

MOVIE REVIEW

'Chennai Express' for SRK fans

Subhash K Jha,

Directed by Rohit Shetty

Rating: ***

Dammit! No out-takes!! Is this really a Rohit Shetty film? Every film of the Gol Maal director so far ended with out-takes giving us entertaining glimpses from during the making of the film. Here those trademark Shetty out-takes are replaced by a Honey Singh track which celebrates Rajnikanth and the lungi.

The rest of the film resembles those typical sambar-and-sandalwood creations by K Raghvendra Rao, and worse still, Raj Kanwar's Dhai Akshar Prem Ke where Aishwarya to escape her parental wrath at her elopement, introduces a man she has just met to her family as her soul-mate.

But then there is the sprightly Deepika as the runaway Tamilian girl who piles on to the North Indian mithaiwala stranger to escape marrying the boorish fiancée back home in her village in Tamil Nadu.

We've seen Kareena Kapoor do the chirpy runaway train traveler in Jab We Met. Deepika brings a special filtered-coffee flavour to her chirpy character. Even that broad hammy accent grows on us. Yes, we like!

Here she is the only Rohit Shetty team member (and I use the term 'team' since Shetty generously credits the direction to himself and his team) who seems to have a firm grip over her rudderless dithering character. Deepika plays Meena Amma with flavourful flourish. She is specially delightful in three key

There's a wonderfully-shot sequence where Shah Rukh has to carry Deepika to a temple over hundreds of steps. Deepika here goes from amusement and mockery to a sense of belonging and pride in her man's arms. It's a moment built with care and love.

But then, such tender affection really has no place in this comedy of cultural dispossession where the Punjabi boy Rahul gets embroiled in Tamil girl Meena's family affairs and comes out... well not quite wiser. But filled with self-mocking laughter.

Shah Rukh pokes a whole lot of good-natured fun at his now-aging lover-boy persona. There are tongue-in-cheek references to Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge and several other Shah Rukh Khan films and songs including the introductory South Indian lines from the Jiya jale song in Dil Se.

All these self-tributes work better than what Puri Jagannath did with the Bachchan persona Buddha... Hoga Tera Baap. Rohit Shetty is more in command of his canvas here than in his last comedy Bol Bachchan.

But the self-deprecatory laughter is still not good enough. Somewhere you feel the one-line plot (okay, if not one then two-line plot) is stretched into an unwelcome second-half where nothing really happens. Even the humour tracks stops short beyond a point.

But there is some genuine steam and spark in the early part of Chennai Express. Towards the beginning of the train journey when Deepika and Shah Rukh play a kind of antakshari of Hindi film songs to put the goons off her trail, Deepika completely overshadows her kingly co-star, who should be okay with being upstaged by his female co-star.

After all he has given Deepika priority over his own name in the credit titles.

And Deepika takes the lead very seriously. She has never looked better and never been funnier on screen without even trying too hard.

But then the plot and the situations let her down. The antakshari-speak that was amusing in the beginning recurs during a stale fight sequence in the second-half.

We are no longer laughing. Not when Shah Rukh's purported big chase sequences end in embarrassing deadends. Not when an item song with incoherent words and even more misguided logistics pops up like a joke whose punchline has gone missing. Through all of this Shah Rukh Khan braves it with a delicious sense of self-mockery bordering almost on a masochistic absence of heroic pride.

Yes, he likes it when the joke is on him. But that happens once too often here.

So it's finally here. The film that all Shah Rukh Khan fans (which covers half the hemisphere) has been waiting for. The good news first. "Chennai Express" is a pleasant and likable film in parts. The bad news is, it does nothing for Shah Rukh Khan's indomitable star power except to tell us he can still play a 40-year Rahul without faltering. That we already know.

<http://www.santabanta.com/>



Of course there are the flying cars exploding in the air to make sure we know that all said and drummed, this is a Rohit Shetty presentation.

Packaged with pickled precision, peppered with just the right doses of naughty jokes and precocious pranks that go well with Shah Rukh's 40-year old brat's act, Chennai Express is the kind of non-toxic comic entertainer where the most damaging double-entendres you'd get is a Tamil word that sounds like Angelina Jolie's name.

Come again? That brings me to another major hurdle in the heap of hilarity that Shetty builds so meticulously in the first-half.

The generous outflow of Tamil that seems initially engaging (more so, since Shah Rukh shares our non-comprehension of the rapid-fire Tamilian cloudburst that accompanies Deepika's quicksilver character) begins to come in the way as the narration grows older and runs out of energy.

sequences, two of them comic and the other unexpectedly somber. In the sequence where her character turns into a sleeping kicking and convulsive zombie she's unbelievably goofy. It's not just Shah Rukh who gets a kick out of that scene.

Would Rohit Shetty please do a full-fledged out-and-out comedy with Deepika? That, Chennai Express is not. It is a half-hearted but laugh-hearted effort that makes the fatal error of taking itself too seriously. Towards the end when the utterly shammed climactic fight ensues, we even have a long speech by Shah Rukh on the social status of the girl child.

