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happy new year

dutiful COMEDIANS!!



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016

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Wish you all a very, very Happy New Year! Hope 2016 brings peace, cheer, much happiness and lots of success to all of us.

Yes, another year has simply dashed by us and we have nothing so fantastic to tell for it. Th e past year in my view was a year predominantly filled with small-mindedness, especially in the political arena, which thanks to the hundreds of TV news channels pretty much governs the mood in the country. The tu-tu-main-main we witnessed on TV news channels dominated the airwaves and therefore much of the drawing room discussions. Th e nonsensical combats over what I too consider contrived "intolerance", the useless battles over "so-called secularism" and the non-stop blame games were certainly brain dumbing.

Th e conflicts in Parliament were another shame too – no substantial work got done thanks to the foolish bouts that took place inside & outside Rashtrapati Bhavan daily, we made a fool of ourselves globally and all at the expense of the Indian taxpayer.

Th e politicizing of all issues however big, small or irrelevant made the atmosphere terribly annoying. Let's hope better sense prevails and politicians start to work for the progress of the citizens and not just their parties and positions. Enough bitterness, resentment and petty quarrelling… We need cleaner air, enhanced healthcare and improved basic infrastructure and those are the primary goals we all need to work towards.

On that note, I am once again going to wish us a year that sees no wrongs being committed in the name of religion, a year that is bursting with optimism and hopefulness, a year that is filled with amity and harmony… Happy reading & 2016 !

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Deepika Singh's Fab list...

Most Fab thing you have ever done:
The way I portray my onscreen character of I.P.S Sandhya Rathi

Most Fab gift you have ever received:
My iphone S6+

Most Fab compliment you ever received:
That I was outstanding in #MissionMahabali track of my show.

Most Fab thing of your show:
My character which has inspired masses. The show has touched the hearts of viewers.

Most Fab Actor in this industry:
Karan Mehra and Gautam Rode.

Most Fab gesture of Rohit:
The way he looks at me…It reflects his love and care for me…

Most Fab possession of yours:
Hahaha…has to be Rohit Raj Goyal!

Most Fab brands in the world:
I am not Brand conscious but yes I believe in quality. Bebe, Zara, Marks & Spencers, Dolce& Gabbana are my favorite picks.

J.S.


Shakti Anand at Aasiya Kazi's Birthday Bash

AASIYA KAZI BDAY BASH

MEMORIES FROM: 12TH DECEMBER
FUN AT: PUNJAB GRILL, ANDHERI

Gorgeous Aasiya aka 'Ganga' of Balika Vadhu fame embraced her birthday in presence of family and few close TV friends. It was one definitely comfy and fun night and Aasiya looked drop – dead gorgeous in beautiful Orange coloured gown gifted by her family. She expresses her excitement with, "I thank my family and friends to make my day special. Every year, my parents and my brother pamper me with gifts and this year was no different. This year I got many valuable gifts like Bluetooth speakers, vanity and also my new Samsung collection which is S6 Edge Plus which I will start using very soon."

Present at the bash were her Balika co-stars Shashank Vyas, Toral Rasputra, Surekha Sikri, and few other TV buddies like Rithvik Dhanjani, Shakti Anand, Mrunal Jain, Karan Sharma, Roop Durgapal, Soni Singh, Jia Mustafa and many more…



Toral Rasputra, Aasiya Kazi, Mrunal Jain, Karan Sharma, Shashank Vyas


Mrunal Jain with his wife



Karan Sharma and Shashank Vyas


Aasiya Kazi


Soni Singh and Aasiya Kazi


Surekha Sikri & Aasiya Kazi


Rithvik Dhanjani & Aasiya Kazi



SAHIL Mehta

@ HIS CANDID BEST

This handsome guy Sahil Mehta aka 'Yuvraj'of Suhani Si Ek Ladki is very soon going to shed off the tag of 'eligible bachelor' of TV industry. Madly in love, super spirited, appealing looks, he believes that his fiancee Esha is the best thing happened to him. With wedding bells ringing for him for in the month of May, he is super excited about starting a new life with Eesha. Here he answers rapid fire questions and we must say, we really got very interesting replies…

Title for your biopic:
'No regrets'

One advice you wished you could give to younger Sahil:
Make sure you live as much as you can

Color that attracts you:
Black

One thing you would like to eradicate from our country:
Religion

You can't stop being angry when:
Someone invades woman's privacy…I mean how can someone do that?

One recent purchase you are not too happy about:
Chocolates. Yesterday only I got them and I must say, I am disappointed with it

If you had to go back in time and do one thing differently, what it would be:
Hmmm…Well would like to pursue cricket then.

Success means:
Lots of free first class air tickets for me and my wife…Hahaha

One thing which can keep you awake whole night:
Good movie…I am a movie freak

One superpower you would like to bring to life:
Batman

Out of everything you possess, you are most grateful for:
Virtues which my mom instilled in me

One talent you wish you could possess:
Being calm and unbiased. So difficult but trying to…

One story you feel proud to narrate:
About how strong my mother was

One word which describes you:
'RESILIENT'





MANAV GOHIL

A must have music collection:
BeeGees, A.R.Rehman & Bony M.

One advice you had put into action: "Take the leap, the net will appear"

Th e coolest thing you have ever done: Skydiving…I guess that was most exciting thing I have ever done.

Moment where you were really scared:
...and the moment it came close I woke up, damn that nightmare.

Favourite sport:
Soccer, Cricket & Biking

One possession you are obsessed with:
Let that be a secret

One confession:
I love to eat & I don't know when to stop. I know it's a disorder. Th anks to my genes it doesn't show on my body

Most expensive gift received:
A hublot I received as a gift from a well – wisher from Dublin

When out of words, fillers used are:
I use Silence

One motivational quote you use quite often:
If not you, who? If not now, when?

Funniest thing you heard about yourself:
My school friends think that I am a star

Parties or peaceful evenings:
Peaceful evenings

J.S.

TV's Youngistaan ON Hindustaan

A REPUBLIC DAY RUB-IN

First of all –we confess that we've been naughty… This Republic-day, we hit upon a deliciously wicked plan to catch a few TV-towners with their pants down – hey, don't you start getting ideas at that – what we mean is perfectly parliamentary… We just wanted to rub the noses of these lovelies over their knowledge of Mera Bharat Mahaan… We targeted the young 'uns of TV particularly and ended up having a Rub-in with late veteran Mohan Bhandari's son, Dhruv Bhandari (Tere Shahar Mein- Star Plus), Roopal Tyagi (Sapne Suhaane Ldakpan Ke- Zee TV), Ayaz Ahmed (Kaisi Yeh Yaariyan – MTV), Karan Sharma (Mohi – Star Plus), and Gunjan Utreja (Madhubala-Colors)…

And the results have been hilarious…

The Gyaan they showered on us about India left us in splits and then, benumbed as well… What else it would be when you're told, 'Saare Jahaan Se Achha…' was penned by Rabindranath Tagore… Indeed, it is such a relief that Dr. Allama Iqbal is no more in this world and in these times!

There are other such gems too… Sample them yourself…



Dhruv Bhandari (4/6)

1 **Hmm... Umm... That's difficult, yaar... err - OK, some Radhakrishna - right?**
(Wrong!... Dr. Radhakrishnan - and as for that pathetic, 'some Radhakrishna' - the less said the better...No Mark!)

2 **Well, uh, I think Mohammad Ansari - right?**
(Thank Providence!... No dithering for once…Full Mark!)

3 **Ah, that's easy – Vande Maataram...!**
(Wow!... That's a Sixer… That's an Ace… Full Mark!)

4 **Oh, I just know it - it's a speech given by Jawaharlal Nehru!**
(And it gives you – Full Mark!)

5 **Hmmm... Rabindranath Tagore!... No, perhaps... I guess, I don't know!**
(Dhutt – Fitte Munh…. No Mark!)

6 **Yeah, that's a famous dialogue... OK - Subhash Chandra Bose...!**
(Correct – but it's a 'Dialogue', is it?... Goodness Grief!...Anyway... Full Mark!)



Roopal Tyagi (2/6)

1 **Awww… Achha… err… Seriously – No clue…!**
(Well then, no clue would mean – No Mark)

2 **Hah... Another missile... Err, no!...I guess, I don't know...!**
(It's a pity, dahling that knowing the name of Nation's Vice-President is a 'missile' to you… No Mark!)

3 **Err, lemme think, lemme think... yeah –Vande Maataram, I guess...!**
(Ah, there!…Miracles do happen then?... Full Mark!)

4 **What? 'Tryst' with what? ... 'Destiny'?... Err, no clue, re... What is it?**
(It's about India, Sugar… It's about India's Independence…But What Da Ya Care?...No Mark!)

5 **Well, err, hmmm... Rabindranath Tagore is a possiblity... but hold on... err, no clue, actually...!**
(Nooooo Mark!...Actually!)

6 **Lemme think, Lemme think... (after eons) Gotcha! It is, Netaji – no… ?**
(Yup, this is him…. And we condone the eons taken in answering… Full Mark!)



Ayaz Ahmed (3/6)

1 **OMG!... So difficult!... Err, Rajendra Prasad?... Err, but wasn't he the first President? Arre, how can you do it to us, yaar?... You can ask first PM or first President – but first Vice-President? Why be soo difficult?**
(It's a pity, dearie that you find it 'soo difficult'… No Mark!)

2 **Ooh, I know that, I know that - Mohammad Ansari...!**
(Yup – Ya Know That… Ya Know That… Full Mark!)

3 **Ummmm... Jan-Gan-Man? Errrrr…no, hold! That's the Anthem... But you said Geet - OK, Vande Maataram'...!**
(Not that OK, honey - too much shilly-shallying … Half Mark!)

4 **Ooh, no clue, yaar... And I'm sure not many people know that, haan!...Achha, come, give me a hint... What?...Did you say, Speech?...Achha... then, is it Nehruji?...Haaye... why're you asking such difficult questions, yaar...?**
(Yeah, it's not about Beyoncé … It's not about MJ… It cannot but be difficult… Half Mark!)

5 **Uh, possibly Rabindranath Tagore... uh-huh, soooooo difficult, yaar...!**
(Why not Anand Bakshi – 'possibly?...No Mark!)

6 **Ha, ha, ha - Subhash Chandra Bose - What say...?**
(Taaliyaan… Full Mark!)



(4/6)

Karan Sharma

1 **Oh, good question... I know the President, but... No, no, you'd have to give me a hint... Come, come… Do that, please... I insist... One, only one hint...**
(and we mime playing of Flute...)
Achha,Achha...Flute-playing!... Krishna? ... Aah, bingo - Radhakrishnan... ha, ha, ha...!
(We join in his guffaw of Victory… But all that groping 'n' guessing prior to the answer gets him – Half Mark!)

2 **Mohammad Ansari... Yippy...!**
(Where are the Trumpets, ho?….Full Mark!)

3 **Vande Maataram!**
(Ah, that's what we call 'Answer' –sure and straight… Full Mark!)

4 **Eh, ye kya hai?...Is it related to Independence?...Tell me, just tell me that...**
(We nod faintly…)

5 **Yes? OK, then it is by Jawaharlal Nehru...!**
('Related to Independence' - did you ask?... What good is your answer then?…Half Mark!)

6 **Gawd! OK, I'll pass it...!**
(Yeah… Better pass than blurt out an outrageous answer… No Mark!)

Oh, Subhash Chandra Bose, of course - he's my favourite...!
(Thank God for small mercies… Full Mark!)



(3/6)

Gunjan Utreja

1 **See, Rajendra Prasad was 1stPresident – so, I think – Radhakrishnan…!**
(And you think right… Full Mark!)

2 **Hmm… Look, when Honourable Shrimati Pratibha Patil was President, Mohammad Ansari was the VP… Now is he still there or changed ever since…?**
(Changed, did you say?…Arre, he the only Vice-President after Dr. Radhakrishnan to get re-elected for the august office… No Mark!)

3 **Hmm… Jan-Gan-Man is National Anthem… So what is left – haan, the National Song is – Vande Maataram…!**
(Sounds more like a fluke, Gunjanji… Half Mark!)

4 **Uh, something during Independence by Jawaharlal Nehru…!**
(Something?... Something what?... A Book, a Painting, or a Dance by him?...Half Mark!)

5 **I don't know…!**
(Fine… At least straight and up-front… No Mark!)

6 **Subhash Chandra Bose…!**
(Correct and confidently spoken… Full Mark!)

Did we say it was hilarious…

But, perhaps, it's no jokey matter… Such apathy of the Young towards the builders of the Nation jars and jabs us somewhere deep, actually… How could you not remember them… If you can remember Britney Spears, or the contours of the hot-bod that a Kate Moss or a J.Lo flaunts, or the Birthday of Michael Jackson, or the Death Anniversary of John Lennon – then, you can bloody well remember the pillars on whom the whole edifice or our Republic is resting…
Wake up, kids – before all is lost!

TV BULLETIN !!!



Naagin star Arjun Bijlani now owns a cricket team!

Naagin star Arjun Bijlani is on cloud nine these days, and why not. His show is doing really well especially going by the BARC ratings. And now this handsome guy has another reason to be excited about. Yes, Arjun Bijlani is now the co-owner of one of the BCL team and is super thrilled about it. He says, "Being born and brought up in this city (Mumbai), and a cricket lover too, I am now the proud co-owner of the Mumbai Tigers team. You see, Cricket is like a religion in India. The game is being followed and loved by many. Also with this, I find the whole concept of BCL very refreshing and engaging and now the feeling of becoming the co- owner of Mumbai Tigers team is amazing because I will get an opportunity to be close to my favourite game. What more I can ask for…"

Well we all know about the shoot hours in this industry. So needless to say, we ask him how he will manage both shows and he just smiles and replies, "I believe, 'When there is a will, there is a way'. I will manage both Naagin shoot and BCL as I love doing both of them. BCL is super hit and popular not only because people have their favourite actors playing cricket but it also depicts good competitive and team spirit."



Jaswir Kaur opens a gym with Fiance Vishal Madlani!

Remember TV actor Jaswir Kaur who played the role of Cop Kajal in CID? Yes, she is now all set to launch her gym with fiancé Vishal Madlani which will be known as VFIT.

Th e actress who converted her Kandivli West bungalow into gym says, "Well, my gym is very different from others because we have two important things i.e. one is weight training and second is crossfit training which are very rare. Also the whole look is different and we have tried to make it look vibrant with cartoon pictures and motivational quotes on the wall. My friends loved it and want me to open new branch in Andheri also. So the response also is very encouraging. We wanted to go beyond conventional ways and make fitness training process fun and exciting and not just workout. So we are giving wide range of options like functional workouts,kettle bell,boot camps and military training. One should feel positive the moment they enter our gym. For a long time, I wanted to do something in Fitness genre, and here I am."

Talking about the name of her gym, "Our dance classes name is V1 Activity centre and now for our gym we decided to keep something similar to V1. And VFIT also completely signifies that we are one. I am very happy and blessed to have Vishal in my life."



Upma love tips for couples!

After doing Bigg Boss where love blossomed to Nach Baliye where they got engaged, they are already back with MTV Love School, and yes this is their third reality show. So we ask them what keeps love and sparks alive??? Th ey say, "Communication and Trust are keys to every successful relationship.

We also fight but we never lose trust in each other and yes we talk when misunderstanding arises." When we ask who is more understanding, Karishma reveals, "Upen is more understanding and romantic too."

Having said this, both agree that marriage is on the cards and once they manage time, it will definitely happen.

Sanaya Irani and Mohit Sehgal very soon to say 'I DO'!!!



Th ey are one of the cutest and loveliest couple we have in TV industry. After around 5 years of dating, they are now ready to take a plunge in marital bliss. Yes, the lovebirds got engaged on December 13 in a close knit affair in Delhi. Th eir wedding is believed to take place in Goa by the end of January 2016. Yeah…their love journey indeed restores our faith in thought that if not all, then yes few love stories do have a fairy tale ending.



Gracy Singh's Spiritual Connection...



