair to the T. **Tisca Chopra** opted for a cedar brown saree for the red carpet. Sticking to the classics, she exuded grace in the nine yards. **Divya Dutta** looked like a true golden girl in her Ritu Kumar creation. Staying true to the monotone outfit, Divya completed her look with hoop *jhumkas* and a matching mask. Working it in a canary yellow Gavin Miguel gown, **Saiee Manjrekar** turned up the heat at the event. The thigh-high slit, a gorgeous red lip and the poker-straight hair accentuated the look to perfection.



Plaid and perfect, **Rajkummar Rao** rocked the red carpet in his Osman Abdul Razak creation. He stood out in a sea of classic monotone ensembles. **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** stuck to vintage classic in a black tuxedo with a crisp white shirt and sleek black tie. Working it in white sneakers, the man of the hour **Jaideep Ahlawat** walked the red carpet in an all-black ensemble. A black round neck t-shirt with a pair of black pants and a blazer. With all this and his poker-straight hair, Jaideep looked dapper indeed. **Manoj Bajpayee** too stuck to basics in a black turtleneck and matching pants with a midnight blue blazer. His well-fitted look was both classic and chic. From Dalal Street to the red carpet, **Pratik Gandhi's** charm is unmissable. He walked the red carpet in a jazzy co-ord with embellishment around the *bandhgala* and shoulder.



Rahul Bose went old Hollywood with a complete three-piece suit, a tie and a white pocket square to finish his sleek look. **Amit Sadh** served some style in his berry blue TISA suit. He ditched the basic bow-tie or pocket square for a bright red pin on his collar. **Prateik Babbar** opted for a black three-piece suit for the evening. This Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna creation was a perfect example of a classic ensemble infused with a touch of modern. **Ishwak Singh** brought some pizzazz to the red carpet in a wine velvet blazer and black pants with a black shirt. This break from the classics was refreshing and made heads turn at the ceremony. **Abhishek Banerjee** stayed true to his vibe in a simple yet stylish double-breasted navy blue suit that he paired with a black turtleneck. Completing his look with tan leather shoes and a nerdy pair of glasses, Abhishek looked sharp on the red carpet. **Sunny Singh** opted for a black and grey creation by Meher Nijjaar. The camouflaged black tie, an origami pocket square and a dull silver brooch, all this added to his simple yet stylish look.

exclusives

what's on their mind?



FOUR ACES!

The Best Actor In A Web Original Film (Male) trophy was won by Nawazuddin Siddiqui for *Raat Akeli Hai.* Nawaz thoroughly enjoyed himself and checked base with his colleagues like Manoj Bajpayee, Jaideep Ahlawat, Rajkummar Rao, Rahul Bose, Pratik Gandhi, director Hansal Mehta, et al. He said he had won awards before but today it felt special in front of a room full of performers...

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Manoj Bajpayee, Rahul Bose, Pratik Gandhi



Nawazuddin Siddiqui bonds with Jaideep Ahlawat



Manoj Bajpayee touches base with Nawazuddin Siddiqui



Rajkummar Rao and Pratik Gandhi pose together

OVER THE TOP!

DEVESH SHARMA COMPILES A BUG'S EYE VIEW OF THE INAUGURAL **FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS 2020.**

Thanks to the coronavirus, we were forced to hold the first ever FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards in three sessions held throughout the day. It was a marathon undertaking where the masks were as much a part of the red carpet ensemble as any other accessory. Where instead of starters, the waiters roamed around carrying sanitisers. And people trekked to the loo not to powder their noses but to repeatedly wash their hands. It was a sanitised affair and yet the laughter, the joy, the bonhomie was unmasked and more than made up for all the restrictions.



Priyamani



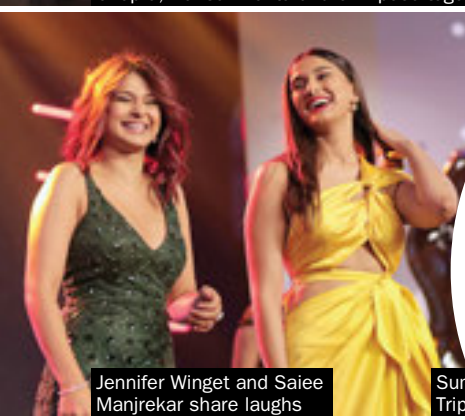
Nora Fatehi



Niranjan Iyengar, Nikhhil Advani, Tisca Chopra, Hansal Mehta and Onir pose together



Rajkummar Rao and Amit Sadh exchange smiles



Jennifer Winget and Saiee Manjrekar share laughs



Sumukhi Suresh and Tripti Dimri are all smiles



Prateik Babbar goofs around with Rahul Bose

Rahul Bose who won the Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Web Original Film (Male) for *Bulbbul* pointed out that any actor's achievement isn't a solo effort but has the hard work and the blessings of a whole team behind it

Filmfare partnered with FLYX for the event. FLYX is a social media app and website which helps you narrow down your viewing choices over the OTT platforms. Their tagline, Stop Searching, Start Watching, says it all.

Seema Pahwa requested to come in the morning session as she had rehearsals in the afternoon at Prthivi theatre for her play. The actress took home the Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Web Original Film (Female) trophy for the anti-war film *Chintu Ka Birthday* and then rushed off. Her morning certainly got made. The morning and afternoon sections were dedicated to technical winners. **Ayesha Khanna** won the Best Costume Design (Series) trophy for her detailed work in the period drama *The Forgotten Army – Azaadi Ke Liye,* while **Rajneesh Hedao** took home the Best Production Design (Series) trophy for his seminal work in the same series. The Best Cinematography (Series) award was won by **Sylvester Fonseca** and **Swapnil Sonavane** for *Sacred Games Season 2* and **Alokananda Dasgupta** took home the Best Background Music (Series) trophy for the same. **Advait Nemlekar** bagged the Best Original Soundtrack (Series) trophy for *Special OPS.* Best Screenplay (Series) and Best Original Story (Series) trophies were won by **Sudip Sharma, Sagar Haveli, Hardik Mehta** and **Gunjit Chopra** for *Paatal Lok* while the Best Dialogue award went to **Sumit Arora, Suman Kumar, Raj Nidimoru** and **Krishna DK** for *The Family Man.*



Mouni Roy

Alaya F

Lyricist and screenplay writer **Niranjan Iyengar** was our first presenter. He came to the awards despite having a flight to catch and zoomed off soon after. We thank him for his commitment.

Rahul Bose who won the Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Web Original Film (Male) for *Bulbbul* came with his sister **Anuradha**. In his winner's speech,



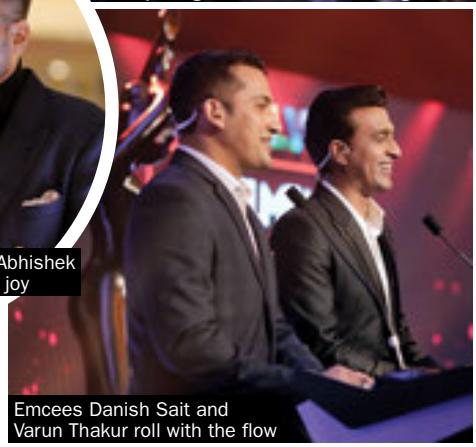
Pratik Gandhi poses with Madhur Bhandarkar


Shriya Pilgaonkar and Ishwak Singh take in the show


Sunny Singh looks dapper


Seema Pahwa is all ears


Jaideep Ahlawat and Abhishek Banerjee share in the joy


Emcees Danish Sait and Varun Thakur roll with the flow


Rajkummar Rao chills with Krishna DK

he pointed out that any actor's achievement isn't a solo effort but has the hard work and the blessings of a whole team behind it. Wise words indeed. The Best Actor In A Web Original Film (Female) award was won by **Tripti Dimri,** Bose's co-star in *Bulbbul*. She looked ethereal in a flowing gown, which was a far cry from the period *saris* she had worn in the film. She thanked him for making her feel comfortable on the sets and taking care of her during their difficult scenes together. Her thousand-watt smile lit the room. She was super enthusiastic during the photo session, making sure her gown caught the best light possible. And keeping the protocols in mind, came back to collect her mask which she had left on her table.

The Best Actor In A Web Original Film (Male) trophy was won by **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** for *Raat Akeli Hai*. Nawaz thoroughly enjoyed himself and touched base with colleagues like **Manoj Bajpayee, Jaideep Ahlawat, Rajkummar Rao,** Rahul Bose, **Pratik Gandhi,** director **Hansal Mehta,** et al. He said he had won awards before but today it felt special in front of a room full of performers. This sentiment was echoed by and elaborated upon by Manoj Bajpayee, winner of the Best Actor In A Drama Series (Critics) trophy for *The Family Man*. He recalled that **Vijay Raaz** and Nawazuddin Siddiqui got the role of a tree in one of his plays and took out their angst by tripping the director over, who unfortunately broke his arm. He emphasised that his association with several of the people present went back decades and he was getting the feeling he was in a family function rather than an award function. Going emotional, he said he loves everyone, even Rahul Bose, despite him being stuck up sometimes. We're sure it was a goodhearted dig and was taken in the right spirit. Manoj also pointed out that thanks to the OTT, a challenge to the prevalent star system has been posted and if the trend continues, then India would see a new system or two parallel systems in place. Trust Manoj to sum up the new normal concisely.

Jaideep Ahlawat was a much in demand individual who was caught in long conversations as colleagues congratulated him on his sublime portrayal in *Paatal Lok*. Jaideep, winner of The Best Actor In A Drama Series (Male), got emotional during his speech and said this moment of victory had years of blood, sweat, tears and heartbreak behind it. He

Jaideep Ahlawat, winner of the Best Actor In A Drama Series (Male), for *Paatal Lok,* got emotional during his speech and said this moment of victory had years of blood, sweat, tears and heartbreak behind it. He thanked his wife for being part of all the ups and downs and being his pillar of support


Saiee Manjrekar and Prateik Babbar


Kabir Bedi and Parveen Dusanjh exude elegance


Krishna DK, Priyamani, Manoj Bajpayee and Raj Nidimoru take centre stage


Hansal Mehta chats with Pratik Gandhi


Avinash Arun hugs Abhishek Banerjee as Prosit Roy looks on


Manoj Bajpayee and Nawazuddin Siddiqui bond


Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Manoj Bajpayee and Hansal Mehta are all smiles

Amit Sadh who won the Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Drama Series (Male) for *Breathe: Into The Shadows* said he used to hope for a trophy every year but it eluded him. He mentioned he was envious of his friend Rajkummar Rao for having won it multiple times and he was happy that he was part of the first edition of Filmfare's OTT awards as that made him part of history

thanked his wife for being part of all the ups and downs and being his pillar of support. He got teary-eyed remembering Irrfan, whom he looked upon as an ideal. The award was presented to him by **Mr Deepak Lamba,** CEO, Worldwide Media and Rajkummar Rao. Rajkummar and he were batchmates at the FTII and Rajkummar mentioned that it gives him great pleasure to present the trophy to a former batchmate. It brought alive so many memories for him. To which Jaipdeep quipped that given the esteemed company, it felt like a convocation ceremony indeed. **Sushmita Sen,** winner of the Best Actor In A Drama Series (Female) trophy for *Aarya*, couldn't make it to the event but sent a lovely video message. It was a comeback of sorts for her and she said she was overwhelmed by all the praise and appreciation that she got for her portrayal in *Aarya* and this trophy was the veritable cherry on the cake. **Neena Gupta,** who won the Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Comedy Series (Female) award for *Panchayat* was away shooting out of town and hence couldn't make it to the event. She too sent a lovely video message and said the appreciation she has been getting both for *Panchayat* and for *Masaba Masaba* has made her appreciate the reach and power of the OTT platforms.


Zareen Khan

Jennifer Winget

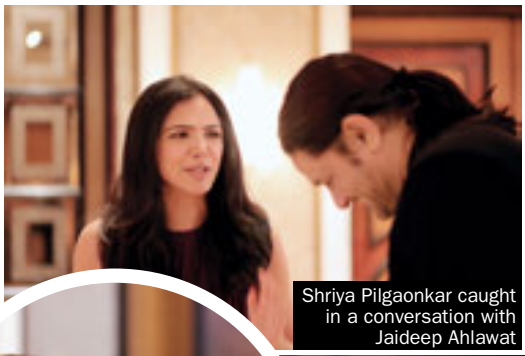
Amruta Khanvilkar

South stalwart **Priyamani,** who won the Best Actress In A Drama Series (Critics) trophy for *The Family Man,* pointed out she was apprehensive about the venture at first as she was working in Hindi for the first time, and the long-form format too was unfamiliar to her. She said the format gave her a chance to do more with her character and she thoroughly enjoyed the process. She thanked Manoj Bajpayee for being a supportive co-star. Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Drama Series (Male) winner for *Breathe: Into The Shadows,* **Amit Sadh,** looked dapper as hell in a three-piece suit. He was impressed by the fact that we were there the whole day and said maybe we should contact the record books about it. Amit said it was his first Filmfare Award. He used to hope for a trophy every year but it eluded him. He mentioned he was envious of his

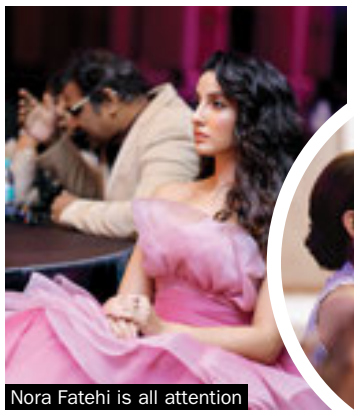


Divya Dutta,Manoj Bajpayee, Nawauddin Siddiqui and Rajkummar Rao take in the proceedings


Shashank Singh, Co-Founder & CEO, FLYX chats with Amit Sadh


Shriya Pilgaonkar caught in a conversation with Jaideep Ahlawat


Divya Dutta chats with Abhishek Banerjee


Nora Fatehi is all attention


Priyamani records a Kodak moment

Hansal Mehta and Rajkummar Rao are absorbed in the proceedings

Sushmita Sen, winner of the Best Actor In A Drama Series (Female) trophy for *Aarya*, couldn't make it to the event but sent a lovely video message... She said she was overwhelmed by all the praise and appreciation that she got for her portrayal in *Aarya*


Comrade-in-arms Ishwak Singh and Jaideep Ahlawat

friend Rajkummar Rao for having won it multiple times and he was happy that he was part of the first edition of Filmfare's OTT awards as that made him part of history. Best Actor In A Supporting Role In A Drama Series (Female), **Divya Dutta,** who won it for her role in *Special OPS* said awards push an actor to do better than her last outing. She reiterated the fact that the OTT platforms have become a boon for the actors as they are not only assured of regular work but also can expand their scope as well. True that.

