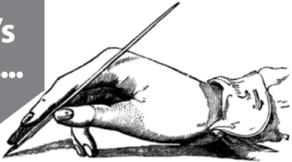


From
Editor's
Desk.....



Judicial jingoism at play

The protest of around 8,000 judicial employees in 10 districts of Telangana reminds us to the deep fissures between the two parts of undivided Andhra Pradesh in the recent past. The strike continuing since Friday is crippling court work. It is an urgent call for the High Court of Andhra Pradesh that it needs to immediately settle the demands of the employees; else the litigants will have a tough time. As the high court has termed the agitation 'illegal' and is looking for other options to run the courts, it will be worth watching how it moves ahead. Surely, this latest agitation of the judiciary which called for 'High Court Bandh' and 'mass casual leave' has set a new trend in judicial jingoism in the barely two-year-old State of Telangana. Sensing the larger interest of the public and massive number of cases pending across the country, people in robes should have not disturbed the regular functioning of the district courts. The major issues raised by the agitators include a separate High Court, withdrawal of the list of provisional allocation of judicial officers between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are undoubtedly genuine. But it is widely felt that for reaching out to their legitimate demands they could have pursued an equally legitimate route without paralysing day to day court work. Worse, even the suspension orders issued by the High Court to 11 judicial officers including the Judicial Officer's Association President K Ravinder Reddy, citing they are violating the code of conduct of the court.

The State of Telangana was created under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2015. Interestingly, the statute had a clear indication for bifurcation of executive and legislative functions of both States, but Section 30 of the same Act states that for the time being, the High Court at Hyderabad will remain as the common High Court for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Besides, Section 31 of the Act prescribes for separate High Courts for both the States. But, unfortunately, for whatever reason, the Government of India has not proceeded to create a new high court for the youngest State of the country. Having had a bitter political movement for bifurcating the State, the people of Telangana indeed are not comfortable with the fact that still they are under the control of the judiciary of their neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Handing over a separate judiciary for Telangana would be an amicable solution to end the current agitation. Notably, Article 214 of our Constitution provides for a High Court for each State, but it is not compulsory that all States should have separate High Court. For example, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram have a common High Court at Guwahati while Bombay High Court serves Maharashtra, Goa, Dadar, Daman and Diu. And we have more common High Courts as well. However, realizing the deep political divide between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and the serious concerns raised by the Telangana Judges' Association about the provisional allocation of judges between the two States (against the allotted 335 cadre judges for Telangana, today the state has only 190 locals, the rest are from Andhra Pradesh), a separate judiciary for the latter is seen as a pragmatic solution at the moment.

Volkswagen's U.S. emissions settlement to cost \$15 bn

Washington, Volkswagen AG's settlement with nearly 500,000 U.S. customers and government regulators over polluting diesel vehicles is valued at more than \$15 billion cash, two sources briefed on the matter said. The settlement to be announced on Tuesday in Washington, includes \$10,033 billion to offer buy backs to owners of about 475,000 polluting vehicles and nearly \$5 billion funds to offset excess diesel emissions and boost investment in zero emission vehicles, the sources said. A separate settlement with nearly all U.S. state attorneys general over excess diesel emissions will be announced on Tuesday and is expected to be more than \$500 million and will push the total to over \$15 billion, a separate source briefed on the matter said.

Spokeswomen for US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Volkswagen (VW) declined to comment. Secret software

The settlement stems from the German automaker's admission in September that it intentionally misled regulators by installing secret software that allowed US vehicles to emit up to 40 times legally allowable pollution.

The deal, based on the largest ever automotive buy-back offer in US history and most expensive auto industry scandal will move VW close to the 16.2 billion euros (\$18 billion) it has set aside to cover the costs of the scandal.

Though about \$5 billion higher than previously reported, the settlement gives firm details of costs in the United States where VW faces that bulk of expenses for its wrongdoing, more than nine months after the scandal broke.

"The deal looks reasonable and it will end uncertainty," said London-based Evercore ISI analyst Arndt Ellinghorst who has a "buy" rating on VW stock. "We expect the market to be OK, with the higher number."

Pending legal action

But criminal and civil legal action is still pending in other countries, while European governments are demanding VW offer similar compensation to the owners of 8.5 million rigged cars in the region, adding to risks that the costs could climb. Speaking on condition of anonymity, due to court-imposed gag rules, the first sources said owners of 2.0 liter diesel VW 2009-2015 cars would receive at least \$5,100 compensation along with the estimated value of the vehicles as of September 2015, before the scandal erupted. Some owners will get as much as \$10,000 in compensation, the first sources said, depending on the value of the car.