She might be essaying the role of Santoshi Maa, however her connection with spiritualism continues even after the cameras stops rolling. She says, "Yes, I have seen prayers being offered and I have been associated with many such spiritual organizations. Actually it is my faith and connection with God that helps me to perform the role which I am playing in show Santoshi Maa. I do lot of meditation which helps me to stay calm. I don't get affected by failures and criticisms to the extent that it will make me feel restless. But at the same time I try to incorporate feedback which I get and if I don't get it, then I ask people for it. Life has become really hectic and stressful. People say they don't have time to meditate. But it is very important to care of ourselves in this fast paced life."



dutiful COMEDIANS!!

What defines our TV best?
Well, many will jump to answer that – 'Women'! In a way, they are not totally off the mark when they say so, because our Small Screen is really infested with Women all across. And they are there in all possible hues – the Scheming-women, the Sacrificing-women, the Suffering & Snivelling-women, the Ranting & Raving-women… Women, conspiring vicious plots in Kitchens, Women of Saari-Sindoor syndrome, Women of the Saas kind, Women of the Bahu kind, Women self-serving to the bones, Women, self-effacing to a fault– in short, our TV is chock-a-block with Women!

And yet, they do not wholly define our TV!
There is a second side of the TV-coin that is equally (if not more) important in spelling out the medium. And this side is that of…

Th *Comics*, the *Ticklers*, the *Crazy-crackers!*
Like bulls in China shop, they barge into our living rooms and send us in stitches. Th ey create such *Funny Farm* on those tiny screens that we most willingly lose ourselves in it to have the time of our life! And we keep craving to be with those batty blokes more and more as they light up our days and nights with the sunshine of Comedy.



TV's Ticklers are in a league of their own...

Th is boisterous bunch can easily be divided in two kinds. One is the conventional one – that is the nutty characters dotting the stories on the canvas of *Fiction*. They are the relief-providers in our stuffy Soaps or they are the mainstay of out and out Comedies with story-structures. And they have been there since the staging of stories began, i.e. from Th eatre to Cinema.

But Television has a species of Comics, all its own!

They are a class unto themselves! They don't need plots, stories, scenes and sequences to create a Comic storm. Th ey trigger it all individually, absolutely on their own. And there is name assigned to this species… The Stand-up Comedians!

Mad as March-hares, these wackos have Comedy embedded in their DNA. Th ey not only know how to tickle the funny bones of the audience, they are also gloriously irreverent – sparing none and nothing in their bulldozing stride.

Th at's what the likes of*Kapil Sharma, Manish Paul, Bharti Singh, Krishna Abhishek, Sunil Grover, Sudesh Lehri* and plentiful of others do when they take centre-stage and create a bewitching web of wacky one-liners, roaring repartees, maddening mimes and crackling comic punches.

And each of them is an island of fun all by him/herself!

Take Kapil Sharma for instance – Born in absolutely humdrum circumstances to a constable father and a housewife mother, in Amritsar, Punjab, you will think it to be well-nigh impossible for him to even dream of being a part of the Tinsel-world. But the *Kapil Sharmas* of this world have the power in them of erasing the word 'impossible' from the dictionary of their life.

And that's exactly what this maverick did!









Come to think of it – a young boy, fond of narrating anecdotes to his chums and anybody else too who would care to listen, suddenly awakens to the perception that his narrations are making them reel with laughter. Bingo – there he hits upon the treasure-trove of Comedy in him and then with utter diligence, starts making this talent bloom to its full fruition. From one rung of the ladder to another to still another, he finally reaches the very apex of his genre with his, ***'Comedy Nights with Kapil'*** (Colors) that enjoys a colossal status, today.

And then, being not the one to rest on his laurels, he takes his next his next leap onto the Big Screen as well and pencils a sensational debut in the hit *'Kis Kisko Pyar Karoon'*. Today zillions swear by his talent and the consensus is that Kapil does not do Comedy – he is Comedy!

Almost similar is the phenomenal rise of Manish Paul on TV. Today, his presence in a Show (Reality, Event or whatever) just takes it to another level. People love the madcap *Manishisms*, the rip-roaring take-offs (like, the one on late veteran, Jeevan) and the wacky word play that never ever fails to draw delirious response from one and all!

Indeed, it's nothing short of a miracle for a Middle-class Delhi boy to become the lord of all he surveys in TV Comedy. And self-confessedly, he prefers to be a *lone-rider* in the genre and then, gallops straight into the hearts of the viewers.

Then, there is the roly-poly, yet so electric in energy, Bharti, who has gone through the hardest destitution in her early life – *'We were so poor that my bros made a supreme sacrifice by turning their backs on Education so that I could study!'* She was just frittering away her life as an overweight, overblown bully before Kapil Sharma, her senior in the campus, took her under his wings, spotting and then, sprucing up her unique talent for Comedy. It was he who prevailed upon the podgy girl to come and participate in the 'Great Laughter Challenge' (Star One), despite her mortal fear of Cameras surrounding her.

And, today, she thumbs her nose at the same Cameras from her spot at the top of the heap!

Being the nephew of Superstar Govinda, *Krishna Abhishek* had pedigree on his side, but never ever used his *Maama's* name to make a name for himself on Screen. Routing his journey to the top through a number of Bhojpuri Films, he, finally, grabbed his *Golden Goose* in *TV Stand-ups*, whereby he just set the Small Screen on fire!

Today, he has carved out a niche of his own that is notches high in TV'S Hall of Fame!

And how can we not talk about *Sunil Grover* and *Kiku Sharda* here, who have made a cult out of *'Drag-acts'* in those female impersonations of theirs as *'Gutthi'* and *'Palak'* in CNWK that have hit our homes like a Tsunami! As a result, the neither-here-nor-there boy from the distant, dusty *Dabwali* in Punjab, whom *Destiny* made stumble upon the iconic *Jaspal Bhatti* of 'Flop-Show' fame and then, by dint of sheer hard work, has become *THE Sunil Grover* of today!

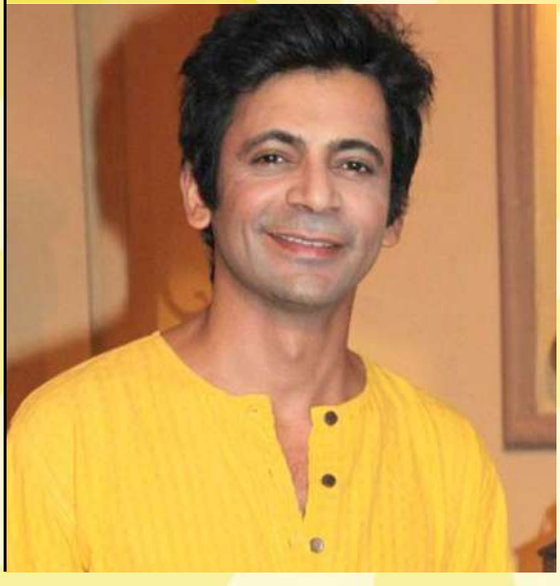
To Kiku, the mentor was none else than *Mumbai* itself and the Metro led the *Marwari* boy to realise his own potential for Comedy through exposure to the likes of *Jim Carey* and *Eddie Murphy*, besides that chance running into the ace Theatre-director *Feroz Khan* whose play, 'All the Best' became a springboard for the crackpot Kiku's leap onto the world of Screen.

Th e same story extends itself to this *son of a Sunaar (Goldsmith)*, who had to drop out of school because of harrowing adversity at home and yet, turned it all to his advantage by joining stray *Stage-Tolees* and then, slowly but surely, inched his way to become the highly celebrated *Sudesh Lehri*, the ace funster of TV, presently.

Today, all of these are as big a draw on Television as a Gopi Bahu or an Ichhadhaari Naagin is. And that's because their *'kind'* has the privilege of having amidst it someone as inimitable and as incomparable as Ali Asgar, who has immortalised ***Daadi*** in CNWK. Most miraculously, there he doesn't act a 'Woman' – **he is a *'Woman'*!**

Such iconic acts are what define our Television and these sparklers keep lighting it up…
Dutifully and deliriously!







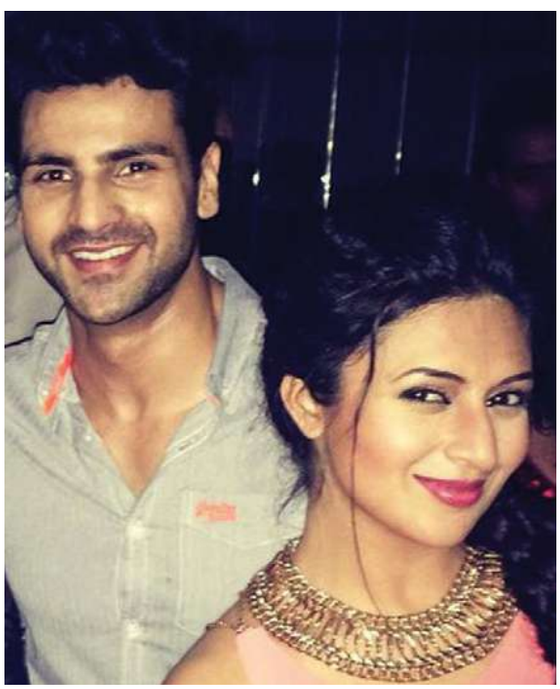




Couple Alert! Karan Kundra and Anusha Dandekar are the new lovebirds in TV industry?...

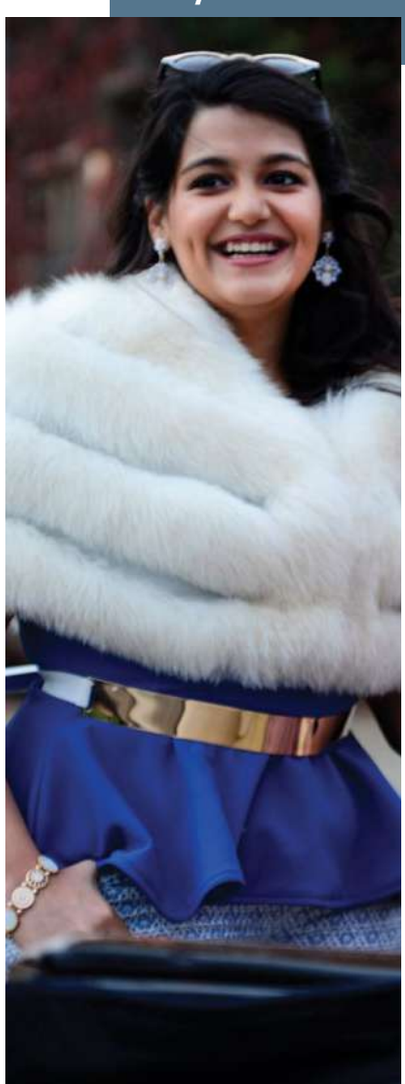
A new couple in town and we never expected that it could be dashing Karan Kundra and MTV VJ Anusha Dandekar. Yes, the two seems to be bitten by each other and can't stop posting pictures on social media sites. And why not? According to sources, they both like to spend time with each other and are giving time to this newly blossomed love between them. They both met on the sets of MTV Roadies and since then have been spotted together at many events and parties. Also if reports are to be believed, Karan also gifted puppy to Anusha and they prefer to call the new pet as Monster. Now that's really sooo cute!!!

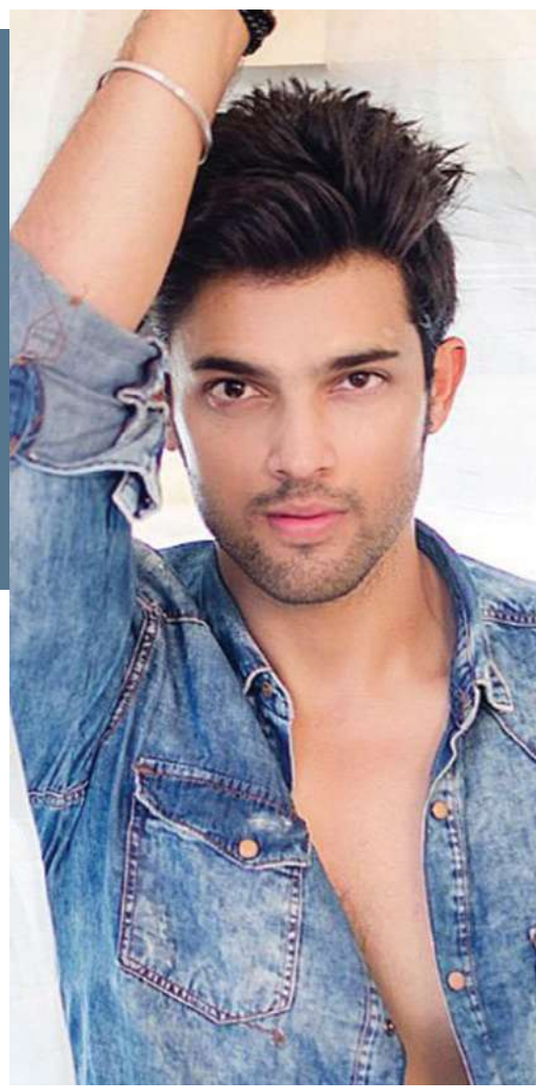
What's cooking between Divyanka Tripathi and Vivek Dahiya?



Okay so after a gloomy doomy breakup with Ssharad Malhotra, what we get to overhear now that Divyanka is all set to marry her YHM co-star Vivek Dahiya who is playing the role of ACP Abhishek. Well, so the birth of this recent spicy rumour took place when both entered recent award ceremony not only together but hand in hand. Though she denies all the rumours saying that it is mere speculation, we wonder whether it is just an empty mind's invention or they taking it really slow? Especially after Divyanka's unhappy ending with Ssharad to whom she dated for more than 6 years, she will be more watchful this time. Irrespective of that, we think they look good together…What say guys???

Parth Samthaan bagged his first Bollywood Movie opposite Sanah Kapoor!





With a happy adieu to famed youth show Kaisi Yeh Yaariyan, we are sure many of you are going to miss the show. Anyways the good news is that, Parth Samthaan may soon entertain you…this time in a grander than grand way. Yes, if reports are to be believed, he will soon be seen sharing screen space with Sanah Kapoor, who already made her debut with movie Shaandaar. Sanah, the darling sister of Shahid Kapoor has already left viewers awestruck with her performance in Shaandaar. And now with Parth and Sanah being part of same project, we are sure Shaandaar performances is on our way…

Karan Patel wants to patch up with Kamya Punjabi???



It has been no secret that Karan Patel and Kamya Punjabi were dating each other before Karan tied the knot with Ankita Bhargava. The reason behind their breakup is not yet clear, but one thing is for sure, things are definitely ugly between them and they avoiding all interactions at launch of BCL was enough proof for it. Also, both are now part of rival teams unlike last year where Karan was seen not only as a member of Kamya's team but also supporting her through the BCL journey. Now as per the recent rumours, drunk Karan Patel gate-crashed into Kamya's party and apologised her for the things he done and if that was not enough, he also insisted Kamya to patch up and rekindle their old friendship. When we all thought that he has moved on and is enjoying his marital status, this is definitely one twist which shocked everyone. Now we wonder how Ankita will react to this???

Sargun calms cold war between Ravi Dubey and Nia Sharma!

TV's adorable onscreen couple Ravi Dubey and Nia Sharma are loved by many. However, it was no secret that two were at loggerheads with each other and shared cold vibes once cameras stopped rolling. It all started about a year ago when Sargun used to visit the sets to meet Ravi much to Nia's irritation. But seems everything is well now. Both have solved their misunderstandings and guess who played the role of cupid…it is none other than Ravi's wife Sargun Mehta.





Jennifer Winget to return to Television?



Jennifer has been away from TV after her last show Saraswatichandra which went off air in the year 2014. Yes and if now the reports are to be believed, gorgeous Jennifer may soon return to TV with Actor Shaleen Malhotra. Recent buzz is that both will be seen together in Life OK show titled Narco and the show will give a sneak peek of the happenings in narcotics department. According to our sources, both would be playing very strong and performance oriented roles and would combat against evils like drugs in our country.

We are sure that both will rock the show with their performances…

J.S.


LOHRI

At the fag-end of the tormenting winter season and just on the threshold of warm, sunny climes is celebrated 'Lohri' - a Fest of Bonfires. From the interiors of Punjab to the vales of Himachal & Jammu to the planes of Haryana & Delhi, Lohri is a symbol of sheer ecstasy, elation and abandon.

