

ON A HIGH NOTE

Music was the obvious choice of career for Tulsi Kumar, whose father, the late Gulshan Kumar, reigned over the Bollywood music industry in the '90s with T-Series. His death, she tells **Reema Behl**, strengthened her resolve to take the brand to the next level



Tulsi Kumar is best known for her soft, mellifluous voice—a perfect fit for romantic numbers like *Turn Jo Aaye Zindagi Mein* from *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai* (2010), which is also the song that shot her to fame. The 28-year-old, who went on to lend her voice to the biggest musical hit of 2013, *Aashiqui 2* and, more recently, to Ranbir Kapoor-starrer *Roy*, is happy she's found success in the industry her father loved so much. "I am blessed to be my father's daughter. It was his dream to see me in this industry."

Tulsi grew up in a household where she would hear new voices and compositions every day. Her father spotted Tulsi's talent early and enrolled her in Suresh Wadkar's music academy. After his sudden death, Tulsi and her family shifted base to Delhi. "After my father passed away, I focussed even more on my singing and resolved to make a mark in the industry. We saw tough times after his death but my mother was a great support through it all. Her strength and resilience kept me going when we shifted from Mumbai to Delhi and she ensured that my training continued."

Over the last one year, Tulsi has been exploring other dimensions as an artiste. "I recently did a play in Mumbai called *The List*. It is about a woman in rural Quebec whose life is revealed through a series of lists. I composed two English tracks for it and performed them on stage. It was a unique concept and that instantly appealed to me. I'm also the voice of Kid's Hut, a YouTube channel that provides educational and entertainment content for children."

Though her mum Sudesh Kumari and brother Bhushan Kumar are at the helm of affairs, Tulsi sees herself assuming a bigger role within T-Series. "I love composing, but I've not been very aggressive about getting my tunes out in the market so far. So that is the next step I'm working on. In the coming years, I want to see T-Series entering newer spaces, including television, and becoming one of the biggest film production houses in the country." >