The \$10,033 billion is the maximum VW could pay if it had to buy back all vehicles, but the actual amount VW will pay could be much less if a large number of owners don't take buy backs. Prior owners will get half of current owners, while people who leased cars will also get compensation, said the first sources.

Compensation

Owners would also receive the some compensation if they choose to have the vehicles repaired, assuming US regulators approve a fix at a later date. The settlement includes \$2.7 billion in funds to offset excess diesel emissions and \$2 billion in VW investments in green energy and zero emission vehicles, the first sources said. The diesel offset fund could rise if VW has not fixed or bought back 85 per cent of the vehicles by mid-2019, the first sources said.

The \$2 billion in green energy and zero emission efforts will be spent over 10 years, the first sources said, and will include zero emission vehicle infrastructure.

VW still must reach agreement with regulators on whether it will offer to buy back 85,000 larger 3.0 liter Porsche, Audi and VW cars and SUVs that emitted up to nine times legally allowable pollution and how much it may face in civil fines for admitting to violating the Clean Air Act.

Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan business professor, said: "VW had little negotiating powers, given the evidence. The costs of the remedies should make automakers cautious about misleading people in ways that give prosecutors the ability to bring criminal charges. Potential criminal charges mean you open your wallet in the civil actions, hoping to receive leniency instead of jail time."

Brand sales fall

VW, the world's second largest automaker, has seen US VW brand sales suffer in the wake of the crisis. VW brand sales are down 13 per cent in the United States in 2016, while sales of its luxury Audi and Porsche units have risen.

US District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco will hold a hearing on July 26, to decide on whether to grant preliminary approval to the settlements.



The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and the new Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri C.R. Chaudhary interacting with the media, in New Delhi. The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Hem Kumar Pande is also seen.

Renault-Nissan Alliance delivers annual synergy target

Ahmedabad, Renault-Nissan Alliance generated 4.3 billion in synergies in 2015, one year ahead of schedule and an increase of 13 percent from 2014. Purchasing, engineering and manufacturing were the main contributors.

Renault and Nissan generate "synergies" by working together to reduce costs, avoid spending and increase revenue. Only new synergies — not cumulative — are taken into account each year. Synergies help Renault and Nissan meet their financial goals and deliver higher-value vehicles to customers.

Renault and Nissan, which together sell one in 10 cars globally, converged four key functions in 2014: Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering & Supply Chain

Management, Purchasing and Human Resources. While Renault and Nissan remain separate companies, each function is led by a common Alliance Executive Vice President.

"Convergence in four of our key business functions has resulted in creating value by reducing costs, avoiding expenses and increasing revenues. Thanks to the convergence, the Alliance expects to generate at least 5.5 billion in synergies in 2018," said Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO of the Renault-Nissan Alliance.

Common Module Family (CMF) is the Alliance's unique system of modular vehicle architecture and an increasing source of synergies.

The Alliance is already

reaping the benefits from CMF, reflected in the launch by Nissan of the Rogue in North America, the award winning Qashqai in Europe and the X-Trail in Japan and China. Renault also successfully launched the new Espace, the Kadjar, the new Megane and Talisman, all based on CFM-C/D.

In 2015, Renault began selling the Kwid in India, followed by the launch of the Redi-Go by Datsun in mid-2016. Both are built in the Alliance's plant in Chennai, India, on the CFM-A architecture, which covers the smallest and most affordable category of cars.

"With the launch of Common Module Family-A, the Renault-Nissan Alliance demonstrates its ability to enter a very competitive

market such as India, where only few OEMs succeeded to answer the local customers' requirement for modern and affordable cars," said Arnaud Deboeuf, Alliance Senior Vice President of Renault-Nissan BV and the Alliance CEO's Office.

By 2020, the Alliance expects 70 percent of its vehicles to be built on CMF architectures.

The cross-production of vehicles will continue to be a major driver of manufacturing synergies. Cross-production leverages the Alliance Production Way, a manufacturing and shop-floor management system common to Renault and Nissan. The Alliance Production Way takes manufacturing benchmarks from both Renault and Nissan. In early 2016, Renault

announced that it will produce the next-generation of Nissan's NV300 van at its plant in Sandouville, France. The Nissan NV300 will be manufactured on the same line as the new Renault Trafic.

By the end of 2016, the Renault plant located in Flins, near Paris, will start the production of the new Nissan Micra.

The AVTOVAZ plant in Togliatti, Russia, is the Alliance's biggest production base in the world, with capacity of nearly 1 million vehicles a year.

The plant produces vehicles under four brands: Lada, Renault, Nissan and Datsun. The Alliance owns a majority stake in the joint venture that controls AVTOVAZ, Russia's largest automaker.

