

KING OF THE COMMON MAN

1.5 lakh fans hitch a ride on SRK Express at City Centre New Town

'I LOVE YOU K-K-K... KOLKATA'

Don't underestimate the power of the common man. If there was one line that hit home the hardest on Saturday evening, it was this dialogue from *Chennai Express*.

The common man — close to 150,000 of them — turned up to see their King, Shah Rukh Khan, in action at 'Get on the Express' presented by Emami Fair and Handsome and Osaal, in association with T2, at City Centre New Town.

Around 7.20pm, SRK Express hit the stage to a massive crowd that spilled far into the streets outside the mall. And with these magic words — "I love you K-K-K... 'Kolkata' — wrapped a spell around his 'favourite city" once again. Dressed dapper in jeans, a waistcoat, signature shades and hair tied in a tiny ponytail, SRK made all his signature moves. The Badshah pose — one foot on the ledge with his elbow resting on it — kisses to the crowd, the gentle salute with his fingertips... Then came the film dialogues, each one drawing a roar that outdid the previous, from *Devdas* to *Don* to *Chennai Express*.

Enter, SRK the singer with *Tujhe dekha toh yeh... Tum pass aaye...* and finally, the hat-trick with Honey Singh's *Lungi dance* song, where he threw on a beige hat and danced along. But before you knew it, it was 8pm and the journey with SRK Express came to a halt. He took a final bow and vanished but surprise, surprise, returned two minutes later!

Up he went on the ledge, a la Eden Gardens. He waved, reaching out to his fans, absorbing what he called the "warmth" of Calcutta. If you looked closely, there were beads of sweat dripping down the sides of his forehead but a shine in his eyes.

And before you could count 1,2,3,4 (get on the dance floor), he was gone. Almost on cue, someone screamed loud enough for everyone to hear, "1,2,3,4. We want more." Yes!



I screamed, jumped, danced and shouted my lungs out when I received the autographed *Chennai Express* hat from Shah Rukh. I ran past the security, took his hand and asked him if I looked like Suhana (SRK's daughter). He pinched my cheeks and said 'yes!' The three-hour wait was so worth it!

Pratyasha Sarkar,
Class VII, Modern High School for Girls



I was one of the dancers at the IPL opening ceremony at Eden. But I couldn't see him from up close then, so I could not miss the chance this time! I have been practising at home, so that if Shah Rukh called me on stage I could perform to 1,2,3,4 with him.

Sindhuuree Bose, third year, BP Poddar Institute of Management and Technology



Shah Rukh Khan has been the biggest inspiration of my life. Unlike other actors, he has managed to get to this position. It is his dedication and hard work that made him King Khan. This is the reason I look up to him as a god. It was a wonderful experience for me.

Anurag Roy, third year, CIEM



WANT MY PONYTAIL?

Is there anything you want to ask me? Is there anything you'd like me to do? Write it on paper so I can read it," said Shah Rukh to the crowd. (Lip-reading one fan in the crowd)

"You want to know what is my hairstyle? This is my hairstyle! Oh, you want my hairstyle? Grow your hair and tell your sister to tie it in a ponytail. Sisters tie the best ponytails!" he exclaimed, while the crowd burst into laughter.

SRK-ISMS

● Let me tell you, I am going to go all over India but I can assure you right now that this kind of love, this kind of crowd, this kind of happiness I would get nowhere else.

● To be really honest, I used the excuse of my film *Chennai Express* to come see my city Kolkata. On behalf of my children, my whole family, thank you for making me a star.

● I'm sorry I cannot come and be with all of you (in the crowd), especially you in the yellow shirt, yeah!

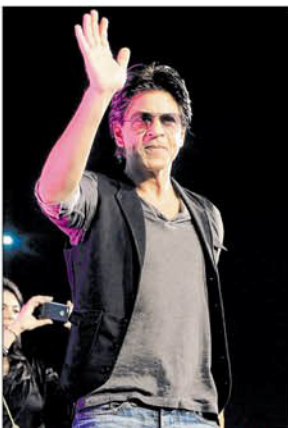
● I won't talk about the film. I have just come here to share love. I have come here not for you, but for me because I feel happy coming here.

● At heart we are common people and we have to remember that don't underestimate the power of a common man.

● I have a big problem with Kolkata as boys want to shake their booty with me!

● Because we are in Bengal should we do a dialogue from *Devdas* first?

● All you boys and girls waiting since 2pm, anek dhonnobad.



'AAMI TOMARE KHUB BHALOBASHI'

With help from 91's Friend's FM Rishi Neel and Nilanjana, SRK spoke a little Bengali too. "Kolkata, okeane oke daron lagchhe!" he announced, followed by "Aami tomare khub bhalobashi" and "Anek dhonnobad". That's what we would like to tell you, Shah Rukh!

Text: Karo Christine Kumar, Malanicha Dasgupta, Saptarshi Dutta
Pictures: Pabitra Das, Anindya Shankar Ray and B. Halder

What was your best moment from the SRK show on Saturday? Tell tmetro@abpmal.com