



CREATIVE WORLD

Rakeysh Mehra's next film on backdrop of Swachh Bharat

GUWAHATI, JAN 31 /- Swachh Bharat seems to have caught the imagination of Bollywood with Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra making a film titled 'Mere Pyare Pradhan Mantri' which has as its backdrop the Modi government's sanitation initiative. "The film is about an eight-year-old boy, Kanhaiya, who desires to make a toilet for his mother," Mehra said at the just concluded Brahmaputra Literary Festival here. The film was inspired following a visit to Gandhigram and the profits from it will go in the making of more toilets, said the filmmaker, who was here to promote his book 'Rang de Basanti: The Shooting Script'. "The film will be made with grass root crowd funding from NGOs or as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)," the director of films like 'Rang de Basanti', 'Delhi 6', 'Mirzya' and 'Bhag Milkha Bhag' said. "I tell the story of the land I come from and which I understand thoroughly like about Milkha Singh, Bhagat Singh, Mirza etc but now that I have lived in Mumbai for some years and did research for the last three years on this script that I have dared to go ahead and make the film," Mehra said. He urged youngsters of the North-East to tell their own stories to the world.

Tabu joins cast of 'Golmaal Again'



MUMBAI, JAN 31 /- Actress Tabu is the newest addition to the cast of Rohit Shetty's upcoming installment of hit comedy franchise 'Golmaal'. Titled 'Golmaal Again', the film stars Ajay Devgn, Parineeti Chopra, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Kunal Khemu and Shreyas Talpade. Tabu, who is known for her remarkable performances in films like 'Maqbool', 'Chandni Bar' and 'Haider', last year said she wants to do a comedy film. "I am doing a certain kind of cinema that does not mean I hate the other kind. People will talk about what is working and they get stuck with that. Personally, as an artist I never do any discrimination. If I am offered a 'Golmaal 4', I'll run and do it," Tabu had told PFI.

Tagore's vision can guide humanity: Spanish poet

KOLKATA, JAN 31 /- Noted Spanish Poet Francisco Muro Soler said on Monday that to come out of the vicious cycle of conflict-intolerance-and clashes, one must follow the religion of humanity.

Soler, who helped in transliteration of an anthology of Rabindranath Tagore's poems in Spanish, said the Bard's vision can guide the humanity and civilization in this hour of crisis. Gushing about his visit to Jorasanko Thakurbari of Tagore on Sunday, Soler said: "I was thrilled to visit the rooms and see the objects used by him. I also saw a video and it was a pilgrimage for me." The world known Spanish poet also visited Kumartuli, the world famous potter's hub, and was mesmerised by the sheer dexterity of artisans. "I saw Saraswati idols. It is interesting you worship the Goddess of Learning. I was also informed about Durga and Kali," he said. The Spanish poet delivered the prestigious Ashok Kumar Sarkar Memorial Lecture at the International Kolkata Book Fair, 2017, here this evening. Later, talking to PFI, he said, he felt anguished over so much aggression and combativeness among people in different corners of the world in the name of religion with a large number of deaths having taken place due to religious strife. "If we follow the religion of humanity, if we love and understand each other, we can be more closer to God..." he explained.

Asked about the Basque conflict, also known as the Spain ETA conflict, an armed and political conflict between Spain and the Basque National Liberation Movement, he smiled and said: "No conflicts among regions, we are art loving and above politics. We are all poets." Soler, who penned 'La claridad asombrosa', 'La incierta superficie', 'Prehistoria poética' (Spanish Edition) among other acclaimed titles, read some of his poems themed on journey of soul, love, increasing isolation in a global society which were translated in English by a moderator.

Immunotherapy may revolutionise cancer treatment, says expert

HYDERABAD, JAN 31 /- Immunotherapy that boosts the in-born immunity of individuals to fight cancer cells is likely to revolutionise cancer treatment in the years to come, a leading oncologist said here today.

