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CHOPRA**

**KAJOL  
TELLS IT  
LIKE IT IS**

*Kiara Advani!*  
**SCORCHING HOT**



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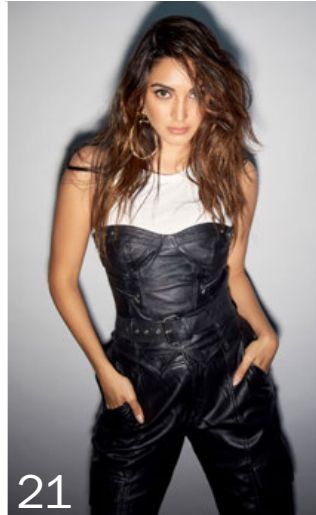
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Dress: Antithesis



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# Letter from the Editor

## Awarding experience

I'm writing this after the successful completion of Planet Marathi Presents Filmfare Awards Marathi 2020. As kids growing up in Mumbai, we were fed a staple diet of Marathi films and serials. Ashok Saraf, Laxmikant Berde, Sachin Pilgaonkar, Mahesh Kothare, Dilip Prabhvalkar... and many, many more were part of our Saturday evening staples when Doordarshan used to telecast Marathi films. Yes, you heard that right, kids - we used to have one channel and programme timings were strictly adhered to. There was no pause button, no fast forward button. No binge watching and no luxury of watching things in your own free time. It was one-size-fits-all entertainment, take it or leave it. But you know what, it was still golden. Marathi cinema was at its commercial peak then, giving a tough fight to its Hindi big brother at the cinema halls.

Mahesh Kothare was the recipient of our Excellence In Cinema Award this year. I remember watching his *Dhoom Dhadaka* (1985) and rolling in the aisles with laughter. It was a remake of *Pyar Kiye Jaa* (1966) for sure but the story didn't lose its charm in the retelling. Mahesh directed the film, and cast Laxmikant Berde and Ashok Saraf besides him. It was a roaring success and is popular even today. It's said that Mahesh and Laxmikant Berde were thick friends and that resulted in the actor being part of all his productions. In the midst of the show, it struck me that the Marathi industry still retains that old world charm of workplace friendship. It was evident in the way people greeted each other like long-lost friends, in the warmth of the applause and the genuine appreciation for those who took home the Black Lady. Even in the middle of a thousand and one concerns, a feeling of well-being came over me watching it. Let's hope the feeling persists always.

Anandi Gopal made history by bagging 10 trophies. Anandibai Joshi was an extraordinary woman who travelled all the way to America to study medicine and triumphed against all odds. I've read about her and her husband Gopalrao Joshi. The story of their struggles, their perseverance, needed to be told and I'm glad it finally came out. We need such positive stories. More so in today's times where the novel coronavirus hangs over our heads like a sword, ready to strike down if we slipped up on personal safety. At the function too, we insisted on masks and everyone was tested for COVID-19 before entering the venue. Now that the vaccination is happening rapidly, let's hope and pray that by the next edition of Marathi Awards we should well be rid of this pandemic...



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jitesh Pillai".

For more on tinseltown's news and updates  
find me on Twitter @jiteshpillai

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

# masala fix



## PLAYING FOR KEEPS

**Tiger Shroff is a baller alright. If he hadn't come into films, he would have made a name for himself either as a gymnast, an athlete or a footballer. He was invited to play a charity match and bedazzled everyone with his footballing skills. He did get into a scrape and had a little bit of an injury and we couldn't help but notice the concern on Disha Patani's face.**



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Aamir Khan adopts a no-phone policy on the sets of *Laal Singh Chaddha* pg 06

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Emraan Hashmi to play the villain in *Tiger 3?* pg 08

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PHOTOGRAPH: YOGEN SHAH



## AAMIR KHAN'S NO PHONE POLICY

Expecting **Aamir Khan** to do the unexpected on the big screen has become the norm. According to reports, the actor has decided to keep his cell phone off till the release of his next *Laal Singh Chaddha*. The reason behind keeping his phone off is that he wants no hindrance while working on *Laal Singh Chaddha*. Aamir, who's put his heart and soul into his next movie, wants to make sure he doesn't get disturbed by unnecessary phone calls. The report states that the *Dangal* actor will follow this pattern until the release of the film. Well, the actor knows what's good for him.

### MEANWHILE...

Looks like **Aamir Khan** will be working on a sports film soon. We hear the super star is already in talks with *Shubh Mangal Savdhaan* director **RS Prasanna**. The director and the actor are in talks for a sports film which is high on drama and human emotions. The actor is kicked about this project and has already had some five to six meetings with the filmmaker. Nothing has been officially said or signed yet but by the looks of it, it's a yes from Aamir Khan. The last sports drama Aamir starred in was *Dangal*. The film created a hysteria at the box-office and won several awards.



## MAHESH BABU APPROACHED TO PLAY RAM OPPOSITE DEEPIKA PADUKONE

**Madhu Mantena's** *Ramayana 3D* has been making waves for quite a while now. According to rumours, the project has been allotted a budget of Rs. 300 crore and would star **Hrithik Roshan** and **Deepika Padukone** in the lead. Later, it was said that Hrithik wouldn't be playing the role of Ram but the role of the infamous Raavan. The latest development suggests that Madhu may have finally found his Ram. A report in a leading daily has claimed that the producer is looking to bring in **Mahesh Babu** to play the character of Lord Rama. The report claims that the team was looking for someone who could bring innocence to the character. Initially **Prabhas** was approached for the role but he's already playing the character in **Om Raut's** *Adipurush*. According to the grapevine, Madhu was shocked when Om Raut announced *Adipurush* with Prabhas. He immediately got his financiers to up the ante on *Ramayana 3D*. Mahesh Babu, on the other hand, has liked the script but is yet to give his nod to the project. If these rumours do hold true, then we're in for one hell of a cinematic experience.

## SARA ALI KHAN TO PLAY TIGER SHROFF'S LOVE INTEREST IN BAAGHI 4?

New pairings on screen always get everyone excited. Looks like we have another fresh on-screen pair in the pipeline. According to reports, **Sara Ali Khan** will play the lead opposite **Tiger Shroff** in *Baaghi 4*. According to reports, **Sajid Nadiadwala** was keen to sign Sara for *Heropanti 2*. However, things didn't fall in place and the producer had to cast **Tara Sutaria**. Things seem to have fallen in place now. *Baaghi* is one of the biggest and most popular action franchises in Bollywood. While *Baaghi 1* and *3* had **Shraddha Kapoor** in a lead role, *Baaghi 2* had **Disha Patani** opposite Tiger Shroff. But looks like the fourth instalment will see Sara opposite Tiger. Tiger Shroff will begin shooting for *Baaghi 4* once he wraps up the shooting of *Heropanti 2*. The actor even has Vikas Bahl's *Ganpath* and the *desi* version of *Rambo* on his platter. Meanwhile, Sara Ali Khan has wrapped up shooting for *Atrangi Re* and now has Dinesh Vijan's *The Immortal Ashwatthama* with Vicky Kaushal in her kitty.



## VIRAT KOHLI AND ANUSHKA SHARMA NAME THEIR BABY VAMIKA

ANUSHKA SHARMA AND VIRAT KOHLI WELCOMED A BABY GIRL EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE COUPLE HAD REQUESTED THE PAPARAZZI TO GIVE THEM SOME SPACE. LATER, ANUSHKA SHOWED US THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF HER DAUGHTER THROUGH HER SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES AND ALSO REVEALED THE NAME OF HER LITTLE BUNDLE OF JOY. SHE SHARED A PICTURE OF HERSELF AND VIRAT AND WE SEE HER HOLDING THE BABY IN HER ARMS. WE GET A GLIMPSE OF THE TINY TOT IN HER HANDS AND SHE CAPTIONS IT SAYING, "WE HAVE LIVED TOGETHER WITH LOVE, PRESENCE AND GRATITUDE AS A WAY OF LIFE BUT THIS LITTLE ONE, VAMIKA HAS TAKEN IT TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL! TEARS, LAUGHTER, WORRY, BLISS - EMOTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED IN A SPAN OF MINUTES SOMETIMES! SLEEP IS ELUSIVE BUT OUR HEARTS ARE SO FULL THANKING YOU ALL FOR YOUR WISHES, PRAYERS AND GOOD ENERGY." SO CUTE!





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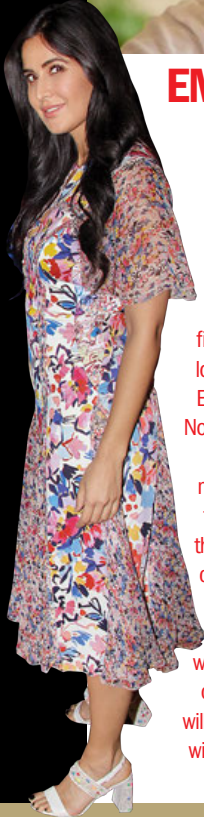


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## KATRINA-KARTIK TEAM UP TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME

**Kartik Aaryan** who has been signing some big films has been in talks with **Shah Rukh Khan's** Red Chillies Entertainment's new production titled *Freddy*. While nothing has been confirmed yet, it seems that the makers have already found their leading lady. According to reports on an online portal, we hear that **Katrina Kaif** too has been in talks for *Freddy*. Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina teamed up in *Zero* in 2018 which was produced by the former. Kat's performance became the talking point of the film and she won several accolades for it. Now looks like SRK wants to sign her for his next production. Kartik Aaryan had once said in an interview that he wants to have babies with Katrina Kaif, expressing his love and fondness for the actress. Well, here's a chance to make a cinematic baby together.



## HANSAL MEHTA TO MAKE A FILM WITH KARTIK AARYAN

Brand **Kartik Aaryan** is truly selling like hot cakes. Every filmmaker wants a piece of him. While rumours about him doing **Shah Rukh Khan's** next production, **Aanand L Rai's** next film and **Sanjay Leela Bhansali's** next are strong, we hear that Kartik Aaryan is also in talks with **Hansal Mehta**. The director, who is known for his hard-hitting films like *CityLights*, *Shahid* and hit web series *Scam 1992* reportedly had a couple of meetings with Kartik Aaryan. He narrated a project which is based on a true story. Kartik has loved the concept but has yet to sign on the dotted line. The film will be produced by **Ronnie Screwvala** and if everything goes fine, the film will roll out in the first quarter of 2022.



## Kriti Sanon to reunite with Tiger Shroff in Ganpath

**Kriti Sanon** and **Tiger Shroff** had started their journey in showbiz together with *Heropanti* (2014) and are all set to be reunited on the big screen with **Vikas Bahl's** *Ganpath*. Tiger Shroff revealed the name of his leading lady for *Ganpath* through an intriguing social media post. He shared a video where we see Kriti Sanon in a biker chic avatar. The video has Tiger's voice over where he says - *Apan ka love story idhar se shuru hua* (my love story began from here). Kriti Sanon too shared the video and revealed her character's name and shared her excitement, "Meet JASSI !! 🐞🔥 Super Duper Excited for this one!! Teaming up once again with my very special @tigerjackieshroff 🌟💫💖! Can't wait for the shoot to begin! 💖 Lets KILL it!"

## EMRAAN HASHMI TO PLAY THE VILLAIN IN TIGER 3!

There was a time when **Emraan Hashmi** used to churn out blockbusters on a regular basis and was the uncrowned king of kisses. But it wasn't just the bold scenes that made him famous. He displayed his acting chops in films like *Shanghai*, *Azhar* and *The Dirty Picture*. Off late, the actor has been doing less films. These days he concentrates on meaty roles and looks like he's got a big role up his sleeve. We hear that Emraan Hashmi will play the lead antagonist in *Tiger 3*. Now that's surely big for him. **Salman Khan** and Emraan Hashmi locking horns will be one exciting watch. The makers initially wanted a fresh face for the role just like they had got **Sajjad Delfarooz** in *Tiger Zinda Hai*, then they thought that Emraan Hashmi would be the perfect choice. This will be Emraan Hashmi's first ever YRF film and also his first collaboration with Salman Khan and **Katrina Kaif**. According to reports, *Tiger 3* will start with a small schedule in March and then the unit will fly off to the Middle East, where a major chunk of the film will be shot. It's even said that Salman Khan's *Tiger* story will continue from the climax shot of **Shah Rukh Khan's** *Pathan*. Can't wait for this one for sure.



## SAIYAMI KHER TURNS WRITER

INDIA'S RECENT WIN AGAINST AUSTRALIA AT THE GABBA WAS HISTORIC. THE TEAM WHICH WON THE SERIES WITHOUT ITS KEY PLAYERS CREATED A FRENZY ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THE SERIES WAS THRILLING AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE TURNED INTO A BOOK. ACTRESS SAIYAMI KHER WILL TURN AUTHOR AND WRITE ABOUT THIS VICTORIOUS SERIES. TALKING ABOUT HER DECISION TO WRITE IT DOWN, SAIYAMI SAID, "I'M STILL REELING OVER THIS HISTORIC SERIES WIN. AS A CRICKET FAN, IT IS THE BEST COMEBACK STORY THAT I HAVE WITNESSED. FROM 36 ALL OUT, TO BARELY FINDING 11 FIT PLAYERS, TO A SERIES WIN DOWN UNDER! WHAT APPEALED TO ME THE MOST ABOUT THIS WIN WAS THE FACT THAT THIS IS YOUR QUINTESSENTIAL TRIUMPH OF THE UNDERDOG STORY. NO ONE BELIEVED THAT THIS TEAM COULD PULL IT OFF AND THEY DID, DESPITE THE ODDS. ALL OF US CAN RELATE TO IT FOR A REASON." LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A PAGE TURNER ON OUR HANDS.





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## BHUMI PEDNEKAR ENGAGES IN A ZERO WASTAGE POLICY ON THE SETS OF *BADHAAI DO*



**Bhumi Pednekar** chooses powerful roles on screen. Off screen, she continues to inspire us in different ways. The actress who's a climate warrior, makes sure that she always does something for the environment which in turn will be good for everyone's future. The actress has started a zero wastage and zero plastic policy on the set of *Badhaai Do*. The actress who's shooting for it in Dehradun is making a lot of difference on the set of her film by making sure the makers follow a zero-wastage and zero-plastic policy on the set. She recently spoke on the same, "The support that my fraternity gave my environment-driven campaigns has been worthy of applause. There is a change in people's mindsets, even within the fraternity. While shooting my last three films, the unit did not use single-use plastic and employed steel water bottles instead. These are productive steps, because the kind of garbage that is produced on a film-set is sizable. This is a conversation I like to have with most of my teams." *Badhaai Do* is the sequel to *Badhaai Ho* and teams up the actress for the first time with **Rajkumar Rao**.



