1 DON'T WANT TO

SELL MY BOOKS ON



AKSHAY KUMAR

Actor Akshay Kumar recently took off to Europe with his wife Twinkle Khanna and kids Aarav and Nitara. The family is visiting Italy and Switzerland. They have also been catching up with friends. The family had lunch with actor Gayatri Oberoi and her husband Vikas in Switzerland.

KARISMA KAPOOR

Actor Karisma Kapoor recently shared a picture of her chilling in the Alps on Instagram. She captioned it as, "In the Alps#beautiful#e urotrail#summervibes (sic)." She has been in Europe for a while now and even attended the Coldplay

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ THEREALKARISMAKAPOOR

It's vacation time in Bollywood

These pictures of film stars chilling with family and friends at exotic locales will give you some serious travel inspiration



ASIN

Asin is holidaying with her husband Rahul Sharma in Italy these days. The actor posted multiple pictures of herself flying a sea plane on Instagram and captioned it as, "And that's the beauty I had the privilege of flying #mandatorvselfie #Summer2016 #Italy(sic)." PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ SIMPLY.ASIN

JACQUELINE **FERNANDEZ**

Although she is back to work now, actor Jacqueline Fernandez was in Disneyland along with her nephew Ethan and friends. She posted some really adorable pictures of her trip.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ JACQUELINEF143







Text: Anjuri Nayar Singh

Katrina has no time to take a break



atrina Kaif has been shooting for two films simultaneously for the past three months. Without taking a break, the actor will leave for a world tour in August, with filmmaker Karan Johar, and actors Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Aditya Roy Kapoor and



Katrina is working 18 to 20 hours a day. She is a workaholic, and she enjoys this pace.

A SOURCE

A source close to the actor says, "Katrina has been busy since April. She was first shooting for her film with Sidharth in Thailand, and returned to Mumbai in early June. Since then, she has been working on director Anurag Basu's next with ex-beau Ranbir Kapoor.

Sidharth Malhotra.

The source adds that despite such a packed schedule, Katrina is looking forward to the tour. "She has been rehearsing post her shoot, and this has led to her working 18 to 20 hours a day. She is a workaholic, and enjoys this pace. She is excited about the tour, which will include six cities in the United States and Canada.

Each show will be three hours long.'

Simultaneously, she is rehearsing for her tour as well."

that released last month. film industry's opinion work. That is the most kavita.awaasthi@hindustantimes.com

considers himself to be a good writer nor a good storyteller. Before you think that the bestselling author is being modest, he says with a smile, "With every successive book I am hoping to become a successful story teller." The author of bestsellers like The Rozabal Line, Chanakya's Chant and The Krishna Key, recently released his fourth book in the Bharat Series titled The Sialkot Saga. The business thriller has been received well by readers, though many complained about it being a bit lengthy. Ashwin was recently in town to speak about the book at a city bookstore. HT City speaks to the author.

Your love for Kolkata isn't unknown. Is that one of the reasons why one of the base cities that The Sialkot Saga focuses on is Kolkata? (Smiles) Not really. Kolkata

Shreya Mukherjee

shwin Sanghi neither

for me is KC Das. I can't go back home without their tasty rosogollas. What I also love is that there is something so true about the people here. I love their sweet nature, style and talking. I also enjoy their opinionated side. Kolkata is an amazing city. But there is a completely different reason

ON CONTROVERSIES:

I think as a nation we have become over sensitive. While talking about a particular subject I always try and approach the subject with an innate sense of respect, not out of a desire to be sensational. Once you take things that way then the potential for conflict is lesser. There are many authors who live on sensationalisation. A vast majority of conflicts or controversies often tends to be manufactured. I don't want to sell my books on controversies but write stories that people love and adore, and also look forward to my next book

for focusing on Kolkata. It's a business story that begins in 1947 and ends in 2010. So, in the beginning the two commercial centers of the country were Mumbai and Kolkata. Delhi came into the scene much later. So, my time period demanded Kolkata.

What is it about the book that has readers hooked?

