

## Supporting Our Heroes

The Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce (AICC), in association with the FIA, put up signs in support of the front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Signs were put up at three locations: Moghul Express, Exxon (Wood Ave.), and RWJH – Somerville, N.J.



## FIA Commemorates Maharashtra, Gujarat Day With Virtual Celebration

The Federation of Indian Association NY, NJ, CT (FIA-Tristate) commemorated Maharashtra and Gujarat Day on May 1 through a virtual celebration, due to the lockdown and shelter-in-place orders because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Apart from being known as a Labor Day, May 1 is also celebrated as Maharashtra Day Gujarat Day in both these states. It was 57 years ago, that the existing state of Maharashtra was formed. The then Bombay had people speaking various languages like Marathi, Gujarati, Kutchi, and Konkani, however, it did not work out. And, the Sanyukt Maharashtra Andolan began demanding a separate state.

The protest continued till 1960 and in the same year, the Bombay Reorganization Act was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra. The legislation came into effect on May 1, 1960.

FIA's May 1 celebration saw the coming together of several big names from the entertainment industry from both the states, including actor and producer

Suniel Shetty, singers Kailash Kher and Shibani Kashyap, Gujarati singer Geta Rahari, poet and writer Ankit Trivedi and actor Manav Gohil. Consul General of India in New York, Sandeep Charavorty, also addressed the virtual celebration. Chakravorty noted that since their formation on May 1, 1916, both Maharashtra and Gujarat "have marched ahead in progress and development and made lives better for the people of their states." Both states are also highly developed and industrialized states of India, he said, adding that they contribute immensely to the Indian GDP. Specially reaching out to the Gujarati and Maharashtrian diaspora in the U.S., Chakravorty said they are "a big pillar" of the larger Indian community here, and have not only contributed to the local communities, but also to India's growth and development and also to the betterment of Indo-U.S. relations. He also felicitated FIA for their role in the annual celebrations and also congratulated the FIA leadership for their 50th anniversary.

Voluntary Content Compilation  
FIA NY-NJ-CT and  
Community Volunteers

Voluntary Editor  
Bhargavi Kulkarni

Voluntary Graphic  
Compilation  
Gracia Marcom

# Act, Write, Shoot, Register to Win Big Cash & Other Prizes! – It's Next Level Home Auditions!

With a nation-wide lockdown and social distancing it has become increasingly difficult for talent to get auditions for work! But all it takes is your mobile phone, your creative thought and your home, to strike gold.

Suniel Shetty has planned a novel challenge to engage the youth and set their creative juices flowing, while simultaneously allowing talent to showcase their skills without hindrance or worry. And in a time when auditions are next to impossible – it provides job opportunities to thousands of talent worldwide.

His company, FTC Talent Media & Entertainment Pvt Ltd and its team – with newly appointed CEO Omar Qureshi – (the well known movie expert) have put together 'FTCShorts' – a Short film challenge that can be created at home using your mobile phone. The movie must be shot within your home and you can act in it as well. You can also use your family members, pets, props – all that's available at home – if needed.

Registered talent of FTC Talent Media & Entertainment company can participate. That's not so difficult if you're an actor, filmmaker or editor. Even a beginner. Simply log onto [www.FTCTalent.com](http://www.FTCTalent.com) and register and you can send in as many entries as you like. Remember, the registration is absolutely Free.

The rules are simple. Some of the primary ones being –

1. You must register as talent (actor, director, writer, editor, etc) to participate. Registration is free.
2. You can send in as many entries as you like but the work must be an original creation and filmed at home.
3. You must only use a mobile to shoot though you can use editing and sound support from available resources.
4. All work must be original and not offensive to any caste, creed, religion, political outfit or any nationality or race.

FTC has lined up mega cash prizes and giveaways too for the best entries. With the biggest



cash awards going to the top three films (makers) and separate super exciting prizes of hampers as well – going to the best director, best actor, best sound and best editing, etc.

The winning films will be showcased on television and/or on streaming platforms. And selected winners will be given opportunities to work on an upcoming film project! They will also get a chance to assist on an FTC Talent Media & Entertainment production under an able director.

Now audition at home and get a chance to work as actor or assistant director on one of the big films being produced by FTC Talent Media & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

What more can you ask for? Go register, aim and shoot. And win!



# Rishi Kapoor, Bollywood's Evergreen Actor, Dies at 67

Veteran Bollywood actor Rishi Kapoor died on April 30 at a Mumbai hospital after a two-year battle with leukemia. He was 67. The news of his death sent shockwaves across the industry, which was already reeling with the death of another Bollywood gem – Irrfan Khan, who died a day earlier.