Its origins are deeply embedded in History! Besides being a 'Harvest' festival (so crucial to an Agrarian Civilisation like ours), Lohri carries the legend of 'Dullha Bhatti', a Muslim bandit, an Indian Robin Hood, who looted the Rich and then, distributed the loot amongst the Poor!

The prime-most mission of his life was to save Hindu girls from being held captive by the powers-that-be and then sold in the flesh trade of the Middle East. After the rescue, he would marry them off to suitable Hindu boys. Amongst these girls were Sundri & Mundri, whom he adopted as his own daughters!

Lohri is the occasion to thank Dullha Bhatti for restoring dignity to the lives of those hapless, wretchedHindu girls. That's why Ballads, depicting his exploits, are sung in the Fête with frenzied emotion.

The origin of the name 'Lohri' could be attributed to the custom of celebrating it with Til (Sesame-seeds) and Ohri (Molasses), which, when combined, become 'Tilohri' that got shortened to only 'Lohri' over the passage of time.

Some people believe that the name is derived from Loi, which was the name of the Sant Kabeer's wife….still others believe it owes its existence to the evil Holika's pious sister, Lohri who, too, was made to sit with her in the fire by the demon king, Hiranyakashipu besides his Lord Vishnu devotee son, Prahlad and came out of it unscathed with him while Holika was charred to ashes – well, whatever be the origins of the name, the core fact is that Lohri is a Thanksgiving to the Sun God for saving people from the paralysing cold of the Winter Solstice. It is also a bow to the Deity of Fire, who, again, is a protector from the cold.

Th at's why Lohri is all about 'Bonfires'!

On the Lohri day, even as the first rays of the dawn are sprouting on the horizons, the town's children are up and about, going from door to door asking for wood (to be used in the Bonfire at night) and goodies like Til, Gud (Jaggery), Revri, Groundnuts, Gazak etc.

And this whole exercise is one rollercoaster-ride of Fun!

Knocking at a door, the little imps croon Dullha Bhatti ditties –
Sundri, Mundri Hey… HO!
Tera Kaun Bichara… HO!
Dullha Bhattiwaala… HO!
Dullhe Di Dhi Viyaahi… HO!… and so on!
(O' Sundri & Mundri… Who is your caretaker?... It's Dullha of Bhatti and now Dullha is marrying you off as his daughters…)

And if they get plentiful from a house, they chorus-
Dabba Bhargaa Leeran Daa
Aye Ghar Hai Ameeran Daa!
(Our box has been filled with cloth-strips… O' what a rich house it is…!)

But if what they get from a house is scant, they start whooping in unison…
Hukka, Bhai Hukka,
Aye Ghar Hai Bhukka…!
(Hookah, Bro Hookah – this house is starving…)

And it doesn't stop there! From the beginning the li'l gang has a boy with face smeared and his waist tied with a rope. Whenever they face some miserly indifference from a home, they let him loose and like a bull in China shop, he barges into the dwelling and starts breaking earthen pots etc., while the gang raises hell – hooting & hooping, besides hurrahing their bull!

During the day, the town bears a 'Mela' look and all sorts of sweetmeats are distributed, while everybody greets everybody else. And the roofs are full of young & old alike, painting the skies with multi-hued kites.

Then, as the night approaches, huge Bonfires are lit in the harvested fields and the big courtyards in homes. Newlyweds and newborns are specially fêted. Dinners, containing Makki Di Roti and Sarson Ka Saag are served to those sitting around the Bonfires.

As the flames leap up, the female-folks start throwing Sesame-seeds and Sugarcane-sticks into them and while the heady aroma of burning Sugarcane fills the air, chants resound all across…

'AaadarAaye… Diladdar Jaaye…!'
(May Honour arrive and Adversity depart…!)

And then booming Dhols rend the air with pulse-pounding beats and the maidens break into Giddha (the female counterpart of Bhangra), while all sorts of zingy folk songs are throated with delirious delight!

Indeed, if 'Delirium' can be desirable…
It would be on the 'Lohri-night'…
Oye, Chak De Phatte…!



Ssharad Malhotraa

For us Punjabis 'Lohri' is huge… But my schedules of '…Maharana Pratap' keep me off it, so woefully… However, last year, somehow, I got a respite from there on the Lohri-day and an immense added bonus came in the form of all my cousins chancing to be in Mumbai right then… Oof – we had a ball, breaking into delirious jigs around a big, big Bonfire… Trust me, those moments are etched on my mind forever…!



Himmanshoo Malhotra

What is a Punjabi if not celebrating 'Lohri', but my shoots have been preventing me from it for the last 10 years… However, 3 years back I had my chance and could be in Delhi with my folks for the Fest… And you can't imagine the way I hogged Makki Di Roti, Sarson Ka Saag, Malaai Milk and Rabri, throwing my Diet-regimens into the Lohri Bonfire… Oye, Balle – Balle…!



Ravi Bhatia

The Lohri I can't forget is the one I celebrated in my hostel when I was in Class-10… Those days, I had a major crush on a girl in my batch… At the celebrations, suddenly a stack of burning wood crashed and my girl was right beneath it… Like a true-blue Filmi Hero I leaped to drag her away to safety while clutching her in my arms… It must have been some seconds only, but seemed eons to me with my Cinderella in the arms of her Prince Charming i.e. me… I'm still haunted by those moments…!



Sahil Anand

Lohri is in Punjabiyonde DNA… Despite shoots and all, I have always been in Chandigarh to celebrate Lohri, but three years back I was stranded in Manali for a shoot and couldn't go to Lohri at home… But not to be defeated, I brought Lohri to the Sets and got a huge Bonfire lit and had a blast with roasted Groundnuts, Jaggery sweets and of course, Dhol & Dance – that was too crazy to ever be forgotten…!




Bikramjeet, Shashank Vyas & Bikramjeet parents


Usha Kanwarpal cutting cake

VETERAN ACTOR BIKRAMJEET KANWARPAL THROWS SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR HIS MOM


Ankita Bhargava & Usha Kanwarpal

MEMORIES FROM: 13TH DECEMBER
FUN AT: HOTEL HOMOTEL, MALAD

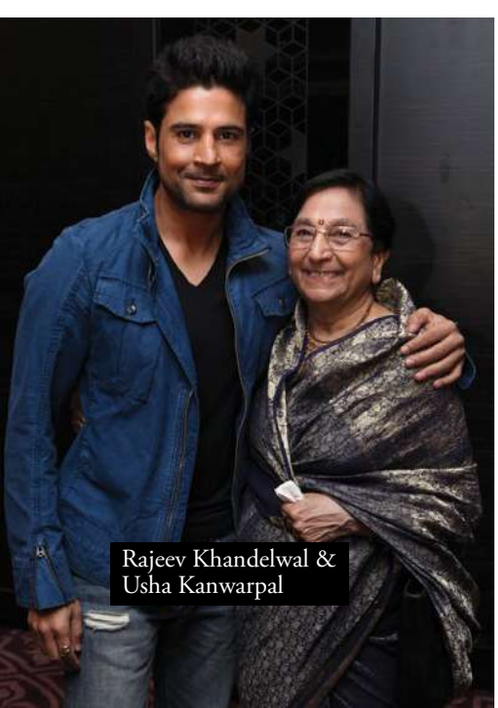
Actor Bikramjeet who has TV shows like 24, Crime Patrol Dastak, Diya Aur Baati Hum and Reporters and hit films like 2 States, Jab Tak Hai Jaan, Murder 2, Corporate and Paap in his kitty threw a surprise birthday party for his mom Usha Kanwarpal who turned 75 on 13th December.

The rocking affair saw presence of many actors like Alok Nath, Sujata Kumar, Deepika Singh, Shashank Vyas, Gautam Rode, Ankita Bhargava, Rajeev Khandelwal, Mrunal Jain, Nandish Sandhu, Achla Sachdev, Chhavi Mittal with Mohit Hussein, Sooraj Thapar, Naveen Saini with Priyanka, Adhvik Mahajan with Neha, Rakesh Bedi, Rohitash Gaud, Munisha Khatwani, Pooja Gor, Raj Singh Arora, Karan Mehra and many more…


Deepika Singh

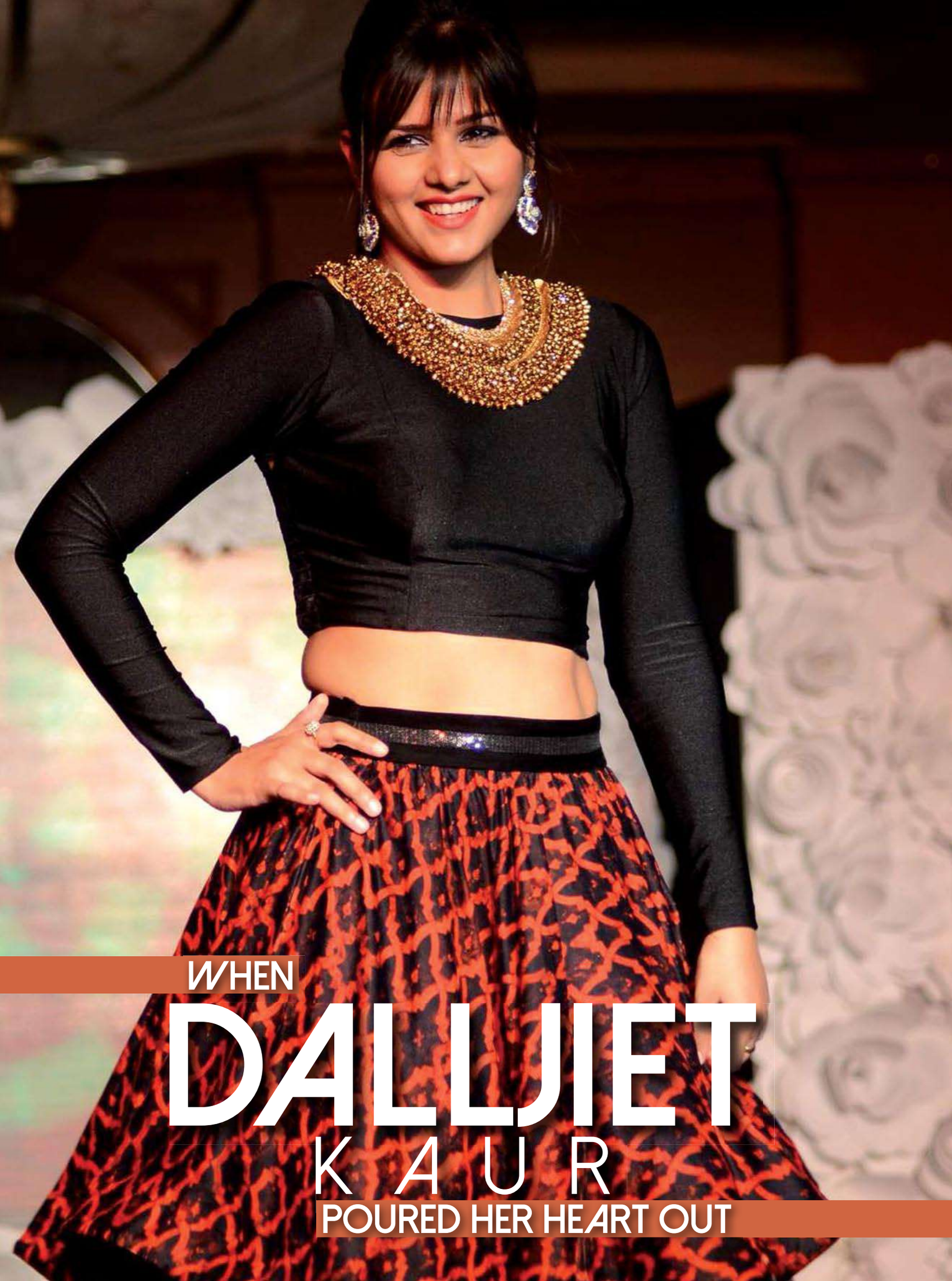

Usha Kanwarpal with Karan Mehra


Bikramjeet, Rajesh Kumar, Gautam Rode, Deepika Singh, Usha Kanwarpal


Rajeev Khandelwal & Usha Kanwarpal


Adhvik and Neha Mahajan


Rohitash Gaud with Bikramjeet



WHEN DALLJIET KAUR POURED HER HEART OUT

The ordeals faced by Dalljiet Kaur are no secret. After going through a rough patch in her marriage life, she is back with a bang with TV show 'KaalaTeeka'. Essaying the powerful role of Manjiri, she thinks she relates to her onscreen character in lot of ways. "I think it is a very strong voyage of mother and daughter with mother fighting for kid. Even I am a mother in real life and can't even see my kid crying. It is like you want to torment me, you are free to do that, you want to dominate me, do that but dare you come on my kid. So that was the reason I had to take this role."

We may be living in 21st century, but India is still a shelter to many delusions. Dalljiet believes, "See, you want to believe in superstitions, it's fine. Even I got my name changed (from Daljeet to Dalljiet) and I think it helped me. But it did not do harm to anyone. In my show, superstition is used in a negative way which is impairing one kids' future. So the show comes across as a very strong social message and I think the makers are doing a commendable job."

Dalljiet, whose marriage did not work well with Shaleen Bhanoot had to go through a nightmare. "Nobody called me. Forget about Shaleen, but not even my in-laws were interested in knowing what their grandchild was doing. I never dreamt in my nightmare that I will be doing all this alone, from raising my kid to earning bread and butter for us. They could have pretended that they care and could have pinged me once, but they were not at all perturbed by the stuffs going around. And more shocking was that they were supporting Shaleen in all the wrong doings. How come any parent can do that?"

Dalljiet who has now filed a case against Shaleen for physical violence is hoping justice for the same. Expressing her agony she says,"I am still married to him mentally and technically as we are not yet divorced. But he has completely moved on. The other day I saw him sitting with one beautiful girl and enjoying with her. Nothing much I can do apart from giving my son a bright future. Right now spending time with my child can only give me peace and relaxation."

Working in TV industry is definitely not a trivial chore given long and tedious working hours. We ask her how she maintains balance between motherhood and acting profession. "I hate doing this but I am thankful to my friends and family who gave me support and encouraged me. My mom can barely walk but is not leaving any stone unturned in taking care of my child when I am out for shooting. If things would not have been the same, I would have preferred to stay at home and look after my kid. But unfortunately, I have to earn to raise him up as Shaleen has not even contributed a single penny for his upbringing. And I definitely can't be a burden for my parents anymore. They have already done a lot for me."

A broken relation can make you lose faith in love and a marriage worked well can even make you believe in fairy tales. When we ask her, she replies, "Yes 100% my trust in love has been shattered. It is not like healthy marriages do not exist only. My parents and my sister are happily married. But if my sister will do wrong, my parents will support what is right. If Shaleen's parents would have stood with me, if not for me but their grandchild also, I would have got that dignity and respect. It is so weird that inspite of knowing that I stay in the same house, he did not even come once even when Shaarav was not well."

Talking about her insecurities, she says, "I really don't know how long this show will run. Previously, I have seen my shows going off-air in a time span of as short as six months. I have been doing this since last 10 years so I am really worried and consider all this temporary. Sometimes when I sit back and think about everything that has happened to me, I question myself, 'But why me'. I have been loyal and doting wife to Shaleen."

We had bid adieu to 2015 and embraced 2016 with hopes and fresh energy. When asked about her expectations from the year 2016, she answers, "Well, there are lot of things but most basic is Humanity especially after what my in-laws did to me. Also, everything is so unbalanced in my life right now. So I hope my life becomes more stable but I know that will happen with time."

She made us believe that if a woman wants, she can become from very vulnerable to very strong. Yes Daljeet, though we can't change what happened, we hope this year heals all your bruises and bring in lot of positivity, love, success and fame in your life.

J.S.

“I am not comfortable doing ordinary crying scenes

Adaa Khan is on seventh heaven. For her Colors fantasy drama Naagin is smashing TRP records. “We all are working very hard and I am very thankful to God for this superb appreciation.”
Here Adaa gets bit defensive knowing that we might ask what outlandish stuff are you showing, “Whatever drama we are showing is being really liked by the audiences. They enjoy the action, killing, revenge and change ofidentity been done by Naagin character. Even the kids love our show; they are not getting scared, which is good.”