## AKSHAY KUMAR'S *SOORYAVANSHI* GETS A NEW RELEASE PLAN

Last year when **Rohit Shetty** was all set to release *Sooryavanshi* starring **Akshay Kumar** and **Katrina Kaif**, the film hit an unexpected obstacle. The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting lockdown. It's almost been an year since then, and the makers are finally going ahead with *Sooryavanshi*'s new release plans. *Sooryavanshi* will probably release on April 2. The makers have also decided that this release will be limited to single screen theatres and non-national multiplexes. The source explaining this strategy said, "This move essentially means that the film will not release in big nationwide multiplex chains like PVR, Carnival, INOX and others, but will focus on grassroot level cinemas to reach the masses." Now this means that the film's collections will surely be affected and also the business for these big multiplex chains. But let's see what the makers finally decide. Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif starrer *Sooryavanshi* also stars **Ranveer Singh** as Simmba and **Ajay Devgn** as Singham in cameo roles.

## NAGARJUNA AKKINENI COMPLETES THE SHOOTING OF AYAN MUKERJI'S *BRAHMASTRA*



**Nagarjuna Akkineni** wrapped up the shooting of **Ayan Mukerji's** *Brahmastra*. After a series of Telugu blockbusters such as *Oopiri*, *Soggade Chinni Nayana*, and *Manam*, the superstar made his comeback to Hindi cinema with the upcoming fantasy-adventure. Last seen in *LOC Kargil* (2003), he is all set to see the audience in cinemas with one of the most highly anticipated films in India. Excited about completing the shooting, Nagarjuna took to his Twitter handle and tweeted, "And it's a wrap for me on #Brahmastra. Such an amazing experience it has been with our stellar performers #Ranbir and @Aliaa08. Can't wait for you guys to witness the outstanding world #AyanMukerji has created #TheBigIndianMovie". The superstar will be seen sharing screen time with **Amitabh Bachchan**, **Ranbir Kapoor** and **Alia Bhatt**.

## AYUSHMANN KHURRANA AND ANUBHAV SINHA TEAM UP ONCE AGAIN FOR *ANEK*

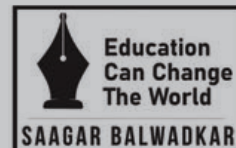
**Ayushmann Khurrana** and **Anubhav Sinha** delivered the critically-acclaimed *Article 15* back in 2019. The film gave us an idea of the inhumane caste system that still exists in India. Now, the duo has teamed up yet again for what seems to be a pretty exciting project. Ayushmann Khurrana took to social media and confirmed the news along with sharing a couple of pictures. In the first picture, we see Ayushmann posing with the director with a clapboard that reads, 'Again'. In the second picture, we see the actor sitting in a jeep with a green jacket sporting a thick beard with one of his eyebrows slightly shaved. The film is produced by **Bhushan Kumar** and Anubhav Sinha under Benaras Media Works and T-Series. We hear the film is being shot at the Kaziranga National Park as well as in Shillong.



# MRS. RUPALI BALWADAR, FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF BALWADI WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB, PUNE

## SAAGAR BALWADKAR

A PHILANTHROPIST, AN ENTREPRENEUR & AN EDUCATIONIST, SECRETARY SHRI  
KHANDERAI PRATISHTHAN SKP CAMPUS, DIMR INSTITUTE



A Philanthropist, an entrepreneur & an educationist, Dr. Saagar Balwadkar straddles several worlds of experience. An Assistant Professor with a Ph.D. in Marketing, he also dons entrepreneurial hats backed up with 6 years of teaching experience.

Also, his social initiative 'Saagar Balwadkar Community' is a group which was founded with an agenda to help the society, conduct awareness in the Pune city regarding various environmental issues & encourage a sustainable lifestyle for a better future for the next generations. The community tries to conduct monthly activities such as marathons, tree plantation, blood & plasma donation, free health check-up camps etc. The most unique aspect of this social community

is that they do not accept any donations in cash. They ask the contributors to contribute in kind, i.e. – Food packets, blankets, clothes, medical aid etc. Animal rights are also given equal importance in social work. Sterilization of stray animals, rescuing trapped animals & birds, etc is done with collaboration with other animal support groups.

A father of two & husband to a super woman, Dr. Saagar ensures that he makes time for his family despite a busy schedule. He holds his family on the top of his priority list, spending the weekends on short trips around the city & outdoor activities. Recently Mr Saagar Balwadkar gave away an award to Best Film critics award to Raj R Gupta for Film Baba





## DIA MIRZA MARRIES VAIBHAV REKHI

ON FEBRUARY 15, DIA MIRZA TIED THE KNOT WITH ENTREPRENEUR VAIBHAV REKHI. THE WEDDING WAS A PRIVATE AFFAIR AT HER PLACE IN BANDRA, MUMBAI. THE ACTRESS LOOKED ABSOLUTELY STUNNING IN A RED TRADITIONAL SAREE AS A BRIDE AND EVEN DISTRIBUTED SWEETS TO THE MEDIA FOLKS WHO WERE WAITING OUTSIDE HER RESIDENCE TO GET HER CLICKED. DIA MIRZA AND VAIBHAV REKHI'S WEDDING WAS ATTENDED BY DIRECTOR KUNAL DESHMUKH AND ADITI RAO HYDARI. APPARENTLY THE ACTRESS HAD MET VAIBHAV AMIDST THE LOCKDOWN BUT SHE PREFERRED TO BE DISCREET ABOUT HER BLOOMING ROMANCE WITH HIM. HERE'S WISHING THE COUPLE A HAPPY MARRIED LIFE AND ALL THE BEST FOR A NEW BEGINNING.

## AMITABH BACHCHAN'S GRAND DAUGHTER NAVYA NAVELI NOT TO JOIN FILMS!



Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan's grandkids and Shweta Bachchan Nanda and Nikhil Nanda's kids - Navya Naveli and Agastya Nanda have always been in the news. Now that the two have grown out to be beautiful adults, talks are rife that they are all set for a B-town debut. But it looks like Navya Naveli has her own plans. The young diva told a publication that she wants to join her father's business. Yes, you heard that right. She isn't interested in joining the movies, Navya Naveli will join her father's business. She said that she would be the fourth generation and the first woman in the Nanda family to do so. She said that more and more women are taking an active part in the recent years to raise their own firms, run them and make them successful and Navya is confident that she can do it too. Now that's commendable and we're truly proud of this young diva. Agastya Nanda, we've heard has been offered movies and he has even picked the right one for his debut. Though everything has been kept under wraps for now, we hear he has started preparing for his role. We wish them both the best for the future.



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**Date: March 1, 2021**



# F&B

*fashion and beauty*

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

## BLACK MAGIC WOMAN

**AMRUTA  
KHANVILKAR**

**WHERE:** PLANET MARATHI PRESENTS  
FILMFARE AWARDS MARATHI 2020  
**THE X FACTOR:** TWINNING WITH OUR  
BLACK LADY

Kickstarting the awards season for 2021, the Black Lady arrived to celebrate Marathi cinema. And to complement the occasion, Amruta Khanvilkar opted for an all-black velvet number. The stunning creation with the thigh-high slit was simple but it sparkled on the red carpet. She styled it to perfection with a multi-tiered diamond necklace, a pair of strappy silver heels and her perfect long hair that she let down in loose curls. She kept the make-up subtle with a nude lip and a light smokey eye.

Playing turtle *pg 14*

Tie-dye affair *pg 16*

Double the fun *pg 18*

COMPILED BY: ANALITA SETH  
PHOTOGRAPH: IPSHITA DEY BELGAONKAR  
INSIDE PHOTOGRAPHS: YOGEN SHAH

# PLAYING TURTLE

*The turtleneck trend is a resurgence on fashion street*

This trend dates back to the late '80s when Polo players wore this high-neck sweater, which was later called Polo neck for the longest time. Icons like Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe made this trend a must-have for women who loved the elegant and simple look. Even tech wizard Steve Jobs was known for his signature black turtleneck.

This trend is making its way back in the Indian wardrobe. In physique-flattering alters, the turtleneck is not just a winter season essential but is repeatedly seen in dresses, bodysuits and even simple crop tops.

## DP'S TAKE

If you're looking to style a turtleneck differently everyday, Deepika Padukone's the one to take inspiration from.



THE POLAR EXPRESS



RAKUL PREET SINGH

NORA FATEH ALI



MANUSHI CHILLAR

PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS

*"A turtleneck is about sophistication."  
Dwyane Wade*

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KARAN JOHAR

Stella McCartney



Raquel-Allegra



Amélie Richard

MALAIKA ARORA



# TIE-DYE RENAISSANCE

*Add some colour to your wardrobe, lovelies!*

One of the trippiest trends on the block, tie and dye is making a comeback ever since the lockdown started and we are not going to complain. Big in the '70, this psychedelic print is something we've all tried once as a DIY at home. It's also made several appearances at the runway over the past couple of years. There are so many colours and combinations to play with and several patterns to choose from. Tie and dye looks easy but the thought and effort that goes into getting these beautiful pieces ready is nothing but art.

TIED AND TESTED



Ssheena



Diesel



Converse

Carolina Herrera



AMIRI



ARA ADVANI



DEEPIKA PADUKONE



HUMA QURESHI



*"Anyone can get dressed up and glamorous, but it is how people dress in their days off that are the most intriguing."  
Alexander Wang*





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# DOUBLE THE FUN

*You can never do too much denim*

Double denim is tricky business but once paired correctly in an ensemble, it can do wonders for both casual and formal wear. Often called the Canadian tuxedo, this trend has been around since quite a while and has now evolved in the form of personalised quirky ensembles. You can break the monotony of the denim with colourful heels or add some chunky jewellery to give it an ethereal twist. Double denim is like a blank canvas, waiting for fashionistas to unleash their imagination.



SAMANTHA AKKINENI

DO THE DENIM



SARA ALI KHAN



RICHA CHADDA



ALAYA F



NIMRAT KAUR



SONAL CHAUHAN



RADHIKA MADAN



SONAKSHI SINHA

*"Create your own style let it be unique for yourself and yet identifiable for others."  
Anna Winter*

From  
taking the  
**big step**



Nice To Meet You

To  
taking a few  
**steps back**



Tape: A Love Story

Every  
moment is a  
**story**  
waiting to be told



Pyaar, Yaar, Parivaar

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# exclu

## WHAT DREAMS MAY COME...

It feels like a dream come true. I always wanted to do the kind of work I am doing. So when directors and producers of that stature put that faith in you...it feels nice. The kind of scripts I am reading, it wasn't there a couple of years ago. Now I want to do it all

**Kiara Advani wants to aim for the sky. She talks about her ambitions and more...**

PHOTOGRAPH: TARAS TARAPORVALA

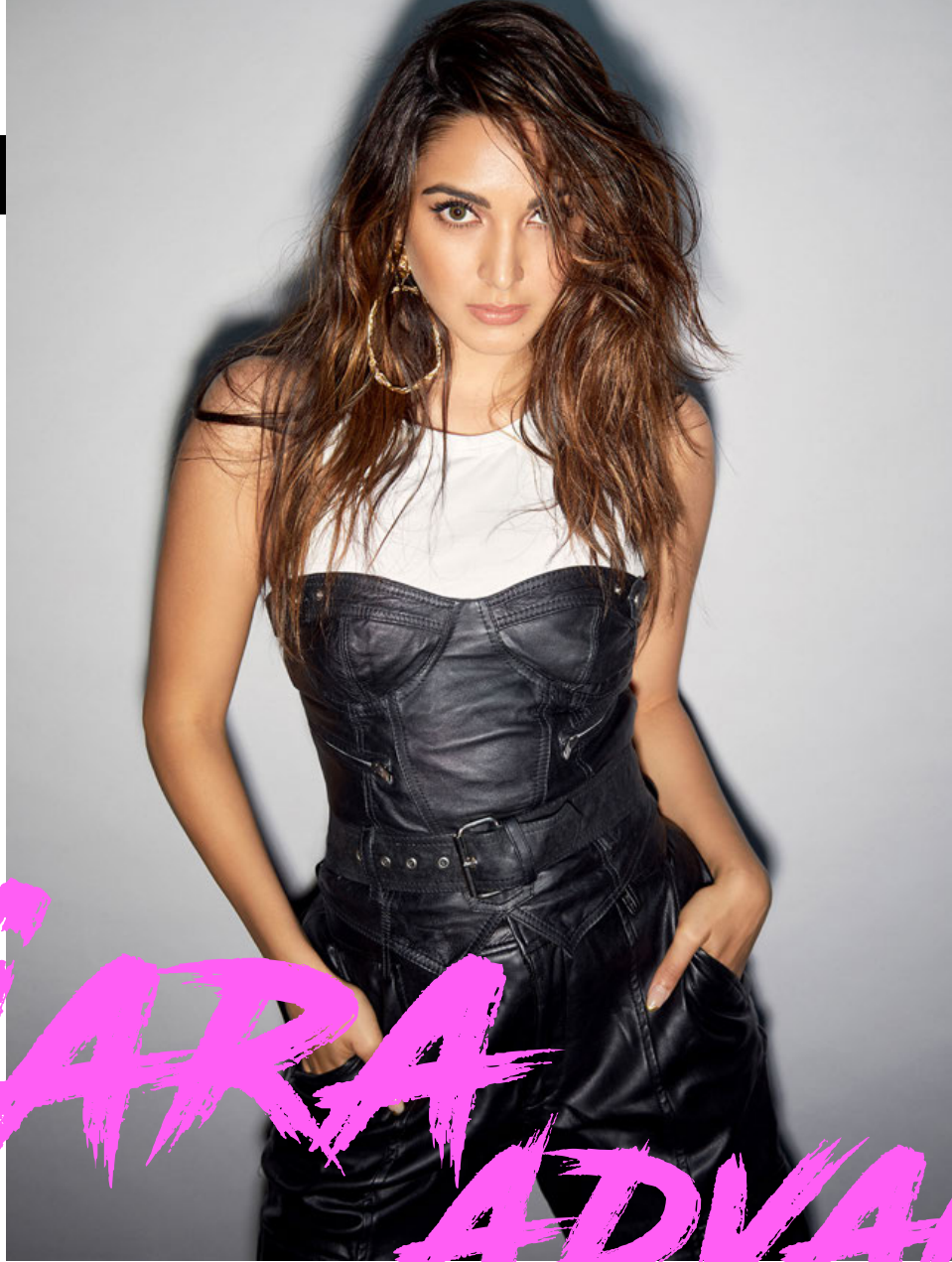




# GIRL ON FIRE

RAGHUVENDRA SINGH  
whose stars are on

chats with KIARA ADVANI,  
the ascendant right now



# KIARA ADVANI

has quietly moved into the top echelons of the film industry, seemingly without trying. Though that's not true. She made an unheralded entry in Bollywood with *Fugly* (2014) but it took her four years after that to be noticed. It was *Lust Stories* an anthology film, that brought her into the limelight. Then thanks to the success of *Kabir Singh* (2019) and *Good Newzz* (2019), Kiara found herself to be the toast of big banners. She doesn't just possess exotic good looks and a great figure but has acting chops to go with them. Charming, vivacious and always full of positive energy, she's looking forward to 2021, where she has *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* and *Shershaah* coming up. On the personal front, she's reportedly seeing Sidharth Malhotra, though she has chosen to remain mum about it and doesn't even throw the 'we're just good friends' line when asked about it. Though the media reports the duo had a 'meet-the-parents' moment and even indulged in a Maldives vacation together. Hmm... No personal-questions policy aside, the actress is quite candid when it comes to tackling questions about her career and life. Excerpts from a free-flowing interview with the bubbly actress...

