

# 'Playing young Sanjay Dutt on screen was a huge challenge'

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Actor Navneet Malik asserts that working with big stars is a huge opportunity for newcomers like him as there is a lot to learn from them. Malik will be seen playing the younger version of actor Sanjay Dutt on the big screen this year.

"My entire focus has been on this theatrical film. It was a real treat to work with Sanju Baba but it was also a huge challenge to play his younger self on screen. Though many have tried it in the past, only a few succeeded. That's when my director stepped in, and he asked me to watch films like Rocky in which I got to observe the right nuances of the superstar. It's a huge learning experience to work with a star of his stature and no acting institute could teach you such details. I am completely in awe of him," says the *Heropanti-2* actor.

Talking of cinema as the strongest medium for learning, Malik says, "Initially it's only work that matters for younger actors. But films are the real playground where you get time to prepare and also understand your growth as a performer. Results are instant and it makes you an artiste in a real sense. Every road in the entertainment industry leads to cinema. I mean, you will always find an actor who is doing exceptionally good on some other medium but still dreams of seeing himself on the silver-screen someday."

Starting as a model, Malik couldn't reach Mumbai after his final round of the



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NAVNEET MALIK, Actor

modelling pageant in China. "Due to some issues, I went back home and didn't think of

going to Mumbai. In between, I also missed an offer from SRK Production as I didn't realise that it was a call from one of the biggest banners. Anyway, it didn't have to happen then, I think. Later, on my friend's behest, I sent my audition tape and got selected for the *Love Hostel*. So, eventually what I lost then, I got it later."

Besides his film *The Virgin Tree* with Sanjay Dutt, Malik will be seen in Neeraj Pandey's web series.

# IT IS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY: AYUSHMANN ON UNICEF FEAT

## Khurrana strives to protect children's rights in his capacity as UNICEF India's National Ambassador

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana, known for tackling social issues through his films, was appointed as the UNICEF India National Ambassador on Saturday. With this, Khurrana will be extending his support to ensure "the rights of every child to survive, thrive and be protected as well as promoting their voice and agency in decisions that concern them".

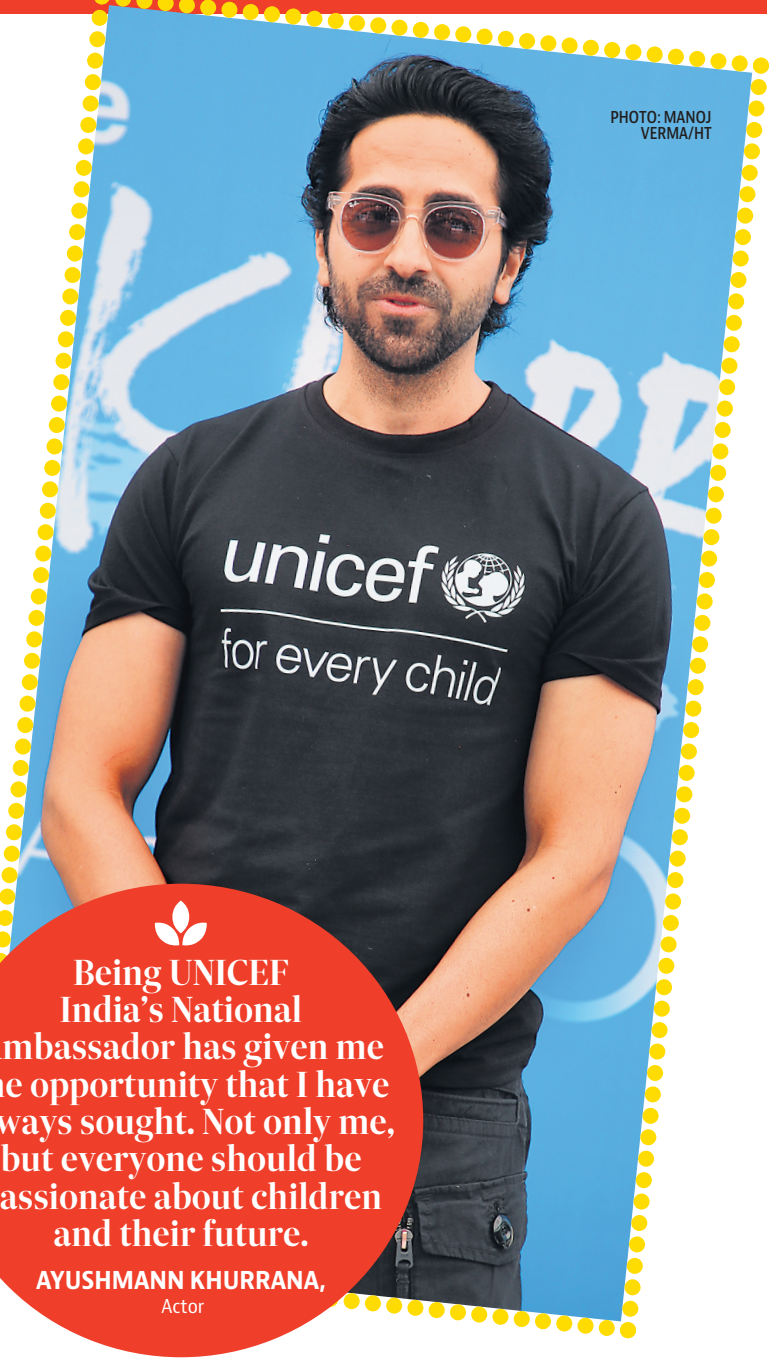
Speaking on the occasion at the UNICEF India office in Delhi, the *Doctor G* (2022) actor said, "It is an honour and a great responsibility at the same time. Being an actor, it is important to connect with and know the grassroots of every place. Since I have travelled the length and breadth of my country due to my work, I know my country well."

