



## CREATIVE WORLD

# Happy Amitabh Bachchan is a part of 'Brahmastra': Ayan

MUMBAI, OCT 15 /-/- Filmmaker Ayan Mukerji said he is elated that megastar Amitabh Bachchan is on board his next directorial 'Brahmastra'. After directing two coming-of-age movies such as 'Wake Up Sid' and 'Web Jawaani Hai Deewani', the 34-year-old director will helm the fantasy adventure series, backed by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. "It's a great honour for me to work with him. Ever since the film was conceptualised I wanted to approach him (Bachchan) for it and make it with him. I am very happy he is part of the team 'Brahmastra'. Ayan told reporters here. He was speaking on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of Jio MAMI 19th Mumbai Film Festival last night. "Brahmastra" will be a trilogy, also featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt.



There are some costumes, (but) may be not the way you'd expect them to be," he said. The first part of the series will release on August 15, 2019 and Ayan said he has devoted everything to the film. "It's a very big project of my life. All my hopes are on this film. I hope 'ye film sabse zyada dhoom machaye' (this film rocks)," he said. (PTT)

"I am very excited about the cast but I hope the film is even bigger than the cast. They have all come together because of the story and the theme of the film," he said. In the movie, Ranbir will play a character with special powers and Ayan said it is not a typical costume clad superhero film. "It's a modern-day film set in India as it exists today. But the reason it's called 'Brahmastra' is because the energies, wisdom, powers in the film come from ancient India. That's all I would say



## Lady Gaga a 'tough girl on the mend'

LOS ANGELES, OCT 13 /-/- Lady Gaga appears to be on the road to recovery after the pop icon announced that she was taking some time off to fight her battle with fibromyalgia. The 31-year-old singer took to Instagram where she posted few pictures of her getting back on track after she recently postponed a string of shows due to ill health. In one of the posts, Gaga wrote that she was recuperating slowly and will soon announce some shows for her fans. "Thank you @saksports for this dope jacket and @pollyplume for the beautiful sparkly boots. Slowly coming back to life. With some exciting tour announcements on the way!" she wrote, alongside her picture dressed in fur coat and shorts.

The "Joanne" singer also posted one of the photos from her recording sessions. "Nothing like studio therapy. Thank you @juicycouture for these awesome sparkly track shorts and comfy top. Had so much fun in the studio. Made me feel like a star like the ones in the sky, you know... the real kind," she wrote. In a third picture and post, Gaga wrote, "Tough girl on the mend." Earlier, suspending all gigs, the singer also said she needs to focus more on her health today as it is keeping her from performing for her fans. Gaga confirmed, in a release, that the second leg of the North American part of the tour is scheduled to resume in November as planned. The new dates for the European leg have not been confirmed yet. (PTT)

## I am profoundly devastated: Harvey Weinstein

LOS ANGELES, OCT 15 /-/- Harvey Weinstein said he is "devastated" as allegations of sexual misconduct continue to mount against him. Less than a week after a New York Times expose detailed decades of Weinstein's alleged inappropriate behaviour towards women, the movie mogul's wife Georgina Chapman announced that she is "leaving" him. "I am profoundly devastated. I have lost my wife and kids, whom I love more than anything else. I fully support her decision. I didn't stand in Georgina's way when we discussed a separation, I encouraged her to do what was in her heart. I know she has to do what is best for the children, for herself and her business, she employs 130 people. "I don't want her or my children to be hurt any more than they already have. I truly love Georgina, and I hope one day we can reconcile, although right now I don't know if that could possibly happen," Weinstein told Page Six. On Tuesday, a New Yorker article included more allegations against the Weinstein Co. co-founder, who was fired from his own company. In a statement to the New Yorker, a representative for Weinstein denied the allegations presented in the new story. Many big Hollywood names including Meryl Streep, Judi Dench, George Clooney, Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio have spoken out against Weinstein in recent days. Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow are among those who have come forward with their own allegations of misconduct by Weinstein. (PTT)

## Aamir says he was scared of losing stardom with Dangal

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 /-/- Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan says he was scared of losing out his fan-following when he was offered the role of wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat in Dangal as he had to play an old and fat man. "I do get scared of (losing stardom). When I heard the story of Dangal, I thought I have to do this film. But then I thought that I have just done Dhoom 3 and PK, and have six-packs and star-image. If I will do this film (Dangal), then I will become old and fat. What my fans will think? I hope I don't lose my fan-following," Aamir said here on Wednesday while promoting new film Secret Superstar. "Mahavir is a 55-year-old in the film. I am 52. So, there is less difference between us. We are too close. But fans don't know that as they see me as 30-year-old. So, I told the director that I liked the film and I will do it after 10 years when I will be old. They agreed to that too.