PHOTOGRAPHS: TARAS TARAPORVALA | STYLING: LAKSHMI LEHR | MAKE UP: LEKHA GUPTA | HAIR: NISHI SINGH



**YOU'RE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE TOP ACTRESSES OF B-TOWN RIGHT NOW. HOW DOES IT FEEL?**

It feels like a dream come true. I always wanted to do the kind of work I am doing. So when directors and producers of that stature put that faith in you...it feels nice. The kind of scripts I am reading, they weren't there a couple of years ago. Now I want to do it all. Now I just want to challenge myself and push myself. There is so much more I want to achieve.

**YOU'RE DHARMA'S BLUE-EYED GIRL, HAVING DONE *GUILTY*, *GOOD NEWZZ* AND *JUG JUGG JEEYO* WITH THEM. WHAT'S THE EQUATION YOU SHARE WITH KARAN JOHAR?**

Karan often jokes that everyone asks him why he's giving me films. And I always say that I must be so good that you give me these films. *(Laughs)* Sometimes even I joke that I should have my own cabin at Dharma. I love working with them. They have given me some of my strongest characters. When *Lust Stories* happened, it was the first role that I had that got so much appreciation. I think Karan sees me as a performer. Everything he has offered me, whether it has been *Good Newwz*, *JJJ* or *Shershah*, every character has been so incredibly etched out that I naturally feel inclined to do it. I want him to direct me again.

**TODAY YOU'RE WORKING WITH THE BIGGEST SUPERSTARS AND BIG BANNERS. WHAT WAS THE TURNING POINT IN YOUR CAREER?**

Everyone will point out to my successful films whether it was *Lust Stories* or *Kabir Singh*. Naturally those films had a wider reach. But personally, I think my foundation has been my first film *Fugly*. I owe it to the first

“KARAN OFTEN JOKES THAT EVERYONE ASKS HIM WHY HE'S GIVING ME FILMS. AND I ALWAYS SAY THAT I MUST BE SO GOOD THAT YOU GIVE ME THESE FILMS. SOMETIMES EVEN I JOKE THAT I SHOULD HAVE MY OWN CABIN AT DHARMA”

▼  
Dress: Giuseppe Di Morabito



▼  
Dress:  
Antithesis

“EVERY FILM HAS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING, EVERY PERSON I HAVE ACTED WITH, EVERY DIRECTOR I HAVE WORKED WITH HAS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING. SO, FOR ME, EVERY FILM IS SPECIAL, WHETHER IT WAS A BOX-OFFICE SUCCESS OR A BIG DUD”

film for every film I've landed. Also, every film has taught me something, every person I have acted with, every director I have worked with has taught me something. So for me, every film is special, whether it was a box-office success or a big dud, it taught me something and it has been a part of my journey.

**WHEN YOUR DEBUT FILM DIDN'T DO AS WELL AS EXPECTED, WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO KEEP YOUR CHIN UP AND SAIL ON?**

That was the toughest period because I didn't know better. I didn't know what was next? I didn't realise that it's not just about your first film. Every film is a challenge. And it's every Friday to Friday, no matter wherever you are in your career. My belief in myself was what motivated me during that period of time. I hung on to that and dug my feet in. There was never a plan B.

**THERE WAS NO PLAN B?**

There was never a plan B. From far back as I can remember, the only thing I wanted to do was be an actor. I have been training probably since I was four. So everything was around that.

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THAT PARTICULAR PHASE NOW THAT YOU LOOK BACK AT IT?**

I was preparing every single day, that when the opportunity comes I'm ready for it. I didn't want to ever feel like I haven't given it my all. I





“ I REALLY FEEL LUCKY TODAY THAT THE DIRECTORS CONDUCT WORKSHOPS. THEY WANT YOU TO PREPARE FOR ROLES, THEY WANT YOU TO UNLEARN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT AND APPROACH A CHARACTER IN A NEW WAY. EVEN WHEN YOU CRY IN A FILM, YOU CRY DIFFERENTLY IN EACH FILM ”

▼  
Crop top: Topshop  
Jacket: Paule Ka  
Earring: Studio  
Metallurgy

really feel lucky today that the directors conduct workshops. They want you to prepare for roles, they want you to unlearn what you have learnt and approach a character in a new way. Even when you cry in a film, you cry differently in each film. And that is a very daunting task for an actor. That's why today, when I look back at *Kabir Singh* and see the climax scene, I still have tears in my eyes because

I never watched it as myself. I never felt like that was me.

**AFTER KABIR SINGH, WHEN PEOPLE MADE MEMES ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER IN THE FILM, HOW DID YOU REACT TO IT?**

I think if memes come out about something, then people have enjoyed it. And there were really some funny memes. It's all that love from people that they got so creative. They were genuinely creative and funny.

**WHICH ONE IS YOUR FAVOURITE?**  
The meme which has a charger and someone has written Preeti on it because nobody wants them to touch their charger. That was a smart one.

**HOW DO YOU HANDLE SOCIAL MEDIA TROLLS?**

I don't pay attention to them. Unfortunately, they're so hurt in their own lives that they want to spread hate. So giving in and answering back is not something I would want to do. I just kind of ignore it. Also, I've a well-developed sense of humour and am able to see the funny side of it.

**DO YOU BELIEVE THIS INDUSTRY IS A CUT-THROAT PLACE AND YOU'VE TO BE ON YOUR TOES HERE ALL THE TIME TO STAY AHEAD?**  
Definitely cut-throat. It's

actually nice to be in a league of actors where everyone is bringing in something new and interesting to the table. So it helps you to pull up your socks. You can't take it easy not for a second. The kind of content we've seen on OTT in the whole of last year, I feel everybody has opened up to out-of-the-box ideas. The whole creative space has had a full 360 degree turn. Everyone wants to push the envelope now.

**WHEN YOU CARRY A FILM ON YOUR SHOULDERS, DO YOU GET MORE REMUNERATION? PERHAPS AS MUCH AS A MALE LEAD?**

I can't really answer that as I don't know what others are getting. I'm happy with the kind of money I make. It's a great time for actresses today that we are getting films where we are shouldering the product. *Guilty* was my first film that I shouldered. For me, it was a special film. Because the kind of character that I played there and the kind of work that had to be put in to prepare for that character, the whole experience, just made me grow as an actor. And it makes you so much more confident to shoulder more films in future. Hopefully, this year will see much more of that.

**DO YOU FEEL *INDOO KI JAWAANI* DESERVED A BETTER RELEASE STRATEGY?**

Of course, it breaks my heart that it came out amidst the lockdown. But it was a call producers had to take because they wanted to support the multiplexes. Last year was really a difficult year and many films which were to be released in theatres, ended up on OTT. I think it's for the first time that every single actor wants every single film to work, so that we can go



▼  
Dress:  
Giuseppe  
Di Morabito

“IT'S A GREAT TIME FOR ACTRESSES TODAY THAT WE ARE GETTING FILMS WHERE WE ARE SHOULDERING THE PRODUCT. SO WHEN *GUILTY* HAPPENED THAT WAS MY FIRST FILM THAT I SHOULDERED. FOR ME, IT WAS A SPECIAL FILM”



**“THERE WAS NEVER A PLAN B. FROM FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, THE ONLY THING I WANTED TO DO WAS BE AN ACTOR. I HAVE BEEN TRAINING PROBABLY SINCE I WAS FOUR. SO EVERYTHING WAS AROUND THAT”**

▼  
Top and skirt:  
Saaksha and  
Kinni

back to the theatres, Because for all of us, actors, directors, technicians, everybody in the media, this is our bread and butter. This is what we all are here for, for the love for movies. Despite everything, I'm happy that *Indoo Ki Jawani* released in cinemas. So the first time I went back to the theatres was to watch my own film. It was surreal and lovely.

**WHAT WAS THE SITUATION LIKE ON THE SET OF *JUG JUGG JEEYO* WHEN YOUR CO-STARS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19? HOW DID YOU HANDLE IT?**

I have to say that the production and everyone on set was so prompt with the entire situation. It was scary, no doubt. And the truth is all of us were extremely paranoid when this happened. Because you worked with them you always had this thought that maybe you've got it as well. Thankfully, all three of them -- Varun Dhawan, Neetu Kapoor and director Raj Mehta had minimal symptoms and they came out of it stronger. And hats off to Neetu aunty. It was her call that we should go back to Chandigarh for the shoot. Director Raj Mehta too was convinced and then everyone else too came on board. We took extra precautions and managed to shoot without further mishap. The team spirit was quite strong. I think we have all emerged stronger after the experience.

**TELL US THREE GREAT PERKS OF HAVING A SUCCESSFUL FILM TO YOUR CREDIT?**

Audience's love, many more films to follow and a better bank balance.

**IF YOU WERE A JOURNALIST, WHO WOULD YOU INTERVIEW FOR A COVER STORY AND**

**WHAT'S THE FIRST QUESTION YOU WOULD ASK?**

I would interview Sanjay sir (Sanjay Leela Bhansali) and I would ask him when is he casting Kiara Advani? I told you there are so many goals, and so many wishes on my wishlist. I have to now put it out in the universe.

**HOW DID YOU SURVIVE THE LOCKDOWN?**

I've always been a simple person. Basically it was making the most of the situation, because of course it does get to you. It got to everyone. Some people took it really badly. My dad and brother were feeling low but my mom kept our spirits up. She has a school and she had to shut down her school but she was happy despite that. She used to say – that your happiness is in your hands and in your control. And I think that's the most beautiful way to look at it. She taught me to seek a positive out of every negative and I survived practicing that.

**SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, KARTIK AARYAN, VARUN DHAWAN, AKSHAY KUMAR – DESCRIBE YOUR CO-STARS IN YOUR OWN WORDS...**

**Akshay sir**, is somebody who is continuously working and never stops. That is inspiring given his experience, age, stardom, everything. That's the best example. So his energy to keep going and to keep working... I love that



▼  
Top: Zara  
Corset: Rat and Bao  
Pants: Topshop  
Earrings: Studio  
Metallurgy

**“ I DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO TROLLS. MOST UNFORTUNATELY AND SADLY THEY ARE SO HURT WITHIN THEIR OWN LIVES THAT THEY WANT TO SPREAD HATE. SO GIVING IN AND ANSWERING BACK IS NOT SOMETHING I WOULD WANT TO DO. I JUST KIND OF IGNORE IT ”**



**“ I THINK IT'S FOR THE FIRST TIME EVERY SINGLE ACTOR WANTS EVERY SINGLE FILM TO WORK, SO THAT WE CAN GO BACK TO THE THEATRES, BECAUSE FOR ALL OF US, ACTORS, DIRECTORS, TECHNICIANS, EVERYBODY IN THE MEDIA, THIS IS OUR BREAD AND BUTTER ”**

▼  
Dress: Giuseppe Di Morabito

about him.

**Varun Dhawan**, is a notorious boy but has a heart of gold. As a co-star I had a wonderful time working with him because he has soooo many ideas and so many variations on how he wants to do a scene. It's like a film that Raj is making and then there is a parallel film that Varun decides to make. So we had fun. We just wanted to keep on giving more shots while Raj had already got his shot in the first take. But he was kind enough to give us more takes.

**Kartik**, again is great fun on the set. But I have to still work with him a little more to get to know him better. We have just started working, so I look forward to it.

**Sid**, is someone I got to know really well through the shooting of *Shershaah*. He is someone who is intelligent when it comes to scripts and edits. He is focussed when it comes to his work.

#### **HOW WOULD YOUR REAL-LIFE LOVER BE LIKE – AS POSSESSIVE AS KABIR SINGH OR AS FUNNY AND LIGHT-HEADED LIKE DILJIT FROM *GOOD NEWWZ*?**

I don't have any particular type. For me, it is somebody who accepts me for who I am and who loves and respects me. And is someone I can be friends with.