From addressing infertility and sperm donation in his debut film, *Vicky Donor* (2012), to tackling erectile dysfunction in *Shubh Mangal Savdhaan* (2017) and bringing to light caste discrimination in *Article 15* (2019), Khurrana has consistently opted for films that deal with social issues. Speaking about the power of films in driving social change, the actor added, "Filmo ke zariye kosish hamesha yeh nahi rehti ki jo samaaj mein hai wo dikhaya jaye, filmo ke zariye kosish yeh bhi rehti hai ki kya samaaj ban sakta hai woh bhi dikhaya jaye."

Khurrana joined hands with UNICEF in 2020, when he was appointed as a Celebrity Advocate to further the child rights agenda. "Children are the future of our country. If you are ignoring them and not even taking care of their basic rights, then we are not in a good situation. Being the new National Ambassador of this institution has given me the platform and opportunity that I have always sought as an individual and as an artiste too. Not only me, but everyone should be passionate about children and their future," he said.

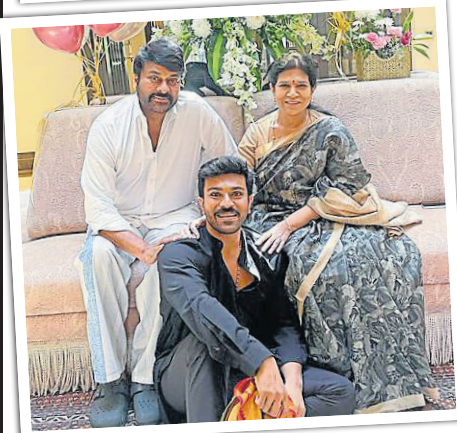
With the slogan 'all rights for all children' echoing in the UNICEF India lawns, the afternoon commenced with beat-boxing and rap performances by children, bringing forth the many issues related to child rights. This was followed by a fun and informative session between the kids and the National Award winning actor, who went on to answer some questions. On the impact of social media on children, for instance, Khurrana said, "Times have changed. With such a vast influx of information, one can't consume everything. This holds true not just for kids, but elders too. As role models for kids, I think we have to set an example."

Madhupriti Mitra



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AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, Actor

## #instastyle



(L-R) Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan and Surekha



Ram Charan shared a snap with his parents, father Chiranjeevi and mum Surekha, on the latter's birthday, which coincided with Mahashivratri this year. He dropped a sweet birthday wish and wrote: "Happiest Birthday to my darling Amma!!" Wishing her fans on the occasion of Mahashivratri, Sara Ali Khan shared a series of images from her visits to several temples. Rashmika Mandanna showed her go-to pose to her fans and wrote, "When my friends say pose". Giving his followers a "Fit check" was Ranveer Singh, who paired purple flared pants with a fuzzy jacket, white sunnies and a bucket hat.



## About art, craft and youth

The three-day event of art and culture- Dastak Youth Festival concluded recently with much fanfare. Organised at Sangeet Natak Akademi, the fest witnessed a number of competitions including extempore, memoir writing, solo dance, street play, poster making, face painting among others. Students from different colleges in and around the city participated with much enthusiasm.

