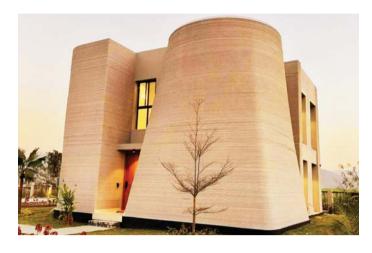
bserved annually on April 8, International Pageant Day honours the world of pageantry, celebrating the confidence, grace, and achievements of contestants across various beauty and talent competitions. From Miss Universe to local cultural pageants, this day recognizes the hard work, dedication, and advocacy efforts of participants who use their platforms for social change. It also highlights the evolution of pageants beyond beauty, emphasizing intelligence, leadership, and philanthropy. Whether as a contestant, fan, or supporter, International Pageant Day is a tribute to the spirit of empowerment and the global impact of pageantry.

राष्ट्रदुत

#TRENDING

From Blueprint to Reality

India's First 3D-Printed Villa stuns the Internet.



taken the real estate and construction industries by storm, India's first-ever 3D printed villa has een unveiled in Pune. The revolutionary designed and built using advanced 3D-printing technology, has left the internet awestruck, sparking conversa-



A Technological Marvel in Construction

he villa, located in Pune, has been created using state-of-the-art 3D construction printing technology, which drastically reduces building time, material Indian startup in collaborasustainable and efficient country. Unlike traditional construction methods, which involve bricklaying, cement mixing, and extended laborintensive processes, 3D printing enables the villa's walls to be printed layer by layer concrete mix. This technique struction, completing the villa in just a few weeks

the time, thanks to auto-

mated 3D printing technol-

Customizable Designs:

Unlike conventional con-

struction, 3D printing

allows for intricate and

customizable architectur-

al designs, making each

home unique and tailored

structure is optimized for

energy conservation, inte-

grating smart lighting and

ventilation systems.

country where rapid urban-

ization demands innovative

to specific needs. Energy Efficiency: The

The villa boasts a sleek, modern design with an emphasis on sustainability and innovation. Some of its

- key highlights include, • Eco-Friendly Materials: The concrete mix used for printing is designed to be sustainable, reducing carbon footprint and construction waste.
- Construction: Rapid Traditional homes can take several months to complete, but this villa was built in a fraction of

The Internet Reacts

s soon as images and A videos of the 3D-printed villa surfaced online, social media platforms buzzed with admiration and curiosity. Tech enthusiasts, architects, and real estate experts lauded the project as a game-changer for India's housing sector. Many expressed excitement over the potential affordability and efficiency that 3Dprinted homes could bring to the market, especially in a

"This is the future of housing! Imagine being able to print homes for the underprivileged in record time. commented one Twitter user. "India is stepping into a

new era of sustainable and smart construction. This could be the beginning of a housing revolution," posted

Future Prospects of 3D-Printed Homes in India

he successful execution of India's first 3D-printed villa paves the way for largerscale projects in the near future. Experts believe that this technology could be instrumental in addressing India's affordable housing crisis by providing quick, cost-

effective, and durable housing solutions. Additionally, with rising concerns over environmental sustainability, 3D printing in construction could help reduce material wastage and carbon emissions, making it a preferred choice for future real estate developments.





The Night Stardom Performed,

Old Tried Young, And **Cinema Forgot to Show Up**





Shailaza Singh

ne evening after the dust settled, after the confetti had been swept up and the stage lights had dimmed. 1

watching Kuch Kuch Hota Hai. And I remembered. I remembered a time when Shah Rukh Khan looked like

Shah Rukh Khan. When Salman Khan looked like someone who still believed in trees, not protein shakes. When Madhuri Dixit danced like poetry and didn't need to lip-sync to her own nostalgia.

I remembered Bollywood, not this botoxed, brand-partnered, algorithm-chasing version of itself but the messy, magical, melo-dramatic beast I fell in love with. And that's when it hit me. IIFA had just happened in Jaipur, And l

et me start from the ground level were. While the gold-class ticket holders and influencers bathed in proximity to stardom, the rest of us, the socalled silver class, watched from a Titanic-style steerage zone, peering at the giant screens like hopeful extras in

someone else's movie. The stage was a because that's exactly where we galaxy away. The sound was decent, if you enjoy delayed reactions and tinny treble. And the plastic tumbler, ves the 100 water tumbler, became a symbol of our place in this cinematic caste system. The fries? 250. Loaded only in price. Not potato!