Comedienne **Sumukhi Suresh** who took home the Best Actress In A Comedy Series (Critics) trophy for her comic timing in *Pushpavalli Season 2* said she wasn't expecting this kind of response when the series had begun. That she was receiving the award in such a privileged company pointed towards the fact that she was doing something right. She added that comedy isn't easy and getting the Critics Award for it meant that her peers in the industry liked what they saw.

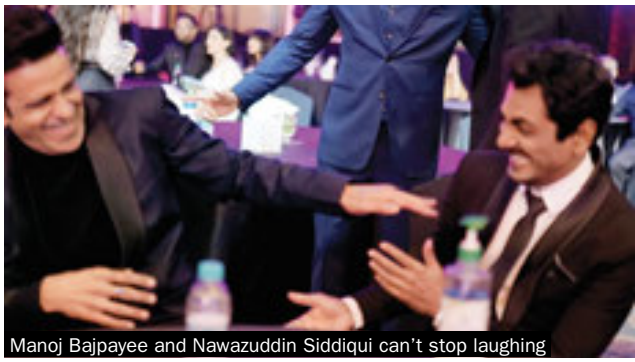
Filmmakers **Raj** and **DK** were a much in demand personalities as their creation, *The Family Man,* took home multiple awards. It won the Best Series (Critics) and the Best Director (Critics) trophies, among other things and the two emphasised the importance of teamwork in their speech. They also mentioned they liked working on long-form content as it provided better creative freedom than a film

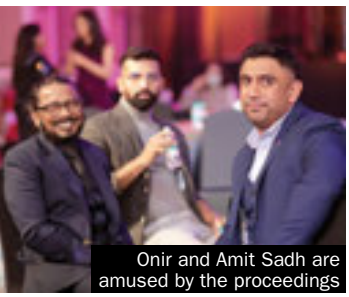


Priyamani


Manoj Bajpayee bonds with Rahul Bose and his sister Anuradha


Sumit Vyas strikes a pose


Manoj Bajpayee and Nawazuddin Siddiqui can't stop laughing


Onir and Amit Sadh are amused by the proceedings



Nora Fatehi


Amruta Khanvilkar and Sai Deodhar take in the proceedings


Ramesh Taurani chats with Jaideep Ahlawat

South stalwart Priyamani, who won the Best Actress In A Drama Series (Critics) trophy for *The Family Man,* pointed out she was apprehensive about the venture at first as she was working in Hindi for the first time, and the long-form format too was unfamiliar to her

and were excited to be part of the OTT parade when the sector is blossoming up in India. They also hoped that Indian shows would become frontrunners globally as they'd the potential to do so.

Excitement levels soared wildly when Pratik Gandhi, of *Scam 1992* fame, made his entry. He's the current superstar of the OTT arena because of the show's stupendous success. Despite the halo surrounding him, he was humble and down-to-earth and chatted amicably with all. We thank him for taking time off and coming in to support his colleagues. We would also like to thank our other presenters like Rajkummar Rao, Hansal Mehta, **Zarine Khan, Saiee Manjrekar, Jennifer Winget, Nora Fatehi, Prateik Babbar, Madhur Bhandarkar, Ramesh Taurani, Onir, Sai** and **Shrabani Deodhar, Mouni Roy, Kabir Bedi, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Alaya F, Sumit Vyas, Nikhhil Advani, Tisca Chopra,** and **Amruta Khanvilkar** for being such a sport and coming to our aid despite the threat of the pandemic. The event couldn't have been possible without the quicksilver banter of the emcees **Danish Sait** and **Varun Thakur**, who kept the proceedings rolling without any glitch. The show was telecasted on Times Now, Romedy Now and Zoom TV and digitally streamed on *Filmfare's* Facebook page, FLYX app and flyx.me. ■


Tripti Dimri

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WON DAY WONDERS



★ ★ ★

DEVESH SHARMA chronicles the winners of the inaugural FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards 2020

★ ★ ★

"THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND."— NEIL ARMSTONG

Paraphrasing the first man on the moon, we can say that the first ever FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards is a small step on Filmfare's *behalf to appreciate the giant stride taken by the entertainment industry in the OTT space. For close to seven decades,* Filmfare *has been honouring excellence in cinema. Over the years, we've extended the ambit to include South, Marathi, Bengali and Punjabi cinemas as well. We've also included short films recently. Now, when the interest in web-based content is on the rise, it was ony natural that we would turn our attention to OTT. The coronavirus pandemic had stemmed the flow of life as we knew it and brought it to a trickle. One thing that did much to uplift our mood as we grappled with the mental chaos was the OTT content. Viewers needed something solid, something relatable, something that packed an emotional punch. And shows like* Paatal Lok, The Family Man, *or* Aarya *fitted the bill. The OTT shows were both our escape from reality and escape into reality as most mimicked real-life situations. And for actors, OTT ventures not only satisfied their creative urges but also opened up another revenue stream. Read ahead to know more obout who took the coveted Black Lady home that day...*



(L-R): Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Priyamani, Jaideep Ahlawat, Tripti Dimri

WINNERS PHOTOGRAPHS: MEETESH TANEJA

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST SERIES

PAATAL LOK

The series follows the misadventures of a disillusioned cop who is handed the thankless task of investigating an assassination attempt gone wrong. It's dark, visceral and doesn't give any quarter to the viewers. It doesn't allay our fears about the deterioration of society but makes them sound more real. Every episode twists the knife further and makes the wound deeper and yet one persistently watches the show.



Paatal Lok



Saiee Manjrekar and Jennifer Winget present the award to Sudip Sharma

NOMINEES

- Aarya
- Asur
- ***PAATAL LOK***
- Special OPS
- The Family Man



BEST DIRECTOR (SERIES)

AVINASH ARUN AND PROSIT ROY

PAATAL LOK

The dark underbelly of policing is exposed in this gritty saga which touches a chord with the audience despite the visceral violence. Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy work as a team and never waver in their vision. There isn't any redeeming feature for anyone in the series as even the good guys have grey motives. The directors hammer home the fact that not something but everything is indeed rotten in the state of Denmark.



Paatal Lok



Mouni Roy and Onir give the trophy to Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy

NOMINEES

- ***AVINASH ARUN AND PROSIT ROY (PAATAL LOK)***
- Krishna D.K. and Raj Nidimoru (The Family Man)
- Neeraj Pandey and Shivam Nair (Special OPS)
- Oni Sen (Asur)



BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES (MALE)

JAIDEEP AHLAWAT

PAATAL LOK

Hathiram Chaudhary is a policeman who's never caught a good break. The one chance he gets too turns out to be a false alarm. And his disillusionment is complete when he succeeds in unravelling the truth. The character is overworked and underpaid. There are constant bags under his eyes. He doesn't have a great family life as well. Yet he persists in doing good, as he sees it as his one chance at redemption.



Paatal Lok



Deepak Lamba, CEO, Worldwide Media and Rajkummar Rao present the award to Jaideep Ahlawat

NOMINEES

- Abhishek Bachchan (Breathe: Into The Shadows)
- Arshad Warsi (Asur)
- ***JAIDEEP AHLAWAT (PAATAL LOK)***
- Kay Kay Menon (Special OPS)
- Manoj Bajpayee (The Family Man)

BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES (FEMALE)

SUSHMITA SEN

AARYA

Sushmita Sen plays a widow named Aarya Sareen who has to take the place of her dead husband in order to ensure the safety of her loved ones. And learns that she has what it takes to be a crime boss. It's Sushmita's comeback project. She faced the camera after many years but it feels like there hasn't been an interval at all. In fact, she looks and acts better than before.



Aarya



Hansal Mehta announcing Sushmita Sen's name

NOMINEES

- Jennifer Winget (Code M)
- Kirti Kulhari (Four More Shots Please! Season 2)
- Nithya Menen (Breathe: Into The Shadows)
- Priyamani (The Family Man)
- ***SUSHMITA SEN (AARYA)***





BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES (MALE)

JITENDRA KUMAR

PANCHAYAT

Abhishek Tripathi's character played by OTT veteran Jitendra Kumar, is the soul of the series. A man with urban roots, finds himself exploring rural India with each episode and comes to like what he sees. He's an engineering graduate who takes a job in a remote *panchayat* for lack of prospects. Initially disillusioned with what he sees as a dead-end job, he finds himself thawing to his circumstances as the series progresses.


Panchayat

NOMINEES

- Dhruv Sehgal (Little Things Season 3)
- Gulshan Devaiah (Afsos)
- ***JITENDRA KUMAR (PANCHAYAT)***
- Ranvir Shorey (Metro Park Quarantine Edition)

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES (FEMALE)

MITHILA PALKAR

LITTLE THINGS SEASON 3

She loves him, she loves him not... it's the vulnerability of Mithila Palkar's character that makes the show so exciting and fun. And her comic timing is second to none. Season 3 sees her character maturing as an individual while dealing with a long-distance relationship. She finds her own tribe and is shown to be comfortable with the idea of living alone. Mithila's histrionics makes it all relatable.



Little Things Season 3

NOMINEES

- Maanvi Gagroo (Four More Shots Please! Season 2)
- ***MITHILA PALKAR (LITTLE THINGS SEASON 3)***
- Purbi Joshi (Metro Park Quarantine Edition)
- Rinku Rajguru (Hundred)
- Sumukhi Suresh (Pushpavalli Season 2)



FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A DRAMA SERIES (MALE)

AMIT SADH

BREATHE: INTO THE SHADOWS

Amit Sadh plays a dogged policeman who is haunted by his own demons on the one hand and is handed an almost impossible case on the other. The case gets murkier by the minute and he knows he has to bend the laws to solve it and save innocent lives. Amidst all the mayhem, he never loses his humanity and manages to get to the bottom of the mystery.



Breathe: Into The Shadows



Shashank Singh, Co-Founder & CEO FLYX and Alaya F hand over the trophy to Amit Sadh

NOMINEES

- Abhishek Banerjee (Paatal Lok)
- ***AMIT SADH (BREATHE: INTO THE SHADOWS)***
- Ishwak Singh (Paatal Lok)
- Pankaj Tripathi (Sacred Games Season 2)
- Sharib Hashmi (Asur)



BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A DRAMA SERIES (FEMALE)

DIVYA DUTTA

SPECIAL OPS

She plays a highly suspicious character in the series. She goes from being a radical to being someone who is willing to give the goodness within her a second chance. Her humanity finally triumphs. She's someone who shows that half the problems of the world can be solved, if your heart is in the right place. It was a complex character indeed but Divya Dutta seamlessly portrays the character with utmost ease.



Special OPS



Ramesh Taurani hands over the award to Divya Dutta

NOMINEES

- ***DIVYA DUTTA (SPECIAL OPS)***
- Gul Panag (Paatal Lok)
- Mairembam Ronaldo Singh (Paatal Lok)
- Maya Sarao (Aarya)
- Swastika Mukherjee (Paatal Lok)



BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A COMEDY SERIES (MALE)

RAGHUBIR YADAV

PANCHAYAT

Raghubir Yadav plays the '*Pradhan Pati*' or the husband of the *sarpanch*. He has usurped his wife's place and has been administering the village. Towards the end, however he realises his mistake and also the changes that need to be done. He's not a bad person at heart and is shown to be quite progressive in some cases and goes out of his way to make his assistant feel at home.



Panchayat



Amruta Khanwilkar presents the trophy to Chandan Kumar of the *Panchayat* team

NOMINEES

- Hrishikesh Joshi (Breathe: Into The Shadows)
- ***RAGHUBIR YADAV (PANCHAYAT)***
- Rahul Dev (Who's Your Daddy)
- Shrikant Verma (Breathe: Into The Shadows)



BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A COMEDY SERIES (FEMALE)

NEENA GUPTA

PANCHAYAT

Despite being the *Pradhan* of the village, Neena Gupta's character is shown to have a secondary place. Her voice is final in her home, however. And her husband never fails to consult her on different issues as well. But when it comes to administering the village, he takes the lead. Later, circumstances prove that she's equal to the task. Neena Gupta's on song and essays the rural character with ease.



Panchayat



Zareen Khan gives the trophy to Shreyansh from team *Panchayat*

NOMINEES

- Ahsaas Channa (Hostel Daze)
- ***NEENA GUPTA (PANCHAYAT)***
- Samridhi Dewan (The Office Season 2)
- Trupti Khamkar (Hum Tum And Them... Bachchon Ke Side Effects)

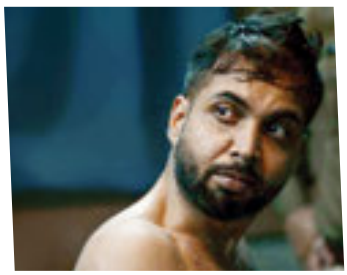


BEST ORIGINAL STORY (SERIES)

SUDIP SHARMA, HARDIK MEHTA, SAGAR HAVELI AND GUNJIT CHOPRA

PAATAL LOK

Pataal Lok tells the story of how murky our society has become, thanks to corruption running rampant everywhere. There's no redemption in sight as everyone has been corrupted. Even those who are the guardians of the society, use their power for their gains. The police, judiciary, even the press... the malaise is everywhere and it isn't going away. It's a gutsy storytelling indeed.