#### **ONE PERSONAL QUESTION**

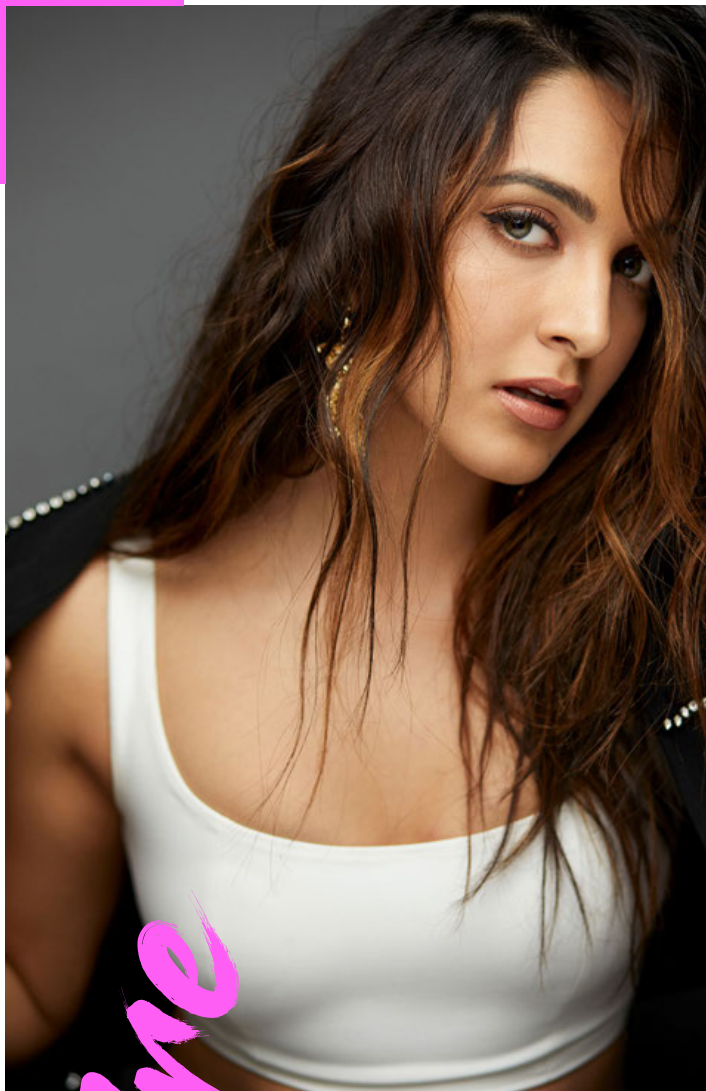
No let the focus be on my career, I don't want it to be about my personal life.

#### **SO WE CAN SAY YOU'RE SINGLE?**

Yeah. Of course you can say that. I am single!

#### **WHOM WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE CREDIT FOR YOUR SUCCESS?**

God. I am a very spiritual person. My biggest Godfather is my God, he has put me through everything and that's how I have managed my entire life.



# RapidFire

**BEST CAREER ADVICE:**  
Work really hard and only let your hard work speak for itself -- from Salman Khan sir.

**THREE QUALITIES YOU WANT IN YOUR LIFE PARTNER?**  
Love, respect and friendship.

**ONE RELATIONSHIP ADVICE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF:**  
Love yourself first.

**THE CRAZIEST THING YOU DID FOR LOVE:**  
Surprise someone, like taking a flight back and surprising them.

**YOUR FIRST DATE:**  
My first date was when

I was in the 9th or 10th standard -- maybe 15 or 16 years old.

**IF YOU FIND OUT YOUR BOYFRIEND IS CHEATING ON YOU:**  
Then I will block him and never look back. No forgetting. I don't go back. That's a complete no-no in a relationship.

**YOUR IDEA OF A PERFECT DATE:**  
I am a homebound person, I love just being at home and having some good food and watching some good movies.

**LAST TIME YOU WENT ON A DATE:**  
Been a while now.

It was sometime this year. And it's been only two months for this year, so you do the math.

**THE BEST WAY TO FIND IF A GIRL IS IN A RELATIONSHIP:**  
Check her while she's on the phone. If she is smiling a lot, she is in love.

**THE FUNNIEST PICKUP LINE YOU'VE EVER HEARD:**  
I hate pick-up lines, but something like is your father a terrorist because you look like a bomb. Something like that.... Can't bear pick-up lines.

**THE ONE QUALITY THAT GOT YOU WHERE YOU'RE TODAY:**  
My honesty.

**WHAT SHOULD EVERY GIRL TRY ONCE**

**IN HER LIFETIME?**  
The one thing I wanted to do was buy a home for my parents and I am doing that now, so that is a very big deal.

**WHAT IS YOUR SPIRIT ANIMAL?**  
Dolphin.

**ONE TREND YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE DISAPPEAR FOREVER?**  
These hashtags which come and go viral and everyone feels free to comment on.

**ONE MOST IMPORTANT ADVICE YOU'D GIVE TO YOUR CO-STARS-AKSHAY, VARUN, SIDHARTH?**  
**VARUN** -- I told Varun to get married, so I am very happy about that.  
**SIDHARTH** -- To say it out a little more.  
**AKSHAY** -- I can only take advice from him.

My advice to him would be to give me advice.

**WHAT DO YOU FIRST NOTICE ABOUT SOMEONE WHEN YOU MEET THEM:**  
Their eyes. That's the way to connect.

**WHO DO YOU TURN TO WHEN YOU'RE SAD:**  
My family and then my playlist. On my playlist right now is one South Indian song, I really like it. It's called *Kung Fu Kumari* and it's such a hectic dance number. It makes me go to the gym, it makes me happy when I am sad. I want to buy it, recreate it and I want to dance on it.

**WHO'S YOUR 4 AM FRIEND:**  
I'm a Cinderella who sleeps by 12. I am not awake at 4 am. ■



# Many *faces* of Eve

.....★★★.....  
*Kajol, who came back to our  
screens with Tribhanga talks to  
Raghuvendra Singh about the  
experience*

.....★★★.....



# KAJOL.

*There's something indefinable about her that escapes expression.*

*Having seen most of her films, you feel you know her intimately. And at some level, you do because like every actor, she leaves a part of herself in her roles. But at another level, she's a stranger. she's at once warm and engaging and at the same time, cool and detached. Actors never show us their vulnerable face. Maybe because they can't afford to. Not in the dog-eat-dog world they live in, where any weakness is pounced upon by rivals like a prize. Where anything and everything can be used against you. So they hide behind a thousand masks, a thousand faces. The only place they can take off that mask is ironically in front of the camera. They laugh, they cry, with abandon, revelling in the freedom the limelight brings. In Tribhanga, Kajol plays a classical dancer who is also a superstar actor. She's also someone who has a strained relationship with her mother. Someone who cusses like a sailor and someone who yearns to be loved without being judged. It's an all-heart performance from Kajol yet again. Whether it was all an act or something closer to the truth...ask her and she only hints... not revealing much. Excerpts from a candid conversation with the firebrand actress who over the years has learnt to mind her ps and qs...*



## WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO A PROJECT LIKE *TRIBHANGA*?

I loved the script, I absolutely loved the script. I heard about five drafts of this script. Every time I heard this script, it resonated with every part of me. I loved the fact that all these strong women were put together in an interesting project. So yeah, it was everything put together that excited me about the film.

## DID YOU IDENTIFY WITH YOUR CHARACTER IN ANY WHICH WAY?

I did identify with Anu a lot. I thought there is something amazingly

***I DID IDENTIFY WITH MY CHARACTER ANU IN TRIBHANGA. I BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING AMAZINGLY UNFILTERED ABOUT HER. SHE HAS A LOT OF OPINIONS, MOST OF WHICH I AGREE WITH. NOT ALL THOUGH. THERE'S A LOT OF ME IN ANU. AND A LOT OF ANU IN ME***

..... ★ ★ ★ .....

unfiltered about her. She has a lot of opinions, most of which I agree with. Not all though. There's a lot of me in Anu. And a lot of Anu in me.

## DO MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS ALWAYS HAVE TUMULTUOUS RELATIONSHIPS? WHAT SORT OF AN EQUATION DID YOU HAVE WITH YOUR MOTHER?

I think all mothers and daughters have a very unique, a very complex relationship. Not easy at



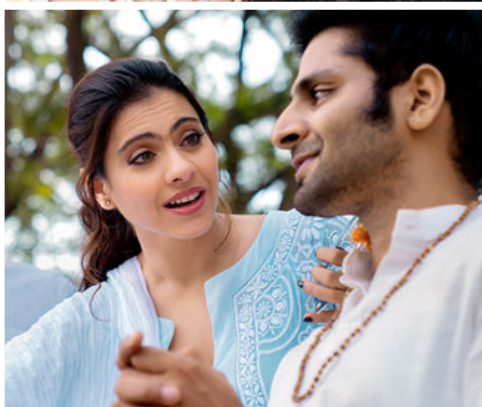
**HONESTLY, I DON'T USE GAALIS IN REAL LIFE. BUT I HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND ME, WHO USE IT AS A NATURAL PART OF THEIR VOCABULARY. HONESTLY, I GUESS IT'S MORE OF AN EXPRESSION OF EMOTION, THAN AN URGE TO ABUSE**

.....★★★.....



↑ Helicopter Eela

→ Tribhanga



all. And I think it's more like an umbilical cord which cannot be broken. Bad, good, whatever your mother is, whatever your daughter is, there is something you have to resolve. You can't leave it unattended or break it off completely either. There will always be something that will be missing in your life if you don't resolve it. As far as my relationship with my mother is concerned, I have had the most wonderful, wonderful relationship with my

mom. I never went through teenage rebellion. I rebelled against the whole world except her. She was always behind me and cheered me on. So I have had an absolutely amazing relationship with my mom. But I can understand her being such an opinionated and an individualistic person. I can understand where it could have gone horribly

wrong, if we hadn't been who we are and talked it out. So I understand Nayan (Tanvi Azmi) and Anu (Kajol's character) because of that.

**YOU HAD TO SAY LOTS OF CUSS WORDS IN THE FILM. HOW COMFORTABLE WERE YOU ABOUT THAT?**

Honestly, I don't use *gaalis* in real life. But I have a lot of people

around me, who use it as a natural part of their vocabulary. Honestly, I guess it's more of an expression of emotion, than an urge to abuse. So it's not an abuse so much as it is an expression of what you are feeling. That's where I channelled all those people inside me while enacting Anu.

**HOW DID YOUR KIDS REACT TO YOU USING CUSS WORDS?**

My kids have not seen the film yet.

**I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE SCOLDED THEM WHEN THEY USED SUCH WORDS IN THEIR CHILDHOOD. CAN YOU RECALL ANY SUCH INCIDENT?**

Of course. Both my kids get fired on a regular

basis. I always tell them no, you can't use these words and it's not the right thing to say, etc... On the other hand, my daughter (Nysa) is turning 18 in April. I don't know how much control I'll have over that now.

**WHAT'S YOUR TAKEAWAY FROM THE FILM? WHAT'S THE BEST COMPLIMENT YOU GOT FOR *TRIBHANGA*?**

My takeaway is... I loved the fact that we had all these powerful women (director Renuka Shahane and actors including Tanvi Azmi and Mithila Palkar) who came on the set without any insecurity and made a good film

“**THE BEST COMPLIMENT THAT I HAVE GOT FOR THE FILM WAS THAT I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE HAVE GONE BACK AND LOOKED AT THEIR LIVES AND MOMS AND SEEN THEM AS WHO THEY ARE WITHOUT JUDGING THEM**”  
..... ★★★ .....



↑ With mom Tanuja  
→ Posing with her family



together. But besides that, we also chilled out together and had a lot of fun. And it was an amazing feeling to see work get done amidst the amazing camaraderie that took place with so many fearless people on set. It was an amazing experience which I will never forget. And the best compliment I've got for the film is that I've heard people have gone back and looked at their lives

and moms and seen them as who they are without judging them harshly as we tend to do. All of us tend to do that. We're extremely judgemental towards our moms and towards our parents and our kids in turn judge us as well. So hopefully

we'll judge each other a little less after watching *Tribhanga*.

**HOW WAS IT BEING DIRECTED BY A WOMAN DIRECTOR? WAS THE EQUATION ON THE SET DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF THAT?**

I think *Tribhanga* couldn't have been written by a man. *Tribhanga* had to be definitely written by a woman. And the complexities of the characters and all that put together, nobody knew that script as well as Renuka Shahane. And she did a fantastic job. She did

a fantastic job of pulling out performance from us. And making sure we lived up to the characters in the film. Gender not withstanding.

**DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING MORE FULFILLING ROLES NOW, AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER?**

I chose to do fewer films. I chose to work less. And as I said, I'm more particular about picking projects now. So I don't want to do everything that comes to me. I want to take on something only if it fits all my criteria. Only then I will agree to do it. ■



# New horizons

PARINEETI CHOPRA TELLS MAYUKH MAJUMDAR THAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR GREENER PASTURES AS FAR AS HER CAREER IS CONCERNED...



## It's late evening

on a Friday and Parineeti Chopra still manages to look fresh as a daisy for her interview at Taj Land's End in Mumbai's Bandra suburb. A "long day?" is met with a smile and a "all well, I'm good". Parineeti is dressed in all black looking like a million bucks. And superbly hiding all the nervousness she might be feeling on the eve of the release of her latest film, *The Girl On The Train*. Based on Paula Hawkins' astoundingly popular 2015 novel of the same name, *The Girl On The Train* tells the story of an alcoholic



The Girl On The Train

**MY CHARACTER IN THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN IS SUCH A COMPLICATED CHARACTER. IT'S A BREAK FROM EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE DONE BEFORE AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I WANTED TO PLAY THIS CHARACTER. I WAS DOING THINGS THAT I FELT LIKE I WAS GETTING SATURATED DOING AND I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND SURPRISE EVERYONE**



divorcee facing blackouts who subsequently becomes embroiled in a murder investigation. There is already a Hollywood movie based on the book starring Emily Blunt and directed by Tate Taylor of *The Help* fame. "I'm dying of nervousness. I've

never felt this nervous about any film. *Girl On The Train* means so much to me. Personally and professionally, I've invested so much in the film. I'm excited to finally hand it over to the audience and know what they think of it," Parineeti says.

Her nervousness, perhaps, also stems from the fact that her past few films haven't been successful at the box-office nor have they been well-received by the critics. This is a new phenomenon for the actress who has been the critics' favourite



Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar

ever since her debut and has been hailed as being an actor who manages to pull attention even in the sparsest of scenes. Does she think that it made her acting journey difficult considering the high expectations? She wrinkles her nose and says that it would make her very sad if people didn't expect anything from her. However, she does agree that there were many

scripts and films that came her way where she felt she couldn't showcase her best because the scripts weren't written like that. Hence, she was craving a film like *The Girl On The Train* where she could really sink in her teeth. "My character in *The Girl On The Train* is such a complicated character. It's a break from everything that I have done before and that is precisely why

I wanted to play this character. I was saturated with what I was doing and I wanted to do something completely different and surprise everyone," she says.