Kapoor was diagnosed with cancer in 2018 and returned to India last September following treatment in New York. He is survived by his actress wife Neetu Singh, whom he married in 1980, and two children – actor Ranbir Kapoor and designer designer Ridhima Kapoor Sahani. He is also the uncle of actresses Karisma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor-Khan.

Over the course of his career, Kapoor acted in more than 100 films, playing both the romantic lead and character roles. He received a Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

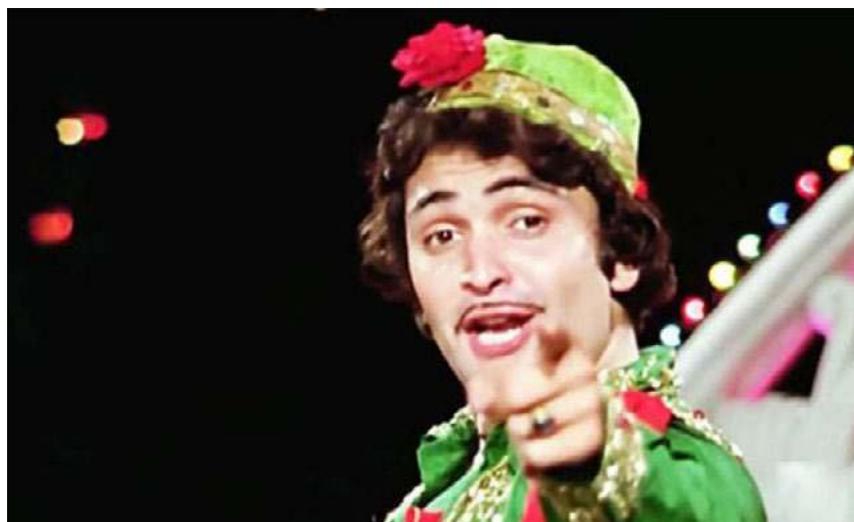
According to a statement issued by the family after his death, Kapoor “remained jovial and determined to live to the fullest right through two years of treatment across two continents.” It added that “he was grateful for the love of his fans that poured in from the world over. In his passing, they would all understand that he would like to be remembered with a smile and not with tears.” The statement also urged his fans and well-wishers to respect India’s current lockdown restrictions, noting: “He would not have it any other way.”

His last rites were performed on April 30 at the Chandanwadi crematorium in Mumbai. Abhishek Bachchan, Alia Bhatt, industrialist Anil Ambani and filmmaker Ayan Mukerji joined the Kapoor family, to pay their last respects to the evergreen actor.

Kapoor’s daughter Riddhima, who was unable to reach in time for the funeral from Delhi, took to Instagram to share a throwback picture with her father. “Papa I love you I will always love you – RIP my strongest warrior I will miss you every day I will miss your FaceTime calls every day! Until we meet again papa I love you,” she wrote.

Following Kapoor’s death, Indian politicians posted tributes on social media to the veteran actor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that Kapoor “was a powerhouse of talent,” and was “passionate about films and India’s progress.” Similarly, Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu tweeted that he was “deeply saddened” to learn of Kapoor’s death. “The talented actor essayed many roles with aplomb and was popular for his romantic films. In his passing away, the nation lost a beloved son and film industry lost a gem,” he wrote.

Saying it had been a terrible week for or



Indian cinema, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote: “A wonderful actor, with a huge fan following across generations, he will be greatly missed. My condolences to his family, friends and fans all over the world, at this time of grief.”

Several celebrities also poured their hearts out. Fellow Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan tweeted that he was “destroyed” by Kapoor’s death.

“My heart is so heavy,” Priyanka Chopra, who also appeared in “Agnepath,” with Kapoor, wrote via Instagram. “This is the end of an era.”

In a moving post for the veteran actor, Sonali Bendre wrote: “We battled together, fighting an



unseen monster." Bendre, herself a cancer survivor, picked a photo from her New York diaries and shared a heartwarming picture from the time when she visited the actor in New York, where they both underwent treatment for cancer. In her post, Bendre remembered how she and Kapoor fought cancer together and kept each other "buoyant through the sadness and pain."

While Kapoor was recovering in New York, Neetu was the actor's constant companion. However, there were a bunch of others who made him feel like he was home in Mumbai. Among them were Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor, Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, and Aamir Khan.

Popularly known as Chintu, the Kapoor family scion was born in Mumbai on Sept. 4, 1952, the second son of Raj Kapoor and Krishna Raj Kapoor. His brothers, Randhir and Rajiv, and his uncles, Shammi Kapoor and Shashi Kapoor, Prem Nath and Prem Chopra, were all well-known actors.

He made his debut as a child actor in 1970 in his father Raj Kapoor's film "Mera Naam Joker." The film, directed by his father and produced by the family's studio in Bombay (now Mumbai), flopped at the box office, but over time became one of the most-

watched Indian films.