Dalmia Cement eyes WB expansion

Kolkata, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd., is keen on setting up its second unit in West Bengal after its first one began operations in June 2014.

The unit was set up in an erstwhile naxal-prone area, through OCL India Ltd. an associate company. "Our experience in the state has been a pleasant surprise. Reality in this case seems to be better than perceptions," Amandeep, Director & CEO, OCL India Ltd. said.

The state's per capita consumption of cement is set to rise on account of the large planned investments

in infrastructure and the housing sector," he said.

Housing segment "While 60 per cent of the demand comes from the housing segment, 20 per cent was on account of infrastructure projects and the rest from plants and factories," Mr Amandeep said.

Led by Bihar, the eastern region was showing very good growth which was higher than the national growth rates, he said. "Rural roads, mass housing projects for the poor were driving growth in the Eastern States of Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand Chhattisgarh

and West Bengal."

"Nearly 44 per cent of the group's Rs 8,000 crore turnover in last fiscal came from this region," Indrajit Chatterji, Executive Director OCL India and Director Dalmia Cement East Ltd., said.

Consequently, the group has been able to utilize 80 per cent of its 8.8 million ton capacity in the eastern region against the national average of 70 per cent capacity utilization.

"We are enhancing our presence with the launch of a premium brand Dalmia DSP," Mr Chatterjee said.

Aircel bets big on data plans for growth

Chennai,

Telecom operator Aircel is wooing customers to its 3G network with various incentives and mass campaigns for increase data usage. These include promotional offers and special discounts during festive seasons, Friday sales, 3G experience zones in semi-urban areas, pocket internet and free basic internet. Besides, it has also organized mass campaigns such as "Be online with Aircel," "See you only Ba" and "Limit Se Zyada" to take data to the next level of growth and acceptance in India. Briefing reporters here on Tuesday, Sunil Kuttam, Aircel Data Head, said: "Data is the cash cow we are focussing upon."

GST Could Have Avoided Gems & Jewellery Industry's Loss of Rs 1 Lakh Crore: Arvind Kumar

NEW DELHI,

A stitch in time saves nine, and GST in time could have saved the loss of Rs 1 Lakh Crore, says Arvind Kumar the Co-author of new book 'GST: Plan Your Future Tax Journey Now!'. The Gems & Jewellery industry lost 42 working days due to the strike against imposition of 1% excise duty on gold and diamond jewellery.

The strike's main reason as per the industry spokesperson was the fear that the compliance will fuel excise inspector Raj or in other words will empower excise field officers to visit shops, with powers to seize goods and arrest. This fear is a common belief shared between the Gems & Jewellery, Branded Readymade Garments and Pharmaceutical industries where increased excise tax has been imposed.

Kirit Goyal, Co-author added, "The problem is not

in the various tax increases but the fear of the unknown from the industry due to compliance issues and fear of the increase in costs by the consumer." The authors added that putting GST in place would make the whole system more transparent and efficient, and will take most of these fears away. In fact, GST or Goods and Service Tax is the most business-friendly tax regime ever introduced by governments across the world.

From the start, it will help businesses substitute excise duty or central excise duty as it is called along with VAT or Value Added Tax, luxury tax, the octroi and service tax and so on with one Goods and Service Tax or GST. What all entrepreneurs can look forward to is a hassle-free, easy-to-understand, single form of tax with transparency and non-discrimina-

tion built into the system which shall bring about efficiency of time and resources. The only people who should fear the GST are the ones who have not been paying any form of taxes or have been evading them by various means.

The team of Mr. Arvind Kumar and Kirit Goyal can be labeled the dream team for businesses to understand anything and everything about GST and its impact. Arvind Kumar has handled the GST subject for the past six years and is well conversant with the government's intent of this policy, while Kirit Goyal has actually worked in GST environments at multiple countries, including India and advises businesses on logistic designs for optimizing resources.

With a mission on educating businesses and eliminating their fears, both authors wrote the book for

mass consumption. This book intends to help the readers understand GST better and prepare them effectively for proposed GST regime. It removes the uncertainties around the tax policies and empowers the reader to implement the benefits due to this policy change.

To take this mission one notch further, both authors are reaching out to various businesses and educating them on the impact of GST on various industries by their 'Impact of GST in India' series of free webinars.

The first of the webinars will be 'Impact of GST on Retail Companies and Establishments' followed by 'Impact of GST on e-Commerce Companies'. Post the webinars, there will be a question and answer session wherein the businesses can get all their queries answered live.