**S**ince the book and the Hollywood adaptation are so popular, there is of

course pressure on both director Ribhu Dasgupta and Parineeti to show something that will keep the audiences hooked. Parineeti agrees there's a certain amount of pressure. But both her director and she believe that the script has been written keeping the Hindi audiences in mind. "Having said that, we are excited that our reference material is so well received and is already a bestseller book and a well-received film and we just hope that we've done a good or even a better job," she says.

For preparation, Parineeti watched the Hollywood adaptation, listened to her director and then, surprisingly, ignored her first instinct towards a scene and thought about enacting the scene in a way that she usually wouldn't do. She says that she didn't want to do good acting but new acting. "I used to hear stories about how a role took a toll on my co-actors and messed up their minds. They needed therapy. I'd wonder why they took it so seriously. Why couldn't they just perform and go home. But I guess I was naïve because I've experienced the same now. Not that I've needed any therapy, in fact, doing

**I'M DYING OF NERVOUSNESS. I'VE NEVER FELT THIS NERVOUS ABOUT ANY FILM. GIRL ON THE TRAIN MEANS SO MUCH TO ME. PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY, I'VE INVESTED SO MUCH IN THE FILM. I'M EXCITED TO FINALLY HAND IT OVER TO THE AUDIENCE AND KNOW WHAT THEY THINK OF IT**



the film has been therapy for me because it gave me clarity on what I wanted to do,” she says. “It was so challenging, intense and so emotionally draining but so satisfying as an actor. I used to go back home and be so happy that I’d done this crazy work today.”

**T**he lockdown helped Parinneti really introspect

about her life and career - about the kind of films she wants to do, her work ethic and the places she wants to travel. The lockdown which began with her doing puzzles at home and taking walks in parks in London culminated in a renewed zest for work and life in 2021. Parineeti also says that like half the world, the skill she has picked up during the lockdown is cooking. “I genuinely didn’t even know how to boil water and I had to learn from the basics. I surprise myself now when after a hectic day I like to call over a friend for dinner even if I’m not having it myself. I like to spend that half an hour in the kitchen preparing something silly for my friends. I never imagined that cooking would be de-stressing for me,” she says. When it comes to fitness, she’s had to face the reality of gyms closing and letting go like the rest of us. She says that she’s been “very bad” at keeping up with her fitness regime and ate what she wanted and did not workout properly.

Looking back at her career, Parineeti doesn’t have any regrets but



**I USED TO HEAR STORIES ABOUT HOW A ROLE TOOK A TOLL ON MY CO-ACTORS AND MESSED UP THEIR MINDS. THEY NEEDED THERAPY. I’D WONDER WHY THEY TOOK IT SO SERIOUSLY. WHY COULDN’T THEY JUST PERFORM AND GO HOME. BUT I GUESS I WAS NAÏVE BECAUSE I’VE EXPERIENCED THE SAME NOW**



she does wish to have entered the industry better prepared. She wishes she could have spent a year preparing to be an actor before her first film. That’s the only thing she’d like to change. “There’s so much that is involved. You learn how to style yourself; you learn basics about hair and makeup, you meet people and learn how to deal with people. My first day on set was literally my first day in the industry. I never got that time to really get into it and made a lot of mistakes in public,” she says.

When it comes to

*Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*, which might release this year, she doesn’t wish to talk about much. But she does reveal that director Dibakar Banerjee set a diktat that co-star Arjun Kapoor and she do not interact off-screen. That didn’t quite work because Arjun and she go back a long way. “We had to talk to each other,” she maintains.

In the future, Parineeti is looking for roles where she’d be a surprise casting and do movies that people don’t expect her to do. Let’s hope she gets the breaks she wants... ■

# REMEMBERING RAJIV KAPOOR

**DEVESH SHARMA**  
PROFILES THE LIFE AND  
TIMES OF RAJ KAPOOR'S  
YOUNGEST SON **RAJIV  
KAPOOR** WHO PASSED  
AWAY RECENTLY...

(AUGUST 25, 1962 –  
FEBRUARY 9, 2021)

In his biography *Khullam Khulla*, the late Rishi Kapoor credits younger brother Rajiv Kapoor as being the most talented of the three brothers. Rishi reveals Rajiv was a musical genius, as he was expertly able to play the piano without ever having learnt it formally. He also credits Rajiv doing a commendable job as an editor on *Aa Ab Laut Chalen* (1999) which was directed by Rishi and produced by Rajiv. Rishi laments that his younger brother just couldn't apply himself to any field, otherwise he would have become the number one in any thing he chose. Rishi Kapoor also revealed that their father Raj Kapoor loved Rajiv, or Chimpu as he was affectionately known, the most. He even goes on to say that while their father did make *Bobby* for him, it was Dimple Kapadia's film all the way while *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* was made exclusively to showcase Rajiv.

If that was Raj Kapoor's intention, it certainly didn't pay off. One can say the decision boomeranged, as all the viewers took away from the film was the waterfall scene featuring the scantily-clad Mandakini. The multi-layered film, which talked about class divide as well





With Ravi Kishan, Hussain, Abbas, and Mustan Burmawala



With brother Randhir Kapoor



Enjoying a brunch with the entire Kapoor clan



With brothers Randhir Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor



Dancing during Ganesh Visarjan

## RAJIV KAPOOR MOVIES



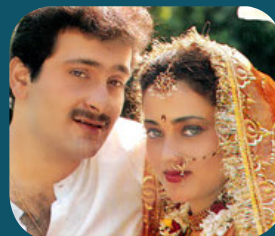
★ Ram Teri Ganga Maili



★ Ek Jaan Hain Hum



★ Lover Boy



★ Hum To Chale Pardes



★ Aasmaan

Rajiv Kapoor used to look like a young Shammi Kapoor when he was in his 20s and as such, his roles, films and even his mannerisms were moulded on his uncle

as cleaning up the Ganges is only remembered today because of its skin show.

Rajiv Kapoor was born on August 25, 1962. He was the youngest of Raj Kapoor's children. Like the rest of the Kapoors, he too was undeniably handsome and as such, was expected to follow his brothers into films. He used to look like a young Shammi Kapoor when he was in his 20s and as such, his roles, films and even his mannerisms were moulded on his uncle. In a later interview, Rajiv lamented about the decision. He felt that he should have been his own man from the start and not let himself be moulded as another Shammi Kapoor. He was convinced things would have turned out differently then. Unlike his elder brothers Randhir Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor, he wasn't launched by his father. His debut film *Ek Jaan Hain Hum* was produced by FC Mehra and directed by Rajiv Mehra. It introduced Rajiv and Divya Rana and is also said to be Anu Malik's first big

film. Songs like *Dil lagana tum kya* -- where his dance steps were reminiscent of Shammi Kapoor's steps from *Teesri Manzil* (1966) -- *Yaad teri aayegi*, *Dil dil hai*, and *Aasman pe likh doon* were hits and for a while it felt like a new musical star had dawned despite the film's below par run at the box office.

But it wasn't to be. *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* was a jubilee hit alright but afterwards, Rajiv's films like *Zabardast* (1985), *Lover Boy* (1985), *Preeti* (1986), *Zalzala* (1988), *Hum To Chale Pardes* (1988) all flopped. Raj Kapoor could have revived his son's career but after his untimely death in 1988, the zest for acting seemingly left Rajiv. He tried his hands at other things -- he directed and edited *Prem Granth* (1996) -- a reworking of Thomas Hardy's *Tess Of The d'Urbervilles* and produced *Aa Ab Laut Chalen* (1999). Unfortunately, both films flopped. The latter was the

last film produced under the illustrious RK banner.

His personal life was said to be tumultuous at best. He was said to be seeing Divya Rana but nothing came off the relationship. He was also reportedly linked to Mandakini, Nagma and even Madhuri Dixit, though he always rubbished those rumours. In 2001, he married Aarti Sabharwal, an architect but the couple got divorced two years later in 2003. He was a Kapoor throughout and never let his lack of commercial success keep him away from romancing life. He was fond of food and drinks and while he didn't have children of his own, he used to pamper his nieces and nephews. He was said to be especially close to Ranbir Kapoor, and reportedly used to buy expensive watches for him. Rajiv was all set to revive his acting career with *Toolsidas Junior*, a sports film produced by Ashutosh Gowariker, which co-starred Sanjay Dutt. Unfortunately, death took him away from this mortal plane before that could be realised... ■



# MARATHI MAGIC

THE FESTIVITIES OF THE **PLANET MARATHI  
PRESENTS FILMFARE AWARDS MARATHI 2020**  
WERE KICKED OFF IN A VIRTUAL MANNER

**2**020 changed almost everything for us. From our lifestyle to the way events happen. As you may be aware, the official press conference is always our way to kick off any of our events. However, this time there was no hotel banquet hall, no stage and no paparazzi. Instead we had some of the key people of the event as well as our friends from the media come together for a special, one-of-its kind virtual press conference. Moderated by our Digital Editor Rahul Gangwani, the online event had speakers such as Jitesh Pillai, Editor Filmfare, Akshay Bardapurkar, Founder and Chairman Planet Marathi OTT, Deepak Rajadhyaksha Head of Programming - Colors Marathi and



Amey Wagh

Saket Jha Saurabh, Head Entertainment Partnerships, India for Facebook. And of course, the press conference got starry with the presence of our special guests, the immensely popular and talented actors Amruta Khanvilkar and Amey Wagh.

Talking candidly

and fondly about their equation with *Filmfare*, Amey and Amruta, who were also going to be part of the main show, shared their memories and high points with the Black Lady. While Akshay spoke about how perfect Planet Marathi's association is with our awards, Saket threw some more light

on our on-going and wonderful partnership with Facebook and so did Deepak about Colors Marathi. Editor Jitesh Pillai spoke about doing the event in the new normal and gave out crucial details to the members of the press. ■



Amruta Khanvilkar



Mahesh Kothare and Sachin Pilgaonkar delve into a lifetime of friendship



Amey Wagh, Pushkar Shrotri and Siddharth Jadhav rake in the laughter



Amey Wagh, Sanjay Jadhav and Siddharth Jadhav are all smiles

# GLORY ROAD

DEVESH SHARMA OFFERS A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ALL THE DRAMA AND THE MADNESS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED PLANET MARATHI PRESENTS FILMFARE AWARDS MARATHI 2020

**T**hanks to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we were apprehensive about holding the Planet Marathi presents Filmfare Awards Marathi 2020. We needn't have worried as the denizens of the Marathi film industry responded whole heartedly. The function was held at St Andrew's Auditorium on February 28 and to maintain social distancing, we decided to hold the ceremony in three phases. The stars came on time, stayed within their scheduled spots and gave us their utmost cooperation. We're thankful to them for that. What's more, COVID-19 testing was mandatory for everyone entering the venue. From the lowest lightboy to the highest ranking star, everyone went through the test and was only allowed to pass after getting a negative report. The proceedings



Amruta Khanvilkar



Sonalee Kulkarni

Parineeti Chopra



Pushkar Shrotri takes a selfie as Pooja Sawant and Gashmeer Mahajani look on



Hrishikesh Datar, Jasraj Joshi and Saurabh Bhaleao serenade the audience



Anuradha Paudwal and Anu Malik catch up



Newlyweds Manasi Naik and Pardeep Kharera enjoy the proceedings



Mahesh Limaye and Imtiaz Ali look dapper

**Mahesh Kothare recollected that he had first received the trophy way back in 1986 for Best Director for *Dhoom Dhadaka* and now more than 30 years later he was again holding it**

got a boost when **Mr. Manish Chopra**, Director and Head of Partnerships for Facebook India, wished us luck through a video message, saying holding the event in these extraneous circumstances was a bold and courageous step indeed. The event will be simulcast on Filmfare's Facebook page, as well as on Colours Marathi, on March 14, at 7 pm onwards.

**M**ahesh Kothare is a veritable pillar of the Marathi film industry. He started life as a child artiste with the Hindi film *Raja Aur Runk* (1968), where he played a young Sanjeev Kumar. What's more, it was a double role but he never faltered even once. Then he became one of the big box office draws of the Marathi industry and later became an ace director and producer as well. Mahesh introduced creature horror to Marathi



Kishori Shahane Vij

Subodh Bhawe

cinema with his film *Zapatlela* (1993) and twenty years later made a 3D sequel to it. He was bestowed with the Excellence In Cinema Award. His childhood friend **Sachin Pilgaonkar** presented him with the trophy. Receiving the Black Lady, Kothare recollected that he had first received the trophy way back in 1986 for Best Director for *Dhoom Dhadaka* and now more than 30 years later he was again holding it. He recalled that he and Sachin started their careers almost simultaneously and have been friends and supporters of each other's endeavours ever since. He praised Sachin for his generosity when it came to appreciating the work of others. Sachin, in turn, lamented the fact that he wasn't able to star with his friend Mahesh when they were at their prime. It's one regret he'll always have. Their bond together on stage was palpable and brought the audience to their collective feet for a standing ovation.



Sachin Pilgaonkar and Neena Kulkarni are all smiles



Siddharth Jadhav, Monica Murthy and Arney Wagh ace their act



Prasad Oak poses with wife Manjiri



Sonalee Kulkarni gets a peck on the cheek from Manjiri Oak



Varsha Usgaonkar and Sonali Kulkarni catch up

**Anandi Gopal** proved to be the big winner of the night, bagging as many as 10 awards. Director Sameer was delighted beyond words...

**A**nandi Gopal proved to be the big winner of the night, bagging as many as 10 awards. Director Sameer Vidwans was delighted beyond words and said he considered himself lucky in the sense that it was his first Filmfare function and he was showered with so many awards. Team *Anandi Gopal* was ecstatic and stuck together in the photo shoot room, insisting on a group photo. Such are the moments, memories are made of.

The joint winners of the Critics' Award For Best Actor (Female) **Sonalee Kulkarni** (*Hirkani*) and **Bhagyashree Milind** (*Anandi Gopal*) started a mutual admiration society on the stage and continued it in the photoshoot area as well. They were full of praise for each other's work. Both their roles were dramatically different. While Sonalee played a braveheart villager, Bhagyashree played a pioneering doctor. The one link they shared was that they played empowered women who are looked upon as role models even today.

