

Anil with daughters Rhea (left) & Sonam

## Sustaining for so long in the industry- what worked for you?

I was good in studies, I never failed in any exam, but when I started coming to sets, I realised I enjoyed my work and I knew I would stay here for long. I have never surrendered to the idea of being a hero. I just wanted to be an actor. I was lucky that those characters came to me and the films became popular. I always believed in my directors, stories and the characters I played. I was never depressed on the set and have always given my full dedication. I have been shooting almost every day. I get a break only if the shooting gets cancelled. It has been a conscious decision to reinvent myself. My biggest achievement is that even today, when I get up in the morning, I am excited about digging my teeth into a character, going to the sets and meeting people. Besides hard work and com-

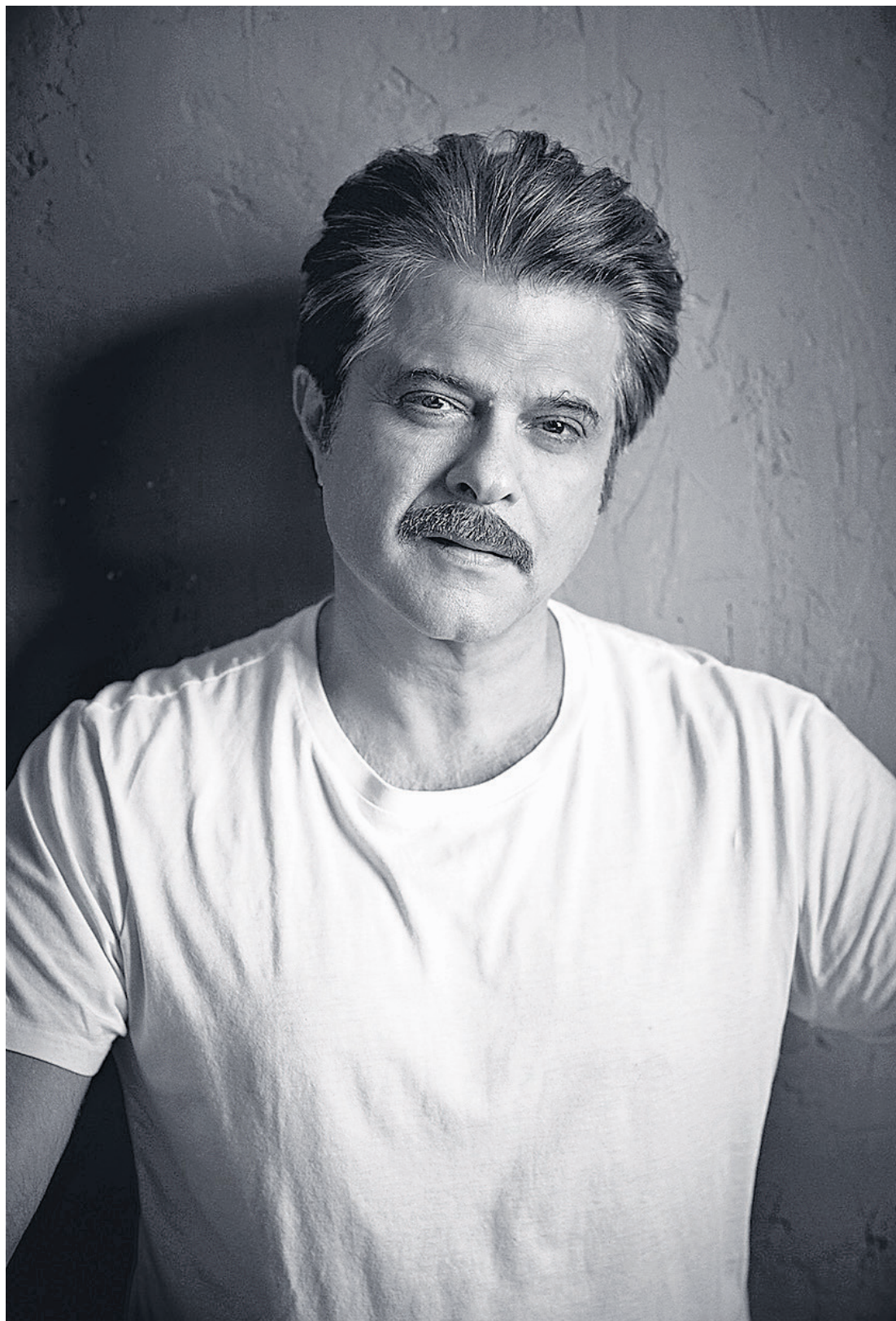
mitment, it's about the choices you make. Also, if God has given you so much, you need to respect that, not throw it away. So, be grateful, keep improving and don't take anything for granted.

## Your latest release, 'Fanny Khan' talks about body shaming, do you feel a film should always have a message?

Raj Kapoor once told me that whenever we are making a film, there should always be a meaningful message. So when we made *Mr. India*, we kept a brief speech at the end about humanity so that people can get a message from it. All my films, from *Mr. India* to *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga* - there is also a message. In *Fanny Khan* there is an angle of body shaming, I personally feel you need to have a good heart first and then the rest will follow. In today's time, the women of India have progressed a lot and they come in front to speak louder to establish their point. During *Veere Di Wedding* I once went to the set and could hardly find a boy there, it was dominated by girls.

## What was the need to do a film like 'Race 3' at this point of time?

Why not? Why shouldn't I? Acting in films is my bread and butter. I have to give money to my wife Sunita to run the household. And when she asks me for money, where will I get it from. My wife will never allow me into the house if I do not earn money.



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Anil Kapoor with close friend, Salman Khan, with whom he did 'Race 3'



The evergreen star with Amitabh Bachchan



Anil Kapoor played Ranveer Singh's father in 'Dil Dhadakne Do'