Dwelling on the success of the fantasy genre, she says, “People were getting tired of the saas-bahu drama every day. They wanted something different, so we have come at the right time. It is a breath of fresh air on weekends.”

But there have been similar shows and films before, what is clicking this time around? “Producer Ekta Kapoor has not taken the normal snake routine, it is completely different, the start was not run of the mill i.e. the face change. And there are lot of thriller element’s involved. It is not that we win every time in eliminating our target, how we fight back the others power keep’s you on the edge of your seat.”

Coming to her Naagin co-stars Adaa says, “Mouni Roy and I clicked from the day we met at narration. Arjun Bijlani and I go back a long way. Sudhachandra Ji is also very sweet. Acutally I don’t get to shoot with them much as I have to shoot with chroma.”

She further adds, “Our director Santram Vermaput’s in lot of energy in the scenes. I am director’s actor and he really convinces me about why I need to jump around and do stunts. Earlier also I had a lot of action inmy negative avatar in Amrit Manthan as well. I am not really comfortable doing ordinary crying scenes, rather I look forward to doing stuff which requires me to put in my 100%. I also love doing action for I know this is once a life-time opportunity so might as well grab it.”

Apart from Naagin, Adaa is also doing stand-up comedy show Comedy Nights Bachaoagain on Colors. “I am blessed to have got to do two diverse shows. While in one I am playing grey, in the other I am getting to make people laugh. This Optimystix Entertainment presentation is also doing very well. The icing on the cake is that we get to meet the who’s who of Bollywood, recently Shah Rukh Khan was also here.”

This is your first stint with comedy?, “Yes and I am thankful to my stand up team i.e. Krishna Abhishek, Sudesh Lehri, Bharti and Shakeel Ji who teach me the comic craft. They keep telling me where I am right and wrong and encourage me to put in my best. I love every bit of Bachao.”

Looking back at her six year long career Adaa says,“I have grown as a person and a performer. The worst fear for an actor is not getting work hence we get very finicky when our shows (Behenein, Palampur Express and Piya Basanti Re) shut down. But I am always blessed with some or the other new show. Even between dailies, I do lot of episodics (Yeh Hai Aashiqui, Savdhaan India and Crime Patrol).”

In closing we ask Adaa if the success of Naagin could make this finite series into a long running drama, “ As far as I know, it is still a limited series.”

A. M.



Adaa Khan



Cricket is just a backdrop of BCL - Colors CEO Raj Nayak

Colors is all set to unleash BCL season 2. Th Ekta Kapoor brain child, a combination of cricket and entertainment will start on 28th February every Sunday at 4.30 pm. It will feature over 200 small screen actors divided over 10 teams of 10 players each battling out for the honors over six months. It will start with round robin format across 2 groups moving to the knock out and the finale.

We caught up with Colors' CEO Raj Nayak at the launch press conference and spoke to him about the format and other shows. Firstly the Colors boss was proud that the format which aired albeit lack luster on Sony last season has shifted to Color's."We have a history of taking formats and making them bigger and grander take Bigg Boss and Khatron Ki Khiladi for example."

Talking about the Sunday evening time slot and he says, "It was tough to find a one and half hour slot since all our shows (Naagin, Swargini, and Ashoka, etc.) are doing well. Also had we slotted in on a week day people would not have time. Tell me something where are you on a Sunday eveningat 4 p.m.??? Most people are at home when they return from brunch by 3 p.m. and will start getting dressed for parties only later. Th is slot is good as prime time for us, as w normally air movies at that time. And this property needed such a good time slot."

"Further as it is a once a week thing, it will not be taxing and will develop gradual traction. Th is is long term show and we wi have patience. People take time to develop a connection with the stars, the drama and the fight's. Th is is more like Bigg Bos Colors has always bet big on social media and we will have all the player's/team bosses tweeting or commenting on Facebook on regular basis, so we will have all the big SM (Social Media) fights amongst fan's which will give us better traction and visibility."

On the fusion of cricket and TV, he says, "Cricket is just the back drop, it is not serious sport. But it brings in the competitive edge, no one wants to lose. It also creates natural drama and passion as actors are very insecure and aggressive and when you put them on cricket pitch, magic should happen."

Will shoot happen every week? "Th at is call we have to take yet. Ideally shoot and telecast should happen every match week, but we are not sure if it will work out financially and logistically. So we might just shoot for first three months, take a break and come back. To maintain viewers' interest we will not telecast full matches. Rather we will focus on pre and post-match drama."

Raj appeared very confident about this format, "For we are past master's in the nonfiction space and if my and Ekta's team really ideate, we can have a match winner. We already have the ingredients i.e. our core small town female audience already identifies with most of our players. We have therefore only chosen actor's who have done a good amount of work. Th e interest facto will come for audience want to see how their favorite actor's behave in real life or while playing."

Changing course to Bigg Boss season Raj admitted that, "It began slowly but it has picked up big time. I guess the casting this time could have been better, but that is nature of the beast. It is not a scripted show; we don't control how you will behave inside. We are pulling out all stops i.e. we have created history by having Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan on the same stage."

A.M.

“I wanna steal a Crystal Ball”

yami gautam

She is TV’s gift to Cinema…
Yes – the head-turner from ‘Vicky Donor’, ‘Badlapur’ etc. was sighted on the Small Screen before all her exploits and triumphs on its bigger counterpart… And her luminous presence would lit up countless living rooms in Shows like, ‘Raajkumar Aaryyan’ (NDTV Imagine) or ‘Yeh Pyar Na Hoga Kam’ (Colors), making it only too obvious that here is someone who’s born to conquer the Tinsel-world, whether through Big or Small Screen…
GR8! had an up-close-and-personal with her during her stint with ‘Yeh Pyar…’ in 2006, where she opened up, perhaps for

sharing that again…





On the Yami-persona…

'Simple – yet ambitious…And if that is a paradox – so be it… I'm a typical Chandigarh girl and I wear my Middle-class values on my sleeves… I never ever fight shy of them… And trust me,those values place no curbs on me… I aspire and crave to go places in life and have always found my Sanskars to be nothing but a spring board for that…!'

On the Acting-bug…

'You won't believe it – I was in my 6th standard when the teacher asked our class, 'Tell me, what you would like to become in life?'… And all the boys & girls expressed various wishes - some said, 'Doctor', some said 'Engineer' and so on… Th en came m turn and I didn't bat an eyelid before declaring grandly – 'Actor'…!'

On the difficulties of Acting…

'It is difficult… Like, I'm doing 'Lahar' in 'YehPyar Na HogaKam' on TV and 'Lahar' is an out and out North-belt girl, while I'm a hard-core Chandigarhite… I had to slog my hardest to get under Lahar's skin, like, I speak very fast, but Lahar won't do that – woh toh har lafz ko chabachabake bolegi… It was not just saying 'Hum' instead of 'Main' – the whole speech-pattern, the entire body-language had to be changed… What can be more challenging and difficult than that…?'

On Beliefs…

'I staunchly believe in Family and Family-values that many in today's generation consider outmoded, unfashionable and untenable… Yes, I, too, am Modern, I, too, am contemporary, but my relations are sacrosanct for me - I won't tolerate anyone or anything to fiddle or trifle with them… That goes even for 'Love' as well… Love is fine, but never ever at the cost of my parents or my family…!'

On being part of the Tinsel Town…

'I became that by accident… Despite all my wishes, I knew it would never be possible for me to shift to Bombay from Chandigarh… But 'Destiny' thought otherwise… Some friends sent my photos here without so much as even telling me about it and next I knew, I was doing 'Raajkumar Aaryyan'… And things kept happening, like, the Films down South and now, 'Yeh Pyar Na Hoga Kam'… I didn't have to struggle at all…!'

On 'Compromises' in the Industry…

'My father briefed me about that with brutal frankness, before I came to Bombay… But I was positive that I would make it here with my head held high… Th e fact is – it a depends on you and what you want to make of yourself, here… If you are downright desperate to go to any lengths for work, then why only this Industry, you'll be exploited everywhere else, too…!'

On the TV-experience…

'The hectic-feverish pace of work here does take its toll… At times, I feel as if even my face has changed because of these punishing 18-hour shoots… At times, I find myself crying, crying and still more crying the entire day – tears are so much in demand on TV… So many times I've felt totally spent-up and on the verge of crashing down… Even my sister cautioned me – 'What are you doing – you'll ruin yourself'… But I cannot be dishonest to my work… However tormenting the frenzied schedules have been, I've always kept coping with them bravely…!'

On Role-Models…

'None!...But inspirations – yes… Like, say, Amitabh Bachchan – I'm in awe of his dignified silences and his capacity to bounce back…!'

On Crazy Wishes…

'One – to do a crrrazy Comedy… Two –to be able to become invisible, so that I could sleep to my heart's content – unseen and undisturbed…Th ree – to be able to ste: from somewhere, a Crystal Ball so that I could peep into my future through it!'



And we know where the Crystal-ball would show her…
Right in the room at the top…!



"They did not value me…
SARTAJ GILL ON LEAVING, 'BEGUSARAI'

Ah, those hunky-dory beginnings!

Zee Network launching its new GEC, '& TV' with great fanfare… And TV's answer to 'Gangs of Wasseypur', there in the programming… First episode directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia (no less)… And then, TV's ace director Ravindra Gautam ('Kasauti..', 'Uttaran', 'Bade Achhe…') helming it to set up its rhythm, pace and ambience…

'Begusari' had everything going for itself!

Adding to its immense promise was a hand-picked cast with a heady blend of veterans and fresh faces, out of which the suave, hunky and fizzy to a fault debutant, Sartaj Gill drew rave notices from the very beginning for his flamboyance as well as his finesse in Drama.

And today, the serial has gone into a shocking disarray with draggy tracks, laden ambience and listless handling that is glaringly reflecting on the Rating Charts. For the few who have been still following it, the biggest jolt has come by way of Sartaj Gill dropping out of the show.

Yes – the same Sartaj, who was once touted as its USP, has bid adieu to it and his character has been killed therein. Since this is nothing but an afterthought, the whole structure of the story has changed and taken an entirely different course, because obviously, the plot was not to be like this when Sartaj was penciled in for the show.

'Yes' says he with a tings of sadness, 'At that time, I was told that I would be the prime character in it and one that would take the story ahead, but, as you must be knowing, the Production has changed hands (from Saregama/Jaaswand Entertanment to Siddharth Tewary's, Swastik Productions) and with that the Creatives have undergone a transformation as well. In the chaos that followed, my character Priom has been married to the dancing-girl, Bindiya (Shweta Tiwari) and gradually, the serial has gone on to become more of a 'Saas-Bahu' type show rather than the high-voltage male-oriented one that it once set out to be!'

We are curious to know as to how he felt when the focus started getting shifted from him to Vishal Singh, playing his cousin, 'Laakhan' in there. 'The shift of focus did happen' sighs Sartaj, 'but I was still OK with it as after his marrying Poonam (Shivangi Joshi, female lead) in the serial, they had to be given more Screen time. That was reasonable – but what was positively not reasonable was the fact that the story got stuck in a stranglehold. Nothing was progressing even in their track, despite 2 months' passing by. My on-screen father (Narendra Jha) was sent to jail and we did not do anything substantial to get him out. The episodes were just being dragged aimlessly!'

And he cannot really say why this shift of focus from him happened? But of course, he was, 'upset and felt bad about it!' He did talk to the writers and the makers as well and the latter assured him 'it was just a passing phase and within one month's time, you would be back! The month passed by and yet, 'the most important character continued to be sidelined, most unjustifiably!'



So, when did he decide that enough was enough? 'In September!' he confides, 'And in October, I finally met them and expressed my resolve to leave the show!'

Were there fretting, fuming scenes at their end?

'They did ask me as to why I wanna leave and I minced no words in telling them the reasons… but thankfully, there were no scenes storming in between us!' Still, doesn't an artiste feel sad and 'betrayed' at such developments? Sartaj, ever a gentleman, puts it in as gentlemanly a way as he can – 'Look, I gave my BEST! But if I had let my irritation show on my face, it would have cut a wrong impression on my audience. So, to the very last, I continued putting in my best and all of those scenes came in for high praise as well from the viewers!'

And now, how does he look back on the Begusarai experience?

He's quick to come on that…
'I think my best moments were during the first 15 episodes when Ravindra Gautam was at the helm. In those initial days, the concept was 'fresh' and the pace was exciting. In fact, the things that were unfolding, taught me a lot about life. Those days were really an enriching experience!'

But alas! Perhaps, it was too good to last… Gautam left and eventually, the rot set in. Today, the entire enterprise is in a shambles, looking even more desolate in the absence of the sparkling Sartaj. Indeed, it beats us as to how can the producers not realise this?

'They did not value me…
But you know what, now it seems they also want me back on the show and are, perhaps, planning some tracks for me. But I think the possibility of my being back on the show are rather improbable now – still, let's see what the future holds for me! See, when an artiste has faith in Creative people, he puts his trust in them and is willing to take risks or try afresh with them. But, it is no more the same case, here – the episodes are still being dragged!'

And the 'trust' is broken…
Sad!



SAM KO

A must have music collection:
I'm a very moody music listener like for example, if I'm at the beach I'll listen to some lounge and now that I'm shooting in the mountains, my playlist will completely change. Rock is for all seasons however! I love my U2 and Simon & Garfunkel and I'm also extremely fond of Kishore Kumar, R D Burman, Hemant Kumar etc. At this very moment, I'm glued to the music of my film Jaanam that I'm currently shooting for.

Most expensive gift received:
I'm more of the giving gifts kind of person but I would say the laptop gifted by my wife recently would count as one!

One motivational quote you use quite often:
It would be by Andy Dufresne from The Shawshank Redemption - "I guess it comes down to a simple choice, really. Get busy living or get busy dying!"

The coolest thing you have ever done:
Jumped off from an airplane at 13,000 square feet right above the mind-blowing locale of Palm Jumeirah in Dubai!

Parties or peaceful evenings:
Five years ago, the answer would have been 'parties'. Now I think I'm more for 'peaceful evenings at parties'!

Favourite sport:
Football all the way! Most people would think cricket automatically, but I'm more of a football freak.

GAUTAM RODE



One of the most eligible Bachelor of Tellywood, this talented actor has always essayed the role which can unquestionably make any of his contemporaries jealous. After having shows like Saraswatichandra, Mahakumbh in his kitty, Gautam Rode currently seen on Suryaputra Karn as Karn believes that Mythological shows are huge in canvas as the

locations and is more physically taxing. He thinks audiences like to see mytho shows and

actor's skills to the fullest"

Here he answers 7 questions on whether he did or he did not...



1 **Have you ever eyed the role played by another TV actor?**
Well, I am trying to think but cannot recollect. To be honest, actor would rather eye roles done by me as they were more male-oriented.

2 **Have you done any shows which can offer you Instant Fame and Recognition?**
Trust me, No. I did shows which I had faith in…

3 **Have you ever felt the need of an emotional support?**
Well, see I don't want to rush in relationship just for the sake of it. Yes, I do feel the need and hope to find the right partner.

