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## Karan Johar becomes a father to twins via surrogacy

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**Mumbai:** Bollywood's celebrated filmmaker Karan Johar on Sunday announced he feels "enormously blessed" to have become a father to twins via surrogacy. Celebrities like actress Priyanka Chopra and choreographer-filmmaker Farah Khan congratulated him on the "happy" news. The daughter has been named Roohi – a rearrangement of Karan's mother's name Hiroo, and

the son has been christened Yash — after Karan's late father.

Karan, 44, said: "I am ecstatic to share with you all the two most wonderful additions to my life, my children and lifelines: Roohi and Yash. I feel enormously blessed to be a parent to these pieces of my heart who were welcomed into this world with the help of the marvels of medical science." Best known for directing films like "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" and "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...", Karan is still single.

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He says parenthood is "an emotional yet well thought out decision" he has taken after considering all the responsibilities and duties that come with being one. "In order to arrive at this decision, I have prepared myself mentally, physically, emotionally and logistically to ensure that my children get all the unconditional love, care and attention from me and mine."

"I have submitted to the fact that my children are my world and priority." In his book "An Unsuitable Boy", Karan not just opened up about his sexuality — albeit in a veiled manner — but also expressed a desire to adopt a child or opt for surrogacy. The filmmaker, who keeps travelling around the world and is known for his knack of making romantic dramas, understands that having children would mean that "work, travels and social commitments would have to take a back seat".

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Karan also extended gratefulness to the surrogate who fulfilled his "lifelong dream and provided a warm, loving and nurturing environment to my children before bringing them into this world". "She will always remain in my prayers." Karan also extended gratitude to IVF specialist Jatin Shah, who was also instrumental in the successful birth of superstar Shah Rukh Khan and his wife Gauri's son AbRam through surrogacy.

Actors Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra are thrilled with the new additions to the family of Karan, who launched their acting career in 2012 with his directorial "Student of the Year".

"Finally, I can say I have a younger brother and sister! So happy. So much love to give. Bursting with joy," Alia tweeted. While National Award-winning filmmaker Hansal Mehta welcomed Karan to fatherhood, actor Tusshar Kapoor, who became a single parent to Lakshaya Kapoor via surrogacy in 2016, said Karan deserved "these little blessings".

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