

EDITORIAL

POSITIVE THINKING

Whatever we think, we can fulfill it very easily, to fulfill that thought we all do our best. Positive thinking is a belief that increases your confidence in good things as well as bad things.

Positive thinking plays a special role in the success of any person. It is also said that life is full of thorns and difficult and difficult situations keep coming in the life of every person and the person who overcomes it due to his self-confidence and positive thinking is always happy.

Positive thinking is such a power of the human body, which inspires you to do something rather than the good and bad consequences of all the people. The positive Satyanam energy will help all of you to build and transform yourself in real life.

If we work with positive power then positive power will help all of you with special mindset to seek happiness, health and happy ending. There are many people who have been successful in their life and they say that the key to their success in life is nothing else but positive thinking. Positive thinking will completely transform all of you from personal and showy life. In this way, all of you will remain positive in your difficult situations and because of positive thinking, you will achieve your goal very soon.

If you all want to listen to everyone in your life, then you all have to remove negativity from your life. There are many people, in whose life something bad has happened and they are surrounded by negative thoughts forever, so in such a situation, you all should not be surrounded by negativity, but to remove negativity, you should increase your self-confidence. Along with this, positive thinking has to be awakened. Whatever bad has happened in your life, you do not have to run away from it, but fix it. Friends, by going away from stress, all of you will be able to remove negativity from your mind.

Friends, we are happy to tell you all that the people of our India always like to be happy and that is why they find ways to be happy along with positive efforts in their life. All of you have to be psychologically free from stress and always remain happy so that you all can use your positive power when needed and move towards your success. Stress can be removed by positive thinking and it helps a lot.

We all should think about our future and while thinking about our future, we all should take the best decisions. We all have to always have positive thinking while taking good decisions regarding the future.

If we keep thinking negatively, we will never be able to take good decisions for our future and our destruction will be certain in the future. Friends, if you have positive thinking then it will inspire all of you to take decisions and will also stimulate you to take a good decision.

Every person in the world should always start his day with positive thinking. With positive thinking we all can achieve every milestone in our life. It is also said in the old story that whatever we all think positively will happen in our future.

Therefore, we all should always have positive thinking and to move ahead, we should start our day with positive thinking. If you all want to be successful in your life, then you should always bring the best things to your attention and we should remove the bad things from our heart and mind and throw them away. This will mean that all of us will be able to live our present very well in the times to come and create a future for our children.

How 'selfie booths' are changing India politics

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

India could well be the only country where the "selfie" is the medium and the message and where railway stations have "selfie booths" to enable passengers to take a photo of themselves with a life-size reproduction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Railway stations in the country do not always offer a huge variety of recreational options in case a train is running late. Understandably, some passengers passing through, or likely to pass through the railway stations where these 3D selfie booths have been installed, are thrilled. And it is not just railway stations. In October last year, the ministry of defence directed its various departments to set up selfie points, to highlight the work done by the government, and said this "may contain" photos of the PM.

In the run-up to the general election, questions are bound to be raised when it comes to light that all this comes at a cost to the public exchequer. The Union government has reportedly spent nearly Rs 6.25 lakhs on every permanent 3D selfie booth with Mr Modi's image at various railway stations, according to a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application. Each temporary selfie booth costs Rs 1.25 lakh.

The matter has reached the Delhi high court. Additional solicitor-general Chetan Sharma, representing the Union government, told the court that "engagement in the selfie system is a gift of technology... let's make use of it... The physical construct of selfie points enables people to engage effectively, thereby having a greater impact".

"The person (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) has been elected by the people and is holding a constitu-

tional post. He may be someone's political rival but if this is being used for last-mile connectivity of beneficial schemes, you cannot have a grievance with that," the court said. The next hearing is due on January 30.

Unsurprisingly, reactions to the headline-grabbing 3D selfie booths are along predictable lines. Are various government departments installing 3D selfie points with the PM's image boosting Brand Modi ahead of the elections, or is it about instilling pride in the minds of citizens about India's achievements in the past decade?

Mr Modi's supporters agree with the government view linking the 3D selfie booths with generating greater public awareness about feats of "New India" under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. His political rivals and critics within civil society find them "over the top" and see them as a brazen misuse of public funds.