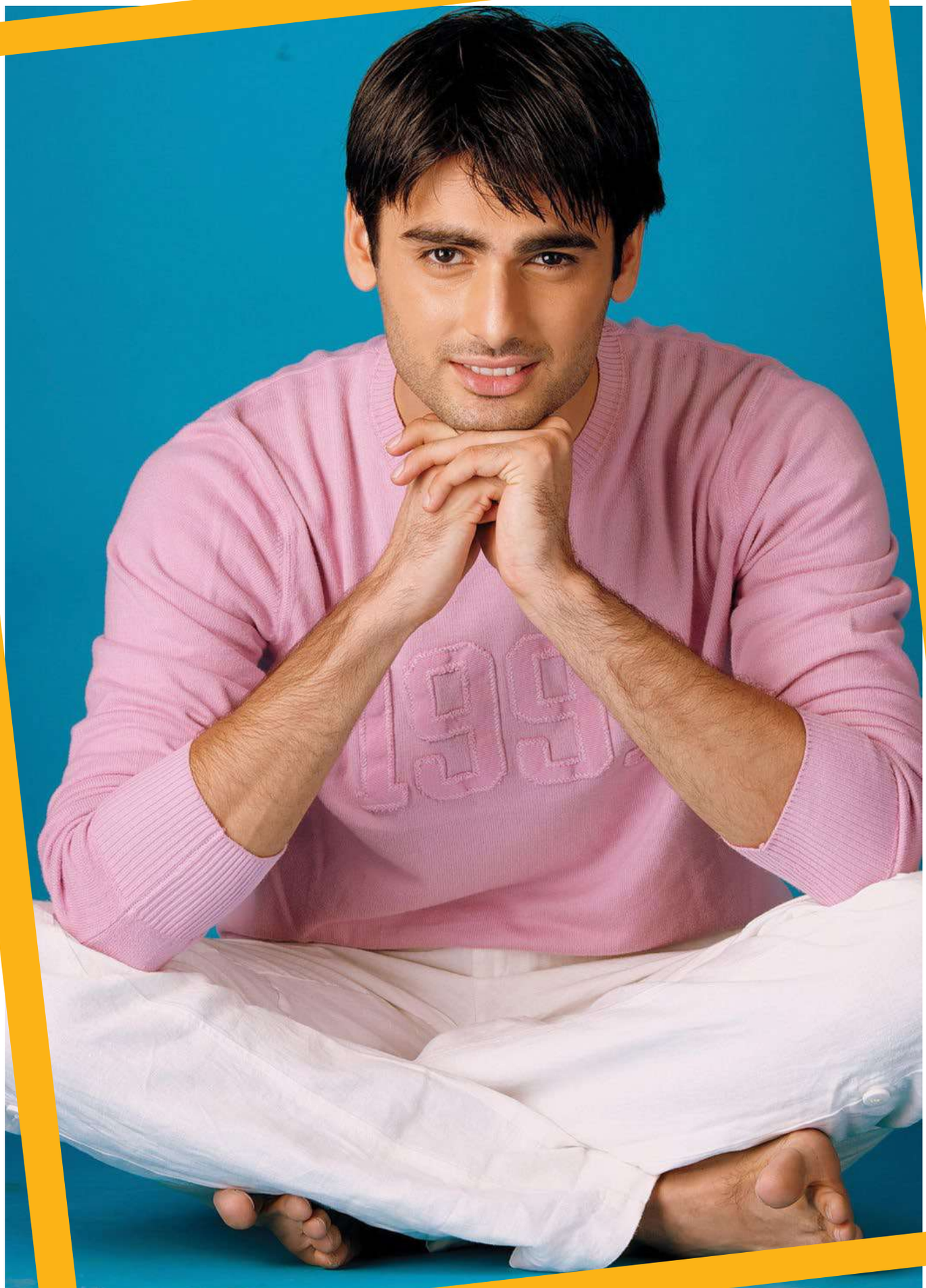
4 **Do you check what media is writing about you and your other TV friends?**
Who has the time to see? Th is year has been so taxing that I could not keep myself updated with this.

5 **Have you ever had a crush on your co-star?**
A big 'NO'

6 **Have you have been recently upset with your friend's actions?**
Yes, it happened once…

7 **You have always donned the good boy's image. Have you ever wished to play a negative character?**
Yes, I would love to…

J.S.


1994

VARUN KAPOOR

I AM OPEN TO ANY AND EVERY KIND OF ROLE

Varun Kapoor of Colors show Swaragini is very happy that his show continues to dominate the TRP charts, "I guess what works for me are two main factors. People are able torelate with the drama. Secondly, a love story well told and well executed always works."

Since your character is too good to be true, what do you feel about him and how would you compare yourself to him?" I don't think I have ever come across a more sanksari person as Sanskar. Varun personally is also not so good. I have my fair share of flaws. I hope that playing this character might rub off some of his total positivity on me as well. The only common thread between the real me and my character is that we both are very calm. I am able to handle circumstances since I am also quite matured."

Varunsays preparing for the role is anongoing process. "As graph of our Desi TV character keeps changing, we really don't know how things will pan out in the long run. So we try to follow the given lines on a daily basis. Over time we get the gist of the character thereby understanding how he will behave. We always have to keep in mind the interpersonal equation of our character with others."

Like most male actor, he also got testy when confronted with question of female dominated scripts. "It would be wrong to define it as female or male dominated. Agreed as majority of our audiences are female so they prefer stories which are female centric. But even that would not be possible without the male characters equal contribution. That is my personal take but people have their own funda about things."

Remind me that he has been around TV for a long time while doing small roles in Bayttaab Dil Kee Tamanna Haiand Humse Hai Life, etc., he gets a bit defensive and says, "Looking at my long future ahead, five years is nothing. For our craft is such that it takes a very long time to hone your skills. All I can say is that I have taken a few good steps and hope to get better with each outing."

Turning attention to Star Plus' Saraswati-chandra which was the game changer for him, he says, "Entering an already established show mid-way helped me a lot as I got lots of captive audiences. Over time, my character also becam every popular."

Asked about Marwari-Bengal equation, he says, "I know many people feel that Marawaris are more conservative than others. But India has really grown by leaps and bounds and for most of people of my generation, caste simply does not matter they are more concerned about fixing their careers and personal lives."

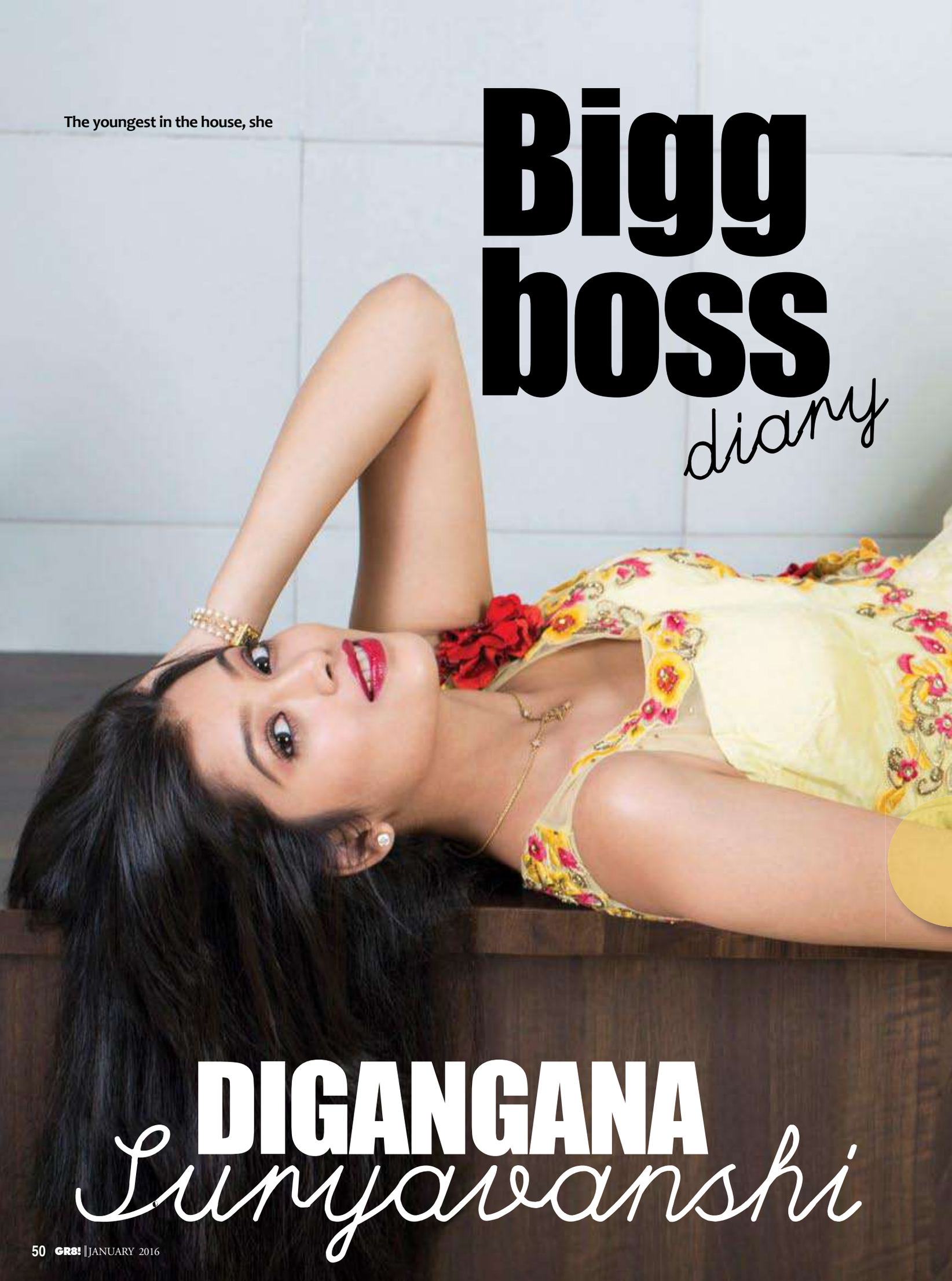
Point out that Tejaswi Prakash's exiting the show alleged over her character getting very dark. He says, "Track's keep changing every month. And I am sure a lot research must be going behind any decision. As we want to make show which people like, I really have no comments to make as to whether her quitting will harm or help the show. We have no control what on what is written. As actors, our job is to do our best…period."

Looking ahead he says, "I am open to any and every kind of role. Life is short and unpredictable and one does not know if we will get the opportunity again. As an actor it is very important for me to showcase my skills."

A.M.

The youngest in the house, she

Bigg boss diary



DIGANGANA Suryavanshi



And 'Smart Player' of the house is –
Obviously Mandana

Whom you would tag as 'Cheater' of the house? –
Th ey can't cheat me as I don't expect a thing from them

Person whom you would like to see outside House –
I have already met Vikasji outside! He's a very genuine person and so is his family. I'm friends with Ankit and Roopal too. Would love to meet Rimi, Motabhai and Amanji.. From people inside the house, will surely meet most of them like Kish, Suyyash, Rishabh, Pince, Mandana

And title of 'Dirty Player' goes to –
Well don't know about dirty but I think these wild card entries are really wild!!!

Title of 'Honest and Unpretentious' –
None. Hahaha

Title of 'Chameleon' goes to-
Prince and Rochelle both are different during tasks and different otherwise! Th ey contradict most of the things that they say...

One moment in House which you will always cherish -
My 18th birthday in the house and obviously all interactions with Salmanji!



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO TELEVISION...

OK - you're at top of the tree!

Granted and Honoured - that in the world of Indian Entertainment, no one can touch you today even by accident … that in view of sheer Commerce, you've beaten your bigger counterpart hollow and that's because your reach, your sweep & sway and your 'Connect' with countless captive viewers is a never before phenomenon – period!

And we can cross our hearts to that! But… and this is a very big 'BUT', mind you…

But is Commerce the be-all and end-all? Can megabucks only define true value? Is just being the 'Big Guy', the 'Big Apple', the 'Fat Cat' enough to make one worthy???

Put your hand on your heart and it, without a shred of doubt, would say a 'Nope' to that. That's why even as you are the biggest slice of 'Showbiz' now, you leave a lot be desired in the way you've moulded your image. Trust us, all of your sloppy, slobbery 'Soaps', your unreal 'Reality-shows', your 'Sansani Samachaars' (which, unfortunately, have become opinion-makers today, setting in the rot called 'Trial by Television') - aren't what we really wished for when we heralded your arrival as the 'hope' of tomorrow in Entertainment!

Indeed, for all your powers - you have no business to soil and subvert our sensibilities for your TRP's!

Just pause and pounder, would you - must you throw us in the 4 walls of your beastly Bigg Boss? Or kick in some muck or the other in the name of that cunningly crafted term - 'Edgy Content'?

So is it or it isn't in the realm of probability that the New Year sees you taking at least the first step towards a 'New' Television - a Television that is constructive rather than corrupting?

Fingers firmly crossed!



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO BIG B ON SMALL SCREEN...

To the Ultimate-in-Eminence:

Time was when your Big Screen Czardom snowballed to the Small Screen in a jiffy, leaving everybody heaving heavy sighs & swoons. Th at was way back at the turn of the millennium when you held the Nation captive with your hosting of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' (Star Plus -2000). From those tiny Screens in zillions of living-rooms all across, you strode straight into people's hearts that were already full of your images from films.

Th e sway & sweep of your 'Connect' with your audience has been the stuff myths are made of! Since that July in 2000, when KBC catapulted Indian TV onto its phenomenal leap that has ended up in perching it at the very apex of Indian Entertainment, the same Show has been having yearly seasons - most of 'em hosted by you - albeit with waning popularity.

The 'Law-of-diminishing-returns' has caught up with it!

Apparently, the viewer-fatigue has been setting in, though it is no reflection on your luminous presence in the Show. In fact, but for your being there, it would long have been reduced to a damp squib.

But 2015 has, particularly, been a nosedive for your TV-exploits!

You were ill-advised to pick up Anurag Kashyap's 'Yudh' (Sony), which was too labourd and lumbering to make it anything more than a ponderous and tedious viewing on TV and that too for all of one hour daily.

Th e same mistake of length has been repeated in your next outing on the medium in Star Plus' 'Aaj Ki Raat Hai Zindagi' and this time doubly so, as this issue-based Show, most distractingly sprinkled with a hefty measure of Stardust & Tinsel along with all that Naach-Gaana, is stretched to drag on to two hours every Sunday. Th e result has been a total disconnect with the viewers (as stands reflected in the Ratings that often touch a pathetic '.5' for such a lavishly-mounted Show).

But once again, none of its failings can be attributed to you. On the contrary, you are the true saving grace of the AKRHZ - sincere, genuine and earnest as ever, you and only you are the reason for a few still tuning into it.

So where do we go from here? Shall we, can we ever again get a Show that can really carry the 'Bachchanesque' and be worthy of it?

Hope the New Year holds an answer to that!



HAPPY NEW

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO SONY...

Come to think of it…

You were once heralded as the 'Great TV Hope', because you were different! You were the first 'Urbane' Channel on the canvas of Indian Television and shunned the breast-beating 'Saari-Sindoor', 'Saas-Bahu' syndromes in your programming.

People turned to you for sophisticated Content and it all peaked with 'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin' that really threw a spanner in the works of decadent Kitchen-politics that had come to rule the roost on TV till then. And JJKN took the country by storm - so much so, a stamp was introduced by the Indian Postal Dept. carrying the character's visage on it!

And look at the scenario that followed!

Things just went haywire at your end and except for flashes here and there in the form of a 'KBC' or a 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain' it has been nothing but doldrums for you. Indeed, but for CID (your only hope for the last 17 years), you could have easily got your ticket punched thanks to your abortive association with all those humdrum Yash Raj products or other futile and sterile projects with Big Screen bigwigs, like, Anurag Kashyap in that barren (mis)venture - the overwrought 'Yudh'!

But can this pall of gloom lift from your existence?
Here is hoping that this New Year does that for you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO 'DIYA AUR BAATI HUM'...

OK, you've been the fastest rat in TV's Rat-race!

Well, till quite recently at least, when week after week after week, the room-at-the-top had only one occupant - you! It almost looked as if the number 'One' had become your sole property on the Popularity-charts.

And trust us, not many even in the discerning grudged your apex status, because despite all the melodrama, the often overblown mushy-mushy streaks in the plot-structure, there was something in you that resonated, particularly the way the relation between the protagonists was developed.

But it seems the 'Top' has become an addiction with you!

And now that you are being elbowed away from that, you are showing serious withdrawal symptoms and an almost pathological frustration is catching up with you.

In your desperation to re-grab the eyeballs to the optimum, your Creative department seems to have given 'Talaaq, Talaaq, Talaaq' to all logic and in the process, has been creating quite a Theatre-of-the-Absurd, of late. The instances are too many to post here for want of space – suffi ce it to mention one that really took the cake, dough and bakery in absurdity!

In the 'Nuclear attack on Pushkar' (ho-hum) sequence, Suraj gets shot in the heart (or if you fuss about it, maybe a centimeter or two away) and starts bleeding buckets. Then, Sandhya, with her legs supposedly broken by the terrorist villain, takes him to a Narayani Devi, the village doctor living in a hutment. And next you know, the bullet has been successfully extracted from his heart (or thereabouts) in that totally non-sterile space, without so much as such dispensables (?) as 'blood transfusion', 'anaesthesia', 'fluids' and what have you… and the Operation Th eatres be damned!

