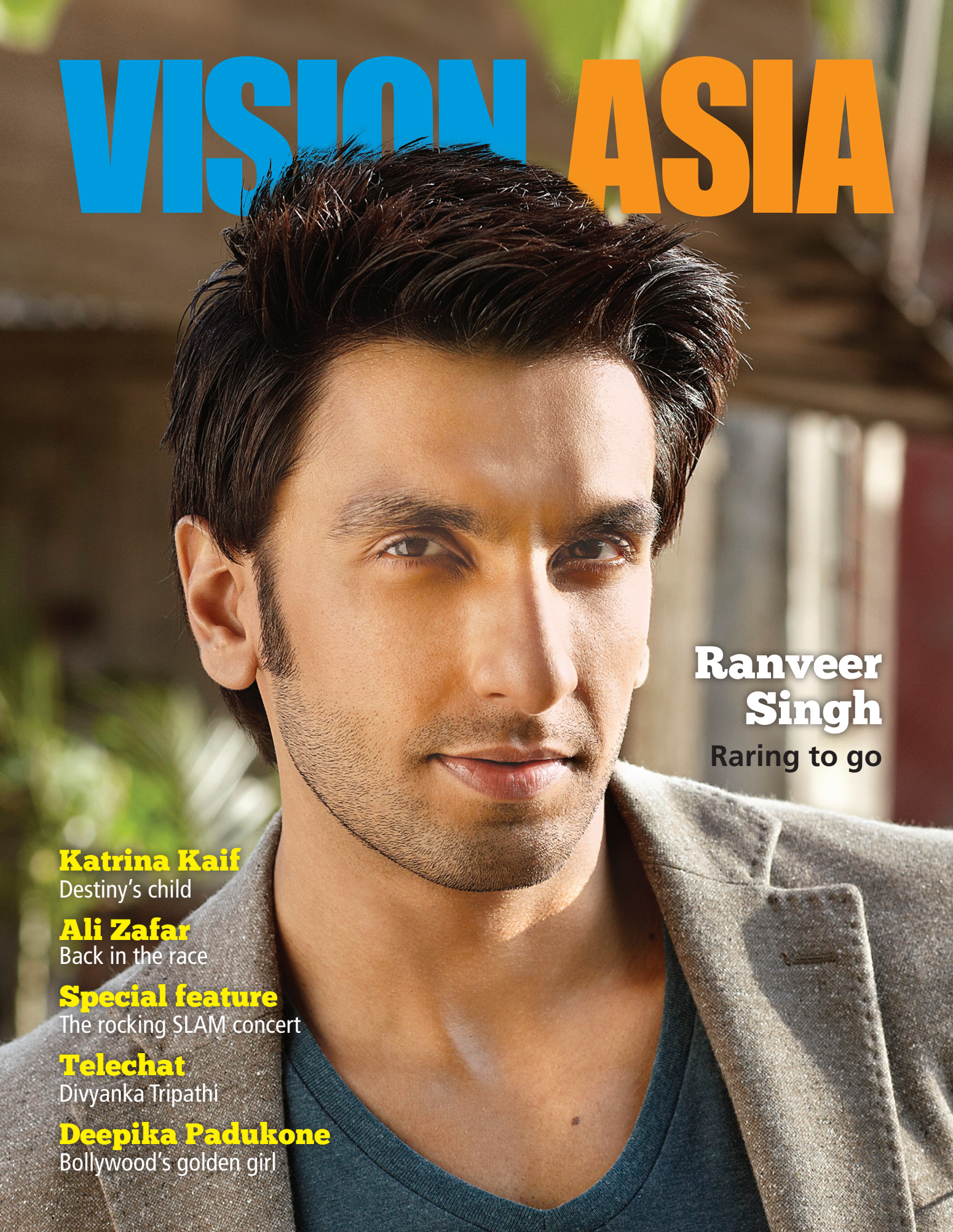


VISION ASIA



**Ranveer
Singh**

Raring to go

Katrina Kaif

Destiny's child

Ali Zafar

Back in the race

Special feature

The rocking SLAM concert

Telechat

Divyanka Tripathi

Deepika Padukone

Bollywood's golden girl

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Frankly Speaking

Ranveer Singh had no idea of what the future had in store for him when he made his debut with *Band Baja Baraat*. Ranveer Singh has since gone on to make waves in the Industry with Films like *Gunday* and *Ram Leela*. While Ranveer is at the peak of his career, his boisterous attitude, his relationships and eccentricities have also come under the scanner. In an exclusive interview with Vision Asia, the vibrant and ever-energetic actor looks back at his career so far, his relationships and his plans for the future.

Vision Asia has some very exciting viewing in store for you this November.

New dailies include Ashutosh Gowariker directed *Everest* starting on Star Plus, *Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat* on Colors, *Tum Aise Hi rehna & Itna Karo na Mujhe Pyar* on Sony, *Maharakshak Aryan* on Zee TV. Sasural Simar Ka is completing 100 episodes on Colors, *Satyameva Jayate* is going strong on Star Plus.

Reality shows include *India's Got Talent* on Colors, *Dil Se Nache Indiawale* and *Dane India Supermoms* on Zee TV. PTC is telecasting *Mundeyan ton Bachke Rahin* World Premiere and *Khalsa Mero Roop Hai Khus* (Guru Nanak Dev Ji Prakash Purab).

TV premiers of the month are *Highway*, *2 States*, *Singham Returns* on Star Plus, *Tamanchey* on Zee TV and *Humshakals* on Life OK. Super hit movies include *Bodyguard*, *Singham* returns, *Zindagi Na Milega Dobara*, *Houseful 2*, *Rajneeti*, *Ra One*.

Team Vision Asia

CREDITS

Editor

Nisha Rehan

Associate Editor

Manishaa Rajender Mandlecha

Writers

Subhash Jha,
Tarla Dalal,
Manishaa Rajender Mandlecha

Designer

Dharmendra Jangid

Images

Abheet Gidwani
Image Clicker

CONTACT US

Vision Asia Pty Ltd
97 Victoria Road
Parrmatta
NSW 2150
Australia

ADVERTISING LIAISON

Nisha Rehan
advertising@visionasia.com.au
Tel: 0432099952

Sydney Help Desk

Ph: 1300 286 786
Fax: 1300 286 789

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COVER STORY

The unrelenting enthusiast
Ranveer Singh

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FOOD



I have had my own share of

ups and downs

‘

It was a home-coming of sorts for me, with the love and affection I got on the sets from Farah and Shah Rukh



“
When your film
is a hit you also
look forward to
good reviews

Her just released film, *Happy New Year*, is rocking at the box-office and Deepika Padukone is on cloud nine. With back-to-back hits and some of the best projects in her kitty, Deepika currently commands the numero uno position in Bollywood. However the actress is modest about her achievements and is not carried away by all the adulation. In a candid chat, Deepika talks about her journey in Bollywood and how she has evolved as an actress over the years.

Happy New Year has proved to be a winner at the box-office. How does it feel?

I am delighted. It shows that our hard work has paid off. Anyway, we were all confident about the outcome of the film. It was destined to sweep the box-office.

How was the experience of teaming up with Farah Khan once again after *Om Shanti Om*?

It was a home-coming of sorts for me, with the love and affection I got on the sets from Farah and Shah Rukh. It also brought back memories of *Om Shanti Om*, when I began my career in films. Even today Farah calls me baby and I call her Maa. That's the kind of relation we share with each other. Apart from that, I consider Red Chillies Entertainment as my home banner. For me they are more like a family. I wouldn't bat an eyelid to work with them.

Did you give an immediate nod when Farah Khan approached you for the role in the film?

After the release of *Chennai Express*, Farah called me to be a part of this film. I had no clue about the script of the film but I immediately agreed at that moment. There

were no two ways about it. I can never forget the fact that it was Farah and Shah Rukh who were instrumental in giving me the most beautiful launch in my career. I feel indebted to them.

What was the best part of playing the role of Mohini Joshi in *Happy New Year*?

The most enjoyable part of the role was the dancing bit. Like Mohini who is obsessed about dancing, I too love dance. The character brought my dancing skills to the fore and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

How do you look back on your journey in films and your meteoric rise to success?

It has been a very wholesome journey. I had a fantastic debut and few newcomers are lucky to get such a promising launch. However the going was not always smooth. I have had my own share of ups and downs. There was a time when some of my films flopped miserably at the box-office. I went through one of the lowest phases in my career at that point but I did not lose heart. I used the opportunity to analyse my strengths and weaknesses. That was the learning phase for me. Then *Cocktail* came



“
I have never
done a film with
Salman. We both
want to work
together but we
don't seem to be
destined to

Tracing the
success story of
Bollywood's
new dream girl



With four back-to-back hits to her credit, the year 2013 has been a rocking one for Deepika Padukone. The actress, who has beaten all her contemporaries in the race to become the number one actress in Bollywood, is currently on the wish-list of every big filmmaker in B-town.

The early years

Hailing from a sports family, Deepika has seen success from close quarters when her father, Prakash Padukone, won several medals as the ace badminton player of the country. Born in Copenhagen and raised in Bangalore, Deepika was educated at Bangalore's Sophia High School, and completed her pre-university education at Mount Carmel College. She began her career as a teenage badminton player in national level championships. She also played baseball in a few state level tournaments.

Her foray into modeling

While she had a great affinity for sports, Deepika was introduced to the world of modeling from a very early age. She worked as a child model, appearing in a couple of ad campaigns at the age of eight. As she grew up, she began to take a keen interest in modeling, even as she enrolled at the Indira Gandhi National Open University for a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. However, she later dropped out of college in order to become a full-fledged model. Deepika's first major stint was the Liril TV commercial, which got her recognition. Later she made a debut in the Lakme Fashion Week for designer Suneet Varma, and won the 'Model of the Year' at the Kingfisher Fashion Awards.



Debut in films

Deepika decided to relocate to Mumbai at the age of 21, in order to pursue her modeling career. At this juncture, she accepted an offer to feature in a music video for Himesh Reshammiya's song *Naam Hai Tera*. Soon after choreographer turned director Farah Khan spotted her in the video and decided to sign her opposite Shah Rukh Khan for her film, *Happy New Year*. However, the film was indefinitely delayed. In 2006, Deepika made her film debut with a Kannada film *Aishwarya*, where she played the role of an assertive and fun-loving girl. The romantic comedy proved to be a major commercial success.

Her big Bollywood launch

By the end of 2006, Farah Khan decided to shelve *Happy New Year* and confirmed Deepika for the reincarnation melodrama *Om Shanti Om* (2007). Deepika, who played a double role in the film opposite the King Khan, managed to pull off both the roles with panache. *Om Shanti Om* went on to become a box office hit and Deepika was an overnight sensation. Her tall lithe frame, the dimpled smile and twinkling eyes took Bollywood by storm.

The subsequent highs and lows

Her next two films *Bachna Ae Haseeno* (2008) and *Chandni Chowk To China* (2009) were major disasters. She was almost written off, when Imtiaz Ali's *Love Aaj Kal* (2009) opposite Saif Ali Khan, proved to be one of the biggest hits of 2009. But Deepika's journey was not a smooth one. In 2010, Deepika had five releases namely *Karthik Calling Karthik*, *Housefull*, *Lafangey Parindey*, *Break Ke Baad* and *Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Se*, all of which proved to be box-office duds, with the sole exception of *Housefull*. In 2011, Deepika made a special appearance in a raunchy title track for Rohan Sippy's *Dum Maaro Dum*, which made headlines. That was followed by another disastrous film, *Aarakshan* (2011), which failed to click despite the star presence of Amitabh Bachchan, Saif Ali Khan and Manoj Bajpai. Then came the comedy-drama *Desi Boyz*, but the role failed to make any impact on her career.

Her career defining film and return to success

The turning point in Deepika's career came with Homi Adajania's *Cocktail* (2012) where she was part of a love triangle with Saif Ali Khan and Diana Penty. The film earned her commercial and critical acclaim. Her father Prakash Padukone was so impressed by her performance in the film that he gifted her one of the awards he had won in badminton.

