

Miss Malini comes out with first book

NEW DELHI, JAN 8 /-/- Malini Agarwal, creator of brand MissMalini, has come out with her first book in which she describes her journey and how she took blogging and entertainment journalism to new heights. "#To The Moon" is Malini's mantra and her story. Full of wit, she tells the readers how to get to the top and stay there. When she first moved to Mumbai nearly two decades ago, she had two suitcases, one friend, and lived in an apartment with six girls and a pigeon. "And every single night this suicidal bird would fly around the living room, where I slept on the floor, threatening to impale itself on the ceiling fan as I covered under a bed sheet. My rent was Rs 625 and Facebook hadn't been invented yet," says Malini. "All I had was an alpha numeric pager and a handful of dreams. But I wanted my life to be extraordinary and something told me that



Mumbai city, with all its kitschy neon lights and leopard print taxis, was where that was going to happen," she adds. The book, published by HarperCollins India, is receiving endorsements on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram from celebrities like Deepika Padukone, Hrithik Roshan, Mika Singh, Diana Penty, Soha Ali Khan, Swara Bhasker, Neha Dhupia, Aditi Rao Hydari and many others. The book has a foreword by Priyanka Chopra. "I connect with Malini

because carving your own path is one of my strongest beliefs," she writes in the foreword. At the end of each chapter, MissMalini provides tips like "Giving up on one dream doesn't make you a quitter. Quitting dreaming does," "be kind, even to your competition and many more."

There is also a section titled "The A-Z of Digital Entrepreneurship" - from WordPress to Facebook, from Twitter to Instagram, from hashtags to emoji - on how to make one's presence felt on the Internet. "I believe that everyone has a book in them, but finding the words to tell the story is always the hardest part. 'People ask me why I say stoohmoon all the time. It's because I loved how it was used frequently in the Leonardo DiCaprio film 'Catch Me If You Can' and in the song 'Fly me to the moon' by Frank Sinatra, and of course in every other Bollywood love song," she says. (PTI)

People underwent surgery, transfusion before 2002 to be screened for Hepatitis C

NEW DELHI, JAN 8 /-/- People who underwent surgery or blood transfusion for any reason before 2002 will be screened for Hepatitis C in a new drive by the government. The step has been initiated, as before 2002, blood samples at the blood banks were not examined thoroughly, a senior health ministry official said. The screening programme is expected to start from March, the official said. The number of such people who have undergone surgery or blood transfusion before 2002, ranges between 60 lakh to 1.2 crore. People who are diagnosed with Hepatitis C would undergo treatment free of cost, he said. "The population that would be focused include those who received blood transfusion or underwent surgery before 2002, injection drug users, people receiving repeated blood transfusions (thalassaemias and hemophiliacs), those living with HIV and attendees of STI clinics, among others," the official said. The test facilities are available from primary health centres to district

hospitals and the government plans to open 100 more centres for carrying out such tests, he informed. The ministry has also drafted a national action plan for Hepatitis C for ensuring that there is no discrimination on the basis of a patient suffering from Hepatitis and to reduce morbidity and mortality due to the viral disease. The action plan is expected to be rolled out this year. "The objective is to increase awareness and take proactive prevention measures through various stakeholders and to capacitate the health sector response to viral Hepatitis, including early diagnosis, management and surveillance," the official said. Viral Hepatitis are mainly of four types - water and foodborne A and E, and bloodborne B and C, and like HIV/AIDS, bloodborne viral hepatitis has stigma attached to it. According to rough estimates, 6-12 million suffer from Hepatitis C in India, and close to 35,000 people succumb to the infection each year. Hepatitis C symptoms sometime may take 10 to 12 years to come to the fore. (PTI)

CREATIVE WORLD

It's difficult stay relevant: Karan Johar on success in films



MUMBAI, JAN 8 /-/- Filmmaker Karan Johar believes becoming a movie star is not a tough task if the artist is dedicated but in the long run, it is hard to hold fast to the position one has achieved. The 45-year-old filmmaker said the reason for the success of Khans - Aamir, Salman, Shah Rukh - and other actors such as Ajay Devgn and Akshay Kumar is the fact that they have managed to stay relevant to their audiences. "They are just going on and on... and more respect to them. It is difficult to stay relevant. I will be completing 20 years in the industry in 2019. It is not easy (to stay here). Getting success is not that difficult if you do your job well but maintaining it is tough," Johar told PTI. The director said with the increasing popularity of the digital media audiences have access to various avenues of entertainment, which has made it challenging for upcoming actors to achieve the kind of stardom the Khans enjoy.

