



## CREATIVE WORLD

### 'Loveratri' not demeaning any culture: Salman



PANAJI, SEP 6 /-/- Superstar Salman Khan has said his upcoming home production "Loveratri" does not disrespect or demean any culture. Some right wing organisations had objected to the film's title, which they allege distorts the name of a Hindu festival. The film marks the debut of Salman's brother-in-law Ayush Sharma and Warina Hussain and is set against the backdrop of Navaratri. "Some people, I don't know who they are, have some problem with title of the film. It is a beautiful title. There is nothing more beautiful than love, so it is called Loveratri". It is not demeaning any culture. Our prime minister is from that culture. So, when you play a character, like I played a sardar in a film or I played a Haryanvi in 'Sultan'. I do it with a lot of respect. "We are making the film with Navaratri in the backdrop. We have made this beautiful film celebrating the music, colour, love and the fun of festive season. We don't need any publicity like that. Once the film is released these people will know there is nothing," Salman said in an interview on the sidelines of Bigg Boss launch here.

The 52-year-old actor said he is sure the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) will pass the film with a 'U' certificate. "The censor board is the right body to decide. I am sure it will get an 'U' certificate. And if the censor board has given the certificate then I don't think anybody has the right to say anything." "Loveratri" is helmed by debutant director Abhiram Minawala, who has served as assistant director on films such as "Sultan" and "Fan". The film is set to be released on October 5. (PTI)

### Surreal to be working with Akshay, Kareena in 'Good News': Kiara Advani

MUMBAI, SEP 6 /-/- Kiara Advani is feeling "butterflies" in her stomach with the thought of working with the likes of Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Diljeet Dosanjh in her next "Good News", but at the same time she says she is already started prep work to match up to these seasoned actors. Kiara will team up with the three actors in Karan Johar's production "Good News" which will be directed by Raj Mehta and will reportedly be about surrogacy. She says it is surreal that she will work with Akshay, who launched her in Bollywood with "Fugly" and Kareena, who she considers a "diva". "There are butterflies in my stomach when I think of working with them. Akshay sir launched me and now to work with him in a film is surreal. I look upto Kareena. I think she is a total diva and one of the most iconic stars of today. I would learn so much by working with them and Diljeet," Kiara told PTI.



"I play a Punjabi character and then we have these three inherently Punjabi people. I have started prep work so I can match up to them. All of them are so spontaneous artists and it's a mad comedy. There will be a lot of improvisation which is going to happen on set so as an actor it is going to be an amazing ride," she adds. Kiara was speaking on the sidelines of an event to promote the first edition of Skechers Performance Walkathon. The actor rose to fame earlier this year when she featured in Karan Johar's short in "Lust Stories" for Netflix. Kiara, who appealed to people to walk to stay fit at the event, said she's currently in the best phase, both personal and professional. "I am in a very happy place. I'm enjoying life. But I want to work really hard and make all these people who have put faith in me really proud. Not just in Hindi cinema in terms of producers, directors and fans, but also Telugu industry where my film became a huge hit. It's so encouraging, humbling. You feel really responsible to live up to these expectations. I am hoping I work my hardest and leave no stone unturned," she added. (PTI)

## Bob Woodward's book a work of fiction: Trump

WASHINGTON, SEP 6 /-/- US President Donald Trump has described famed investigative journalist Bob Woodward's forthcoming book, which has some damaging revelations about his presidency, as a work of fiction. Titled "Fear: Trump in the White House", the 448-page book is scheduled to hit stores on September 11 and claims to give an insider's account on the White House working and decision-making process in Trump's presidency. "The book is a work of fiction. If you look back at Woodward's past, he had the same problem with other presidents. He likes to get publicity. He sells some books.?" Trump said in a joint media appearance with the Amir of Kuwait inside the Oval Office on Wednesday. The Washington Post on Tuesday had published a report along with some excerpts from the book, which the White House had said was "nothing more than fabricated stories" to make Trump look "bad".

In the book, based on hundreds of interviews, Woodward, an associate editor with the daily, has quoted senior administration officials, including Defence Secretary Jim Mattis, speaking against the president. Trump and the White House insisted that the book does not reflect the working of the administration. "We have done more as an administration than any other administration in already less than two years. It's incredible. We will soon be approaching two years," Trump said. "The book is a work of fiction. It's really, if you look at it, it was put out to interfere, in my opinion, at this time, with the Kavanaugh hearings, which I don't think it's done, because so many people have come out against it. So many who have been written about said I never said that. Rudy Giuliani (Trump's lead personal defense attorney) is another one. He is very insular by the book and what was stated in the book," the president said.