**Mukta Barve**, our winner for Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) for *Smile Please* said the film touched upon a delicate subject and she was winning an award for such a sensitive film. She even called upon her director, **Vikram Phadnis**, on stage to thank him for trusting her with the difficult role. Our



Lalit Prabhakar

Mrunal Kulkarni



Miliind Ingle and Saleel Kulkarni pose together



PLANET  
MARATHI  
PRESENTS  
FILMFARE  
AWARDS  
MARATHI  
2020



Amey Wagh, Prasad Oak and Pushkar Shrotri regale the crowd



Pooja Sawant and Gashmeer Mahajani pose on the red carpet



Sai Deodhar and Shrabani Deodhar



Pushkar Jog and Sanjay Jadhav are all smiles



Shashank Shende and Ashok Shinde catch up

Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male), **Deepak Dobriyal**, who won it for *Baba*, was in Punjab shooting for a film and hence couldn't attend. The trophy was collected by his wife **Lara Bhalla**, who choked up giving the thank you speech on behalf of her husband. Awww...



Sharad Kelkar

**B**aba, by-the-by, had a strong North Indian connection. Apart from lead actor Deepak, the film's director **Raj R Gupta**, who won the Critics' Award For Best Film, is a North Indian and so is Best Original Story winner **Manish Singh**. Gupta was the centre of everyone's attention and is said to be working on another *hatke* story. He beamed up when someone commented the late Sanjeev Kumar would have felt proud of his film. Our Critics' Award For Best Actor (Male) winner **Lalit Prabhakar**, who won it for *Anandi Gopal*, was smiling from ear-to-ear. He thanked all his mentors and teachers for helping him reach where he was currently and mentioned that his award was a team effort, dedicating it to everyone associated with the film. Sweet!

Another set of actors who were beaming from ear-to-ear were the Best Debut (Male) **Shubhankar Tawde**, who won it for *Kaagar* and Best Debut (Female) **Shivani Surve**,

Mithila Palkar



Shalmali Kholgade



Niranjan Iyengar



**Our Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male), Deepak Dobriyal, who won it for *Baba*, was in Punjab shooting for a film and hence couldn't attend. The trophy was collected by his wife Lara Bhalla**

in association with



PLANET MARATHI PRESENTS FILMFARE AWARDS MARATHI 2020



Kranti Redkar hobnobs with Siddharth Jadhav and Amey Wagh

PLANET MARATHI

FILMFARE AWARDS MARATHI 2020



Amruta Subhash and husband Sandesh Kulkarni are all smiles



Deepak Dewoolkar and Dr Nishigandha Waad serve us couple goals



Vijay Patkar strikes a pose



Aditi Sarangdhar and Shweta Shinde



Shivani Surve

**Singer Shalmali Kholgade, who won the Best Playback Singer (Female) Award, was easily the best-dressed person at the function**

who won it for *Triple Seat*. Shubankar, whose father **Sunil Tawde** too is a well-known actor, thanked his director **Makarand Mane** for investing in a budding actor and helping him win a debut award. Shivani was overwrought by emotion and couldn't find words initially and said it was a dream come true for her to win a Filmfare trophy. The Best Debut Director Award went to **Saleel Kulkarni** for *Wedding Cha Shinema*. Saleel is a noted singer and music composer and showed that creativity doesn't have boundaries and can be expressed in different forms simultaneously.

**S**inger **Shalmali Kholgade**, who won the Best Playback Singer (Female) Award for the song *Querida querida* from *Girlfriend*, was easily the best dressed person at the function. She wore a tuxedo with a bow tie and joked that she had coordinated her costume with presenters **Amey Wagh** and **Siddharth Jadhav**. Our emcees, we must say, kept the ball rolling



Mrunmayee Deshpande



Smita Gondkar



Samruddhi Porey



Mukta Barve and director Vikram Phadnis share an emotional moment



Vijay Kadam poses for the camera



Karan Sharma caught on the red carpet



Sandeep Pathak is all dapper



Bhagyashree Milind is all smiles



Shiv Thakare strikes a pose



Mr. Akshay Bardapurkar Founder & Chairman Planet Marathi OTT

**Our emcees, Amey Wagh and Siddharth Jadhav, we must say, kept the ball rolling with nary a slip. Siddharth, who was anchoring for the first time, was the epitome of high spirits**

with nary a slip. Siddharth, who was anchoring for the first time, was the epitome of high spirits. Their camaraderie and split second timing carried the day. And our presenters were sporting enough to add to the fun. While newly-married **Manasi Naik** said a *ukhana* (a short couplet where the wife takes the name of the husband while praising him), her husband **Pardeep Kharera** sang a song in her honour. **Anu Malik** sang a Marathi song and **Pushkar Shrotri** and **Prasad Oak** partnered the emcees in a comic skit, as did director **Sanjay Jadhav**. They also had a rollicking montage with multilingual comedienne **Monica Murthy**. Their antics had the audience rolling in the aisles.

**A**ll-in-all, it was a night full of drama, full of emotions and laughter. For a while, people forgot the terror created by COVID-19 and breathed in air infused by fun, friendship and applause. We couldn't have asked for more...



Sayali Sanjeev

Rupali Bhosle

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# WON FINE DAY!

— ★ ★ ★ —  
**DEVESH SHARMA** chronicles the winners of the  
Planet Marathi Presents Filmfare Awards Marathi 2020  
— ★ ★ ★ —

*Anandi Gopal created history by taking home 10 Black Ladies. The pantheon of Marathi stars ascended in full force at our venue, St. Andrew's Auditorium and applauded the winners and the nominees alike with gusto. Showbiz is always about expressing joy; happiness and harmony and the Marathi industry showed that they haven't let the pandemic dampen their lust for life...*



**BEST ACTOR IN A  
LEADING ROLE (FEMALE)**

**MUKTA BARVE**  
*MOVIE: SMILE PLEASE*



Smile Please



Mr. Akshay Bardapurkar Founder & Chairman Planet Marathi OTT and Mrunal Kulkarni do the honours

Mukta Barve plays a successful woman whose world falls apart when she starts suffering from memory loss. She's distraught as she misses out on her memory of her loved ones and is helped by a total stranger to retain some semblance of normalcy. It was a role that withheld numerous possibilities and required to be handled with a light hand. Things could have easily gone over the top and resulted in a caricature but the actress got under the skin of the role and deftly executed all the nuances.





**BEST ACTOR IN A  
LEADING ROLE (MALE)**

**DEEPAK DOBRIYAL**  
*MOVIE: BABA*



Baba



Mr. Deepak Lamba, CEO, Worldwide Media and Parineeti Chopra hand over the trophy to Deepak Dobriyal's wife Lara Bhalla

We've seen Sanjeev Kumar play the role of a deaf and mute person in *Koshish*, we've seen Ranbir Kapoor doing it in *Barfi* and now Deepak Dobriyal has done it in *Baba*. He makes sure he doesn't pick on their mannerisms and just goes with the flow. The actor is simply superb as a deaf and mute father who nevertheless lovingly brings up a normal child. The bitter-sweet film is full of heart-touching moments and the leading man's performance makes you sit up and take notice of the proceedings.

BEST DIRECTOR

**SAMEER VIDWANS**  
*MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL*



Anandi Gopal



Mr. Bhavesh Patel, Managing Director Vikram Tea and Sonali Kulkarni hand over the trophy

Anandi Gopal Joshi is said to be the first woman doctor from India. She and her husband faced several hardships and were even declared social outcasts because of their bold decision of learning medicine. Director Sameer Vidwans gets the details of the period right in this inspiring narrative. He humanises the two protagonists, making us one with their joys, their sorrows. It's a moving tribute to their struggles as well as their triumphs.





## BEST FILM

# ANANDI GOPAL



Based in an era when education for women was considered taboo, this film traces the journey of Anandibai Joshi who goes on to become a doctor, arguably the country's first female doctor. The film also explores her relationship with her husband Gopalrao Joshi. The film is a period piece which offers the viewers a slice of history. Anandi and Gopal were way ahead of their times and paved the way for others to come.

It wasn't easy for them to go against the societal norms but they persisted and prevailed.



Mr. Deepak Rajadhyaksha, Head of Programming, Colours Marathi and Varsha Usgaonkar hand over the trophy to team Anandi Gopal

## CRITICS' AWARD FOR BEST FILM

# RAJ R GUPTA

MOVIE: BABA



Mr. Saagar Ganpatrao Balwadkar, Secretary Shri Khanderao Pratishtan SKP campus, DIMR institute, Mrs. Rupali Balwadkar, Founder President of Balewadi Women's social club, Pune and Sharad Kelkar do the honours

*Baba* is an unusual story about the bond between a child and his parents. Unusual because the parents here are poor daily wage earners who also happen to be deaf and mute. Against all odds, they try to raise a normal child and give him the best life possible. But the child isn't their own. He was born out of wedlock. Their lives turn upside down when the real mother comes calling. *Baba* teaches us much about parenting. It's also progressive in the sense that the woman's husband, who isn't the biological father, supports her in her search of her lost son.



CRITICS' AWARD FOR  
BEST ACTOR (MALE)

**LALIT PRABHAKAR**  
MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL



Anandi Gopal



Mr. Praveen Shukla, CEO Food Heal  
and Amruta Khanvilkar do the honours

Lalit Prabhakar plays the strict social reformer Gopalrao Joshi who is a forward thinking individual and encourages the education of women. He wants his wife to have a personality of her own and persuades her to study medicine in America. The role called for him to delve deep into the psyche of a man who despite being from the past is a modernist at heart. He had to essay someone who is willing to die for his convictions and needless to say the actor comes through on all counts.





CRITICS' AWARD FOR  
BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)

**BHAGYASHREE  
MILIND**

MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL



Anandi Gopal



Mahesh Limaye and Intiaz Ali do the honours

Bhagyashree Milind plays a woman hailing from a small-town in Maharashtra who gets married at an early age to a reformist husband. She is encouraged by her husband to study English and later studies medicine in America, becoming the first Indian woman to study Western medicine.



CRITICS' AWARD FOR  
BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)

**SONALEE KULKARNI**  
*MOVIE: HIRKANI*



Hirkani



Mahesh Limaye and Intiaz Ali hand over the trophy

Sonalee Kulkarni plays a tough-as-nails mother who overcomes all odds to be with her toddler left alone at her house at the foot of Raigad Fort. The film sees her battling all kinds of physical hurdles but at the end of the day the braveheart reigns supreme.

## EXCELLENCE IN CINEMA

# MAHESH KOTHARE



Sachin Pilgaonkar hands over the Black Lady

Mahesh Kothare began his career as a child artist with the Hindi film *Raja Aur Runk* (1968), where he played a double role. He made his Marathi acting debut with the film *Gupchup Gupchup* (1983) and never looked back. Along with Sachin Pilgaonkar, Ashok Saraf and Laxmikant Berde, he formed a formidable quartet and ruled the Marathi silver screen.

He made his directorial debut with the Marathi film *Dhoom Dhadaka* (1985), which was a remake of the hit Hindi comedy *Pyar Kiye Jaa* (1966), starring Shashi Kapoor and Kishore Kumar. The film turned out to be a phenomenal hit. He's credited with introducing creature horror in Marathi films through his version of the Chucky films called *Zapatlela* (1993). 20 years later, he again became a pioneer when he made a sequel to the film called *Zapatlela 2* (2013) in 3D.

It was the first Marathi film which was totally shot with a 3D camera. His son, Adinath Kothare too is an actor and a filmmaker and has taken his father's legacy forward.







**BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING  
ROLE (MALE)**

**SHASHANK SHENDE**  
*MOVIE: KAAGAR*



Shashank Shende plays a cold-blooded manipulator who acts as the power behind the throne. He's a calculative genius who doesn't take long to shift loyalties. He's duplicitous to everyone around him, not caring about their feelings and using them as pawns. His own loyalty is towards his own survival. The actor essays the amoral character superbly. It's an engrossing performance and leaves a lasting impact on the audience.



Deepak Dewoolkar and Dr. Nishigandha Waad hand over the trophy

**BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING  
ROLE (FEMALE)**

**NEENA KULKARNI**  
*MOVIE: MOGRA PHULAALAA*



Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Vinayak Motling, Chairperson, Satisht Motling Group of Companies, Ms. Tejal Motling, Project Analyst, Satisht Motling Group of Companies and Kishori Shahane Vij do the honours

Sometimes, we love so much that the love itself becomes a hindrance. Neena Kulkarni plays a supremely possessive mom who can't bear the thought of letting go of her son. Her overbearing love creates a hindrance in her son finding a partner. But slowly, she realises her mistake and learns to let go. In the wrong hands, the role could have gone totally haywire but Neena gives another true-to-life performance and humanises her character.





## BEST DEBUT (MALE)

# SHUBHANKAR TAWDE

MOVIE: KAAGAR



Shubhankar Tawde plays a political worker who actually wants to work for the upliftment of the common villagers. He's in love with the daughter of a shrewd politician, who is something of a kingmaker. He finds himself becoming a pawn in a political game and is in danger of losing not only his love but also his life in the process. It's a role layered with numerous possibilities but the newcomer navigates through it smoothly.



Samrudhi Porey hands over the award

## BEST DEBUT (FEMALE)

# SHIVANI SURVE

MOVIE: TRIPLE SEAT



Ashok Shinde does the honours

Shivani Surve plays a girl who likes to play pranks. She pranks a random stranger with a phone call by stating that she has been kidnapped and later the two form a friendship. Over time, she finds herself falling in love with him. She has an abusive father and this online love is her escape from reality. The newbie plays a character which is frothy and fun on the one hand but faces emotional trauma on the other. She's able to do justice to both the phases.





## BEST CHILD ARTIST

# ADARSH KADAM AND VEDASHREE KHADILKAR

MOVIE: *KHARI BISCUIT*



Aditi Sarangdhar does the honours

The film revolves around a boy and his sister living out on the streets. Khari (Vedashree Khadilkar) and her brother Biscuit (Adarsh Kadam) look out for each other. They are happy in each other's company despite their hardships. Khari happens to be blind and his brother is forever telling her stories to make her smile. The two child actors manage to convey both the innocence and the camaraderie of their characters convincingly in the film.