Paatal Lok



Tisca Chopra hands over the trophy to Sudip Sharma, Sagar Haveli and Gunjit Chopra

NOMINEES

- Chandan Kumar (Panchayat)
- Gaurav Shukla (Asur)
- Mayank Sharma, Vikram Tuli (Breathe: Into The Shadows)
- Suman Kumar, Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K (The Family Man)
- ***SUDIP SHARMA, SAGAR HAVELI, HARDIK MEHTA AND GUNJIT CHOPRA (PAATAL LOK)***

BEST COMEDY (SERIES/SPECIALS)

PANCHAYAT

The series chronicles the life of an engineering graduate who joins as a *panchayat* secretary in a remote village Phulera of Uttar Pradesh, due to lack of better job options. The character goes through several trials and tribulations before adjusting to his new reality. The comedy comes through his reactions to his changed circumstances. The show acquaints us to the realities of rural India in a nutshell and makes us aware that there is life beyond the well-lit metros as well.



Panchayat



Tisca Chopra gives away the award to *Panchayat* team comprising producer Arunabh Kumar, writer Chandan Kumar, director Deepak Mishra, Head TVF Originals, Shreyansh Pandey, Studio Head Arun Kumar and President and Business Head - Vijay Koshy

NOMINEES

- Amit Tandon: Family Tandoncies
- Little Things Season 3
- ***PANCHAYAT***
- Rohan Joshi: Wake And Bake

BEST NON-FICTION ORIGINAL (SERIES/ SPECIAL)

TIMES OF MUSIC

The concept of the show is to get Indian music directors together and pair them to recreate each other's songs, with due credit and acknowledgement. We've seen so often in our films that a song often gets recreated without the original composer being aware of it. The show met with a positive response from the film music fraternity. Its unique concept and treatment won it plaudits from both fans and critics.



Times Of Music


Nikhhil Advani presents the trophy to team *TImes of Music*

NOMINEES

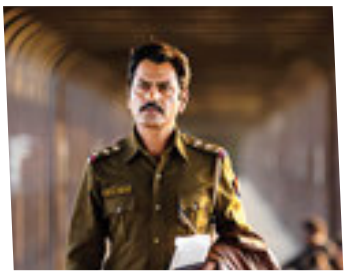
- Amit Tandon: Family Tandoncies
- Go Fun Yourself
- Kenny Sebastian: The Most Interesting Person In The Room
- One Mic Stand
- ***TIMES OF MUSIC***



BEST FILM (WEB ORIGINAL)

RAAT AKELI HAI

Police procedurals are a rarity in Hindi cinema. Following the recommended procedure is never their forte. Hence, *Raat Akeli Hai* comes as a pleasant surprise as it follows the required parameters of this sub-genre. The plot isn't just restricted as a whodunit but has elements of romance and social drama in it as well. It caters to the norms of escapist cinema too at one level. It's not a surprise that such a layered film has been declared the winner.



Raat Akeli Hai



Nora Fatehi gives the trophy to director Honey Trehan

NOMINEES

- Bhonsle
- Bulbbul
- Chintu Ka Birthday
- Choked - Paisa Bolta Hai
- ***RAAT AKELI HAI***



BEST ACTOR IN A WEB ORIGINAL FILM (MALE)

NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI

RAAT AKELI HAI

Nawazuddin Siddique is the epitome of the dogged detective who gets obsessed with the truth and is in danger of being consumed by his obsession. He starts off as a straight and narrow cop, who goes by the book at every instance and gradually gets overwhelmed by his own emotions and gets himself entangled further in a case. It's another bravura performance by the actor who seems to shine on every medium.



Raat Akeli Hai



Madhur Bhandarkar presents the award to Nawazuddin Siddiqui

NOMINEES

- Amit Sadh (Barot House)
- Aparshakti Khurana (Kanpuriye)
- Manoj Bajpayee (Bhonsle)
- ***NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI (RAAT AKELI HAI)***
- Vinay Pathak (Chintu Ka Birthday)



BEST ACTOR IN A WEB ORIGINAL FILM (FEMALE)

TRIPTI DIMRI

BULBBUL

The film belongs to Tripti Dimri, who has imbibed the spirit of *Bulbbul.* Her silences, her eyes, mocking smile -- all speak volumes. The film is a revenge drama in essence and has elements of fantasy and magic realism in it as well. Tripti goes from being human to being superhuman with the ease of a veteran. Her reaction scenes, be it with Avinash Tiwary or Rahul Bose are just right.



Bulbbul



Kabir Bedi presents the award to Tripti Dimri

NOMINEES

- Kiara Advani (Guilty)
- Radhika Apte (Raat Akeli Hai)
- Saiyami Kher (Choked - Paisa Bolta Hai)
- Sayani Gupta (Posham Pa)
- ***TRIPTI DIMRI (BULBBUL)***

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A WEB ORIGINAL FILM (MALE)

RAHUL BOSE

BULBBUL

Rahul Bose plays a double role in the film. Both have shades of grey and he does justice to both quite convincingly. He plays the head of the family. The role requires him to look and behave like a Bengali-landed gentry and he brings an old-world charm to it. His other character is that of a mentally-retarded twin and he gets that right as well. He makes sure the audience understands his motives, even though he's a villain.



Bulbbul



Pratik Gandhi gives the trophy to Rahul Bose

NOMINEES

- Aditya Srivastava (Raat Akeli Hai)
- Gurfateh Pirzada (Guilty)
- ***RAHUL BOSE (BULBBUL)***
- Roshan Mathew (Choked: Paisa Bolta Hai)
- Vijay Raaz (Kanpuriye)



BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A WEB ORIGINAL FILM (FEMALE)

SEEMA PAHWA

CHINTU KA BIRTHDAY

Seema Pahwa plays the typical mother-in-law who's always criticising her son-in-law but in the end, she appreciates his honesty and courage. She's been living away from India in war-torn Iraq and that has taken a toll on her. She longs to go back to her motherland and her irritation is genuine as she isn't able to do so because of the circumstances. The performance looks natural indeed.



Chintu Ka Birthday



Niranjan Iyengar gives the award to Seema Pahwa

NOMINEES

- Akansha Ranjan Kapoor (Guilty)
- Heeba Shah (Ghost Stories)
- ***SEEMA PAHWA (CHINTU KA BIRTHDAY)***
- Surekha Sikri (Ghost Stories)
- Shivani Raghuvanshi (Raat Akeli Hai)

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS





The Family Man

BEST SERIES (CRITICS)

THE FAMILY MAN

Threat Analysis and Surveillance Cell (TASC), a part of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) of India employs men who don't look like spies but are in fact the sharpest minds in India to counter terrorism. The series doesn't just focus upon their covert missions but gives us glimpses of their family life as well. That way, we get to see them as real men and women and not characters cut out of cardboard.



Chandan Kumar Dash, Regional Business Head – West, Tata Pravesh – Steel Doors & Windows and Shriya Pilgaonkar hand over the trophy to the *The Family Man* team

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST DIRECTOR (CRITICS)

KRISHNA DK AND RAJ NIDIMORU

THE FAMILY MAN

This slick series focusses on creating plausible situations where an ordinary looking protagonist solves international conspiracies against India. He's not someone who takes decisions sitting in an AC room but goes to the field and reacts to situations first hand. Apart from that, he's also a consummate family man, as the name suggests. Kudos to Raj and Krishna for getting the nuances right.



The Family Man



Prateik Babbar gives the award to Krishna DK and Raj Nidimoru



FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES (CRITICS)

MANOJ BAJPAYEE

THE FAMILY MAN

Manoj Bajpayee plays an operative who is somewhat of a henpecked husband on the one hand and a true patriot and a lionheart on the other. We haven't seen Manoj playing an action hero before. He is an odd choice for an actioner but pulls off the role effectively. Instead of a bulky super-soldier, it's a delight to watch a normal man quietly going about his job.



The Family Man



Hansal Mehta and Shashank Singh, Co-Founder & CEO, FLYX hand over the trophy to Manoj Bajpayee

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES (CRITICS)

PRIYAMANI

THE FAMILY MAN

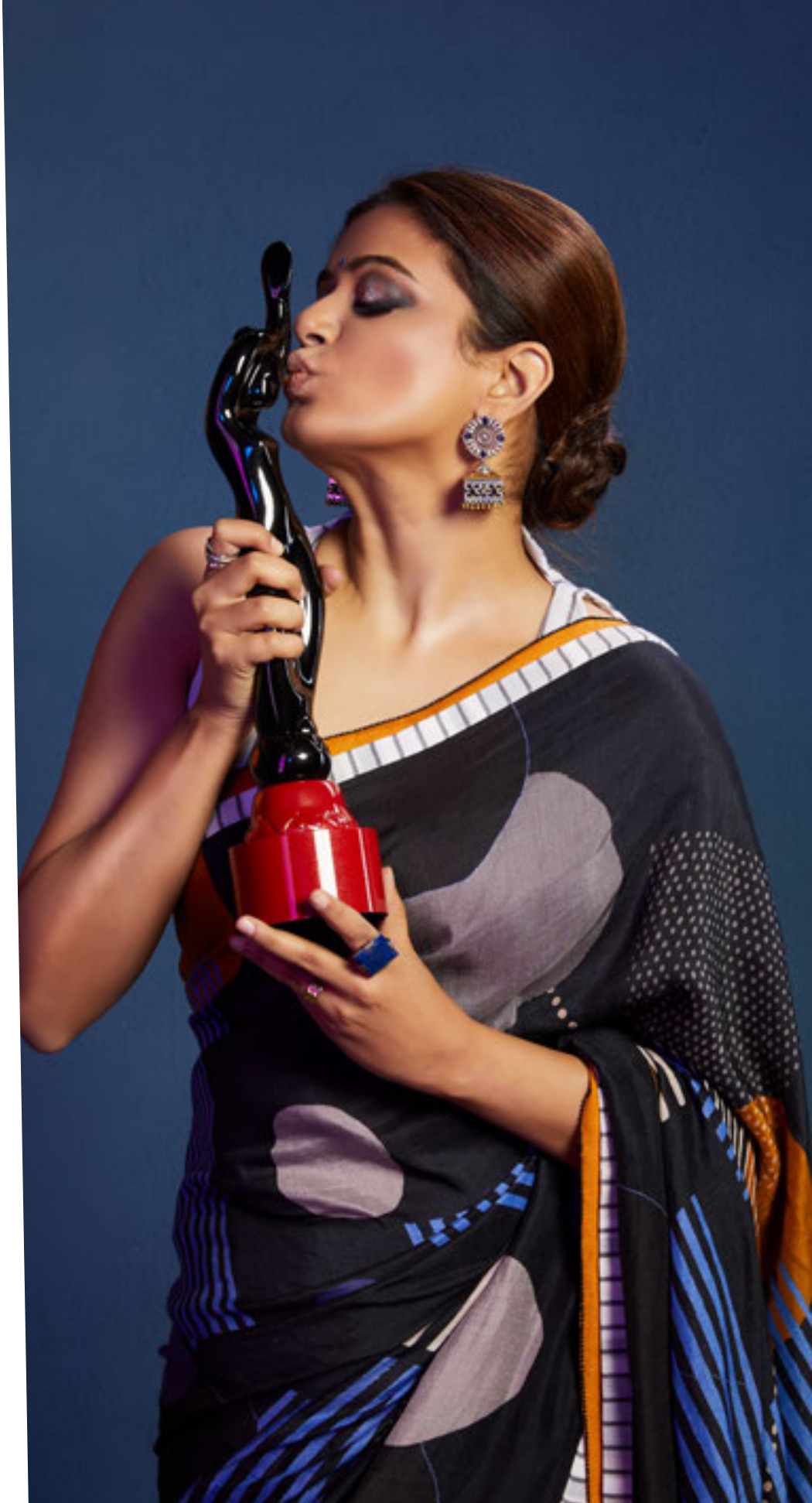
Priyamani plays the homemaker who gets tired of domestic bliss and wants to be more adventurous both professionally and personally. She quits her boring job and joins a startup and flourishes in the role. She also kind of reignites her passion for a former flame. It's a multi-layered character full of many surprises but the South actress, who made her OTT debut with it, pulls it off effectively.



The Family Man



Madhur Bhandarkar and Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, Bosch Home Appliances give the trophy to Priyamani





BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES (CRITICS)

DHRUV SEHGAL

LITTLE THINGS – SEASON 3

Dhruv Sehgal is the chalk to his partner Mithila Palkar's cheese but somehow, despite being opposites, the couple makes it through the several ups and downs and that's the beauty of the show. In Season 3, Dhruv has moved away to another city because of work commitments and the couple grapples with the travails of a long-distance relationships, before landing on their feet. Dhruv is shown to be more stoic towards it all as the series progresses.



Little Things Season 3

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

BEST ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES (CRITICS)

SUMUKHI SURESH

PUSHPAVALLI – SEASON 2

In Season 2, viewers can't decide whether Pushpavalli is a victim or a manipulator. It even feels as if she herself has been fooled by her own con. The fact remains that we judge people too easily over their body shape or complexion and sometimes the insecurities that emerge stay with people for a long time. Sumukhi Suresh brings out the pent up angst of her character effectively. Her mercurial expressions never fail to garner the laughs.



Pushpavalli Season 2



Pratik Gandhi hands over the award to Sumukhi Suresh



BEST DIALOGUE

SUMIT ARORA, SUMAN KUMAR, RAJ NIDIMORU AND KRISHNA DK

THE FAMILY MAN

The conversations in *The Family Man* feel like real. Whether it's the interactions between a couple or between colleagues, it feels like a real exchange is taking place and that proves to be one of the biggest assets of the show. Also, the talk steers clear of jingoism despite being a series which showcases a shadow agency fighting terrorism. What we see is normal dialogue between a dedicated group of professionals hard at work.



