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AWARDS BANGLA 2020

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WINNERS' TALE

THE NIGHT OF THE JOY
FILMFARE AWARDS
BANGLA 2020

Slay!

WOMEN WHO RULE THE BOX OFFICE

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Letter from the Editor

Hope floats

The second wave of COVID-19 has gutted us, literally. We've been inundated with the news of friends, relatives, colleagues succumbing to the deadly disease on a daily basis. The end doesn't seem to be in sight. It has impacted the film industry as well. Last year, we lost many worthies to the disease.

This year, the loss of Shравan of Nadeem-Shравan fame can be attributed to the coronavirus. He caught it at the Kumbh and never recovered. Most of our A-list stars have contracted the virus but have thankfully recovered. The industry, which was slowly gearing up towards normalcy, is brought to a standstill once again, what with the theatres as well as production being shut for now.

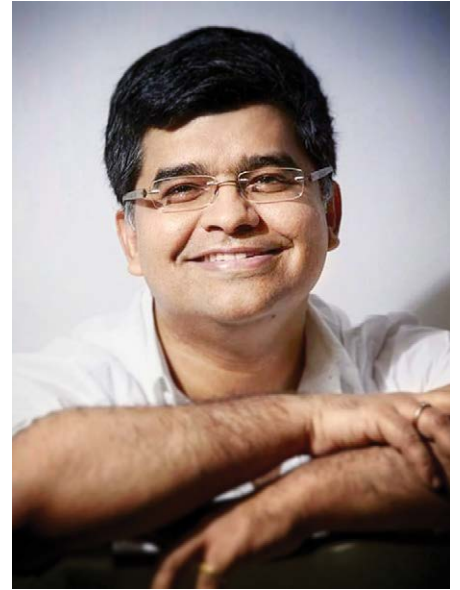
Last year, we had a superhero called Sonu Sood who became the messiah of the masses. He brought succour to the lives of hundreds of immigrant workers wanting to go back home. Their exodus towards their villages was dubbed as a death march, as they plodded on without any supplies, their flight fuelled by fear of the virus. This year, while there has been a migration, it's more or less, less traumatic. Other challenges however have come to haunt the masses. We've been facing grave hurdles such as lack of oxygen, lack of hospital beds, as well as lack of medicines such as Remdesivir, said to be effective against the disease. This time, along with Sonu Sood, many of the industry folks have responded to the emergency. Salman Khan has started his mobile food units to supply food to those suffering from the disease. Many stars have donated their vanity vans for the benefit of frontline warriors. Akshay Kumar had donated generously last year and this year too he has donated one crore to Gautam Gambhir's fund to help those in need in Delhi. He and his wife Twinkle Khanna have also been procuring oxygen cylinders and sending them to the needy. He has also associated himself with the National Commission for Women's (NCW) initiative to help pregnant women amid the pandemic. Varun Dhawan has partnered with Mission Oxygen India, an initiative intended to procure oxygen concentrators and send it to hospitals in need across India. Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's production company Excel Entertainment too have come forward and donated money to non-profit organizations like Hemkunt Foundation, Doctor For You, Mission Vayu, Rasoi On Wheels, Give India, Hope Welfare Trust, SBS Foundation, and Satyarth Socio.

Others are helping as well. Stars have a huge presence over the social media and celebs like Alia Bhatt and Bhumi Pednekar, for example, are aggressively using their social media handles to offer a list of verified COVID-19 resources daily. Stars are also re-posting messages from those in need of oxygen and other medical help, in the hope that someone from the vast majority of their followers might offer a solution. And actors are urging people to get vaccinated as early as possible.

Slowly, a resistance is being built.

A combined human effort that's cutting across political and religious lines. We're waking up to the fact that we're all together in this and it's our unity that will finally help us overcome this calamity. Reach out to those in need. Help in whatever way you can. Together, we will survive...

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

masala fix

BACK IN THE BAE

Both Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt had been infected by the novel coronavirus. The lovebirds couldn't be together for a while. To make up for the lost time they decided to fly off for a cosy vacation at the Maldives. After a healthy dose of TLC, they came back to Mumbai all rejuvenated. They would have been married by now if not for COVID-19.



Kartik Aaryan out of *Dostana 2* pg 06

Farhan Akhtar may have signed a Marvel film pg 08

PHOTOGRAPH: YOGEN SHAH

KARTIK AARYAN OUT OF *DOSTANA* 2



Sometimes, things happen so unexpectedly in our industry. **Kartik Aaryan**, the blue-eyed-boy of the industry was rudely ousted from Dharma Productions' *Dostana 2*. The rumour mill stated it was because of Kartik's attitude problems, though in their official statement, Dharma chose to maintain a 'dignified silence' over the whole affair. "Due to professional circumstances, on which we have decided to maintain a dignified silence, we will be recasting *Dostana 2*," they said. It's said they've incurred a loss of over 20 crores as Kartik had already started shooting for the film, which also stars **Janhvi Kapoor** and TV actor **Lakshya Lalwani**, who is making his big screen debut with it. We've heard that **Karan Johar** has now approached **Akshay Kumar** to replace Kartik. Akshay however, hasn't given his nod yet. It's also being touted that the original bad boys from *Dostana*, **John Abraham** and **Abhishek Bachchan**, will make a special appearance in the film. Why not bring **PeeCee** back as well? Just a suggestion. Anyway, we will keep you posted about the new developments in the story.

WHY RHEA CHAKRABORTY WAS ABSENT FROM *CHEHRE*'S POSTERS

Chehre, starring **Amitabh Bachchan** and **Emraan Hashmi** will see **Rhea Chakraborty** returning to the silver screen. Rhea went through hell after **Sushant Singh Rajput's** death. She was at the receiving end of a social media witch-hunt. Later as the mass hysteria mounted, she was even questioned by three separate state agencies and had a drug charge slapped on her. And was also imprisoned. She was conspicuously absent from the promotions of *Chehre*. She wasn't part of the poster, she wasn't part of the teaser and was seen for a fleeting second in the trailer. Producer **Anand Pandit** claimed he did it for humanitarian reasons while talking to a leading newspaper. He said, "I don't see any reason for not mentioning her name. She is among the eight artistes in the film. We signed her much earlier and she completed her part satisfactorily. So, we are looking at her as one of the actors who's done a good job. Also, I don't want to take undue advantage of her situation for the commercial benefit of my film. That's why we decided that for the second poster, we won't mention her name. She's gone through enough turmoil in her life, and we didn't want to add more ripples. We got her into the picture, only when she was comfortable." Sweet!



SUNNY LEONE WILL STAR IN A HISTORICAL HORROR COMEDY

Sunny Leone will star in a historical horror comedy and the actress will play the role of a queen. The film will be directed by **Yuvan** who's known for his film *Sindhanai Sei*. Speaking about the project, Yuvan said, "This film is set in two periods — the present and a period that's, say, about 1,000 years ago, probably around the time Cleopatra lived. Major portions of the film will be shot in Chennai, while the historical bit will be shot on a set erected in Mumbai." Sunny Leone will learn Tamil to prepare for the film and the shoot will be held in Mumbai in June. The film also stars Tamil actors **Sathish** and **Sanjana Singh**. Yuvan has been writing the script for the last three years but couldn't decide on whom to cast as the main lead. Producers **Sakthi** and **Sasikumar** suggested Sunny's name and Yuvan felt she fit right in with what he had in mind. Sunny is already doing a historical but a historical horror comedy would certainly be new for her.



MEANWHILE : SUNNY LEONE RECENTLY BOUGHT A NEW HOUSE IN ANDHERI AS SHE WANTED A BIGGER SPACE FOR HER KIDS, NISHA, NOAH AND ASHER. SUNNY REALISED THAT CHILDREN WERE THE WORST HIT DURING THE PANDEMIC. "AS PARENTS, WE'RE RAISING CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT SOCIALISING WITH OTHER KIDS. THE YOUNGER ONES WILL PROBABLY COME AROUND SOONER, BUT THE IMPACT WILL BE VISIBLE ON ALL THE CHILDREN WHEN WE GET TO THE OTHER SIDE, " SHE SAID. HENCE, SHE INVESTED IN A PLACE WHERE HER KIDS WILL HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO RUN ABOUT AND EVEN RIDE THEIR BIKES.



RANBIR KAPOOR DESCRIBES SRK-RAJU HIRANI PROJECT AS A GAME CHANGER

Ranbir Kapoor's last release was **Rajkumar Hirani's** *Sanju* that put him in the 300-crore club. Looks like, he's become a favourite of sorts with the director and might be working on a film with the director once again. For now, however he's excited about a possible collaboration between Hirani and **Shah Rukh Khan**. Now, we know that Raju Hirani has always wanted to work with Shah Rukh Khan. The director discussed two projects with him. One was a *MunnaBhai* franchise kind of a film and the other was about the immigration issue. SRK found the immigration story to be more appealing. Hirani apparently discussed the story with Ranbir, who agreed that SRK was perfect for the role. So excited is Ranbir about the supposed collaboration between Hirani and SRK that he has been telling his industry friends that it'll be a gamechanger. Exciting times ahead it seems.



SHASHANK KHAITAN HASN'T GIVEN UP ON YODDHA

Earlier this year, **Shahid Kapoor** walked out of **Shashank Khaitan's** *Yoddha*. The actor was supposed to take up the actioner after completing his sports drama *Jersey* but chose to leave the project instead. Later, it was revealed he did so to be part of Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK's OTT series, with which he'll mark his OTT debut. Now, we hear that Shashank hasn't given up on the dream of making *Yoddha*. He's known for making comedies and wanted to break his image with *Yoddha*. Apparently, it's high octane, lavishly mounted action film shot across several international locations. As travel restrictions are in place right now, investing in such a venture isn't possible. But Khaitan wants to revive it with Shahid once things return to normal. Meanwhile, he's shooting *Mr Lele*, a raunchy comedy from the looks of it, with **Vicky Kaushal** and **Bhumi Pednekar**.

AJAY DEVGN WANTS PEOPLE TO CALL HIM SUDARSHAN

Ajay Devgn had left a cryptic tweet on his Twitter profile where he asked his fans to now call him Sudarshan. No, he hasn't changed his name. It's his way of creating intrigue for his upcoming OTT series. Yes, you heard that right. **Ajay Devgn** will appear in an action series for OTT. We hear that **Ajay Devgn's** show, called *Rudra: Edge Of Darkness*, is a remake of the British show *Luther*, a psychological crime thriller starring **Idris Elba** in the lead. Looks like **Ileana D'Cruz** will also star in the series. The show will be directed by **Rajesh Mapuskar** who has helmed films like *Feraari Ki Sawaari* and *Ventilator*. Meanwhile, **Ajay** is directing his third film called *Mayday* which also stars **Amitabh Bachchan**. He also has *Thank God* in the pipeline and important roles in **SS Rajamouli's** *RRR* and **Sanjay Leela Bhansali's** *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. He's not slowing down, is he?



MA ANAND SHEELA OPENS UP ON PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS PLAYING HER

MA ANAND SHEELA, THE CONTROVERSIAL ONE-TIME AIDE TO OSHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF A POPULAR NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY, *WILD WILD WEST*. NOW **SHAKUN BATRA** HAS MADE A DOCUMENTARY ON HER LIFE CALLED *SEARCHING FOR SHEELA*, WHICH RELEASED RECENTLY ON AN OTT PLATFORM. WE'VE ALSO HEARD THAT A FEATURE FILM, WITH **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS** IN THE LEAD, IS ALSO BEING PLANNED ON THE LIFE OF **MA SHEELA**. IT'S BEING DIRECTED BY AMERICAN FILMMAKER **BARRY LEVINSON**. **MA SHEELA** HAS REPORTEDLY SENT A LEGAL NOTICE TO **PRIYANKA**, STATING THAT SHE CAN'T DO THE PROJECT AS SHE HASN'T CHOSEN **PRIYANKA** FOR THE ROLE.



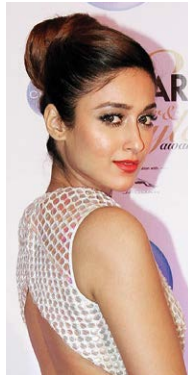
TAAPSEE PANNU SIGNS UP FOR A THRILLER

Taapsee Pannu is on a signing spree it seems. She already has films like *Shabaash Mithu*, *Rashmi Rocket*, *Hasene Dilruba*, *Looop Lapeta*, *Do Baara* and a South flick on her plate. And now it seems she has gone ahead and signed a thriller as well. According to reports, the actress will team up with the director of *Section 375*, **Ajay Bahl**. Taapsee had watched *Section 375* and was mighty impressed with the director's work. She soon got in touch with him and said that they should work together sometime. When Bahl got a call from producers Echelon and Outsiders that they'd like him to direct a thriller, the filmmaker spoke about having Taapsee in it. Both Ajay and Taapsee loved the script. Looks like the actress will soon sign the film. **Gulshan Devaiah's** name is being touted as being the male lead in the film.

RASHMIKA MANDANA FEELS THE TIME IS JUST RIGHT FOR HER BOLLYWOOD DEBUT

Rashmika Mandanna is Telugu industry's current sweetheart. And thanks to the popularity of her dubbed films, the Hindi audiences have also taken a shine to her. No wonder the star enjoys 15 million followers on Instagram. We've always wondered why she hasn't made her Hindi film debut as yet. The good news is that it'll happen soon. Even the actress feels the time is just right for her to make her mark in Hindi film. She's been signed to play **Siddharth Malhotra's** love interest in the love story with a spy angle, *Mission Majnu* and is reportedly super excited about the project. Rashmika said in an interview that she utilised the lockdown smartly to read scripts and zero in on her Hindi debut. She certainly commands the respect of B-town producers because even before the release of her debut film, she's been offered a second film called *Goodbye*. It's a more serious subject and she'll share screen space with the legendary **Amitabh Bachchan**, someone she's always wanted to work with. We're looking forward to both films for sure.

ILLEANA D'CRUZ NEW FILM HAS A BOLD MESSAGE



Ileana D'Cruz has had a wonderful run at the movies so far and now she is gearing up for her next film's *Unfair And Lovely*. It also stars **Randeep Hooda** and is based in Haryana. The film is based on our country's obsession with fair skin and the problem a dusky girl faces. Talking about why it's important to tell this story, Ileana says, "Colour doesn't define beauty. It is like saying, the sky is not beautiful at night but it is as you get to see stars." She adds, "This story is beautifully written. It is not overtly in your face preachy. It is an entertaining fun story that touches upon a very sensitive topic. It gives you the most human perspective to it. People will relate to it and it will also open up their mind a little more and not be narrow-minded when it comes to colour in this country." Looks interesting indeed.

