

# Women Are Stronger Than Men: Akshay Kumar

Mumbai: (IANS) Akshay Kumar maintains that women are stronger than men when it comes to mental strength and says he chose Twinkle as his life partner because she has the courage to “kick” people in the “butt”.

“I didn’t fall in love with my wife because she could dance around a tree. I fell for her strength



as an independent woman. She kicked butt at school and she could do it now if she wanted. She is fearless to the outside world and I think it’s a great perception for women,” Akshay told IANS from Italy where he is currently shooting for Sajid Khan’s “Housefull”.

Akshay is making a comeback on the small screen as the host of level two of the serial “Khatron Ke Khiladi” and reveals there were a number of instances during its shooting when he was simply dismayed with the way male participants performed stunts.

“In fact, I had to shout at the guys for some of their pathetic attempts. You should watch how many times men get rescued by their female partners on this show. On the other hand, women were much controlled in the situations they found themselves in.

“While men tend to believe that brute strength can get them everywhere, the fact is it was women who got them there in the end,” said the actor.

He feels that women’s mental strength also comes to play in physical activity - something which reflected in their performances when compared to men.

“I have said this quite a few times now that I believe women to be way stronger than men. It’s high time that our society gave them credit for this,” said Akshay when asked if one of the major reasons for doing “Khatron Ke Khiladi” was that he found it empowering for women to go ahead and face the challenges of life.

“If men were so brave, how come god made sure that it’s only women that give birth? We may be able to lift more bricks, but that’s about it. Level two is a perfect example of what I am getting at,” he added.

Akshay has been in the industry for close to a couple of decades now. Does he feel that women have evolved over a period of time when it comes to stunts?

“I genuinely think if we had proper schools for stunt training and facilities where men and women could train, not only would our heroines be as tough as us heroes but our country would be healthier and more experienced. Most Indians don’t know how to swim, though not due to any fault of their own but because they are not given the opportunity to learn,” he said.

Regarding the current bunch of actresses, Akshay says, “As for actresses nowadays, they have a much tougher role to play - they are not all sari-wearing beauties any more. They have more demanding roles.”

He indicates that audiences should not expect him to hog the limelight as an action hero on the show.

“If you want to see me in action, then watch my movies. That’s because ‘Khatron Ke Khiladi’ is about the ‘power of our sexes’ and not about checking out what is Akshay Kumar up to this time. My stunts are just a bonus and a little treat for my fans,” he said.

## Vivek Oberoi Visits Ashram On 33rd B’day

Mumbai: (IANS) Instead of ringing in his 33rd year with parties, Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi chose to spend his birthday Thursday at an ashram here and with cancer patients, says a source close to the actor.

“There is no party, no dinner, no celebration that has been planned by Vivek for his birthday. Every year on his birthday, he visits Barbhaya ashram here and later he visits some cancer patients, most of them are kids,” the source told IANS.

The actor, who became popular with Ram Gopal Varma’s “Company” and Shaad Ali’s “Saathiya”, was apparently busy buying gifts for



the kids Wednesday evening.

“He himself goes out and buys small gifts for the kids. He spends about two to three hours with them and it gives him a lot of joy,” the source added.

Vivek has been off the Bollywood radar for quite sometime now. But he is ready to jump back into action with Karan Johar’s “Qurbaan”, which stars Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor. He will also be seen in Tips’ “Prince”, in which he has performed death defying stunts and is being touted as his most ambitious movie ever.

He will also start shooting for Varma’s pet project “Rakta Charitra” from Sep 25.

# Shilpa To Marry Raj Kundra In Fall



London: (IANS) Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty, who became a household name here after her win on the reality show “Celebrity Big Brother” in 2007, is set to marry businessman Raj Kundra this autumn, her father has revealed in an application to an Indian court.

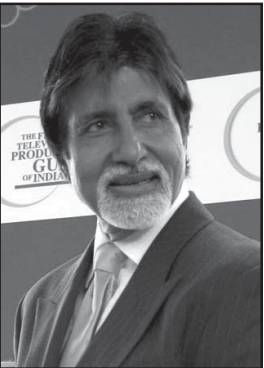
Shilpa and her London-based Indian beau formed a successful business partnership following her appearance on the reality television show. Their business empire includes a \$16.2 million (10 million pounds) stake in the Rajasthan Royals Twenty20 cricket team and a recently acquired food company.