Indeed, it was such an outrageous insult to the intelligence of the viewers and of late, it has become a rule rather than an exception with you to care two hoots for the same! We hope the New Year would restore some sense to the nonsense that DABH is shaping out to be!

In sincere prayers!



YEAR 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO MYTHO VIRUS...

Gosh! You are all over!

Suddenly, TV seems to be possessed by you. All over, dark shadows are slithering across, thunder & lightning piercing eyes & ears, gongs resounding, arrows darting, demons and sub-humans growling and of course, the Ichhaadhaari Naagins hissing and morphing into different people at the bat of an eyelid to carry out their vendettas – in short, Mythology, whether from Scriptures, Epics or Fantasies is being held as the safest bet in TV Commerce these days.

The most apparent ploy for that is, of course, milking our two monumental Epics - Ramaayan & Mahaabharat. So we have the same stories being told, retold, re-retold with a few tweaks (forced) here and there. So you have Star Plus extracting some more juice from Mahaabhaarat… and it doesn't end there! The same producer, then, snares Sony for Suryaputra Karn and the samescenes are redone there, supposedly from Karan's point of view.

Oh, come on - you think we can't see through your little games?

And for the nth time Raamaayan comes on the Small Screen in Star Plus' Siya Ke Raam. As the title grandly suggests, it is from Seeta's POV this time, but once again, barring a twist here and there, you end up going through the same sequences all over again.

Even more shocking is the way Socials have started incorporating Bhootsand Chudails in them. Hence, in a typical breast-beating family melodrama, like, Sasural Simar Ka, the Chudails start cropping up like nobody's business. This development is actually far more vicious than it seems on surface, as such things in a Social would only enhance the supernatural streaks in lay Indian viewers' minds that are already infested with superstitions & blind-faiths.

Furthermore, it's like – 'What? The GRP's (that reflect the viewership of a Channel) are low? Call the Ichhaadhaari Naagin, pronto!' And again and again the Badlaa of Ichhadhaari Naagin is being let loose on the captive audience – but the sorry scenario is that these plots are being lapped up by the viewers as is evident from Colors' Naagin ruling the TV-roost these days.

So it seems it would be nothing but ahappy, happy New Year for the Mythos – That's so sad…
Shhh, do you hear that sound…
Hisssss...!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO GR8!

A big Hi to your new Avatar!

Bigger in size, richer in looks, crisper in content; you are gloriously unrecognisable from your former self. Well, 'change', they say, is the order of the day and when it is for the better (which, evidently, has been the case with you) - it's a downright boon!

And the response to your makeover has been electric from both the Readers, who have lapped it up, as well as the Industry, who has given you a big Thumbs-up all over again. So all the sweat & blood, shed in the process of re-sculpting has been worth it and the same has been all of that ruckus at the desks, the free-for-alls between the Editorial & Designing teams, the Editor's 'frets' and the Publisher's 'fumes'… (gasps!)

But be warned!
Yes, be very, very warned - 'Fame' is a whore that turns away at the snap of a finger - so don't you ever let this whore possess you! On the contrary, just keep working your fingers to the bones - that's what would stand you in good stead, finally!

Just keep all the GR8! Guns blazing!

"NOT EVERYBODY CAN MAKE YOU LAUGH

Mugdha CHAPHEKAR

No wonder she is very happy with her new SAB TV show Saheb Biwi Aur Boss."I myself wanted a break after the monotony of non-stop crying, wearing saris and being part of kitchen politics. A comic relief is always good."

Talking about the plot of her new Edit 2 production, she says, "It is a situational comedy where my married character Anisha lies to her boss Resham Tipnis that she is single and has to face the consequences.Vipul Roy (my onscreen husband) and Dhruv Singh (Boss's nephew) completes the cast."

Mugdha goes on, "I am very fortunate to have got a chance to do comedy as not everyone can make you laugh. You need to be quite versatile. In a daily, the zooming camera and trolley does most of the acting. But out here you need to have the comic timing. Normally girls are not considered funny. My friends would always say that you have a great sense of humour after listening to my quips. Being a writer, I have written lots of comedy as well."

Here she added, "Biggest difference between comedy and a daily show is that the former is done by actors and the latter by stars. And I never really aspire for big name and fame. If it comes, then it's good. Also what I love about this genre is that it keeps you refreshed. The daily soap negativity in Satrangi Sasarul had started to take a toll. It would take me a while to snap out of it."

Coming to Sajan Re, Mugdha says,"I learnt a lot about the craft from senior actors like Sumeet Raghavan, Apara Mehta and Tiku Talsania. It went to become a very big hit. Even now five years down the line, people still call me as Sajan Re gal Aarti." Her prior comedy assignment was Sab Golmaal Hai.

So what happened to your character in Satrangi Sasural??? "Nothing my stint ended in September last year." She further refused to comment on the why and how of it."It was a creative decision and I don't interfere in that. If my fans were shocked so was I, as I was being informed just four days prior to my characters termination."

When we tell her that if the purpose of getting her character bumped off was to raise the ratings although it did not really happen, she just smiled and said, "No regrets! It was a good experience to start with. Everything has to end one day right. And I am sure that they must be having some reason. Even now I am in touch with most of the cast."

Interestingly she found love in her Satrangi co-star Ravish Desai. The two have been dating for a year. They hope to get engaged early next year.

In closing, Mudgha informs us that being a versatile actor she has no plans to shy away from serious roles in the future as well. "Please look out for performance in my debut Marathi flick 'The Silence' which also stars Raghubir Yadav, Anjali Patiland Nagraj Manjule. Our award winning director Gajendra Ahire as really got the good out of us. The film is now doing the rounds of various international film festivals."

A.M.

Although the beautiful and talented Mugdha Chaphekar last seen in Zee TV's Satrangi Sasural has dabbled in several kind of genres over years i.e. historical (Dharti Ka Veer Yodha Prithviraj Chauhan), period drama (Dharam Veer) and a love story (Mere Ghar Aayi Ek Nanhi Pari) etc., she loves comedy the most. Sajan Re Jhoot Mat Bolo had first got her accolades in the light hearted genre.





Shibani Sanghvi

To keep with fashion trends in a country with such a vast culture and

decided to create her own fashion portal with the latest trends and chic

style check!!! 17 new VIBRANT LOOKS



Bohemian Encounters Maxi Skirt

- We cant get over the boho trend any soon! Our Bohemian Encounters Maxi Skirt tailored from a smooth satin fabric featuring box pleats, side zip closure and maxi length that defines flirty chic.
- Ideal for a Beach Party/ Fashion Exhibitions
- Pair with a solid crop top, strappy flats, mini leather backpack, chunky wrists and beach wave tresses for a bohemian kinda day.



Ain't Any BreakUp Dress

- Our Ain't Any Breakup is a Co-Ord dress, featuring high round neck, a break-out at the waist, exposed back zip closure and not to forget-the oh-so-awesome boho print.
- Perfect for Festive Parties/ Dinner Date
- Rock this on with pointy pumps or brogues, sleek straight tresses and chunked up wrists for that starry glaze



Flora Boho Maxi Dress

- Th e Flora Boho Maxi dress features a M-slit front, leather straps, bold flower print and a super soft fabric.
- Ideal for- A Brunch Date or A Garden Party
- Throw a furry coat over, some espadrille sandles, a backpak and a wide brim hat to set the eyes rolling for you!



Cross Paths Blouson Top & Gone Metallic Leggings

- Our Gone Metallic Legging features a luxe metallic-velevet fabric, elasticated waist and a comfy fit whereas Th e Cross Paths Blouson Top is diced from luxe satin crepe featuring cross over front, elasticated hem at front, cuffed full sleeves and a back pleat yoke.
- Ideal for Parties
- Team them up with leather mules, bright red pouts and smoky eyes to kiss the nights off!



To Th e Top Bodysuit & Floral Motif Skirt

- To The Top Bodysuit- featuring a high slit neck, cutout at waist, PU bodice and sleeveless. Snap button at the crotch. Floral Motif Skirt features Stiff Canvas Fabric, Digital Floral Motif Print, box pleats, side zip fastening and a Midi Length.
- Ideal for Brunch Date and casual chic hangouts
- We love them with sky high heels, coral lips, messy hair and a winged liner.



Oh-My-Dye Maxi Top

- Oh My Dye Maxi Top features a button down pattern, full sleeves, back yoke and an elasticized waist.
- Ideal for BFF brunches, holidays, casual hangouts and almost everything!
- Throw it on your basic pants, buckle flats and vintage sunglasses to make them go ga-ga!



Color Me Print Dress

- We are swooning over this picture perfect Color Me Print Dress, featuring a playful digital print, 3/4th sleeves, high slit round neck and a tapered fit. Unlined.
- Perfect for Movie Date or a chic getaway
- Keep it sporty with black leather moto jacket and moto boots or go glam with metalic heels and chunky statement earrings. Toussled hair and vintage red pouts



Of Abstracts Midi Dress

- Our Of Abstracts Midi Dress features a round neck, princess cut panels and side zip fastening. Fully lined. Tailored to fit you perfect.
- Ideal for casual outings by the citywalk or early coffee hours
- Team this up with a messy side braid, stained cherry lips, minimal kohl and buckle flats for your Me Time!



I've Got Your Back Dress

- This dress features back straps with rivet studs, back bow tie ribbons and a pencil fit. Ideal for a Party/
- Dinner Date Walk around in sky
- high heels, red pouts and your fave mocktail to rave de parti!

Wrap Crop Top & Block It Out Midi Skirt



- Our it's a Wrap Crop Top features a plunging neckline, full sleeves, cross-over neck, side waist cuts and a full wrap bow-tie-- which is multifunctional to be tied at the front-side-back..Th e Block It Out Midi Skirt features a smooth satin fabric, circular patterned, high waist and an enclosed side zip fastening.
- Ideal for a Dance Session we say!
- Looks sexy with a bodychain tucked under, messy hair, basic brogues and dewy makeup.

Cross Back Bodysuit & Winter Floral Shorts



- Th e Cross Back Bodysuit is diced out from Cotton Stretch and Lycra, featuring a cross back pattern at the back, front cut-out neck, side zip fastening and snap button closure at the bottom. Th e Winter Floral Shorts are cut from Satin, featuring an icey floral print, loose fit and side zip fastening.
- Perfect for casual hangout, brunches or a coffee date.
- Team these up with Sneaker shoes, loose wavey hair, jet kohl eyes and coral lips.

Sarong Black Bodysuit & Of Jewels and Prints Palazzo



- Sarong Black bodysuit is diced out from Stretch Lycra featuring Sarong neck, backless back and a waist cutout. Of Jewels and Prints Palazzo is tailored in Satin, featuring side zip closure and a Slim Fit.
- Perfect for Parties
- Team this up with peep toe heels, half curled tresses, vintage red pouts and dramatic eyes for that subtle glam.

Swirl Some Floral Maxi Skirt



- Our Swirl Some Floral Maxi Skirt features an Icey Floral Print, Luxe Satin fabric, side zip closure and a circular cut silhoutte.
- Ideal for Evening hangouts, Brunch Dates, Garden Parties or Pre-wed Shoots!
- Pair up with a sexy bodysuit and platform heels for subtle glam or a boxy fit slogan tee and sneaker shoes for that edgy chic look.

Skull Fall Blazer



- This Skull Fall Blazer features a quirky print, flap pockets, single button closure, contrast piping and panelled back.
- Perfect for BFF Hangouts, Shopping Sprees
- Throw this on with your little black tee, ripped denims, high tied hair and funky sunnies to score a notch up!

Flora-Party Crop Top & Skirt

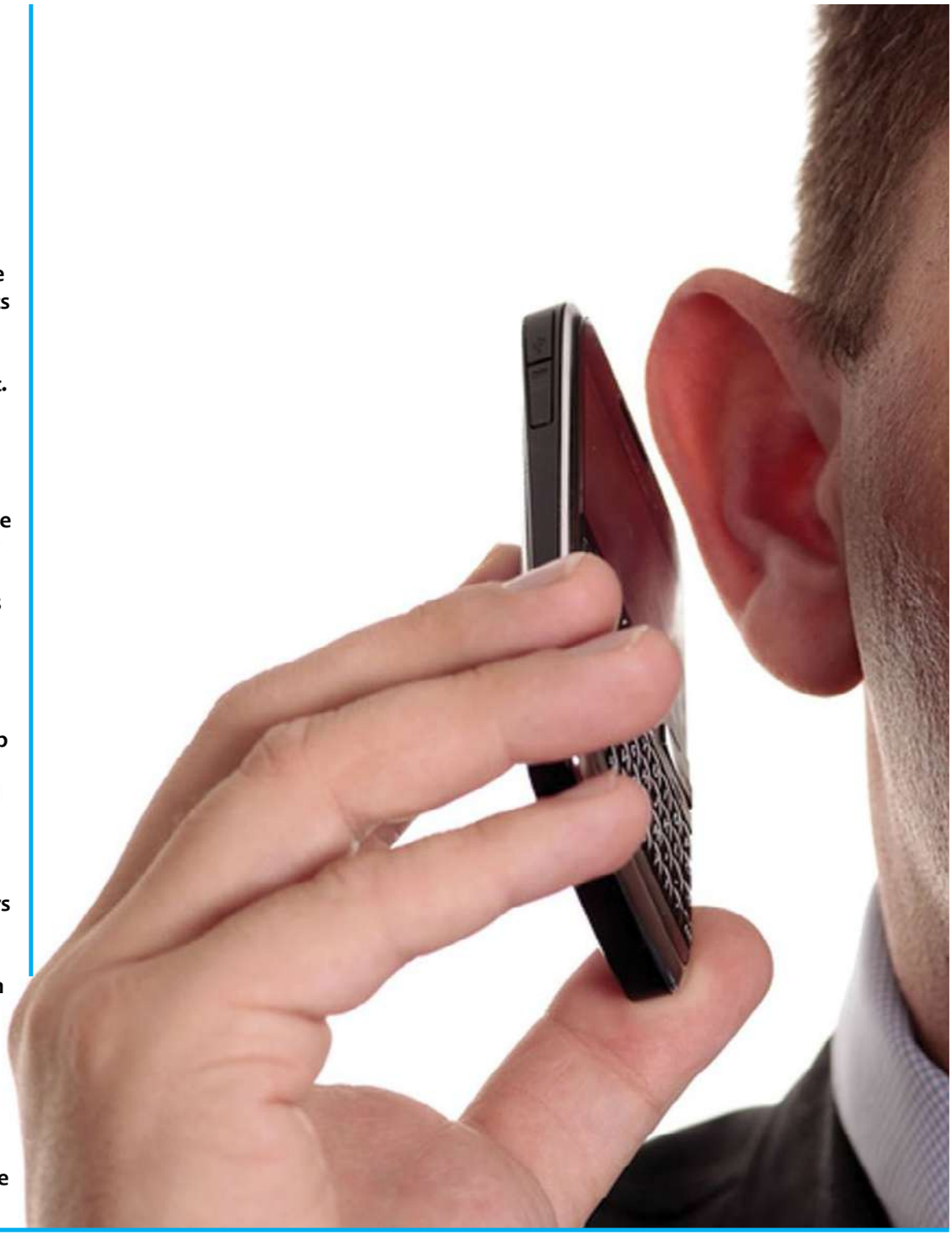


- Diced out from Printed Stretch Lycra, this piece can be worn as a Co-Ord Set or as stand alones. The crop features a back zip closure and cut-in sleeves. The Maxi Skirt features side zipe closure and side slits for that added chicness.
- Perfect for Movie dates and BFF hangouts
- Pair up with quirky sunnies, messy hair, winged eyeliner, flatform skeds and coral pouts.

We all have those days when we just want to plug in our earphones and tune the world out. I have them almost every day, when I have to travel to work. The chaos in the train, the jarring sound of announcements and that whoosh of a passing train is simply not the way I want to start my day… or end it. But what had me thinking was the fact that my mobile phone and my earphones are plugged into my ears for almost six to seven hours in a day — could the noise be harming my hearing??? And if I was, what kind of damage I was exposing my ears to?

When you listen to music or a loud noise, the tiny hair like structures in your ear (that help send signals to your brain to cognate a sound) get damaged and eventually are stripped of their outer covering which in turn leads to hearing loss. The kind of hearing loss (that occurs due to continuous earphone use) is called noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) and is often irreversible.