"But the story of the film couldn't leave my mind. So, I decided that I should do it and not get afraid of anything," he added. Dangal, which released in 2016, went on the break various records at the box office worldwide. Aamir says being a producer himself, he likes his films to be "economically viable". "I feel that through the films I am working in the person, who is investing his money, should at least get 10-15 per cent profit. But, I don't look at the box office. If I will take a film thinking how much collection it will make, then I wouldn't have made Taare Zameen Par or Secret Superstar," he said. Directed by Advait Chandan, Secret Superstar is based on the life of a teenage girl named Insa. Played by Zaira Wasim, who sets out to follow her dream of being a singing superstar under the confinement of patriarchy. Chandan said that the film is not based on any real life incident. "All the characters in this film are original and not based on anybody, but they are inspired from people. The people I met during 'Santayame Jayate' are the ones this film inspired from," he said. Zaira, whose made her acting debut with Dangal, considers herself lucky to work with Aamir again. (PTT)

## Important to inculcate sense of confidence in girls'

LOS ANGELES, OCT 15 /-/- Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra thanked her mother Madhu Chopra for raising her to believe in herself and urged people to do their best to "inculcate sense of confidence" in girls. The 35-year-old actor took to Instagram where she posted a sweet picture of her with her mom and captioned it with a touching and motivational message. "As cliched as it may sound, my mother is my #GirlHero. She is a feisty woman that came from a small town, who ran away from home to pursue her dream job. She was a doctor in the armed forces, has over eight different medical certifications, is a certified pilot and she speaks nine languages... She's also an amazing mother, daughter, sister, wife, business partner. She's the one who taught me that I could be anything and everything I want to be. And that's why she's my #GirlHero. It's so important to inculcate that sense of confidence in the girls around you." Priyanka wrote as she celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child. The Indian star was recently included in Variety magazine's Power of Women honorees list. (PTT)

# El Nino caused record CO2 spike in 2015-16: NASA

WASHINGTON, OCT 15 /-/- Scientists have found that the impact of the 2015-16 El Nino-related heat and drought occurring in tropical regions of South America, Africa and Indonesia was responsible for the largest annual increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration seen in at least 2,000 years. El Nino is a cyclical warming pattern of ocean circulation in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that can affect weather worldwide. The findings, published in the journal Science as part of a collection of five research papers, are based on analysis of the first 28 months of data from NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2) satellite. "These three tropical regions released 2.5 gigatonnes (a billion tonnes) more carbon into the atmosphere than they did in 2011," said lead author of the study Junjie Liu of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. "OCO-2 data allowed us to quantify how the net exchange of carbon between land and atmosphere in individual regions is affected during El Nino years," Liu added. In 2015 and 2016, OCO-2 recorded atmospheric carbon dioxide increases that were 50 per cent larger than the average increase seen in recent years preceding these observations. The increase was about three parts per million of carbon dioxide per year -- or 6.3 gigatonnes of carbon. In recent years, the

average annual increase has been closer to two parts per million of carbon dioxide per year -- or four gigatonnes of carbon. These record increases occurred even though emissions from human activities over the past century have remained roughly the same as they were prior to the El Nino. Using OCO-2 data, Liu's team analysed how Earth's land area contributed to the record atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration increases. The team compared the 2015 findings to those from a reference year -- 2011 -- using carbon dioxide data from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT). In 2011, weather in the three tropical regions was normal and the amount of carbon absorbed and released by them was in balance. "Understanding how the carbon cycle in these regions responded to El Nino will enable scientists to improve carbon cycle models, which should lead to improved predictions of how our planet may respond to similar conditions in the future," said OCO-2 deputy project scientist Annmarie Eldering of JPL. "The team's findings imply that if future climate brings more or longer droughts, as the last El Nino did, more carbon dioxide may remain in the atmosphere, leading to a tendency to further warm Earth," Eldering added. (PTT)

## Gucci to go fur-free with spring 2018 season

LOS ANGELES, OCT 15 /-/- Gucci is the latest label to join the Fur Free Future Alliance in eliminating animal fur from the spring 2018 collection and onwards. Marco Bizzarri, president and CEO of Gucci, has announced that the Italian fashion house is going to stop producing fur, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Gucci's fur-free decision is part of the company's new 10-year "Culture of Purpose" sustainability plan, which also includes the house's commitment to contribute 1 million euros as a founding partner of UNICEF's Girls' Empowerment Initiative. "Our new 10-year 'Culture of Purpose' sustainability plan has three principal focuses: the environment, humanity and new models," said Bizzarri. He added that the plan demonstrates the company's "absolute commitment to making sustainability an intrinsic part of our business." As part of the "Culture of Purpose" plan, Gucci stated that it is committed to reducing its environmental impact; dedicated to enhancing the lives of the people who make its products as well as supporting communities; and devoted to applying its innovation to improve efficiency in its production and logistics. The announcement comes soon after the brand received the Green Carpet Fashion award for sustainable innovation. Armani announced in 2016 that it was going fur-free. (PTT)

