

# When Celebs Began Crossover Into New Territory..

By Natalia Ningthoujam

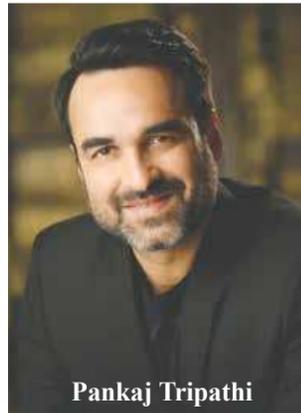
Many consider Dulquer Salmaan, who set foot in Bollywood this year with the road movie "Karwaan", to be the best export from the southern film-dom. If the young Malayalam actor's fan base grew bigger and stronger after his Hindi film debut, Bollywood's Khiladi, Akshay Kumar, also didn't leave the audience disappointed with his villainous role in "2.0". It marked his Tamil debut.



Dulquer Salmaan



Aishwarya Devan



Pankaj Tripathi

"2.0", which also stars Rajinikanth, released on November 29. The sci-fi film, made on a budget of Rs 600 crore, grossed Rs 400 crore at the box office worldwide in its opening weekend.

On the other hand, Dulquer, the son of Malayalam megastar Mammooty, chose a film that was made on a much smaller budget. Still, the Akarsh Khurana directorial earned a spot in the top 10 Indian movies of 2018, determined by global movie website IMDb customer ratings.

Earlier this year, Dulquer also made his debut in Telugu with "Mahanati", based on the life of actress Savitri.

In an interview with IANS, the "Kali" star, who is one of the rare actors to debut four times, had said: "I am not saying that I am entitled to a big debut in Malayalam film or any language."

But he asserted that his "pri-

mary focus will be Malayalam films" and that he will choose from "what comes my way and take a call irrespective of the language".

His "O Kadhal Kanmani" co-star Nithya Menen has also bagged her first Bollywood film - "Mission Mangal".

"In the past also, I was offered plenty of Hindi films. I just wanted to be as choosy with Hindi as I was with films in other languages that I have done. I wanted it (debut Hindi film) to be a really nice film," Nithya told IANS.

"I found this a nice character. I don't think we have done a film like this... you know, a space film," added the star, who made her debut as a lead actress with Kannada film "7 O'Clock" over a decade ago.

The upcoming film will also star actresses like Taapsee Pannu,

Sonakshi Sinha and Vidya Balan. Vidya will be launched in Telugu film industry with the biopic on legendary actor-politician and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N.T. Rama Rao.

She said at an event: "I have never delivered dialogues in another language apart from Hindi. Earlier, I did special appearances for one-two scenes in Malayalam film but in this film, I have a full-fledged role."

For Aishwarya Devan, who has acted in Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada language films, it was her role that pulled her towards the Hindi film "Kaashi in Search of Ganga".

"I haven't done many strong roles in south films, so I am very happy that my debut role in Bollywood is of a strong female character," Aishwarya, who played a journalist in the film, had said.

The year 2018 also saw veteran actress Supriya Pathak making her debut in Telugu film-dom with "Aravindha Sametha Veera Raghava", helmed by Trivikram Srinivas.

"I really enjoyed working with the people. It was wonderful. My director was a wonderful person. I hope I get an opportunity to work there again," said the actress, who had starred in the 1985 Malayalam movie "Akalathe Ambili".

"Those days, a lot of Hindi films were made in south India. Then also, it was much more organised than in Mumbai or north India.

"My idea of south (Indian film industry) was always that it was more organised and that attracts you because it has got discipline. People are professionals and, still, there is a kind of basic emotion surrounding it and very

work-oriented," said Supriya, whose mother tongue is Gujarati.

Also, Pankaj Tripathi made his Tamil film debut with Rajinikanth film "Kaala" and Bollywood's dancing diva Madhuri Dixit Nene's maiden Marathi film "Bucket List" released this year.