The Family Man



Hansal Mehta hands over the trophy to Sumit Arora, Suman Kumar, Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK

NOMINEES

- Chandan Kumar (Panchayat)
- Neeraj Pandey, Deepak Kingrani And Benazir Ali Fida (Special OPS)
- Sudip Sharma, Sagar Haveli, Hardik Mehta And Gunjit Chopra (Paatal Lok)
- **SUMIT ARORA, SUMAN KUMAR, RAJ NIDIMORU AND KRISHNA DK (THE FAMILY MAN)**
- Trishant Srivastava (Jamtara - Sabka Number Aayega)



BEST SCREENPLAY (SERIES)

SUDIP SHARMA, SAGAR HAVELI, HARDIK MEHTA AND GUNJIT CHOPRA

PAATAL LOK

The series has a multi-layered screenplay. Through small but effective punches, it shows us the corruption both at the micro as well as the macro level and how as a society we have become fine with such things. Hathiram is a symbol for the common man trying to do the decent thing while dealing with both inner and outer demons. Even a decent man can lose his moral compass while being lost in the morass of rot and deceit.



Paatal Lok



Hansal Mehta presents the trophy to Sudip Sharma, Sagar Haveli and Gunjit Chopra

NOMINEES

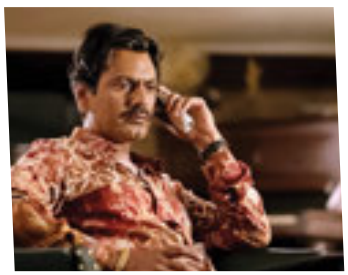
- Bhavani Iyer, Vikram Tuli, Mayank Sharma (Breathe: Into The Shadows)
- Chandan Kumar (Panchayat)
- ***SUDIP SHARMA, SAGAR HAVELI, HARDIK MEHTA AND GUNJIT CHOPRA (PAATAL LOK)***
- Suman Kumar, Raj Nidimoru, Krishna Dk (The Family Man)
- Trishant Srivastava, Nishank Verma (Jamtara - Sabka Number Aayega)

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY (SERIES)

SYLVESTER FONSECA AND SWAPNIL SONAVANE

SACRED GAMES SEASON 2

The cinematography of the series brings alive the various conflicts which exist in it and highlight the drama, making it a delightful watch. The series is filmed in two timelines which intersect one another and are also spread across different countries. The cinematographers seamlessly bring out the different aspects and their work lends the series a singularity of vision.



Sacred Games Season 2



Onir presents the trophy to Sylvester Fonseca and Swapnil Sonavane

NOMINEES

- Chirantan Das (Bard of Blood)
- Richard Henkels (State Of Siege: 26/11)
- ***SYLVESTER FONSECA AND SWAPNIL SONAVANE (SACRED GAMES SEASON 2)***
- Tanay Saatam (Betaal)
- Will Humphris (Taj Mahal 1989)



BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN (SERIES)

RAJNEESH HEDAO

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY – AZAADI KE LIYE

Rajneesh Hedao recreated the pre-Partition period not only in India but also in Rangoon and Singapore. It was a prestige project not only for director Kabir Khan but also for the entire cast and crew as a glorious but lesser-known chapter of India's struggle for Independence is associated with it. Hence, it was necessary to make sure everything stood out just right. Meticulous research helped him in recreating history.



The Forgotten Army – Azaadi Ke Liye



Sai and Sharbani Deodhar hand over the trophy to Rajneesh Hedao

NOMINEES

- Anna Ipe (Aarya)
- Amit Waghchaure and Vishwanath Mistry (State Of Siege: 26/11)
- ***RAJNEESH HEDAO (THE FORGOTTEN ARMY-AZAADI KE LIYE)***
- Sandeep Sharad Ravade (Special OPS)
- Sunil Nigvekar (Bard of Blood)



BEST EDITING (SERIES)

PRAVEEN KATHIKULOTH

SPECIAL OPS

The slick action and the back and forth narration wouldn't have been possible if the editing was faulty. The action is spread across different countries. The editor makes sure that each episode has a sort of a cliffhanger moment which leaves the audience gasping. The twenty-year timeline would have fallen flat if the editing had gone haywire. Commendable cutting by Praveen Kathikuloth really elevates the series and leaves the viewers asking for more.



Special OPS



Sumit Vyas gives the trophy to Praveen Kathikuloth

NOMINEES

- Abhijeet Deshpande and Sangeeth Varghese (Betaal)
- Khushboo Raj and Abhimanyu Chaudhary (Aarya)
- Manish Jaitley (She)
- Nitin Baid, Antara Lahiri and Sangeeth Varghese (Bard of Blood)
- ***PRAVEEN KATHIKULOTH (SPECIAL OPS)***



BEST COSTUME DESIGN (SERIES)

AYESHA KHANNA

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY – AZAADI KE LIYE

The story is spread across two timelines. The costume design had to match the norms of the '40s, as well as of the present era. Then, it wasn't just the civilian clothing involved but army uniforms of the bygone era had to be stitched as well. Ayesha Khanna relied on archival footage and also hunted down references in libraries to get the looks of the characters right in this period drama.



The Forgotten Army – Azaadi Ke Liye



Niranjan Iyengar presents the award to Ayesha Khanna

NOMINEES

- Ashima Belapurkar (Sacred Games Season 2)
- ***AYESHA KHANNA: (THE FORGOTTEN ARMY: AZAADI KE LIYE)***
- Falguni Thakore (Special OPS)
- Preeti Sharma (The Verdict: State vs Nanavati)
- Theia Tekchandani (Aarya)



BEST BACKGROUND MUSIC (SERIES)

ALOKANANDA DASGUPTA

SACRED GAMES SEASON 2

The golden rule with background score is that it shouldn't dominate what's happening on the screen. And yet, it should add an element of surprise, an element of suspense to the proceedings. A good background score makes the viewers invest deeper in the proceedings and that's what happens here. Alokananda Dasgupta made sure the music remained discreet yet dramatic and added subtly to the complex plot of the series.



Sacred Games Season 2



Nikhhil Advani gives the trophy to Alokananda Dasgupta

NOMINEES

- Advait Nemlekar (Special OPS)
- ***ALOKANANDA DASGUPTA (SACRED GAMES SEASON 2)***
- Kartik Shah (State Of Siege: 26/11)
- Pritam Das (Bard of Blood)
- Vishal Khurana (Aarya)



BEST ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK (SERIES)

ADVAIT NEMLEKAR

SPECIAL OPS

Music of an action series or a film is often extraneous as the viewers are more interested in feasting their eyes on the mindboggling fight scenes than in listening to a quality score. However, sometimes, the exception proves the norm and that is the case with *Special OPS* as well. Advait Nemlekar brought out the nuances of the changing taste in popular music over a period of twenty-odd years and added to the overall appeal of the series.


Special OPS


Onir gives the award to Advait Nemlekar

NOMINEES

- ***ADVAIT NEMLEKAR (SPECIAL OPS)***
- Kuch Iss Tarah -Kingshuk Chakravarty (Hum Tum And Them... Bachchon Ke Side Effects)
- Teri Hogiyaan - Vishal Mishra (Broken But Beautiful Season 2)
- Vishal Khurana (Aarya)

FLYX FILMFARE OTT AWARDS

WE THANK OUR **JUDGES**





AMAR KAUSHIK
Director



ANIRUDDHA ROY CHOWDHARY
Director



MEGHNA GULZAR
Director



ONIR
Director



RENSIL DSILVA
Director



AMIT SHARMA
Director



OM RAUT
Director



SHOBHU YARLAGADDA
Producer



SAKET CHAUDHARY
Director



DINESH VIJAN
Producer



CHANDAN ARORA
Editor



ALANKRITA SRIVASTAVA
Director



NIRANJAN IYENGAR
Writer/Lyricist



GUNEET MONGA
Producer



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2020 NEWSMAKERS

DEVESH SHARMA AND AKASH NIHALANI TAKE A LOOK AT THE MEN AND THE WOMEN WHO CREATED THE MOST BUZZ IN 2020

2020 is a year we would all like to forget. The coronavirus pandemic caught us by the neck in March and slowly squeezed the life out of everything. We kind of got jailed in our homes. The death toll kept rising and so did the horror and the hysteria. The film industry was one of the worst-hit sectors. Shootings stalled, release dates got postponed. While some producers sought relief by releasing their films over the OTT platforms, others decided to wait for conditions to improve. Daily wage earners among the film workers were the most affected. Stars like Salman Khan reached out by depositing money directly into the accounts of the needy. Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Hritihik Roshan, Varun Dhawan, and every actor worthy of his/her name, came forward to help out in this time of crises. While every one chipped in, Sonu Sood appeared as the symbol of hope for the thousands of migrant workers forced to flee the cities. He helped arrange transport for them and has been helping the needy ever since. Besides the human tragedy that unfolded this year, we also lost several of our gems like Rishi Kapoor, Irrfan Khan, Saroj Khan, Wajid Khan, Jagdeep, Nishikanth Kamanth, Bhanu Athaiya, SP Balasubrahmanyam, Soumitra Chatterjee and Sushant Singh Rajput. Sushant's death by suicide created a social media storm that refused to die down. The investigation of his unnatural death led to the CBI, the ED and the NCB getting involved and numerous industry folks being hauled in for questioning. It wasn't all gloomy though. Kareena Kapoor Khan and Anushka Sharma announced their pregnancies. And the social media thankfully basked vicariously in the afterglow of their maternity. Taking a look at the stars who rocked the headlines in 2020.

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT

His fans couldn't digest the fact that he did himself in and started a witch hunt for 'culprits' whom they thought 'killed' Sushant. Their rage made them target everyone from Karan Johar, star kids to even the poor food delivery guy. Friends and family insisted Sushant Singh Rajput just wasn't the sort of person who'd kill himself and cried themselves hoarse shouting murder most foul, never mind that the initial police and the subsequent CBI enquiry, as well as the AIIMS report clearly stated it was an act of suicide and nothing else. #JusticeforSushant trended as widely as a bushfire and stoked flames of hatred for Bollywood. People swore off Hindi films, decided to boycott films starring 'nepokids' -- which resulted in *Sadak 2* becoming the most disliked film ever. What's more, the worldwide hue and cry even brought the CBI into the fray as even Bihar CM Nitish Kumar wanted a probe. A whole new can of worms was opened when accusations of havala, drug running and what not started flying fast and thick. It became a hugely politicised mess which is yet to get unentangled.





RISHI KAPOOR

Chocolate hero Rishi Kapoor was without a doubt one of the most iconic stars to ever grace the silver screen. He made his debut with the mega-hit *Bobby* (1973) and starred in many commercial hits like *Khel Khel Mein* (1975), *Rafoo Chakkar* (1975), *Karz* (1980) and many more. He won the Filmfare Critics' Best Actor Award for his performance as a middle-aged father yearning to buy his own car in *Do Dooni Chaar* (2011) and won a Filmfare Best Supporting Actor trophy for his role in *Kapoor And Sons* (2016) as well. He was bestowed with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2018. He was on the road to recovery and there were talks that he might even do a film together with his son Ranbir but it was not to be. He passed away on April 30. Even though he isn't between us anymore, we're sure his legacy will live on forever. *Jeena yahan, marna yahan...*

RHEA CHAKROBARTHY



Rhea had the misfortune of being Sushant's girlfriend at the time of his suicide. People pounced on her like she was the culprit behind it, despite the fact that she'd left his place days before the incident. In people's mind, the lovers' tiff became an act of betrayal. Sushant's family reportedly accused her of everything from mind control, misappropriation of Sushant's money and also his murder. She became the most hated figure on social media. She was a scarlet woman who was literally hunted down with a vengeance. It was even alleged that she was Sushant's drug supplier and made him depended on drugs. On July 30, the actress was called in by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after a money laundering case was filed by Sushant's father KK Singh against her in Patna. Eventually, Rhea was arrested for being linked with a drug syndicate. The NCB continued with their investigation on the matter and Rhea was granted bail on October 7, 28 days after her arrest. Her brother Showik Chakraborty got bail in December, three months after he was taken in for questioning. After her release, Rhea's lawyer Satish Maneshinde stated that the actress would file cases against those who'd made defamatory statements about her and her family without any substantial proof. Her media trial really was an eyeopener as to how feral our society has become nowadays.

SONU SOOD

Most of us vented our anger on social media after seeing the images of thousands of migrant workers walking from metros like Mumbai and Delhi to their homes in faraway places. Sonu Sood however turned his anger into something productive. He started arranging buses to get the migrants home. Later, using his goodwill, he arranged for interstate travel for anyone who called him and even arranged for flights for the needy. He's said to have helped thousands. It's said he mortgaged two shops and six flats to raise a loan of 10 crores for this humanitarian act. A grateful public responded by naming their shops, institutes and even their sons after him. Villagers in Dubba Tanda, Telangana, have erected a temple for him. And the Election Commission in his home state Punjab has made him a state icon. He's written a book about his experience, *I Am No Messiah*. The actor, known for his villainous roles, is now getting cast as a hero. He's a hero in the real sense of the word, alright.





WAJID

Composer Wajid Khan passed away on June 1 due to cardiac arrest. Along with his brother Sajid, he formed the Sajid-Wajid duo. They composed music for several films starring Salman Khan, like *Tere Naam* (2003), *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi* (2004), *Partner* (2007), *Wanted* (2009), *Dabangg* et al.



BASU CHATTERJEE

Filmmaker Basu Chatterjee, best known for films like *Choti Si Baat (1976), Rajnigandha (1974), Baaton Baaton Mein (1979),* and *Chameli Ki Shaadi (1986)* passed away on June 4 following age-related ailments.



