

Pankaj Advani Taking India to the world

World's youngest Billiard's Champion is proud to be an Indian



Cricket, in India takes centre stage at the expense of great talent. The media too, is to blame in this complacency that other sports are treated with. It is because of such lack of awareness that our nation overlooks talent that makes India proud. The reigning World Billiards Champion, Pankaj Advani is a classic example of such callousness. 22 year old Pankaj Advani looks like just another guy of his age but not his talent. The World Champion in Billiards adds the title of the youngest World Champion in Snooker, when asked of his accomplishments modestly.

A graduate in commerce holds world acclaim of a talent he was born with. "It was this one day, when I was watching my brother play, and he randomly passed the

cue to me. It was just then, the moment I guess..." recalls Pankaj with humility that is unmatched. A natural at the game, this man started younger than most professionals. At the tender age of 14, he won the Junior National title and marked his entrance in this elite sport. Having won the world title for Snooker in 2003 followed by the world title in Billiards in 2005 and 2007, in Malta and Singapore respectively

Pankaj Advani has not only faced the best but has maintained his concrete stand at the title.

When asked of what he feels of the media coverage given to his accomplishments, he is clear and says, "If only covering popular sports is what sports coverage is all about, I have not much to say, but if all sports

"If only covering popular sports is what sport related media coverage is all about, I don't, have much to say"



must be weighed equally and so must all achievements then there is a lot to be done on the National and International front". With constant support from the state government, Pankaj has been given great accolade, while the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) too has been adding to the same. Upbeat with the IPL and the hype surrounding cricket, the world champion feels the essence of the

game is lost somewhere in between of celebrities buying off teams to, the sport becoming a private affair and not a game anymore.

Movies like Chak De India and Goal, try to bring other sports to people's notice but then fade away with time. Hockey, being the national game gets no coverage compared to others.

"I'm surprised actually at the IPL and what the game has become," smiles Pankaj Advani. A true sports person at heart, he plays because he enjoys it and hopes to do it till the day he does. "Haven't really thought of what life after this game would be, though I plan on doing my MBA and complete my education at some point, but till the time I enjoy the game I shall play it with all my heart," promises the champion.

With the BSFI bringing in the little coverage that it does, he still feels there's a lot that needs to be done. The young champion till then is content with his game and seems to enjoy every moment of it, with or without the media backing up his every move, a true champion, an unfeigned sports person and a brilliant human being, gives the star his world class appeal and the love for the game keeps it that way.

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LightsCamera. Action

THE RECENT SUCCESS OF OFFBEAT MOVIES HAS OPENED UP A GREAT AVENUE FOR FILMMAKERS WITH A 'DIFFERENCE'.

"This is the era of experimental films," says Siddhav Nachane, student of film making. But what has initiated this thought in the young minds who are trying their hands on various genres of movies is the success of various off beat movies which are accepted and appreciated by the audience.

If the success of recent movies like Mithya (directed by Rajat Kapoor), Bheja Fry (directed by Sagar Ballary), Jab We Met (directed by Imtiaz Ali) and Being Cyrus (directed by Homi Adajania) are anything to go by then, it is the right time to make movies with different ideas. These movies are crisp, taut and precise. They take you through a journey in their own way. Creating a niche is the key to success and the audience today, is open to new ideas and newly treated films.

No film is at loss these days with so many corporate houses entering the movie making business. What has lured them to this business? It is the assurance of a no loss situation for the producers. The amount pitched in a movie is recovered even before the film is screened. Merchandise, music rights, in-film advertising and DVD/VCD rights are sold at exorbitant prices. This means that the ticket window is no longer the only source of income for the producer. "The movies are also

insured. This guarantees safe investment for the producer and distributors," says Nimesh Advani, a student of film making.

Corporatisation has bought systematic working in the film industry which was rarely seen in the market. Nimesh Advani says, "This is a good time for making movies but it is a testing moment as well because there is immense competition. Nothing guarantees a hit. There is no formula for a hit film. Even a multi-starrer does not ensure a major hit." Even period films like Jodhaa Akbar made by Ashutosh Gowariker or a Rani Laxmibai which is being directed by Sushmita Sen are making a comeback lately. Another type is that of tributes and remakes. Siddhav says, "Part of the script of the movie Johnny Gaddar (directed by Sriram Raghavan) was borrowed from James Hadley Chase novels and the Big B starrer Parwana, which is clearly revealed in the movie as Johnny is shown watching the flick and taking inspiration to double cross his business associates."

The grass surely looks green for film makers with a 'different' view and Hindi film cinema will continue to ride high on these vibrant waves.

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