

METROPLUS

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Man of many roles

FACE-TO-FACE After the huge success of “Anniyan”, what does actor Vikram have up his sleeve?

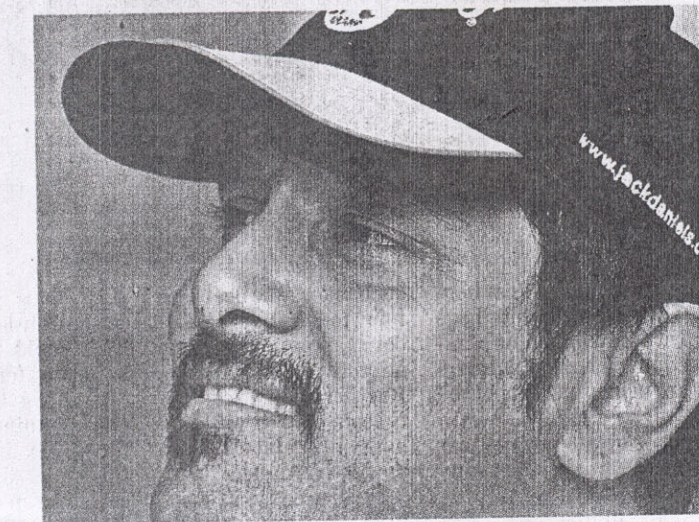
Vikram is on a well-deserved break after *Majaa* and seems to be enjoying it. He has used the time well, trying out Ayurveda to beat stress, catching up with his fans and promoting social causes.

There is still time to go before he starts shooting for Lingusamy's *Bheema*, produced by A. M. Ratnam. “An interesting movie ... I am enjoying getting into the role right now,” he says.

Majaa has been a mixed bag for him. While some of his fans loved it, others felt he should have hogged the screen space himself. “But I saw it as a film, not just my movie.”

For long, he had wanted to do a clean film that families could watch, and this movie gave him that chance. “The bonhomie shared during the shooting still exists. We enjoyed the filming and have been keeping in touch even after the movie.”

Of late, rumours have been doing the rounds about his doing a Telugu film — his dubbed films enjoy a huge market in Andhra Pradesh. “I will



A CONTENT MAN Vikram PHOTO: K. ANANTHAN

be doing a Telugu film, but not immediately. All my films are anyway dubbed there. Maybe, I will do a Telugu film and dub it into Tamil,” says Vikram. After years of struggle, Vikram has tasted success and he is a happy man today. “I am content

with what I have. Post *Sethu*, I get bound scripts and have the luxury of saying ‘yes’ only when I am satisfied.”

With the National award in hand and the super-duper success of *Anniyan*, what is it like, to work with

director Lingusamy?

“I have told Lingusamy that he is the captain of the ship. I give him a lot of feedback and he can give me ideas. But, the final script will be something we both agree upon.”

Vikram is comfortable working with four or five directors. “Bala, Dharani and Balaji,” he says. As for a film with Bala, who gave him a life on screen with *Sethu*, “It will happen any time. The moment he has a script, we will start shooting.”

The variety of roles he has essayed so far also ensures it is not difficult to shift gears from commercial to art films. “The artist in me loves *Sethu* and *Pithamagan* while the movie buff in me loves action films like *Saamy* and *Dhool*. I love watching romantic movies but won't do one myself.”

The actor is also doing his bit for specially-abled children. He is the goodwill ambassador of Chennai-based Vidya Sudha, part of the Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, a learning centre for children with special needs.

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