



CREATIVE WORLD

'Nai Kahani' was not started as a movement: Mohan Rakesh



NEW DELHI, JUNE 17 /-/- The 'Nai Kahani' idea was not started as a movement but it became a sort of a symbol for the efforts of those associated with it to alienate the short story from what it was after Munshi Premchand, according to one of its pioneers Mohan Rakesh. Rakesh (1925-1972) was one of the brains behind the Nai Kahani (New Short Story) literary movement of Hindi literature in the 1950s, the others being Kamalashwar and Rajendra Yadav. The works of Rakesh are now published in a book titled 'Another Life: Thirteen stories and a play', Edited by Carlo Coppola and published by HarperCollins India, the book is a compilation with a selection of Rakesh's fiction (authorised by the author himself), his play 'Adhe Adhure', and two rare first-person statements which have been among the most sought after critical resources on his work. i.e. the 'Self-Portrait' and a long, in-depth interview with him.

In the interview with the Journal of South Asian Literature, Rakesh says Nai Kahani was not a 'movement' which Kamalashwar, Rajendra Yadav and he started. "The fact is that in the middle 1950s, there was a group of writers, about 10 or 12, who were primarily interested in writing short stories. All of a sudden, it seemed, there was a shift away from writing poetry to writing short stories. At that time, there was a desire to catch the mood of our time. It was this restlessness which led to the shift of emphasis. 'Nai Kahani' became sort of a symbol for our effort to alienate the short story from what it was after Premchand," he said. Rakesh wrote the first modern Hindi play, 'Ashadi Ka Ek Din' (1950), and made significant contribution to the forms of the novel, short story, travelogue, criticism, memoirs and drama. "The New Short Story Movement was not started as a movement. Some of us had been writing, and with this shift of emphasis to interpreting the reality around us, many of us found that we had a great deal in common. This name was later given to this writing, not as it was emerging. It then came to be associated with our names, just because at one stage in the development of this type of writing, we became the spokesmen for what was then called a movement. Because the critics failed to do so, we decided to take over and start defining for ourselves and for others just what we meant by Nai Kahani," Rakesh said.

The emphasis of the writers was on the emergence of an idea through the reality itself, not driving the idea into some sort of realistic pattern, but discovering the idea inherent in the reality itself. "This became our distinctive point. The only good thing about this movement is that no writer was writing like any other. Most of the writers had their own individuality in Nai Kahani," Rakesh told the journal, of which Coppola was the Editor Emeritus, 1963-2002. More than a decade in the making, and put together in collaboration with the author, 'Another Life: Thirteen stories and a play' makes a broad range of Rakesh's work available to English readers. The stories here range from humorous, satirical studies of human foibles, to profound, painful commentaries on the complexities of the human condition. A translation of 'Adhe Adhure', the play that thrust Indian drama into modernity and one of the finest ever written in Hindi, is included as well. (PTI)

Shilpa Shetty clarifies health rumours, says not pregnant

MUMBAI, JUNE 17 /-/- Answering fans' concerns regarding her well-being, Shilpa Shetty said she is in the pink of health and is not pregnant. The 43-year-old actor took to Twitter to clear the air after a picture of hers stepping out of a city-based diagnostic lab went viral on the social media such that a hashtag #ShilpaKoKyaHua (What happened to Shilpa?) started trending. Shilpa said she had visited the health centre for a routine check-up. "#ShilpaKoKyaHua KUCH NAHI! (Nothing) Hey Bhagwan (Oh my God)... I get a preventive health check done at SRL regularly to know that my body is as healthy on the



inside as the outside. "Something we all must do. What's all the fuss about! And NO not pregnant #healthcheck #preventionsbetterthancure," she wrote. The actor has a six-year-old son, Viaan, with husband Raj Kundra. (PTI)

Jada Pinkett Smith was shocked by daughter's self-harm revelation

LOS ANGELES, JUNE 17 /-/- Jada Pinkett Smith said she was "shocked" after her daughter Willow Smith confided in her that she fought hard from her inner demons of not being able to protect her child. Willow Smith recently revealed on Smith's Facebook show 'The Red Table' that she used to cut herself when she became a singing sensation, at the age of 10, after the release of her 2010 hit single 'Whip My Hair'. "In that particular moment Willow was speaking from a place of power and as her mother I needed to meet her there instead of crumbling within my own insecurities or within my own doubts or 'Oh my goodness. What did I do wrong?'"

