

Abhishek Will Make A Great 'Paa': Aishwarya Rai

Aishwarya Rai says she is fully convinced that actor-husband Abhishek Bachchan will make a good father in real life because he is so "real and rooted".

"Everybody has been asking me if Abhishek will be a good pa (father) in connection with the release of our forthcoming production 'Paa'. I think it's silly for me to be even making the statement. It's given - I married the man. So obviously I have the conviction in the husband he is or the father he will be," Aishwarya, 36, told IANS in an interview here.

Asked about Abhishek's qualities that would make him a good father, Aishwarya laughed and said: "He is very real, very rooted and very human - which I absolutely relate to. His values are evident for everybody to see. We have known each other for so many years.

"I've seen him with his niece and nephew since the time they were babies. He is so great with kids and I've seen that for the longest time with (his sister Shweta's children) Navya (Naveli) and Agastya. I have no doubts on him whatsoever."

Aishwarya, who will be seen with Abhishek in "Ravana", was in the capital recently to launch the Longines PrimaLuna, a new watch range in-

spired by the moon and galaxy.

Sporting a sleek piece herself that matched with an elaborate yet elegant black and cream off-shoulder gown, Aishwarya was at peace talking about her personal life.

Asked whether she would want a daughter or a son, she said: "Come on... Aren't you like moving at a really fast pace...! Whatever god has in store for us in life (will come)... Life itself is a blessing, let alone to have opportunity to be able to bring a life into this world.

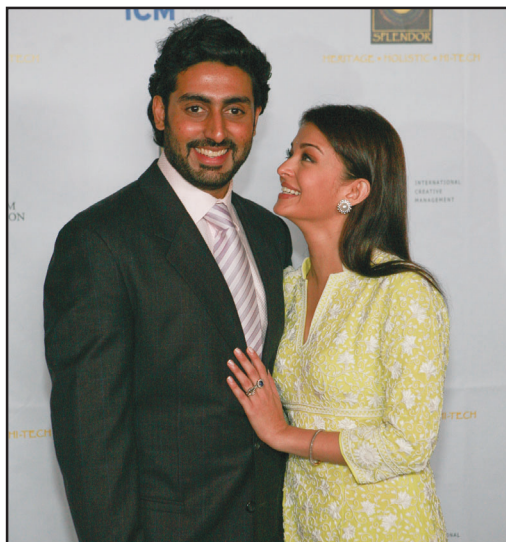
"It's really not in our hands... it's in god's hands. I hope I am just blessed with that experience, I am really looking forward to it and we will certainly cherish it," she added.

Her mother-in-law Jaya Bachchan is a member of the Samajwadi Party, but Aishwarya is doubtful if she will ever head in that direction.

"Life has been so full - haven't even thought about it (entering politics). My life is evidently extremely full in terms of the amount of responsibilities and experiences I am currently having.

"And I believe, anything you take, you have to be able to commit to and give a lot of yourself to. And I think at this point, life is full and that's what I am giving (my best) to," she said.

INTERVIEW



The Bachchan Clan Presents 'Madhushala' In A New Bottle

When megastar Amitabh Bachchan and other members of his family took to the podium to recite from Harivansh Rai Bachchan's 'Madhushala

with illustrations of paintings done by Namrita Bachchan, daughter of Amitabh's brother Ajitabh.

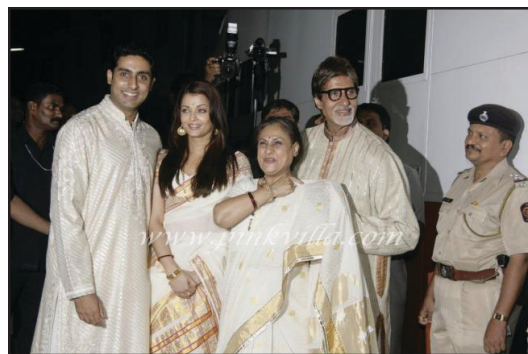
Actor Abhishek Bachchan said at the launch of the book that the book was not a revised version of the original, but a translation.

"It's wonderful that my cousin Namrita has illustrated the 'Madhushala' and it's wonderful to get the third generation of Bachchans to contribute," Abhishek said. Amitabh revealed that this book was his wife Jaya Bachchan's idea.

"It was Jaya's idea that if the book is compiled in a way where one page has the original poems and in the corresponding page the translation of the same, then this generation would love to read it," Amitabh said.

Speaking to reporters, Jaya said: "This is the reproduction of the book 'The House of Wine', which was formerly written by Marjorie Bolton on the works of Shri Harivansh Rai Bachchan."

Some translations have also been done by Ram Swaroop Vyas. Almost every member of the Bachchan family recited Harivansh Rai Bachchan's select poems on the occasion.



