

Herald Café



EVERY SINNER HAS A FUTURE



WHAT ARE WE TEACHING OUR KIDS?

Studio Ghibli fest on social media!

Social media timelines are going crazy over the new Ghibli art trend. However, this trend has raised copyright concerns, questioning AI's impact on artistic work

Elsa Angel Rose

The last few days were a thrilling whirlwind for a captivating trend sweeping across all social media platforms. Recently, Open AI rolled out its native image-generation feature, which has very loose copyright filters allowing users to create and edit pictures

Famous Generative AI - Ghibli pictures

■ The casual look of Turkish pistol shooter Yusuf Dikec in a T-shirt and one hand in his pocket on his way to winning a silver medal at the 2024 Olympics.



■ SRK and Deepika are reimagined in a stunning Studio Ghibli-style AI artwork, capturing their iconic Om Shanti Om moment.

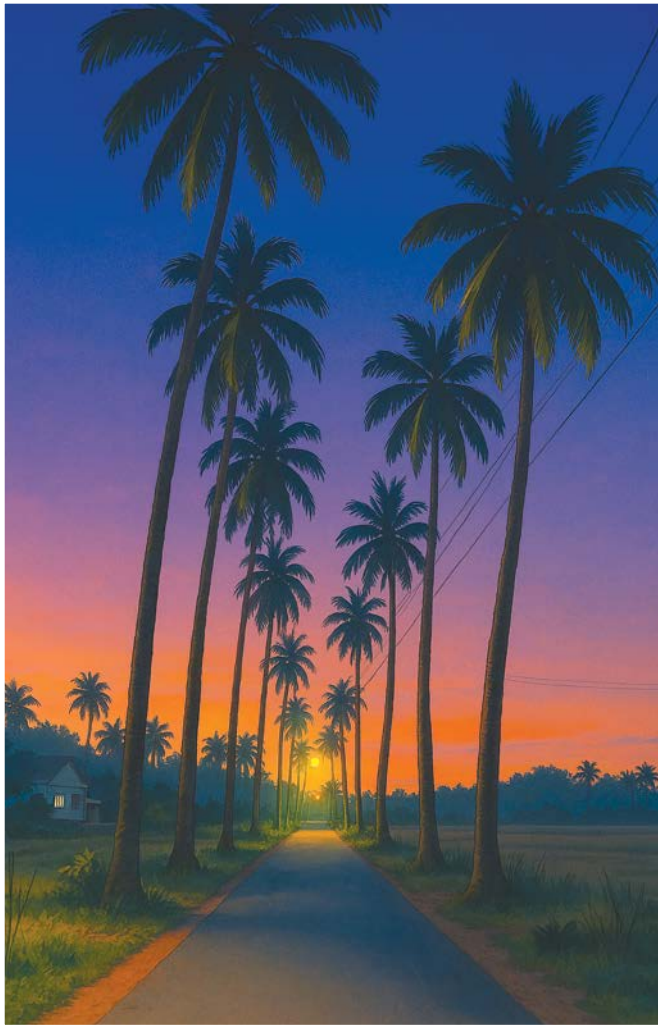


■ The famed "Disaster Girl" meme of a 4-year-old turning to the camera with a slight smile as a house fire rages in the background

■ Donald Trump and JD Vance's heated real-life White House exchange with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

■ Ranbir Kapoor is reimagined in a mesmerizing Studio Ghibli-style artwork inspired by the Bollywood classic Rockstar.

according to their liking. Interestingly, people are widely using this feature to create much loved and adored Ghibli-styled AI images. Ghiblified versions of pop culture and politics, memes, and even personal memorable events started filling up the internet.



GOA KEEPING UP WITH THE TREND

Bringing a Goan twist to the Ghibli trend! Artist Mandar Rajadhyax from Goa has reimagined the state's charm through the whimsical lens of Studio Ghibli, blending its serene beaches, vibrant streets, and lush landscapes with the dreamlike artistry of the beloved animation studio through his Instagram page @mandarrajadhyax.



PICT: MANDAR RAJADHYAX

OpenAI's GPT-4o is so popular it's straining GPUs, leading to rate limits. While AI advances rapidly, concerns grow over its impact on creative originality, especially with generative AI mimicking unique art styles like Studio Ghibli's. The line between human and AI creativity remains a key debate.

IS AI DISRUPTING HUMAN CREATIVITY?

In due time, the trend might fade, but it makes us question the impact of generative AI on art and if it can deteriorate human creativity. When art can be created in less than a minute, whether that will demean the efforts of artists who create art by taking months and years is a concern. Many Ghibli fans have opined that the trend was terrible and cheapened the carefully curated aesthetics of the Ghibli studio. This trend stands as a representation of a bigger fear, a bigger question. How long human artists can continue to create authentic and humane art and even if they create is there a price to be paid to survive alongside AI in the art realm.

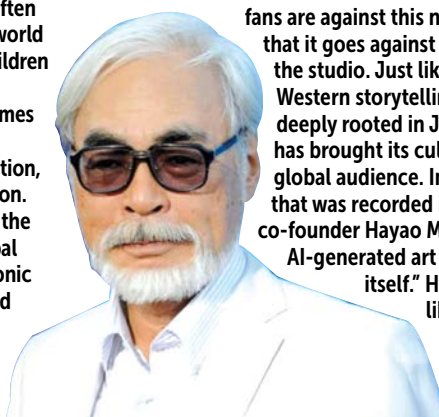
CELEBRITIES CARRYING THE TREND

- Bipasha Basu - Karan Singh Grover
- Arjun Kapoor
- Sanjay Dutt
- Shashi Tharoor



WHAT IS STUDIO GHIBLI?