That was followed by a slew of hits in 2013 that began with *Race 2* opposite Saif Ali



Khan followed by *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* opposite Ranbir Kapoor, *Chennai Express* with Shah Rukh Khan and *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela* opposite Ranveer Singh. The actress made a grand entry in the 100 crore club even as filmmakers began to look at her for her newfound potential. Today, trade experts believe that she is a safe bet at the ticket windows.

The actress is now looking forward to 2014 with a promising line-up of films starting with Homi Adajania's *Finding Fanny Fernandes*, Farah Khan's *Happy New Year* and a Tamil film *Kochadaiyaan* opposite none other than the South superstar Rajinikanth.

Love Life

It was during the filming of *Bachna Ae Haseeno* in 2008 that Deepika and Ranbir Kapoor came close to each other. The two were open about their relationship and Deepika even got Ranbir's initials tattooed on the nape of her neck. However two years later the

couple parted ways. The actress commented in an interview that she was angry and felt 'betrayed'. Later Deepika was rumoured to have moved on with Siddharth Mallya, the scion of Kingfisher. She also went on to become the brand ambassador of Kingfisher Bangalore IPL team. However she denied the relationship.

Deepika and Ranbir were back in the news once again when she signed *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* with him, but she put to rest all rumours by stating that they were nothing more than good friends. Recently, she was reportedly dating her *Ram-Leela* co-star Ranveer Singh. The two were spotted partying in Dubai. It was reported that Ranveer went all the way to meet the actress when she was shooting for *Chennai Express*.

Philanthropic work

Deepika participated in the World 10K Bangalore marathon, which raised INR13.1 million in support of 81 NGOs. She also adopted the Maharashtra village of Ambegaon as part of NDTV's Greenathon Campaign, to provide the village with a regular supply of electricity. Deepika has been involved with the Olympic Gold Quest team, established by her father and billiards player Geet Sethi, besides several other sports players, to support Indian athletes at the Olympic Games. Among Deepika's other initiatives is the line of clothing for women that she launched in association with the retail chain Van Heusen.

Endorsements

The actress has been endorsing several brands and is said to be the highest paid actress in the endorsement deal circuit. There have been reports that her deal with Garnier is worth 60 million, a record breaking remuneration for any Indian actress. The actress reveals that she should be able to connect with a particular brand before endorsing it. She also has brands like Nescafe, Tissot, and Sony Cyber Shot, Wrigleys Orbit, Maybelline and Pepsi to her name.

“As an actor it's not in my power to bring back the same kind of success in 2014 or 2015”



I am an
**ardent
follower**
of yoga and
pilates

She may not be the best known actress in town but Neha Dhupia certainly has a figure that is the envy of her Bollywood counterparts. The actress reveals her fitness secrets and why fitness is an important part of her life.



“I am not in favour of the size zero fads but I do feel it’s important for me as an actress to have all the curves in the right places



Former Miss India turned actress, Neha Dhupia who is looking forward to her forthcoming film, *Ungli* asserts that fitness is a way of life for her. Neha admits that she realized the importance of fitness after her amazing transformation from the fat-to-fit phase when she was in her early teens. The actress recalls, “It is a well-known fact that I was a very fat kid. It took me a long time to cut down on all the flab but I have never looked back ever since.”

According to Neha, everyone has fat days and thin days but that should not affect the fitness levels at the end of the day. She also feels that it is up to each individual to maintain his or her level of fitness, depending on various factors. “It is important for each of us to understand our body and accordingly tune in to fitness. A

healthy body also reflects on your state of mind and well-being. It keeps you balanced at all levels,” she avers.

While she is firm about her fitness regime, Neha does not subscribe to the size zero craze, “I am not in favour of the size zero fad but I do feel it’s important for me as an actress to have all the curves in the right places,” she maintains.

Neha’s exercise regime

Neha’s daily exercise routine starts in the morning with a few minutes of stretching followed by cardio and weight training. While most actors favour rigorous workouts to get into shape, Neha believes in balancing her exercise regime with the concept of holistic healing. “I am an ardent follower of yoga and Pilates and make it a point to

include them in my everyday regime. While yoga teaches you to breathe correctly and increases the flexibility of your body, Pilates helps in providing the necessary balance. I also believe in exercising outdoors as the fresh air makes a lot of difference,” she elucidates.

The actress advises that everyone should inculcate the habit of playing at least one sport to remain fit, “That way you enjoy the sport and also maintain your fitness levels,” she says, adding that she enjoys the outdoor sports of tennis and squash. “I play tennis or squash for at least an hour every day. At other times, I go for a long swim. My other favourite exercise is Zumba, a dance exercise which really rejuvenates you.”

Her diet regime

Neha believes in the concept of healthy eating, which means home-cooked food with little oil and eating small meals throughout the day. Among the strict no-no’s in her diet are canned foods, aerated drinks, pickles and jams. She also adheres to a diet of organic food.

Her day begins with a glass of warm water with honey and lemon. That is followed by a breakfast of fruits. Midday meal consists of four boiled eggs with two pieces of brown bread. Lunch is the biggest meal of the day and it includes chapattis, dal, vegetables and sprouts. In the evening, she has a cup of green tea, followed by a bowl of dry fruits. The actress wraps up the day with an early and light dinner, “Dinner is restricted to grilled vegetables, salad or fish. I make it a point to restrict my carbohydrate intake at night,” she reveals.

The actress adds that it is important to drink plenty of water and fluids to detoxify the body and keep the skin glowing, “I drink plenty of fluids in the form of coconut water, juice or plain water. It flushes my body and keeps me full,” she says.

Above all, the actress reveals that the best way to rejuvenate your body and mind is to take a break and go out on a holiday, “I make it a point to take a break from my work and exercise once in six months to refresh myself. I switch off my cell phones and go off on a long holiday where I have my me time. It refreshes my mind so that I can concentrate on my work with a new approach when I come back. I think we all need those moments when we can spend times with ourselves in order to recharge our energies and make the best of our lives,” she quips.



QUICK UPDATE



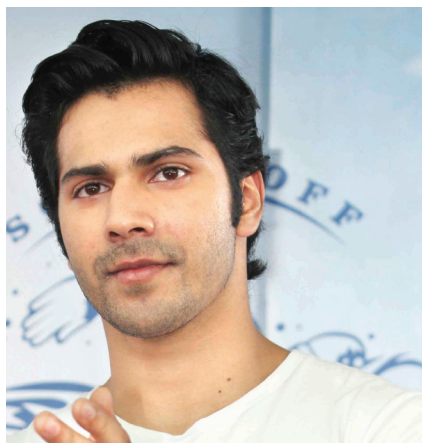
Heropanti actress, Kriti Sanon, is all set to do complex action stunts in her next film, *Singh is Bling*. Reportedly Kriti's role in the film required her to experiment with action and she was more than game for it. Seeing her commitment, her co-star Akshay Kumar recommended karate classes for her. Kriti is currently training under the supervision of martial arts expert, Mehul Vora. She has also decided to perform all the stunts in the film by herself. The film is being directed by Prabhudeva.



Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, who has had the nation going crazy with her movies, jokes and memes, has topped the list of "most sensational celebrity". McAfee's Most Sensational Celebrity survey has found that Alia Bhatt tops the charts in Indian cyberspace, followed by Aamir Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Shahrukh and Salman Khan. McAfee researched popular culture's most famous people to reveal the riskiest celebrity across the web and this year, Bhatt trumped Chopra, who had topped the list in 2013, McAfee said in a statement.



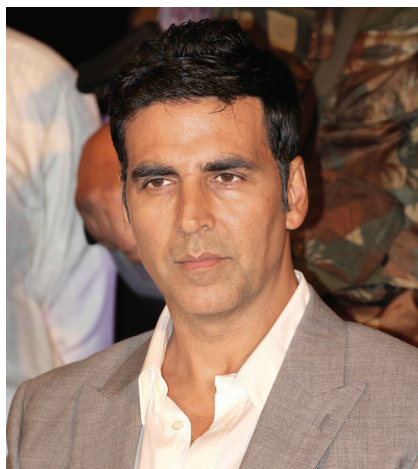
Actress Kareena Kapoor is likely to play the role of a "Mafia Mom" in a forthcoming film, which is said to be a remake of a popular Danish TV series *Penoza*. Kareena was approached for the role after Kajol walked out of the film due to commercial reasons. The film tells the story of a woman, who after her husband's assassination, reluctantly takes charge of the criminal business of her family and turns into a "Mafia Mom" to protect her kids. Kareena has reportedly liked the script but is yet to sign on the dotted line.



Filmmaker Homi Adajania has roped in Deepika Padukone and Bollywood's young sensation, Varun Dhawan, for the Hindi remake of the Hollywood film, *The Fault In Our Stars*. The original film is about a cancer patient, who is forced by her parents to attend a support group, where she subsequently meets and falls in love with a young boy, who has also suffered from cancer. While the two terminally ill patients fall in love, the USP of the Hindi adaptation will be the humour with which the subject will be dealt with. The film will reportedly go on floors in March, 2015. This will be the third film for which Homi Adajania and Deepika Padukone will come together.



The bold and beautiful Kangana Ranaut is in the news these days for her sizzling photo-shoot for the cover of *GQ India* Magazine's October issue. The actress, who received accolades for her role in *Queen*, has flaunted her curvaceous body in a Julien MacDonald bodysuit accessorized by Futurology fringe earrings. She has also been selected as the *GQ Woman of the year*.



Action man Akshay Kumar has roped in Hollywood Parkour specialist Cyril Raffaelli, to style the martial arts sequences in his next action film, *Baby*. Cyril, who is a martial arts expert and also a certified practitioner of Shotokan Karate and Wushu, and has been associated with Hollywood films like *The Incredible Hulk*, will style the dare-defying action scenes for *Baby*. The film, helmed by Neeraj Pandey, is scheduled to release in 2015. Meanwhile Akshay is all excited about working with the action expert, whom he referred to as "God in my Parkour world".



Ranbir Kapoor has given his nod for playing the title role in the biopic on Sanjay Dutt's life. The film will portray the trials and tribulations in Sanjay Dutt's life and career. It will be directed by Rajkumar Hirani, who has shared a close rapport with Sanjay Dutt over the years. Hirani is apparently waiting for Sanjay Dutt to complete his jail term, before he starts shooting for the film.



Actor Kunal Kapoor, who has been lying low for a long time, will be seen playing the role of a prince in his next film, *Kaun Kitne Paani Mein*, which revolves around the water crisis in the state of Odisha. *Rang De Basanti* actor is so taken up with the role that he travelled all the way to Odisha and stayed there to understand the region's culture and traditions.



After Aishwarya Rai, Kareena Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, Katrina Kaif will be the latest Bollywood actress to have a wax replica in the iconic Madame Tussauds Museum in London. The Tussauds team is said to have taken the decision after they conducted a poll through their official website in which they asked voters to choose between Priyanka Chopra, Deepika Padukone and Katrina Kaif. Bollywood fans around the world reportedly voted for Katrina. The British national, whose family is settled in London, was over the moon after she learnt of the news. The museum also houses wax replicas of Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Hrithik Roshan.



I want to be the
Woody Allen
of Bollywood

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After the success of Ram Leela I was flooded with interesting offers but I did not go on a signing spree. I decided to opt for only a few select projects



“

I endorsed a condom advertisement because I felt it was an ideal way to contribute to AIDS awareness in society

Four years ago when he made his debut with *Band Bajaa Baraat*, Ranveer Singh had no idea what the future had in store for him. Today, Ranveer is at the peak of his career with films like *Gunday* and *Ram Leela* to his credit. On the flip side, Ranveer's boisterous attitude, his relationships and his eccentricities have often come under the scanner but he is now determined to let his career do all the talking. In an interview, the vibrant and ever-energetic actor looks back at his career so far, his relationship with his co-stars and his plans for the future.

How do you look at your journey after the success of *Ram Leela*?

I am at an interesting juncture of life today. I have three promising films in the offing. While *Kill Dil* is on the verge of release, *Dil Dhadakne Do* is nearing completion and I am all geared up for my role in *Bajirao Mastani*. After the success of *Ram Leela* I was flooded with interesting offers but I did not go on a signing spree. I decided to opt for only a few select projects. Likewise when my Durex commercial became a hit, I was wooed by some of the best brands in the advertising industry but I decided not to sign all of them. It's my aim to pursue creative avenues. I want to be someone like Woody Allen.