Regional connectivity: DGCA to ease norms for smaller aircraft

New Delhi,

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is expected to come out with less rigorous rules and compliance standards for smaller aircraft, in a bid to attract airlines to its regional connectivity schemes. According to the regional connectivity scheme announced by the Centre in its civil aviation policy, passengers will be charged Rs 2,500 for an hour's flight from an airport that is currently unconnected. The government will provide 80 per cent of the subsidy to airlines for the losses they incur due to the cap on the fare, while the remaining 20 per cent will come from the States.

"We intend to come out with less strict civil aviation requirements for scheduled commuter operators who will fly 80-seater aircraft. We will come out with separate regulations for 19-seater aircraft too, which will be even less rigorous," said a senior DGCA official. The official said the existing regulations might be stringent for players willing to operate smaller aircraft for regional connectivity purposes.

More needed While releasing the policy earlier this month, Civil Aviation Secretary RN Choube had said that the Centre had already received numerous requests from players to fly on regional routes. The government, it is learnt, is of the view that the success of the regional connectivity scheme will depend on making it easier to acquire and operate smaller aircraft. "We don't expect the big airlines to keep multiple

configuration aircraft in its fleet," said a senior Civil Aviation Ministry official. "For the scheme to become a success, operators with aircraft below 80-seats will have to come," Sarandindu Biswas, Executive Director (Architecture) at Airports Authority of India (AAI) had said at a recent event. He had said as per DGCA records, there are only fifty-one 80-seater aircraft and four 42-seater planes run by various operators in India. "New players with smaller aircraft need to enter the market and take advantage of the new policy," Mr Biswas said.

The government plans to revive 50 airports in three years. This would require an addition of 50-100 small aircraft to the total fleet size of 440 aircraft serving Indian skies currently, according to

estimates. It is 20-year forecast for the period 2014-2033, Bombardier projected that the 60-50 99-seat aircraft market worldwide would see substantial growth, as these planes become important tool for network connectivity between major, secondary and tertiary airports. It forecast global delivery demand in this period at 5,600 aircraft.

Welcome move Industry observers welcomed the plan to relax norms for small aircraft. "Small aircraft are critical to the next phase of Indian aviation's growth story which will come from India's tier-II and III cities," said Amber Dubey, partner and India head of aerospace and defence at KPMG. He said that the government should also push global manufacturers.



Shri Piyush Goyal taking charge as Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Mines, in the presence of the Union Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, in New Delhi.

LYF True 4G smartphone+ devices now within the grasp of every Indian

Ahmedabad,

LYF Smartphone+, the True 4G smartphone brand from Reliance Retail, has pushed the envelope of affordability in the Indian smartphone space by announcing a very aggressive price of Rs.2999 on four of its Flame models - Flame 3, Flame 4, Flame 5 and Flame 6. This makes LYF India's most affordable VoLTE smartphone and opens the doors to a digital life for millions of consumers, a move which resonates with the Prime Minister's vision of a digitally-connected India.

Like all LYF devices, the Flame series too offers smartphones equipped with VoLTE, or voice over LTE - a technology that enables

the device to provide advanced features such as faster call setup, high-definition (HD) voice and video calling, seamless switching between voice and video calls and multi-party conferencing on a 4G LTE network.

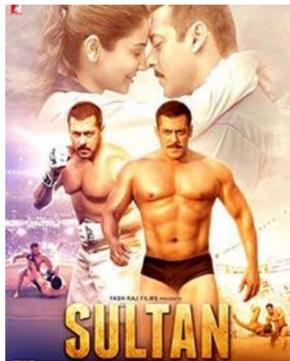
The dual-SIM slots, a characteristic feature of every Flame phone, allow users to simultaneously use a 4G SIM in either of the slots. Given that all LYF devices come with a free Jio preview offer, under which every user buying a LYF phone gets access to the entire range of Jio services, Flame series provides an ideal and highly affordable platform for users to migrate from older networks such as 2G or 3G to the more advanced

4G ecosystem. In addition to this, Flame series also offer smart aesthetic features and superior hardware technology.

All four models run on a Quad core 1.5GHz processor which delivers a smooth and lag-free multi-tasking experience. The screens feature an Asahi DragontrailTM Glass for heightened protection against dust and scratches which result from regular operation. The compact and ergonomic design of the phones also allows for easy and convenient handling. The interfaces have been customized to operate on 10 different Indian languages, so that language never comes in the way of enjoying an enhanced digital experience.



Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu being greeted by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley and the Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, during taking charge as the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, in New Delhi.



A Salman Khan fan pleaser right from the word go that ignores the depth and opportunity a sports based film can offer like YRF's previous arty and thought provoking CHAK DE! INDIA or THE WRESTLER from the west did.

