



Nominations for Chameli Devi Jain Award invited



NEW DELHI, NOV 30 /-/ Nominations have been invited for the prestigious Chameli Devi Jain Award

Film Stars Kavya Madhavan, Dileep get married

KOCHI, NOV 30 /-/ Malayalam film world's favourite on screen couple Kavya Madhavan and Dileep entered into wedlock in a simple but star studded function here today. Several Malayalam movie stars, including Mammootty, Jayaram, KPAC Lalitha and Meera Jasmine attended the marriage, held at a hotel at morning. Dileep had married actress Manju Warrier in 1998, but got divorced in 2015. They both have a daughter Meenakshi.

Kavya Madhavan had married Nishal Chandra in 2009, but they divorced in 2011. Meenakshi attended the marriage. The announcement about their marriage was made by Dileep himself, putting an end to rumours about his closeness to Kavya.

In a video message on his Facebook account, Dileep said he was going to tell about "a big event" in his life. "I am getting married today," Dileep said. The actor said when he decided to tie the knot, he had discussed it with his daughter, friends and family and decided to marry the woman linked to him in gossip columns. Seeking blessings from Kerala, Dileep also urged them not to create controversies out of the marriage. Talking to reporters after the wedding, Dileep said he took the decision after getting the nod from his daughter Meenakshi. (PTI)

Book offers tips on the art of gifting

NEW DELHI, NOV 30 /-/ Philanthropy is not just about donating, it is a combination of giving with the head and with the heart, says a new book which emphasises gifts which can maximize impact. In 'Every Gift Matters: How Your Passion Can Change the World', American philanthropist Carrie Morgridge with her actionable advice and touching stories tells how to leverage gifts of time or money - regardless of size - and make them work harder, work smarter, and have a bigger impact on the community. The book, co-written by John Perry and published by Greenleaf Book Group Press, offers specific tips on how to make informed decisions through stories of the Morgridges' personal experiences.

Morgridge says she wrote the book to inspire, guide, and encourage people to take the first step, whatever

it might be. She believes every person has the opportunity to make a difference. Until she started this writing adventure, she had never looked back at the grants or their recipients.

"I'm always looking ahead instead of just the way I'm wired. Looking back was always a challenging and emotional journey. Revisiting the stories of so many dedicated people has been a humbling reminder of the incredible good that people around the country do every day," she says.

The fun part about giving, according to Morgridge, is looking ahead. "I sometimes ask myself how my philanthropy will change the future. The fact is I have no idea. The future hasn't been invented yet and so I don't know where my passion for giving will lead me. What I can do, and what John and I do every year, is hold back 10 per cent of our annual giving budget

for unexpected opportunities. When we make our budget at the beginning of the fiscal year we have some idea of what we want to do, but we know there will be surprises.

The 10 per cent for the future gives us a chance to make a difference in ways we couldn't even think of. In a way, all giving is an investment that says you have hope for the future, that what you do today will make a difference tomorrow. Right now you may be able to reach out to others, or you may be one of those many starfish who needs a hand up," she says. The act of giving, she says, ties people together. "I encourage you to take the first step toward the joy of giving by listening to your heart, hearing what's important, and connecting with others who share your vision. You and I can lift each other up by sharing the gifts the world has given us. (PTI)

Manoj always willing to work with new talent: Atanu

PANAJI, NOV 30 /-/ Atanu Mukherjee, who is making his debut with Manoj Bajpayee-starrer 'Rukh', says he can't thank the actor enough for believing in a new talent like him. Mukherjee says it is encouraging when big stars like Bajpayee agree to work with budding filmmakers. "When an actor like him gets ready to work with a new talent it's pretty encouraging. He is so willing to work with new directors and people," Mukherjee told PTI on the sidelines of the 10th edition of NDC Film Bazaar. "And that is what he is also looking for. Because whenever I spoke to him regarding cinema's present scenario he is so encouraging. He always appreciates collaborations with new directors."