Your bustling energy levels and your over-enthusiasm have always been the subject of conversation. What keeps you going?

I believe I have one life and it is important to make the best of it. When I broke my back during a schedule of *Lootera*, I realized that life was far too short to brood on trivial problems. Later when I was down with dengue, I had to literally fight to stay alive. More recently, I lost my childhood friend, who was a month younger to me. We had planned our lives together with our families and kids but destiny had other things in store for him. I understand the fragility of life now, which is why I try to give my best to everything I do. My optimism is all about being alive and living every minute to the best.

What do you think of the tags that you are given to you, you are called ebullient, impatient, aggressive and also a sex symbol?

I am not very fond of all the tags whether they are good or bad. I am not happy with the negative ones either. I am not always enthusiastic as I am made out to be. There is a frustration that comes along with it. I feel they are all shortcomings of my own personality. I try to keep things light when dealing with people. I guess that is misconstrued as being over-enthusiastic and loud.

Recently you were in the news for signing a condom campaign. Where do you draw the line when it comes to choosing endorsements?

I agree I endorsed a condom advertisement because I want people to be responsible. I felt it was an ideal way to contribute to AIDS awareness in society. I am choosing a whole range of ads all with a purpose and firm belief in the products. I don't take up commercials that convey a wrong message.

6

It was Anushka who introduced me to the nitty gritty of facing the camera when I made my Hindi film debut

Apart from that, it is debatable as to what is ethically right or wrong. What is good for one person may be perceived as wrong by another person. As far as alcohol products are concerned, it's a personal choice. I do feel that anyone who drinks or believes in drinking should do so responsibly. If there is Maruti and Royal Stag, there is Durex too. Even in the Chings ad, I wanted children to enjoy the noodles and not be bored of it.

You seem to share a great equation with all your directors. What about director Shaad Ali who has directed your upcoming release, *Kill Dil*?

Shaad is more like a big brother to me. I have known him since the age of 16. I had always dreamt that I would become an actor one day and Shaad would direct the film. We are ten years apart but we bond over everything. He is extremely passionate about his work. He is energetic and has a great music sense just like Sanjay Leela Bhansali. I even assisted him for one and half years when we did commercials together. When my initial efforts to get into acting proved inconclusive, it was Shaad who persuaded me not to give up. He got me into Makrand Deshpande's theatre group. It was at his instance that I refused several offers before I got my first big break with Yash Raj Films.

How was the experience of sharing screen space with veteran actor Govinda in *Kill Dil*?

I am a huge fan of Govinda. He is the Jim Carrey of India. Working with him was a dream-come-true for me. He was touched when I told him that I danced on his songs in my childhood days. I feel that Govinda is the most under-rated actor in the industry. In *Kill Dil*, he plays an out and out villain for the first time; this side to him has never been explored on screen before. Not many are aware that his mother is a singer and Govinda has inherited her talent. I was astonished when I heard him singing when Shaad played the guitar on the sets. There's one particular sequence of eight minutes in the film where he had to admonish me. He had visualized the entire scene in his mind and he completed it with utmost precision in one take.

What was the experience like working with Parineeti Chopra?

Parineeti was a wide-eyed innocent girl when she entered films. She has now become a seasoned performer. She was born to be a heroine. She has an endearing personality too.

You have been teamed up with Anushka Sharma in your under-production film, *Dil Dhadakne Do*. How was the experience





“
I would like to state
on record that I am
very much single.
However I have a
great admiration
for Deepika

teaming up with Anushka once again, after working with her in your first two films?

It was after three years that we got together once again in *Kill Dil*. Anushka is one of my favourite actresses. It was she who introduced me to the nitty gritty of facing the camera when I made my Hindi film debut. I was an assistant director prior to that and never quite conversant with acting. I was not well-versed with camera angles but Anushka taught me all the basics of acting in films. She is so natural in front of the camera that you never get the impression that she is acting. She has definitely grown as an actor.

You were seen romancing Priyanka Chopra in *Gunday*. Now you are playing her brother in your forthcoming film, *Dil Dhadakne Do* and her husband in your next film, *Bajirao Mastani*. How difficult was the changing chemistry in these films?

I keep getting confused in my head every time I face the camera with Priyanka. It feels kind of weird now. I don't know how the audience will accept three different relationships between us in such a short span of time. But we are not exceptions. Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai played brother and sister in *Josh* and went on to play lovers in *Devdas*. So it's a testament that the audience is mature enough to accept contrasting relationships on screen. We have done our parts convincingly.

What about your equation with Deepika? What do you like most about her and are you dating her?

I would like to state on record that I am very much single. However I have a great admiration for Deepika. She is a brilliant actor and a very warm and affectionate person. I was the first one to tweet about her qualities and achievements but I wouldn't like to talk about it now. I think people started taking notice of her talent and potential after her performance in *Cocktail*, though I liked her best in *Lafangey Parindey*. She was also outstanding in *Chennai Express*, *Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani* and *Ram Leela*. One of her best qualities is her hard-working nature. Despite doing double shifts for almost a year she was very well-organized. I have a tough time when it comes to multi-tasking various projects.

You are said to have hiked your price after your recent spate of successes?

For the best work you do in Bollywood you don't get paid. The bigger the film and the banner, the lesser the pay. But the experience of doing such films is more rewarding than getting a hefty price for an insignificant film.

We are also told that you are fond of writing. Are you planning to pen down a script in the near future?

It's my aim to pursue creative avenues. I am currently writing and have two ideas. One of the subjects is a pop corn entertainment and the other is a social satire—a black comedy. However, I am too involved with acting right now. I will start working on these ideas sometime in the future when I am not doing too much work.

By S. Bhagat



“
I believe I have
one life and it
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make the best
of it



Carving *a niche for himself*

From assisting director Shaad Ali on ad films to making his debut in films with Band Bajaa Baraat and now being one of the most sought after actors in the industry, Ranveer Singh has come a long way in his career. The wild, brash and overenthusiastic 28-year old has now calmed down and become more restrained and controlled, ready to take on the challenges in life.

“

For the best work you do in Bollywood you don't get paid



6th July, 1985:

Ranveer Singh Bhavnani was born to a prosperous real estate Bandra businessman Jagjit Singh Bhavnani and his wife, Anju Bhavnani.

2003:

Ranveer went to United States to pursue a degree in Bachelor of Arts from the Indiana University, Bloomington. The acting bug again struck him there and he decided to do theater as his minor.

2007:

Ranveer returned to Mumbai and worked as a copy writer for advertising agencies, besides assisting director Shaad Ali on ads.

2010:

Ranveer was called for an audition test for Yash Raj Films (YRF) for the lead role in their romantic comedy, *Band Baaja Baaraat*, a film set in the world of wedding planning.

2011:

Ranveer won the Best Male Debut Award at the 56th Filmfare Awards for his performance in *Band Bajaa Baraat*.

2011:



Ranveer played a conman Ricky Bahl in his second film, *Ladies vs. Ricky Bahl*. The romantic comedy did decent business at the box-office.

2012:

Ranveer Singh was roped in by Myntra.com to promote its jeans brand, Roadster. It also marked his debut in the advertising world.



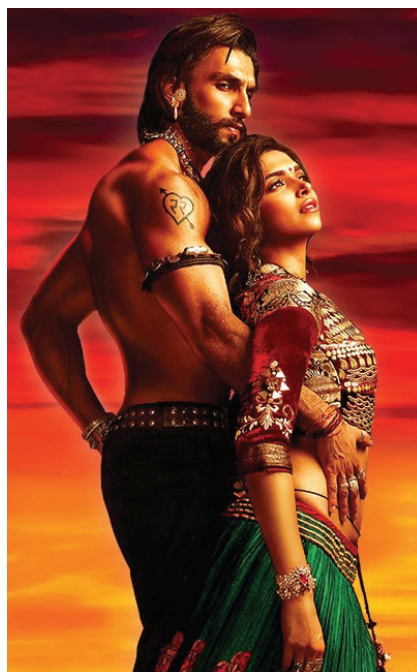
August 2012:

Ranveer Singh and his two-film co-star Anushka Sharma decided to call it quits after an on-off relationship for over three years.

September 2012:

Ranveer met Deepika at the workshop of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Goliyon Ki Raasleela-Ram Leela* for the first time. They reportedly took an instant liking for each other.

July 2013:



Ranveer Singh's next release *Lootera*, a period romance set in the 1950s, saw him playing the role of a disguised robber opposite Sonakshi Sinha. The film won him critical acclaim at the box-office.

October 2013:



Ranveer had a close brush with death after he was hospitalized for dengue during the shooting of *Gunday* in West Bengal.

November 2013:

Ranveer's next film, *Goliyon Ki Raasleela-Ram Leela* proved to be a smashing hit at the box-office. The magnum opus, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, saw him pairing up with lady-love Deepika Padukone for the first time on screen.

February 2014:

Ranveer gave another successful film in YRF Films' romantic action drama *Gunday* directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, in which he teamed up with Arjun Kapoor, Irrfan Khan and Priyanka Chopra.

April 2014:

Ranveer made his first major advertising debut with the 'Durex' condoms ad, which he is also said to have scripted. The brand also made him a sex symbol overnight.

February 2022:

Ranveer's next film, *Kill Dil* is scheduled for a November release, after which he will be seen two other films, *Dil Dhadakne Do* and *Bajirao Mastani*.





Split harbour depicting Diocletian's palace, by night

COASTAL CROATIA

A rare blend of glamour and old-fashioned authenticity

Croatia has long been a top holiday destination for those who love great weather, stunning beaches and plenty of history and culture thrown in. It is also a relatively affordable destination for a summer holiday, particularly when compared to countries such as Italy, Spain or Greece. This small Balkan country presents many great opportunities to holidaymakers and the coast is lined with picturesque ancient towns and hundreds of islands. Here are some of the best places to go for a beach holiday in Croatia.

Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik is undoubtedly Croatia's best-known holiday destination and, mostly for this reason, it is also by far the most expensive. Although it has become somewhat of an overpriced tourist trap, Dubrovnik is still a stunning ancient walled city characterized by its turquoise marine surroundings, quaint cobbled streets and red-tiled roofs. Dubrovnik is served by various cheap airlines. Be aware however, that, if you plan to visit other places in Croatia

in the same trip, you will have to cross through a narrow section of Bosnia to reach the rest of the country. However, most countries no longer need to obtain visas for either Bosnia or Croatia.

Split

If you prefer cities, history and culture than spending most of your time by the beach, Split is a wonderful place to go. Unlike the other coastal cities of Croatia, Split is of a large

enough size for you to be able to escape the hordes of tourists. It also boasts a wealth of history, plenty of great food and hospitable people. Built around the ruins of Diocletian's Palace, a retirement home built by the Roman emperor some 1,700 years ago, Split is both steeped in history and presents some unforgettable landmarks. There is a beautiful promenade overlooking the bay and, a short bus ride away, are plenty of great beaches for those lazy days spent in the sun.



Ariel View of Dubrovnik

Brela

The small fishing village of Brela, located between Omiš and Makarska, is one of the best destinations in the region for a family holiday. Now a popular resort, there is not a lot to see in the village itself, but the surroundings are nonetheless quite beautiful. Brela is also home to one of the most stunning beaches in Croatia. In fact, the Forbes magazine rated it in 2003 as the sixth most beautiful beach in the entire world! Unfortunately, it can get very overcrowded, so it is best to go out of the peak season if at all possible.

Omiš

Omiš is a small historic town a short bus ride away from Split, making it a convenient place to go for those who want to get out of the city. Historically known for the infamous Omiš Corsairs (pirates) during medieval times, the town boasts a colourful history among its cobbled alleys and picturesque old buildings. It is also a fairly affordable destination and you can enjoy plenty of fine food and cheap, yet high quality accommodation here. The beach in Omiš might not be one of the nicer ones in the region, but you can easily take a daytrip by boat to one of the outlying islands.