"I think the Khans have had a legacy of great cinema and longevity. All of them have been around for three decades and they have built an equity of audience who only watched films. "It is a big challenge for the younger actors to live up to the audience base that has been created by these megastars. Hats off to Shah Rukh, Aamir, Salman, Akshay and Ajay Devgn for being relevant even after working for three decades," he said. Meanwhile, Johar will next be seen on small screen judging "India's Next Superstars". The reality TV show will provide an opportunity to aspiring actors with no connections in the film industry. "There are a lot of reality shows either about singing or dancing or talent-based but here we are looking for talent in the acting department. "There is an academy where these 20 contestants will stay together. On weekdays, the contestants will be trained and on the weekends there will be a celebrity guest along with us who will give the participants a challenge," he said. Filmmaker Rohit Shetty is also part of the judging panel. Johar said he has great regard and respect for the "Golmaal Again" director. "Our combination is great as we come from different brands of cinema. But the one thing common between us is the love and passion for our work and the film industry," he added. (PTI)

Playing real-life characters a huge responsibility, says Hanks

NEW YORK, JAN 8 /-/- Veteran actor Tom Hanks said playing real-life characters on-screen is a "huge responsibility" for him. Over the years, the 61-year-old actor has featured in a number of biographical films by playing Walt Disney in "Saving Mr Banks", pilot Chesley Sullenberger in "Sully" and the titular mariner in "Captain Phillips", to name a few. "I play real people a lot. And it is a huge responsibility. Anyone you are playing somebody who was alive, for good or for bad, that performance becomes a version of an official record of what happened; what motivated them, what obstacles they faced, and how they got through their particular struggle," Hanks told W magazine. "There's a degree of leeway that you can allow yourself as long as you're not turning good guys into bad guys, or knowledge into ignorance," he added. Hanks also said that it is easier playing someone "who's no longer alive." "Because then you don't have to meet them," the actor added. (PTI)



Greta Gerwig and the cast of "Lady Bird" pose backstage with their award for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy at 75th Golden Globe Awards, Beverly Hills, California, U.S. —REUTERS

Virtual tour of Khajuraho, Kerala's backwaters in Netherlands

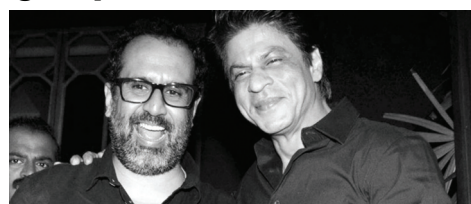
THE HAGUE, JAN 8 /-/- A virtual reality tour of India's famous monuments will be the major attraction for visitors to the Netherlands' largest holiday fair beginning here from Tuesday. "Virtual reality offers immersive, 3-D experiences via videos with 360-degree perspectives through which visitors will be able to enjoy the experience of visiting the Qutub Minar, Amer Palace, Khajuraho,

Nalanda, Kailashnath Temple, Athirappilly Waterfalls, Alappuzha backwaters and various other cultural and natural landmarks in India," a statement issued today by the Indian Embassy here said. The India tourism and Kerala tourism stalls and virtual reality displays at the Vakantiebeurs (holiday fair) will be inaugurated on January 9 by India's Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, Venu

Rajamony and the Mayor of Utrecht Jan van Zanen. Traditional lighting of lamps will be followed by Bhanga dance performances and Indian refreshments throughout the day to showcase India's cultural richness to visitors, it said. Start of the Indian Embassy in the Netherlands, India tourism and volunteers from the Indian community will facilitate virtual reality tours of India for visitors

during the six-day fair using devices specially procured for the purpose, the statement said. Vakantiebeurs is held every year in the city of Utrecht at the heart of the Netherlands and attracts a large number of visitors with 1,050 companies participating in 2018. Around 10 travel companies from India are co-exhibitors at the India tourism and Kerala tourism stalls this year. (PTI)

Shah Rukh Khan is a gutsy actor: Aanand L Rai



MUMBAI, JAN 8 /-/- Be it "Darr", "Baazigar", "Swades" or "Chak De! India", Shah Rukh Khan has taken some big risks in his over 25-year-long career and it was this "gutsy" attitude of the superstar that made filmmaker Aanand L Rai believe in him. The duo have collaborated for the first time on the upcoming film "Zero" and the director said Shah Rukh still has a lot to offer as an actor. "I think he is a very gutsy actor from day one, he has always taken up challenges. And that is the reason I am with him. As a director, you should be prepared to take him on a journey and explore such a superstar. He says yes to subjects that are extraordinary and puts himself in a space that is new, yet different," Rai told PTI.