Superstar Salman Khan's highly awaited Eid bonanza - SULTAN is a single minded paisa vasool, citi maar crowd pleaser that worships the antics and stardom of Salman Khan making the fans and entertainment hungry souls who don't mind the age-old cliches lapping this up with joy and happiness, while others wonder how bloated like a fish Salman Khan who has given up wrestling eight year ago can turn amazingly agile and fight with those international fighters who are half his age.

Salman Khan's knockout punch

Director Ali Abbas Zafar (GUNDAY, MERE BROTHER KI DULHAN fame) this time takes on the ring with a sports drama starring the box office phenomenon Salman Khan as a wrestler Sultan Ali Khan from Haryana who fights against all odds to win the battle within himself for his love Aarfa (Anushka Sharma).

Ali Abbas Zafar's unfussy direction is aimed with a single minded agenda to please bhai fans and he succeeds to that level. The narration is simple and overwhelmingly cliché in its predictability that twines between the intensity of the wrestling and the pain/suffering of Sultan's personal life. The power of Salman Khan and Anushka Sharma's brilliant sway as a female wrestling champ makes this watchable.

Writer-director Ali Abbas Zafar in producer Aditya Chopra's screenplay begins the proceedings with cameraman Artur Zurawski's ace lens work introducing us to the flop pro wrestling league inspired from the WWF from the west by Akash (Amit Sadh) son of a veteran wrestling expert played by Parikshit Sahni. Following the advice from his father, Akash begins on a journey to find the 'Indianess' in his league - an Indian wrestler who can beat the goras (foreigners) in their free style wrestling game with his desi dhobi pachad move famous in Indian form of wrestling popularly known as

'Kusti'. In a movie designed and planned to bank on Salman Khan's terrific mass following which goes hysterical during Eid release, Ali Abbas Zafar keeps no stone unturned in making Salman a super hero wrestler and introduces Salman to the audience in a terrific 'citi tali maar' entry as the local Haryanvi legend Sultan Ali from a small town called Rewari in Haryana. Cut to, Akash meets the ageing local legend who has given up the 'Dangal' (read wrestling) and is seen collecting funds for a mission. Amazing! how contrasting was that. Really?

Anyways, how a call for a redemption, motivates Sultan to take up wrestling after 8 years to win back his pride and love from his estranged lover and inspiration Aarfa (Anushka Sharma) - a state level wrestling champ forms the crux of the story which has its moments of joy, pain, suffering, laughter, songs, drama etc. as ordered by the doctors of escapist, crowd pleasing cinema.

SULTAN sees Salman Khan staying at the top of his game delivering another knockout punch after BAJRANGI BHAUJAAN. The actor as the Haryanvi hunk pleasingly invests in his known swagger with that winning Haryanvi accent ensuring the expected commercial expectations to a winning result and gets good one-liners.

Anushka Sharma as Aarfa out-



standingly holds her own in her determined brilliance. The actress has meat in her role and is much beyond a mere show piece that is normally seen in such commercial format.

For Amit Sadh it's a career-reviving role and he justifies it. The talented Kumud Mishra again displays his finesse as Aarfa's father and a wrestling coach. Randeep Hooda as a free style fighting champ failed by circumstances and Sultan's coach is simply superb.

Technicalities are up to mark with Artur Zurawski's brilliant lens work, Brahim Achabbakhe and Anal Arasu crowd pleasing stunts and Rajnish Hedao's production design.

Vishal-Shekar's music is already popping up the charts with 'Jag Ghoomeya' and 'Base Pasand Hai'.

What cringes SULTAN for a rational/reasonable viewer is the maker's complete surrender of novelty, and innovations in his sports drama, considering the banner YRF, which gave CHAK DE! INDIA the SRK starrer has now become a cult and is hailed as SRK's best ever.

SULTAN fails to break such norms while bhai happily breaks bones in the ring to please his fans thus 'dhobi pachad-ing' (limiting) this to a highly predictable but harmless watch. Don't miss it if you are a fan of Salman Khan and in the mood to celebrate.

Music director Omi of Sonik-Omi duo dead

Mumbai, Veteran music director Om Prakash Sonik, or Omi, of the well-known duo Sonik-Omi passed away in a private hospital following a brief illness, a family member said here on Thursday. A widower, he was 77 and is survived by his son Som and daughter Sudha.

Omi was the nephew of the blind music director Master Sonik and together they formed the noted Sonik-Omi team which provided music to nearly 125 Bollywood movies in the 1950-1980s.

Som said his father had a fall around a month ago which led to other multiple complications and late on Wednesday he suffered a cardiac arrest.