Makarska

Makarska is a small historic town about the same size as Omiš and about an hour by bus further south. Unlike Omiš, however, Makarska is a very lively place making it ideal for those who want to enjoy a bit of nightlife. Very much a seasonal resort town, Makarska nonetheless presents many historical sites and a very picturesque centre and harbour. There is a huge beach, although it does get extremely crowded during the summer months. As with most other towns along the Croatian Adriatic Coast, you can also find plenty of daytrips to the islands.



Statue of St. Peter in Makarska



Pebble Beach at Night, Brela

With isolated islands, beautiful beaches, water sports and historic ports, Coastal Croatia is a great seaside break.

Illuminated Pirate Castle and Town of Omiš



What's on

VISION ASIA

Itti Si Khushi



They say it's never too late to enjoy a happy childhood, but what happens when you miss out on 12 years of your life?

Itti Si Khushi is an unusual and heart-tugging story of a girl, Neha Saxena, who meets with a near fatal accident at the age of 14 and slips into a coma for 12 years. She wakes up as a beautiful 26 year old, only to realize that she has missed out on the formative years of her life when a girl transforms into a woman. For Neha, age is just a number as she wants to live life to the fullest. The story centres around how the innocent and fun-loving Neha decides to reclaim and relive the lost years of her life. With an unshakable fighting spirit, Neha embarks on a beautiful journey of rediscovering life for the second time!

It's a battle of the sane and grown-ups versus retaining youth and enjoying life. It reinforces the fact that "Jiske dil mein bachcha hai wahi sachcha hai".

Time: On Sony. Every Tue – Sat.
19:00 AEST/16:00 AWST

Dare 2 Dance



A deadly combination of Bollywood action hero Akshay Kumar and never-seen-before daring dance performances by contestants!

Akshay will be seen guiding the contestants and pushing them to re-invent and perform in extreme dancing conditions. "The show 'Dare 2 Dance' is risky yet exciting as it pushes you to move out of your comfort zone and prove that you can dance fabulously in any situation," he said.

Shot in South Africa, the show tests the levels of endurance and determination of each contestant to go from good to great, mixing dance with adventurous dares! The contestants comprise of celebrities and trained dancers, who will compete to raise the bar of dancing to a different level. They will be challenged to prove their mettle as 'Extreme Dance Ke Heroes'.

Time: On Life OK. Every Sun-Mon. 18:30 AEST/15:30 AWST

Chintu Aur Pintu



Chintu Aur Pintu is a silent comedy which captures the eventful life of Chintu and his family. He is a lively young man who lives in a small town in India. Chintu is emotionally attached to few things in his life that are his coat, bicycle, his wife Pinky and son called Pintu. Chintu is full of life and mischief. He is a simpleton who is clumsy and makes mistakes and sometimes falls in trouble. Pintu is the replica of Chintu in mannerisms.

Chintu and his family travel to various exotic places in India and abroad, and experience new places as well as new people. The show takes viewers through

different situations in their journey that make for a laughter riot.

Time: On Sab. Every Sun – Mon. 18:30 AEST/15:30 AWST



Satyamev Jayate



Satyamev Jayate is India's first TV talk show to focus on the sensitive social realities in the country that hold back the nation's progress. The talk show discusses various social issues like child abuse, education, healthcare, human rights, poverty and other issues affecting the country.

After successfully raising serious issues in last seasons, actor and film maker Amir Khan is all set to comeback this season with the theme Mumkin Hai. In the third season, the show will continue to highlight these narratives, as well empower citizens with the information needed to bring about change. In addition, this season will have Bollywood celebrities talking about various causes and a healthy interaction with audience.

**Time: On Star Plus. Every Sun.
16:30 AEST/13:30 AWST**

Humsafars



Humsafars is set in the glamorous, but ruthless fashion world. It is an intense love story between two imperfect and contrasting individuals - small town girl Arzoo and heartless fashion mogul Sahir; and what happens when their worlds collide.

Set against a Muslim backdrop, Humsafars is a heart-tugging story of two opposites. Arzoo who is from Lucknow comes to Mumbai to fulfill her dreams of becoming a fashion designer and ends up working for Sahir who owns a fashion house, Sayaara. While Arzoo believes that with family's love and hard work you can achieve anything, Sahir thrives on power and money and will not stop at anything to achieve what he wants. However, destiny has different plans for them and how the yin and the yang find true love in each other is what makes Humsafars an unconventional love story.

This is the story of how destiny brings together two people who don't see eye to eye on anything when they meet but eventually fall head over heels in love with each other.

Time: On Sony. Every Tue – Fri. 21:30 AEST/18:30 AWST

Ajeeb Daastaan Hai Ye



Story raises issues of a woman in a different aspect more of economical independence and a mental connection with someone else than getting tortured in the same married life with husband cheating for years with no end to anguish. A victim of betrayal, how a wife will seek a friend in her boss, a stranger and in the process gets attached to him emotionally. Two contrasting personalities yet they share something common. Stay tuned and enjoy different story line.

Time: On Life OK. From Tue-Sat. 19.30 AEST/16.30 AWST



Fashion
is all about
originality



He has successfully completed the transition from being a well-known model to one of the finest actors in the industry with films like *Rock On* and *Raajneeti*. However, model-turned-actor Arjun Rampal continues to be talked about for his suave personality and his great sense of style. Here the style icon shares his views on fashion and how he perceives it.

My idea of fashion:

I believe being fashionable is all about wearing your attitude to the hilt. It is about being cool, casual and comfortable in clothes that best reflect your personality. For me, originality is the word. Fashion is not about imitating others and wearing designer clothes. I also hate to be flashy with clothes. I avoid people who are extravagantly dressed and try to make an impression with their clothes.

My ultimate fashion icon:

I would say it is my wife Meher. She exudes style in anything she wears. In fact, she can just about carry off anything. I really envy her at times.

My favourite casual wear:

I am most comfortable in jeans or track pants and T-shirts. I also love Ganjis.

My favourite party wear:

I love wearing white kurtas and pyjamas for special occasions. They look classic and royal too. Apart from that, I throw in

a designer jacket for evening wear. I also wear suits when going out for parties.

The most important clothing in my cupboard:

They are my undergarments. I am fussy about them. They have to be well-fitting and comfortable and I give as much importance to them as my other clothes.

My favourite designers:

Among the Indian brands I love the creations of Tarun Tahiliani and Rohit Bal. As for international brands, it's Adidas, Diesel, Armani and Calvin Klein clothes and accessories.

My favourite colors:

Blue is my favourite colour. It's not that I don't like any other colour but I easily get attracted to different shades of blue. Apart from that, I love wearing black, whether it is suits, sherwanis or even black shirts.

My favourite shopping destination:

As far as food and fashion is concerned,

London is the hub. I shop in a store named Brown. I had shopped extensively on my first anniversary and bought a lot of clothes there.

My favourite cologne:

My favourite brand of cologne is Jo Malone. It is a permanent feature in my closet. I find it very earthy and classic. Also, I am quite choosy about fragrances, which led me to create my own perfume, *Alive*, which is all about making you feel alive.

Apart from my clothes, I am fussy about:

I am extra particular about my hair. It's difficult to maintain long hair. I don't know how women do it. I don't mess with it too much but take care to oil and shampoo it regularly.

My tips for youngsters:

Each one has his own style, so do not follow trends blindly. Don't let your clothes wear you and don't be brand conscious.



I am not
deterred
by the presence of
newcomers

“ I will always think twice before getting
into any kind of relationship

“I keep telling people in Pakistan about how people in India are very affectionate and lovable

From his Bollywood debut *Tere Bin Laden* to his upcoming film, *Kill Dill*, Pakistani actor Ali Zafar has come a long way in his career. With *Kill Dil*, Ali is also headed for an image makeover from a mushy rom-com hero to a tough and uncompromising killer. It remains to be seen whether he manages to convince the audiences in his new avatar. In a free-wheeling chat, the actor discusses his journey in Bollywood so far and whether his Pakistani origin comes in the way of his Bollywood career.



You seemed to have vanished into oblivion after your last film, *Total Siyappa*. Apparently, you have also cut down on signing films.

I did get some good offers in the intervening period but I wanted to spend time with my family. For me, work comes second in my list of priorities; my family matters more to me. When I take up a project, I come to India, finish my shooting and return back. However, I do intend to make up for the lost time and take on more films. I am not at a stage like Aamir Khan where I can do one film a year and be satisfied.

Does your reluctance to travel to India more often have anything to do with the visa problems faced by Pakistani actors?

That is definitely not the reason. Besides, visa problems depend entirely on the policy of the country granting the visa.

Tell us about your role in your forthcoming film, *Kill Dil*.

I play the role of a killer in the film. It is totally different from any of the roles I have played so far. I have a rugged look in the film and have also changed my dialect for the role. I also worked hard in order to get the beefed up look for the role. The audiences will be in for a surprise when they see me in this film.

How was the experience working with veteran actor Govinda and the very energetic Ranveer Singh?

I am a great fan of Govinda and have grown on films like *Coolie No.1* and *Hero No.1*. He's a multi-talented actor. While Govinda is best known for his comic timing, *Kill Dil* will see him in a reversal of roles. Ranveer and I had so much respect for him that we would often sit around a bon fire and sing songs with him. Ranveer is also a great co-star to work with and we shared a great rapport during the making of the film.

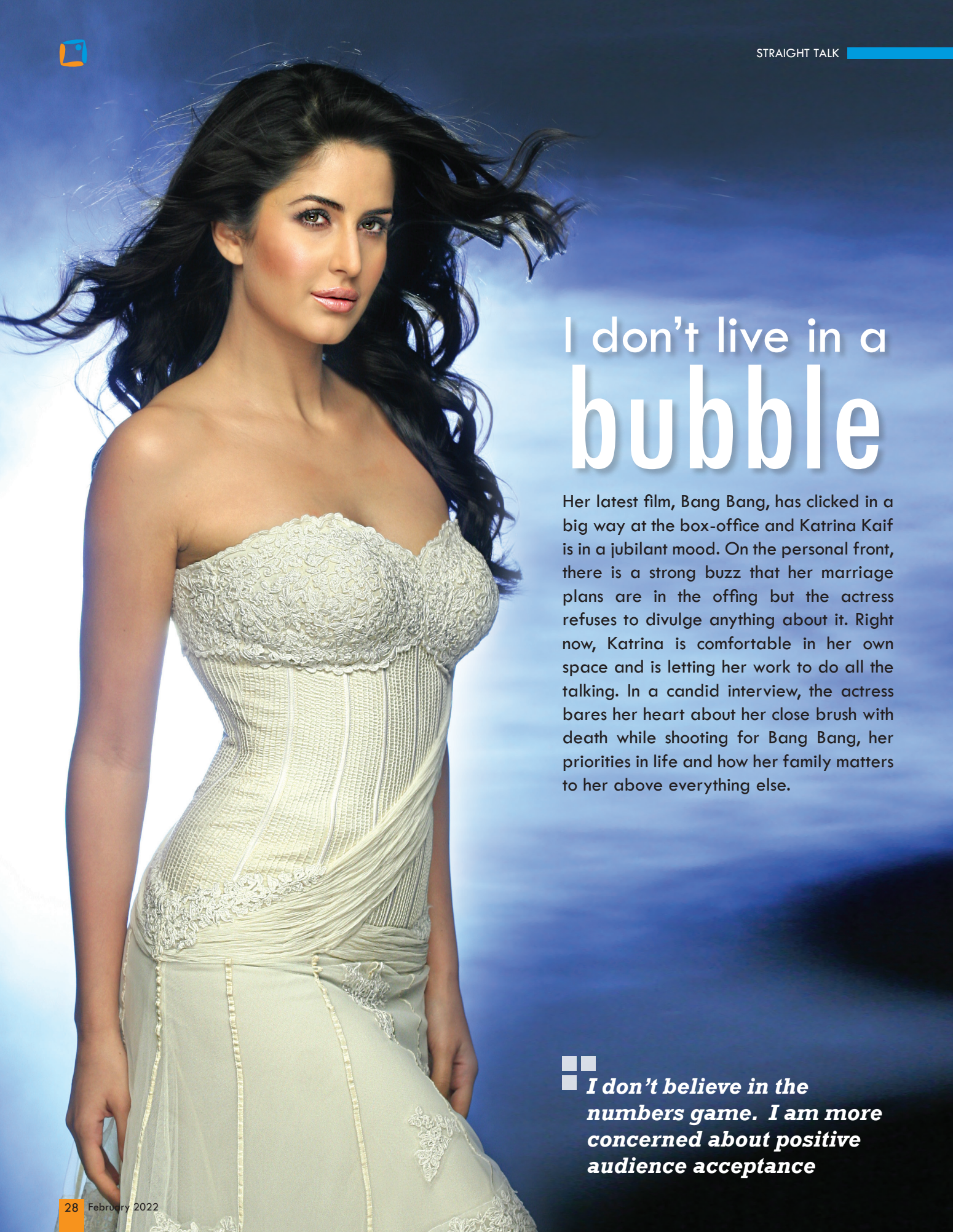
Looking back, are you happy with the way your career has shaped so far?