Prior to that, as a four-year-old, he appeared briefly in a romantic rain-drenched song sequence in his father's film "Shree 420." His first lead role - in the 1973 romantic film "Bobby" - won him the Filmfare Award for Best Actor. The superhit film brought many changes in pop culture and filmmaking. Not only did Kapoor's and Kapadia's fashion replicated by people, it also introduced new techniques in cinema. According to reports, the film changed the way lip-synching was done for songs.

Amongst Kapoor's many memorable films is "Chandni." This film was important because it led Sridevi to stardom and also helped to give a fresh lease of life to Yash Chopra's career after a string of flops.

Other noteworthy films include "Laila Majnu," "Amar Akbar Anthony," "Karz," "Prem Rog," "Naseeb Apna Apna," "Bol Radha Bol," "Henna," "Kapoor and Sons," "102 Not Out," and "Mulk."

Last seen in the 2019 films "The Body" and "Jhootha Kahin Ka," Kapoor was meant to star in a Bollywood adaptation of "The Intern" with Deepika Padukone. He was also working on a film titled "Sharmaji Namkeen" along with Juhi Chawla and actor Gufi Paintal.



# Irrfan Khan, Who Successfully Straddled Bollywood and Hollywood Dies at 53

Irrfan Khan, one of India's best-known and most beloved actors, died on April 29 in Mumbai. He was admitted to the ICU in Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital due to a colon infection. He was 53. Khan is survived by his wife, Sutapa Sikdar, a Bollywood screenplay writer, and his two sons, Babil and Ayaan. Khan died four days after his mother, Saeda Begum, breathed her last in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She was 93. Khan was unable to attend the funeral because of the lockdown measures in India due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's saddening that this day, we have to bring forward the news of him passing away," read a statement from Khan's PR agency, Hardly Anonymous Communications. "Irrfan was a strong soul, someone who fought till the very end and always inspired everyone who came close to him."

In 2018, Khan had revealed that he had been diagnosed with a rare neuroendocrine tumor. The Mayo Clinic describes it as an abnormal growth that begins in the body's specialized neuroendocrine cells.

Born on Jan. 7, 1967 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, as Sahabzada Irfan Ali Khan, he attended the National School of Drama in New Delhi and started his acting career soon after. After playing mainly supporting and character roles for more than a decade, he broke into leading roles in the early 2000s, starring in and winning his first award for the 2004 film "Haasil."

He, however, made his acting debut with a supporting role in Mira Nair's 1988 breakthrough "Salaam Bombay!" before achieving dominant success in India with films such as "Maqbool" (2004), and "Paan Singh Tomar" (2011), which won him the National Film Award for Best Actor. He quickly gained national recognition in the following years, with roles in other award-nominated and winning films like "Life In A...Metro."

He rose to international fame when he played a police inspector in "Slumdog Millionaire," which won eight Academy Awards and seven BAFTA Awards. Film's like Nair's "The Namesake" (2006), and Ritesh Batra's "The Lunchbox" (2013), further cemented his crossover success in the U.S, resulting in memorable supporting roles in Hollywood tentpoles such as "The Amazing Spider-Man," "Life of Pi" (2012), "Jurassic World" (2015), and "Inferno" (2016). "Life of Pi" also



won multiple Golden Globes and Academy Awards. One of his most memorable roles came in "Maqbool" (2003), the Indian adaptation of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," in which Khan played the title character.

In 2011, Khan was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to cinema.

News of his death prompted an outpouring of tributes and messages of condolences on social media, with fans, politicians, and other Bollywood figures commemorating his life and career.

"Irrfan Khan's demise is a loss to the world of cinema and theater, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted. "He will be remembered for his versatile performances across different mediums. My thoughts are with his family, friends and admirers." Other prominent politicians, like Home Minister Amit Shah and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, also shared their condolences online.

Bollywood icon, Amitabh Bachchan, in a tweet, said that Khan's death created a huge vacuum.

"An incredible talent, a gracious colleague, a prolific contributor to the World of Cinema.. left us too soon," he wrote. Several of Khan's co-stars expressed their feelings. Among them was Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who worked with Khan in "Saat Khoon Maaf." She wrote: "The charisma you brought to everything you did was pure magic."

Award-winning filmmaker Shoojit Sircar, who directed Khan in "Piku," also posted a tribute on Twitter. "You fought and fought and fought. I will always be proud of you," he wrote. "We shall meet again."

Khan's "Life of Pi" co-star Adil Hussain said the news "felt like a punch in my heart." He added, "The extraordinary abilities, of Irrfan Khan to allow his being to embody the roles he played, are the reasons audiences could peek into the secret chambers of the Characters. Those windows to the soul of another are the greatest Gifts of an actor to the society."



Please let us resolve to

**No hugs and No handshake.**

We can come back to all that after this pandemic is over. Which it will. It always has.