## BEST DEBUT DIRECTOR

# SALEEL KULKARNI

MOVIE: *WEDDING CHA SHINEMA*



Noted singer, composer and anchor Saleel Kulkarni makes his directorial debut with this romcom. The film can be said to be inspired by the Barjatya brand of cinema. It follows the misadventures witnessed by a director and a crew who are hired to shoot a wedding. They unwittingly become involved in the wedding politics and find themselves in one hilarious situation after the other.



Sai Deodhar and Shrabani Deodhar hand over the trophy





## BEST MUSIC ALBUM

# SAURABH BHALERAO, HRISHIKESH DATAR AND JASRAJ JOSHI

MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL

The period film's album too has a retro feel to it. One is transported to a distant era through the soundscape of the album. The music composers make sure that the songs stand out as placemarkers and contribute to the narration of the film. Also, to keep the period integrity, folk and semi-classical tunes are used throughout, as are Indian instruments, to bring out a vibrant album, full of different hues.



Mr. Piyush Singh, Partner, Planet Marathi OTT and Milind Ingale do the honours

## BEST LYRICS

# KSHITIJ PATWARDHAN- TULA JAPNAR AHE

MOVIE: KHARI BISCUIT



Amruta Subhash and Mithila Palkar hand over the trophy

The song resonates with the feeling of caring for somebody, of being protective about someone. It's a song full of promise, full of love. The film is all about a street kid's bond with his blind sister. The protagonist is willing to do anything for her and the song is in keeping with the film's theme. Lyricist Kshitij Patwardhan makes sure the nuances come through in his words.





## BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (MALE)

**ADARSH SHINDE**  
MOVIE: *KHARI BISCUIT*  
SONG: *TULA JAPNAR AAHE*



The song is a homage to the one person in your life who is more important to you than anyone else. You want to do everything you can to put a smile on their face. To make them feel happy, content and secure. Adarsh Shinde brings out all the nuances contained in the lyrics through his rendition. Also, he tries something different than his usual style and yet comes on top.



Anu Malik hands over the trophy

## BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (FEMALE)

**SHALMALI KHOLGADE**  
MOVIE: *GIRLFRIEND*  
SONG: *QUERIDA QUERIDA*



Anuradha Paudwal hands over the award

This Spanish and Marathi song is sung with a lot of verve and passion by Shalmali Kholgade. Her Marathi is impeccable indeed but even the Spanish portions sound genuine. Listening to the song, you feel like you're listening to a confluence of two distinct cultures. It's a fun, peppy number about the vagaries of love and one can listen to it on a loop.





## BEST ORIGINAL STORY

### MANISH SINGH

MOVIE: *BABA*



*Baba* tells the unusual story of deaf and mute parents trying to bring up a normal child. We later find out that the child isn't theirs. He was born out of wedlock and abandoned and now the biological mother wants him back. It's a heart-wrenching story about their undying love for their son and their tribulations with rearing him and ultimately trying to decide what's best for their child — living with them in their decrepit conditions or letting him go with his well-off mother.



Vijay Patkar hands over the trophy to director Raj R Gupta, who took it on behalf of Manish Singh

## BEST DIALOGUE

### IRAWATI KARNIK

MOVIE: *ANANDI GOPAL*



Niranjan Iyengar does the honours

Anandi and Gopal Joshi lived in the 19th century. The patriarchal Marathi brahmin society of the era spoke in a lingo peculiar to upper caste brahmins. The phrases, the idioms, as well as words of everyday usage between people living in a family are faithfully recreated by Irawati Karnik. But the real drama lies in the dialogue between the husband and the wife, which brings forth their inner world for the viewers.





## BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

### SUNIL NIGVEKAR AND NILESH WAGH MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL



Being a biopic based on the life of Gopalrao Joshi and Anandibai Joshi, *Anandi Gopal* is set in the 19th century. The couple belongs to the high caste Brahmin society. The couple live in Kalyan and then Kolhapur and later Anandibai goes to America to study medicine. Their houses, surroundings, the schools and colleges where she studies, are all faithfully recreated by Sunil Nigvekar and Nilesh Wagh for the film.



Manasi Naik and Pardeep Kharera hand over the trophy to Nilesh Wagh

## BEST SCREENPLAY

### KARAN SHARMA MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL



Shweta Shinde hands over the trophy

Gopalrao and Anandi Joshi are a couple way ahead of their times. Gopalrao pushes his child-wife to study English and later supports her wholeheartedly when she chooses to study medicine in America. Researching deeply into their history, Karan Sharma brings out the little joys and sorrows that make up their lives. His screenplay recreates an era and makes us believe we are experiencing their lives first hand.





## BEST BACKGROUND SCORE

# SAURABH BHALERAO

MOVIE: *GIRLFRIEND*



Rupali Bhosale hands over the trophy

*Girlfriend* is a frothy romance revolving around a fantasy. So the background score not only had to be peppy and upbeat but reflect the mystery surrounding it as well. Saurabh Bhalerao proves equal to the task. His score cues in the viewers towards the mood of a particular scene and also towards the underlying tension. The layered approach makes the film a better watch.

## BEST SOUND DESIGN

# NIKHIL LANJEKAR AND HIMANSHU AAMBEKAR

MOVIE: *FATTESHIKAST*



The film takes a chapter from Shivaji's history and takes us through it, highlighting the great leader's valour and decision-making skills. The sound design had to compliment Shivaji Maharaj's valour and the way he inspired his men to greater glory. It also had to build a period ambience for the film. Both Nikhil Lanjekar and Himanshu Aambekar come true on all counts.



Kranti Redkar hands over the trophy to the winners







**BEST CHOREOGRAPHY**

**RAHUL THOMBRE AND  
SANJEEV HOWLADAR**

*MOVIE: MAJHI STORY CUTE WALI  
SWEET WALI LOVE STORY-  
GIRLFRIEND*



The song uses the play-within-a-play concept and the protagonist tells the audience how he and his girlfriend met and fell in love. The constant costume and backdrop changes give it the look and feel of a Broadway number. The dance moves aren't just focussed on the main leads but are evenly distributed among the dancers. Overall, it tells us the entire story within the space of the song.



Kranti Redkar does the honours

**BEST EDITING**

**CHARU SHREE ROY**

*MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL*



Sanjay Jadhav hands over the Black Lady

*Anandi Gopal* focusses on the lives of Dr Anandibai Joshi, India's first woman practitioner of the Western medicine and her reformist husband Gopalrao Joshi. The film could have easily looked like a documentary if not for the deft editing by Charu Shree Roy. She makes sure the pace of the film doesn't slacken and also ascertains that viewers don't miss out on the slow-burning romance between the couple, who fight against all odds to make their dream a reality.





## BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

### AAKASH AGARWAL

MOVIE: ANANDI GOPAL



*Anandi Gopal* is a period film set in the 19th century. Aakash Agarwal had to make sure he lit the scenes accordingly and not show any modern elements in his cinematography. The lighting, the colour palette as well as the camera angles all contribute towards the period film. The film isn't a documentary but is all about interpersonal relationships and the cinematographer ably captures that drama.



Sanjay Jadhav does the honours

## BEST COSTUME

### POORNIMA OAK

MOVIE: FATTESHIKAST



Pushkar Jog hands over the award

The film tells the tale of Shivaji face-off with Shaista Khan, the maternal uncle of emperor Aurangzeb. The film brings to life a slice of history and acquaints us with the valour and intelligence of the great Maratha leader yet again. Poornima Oak must have had a host of references to choose from as Shivaji is one of the most chronicled leaders in our history. Her deft designs lend another layer to the film.





# POP, CRACKLE, SNAP!

RAHUL GANGWANI DESCRIBES THE FUN AND THE FROTH GENERATED BY THE PERFORMERS AT THE PLANET MARATHI PRESENTS FILMFARE AWARDS MARATHI 2020



## **GASHMEER MAHAJANI AND POOJA SAWANT**

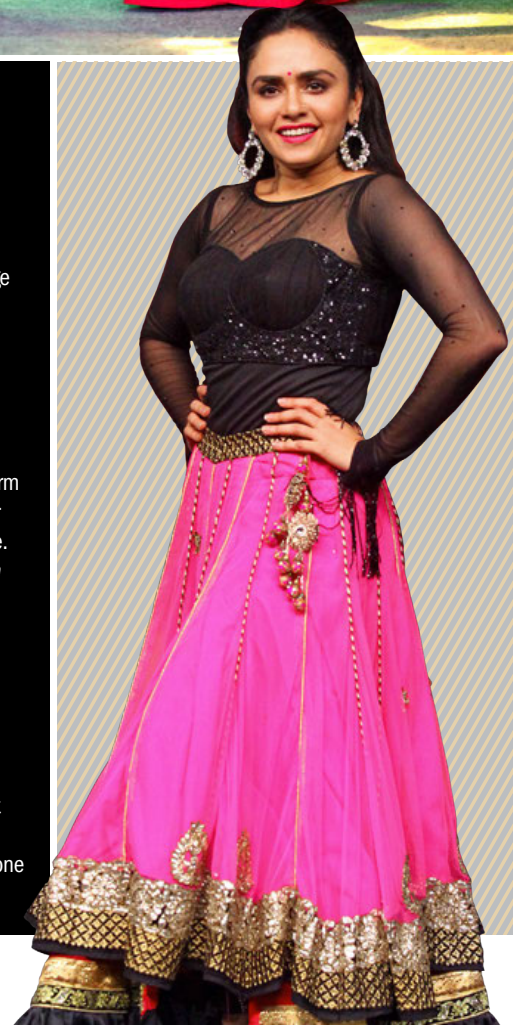
Bringing their chemistry from *Bonus* to the *Filmfare* stage, **Gashmeer Mahajani's** and **Pooja Sawant's** crackling performance could be felt throughout the auditorium. The duo was in sync with each other. So much that they bedazzled the audience despite the tough choreography which involved multiple lifts. During rehearsals, Mahajani and Sawant had each other's backs and on stage, they looked like they were touched by magic. Once again, the world got a glimpse of Aditya Deodhar and Minal Bhoir and boy, were we glad! Incidentally, the stars celebrated the first anniversary of their film on the same day as their Filmfare Awards Marathi were held.





## AMRUTA KHANVILKAR

Only the most daring of actresses would attempt to recreate Madhuri Dixit's dance numbers on the stage and **Amruta Khanvilkar** did a phenomenal job of it. The actress danced to hit numbers such as *Tamma tamma* and *Ghagra* and looked resplendent in her outfits. Amruta's innate charm was an added bonus to her commendable performance. The actress' take on *Ghagra* from *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* was loudly applauded especially because she seemed to be enjoying this particular number the most. On the stage, the performer was very much the embodiment of grace and charm and it naturally seeped into everyone watching the actress.





## **MANASI NAIK KHARERA**

The newly married **Manasi Naik Kharera** has to be the most fun person to be around. Her vivacious energy flowed through her on the stage as she danced to Nora Fatehi's most famous item numbers. Dressed in a shimmering red and black outfit, she performed to some seriously tough choreography that would have brought applause from Nora herself. She absolutely rocked each of them but our favourite was *O saki saki*. That particular song required some serious upper body strength but the actress didn't shed a drop of sweat as she recreated the viral hook step from the song.



PLANET  
MARATHI  
PRESENTS  
FILMFARE  
AWARDS  
MARATHI  
2020



## SONALEE KULKARNI

Ever since she shook the nation with *Apsara aali*, **Sonalee Kulkarni** has been renowned as a dancer in the film industry. Having performed at multiple Filmfare Awards (Marathi), the actress chose to pay a tribute to her male co-stars this year. Her outfits and her hair-do were a massive hit with the audience and so was her performance which integrated some of the most popular Marathi songs with iconic dialogue that have been delivered by the co-stars to whom she paid tribute. The actress also took home the Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female) for her powerful performance in *Hirkani*.





## VAIBHAV TATWAWAADI

**Vaibhav Tatwawaadi** was oozing machismo on stage and had the audience grooving along with him. He made his entry on a bike and the crowd appreciated it with a burst of applause. Fresh off the success of his film, *Tribhanga*, the actor grooved to the most popular songs from the last decade like the chartbusting hit, *Satyam Shivam Sundaram* from 2015's *Mitwa*. Tatwawaadi moved from one number to the next effortlessly and changed his attitude and body language according to the tunes in the mashup.



# We thank our judges



**BIPIN NADKARNI**  
Filmmaker



**MAHESH LIMAYE**  
Director



**RENUKA SHAHANE**  
Actor



**VIJU MANE**  
Filmmaker



**VIJAY PATKAR**  
Actor



**VANDANA GUPTÉ**  
Actor



**DR. NISHIGANDHA  
WAAD**  
Actor



**ABHIJEET SATAM**  
Actor



**NIRANJANI IYENGAR**  
Writer



**PUSHKAR SHROTRI**  
Actor





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

## INSTA LIKE

### Medley of moments

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



@aliabhatter: & that's a wrap for Nagarjuna Sir on BRAHMASTRA! Thank you for the memories sir.. such an honour to work with you  
*Nagarjuna looks as dapper as ever and we can't wait to see him in Brahmastra.*

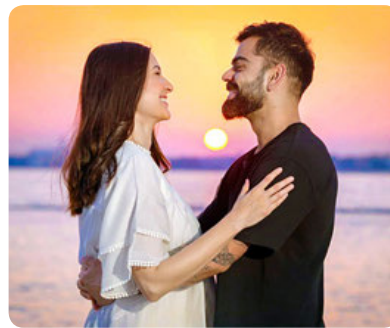


@priyankachopra: I wish you were here  
@nickjonas just a couple of roses..

*Roses are red, violets are blue. Looking at Nickyank's love, we wish we had a Valentine too.*



@diamirzaofficial: The highest point for us was the Vedic ceremony conducted by a woman priest! I had never seen a woman performing a wedding ceremony until I attended my childhood friend Ananya's wedding a few years ago. Ananya's wedding gift to Vaibhav and me was to bring Sheela Atta who is her aunt and also a priestess, to perform the ceremony for us. She also painstakingly went through several hours of training to imbibe the essence of the scriptures so that she could assist Sheela Atta and translate the shlokas! It was such a privilege and a joy to be married this way! We do hope with all our heart that many more couples make this choice. Also, we said NO to 'Kanyadaan' and 'Bidaai' change begins with choice doesn't it?  
*Dia Mirza looked more radiant than the red saree she wore for her wedding. We wish her the very best for the future.*



@anushkasharma: Not too big on this day in particular but today seemed like the quintessential day for posting posed sunset photos  
My valentine every day forever and beyond  
*Newest star parents in town enjoying some me-time together. Awww....*



Readers send in their feedback pg 75

Shatrughan Sinha's racy rejoinders pg 77



# IN THE MAIL

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



His own man: Shahid Kapoor

**1st Prize**  
₹1500

## ↓ SHAHID KAPOOR'S EXIT FROM YODHA

Reading about Shahid Kapoor's exit from Dharma Productions' *Yodha* in your last (February) issue came as a shock to me. I love Shahid and believe that Dharma is the perfect production house for him. I'd love them to sort out their differences and work together again soon.