He never recovered and breathed his last around 6.25 am today at the Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi Hospital, Juhu. Born and raised in Sialkot (now in Pakistan), they moved to India after Partition in 1947 and lived mostly in Delhi.

In 1950, the visually challenged but great singer Master Sonik arrived in Mumbai with his young nephew in tow, hoping to make a career in the film industry which was on the thresh-

old of what was later known as 'golden era' of its music.

With many stalwarts already holding sway over the listening audiences, the Sonik-Omi duo faced an uphill struggle, fighting near-starvation at times, Omi even joined in a female chorus group to afford a square meal and the uncle-nephew lived in a tiny slum room on the outskirts of Thane.

In the early 1950s, Master Sonik got a break to direct music for films like "Mamta", "Mehfil" and "Ishwar Bhakti", but their music failed to catch the ears of the listeners.

They were reduced to near-poverty and doing odd jobs merely to survive, till a few years later when the late Madan Mohan offered Master Sonik the crucial job of music arranger and the late S.D. Burman also followed suit. The young Omi also got an opportunity to assist the legendary composer Roshan for films like "Taj Mahal", "Aarti", "Barsaat Ki Raat" and many others. The big break came in 1965 from film-maker G. L. Rawal of Rawal Films, for his new venture, "Dil Ne Phir Yaad Kiya" and the musical track composed by the Sonik-Omi team became a rage.

A couple of years later, Rawal offered them for "Aabroo" whose music

also proved immensely popular and Sonik-Omi became a noted name in Bollywood.

Later, they composed music for films like "Mahua" (with the haunting "Dono ne kya tha pyar magar"), "Truck Driver", "Mehfil", "Beti", "Dharti Ki God Mein", "Dharma" (the famous qawwali "Raaz ki baat keh doon to jaane mehfil me phir kya ho"), "Raftaar", "Umar Qaid", "Chowki No. 11" (which had the memorable hit number sung by Shobha Gurtu, "Kahin ho na mohalle me halla") and "Ladki Pasand Hai".

Over the years, the uncle-nephew pair made a formidable reputation for themselves with compositions in over 125 movies.

While Master Sonik passed away in 1993, Omi continued to compose music and his last musical track was for the film "aBiwi No. 2" in 2000, after which he eased into retirement.

Till the end, he remained active with The Indian Performing Right Society Ltd, which ensures royalties for all performers, said Som.

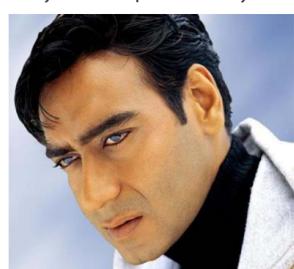
In the past few years, Omi largely remained away from Bollywood but composed certain non-film and private albums, religious music and other genres of music.

Ajay Devgn one of the finest actors: Vatsal Sheth

New Delhi, Actor Vatsal Sheth, who had shared screen space with Ajay Devgn in 2004 film "Taarzan: The Wonder Car", says he is one of the finest actors in Bollywood.

Vatsal says that he is close to Ajay and has always considered him as his elder brother.

"I am pretty close to Ajay sir. I have always looked upto him as my elder



brother. He is always there for me whenever I need him. I talk to him for advice for all decisions. It feels really great to have such a support...I think that he is one of the finest actors we have," he told IANS.

Vatsal, who is currently a part of the TV show "Rishton Ka Saudagar - Baazigar", said he would love to work with Ajay again.

The "Singham" star along many other Bollywood celebrities had earlier wished Vatsal for the show, which airs on Life Ok.

"Best of luck brother Vatsal Sheth. Wishing you a great run with your new TV show," Ajay previously tweeted.

Asked how does it feel to receive wishes from many stars, he said: "That very sweet and kind of them to talk about my show and I really am thankful to them. It feels nice to know from the film industry...I have some great friends and they are always there to support me."

Samiksha Bhatnagar's first film as a lead role 'Love Ke Funday'

Today most of the actresses in the film industry are more than ready to dare and bare their skin in films and what's more they also end up as successful and sought after stars but unable to last forever. But there are several actresses who have come to the industry and also left an indelible niche for themselves, especially classical dancers like Madhubala, Waheeda Rehman, Vyjayanthimala, Hema Malini, Rekha, Sridevi, Madhuri Dixit, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan etc. Samiksha Bhatnagar, who hails from Dehradun is one such actress who is making her debut as lead role with FRV Big Business Entertainment Private Limited's romcom Love Ke Funday, produced by Faaz Anwar and Prem Prakash Gupta and written and directed by Indervesh Yogee.