Earphones, especially the ear bud earphones (the one's you insert into your ear canal) amplify the sound you are hearing five to six times and are even more harmful.



are your MOBILE PHONES DAMAGING your ears?

Any sound above 85 decibels is capable of damaging your hearing. Th at is, using your phone or music player at 70% of its top volume. What you need to understand is the fact that the decibel is what plays the most important role in harming your hearing. Th e lower the volume of the music, the longer you can listen to it without harming your hearing. Th e louder the music, the quicker the damage.

Any kind is fine as long as the volume is kept to a minimum. But yes, the ear bud earphones are far more harmful that those that you wear outside the pinna (the outer cartilage of your ear) of your ears as they distance the sound from the eardrum. Earbud earphones tend to amplify sounds causing damage faster.

Any music with high-pitched sound can cause hearing problems. Low pitched, soothing sounds like that of drums, acoustic guitars, tabla and other instruments are not harmful. But the kind of music that involves high pitched instruments like the ones used to play heavy metal can damage your hearing in a short period of time.

An early sign of damage is gradual hearing loss. When you sense that you are unable to hear certain high-pitched sounds like the bell ringing or when someone calls out for you, it is time to visit your doctor for a proper check up of your hearing ability.

Depending on the severity of damage and how early you get diagnosed, the level of hearing loss can be slowed down and in some cases even restored. Some basic precautions every person with hearing loss should take is to protect their ears from loud sounds by wearing ear plugs. If caught early, there are a few steroidal drugs that can be used to restore your hearing too.

• Make sure whenever you are listening to music on your earphones/mobile phones, the volume isn't too loud.
• Get your ears cleaned regularly by a doctor.
• If you have a sinus infection or cold, make sure your ears are checked for damage.
• Get your blood sugar and cholesterol under control. As diabetes tends to deaden nerve endings and can cause deafness. High cholesterol, on the other hand, causes blocks in the blood vessels of the ears, leading to damage.
• Hold the phone away from the ear while talking, and switch between the ears for longer conversations.
• Use a wired headset, or a Bluetooth headset.
• Carry the phone away from the body.
• Find a stronger signal area when talking and stay put while talking.
• Wait till a call connects before putting it to your ear.
• Radiation penetration in the brain and tissues is far more in children than adults, so keep mobiles away from children.
• Avoid using the phone while driving or operating machinery as it increases attention load and lowers reaction times.



UNCURTAINING

the challenges encountered by

SUPER WOMEN *of CID*



L to R - Amaani Satrala, Ansha Sayed, Janvi Chheda, Pooja Khatri, Shraddha Musale, Tanya Abrol

No need to give introduction about this longest running show. Successfully running for 18 years and all set to embrace its 19th year, this is one show we will always remember watching while growing up. Catchphrases like 'Kuch toh gadbad hain' and 'Daya darwaza tod do' are still being used and yes not to forget all the hilarious jokes it was subjected to all these years. Thrill, suspense, action, humor, light romance… you name it and they showcase it. Be it chemistry between the trio ACP Pradyuman, Abhijeet and Daya or comical timing of Inspector Frederick and Pankaj, or be it khatta meetha bond between Abhijeet and Dr. Salunkhe and yes not to forget the style icon of CID Dr. Tarika and her silent romance with Abhijeet, it just gave all to entertain us.

However with all the thrill and amusement it offers, what is not much talked about is the efforts and struggle faced by the female cast of the show who are putting equal efforts if not more as they part of show which is subjugated by men.

Janvi Chedda who plays the role of Inspector Shreya says, "It was not difficult with perspective of the show being male dominated but it was challenging as it was something which I never did before. I took time to adapt to language and stance that Shreya possess. Now its 3.5 years and it is like I am living the character."

Tanya Abrol, also seen in Chak De and now playing the role of Cop Jaywanti in show replies, "Yes maybe it is a male dominated show but for me the challenges are beyond that. It has been a year since I have joined CID and it is definitely not a regular show especially when you are shooting outdoors. Imagine running for like 1.5-2 kilometres to get particular shots. I have never done something like this before."

The leggy lass of CID, Dr. Tarika played by Shraddha Musale, adds, "Haah…It has been eight years now I have been playing this character. I have grown from little girl to woman doing this show. See I won't deny. Yes it is a male-dominated show but fortunately all of them are very grounded. It is here I learned a very meaningful lesson i.e. not to let success go to my head. We have now learned to be part of that 'Man' group and now we have reached that comfort level where they don't need to hesitate thinking we are women."

CID is among those very rare shows on small screen which does not spare woman also from action sequences. So we ask pretty ladies about the training and workshops taken and their experiences while doing outdoor shoots…

Janvisays, "In my previous show, I was given proper martial arts training. So I was pretty sorted with that. But stunts here are very real. Yes we have stunts team and all kind of instruments and harnesses but real stunt is doing outdoor sequences. I remember we were once shooting near waterfall and the shot required us to stand on the edge of that waterfall which was 500 feet deep without any support. So for me that is a stunt, playing with your life and giving your best to the show. That was adventurous and very exciting"

Tanya adds that, "I agree with Janvi. It is difficult. We have to shoot irrespective of what is the temperature outdoors. Obviously, First thing which goes off is make-up. Everyone has their look and my look can never tie her hair. So it is difficult especially when it's really hot and to top it, there are other problems too which a girl has to face. But not everybody gets a chance to do this show. The cast is very supportive."

Janvi says, "It is not just make-up. I think it is costume too. Well, most of the times we don't have a vanity during our outdoor shoots. We just go to hotels and have lunch or dinner there but that is also something which does not happen always. Believe me there have been times where we had to change outfits behind bushes, rocks also. Imagine a situation where there are no washrooms. Trust me; it is beyond anyone's imagination but if you can do it, you had it baby!"

Pooja Khatri aka Sub-Inspector Ishita adds, "CID has been my first show. It is really thrilling experience for me because I have grown up watching this show. Regarding stunts, it is interesting to learn back kick, side kicks and punches. It is really fun."

The show which will soon unveil major changes in story telling has managed to attract viewer's attention since last 18 years and yes it is definitely a big triumph. We ask them whether their onscreen character has changed them in any way in real lives too…

Shraddha thinks that she is able to handle things in a better way while Janvi thinks she can now read what's cooking up in a men's mind.

Ansha Sayed, aka Inspector Purvi brings in a new angle and says, "I think it is something we possess which we add on to our character. Shraddha added charm and elegance to character of Dr. Tarika and Janvi bought in her attitude for the role of Shreya."

While Tanya quotes, "This show has added lot of courage to my personality. I have become more upfront in telling people if they are doing something wrong. For e.g. I yell if I see people spitting in public places."

Inspite of all the efforts, few people think that their role is restricted to just being eye candy for the show. However all of them unanimously feel that yes they do bring in glamour and all the allure but at the same time it is healthy mix of glamour and hard-core stuff which they are bringing to the table.



Ansha jokes, "Ask what is



FUN PICKS





- J.S & A. M





1 Mohammad Nazim



1 Sahil Anand



4 Aishwarya Sakhuja



7 Supriya Pathak



7 Varun Badola



8 Tanya Abrol



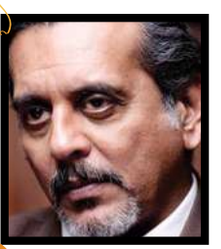
9 Mrunal Jain



10 Drashti Dhami



10 Suresh Menon



10 Shishir Sharma



11 Manasi Varma



11 Mohit Malik



12 Sakshi Tanwar



17 Nakuul Mehta



19 Manasi Salvi



20 Dolly Bindra



21 Keerti Kelkar



21 Sushant Singh Rajput



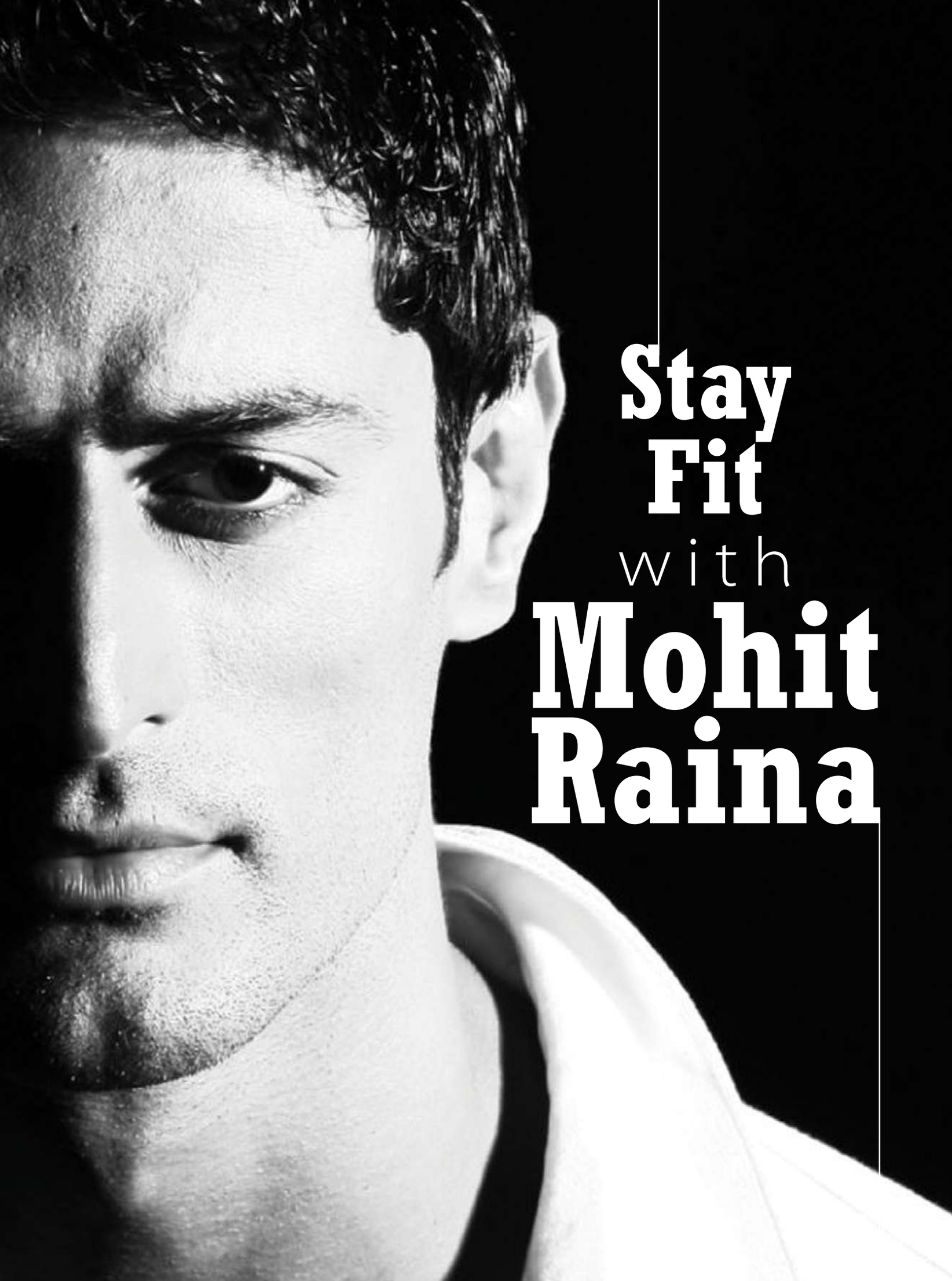
22 Ashwini Kalsekar



30 Anup Soni



31 Nitin Vakharia


Stay
Fit
with
Mohit
Raina

You are one of the fittest men we have in TV industry. So what is your daily workout regimen?
I swim daily for around 40 minutes in the morning followed by half an hour weights training. I also indulge in outdoor activities like night-tennis, badminton or basketball at night for approximately 30 minutes

Foods you indulge in for staying fit…
Vegetable stew and Grilled Chicken is a must for me. Also, apple, oranges and carrots can do wonders.

And a must have before and after workout would be…
So among fruits, I normally prefer apples before I start my workout and post-workout would be pomegranate.

What you would prefer to be called: Foodie or Health Conscious?
Obviously, foodie

Dos and Don'ts for staying healthy…
Dos:
Please don't forget the golden rule, 'Drink lots of water'. Maintain a proper electrolyte balance by either having ores, salt or sugar mixture or fruits with high water content like melon, cucumber, etc. Please try to have only fresh food and avoid frozen food. And yes the magic of good sleep at right time cannot be ignored.

Don'ts:
Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages. And guys, street food is a BIG No No.

Whom you look up to as most fit actor/ actress in this industry?
I think Ronit Roy is doing a wonderful job…

According to you, few fitness myths which needs to be busted…
The more u sweat; the more u burn. I think sweat is a biological response that cools your skin.

J.S.





Hot TV actress Rishina Kandhari after quitting Tashan-e-Ishq now wants to try at her hands at Bollywood. "I have been shorted listed for a couple of films. If all goes well, I will start shootingfrom next month." She expressed her inability to spell out more details. "You know how it goes, but yes the genre in both the films is drama."

Rishina kandhari

Rishina who has earlier done shows as Na Aana Is Des Laad such, Dil Ki Nazar Se Khoobsurat and Yudh is not interested in tiny film roles. "I need strong presence where my character adds meaning to the narration" Here she gets practical saying, "I am not looking for lead placements in films, I rather do the same in TV."

But you have not yet grabbed a small screen lead so far? "Agreed but whatever stuff I have done till date is good. My parallel lead character in Rishton Se Badi Pratha was given way more importance then the lead. Then I was very happy with my second in command avatar in Mahadev. Last but not the least I loved essaying the very dynamic Malvika in Uttaran."

Like most TV gals Rishina is not be comfortable with the entire dare bare Bollywood avtaar. "I am a bold gal, yet I think Bollywood takes it too far. For me glamour is just one facet of the craft. I am not ready to just look pretty to be seen. Had that been the case I would have not quit Tashan-e-Ishq. They were giving me the most glamorous costumes, my look was perfect. But after spending hours on set when I would watch the episodes, all I would be seen doing is smiling which was not good enough."

Since you are both a mother and actor how do you juggle both? "Well I can be a little immodest here and boast that I am great at multitasking. Although being a passionate actor, I can't forget that I am a mother and a house wife first. We have four maids, but my family does not like the food made by outsiders. So when I am shooting (like twenty day's in Tashan-e-Ishq), I get up at 5 am to do the cooking. This is followed by gym routine and sending my daughter to school. We mostly have 9 a.m-9 p.m. shift, so I return home to spend quality time with my hubby talking about all what we did in the day."

Here she adds, "TV industry gives working mothers a lot of space and respect. I hope I am able to get a good deal in my film as well."

Most Indian men who are not part of industry would not be cool with their wives doing intimate scenes."Yes luckily for me my broad minded hubby, understands what my profession is and know personally what kind of woman I am. There were couple of real intimate scenesin which he fully supported me. Recently I also did a lesbian scene and we both laughed over it. When I get stuck in some scene, I turn to him for help. I look forward to such conversation as it only brings us closer. How modern my man is can be measured by the fact that he likes to flaunt me around at dinners and parties when I am looking very hot in glamour outfits."

A.M.





CHEF SANJEEV KAPOOR

Th is festive season, delight your guests with delicacies straight from the Sanjeev Kapoor's desk. Mouth-watering Beetroot Coulis with delicious Orange Chocolate Cake and yummy Oven Baked Chicken is just perfect to pamper your loved ones.

BEETROOT COULIS

Ingredients

- 4 medium beetroots
- 8-10 assorted savoury crackers
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1½ cups castor sugar
- 10-12 black peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt to taste
- ½ inch cinnamon
- A pinch of garam masala powder
- ½ tsp red chilli powder
- 150 gms feta cheese
- Microgreens for garnishing

Method

- Peel and roughly slice beetroots.
- Put the beetroots in a non-stick pan, add ½ cup water, vinegar, 1 cup sugar, peppercorns, bay leaf, salt and cinnamon and mix well and cook till soft.
- Strain the cooked beetroot mixture into a bowl, discard bay leaf and cinnamon and cool.
- Put the pan back on heat and add strained liquid. Grind the residue till smooth and add and mix well. Add salt and remaining sugar and mix well.
- Add garam masala powder and red chilli powder and mix well. Transfer the coulis in a sterilized glass container.
- Cut the cheese into small cubes.
- Place crackers on a worktop, put cheese cubes over each of them and top with beetroot coulis.
- Arrange the prepared crackers on a serving plate, garnish with micro greens and serve immediately.