Not now, please! As we squirm at the attempt to turn comedy into a serious business we look back at the rest of the film with some amount of wrath and affection. Some of the long shots of the train winding through green acres is breathtaking. And Shah Rukh's first meeting with Deepika's father over a bridge over a fast-flowing river is shot with amazing brio.

NATURE

Giloe as medicine

Prof. (Dr) R.D. Gupta

Called, Guduchi (Gaduchi) or Gulchi in Sanskrit, which means one that protects the human body. It is also called as amrita or nectar. The other names of the plant are Vatsadani and Giloe (Gloe) or Giloy. Botanically the plant is referred to Tinospora cardifoli Willd Miers and belongs to the family Menispermaceae.

Giloe is a climber and is one of the most important medicinal plants of Ayurveda. There is hardly any preparation in which it is not mentioned. It is prescribed in many diseases even as a home remedy. Some of the very important medicinal uses of the giloe are discussed here under:



Medicinal Uses

Giloe is famous for strengthening the immune system and helping the functioning of various body organs to remain in a balanced state. Giloe as a herb continues to be equally popular and useful in the present era as it was thousands of years ago. Giloe pacifies all the vitiated body humors and Vaidyas of Indian Medicines System accustomed to the ancient pharmacology apply a specific method to derive starch like substance from the fresh stem, which is known as satva or extract. This extract has the same medicinal properties as that of basic plant but is considered cold in effect.

The chemical composition of Giloe consists of various alkaloids, glucosides, fatty acids and volatile oils. It is well known for its anti-pyretic, anti-arthritis, antimicrobial including bacteria, liver protective, stomachic and blood purifying pro-perties. As a bitter tonic, giloe has also proved to be an immune modulator antioxidant, rejuvenator, and restorative agent (Vatsyayan, 2011). Giloe has been described as one among the four most herbs called "medhya rasayan, meaning to be boon for the brain and the nervous system.

Owing to its wide ranging, therapeutic values, Giloe is used in chronic and intermittent fevers, rheumatism, gout, skin diseases, uri-

chronic acidity. Diabetics can take it with one gramme of dry powder of amla. Giloe has been tested as a cure for everything from urinary tract infection to hepatitis and diabetic as well, which had already been stated. Some of the Ayurvedic scholars have demonstrated that Giloe can be used as a sperm purifier. The oil of the Giloe is used as a pain reliever for gout. Giloe is bitter, and is packed with alkaloids and glycosides that reduce inflammation and enables the body to fight infections (Annonymous, 2009)

Chemical Composition of Giloe

A wide tendency to utilize Giloe as its herbal products to supplements the diet, mainly with the intention to ameliorate the quality of life and prevent the diseases. It is attributed to the presence of a number of chemical constituents in this herb. These chemical components belong to the different groups which consist of alkaloids, terpenoids, lignans, steroids etc.

- a) Steroids: A steroid is a type of organic compound that contains a specific arrangement of four specific cycloalkane rings and joined to each other. Hundreds of distinct steroids are found in plants, animals and fungi. Steroids reported from Giloe are Gluino steroid and -sitosterol. Due to presence of above active constituents, different biological activities are shown by the Giloe.
- b) Lignans: Lignans are phyto-nutrient, a class of plant compounds beneficial to human health but not classified as vitamins.
- c) Terpenoids: Terpenoids are diverse class of naturally occurring organic compounds similar to terpenes. Plant terpenoids are used extensively for their aromatic qualities. Terpenoids reported in Giloe are: Tinosporide, Fruinolactone clerodan.
- d) Alkaloids: The group of naturally occurring chemical compounds which mostly contain basic nitrogen atoms. This group also includes some related compounds with alkaline, neutral and even weakly acidic properties. In addition to carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen alkaloids may also contain oxygen, sulphur and other elements like chlorine, bromine and phosphorus. Alkaloids reported in Giloe are: Tinosporine, magnafiorine, tambetarine and berberine.

nary disorders, infections and liver diseases. Since it is very easily available and generally safe to use, Giloe is relied upon by millions of people and is utilized as a home remedy in a number of conditions.

Chronic and intermittent fever-Giloe is famous as the Indian quinine and taking of its 10 to 20 ml watery extract twice a day is very effective remedy in non-specific febrile conditions. Patients of goul can regularly take 20 ml fresh juice of the stem of Giloe.

Taking half a gramme of Giloe satva with a small piece of amla murabba on an empty stomach is helpful in preventing an acute and

PERSONALITY

Remembering A Legal Luminary

O P Sharma

Ishwar Singh was born on August 13, at Jammu and had his schooling in the winter capital of the State and was a student of Sri Ranbir Multi-Lateral High Secondary School Parade, Jammu and passed matriculation from Punjab University, Lahore. He graduated from Prince of Wales College, now known as GGM Science College Jammu and obtained his Degree in Law from the Punjab University in 1942. Mr. Bakshi joined the Bar on August 3, 1942 and became an Advocate of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in 1949. He started his career under the guidance of his father-in-law Raizada Chaman Lal, the leading Lawyer of Jammu. He remained as the Judge of the J&K High

humane way keeping always the interest of the common masses in view. He was very keen to serve the poor and the weaker sections of the society in his daily life. He used the law profession in the service of the people in Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