"Now, immunotherapy is showing better results than chemotherapy. That is going to come in a very big way in the near future," Apollo Cancer Hospital director P Vijay Anand Reddy told news agency PFI. "Body immunity, can we improve on, to fight

against the cancer cells. That is called immunotherapy. Research is going on. Now, medicines have also come. They are showing better results than chemotherapy. Earlier, it was chemotherapy for cancer," Reddy said. The overall treatment cost of immunotherapy is presently high, but it will definitely come down, he stated. "Patency is there for every drug. It's going to be minimum of one year (for cost to come down) and for some companies it is going to be two years," he said and

added that the beauty of immunotherapy is that it can be used in treatment of all types of cancer, he said. Other than immunotherapy, advances have been made in radiation treatment for cancer, according to Reddy. In the words of the Apollo Cancer Hospital director, it is so precise now. Radiation used to be five-seven weeks treatment. Now we are doing entire treatment in one or two days without hurting the patient. The other advanced treatments include photons

therapy in radiation oncology and the costs of radiation treatment would also come down, he said. Reddy said about 12 lakh fresh cases of cancer were seen during 2016 in India and the number is expected to go up to 15 lakhs this year. In India, lung cancer, gastro-intestinal cancer and head and neck cancers (throat cancers) are commonly found among men. Among women, breast cancer and cervical cancer are common and they are also prone to develop head and neck cancers, Reddy said.



P Vijay Anand Reddy, director of Apollo Cancer Hospital

Style, glamour set to take centrestage at LFW

MUMBAI, JAN 31 /- With an aim to set new benchmarks in the Indian fashion industry and provide a platform to budding designers, Lakme Fashion Week Summer-Resort kicks off from Wednesday.

Currently in its 18th year, the fashion trade event, features a stellar line-up of shows, designing world heavyweights like Ritu Kumar, Tarun Tahliani, Anita Dongre and creative presentations by several young and upcoming designers. This time 50 models are set to turn their runway dream into reality by making their debut on the ramp. In a first for a fashion week in India, transgender model

from Nepal Anjali Lama and international gender neutral model Petr Nitka are set to walk the ramp for different designers during the course of five days of the event.

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son last season.

While Monisha Jaising opened the week with her cruise show last month, the extravaganza will culminate with the grand finale show to be presented by couturier Dongre, who has kept the rich heritage of India alive through her clothes. The second day of the event will be traditionally dedicated to the artisans of the country with the grand focus on sustainable fashion.

The Sustainable Man Show will feature leading designers - Rajesh Pratap Singh, Abraham and Thakore and Aneth Arora. This time there is a special focus on the 'Art of the Maker' Stage One will this

season has been renamed as 'Studio' and emerging designers such as Naushad Ali, Jayanti Reddy, Garurv Khanijo, Sohaya Misra, Paridhi Jaipuria will be showcasing their Summer/Resort 2017 collections here. Established names like Dev R Nil, Savio Jon, Sanjukta Dutta and Mandeep Nagi among others will also be participating in this space with their individual artistic initiatives. The labels making their debut this year are Ishanee Mukherjee and Anirudh Chawla 'Poochik', Pallavi Singh 'Arceve', Nakita Singh, Soumdeep Dutta and Resham Karamchandani and Sanya Suri 'The Pot Plant'.

No point in comparing 'Raees' with 'Dangal', 'Sultan': SRK

MUMBAI, JAN 31 /- Superstar Shah Rukh Khan is elated with the box office success of his latest release "Raees", but actor says there is no point in comparing his movie with the bigger hits like "Dangal" and "Sultan".

Released on January 25, "Raees" recorded a great opening and has been continuing a good run at the ticket window. Shah Rukh said "Raees" has in fact

done better than what the film's team was expecting. "Every film has its own business, has its place. We have had films which are different and niche. To measure every film with the same barometer is weird. Having said that, it will have its own limited business," Shah Rukh told newsmen. "At this point in time we are a little beyond that also. Business wise, it is better than what

we expected, collection figures notwithstanding. It's nice to know everything is going well. If I start comparing, then sky is the limit," he said.

The 51-year-old actor was speaking at the success party of the Rahul Dholakia-directed film here on Monday night. Shah Rukh said if "Raees" reaches a limit which the audience makers have in mind, the job will be done. "Why

should we compare with only the last big hit, like 'Dangal', 'Sultan' which are much bigger hits than perhaps this film can ever be. We know that. That comparison from outside, very good. From inside, we know the truth that there is a limit it will go to and if it reaches we will be happy," he said. The actor, however, is happy that the audience has received the film positively.