BITTER ORANGE CHOCOLATE Cake

Ingredients

- 175 gmsroughly chopped darkchocolate
- 1 medium orange
- 1medium orange, separated into segments
- 100 gmsbutter
- 275 gms refined flour (maida)
- 1 tsp soda bicarbonate (baking soda)
- 225 gms castor sugar
- 3 eggs
- 150 gmsthick yogurt
- Orange rind for garnishing

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C.Halve orange. Heat butter in a non-stick pan.
- Sift together refined flour and baking soda into a bowl.
- Add chocolate to the pan and mix well and let the chocolate melt. Transfer this into another bowl and cool.
- Break eggs into the 2nd bowl and whisk well. Add sugar and mix well. Squeeze the juice of halved orange and mix well. Grate the rind of half orange, reserve some for garnishing, add the rest to the bowl and mix.
- Add the chocolate mixture gradually to the flour mixture and mix well.
- Add orange segments and mix well. Add yogurt and mix well.
- Pour the batter into an aluminum cake tin and level the surface.
- Place the tin in the preheated oven and bake for 40 minutes. Remove the tin and cool down to room temperature.
- Remove cake from the tin, cut it into wedges, arrange on a serving plate, garnish with orange rind and serve immediately.

OVEN BAKED CHICKEN

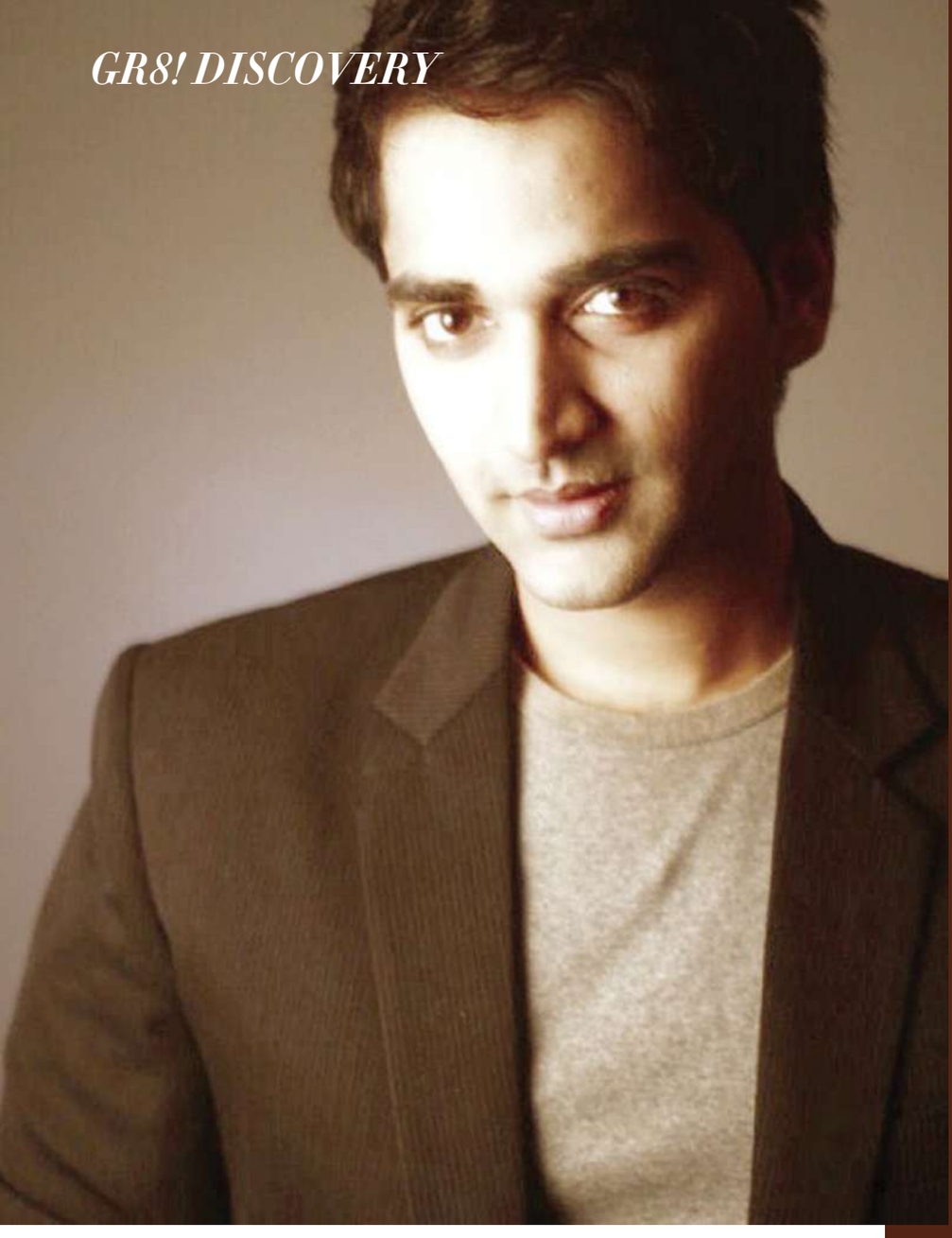


Ingredients

- 2 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 medium onion
- 5-7 garlic cloves
- 1 fresh red chilli
- 8-10 fresh parsley
- 1 fresh rosemary sprig
- 1 fresh thyme sprig
- 1-2 pickled gherkins
- 8-10 green olives
- 8-10 black olives
- 4-5 micro greens
- 2-3 tbsps olive oil + for greasing
- Salt to taste
- Crushed black peppercorns to taste
- 1 medium redpumpkin, sliced
- Extra-virgin olive oil for drizzling

Method

- Preheat oven to 180º C. Quarter onion, roughly chop red chilli and put them into a food processor jar.
- Roughly tear parsley, rosemary and thyme and add. Roughly chop gherkins and add with green and black olives, micro greens and olive oil and grind to a coarse paste. Transfer into a bowl.
- Make incisions on chicken breasts.
- Place pumpkin on one sideof a baking tray, greasetheother side with olive oil, place chicken breasts on it, sprinkle salt and crushed black peppercorns. Spread the ground paste on the chicken. Drizzle extra-virgin olive oil on chicken andpumpkin.
- Place the tray in the preheated oven and bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 170º C and bake for5 minutesmore.
- Arrange the roasted pumpkin and chicken on a serving plate and serve immediately.



HARSH MITTAL

Location: Mumbai.

About Me: Being a hungry man, to live different lives is my food. Th is hunger changed my title from a Govt. Offi cer to an Actor. I like being honest to thyself and believe in living my dreams. For me it's always about the journey not the destination. And I am a warrior who either will win or die. Learning and improving my craft at every turn and making it worthy enough that someday someone will write my name in his/her inspiration column.

Height: 6 Ft

Weight: 78 Kgs

Complexion: Fair

Strengths: Expressive, Enthusiastic, Quick Learner, Determined & Energetic.

Weaknesses: Heart Th inker, Stickler for Details, Chicken Shawarma.

Interests: Traveling, Bikes, Motoring, Watching Films, Gizmos.

Work Experience: Started as Th eatre Artist, followed by a professional film acting course from KNK. Done few Ad Films and now continuing with shows on Lifeok, &TV and Bindaas.

Dream Role: Character of Cary Ford played by Martin Henderson in film TORQUE in 2004.

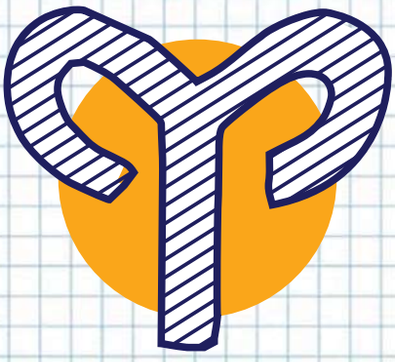
Inspiration: Hrithik Roshan, Bruce Lee, Steve Jobs, Valentino Rossi.



HOROSCOPE

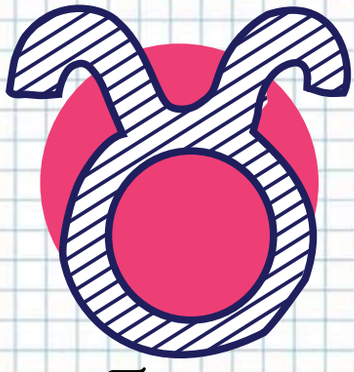


Munisha Khatwani is one of the most famous Tarot Card Readers in the entertainment industry and she recently launched her book titled 'Tarot'.
You can mail her on khatwanim@gmail.com



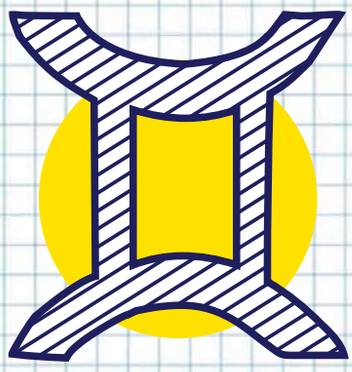
Aries
Mar 21 - Apr 20

A new start to a new year and that includes improvement in your love life says your Venus planet. For those single, this month will prove to be quite lucky and you will definitely be able to connect with someone special. Travel plans are also on the cards. You will also be in the mood to buy property.
Love tip: Don't be too rash in your love life



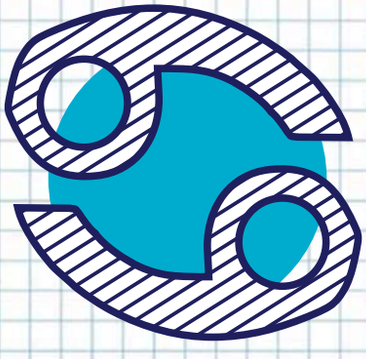
Taurus
Apr 21 -May 21

You will be seeing things in a more positive light especially on the love front. You might suddenly feel attracted to a particular person who you have known for a while. Your planet Mars is strong this month which could cause some health issues. Finances are good this quarter as there is a good windfall of money.
Love tip: Cook something special for him or her



Gemini
May 22 -June 21

Look before you leap is the advicegiven especially on the love front. You are in a hurry to fall in love but remembereverything happens according to divine timing. An old flame might try to contact you this month. Finances will be stable. You need to be careful of certain legal matters and not be too confident of the outcome.
Love tip: For those single, think of making a commitment



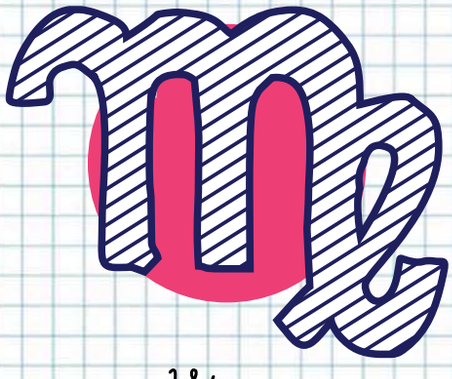
Cancer
June 22 - July23

You need to look beyond your past relationships says your Jupiter. Work wise there will be improvement for the better. Singles will have fun with their friends. Few students will decide to go abroad and study. Look for new hobbies this quarter.
Love tip: Try to be more patient with your partner.



Leo
July 24 - Aug 23

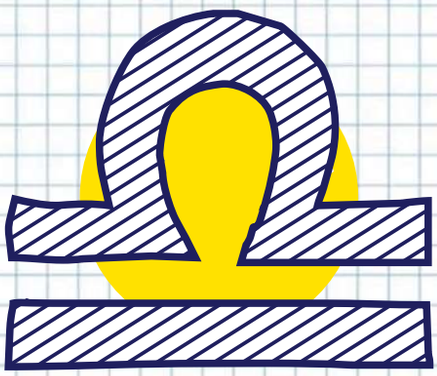
You will be focussing only on your career says your planet Moon. It is time to make some changes on the professional front and it looks like this month your love life will take a back seat. Finances will be tight as expenses increase. You could also incur some minor health issues but there will be some good news coming through your family member.
Love tip: Don't ignore those who give you attention.



Virgo
Aug 24 - Sept 23

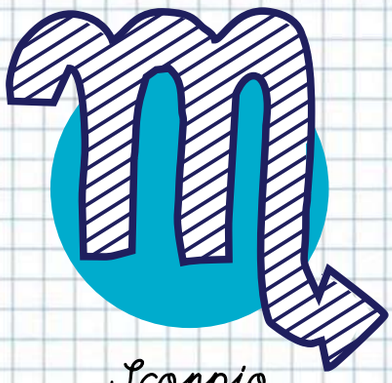
Th iNew Year seems to be quite lucky for you on the love front. Th e person whom you have been admiring for long might suddenly start running behind you. Th is is because your Sun planet and Venus planet are in good positions this quarter. You might even get a new project this month. Singles might even just decide to tie the knot.
Love tip: Don't be too judgemental with your partner.

STARS AND YOU



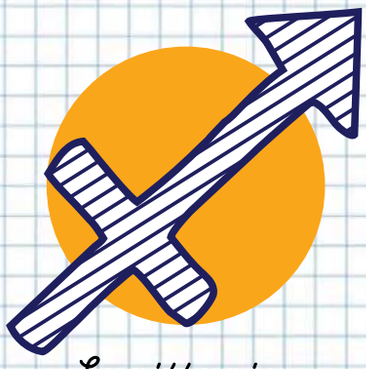
Libra
Sept 24 - Oct 22

Look around and maybe you will see things in a positive light as far as your love life is concerned. Th e more you are negative the more you attract that energy. Your Saturn is a bit weak so some relationships could go through testing times. You need to remain strong and focussed.
Love tip: Try and plan a short holiday with your spouse.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

Your mercury is well placed this quarter which will help you as far as your money and career is concerned. For those wanting to travel this quarter you just might get lucky. As far as love is concerned, the cards advise you not to rush into any relationship. You might get some pending money this quarter or clear your debts.
Love tip: Forgive and forget.



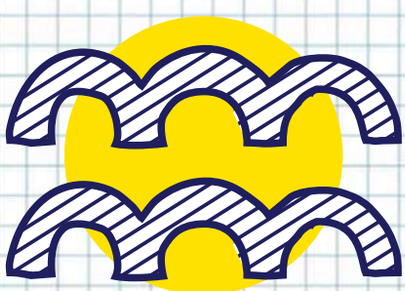
Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22

Your career will be important but right now main focus is love and family. For those in a committed relationship, you could make the decision to get married this quarter as your Mars is in a favourable position. Feel positive about your career too this quarter as new opportunities come your way and for those looking for a job this is a good time to search.
Love tip: Make a decision before it is too late.



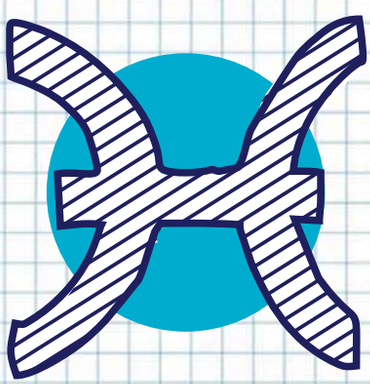
Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 20

Your Uranus planet is a bit weak at the moment which makes it diffi cult to see a certain situation clearly as far as your love life goes. You might not have the correct judgement at the moment so it is not advised to make a decision. Th ere could be some politics on the work front and the best advice for you is to remain calm and let the storm pass.
Love tip: Between your mind and heart, follow your heart.



Aquarius
Jan 21 - Feb 19

You will be happy with your family life. Career advances are also indicated this quarter as you get some good news. Your Venus is also well placed which will help you as far as your money and love is concerned. Married couples will be happy this month.
Love tip: An old flame might re-enter your life and you should reconsider.



Pisces
Feb 20 - Mar 20

For those in search of love, this quarter you need to be little patient as the time is not right. Your moon planet helps you to be creative and your talents will also be appreciated this quarter. On the family front, you get alot of support from your parents but certain friends might not be right for you so you should follow your instinct.
Love tip: Be patient as good things come to those who wait.