Neil Nitin Mukesh, who featured in the 2014 Tamil film "Kaththi" by A.R. Murugadoss, made his Telugu debut with "Kavacham" this month.

He will also be seen in Prabhas-starrer "Saaho", which will be Shradha Kapoor's maiden film in Telugu.

While "Saaho" is one of the most anticipated movies of 2019, Malayalam star Nivin Pauly is set to make his presence felt in the Hindi film industry too.

He will be seen in Geetu Mohandas' bilingual film "Moothon", which will be released in Hindi and Malayalam.

"The language part is always challenging. For a Malayali actor, I won't be that comfortable to do a film in Tamil, Telugu or Hindi. I believe we should push ourselves by crossing boundaries. I think every actor should attempt that in their career," Nivin told IANS.

"There is one blessed career that God gave us and we shouldn't be sitting in one place and getting comfortable. There is no harm in trying something new."

And the audience isn't complaining.

# Colourful, Power-Packed Bollywood Weddings

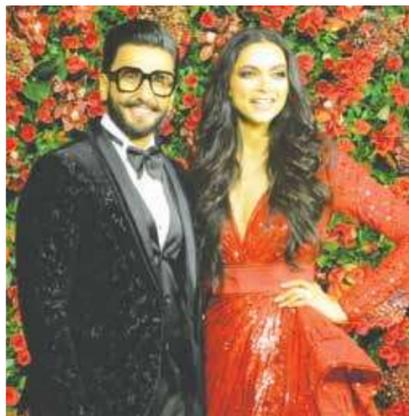
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The couple has since been blessed with a baby girl whom they named Mehr.

**\* Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone:** This was one wedding that everyone was waiting for and the couple lived up to expectations. They opted for an international location to tie the knot as they wanted to stay away from all paparazzi. The wedding happened over two days in mid-November in a dreamy Lake Como setting in Italy amidst a tight circle of family and friends, culminating a six-year-long love story in a "happily ever after".

Deepika and Ranveer first tied the knot as per Konkani traditions followed by a north Indian ceremony. There were only about 40 guests for the celebrations, and a no-pictures policy was imposed on them, leaving the couple's fans pining to get a glimpse of the gala.

After their very private wedding ceremonies, the couple had receptions in Bengaluru and Mumbai, with well-known personalities from Bollywood,



sports and political background attending them. For many, their choice of going ahead with three receptions became the talk of the town with many creating memes online.

**\* Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas:** Actress and former Miss World Priyanka Chopra married American singer Nick Jonas in a "fairytale" wedding in tune with the majestic venue, the royal Umaid Bhawan Palace, situated atop a hill in the "Blue City" of Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Three days of wedding celebra-

tions included a colourful mehendi ceremony, a friendly cricket match and a power-packed "desi" musical evening.

Priyanka, 36, and Nick, 26, first exchanged vows in a Christian ceremony officiated by the groom's father on December 1. They wore custom-made Ralph Lauren ensembles -- a good fit as the two stars had shared the spotlight for the first time as guests of the designer at the 2017 Met Gala. They also had Hindu wedding.

Marking their union, the Jodh-

pur sky lit up with fireworks. However, Priyanka was widely trolled for it as, around Diwali, she had urged people not to burst firecrackers due to the health hazards it leads to. As a result, she was called out for her "double standards".

A reception in Delhi was graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who came to bless the couple.

**\* Kapil Sharma and Ginni Chatrath:** Star comedian Kapil Sharma married his lady love Ginni Chatrath in Jalandhar at

a traditional Punjabi ceremony, which was enlivened by popular singer Gurdas Maan.

The "Comedy Nights With Kapil" star and Ginni wanted the wedding to be rooted in their culture. Their wedding was preceded by days of ceremonies and pre-marriage rituals, including a sangeet which saw their friends dance the night away.

A celebration in Mumbai is expected to attract a line-up of Bollywood celebrities, who have had many a laughs on his comedy shows.

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