



Netflix announces 'Bright' sequel

LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 /- Will Smith, Joel Edgerton and director David Ayer are expected to return for the sequel of "Bright". The movie, which also featured Noomi Rapace, premiered on December 22 last year but was panned by the critics. It is, however, the highest viewed film ever on the service in its first week of release and one of the biggest originals they have ever launched, according to Netflix.

The streaming giant released a teaser with a video of orcs auditioning for the sequel. "Announcement: Orc auditions for the 'Bright' sequel are now closed. Thank you. Have a nice day," Netflix tweeted. Ayer was in India last month to promote the film with the star cast and expressed a desire to explore the "Bright" universe further. "I think it is a big enough world and there is a lot to explore. Let us see how the movie does and if the audience wants more," he had told PTI in an interview.

Film's producer Eric Newman had also confirmed plans for a sequel. "Hopefully, we get to make more 'Brights' and if we can do that and do a scene here in Mumbai, that would be great," Newman, who is also one of the producers on "Narcos", had told PTI. Writer Max Landis, however, is not returning for the sequel, reports Variety. "Bright" revolves around a human LAPD officer and his Orc companion as they patrol the streets. They battle their prejudice and mistrust to protect a relic, which in the wrong hands, could destroy the world. (PTI)

'Captive breeding of Tibetan Antelope will not be helpful'

NEW DELHI, JAN 7 /- Captive breeding of the Tibetan Antelope - hunted for their underfur - will neither serve the purpose of conservation nor provide raw material for weavers as they have to be killed to collect wool for making shahtoosh shawls, the Environment ministry has told a parliamentary panel. The ministry's assertion came after the panel recommended that Tibetan Antelope or chiru goats should be conserved and bred and vast tract of land should be utilised for it to provide sustainable livelihood for people of Jammu and Kashmir, which has been a "conflict region for long". The ministry noted that China failed to keep Chiru in captivity due to its poor survival rates after the department related parliamentary standing committee on science and technology, environment and forest mentioned that China and Mongolia were breeding the antelope. The animal has long been hunted for their underfur shahtoosh, which is renowned for its quality and has traditionally been woven into an extremely fine fabric used to make shawls.

However, it takes 3-5 hides to

make a single shawl, and the wool cannot be sheared or combed, so the fur of the animals have to be killed. "Captive rearing of Chiru or Tibetan antelope will neither serve the purpose of conservation nor provide raw material for weavers as these animals cannot be bred in captivity and animals have to be killed to collect their wool to make the shawls," the Ministry said in its action taken report to the panel chaired by Congress leader Anand Sharma. Trade in shahtoosh shawl is banned. The Ministry said Chiru is assessed as 'Near Threatened' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN 2017), because the current status can only be maintained with continued high levels of protection in its natural range and strict controls on trade and manufacture of the shawls made from its underfur. Any relaxation in the protection regime is predicted to result in rapid population decline due to commercial poaching.

The Ministry said there have been representations from weavers and traders in J&K for the removal of ban on trade in shahtoosh through amendments in

the Wildlife Acts of India, J&K State, China, and the CITES in order to benefit Shahtoosh weaving industry in Kashmir. Chiru inhabits high altitude Tibetan Plateau and requires large expanse of land for its movement and ranging patterns to fulfill its feeding and breeding requirements and therefore rearing in captivity is extremely difficult, it said. "The quality of wool depends on the cold and harsh climatic factors operating at high altitudes (3,800 m up to 5,500 m) where this animal occurs in nature. It therefore may not serve the purpose, if it is kept in captivity below this altitude. As per unconfirmed reports, the Chinese failed to keep Chiru in captivity due to its poor survival rates."