IRRFAN KHAN

Films like *Haasil* (2003) and *Maqbool* (2004) brought Irrfan Khan mass acceptance. He won the Filmfare Award for Best Villain for *Haasil.* Besides that, he has won the Filmfare Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male) trophy for *Life in a... Metro* (2007), Best Actor (Critics')for *Paan Singh Tomar* (2012) and the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) trophy for *Hindi Medium* (2017). His commercial hits include *Life in a... Metro* (2007), *Paan Singh Tomar* (2011), *The Lunchbox* (2013), *Haider* (2014), *Gunday* (2014), *Piku* (2015) and *Talvar* (2015). His *Hindi Medium* (2017) became a sleeper hit in both India and China. A sequel to *Hindi Medium* called *Angrezi Medium* (2020) was released on March 13. Irrfan also acted in many acclaimed international films like *The Namesake* (2006), *The Darjeeling Limited* (2007), the Academy Award-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), *New York, I Love You* (2009), *The Amazing Spider-Man* (2012), *Life of Pi* (2012), *Jurassic World* (2015) and *Inferno* (2016). He passed away on April 29.



ALIA BHATT AND MAHESH BHATT

Mahesh Bhatt was seen as the villain of the piece in the Sushant and Rhea Chakraborty love story as it was he who'd allegedly advised her to move away from a toxic relationship. He was mightily trolled for his support for Rhea. His daughter Alia Bhatt, who'd once said on a chat show, 'Sushant who?' too faced the ire of the troll army when this clip resurfaced. She was branded as a nepokid and suffered a huge loss of followers online. The Mahesh Bhatt directed *Sadak 2,* where Alia was playing a prominent role, too got caught in the crossfire. Its trailer became the most disliked trailer on YouTube in no time and the film, when released, made history by pulling in the lowest rating on IMDB. People were even miffed over the fact that Alia was using her phone during Rishi Kapoor's funeral, never mind the fact that she was live-streaming the proceedings to Ranbir Kapoor's sister Riddhima, who couldn't fly down from Delhi, because of COVID-19 restrictions.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE



Her silent 25 minutes support to the students protesting against the establishment at the JNU became the target of haters. And she was mercilessly trolled for it for days on end both on social media and on national TV. She played an acid attack survivor in *Chhapaak,* a film made on the real-life struggle of Laxmi Aggarwal. But because of her anti-establishment stance, the troll army derided her for her noble portrayal and a campaign ensued to boycott the film. Her comments on Sushant Singh Rajput's death too were misconstrued and she was accused of hijacking his death. Deepika kept her calm throughout and didn't let that affect her. Then, strangely, chats from years back were dredged up as evidence suggesting she's a drug user. She was called in for interrogation by the NCB for her alleged links with the drug mafia. Her serenity won her the day, through this maelstrom of madness. Deepika is quietly finishing off her upcoming projects and has wisely chosen not to retaliate against all those who targeted her.



RAHAT INDORI

The famous poet and lyricist Dr Rahat Indori, who had written lyrics in films like *Munna Bhai MBBS* (2003), *Murder* (2004), *Mission Kashmir (2000), Ishq* (1997), *Ghatak* (1996), *Sir* (1993), *Naaraaz* (1994) and many more passed away on August 11.

SARA ALI KHAN, SHRADDHA KAPOOR AND RAKUL PREET SINGH

They were all accused of being part of an active drug nexus and were summoned by the NCB for hours and hours of gruelling interrogation. Sara and Shraddha both had worked with the late Sushant Singh Rajput while Rakul's friendship with Rhea was rumoured to be the reason why she was hauled in for questioning. Again, both social media and the TV media mercilessly milked the opportunity. It was seen as if these actresses were running the drug mafia in Mumbai, never mind the fact that nothing came out of the investigation. Rakul even approached the Delhi High Court to summon a gag order against the private TV channels to stop them from spreading malicious gossip against her.





KUMKUM

Kumkum's claim to fame was Guru *Dutt's Aar Paar* (1954). She is best known for her roles in *Mother India* (1957), *Ujala* (1959), *Kohinoor* (1960), *Son Of India* (1962), *Mr X In Bombay* (1964), *Aankhen* (1968), *Geet* (1970), *Lalkaar* (1972), and Ek *Kunwari Ek Kunwara* (1973) and Bhojpuri film *Ganga Maiya Tohe Piyari Chadhaibo* (1963). She passed away on July 28.

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

By now, we're pretty much aware of the fact that Ayushmann Khurrana loves challenging stereotypes. The fact that the actor began his career with the role of a sperm donor speaks volumes about his penchant for swimming against the tide. In the 2017 release *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan,* he played a man suffering from erectile dysfunction and in his 2020 release *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan,* he played a homosexual man who wants to marry his partner. Though homosexuality is no longer held illegal by law, it's still considered taboo in our society. And it really took courage for an A-list actor to play an openly gay character.





SANJAY DUTT

Sanjay Dutt's life has seen more ups and downs than the Delhi-Shimla highway. From getting himself out of serious drug addiction, getting jailed under TADA to putting his career back on track despite the odds, Baba has done all that and more. The actor found himself facing another roadblock in life when he was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer on August 11. Ever since the lockdown was imposed in March, Dutt had been living alone in his Mumbai home, his wife Maanyata and children Shahraan and Iqra were away in Dubai. However, upon learning about her husband's condition, Maanyata immediately took a flight home to be by his side. The actor underwent multiple rounds of chemotherapy and finally on October 21 announced that he'd emerged victorious in his battle against cancer, proving once again that he's a true fighter and not one to back down when things look bleak.

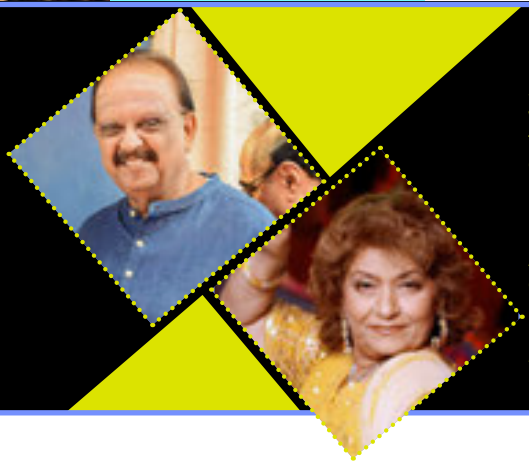


KANGANA RANAUT

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. For some reason, Kangana feels she's been scorned by her colleagues in general and the society in particular. As a result, she comes out all guns blazing at the slightest provocation. Sushant's death proved to be one such outlet for her and she took it upon herself to be an avenging angel for the late actor. Playing the outsider card, she blamed his death on the insider gang in Bollywood. She claimed that a certain section of the film industry ganged up against Sushant and was directly responsible for his mental deterioration. This led to a war of words with different personalities on social media. Then she took on the Maharashtra government, saying she felt like she was living in POK rather than Mumbai. That led to a bout of angry words between her and MP Sanjay Raut. Kangana further hit the headlines, when her office was demolished by the BMC. She claimed she was a victim of a political conspiracy. Last heard, the Mumbai High Court had ordered the civic body to pay her compensation. Her allegedly offensive comments against the Farmers' agitation led to another verbal spat with Diljit Dosanjh, where the Punjabi actor chastised her in pure Punjabi. The jury is still out as to who won that fight.

SP BALASUBRAHMANYAM

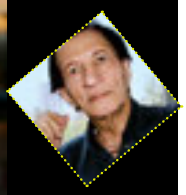
S P Balasubrahmanyam was a giant in both South and Bollywood cinema when it came to playback singing. SPB made his debut as a playback singer with the Telugu film *Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna* in 1966 and slowly established himself as the numero uno playback singer down South. To have the entry song sung by Balu, as he was affectionately known, soon became a tradition in Rajinikanth films. He became the voice of Salman Khan after giving playback for the actor in *Maine Pyar Kiya* (1989) and continued to sing for the actor in many films like *Saajan* (1991), *Patthar Ke Phool* (1991), *Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!* (1994), *Andaz Apna Apna* and many more. The singer, who also acted in some films and was an ace dubbing artiste passed away on September 25.



SAROJ KHAN

Saroj Khan, who passed away on July 3, was the first female choreographer of the film industry and can be said to have created some of the most iconic Bollywood dance moves ever. Saroj was best known for her Sridevi and Madhuri numbers and has some eight Filmfare Awards as the Best Choreographer to her credit, a record of sorts. She won them for *Tezaab* (1988), *Chalbaaz* (1989), *Sailaab* (1990), *Beta* (1992), *Khal-Nayak* (1993), *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* (1999), *Devdas* (2002) and *Guru* (2007).





YOGESH

Lyricist Yogesh passed away on May 29. He was best known for his lyrics in films like *Anand* (1971) and *Rajnigandha* (1973).

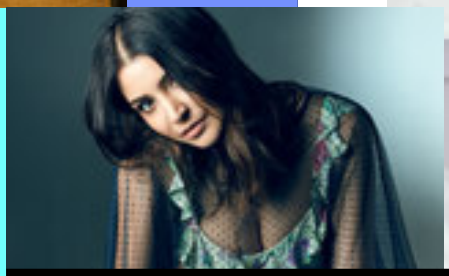
KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN AND ANUSHKA SHARMA

Along with heaps of controversies and negativity, 2020 also got some good news. Both Kareena Kapoor Khan and Anushka Sharma announced that they're with a child. While Anushka is going to be a first-time mommy, Kareena Kapoor is carrying her second child. Both the actresses continued to work till late in their pregnancies, setting an example for all working women. Anushka was trolled for India's inglorious test defeat in Australia but it's something she has learnt to take in her stride by now. Along with her husband, she was voted as among the top social media influencers in the world, overtaking many Hollywood biggies in the process.



TAAPSEE PANNU

Taapsee Pannu proved yet again why she's one of the best in the business with her last release *Thappad*. The hard-hitting drama accurately showcased how domestic violence is treated as a non-issue in our country and why it's high time that it comes to a stop. Her bikini photos from her Maldives vacation too created a mini tsunami on the internet and so was the 'Biggini' video she shot with her sisters and boyfriend Mathias Boe. Her transformation into an athlete for her forthcoming film *Rashmi Rocket* too got her raves from her fans.



KARAN JOHAR

Karan Johar, who is known for his fluffy romances, never thought he'd get such a hostile reaction from the masses after the suicide of Sushant Singh Rajput. Overnight, the blue-eyed boy of the film industry, who always believed that the industry was his extended family, was branded as the uncrowned king of nepotism. Trolls scrutinised all his casting choices and came to the conclusion that he only favoured star kids. Not only that, they alleged that he led a nexus which led to the professional downfall of SSR. Videos of him mocking Sushant on reality shows surfaced. The clips were taken out of context and branded him as being anti-outsider. It was the most trying time for him but he kept his cool and refused to rise to the bait.



SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE

The fact that Soumitra Chatterjee, who passed away on November 15 was Satyajit Ray's favourite actor alone tells you enough of his versatility and range as an actor. His debut film *Apur Sansar* (1959) is considered to be a landmark in Indian cinema and he followed it up with some equally incredible works with Ray like *Devi* (1960), *Teen Kanya* (1961) and *Charulata* (1964). His other notable works during his heyday include Mrinal Sen's *Akash Kusum* (1965) and Tapan Sinha's *Jhinder Bandi* (1961). His best work in the latter years can be seen in films like *Asukh* (1999), directed by Rituparno Ghosh, *Shadows Of Time* (2004), directed by Florian Gallenberger, *Paanch Adhyay* (2012) directed by Pratim D Gupta, *Hemlock Society* (2012) directed by Srijit Mukherji, *Rupkatha Noy* (2013), directed by Atanu Ghosh, *Shunyo Awnko* (2013) directed by Goutam Ghose, *Bela Seshe* (2015) directed by Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee.

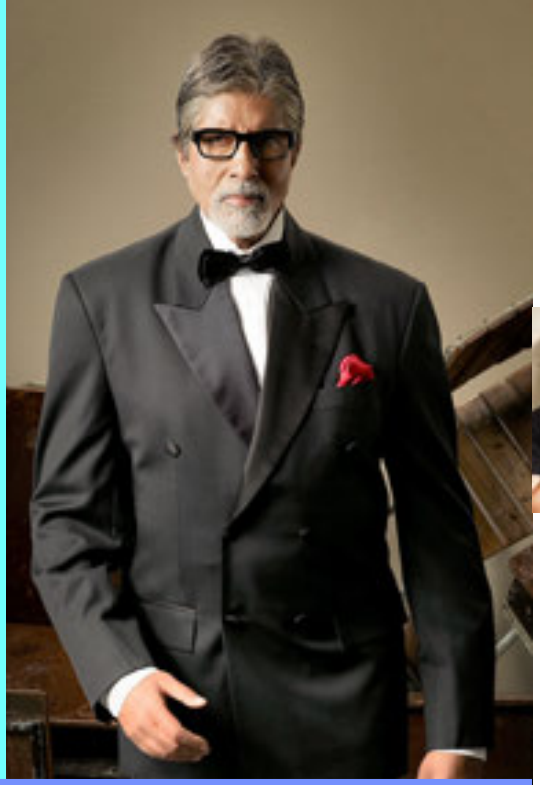


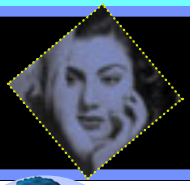
NISHIKANT KAMAT

Nishikant Kamat who made his directorial debut with the Marathi film *Dombivli Fast* in 2005, went on to make films like *Mumbai Meri Jaan* (2008), *Force* (2011), *Drishyam* (2015) and *Rocky Handsome* (2016). He passed away on August 17 due to liver cirrhosis. Besides directing, Nishikant also acted in films like *Hava Aney De* (2004), *Daddy* (2017) *Julie 2* (2017), and *Bhavesh Joshi* (2018).