Samiksha has done her PhD in Kathak from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad (U.P) and has acted in TV serials like Veera, Ados Pados, Jaane Kya Hoga Rama Re etc besides doing a cameo role in Madhur Bhandarkar's film Calendar Girls. Love Ke Funday is her first film in a lead role. There are four main heroines in the film which slated for release on July 15, 2016. We spoke to Samiksha Bhatnagar at the office of the producer Faaz Anwar in Andheri-

Excerpts from the conversation: **What did you do before getting into films? Is anyone else in your family connected with the film industry in any manner?**

No one from my family is part of film. I did my B.A in English and then

did my PhD in Kathak. I ran dance classes in Delhi and also choreographed programmes in schools. Since my mother Kusum Bhatnagar is also a classical dancer, it was her ardent desire that I too be one, though it was my desire to join films. After I did a lot of ads in Delhi as a model, I headed for



Mumbai to take up a career in films as an actress and did TV serials like Veer, Ados Pados and Jaane Kya Hoga Rama Re, besides a cameo role in Madhur Bhandarkar's film Calendar Girls. Now I am playing one of the main female leads in Love Ke Funday which is my debut film in a full-fledged lead role.

What is your role in Love Ke Funday?

I play a glamorous girl called Jassi who is married and working in a company. She is modern as far as her thinking is concerned and is practical and does not stray at all from marriage.

Did the film also offer you any scope to try your hand at performing any classical dance?

No. It is not at all necessary that you will get an opportunity to do everything in a film that if offered to you. There is no classical dance in the film. There is only fun, romance, emotion etc in the film which has got all the ingredients required for a film to click at the box office.

Which do you wish to pursue actively - Films, TV or classical dance?

In today's times, you just cannot think in terms of this. It all happens on when and what opportunity you get. Thanks to classical dances, I benefited by way of my facial expressions and body language and am known for my good acting. I am ready to accept whatever offer comes my way, whether big or small as long as I am able to leave a lasting impression with my role.

Today in films most of the actresses indulge in body display. Are you ready to follow suit?

It depends on to what extent it is necessary for the script for me to expose myself. If it's valid, I'd definitely do it within my limits and comfort zone but I am not at all ready to expose without any rhyme or reason.

What next, as far as future is concerned?

Nothing will happen if you just think a lot about it. Whatever God wants to give me, I am more than ready to accept it as everything is in his hands. I want people to watch Love Ke Funday and like it and give me the right feedback on what they like in the film.

TV's most intense actor, Ronit Roy to be a part of 24: Season 2

Ahmedabad, Come July, television audiences are in for a treat of epic proportions as the much-anticipated espionage series 24: Season 2 will be aired on COL-ORS. With some of the biggest faces from the small screen including Sakshi Tanwar, Harsh Chhaya, Amruta Khanvilkar and Sudhanshu Pandey amongst many more lending their name to the show, 24: Season 2 is all set to break norms and become an unprecedented blockbuster.

And now, the inclusion of another legendary television actor is all set to raise the bar and make 24: Season 2 the most sought after television series. We are referring to actor Ronit Roy.

Ronit Roy will be seen portraying the character of Roy, an officer of the Government's Intelligence Wing and Abhilasha Grewal's (Shabana Azmi) associate. One would think being on Abhilasha's team would automatically make Jai Singh Rathod (Anil Kapoor) his top nemesis. But, to the contrary, Roy's entry in the show will change the game for both Jai Singh Rathod and Abhilasha. Roy is sharp in his conduct and when he is sent by the Government to interrogate Jai Singh Rathod, he chooses to focus on his job. He is neutral and unbiased and wants to give a correct graph and report about Jai's case to his seniors. Without any kind of bias against Jai, Roy provides the perfect counterfoil to Abhilasha's resentment. He is ulti-



mately the reason why Jai Singh Rathod is allowed to continue his mission.

Commenting on his stint in 24: Season 2, Ronit Roy said, "24 has changed how television is seen and perceived amongst audiences. It's an absolute honour for me to be a part of this show. Roy's character will bring about some positive change and respite in Jai Singh Rathod's mission to

save the country. Working with industry stalwarts and thorough professionals like Anil Kapoor and Shabana Azmi has been a learning experience and made my journey with 24 an absolute delight."

With its roots in a medical terrorism plot that could eradicate humanity altogether, 24: Season 2 is amping up the excitement quotient. And Ronit Roy's entry in the show only promises that the show will be an entertainment extravaganza like none other.

He did not divulge any further details.

The 50-year-old actor also informed that he has completed shooting for Gauri Shinde's film, which also stars Alia Bhatt.

SRK also has Rahul Dholakia's "Raees", which features Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Pakistani actress Mahira Khan. It is slated to release in 2017.