RANVEER SINGH TO STAR IN SHANKAR'S ANNIYAN REMAKE

Ranveer Singh and South filmmaker **Shankar** have joined hands for their most ambitious project. Shankar will direct Ranveer in the official adaptation of his cult blockbuster *Anniyan*, which has been a dubbed satellite hit under the name of *Aparichit*. Speaking about this collaboration, Ranveer says, "I'm blessed to have this opportunity to be a part of the spectacular cinematic vision of Shankar sir. He is an exception to the norm, a true disruptor who has shown us that no vision is large enough to achieve on screen. I had always hoped and dreamed that I would get a chance to collaborate with him, and I have a strong feeling that we will create magic together. To lead a film like *Anniyan* is a dream come true for any artiste. **Vikram Sir**, one of our country's finest talents, an artiste who I hugely admire, gave a colossal performance in the original, one that can never be matched. I can only hope that my interpretation and rendition of the part also connects with audiences in the same way. It's undoubtedly a once-in-a-lifetime performance piece, and I am ready to give this role every single ounce of my being. Shankar Sir is a genius filmmaker and a true visionary. Words don't do justice to just how excited I am at the prospect of being directed by him." Ranveer is no stranger to unusual roles and we're sure he'll do well in this one as well.



FARHAN AKHTAR PART OF A MARVEL FRANCHISE?

There've been reports for a while now that **Farhan Akhtar** has signed a film with Marvel Studios. Marvel is known for their superhero franchises like *Iron Man*, *Hulk*, *Captain America*, *Thor* and the *Avengers* series. While Farhan Akhtar has not confirmed anything, a daily reports that the actor has indeed signed a Marvel project and has even started shooting for it in Bangkok, Thailand. The makers however aren't revealing anything. A little bird tells us that one of the proposed locations for Marvel's *Ms Marvel* series is Bangkok. So we're putting two and two together. Farhan Akhtar will be next seen in **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's** *Toofan* where he plays a boxer. This is the second time the actor and the director have teamed up after *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*. *Toofan* will stream online from May 21st.

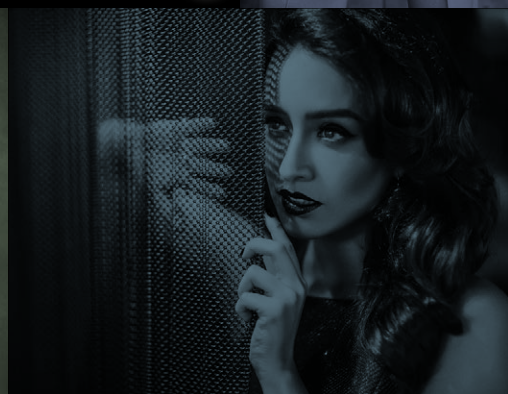




BOX OFFICE BEGUMS

WHO SAYS WOMEN CAN'T SPELL MAGIC AT THE BOX-OFFICE. **DEVESH SHARMA** HANDS IN THE NUMBERS

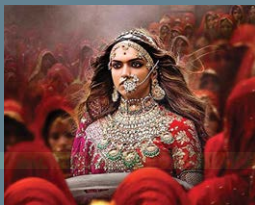
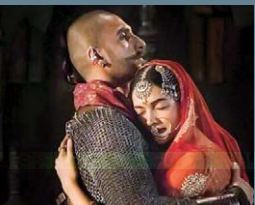
Gone are the days when women were just considered arm candy in our commercial films. They are no longer part of the fancy wrapping around the male star's ego but are a precious package in themselves. If they aren't the solo lead, then they make sure their role is of equal importance to the larger scheme of things. They want to kick butt, jump out of buildings, seduce to their heart's content and buckle-up for social causes in films. Move over He-Man. The industry gals are showing that they can do all their male counterparts can and look better doing it. And it's not a plastic, on the surface reform that's taking place. It's a change that's been long in the making. Today's heroines have been trying to achieve it since the beginning of their careers and their struggle is slowly bearing fruit. The minds of the makers and the masses are opening to the possibility that female stars carry as much chutzpah as our macho heroes. Stories are woven around them and male actors are reluctantly taking a step back to make way for the shero. Let's take a look at the careers of some of the heroines who are at the forefront of this feminist renaissance...



DEEPIKA PADUKONE

CHHAPPAK (2020), WHICH WAS A BIOPIIC OF SORTS ON THE ACID ATTACK SURVIVOR LAXMI AGARWAL, WAS A LITMUS TEST FOR HER. AS QUEEN DEE WAS ATTEMPTING HER FIRST NON-GLAMOROUS ROLE

She has been a hurricane to reckon with ever since she started her career with *Om Shanti Om* (2007), being on an even keel even then with the reigning superstar Shah Rukh Khan. She went on to be part of commercial hits like *Love Aaj Kal* (2009), *Housefull* (2010) and *Desi Boyz* (2011). *Cocktail* (2012) is where she showed her star power. The bohemian love story, which also starred Saif Ali Khan and Diana Penty, revolved around her and went on to gross 122.99 crores worldwide. *Piku* (2015), consolidated her position as someone who can frontline a film successfully. This coming-of-age drama, which also starred Amitabh Bachchan and Irfan Khan grossed 148.96 crores at the box-office worldwide. Successful films like *Bajirao Mastani* (2015), which grossed 355.61 crores worldwide and *Padmaavat* (2018), grossing 571.98 crores worldwide made her the queen of the marquee. Though she starred with Ranveer Singh in the former and with Ranveer and Shahid Kapoor in the latter, hers was the central figure in the film. She was reportedly paid more than her male co-stars in *Padmaavat*. *Chhappak* (2020), which was a biopic of sorts on the acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal, was a litmus test for her. As Queen Dee was attempting her first non-glamorous role. The film garnered 55.44 crores at the box-office. It might not be a 100 crore hit but still managed to earn a decent profit over and above its budget. Not to mention the critical acclaim.



Bajirao Mastani *Padmaavat*

ALIA BHATT

Alia Bhatt started off with the commercial hit *Student Of The Year* (2012), with the movie grossing 109.1 crores. She took risks right away, choosing to star in *Highway* (2014), a dark road movie which centered around her and had Randeep Hooda as her co-star. The Imtiaz Ali film grossed 52.44 crores despite its unusual cast and story. She continued to choose movies that gave her niche roles to play. In *Uda Punjab* (2016), for instance, she played a much-abused Bihari migrant in Punjab. The film grossed 91.03 crores worldwide. In *Dear Zindagi* (2016), she played a millennial under relationship therapy, who develops a crush on her counsellor, portrayed by Shah Rukh Khan. The film fetched 135.47 crores gross worldwide. *Raazi* (2018), where she played an Indian spy working deep undercover in Pakistan, fetched 195.75 crores as the worldwide gross. She truly carried the film on her shapely shoulders. And she was so good in *Gully Boy* (2019) that it could have been easily called *Gully Girl*. The film had her playing the protagonist's feisty girlfriend and garnered 238.16 crores.

ALIA BHATT TRULY CARRIED *RAAZI* ON HER SHAPELY SHOULDERS. AND SHE WAS SO GOOD IN *GULLY BOY* (2019) THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN EASILY CALLED *GULLY GIRL*



Raazi



Highway

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN

JAB WE MET ALSO STARRED SHAHID KAPOOR BUT THE CRITICS AND THE MASSES ALIKE CALLED IT HER FILM

Kareena Kapoor Khan was happy doing arm-candy roles and looking good in them too, till *Jab We Met* (2007) arrived. The Imtiaz Ali film also starred Shahid Kapoor but the critics and the masses alike called it her film. It did decent business of around 50 crores worldwide at the time. Her most definitive film as an actor is said to be Madhur Bhandarkar's *Heroine* (2012), which was an insider's account of the film industry. She carried the film on her shoulders and won plaudits all over for her performance. The film had a world-wide gross of 71 crores. *Veere Di Wedding* (2018) was her last big release. She led this women-centric film about four girl pals going through various phases in their relationships, from the front. The film went on to gross 138.95 crores worldwide at the box-office.



Jab We Met

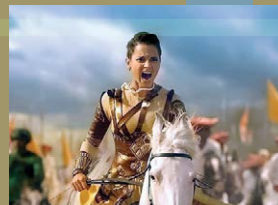


Veere Di Wedding

KANGANA RANAUT

Kangana Ranaut started her Bollywood career with *Gangster* (2006) and even then played a role which was crucial to the film's narrative. She won plaudits for her roles in *Life In A ...Metro* (2007), *Fashion* (2008), *Once Upon A Time in Mumbaii* (2010) and many more. *Tanu Weds Manu* (2011) was her standout film of the period. This quirky romance, co-starring Madhavan, grossed 56.41. She never looked back after that, choosing to work mostly in women-centric films. *Queen* (2013), which was a journey of self-exploration by a jilted fiancée, garnered 95.04 crores worldwide, *Tanu Weds Manu Returns* (2015), the sequel to the 2011 film made famous for Kangana's double role took home Rs 255.3 crores worldwide gross, *Manikarnika* (2019), the period drama where she played Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi and also directed the film, grossed 132.95 crores. All her forthcoming films, be it *Thailaivi*, *Tejas* or *Dhakkad* have her playing the lead role.

ALL HER FORTHCOMING FILMS, BE IT *THAILAIVI*, *TEJAS* OR *DHAKKAD* HAVE KANGANA PLAYING THE LEAD ROLE



Manikarnika



Tanu Weds Manu Returns

ANUSHKA SHARMA

Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (2008), her debut film, pitted her against Shah Rukh Khan. She became an overnight star with the dance musical, which grossed 151.58 crores worldwide. With *Band Baaja Baaraat* (2010), she helped launch talent powerhouse Ranveer Singh. The movie, which was about two entrepreneurs falling in love, grossed 25.57 crores worldwide. *PK* (2014) the alien encounter flick where she starred alongside Aamir Khan, was her biggest hit, with it grossing 769.89 crores worldwide. Anushka turned producer with *NH10* (2015). The gritty road movie had her playing an avenging angel and managed to haul 50.97 crores worldwide. *Phillaari* (2017), her next production, where she played a ghost, brought in 49.77 crores worldwide whereas *Pari* (2018), the out-and-out horror film produced by her brought in 41.4 crores. The numbers indicate that the films recovered their budgets and made a tidy sum for the producer. *Sultan* (2016), where she played a wrestler alongside Salman Khan, grossed 614.49 worldwide and *Sui Dhaaga* (2018), the film promoting small businesses, where she had an equal role with Varun Dhawan, milked 125.09 crores worldwide. Anushka extended her acumen as producer by producing the highly successful *Paatal Lok* for the OTT platform, as also the critically acclaimed movie *Bulbbul* (2020).

ANUSHKA EXTENDED HER ACUMEN AS PRODUCER BY PRODUCING THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL *PAATAL LOK* FOR THE OTT PLATFORM, AS ALSO THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED MOVIE *BULBBUL*



Sui Dhaaga



PK

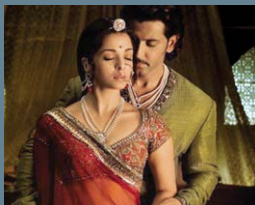
AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN

MISS WORLD AISHWARYA RAI STARTED HER CAREER WITH MANI RATNAM'S *IRUVAR* (1997). SHE PLAYED A DOUBLE ROLE IN HER FIRST FILM ITSELF AND HELD HER OWN AGAINST MOHANLAL

Miss World Aishwarya Rai started her career with Mani Ratnam's *Iruvar* (1997). She played a double role in her first film itself and held her own against Mohanlal. Thanks to her international fame, she had no difficulty in attracting big banners. Subhash Ghai's musical *Taal* (1999) had her playing a beautiful singer from the mountains who romances both Anil Kapoor and Akshaye Khanna. The film had a worldwide gross of 45.23 crores. Sanjay Leela Bhansali cast her as the daughter of a music guru in *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* (1999). Though Salman Khan and Ajay Devgn also starred in the film, she was central to the story. The film fetched a worldwide gross of 43.86 crores. Bhansali's *Devdas* (2002) had her starring with Shah Rukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit. She held her own in their film and was praised for her elegance and grace playing Paro. The film had a worldwide gross of 89.46 crores. *Dhoom 2* (2006) had her play a oomphalicious super thief in the company of Hrithik Roshan. The caper film earned 149.98 crores gross worldwide and she certainly had a huge hand in the film garnering it. *Guru* (2007), reportedly based on Dhirubhai Ambani's life, had her playing the emotional anchor in the protagonist's life. The film wasn't about her but now one can't imagine it without her. It earned 83.07 crores worldwide gross. *Jodhaa Akbar* (2008), the fictional love story between emperor Akbar and his Rajput queen Jodhaa, directed by Ashutosh Gowariker, paired her with Hrithik again. She looked like a painting in the film and mesmerised the audience with her haunting beauty. She had an equal hand in earning its worldwide gross of 107.93 crores.



Dhoom 2



Jodhaa Akbar

T A A P S E E P A N N U

Taapsee Pannu already had a flourishing career down South when she was launched by David Dhawan in *Chashme Baddoor* (2013). The film earned 59.07 crores worldwide and was declared a hit. In *Pink* (2016), her role was of as much importance as Amitabh Bachchan. The film gave out the message that when a girl says no, she means no. The film grossed 104.26 crores worldwide. *Pink* was the turning point of her career, after which Taapsee consciously picked women-centric roles. *Naam Shabana* (2017) was a prequel of sorts to *Baby* (2015) and told the story of how a docile girl came to be a secret agent. The action thriller fetched 57.56 crore worldwide, quite a sum for a female-centric action film. *Mulk* (2018) was a hard-hitting film about the citizenship rights of Muslims and earned 29.9 crores worldwide despite its sensitive subject and with a female lead. Her performance won plaudits throughout. *Badla* (2019), the twisted thriller where she played a cold-blooded vamp and pitted her wits opposite Amitabh Bachchan, fetched a neat 138.49 crores gross worldwide. It's her most profitable film in recent times. *Thappad* (2020) raised its voice against domestic abuse, something we all turned a blind eye to. It managed to earn 44.54 crores worldwide, before the pandemic and the lockdown cut its run short.

PINK WAS THE TURNING POINT OF HER CAREER, AFTER WHICH TAAPSEE CONSCIOUSLY PICKED WOMEN-CENTRIC ROLES



Pink



Thappad

S H R A D D H A K A P O O R

SHE MADE A FORGETTABLE DEBUT IN *TEEN PATTI* (2010) BUT BOUNCED BACK WITH *AASHIQI 2* (2013). THE MUSICAL PROVED TO BE A BUMPER HIT

She made a forgettable debut in *Teen Patti* (2010) but bounced back with *Aashiqui 2* (2013). The sequel to the cult classic *Aashiqui* (1990), the musical proved to be a bumper hit, garnering 109 crores gross worldwide. In *Ek Villain* (2014), the gritty psychological drama, she had a small but important role. The film earned 169.62 crores worldwide. *Baaghi* (2016), where her role demanded her to kick and punch in the company of Tiger Shroff earned 125.92 crores worldwide. Her biggest box-office draw has been *Stree* (2018). She played an important role in the film, on par with that of Rajkumar Rao and helped the film earn 180.76 crores gross worldwide. *Chhichhore* (2019), where she played both younger and older versions of herself was another important film. Though she wasn't the central character, yet she played an important role. This campus dramedy garnered 215.41 crores worldwide.