- The House of Wine', commemorating his 102nd birth anniversary, nostalgia was in the air as the book was launched in a new avatar.

First published in 1933-34, the book is now designed in a format that contains original poems along with their English translation, interspersed

Shilpa Shetty Marries Raj Kundra



Khandala (Maharashtra): (IANS) Clad in a red sari and flaunting diamonds and emeralds, Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty exchanged wedding vows with London-based businessman Raj Kundra in a close-knit family affair here in this Maharashtra hill station.

"Everything went very well. All parents want their children to get married happily and that goes the same for Shilpa's parents as well. They are very happy," said Kiran Bawa, Shilpa's friend and business partner, after the wedding.

"Raj and Shilpa both were very nervous before the marriage but now they are happy. We are going straight to Raj's house in Mumbai," she added. Wearing a red sari designed by Tarun Tahiliani, the 34-year-old exchanged vows with Kundra as per the Bunt tradition, according to the Mangalorean community that the Shettys belong to. The groom was sporting a maroon sherwani with golden embroidery and a turban with his face veiled by a sehra (string of pearls). He was also holding a sword in his hand, as per Indian tradition. Kundra left Amrit Villa, located about five minutes

away from Bawa Villa, where the wedding was held, in a two-horse chariot.

Photographers scrambled to train their cameras at the goings-on while curious star-gazers were kept at bay by both private and police security.

Sunday's wedding was the climax of the two-day festivities that included a sangeet ceremony Saturday night here. The buzz around the marriage started early this year and had been steadily getting louder even though Shilpa denied it officially before getting engaged to Kundra late October.

Expected at the marriage were celebrities like the Bachchan family, Shah Rukh Khan and family, the Kapoors, Rekha, Farah Khan, Salman Khan, Farhan Akhtar, Karan Johar, the Deols and Sushmita Sen.

However, noticed prominently on the occasion were only actors Rohit Roy, Jacky Bhagnani and Tahiliani. Shilpa also delighted fans by posting a blog entry titled "This is it" on her D-day.

"Thanks for all the best wishes from family and friends... Will write to you very soon... As Shilpa Shetty Kundra. This is it," she posted on www.shilpashettylive.com/blog.

Shilpa met Raj after her win on the British reality show "Big Brother" in 2007. Shilpa's sister, actress Shamita who was participating in the third edition of "Bigg Boss", withdrew voluntarily from the show to attend the wedding.

Shahid Sculpts Eight-Pack Abs For 'Chance...'



Mumbai: (IANS) Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh flaunted six-pack abs, but Shahid Kapoor is doing two better — he will show off eight-pack abs in his forthcoming film "Chance Pe Dance".

Trainer Abbas Ali said they managed to achieve the new look in a very short time for "Chance Pe Dance", directed by Ken Ghosh.

"Shahid had to look cosmetically presentable. After 'Kaminey' we had only two months in hand to change his complete look. It's Shahid's sheer hard work, dedication and consistency that transformed him from what he used to look a couple of years ago to his present look," Abbas told IANS.

"His body in 'Chance Pe Dance' is better than all his previous films. Shahid told me that dancers are coming from abroad and he wants to look like god and move like god. I had to change the entire training to bring that look along with flexibility and muscle endurance which was required for his dance performance," he said. Shahid first started working on his body for Vishal Bharadwaj's "Kaminey" as he had to run with horses in a scene. "Shahid didn't have a muscular body. I was training him only for fitness. Shahid didn't want a picture perfect body in 'Kaminey' because the film shows that he comes from street and doesn't workout in high-tech gym," said Abbas.

For "Chance Pe Dance" Shahid needed a sculpted body and practiced five days a week. He also had to work on his diet. "Shahid is a vegetarian and he doesn't even takes egg so first class protein, which is required to build lean muscle, was not there. White carbohydrate was removed from his diet, like white potatoes and pasta. We added brown carbohydrate like brown rice, sweet potato, oats instead.

Something Magical About Abhi's Eyes: Vidya



Mumbai: (IANS) When "Paa" came her way, Vidya Balan was excited about sharing screen space with superstar Amitabh Bachchan, but was equally looking forward to working with Abhishek again. "When 'Paa' came to me, working with Mr. Bachchan was a definite incentive. However, the fact remains that I was actually looking forward to working with Abhishek too. We have acted in 'Guru' earlier and I know for sure that he is a fantastic co-actor."

"Since Abhishek doesn't rehearse, you don't really know what he is going to do when the director calls for a shot," she said. "When a take is called, there is so much give and take that actors exchange. This is why when he starts delivering his dialogues, you react in a way that was probably never planned. It eventually helps you bring about something intuitive."