Aamir, Salman are bigger stars than me: SRK

Mumbai, Superstar Shah Rukh Khan is humbled by the words of appreciation from his colleague Aamir Khan. He says Bollywood's three Khans -- Salman Khan, Aamir and Shah Rukh himself -- have fondness for each other, adding that they respect "each other for whatever work" they do.

While praising his colleagues, Aamir had recently said that Salman and Shah Rukh are bigger stars than him. "Between me, Aamir and Salman, we have a fondness for each other. I feel Aamir and Salman are bigger stars than me. Whatever Aamir has said it is out of respect. We respect each other for whatever work we do," Shah Rukh said here.

The actor expressed his views during Eid celebrations on Thursday at Mannat here. Shah Rukh also praised Aamir's poster of "Dangal", saying that it is amazing.

On the professional front, the actor will soon start working on Imtiaz Ali's project and Anand L. Rai's venture.

The "Dilwale" actor said: "I am going to start working on two projects with Imtiaz Ali and Anand L. Rai. Anushka Sharma will feature in Imtiaz's movie. But casting isn't confirmed for Rai's project."

Talking about his first-time collaboration with "Tamasha" maker, SRK said: "I would like to do happy films. I loved Imtiaz's works especially films like 'Jab We Met' and 'Highway'."

He did not divulge any further details.

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Mohenjo-Daro first song 'Tu Hai' released

Mumbai, Hrithik Roshan's brawny and rustic look in "Mohenjo Daro" has impressed millions with its grand trailer and now the makers have released the first song of the film.

Titled "Tu Hai", the romantic number has been composed by music maestro A.R. Rahman and sung by Sanah Moideutty and Rahman himself.

Well, Hrithik Roshan and Pooja Hegde's chemistry looks beautiful in this soft soulful romantic number and will surely raise your anticipation level!

Hrithik will be seen romancing newbie Pooja Hegde and that is another reason why the thrill level is high for the period romantic drama. Playing the character of a princess, Pooja is

seen wearing a white dress with a floral headgear. The actress certainly looks very beautiful.

And as usual Hrithik's rugged avatar looks good. The Ashutosh Gowariker-helmed movie, set in the pre historic era marks the debut of Pooja in Bollywood and brings back Hrithik on the big screen after a long gap. The former beauty pageant contestant has worked in the Telugu films "Oka Laila Kosam" and "Mukunda".

In "Mohenjo-Daro" Hrithik and Pooja's chemistry is looking good and fans are likely to be entertained by this fresh pairing. Ashutosh Gowariker directorial "Mohenjo Daro" also stars Kabir Bedi, Arunadoy Singh and Suhasini Muley in key roles.

'Saas-bahu' shows will never fade away: Sanjeeda Sheikh

New Delhi, Even if there is a surge of mystical, mythological and reality shows on the small screen, actress Sanjeeda Sheikh says Indian families can't stay away from saas-bahu shows and they will never fade away.

"No. Can the families be away from Saas-bahu? No. None of the families are complete without the saas bahu shows...I feel this is something which will never fade away," Sanjeeda, who is currently playing the role of Dhaani in "Ishq Ka Rang Safed", told IANS over the phone from Mumbai. Sanjeeda, who made her debut on the small screen in 2005 with "Kyaa Hoga Nimmo Kaa", says she herself keeps track of every show.

"If I am watching to keep a track on every show...the audience has all the time and they should watch because we want them to watch and we want our TRP's to go high," added Sanjeeda, who is married to TV actor Aamir Ali.

Arti Randhawa signs three-movie deal

New Delhi, Actress Arti Randhawa, who took a break from the entertainment industry about five years back, is returning to showbiz. She has already signed a three-movie deal and will start shooting for the first film from September. Arti, who started her career as a model and was part of the stunt-based reality TV show "Khatron Ke Khiladi" in 2011, said the roles will help her explore her calibre as an artiste. She refrained from giving details, but said that she will be seen in different avatars. Arti has signed the three-film contract with Seeta Motion Pictures. "I can't tell you about my role. These are the scripts which give me opportunity to perform. They are different roles. Shooting for the first film will start from September," Arti told IANS. Asked about other details of the film and role, she said: "In Bollywood, a film's script keeps on changing until it goes on floor... So, I don't want to say anything now, but yes the scripts are really good." Arti asserted that the films break away from the common norm in Bollywood of giving meaty roles to male actors. She said: "In Bollywood, most of the good stuff goes to male actors and actresses are used for glamour. But this doesn't stand true for the three films." Arti, who hails from Jammu, started distancing herself from the industry after her mother died.