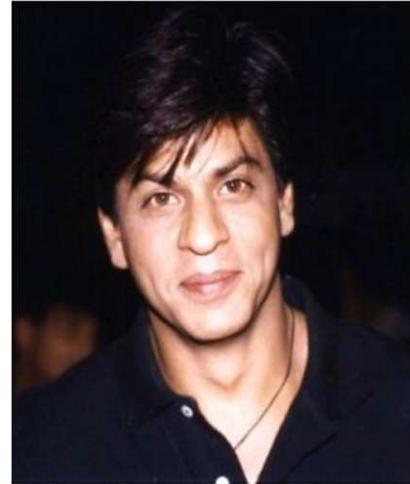


## Shah Rukh Khan THE KING-SIZE HERO



If it's true that every age gets the hero it deserves, then Shah Rukh Khan is the hero of the globalized Information Age, with an image that cuts across international boundaries to reach the 'Indian diaspora and fans all over the world. The term 'superstar' was coined in Bollywood, for Rajesh Khanna. Amitabh Bachchan inherited the title, earning labels such as Big B, Angry Young Man and Supremo and then Shah Rukh Khan took over the crown, entering the Bollywood hall of fame, with sobriquets of his own, such as King Khan, Badshah (Emperor) Khan and King of Bollywood.

Most of Shah Rukh Khan's films are moneyspinners even before they are made, their success a foregone conclusion because he is the star playing the leading role, inviting almost maniacal adulation from fans. With about sixteen years in cinema to his credit, he is already a legend. An icon as king-sized as Shah Rukh Khan would not be able to walk down the street in any country where there is a Bollywood-crazy population, without being mobbed.

Beginning his acting career away from films, he is the only theatre and television star who went on to become a movie superstar. He entered the film industry when the sons of earlier stars were ruling Bollywood, making it next to impossible for an outsider to get a toe into the Bollywood door. Today, he is the favourite of the industry's top banners and many producers say that they cannot imagine making a film without him. It was a different story when he started his career in films as an ordinary-looking, not-too-tall, mop-haired young man - nobody could have predicted that he would be one of India's biggest and highest paid superstars. Or maybe, it was written in the stars...

Shah Rukh Khan was born on 2 November 1965 at the Talwar Nursing Home in New Delhi. He was born with the umbilical cord entangled around his neck. The nurse attending to his mother then remarked that this was a sign indicating that the child was blessed by Lord Hanuman (the Hindu god worshipped in the form of a monkey) and would be very lucky - prophetic words as it turned out, of course. Home for the child Shah Rukh was at Rajinder Nagar, a colony in New Delhi, where he and his elder sister Shehnaaz were brought up by their father Meer Taj Mohammad, a lawyer and businessman, and mother Latif Fatima, a magistrate and social worker. Shah Rukh has described his father in interviews as a 6.2 feet tall, good-looking man, with grey eyes and brown hair. Very well-read and well educated, with Master of Arts and law degrees, he was fluent in six languages. He was also, in his time, the youngest freedom fighter against the British colonialists.



The young Shah Rukh was sent to study at St. Columba's High School, New Delhi, an institution run by Irish priests who believed in discipline and a high standard of education, which was exactly what Shah Rukh's parents wanted for their children. An incident that Shah Rukh has related in several television and print interviews illustrates his solid middle-class upbringing. When he was four years old, he threw a rock at a boy in his colony,

Contd.

## Cultural Calendar for August 2009

### August 11

Film: Sampooran Ramayan (In Hindi)  
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration: 3 hrs

### August 13

Film: A Tale of Two Cities - Mumbai & Bombay (Documentary in English)  
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m. Duration: 1 hr

### August 15

To celebrate the 62nd anniversary of India's Independence  
Samarpan - glimpses of Kathak dance form by renowned artistes Hari & Chethna and their ensemble  
Venue & Time: Kularathne Hall, Ananda College, Colombo -10 at 6.30 p.m.  
(Admission by invitation, contact Centre on Tel # 2500014 or on e-mail iccrcolombo@gmail.com)

### August 20

Lecture cum demonstration on Kathak dance by renowned artistes Hari & Chethna  
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m.