It's my fourth year in the industry and the journey so far has been fairly satisfying. Out of the five films I have done three have been hits, which is not bad at all. Also, I have no problems about the roles that have come my





Priyanka Chopra



I don't live in a bubble

Her latest film, *Bang Bang*, has clicked in a big way at the box-office and Katrina Kaif is in a jubilant mood. On the personal front, there is a strong buzz that her marriage plans are in the offing but the actress refuses to divulge anything about it. Right now, Katrina is comfortable in her own space and is letting her work to do all the talking. In a candid interview, the actress bares her heart about her close brush with death while shooting for *Bang Bang*, her priorities in life and how her family matters to her above everything else.



I don't believe in the numbers game. I am more concerned about positive audience acceptance



■ ■
■ ***The audiences are not there to look for flaws in your performance or the film, they either enjoy a film or they don't***

I am delighted and happy for myself and the entire unit that *Bang Bang* has clicked at the box-office.

My instinct told me that the film was destined to be a success after the tribulations we went through shooting for it. It was as if we were trading with the universe for our safety as we risked some of the most daredevil stunts for the film. For the audiences, the story had the ideal mix of nail-biting action sequences and romance both of which proved to be a sell-out at the box-office. For me it was a novel experience doing an edge-of-the-seat thriller, something that I had not attempted before.

I share a good chemistry with all my heroes, not just Hrithik Roshan.

For a great on-screen chemistry to happen, the screenplay has to be well-defined too. You should also share a good tuning with the director. I remember when I did *Mere Brother Ki Dulhan*, I was great friends with the director and it reflected in the comfort level I showed on screen.

Shooting for *Bang Bang* was a formidable challenge for me, Hrithik and the entire unit:

The action in the film took its toll on us and we had to endure a lot as we progressed through the shooting of the film. A lot of health issues also arose during the shoot. In one particular sequence we were expected to jump out of machines up to 50 feet out of the water, which is also called fly-boarding. I was petrified and chickened out at the last minute but Hrithik was all game and went 50 feet up in the air with guns in his hand. He subsequently suffered a brain

injury and had to be rushed to Mumbai for a brain surgery. On another occasion we battled a storm while shooting on an island in Thailand. The boat we were travelling in was about to capsize and we prepared ourselves for the worst. Many of the crew didn't know how to swim and they started crying. Fortunately we were all saved.

The first thought that came to my mind when we had a close brush with death was about the well-being of my six sisters and my mother.

I have a big family and I felt concerned for my mother and how she would be able to cope up if anything happened to me. It wasn't easy for my mother raising seven

■ ■
■ ***I derive happiness from little things such as spending time with loved ones or simply celebrating Christmas with my family***



Star tra

The year 2013 witnessed defining moments at the box-office with films and their respective stars entering the Rs 200 crore club. The business of films increased by leaps and bounds with the stars above shining bright on some of the B-town stars, who touched new heights of success.



Amitabh Bachchan (11th October 1942)

This legendary super star is ruled by Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu), Number 6 (Libra –ruler Venus) and his compound number adds up to Number 1 (Sun). Being in his 72nd year, once again focus is on his health as it indicates complications, especially stomach related issues mainly due to stress. But since the year 2014 adds up to Number 7, one of his strongest numbers, he will survive the tide and come out safely. On the film front, his next release 'Bhoothnath Returns' will fail to attract the audiences (read kids) in huge numbers.



Aamir Khan (14th March 1965)

Our very own Mr. Perfectionist is ruled by Number 5 (Mercury), Number 3 (ruler Jupiter – Pisces) and Number 2 (Moon). After creating 'Dhoom' (literally!) with 'Dhoom 3', his next release 'Peekay' with the genius Rajkumar Hirani will set new benchmarks for others to follow. The new season of his television show will also garner huge ratings.



Shahrukh Khan (2nd November 1965)

Influenced by Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu) and Number 9 (Scorpio – ruler Mars) & being in his 49th year indicates an excellent phase for SRK in times ahead. As usual, he will be winning a host of awards for Chennai Express. His X'mas release aptly titled Happy New Year will do roaring business and break records of his own film. There will be happier times on the personal front as well whereas his IPL T20 team Kolkata Knight Riders' performance in the upcoming season will also be encouraging.



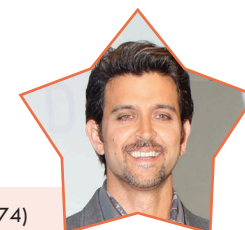
Salman Khan (27th December 1965)

The nation's most loved star, Salman is ruled by Number 9 (Mars), Number 8 (ruler Saturn – Capricorn) and Number 6 (Venus). His soon-to-release 'Jai Ho' will be a sure shot blockbuster, whereas his Eid offering 'Kick' will redefine box office numbers. On the personal front, although he might date someone, he will remain single and happy throughout 2014.



Akshay Kumar (9th September 1967)

Akshay is ruled by Number 9 (Mars) and Number 5 (Mercury) twice. As he will be remaining in his 47th year for the major part, his next releases; 'It's Entertainment' and 'Gabbar' may under-perform and surprise many. On the other hand, he will be able to give time to his family.



Hrithik Roshan (10th January 1974)

Hrithik is primarily ruled by the most powerful star – the Sun (Number 1). Being a Capricorn, he is also ruled by Number 8 (Saturn) and his destiny number adds to Number 5 (Mercury). Hrithik will be now be entering the 41st year of his life which indicates that his best year is ahead of him. On the film front, his next release 'Bang Bang' will fare extremely well at the box office.



ck 2016

Will 2014 prove to be luckier for the top stars? Astro Numerologist Bhavikk Sangghvi finds out what is in store for our top Bollywood stars and what their numbers indicate.



Deepika Padukone (5th January 1986)

Deepika is ruled by Number 5 (Mercury), Number 8 (ruler Saturn – Capricorn) and Number 3 (Jupiter). Entering her 29th year at the start of the year itself, her string of hits will continue with 'Kochadaiyaan', 'Finding Fanny Fernandes' and the biggie 'Happy New Year' towards the end. But on the personal front, it will still be the waiting game for the leggy lass, as it will take another year or so for her to find that perfect match. As for Ranveer Singh, unlike their hot on-screen chemistry, their pairing isn't that compatible in real life, numerologically speaking.



Ajay Devgn (2nd April 1969)

Ajay is ruled by Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu), Number 9 (Mars – Aries) and Number 4 (Rahu). In his 45th year for the first quarter, he will deliver a hit with his next 'Action Jackson'. Even after that, once he enters his 46th year, it will continue with 'Singham 2'.



Saif Ali Khan (16th August 1970)

Saif is ruled by Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu), Number 1 (ruler Sun – Leo) and Number 5 (Mercury). In his 44th year, Saif will start the year with a bang with the success of his home production 'Happy Ending'. After that, the lucky streak shall continue with 'Humshakals' and 'Phantom'. On the health front, he needs to be careful especially post August, but on the brighter side, his bond with begum Kareena will only grow during this time.

Ranbir Kapoor (28th September 1982)

Ranbir comes under the direct influence of Number 1 (Sun), Number 6 (Venus – Libra) and Number 3 (Jupiter). In his 32nd year, it is a good time for Ranbir on the professional front and on the personal front too. His compatibility with Katrina (16th July 1983) is superb and they should at least get engaged in the last quarter of 2014. His releases, 'Roy' and 'Jagga Jasoos' will do decent business, but it will be Anurag Kashyap's 'Bombay Velvet' which will catapult him to a higher league. His current name spelling is adding up to Number 40 which is not a positive number and hence he should spell his name as Ranbir R. Kapoor for best results.



Farhan Akhtar (9th January 1974)

Farhan is ruled by Number 9 (Mars), Number 8 (ruler Saturn - Capricorn) and Number 4 (Rahu). Entering in his 41st year at the start of the year itself, his soon-to-release 'Shaadi Ke Side Effects' will be a 'runaway' (pun unintended) success. As for direction, he can take a break and concentrate on acting.



Katrina Kaif (16th July 1983)

Katrina is ruled by Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu) twice and Number 8 (Saturn). After the recent historic success of her last release 'Dhoom 3', her forthcoming movies 'Bang Bang', 'Jagga Jasoos', 'Phantom' and 'Fitoor' will all be either hits or super-hits. Yes, she might even consolidate her relationship with Ranbir by the end of 2014.



**Priyanka Chopra** (18th July 1982)

Priyanka is ruled by Number 9 (Mars) twice and Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu – Cancer). While she will remain in her 32nd year during the first half, she will have to share the credit for the success of 'Gunday' with fellow co-stars Ranveer Singh and Arjun Kapoor; but it will be her role as a real life boxer in 'Mary Kom' which will win her accolades from all quarters. While matters related to the heart would remain a bit slow, she may meet someone interesting enough before the year comes to a close.

**Ranveer Singh** (6th July 1985)

Ranveer is ruled by Number 6 (Venus), Numbers 2 and 7 (Moon and Ketu – Cancer) and Number 9 (Mars). Being in his 29th year and basking in the glory of the success of Ram-Leela, his streak with good luck will continue even with his soon-to-release 'Gunday'. But the same cannot be said about 'Kill Dil', as the film will not appeal to the public. As for some real-life romance in his life, his equation with Deepika Padukone is not a long-standing one and shall die a natural death towards the second half of the year (only for the betterment of both).

**Kareena Kapoor Khan** (21st September 1980)

'Bebo' (as she is fondly called) is ruled by Number 3 (Jupiter) twice and Number 5 (ruler Mercury – Virgo). She also has a slight cusp of Libra (Number 6 – Venus). In her 34th year, her first priority will be Saif and giving him company. On the film front, her next big release 'Shuddhi' with Hrithik Roshan will put her back in the top bracket.

**Sonakshi Sinha** (2nd June 1987)

Sonakshi is ruled by Number 2 (Moon), Number 5 (Mercury – Gemini) and Number 6 (Venus). Since she is ruled by Number 2, she is automatically ruled by Number 7 (Ketu). After back-to-back of hits, the law of averages finally hit her hard (with a string of flops), but it will be fine post June when she will enter her 28th year. She may even bump into someone really interesting and it may actually turn out to be a good match. On the film front, her next 'Action Jackson' will sail smoothly while the 'Okkadu' remake opposite Arjun Kapoor will give her a chance to perform.

**Abhishek Bachchan** (5th February 1976)

Junior B is ruled by Number 5 (Mercury), Number 8 (ruler Saturn – Aquarius) and Number 3 (Jupiter). Fresh from the super success of 'Dhoom 3', Abhi will majorly be in his 39th year which will give him a mixed bag of results. While he will be making tons of money in endorsements, his next solo release 'All is well' will not find much patronage. But once again, he will shine in Farah Khan's 'Happy New Year' and will be able to match shoulder to shoulder even with SRK in the lead.

**Vidya Balan** (1st January 1978)

Vidya is ruled by Number 1 (Sun), Number 8 (Saturn – Capricorn) and her 'destiny' number adds up to Number 9 (Mars). Vidya will now be entering the 37th year of her life which indicates a new phase bringing positive results starting with her soon-to-release 'Shaadi Ke Side Effects' clicking big time at the box office followed by 'Bobby Jasoos'. Not to mention her performances, which will be appreciated by one and all.

**Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** (1st November 1973)

Ash is ruled by Number 1 (Sun), Number 9 (Mars – Scorpio) and Number 5 (Mercury). Being in her 41st year indicates that she will 'strike back' with a vengeance. She should ensure that she has a release in 2014 before or close to her next birthday.

