

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **deserve** (verb) – be qualified for, be worthy of, justify.
2. **suspect** (adjective) – not quite right, suspicious, dubious, questionable, doubtful.
3. **reigning** (adjective) – prevailing, existing, present/current.
4. **demigod** (noun) – someone who is greatly admired or respected.
5. **filmdom** (noun) – the film industry.
6. **richly** (adverb) – fully, thoroughly, completely, totally, entirely, absolutely, perfectly.
7. **recognition** (noun) – reward, honour, appreciation, acclaim, gratitude for an achievement.
8. **bestow** (on) (verb) – give, present, contribute, confer on.
9. **jury** (noun) – a group of people appointed to judge a competition; council, board, commission.
10. **parallel** (noun) – similarity, likeness, resemblance, likeness, correlation.
11. **transition** (noun) – transformation, change.
12. **worshipped** (adjective) – revered, revered, venerated, adored, praised, glorified.
13. **heartland** (noun) – the most important part of a field of activity; the central part of something.
14. **undimmed** (adjective) – bright, fair.
15. **passion** (noun) – enthusiasm, keen interest, fascination, appetite.
16. **sustained** (adjective) – continuous, constant, steady.
17. **novelty** (noun) – originality, newness, freshness.
18. **twirl** (verb) – spin/turn around something quickly & repeatedly.
19. **swagger** (noun) – confidence, self-assurance.
20. **hallmark** (noun) – distinctive feature, indication, sure sign.
21. **injustice** (noun) – wrong, unjust act, unfairness.
22. **dismiss** (verb) – reject, deny, repudiate; banish, abandon, disregard, brush off, shrug off.
23. **excel** (verb) – shine, be very good, be successful.
24. **portrayal** (noun) – narrative, representation, characterization, depiction.
25. **trap** (verb) – get stuck, get caught.
26. **superstardom** (noun) – very famous and successful status/position.
27. **don** (verb) – get into.
28. **larger than life** (phrase) – heroic, flamboyant, theatrical, swashbuckling.
29. **charisma** (noun) – the strength of character, individuality, personality, charm, presence, attractiveness.
30. **following** (noun) – a body of support, backing, patronage.
31. **motion capture** (noun) – the process of recording the movement of objects or people digitally. It is a technology that blends real-life and animation, allowing you to film someone live and transfer them into computerized form.
32. **demonstrable** (adjective) – proven, verifiable, clear, noticeable.
33. **body of work** (noun) – amount/volume of work; output, end result.
34. **given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind.
35. **active** (adjective) – eager, keen, enthusiastic.
36. **inclination** (noun) – liking, penchant, preference, appetite, affection.
37. **foray** (noun) – a brief & active attempt to get involved in a new activity/sphere.
38. **spiritual** (adjective) – inner, divine, sacred.
39. **inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, unpreventable, certain.
40. **calculated** (adjective) – deliberate, pre-planned, intentional, done on purpose, purposeful.
41. **influence** (verb) – affect, have an effect on.
42. **election-bound/poll-bound** (adjective) – guaranteed to have election (which is imminent/approaching).
43. **lend** (verb) – give, provide, impart, contribute.
44. **make no secret of something** (phrase) – say/tell something openly and clearly.
45. **hail** (verb) – praise, applaud, speak highly of, welcome.
46. **scrapping** (noun) – removal.
47. **recall** (verb) – remember, recollect, call to mind, think of.

48. **alleged** (adjective) – supposed, claimed, professed, purported.
49. **superstition** (noun) – unfounded belief, myth, delusion (misconception).
50. **rally** (noun) – gathering, march, meeting.
51. **back** (verb) – support, endorse, uphold, champion.
52. **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)** (noun) – The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to grant citizenship to religious minorities of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, who had to flee their homeland facing persecution. The six minority groups that have been specifically identified are Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, and Parsis.
53. **to be fair** (phrase) – used for making your criticism less forceful.
54. **dynasty** (noun) – a family, bloodline; line of rulers.
55. **a legion of** (noun) – a large number of people; a host of.
56. **untested** (adjective) – new, unconventional, unusual, different.
57. **put off** (phrasal verb) – postpone, delay, defer, hold off.
58. **unconditionally** (adverb) – without conditions/limits.
59. **recipient** (noun) – beneficiary, receiver.
60. **disservice** (noun) – disfavour, injustice, hurt, damage.

Better late: On announcement of Phalke award to Rajinikanth

Rajinikanth fully deserves the Phalke, but the timing of the announcement is suspect

Rajinikanth, the reigning demigod of Tamil filmdom, **richly deserves the Dadasaheb Phalke award**, Indian cinema's highest recognition, bestowed by the jury this year. The film world has few parallels to his success story. His transition from **Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, a Marathi-born struggling bus conductor in Bengaluru**, to a worshipped superstar in the Dravidian heartland, was made possible only by his undimmed passion and sustained hard work. From early on, he introduced novelty to his screen characters. He has kept innovating on his unique styles of tossing a cigarette or a mint, twirling his sunglasses and walking with a swagger. While style remains his hallmark, it would be an injustice to dismiss him as just a mass hero. He had excelled as an actor with sensitive portrayals in films such as *Mullum Malarum* and *Aarilirindhu Arubadhu Varai* before getting trapped in superstardom with *Billa* and donning larger than life roles. He is among the rare heroes who handle comedy scenes with ease, his dual roles in *Thillu Mullu* being an example. His charisma has attracted three generations of fans, with a following even in Japan where he is lovingly called 'Odori Maharaja' (The Dancing Maharaja). He is also the only Indian actor to have featured in black and white, colour, 3D and motion capture films.

But despite **Rajinikanth's demonstrable body of work**, given his active inclination for a foray into "spiritual politics" until last year, inevitable questions are being raised if the award is a calculated choice to influence poll-bound Tamil Nadu. While Rajinikanth lent support during elections to the DMK-TMC (1996, 1998) and AIADMK-BJP (2004), in recent years he has made no secret of his admiration for BJP leaders. Not only did he hail Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as ‘Lord Krishna and Arjuna’ — after the scrapping of special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 — he targeted Dravidian icon Periyar E.V. Ramasamy while recalling the alleged attacks on Hindu deities during a 1971 anti-superstition rally. He backed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. To be fair, since his ‘no show’ in politics, the actor has remained politically withdrawn, though previously he indirectly targeted the DMK and the AIADMK. He has not responded to appeals from ‘neutral’ observers to lend his support for “honest, dynasty-free politics”. Whether the award’s timing would influence the voting choice of his legion of fans is difficult to say as he remains an untested electoral force. However, had the jury put off the announcement of the award by just a week till polling was over, everyone would have unconditionally welcomed the choice. The giver has done the recipient a disservice through the timing of the announcement.

GUPTA CLAR