"Any attempt to do conservation breeding of chiru at very high altitude regions of Ladakh (-3000m) may neither be economical nor feasible as humans cannot be posted there continuously for more than 2-3 months to manage the resources due to high rate of casualties," the ministry said. Prior to the assessment of the technical feasibility and economic viability

of captive rearing or farming of Chiru" by the Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the issues dealing with the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 will have to be examined first as Chiru is listed under Schedule I. The panel in one of its reports earlier had recommended that the ministry should conserve and breed the chiru goat and vast tract of land should be utilized for conserving them. "These goats can then be given to shawl makers for collecting hair. This would not only increase the number of these goats but would also add to the sustainable livelihood opportunities of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are a lot dependent on the handicraft of embroidered shawls," the committee had earlier said. The committee had said it understands that China and Mongolia are breeding chiru goats and shawls. "The Committee feels that livelihood opportunities are very low for the people of Jammu and Kashmir because of the extreme climatic conditions there and shawl-making contributes a lot towards sustainable livelihoods of these people," it had said. (PTI)

CREATIVE WORLD

Not a huge fan of superhero films, says Christian Bale



LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 /- Actor Christian Bale, who played Batman in the famous Christopher Nolan series, has said that he is not a fan of the superhero genre. The 43-year-old actor starred as the iconic caped crusader in Nolan's "Batman Begins", "The Dark Knight" and "The Dark Knight Rises". During an interview on MTV's "Happy Sad Confused" podcast, Bale said he has not seen the performance of Ben Affleck as Batman but will certainly see it at some point. "I have not seen (Ben Affleck's Batman). Yes I'm interested (in seeing it), my son seemed like he was really interested but then I realised he just wanted to see the trailer. I tend to go see films that (my kids) want to see," Bale said.

"I have to confess I'm not a huge superhero film fan. People seem surprised at that. I don't know why. I've not seen any of the 'Avengers' films or any of those films at all. I hear they're very good, but I'm quite happy just hearing they're very good," he added. Bale also confirmed the reports that he was approached for a role in "Solo: A Star Wars Story" that ultimately went to Woody Harrelson.

"Yes, (it was) very tempting. I not only love the films going back to my childhood but also have a very long relationship with Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall because they did 'Empire of the Sun' many years back. There was discussion, (and) I hope there will be future discussions," Bale said. (PTI)

Michelle Williams is a many layered artiste: Ridley Scott



LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 /- Director Ridley Scott has praised Michelle Williams, calling her "a many layered artiste" who takes her job seriously. The 80-year-old director, who is collaborating with the actor in his film "All The Money In The World", said she added a "certain physicality" to the character of Gail Harris. "Michelle is a rare bird, a many layered artiste who takes it very seriously. The material we focused on Gail was limited. 'Press would raid her car, her doorways, get her on camera when she would have to address the press. You do see a certain Money In The World' is physicality in her which Michelle incorporated,"

Scott said in a statement. Williams plays the mother of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III who gets kidnapped in the 1973-set film, which traces how his grandfather, J Paul Getty, negotiates the ransom with the perpetrators. Christopher Plummer, who replaced Kevin Spacey as J Paul Getty after sexual allegations levelled against the actor, said he is a "huge fan" of Williams. "She's a marvellous young actress with great versatility. It was fantastic to work with her, even for such a brief time," he said. "All The Money In The World" is set to be released tomorrow. (PTI)

Britney Spears' ex Calabasas house sold for \$8.1m

LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 /- Singer Britney Spears' former mansion in Calabasas, California, which was purchased for USD 8.1 million last year, was one of the most expensive houses to be sold in the area. The house has a 10,000 square feet of living space, a two-storey library and a glass-bottom swimming pool, according to LA Times.

The master suite boasts a boutique-inspired dressing room, and a dry sauna for a total of six bedrooms and seven bathrooms. Spears never owned the property and had instead leased it from producer David Broome, who purchased the estate in 2013 for about USD 5.4 million. Isadora and Tomer Fridman - who also work with several of the Calabasas-based Kardashian-Jenner family members - co-listed the property with several other agents of Compass and Hilton and Hyland. (PTI)

Being known as Salman's brother has more pros than cons: Arbaaz

MUMBAI, JAN 7 /- He is born to veteran screenwriter Salim Khan and has superstar Salman Khan as his big brother, but Arbaaz says the stardom of his kin has not overshadowed his career. The 50-year-old actor-director said getting recognised as Salman's brother does not bother him and it only acts as an advantage. "I don't think (it has bothered me) ever. There are only advantages of being Salim Khan's son, Salman Khan's brother and coming from a known family," Arbaaz told PTI.

