

Bombairiya creates an air of authenticity

A comedy of errors with its fair share of mystery, *Bombairiya* kicks off when a PR professional loses her phone. The mobile is the only way Meghna (Radhika Apte) can stay in touch with her actor client, as well as, the entire world. However, in the 24 hours that she spends desperately trying to get it back, she discovers new people and a new life in the topsy turvy world of Mumbai.

The story is set during Christmas 2016 and the filmmaker, Pia Sukanya, and her team of writers have added a strong social and political backdrop to the narrative. The film subliminally showcases moments like Donald Trump's election as US President and the ongoing chaos caused by demonetisation. The film also makes a play on Michelle Obama's

famous quote from the same time, where the former first lady says, "We have begun to feel what not having hope is like". In post-production, the makers decided to update their story, placing Trump's best-selling book *The Art Of Deal*, in the hands of a character used to being in control, played by Adil Hussain. A ticker tape of breaking news on the TV sets in the film also shows actual news items from December 2016. Multiple plots from the movie sample these real-life nuggets to create an authentic atmosphere. The film also stars Ajinkya Deo, Siddhant Kapoor, Akshay Oberoi, Shilpa Shukla and Ravi Kishan.

Bombairiya, presented by Kreo Films FZ and Beautiful Bay Entertainment, the film releases on January 11.

Radhika Apte in *Bombairiya*

Shilpa Shetty revisits her school in Mumbai



Shilpa Shetty

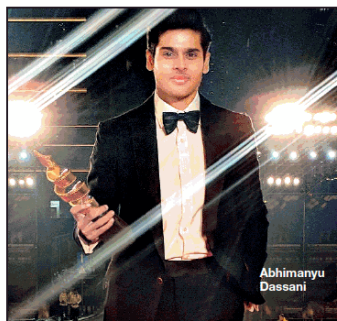
Going back to school recently was Shilpa Shetty, who visited her alma mater in Chembur, Mumbai. Shilpa was a guest of honour at a fest organised by the school. Going back to school after 28 years she said, "I was just an ordinary student, but my teachers showered all their love for me. I still remember eating fresh tamarind from the tree on the school grounds and the *chole-bread* from the canteen."

Shilpa was part of the school volleyball team and also played for the Mumbai zone. She revealed, "In my prelims for standard 10, I managed to score just 43 percent marks, which naturally upset my mother who warned me to sit at home and study for the board exams and forget playing any sport. My teachers came home to convince her to allow me to play while they took responsibility of my studies."

She also gave full credit to her teachers for polishing her language skills in school. She said, "Our English teacher would insist that everyday we learn three words from the dictionary at home while also teaching us tricks for correct pronunciation. That learning has stayed with me and I remember during my *Big Brother* days the other participants thought I was born and bred in Britain because of my impeccable English."

— Seema Mattoo @timesgroup.com

Abhimanyu Dassani's action comedy wins big at international film fests



Abhimanyu Dassani

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Director Vasan Baia added, "Abhimanyu's willingness to work really hard and be resolute in the most trying conditions is his most endearing quality. He has proved himself to be an actor of merit in front of an internationally renowned jury."

Talking about his win at the film festival, Abhimanyu says, "I'm honoured to be recognised by such great directors from all over the

world. I am grateful to Vasan sir for believing in me. All this love has humbled and encouraged me to work even harder than before." The talented actor has also been appreciated for his martial art skills in the film. *MKDNIH* also won People's Choice Award for the Best Film at Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) this year.

Mard Ko Dard Nahit Hota, produced by Ronnie Screwvala, is scheduled to release next year.

Kshitij Tarey's new track is high on romance



Kshitij Tarey

Love songs with a melancholic mood always tend to hit a strong chord with listeners. Singer Kshitij Tarey's latest single *Illeja*, penned by poet Sayeed Quadri, speaks of a pining for loved ones, asking him/her to come back. The singer-composer was pretty confident that this theme will find a strong connection with his fans. Commenting on the track, Kshitij says, "I think this song is relevant to every individual because we have all gone through break-ups in our life and somewhere every person wishes to work things out with their loved one."

The video has been shot in Dubai and features Kshitij alongside Akshay Kahrodia and Zainab Parekh. Lyricist Sayeed Quadri, who has worked on films like *Murder Barfi*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, *Ki And Ka*, feels the song has good prospects. He says, "*Illeja* is an emotional and sad romantic song, soulfully sung and composed by Kshitij. I feel it will definitely touch the listeners' hearts." This single will release on an indie music label.

Saiyami Kher gears up for the Mumbai Marathon



Saiyami Kher

Saiyami Kher is a sports enthusiast and she travels all over the world to watch live games. As someone who has pursued sports as a kid, the actress had completed a full marathon in Mumbai two years ago, the same year that she made her Bollywood debut with *Mirzya*. Saiyami is preparing for a sprint again and will be seen running at the upcoming Mumbai Marathon in January.

Speaking about her zeal for athletics she says, "I took to running three years ago. I ran the full marathon, which was about 42 kilometres, and I have also run lots of half marathons since then. The best thing about running is that you just need to put on your shoes and get going. So, even if I'm shooting or working late, I try to pull out 30 minutes every day to run." Since there's barely a few weeks left to the race day, Saiyami is watching her diet closely. She adds, "I make it a point to take care of what I eat one month before the race. I start tapering my runs closer to the race. I'm happy to see that the culture of participating in marathons is growing in India, too."

— Rachana Dubey@timesgroup.com

KYLIE JENNER IS AMONG AMERICA'S WEALTHIEST CELEBS

The list of America's Wealthiest Celebs was recently released, in which Kylie Jenner made it to the top five with a whopping \$900 million (₹6,314 crore). While *Star Wars* creator George Lucas took the top spot with a net worth of \$6.4 billion, Steven Spielberg, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan and Jay-Z rounded out the top five. Kylie, 21, also featured on an international cover of America's *Women* Billionaire's feature, and the publication wrote that she was on track to becoming the youngest-ever self-made billionaire in the country.

— Agencies



Kylie Jenner

Brad Pitt denies claims that he helped hurricane victims for 'good press'



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Brad Pitt

Actor Brad Pitt defended himself against claims that he helped Hurricane Katrina victims for good press. Pitt is fighting back against claims made in a class-action lawsuit accusing the actor of only helping out in New Orleans to secure publicity and good press, reported a website. According to court documents, Pitt's legal representatives filed a motion recently, asking to be removed as a defendant from the lawsuit.

The actor's attorneys claim that, the lawsuit levels "a myriad of purported wrongful conduct", the plaintiffs in the suit "do not supply any specific facts indicating that Mr Pitt was personally involved in any of them".

The motion comes in response to a recent memorandum filed by the plaintiffs, claiming the actor "gladly accepted responsibility for his personal participation when the publicity was favourable", reported the website. — IANS

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