The director is impressed by Shah Rukh's performance in the movie, which also features Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif. "This is a blessing that I got to work on a film like this with him. I am happy. He is an intelligent person to play this role. Who else can do this and get into the skin of a character like this? It is tough to take away those two feet, flamboyance, grace and still say 'let's romance'," he added. "Shah Rukh's last release 'Jab Harry met Sejal' did not work at the box office, but Rai is not worried about the fate of his movie. "In a decade's time, he will do so much as an actor but as a visionary he will take the Indian cinema ahead. He doesn't think like just an actor. Do expect a lot of new things as an actor. He has got great plans. "And with this man, if I feel stressed, (it is) not done. There is nervousness

and I enjoy that. This is India's biggest VFX film but you will hardly feel that. It will look like any other normal film and yet new, so that is what the VFX is all about." Bollywood's big names such as Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, Juhi Chawla, Sridevi, Ranu Mukerji, Kajol, Karisma Kapoor, among others have cameo appearances in the film. But according to Rai, the actors are not placed in the movie deliberately. "It is a part of the story and it has not been done to increase or give the film a scale. The cameo parts are not done for the sake of it, they have been used (well). "There is a reason for them to be a part of the film. They (the appearances) are not structured. It was a delight to have all of them in the film," he said. "Zero" is scheduled to be released on December 21. (PTI)

Margot Robbie is similar to Katharine Hepburn: Janney

LOS ANGELES, JAN 8 /-/- Actor Allison Janney thinks Margot Robbie's career graph is quite similar to Hollywood legend Katharine Hepburn. The 58-year-old actor said her "L. Tonya" co-star reminds her of Hepburn as neither of them wanted to be labelled as "the beautiful young thing." "I just kept thinking of Katharine Hepburn when I looked at her (Robbie). Katharine put together 'The Philadelphia Story' because she wasn't getting the parts that she wanted, and that's what Margot did," Janney told The Hollywood Reporter. "She was going to be typecast as this beautiful young thing, and she wanted to find interesting roles for herself and for other women, so she took the bull by the horns and she formed this company," she added. (PTI)

A cop film will always be compared to Dabangg, Singham: Rohit

MUMBAI, JAN 7 /-/- Director Rohit Shetty says cop films such as "Dabangg" and "Singham" have set the bar so high with their box office success and popularity that it is obvious for any police-centric movie to be compared with them. The filmmaker, whose next project "Simmba" will see Ranveer Singh don the khaki uniform as Sangram Bhalerao, said he is confident the film will be original in its character. "What usually happens is that Chubbul Pandey and Singham have become the iconic characters. When we were making 'Singham', a lot of people told us are 'you trying to make a 'Dabangg' kind of a film,' but the film has its own identity." This will always happen. Whenever a cop film will be made people will either draw comparisons with 'Dabangg' or 'Singham.' If the look and part is serious then 'Singham', if entertaining then Chubbul Pandey. Our cop (Ranveer) is not a Chubbul Pandey kind of a character," Shetty said, who has directed "Singham" and "Singham Returns".

While "Dabangg" and "Singham" have mushroomed into a franchise in the action-drama series, the director said it is too early to say the same about "Simmba". "Let's see how the first one does (referring to its commercial success). The first one has to work and then we will think (for the second one)." Presented by Reliance Entertainment, the film is produced by Rohit Shetty Picturaz and Karan Johar's Sharma Productions. "Simmba" is the first collaboration among the three top guys of Bollywood. "Ranveer is a unique personality. With Rohit, he will make his own character. There is no actor like him that I have seen so far. He is an energy ball, the way he will explode is going to be good. I don't think anyone would show the explosion like him on screen," Johar said. Meanwhile, the director-producer duo will be seen judging "India's Next Superstars", which goes on air from January 13 on Star Plus. The tagline of the show is 'Na Khandan Na Sifaaris' (Neither family line nor recommendation). Asked if this is an answer to the nepotism debate, Johar said, "It's better if I don't speak anything. I have already said a lot of things on the topic." Shetty, however, believes



some words make headlines. "Two years back intolerance was the word, now there is nepotism. It will fade out in some time. If a reporter and I know each other and that reporter refers his son or siblings who want to assist me or I can help them, there is no harm in it. If there is no talent in him or her, they will be able to do only one film. "If Karan had no talent he would not have reached this far. There is no harm in giving anyone an opportunity," he said. (PTI)