Being a first time director Mukherjee never thought that Bajpayee would get agree to do the film. "For me, as a first time director it was quite exciting to have him in my film. I did not want to have a big star in my film, I only wanted a great actor. The director says he was unsure of getting the approval from the 47-year-old star because of his busy schedule. "I didn't know whether he'll say yes to the project but he liked the script during a very brief meeting with him. He also saw the short films that I have made and was quite impressed with it. "Rukh" is about the journey of a boy rediscovering his lost connections and family ties, through the secrets and memories he must confront on his way. The movie is inspired by Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa's thriller film "Rashomon". "I'm a huge fan of Kurosawa's movies so when I was developing a story, 'Rashomon' was there in the back of my mind." (PTI)

Would love to work with Hrithik, Jacqueline: Sahil Sangha

MUMBAI, NOV 30 /-/ Producer-director Sahil Sangha has expressed his desire to work with Hrithik Roshan and Jacqueline Fernandez.

The "Love Breakup Zindagi" helmer is open to doing a film with the fresh pair. "I would love to work with both of them in a film. If I craft an idea and if they are into it, I'm surely working with them," he said. Hrithik and Jacqueline have teamed up for a decor brand, the advertisement of which has been shot by Sahil. "It was fantastic working with them. They are both talented in their own way, they gave their 100 per cent. Hrithik is a simple person and is a super committed man while Jacqueline comes with infectious energy, she is vibrant. It was a tough shoot, but both of them were at ease and energetic." (PTI)

18 million taking ART to fight HIV

KOLKATA, NOV 30 /-/ More than 18 million people with HIV are currently taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) with a similar number still unable to access the life-saving treatment, the WHO has said, as it issued new guidelines on self-testing to improve access to HIV diagnosis. The WHO report issued on the eve of World AIDS Day tomorrow said lack of HIV diagnosis is a major obstacle in implementing the WHO's recommendation that everyone with HIV should be offered ART. Today 40 per cent of all people with HIV, numbering over 14 million remain unaware of their status. Many of these are people at higher risk of HIV infection who often find it difficult to access existing testing services, it said. "Millions of people with HIV are still missing out on life-saving treatment, which can also prevent HIV transmission to others," WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said.

"HIV self-testing should open the door for many more people to know their HIV status and find out how to get treatment and access prevention services," she said. WHO has released new guidelines stressing on HIV self-testing to improve access to and uptake of HIV diagnosis. HIV self-testing means people can use oral fluid or blood/finger-pricks to discover their status in a private and convenient setting, the WHO release said. Results are ready within 20 minutes or less. Those with positive results are advised to seek confirmatory tests at health clinics. WHO recommended that they receive information and links to consulting as well as rapid referral to prevention, treatment and care services. HIV self-testing is a way to reach more people with undiagnosed HIV and represents a step forward to empower individuals, diagnose people earlier before they become sick,

bring services closer to where people live, and create demand for HIV testing. This is particularly important for those facing barriers to accessing existing services, the report said. Between 2005 and 2015 the proportion of people with HIV learning of their status increased from 12 per cent to 60 per cent globally, the report said. This increase in HIV testing uptake worldwide has led to more than 80 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV receiving the ART, the WHO release said. HIV testing coverage remains low among various population groups. For example, global coverage rates for all HIV testing, prevention and treatment are lower among men than women. Men account for only 30 per cent of people who have tested for HIV. As a result men with HIV are less likely to be diagnosed and put on ART and are more likely to die

of HIV-related causes than women. But some women miss out too. Adolescent girls and young women in east and south Africa experience infection rates up to eight times higher than among their male peers. Fewer than one in every five girls between 15 years and 19 years of age are aware of their HIV status, the report said. Testing also remains low among 'key populations' and their partners - particularly among sex workers, transgender people injecting drugs, and prisoners - who comprise approximately 44 per cent of the 1.9 million new adult HIV infections that occur each year, it said. Self-testing has been shown to nearly double the frequency of HIV testing among men who have sex with men, and recent studies in Kenya found that male partners of pregnant women had twice the uptake of HIV testing when offered self-testing compared with standard testing. (PTI)

CREATIVE WORLD

Have an idea for 'Tere Naam 2': Satish Kaushik



PANAJI, NOV 30 /-/ "Tere Naam" is considered one of the best works of superstar Salman Khan and the film's director Satish Kaushik says he has an idea to make a sequel but is unsure if he will do it anytime soon. The 2003 romantic-drama had Salman and Bhoomika Chawla in lead roles and went on to become a huge blockbuster, where the "Dabang" actor was widely praised for his role of Radhe Mohan. "My Twitter is flooded with (requests of) 'Tere Naam 2. I have 15 stories lined up written by people for the film. I have worked out something but I don't know if it's good to ride on to your previous films," Kaushik told PTI when asked if he is planning a sequel. Recently, many franchise films have released like "Tum Bin 2", "Rock On 2", "Force 2" and the upcoming "Kahani 2".