Trump said he runs a strong White House and "there's no question about it" as "we are doing things that nobody else has ever been spent on the military." The next year, USD 716 billion. We will actually be far stronger than we have ever been. That's what we need it to be," he said. Trump also denied a report in the

White House that he ever suggested the assassination of Syrian autocrat Bashar al-Assad. "Not at all. No, the book is fiction. I heard somewhere where they said the assassination of President Assad by the United States. Never even discussed," he said. "The book is total fiction, just like he wrote in the past about other presidents. You look at what he said about President Bush, what he said about President (Barak) Obama. Big, scandalous thing. It lasts for about a day," he said. "That was never even contemplated, nor would it be fiction," Trump said. And it (PTI)



Britain's Prince William watches as a UK Border Force shows off various items found recently, including snake skin, ivory and plans during a visit to the Royal Mail international distribution centre near Heathrow airport in Slough.—REUTERS

### Bollywood movies which touched upon homosexuality as a subject

NEW DELHI, SEPT 6 /-/- In a landmark judgement the Supreme Court on Thursday decriminalised part of the 158-year-old colonial law under Section 377 of the IPC which criminalises consensual unnatural sex. Cinema is a medium has time and again touched upon the subject of homosexuality be it in the West or Hindi film industry. Today as the country hails this historic judgement, let's take a look at some of the Bollywood movies which dealt with homosexuality as a subject. Fire: This 1996 Indo-Canadian film starring veteran actress Shabana Azmi and Nandita Sen had created a flutter back in those days. Directed by Deepa Mehta, the movie was loosely based on Ismat Chughtai's 1942 story, 'Lihaaf' (The Quilt). Amid protests, 'Fire' released in India in 1998. Aligarh: This 2016 biopic starring classic actor Manoj Bajpayee in the titular role of a professor received a positive response from the audiences. It was directed by Hansal Mehta and written by Apurva Asrani. Margarita With A Straw: Kalki Kocholin's path-breaking act in Shonali Bose's directorial venture presented her in a role of a girl suffering from cerebral palsy. The 2014 drama shows how Kalki has a complex relationship with a blind girl played by Sayani Gupta. The film got a thunderous response from the viewers. I Am: Onir's 2011 drama presented four stories namely—Omear, Afia, Abhimanyu, and Megha. Each film shares the common theme of fear, and each film is based on real-life stories. One of the themes happened to be on gay rights. Kapoor & Sons: Karan Johar's Dharma Productions' much-loved venture 'Kapoor & Sons' had touched upon homosexuality where one of the sons played by Pakistani actor Fawad Khan was gay. It was directed by Shashank Batra. The film was written by Shashank Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon. Bombay Talkies: This 2013 venture consisted of four short films which were helmed by directors like Anurag Kashyap, Dibakar Banerjee, Zoya Akhtar and Karan Johar. The one directed by KJo was titled 'Ajeeb Dastaan Hai Yeh' and presented the story where Randeep Hooda and Saqib Saleem played lovers. It showed that despite getting married to someone of the opposite sex, their feelings remained undeterred. There are many other cinematic gems which presented the subject of homosexuality and the hardships people face in day-to-day life. According to PTI, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Mishra termed the part of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalises unnatural sex as irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary. The bench, which also comprised Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, struck down Section 377 as being violative of right to equality. The top court, in four separate but concurring judgements, set aside its own verdict in the Suresh Kaushal case. (PTI)

### Rebecca Ferguson in talks for 'Dune' reboot

LOS ANGELES, SEP 6 /-/- "Mission: Impossible - Fallout" actor Rebecca Ferguson is in negotiations to star opposite Timothee Chalamet in filmmaker Denis Villeneuve's next directorial venture "Dune". Villeneuve, best known for helming "Arrival" and "Blade Runner 2049", is directing from a script by Eric Roth and the filmmaker will also produce the project alongside Mary Parent and Cale Boyter. The film follows Paul Atreides, whose family assumes control of the desert planet Arrakis, also known as Dune. As the only producer of a highly valuable resource, jurisdiction over Arrakis is contested among competing noble families. After Paul and his family are betrayed, the story explores themes of politics, religion, and man's relationship to nature, as well as a rebellion to restore his family's reign. If finalised, Ferguson, 34, will play Lady Jessica, the mother of Chalamet's Paul Atreides, a royal. Deadline. David Lynch previously adapted Frank Herbert's novel in 1984 with Kyle MacLachlan portraying Paul Atreides. Legendary closed a deal with the Frank Herbert estate in 2016 for his iconic novel, granting the studio rights to not only films, but also TV projects on the sci-fi property Brian Herbert, Byron Merritt, Thomas Tull and Kim Herbert serving as executive producers on the projects. Ferguson will also be seen in "Doctor Sleep" alongside Ewan McGregor, and "Men in Black" reboot. (PTI)