Baaghi



Aashiqui 2

KATRINA KAIF

Katrina Kaif started her career with the forgotten *Boom* (2003). She bounced back with commercial hits like *Sarkar* (2005), *Maine Pyar Kyun Kiya* (2005), *Namastey London* (2007), *Partner* (2007), *Welcome* (2007), *Singh is Kinng* (2008) and many more. Though she may not have carried her films on her shoulders, she nevertheless is an important component in them. Not that she lacks acting chops. Her stints in *Rajneeti* (2010), *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* (2011), *Ek Tha Tiger* (2012) proved that in spades. Filmmakers consider her a safer prospect, who can be relied on to add to a male star's box-office pull and make 100 crores a certainly. Humongous hits like *Dhoom 3* (2013) which grossed 556.74 crore worldwide, *Bang Bang* (2014), which earned 332.43 worldwide gross, *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017), which grossed 564.2 crores worldwide and *Bharat* (2019), grossing 325.48 crores worldwide have made her into box-office gold.

FILMMAKERS CONSIDER HER A SAFER PROSPECT, WHO CAN BE RELIED ON TO ADD TO A MALE STAR'S BOX-OFFICE PULL AND MAKE 100 CRORES A CERTAINLY



Bharat



Tiger Zinda Hai

VIDYA BALAN

VIDYA BALAN HAS THE RARE HONOUR OF STARTING HER BOLLYWOOD CAREER WITH A WOMEN-CENTRIC FILM, *PARINEETA*

Vidya Balan has the rare honour of starting her Bollywood career with a women-centric film. *Parineeta* (2005) was based on an eponymous novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. The film starred Sanjay Dutt and Saif Ali Khan besides her but the film revolved around her mostly. It earned a worldwide gross of 31.86 crores, which was a huge sum at that time. Her debut set a pattern for Vidya and she mostly accepted films where her role was central to the story. *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* (2007), for instance, had her playing an over imaginative woman who starts living a dual life. Though Akshay Kumar had the central role, the film wouldn't have worked without her. The film grossed 82.35 crores worldwide. In *Paa* (2009), she played a single mother to a son suffering from Progeria. Amitabh Bachchan played her son. It was as much her film as Amitabh's and went on to gross 45.15 crores worldwide despite its highly unusual subject. *The Dirty Picture* (2012), some say, is her most definite film. Not only did she play a character based on sultry siren Silk Smitha, she managed to give it a respectability that real life Silk desperately craved. The film grossed 117 crores at the box-office. Likewise, *Kahaani*, released the same year, is a whodunit you can't imagine without her. The film grossed 80.43 crores. She was the soul of the multistarrer *Mission Mangal* (2019) as well. The film, which fictionalised the story of India's unmanned mission to Mars, grossed 290.59 crores worldwide.



Kahaani



The Dirty Picture



EASTWARD HO!

PRESENTING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE HELD TO UNVEIL THE NEW EDITION OF THE **JOY FILMFARE AWARDS BANGLA 2020**

The 4th edition of the Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla was a night of celebration and glamour. Our sponsor Joy Personal Care extended its support in making the gala night even more glamorous. To unveil the big event, a virtual press conference was held with the Chairman of Joy Personal Care, Sunil Agarwal and their CMO, Poulomi Roy in attendance. Joining them was Saket Jha Saurabh, Head Entertainment Partnership for Facebook and our guest of honour, Koel Mallick.

Jitesh Pillai, Editor of *Filmfare* opened the discussion as he took us through *Filmfare's* association with Joy Personal Care. In his opening remark, he said, "We are all set to welcome back 'The Black Lady' to the city with much cultural glory and art. We hope to put together an entertaining show that is one of a kind and will be long remembered by one and all."

Chairman Sunil Agarwal too welcomed the Black Lady to the land of sweetness and said, "The Black Lady is iconic no



matter whether it is the regional version or the national one and we're confident that it would be a successful show in Bengal for the viewers and the partners."

Sharing the same excitement, actor Koel Mallick spoke of how stoked she was to attend the awards and how she looks forward to the annual celebration, "I feel delighted to be part of the Filmfare Awards, a yearly tradition that is eagerly awaited and celebrated by every Bengali film lover. Growing up, I was extremely fascinated by the Filmfare Awards. So much so that I wouldn't miss the gala event for anything in the world.

Talking of the entertainment quotient and the importance of

the collaboration with Facebook, Saket Jha Saurabh elucidated, "We are focused on building deeper engagement with our community through locally relevant content and cultural moments. The love for movies binds our users together and our partnership with *Filmfare* will help bring alive the magic of Bengali cinema, enabling fans across the globe to catch their favourite stars and all the excitement, via the simulcast of the awards on Facebook Watch."

The 4th Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla 2020 were held on March 31st, 2021 in Westin, Kolkata and were hosted by the extremely talented Arpita Chatterjee, Parambrata Chatterjee and Anirban Bhattacharya.



Koel Mallick



Srijit Mukherji, Kaushik Ganguly, Indraadip Dasgupta and Arindam Sil felicitate Tarun Majumdar



Jaya Ahsan

KOLKATA CALLING

DEVESH SHARMA PROVIDES A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ALL THAT HAPPENED AT THE **JOY FILMFARE AWARDS BANGLA 2020**



Prosenjit Chatterjee strikes the winner's pose



Koel Mallick



Indraadip Dasgupta is hugged by Subhashree Ganguly



Sauraseni Maitra greets Gaurav Chakraborty

All eyes were on Westin Rajarhat as it was the venue for the Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla 2020. We had just completed our Bollywood Awards three days ago and rushed to Kolkata for this event. It was as exhilarating, exciting and frightening as going down the Niagara Falls in a barrel. At the end of the day, seeing the smiles on the faces of the winners and the nominees, the mad ride seemed worth it.

Our Lifetime Achievement Award is always the most prestigious award of our events and this time it went to not one but two stalwarts of the Bengali film industry. It was awarded posthumously to **Soumitra Chatterjee**, who passed away in November last year. Soumitra was closely associated with **Satyajit Ray** and acted in several of Ray's immortal films, starting from *Apur Sansar* (1959) to *Ganashatru* (1989). He worked with other filmmakers too, from **Mrinal Sen** to **Atanu Ghosh** in his long career. It was Ghosh who came up on the stage to give the commemorative speech for Soumitra as the

The Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Tarun Majumdar and also posthumously to Soumitra Chatterjee





Tota Roy Chowdhury and wife Sharmili pose at the red carpet



Parambrata greets Best Sound Design winner Sougata Banerjee



Gaurav Chakrabarty and Ridhima Ghosh pose together

award was announced and said while it pains him deeply that the thespian isn't there to collect the trophy in person, it gives him great pleasure to present it and collect it. Ghosh went on to win the award for the Best Film (Critics') for *Robibaar* and his day was made doubly sweet.

Prolific filmmaker **Tarun Majumdar** was our other LTA winner. He's 90 but his energy puts people half his age to shame. The filmmaking giant, who started his journey in the 60s with films like *Kancher Swarga* (1962) and *Alor Pipasa* (1965) is still active in the field, with *Bhalobashar Bari* (2018) being his last release. He was felicitated by filmmakers like **Arindam Sil**, **Srijit Mukherji**, **Kaushik Ganguly** and **Indraadip Das Gupta**. The whole gathering rose as one when his award was announced. It speaks of the love and respect he shares amongst the Bengali film fraternity.

Prosenjit is an actor who has excelled in everything he has done in his career. Bumba da, as he's popularly known, said he was hesitant when the makers came to him to make a film on Subhash Chandra Bose as a single misstep would be sacrilegious to the memory of the National icon. He said yes reluctantly and was dreading the reception to the film. He



Vikram Chatterjee looks all dapper



Benny Dayal struts at the red carpet



Riddhi Sen is all smiles



Iman Chakrabarty and Anupam Roy are lost in a song



Ena Saha

Sourav Das



Prosenjit Chatterjee and Srijit Mukherji hug each other



Parambrata, Arpita Chatterjee and Anirban Bhattacharya kept the ball rolling



Abhijit Guha and Sudeshna Roy



Ash King and Nikhita Gandhi croon for the crowd



Arindam Sil poses with his wife at the red carpet



Arjun Chakraborty with wife Srijita

The Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) was a tie. It was shared by Swastika Mukherjee (Shah Jahan Regency) and Subhashree Ganguly (Parineeta)

needn't have worried as not only the critics but the masses took hugely to *Gumnaami* and he took home the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) trophy for the same. The Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) was a tie. It was shared by **Swastika Mukherjee** (*Shah Jahan Regency*) and **Subhashree Ganguly** (*Parineeta*). Subashree, who became a mother six months ago, still retained the new mommy glow. She said she was glad about getting the award as the competition was ever so tough this time around. She was happy sharing it with Swastika, someone whom she admires. Swastika unfortunately couldn't make it to the event but later sent a heartfelt message to us. **Jaya Ahsan** won the Best Actress (Critics') award for her roles in *Bijoya* and *Robibaar*, two roles that were vastly different from each other. The Bangladeshi resident looked radiant in a saree and said it was a great honour to win this prestigious award and to be so loved in India. She mentioned that cultural ties go beyond boundaries and she felt privileged getting the roles that come her way. **Riddhi Sen**, who won the Best Actor (Critics') Award for his performance in *Nargarkirtan*, was in a buoyant mood as so many of his industry colleagues attended the awards despite the threat of COVID-19. He's a dedicated artiste and when asked how he was going to celebrate, he said he was going to retire early to bed as he was acting in a play the next morning.

Thriller *Vinci Da* won the Best Film award this year. When Srijit Mukherji, the director of the film, came to the

Lagnajita Chakraborty



Composer Indraadipto Dasgupta makes yesterday come alive with the help of singer Iman Chakraborty, Anupam Roy, Lagnajita Chakraborty, Ash King and Nikhita Gandhi



Sandipta Sen looks dishy indeed



Monami Ghosh is a vision in black



Susmita Chatterjee looks engrossed

stage to receive the award, he called the production designer and the makeup artist of the film on stage and urged *Filmfare* to include these two categories also in the awards portfolio from next year onwards. It was a touching gesture indeed from the filmmaker. Srijit won the Best Story award, along with **Rudranil Ghosh**, for *Vinci Da*. Rudranil, who has turned politician, was busy campaigning and hence couldn't make it to the event. Kaushik Ganguly was the cynosure of all eyes. He's a filmmaker, actor and writer and his versatility was pretty evident by the fact that he won the Best Screenplay for *Nagarkirtan* and Best Dialogue for *Jyeshthoputro*. While the former was an unusual love story between an eunuch and a flute player, the latter was a family drama, highlighting the rivalry between two brothers. He took home the Best Director trophy as well for *Jyeshthoputro* and his smile stretched from one corner of Howrah Bridge to the other.

Kaushik Ganguly won the Best Screenplay for Nagarkirtan and Best Dialogue for Jyeshthoputro



Bickram Ghosh



Sauraseni Maitra



Parambrata is in sync with the little stars



Arpita Chatterjee



Aditi Munshi



Puja Banerjee and Kunal Verma give off happy vibes

When asked how she's going to celebrate, Laganjita Chakraborty said she'd go home to do more riyaz as she wanted to win next year as well



Our Best Playback Singer (Female) winner **Lagnajita Chakraborty** (*Preme pora baron -- Sweater*) was also performing on stage but she didn't want to collect her trophy in the same costume. Just before the category was announced, she quickly changed into normal clothes. She was overwhelmed by her win and even called one of her music directors, **Ranajoy Bhattacharjee**, to be by her side and share the plaudits. When asked how she's going to celebrate, she said she'd go home to do more *riyaz* as she wanted to win next year as well. Well said. Both **Ranajoy Bhattacharjee** and **Anindya Chatterjee** won the Best Music Album trophy for *Sweater*. Additionally, **Ranajoy** also won the Best Lyrics Award for *Preme pora baron* for *Sweater*.



Nikhita Gandhi



Madhumita Sarcar

Another of our performers, **Ash King** loves fried stuff and told us he could survive on potato fritters. And confided that his comfort food was tea and biscuits. There's nothing like a well-brewed cup of tea to relax after a hard day's work, isn't it? It surprised us that a true-blue Mallu like **Benny Dayal** was able to croon Bengali songs with such



Ishaa Saha



Anirban Bhattacharya and Priyanka Sarkar pay tribute to Soumitra Chatterjee



Kanchana Moitra is all smiles

elan. When asked he said he has a knack of picking up languages.

Nikhita Gandhi had never sung Rabindra Sangeet on stage and was understandably apprehensive



The event included a section curated by Indradeep Dasgupta titled 'Musically Bengal' that saw singers like **Anupam Roy, Iman Chakraborty, Lagnajita Chakraborty, Nikhita Gandhi, Ash King**, along with an orchestra of 30 live musicians recreating the popular songs of prolific Bengali composers down the years. Ash King and Nikhita Gandhi performed Rabindra Sangeet on stage. Nikhita had never sung Rabindra Sangeet on stage and was understandably apprehensive about that but her rendition was pitch perfect.

Divas **Madhumita Sarcar, Sauraseni Maitra** and **Ishaa Saha** dazzled on stage in an electrifying performance titled 'Beauties of Bengal'. Another highlight was the comic skit performed by **Kharaj Mukherjee, Aparajita Auddy** and **Sayan Ghosh**. The trio created light-weight moments throughout the evening and had the audience rolling in the aisles through their split-second comic timing.

Parambrata, Aniraban Bhattacharya and **Arpita Chatterjee** were our hosts for the evening. Needless to say, they were professionalism personified and kept the proceedings rolling without any hitch. Anirban won the Best Playback Singer (Male) award for *Kicchu chaini aami* (*Shah Jahan Regency*). He didn't want to get his photo clicked in his costume and wanted to change into a suit but we convinced him that his *bhadralok* avatar comprising *dhoti kurta* looked elegant as hell.

All-in-all, it was a night full of applause and laughter and made for some precious memories, to be cherished for years to come.



Rajdeep

Ananya Chatterjee

Tuhina Das

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HONOURING EXCELLENCE, SPREADING JOY

JOY PERSONAL CARE PARTNERED FILMFARE AS THE TITLE SPONSORS FOR
THE JOY FILMFARE AWARDS BANGLA 2020

Joy has been fighting stereotypes and wants to shatter the beauty myth. Its core value is that a woman is 'Beautiful By Nature'. *Filmfare* has also always believed in promoting excellence in cinema and has always stood for quality. One can see that both brands share similar ethos at their core and hence their partnership is a fateful match indeed. The line up of stars on the red carpet had a fun rapid fire with Anchor Mahasweta on the last of everything -- last movie watched, last call, last food had and so on ending with last activity before they go to bed -- thus building synergy to their latest campaign for Joy face wash which speaks of how the last face wash is most important for a healthy and clean skin as our skin rejuvenates while we sleep.