Team 'Raees' at a promotional event at Mumbai

Filmmakers not keen to use classical songs: Shankar

MUMBAI, JAN 31 /- Composer-singer Shankar Mahadevan says classical music has taken in backseat in Bollywood as filmmakers and companies do not have any interest in the genre.

The singer, who is also part of music-director trio of Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, said in films the songs are chosen by the makers and not the composer and hence there is lack of good classical melodies. "In movies, the composers and decision makers are different so we don't come across classical songs often in films due to lack of interest. The decision makers are non-musical people, so one doesn't get to

hear more classical songs in films," Shankar told news agency PFI. However, there are a few filmmakers who infuse classical music in their movies, said the four-time National Award winner.

"We are lucky to work with people like Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Zoya Akhtar, Farhan Akhtar, Shaad Ali... (they) give us free hand in music," he said. "With 'Mirzya', we went deep into folk music. The film unfortunately did not do well because it was not marketed well. But we got freedom to do the music the way we want. I do miss it (having classical music in

films) at times, but it's good to have directors who understand music," he said. The "Breathless" singer, who will be seen as an expert on upcoming show "Rising Star", feels there is need for more reality shows to promote the budding talent in the country.

"I do watch singing reality shows. Ours is a huge country with lot of talent. I think the amount of reality shows that we have is less today. There should be more reality shows," the 49-year old composer-singer said. With 'live' viewer engagement at its core, "Rising Star" will give people an opportunity to judge the talent

through Colors TV app. "This show is completely unique and I like to do something that is new and path-breaking. First time viewers will be interacting with contestants," he said. Besides Shankar, Diljit Dosanjh and Monali Thakur will also be seen as experts on the show.

"Monali is good inspiration for people who would come on the show. She can inspire contestants as she too reached here (in film industry) through reality show," he said.

"Diljit is a youth sensation. He is a super-duper star and a singer. It's a good combination. I am there to look



Pakistani writer and journalist Reema Abbasi

he was witness to mayhem and bloodshed on his arrival in Hindustan, which made him set up a communal kitchen in a mud hut to eradicate hunger. "That was the most powerful thing which drew me towards him. I believe everything eventually comes down to basic needs like hunger, shelter, poverty," says Abbasi. She also has "Historic Temples Of Pakistan: A Call to Conscience" to her credit, in which she shed light on a little known facet of Pakistan. For her, temples and dargahs hold equal importance and are symbolic of ancient heritage of civilisations. "Temples and dargahs are both same to me. All places that I mention in my book talk about the heritage, unity and the roots of the region which binds all of us together," Abbasi says.

Sufism holds more relevance in present times: Pak writer

NEW DELHI, JAN 31 /- At a time when the world reels under the shadow of terrorism, Pakistani writer and journalist Reema Abbasi feels the Sufi message of pluralism, unity and love, has become more relevant than ever. "The writer was speaking at the launch of her book, 'Ajmer-Sharif: Awakening of Sufism in South Asia' on Monday at Oxford book store here, which was unveiled by Bollywood actor Sharmila Tagore. In her book, Abbasi talks about dargahs in a new light. "The inspiration to write this book was to give a message different from the existing perceptions about dargahs under Islam. "At times when terror is sweeping across Pakistan and around the world, messages by Sufi saints like Khwaja Moimuddin Chishti hold much more relevance today," she says. Her elaborately researched book chronicles the history, spiritual journey, mystical power, and legacy of the 12th century Sufi shrines. Abbasi talks about the story of Moimuddin Chishti, who founded the Chishti Sufi Order in South Asia and upheld the need to address hunger over practising doctrines, giving rise to a tidal wave of change. "The messages that Moimuddin Chisti spread with his qawalli stemmed from similar circumstances that the world is facing today. Similar to the present times, the society was orthodox then, and

for in-depth analysis and from February 4 on Colors channel. It will be hosted by Meiyang Chang and Raghav Juyal.