### August 21

Panel discussion on Life & works of eminent Indian Play Wright Habib Tanvir  
Talk by: Parakrama Nirriella, Playwright (Discussants: Dharmasiri Bandaranayake, Film Director & Prof. (emeritus) S. Mounaguru, Dept. of Fine Arts, University of Batticaloa)  
The talk and remarks by discussants will be followed by  
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m.

### August 25

Bharatanatyam Recital by Ms. Amali Nisansala Perera, MA, BHU University, India  
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m.

(Admission to all programmes is free and on first come first served basis except 15th August)



who began to bleed profusely. Later that night, the boy's drunken father came to Shah Rukh's home with a knife, threatening to kill the four-year-old, but Shah Rukh's father did not turn a hair. Instead he sent Shah Rukh out to talk to the raging man, and the child apologized to him, managing to calm him down.

As a child, Shah Rukh was bright, naughty and fond of sports. He was weak in Hindi, either scoring very low marks or failing in the subject. Instead of scolding him, his mother told him that if he got full marks in Hindi, she would take him to see a Hindi film in a cinema hall,

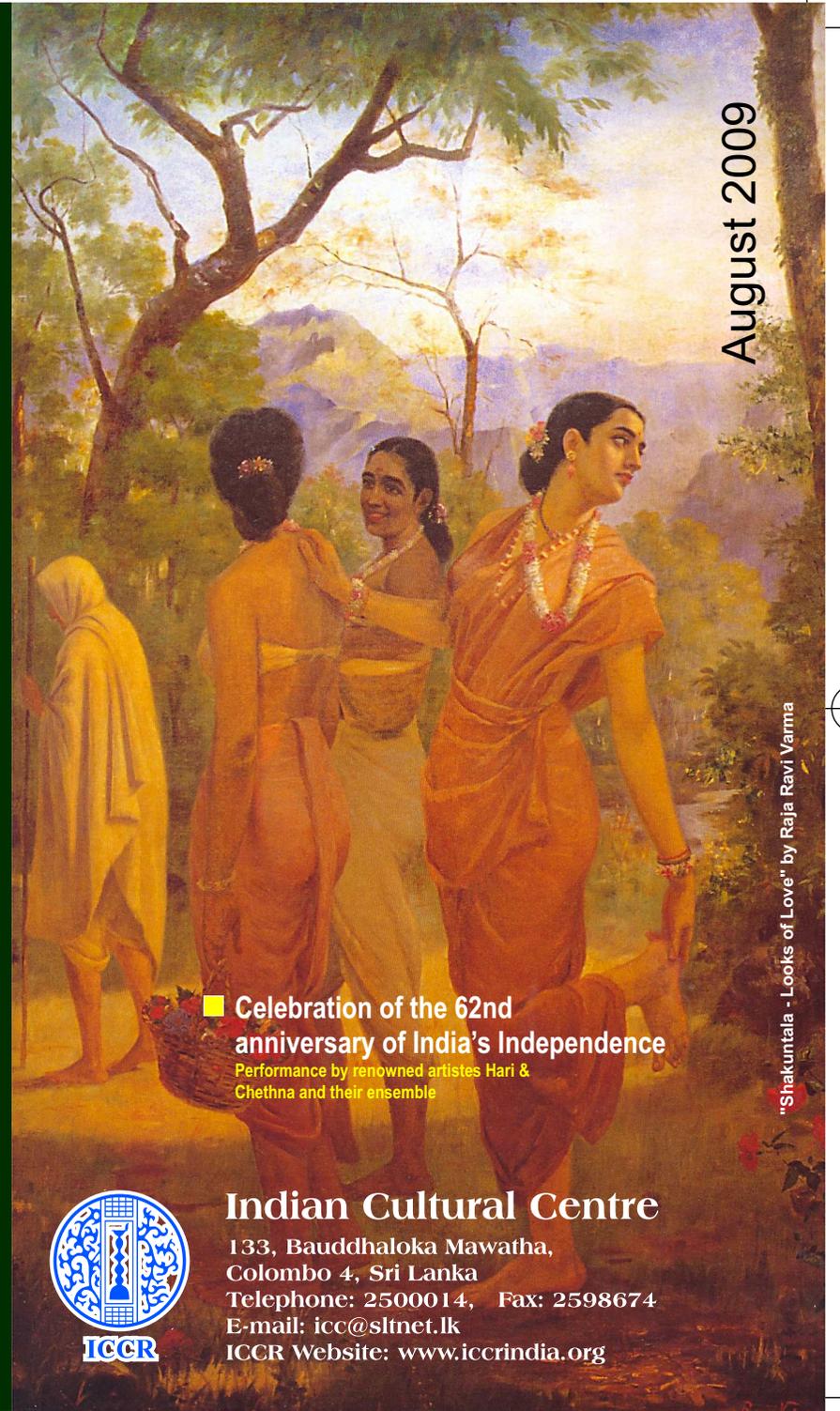
something he had never experienced. The bait was attractive enough for him to work hard at his Hindi and get full marks. His reward, his first visit to the cinema, must have triggered off the acting impulse in the child, because Shah Rukh Khan considers this experience a turning point in his life.

