

# Masala Talks Bollywood

By: Roshni Mulchandani

While we are waiting for the flowers to blossom here in the United States, things are heating up in Bollywood. But hey! It's always hot in Tinsel Town. And this month is no less.

If you've been looking for Rani Mukherjee, she has crawled into a cave. Post her debacle Dil Bole Hadippa, Rani Mukherjee has not been seen too much, if at all. The actress, who is normally known for being incredibly outgoing and social has taken a complete U-turn in her friendly ways. According to sources, Rani has officially gone the recluse way just like beau Aditya Chopra, who prefers to stay away from the media eye. Sources claim, "Rani has stopped communicating with all her friends including Urmila Matondkar, Dia Mirza and Manish Malhotra. She hardly calls them up and at times, she doesn't even take their calls. Instead, she prefers to spend a lot of time with her niece." The only lucky member from the fraternity who seems to be in touch with the actress is choreographer Vaibhavi Merchant, and, this is only because the dance teacher is seen regularly at the YRF studios and offices. A regular socialite, Rani shocked the fraternity and friends when she skipped out on a recent wedding which she was scheduled to attend. A close friend clarified, "The change in Rani's behavior is inexplicable. Her friends want her to be the old Rani again but all she wants is to be left alone. She has become a very, very private person." Lucky Manish Malhotra met up with one of his favorite muses and went on to defend the actress, "I meet Rani. Yes, we haven't interacted recently but that's simply because she is shooting in Delhi and I have been busy with my shows and the ongoing fashion week." The actress is currently shooting for No One Killed Jessica Lal with Vidya Balan and audiences will hear her voice in the animated feature Koochie Koochie Hota Hai next.

If you do manage to see her, please let her know that no matter what, she is still loved and adored by her fans. Talking about cuteness, then how adorable is Abhishek Bachchan? Abhishek Bachchan and his sister Shweta Nanda visited a number of Gurudwaras in Amritsar in the recent week. While they spent time at The Golden Temple, Bachchan Junior decided to partake in some Seva towards the temple and washed dishes. His father went on to blog, "Abhishek did some *kar seva* by cleaning up the premise, and washing the dishes at the langar (in the Golden Temple). There were two other prominent gurdwaras that they visited." It is Bachchan Senior's mother who was from a Sikh family and thus this religious act put a smile on the face of

Amitabh Bachchan who went on to write, "It is always such a joy to see children putting their minds to faith and devotion. Nothing would give me greater joy and nothing I believe could be better than their achievement in belief and prayer." Abhishek, who is an avid Tweeter, too had a few things to say about his religious act which he partook of in after taking out some time from shooting for his game show, National Bingo Night. "Went to the Golden Temple at 3 in the morning. Did seva for about an hour, then just sat there listening to the kirtan," he tweeted.

However, the Bachchan parivar is not happy readers. For the second year running, the Bachchans will not be playing or celebrating Holi in all its grandeur. Last year the family omitted the festival of color from their yearly celebrations as they didn't feel it was respectful to rejoice after the 26/11 catastrophe. This year the family will not celebrate as close friend Amar Singh is mourning the death of a close one who passed away in the Pune Bomb Blasts. Previously in 2008, the family did not celebrate as they were mourning the death of Amitabh Bachchan's mother's death. Senior Bachchan blogged, "We do not celebrate again this year. Primarily because of the death of a close relative of our family friend, Amar Singhji, but also we do not feel comfortable in celebrating when our own have lost lives in the Pune blast recently." He did wish his fans and well-wishers on the occasion of Holi, "My wishes and those of my family remain, however, with those that do bring in this festival, a festival that fills us with the joy of achievement and change and produce. Happy Holi! And may the colors bright and beautiful ever remain with you in celebration. May it bring peace and calm and may it become the turning point for good tidings." The Bachchans also skipped out on the recent Filmfare Awards this year. They boycotted the event after The Mumbai Mirror article which spoke about Aishwarya being unable to conceive due to a Tuberculosis disease. Instead the family stayed at home and chatted with Paa director Balki, who incidentally also refrained from attending the ceremony siding with the Bachchans, and discussed potential movie ideas.

Yes, lots going on with the Bachchans this month. And we're all Bollywooded out for this month. Of course, we'll be back with more masti, masala and Bollywood magic soon. Till next time, have a Bolly-rific month!