



# CREATIVE WORLD

## I treat my gangster characters as humans, says Nawazuddin



MUMBAI, JULY 4 /-/- "Satya" is considered a milestone in contemporary Indian cinema and two decades after delivering the acclaimed film, director Ram Gopal Varma credits the success of the project to chance. The process started with an aim to make an action film — Varma had already made 'Shiva' — but not a movie on the underworld. "Everything in 'Satya' was by chance. It was a film which just started evolving by itself. I just went mostly by instinct and kept on improvising on location and the film just got made itself. The only thing I was sure of was the characters in the film because most of them were based on real people who I interacted with during my research," Varma told PTI. The filmmaker had done extensive research on gangsters and the underworld, and passed on the baton to first-time writers - Saurabh Shukla and Anurag Kashyap for the screenplay.

MUMBAI, JULY 4 /-/- Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui says the reason for him being convincing in gangster roles is that he looks at the characters through a human lens. Siddiqui shot to fame with his portrayal of local goon Faizal Khan in Anurag Kashyap's "Gangs of Wasseypur". The actor says he has played a gangster four times in his career -- in "Munna Michael", "Babumoshai Bandoobaz", among others -- and has never treated the roles similarly. "I have never done a gangster role thinking of it as one. I think it is the role of a man and that's it. He could be bad or good. Sometimes the flawed personality of a person is highlighted more. I have never treated my characters as gangsters. I look at them as humans," Siddiqui told PTI. The 44-year-old actor will be seen again as a criminal overlord in "Sacred Games", a Netflix Original web series. "This role is different because others didn't have as much depth as this one. Faizal Khan (from 'Gangs of...') of course had depth, you know certain aspects about him after watching the film but here, you go deep into his psyche. We have tried to do that, to take you along his journey," the actor says. Set in modern day Mumbai, the series revolves around Sartaj Singh, a seasoned and cynical police officer, played by Saif Ali Khan, who is summoned by an anonymous tip that promises him an opportunity to capture the powerful criminal overlord Ganesh Gaitonde, enacted by Siddiqui.

As the stakes mount, Sartaj and Gaitonde realise that they are part of a much larger scenario, which expands beyond the city. "Sacred Games" has been directed by Anurag Kashyap, who helms portions of Siddiqui, and Vikramaditya Motwane has shot with Khan. For Siddiqui, teaming up again with Kashyap was one of the reasons to come on board the project, apart from the opportunity that a web series gives an actor. "A web series give you a long time to explore a character, unlike in films where you have only two hours. Even if you look at the three principle characters, they are very detailed because one has time. As an actor you can dive deep in such a scenario. "My vision was to explore this, see where it goes. I had seen a couple of Netflix shows so I knew what to expect. This one was right up to that standard. I had no reason to say no," he says. The series, based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Vikram Chandra, will be available to Netflix subscribers in all territories from July 6. (PTI)

# Everything happened by chance: Ram Gopal on 20 years of 'Satya'

MUMBAI, JULY 4 /-/- "Satya" is considered a milestone in contemporary Indian cinema and two decades after delivering the acclaimed film, director Ram Gopal Varma credits the success of the project to chance. The process started with an aim to make an action film — Varma had already made 'Shiva' — but not a movie on the underworld. "Everything in 'Satya' was by chance. It was a film which just started evolving by itself. I just went mostly by instinct and kept on improvising on location and the film just got made itself. The only thing I was sure of was the characters in the film because most of them were based on real people who I interacted with during my research," Varma told PTI. The filmmaker had done extensive research on gangsters and the underworld, and passed on the baton to first-time writers - Saurabh Shukla and Anurag Kashyap for the screenplay.

Varma had even approached N. T. Vignani to pen the dialogues, but things did not materialise. Satya (J D Chakravarty), Bhiku Mhatre (Manoj Bajpayee) and Kallu Mama (Shukla) the misunderstood bad guys, who were loved by the masses then and still reign in the minds of people. "I saw Manoj in a small role in Shekar Kapur's 'Bandit Queen' and was very impressed. I had initially offered Manoj the title role but was later convinced that he was to play right Bhiku and we got J D for the lead part. And for Kallu Mama's part we wanted Saurabh," Varma says. When the film was in its early stage, the director reveals he wanted to cast Mahima Chaudhary as the leading lady but it was his "Rangela" actor Urmila Matondkar who went on to play Vidya. In a film, which explored the underbelly of the

