

Akshay Kumar and his mom-in-law Dimple Kapadia got emotional in their first shot together

Entertainment



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'NEVER MAKE ANYONE UNHAPPY'

AAMIR KHAN reveals his plans for 2010 and tells us how his mother's advice keeps him grounded despite his staggering success

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AMIR Khan has zoomed into 2010 by delivering the biggest Bollywood hit ever with *3 Idiots* grossing over Rs300 crore in just 18 days. The actor, who is basking in "an emotional moment that is like a cathartic experience with so much love of people flowing" in support of the movie, has decided to concentrate only on production this year. The reason — Aamir wants to spend quality time with wife Kiran Rao and his children Junaid and Ira.

"This year has been good professionally as well as personally except for the setback Kiran and I had (referring to her miscarriage). But that's how life is — highs and lows go hand in hand. This year, I want to invest time on my personal side. I will concentrate more on being a producer — there are three films that I have

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Aamir Khan

produced (*Peepli Live*, *Dhobi Ghat* and *Delhi Belly*). Also, this year I will spend most of my time with my wife and kids. The last two years have been very hectic for me; I have worked a lot. I want to spend time with myself now," says Aamir.

The actor adds, "I want to absorb a lot of things this year. I feel when you act, you give out a lot and so you need to soak yourself in things to revive. I want to reflect on several things."

Besides *Ghajini*, most of Aamir's movies have had social issues — terrorism in *Fanaa*, corruption in *Rang De Basanti*, child care and education in *Taare Zameen Par*. *3 Idiots* raises a defiant voice against the prevailing educational system in India.

Ask Aamir if social issues and the youth are really triggering his choice of movies now, and he shoots back, "Not true. The only thing consistent about my movies is that I have followed my heart and instinct and have done films I have fallen in love with. I have developed my physique by challenging myself for *Ghajini*, played a 20-year-old when I'm 44. Variety has been my constant."

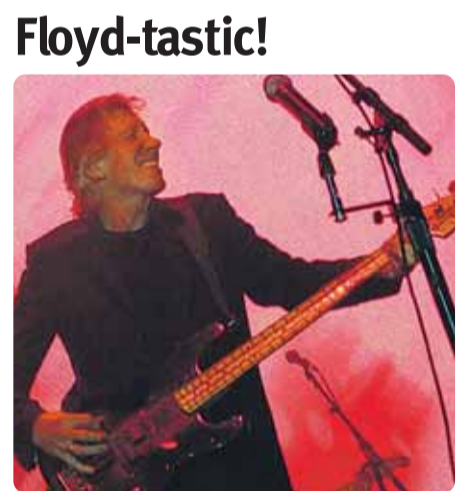
He adds, "I think human stories have attracted me. I have never done the supposed thing to do when you are an actor or a producer. I have chased what my heart desired."

And what has kept him grounded despite the soaring successes and accolades? "I think it's how my mother brought me up. She always told me never to make anyone unhappy. I may not be able to be successful at doing that all the time but

Photo: Avinash Gowankar ■ Styling: Narendra Kumar



INSIDE



Mumbai gears up for the very first PINK FLOYD audio-visual tribute p3

12th session of the Saptak music fest had the audience mesmerised and asking for more

Shubh Maharaj treats city to SOULFUL MUSIC

PRITYA ADHYARU-MAJITHIA

DO you recall hearing a melodious *dhoon* played on sitar while on board an Indian Airlines plane? That soothing piece is composed and played by one of the senior-most musical artists in India, Pandit Devabrata Chaudhari, 75, a maestro sitarist known as the "Tansen" of classical music. He performed in the city during the 12th session of Saptak's live concerts on Sunday and was accompanied on tabla by 22-year-old Shubh Maharaj — a youth who has inherited the extraordinary style of tabla master Pandit Kishan Maharaj.

Sitting together, the duo appeared a total mismatch; one looked a mature, ancient master while the other was a picture of today's youth — carefree with the looks of a greenhorn. However, when they performed together, they created magic and wowed the audience.



Debu Chaudhari

Shubh Maharaj

"None from the crowd could even move their gaze from them," commented Nihar Mehta, a tabla artiste.