The actor-director feels nobody knows if films riding on franchise can be successful but he still "has an idea" to take "Tere Naam" forward. "Nobody knows, whether it (franchise film) works or not. Recently it didn't, only 'Kahaani 2' looks interesting. That is also because it is a different film in itself. Sometimes, you've trusted your character in a certain manner in the first part but you don't know which story will fall into place (for next). It's tough. I have something, fans have been asking. Let me see how it happens. The idea is in mind," he added. International Film Festival of India (IFFI), here, He is excited that his film "A Billion Colour Story" was screened at IFFI and has been appreciated by the audience. Directed by N Padmakumar, the film is about religious intolerance (PTI)

Demonetisation did affect 'Force 2' marginally: John Abraham

NEW DELHI, NOV 30 /-/ Actor-producer John Abraham says his latest release "Force 2" is doing well but demonetisation did have slight impact on the collections. The 43-year-old actor who stars as ACP Yashvardhan in the film, which is a sequel to his 2011 hit, said if the content of the film is strong it will surely work at the box office. "Demonetisation did affect 'Force 2' marginally. But the fact is after 'Madras Cafe' I have not seen so much positive reviews from the audience. 'Force 2' showed everybody in the entertainment industry that if your content is good, people will come and watch," John told PTI. The movie is produced by the actor's banner JA Entertainment and he hopes the film can have a good run till Amritha Deodhar releases on December 23. "This film probably would have done 50 per cent more business in normal days. But we don't have any complaints. We have a run till 'Dangal' as there are no single screen films," he added. Also starring Sonakshi Sinha and Tahir Raj Bhasin the film is co-produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah and directed by Abhinav Deo. (PTI)

Alia is an intelligent actor: Gauri Shinde

MUMBAI, NOV 30 /-/ Director Gauri Shinde says Alia Bhatt is an instinctive performer. Alia was seen playing the lead role in Gauri's next "Dear Zindagi" alongside superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Anagad Bedi, Kunal Kapoor and Alia Zafar. "Alia is a very intelligent actor, she is instinctive. I also work on instincts so we connected well. We did not discuss much theory. She is so intelligent, you don't have to say things again to her. It was easy working with her on this film," Gauri told PTI. Alia has become one of the most sought after actresses, thanks to her performances in films like "Highway", "2 States", "Kapoor and Sons" and "Uda Punjab". The "English Vinglish" helmer says she was taken back with Alia performance in "Highway". "Uda Punjab" happened much later so I had not seen that film when we started "Dear Zindagi". "I liked her in 'Highway', especially the ending when she breaks down, it was brilliant and magical. I thought of working with her at that time but I did not have a story idea. So, when I started working on "Dear Zindagi", I could only think of Alia. "On the extended cast of the film, she says, "I felt everyone had unique personality and they all fit the characters that they are playing in the film and which is why it took the longest time to arrive at this people. "All of them gave auditions for the film. I have been lucky to work with good actors who are professionals and good human beings as well," she said. The film hits cinema houses on Friday (PTI)

and revolves around a teenage boy Hari Aziz, born to a Muslim father Imran and a Hindu mother Parvati. Kaushik says while he is happy that the film, which he co-produced, is doing well, he is also looking forward to collaborating with young filmmakers. "A Billion Colour Story" opened at Busan and London (film festivals) It is getting very good reviews, people are really affected by the film. I have another film ready, it's a children's film which I have produced. It is directed by Amit Prajapati. I am going to make films with a lot of young directors," he said.

The 60-year-old actor says today budding directors are doing "fearless filmmaking" and a platform of a film festival gives a boost to this culture. "Today there is fearless filmmaking. If you've an idea, you can go and shoot a film. Festivals are a great platform too, at least you get to showcase your films. Even if one film amongst 20 is noticed, it becomes an example for future. "One young filmmaker approached me with a film. He showed me a trailer and I really liked it. Earlier, nothing like this used to happen. You meet people here, showcase your films, let people see it," he added. (PTI)

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