"It was like my daughter was revealing something to me in a place of power in which she had come through, so in that moment I had to meet her in that space that she was in and go, 'Okay,'" Smith told Megyn Kelly on her talk show. The actor made an appearance on the NBC show where she also talked about mental health and the stigma attached to it in the wake of suicides of Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain. Smith, who recently in an Instagram post revealed that she once contemplated committing suicide, said looking back she hopes somebody had comforted her during those difficult times. "It's like life is a journey to help us get to a place of healing and I wish somebody had told me that it's gonna be okay. You know, we're gonna have obstacles. You're gonna have really dark times. "Just understand. Keep stepping, cause life starts to reveal itself to you and the light will come. Keep stepping," she said. "I just felt like also in this world today we talk so much about what's happening on the outside and we don't talk enough about what's going on within us. I wanted a place where we could feel safe to do that, and I do that often within my own family," she added. (PTI)



U.N. Refugee Agency's special envoy Angelina Jolie speaks during a news conference during her visits to a camp for Syrian refugees in Dohuk, Iraq.—REUTERS

9th Mountain Echoes Lit Fest to celebrate 50 yrs of India- Bhutan ties

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17 /-/- The annual Mountain Echoes literary festival, in its ninth edition, will celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan. An initiative of the India-Bhutan Foundation and Indian literary agency, Sivahi, the festival that begins on August 23 in Thimphu, will pay tribute to the rich cultural ties between the two nations. The three-day festival will celebrate untouched beauty, unexplored ideas and unstoppable voices from the heart of the Himalayas, and focus on subjects like spirituality and philosophy, performing arts, environmental conservation, food, as well as film and theatre, among others. The inaugural session will see General V Namgyel, Bhutan's ambassador to India and Jaideep Sarkar, Indias Ambassador to Bhutan, in conversation with Dasho Chewang Rinzin, Deputy Chamberlain to His Majesty the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, leading a

discourse on 50 years of friendship between India and Bhutan. The festival will also see sessions by Andrew Quintman, a scholar of Buddhism in Tibet, authors and environmentalists Daniel C Taylor and Dave Gousson, celebrated spoken word poet Sarah Kay, renowned Indian singer Usha Uthup, and Indian actors and theatre veterans Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah. Other prominent speakers will include Nilanjana Roy, author of "The Wildings", and actress Tandin Bidha. "Mountain Echoes, the Bhutan Literary Festival, is an exuberant celebration of cultural connectivities, resonating with

the joys of books and cinema, the shared narratives of music and folklore, food and sport, as well as a deep spiritual perspectives, and the challenges of our changing world. "This year, we also have a special and important focus honoring the strong ties between India and Bhutan in their 50th year of diplomatic relations," Namita Gokhale, founder and co-director of the festival, said. This year the festival will combine the breathtaking locales of Bhutan with its cultural prowess. "The niche festival will spark the imagination of both local and global audiences through a diverse range of electrifying conversations," Tshering Tashi, eminent Bhutanese author and festival co-director, said. The festival will also explore global and locally relevant subjects related to natural history, travel and poetry, including a tribute to 50 years of the Beatles in India, amongst others. It will come to a close on August 25. (PTI)

I would love to meet Mark Hamill: Natalie Portman

LOS ANGELES, JUNE 17 /-/- 'Star Wars' star Mark Hamill left fans shocked when he revealed he never met his on-screen mother Natalie Portman and now the Hollywood star has replied to the veteran actor, saying she would love to see him. Portman played Luke Skywalker's (Hamill) mom, Padme Amidala, in the prequels - "The Phantom Menace", "Attack of the Clones" and "Revenge of the Sith". During an appearance on "The Late Show", host Stephen Colbert asked the Oscar-winning actor about Hamill's tweet, in which he had wished Portman 'Happy Birthday' and shared a fact that he has 'never met this woman.' Replying to the tweet, Portman said, "It's such a shame, I would love to meet him. Mark, I would love to meet you, come over. (PTI)