Jaya Ahsan, Mr Sunil Agarwal, Chairman, Joy Personal Care & Ms Poulomi Roy, CMO, Joy Personal Care, hand over the trophy to Subhashree Ganguly



Mr Raghav Agarwal, Project Lead-West Bengal, Joy Personal Care & Mr Kaushik Bera, Zonal Sales Manager - East, Joy Personal Care felicitate Ritwika Pal



Jaya Ahsan, Mr Sunil Agarwal, Chairman, Joy Personal Care & Ms Poulomi Roy, CMO, Joy Personal Care, read out the winner's name



Madhumita Sarcar



Aditi Munshi



Mr Sanjay Agarwal, MD, Joy Personal Care & Mr Anirudh Agarwal, Project Lead-E-Commerce, Joy Personal Care present the Black Lady to Jaya Ahsan



Ritwika Pal



Jaya Ahsan



Isha Saha



Aparajita Adhya



Tuhina Das



Sandipta Sen



Ananya Chatterjee



Susmita Mukherjee



Arpita Chatterjee



Koel Mallick



Subhashree Ganguly



Kanchana Moitra



Rupa Bhattacharjee



Nikhita Gandhi



beautiful by nature



WON FOR THE NIGHT

DEVESH SHARMA profiles the winners of the recently held Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla 2020

PHOTOGRAPHS: MEETESH TANEJA

Best Actress (Critics') **Jaya Ahsan** Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) **Subhashree Ganguly** | Best Story **Srijit Mukherjee** Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) **Prosenjit Chatterjee** | Best Playback Singer (Female) **Laganjita Chakaraborty** Best Music **Ranajoy Bhattacharjee** and **Anindya Chatterjee** Best Playback Singer (Male) **Anirban Bhattacharya**



The Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla 2020 was an event for which the *bhadralok* of the Bengali film industry were waiting with bated breath. The whole country was reeling under the impact of COVID-19 and the film industry was no exception. Events had dried up, shootings too had been halted and our celebs were tired of posting cooking videos of their version of *aloo posto* and *macher jhol* and wanted nothing better than to let their hair down and indulge in some *addabaji* and catch up with their colleagues. And the Filmfare night gave them plenty to talk about indeed. While the Best Actor (Critics') expectedly went to Riddhi Sen for his transgender act in *Nagarkirtan*, Jaya Ahsan took home the Best Actress (Critics') for both *Bijoya* and *Robibaar*. The Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female) was a surprise. It was a tie between Subhashree Ganguly (*Parineeta*) and Swastika Mukherjee (*Shah Jahan Regency*). The industry folks were delighted to see our LTA winner, noted director Tarun Majumdar cutting a sprightly figure at 90. The other LTA went to the late Soumitra Chatterjee. Prosenjit Chatterjee too expectedly won the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) for his superlative performance as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in *Gunnaami*. Turn the pages to know more about the illustrious winners...

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE

Soumitra Chatterjee was born in Sealdah, West Bengal on January 19, 1935. His claim to fame lies in his long and fruitful association with Satyajit Ray. The duo worked in some 14 films together. He had the honour of making his debut in the third part of Ray's most famous work – *The Apu Trilogy*. In *Apur Sansar* (1959), he played a young writer dealing with the travails of a newly-wedded life.

His sensitive performance won him accolades and admirers worldwide. Soumitra also brought to life that masterful creation of Ray, the detective Feluda. Ray's stories revolving around the adventures of this Indian Sherlock Holmes were a rage and Soumitra captured the nuances brilliantly in films like *Sonar Kella* (1974) and *Joi Baba Felunath* (1979). His other notable films with Ray include *Devi* (1960), *Teen Kanya* (1961) and *Charulata* (1964). He didn't just restrict himself to his mentor but also worked with other notable directors of Bengali cinema. One remembers him for the natural ease he displayed in Minal Sen's *Akash Kusum* (1965) or in Tapan Sinha's *Jhinder Bandi* (1961), an adaptation of *The Prisoner Of Zenda*, where he incidentally played a villain opposite Uttam Kumar. Entering the 1980s and the 1990s, he started working with contemporary directors, like Goutam Ghose, Aparna Sen, Anjan Das and Rituparno Ghosh and even acted in television. In 1986, he played the role of a swimming coach in the film *Kony* (1986) directed by Saroj Dey, a role that came to be much admired by all.

Soumitra didn't lose his command over acting to age. His famous films during his latter years include Rituparno Ghosh's *Asukh* (1999), Florian Gallenberger's *Shadows Of Time* (2004), Pratim D. Gupta's *Paanch Adhyay* (2012) Srijit Mukherji's *Hemlock Society* (2012), Atanu Ghosh's *Rupkatha Noy* (2013), Goutam Ghose's *Shunyo Awnko* (2013) and *Bela Seshe* (2015), and *Posto* (2017), both directed by Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee, and *Mayurakshi* (2017) directed by Atanu Ghosh. The thespian passed away on November 15, 2020. He was bestowed the honour posthumously.



Atanu Ghosh pays tribute to the late Soumitra Chatterjee

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TARUN MAJUMDAR

Hindi viewers may know him through *Balika Badhu* (1976), starring Sachin Pilgaonkar and Rajni Sharma. It was a reworking of his own 1967 Bengali film of the same name, starring Moushumi Chatterjee. His early films were credited to Yatrik, which was the screen name of the trio directors Tarun Majumdar, Sachin Mukherji, and Dilip Mukherji until 1963, after which each began to be credited separately. As Yatrik, their first venture was *Chaowa Paowa* (1959) starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen.

In 1965, he made two films: *Ektuku Basha* with Soumitra Chatterjee and *Alor Pipasha* with Basanta Choudhury. The films featured Sandhya Roy, a popular actress whom he married later. After that he never looked back and was known for his plethora of commercially successful films. He has worked with everyone from Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Soumitra Chatterjee, Sandhya Roy to Tapas Paul, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Debashree Roy and Ritupama Sengupta.

The 90-year-old filmmaker, who's helped shape the career of so many stalwarts of Bengali cinema, was the recipient of our second Lifetime Achievement Award this year. Despite his advanced age, he was still sharp as a pin in both mind and body. The entire gathering rose as one when he came on stage and the moment became a golden memory.



Srijit Mukherji, Kaushik Ganguly, Indraadip Dasgupta and Arindam Sil felicitate Tarun Majumdar



BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (MALE)

PROSENJIT CHATTERJEE

GUMNAAMI

Gumnaami looks into the supposed death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. It's based on the premise that Netaji survived the crash and lived incognito as a holy man. It's a historical thriller with several layers attached to it. The actor plays both Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Bose's supposed alter ego, Gumnaami Baba. The film tries to showcase the various strands which existed between the stalwart leader and the saint. It's another riveting performance from the actor, who hasn't done anything of the sort before.



Gumnaami



Srijit Mukherji does the honours

NOMINEES

- Abir Chatterjee (Shah Jahan Regency)
- Dev (Sanjhbati)
- Parambrata Chatterjee (Shah Jahan Regency)
- **PROSENJIT CHATTERJEE (GUMNAAMI)**
- Rudranil Ghosh (Vinci Da)
- Shiboprosad Mukherjee (Konttho)





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

SUBHASHREE GANGULY

PARINEETA

It's often said that rituals don't matter if you accept someone as your companion in your heart. Subhashree Ganguly plays a young girl who falls in love with a much older man from her neighbourhood and later plots revenge when he's found dead under mysterious circumstances. It's a layered performance, much liked by the critics and the audience alike.



Parineeta



Jaya Ahsan, Mr Sunil Agarwal, Chairman, Joy Personal Care & Ms Poulomi Roy, CMO, Joy Personal Care, hand over the trophy

NOMINEES

- Koel Mallick (Mitin Mashii)
- Paoli Dam (Konttho)
- Rituparna Sengupta (Ahaa Re)
- **SUBHASHREE GANGULY (PARINEETA)**
- Swastika Mukherjee (Shah Jahan Regency)



BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (FEMALE)

SWASTIKA MUKHERJEE

SHAH JAHAN REGENCY

Swastika Mukherjee plays a woman who likes physical intimacy a lot but she'd like to go beyond that and have a complete relationship. It's a hurdle that most people face in their lives. The actor wins over the sympathy of the audience through her performance, which is peppered with some rather risqué scenes, though done aesthetically.



Shah Jahan Regency



Jaya Ahsan, Mr Sunil Agarwal, Chairman, Joy Personal Care & Ms Poulomi Roy, CMO, Joy Personal Care, read out the winner's name

NOMINEES

- Koel Mallick (Mitin Mashii)
- Paoli Dam (Konttho)
- Rituparna Sengupta (Ahaa Re)
- Subhashree Ganguly (Parineeta)
- **SWASTIKA MUKHERJEE (SHAH JAHAN REGENCY)**





BEST ACTOR (CRITICS')

RIDDHI SEN

NAGARKIRTAN

Riddhi Sen was just 17 when he decided to play a transgender woman. He reportedly visited the localities where such people live to acquaint himself better with their lives, their mannerisms. And like a chameleon, he transformed himself completely. It's an all-heart performance from the actor. The number of accolades that he's got for the role prove that his instincts were bang on. So life-like is his portrayal that one can't believe that one's watching an actor and not an actual eunuch.



Nagarkirtan



Bickram Ghosh does the honours

NOMINEES

- Jisshu Sengupta (Mahalaya)
- Kaushik Ganguly (Kedara)
- Prosenjit Chatterjee (Robibaar)
- **RIDDHI SEN (NAGARKIRTAN)**
- Ritwick Chakraborty (Rajlokhi O Srikanto)

BEST ACTRESS (CRITICS')

JAYA AHSAN

BIJOYA & ROBIBAAR

BIJOYA: Jaya Ahsan plays a woman caught in a love triangle of sorts and finds herself unable to cope with the situation. She plods on bravely despite knowing that there is no clinical end to her situation. It's another bravura performance by the actress.

ROBIBAAR: Do we ever move on after breaking up with someone we've loved. The actress plays a woman who is forced to confront her past, in the film. Has she learnt from her mistakes and moved on or is she destined to repeat them?



Robibaar



Bijoaya



Mr Sanjay Agarwal, MD, Joy Personal Care & Mr Anirudh Agarwal, Project Lead-E-Commerce, Joy Personal Care present the Black Lady

NOMINEES

- Isha Saha (Sweater)
- **JAYA AHSAN (ROBIBAAR)**
- **JAYA AHSAN (BIJOYA)**
- Raima Sen - Tarikh
- Sohini Sarkar (Vinci Da)
- Subhashree Ganguly (Parineeta)





BEST DIRECTOR

KAUSHIK GANGULY

JYESHTHOPUTRO

In India, among Hindus in particular, the elder son performs the last rites of his parents. It's an honour to be so chosen and the position is looked upon with envy by the younger siblings, as setting fire to the pyre is considered the most auspicious thing one can do. But what if the elder son has neglected his parents all along while they were living and yet comes forth to perform his father's last rites? The film asks pertinent questions indeed, which don't have answers.



Jyeshthoputro



Koel Mallick hands over the trophy

NOMINEES

- Arindam Sil (Mitin Mashi)
- **KAUSHIK GANGULY (JYESHTHOPUTRO)**
- Leena Gangopadhyay and Saibal Bannerjee (Sanjhbati)
- Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee (Konttho)
- Raj Chakraborty (Parineeta)
- Srijit Mukherji (Gumnaami)



BEST FILM (CRITICS')

ROBIBAAR

ATANU GHOSH

Love is said to be forever, but is it really so? Couples may swear they'll be one till death does them apart but ego often plays spoilsport. You separate and try to move on. Sometimes you're successful, sometimes not. What happens when your past catches up with you after 15 years? Will you reconcile your differences, let bygones be bygones and move on or will you still fight the same battles as before? The film asks all these questions and tries to find the answers. It's not just a romance and carries shades of a thriller as well.



Robibaar



Mr Abhijit Roy, Managing Director and CEO of Berger Paints India Limited and his wife Mrs Gargi Roy and Pooja Banerjee present the award

NOMINEES

- Ghawre Bairye Aaj (Aparna Sen)
- Kedara (Indraadip Dasgupta)
- Nagarkirtan (Kaushik Ganguly)
- **ROBIBAAR (ATANU GHOSH)**
- Rajlokhi O Srikanto (Pradipta Bhattacharya)





Shrikant Mohta



Mahendra Soni

BEST FILM

VINCI DA

Vinci Da is a convoluted revenge drama with plenty of twists and turns to satisfy most fans. The narrative keeps changing by the minute and you never know what's going to happen next. It's a film that keeps the viewer on tenterhooks till the last second. It's not as if the viewers don't know who the killer is. Rather, it's this knowledge that adds spice to the mix and makes for compelling viewing. It's a cat-and-a-mouse game and while we root for the mouse, we have sympathy for the cat as well.



Vinci Da



Mr Subir Mitra, Vice President Marketing, Shyam Steel and Koel Mallick do the honours

NOMINEES

- Gumnaami
- Konttho
- Mitin Mashi
- Parineeta
- Sanjhbati
- **VINCI DA**



BEST DEBUT (DIRECTOR)

INDRAADIP DASGUPTA

KEDARA

The film is an absurd tragicomedy revolving around a ventriloquist who, neglected by those around him, chooses to live in the past. His mind teeters on the brink of sanity but his voice is intact and he's able to mimic voices of several people from the past. Well-known music director Indraadip Dasgupta changes tracks with this one and turns director. It's brave of him to work on such an unusual subject for his debut, which has been received quite well critically.



Kedara



Subhashree Ganguly gives away the Black Lady





BEST DEBUT (FEMALE)

RITWIKAL PAL

KIA AND COSMOS

Ritwika Pal plays a 15 year old Kia, who suffers from ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder, in the film. People suffering from it have difficulties with eye contact, communication, controlling emotions and often showcase repetitive behaviour. On the other hand, they are also highly intelligent and kind. They see the world through different eyes. When Kia's pregnant cat Cosmos is murdered, she goes about investigating the crime in her own way. Ritwika wins over the audience with her true-to-life portrayal in this compelling whodunit.



Kia And Cosmos



Mr Raghav Agarwal, Project Lead - West Bengal, Joy Personal Care & Mr Kaushik Bera, Zonal Sales Manager - East, Joy Personal Care felicitate the winner



BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (MALE)

RITWICK CHAKRABORTY

JYESHTHOPUTRO

Ritwick Chakraborty plays the younger son who is jealous of his elder brother's success. He's resentful that his elder brother has come to perform the last rites of his father, despite not taking care of him when he was alive. Ritwick's claim to fame in the film is the drunk scene where he spews out all the suppressed anger he has felt over the years. That alone is worth the price of the ticket.



Jyeshthoputro



Anindya Chatterjee and Anupam Roy read out the winner's name

NOMINEES

- Anirban Bhattacharya (Gumnaami)
- Jisshu Sengupta (Ghawre Bairey Aaj)
- Paran Bandhopadhyay (Aaha Re)
- Rahul Banerjee (Rajlokhi O Srikanto)
- **RITWICK CHAKRABORTY (JYESHTHOPUTRO)**
- Rudranil Ghosh (Kedara)





BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (FEMALE)

LILY CHAKRABORTY

SANJHBATI

Often, it's the elderly who are the most neglected. After leading a life full of purpose, giving their all to their loved ones, they aren't looked after well when they most need it. It's a grim reality that we are all aware of but we chose to ignore it. The veteran actress plays a lonely old woman who wants some sort of companionship in her old age and is grateful beyond words when she finds it. The grace and poignancy of her character will indeed move you to tears.