The actor said the fact that "I could never make it to the level that I should have because I was under pressure or under the shadow of my father or brother, I think those are just excuses." Arbaaz said he is aware that there is a certain baggage of expectations within a person and that has happened to me because of my family as an advantage. "There is a pressure. People look at you differently. But you've got to move on. Look at all that has happened to me because of my family as an advantage



rather than disadvantage. It has more pros than cons." After an

acting career of more than a decade, Arbaaz ventured into film production between 2009 and 2014. He took a sabbatical from acting as he produced films like "Dabangg", "Dabangg 2" - which he also directed - and "Dolly Ki Doli". He, however, said acting is something he enjoys the most. "For me, acting is something I am passionate about. I am someone who wants to be known for who I am. If I wanted to just make money, I would've chosen some other profession. I know there are insecurities in

being an actor. There are certain compromises you need to make, but they are all worth it. The perks of being recognised as something else," he said. Arbaaz is currently awaiting the release of his next "Nirdosh", in which he plays a cop investigating a murder. The three-part director by Pradeep Rangwani and Subroto Paul, also features Manjari Fadnis, Ashmit Patel, Maheek Chahal and Mukul Dev. "Nirdosh" is scheduled to be released on January 19. (PTI)

'Big Bang Theory' cast 'comfortable' with show ending



LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 /- Actor Johnny Galecki says "The Big Bang Theory" cast are "very comfortable" with the show ending after season 12. With spin-off "Young Sheldon" becoming a huge hit and already renewed for a second season, there has been a lot of speculations that its parent show could well be winding down. "The only manner in which the cast has discussed wrapping (The Big Bang Theory) has been that we're going to be very sad when that day comes. But I think at this point everyone's very comfortable with 12 seasons being a good time to go home and see our families," Galecki, 42, said according to TVLine. The actor was speaking during an appearance at the Television Critics Association winter press tour in Pasadena, California. The show, which is currently in the middle of its 11th season, also stars Jim Parsons, Kaley Cuoco and Mayim Bialik. (PTI)

New collection of Ismat Chughtai stories in English

NEW DELHI, JAN 7 /- A new selection of stories from Ismat Chughtai's formidable body of work, takes a closer look at community dynamics through her personal and social bifocals. "Quit India & Other Stories", translated from Urdu by Tahira Naqi comprises humorous, heartfelt and real tales that reflect Chughtai's insights into the loves and lives, as well as the shared histories and experiences of Hindus and Muslims in India. Besides stories like "Infidel" ("Kafir"), "My Child" ("Mera Baccha"),

"Roots" ("Jarein"), "Quit India" ("Hindustan Chhod Do"), "Fragile Threads" ("Kacchra Dhaage") and "Roshan", the collection, brought out by Women Unlimited, also has Chughtai's famous play "Green Bangles" ("Dhaani Baankein") on communal tension. "Today is Gandhi Jayanti. Such hustle and bustle in the city. On the roads, cars decorated with flowers and flags are moving slowly. Transporting brand-new millionaires. Dressed in snowy white khaddar, the ivory-black puppets create a black and white dappled concoction that is a real eyesore. And sitting beside them, their unsoiled and disorderly children only heighten

the effect. "Chughtai writes in "Fragile Threads", "Wealth has overtaken them with no fuss at all. It looks like what they are wearing are not clothes at all; rather that someone has stuffed their cars with many unwieldy bales of cloth, and all the trappings, the powder and make-up, have jumped off dressing tables and landed on them..." she goes on to write. In the story "Quit India", Chughtai tells about the 1942 movement at its height. "Travel from Grant Road to Dadar provided a brief but vivid example of the country's restlessness. At the corner of Lamington Road, a huge bonfire had been thrown into which men and hats were being thrown, and when someone wanted to

be an actor.