Gitanjali Sinha, Kolkata



**2nd Prize**  
₹1000

## RANBIR KAPOOR'S ANIMAL

I consider *Kabir Singh* to be a *hatke* love story and truly believe Sandeep Vanga Reddy knows how to make a realistic romance. When I read in your last (February) issue that Sandeep and Ranbir are joining hands for a film called *Animal*, my excitement levels soared sky high. Will we watch Ranbir Kapoor in a brash and bad boy zone and see him distancing from his chocolate boy image? Can't wait to know more about this.

Sanjay Patil, Kolhapur

## VARUN-NATASHA MARRIAGE

It was so great to see childhood sweethearts Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal finally tie the knot. The pictures carried on the *Filmfare* website made us believe in fairytales for sure. They both looked so good together. Here's wishing them a long and happy married life.

Meher Vig, Noida



Wedded Bliss: Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal



Two to tango: Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone

## HRITHIK-DEEPIKA AHOY!

I can't believe that Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone haven't been cast together in a film till now. My heart filled with joy when I read in your last (February) issue that they will be seen together in *Fighter*. It's a dream-come-true move for me. Can't wait to watch this one.

Viraj Kohli, Panipat

## FILM TRIVIA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I just wanted to let you all know that I love how you guys keep posting engaging posts on social media about films and songs. They keep me involved continuously. Love to get more vignettes from film history.

Ravindra Kulkarni, Jalgaon

## KATRINA'S ON A ROLL

I have been a huge fan of Katrina Kaif not just for her oomph or her dance moves but for her acting chops as well. I was bowled over by what she did in *Zero* and I'm glad she has now picked a film opposite Vijay Sethupathy, as reported in your esteemed magazine in your last (February) issue. Way to go Katrina!

Rajiv Aggarwal, New Delhi

## SHREYA CHAUDHARY IS REFRESHINGLY REAL

Read the interview of *Bandish Bandit* girl Shreya Chaudhary in your last issue (February). She looks so pretty and yet comes across as a down-to-earth girl from her interview. I loved her in the series and it was awesome to read about her journey so far. She's going places, alright.

Robert Seraphim, Ranchi



Going places: Shreya Chaudhary



Proud parents: Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma

### VIRUSHKA BECOMING PARENTS

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma is my favourite celebrity couple and the news of them finally becoming parents filled me with great joy. It was good to see them requesting privacy. They clearly don't want overexposure for their little bundle of joy. Here's wishing them and baby Vamika all the joy and happiness in the world.

Pratik Nambiar, Trivandrum

### DELIGHTFUL VIKRANT MASSEY

Filmfare has started giving OTT stars their due credit and it has been great to witness that. I love how you guys have shifted focus from the biggest names to those who are making it big based on their talent and hard work.

Ranjit Biswas, Jalpaiguri

### FASHION PARADE

I closely follow the fashion pages of Filmfare. They always have something for everyone. Besides, they help you pick up a trend and incorporate it in your life. Recently I got a mask with a slogan after reading about it in your February issue. Thank you guys!

Meghna Ghai, Bangalore



Comic touch: Mallika Dua

### A DIFFERENT SIDE TO MALLIKA DUA

I love Mallika Dua, she is by far my favourite comedienne in the country. However, to read about the challenges that come with being a stand-up comic opened my eyes to the vagaries of her profession. Her interview in your last (February) issue was an eye-opener indeed.

Khushi Kumar, Chennai



Class act: Priyanka Chopra

### RANA DAGGUBATI IS A BEAST

What a lovely interview Filmfare. Reading about South Star Rana Daggubati's new beginnings in your last issue (February) was interesting and gave a good insight into what the actor has been busy with all these months. I also want to congratulate him on his marriage.

Reena Dorai, Cuttack

### SHRUTI HAASAN'S IMPRESSIVE PHOTOPLAY

I loved Shruti Haasan's photoshoot in the last (February) issue of your magazine. The actress always opts for bohemian looks and this shoot too was super impressive. She pulls off dark lipstick so well.

Antara Sen, Kolkata



Picture perfect: Shruti Haasan

### PRIYANKA CHOPRA IS TRULY A DIVA

Read the cover story (February) about Priyanka Chopra Jonas and how she named her memoir even before writing it completely. Well, it takes a total gamechanger to be the way that she is. She's a truly inspirational figure for every Indian in the sense that she's gone and carved a niche for herself in Hollywood. She's a true wonder woman alright.

Mamata Prasad, Pune

### PEEK INTO PRIYANKA'S LIFE

Priyanka Chopra's cover story, carried in your last (February) issue was truly inspirational. She managed to give us couple-goals and how. In her interview she spoke about how Nick Jonas and she didn't get enough time together due to their hectic work schedules but still managed to be around each other whenever they could. And how the quarantine proved to be a blessing in disguise for them as it allowed them some quality time together. That's true of so many couples, isn't it?

Wasim Khan, Lucknow



Amazing grace: Divya Dutta

Divya Dutta is hugely underrated and therefore it was so good to see her featured in your last (February) issue.

Mukesh Garg, Rohtak

The article on stars using social media (February) for a greater cause was pretty informative.

Ved Tripathy, Raipur

I wait every month to read the pages which talk about yesteryear stars and technicians and reading about Vijay Anand in your last (February) issue was a delight.

Kishore Saxena, Bijnor

Sara Ali Khan looked so hot in the recent bikini pictures you posted on social media. Slay queen!

Sarah Sharma, Hyderabad

I constantly keep stalking Filmfare on social media because I feel you guys post the best about Bollywood. Thanks for keeping fans like me up to date.

Rashmika Duggal, Rewari

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PHOTOGRAPH: MEETESH TANEJA

# Shatrughan Sinha's Rapid fire



**Raid alert:** Anurag Kashyap



**IT girl:** Taapsee Pannu

**Why are men afraid of commitment ?**

**Santosh Bhatia, Panchkula**

Generally speaking, commitment means nothing to politicians. But in the case of men, especially gentlemen, their animal instincts kick in when it comes to commitment. They want to be free of responsibilities and the liabilities that follow. Men don't want to be caged, controlled and be answerable to anyone.

**What does God reveal to man ?**

**Neeraj Sabharwal, Chandigarh**

The trust factor. Also the fear factor.

**The younger generation opts for sports as it leads to jobs**

**through the sports quota. They don't do it out of passion. What do you think?**

**Laeega Urooj, Hyderabad**

It's here that our younger generation needs guidance, motivation and encouragement. Their priorities seem to be all mixed up.

**Can morality have one definition? If so, what could it be?**

**Ashok Goswami, Mumbai**

Be honest and true to yourself and never preach and practice immorality.

**Why animals never commit suicide?**

**Bharat T Kajarja, Mumbai**

They don't have the luxury or privileges like humans. Nor can they afford to waste time in worry. They are forever foraging for food and trying to survive against their predators. Where's the time for anything else?

**What is the difference between wife and wife-eye ?**

**Vinod Behl, Gurgaon**

Wife-eye is smarter, sharper, cleverer and constantly vigilant. Wifi trips and fluctuates all the time — no comparison at all. Neglect wife-eye at your own peril.

**How can one be single and happy?**

**Amit Jain, New Delhi**

One can only be happy till one is single. Or to be precise, men can only be happy when single. After the marriage, only the wife is happy or is at least better at pretending so.

**In an imaginary wedding, if politics was the bride, who would be the bridegroom?**

**R Lester Makang, Manipur**

Power. Power goes hand-in-glove with politics. Money and position can be said to be the other prominent suitors...

**What is the most expensive outfit you have bought so far?**

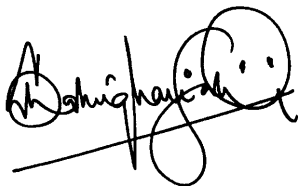
**Neeraj Sabharwal, Chandigarh**

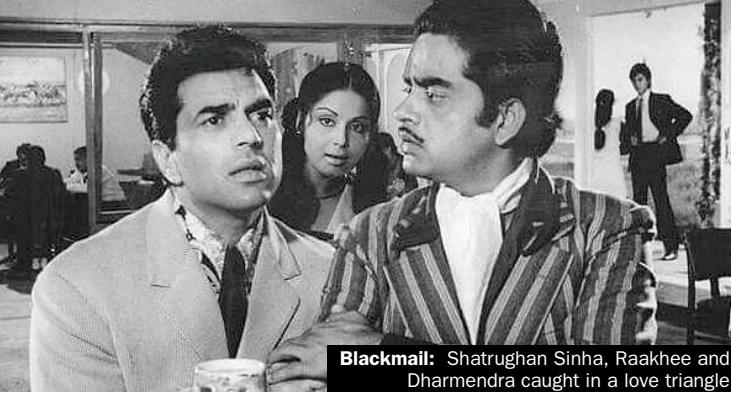
Haven't you heard that the IT department has been raiding the homes and the

**How did India win the war against COVID-19 while the US failed?**

**SM Joshi, Miraj**

You're seeing the world through rose-tinted or shall I say saffron-tinted glasses if you actually mean what you're saying. No one has won any fight against COVID-19. We're all trying to survive this unheard of crisis and barely succeeding. Don't be fooled by what the Godi media preaches.





**Blackmail:** Shatrughan Sinha, Raakhee and Dharmendra caught in a love triangle



**Vishwanath:** Shatrughan Sinha as a fiery lawyer



**Kalicharan:** Romancing Reena Roy

offices of prominent film personalities like Anurag Kashyap and Taapsee Pannu? When the whole film industry is under their radar, one should steer clear of such questions.

**What are some challenges you think the next generation will face?**

**Dr Devki Yadav, Ratlam**

Rat race, cutthroat competition, unethical comparisons -- as also fun facts like joblessness, faltering economy, a crumbling healthcare and public transport system. These are challenges faced

by every generation but right now the future looks worse compared to what we had earlier.

**Does our name affect our life?**

**Amit Jain, New Delhi**

It depends on person to person. One can't generalise these things. Stop brooding over it and just live your life.

**In which of your films do you think your performance was the best?**

**Anil R Torne, Pune**

I can name a few like *Dost*, *Dostana*, *Kalicharan*, *Blackmail*, *Vishwanath*,

## 1st Prize

**Will movie theatres exist in the near future since there is a rise in online streaming?**

**Savio X Pereira, Mumbai**

Warner Brothers in Hollywood have reportedly signed a deal where their future products will have a simultaneous release online as well as in theatres. This is aimed to curb piracy I guess. And maybe they have read which way the wind is blowing and found it leaning towards online streaming. Call me old fashioned but I feel the magic of the movies truly comes alive only when you watch them in the theatres. But I'm also hailing from an era when first-day-first show and jubilee runs had some value. I'm hoping that even among the young generation, there'd be enough patrons who'd love to watch films on the big screen. Fingers crossed.

## 2nd Prize

**Do you think there are any similarities between men, masks and masculinity?**

**Bholey Bhardwaj, Mumbai**

The only similarity, which is quite obvious, is the letter M. Also, men always want to mask their lies but never their masculinity.

**Khudgarz** but I shall name none. Being an actor, I'll always believe that the best is yet to come.

**How will you describe 2020 to your grandchildren a few years from now?**

**Rajneesh Batra, New Delhi**

As the year of fear psychosis, no earning but a great learning experience nevertheless. It taught us so many things about ourselves.

Don't you think so?

**What is the most valuable thing God has ever given to you?**

**Anil Bhatia, Yamuna Nagar**

My family and friends. And I think that's true for everyone in this world.

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

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

**Win!**  
CASH PRIZES

**1st prize**

**₹3000**

**2nd prize**

**₹2000**

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(Please mention your full name, contact number and address)

or



SMS: FI <space> SJ <space> <your question> <your name> to **53636**

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

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# GAME ON!

It's the time of the year when we're deep in the birthing throes of our mainstay -- the Filmfare Awards celebrating the best of the best from Hindi cinema. Last year, for the first time in our history, we broke protocol and whizzed all the way to Guwahati for the event. It was a hell of a ride made all the more memorable by the fact that all hell literally broke loose soon after in the form of the COVID-19. And we had to give a long kiss goodbye to the movies for pretty much of 2020. But here we are again, back to the familiar arena. Yes, the threat of the coronavirus pandemic is still very much present but imbibing the heady cocktail of 'the show must go on' and 'Jeena yahan, marna yahan,' we're soldiering on come what may. The entire film industry is in the same boat. While some have gone for shoots abroad, some have opted to shoot outside Mumbai. The

theatres are open but the masses have yet to make a beeline for the movies. Hopefully, things will get better soon as people are buoyed by the vaccination drive. So far, it has been an interesting round of jury meetings and other sundry things. While I can't reveal anything at this stage, it would be safe to say that some intriguing choices have come up. The viewers are going to be surprised for sure. Fingers crossed!

Apart from the Bollywood awards, we also have the Bangla awards coming up. Yes, we've trained our eyes due East once more. Though like the recently concluded Marathi awards, we'd be celebrating excellence in films released in 2019. I've always been an admirer of Bengali films as they offer a mix of heart-touching stories with some refined performances. Bengali cinema suffered from the influx of Bollywood influences in between but



is currently going through another renaissance where filmmakers are telling local stories with a global worldview. The lines between regional cinemas are blurring and soon we're going to have pan-Indian films and pan-Indian stars and the filmmakers, technicians and actors from the Bengali cinema are going to be at the forefront of that revolution.

Someone asked me why I keep coming back to award shows. Why can't I be a pure journalist and just do interviews. I do it because I believe we at *Filmfare* definitely make a difference. In our own small way, we have been serving as an aspirational beacon for people in the film business since the '50s.

The world floats on hope, as they say -- so what's wrong in sending out a little hope, a little love, out there to the world...

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