AMITHABH BACHCHAN

If you need an understanding of the love people have for Amitabh Bachchan you'll need to head back to 1982 when he had the infamous accident on the sets of *Coolie.* Millions prayed in temples for his wellbeing, thousands fasted and some even tried to commit suicide. The reports of him getting infected with COVID-19 sent shockwaves not only among the industry but also among the masses. People forgot their own distress and prayed for his recovery. It seems that all the good wishes did the trick as after weeks in observation, he was declared COVID-19 free on August 2. Not only that, he soon recovered enough to start shooting for *KBC* once more. Mr Bachchan is pure mind over matter, alright.





NIMMI

Veteran actor Nimmi passed away on March 25. Her best performances are said to be films like *Sazaa* (1951), *Aan* (1952), *Uran Khatola* (1955), *Bhai-Bhai* (1956), *Kundan* (1955), *Basant Bahar* (1956). *Mere Mehboob* (1963), *Pooja Ke Phool* (1964) *and Akashdeep* (1965).







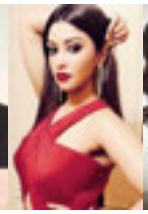
AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN, ABHISHEK BACHCHAN, ARJUN KAPOOR AND MALAIKA ARORA

You know you're supposed to take the coronavirus seriously when even an actor like Amitabh Bachchan wasn't spared. Apart from Amitabh, his son Abhishek Bachchan, daughter-in-law Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and granddaughter Aaradhaya too were said to be COVID-19 positive. While Abhishek got hospitalised, Aishwarya and Aaradhya were initially quarantined at home, and then hospitalised. Apart from the Bachchan family, several Bollywood biggies like Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora, Kriti Sanon, Rakul Preet Singh too tested positive for the coronavirus. Neetu Kapoor, Varun Dhawan and director Raj Mehta contacted the coronavirus on the sets of their upcoming film *Jug Jugg Jiyo* in Chandigarh. Thankfully, everyone made full recovery.



ANURAG KASHYAP, PAYAL GHOSH AND RICHA CHADDHA







In a move straight out of his own twisted films, actress Payal Ghosh accused Anurag Kashyap of sexual misconduct. She even claimed that he mentioned actresses like Richa Chadha and Huma Qureshi regularly granted sexual favours to him and hence she shouldn't have a problem. Anurag stuck to his guns, despite the media backlash and said the charges were baseless. His lawyer issued a statement saying the director wasn't even in the country when the alleged incident supposedly took place. Richa Chaddha filed a lawsuit against Payal for making defamatory statements without any proof. The matter was eventually resolved when Payal issued an unconditional apology to Richa. Payal later went on to join Union minister Ramdas Athavale led Republican Party of India as the vice president of the women's wing.

BHANU ATHAIYA

The iconic costume designer Bhanu Athaiya, whose work spanned from *CID* (1956) to *Swades* (2004), passed away on October 15. Bhanu made India proud by winning an Oscar for the costume design of *Gandhi* (1982). She won the National Film Award for Best Costume Design for *Lekin* (1991) and *Lagaan* (2001). She was also a winner of the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

JAGDEEP

Jagdeep started life in Bollywood as a child artiste in BR Chopra's *Afsana* (1951). He was later launched by AVM as a lead actor in films like *Bhabhi* (1957), *Barkha* (1959) and *Bindiya* (1960). Jagdeep first became famous as a comedian in the Shammi Kapoor starrer *Brahmachari* (1968). His most famous role perhaps as a comedian is that of Soorma Bhopali from *Sholay* (1975). The veteran passed on July 8 due to age-related issues.







JOHNNY BAKSHI

Johnny Bakshi started life as a producer by giving a break to Mahesh Bhatt as a director in *Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain* (1974). His other notable films include Raj Khosla's *Mera Dost Mera Dushman* (1984), *Raavan* (1984) and *Khudai* (1994). He died of cardiac arrest in the early hours of September 5. The veteran was 82 at the time of his death.

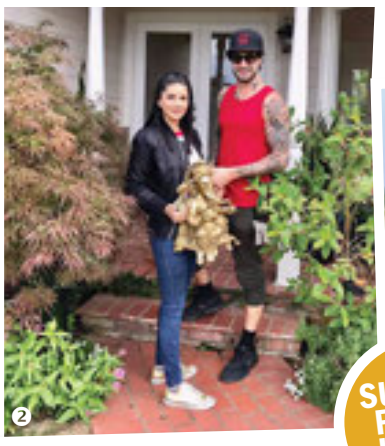
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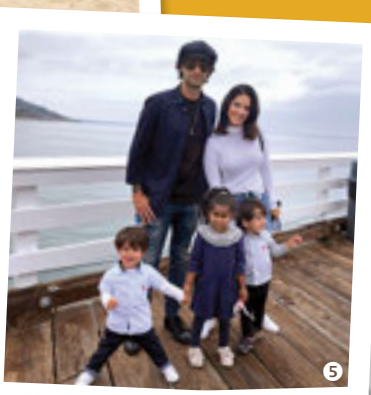
SUNNY LEONE **TALKS TO** VEDANSHI PATHAK **ABOUT LIFE IN LOS ANGELES, TEACHING HER KIDS THE RIGHT VALUES AND HEADING BACK TO INDIA SOON**

They say the best kind of victory is when you get to write your own history. And Sunny Leone has done just that. Yesterday, she was an adult movie star, but today she's had a documentary made on her past, starring herself. She doesn't regret her past and she has made sure it doesn't affect her present. She's made a new beginning for herself in Bollywood and has become a genuine star in her own right here. A pleasant personality with a warm smile, it is tough not to be captivated by Sunny Leone. The strong, independent, beautiful and successful woman has only wonderful things to say about life. Sunny's positivity is contagious and her amiable demeanour makes one instantly want to get to know her more. A mother of three kids, Nisha, Asher and Noah, an entrepreneur, an actress, a wife and a social-media sensation, the stunner plays several parts every single day with the utmost ease. She's currently in Los Angeles with her husband Daniel Weber and kids. Three kids are a lot of work and Sunny agrees with that. She comments











1. With husband Daniel Weber
2. Posing in front of her LA home
3. With her kids Nisha, Asher and Noah
4. With her Maserati Ghibli

SUNNY'S FAMILY LIFE IN LA

that each of them have their own needs, their own wants, problems and concerns and together that makes for quite a handful. They're constantly vying for her attention and she makes sure she's available for all three of them. "The toughest part is to get them ready for school in the morning. And putting them to bed is tough. Not that they don't sleep but the process of all the things they want to do before they sleep.... they sleep early around 8 o'clock and then my house goes silent," she reveals.

While she isn't a Tiger Mom and believes in a soft approach to parenting, Sunny believes in teaching her kids the right values. She's teaching them to say please and thank you and be at their best manners. She also wants them to be independent and not depend on her or their father to do things for them. Most particularly, she wants to inculcate kindness in them. "It's tough to read them if they're angry with one another," she remarks. "The challenge is to make them understand that they have to be kind to one another, kind to other members of the family and to people close to the family," she adds. The quarantine has given her time to be

ME AND DANIEL HAVE BEEN GOOD. WE HAVEN'T PULLED EACH OTHER'S HAIR OUT AS YET... ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, WE'VE WORKED THROUGH A LOT OF OUR EMOTIONS AND NOW UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER... WE CHAT WHEN THE CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL. TALK ABOUT ALL SORTS OF RANDOM THINGS. WE'D BE HAVING THE TIME OF OUR LIVES REALLY, IF NOT FOR THE CONSTANT THREAT OF THE PANDEMIC



WE HAVE A VERY CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS THAT WE SEE, SO WE SHARE PICTURES AND STUFF. I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE POSTS THAT MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH. MY MISSION IS ALWAYS TO MAKE SOMEONE SMILE. SO, I CAN MAKE AN ASS OFF MYSELF AND YOU GUYS CAN KEEP LAUGHING



Posing with a friend by the poolside

around them more and watch them grow. She's taken to cycling with them in LA, which she says wouldn't have been possible in India. "The boys have exponentially grown as far as their vocabulary goes. It's really amazing watching them grow mentally and physically. And they have to go to school to learn, whichis the most important thing in a kid's life," she asserts.

The lockdown has also brought her and Daniel closer than ever before. They've always spent time together before too but this time it's cosier, more romantic. Almost like a second courtship. "We've been good. We haven't pulled each other's hair out as yet," she giggles. "On a more serious note, we've worked through a lot of our emotions and now understand each other better." As they can't go out because of the coronavirus pandemic and since they have children at home with them, the couple has indulged in family picnics and leisure walks in the wide-open spaces offered by LA. Sometimes they just laze on the beach. "We chat when the children are in school. Talk about all sorts of random things. We'd be having the time of our lives really, if not for the constant threat of the pandemic," muses Sunny. She's taken to reading more and has read lots of books on varied subjects. She's also been learning a bit of art. She makes a face and says she hasn't been working out as much as she should have -- though going by her social media posts, that's not true. She doesn't like her 'lockdown' shape and vows to hit the gym hard to get fab again. Sunny doesn't put too much thought into her social media posts and insists most of it is just spontaneous stuff that she shares with her close circle of friends. "I just do a lot of different things on some days and on some days I just



don't feel like doing anything. We have a very close circle of friends that we see, so we share pictures and stuff. I think we should make posts that make people laugh. My mission is always to make someone smile. So I can make an ass off myself and you guys can keep laughing," she smiles.

It's the first time she's living for so long in her new LA house. The couple had to work hard to attain it and this lockdown has given them a chance to fix it at leisure and do it up the way they want without any time constraint. They're taking it slow as they aren't in a hurry. Sunny says she has come to love the house in the last six months. "We got a chance to grow with it and fix it up real nice. I'm going to miss it when we eventually move back to Mumbai," she states. Sunny adds she's looking forward to coming back to Mumbai. A plan is already in place. Daniel will move first and assess the situation. Then she'll follow when he gives her the go ahead. The children are going to remain in LA. And both she and Daniel will fly back and forth to be with them. Sunny feels the world is ready to move forward now. That everybody is tired of waiting for a miracle cure and want to move on with their lives. "I can't wait to come back to India and start shooting. No, I'm not going to take time to adjust. I will take the time to quarantine and then hit the road running. Other than digital content and working on *Starstruck,* I haven't worked on anything else in this period. I don't need a break any more," she points out.

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK TO INDIA AND START SHOOTING. NO, I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE TIME TO ADJUST. I WILL TAKE THE TIME TO QUARANTINE AND THEN HIT THE ROAD RUNNING. OTHER THAN DIGITAL CONTENT AND WORKING ON *STARSTRUCK,* I HAVEN'T WORKED ON ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS PERIOD. I DON'T NEED A BREAK ANY MORE

She's missing her employees, missing her dogs, missing the muggy Mumbai weather. She has two digital projects coming up. And has to shoot an item song. She's longing to wear the war paint and face the arclights.

We talk about her recently bought Maserati and whether she'll miss it when she returns to Mumbai. She laughs at that and says it's her third Maserati so the novelty has kind of worn off. Though it still gives her a kick, zipping down on an empty stretch with her foot pressed hard on the accelerator. "I always had a black one, now I got the white one instead and this one makes me happy every time I get in it. It's not a children's car, it's a mommy's car and only mommy's car. These are the small things which make me feel good."



Best day FORWARD

***JITESH PILLAAI* CHATS WITH THE MAN WITH A HUNDRED EXPRESSIONS, *ANUPAM KHER*, WHO ALWAYS HAS A UNIQUE TAKE ON LIFE**

I FIRST MET ANUPAM KHER AS A ROOKIE REPORTER. He had a child-like intensity back then that still exists even after 500 films. From commercial cinema, art films, small screen to Hollywood, he has done it all and is hungry for more. From an actor, he has also become an author and a teacher. He's just released his third book, *Your Best Day Is Today,* which has been well received. In our interview, he calls himself a student of cinema, of life, and says life can surprise you any minute. Excerpts from a straight-from-the-heart interview...

Today, an actor is at the mercy of the remote as there is so much choice. People's memory is very short in today's time. You have to keep yourself relevant. That's why Yash Chopra was great because Yash *ji* kept his relevance alive

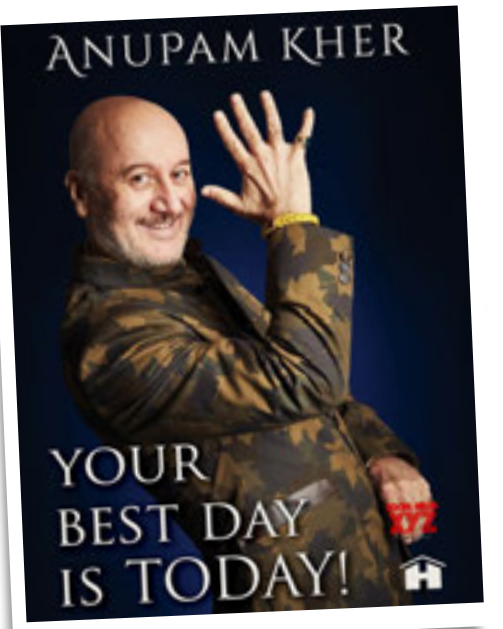
You've written your third book *Your Best Day Is Today.* What is the similarity between acting and writing a book?
There is no similarity. But I use my observation of life in both — when I am playing a

character and when I am writing a book. By nature, I am not an author. I just felt 10-12 years back that I have something to share because of whatever I went through or whatever I learnt from life, I just felt that I should express myself. None of my books are based on borrowed emotions or borrowed experiences, they are an extension of what I went through. My books are also my observation of my own self, the world and the people around me. When you are acting it out, it's your interpretation of one character. But when you're reading a book, it's the reader's interpretation of what you've written.

Does writing come easily to you?