The Actors Who Danced (Or Didn't)

N ow let's talk about the dancing. Who says the stars danced?

In reality, they posed, twirled, did a dramatic half-spin, and exited stage left. The background dancers did the actual lifting, figuratively, and occasionally, quite literally. The stars came on, wiggled a bit, pointed skyward, struck a pose, exited, and returned after a waistcoat change to do it all over

perform Shah Rukh's hook steps during his sequences. I could barely distinguish the body from where I was sitting, double or otherwise. It was all a flicker of nostalgia wrapped in glitter and exhaustion. Are star awards only about song and dance? Has it all become so choreographed that spontaneity

and storytelling have quietly exit-

ed the stage, right?

Some in the audience whis-

pered that they saw a body double

The True Story of the Awards

I artik Aarvan took home the Rest Actor award for *Bhool* Bhulaivaa 3, a performance that was, in the kindest words, enerand crowd-friendly. Meanwhile, Sparsh Srivastava of Laapataa Ladies, who delivered a performance rooted in subtlety, neartbreak, and humanity, wasn't

Perhans because Kartik also cohosted the evening with Karan Johar and needed a proper thankyou note in the form of a trophy Perhaps because subtle storytelling doesn't trend as easily on social media as dancing in sherwanis. This is not to belittle Kartik Aaryan's charm, but to wonder when did awards become compensations rather than recognitions?

#IIFA 2025

Lip Sync of the Undead

M adhuri Dixit appeared, sequins sparkling, lips moving to an old number she once made legendary. Except it felt like a hologram. A beautifully

preserved relic going through the motions. A living icon, caught in an echo of her own applause. Shah Rukh tried to recreate the magic too. But this wasn't DDLJ or Kal Ho Naa Ho. This was a man battling time with a dumbbell in one hand and a legacy in the other. They weren't just trying to look youthful

They were clinging to an image that had already moved on, like fashion trends and exes we don't And yet, I felt sad. Not because they aged, but

Nostalgia With a Ring Light

because they weren't allowed to

🗨 hah Rukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit, once lightning in a bottle, now seemed like elegant holograms of their younger selves, beautifully preserved, but ever so slightly disconnected. This isn't a criticism of aging. Aging is glorious. But pretending not to age? Exhausting for everyone. There was a time when stardom grew with the audience. Today, it's held hostage by

Where Was the Cinema?

A mid all the smoke machines, abs, and back-up dancers, one thing was quietly missing, the cinema itself. We didn't see a montage celebrating

Laapataa Ladies, 12th Fail, or RRR's global vic-

marketing calendars and six-pack schedules.

There was no love letter to storytelling. No tribute to screenwriters. Not even a quiet nod to the films that made us think, cry, or change. Instead, we cheered for songs that already had a billion views on YouTube.

It felt like watching a wedding sangeet on a corporate budget, with no actual wedding. Yes, they did run montages each time the nominations were announced, but they were just names. No heart. No frames that reminded us why we fell in love with cinema in the first place. There was a technical awards segment on the previous day, hosted by Abhishek Banerjee Aparshakti Khurana, and Vijay Varma. But it was riddled with cringe comedy, timing issues, and synchronization gaffes that had the audi-

ence groaning louder than laughing. And that's where we missed the cinema the most, not just as content, but as craft.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Marketing Over Memory omewhere along the way stardom became a

business model, not a story. There was a time when Dilip Kumar said in an interview, "There are so many toys in the shop. Either you take them out one by one and last for years,

or you dump them all at once and be done." I think we're in the age of dumping all the toys. Amitabh Bachchan, bless him, evolved. From angry young man to KBC host to the wise man of the people, he kept reinventing. He didn't hide from his years. He used them. His journey moved from Juhu to living rooms in Moradabad and Sambhal. And he never looked like a caricature of himself.