Studio Ghibli is a Japanese animation film studio founded in 1985 by animated film directors, Isao Takahata and Hayao Miyazaki and has produced 22 feature-length films. The studio is known for its quiet yet deep, touching, and heartfelt animated movies. These poignant films often created an immersive world that resonated with children and adults equally, exploring complex themes like war, loss, pacifism, environmental destruction, and the human condition. The movies created by the studio had a huge global reach. A few of their iconic movies include 'Spirited Away', 'My Neighbor Totoro' and 'The Boy and the Heron'.



TREND AGAINST THE ETHICS OF THE STUDIO?

Studio Ghibli art is laborious and requires a lot of hand drawing, highly detailed and immersive style. A replica of the same being generated by AI to create images in seconds undermines those efforts. Many Ghibli fans are against this new trend and argue that it goes against the philosophies of the studio. Just like Disney represents Western storytelling, Studio Ghibli is deeply rooted in Japanese folklore and has brought its cultural narratives to a global audience. In a widely shared video that was recorded in 2016, Studio Ghibli co-founder Hayao Miyazaki condemned AI-generated art as an "Insult to life itself." He further added, "I feel like we are nearing the end times, we humans are losing faith in ourselves."

SWIPE RIGHT



Amrita Singh still manages Sara's finances



Despite having all the means to live a luxurious life, Sara Ali Khan is often seen admitting that she is stingy with her money. On multiple occasions, Sara Ali Khan has spoken about being picky in spending her money. Recently, she opened up about handling her finances. The actress admitted that even today, her mother Amrita Singh handles her money and she can't even book a ticket without her mother's nod. When asked how she handles her finances, the Kedarnath actress stated that over the years, she has learned that one should invest small amounts in multiple places. She also revealed, "My mom handles my money entirely. Even my GPay account is linked to her. My OTPs come on her phone."

Copying lawsuit against Dua Lipa's 'Levitating' dismissed

A judge recently dismissed the copyright lawsuit filed against Dua Lipa over her 2020 hit track 'Levitating'. In March 2022, the singer was hit with two copyright lawsuits, the first of which came from the Florida reggae group Artikal Sound

System. However, those claims were dismissed in June 2023. Another copyright lawsuit, filed by L Russell Brown and Sandy Linzer in 2022, was the one dismissed by Judge Katherine Polk Failla now in March 2025. The New York court judge explained that the similarities between the songs were not protected under copyright law.



Madonna joined in on the fun of a recent TikTok trend and posted a video showing off her lapis and diamond mouth jewelry

Can India take a political jibe?

Kunal Kamra's recent special, 'Naya Bharat' was faced with reactions including the vandalization of Habitat Studio, Mumbai. Sharing a similar nightmare, director Hansal Mehta spoke about when his office was vandalised 25 years back

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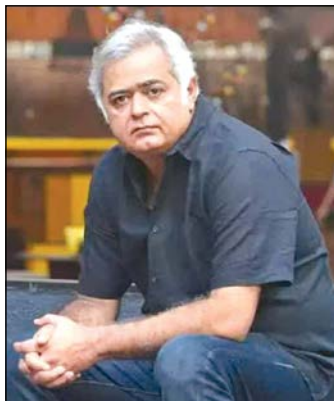
Indian stand-up comedian and political satirist Kunal Kamra is known for his sharp criticism and satire especially on the governing BJP party. Kunal's latest special, 'Naya Bharat' which was uploaded on YouTube and has gained over one crore views, included jibes at the defection politics in Maharashtra, Hindi songs parodies with one on Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde without naming him. The reaction of his jokes was violence and Habitat Studio had to bear the brunt. Shiv Sena's workers vandalising the premises.

The show was recorded in

January 2025 and made available on YouTube in March 2025. Few hours after being online, the comedy club was vandalised. An FIR was also filed against Kunal for making remarks about Eknath Shinde. However, Kunal refused to apologise.

HANSAL MEHTA SHARES INCIDENT AFTER FIRST FILM

Recently, renowned filmmaker Hansal Mehta recently spoke about a similar incident when his office was vandalised. After his 2000 film 'Pe Mat Le Yaar', his office was vandalized and he was publicly humiliated. He said, "Now, these things have names such as PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) and there's a lot more information regarding them. But back



then, the only medicine I knew was alcohol. I was very broken at that time. Not only had my movie failed, but four weeks later, when we were dealing with financial losses, people

entered my office and vandalised it. They painted my face black. Then they told me to come tomorrow and seek an apology because they wanted to create a bigger public spectacle." He was made to apologise in front of 10,000 people. He later overcame the experience and found hope in storytelling and freedom of expression.

Known for more recently shows like 'The Buckingham Murders', 'Scam 1992' and 'Scoop'. He expressed hope after the Supreme Court recently reaffirmed the importance of free speech. "In all the darkness, there is still a glimmer of hope, and that comes from storytellers, performers, and those who live beyond themselves," he added.

SUPPORT FOR KUNAL

With 2.5 million YouTube subscribers, Kunal's reach and influence has grown over the years for his fearless comedy. His supporters, both in India and abroad, including influencers like Dhruv Rathee have rallied behind him. Many fans are even using YouTube's Super Thanks feature, which allows donations between Rs 40 and Rs 10,000 to content creators. One fan donated 400 US Dollars while many are urging him to start a fundraiser, vowing to cover any legal expenses he may face.