world of crime, Varma initially had thought about not having songs, but changed his mind later. The soundtrack of "Satya" was composed by Vishal Bhardwaj, with lyrics by Gulzar - songs like Kallu Mama became a huge hit instantly, besides 'Sapne mein' and 'Tu mere paa bhi hai'. "The original plan was not to have songs but later I felt situational songs might work. I wanted a fun song to make the gangsters look human and Vishal came up with this music," Varma adds. Interestingly, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), then retained the strong language and violence, endemic to the film. "Satya" had received an 'A' certificate, with no objections from the board. Varma says, "I think the CBFC certification depends a lot on that particular group who saw the film at that time. A different group could have had a different take." The approval and

admiration for the film came not only from the audience and critics but also in the form of awards, including the Best Supporting Actor National Award for Bajpayee. Ask how life changed for him after "Satya", Varma says, "Nothing really... Everything becomes a memory after some time." Post the 1998 superhit film, Varma made several films but only a handful of them like "Company", "Bhoot" and "Sarkar" managed to strike a chord with the audience. "I have always put the same effort in all my films irrespective of their outcome. I strongly believe that great films happen by themselves one can't plan and make them (happen), if that (planning) can be done everyone will be making great films all the time."

Varma also took to Facebook to recall the cinematic journey of "Satya". In a lengthy post, the filmmaker revealed how he

stumbled upon the subject idea of making a film on Mumbai's underworld. "Then one day I was sitting in a producer's office and he got this call that a prominent person was shot dead by some gang... People have this habit of recounting each and every moment what happened before someone met with a violent unexpected death... I was trying to intercept the moments of the man who died with the man who killed. Then it suddenly struck me that we always hear about these gangsters only when they either kill or when they die. But what do they do in between? That was the first thought of mine which eventually resulted in 'Satya'," he wrote. Varma concluded "great films happen and no one can make them on intention". "The proof of that is none of us, whether it's Anurag or Manoj or me, could reach beyond Satya in the last twenty years. (PTI)

## The presidency would kill me, says Oprah Winfrey

NEW YORK, JULY 4 /-/- Media mogul Oprah Winfrey has again shot down the prospects of her running for the post of president of the United States, saying the task would "kill" her.

The 64-year-old popular talk show host's pushing Golden Globe speech early this year had set social media abuzz with speculation that she might enter politics with many celebrities already looking at her as a possible presidential candidate in 2020. In an interview with Vogue magazine, Winfrey reiterated her stance on politics.

"In that political structure - all the non-truths, the bullsh\*t, the crap, the nastiness, the backhanded backroom stuff that goes on - I feel like I could not exist. I would not be able to do it. It's not a clean business. It would kill me," she said. Golden Globes host Seth Meyers too rooted for Winfrey's electoral debut in his opening monologue this year. But she has time and again said that she is not considering running for the office. (PTI)



Chandan Roy is a one-man wonder of Khardah. He amazingly gets lots of time to think about and help others without expecting any return for his good deeds. He is one of the most respected social activists in Khardah area. He organizes regular social welfare programs, including Dengue Awareness Rally, Free health check-up camps, distribution of blankets during winter, blood donation programs, water distribution camps, dissemination of AIDS and other medical kits and wheel-chairs to the physically challenged people. Chandan Roy is also drawing up a plan to do a mega-level fair, in association with 'Hello Kolkata' at Khardah, wherein the focus will be 'Auctions for Charity' to help physically & mentally challenged children -EOI Photo

## Sonali Bendre diagnosed with cancer

MUMBAI, JULY 4 /-/- Bollywood actor Sonali Bendre Behl today revealed that she has been diagnosed with a "high grade cancer" and is currently undergoing treatment in New York.

In an emotional statement, the actor said the cancer metastasised which "we frankly did not see coming."

"A niggling pain led to some tests, which led to this unexpected diagnosis. My family and close friends have rallied around me, providing the best support system that anyone can ask for. I am very blessed and thankful for each of them," she said in a statement.

Sonali, 43, said she taking this battle head on, "knowing I have the strength of my family and friends around me. There is no better way to tackle this, than to take swift and immediate action... We remain optimistic and I am determined to fight every step of the way. "What has helped has been the immense outpouring of love and support I've received over the past few days, for which I am very grateful."

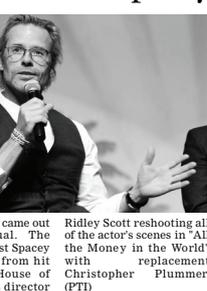
Bendre, best known for her role in '90s movies such as "Sarfaroosh", "Diljale" and "Duplicate", is married to filmmaker Goldie Behl. The couple has a 13-year-old son Ranveer. (PTI)

## Guy Pearce recalls working with Kevin Spacey

MELBOURNE, JULY 4 /-/- Actor Guy Pearce has hinted that his "LA Confidential" co-star Kevin Spacey misbehaved with him on the film's set, calling him a "handy guy".