## Daisy Ridley's struggle with fame

LOS ANGELES, OCT 15 /-/- "Star Wars" actor Daisy Ridley says she struggled with the pressures of fame and turned to therapy for help. The actor says she had a tough time dealing with the success which came with 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens', reported Vogue magazine. "Everything was so confusing. People were recognising me - I still don't know how to handle it. My skin got really bad because I was stressed. It was crippling. I just felt so seen and so self-conscious... I went and saw a lovely lady, I felt like I was crying. I just felt myself because I was so worried that people would recognise me. (Then I thought) 'You know what? I want to distance through life. I don't want to be seen.' Ridley says. The 25-year-old actor was shocked when some fans came to her house looking for autographs. "I heard a knock on the door. These two guys went. 'Hey, Daisy, can I get an autograph?' and I literally went, 'No way.' My mum said to me, 'Everyone's trying to take ownership of you. (PTT)

## I should've just kept my mouth shut: Pink on Swift-Perry row

LOS ANGELES, OCT 15 /-/- Pink has said she regrets siding with Taylor Swift in the singer's much-publicised feud with Katy Perry, saying she should have kept her opinions to herself. The 38-year-old musician had rooted for "Team Taylor" when she was asked to quickly pick a side while appearing on a radio show in London. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Pink said, "I should've just kept my mouth shut, because I don't believe that. I don't care. I felt rushed and I didn't know what to do. And I paid for it, because then the next day 'Pink is Team Taylor'." The "Perfect" singer added that she has matured after becoming a mother of two and has more important things to focus on than pay attention to a bitter

squabble between two contemporaries. "I have two kids I have a baby. And it's so different now. I'm not inclined toward drama and feuds and soundbites," she said. Pink has two children with husband Carey



Hart - six-year-old daughter Willow Sage and nine-month-old son Jameson Moon. The fight between Swift and Perry led to diss tracks and taking jabs, though the latter has offered to put an end to it. (PTT)

## Reliance Foundation to fund Indian art exhibits at The Met

NEW YORK, OCT 15 /-/- The prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art here will receive a "meaningful gift" from the Reliance Foundation to fund several exhibitions that explore and celebrate the arts of India, the museum said. The first exhibition to benefit from this gift was this fall's Modernism on the Ganges, Raghubir Singh Photographs, that opened at The Met Breuer on Wednesday, it said. The gift, promised by the founder of the organisation, Nita and Mukesh Ambani, will support a range of exhibitions examining the accomplishments and influence of the arts and artists of India across time and in all media, it said. "This is an outstanding commitment that will have a direct impact on The Met and the exhibitions it presents to its millions of yearly visitors," said Daniel H Weiss, President and CEO of The Met. "As a global institution, we are devoted to studying and displaying art from every corner of the world, which is made possible only through the generosity of our friends. Nita and Mukesh Ambani are truly visionary benefactors, and we are enormously grateful for this meaningful gift," he added. The focus of the remaining exhibitions that will benefit from this sponsorship will range from early Buddhist art



from the 1st century BC to 4th century AD to 17th century Mughal art to contemporary Indian sculpture, it added. "India has a rich heritage of art and culture that can be traced back to the 3rd-4th century BC. At Reliance Foundation, it has been our ongoing mission to recognise and promote this valuable tradition by offering opportunities and platforms for Indian art locally in India and various institutions around the globe," said Nita Ambani, founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation. "This partnership with The Met enables India to be shown at an iconic institution and further encourages us to continue our work in the art world. We are truly

delighted to be part of this long term collaboration. We believe this will prove to be a wonderful partnership for learning and sharing that will go a long way for art in India," she added. Art from the Indian sub-continent has been collected by The Met from 1851. The holdings include sculpture, painting, textiles, photographs, and various other media from 2500 BC to modern times, documenting the rich cultural heritage of the sub-continent, it added. The Met presents over 6,000 years of art from around the world for everyone to experience and enjoy. The Museum lives in three iconic sites in New York City: The Met Fifth Avenue, The Met Breuer, and The Met Cloisters. (PTT)