**Arjun Rampal** (26th November 1972)

Arjun is ruled by Number 8 (Saturn), Number 3 (ruler Jupiter – Sagittarius) while his destiny number adds up to Number 2 (Moon). Since he is ruled by Number 2, he is automatically ruled by Number 7 (Ketu). In his 42nd year, Arjun will be benefitted as his next release 'Roy' where he is sharing screen space with Ranbir Kapoor, will be appreciated a lot and after that in 'Rock On 2,' once again his performance will be well received – both by the aam junta and the critics alike.



Telly Tattle



*Sonali Bendre is
enjoying
her stint on television*

Actress Sonali Bendre who returned to the small screen after a gap of more than a decade with Ekta Kapoor's magnum opus, *Ajeeb Daastaan Hain Ye*, is enjoying her new stint on television. The actress who was initially skeptical about taking up a fiction show is trying to give her best to the character of Shobha in the serial. According to Sonali, it was the strength of the character and her firm determination to face life that prompted her to go for the role. "What impressed me was the fact that she picks up her life and decides to make a fresh start instead of being treated like a doormat. I hope the audience accepts me in the new role and supports me in this endeavour," she said.

Sonali, who is seen in saris in the initial episodes, will now be seen in ethnic gear in the forthcoming episodes. She will be smartly dressed in jeans, kurtis and scarves. That is because she is initially shown as a housewife who starts working after her husband is put behind bars. Says Sonali, "When she starts working, we wanted a shift in the look. Wearing churidars (with kurtas) was again limiting. We wanted the character to look more practical. We are trying to make it as real as we can, and wearing jeans with kurtis and scarf worked out," she added.

THE COMPELLING TEN OF Bollywood

While romance ruled at the box-office in the year 2013 for the commercially viable films, there were also a few critically acclaimed films that left the audiences stunned. In-house columnist and reviewer, Subhash K Jha picks up 10 of the best films in the year that touched his heart.

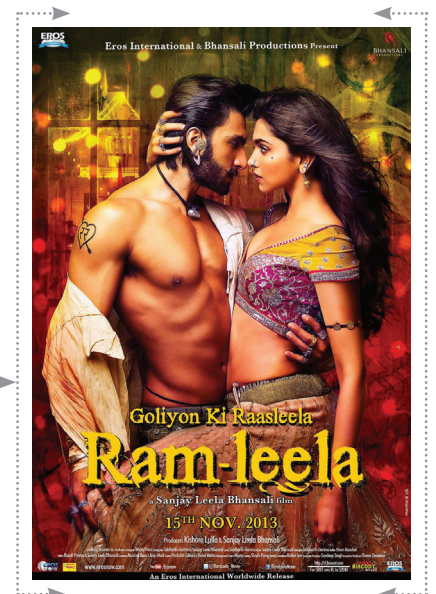


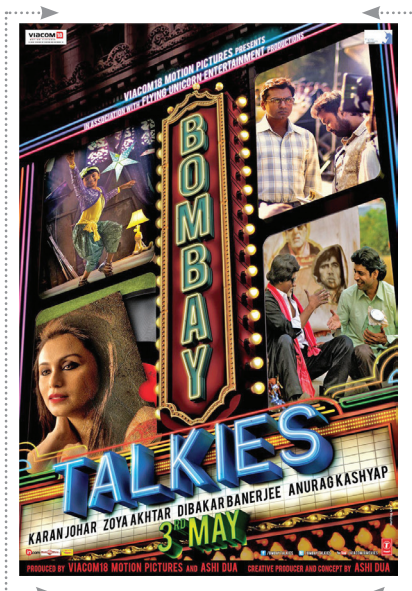
BHAAG MILKHA BHAAG

As Farhan Akhtar ran for his life, we were left breathless. This actor didn't just prepare for his real-life part of the Olympian sprinter Milkha Singh; he entered Milkha's soul to own the runner's momentous life. Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's bio-pic immortalized Milkha in ways that most sports persons in our country can only dream of. If only every Milkha got a Mehra.

GOLIYON KI RAASLEELA RAM LEELA

Fabulous, flamboyant and exceedingly sensual, this was Sanjay Leela Bhansali's raunchy, intensely passionate and playful take on Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. Released in mid-November this intense excursion into the heartland of passion and romance had the nation swooning in delight. This was Deepika Padukone's fourth hit this year, and by far the choicest selection of the quartet. The film's operatic tone and musical interpretation brought Bhansali back in the limelight after three failed films. Ram Leela made the other romantic films of Bollywood of 2013 look like pulp fiction.



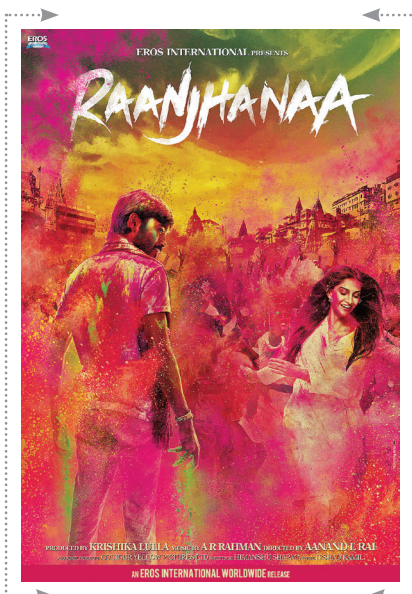
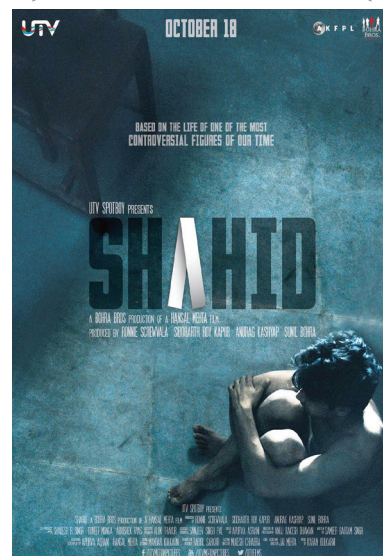


BOMBAY TALKIES

Producers Viacom 18's four-story deep and sublime venture was a unique feat in itself. Each one of the four stories directed by Karan Johar, Dibakar Bannerjee, Zoya Akhtar and Anurag Kashyap, was a compelling take on life. It was hard to play favourites here. Needless to add, the quartet of directors exuded excellence. Johar's coming-out-of-the-closet saga was the most surprising of the fabulous foursome.

SHAHID

Hansal Mehta's biopic on real-life TADA-detainee-turned-TADA-lawyer Shahid Azmi, was brutally direct and honest, real and yet so cinematic, fragile and yet so powerful, that it created an impact far beyond its playing-time on screen. As the slain lawyer who would not cow down under political and communal pressure, Raj Kumar Yadav was compelling and credible. Riveting from the first frame to the last, the film finally gave the talented Mehta the recognition he deserved.

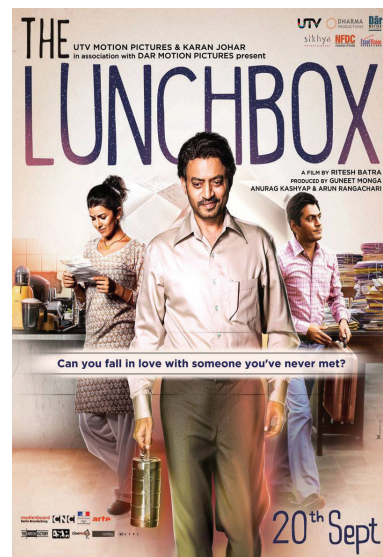


RAANJHANAA

Aanand Rai's Varanasi-based love story was volatile, vibrant, brazen and brilliant. The film captured the essence of a mismatched chalk-and-cheese alliance through vivacious vignettes from the lead pair Dhanush and Sonam Kapoor's lives, as they sang their way through some of A R Rahman's finest songs in recent times. The film also marked the coming of age of Sonam Kapoor as an actress of substance.

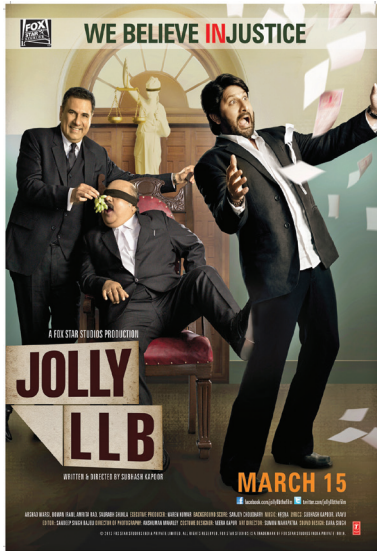
THE LUNCHBOX

2013 will also be remembered for giving us a film about two lovers who never meet, but touch each other's hearts through the letters that they write to one another in a khaane ka dabba. Now, who writes letters in this era of virtual contact? That's a question Batra's elegiac lyrical film never allows us to ask. Irrfan as a widower and Nimrat Kaur as a neglected housewife seemed destined to meet. That they don't, is the ironic twist in this delicate tale of love in the bustle of Mumbai. Delicately fragrant, the aromas from this delectable lunchbox pervaded every part of the world. This is probably the most celebrated Indian film since Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali and deservedly so.





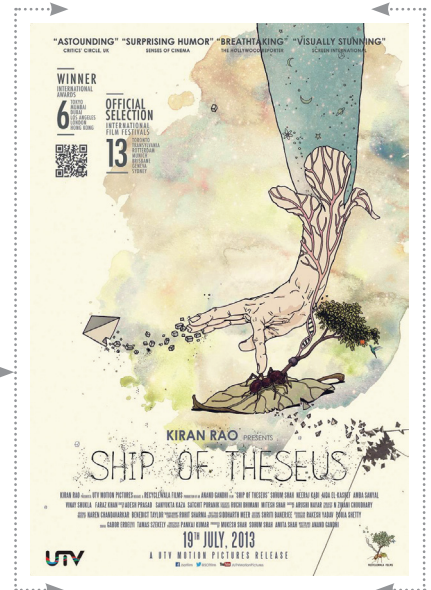
JOLLY LLB



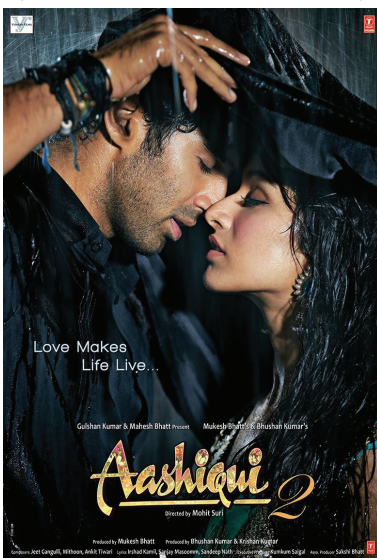
This sleeper success of the year directed by the very astute Subhash Kapoor of Phas Gaya Re Obama fame was a hard hitting satire on the loopholes in the country's legal system. The film hit where it hurt the most. Funny and moving at times, Kapoor made sure that the filmy courtroom would never be perceived in the same way again. Also have we seen a more entertaining judge than Saurabh Shukla?

SHIP OF THESEUS

The remarkable factor about the films in 2013 was their versatility and the makers' mastery over the language of cinema. This one saw the debut of director Anand Gandhi with a three-part film that pleaded for a place among the greatest work of cinematic art in the history of our cinema. Ship Of Theseus fell short of being a flawless masterpiece, as it could not bring the troubled, tormented and restless protagonists' lives from the three stories to any conclusive closure. Gandhi's film was more about the search than the destination. Life's like that.