In an interview with Australian talk show host Andrew Denton, Pearce, 50, said that he had a "slightly difficult" time working with Spacey on the Curtis Hanson-directed 1997 neo-noir crime drama. "Tough one to talk about at the moment," Pearce said after Denton asked him about sharing screen space with Spacey, who was recently accused of sexual misconduct by several

actors. "Amazing actor. Incredible actor. Mmm, slightly difficult time with Kevin, yeah. He's a handy guy," he added. In October last year, actor Anthony Rapp had accused Spacey of sexual assault in an interview with BuzzFeed and said that the incident happened at a party in 1996, during which the "American Beauty" star made sexual advances toward the then 14-year-old Rapp. In response to Rapp's accusations, Spacey issued a statement claiming he did not recall the incident, but apologized for what he said would have been "deeply inappropriate drunken behavior."



Ridley Scott reshooting all of the actor's scenes in "All the Money in the World" with replacement Christopher Plummer. Cards" as well as director (PTI)

## JK Rowling calls out Trump over typos

LONDON, JULY 4 /-/- Author JK Rowling took potshots at US President Donald Trump for making a grammatical error in a tweet while boasting about his writing ability. Trump in a tweet, hailed himself as "best selling" author. "After having written many best selling books, and somewhat priding myself on my ability to write, it should be noted that the Fake News constantly likes to pour over my tweets looking for a mistake. I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized! (sic)" Trump had tweeted. Rowling, author of the wildly popular Harry Potter series, pointed out that Trump should have written "pore over" rather than "pour over". After posting multiple tweets reading "hahaha" in repetition, Rowling called out Trump's error, and gave him an appropriately misspelled title.

"Seriously, @realDonaldTrump is the Greatest Writer on earth," the author tweeted. "Pore over, and 'pore over' are homophones, meaning that they sound the same but have different meanings. Trump soon deleted his original tweet and posted a corrected version. Dictionary Merriam-Webster's Twitter account also pointed out the error in a tweet calling out Trump's grammar. Hollywood writer James Gunn and TV host Jimmy Kimmel



also called out the president. Rowling has often criticised Trump on Twitter and in the past, once writing "Voldemort was nowhere near as bad" when a publication compared Trump to the Dark Lord. Voldemort, also known as He Who Must Not Be Named, is the main villain in the Potter series. Rowling has frequently misspelled words and even inspired a worldwide meme when a tweet mentioned 'covfeve', a word whose meaning is unknown. (PTI)

# Qutub Minar's 50 year-old doors, windows to be replaced by July-end: ASI

NEW DELHI, JULY 4 /-/- Bat poop and bird droppings are spelling nightmare for the centuries-old Qutub Minar in Delhi, following which the ASI has started work on replacing its old wooden doors and windows, a senior official said today. The work will be completed by this month end. The 72.5 m-high minaret, country's tallest, is getting refurbished after 50 years, as the Sal wood-made doors and window panels have become old, and cracks in them were allowing birds and bats to enter the inner sides of this towering monument, part of UNESCO World Heritage Qutub Complex. "The ground work

begun a month ago and the replacement work is underway. The projected cost for the entire work is Rs 8 lakh and we expect to finish it by July end," Superintendent Archaeologist, ASI (Delhi Circle), N K Pathak, told PTI.

The iconic stone-made tower, endowed with rich inscriptions has four round ornate balconies at different levels, with opening at each level. It has a diameter of 14.32 m at the base and 2.75 m at the top. It is faced with red and buff sandstones on three storeys and marble on the rest, according to a publication by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). "These old wooden doors

had developed cracks allowing bats and birds, especially pigeons to wander in. The droppings from these winged creatures became quite an issue. Superintending Archaeologist, ASI (Delhi Circle), N K Pathak, said, "It was decided to replace them," Pathak said. He said, the doors, window and ventilators number about 37, with one main door at the base, followed by four at each level. "The new door and window panels have Sal wood frames and metal net (meshwork) in the middle to allow circulation of air," he added. Though entry to inside of the minaret is restricted, the bird excreta reacting with the stones

could have led to serious damage, Pathak said. Founder of the Delhi Sultanate Qutub-ud-din-Aibak started the construction of the Qutub Minar's first storey around 1192.

In 1220, Aibak's successor and son-in-law Iltutmish completed the rest of the storeys. "A lightning strike had destroyed the top storey a few centuries ago. Firoz Shah Tughlaq replaced the damaged storey, and added one more level in it," Pathak said. Qutub Minar is one of the most visited and most-photographed monuments in India and has been featured in several films and documentaries. (PTI)