In school, he was more interested in sports, such as cricket, hockey, football and athletics, than in studies and hoped to become a sportsman capable of representing his country in international Competitions. Electronics was one of his favourite subjects, which probably explains his ease with gadgets and gizmos today. English was the other favourite, which eventually led to the theatre. He spent a few years with Barry John's Theatre Action Group in Delhi and acted in a number of plays. It was Barry John, a British theatre director who lives and works in New Delhi, who told him he was meant for films.

Contd.

SANDEESH

The monthly newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo



August 2009

"Shakuntala - Looks of Love" by Raja Ravi Varma

■ Celebration of the 62nd anniversary of India's Independence  
Performance by renowned artistes Hari & Chethna and their ensemble



Indian Cultural Centre

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ICCR Website: www.iccrindia.org

## Past Events

19th June

Kathak Dance Recital



Ms. Rangana Nawagamuwa, completed her Bachelor of dance degree at the Indira Kala Sangeeth University presented a brilliant Kathak dance performance at the Centre. . Some of the items presented by her were "Guru Vandana", "Upaj", & "Thaana". The evening was very well enjoyed by the audience gathered at the Centre.

24th June

Carantic Vocal Music Recital by Ms. Shathirika Manickavel



Ms. Shathirika Manickavel presented a memorable evening of Carnatic Vocal Music for the music lovers at the Centre. Her programme lasted for an hour and half and she sang several ragas and songs. Some of the songs and ragas she sang were "Hamsadwadni", "Ganamoorthy", "Chalanata", "Aaberi" and many more. It was a treat for all music lovers.

### NEW COURSES

Violin

Age Limit	:	12 years and above
Course fee	:	Registration fee Rs.250/= Monthly fee Rs.300/=

Vacancies exist in beginners & advanced class

## LIBRARY

Recent Library Accessions

**New Mansions for Music : performance, Pedagogy and Criticism**  
Subramanian, Lakshmi  
New Delhi, Esha Beteille, 2008, 169p.

**The new asian hemisphere : The irresistible shift of global power To the East**  
Mahbubani, Kishore  
New York, Perseus Books Group, 2008, 314p.

**Scrapbook of a Prime Minister**  
Gujral, I.K.  
New Delhi, Rajpal and Sons, 2008, 134p.

**Gandhi's Khadi : A history of contention and conciliation**  
Ramagundam, Rahul  
New Delhi, Orient Longman, 2008, 298p.

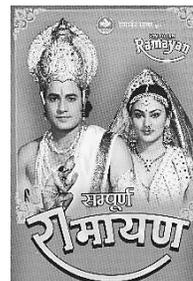
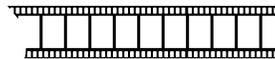
**The Eagle Strikes : The Royal Indian Air Force 1932-1950**  
Chhina, Rana T.S.  
New Delhi, Ambi Knowledge Resources, 2006, 340p.

**Sea of Poppies**  
Ghosh, Amitav  
New Delhi, Viking, 2008, 515p.  
[Shortlisted for the MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2008]

**Cultural Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir**  
Ed. K. Warikoo  
New Delhi, Pentagon Press, 2009, 338p.

