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EDITOR'S COLUMN

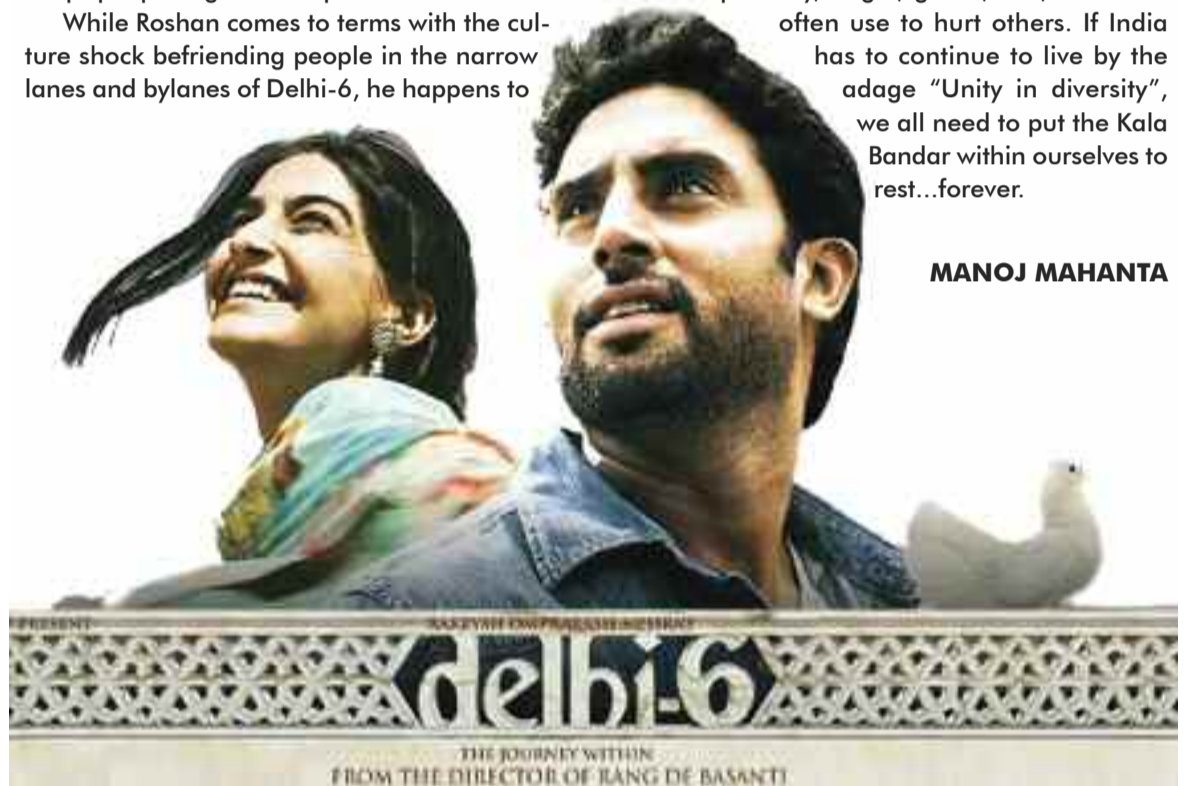
For centuries, India's intricately woven social fabric has epitomised the popular adage "Unity in diversity", and it is this very spirit that distinctly sets apart the country and its people from rest of the world. Owing to this magnetic appeal, for decades, several foreigners have been making a beeline to the country exploring its unique cultural heritage, an experience several agree to being Simply Irresistible! No matter which part of the country one happens to visit - the sheer diversity of religions, castes, speeches and attires is bound to be one great captivating experience. In case of Roshan (Abhishek Bachchan), who is on his first visit to the country, it's not an exception. The protagonist, who is in India to fulfill the desire of his terminally ill Dadi (Waheeda Rehman) to spend the last days of her life in her hometown, tries his best to understand the complexities of relations and the magical enigma that keeps people together despite all the differences.

While Roshan comes to terms with the culture shock befriending people in the narrow lanes and bylanes of Delhi-6, he happens to

accidentally identify the root cause of why people of different religions and castes had a sense of hatred for one another. Roshan realises that it was the 'Kala Bandar' that was causing all the havoc across the city, but what was most interesting about Kala Bandar was that everyone across the city was aware of its presence but none had seen it. Every other day, Roshan was witnessing the miseries Kala Bandar was causing to the residents of Delhi-6, spreading a sense of enmity and hatred amongst friends, neighbours, family members and everyone connected to the neighbourhood. With chaos and destruction all around, Roshan decided to take on the Kala Bunder so as to bring back the sanctity, peace, happiness and love into the lanes of Delhi-6, and later he does succeed getting rid of the menace.

If you are still curious as to how this Kala Bunder looks and where he lives? Kala Bandar is none other than our own dark self - the hatred, jealousy, anger, greed, etc., which we often use to hurt others. If India has to continue to live by the adage "Unity in diversity", we all need to put the Kala Bandar within ourselves to rest...forever.

MANOJ MAHANTA



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