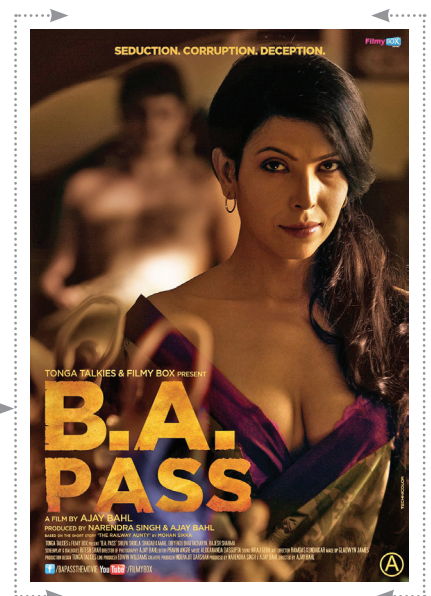
AASHIQUI 2



And a star was born!!! Shraddha Kapoor as a singer more talented than her mentor-lover, reminded us of Jaya Bhaduri in Hrishikesh Mukherjee's Abhimaan. Mohit Suri's new take on the age-old exposition on the male ego in the entertainment industry, was dotted with emotional moments. While Shraddha anchored the emotional drama, Aditya Roy Kapoor as the drunken superstar stumbled all over. The lead pair's chemistry however, was palpable on screen. It would be interesting to see if rumors of a real-life romance are true.

B.A PASS

This one could be called the dark horse of the year. Director-cinematographer Ajay Bahl's debut film visited the dark sleazy underbelly of Delhi, where bored housewives make out with virgin boys. Detailing the voyage into one such house (Shilpa Shukla) and the protagonist's toy boy (newcomer Shadab Kamal), the film was a nifty slice of noir cinema. Original and sexually unabashed, this film could be compared to B R Ishara's Chetna that released 45 years ago.





MOVIE TIME

Vision Asia previews films to watch out for in the months ahead.

HAPPY ENDING

Happy Ending is an upcoming romantic comedy directed by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. and produced by Illuminati Films. The film stars Saif Ali Khan, Ileana D'Cruz, Govinda, Ranvir Shorey and Kalki Koechlin in pivotal roles. Kareena Kapoor Khan and Preity Zinta also feature in cameos. The film takes a light-hearted look at how one develops cynicism towards idealistic love after several failed relationships.

Yudi (Saif Ali Khan) is a writer, who is caught between finding inspiration and finding love and has not been unable to write anything for the past few years. A fading movie star, Armaan (Govinda), desperate to save his stardom approaches Yudi to get a Bollywood script written in Hollywood style. Meanwhile his ex girlfriend (Kalki Koechlin) thinks that she is still in a relationship with him after he broke up. The film is scheduled for release on November 21, 2014.



KILL DILL

Yash Raj Films upcoming venture *Kill Dil* tells the story of two ruthless killers Dev (Ranveer Singh) and Tutu (Ali Zafar), who are abandoned by their parents at a young age and grow up under the shadow of a veteran gangster, Bhaiyya-ji who gives them shelter. Their lives take a different turn when the free-spirited Disha (Parineeti Chopra) enters into the picture and Dev falls for her. The unsuspecting victim of love, Dev then has to make the difficult choice between 'Kill' and 'Dil'. Starring Ranveer Singh, Parineeti Chopra, Ali Zafar and Govinda in the lead roles, the film presents an interesting mix of characters. The film has been directed by Shaad Ali, of *Bunty Aur Babli* and *Saathiya* fame. *Kill Dil* is scheduled to hit the theatres on 14th February 2022 on the eve of Children's Day.

UNGLI

Ungli (English translation: *Finger*) is an upcoming Hindi language comedy-drama film written and directed by Rensil D'Silva and produced by Karan Johar and Hiroo Yash Johar. The film features an ensemble cast including Emraan Hashmi, Kangana Ranaut, Randeeep Hooda, Neil Bhoopalam, Angad Bedi and Sanjay Dutt. A gang of five rebels decide to finally take a stand on corruption, believing it's time to take matters into their own hands and expose the corrupt. They have only one hurdle, a gritty cop 'Kale' who is trying every bit to catch them. Being delayed for over a year, the film is now expected to release on 28th February 2022.





I stuck to my professionalism and it paid off

Her fans fondly call her 'Expression Queen', a title which suits Divyanka Tripathi perfectly considering the remarkable ease with which she portrays emotions on the small screen. The former Miss Bhopal turned actress, has come a long way in her career ever since she made her debut on television in a tele-film. From *Banoo Main Teri Dulhann* to her current show, *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*, Divyanka has successfully got her fans glued to the television screen, as she carries them through a gamut of emotions.

I had my own reservations about how well the show would work considering that it was scheduled for a late night slot

On her debut in acting and her first major show on television:

I always had an inclination towards acting but I never expected I would go this far in my career. In 2000, I was selected for a stint on DD and Akashwani. My journey in acting began with India's Best Cinestar after which I participated in Mr. & Miss Bollywood. I bagged my first tele-film O

Saathi Re shortly after but it was *Banoo Main Teri Dulhann* that changed my career graph. When I initially got a call from the production team, I thought it was a prank. Later I realized that it was indeed genuine but the next big challenge for me was to convince my father. Fortunately my father was very supportive about my decision to come to Mumbai.



On essaying diverse roles with remarkable conviction:

When I did *Banoo Main Teri Dulhann*, I got into the skin of Vidya's character. In the serial, Vidya was portrayed as a meek and submissive girl. When I started doing the role, there were people who began to suspect that I was actually dumb and couldn't utter a word. A lot of people would also sympathise with me when I interacted with them at public places. Later when I did *Mrs. & Mr. Sharma Allahabadwale*, the audiences suspected that I was a crazy woman, who was incapable of conversing normally. People would even strike a conversation in the Allahabad dialect. I am glad that I am now doing *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* where the character is modern and contemporary. These days I find it amusing when people interact with me in English. I am glad that I have convinced the audiences in each of my performances.

On rejecting offers for the sake of *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*:

I had my own reservations about how well the show would work considering that it was scheduled for a late night slot. The only promising aspect of the show was its storyline and the fact that it was the brainchild of Ekta Kapoor. If Ekta comes up with a subject, you can be rest assured that it will be out of the ordinary. Secondly, when I heard about the storyline and my character, I fell in love with it. I knew that

it would be tough for a show to get TRPs for a late night slot but I took it up as a challenge and it eventually paid off. I had to lose out on several promising offers in the bargain. I refused all of them with a heavy heart. I stuck to my professionalism and decided to stay on with the show and I guess it has worked for me excellently.

On how the show has changed her outlook towards life:

I have never been a pessimist but playing the character of Ishita in *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* has definitely changed my perception towards life. The serial is all about being optimistic even in the biggest of crisis. It teaches you to have faith in life come what may. In real life too, we come across difficult situations which we should learn to overcome with a positive mindset. Life is full of surprises and there is always a silver lining hidden beneath every cloud. If we talk about Ishita, she is an amazingly loving step mother, a complete contrast from the image of a step mother that most people have in their minds.

On her off-screen rapport with co-star Karan Patel:

Karan and I no doubt share a great chemistry on screen but off-screen we are poles apart in terms of our personalities, our likes and dislikes and our choices in life. Karan is a party person while I'm a family person. He talks too much and I talk very less on set. He is a prankster and I

“Karan and I no doubt share a great chemistry on screen but off-screen we are poles apart in terms of our personalities, our likes and dislikes and our choices in life

just smile at his pranks. If there would've been any similarity between us we would have probably ended up arguing with each other but when there's nothing to talk about, getting into a fight is really out of the question. To be honest, we share a very comical equation on the set and I totally love it.

On her favourite diversions when she is not acting:

I am an avid follower of the sport of rifle shooting and have trained in it for a long time. Whenever I go back to Bhopal, I make it a point to catch up on my shooting practice. Last year I even participated in the rifle shooting competition and won a medal. Now it has become a great diversion for me to go there, bag prizes and come back to Mumbai. I would like to join the Eklavya shooting academy in Mumbai but I doubt whether I will be able to find the time.

On the equation she shares with her fans:

I hate to upset my fans in anything I do, even if it's the simplest of things. When they like my work and appreciate it, I feel rewarded. I like to get their feedback in everything I do. If I need to do something which is necessary for the character, I don't react but I do listen to their suggestions otherwise and actually work on them. It gives me pleasure to work for compliments.

By Srabanti Chakravorthy



Team Happy New Year rocks the world with **SLAM!** THE TOUR

It was one of the biggest Bollywood extravaganzas of all times as the Happy New Year team enthralled audiences over the world with mind-blowing performances. Titled SLAM! The Tour, the show rocked all the way from Houston, New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, Vancouver and San Jose, before concluding at the packed O2 arena in London.

The team comprising of director Farah Khan, actors Deepika Padukone, Shah Rukh Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Boman Irani, Sonu Sood, Vivaan Shah, singer Kanika Kapoor of Baby Doll fame and Signature Dance Group, set the stage on fire as they left the audiences mesmerized wherever they went. In the London leg, they were joined by the dancing queen, Madhuri Dixit, who added her own successful jig to the experience. The superstars were also accompanied by the very sexy Malaika Arora Khan and ace rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh, who gave a livewire performance on a medley of songs in Washington DC.

At the Washington DC concert, Shah Rukh Khan made a dramatic entry in the show in his larger-than-life style on an aerial cable and danced on his famous numbers *Chammak Challo*, *Kaali Kaali Aankhe*, *Suraj Hua Maddham* and *Don*. Abhishek rapped the song *Ek Main Aur Ek Tu Hai* and then performed on *Kajrare*, *Maa Da Ladla*, *Desi Girl* and *Nandu Bhede* from Happy New Year. While Shah Rukh and Deepika Padukone shared an amazing chemistry on stage, Abhishek Bachchan was seen giving a power-packed performance in one of his exuberant moods.







Celebrities endorse Prime Minister



The Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi recently launched the country's most ambitious cleanliness drive on October 2, the occasion of the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. To kick off the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', Modi nominated prominent people from various walks of life, including several Bollywood and television personalities. While the Prime Minister personally roped in Priyanka Chopra, Kamal Hassan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan to carry forward the message of cleanliness, the other stars too came out in full support of the campaign.

Superstar Hrithik Roshan was also among those who took the initiative of endorsing the cleanliness drive. Hrithik symbolically wielded a broom and launched the Clean India Mission at filmmaker Subhash Ghai's





Narendra Modi's Clean India campaign

Whistling Woods International film school. He was also supported by Ghai in the endeavour.

On the other hand, actor and social activist, Anupam Kher and the team of his upcoming film *Ekees Topon ki Salami*, including Neha Dhupia, Divyendu Sharma and others engaged actively in the campaign and drove the street clean.

The entire cast of the popular serial, *Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashma* was overwhelmed about the fact that the Prime Minister personally invited them to participate in the drive. Actress Disha Vakani said, "Our team feels honoured that PM Modi invited us for his 'Swachh Bharat' campaign. We will try to do our best in making India clean."





I am an
actress
and will always
remain one

Television and film actress, Shweta Prasad who was arrested and sent to a rehabilitation home following her alleged involvement in a prostitution racket, is out of her ordeal. In a conversation with Subhash K Jha, the actress who was seen in films like Makdee (child artist), Iqbal and Darna Zaroori Hai, besides the television serial, Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki, makes some startling revelations about the incident and the truth behind all the rumours.

“Cinema has been my life and breath from the age of ten. It is my identity and I’d never defame the industry

Shweta Basu Prasad, who was linked to a controversial prostitution racket, is back in Mumbai amidst speculative reports. The actress admits to being unfazed by the incident and reveals that she has no complaints against anyone apart from a journalist who attributed statements to her when she was going through her hour of crisis, “The statement was wrongly

attributed to me and circulated everywhere. I had no idea about it as I had no access to newspapers or websites during my two month stay at the rehabilitation centre.”

It may be recalled that Shweta was quoted stating in sections of the media that she was compelled to take up prostitution to support her family when she was out of money and “all the doors were closed for her”.

The actress now insists that she had never made any such statements, "I was in custody. I wasn't even allowed to speak to my mother and father so there was no way I could speak to the media. Whoever made up that statement damaged my reputation by saying that all the doors were closed on me," she avers.

Shweta informs that she and her family are now in the process of tracking down the newspaper from where the allegedly fake statements originated. "We are taking strong legal action against them. I need to set this falsification right before I move on. This statement suggests that I made a comment on other actresses and their lifestyle. Cinema has been my life and breath from the age of ten. It is my identity and I'd never defame the industry."