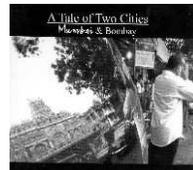


## Films in August



### Sampoorn Ramayan

Made in the 1980s, Dr. Ramanand Sagar's Sampoorn Ramayan was the first serial on the great epic "Ramayana" on Indian television and earned wide appreciation and acclaim as a beautiful visual portrayal of the epic.



### A Tale of Two Cities – Mumbai & Bombay

(Documentary in English)

A major aspect being recognised world over is that local influences cannot and should not be compromised in the quest for Globalisation. An important element of the character of India's financial capital, Mumbai, is this factor. The search for "mutual and inclusive globalisation" as the major solution to the universal integration processes is seen in the two faces of the same city, "Mumbai" and "Bombay". The success and growth of corporates is to a great extent the contribution of the positive attitudinal aspects of a large workforce and the multiplier effect of the service fundamentals, as seen in Mumbai, are rare to find elsewhere.

However, what is not so well chronicled and appreciated is that Mumbai has a soul, character and personality. And what contributes to its emergence as the country's leading commercial centre is an active, interactive interplay of these soft factors..

### Shah Rukh Khan .. Contd..

Shah Rukh's father died when he was only 15. His mother had to work hard to raise the children, but never let them want for anything. After getting through school, he joined Delhi University's Hansraj College, from where he graduated in Economics. He played sports in college too but a back injury and knee problem sustained while on the playground prevented him from taking up his first love as a career. He went on to join the Master of Arts course at the Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Milia Islamia in New Delhi, aiming to make advertising films one day but could not get his degree because of insufficient class attendance.

In Delhi, while performing for both television and theatre, Shah Rukh was also wooing the pretty Gauri Chibba, a Hindu girl. Shah Rukh is a Muslim, and because of the difference in religions, Gauri's family disapproved of their relationship. Shah Rukh never gave up trying to charm her relatives - a real-life story very similar to his hit film Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (The Braveheart Will Take the Bride). On 25 October 1991, Shah Rukh married Gauri, without bothering about whether his image as a married man would affect his nascent career as a film actor.

Shah Rukh's own mother died in 1991, very shortly before he got married. He has often said that his one regret in life is that his parents were not alive to see his wedding or success. In November 1997, a son, Aryan, was born and three years later, in May 2000, daughter Suhana was born, completing the family. The star is as caring a father as he is a husband, and all the free time he has is spent with his family.

In a relatively short career span, Shah Rukh has won every award possible (except the National Award), and was awarded a Padma Shri in 2005, by the Government of India, at the same time winning the MTV Youth Idol award, and more recently, the MTV Style Icon Award. The actor who was considered not-too-handsome when he came into the industry, is now considered sexy and good-looking. His face has acquired more character, his personality more charisma as he has grown older, entering the dreaded forties, and yet there is an ageless boyish quality about him.

About Shah Rukh Khan's youthful look, Yash Chopra adds in an avuncular manner, "He doesn't do anything right, he smokes too much, he hardly sleeps, he eats anything, mostly chicken, still he doesn't seem to age."

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge was a blockbuster, not just in India (where it swept up the major film awards) but also in the overseas circuit. Nostalgic-for-home NRIs were enchanted by the film - the portrayal of Indian customs, rituals and idyllic rural life, the values of respect for elders and fidelity in love as followed by Indians, were irresistible - and since then, all Shah Rukh Khan films have done wonderfully well overseas, where he has a huge fan base.

The phenomenon has been captured in an interesting documentary, The Outer World of Shah Rukh Khan, by British-Indian filmmaker, journalist and writer Nasreen Munni Kabir, who followed Shah Rukh and his star entourage on his Temptations World Tour in 2004. Shah Rukh would be walking down the street or into a hotel lobby like a normal tourist, when suddenly an Indian would spot him, do a double take, and in no time at all a group of fans would be tailing him. This fan worship prompted a Guardian writer to comment that he makes "Beatlemania look like a librarian's convention." And a security guard in Shah Rukh's entourage on this tour adds: "Even Brad Pitt would not get this kind of public adulation".

Karan Johar is sure that very soon Shah Rukh will begin directing films too. "He is buzzing with ideas all the time."

As Shah Rukh Khan enters a new phase of his career, is everyone ready for surprises...?

**Source: India Perspectives - Extracted from King Khan by Deepa Gahlot, Roli Books, New Delhi 2007**