"DYF not only provides a platform for the city-based youngsters in various creative fields but also brings students from different walks of life together without any discrimination. This celebration of ideas has been going on since the year 2009," shared Deepak Kabir, founder member of the festival.

Earlier, on the first day of the programme, competitions like standup comedy, rangoli, group dance and Lucknow's old tradition Baitbaji was also held. In the next phase of the programme, a standup comedy act was staged that was judged Rajeev Dhyani and Anurag Dhindwaniya.

Legendary writer Ismat Chughtai's Qissagoi -Kambhakt Aurtein was presented by Arshana Aanand. The mesmerising narration took the audience to Chughtai's world.

Several teams participated in the Rangoli competition that were adjudged by Sarita Jaiswal and Nimisha. Debate competition was dedicated to journalist Kamal Khan whom we lost last year.

A Mushaira was also held for all the young poets of the city, who recited engaging poems.



Shahbaz, Talib, Harshit Mishra and other young poets were present on the stage. Also present at the prize distribution were Ruchi Kumar, Nagendra Shyam Chaudhary, Chandra Shekhar Pandey, Faraz along with other eminent personalities of the city.



(Above) Founder Deepak Kabir and his team addressing the audience

SUSHMA  
HOLIDAY HOMES IN KASULI

{ DAILY HOROSCOPE }

Monday, February 20, 2023

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vaastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

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<p><b>ARIES</b> MAR 21-APR 20</p> <p> You may think of some good investment options. Great rewards and recognition are predicted on the work front. Those working on fitness may achieve desired results. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> A misunderstanding with your partner may be resolved. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 17 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Purple</p>	<p><b>LEO</b> JUL 23-AUG 23</p> <p> Expenses and financial conditions seem to be balanced. Someone close may call or message you and it may brighten your mood. Good property deals are on the way. Prefer taking on a detox diet. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Singles may find someone to connect with. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 22 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Blue</p>	<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b> NOV 23-DEC 21</p> <p> Some family issues may crop up and cause tension. Some changes are also indicated on the work front. A new venture may start taking off. You will manage to establish yourself on the academic front. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> It is the right time to take your relationship to the next level. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 7 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Red</p>
<p><b>TAURUS</b> APR 21-MAY 20</p> <p> Receiving money from unexpected sources is indicated. A family member may cook something special for you. Participating in an event is indicated. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Things in relationship may not move as planned. Maintain a low profile. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 3 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Off White</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b> AUG 24-SEP 23</p> <p> You may be in pink of your health today. A trip with a business partner may turn out favourable. Those pursuing higher studies are likely to get good placement offers. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Your current relationship may make you feel secure. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 5 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Green</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b> DEC 22-JAN 21</p> <p> Money may be easy to come by with hard work. Property dealers may have a busy day. Dietary changes may ensure improvement in your health. Things move smoothly on the academic front. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Avoid questioning your beloved over any matter. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 3 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Orange</p>
<p><b>GEMINI</b> MAY 21-JUN 21</p> <p> High-risk investments may get you good returns in the near future. You may meet your old friends or cousins and have a great time with them. Health issues may vanish. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Enjoying fun activities with love partner is on the cards. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 2 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Peach</p>	<p><b>LIBRA</b> SEP 24-OCT 23</p> <p> It is a good day as your business may flourish. Get ready for some good news on the home front. Some health issues may trouble you. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Disagreement between you and your beloved may cause you trouble. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 4 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Magenta</p>	<p><b>AQUARIUS</b> JAN 22-FEB 19</p> <p> You may get rid of a chronic health issue and feel better. Some more documentation may be required for a business loan to be approved. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Your partner may be busy today and find it hard to respond to your calls or messages. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 18 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Pink</p>
<p><b>CANCER</b> JUN 22-JUL 22</p> <p> Your may work towards achieving business goals. A property-related issue may hamper harmony on the home front. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Singles may find someone to start a relationship with. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 5 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Blue</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b> OCT 24-NOV 22</p> <p> Some of you may plan to start a new business with an acquaintance. A home remedy may help deal with a persistent health issue. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> You are going to reveal your romantic side to your partner. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 2 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Yellow</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b> FEB 20-MAR 20</p> <p> Your expensive spending habits may affect you negatively on the financial front. It is time to focus on completing old projects. <b>LOVE FOCUS:</b> Singles may meet someone like-minded. <b>LUCKY NUMBER:</b> 1 <b>LUCKY COLOUR:</b> Orange</p>