Sanjhbati



Anindya Chatterjee and Anupam Roy announce the winner

NOMINEES

- Aparajita Ghosh Das (Rajlokhi O Srikanto)
- Daminee Benny Basu (Jyeshthoputro)
- **LILY CHAKRABORTY (SANJHBATI)**
- Sauraseni Maitra (Finally Bhalobasha)
- Swastika Mukherjee (Kia And Cosmos)



BEST MUSIC ALBUM

RANAJOY BHATTACHARJEE AND ANINDYA CHATTERJEE

SWEATER

Sweater's soundtrack has an impromptu quality about it. The film has a simple story at its heart. It revolves around a shy girl who slowly blossoms into a more confident avatar of herself and takes control of her life. The music is a reflection of the film's theme. It's peppy in most parts and has some sombre elements as well. It makes you root for the naive protagonist and helps you celebrate her journey.



Sweater



Raja Chanda presents the winners with their trophies

NOMINEES

- Anirban Das and Tanmoy Sarkar (Rajlokhi O Srikanto)
- Anupam Roy, Prasen and Anindya Chatterjee (Konttho)
- Arko (Parineeta)
- Prabuddha Banerjee (Nagarkirtan)
- **RANAJOY BHATTACHARJEE AND ANINDYA CHATTERJEE (SWEATER)**





BEST LYRICS

RANAJOY BHATTACHARJEE

SONG- PREME PORA BARON
MOVIE- SWEATER

Love is a much-celebrated phenomenon. But what we see in films and novels is miles apart from the reality. In real life, girls especially face a lot of music if they are found to be in love. It's expected that they should happily marry the groom chosen by their parents and not go in for a love marriage. The song brings home the fact that sometimes, one finds it impossible to get engaged in romantic love because of societal norms. It's a poignant ditty indeed.



Sweater



Raja Chanda does the honours

NOMINEES

- Anirban Das - Amar Bhul Hoe Gyachhe Priyo (Rajlokhi O Srikanto)
- Anjan Dutt - Chhile Bondhu (Finally Bhalobasha)
- Arko - Pran Dite Chai (Parineeta)
- Dipangshu Acharya - Kichchu Chaini Aami (Shah Jahan Regency)
- Kaushik Ganguly - Tomar Pasher Desh (Bijoya)
- **RANAJOY BHATTACHARJEE - PREME PORA BARON (SWEATER)**



**BEST PLAYBACK
SINGER (MALE)**

**ANIRBAN
BHATTACHARYA**

**SONG- KICCHU CHAINI AAMI
MOVIE- SHAH JAHAN REGENCY**

When two people are in love, they'd like nothing better than to spend their lives with each other and are willing to do anything for it. The song speaks of one such bond, where the lovers ask for their moment of bliss to stretch to eternity. It's an impossible yearning and yet one feels it can be achieved. Anirban Bhattacharya evokes the feeling contained in the lyrics through his deft rendition and makes you believe in the power of love.



Shah Jahan Regency



Benny Dayal gives away the trophy

NOMINEES

- **ANIRBAN BHATTACHARYA - KICCHU CHAINI AAMI (SHAH JAHAN REGENCY)**
- Anupam Roy - Aalote Aalote Dhaka (Konttho)
- Arijit Singh - Maa (Gotro)
- Neel Dutt - Chhile Bondhu (Finally Bhalobasha)
- Rupankar Bagchi - Tomay Mone Porchilo (Robibaar)
- Timir Biswas - Amaar Bhul Hoya Geche Priyo (Rajlokhi O Srikanto)





**BEST PLAYBACK SINGER
(FEMALE)**

LAGNAJITA CHAKRABORTY

**SONG- PREME PORA BARON
MOVIE- SWEATER**

It's okay for a girl to hold a finger but it's not okay to hold the entire palm. It's okay to feel love but it's forbidden to express it. The song brings to light the plight of middle-class girls in India when it comes to matters of the heart. The lyrics bring to light how love is often considered taboo and one is powerless to oppose this world view. Lagnajita Chakraborty does full justice to the song in her heart-touching rendition.



Sweater



Benny Dayal hands over the award

N O M I N E E S

- Aditi Munshi - Srikrishno Kirton (Gotro)
- **LAGNAJITA CHAKRABORTY-
PREME PORA BARON
(SWEATER)**
- Shreya Ghoshal - Pran Dite Chai (Parineeta)
- Shreya Ghoshal - Neel Digante (Gotro)
- Somlata Acharya Chowdhury - Aaj Behestey Ke Jaabi (Ahaa Re)

BEST STORY

**RUDRANIL
GHOSH
AND SRIJIT
MUKHERJI**

VINCI DA

Vinci Da is a cat-and-a-mouse game between a deranged killer and a make-up artist who is fated to help him. The killer justifies his killings saying that he's acting as judge, jury and executioner for those who have gotten away with their crimes. Things take a turn when the make-up person finds courage within himself and uses the killer's own tactics to turn the tables on him. The film's story is a gritty drama on the one hand and a morality tale on the other.



Vinci Da



Indraadip Dasgupta and Monami Ghosh do the honours



N O M I N E E S

- Atanu Ghosh (Robibaar)
- Churni Ganguly (Tarik)
- Kaushik Ganguly (Jyeshthoputro)
- Kaushik Ganguly (Nagarkirtan)
- Ranjan Ghosh (Ahaa Re)
- **RUDRANIL GHOSH AND SRIJIT MUKHERJI (VINCI DA)**





BEST SCREENPLAY

KAUSHIK GANGULY

NAGARKIRTAN

Love is a many-splendored thing, as they say. No where it's written that it needs to always flourish between a man and a woman. Sometimes it can blossom between a man and a eunuch as well. The film showcases such a love in all its glory. The screenplay takes us through this hidden, taboo world without pulling any punches, without being judgemental, letting the viewers form their own interpretations as to what's normal, and what's not.



Nagarkirtan



Tota Roy Chowdhury gives away the award

NOMINEES

- Atanu Ghosh (Robibaar)
- Kaushik Ganguly (Jyeshthoputro)
- **KAUSHIK GANGULY (NAGARKIRTAN)**
- Srijato (Kedara)
- Srijit Mukherji (Vinci Da)



BEST DIALOGUE

KAUSHIK GANGULY

JYESHTHOPUTRO

We say the cruelest things to those who are related to us. Brothers, in particular, are almost always frenemies. There is a streak of rivalry that exists between them just because of their gender. The best moments of the film occur when the protagonists, played by Prosenjit Chatterjee and Ritwick Chakraborty, confront each other. They tear each other apart through their words. One can relate to them as the dialogue feel like something one might say in real life.



Jyeshthoputro



Mr Subhash Sinha, General Manager, Westin Rajarhat Kolkata and his wife Mrs Seema Sinha and Tota Roy Chowdhury do the honours

N O M I N E E S

- **KAUSHIK GANGULY (JYESHTHOPUTRO)**
- Padmanabha Dasgupta (Parineeta)
- Ranjan Ghosh (Ahaa Re)
- Shieladitya Moulik (Sweater)
- Srijit Mukherji (Shah Jahan Regency)





BEST BACKGROUND SCORE

PRABUDDHA BANERJEE

NAGARKIRTAN

Nagarkirtan is an unusual love story between a flute player and a transgender woman. They dream of starting their life together someday but destiny has other plans, and their idyll is torn apart by circumstances. The background score reflects the ebbs and flows of their tumultuous journey together. It makes you aware of the drama without being intrusive. Kudos to Prabuddha Banerjee for his sensitive handling of the atmospheric score.



Nagarkirtan



Monami Ghosh and Indraadip Dasgupta hand over the award

NOMINEES

- Alokandana Dasgupta (Urojahaaj)
- Bickram Ghosh (Mitin Mashi)
- Binit Maitra (Ahaa Re)
- Debojyoti Mishra (Robibaar)
- Prabuddha Banerjee (Jyeshthoputro)
- **PRABUDDHA BANERJEE (NAGARKIRTAN)**



BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

SHIRSHA RAY

NAGARKIRTAN

Love stories are brightly lit picture postcard affairs in our cinema. But what if a taboo subject is being shot? Then the treatment changes. It then tends to be more gritty, more realistic and that's what happens in *Nagarkirtan's* case as well. Shirsha Ray has shot the film mostly in actual light, choosing to provide a stark, documentary-like feel to the proceedings. And given the context of the story, this technique works brilliantly in its favour.



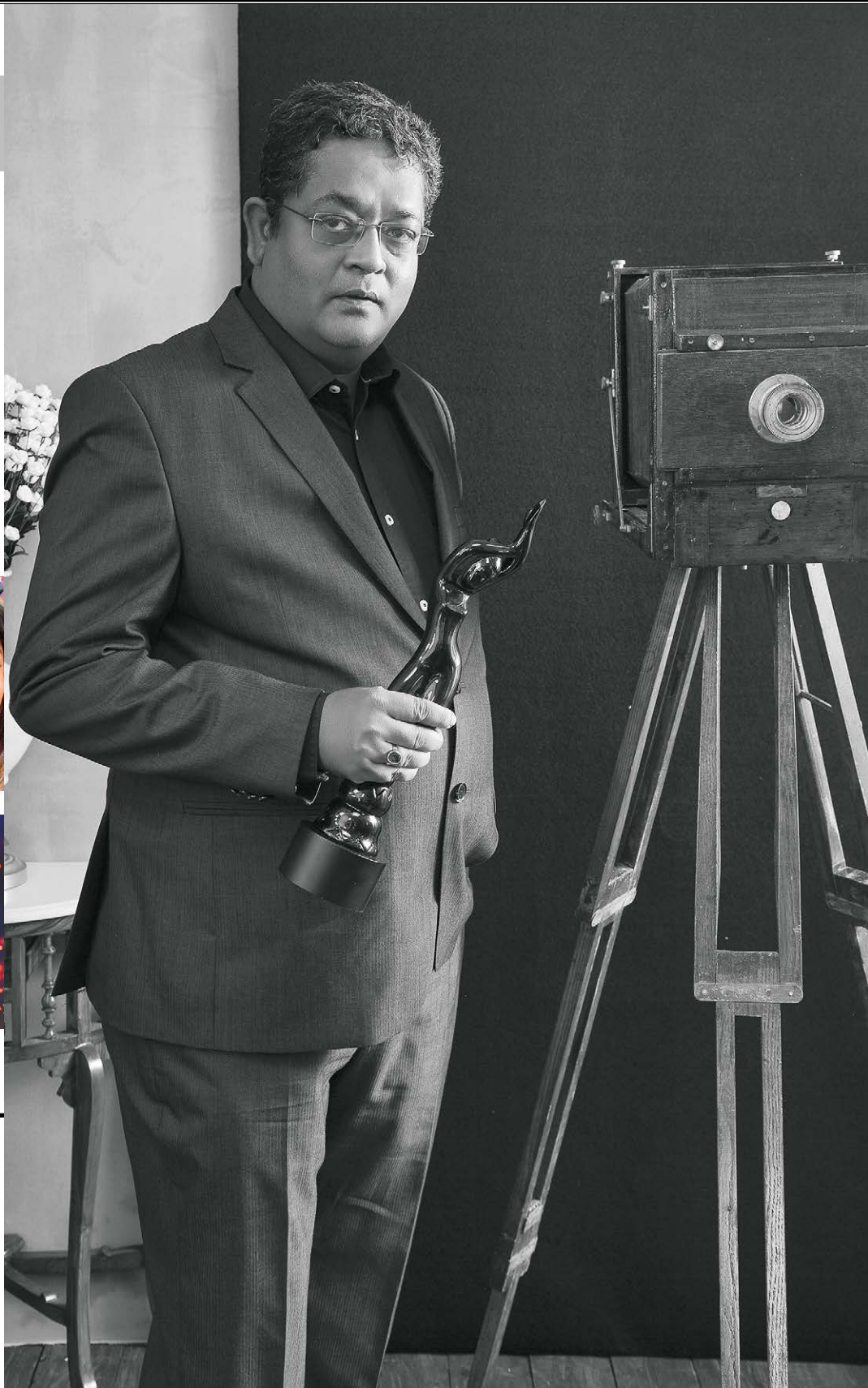
Nagarkirtan



Arindam Sil gives the trophy to Nandini Ghoshal who took it on her husband's behalf

NOMINEES

- Appu Prabhakar (Robibaar)
- Ashim Bose (Urojahaj)
- Hari Nair (Ahaa Re)
- **SHIRSHA RAY (NAGARKIRTAN)**
- Soumik Halder (Gumnaami)
- Subhankar Bhar (Kedara)





BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN

SHIBAJI PAL

GUMNAAMI

Gumnaami is a fictional period piece which tries to recreate the circumstances regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's mysterious death. Netaji's life is well-chronicled and his death is a sensitive subject even now. Shibaji Pal doesn't let the enormity of the occasion deter him and has meticulously done his research to get a better grip on the period detail. One appreciates the fact that not a single thing looks out of place in this speculative film.



Gumnaami



Ishaa Saha hands over the Black Lady

NOMINEES

- Goutam Basu (Robibaar)
- Goutam Basu (Nagarkirtan)
- Ranjan Ghosh (Ahaa Re)
- **SHIBAJI PAL (GUMNAAMI)**
- Tanmoy Chakraborty (Jyeshthoputro)
- Tanmoy Chakraborty (Mukhomukhi)



BEST SOUND DESIGN

SOUGATA BANERJEE

ROBIBAAR

Robibaar is part love story, part thriller. It takes us through one lazy Sunday in the lives of the protagonists. But it's not just one day. They also look back at the last 15 years of their lives and live through the good, the bad, and the ugly moments. The sound design helps in the navigation. It cues the viewers towards the drama and acts as a sensory guide. Sougata Banerjee makes sure that we are in sync with the story through his deft creation.



Robibaar



Isha Saha hands over the award

NOMINEES

- Amit Kumar Dutta (*Parineeta*)
- Anindit Roy and Adeep Singh Manki (*Gumnaami*)
- Anindit Roy and Adeep Singh Manki (*Konttho*)
- Anindit Roy and Adeep Singh Manki (*Mitin Mashi*)
- Anirban Sengupta (*Nagarkirtan*)
- **SOUGATA BANERJEE** (**ROBIBAAR**)





BEST EDITING

SUJAY DATTA RAY

KEDARA

Kedara is a film that defies description. It mostly exists in the mind of its protagonist, who is a brilliant ventriloquist. He can see ghosts of the people from the past in his mind's eye and converses with them by expertly mimicking their voices. Such a storyline needed expert editing to come through and Sujay Dutta Ray proves equal to the occasion. He makes sure we see the story in all its hues and also that it flows evenly through its different arcs.



Kedara



Arindam Sil delivers the trophy

NOMINEES

- Anirban Maity (Kia And Cosmos)
- Pranoy Dasgupta (Gumnaami)
- Sanglap Bhowmick (Mitin Mashii)
- Subhajit Sinha (Tarikh)
- **SUJAY DATTA RAY (KEDARA)**

Flexible & Strong

THE RECENTLY HELD **JOY FILMFARE AWARDS BANGLA 2020** WERE POWERED BY **SHYAM STEEL TMT REBAR**

Shyam Steel were delighted to partner *Filmfare* for their Bangla Awards. Shyam Steel lives up to each word of its claim, 'Flexi-Strong Matlab Hamesha Ke Liye Strong'.