Meanwhile, IIFA seems stuck in a loop of trying to sell nostalgia in gold-plated wrappers

Celebration or Commercial?

o the city's credit, Jaipur hosted an event of massive scale and spirit. The energy was undeniable. For tourism, for visibility, for the local economy, it was a grand moment. The coordination and cultural representation, though limited in some aspects, still offered the city a brief starring role on the global stage. But for those of us who came as fans, not

Are we watching art, or advertising? Are we celebrating cinema, or staging brand placements with backup dancers? Are we still in love, or are we holding on to an illusion of what love used to be?

Local Talent: A Token Afterthought

buyers, it was also a moment of reckoning.

ajasthani artists, cultural custodians of one **K** of India's richest heritages, were given a grand total of 8 minutes of stage time. You heard that right. 8 minutes Apparently, that's the value of folk art in a

The Jaipur Lens

Bollywood spreadsheet.

nd what about Jaipur? The city shimmered. A Hotels were overbooked, streets were scrubbed clean, and every autorickshaw driver had a theory on which actor stayed where. But it also felt like the city was playing hos to a party it couldn't fully attend. Locals watched from afar, cheered from behind barricades, and waved at cars with tinted windows. This wasn't just an event, it was a mirror to our aspirations and our exclusions

Jaipur looked beautiful. But was it seen?

and slightly offbeat. IIFA 2025 gave us abs, auto-tune, and actors lip-syncing to their own youth. Jaipur got the party, we got the Instagram reels. And somewhere beneath the sequins, cinema quietly asked, "Remember me?" A reflective, slightly unhinged, absolutely honest take on IIFA Jaipur 2025!

Bollywood descended like a meteor, loud, glittering,



The Weight of Stardom (and Ozempic) 🚨 glamorous. Karan Johar's rapid weight loss had the internet whispering Ozempic louder than his designer label. Sonu

ty of the awards. The nomina tions felt more like brand cam paigns than acknowledgments of art. It wasn't an awards show, it was a marketing gala in

Nigam questioned the credibili-And Yet... I Stayed

espite all this, I watched. I

observed. I mourned and I laughed.

Because once, I was in love with this world. I believed in Shah Rukh's stammering declarations, umes, in Aamir Khan's earnest eyes. Now, I just watch them trying to look like themselves And that is the greatest tragedy

in Madhuri's eves that spoke vol-

The Influence of Influencers

O nce upon a time, an 'influencer' was someone who shaped cinema, culture, and conversation. Today, they're more likely to be someone who once reviewed moisturizers and now finds themselves strutting the green carpet with a rented designer clutch and 34K followers, 90% of

whom are bots. IIFA 2025 had more ring lights than real light, more vloggers than veterans. Micro-celebrities cap-

tured more footage of themselves reacting to the event than the event

You could hear it in the rehearsed gasps, "OMG guys, Shah Rukh just looked in my direction. I No one blinked at the irony of filming their 'authentic reactions'

This wasn't just an awards night, it was a content creation fes-

The Final Take

M aybe, IIFA Jaipur wasn't a celebration. Maybe, it was a

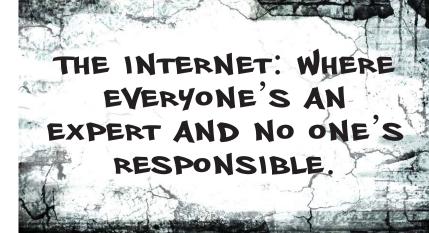
Not just for the stars, but for us too. For those of us who still watch TV and wait for stories that move us. For those of us who still believe in magic, but now see the wires holding up the illusion. And maybe, that's okay.

tles, you begin to see the real stage. And sometimes, the truth is far more entertaining. And maybe, the real award goes to us, for still hoping that cinema

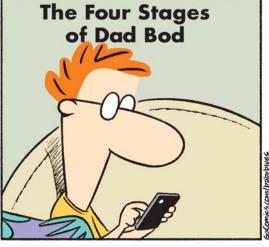
Because once the stardust set-

remembers how to feel, not just rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



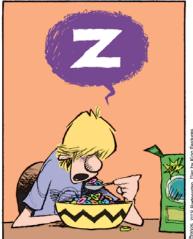
1. Anger



ZITS









By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman