



EDITOR'S SPECS

MISSION SOUTH IN K'TAKA FOR BJP TURNS MORE CHALLENGING

The ambition of the ruling BJP party in Karnataka to strengthen roots in southern regions of the state to return to power has hit a roadblock with prominent sitting ministers from the region all set to change of guard, sources have said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are making special efforts to garner support for the BJP in these regions considered as bastions of JD(S) and Congress parties so far. Senior Lingayat leader, Minister for Housing V. Somanna, who represents Govindaraj Nagar constituency in Bengaluru and Minister for Sports and Youth Services Dr. K.C. Narayana Gowda from the K.R. Pet constituencies of Mandya district are miffed with the developments in the BJP and are all set to join Congress party, according to sources. On the other hand, the only BJP legislator from Mandya district Dr. M.C. Narayana Gowda, whose victory was celebrated as the BJP's entry into the Vokkaliga heartland and JD(S) power center is also not keen on participating in the Vijay Sankalp Yatra. Sources close to him said that he is all set to announce his joining of Congress party after Prime Minister Modi's visit to Mandya district to dedicate the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on March 12. The local Congress leaders have opposed his entry into the Congress party and already staged a protest. Congress sources said that state President D.K. Shivakumar has reined in the situation and stage is all set for Narayana Gowda to join the Congress. Yediyurappa has stated that he would talk to Ministers Somanna and Narayana Gowda and no one will quit the party. He also stated further that the party would send those who want to quit the party respectfully and welcome leaders who want to join the BJP.

NORTH-SOUTH IS ONE INDUSTRY; THE MEDIA IS NOT ONE!



Vinod Mirani

With the super success of a few South Indian films throughout the Hindi-speaking areas, the South is extending its reach and trying to involve the media from the North, which limited its scope to covering only Hindi films. They want to keep the people of Hindi-speaking regions aware of South Indian films all the way while a film is in production and not later when it is a hit in the South and plans are afoot to dub it and take it to the audience in the rest of the country. Hindi filmmakers who depend heavily on the South for content, buying the Hindi remake rights of many South hits, have not always been welcoming of the South-dubbed films, breaking records in the Hindi market. Hindi filmmakers and stars did not take kindly to the fact that South Indian films had invaded the Hindi market and were also creating records at the box office. Some even had Twitter spats with their southern counterparts. It was more upsetting for Hindi filmmakers because, while the South films were excelling at the box office, Hindi films of even top stars were failing on a regular basis. The Hindi side did not have much ground to stand on because almost all makers were remaking South Indian films! It is also a fact that Hindi films alone can't feed the cinemas for all 52 weeks of the year.

Multiplexes with five or more screens have multiple shows each day that need more supply. Regional films, be it Bhojpuri, Gujarati, Punjabi or Marathi, are not doing all that well, either! All they have is Hindi and the Hollywood films and, if the South films were an added alternative, so much the better. So, to keep the audience informed about their films, the filmmakers in the South have taken to inviting the media from Mumbai, Delhi, and other North Indian centres to cover their events. South Indian filmmakers inviting the media from the North used to be a routine practice when they made Hindi films. Now, it happens even for an event of a South Indian film because, at the back of their mind, the makers are envisioning the Hindi belt business. However, just when the respective industries were coming to terms that what mattered was the Indian film industry, the North South divide was refreshed by the media in Bengaluru. It was an event where the media from the North was invited to cover a promo launch of the Kannada film, 'Martin', starring Dhruv Sarja, in Bengaluru last week. The local media was reluctant to share their events with their counterparts from the North. In a surprising move, the local media blocked the media from the North from entering the event! They probably don't believe in the philosophy of Atithi Devo Bhava (Guest is God), which is ingrained in our culture. When, finally, the organisers convinced the local media to let the event proceed, they grudgingly allowed the guest media to be accommodated in the front seats of the hall where the promo was to be screened! What the Bengaluru media did to their brethren from the North was the result of the North-South divide set off by the then Kannada superstar, Dr Rajkumar. Kannada was not much of a film industry. There were no remakes in Hindi. The circuit, known as the Mysore circuit, was not worth more than Rs 50,000 to 60,000 for the rights of a Hindi film, which did business only in Bengaluru.

Dr Rajkumar was a demigod and, during what was termed as the Gokak Movement, he ordained that Hindi films should not be released in Karnataka! This was not all. Dr Rajkumar went ahead and enforced a ban on the use of any languages except Kannada in the state! Cabbies and shopkeepers refused to converse in any language other than Kannada. The trade magazine I worked for at that time reported and criticised what Dr Rajkumar was up to and, as a result, the magazine was also banned in Karnataka! That was around the early 1980s and I visited Bengaluru to promote an event. I made a call to the offices of 'The Indian Express'. Guess what? The telephone operator would respond only in Kannada to whatever I asked. I was left with no option but to ask, 'Why the heck do you publish an English daily if you don't answer a caller in English?' Thankfully, my hotel staff was not following the diktat. Sad, but Dr Rajkumar legacy still prevails. Don't they understand that it was one of their Kannada-language film producers who needed the North media and not the other way round? Petty, isn't it? A Tax Free Film? Pay More! Now, there is an excellent query raised by the Telangana High Court. The entertainment tax (ET) levied on cinema tickets was a state subject before the GST regime was introduced and, because these tax slabs were very high, filmmakers sought tax exemption from various states. The idea was to make admission rates cheaper, more affordable to help draw more footfalls. The idea behind exempting films from ET was to encourage good cinema. This noble idea soon turned into a quid pro quo between filmmakers and politicians. The merit of a film was no more the criteria, greasing palms became the norm. The politicians loved to have film stars grace their events and birthdays. The ex-UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, for instance, was on an exemption spree and exempted films on a regular basis. To

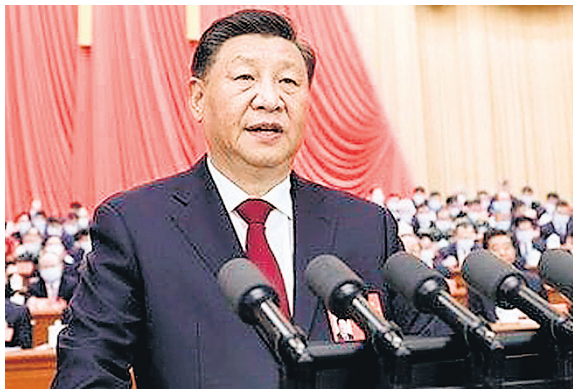
a great extent, this practice was at work in various states. As a rule, the benefits of the tax rebate were passed on to the viewers. But no more. The new age management grads came up with a new ecosystem: gobble up that exemption. Without breaking the law, the cinemas increased the admission rates to an extent that would offset the exemption amount! Ek haath se de, ek haath se wapas le! Take for example the film 'Mary Kom'. A friend went to watch it in an early show when the admission rate was Rs 120. The film was exempted from ET, so he expected the ticket to cost him Rs 90. But he ended up paying Rs 140 instead! What was the explanation? The cinema in question had changed the Rs 120 slot to Rs 140! Claimed they were legally allowed to do that. The common people either don't know about the film's exemption status or do not care. But, in 2017, a cinema viewers' group, Cine Prekshakula Viniyoga Darula Sangham, filed a PIL in the Telangana High Court stating that the benefit of the films exempted from entertainment tax were never passed on to the viewers by the cinemas. The HC in 2019 held that the government order had become pointless with the passage of time! The matter went to the Supreme Court, which held the Telangana HC order was incorrect, and remitted the matter back to the HC, ordering it to dispose of the matter within three months. Seeking ET exemption was a routine matter earlier, now, in the GST regime, not many filmmakers seek this favour. Because, unlike earlier, when the ET slabs varied from 50 per cent to 80 per cent or more of the admission rate, depending on the state, now the total tax on a ticket is 18 per cent -- 9 per cent for the state and 9 per cent for the Centre. An 18 per cent rebate on a cinema ticket may not seem like much, but cinemas gobble up even that!

international

Xi Jinping begins historic 3rd term as Chinese President

Beijing | Agencies

Xi Jinping has started a historic third term as the Chinese President after he was unanimously elected to the top post at the ongoing session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) on Friday. He was also elected as chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), reports Xinhua news agency. Nearly 3,000 members of the (NPC) voted unanimously at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing for Xi to be President in an election where there was no other candidate. Since Mao Zedong, leaders in China had been limited to two terms in office. When Xi had this restriction changed in 2018, it transformed him into a figure with a reach not seen since Chairman Mao, reports the BBC.



The vote on Friday was largely ceremonial as he had already led in a historic third term as head of the Chinese Communist Party at a major party congress last October. Changes to the country's leadership take place every five years and usually closely mirror the reshuffle announced at the party congress. Meanwhile, naming of a

new premier and various ministers in the coming days is considered more important, reports the BBC. The new appointees are all expected to be Xi loyalists, including Li Qiang, who is tipped to serve as the President's number two. Xi has solidified his rule as China reopens from his bruising zero-Covid policy that has fuelled anti-government protests.

RUSSIA BANS 144 CITIZENS OF BALTIC STATES FROM ENTRY

Moscow | Agencies

Moscow: The Russian Foreign Ministry announced that 144 citizens of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have been barred from entering Moscow. The newly blacklisted are Ministers, parliament members, public figures and journalists of the three countries, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying in a statement. The names of the targeted citizens were however not revealed. Moscow imposed the travel ban in response to "the active lobbying by the Baltic states of sanctions and other measures against Russia, interference in its internal affairs, and inciting Russophobic sentiments", the Ministry statement added.

Trump may be charged in connection with hush money paid to adult film star

New York | Agencies

Throwing a huge question mark over the 2024 election, former President Donald Trump may be criminally charged in connection with hush money he allegedly paid to silence Stormy Daniels, an adult film star, who said she had an affair with him, according to news reports. A city prosecutor has "signalled" Trump's lawyers that he could face criminal charges in the 2016 incident, The New York Times reported on Thursday evening citing unnamed sources. NBC news also reported quoting his lawyers that Trump had been asked to appear before a grand jury investigating the case, which is usually an indication that an indictment or framing of charges was likely. But he is not obligated to appear before the grand jury. Trump reacted with a



post on his social media platform, Truth Social, calling it a witch hunt and denying the affair with the porn star. "I did absolutely nothing wrong, I never had an affair with Stormy Daniels, nor would I have wanted to have an affair with Stormy Daniels," whom he described as "horse face", he said. "This is a political Witch-Hunt, trying to take down the leading candidate, by

ing with the 2020 elections by allegedly trying to pressure state officials to "find" more votes for him. Bragg had convened a grand jury -- a citizens' panel -- to investigate the allegations against Trump and decide if charges should be filed. Under the legal system in the US, that is the first step in criminal cases and it is followed by the trial where a jury, also made up of citizens, hears the case under a judge and gives a verdict unless the accused asks to dispense with the jury and have the judge decide. Being charged, standing trial or even convicted would not disqualify Trump from running for President under the US Constitution. But the filing of charges and an eventual trial could come in the way of him getting the Republican Party's nomination to run for president.

WhatsApp says will leave UK market if forced to stop end-to-end protection

London | Agencies

Meta-owned WhatsApp has said it will leave the UK market if forced to weaken its end-to-end encryption for users under the upcoming Online Safety Bill. In a briefing with reporters, WhatsApp Head Will Cathcart slammed the legislation as the most concerning set of online regulations in the western world, reports Wired. "We've recently been blocked in Iran, for example. But we've never seen a liberal democracy do that," Cathcart was quoted as saying in reports. "Ninety-eight per cent of our users are outside the UK. It would be an odd choice for us to choose to lower the security of the product in a way that would affect those 98 per cent of users," he categorically said.



Cathcart says he is concerned that the bill could make it harder for WhatsApp and other messaging platforms to provide end-to-end encryption. "It's hard to imagine we're having this

conversation about a liberal democracy that might go around people's ability to communicate privately," he told reporters. A provision in the Online Safety Bill requires tech companies to use "accredited technology" to scan users' messages for child sexual abuse material or CSAM. According to security researchers, it is impossible to introduce such a measure without breaking end-to-end encryption. In 2021, Apple introduced plans to scan users' messages for CSAM but shelved those after facing criticism from the security researchers. The Online Safety Bill also puts the onus on Big Tech and firms that fail to comply with the new rules could face fines of up to 18 million pounds, or 10 per cent of their annual global turnover,

whichever is highest. New measures in the law include tougher and quicker criminal sanctions for tech bosses and new criminal offences for falsifying and destroying data. The Online Safety Bill will require social media platforms, search engines and other apps and websites allowing people to post their own content to protect children, tackle illegal activity and uphold their stated terms and conditions. "The Bill will strengthen people's rights to express themselves freely online and ensure social media companies are not removing legal free speech. For the first time, users will have the right to appeal if they feel their post has been taken down unfairly," former Digital Secretary Nadine Dorries had said last year.

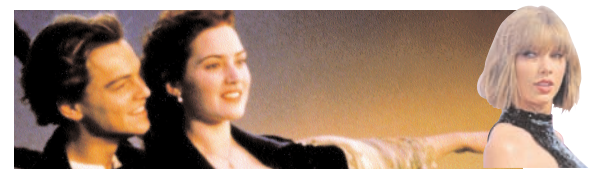
7 dead in Germany church shooting

Hamburg | Agencies

At least seven people were killed and eight others injured during a shooting at a Jehovah's Witness church in the German city of Hamburg, local media reported on Friday. Earlier media reports said the shooting, which occurred around 9 p.m. on Thursday night, killed six people. But one more body was found on the upper part of the building later, Xinhua news agency reported citing the German newspaper Bild as saying. Police have said that a gunman is believed to be dead, but it remains unclear if the attacker is among seven fatalities, the newspaper added. There was also no evidence of a fleeing perpetrator, according to the police. Hamburg's Mayor Peter Tschentscher expressed his condolences to the victims' families. Police were working flat out to pursue the perpetrators and clarify the background, he said on Twitter. Meanwhile, the city's Interior Minister Andy Grote said on Twitter that police



special forces and a large number of officers had been deployed to the scene. The church is located in the city's Gross Borstel district, about 289 km from Berlin. A motive for the shooting is yet to be established and police have appealed to the public not to share assumptions or to spread rumours, the BBC reported. Jehovah's Witnesses are members of a Christian-based religious movement. The denomination was founded in the US towards the end of the 19th century, under the leadership of Charles Taze Russell. The headquarters of the movement is in New York.



TAYLOR SWIFT TO HAVE US CITY RENAMED IN HER HONOUR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Officials in Glendale, Arizona have confirmed that they will rename the city in singer Taylor Swift's honour to celebrate the singer kicking off her US tour there later this month. The city of Glendale, Arizona will be renamed in Taylor Swift's honour to celebrate the launch of her US tour, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The singer is kicking off 'The Eras' tour at Glendale's State Farm Stadium with a pair of shows on March 17 and March 18 before heading to Las Vegas on March 24 and officials have decided to celebrate Taylor by temporarily changing the city's name.

A statement from city officials namechecked a number of the pop star's songs in a statement which read: "There is no need to calm down, we're fearless and doing something highly unusual to celebrate the fact that Taylor's concerts start right here!"

"We know all too well that she's one of the most influential artists of her generation and we are writing our own love story for her and greeting every Swiftie in style!"

Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers is expected to announce the city's new name on March 13 and it will remain in effect across March 17 and 18 - the days Taylor is performing in Glendale.

Reports suggest the city's Westgate Entertainment District shopping centre will also display welcome messages to the singer and restaurants around town will change their menus to

offer meals inspired by Taylor.



Jennifer Lawrence hired to date a 19-year-old in 'No Hard Feelings' trailer

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Lawrence stars in a raunchy comedy 'No Hard Feelings' whose trailer highlights her character's attempt to seduce a 19-year-old boy. In the movie, Lawrence stars as Maddie, a down on her luck Uber driver in need of some quick cash to save her childhood home after an ex-boyfriend / tow truck driver, Gary, (Ebon Moss-Bachrach) repossesses her car. A now-out-of-work Uber driver, Maddie stumbles upon an interesting offer from two rich parents, who are looking for someone to "date" their socially awkward teenage son, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Matthew Broderick and Laura Benanti play the wealthy parents, who are trying to get their college-bound son Percy (Andrew Barth Feldman) "out of the shell" before he goes to Princeton. In an exchange for a new car, Maddie agrees to "date" the teenager.

The video goes on to show Maddie's failed attempts to sleep with Gary and the hilarity that ensues. In one scene, Maddie approaches Gary at an animal shelter and asks him, "Mind if I touch your wiener?" before making it clear that she's referring to a Dachshund wiener dog that he's holding. Maddie then offers to drive Gary home in a van, but she ends up getting pepper sprayed in the face as he thinks she's trying to kidnap him. She takes him on a dinner date and to a party, goes skinny dipping with him and dances seductively in front of him. From director Gene Stupnitsky 'Good Boys', who co-wrote 'Bad Teacher', 'No Hard Feelings' is described as a laugh-out-loud, edgy comedy.



Kardashian-Jenners may not be invited to 2023 Met Gala

Los Angeles | Agencies

The upcoming Met Gala may be Kardashian-Jenners free. According to a new report, Vogue head Anna Wintour is repressing the guest list at the annual fashion event, which is set to take place on May 1 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A source revealed to Page Six that the famous family doesn't make the cut. While Vogue refuses to comment on the report, an insider familiar with 'The Kardashians' stars shut

down the rumours, insisting it's not true that the first family of reality TV isn't invited to the big ball. The whole family of reality stars attended the gala for the first time in 2013. While Kim Kardashian attended her first Met Gala in 2013, her sisters Khloe Kardashian and Kourtney Kardashian made their Met Gala debut last year. The 2022 event also marked the first time the whole family was on the red carpet together, including their mom Kris Jenner, Kylie Jenner and Kendall Jenner.

Prior to this, Khloe addressed reports that she'd been snubbed in the past. The Good American founder revealed in an

episode of "The Kardashians" that she'd actually turned down past Met Gala invites, explaining, "I'm not big on red carpets. I think I've made that very clear."

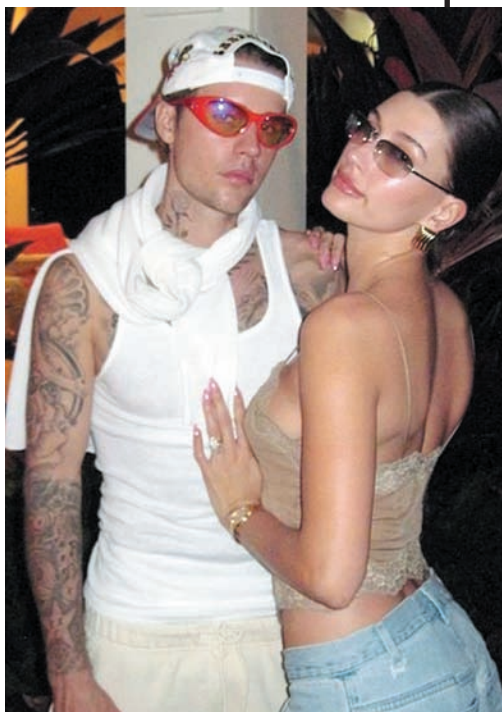
Kim, meanwhile, made headlines with her outfit choice at the 2022 Met Gala. The SKIMS founder stunned people as she arrived in Marilyn Monroe's "Happy Birthday" dress that she specifically borrowed for the event. The reality TV star only wore the original dress for a matter of minutes as she changed into a replica later in the night. "I'm extremely respectful to the dress and what it means to American history."

Hailey denies celebrating pregnancy with Bieber on a yacht in Bahamas

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Hailey Bieber responded to rumours that she's pregnant with her first child with pop star husband Justin Bieber. In a screenshot of Instagram DM, the 26-year-old star reacted to a TikTok who claimed that the couple is currently in the Bahamas to celebrate their pregnancy. "very much not pregnant lmao," so Hailey clarified, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The pregnancy rumours emerged earlier this month after @kelseyandcali on TikTok shared a video in which she said: "You heard it first. I have proof, I can't share it yet. Hailey and Justin Bieber are on a yacht in Bakers Bay in the Bahamas, celebrating their pregnancy." The post, however, has been removed from the TikTok's page. "Yes, I took my post down. No, I was never trying to sell anything. But I was asked by my friend to remove the post as it was very disrespectful to a lot of people's privacy," she explained, seemingly referring to allegations that she tried to sell a video to TMZ.



Zendaya tops list of Black women who were most Googled in 2022

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Zendaya Coleman has topped the list of most Googled Black women in 2022.

The 26-year-old actress led the ranking released by lifestyle website ThatSister far ahead of other Top 10 female stars in the list with 2.71 million monthly average Google searches in 2022, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Her film 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', which was released at the end of 2021, became the highest-grossing film of the year and the sixth-highest-grossing film of all time.

Zendaya's role in 'Euphoria' has also earned her multiple gongs and nominations, including her first Primetime Emmy Award in 2020. She won her second Emmy for the same role in 2022 and recently won her first Golden Globe Award for her portrayal of Rue Bennett on the HBO series.

In her personal life, her off-screen

romance with her "Spider-Man" co-star Tom Holland has also kept her fans on their toes. Though they're not the most avid users of social media, both actors have occasionally given shout-outs to each other on Instagram.

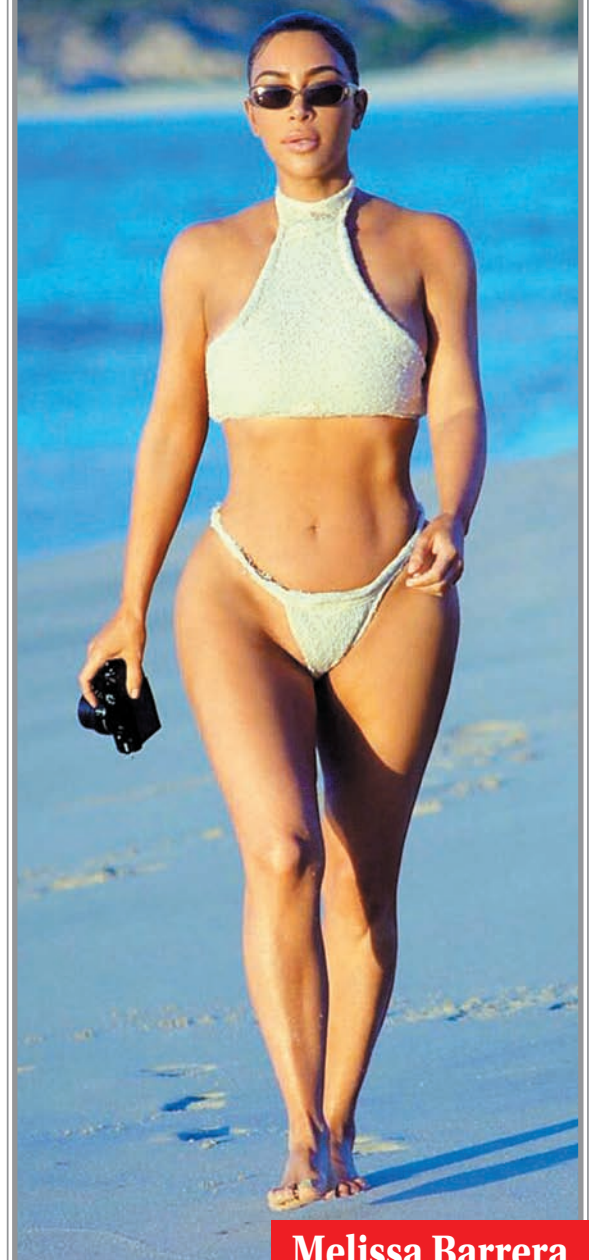
Next in the ranking is Serena Williams with 1.65 million searches. The former tennis ace announced her retirement in August 2022, and has since been keeping her fans curious about her plans next after her tennis career.

Serena's best friend Meghan Markle lands on the third place, largely due to her tell-all documentary on Netflix, 'Harry & Meghan'. Since they exited as senior royal family members, they have been making headlines with their bombshell revelations about their lives within the British royal family.

Beyonce Knowles and Michelle Obama follow next with a little over 1 million searches. Meanwhile, Jada Pinkett Smith, Oprah Winfrey, rappers Nicki Minaj and Cardi B, as well as Whoopi Goldberg round out the top 10.

ThatSister conducted the study by looking at Google search data for over 100 of the most influential Afro-American ethnic women since January 1, 2022.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Melissa Barrera



DEEPIKA PADUKONE OFF TO LA TO PRESENT OSCAR 2023

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who will be among the celebrity presenters at the Oscars this year, has jetted off to the US for the prestigious event. Deepika was photographed at the airport leaving for the Oscars 2023 awards. Her husband and actor Ranveer Singh was seen dropping her at the airport.

A video shared by celebrity paparazzi Viral Bhayani showed Deepika getting off from her car dressed in a black blazer paired with denims. Ranveer was seen inside the car as he dropped her off at the airport.

The actress will join global stars like Emily Blunt, Samuel Jackson and Dwayne Johnson in Los Angeles on March 12 for the Oscars ceremony.

Deepika announced her name on the presenters list through Instagram. She shared a list of presenters at the 95th Oscars which includes her name alongside stars like Samuel Jackson, Zoe Saldana, Dwayne Johnson and Riz Ahmed.



IIFA TECHNICAL AWARDS

'Gangubai Kathiawadi', 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' top winners

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The International Indian Film Academy and Awards (IIFA) has announced its technical winners from 2022. There are total nine categories of technical awards which include cinematography, screenplay, dialogue, choreography, sound design, editing, special effects (visuals), background score and sound design.

Of these, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' leads the pack as it bagged 3 awards - Best Cinematography was won by DOP Sudeep Chatterjee, Best Screenplay went to Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Utkarshini Vashishtha, and Best Dialogues was conferred upon Utkarshini Vashishtha and Prakash Kapadia.

The Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani-starrer horror comedy, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' won Best Choreography for title track by choreographer duo, Bosco-Caesar, and Best Sound Design by Mandar Kulkarni.

Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn's crime thriller 'Drishyam 2' won the award for Best Editing by Sandeep Francis. Similarly, the Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt-starrer action adventure, 'Brahmastra: Part One-Shiva' took home the trophy for another post-production work - Best Special Effects (Visual) by DNEG, Redefine.

While Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan's 'Vikram Vedha' was awarded the Best Background Score designed by Sam CS, the Rajkumar Rao, Huma Qureshi and Radhika Apte-starrer streaming film 'Monica O My Darling' bagged the Best Sound Mixing (Gunjan A. Sah,



Boloy Kumar Doloi and Rahul Karpe).

The 23rd edition of IIFA is set to be held at Yas Viceroy Hotel, Abu Dhabi from May 26 through May 27. IIFA Rocks will be hosted by Karan Johar and Farah Khan with live performances by Amit Trivedi, Badshah, Sunidhi Chauhan, Nucleya, Mika Singh, and Sukhbir.

The global IIFA Awards will be hosted by Vicky Kaushal and Abhishek Bachchan. The IIFA magic will escalate with live performances by Bollywood A-listers like Salman Khan, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Rakul Preet Singh and Nora Fatehi.

Taking over the skies

Hrithik Roshan announces the Hyderabad schedule wrap of his next upcoming with the film crew

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Racing to emerge amongst the most anticipated and awaited upcoming films, Hrithik Roshan's 'Fighter' has been grabbing eyeballs ever since its inception. Adding to the ongoing excitement, the Superstar announced the wrap of Hyderabad schedule for India's first aerial action film with a swagger video mid-air.

Trust Hrithik Roshan to make heads turn and jaws drop with his every move. Soaring the excitement of the audience, Hrithik Roshan announced the third schedule wrap of 'Fighter' with the whole aircraft roaring in sync to

cheer for 'Fighter', including the entire crew of the film. Earlier, the Siddharth Anand directorial has shot at the Tezpur Air base in Assam, Pahalgam in Kashmir and now concluded the third schedule at the Dundigal Air Force Academy in Hyderabad.

Mounded on a lavish scale, the ambitious passion project of director Siddharth Anand, who also launches his production house 'Marflix Pictures' with 'Fighter', features Hrithik Roshan as a fighter jet pilot for the first time on screen, tracing his journey from a young cadet in training to India's best fighter pilot. Known for his commitment to characters, Hrithik Roshan has

undergone a physical transformation to fit the bill of an Air Force officer across the different phases of his life.

Earlier on Sunday, Hrithik Roshan also shared a post commemorating his experience of working on 'Fighter'. With a picture of scale model 'Fighter' jets, the actor shared, "Fighter. Airborne. The re learning and the unlearning. The actor, the human. The process. Exhilarating."

Presented by Viacom18 studios in association with Siddharth Anand's Marflix Pictures, 'Fighter' stars Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor. The film is set to release on January 25th 2024.

NTR Jr says his 'legs still hurt' from shooting 'Naatu Naatu'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Superstar NTR Jr says that the steps from his iconic number 'Naatu Naatu' from the film 'RRR' were not tough, but it was the "sync" which was tougher. He adds that his "legs still hurt" from shooting the song, for which he and his co-star Ram Charan practiced over three hours everyday.

In an interview to Entertainment Tonight, NTR Jr, was asked if there was a moment that this film is crossing all global lines and everyone is loving it?

The Indian actor replied: "We had no idea. The experience of shooting that song, I have been telling this... My legs still hurt."

"The steps were not hard but what was harder was the sync. We were practicing it everyday for three hours. We were rehearsing it while we were shooting that song... we rehearsed a week before we shot for that song and we were rehearsing on set as well. It was only for synchronisation."

How does it feel to add Academy award-nominee to his list of accolades?

NTR Jr replied with a smile: "What else could an actor ask for, what else would a filmmaker ask for to be a part of the biggest celebration of cinema globally, the Oscars."

He added on the big day, he would not be walking the red carpet as an actor but as an Indian.



DISHA PATANI THANKS DALLAS FOR THE GOOD SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Disha Patani's dazzling performances in The Entertainers Tour, alongside Akshay Kumar, Nora Fatehi, Mouni Roy, and others, are currently spreading her charm all over the world. Taking ahead of her journey from Atlanta, she has reached Dallas, Texas, and is making everyone fall for her with her performances on the stage.

Disha took to social media to share snippets of her performance from The Entertainers Tour in Dallas. As we saw her win and her electrifying performance on stage, she is even more grateful to have performed in front of such a lovely audience. She scribbled a grateful caption - "Grateful to be able to do what i love thank you Dallas for this beautiful show #theentertainers"



SRK's action sequence from upcoming leaked, fans call it 'Pathaan ka baap'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's action sequence reportedly from the upcoming film 'Jawan' has been leaked online and has created a tizzy on social media.

The short clip of about five to six seconds shows, the 'Pathaan' star short hair and light beard fighting with goons with a belt while holding a cigar in his mouth. The video is in slow-motion.

The clip is currently being removed for violating Red Chillies copyright. However, the hashtag #Jawan is trending on Twitter with many still posting the video.

Fans can't keep calm as they are seen tweeting about the clip. One wrote: "Current situation in twitter... after clip hype of #Jawan is unpredictable. Just imagine when teaser or trailer will come." Another commented: #Pathaan to sirf trailer tha #Jawan full monster hai #Atlee Anna mass SRK+Ciggy+short hair+mid beard+belt fight + #Anirudh bgm =Goosebumps Tsunami aane wali hai Theatre me fir se ?? #ShahRukhKhan?? Blue Shirt Pant me jach rhe ho aaye."

"One leaked video and social media got shaken. Hype is real," said another. "#Jawan Action Leaks Bhai Yeh Toh #Pathaan Ka Baap Nikla #Atlee Anna Thank You For Making This MasterPiece This IS CALL PURE MASS Movie," wrote another. Directed by Atlee, 'Jawan', an action thriller, also stars Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi.



Sonnalli Seygal