Shyam Steel has been instrumental in helping build dream homes with the perfect balance of flexibility and strength with Shyam Steel TMT Bars. These TMT bars make the structures so strong and flexible that they are easily able to withstand natural disasters like cyclones and earthquakes.

Host Samragee Khandelwal chatted with celebs on the red carpet on strength and flexibility in relationships. The well-dressed brigade shared their take on strong relationships, flexi strong couples and much more.



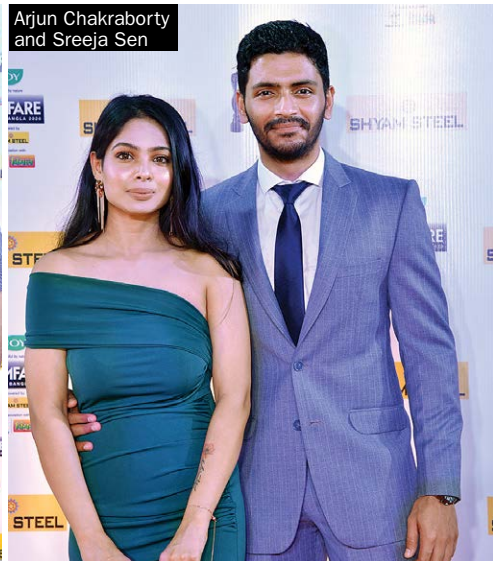
Mr Subir Mitra, Vice President Marketing, Shyam Steel and Koel Mallick hand over the trophy to Srijit Mukherji



Arpita Chatterjee



Abhijit Guha and Sudeshna Roy



Arjun Chakraborty and Sreeja Sen



Jaya Ahsan



Ishaa Saha



Gaurav Chakraborty and Ridhima Ghosh



Ash King



Aparajita Adhya



Bickram Ghosh



Koel Mallick

“AS A MARKET LEADER HEADQUARTERED IN BENGAL, ONE OF THE THINGS WE ALWAYS ENCOURAGE IS INSPIRING THE STATE’S TALENT POOL. FILMFARE AWARDS IS ALSO A LEADER IN INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF TALENT IN THE FILM INDUSTRY. SO, WHEN THEY DECIDED TO SHOWCASE OUR STATE’S FILM INDUSTRY, WE GLADLY CAME FORWARD TO SUPPORT THEM. WE WISH FILMFARE EVERY SUCCESS IN ALL SUCH ENDEAVOURS”
- Suket Beriwal Director, Shyam Steel



Benny Dayal



Kanchana Moitra



Tota Roy Chowdhury and wife Sharmili



Sayan



Subhashree Ganguly



Sandipta Sen



Srijit Mukherji



Nikhita Gandhi



Madhumita Sarcar





Ishaa Saha, Madhumita Sarcar and Sauraseni Maitra bring the house down

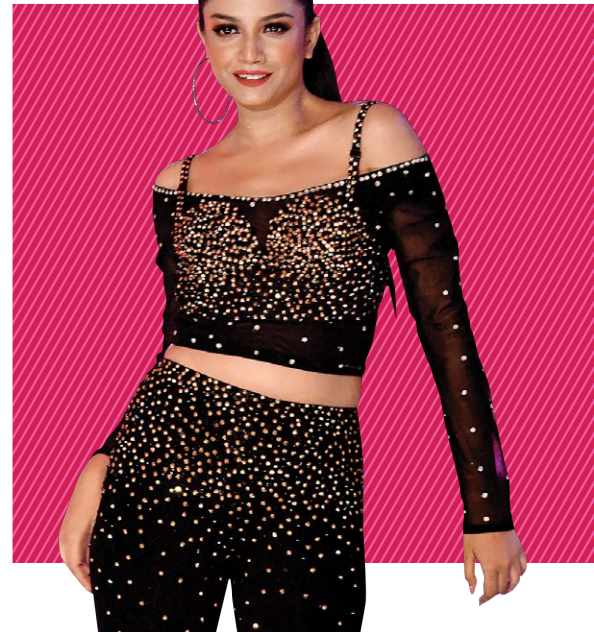
JOY HO!

MAYUKH MAJUMDAR DESCRIBES THE MANIC FUN THAT CAME ABOUT WHEN OUR PERFORMERS TOOK CENTRE STAGE AT THE RECENTLY HELD **JOY FILMFARE AWARDS BANGLA 2020**



BENGAL BELLES

Sauraseni Maitra, Madhumita Sarcar and Ishaa Saha - the beauties of Bengal, as the act was aptly named - wowed everyone at the Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla with their graceful and energetic performance. While Sauraseni wowed us with her classy moves, Madhumita impressed everyone with her belly dancing skills and Ishaa Saha, too, nailed her act proficiently. Before the performance, all three actors were mighty nervous and wanted to do their best. In fact, Saha and Sarcar even joked that Maitra was Goddess Durga on the dance floor while they were Goddess Laxmi and Goddess Saraswati respectively. One of the highlights of the event was when Sarcar grooved to the ever popular *Item bomb* from *Kelor Kirti* which features Nusrat, Dev and Jisshu.





Kharaj Mukherjee, Aparajita Adhya and Sayan had the audience in splits



COMIC CAPER

Aparajita Adhya and **Kharaj Mukherjee** are known for their comic timing and chemistry in the hallowed halls of Bengali cinema. Anytime there is an event and a comic act is needed, the first call always goes to Aparajita and Kharaj who have featured together in numerous films and projects and whose comic acts are a huge hit all across East India. In fact, people come from as far as Assam to see them perform. This time, for the Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla, Adhya and Mukherjee joined hands with **Sayan** to come up with a crackling performance that had the audience laughing till tears rolled down their cheeks. This moment was also special because Adhya celebrated 25 years in Bengali cinema.



Arpita Chatterjee joins in the fun



Indraadip Dasgupta, Iman Chakraborty, Anupam Roy, Lagnajita Chakraborty, Ash King and Nikhita Gandhi make the audience sway to their tunes





MUSIC FEST

Singers **Anupam Roy, Iman Chakraborty, Lagnajita Chakraborty, Nikhita Gandhi** and **Ash King**, along with an orchestra of 30 live musicians, performing under the baton of **Indraadip Dasgupta** paid tribute to acclaimed music directors of the Bengali film industry in a sequence titled "Musically Bengal". Additionally, Ash King and Nikhita Gandhi stole everyone's hearts with their rendition of Rabindra Sangeet.



TOP OF THE POPS

Singer **Benny Dayal** crooned in a special section called “Sizzle of Bengal”. Benny brought the house down by not only singing a medley of his own Bangla hits down the years but also by performing on them. He’s a smooth operator alright and his energy on stage was palpable indeed.





Anirban Bhattacharya and Priyanka Sarkar sing songs from Soumitra Chatterjee films

MEMORIES OF A GIANT

A musical tribute was paid to the late actor, **Soumitra Chatterjee** who passed away last year. The performance began with **Anirban Bhattacharya** paying a tribute to the legendary actor. Soumitra was then honoured by **Parambrata**. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience as everyone remembered the great actor who was as magnanimous and humble as he was talented. **Priyanka Sarkar** joined Anirban in paying tribute to the thespian and their performance stole our hearts. Their chemistry was enough to light up the entire venue.



Parambrata, Priyanka and Anirban pay homage to Soumitra



ULTIMATE GLAMOUR ULTIMATE CARE

Berger Silk BreatheEasy from the house of Berger Paints came on board as one of the Associate Partners for the **Joy Filmfare Awards Bangla 2020**



Mr Abhijit Roy, Managing Director and CEO of Berger Paints India Limited, his wife Mrs Gargi Roy and Pooja Banerjee present the award to Atanu Ghosh



Sauraseni Maitra

Berger Silk BreatheEasy, from the house of Berger Paints, is a luxury interior emulsion that gives rich luxury finish to your walls as well as reduces harmful pollutant gases indoors like sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and formaldehyde. The product has been certified by renowned laboratories across the world. It is also certified by prestigious Singapore Green Label as environmental friendly paint.

It has anti-bacterial property which is approved and endorsed by Indian Medical Association. It's effective against viruses and effectively prevents transmission of Covid-19 virus from the surfaces painted with Silk BreatheEasy. Renowned government certified laboratories have approved this.

Emcee Arpita Choudhury interacted with the celebs on the red carpet about the need to feel safe and breathe easy. It was a fun interaction where a lot of witty banter got exchanged.



Subhashree Ganguly



Ena Saha



Ishaa Saha



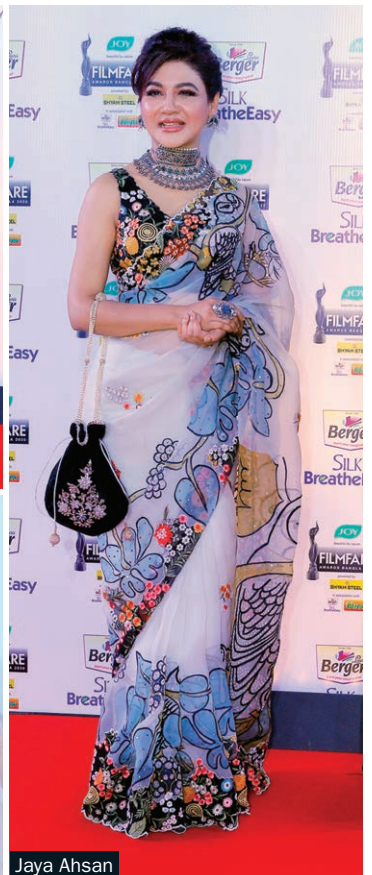
Madhumita Sarcar



Arjun Chakraborty with wife Srijia



Aditi Munshi



Jaya Ahsan



Gourav Das



Gaurav Chakraborty and Ridhima Ghosh



Susmita Mukherjee



Sayan



Srijit Mukherji



Tota Roy Chowdhury and wife Sharmili



SILK BreatheEasy

REMEMBERING SHRAVAN RATHOD

MUSIC COMPOSER **SHRAVAN RATHOD** PASSED AWAY RECENTLY DUE TO COVID-19. **DEVESH SHARMA** OFFERS A SHORT PROFILE OF HIS LIFE AND TIMES...

— (NOVEMBER 13, 1954- APRIL 22, 2021) —

Shravan Rathod of the iconic composer duo Nadeem-Shravan died battling COVID-19 at a Mumbai hospital on April 22. He was 66. The news of Shravan Rathod's death was confirmed by his son, musician Sanjeev Rathod. "He passed away around 10:15 p.m. tonight. Please pray for his soul," the grieving son was quoted as saying. Shravan reportedly had attended the Kumbh Mela and tested positive for COVID-19 after returning from the pilgrimage. He was admitted to Mumbai's SL Raheja Hospital three days before his death as his lungs had been

infected due to the disease. Shravan also reportedly developed heart complications and was on ventilator for the last few days. His wife and Sanjeev too had contracted the disease and were admitted to the Seven Hills Hospital, Andheri. Sanjeev and younger brother Darshan compose music under the name Sanjeev-Darshan. Shravan Rathod was born on November 13, 1954. He is the elder brother of the playback singers Roop Kumar Rathod and Vinod Rathod. His father Pandit Chaturbhuj Rathod, was a celebrated classical musician in the Dhrupad tradition. Being born in a musical family,

he grew up with instruments around him and was said to be proficient in playing several of them. He formally started learning *tabla* from the age of five. Such was his proficiency at playing the instrument that he started accompanying his father at the young age of seven.

Shravan and Nadeem were introduced to each other by a common friend Harish Boppaiya at a college fest in 1972. They began working together in 1973. Bachubhai Shah's Bhojpuri film *Dangal* (1977), starring Sujit Kumar and Prema Narayan was their first assignment.

SHRAVAN AND NADEEM BEGAN WORKING TOGETHER IN 1973. BACHUBHAI SHAH'S BHOJPURI FILM DANGAL (1977), STARRING SUJIT KUMAR AND PREMA NARAYAN WAS THEIR FIRST ASSIGNMENT



Nadeem-Shravan



With Raakhee at a Filmfare event





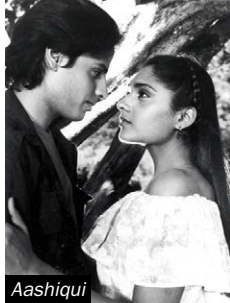
With family

AASHIQI IS SAID TO HAVE SOLD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASSETTES FOR T SERIES TILL DATE... NADEEM-SHRAVAN BECAME STARS OVERNIGHT AND AFTER THAT NEVER LOOKED BACK

The film contains one of the finest renditions in Bhojpuri by Asha Bhosle, *More hothwa se nathuniya gulel karela*. They were lucky to get Manna Dey, who sang the evergreen Bhojpuri song *Kashi hile Mathura hile* for the film and Mohammed Rafi, who sang the duet *Phoot gayi kismatiya* along with Asha, in their debut film. They continued to make music in the '80s, where their prominent films were *Ilaaka*, *Hisaab Khoon Ka* and *Lashkar*. After sixteen years of struggle, they were yet to make their mark, however. At that point of time, they reportedly decided to get into the business of readymade clothes. And even came up with a brand name, Composers Collection. The turning point came with *Baap Numbari Beta Dus Numbari* (1989). The songs were liked by Anuradha Paudwal,

who introduced them to Gulshan Kumar of T Series fame. Gulshan too loved what they had composed and said he'd like to bring out a private album with them. Later, when Mahesh Bhatt heard the songs, he requested Gulshan Kumar to give him the songs for his new film *Aashiqui* (1990). They were reportedly paid 15 thousand rupees as fees for the film. *Aashiqui's* music became superhit. It's said to have sold the highest number of cassettes for T Series till date. The film, which starred rank newcomers Anu Aggarwal and Rahul Roy, did well just on the humongous popularity of its music. They became stars overnight and after that never looked back. They did some 154 films together as music directors, from 1990 to 2005.