I don't craft my writing, I write by speaking into a dictaphone. I write my thoughts as they come and that can happen anytime. Usually, the title comes first. But for my third book, *Your Best Day Is Today,* the title came in the end. I was recently seeing a meme about W*olves Of Wall Street* where Leonardo Di Caprio's character says that "you want me for 30 minutes, but that also includes those 20 years that I have put in those 30 minutes". When I write, I also bring the experience of those 50-60 years that I've tried to understand life. I have wonderful publishers in Hay House publishing and my friend who's managing the Hay House in India, Ashok Chopra. He gives a shape to my books.


New Amsterdam



How easy is it to put in some of the uncomfortable parts of your life in an autobiography?

Before writing my autobiography, I put it up on stage. *Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai* is my autobiography on stage. I wrote about whatever went wrong in my life, whatever my failures were and I laughed at them and that act itself liberated me. When I was a struggling actor I used to read autobiographies of a lot of people to feel better. And the autobiography of Charlie Chaplin, called *My Autobiography,* is the finest and the most inspirational book that I have read. I thought that if he can go through whatever he has gone through in his childhood then in that sense, this is the best path to become somebody. And similarly, when I wrote my autobiography or when I performed it on stage, the idea was to inspire people. People are scared of failure. My father at a very young age told me that failure is an event never reversed so he liberated me as a 14-year-old boy.

I have watched *Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai* a couple of times and the audience reacted differently every time I saw it. Does that impact your performance in any way?

Oh yes, every time! The live audience changes your performance. Sometimes when I perform in Tata Theatre the audience is so amazing but if the audience isn't reciprocating, it can fall flat. I remember I was on a tour in America and we were doing a show in Washington and for some strange reason, the audience for the first 20 minutes did not react to my performance. So I stopped the play halfway through. I said you people have forgotten how

None of my books are based on borrowed emotions or borrowed experiences, they are an extension of what I went through. My books are also my observation of my own self, the world and the people around me

to laugh, so let's do some exercises. A play like *Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai* depends a lot on the audience's reaction because it's a hundred and twenty-seven pages long play and I'm all alone on the stage. I am playing some hundred characters. Sometimes people are completely generous in their reactions but sometimes they are not. Also, when people come to see the play, they are a little shy about laughing out loud. That's why the play starts with me mingling among the audience and relaxing them.

You've talked about depression, not in the book but variously. An actor's life has so many ups and downs. How do you exorcise your demons?

I think writing is cathartic because it's personal. In films, you have other people and you're portraying a character, it validates you. But in writing, it's the thought that comes to your mind, you write it and then you connect with it. *Your Best Day Is Today* was cathartic because I came back from New York on March 20. When I landed up here in Mumbai, it was a fearful atmosphere.



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I thought I was in a Will Smith film called *I Am Legend* where the whole world had come to an end, and he and his dog were the only survivors. I've never seen Mumbai like that. I've never seen the streets of Mumbai so empty, I've never seen the airport so deserted. I thought about how to find optimism in this dark time. On the third morning, I discovered that for the first time in my stay in Mumbai, I actually heard the chirping of birds and this was the silver lining. In this pandemic, we realised that we need only certain things in our lives. One is we need to be with our close friends and family. The second thing we need is the essential commodities and third the WiFi should be working so that you're connected to the world. That's how I started writing this book. We lost Rishi Kapoor, we lost Irrfan, we lost Wajid Khan, and I lost my yoga guru's husband who was a dear friend of mine. I have a picture of 59 students from my 10th grade. I reached out to 38 of them after 50 years. Somebody called Anil Datta, somebody called Manindar Singh, and somebody

called Rajeev Sharma...

You spoke about communication just now, that made me think that you teach acting which is again communication. They say actors are healers, what do you think?

I opened an acting school so that I can remain relevant as an actor. I learn a lot from the students. The problem happens when you carry the burden of being Anupam Kher, *ab toh mujhe sab kuch aata hai* (now I know everything). That's why I hate words like thespian, legend, veteran because they make you aware of the fact that you've done a lot of work. (*Laughs*)You better not give me the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award, you can give me an award for Contribution to Indian Cinema because I think I've just reached the interval point. The school can teach you techniques but you have to practice it to become better. That's why actors are like wine, they mature better while performing. I learn a lot from today's generation because their interpretation is so different. We teach them self-worth, we teach them how to understand life. They change in the three months they spend with us and are completely different from what they were before. We make them meet themselves which is a good thing, as an actor needs to meet himself or herself.



With wife Kirron



With Sikandar Kher

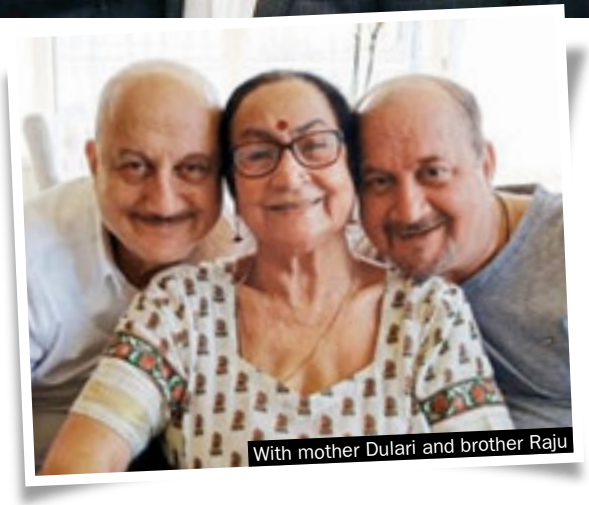
Enjoy the journey. The destination is not important. The journey is important. And a journey which does not have hurdles, speed breakers, accidents, isn't worth talking about

Have you seen an actor falling into a trap of showbiz and stardom and have you ever advised a youngster about it?

I don't give advice unless I am asked for it. Amrish Puri *ji kaha karte the, bol dena chahida bachya nu ki mehsoos karde ho,* it's very important. *Maine kaha Amrish ji aapki baat alag hai, aap hamesha se Amrish ji ho.* (Amrish Puri told me to give advise to youngsters even when they don't ask fot it but I told him that being a senior he can give advice but I can't). I am contemporary to all these young actors. Satish Kaushik told me one incident about Rajesh Khanna. Satish was in a hurry to go somewhere and the producer told him he'd take his shots first. Satish went on the sets and saw Rajesh Khanna waiting. Satish was horrified to know that Rajesh Khanna was made to wait because of him. He immediately said he'd wait the whole night if need be but Khanna *saab's* shots should be taken first. The point is that success is very momentary. If you can grow as a person then you can deal with it. I am not the most happening person in the world today but I can hold a conversation on any topic. How many actors can write a book about life? How many actors can communicate with people who have nothing to do with acting? How many actors can be motivational speakers and talk about the power of failure at Harvard or Oxford? Dilip Kumar had 55 years of stardom because times were different. Amitabh Bachchan had 45 years of stardom. Shah Rukh Khan,


With Rishi and Neetu Kapoor


With Abhishek Bachchan


With mother Dulari and brother Raju

> People are scared of failure. My father at a very young age told me that failure is an event never reversed so he liberated me as a 14-year-old boy

Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar all have 20-35 years of stardom. Today's stars will only be known by their last film. There are so many ways of entertainment today. There are malls, eating places, multiplexes, phone, there are millions of channels... So you have to be brilliant all the time, you have to be a trained actor and you have to be a fighter as a person...

You have worked in blockbusters, in the middle-of-the-road cinema, you've gone to Hollywood and now there's this OTT craze. Have you changed as an actor or is the medium the only change?

If you're good on stage, you're good on television, you're good on OTT. Platforms have nothing to do with the acting or even with your capabilities. Today, an actor is at the mercy of the remote as there is so much choice. People's memory is very short in today's time. You have to keep yourself relevant. That's why Yash Chopra was great because Yash *ji* kept his relevance alive. He kept changing with the times.

What would have a happening 65-year-old guy tell a happening 30-year-old guy?

(*Laughs*) *Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai.*

If you could elaborate...

Keep the sense of wonder alive in you as a person and as an actor, more as a person. When we become authorities, either in life or in acting... that's the beginning of the end. In the last 36 years, I have not taken myself seriously. When you want to be somebody else that's why you pretend, if you like yourself you will not pretend. Tell your problems to people, tell your shortcomings to people. Don't hide them, because that's what people manipulate with. In 2002-2003 I almost went bankrupt, I tell this freely. *Ab aap mujhe kis baat se daraoge* (now how will you scare me). So keep it simple and don't start believing that you're God. *Bada acha ek sher hai ki "Woh jo ek shaks tujhse pehle yahan takhtnashi tha, use bhi apne khuda hone ka itna hi yakeen tha" (*The gentleman before you, he too believed he was God). Enjoy the journey. The destination is not important. The journey is important. And a journey which does not have hurdles, speed breakers, accidents, isn't worth talking about. When we sit with our friends, our childhood friends, our teenage friends, we only talk about disasters, about what went wrong. We don't talk about success stories. Success stories are boring and they are repetitive. It's the failure stories which have amazing juice.

That's true

Look at all the love stories. Whether it's Shirin-Farhad, whether it's Romeo-Juliet, whether it's Marilyn Monroe or James Dean. We romanticise them. You have to love every moment of your journey. And this is what *Your Best Day Is Today* is about. This moment is important. You and me, we don't speak to each other but there was a bond that we created when you met me at my Veera Desai office all those years ago and we have kept that warmth alive. I always say that there are certain relationships which are like the pause button on the tape recorder, you start from where you left off...

your say

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

INSTA LIKE

Medley of moments

Check out the best Instagram posts of the FLYX Filmfare OTT Awards winners



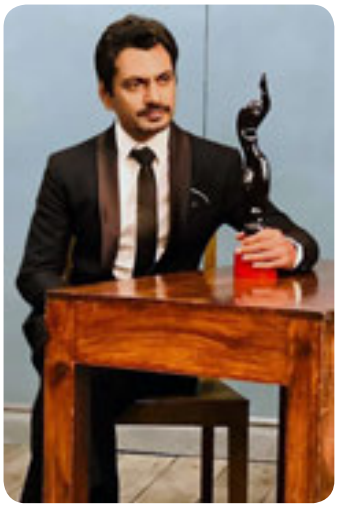
@pillumani: Cheers to the coolest Family !!! Congratulations to all of us !!! This is indeed a big win for the entire team!!!

Priyamani couldn't contain her excitement for sure. The Family that entertains together, wins together. It was a big night for the team, indeed.



@Jitendra Kumar: Thank you Filmfare.. I was so prepared with my speech but moment aaya toh sab bhool gaya.. all I can say is, I am so grateful that I could get lots of love from everyone.. feeling emotional..

Jitendra Kumar can make us laugh, he can make us cry and now he's making us all emotional with heartfelt sentiments.



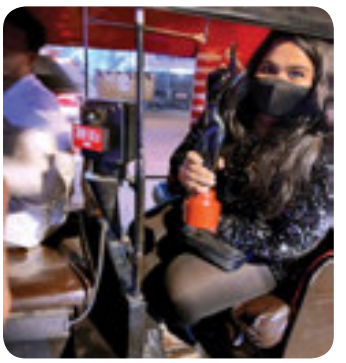
@Nawazuddin Siddiqui: Thanking all my dear friends out there, who have shown an overwhelming response by watching my film #RaatAkeliHai & made me win the #BestActorAward

Who all were surprised by this one? We sure weren't surprised to see Nawazuddin Siddiqui take home the Black Lady as it has become something of a habit with him.



@jaideepahlawat: "The Black Lady" is at home now. I Dedicated this to The One & Only "Irrfan" Sir.

Jaideep Ahlawat dedicates his first-ever award to Irrfan Khan. Jaideep also teared up during his winning speech as he remembered the late actor.



@Pushpavalli: won @filmfare. Now back in auto. Hustle continues.

Here's to winning like a girl boss and hustling like one too, Sumukhi Suresh.

Readers send in their feedback *pg 78*

Shatrughan Sinha's racy rejoinders *pg 80*



IN THE MAIL



Thespian: Soumitra Chatterjee

1st Prize ₹1500

↑ REMEMBERING SOUMITRA

Your tribute to Soumitra Chatterjee in your December 2020 issue was superbly narrated. I liked it very much. Thank you for the old photographs published with the article. To be active at the age of 85 is really a huge achievement. He practically became a lovable icon to many of us. His departure is a loss to the world of art and culture. He excelled not only in Bangla cinema but in theatre and TV serials as well. He will always live in our hearts.

Bipradip Bandyopadhyay, Durgapur


On a high: Pratik Gandhi

2st Prize ₹1000

PRATIK GANDHI'S RISE AND RISE

I have been following Pratik Gandhi's work for a while now and I'm glad he's finally getting the appreciation he deserves. He's definitely an ace and he proved it by excelling in his role as Harshad Mehta in *Scam 1992*. Hope to see him take bigger strides with his work ahead.

Harshali Rawat, Jhansi

↓ COVER GIRL BHUMI PEDNEKAR

Bhumi Pednekar is always willing to take risks. Her first film *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* and her subsequent choices have proved that. It was great to see her feature on the *Filmfare* cover (December) and learn more about the actor's perception towards life and her work.

Karan Sahni, Gurgaon


The right choice: Bhumi Pednekar

UP FILM CITY PROJECT

India is a country that is obsessed with films. So, the prospect of a film city being set up in my home state definitely fills me with excitement. I have always wished to try my luck in Bollywood and hopefully, I'll be shooting in my hometown soon.

Shakeel Ahmed, Barabanki

A TRUE FRIEND

Amit Sadh is one of the finest actors in recent years. I was super excited to see him on the *Filmfare Spotlight* series. The way he spoke about Sushant Singh Rajput during the interview touched me deeply.

Radhika Seth, Ahmedabad

CURSED 2020

2020 was a pretty depressing year for everyone in Bollywood. We lost many gems of the industry like Rishi Kapoor, Irrfan Khan and Sushant Singh Rajput. They may be gone but will remain in our hearts forever.