Like my previous books, the USP here again is that my readers enjoy expecting the unexpected. But more importantly, for people who

have grown up in between 1970s and 1990s there is something in the book in terms of incidents, locations etc that they could identify with. In a particular scene, Arvind Bagadia is seen enjoying a meal with his parents at Waldorf. I have heard about the place from my grandfather, so those who have been to the

Personally, what is it about this business thriller that you think separates it from the rest?

restaurant can relate to it.

I think one of course is the fact that even though I am a writer in English but my DNA is of course Indian. So in all the books within the Bharat series, India is the focus. What also strikes a chord with the readers is the way I connect the ancient with the modern. Even in Sialkot,

HOW DO YOU UNWIND

www.voutube.com/user/h

PHOTO: SAMIR JANA

I enjoy my share of family holidays. Those are my most chilled out moments. I even write during holidays and something it irritates my family. I usually joke with my wife and ask her not to worry about my timing and preferences as she is one of my four Ws. The first W is my wife, second is writing, third is work and the fourth is whisky. If these four things are ok, beyond that there is no fifth. (Laughs)

when you reach the end of the book you realise that there is a deeper meaning and an unexpected twist.

You spoke about how The Sialkot Saga is perfect for a TV series.

Yes, but nothing has been finalised yet. Also, among my other books, Chanakya Chant was with a studio for quite some time but they had issues with making it into a two-hourlong script because the story has a wide canvas. The only book in my portfolio which is currently optioned for a film is The Krishna key. It is in the scripting stage. After it's done we will take the next step. shreya.mukherjee@hindustantimes.com Continued on P3

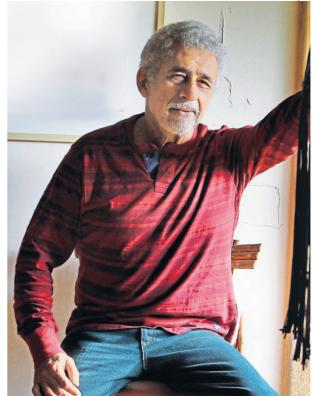
Awards are of no use to me'

Yashika Mathur

Padma Bhushan - Check, National Awards (three of them!) Check, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award - Check. Multiple awards at other platforms - check.

One would imagine Naseeruddin Shah's award trophies proudly showcased in his house, but the actor surprises us when he says that he doesn't even look at them. "I have put them (awards) in my cupboard and forgotten them. They don't influence me as an actor. They are of no use to me at all. I have had my fill of these awards and they mean nothing to me. What matters to me is a stranger coming up to me, shaking hands and saying, 'thank you for what you have done'," says Shah, who won critical acclaim for his performance in Waiting

However, the 66-year-old says that he does not care about what the critics and the film industry think about him. "Critics' opinion or the doesn't matter to me. What I value is when people, who I don't know, come up to me and tell me that they like my precious award. I consider any taxi driver's opinion as precious as a critic's opinion. In fact, I take the taxi driver's opinion more seriously. They



are not pretending and they have spent their precious

₹150 on me," says the actor. Shah, who has always chosen unconventional roles and backed content-driven cinema, says that he did not set out to do such films when he entered the industry

"I did not choose to become an arty film actor. I would

have danced and sang if offered to me. I would have

Nobody becomes an actor to serve art. You become an actor because you want to be famous and rich, you want people to look at you and

done it very badly, but would

wanted to be a popular actor.

have still done it. I always

like you," he says. yashika.mathur@hindustantimes.com



TAYLOR FURIOUS AT KANYE AGAIN

Taylor Swift is furious at Kanye West for using her nude lookalike in his new video song Famous. Anticipating the flak, West tweeted, "Can someone sue me already#." The video also features his wife Kim Kardashian.

AISHWARYA WON'T FORGIVE EMRAAN

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has refused to be part of filmmaker Milan Luthria's upcoming film with actor Emraan Hashmi. She reportedly turned down the offer when she got to know that she will share screen space with Emraan. The reason for this is because Emraan called her 'plastic' on a talk show, two years back.

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