### Chandan Roy Sanyal plans to direct films

MUMBAI, SEP 6 /-/- Chandan Roy Sanyal is planning to turn director and make films himself as he believes he has not worked to his full potential as an actor. Chandan, who has been playing supporting roles in films like "Rang De Basanti", "Kaminey", "D Day", "Jab Harry Met Sejal" and "Chhe", among others, intends to write exciting parts for himself as that would give him the opportunity to show his talent. "There is dearth of good roles. I am not feeling satisfied, kicked out with the offers, so I started writing my own parts and want to make films. It's been eight years (I am acting). I feel I am still not warmed up as an actor. I have not done great work. I want to make my life more difficult as an artiste...so I have started making my own films," Chandan told PTI. Chandan has already made a short film and has finished writing a few stories. "I am saving money to make films. Previously I used to spend money on making plays but hardly people watch plays today so I started writing for films," he says. The actor, who considers Vijay Anand and Guru Dutt as his idols, is currently working on a black comedy and a love story, that he hopes would go on floors next year. "One is a black comedy, it is about a son trying to kill his father for money and how everything goes crazy in the film. Other is a nostalgic love story. It is like musical. It is a romantic film and has European touch to it. I am excited to tell these stories." He will be seen next in Nandita Das-directed "Manto". (PTI)

### Being Imtiaz Ali's brother is both a gift and a liability: Sajid Ali

NEW DELHI, SEPT 6 /-/- If there is one character from Imtiaz Ali's films his brother Sajid Ali identifies with it would be an Abhay Deol's role in Socha Naa Tha. Viren in Imtiaz's debut film was confused about love, and his career choices. Sajid, who has followed elder brother Imtiaz into the movies and makes his directorial debut with Laila Majnu, said filmmaking was something he literally fell into. "Filmmaking was never a plan. I was confused just like Abhay's character in 'Socha Naa Tha'. I thought I should do an MBA but I was bad in math. Then I thought I'll do journalism. There was a lot of confusion. I decided to take up English literature in my college. Then, Imtiaz guided me to this one year course in filmmaking," Sajid told PTI in an interview. "While studying, I started liking the process of screen writing and while doing that I found my voice. I realised this is what I enjoyed doing," he said. Having a famous director as a brother can be tough for someone starting out and Sajid is aware of the baggage as well as its benefits. "I knew the world was entering. It is a gift and also a liability. The liability - I would be judged and compared. He (Imtiaz) is legendary in a few things like relationships etc whereas I lack the depth. But I also know I will have his support. "I never thought I'll be a doing a love story. The only reason I agreed was because I knew I had the support and I could bounce things off him and learn from him in the process and become more qualified," he said. Taking a familiar, oft-told tale such as Laila Majnu and placing it in a modern context on the big screen has its own challenges, including facing criticism from people who want these stories to be left alone. Sajid understands the argument as he considers himself one of those who don't like someone messing with something that is grand. This, he said, put a lot of pressure on him because he was judging himself every step of the way. "I'm very judgemental and myself you should not touch something that does not belong to you. I have tried with full 'shiddat' (intensity) not to touch it in the wrong way. I have tried to be faithful to the original story." Sajid said he has given three years of his life to Laila Majnu, which releases this Friday and stars newcomers Avinash Tiwary and Tripti Dimri. Imtiaz has co-written and co-produced the film with Balaji Motion Pictures. As the film inches closer to release, a certain emptiness has set in, he said. There is also the thought that he has to do something again. But before that, he wants to catch up on lost sleep. (PTI)

### Charlie Day to star in and direct 'El Tonto'

LOS ANGELES, SEP 6 /-/- Charlie Day is all set to make his directorial debut with the film "El Tonto". The 42-year-old actor, who is gearing up for the season thirteen of the show "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia", has penned the script and will also be starring in the comedy. According to Variety, the film follows an idiot deaf mute who becomes a celebrity and then loses it all. Armory Films and Mowbray Pictures have come on board as producers and financiers of the film, which will begin shooting in Los Angeles next month. (PTI)