Arvind Sengupta, Kolkata

→ AJAY DEVGN'S DIRECTORIAL SOJOURN

I read in *Filmfare* (December) that Ajay Devgn was returning to direction with *May Day*. I enjoyed his previous work and feel that with this exciting cast comprising Ajay himself, Amitabh Bachchan and Rakul Preet Singh, Ajay will surely deliver as a director once more.

Rajiv Nair, Bangalore


Director's special: Ajay Devgn

ANURAG BASU'S MAGIC

I've always been a big fan of Anurag Basu's work and after watching *Ludo* my love for his work has grown further. The director is a stellar filmmaker and his knack of keeping the viewers interested throughout is evident with this film. I also wanted to praise the entire cast for performing brilliantly.

Rohan Varma, Mumbai

JUG JUGG JEETE RAHO

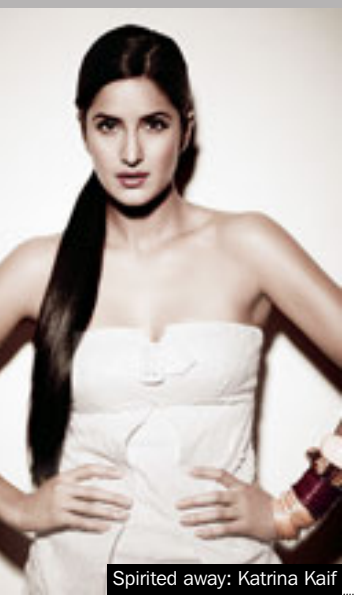
When I read about Anil Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor and Varun Dhawan testing positive for COVID-19, I was extremely concerned. This is also another sign that we can never be too careful, that we can never take safety precautions for granted. I wish them a speedy recovery.

Sangram Singh, Rewari

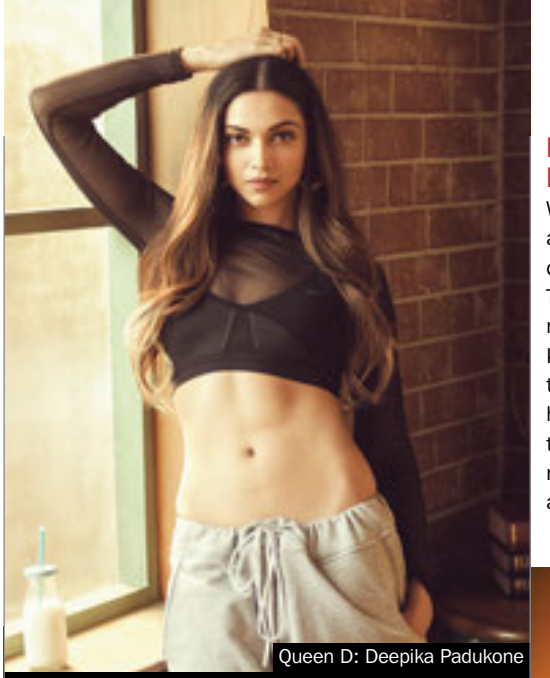
↓ BHOOT BUSTERS

In the last issue of *Filmfare* (December), I read that Katrina Kaif will be playing a ghost in her forthcoming movie *Phone Bhoot*. Apart from the fresh and exciting star cast, comprising Katrina, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter, it looks like we all have another major reason to look forward to this one.

Kirti Godbole, Mumbai



Spirited away: Katrina Kaif



Queen D: Deepika Padukone

↑ DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S LINE UP

Deepika Padukone already has an impressive lineup of films with *Pathaan,* Shakun Batra's untitled film and her project with Prabhas. In the last issue of the magazine (December), I read that she'll be playing an agent with SRK in *Pathaan.* As if the lineup alone wasn't impressive enough, this news took my excitement to a whole new level.

Pankaj Sharma, Meerut

GET WELL SOON, KRITI

Kriti Sanon is one of my favourite actresses in Bollywood and when I read in *Filmfare* that she'd tested positive for the coronavirus, I was extremely upset. I hope that she is back to her healthy self again and begins work soon so we can see more of her on-screen.

Bindu Jhadhav, Kolhapur

RAPID FIRE WITH ADITYA SEAL

I thoroughly enjoyed the rapid-fire session with Aditya Seal on *Filmfare's* website. I feel he's one actor with a bright future ahead and it was good to know more about him. Thanks, *Filmfare!*

Chandan Rathi, Pune

MYSTERY DEATH

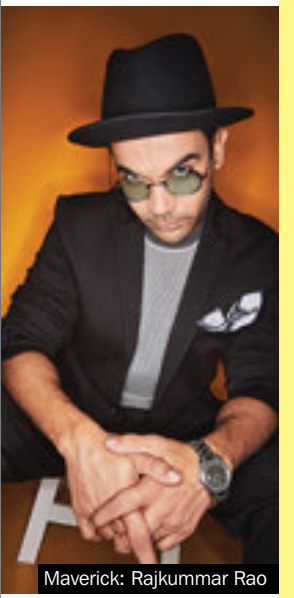
It has been six months since Sushant Singh Rajput passed away. We still don't know the mystery behind his death. I hope that CBI gives out the final report soon and puts an end to the useless speculation and theories that are circulating on the internet.

Binod Jha, Gaya

KAJAL AGGARWAL'S HONEYMOON TRIP

We recently witnessed another celebrity wedding during the lockdown. This time it was one of my favourite actresses, Kajal Aggarwal, who tied the knot. Seeing her honeymoon pictures on the *Filmfare* website was really awesome. I wish her all the best for the future.

Navin Kaur, New Delhi



Maverick: Rajkummar Rao

↑ *LE CHALLAANG!*

I recently watched Hansal Mehta's *Challaang* online and was extremely impressed with the film. The combination of Rajkummar Rao and Hansal Mehta has delivered some stellar works in the past and they have delivered a mini gem with this film as well. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Shalini Vats, Jaipur

Just one Point



King Khan: SRK

I am a diehard fan of Shah Rukh Khan so obviously when I read on the *Filmfare* website that he's begun shooting for *Pathaan,* I couldn't contain my excitement.
Ravi Burman, Siliguri

Manish Malhotra is undoubtedly the topmost name when it comes to Bollywood fashion. I want to pursue a career in a similar field so his interview gave me some great insight.
Sharmishta Sonawane, Satara

Bhumi Pednekar's interview in your last issue (December) really helped me gain a new perspective. Her attitude to make the best of the worst situations is truly inspiring.
Krishna Das, Rourkela

Tabu is one of Bollywood's best actresses of all time. Her interview in your last issue (December) proved that she is extremely dedicated towards her craft
Tarun Pant, Dehradun

Nora Fatehi is truly a great talent and it is great to see brands like *Filmfare* appreciating her rise.
Bimal Ghosh, Kolkata

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PHOTOGRAPH: MEETESH TANEJA

Shatrughan Sinha's Rapid fire



Truly talented: Manoj Bajpayee





Showmen: Raj Kapoor and Subhash Ghai

Why do people seek comfort in a lie rather than the truth?

Dhawal Sahani, Bhilai

Truth is often hard to accept so people seek comfort in a lie rather than the truth. Lies suit our purpose whereas truth has to be proved and has consequences. Hence, it's easier to seek comfort in a lie.

What do you value more, money or time?

Naveen Bhardwaj, Mohali

I certainly value time nowadays. In my younger days, it could have been money but in my current status, I definitely value time as it's slipping by. Money is important when you're starting out, when you have to secure your family's future. But later, it's time to spend maximum time with your family, something you might have neglected while pursuing your career.

Why do people call the police '*Mama*'?

Bharat T Kajaria, Mumbai

Any objection? If you want to call them papa or *nana* -- it's your wish, I don't mind...

How do you handle unexpected issues in your life?

Dr. Devki Yadav, Ratlam

Just by accepting the will of the lord. And with his blessings accepting the fact and finding solutions with a cool, calm and a composed attitude.

Will the world be more atheistic in the future?

Seema Sabharwal, Chandigarh

Definitely, as we are becoming more insensitive, emotionless and selfish.

Is it a sin to question God?

Neeraj Sabharwal, Chandigarh

I don't think so. God is the only one who can always be questioned in my eyes. Science and scientists always do it. With God, we share everything so questioning him is fine.

Is there a remarkable increase in Bollywood celebrities holidaying at the Maldives in recent times?

Jaideep Sarkar, Kolkata

I have no idea. However, Maldives is an extremely beautiful place and if they're picking it for holidaying or extra-curricular activities then they are making the right choice indeed. It's certainly worth visiting once in your lifetime.

What do you think might have infuriated God that he's punished us with COVID-19

B Ajit, New Delhi

I don't think God has punished us. God is caring and loving. It's our own karma which has caught up with us. What goes around, comes around, as they say. The more we indulge in doing evil, the more it will inflict us. We, humans,

---

Why does the media always make fun of US President Trump?

Santosh Mohan Joshi, Miraj

Though Trump is smart, dashing, bold and beautiful, he did become the butt of media jokes in America. Now his time has passed, wait for Biden jokes. Is there something wrong with making jokes about powerful people?



Maldives calling: Sonakshi Sinha

have been harming nature since aeons and now it's payback time. You reap what you sow.

What significant changes have you seen, good or bad, in the film industry and in politics after you left an illustrious acting career behind?

Lalitkumar Kumpalath, Mumbai

In the industry, I see the changes in film technology. In the way, films are shot or directed. Some say the films of today lack soul when it comes to story or songs and maybe it's true. In politics, we have seen a bit of deterioration. It has become more corrupt, more cutthroat. The less said the better.

In an interview, when on a particular question, the interviewee instead of replying instantly says 'good question'. What does it mean in true sense of the term?

Rajeh K Ragna, New Delhi

It can have several meanings. It could be that it indeed is a good question and the interviewee appreciates the fact. Or he wants some time to answer it. It could even mean the interviewee doesn't know the answer and is trying to deflect attention. You've asked a 'good question' indeed!

Can you name a director in your film career who was successful in bringing the best out of you?

Abhijit Ghosh, 24 Parganas (North)

There are quite a few besides the great showman Raj Kapoor. There's Raj Khosla, Vijay Anand, Manmohan Desai, our family friend Subhash Ghai, Gulzar *saab*, the actor's director Dulal Guha and Goutam Ghosh, who gave me the festival favourite *Antarjali Yatra*.

(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.

1st Prize

Manoj Bajpayee was identified in Bollywood with the 1998 film *Satya*. He was born in a small family in Bihar in a family of farmers and he continues to be a role model for every youth. Your comments.

Shital Vijay Dhadekar, Aurangabad

Manoj is indeed the son of the soil in the true sense of the term. He's the pride of the film industry. And of course, of Bihar. He is certainly one of the finest actors we have today. And he could be a role model for everyone, not just for fellow actors. I agree with you wholeheartedly. Lots of love, best wishes and a happy new year to you.

2nd Prize

After spending a major part of 2020 in an atmosphere of fear, anxiety and chaos, what can the world hope for in the near future?

Manoj Somai, on email

We hope, wish and pray for a happier and a healthier future. A future with joy, peace, prosperity, brotherhood and a healthy lifestyle. Where everyone is safe, relaxed and fearless. Future where people are not getting sick and families are not losing people to COVID-19. So the world can heal and people are safe, sound and healthy. A very, very happy new year to all of us.

Win!
CASH PRIZES

1st prize ₹3000

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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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TWENTY TWENTY WON


Sushant Singh Rajput


Rishi Kapoor


Irrfan Khan

2020 took over our lives. No kidding. It was collectively bad for all of us. The novel coronavirus coiled around the world like the legendary serpent Jörmungandr from the Norse mythology and squeezed the life out of us. We were forced to become prisoners inside our own homes. A thousand and one restrictions were imposed on us, with the guidelines changing almost daily. Masks and sanitisers became our boon companions. The economy took a downturn. People were majorly laid off in most sectors. A mass exodus of the migrant workforce took place. The poor took to walking to their villages in the absennce of trains and buses. Their thousand-mile journeys were perhaps one of the most heartrending sights of modern times. The film industry too suffered badly. Film screenings screeched to a halt after March and while they resumed in December, lack of big releases and the 50 per cent occupancy rule resulted in minimal footfalls inside the theatres. Film shootings too were called off. Thankfully, our filmmakers found a way forward by conducting everything in a bubble, once the shooting restrictions were called off.

Our stars are entertainers and took it upon themselves to keep us engaged during these troubled times. It was fun to see Katrina Kaif doing household chores all by herself. Others took to teaching us yoga and home-based exercises. And we saw a thousand varieties of banana bread being baked. Such videos gave the illusion that stars too are people like us and were going through the same stuff as us. That we're all co-passengers in the same leaking boat.

Sushant Singh Rajput died by suicide and his death exposed the toxic nature of fandom. Suddenly, the people who were idolised for years were branded as a coterie of murderers. Allegations flew thick and high across social media and all kinds of crazy conspiracy theories surfaced. It was the worst of the time to be a celebrity as you didn't know what would hit you the next hour. It didn't help that agencies like CBI, NCB and ED got involved in the investigation and their involvement further deepened the cesspool.

Besides Sushant, we also lost stars like Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan. The former was the epitome of a romantic hero while the latter was the very textbook of method acting. Both had come back fighting from incurable diseases and passed away within a day of each other, pulling the industry in a pall of gloom. We lost many others like Oscar winner Bhanu Athaiya, comedian Jagdeep, lyricists Rahat Indori and Yogesh, composer Wajid, actors Kumkum and Nimmi, singer SP Balasubrahmanyam and others this year.

For all intents and purposes, 2020 won the bout against humanity. The dawn of the new year has given us a chance to fight back. We have endured World Wars, droughts, floods, famine in the past and will overcome this calamity as well. Whatever it takes...

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