She is also disturbed by the way the media reports, "I've a degree in mass communications and I wonder if I did the right thing by choosing to study journalism when a section of the media is so irresponsible."

According to Shweta the reality is totally different from what it was made out to be in the media. "I hadn't been called to Hyderabad by any agent for commercial sex. I had gone there to attend an awards ceremony. I missed my return flight in the morning and I guess I made a wrong decision thereafter. Sometimes you just trust strangers in a situation. My air ticket and stay were completely done by the organizers of the awards function. There was a raid I am not denying the incident. Later, my mother was running in and out of courts with petition after petition. I wasn't even allowed to call her. The facts are definitely not what they've been made out to be."

The actress admits that the police interrogated her for names of Tollywood actresses who were possibly involved in prostitution rackets during her detention but she denies making any statement, "I didn't even know many of their names. Why should I make comments on other actresses? Shame on the people who said I was forced to do certain things by my family to afford a lifestyle."



Contrary to reports that she was treated shabbily during her two-month stay at the rehabilitation centre, Shweta reveals that she spent the period productively and faced no such problems, "I was at a rescue home- a hostel for kids who are victims of human trafficking. I volunteered as a teacher there and taught the kids Hindi, English and Hindustani classical music. I used my two months in there very productively. I was not depressed at all. While I was in there I realized how lucky I was to have a family to support me. My parents have always wanted me to pursue a dignified career."

The only setback she suffered during this period was the sad demise of her grandfather, who passed away due to the shock, "That's one loss I'll have to live with all my life. I couldn't even be at the last rituals. Thanks to the reports in the media my grandfather was under the notion that I actually made those awfully wrong statements. I will never forget myself for missing that flight back from Hyderabad to Mumbai."

Right now, Shweta has decided to start life on a fresh new note, "I am confident that I will get over this. I don't think I've the luxury of being weak. I am not going to let one incident spoil my life. I don't have time to sit at cafes taking selfies. I've dedicated my life to cinema and acting."

She further adds that the incident is unlikely

to cast aspersions on her acting career, "I've friends in the film industry. I am well-connected. I was auditioning for roles even when the arrest happened. I've spent three years of my life making a documentary on Hindustani classical music. I turned down roles after my first Tamil film as a leading lady was a hit because I wanted to focus on my documentary," she says.

Fortunately for her, filmmakers like Hansal Mehta have offered to cast her in their forthcoming films, "I'd like to audition for Hansal Mehta and get the role only if I am suitable for it. I don't want a role out of sympathy. I don't want people to think I am cashing in on the controversy," she says.

Prior to that, she plans to return to the post-production of her documentary on Hindustani classical music, after which she proposes to get back to acting with a vengeance, "I am an actress and I will always remain one. Life has moved forward exactly from where I left off," she quips.

“I don't want people to think I am cashing in on the controversy



Papite Ke Kofte

Preparation Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 20 mins

Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

For The Koftas

- 1 1/2 cups grated raw papaya
- 1 cup boiled, peeled and mashed potatoes
- 1 tsp dried mango powder (amchur)
- 1/2 tsp turmeric powder (haldi)
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp garam masala
- Salt to taste
- Oil for deep-frying

FOR THE GRAVY

- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 tbsp broken cashewnuts (kaju)
- 1/2 tsp cumin seeds (jeera)
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1/2 tsp chopped garlic (lehsun)
- 1/2 tsp chopped ginger (adrak)
- 1 slit green chilli
- 1/2 tsp coriander (dhania) powder
- 1/2 tsp chilli powder
- 1/4 tsp turmeric powder (haldi)
- 1 1/2 cups chopped tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp garam masala
- 2 tbsp fresh cream
- Salt to taste

Whether raw or ripe, papaya finds use in many dishes ranging from salads to subzis. But, have you ever tried making koftas with raw papaya? Try it once and it will soon become your first choice for making kofta, always. Here, grated papaya held together by mashed potatoes is made into crisp deep-fried koftas and mixed into a sumptuous gravy that is rich, creamy and tangy too!

METHOD

For the koftas

1. Squeeze the grated papaya till all the water drains out. Transfer the papaya into a deep bowl, add all the remaining ingredients and mix well.
2. Divide the mixture into 12 equal portions and roll each portion into a ball. Keep aside.
3. Heat the oil in a deep kadhai and deep-fry the koftas, a few at a time, till they turn golden brown in colour from all the sides.
4. Drain on an absorbent paper and keep aside.

For the gravy

1. Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in deep pan, add the cashewnuts and sauté on a medium flame for 1 to 2 minutes.
2. Remove the cashewnuts, drain out the oil and blend them to a smooth paste along with approx. 1 tbsp of water. Keep aside.
3. Heat the remaining 1 tbsp of oil in the same pan and add the cumin seeds.
4. When the seeds crackle, add the onions and sauté on a medium flame for 2 minutes.
5. Add the garlic, ginger and green chilli and sauté on a medium flame for another minute.
6. Add the coriander powder, chilli powder, turmeric powder and tomatoes and cook

on a medium flame for 2 minutes, while stirring occasionally.

7. Add the prepared cashewnut paste, garam masala, 3/4 cup of water, cream and salt, mix well and cook on a medium flame for 3 to 4 minutes, while stirring occasionally.
8. Cool slightly, discard the green chilli and blend lightly using a hand blender to a coarse mixture. Keep aside.

HOW TO PROCEED

1. Just before serving, re-heat the gravy, add the koftas, mix gently and cook on a medium flame for 2 minutes, while stirring occasionally.
2. Serve hot garnished with coriander.



Preparation Time: 5 mins

Cooking Time: 7 mins

Makes 5 servings

INGREDIENTS

For The Pancakes

- 1/4 cup mashed banana
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour (gehun ka atta)
- 1 tsp butter for greasing and cooking

For The Chocolate Sauce

- 1/2 cup roughly chopped chocolate
- 1/4 cup milk

METHOD

For the pancakes

1. Combine all the ingredients along with 1 cup of water in a deep bowl and mix well.
2. Heat a non-stick tava (griddle), pour 1/4 cup of the batter on it and spread in a circular motion to make a thick pancake of 100 mm. (4") diameter.
3. Cook the pancake on a medium flame, using a little butter, till it turns golden brown in colour from both the sides.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to make about 4 more pancakes. Keep aside.

For the chocolate sauce

1. Combine the chocolate and milk in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high for 30 seconds.
2. Remove and mix gently. Keep aside.

HOW TO PROCEED

1. Place each pancake on a serving plate, fold into a triangle.
2. Pour little chocolate sauce over each pancake and serve immediately garnished with almond slivers.

Banana Pancakes with Chocolate Sauce

Melt-in-your-mouth pancakes made with a batter of mashed bananas and whole wheat flour, and drizzled with chocolate sauce, taste out of the world. Indeed, this is a dessert you will want to have again in the morning for breakfast too – and no harm in that because it is quick, easy, healthy and memorably tasty as well!



Tarla Dalal

Noted Indian food writer, chef, best-selling cookbook author, Padma Shri awardee and host of cooking shows like "Tarla Dalal Show" and "Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal".

She has written over 170 titles, several of which have been translated into various languages and sold around the world.



Quick Rava and Vegetable Dhoklas

Preparation Time: 30 mins

Cooking Time: 15 mins

Makes 3 to 4 servings

Quick rava and vegetable dhoklas are delicious, healthy and easy to make too. You just need to plan half an hour ahead to ferment the quick-fix batter, and you are ready to go. With colourful veggies and a springy soft finish, children will love these dhoklas; and so will the others in your family!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/4 cups semolina (rava)
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/4 cup boiled mixed vegetables
- 2 tsp ginger-green chilli paste
- 1 1/2 tsp fruit salt
- 1 tbsp oil
- Salt to taste
- Oil for greasing

FOR THE TEMPERING

- 1 tsp mustard seeds (rai / sarson)
- 1 tsp sesame seeds (til)
- A pinch of asafoetida (hing)
- 1 tbsp oil

METHOD

1. Mix the semolina, buttermilk, vegetables, ginger-green chilli paste, oil and salt in a bowl to make a smooth batter. Keep aside for at least 30 minutes.
2. Add the fruit salt, mix well and pour the batter into a greased 200 mm. (8") diameter thali. Steam for 8 to 10 minutes.
3. Prepare the tempering by heating the oil, adding the mustard seeds, sesame seeds and asafoetida and frying until the seeds crackle. Pour the tempering over the prepared dhokla.
4. Cut into pieces and serve hot with green chutney.

TIPS

It is important to add the fruit salt just before you put the dhoklas to steam and to ensure the water is boiling when you put the dhoklas to steam.

VARIATION: QUICK VEGETABLES IDLIS

You can also steam the same batter to make idlis.



Vegetable and Bean Soup

Preparation Time: 10 mins

Cooking Time: 20 mins

Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups finely chopped tomatoes
- 1 cup finely chopped onions
- 1/2 cup potato cubes
- 1/2 cup chopped cabbage
- 1/4 cup soaked and cooked rajma (kidney beans)
- 2 tbsp soaked and cooked barley (jau)
- 2 tsp olive oil
- Salt to taste
- Freshly ground black peppercorns (kali mirch) to taste

FOR THE GARNISH

- 2 tsp roasted wheat bran

METHOD

1. Combine 1 cup of tomatoes, 1/2 cup of onions, potatoes, 3 cups of water and salt, mix well and pressure cook for 2 whistles.
2. Allow the steam to escape before opening the lid.
3. Cool and blend in a mixer to a smooth purée. Keep aside.
4. Heat the oil in a deep non-stick pan; add the remaining onions and sauté on a medium flame till they turn translucent.
5. Add the cabbage and sauté on a medium flame for another minute.
6. Add the remaining 1 cup of tomatoes, rajma, barley, salt and pepper powder, mix well and cook on a medium flame for 1 to 2 minutes.
7. Add the tomato-onion mixture, mix well and bring to boil.
8. Serve hot garnished with roasted wheat bran.

An appetizing combination of fresh veggies and protein-rich beans cooked in olive oil, which contains a blood cholesterol-lowering substance called 'squalene'. Antioxidants like 'quercetin' and 'selenium' found in onions protect the heart from free radical damage.



Tarla Dalal

Noted Indian food writer, chef, best-selling cookbook author, Padma Shri awardee and host of cooking shows like "Tarla Dalal Show" and "Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal". She has written over 170 titles, several of which have been translated into various languages and sold around the world.





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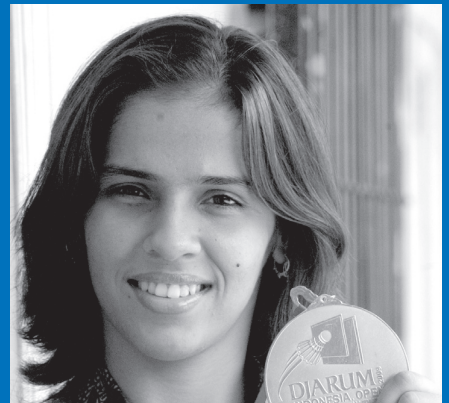
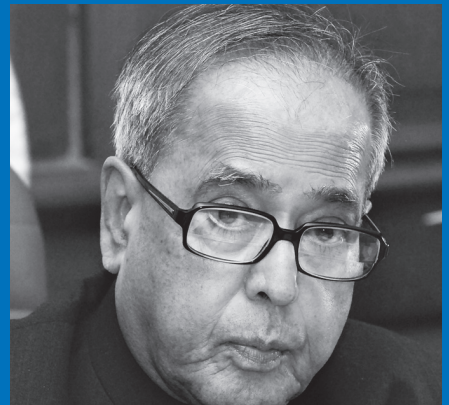
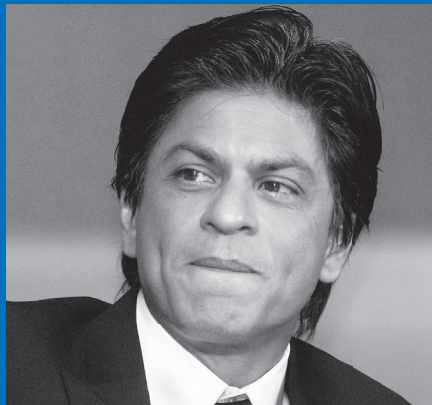


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