He was standing counsel for the Income Tax, Wealth Tax and Gift Tax etc and for the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited. He was Legal Advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Finance Cor-

qualities. He took interest in many humanitarian activities. He was president of all J&K Mohyla Sabha, Jammu and galvanized the community with some reforms; he was associated with many religious organizations, as well like the Sewa Samiti and was involved in the working of Annd Vidhyalaya (School for the Blinds) and Orphanage (Home for the Destitutes and many other welfare organisations). He has made significant contribution in the

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Court for quite some years. High Qualities

His son Bharat Bhusan Chibber a prominent Advocate, in an interview told me about the qualities of head and heart of his illustrious father, Mr Justice Bakshi Ishwar Singh Chibber who has handed down some landmark judgements. It was stated that the law was interpreted in a

poration, many other Banks and the Counsel for Scientific and Industrial Research. He was President of Bar Association, Jammu for some time and contributor from Jammu for All India Reporter, Nagpur, an important legal magazine of the law profession, for over 16 years.

Hard Working

First, he was appointed as Advocate General of the J&K State on November 3, 1971 and subsequently was elevated to the Bench of J&K High Court on March 6, 1972. His reputation at the Bar had been of a conscientious, intelligent, hard working and pro-people lawyer. He was possessed with an extra-ordinary legal acumen and blessed with qualities of head and heart, a sweet temper and pleasing demeanour.

Besides, being a distinguished lawyer, an eminent Judge and Jurist, Mr. Bakshi Ishwar was a thorough gentleman and possessed sterling

social welfare and cultural field for which he is still remembered by the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Legal Acumen

Bakshi Ishwar Singj Chibber passed away on October 28, 1972 and was deeply mourned by thousands of his fans, relatives and friends. A large number of condolence messages were delivered on the sad occasion by top functionaries as well as Bench and Bar presided over by then Chief Justice Murtaza Fazal Ali. Rich tributes were paid by the Full Bench of the J&K High Court at Srinagar including Chief Justice, the President of the Bar, the Additional Advocate General and other leading members of the Bar on October 30, 1972. Bakshi Ishwar Singj Chibber has carved out a niche in the minds of the people and is remembered by one and all.

(Starline Syndicate Service)

SOCIETY

Surrogacy Laws in India

Dr Richa Sharma

Commercial surrogacy in India was legalized in 2002. The availability of medical infrastructure and potential surrogates, combined with international demand, has flourished the growth of the industry. Surrogate mothers receive medical, nutritional and overall health care through surrogacy agreements. For the past decade Indian citizens and international singles and couples from around the world have sought treatment for IVF, egg donation

rogacy, name of both will be there and at least one parent should have genetic component in the child as required by the embassies of most countries to grant citizenship and a passport to the baby. A genetic link is established through DNA testing of one parent and baby. This is a mandatory requirement for citizens of most countries.

In the case of single parent only the genetic mother or father can be on the surrogacy agreement and the baby's birth certificate.



Legal considerations

So a clearance (no objection certificate-NOC) is mandatory for couple (Intended Parents-IP) to get from embassy before ART clinic and ART bank proceeds further, to make sure that the baby born will be able to get citizenship of their country without any hassles.

and surrogacy.

There is no legislation governing surrogacy agreements in India, however, a surrogacy Bill is before Indian parliament and it is anticipated new laws will be enacted in 2012/2013.

Reputable clinics closely follow the Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India http://www.icmr.nic.in/art/art_clinics.htm set out by the Indian Council of Medical Research. Proposed laws for surrogacy in India are largely based on these Guidelines.

The surrogacy agreement

Clients enter into a surrogacy contract with a surrogate mother and her husband, if applicable. The contract sets out the responsibilities of both parties and offers legal protection for clients and surrogates under Indian contract law. The contract also specifies payment to the surrogate mother and the stages at which she will be paid. By signing the contract the surrogate signs away parental rights to the baby she carries.

Contracts are usually signed when clients visit India, however, in cases where a client ships sperm or embryos to India, or have a change of surrogate mother, the contract can be signed in a client's home country provided they are witnessed by a notary public or justice of the peace.

Birth certificate

In the birth certificate, in a couple undertaking sur-

The Municipal Council of that state issues birth certificates with preferably apostille seal which has legal validity in countries outside of India.

Citizenship of the baby born

Babies born through surrogacy agreements in India are born stateless. This means they are not given Indian citizenship by virtue of the fact they were born in India. So a clearance (no objection certificate-NOC) is mandatory for couple (Intended Parents-IP) to get from embassy before ART clinic and ART bank proceeds further, to make sure that the baby born will be able to get citizenship of their country without any hassles.

Pre-requisites for embassy

- 1) A signed copy of the surrogacy contract
 - 2) Baby's birth certificate
 - 3) Parents' birth certificates
 - 4) Pregnancy medical records
 - 5) A signed statement by the surrogate mother and her husband waiving parental rights
 - 6) A summary of treatment provided ART Clinic
- Stay of couple, to finish all paperwork/ passport/legal formalities after birth of baby can vary (approximately from 2-3 weeks) depending upon their embassy laws

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