Their next film, *Saajan* (1991) was supposed to have music by Laxmikant-



Aashiqui

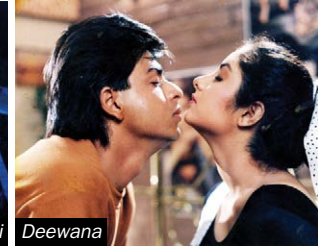
TOP 10 SONGS OF NADEEM SHRAVAN

- ★ Nazar ke saamne (AASHIQI)
- ★ Mera dil bhi kitna pagal hai (SAAJAN)
- ★ Tumhe apna banane ki kasam (SADAK)
- ★ Dil hai ke maanta nahin (DIL HAI KE MAANTA NAHIN)
- ★ Dheere dheere pyar ko badhana hai (PHOOL AUR KAAANTE)
- ★ Koi na koi chahiye (DEEWANA)
- ★ Ghoonghat ki aad se dilbar ka (HUM HAIN RAHI PYAAR KE)
- ★ Pardesi pardesi (RAJA HUNDUSTANI)
- ★ Tum dil ki dhadkan mein (DHADKAN)
- ★ Aapke pyaar mein (RAAZ)

Pyarelal. Due to some reason, L-P parted ways with director Lawrence D'Souza. Nadeem-Shravan were approached to give the music and they did it only after seeking the blessings of L-P. *Saajan's* music too was a tremendous hit. They became the most sought after music directors after that, giving a long line of hits like *Dil Hai Ke Maanta Nahin*, *Phool Aur Kaante* and *Sadak* in 1991 itself. They won Filmfare trophies back to back for films like *Aashiqui* (1990),



Raja Hindustani



Deewana



Saajan



Dil Hai Ke Maanta Nahin



Sadak



Hum Hain Rahi Pyaar Ke

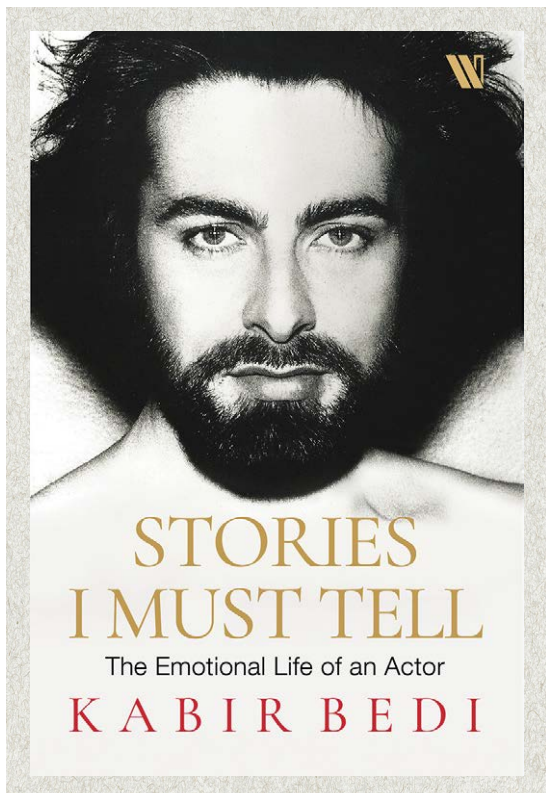
Saajan (1991), *Deewana* (1992). Their fourth Filmfare was won for *Raja Hindustani* (1996).

They were known for their folk and sem-classical tunes and even gave a modern touch to the *ghazal*. Inspired by SD Burman, they were known for incorporating Indian instruments like *bansuri*, *sitar* and *shehnai* in the tunes they composed. Later, they took to the violin as well and made ample use of it. Melody formed the basis of their creations and their songs, even today are known for it. Kumar Sanu, Udit Narayan, Anuradha Paudwal and Alka Yagnik were said to be the mainstay of their career. Another constant was lyricist Sameer, who was with them since their salad days

and wrote around 1000 songs for them. In August 1997, Gulshan Kumar was shot dead by some gangsters. Nadeem, was named as one of the masterminds behind the conspiracy. Nadeem fled to London and later took on the British citizenship. Their rift with T series began from there on and couldn't be patched. Their partnership continued however and they gave hits like *Dhadkan* (2000), *Ek Rishta: The Bond Of Love* (2001), *Raaz* (2002), *Andaaz* (2003) before splitting after *Dosti: Friends Forever* (2005). Though they did comeback to make music for *Do Knot Disturb* (2009). Nadeem wanted to do a world tour with Shravan, carrying their music to newer fans worldwide but COVID-19 snatched that dream away... ■

BOOKED FOR LIFE

KABIR BEDI HAS JUST COME OUT WITH A BOOK ON HIS LIFE CALLED *STORIES I MUST TELL*. HE DISCUSSES THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND HIS REASONS FOR SHARING HIS STORIES WITH **DEVESH SHARMA**



He's India's most-famous export to the Western cinema. Much before Om Puri, Irrfan Khan or Priyanka Chopra burst onto the international acting scene, there was Kabir Bedi, paving the way for others. He lived in America for more than two decades, carving a niche for himself doing series like *The Bold And The Beautiful* and multi-starrers like *Ashanti*, where he rubbed shoulders with the likes of Michael Caine and Omar Sharif. His most famous role abroad was that of *Sandokan*. The Italian series made him a household name across Europe. He's considered an icon in Italy. They've bestowed him with the title of Cavaliere (Knight) of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, their highest civilian honour. Kabir has been romantically involved with a bevy of beauties and remained friends with them all, despite the break-ups. He remains a romantic at heart, having found the perfect life partner in current wife Parveen Dusanjhi, despite the 30-year difference in their ages. Presenting excerpts from a candid interview with the man who has been a journalist, model, adman, actor and writer in his rich, varied life.

In the initial parts of your autobiography, *Stories I Must Tell*, you sound like someone in their twenties and then there is a certain maturity in the later parts. It's like time travel of sorts.

It's time travel for me because I had to go back to that moment in time and focus on it. Relive it, to bring out all its nuances.

I've written things out like a scene because I remember scenes very well. The idea was to take the reader back with me and let him feel the emotional pulse of the moment.

You've mentioned you're a direct descendant of Guru Nanak. Is that a historical fact?



“ I’VE WRITTEN THINGS
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BECAUSE I REMEMBER
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IDEA WAS TO TAKE THE
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EMOTIONAL PULSE OF
THE MOMENT ”



Octopussy



Ashanti



Sandokan

The Bedis are said to be the direct descendants of Guru Nanak. The Bedis of Dera Baba Nanak are certainly his descendants and I presume there are others too.

You became a Buddhist monk for one year in Rangoon while you were young. You had your hair shorn, lived on alms...what was the experience like?

I was taught Vipassana by Mahasi Sayadaw. He's the one who taught Vipassana at that age was life altering. It was a way of becoming much more aware of yourself, of your surroundings. It tells you how your thoughts run you and how to calm your thoughts and look

into the spaces in between to find your real essence. It instilled a belief that you need to be compassionate towards other beings on this planet, who are suffering and who are less fortunate than you.

Do you agree with the Buddhist philosophy that life is suffering?

The Buddha was a far wiser man than me. Obviously there is an enormous amount of suffering in life. My belief is that anything I believe in, I bring into reality. And therefore, I didn't want to believe that life is suffering. While I've the greatest respect for Buddhism, for its emphasis on meditation, on compassion towards all, the sheer wisdom of the Buddha, I didn't become a Buddhist because to do so I'd have to make suffering the centre of my belief. And I didn't want to do that.

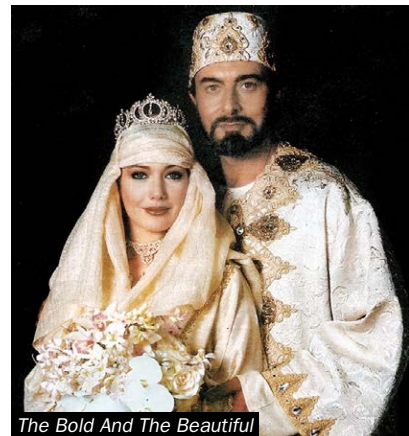
Your tremendous popularity in Europe somehow didn't translate into stardom in Bollywood.

What happened in Italy, in Europe was phenomenal. I didn't come back to India after that. I went to Hollywood and spent 25 years of my life outside India. Bollywood is where

“ MY BELIEF IS THAT ANYTHING I BELIEVE IN, I BRING INTO REALITY. AND THEREFORE, I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT LIFE IS SUFFERING ”

I began. It gave me a name which led to the Italians discovering me. Then, Bollywood also came back into my life through films like *Khoon Bhari Maang* in the '90s, which proved to be the second lease of life. I went back to America after that to do *The Bold And The Beautiful*, which again gave me fans around the world. It was watched by 350 million people in a day. Bollywood has been in and out of my life. I never wanted to live my whole life abroad. My last big role in Bollywood was in *Mohenjodaro*, the Hrithik Roshan starrer, where I played the emperor. And Bollywood can still offer me wonderful roles. The journey isn't over.

The film industry is said to be a place where you're supposed to have great people skills but you've



The Bold And The Beautiful

described yourself as being shy and introverted.

That's one of the problems I had in fact. Networking, hanging out with people, constantly creating little social circles, that's how Bollywood conducts its business. I should have been more skilful, I should have been more outgoing as the lack of it has certainly affected me. I'm who I'm and at heart I'm a shy person.

You started off by working for All India Radio. Interviewing The Beatles for them was one of your first assignments but that recording doesn't exist any more.

I've tried hard to get that recording. We're talking about the mid-'60s here and very few people had a tape-recorder at the time. Those days, the



With current wife Parveen Dusanjhi



Khoon Bhari Maang



With granddaughter Alaya F at the Filmfare Awards



Adam Bedi and wife Melissa

radio guys used to reuse the tapes to save money and my interview with The Beatles unfortunately was taped over. I was so angry, so disgusted with that, that I decided to quit the organisation and do something else. So I guess I have to thank that *faux pas* for my acting career.

Your list of friends during your formative years seem to be a list of who's who from Delhi elite. Some of the people who are big today were with me at St Stephens in Delhi. Then, I've also written about my friendship with Rajiv and Sanjay Gandhi. They helped shape India's destiny in years to come but back then we were just a bunch of kids playing around with toy trains and toy cars under the stern

gaze of Indu aunty. And having the Prime Minister Of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, play with us, leaving aside the worries of his office for a while. After many years, when I went back to the Teen Murti House, it didn't seem as big as it did during my childhood.

Your father, Baba Pyare Lal Singh Bedi and mother, Freda Bedi, were involved in India's freedom struggle. Your mom was English and yet she fought against the British...

She was a remarkable woman who led a very idealistic life. She didn't like colonialism. She didn't like the fact that one nation was ruling over another. Coming from Oxford, where they met, they could have got the best jobs in Indian Civil Service but

“ MY MOTHER WAS A REMARKABLE WOMAN WHO LED A VERY IDEALISTIC LIFE...SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE FACT THAT ONE NATION WAS RULING OVER ANOTHER ”

they sacrificed all that to fight for India's freedom.

Your parents had a very unconventional marriage. Did that influence you later in life as you went on to have many unconventional relationships yourself?

Their example led me to believe that you can live life on your own terms and you don't have to necessarily follow the tried and the tested route. You can still thrive, still make a success of your life. He became a spiritual guru in Italy. She became a Buddhist monk. They

lived across continents but were always there for each other when needed and remained friends throughout.

When your father first met Protima, he predicted she'd be a dancer...

He had the gift of psychic foresight. He has a vision of the Universe where everything was connected, from the smallest rock to the distant suns. What he found was that there weren't enough people in India who wanted him to talk about those things. They saw him more as



With Parveen Babi in Italy



Protima Bedi



With daughter Pooja Bedi and Parveen Dusanjh

a *vyotishi* (astrologer). In Italy he found whole communities of people wanting to discuss his vision, that's why he moved to Italy for the last 20 years of his life. He got to Italy four years before I did. It's not as if he moved there because I became *Sandokan*.

You had a spiritual experience while you were in Israel.

Yes. Spirits awoke me and I saw a vision of Jerusalem that Christ must have seen 2000 years ago. It was a very moving, very humbling experience.

You've been quite candid about all your relationships, be it with Protima Gupta, Parveen Babi, Susan Humphreys, Nikki Moolgaoaker or Parveen Dusanjh...

I've only written about my known relationships. There's no secret about them. People just see the outside of it. That I moved from one beautiful woman to another. I've described



Winning over the crowd in Europe

“ PEOPLE JUST SEE THAT I MOVED FROM ONE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN TO ANOTHER. I'VE DESCRIBED WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN GREAT EMOTIONAL TERMS ”

what actually happened in great emotional terms.

Putting it all out on paper, did it offer you a sense of closure, a sense of completion?

In one sense, yes. It was cathartic. It was revelatory. I looked at everything with the hindsight born of age and was better able to relate to the person I was

then, the people they were then. By going back I made my peace with it.

You've said in the book that Parveen Babi was already married to a Pakistani citizen and hence couldn't marry you...

I've said that yes and in my own way proved that it's true. Parveen told me she was already married

and hence couldn't marry me and I accepted it as being a part of our unusual relationship. Details are there in the book. Let the people discover them when they read it.

The pain with which you've written about your son Siddharth's death is palpable. What made you share such a traumatic chapter from your life?

I chose to share the story of my son's battle with schizophrenia because I wanted people to understand more about it. It's not just the person going through it who suffers. The tragedy affects his entire family as well. I want to remove the stigma that is attached to mental illness. These conditions are treatable. Many are manageable. Many have led productive lives even after that. I shared everything I could in the hope that I'll help those who are afflicted by it and those who care for the afflicted. ■

your say

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

INSTA LIKE

Medley of moments

Check out the best Instagram posts of the stars from recent times



@priyankachopra: Living in the light. ❤️ #grateful
PeeCee's picture is a reminder to stay at home, stay in the light and stay grateful.

@dishapatani: 🌟
The sun got burnt seeing Disha Patani's scorching avatar



@katrinakaif: ☺️
Katrina Kaif can be dressed in a kitchen rag and still look sexy.



@aliaabhatt: dreamers never wake up ☺️
Alia Bhatt looks like a dream alright in this no-filter photo.



@shahid Kapoor:
Words can't be enough to describe this serenity:



Readers send in their feedback pg 78

Shatrughan Sinha's racy rejoinders pg 80



IN THE MAIL

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



1st Prize
₹1500

Smiles galore: Manish Paul and Farrokh Jaffar

MAGIC OF THE BLACK LADY

I watched the Filmfare Awards on television with my parents. And one moment that stood out for me was when Farrokh Jaffar laughed from her heart on one of Manish Paul's jokes. It was such a great moment. Thank you *Filmfare* for entertaining us for years now.

Raghav Chopra, Pune

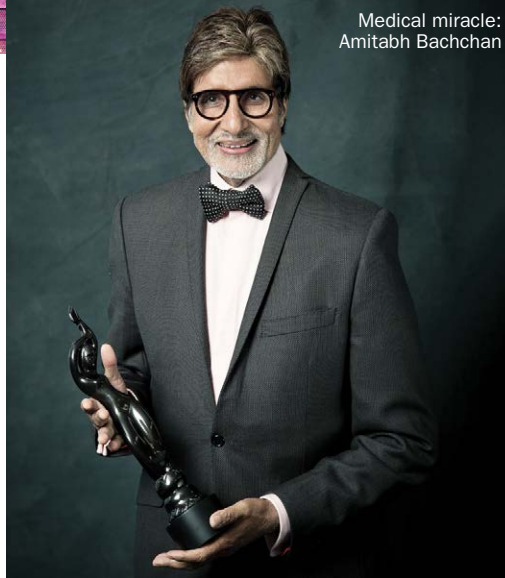


Winning moves: Nora Fatehi

NORAH'S KILLER PERFORMANCE

To be honest, with such big stars performing at the Filmfare Awards this year, I thought Nora Fatehi's act wouldn't stand out. But I was blown away after watching her perform on screen. Too much talent in this hottie.

Ria Raina, New Delhi



Medical miracle: Amitabh Bachchan

2nd Prize
₹1000

THOUGHT-PROVOKING APRIL COVER

I read a post by Alaya F on social media about the *Filmfare* cover (April). She said that this was the first time she had appeared on it. What also caught my attention was Tillotama Shome's comment about it. It was also her first cover. That's awesome! Well deserving winners of the Black Lady, including Taapsee Pannu of course.