Shilpa’s father Surendra Shetty revealed the couple’s wedding plans in an application for his passport to be returned to allow him to attend the event. It was confiscated after he was charged with

threatening a business associate he claimed owed money to his daughter, reported telegraph.co.uk.

Surendra Shetty is accused of sending gangsters to collect a debt from sari manufacturer Pankaj Agarwal after his firm Praful Sarees failed to pay Shilpa for a modelling assignment when her Bollywood career was at a low point. Since then, Surendra Shetty and his wife Sunanda have only been able to travel overseas with the court’s permission. In his application, Surendra Shetty told the court the wedding would take place between September and the end of December in Britain.

## Big B To Host ‘Bigg Boss’



Mumbai: (IANS) Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan will return to the small screen after a gap of four years to host the third season of Colors’ popular reality show “Bigg Boss”, a well-placed source confirmed recently.

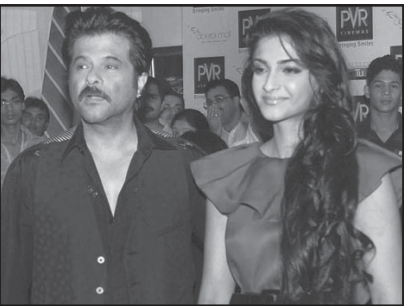
“‘Bigg Boss’ is set to get bigger. And Amitabh Bachchan is going to take over as host from Shilpa Shetty, who hosted it last season,” the source told IANS.

The Indian version of the popular British reality show “Big Brother”, “Bigg Boss” will have celebrity contestants locked into a house under the surveillance of multiple cameras for a period of three months without any contact with the outside world.

Periodic eliminations will take place based on voting by housemates and the audiences.

The show is expected to go on air around December. Big B, who had a super hit stint as the host of “Kaun Banega Crorepati” for two seasons, will be seen on the show on the days of the elimination. The inaugural “Bigg Boss” show in 2006 had Arshad Warsi as the host.

## Anil Kapoor Ropes In Award-Winning Writer For Daughter Sonam



New Delhi: (IANS) When it comes to his daughter, Bollywood actor-producer Anil Kapoor wants the best. He has roped in award-winning writer Manu Rishi to pen dialogues for Sonam’s next film “Ayesha”.

“Anil Kapoor met me and said that he had seen ‘Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!’. He also told me, ‘You’re very good’. Then he started talking about ‘Ayesha’ and told me that Sonam will be starring in it and that it’s his home production. He said that he really liked my work and wanted my inputs for ‘Ayesha’. That’s how the film happened,” Rishi told IANS over phone from Mumbai.

Based on Jane Austen’s “Emma”, “Ayesha” is a romantic comedy about an ultra modern girl who is wooed by three men. While Sonam is playing the female lead, Abhay Deol, one-film-old Arunoday Singh and popular VJ Cyrus Sahukar will woo her in the movie, which is being produced by Sonam’s sister Rhea under their father’s banner.

For the movie, Delhi boy Rishi had to pen “sophisticated” lines - a complete change from what he wrote for the earlier film. “‘Ayesha’ is a very different film from ‘Oye Lucky...’ and not just in terms of the dialogues, also in the look and feel,” said Rishi, who won a Filmfare as well as International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) award for best dialogues for his quirky and spicy one-liners in “Oye Lucky...”

He says that while “Oye Lucky...” depicted charms of Old Delhi, “Ayesha” is set to show a new “polished” side of the capital.

“In ‘Oye Lucky...’, the language was very, very West Delhi sorts and the protagonists were not very well read. But in ‘Ayesha’, the characters are from the upmarket Defence Colony, they are from English medium schools, etc. So that has brought in a lot of sophistication in the way we have written the dialogues,” he explained.

Rishi started his journey with Delhi theatre and then shifted to Mumbai in search of work. But with a dearth of options, he ended up assisting actor-director Rajat Kapoor and kept waiting for good roles to come his way. It was then that he started writing songs for TV shows and also took up work as a third dialogue writer to kill time. His patience paid off when he was introduced to Dibaker Banerjee who helmed “Oye Lucky...” and since then Rishi has not looked back.