Tech has adverse impact on elderly: Report

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17 /-/- The advent of technology has adversely impacted the lives of the elderly in the country, contributing to abuse and their feelings of isolation, says a new report released today. According to the 23 city report by HelpAge India released today, 65 per cent elderly found their families paying a lot of attention to phones and computers disrespectful. "While technology in itself is good and progressive, it also has adverse impacts in the lives of our elderly. It is extremely hurtful for the elderly, as they are unable to cope with this fast paced technology and feel isolated," Mathew Cherian, CEO, HelpAge India, said. The survey revealed while 73 per cent elders felt their adult children were too busy on the phones even when at home with them, over 60 per cent of them agreed quality time spent with their children and grandchildren has decreased with the increase in usage of phones and computers. Social media, in particular, 78 per cent of the respondents said, had

decreased the family time spent together. The charitable organisation is running a nationwide campaign #Disconnect2Connect, urging young adults to disconnect from their mobiles and computer devices, and look up and acknowledge the presence of the elderly in their homes. The study, aiming at understanding the extent, depth, form, frequency and reasons behind such abuse, also revealed that Delhi was among the top five Indian cities reporting high percentages of elderly abuse with 33 per cent of the population being treated poorly. Other cities with maximum amount of abuse include Mangalore (47 per cent), followed by Ahmedabad (46 per cent), Bhopal (39 per cent) and Amritsar (35 per cent). And, often the main perpetrators of the abuse were either sons (52 per cent) or daughters-in-law (64 per cent). "Unfortunately, elder abuse starts at home and from whom they trust the most. "This year the son has turned out

to be the foremost perpetrator, followed by the daughter-in-law who normally is perceived as the primary abuser as per past surveys," Cherian said. The charitable organization also runs a toll-free helpline for elders to be able to reach out for help in case of instances of abuse. According to the elders participating in the survey, sensitisation of children and strengthening inter-generational bonding is the way forward to bridge the technological gap. "Thirty-eight per cent elders feel the most effective way to deal with elder abuse is to sensitize children. To tackle this increasing generation gap between the young and the old, it is important to bridge this technology gap and empower our elders," Rohit Prasad, Chief Operating Officer, HelpAge India, said. Joining hands in the fight against elder abuse, the organisation, along with 300 senior citizens from across the national capital, will hold a candlelight march tomorrow at Parliament Street here.

Lupita Nyong'o cried the first time she wore foundation

LOS ANGELES, JUNE 17 /-/- Actor Lupita Nyong'o says she broke down when she wore foundation for the first time. The "Black Panther" star says she cried when her aunt ended up using the shade of foundation that did not compliment her skintone. "I wasn't allowed to wear make-up growing up, but when I was about 18, my mother let my aunt give me a makeover. She had lighter skin than me and didn't have my foundation shade. "I actually don't remember my shade existing, or at least I didn't see it. She applied the lighter foundation to my face and just caked it on. I cried," Nyong'o, 35, told InStyle magazine. The Oscar-winning actress added she imagined the makeover would be how it is shown in the films but the end result was "far from that". (PTI)

Sophie Bush talks about Mark Schwann, allegations against him

LOS ANGELES, JUNE 17 /-/- Actor Sophie Bush has spoken in depth about facing sexual harassment at the hands of "One Tree Hill" creator Mark Schwann. Bush, 35, detailed her experiences on Sirius XM's Andy Cohen Live, where she recalled how she had to hit Schwann when he groped her. "The first time Mark Schwann grabbed my a**... I hit him in front of six other producers, and I hit him f**king hard," Bush said, according to Entertainment Weekly. "We knew about things he'd say to people, we knew about, like, the late-night texts, we knew when he was super-obsessed with one girl on our show that he started texting to bring her to her hotel room door in the middle of the night. She had to be moved, her rooms were moved. And then her boyfriend came and stayed with her the next month and literally like, it almost came to fistfights between the two of them," she added.

In November last year, Bush was one the many stars of the CW series, including actors Hilarie Burton and Bethany Joy Lenz, to release a joint statement in support of writer Audrey Wauchoco, who alleged harassment from the 51-year-old creator. A month later, Schwann was fired from the TV drama "The Royals" following an investigation into the allegations against him. Bush said the experience of working on the show for nine seasons was "wonderful" when Schwann was not around. "We're not the only group of girls that's ever had a boss who was a pig. That show for us was very interesting because at times it was wonderful and at times it really wasn't. Our writers' room was in L.A., so we had plenty of time where (Schwann) wasn't on set. "We had great highlight-reel, coming-of-age, rom-com s**t together, and then we also had like, batten down the hatches, he's coming," Bush said. When asked why she did not quit the show, Bush said, "Why am I supposed to suffer and kill my own career because somebody else can't keep their d**k in their pants?... It's not fair to make everybody suffer because one person can't rein their entitlement in. (PTI)