Rakhi Kumar, Madhya Pradesh



Dance mania: Hrithik Roshan

PERFORMANCE PAR EXCELLENCE

I read details about all the performances that were mentioned in the magazine (April). I missed watching the show on television. But the way the performances were explained in the magazine was impeccable. And it surely made me curse myself less for missing it.

Sarthak Dhawan, Chandigarh



Winners' parade: The Filmfare winners pose for posterity

HAPPY MOMENTS

The pictures of winners are always pleasing to see. The magazine (April) had all and I loved going through all the details about the winners. The snaps brought a smile to my face, congratulations to all the winners.

Vinnie Kandhari, Shimla

BIG B'S HEALTH WOES

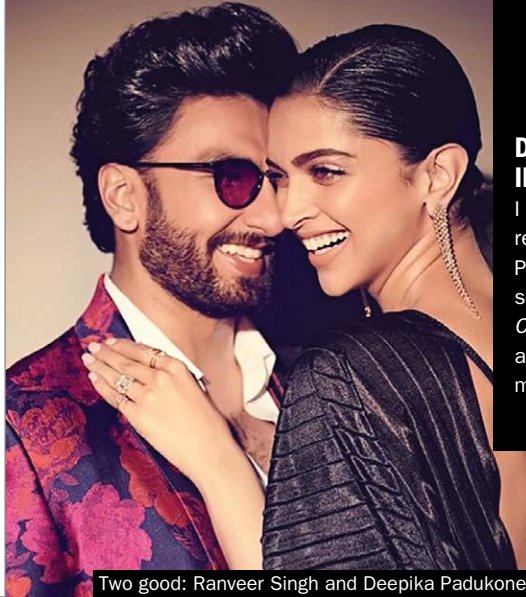
It's really sad to witness a superstar, who has worked so hard for over five decades in the entertainment industry, constantly battle one health issue after another. Recently, I read about Amitabh Bachchan's eye surgery in *Filmfare*'s April edition. Wish you lots of good health Big B.

Shehnaaz Nair, New Delhi

CURIOS READER'S CASE SOLVED

I've always been curious to know about who is the jury that decides the awards that are given at the main event. And well, reading that page in the magazine (April) surely helped my case. Keep entertaining us with your lovely stories. I am an ardent lover of your content.

Shalini Sharma, Guwahati



Two good: Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone

DEEPIKA-RANVEER IN CIRKUS

I can't keep calm after reading about Deepika Padukone having a special song in Ranveer Singh's next, *Cirkus*. Your exclusive details about Bollywood stars in the magazine are a winner always.

Natasha Malik, Indore

RESURRECTION OF STRONG PERFORMERS

Manoj Bajpayee is a supremely strong actor and I loved his interview (April) in the magazine. He spoke candidly. It was the perfect blend of professional achievements and personal insights.

Kamya Seth, Mumbai

ANUSHKA SHARMA HAS A HEART OF GOLD

The April issue of *Filmfare* had an article about Anushka Sharma opening an animal shelter next year. I adore the actress for her constant effort to do something for animals. Hats off!

Vidisha Mehta, Chennai

RENUKA-MADHURI'S FABULOUS DUO

It was refreshing to read Renuka Shahane's interview (April). Learning that her favourite co-star is Madhuri Dixit transported me back to *Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!* days. Simply amazing!

Kushboo Singh, Bangalore

WOMAN OF STEEL - KANGANA RANAUT

I feel Kangana Ranaut is misunderstood by the public. I am a fan of hers. I love the movies she does. Can't wait to watch her perform stunts in *Tejas*. I read in the magazine (April) that she is prepping hard for it, wish her all the luck.

Pawan Rathod, Jaipur

CAN'T WAIT FOR VARIA REUNION

I read about the news *Filmfare* shared on social media about Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt coming together for a film soon. I can't wait to witness their chemistry again.

Vaibhav Rathi, Mumbai



Acts of grace: Bhumi Pednekar

I recently came across a social media post about Bhumi Pednekar doing her bit for COVID-19 patients which was impressive.

Vicky Raut, Amritsar

Filmfare's social media posts about guessing who the celebrity is, are the best. Super engaging!

Sukoon Suri, New Delhi

The Black Lady went to such deserving talents this time. It was such an entertaining show even amidst the pandemic.

Mohit Marwah, Hyderabad

Fashion articles in *Filmfare* are my favourite. I always look forward to the latest trends that you guys show.

Big thumbs up. Kanika Raina, Jaipur

The article on the *Filmfare* website about real names of superstars was so much fun to read.

Tanya Agrawal, Bhopal

SWARA BHASKER'S TELL-ALL

The interview with Swara (April) was interesting. She spoke honestly about her craft. When she said that actors do a lot to get into a character but don't do enough to get out of it, made me realise that their job isn't as rosy as it seems from the other side.

Krishit Kapoor, Dehradun



Seeking perfection: Manoj Bajpayee



Screen sisters: Madhuri Dixit and Renuka Shahane

A FAREWELL TO SHASHIKALA

I am an avid reader of *Filmfare* for years now. I've been following your stories closely. And I wait to read your Nostalgia column about yesteryear stars as it's truly timeless. The article on late Shashikala was insightful. Her passing away has left a void in the film industry. We will miss her a lot.

Keisha Singh, Haryana

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Email: filmfare.gallery@www.co.in Fax: 022 - 22731585

Mail: Reviews, *Filmfare*, The Times of India Bldg., 4th floor, D N Road, Mumbai 400 001, INDIA

(Please mention your full name and address)



SMS: FI PAA <space> <your review> <your name> to 53636



PHOTOGRAPH: MEETESH TANEJA

Shatrughan Sinha's Rapid fire



Tragedy queen: Meena Kumari

Is the film industry coming to an end due to digital entertainment?

Santosh Mohan Joshi, Miraj

There's always light at the end of the tunnel. Though, the tunnel seems to be too long this time around. We hope, wish and pray it's a temporary phase caused by the pandemic. COVID-19 has hit everything very badly. But this too shall pass.

Many actors retire. Some do come back to acting. Will we ever have the good fortune of seeing you again on the big screen?

Manisha Sheorey, Melbourne

Inshallah! Though my life has been hectic, if and when I come back, it would only be for our people and not for making a career out of it. So God-

willing you may see me soon on the big screen/OTT. Sooner the better.

Whom would you like to give credit for your success?

Amit Jain, New Delhi

There's a saying that behind every successful man there is a woman. In my case the so-called success should be attributed to my mother first and foremost and later to my lovely and supportive wife and then to my children.

Do you think money alone can bring all the happiness in the world?

R Sridhar, Chennai

Money could be the most important and essential factor of our lives but despite that it can only take care of some of our problems. It can't buy happiness, health or satisfaction,

How does one overcome loneliness?

Pankaj Goyal, Ambala

By turning into a social animal and learning to live with family and friends.

Do you believe honour is the highest virtue?

Neeraj Sabharwal, Chandigarh
Undoubtedly yes. I believe honour is tinged with divine grace.

Do humans tend to think more negatively than positively?

Subhash Chand, Chandigarh

These days they absolutely think more negatively. The world is in crisis. It's hard for them not to think otherwise.

If the cricket legends of yesteryears like Vijay Hazare, Don Bradman or Len Hutton were present to see the present day ODI and T20I matches what would be their reaction?

Dr C Janardhan Singh, Hyderabad

They would laugh at the *tamasha* and cry to see this kind of degradation and total commercialisation of cricket.

Which is your favourite colour in your daily wear?

Atul Tankha, Ratlam

I prefer black and white with some shades of grey.

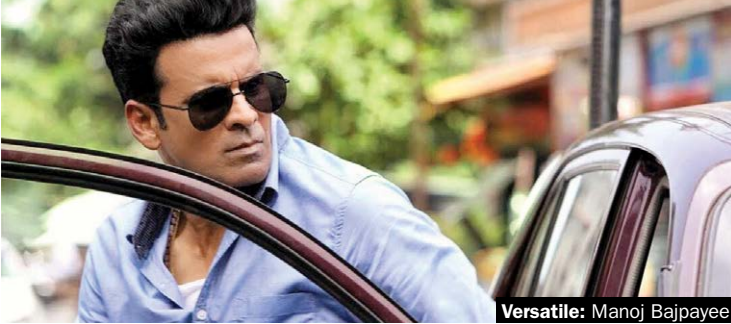
Looking at your family photograph published in the February 2021 issue of *Filmfare*, I instantly remembered the saying "The family that prays together stays together". Your comments?

Dr C Janardhan Singh, Hyderabad

I do wholeheartedly agree with the saying. I feel extremely blessed with an attitude of gratitude for anything and everything.



Next big thing: Pratik Gandhi



Versatile: Manoj Bajpayee

1st Prize

When film icons speak up they are trolled. When they keep mum also they are trolled. What is the way out for these celebrities?

CV Aravind, Mumbai

Such is the life of celebrities. It's part and parcel of showbiz. Either they should leave showbiz or grow a thicker skin. Best is to ignore the trolls and always stay *khamosh!*

2nd Prize

Marriages are made in heaven, as the saying goes. What about divorce?

Shabina Begum, Kolkata

Marriages are indeed made in heaven. And divorces are made here on earth by creating hell.

What if only highly educated people immensely good at heart with patriotic bent, instead of politicians and their political parties are voted to form the government in India?

Dilip Kumar Sen, Kolkata

Thieves could be honest and good too. Jokes aside, let's hope and pray that one day it truly happens.

IT, ED, CBI, NIA, UAPA. Do these abbreviations stand for lethal weapons?

Vijayalakshmi Aravind, Bengaluru

They are lethal indeed for sure. These days there seem to be for the government, by the government and of the government.

What is the difference between religion and relationship with God?

Pankaj Goyal, Ambala

Religion is external, relationship with God is internal and personal. Religion causes problems whereas relationship with God works towards acceptance, solution and ultimately salvation.

Who is the poster boy of OTTs?

Abhijit Ghosh, 24 Parganas (North)

It's difficult to name one when there are many. Actors have taken the OTT world by storm, like our own Abhishek Bachchan. Or the pride

of Bihar, Manoj Bajpayee, who has rediscovered himself on OTT. The self-made great actor Pankaj Tripathy. And of course, the most talked about, the real good actor who has come from theatre, Pratik Gandhi...

You have been amongst the few fortunate to work with the legendary Meena Kumari. Please tell us about your experience with her?

Gaurav Pant, New Delhi

My experience with the late and great Meena Kumari would always be remembered as a great learning experience in the true sense. I worked with her only in *Mere Apne*. I couldn't work

more with her as her health was deteriorating and she passed away soon after.

Why does God never just show Himself?

Seema Sabharwal, Chandigarh

We're all struggling with that question. It's an excellent question but no one has the answer.

What is the source of God's endless powers?

Puneet Chadha, Yamuna Nagar

Endless resources.

(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.

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

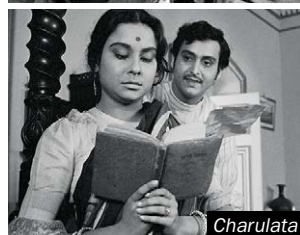
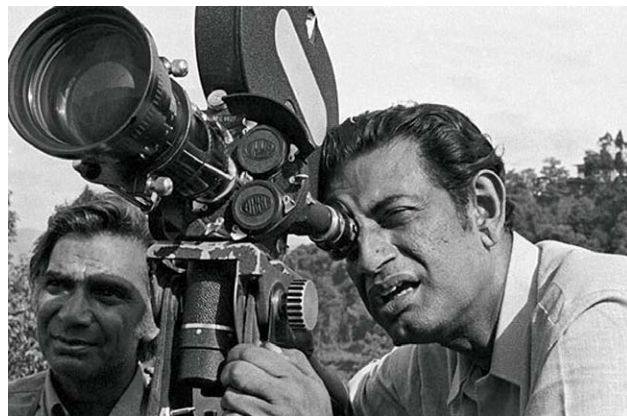
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100 YEARS of SATYAJIT RAY

Satyajit Ray would have turned 100 on May 2 had he lived. India's finest filmmaker was born on May 2, 1921. It's ironic that today, foreigners know him more than Indians do. His films are taught in film schools the world over and shown across festivals but he remains largely unknown to the Indian masses. He's an icon in his native Bengal and every filmmaker worth his salt swears by his name. Intellectuals write about him with much gravitas. And 'serious' cinegoers try to find new meaning to *The Apu Trilogy*. Most don't go beyond that, figuring the three films are enough to understand his brand of cinema, ignoring the vast canon he left behind.

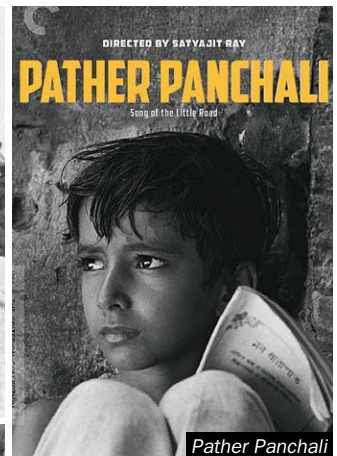
One reason for this lack of knowledge about his masterful works among the large Indian populace is that he by and large shunned Hindi cinema, preferring to work with Bengali actors all his life. The only exception was the Hindi film *Shatranj Ke Khilari* (1977), an adaptation of Munshi Premchand's short story of the same name. It starred Sanjeev Kumar, Saeed Jaffrey, Amjad Khan, Shabana Azmi, Farooque Shaikh, Farida Jalal, David Abraham, and Tom Alter. It was a story about the decline of Indian royalty,



Charulata



Ganashatru



Pather Panchali



Shatranj Ke Khilari

as the British took a firmer control of the Indian subcontinent. Amitabh Bachchan narrated the film. But barring that, he stayed away from Hindi stars. One can only speculate what he could have done with Dilip Kumar or Balraj Sahni, to cite two obvious examples.

He might not have contributed much to Hindi cinema directly but indirectly, his influence can't be denied. Much of the neo-realistic cinema that flourished in the '70s and the '80s has been shaped by Ray's works. The films of Shyam Benegal, Mani Kaul, Sai Paranjpye or even Govind Nihalani can be said to be indirectly influenced

by what Ray was trying to do in his own cinema. Unlike other realistic filmmakers, who tried to portray the struggles of the Indian middle-class through stories born out of newspaper clippings, Ray also delved into literature as his source material. His influences include writers such as Sankar (*Jana Aranya* and *Seemabaddha*), Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay (*Pather Panchali*, *Aparajito*), Tagore (*Charulata*, *Ghare Bhaire*) and even Henrik Ibsen (*Ganashatru*). Ray married literature with contemporary themes and what came out was sheer poetry.

He wasn't just a filmmaker but a consummate writer and painter as well. It's said that he used to storyboard each frame of his films, even color-coding the costumes worn by the actors to the surroundings, adding an overall singularity to his films. And he's the masterful creator to India's answer to Sherlock Holmes -- Feluda. Feluda stories written by Ray are classics of detective fiction and offer a veritable delight to the readers. On his birth centenary, we certainly need to go back to his films, to his writings, as they're postcards to both the past and the future.

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