Ask Pandit Debuji about his accompanying junior artist Shubh, and he

says, "He began playing with us when he was 12. He is as talented as any of the senior cadre.... simply extraordinary." This is high praise indeed, simply because it comes from Debuji, whose musical debut also was at the

age of 12, on All India Radio and Tansen Sangeet Sammelan in Kolkata. Since his debut he has been associated with the legend of Indian classical history, Tansen, for his talent and style. The duo rendered Kaunsi Kanda on Sunday and their grand performance touched the hearts of all.

Debu Chaudhari belongs to the Senia Gharana, India's oldest traditional school of music which is named after Mian Tansen. This gharana is renowned for its unmatched style of playing sitar with 17 frets while in all other gharanas the instrument is played with 20 frets. Deduji today is its most prominent exponent who has trained for 38 years under Sangeet Acharya Ustad Mushtaq Ali Khan.

.BUZZZZZ.

YOU LIGHT MY FIRE!



Actor Liev Schreiber says he's totally smitten by his Broadway co-star Scarlett Johansson. Schreiber and Johansson are working together for an upcoming Broadway production *A View From The Bridge*, and the actor insists he's "kind of fallen" for the actress. He is full of praise for his co-star. "I've just been really impressed with her composure. Broadway is a pressurised situation and we've had a really short rehearsal period. She's really evolved so much, especially over the last two to three weeks," the *Daily Express* quoted.

TODAY'S ARTIST

Renowned vocalist Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty will perform at the 14th session of Saptak on Tuesday. He will be accompanied by Yogesh Samsi on tabla.

Capturing the changing colours of Varanasi on canvas

Manu Parekh's latest exhibition held at Amdavad ni gufa captures various moods of 'the city of ghats'

CAROLINE ANDRADE

HIS paintings urge viewers to take notice of the world around them. Artist Manu Parekh's paintings are a unique blend of emotions and

volatile energy, vibrant colours and forms, art work that become an extension of the artist's personality. "Theatre has helped me a great deal in my paintings. The 'Banaras' series is an experience of my in-

volvement with theatre and a depiction of theatre," says Manu Parekh, who is holding an exhibition of his graphic art work for the first time in Ahmedabad at Amdavad Ni Gufa from 5.30 pm onwards on January 15. The exhibition will feature three large paintings and ten smaller paintings on the various moods of Banaras city. The artist had started preparing for the exhibition two months in advance.

"Banaras is a religious centre and all kinds of people come there. It was quite interesting to sit at the ghats and work, capturing the city on canvas," says Parekh who visits the place almost three to four times a year, observing the events happening around him.

Expressing a desire to make Ahmedabad his next theme to work upon, he says "Ahmedabad is architecturally rich however I would like to work on the faith aspect which has become a central theme for me and it is my biggest strength."



Manu Parekh with his painting

A talk through paintings

Vrindavan Solanki's art works are being showcased at the Marvel Art Gallery in the city

TULI BANERJEE

DAMODARBHAI Solanki, a merchant dealing in copper and steel utensils was taken by surprise when he asked his child Vrindavan to write 'k' for kalash (pitcher) and found him drawing a picture of a pitcher to get his ABCs right. That is when Solanki discovered his son, Vrindavan Solanki's talent. His genuine taste for art since early childhood has won Vrindavan worldwide recognition as a painter of black and white and sepia pictures. The peculiarity of his paintings is that there are no faces shown in the pictures, his art mostly consists of black and white

Piyush Patel/DNA



Vrindavan Solanki

paintings. A number of his paintings have been showcased in our country as well as abroad, after his first 'One-Man Show' held at Jahangir Art Gallery in

Mumbai in 1969. The artist is well-known for his paintings titled 'Kaan Saaf', 'Dharwala', 'Dhabawala', 'Bhelwala', 'Machhiwala', 'Paatiwala on the Move', 'Rural Char-

acters of Saurashtra', 'A series of Mother and Child paintings', 'A series of 'Faceless Face' paintings and paintings on 'My Land — My People'.

The 67 year old artist is holding an exhibition of his recent works at the Marvel Art Gallery. Talking about his recent work, Solanki, the diploma holder in painting and a post diploma in graphics from Fine Arts College of Vadodara says, "My series of 24 paintings titled 'Silent Conversation' have been created out of a dream world of nature describing beautiful moments of me and my beloved, drifting me to a different place full of shades of love." The paintings are priced between Rs1,10,000 and Rs5 lakh each and will be on sale and display till January 20.

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