In a deeply polarised country, the response to the "selfie booth", much like the response to the 3D hologram featuring Mr Modi, depends on who you talk to.

But no one who has been closely following the Modi government is really surprised. Whatever be one's view, one thing is clear -- the "selfie booth" has emerged as a political branding tool, and part of the ruling BJP's communications quiver, much like the hologram deployed in the run-up to the 2014 general election. Mr Modi, then the BJP's PM candidate, appeared at hundreds of campaign rallies, sometimes at the same time, by using a computer-generated holographic image.

We now live in the age of the selfie. The selfie in its multiple avatars is firmly embedded in political arenas across the world, with increasing recognition of the importance of

visual political communication. In a 2019 essay, scholars Darren Lilleker, Anastasia Veneti and Daniel Jackson argued that "visuals are thus central to the politics of our time, for good or ill, with the power to stimulate emotions and elicit engagement -- among an often disengaged and apathetic".

The selfie snugly fits into what some experts call the "spectacularisation" of politics. It draws the attention of citizens towards the personality of the leader.

Needless to say, the BJP needs no lessons in this game.

Scholars across the world now keenly study Mr Modi's penchant for the selfie, use of the social media and all things tech while sledgehammering political and ideological messages.

"Although photographs have always played an important role in Indian electoral campaigns, Modi's use of selfies to connect with his support base was unprecedented. However, this was not the first instance in which Modi effectively used technological means of dissemination for political leverage," wrote academic Anirban Baishya in a 2015 essay titled "NaMo: The Political Work of the Selfie in the 2014 Indian General Election" in the International Journal of Communication.

Mr Baishya pointed out that in 2012, for instance, "Modi's campaign mobilised three-dimensional holography to project a 10-foot-tall image of him delivering a speech across several BJP rallies and public meetings in the country. The use of 3-D holographic technology revealed a keen understanding of the impact of techno-spectacular media and the benefits of the ostensible 'omnipresence' that they accorded."

In 2015, in the run-up to the Delhi

Assembly elections, the BJP set up over 2,500 "Selfie with Modi" booths across the city. People were urged to click their photos with a "virtual Narendra Modi". The "Selfie with Modi" was the BJP's pitch to young voters in the city. The BJP lost to the Aam Aadmi Party but did not discard the politics of the selfie.

In a world where the line between self and the selfie is blurring, the BJP's Mahila Morcha has run a selfie programme for women beneficiaries of the Modi government's schemes. In April 2023, when Prime Minister Modi visited Chennai to inaugurate development projects, he met S. Manikandan, a specially-abled BJP worker, took a "special selfie" with him, and went on to post it on the social media.

Researchers say selfies establish a sense of proximity between politicians and their voters. It is a lesson Opposition politicians can ignore only at their peril. They are not averse to selfies. But unlike the BJP, no Opposition party seems to have a coherent strategy on how to effectively leverage the tool.

The 3D selfie booths at the centre of the current political storm take the BJP strategy a step further. By positioning the Prime Minister's life-size replicas in the selfie booth in the context of the government's various schemes and India's achievements in the last decade when Mr Modi has been in power, BJP strategists have inserted the selfie into the narrative of governance. This potentially leads to conflating the act of taking a selfie with patriotism and critiquing the selfie booth thus becomes the opposite.

In the coming weeks and months, those pitching counters to the Modi selfies and selfie booths must factor these issues in. With the country and a world relying more and more on visual rather than verbal communication, criticism is not enough.

How to attempt Question Paper in Board Exams



By: Vijay GarG

Attempting the question paper properly in 10th board examinations can help you score high marks. Paper presentation is an important aspect and you must attempt the paper in a way that not only make an impact on the checker but also makes him read your paper easily.

Following are some points you must take care when attempting 10th board paper:

1. First read the question paper well

The first thing to do read your paper well, understand it well. When writing the answers, you first need to understand what is being asked and how much marks it contains. The answer should be written accordingly- logically and comprehensively.

2. Use the first 15 minutes effectively

You get a good 15 minutes in the beginning to read the question paper -- use this time to do just that, READ. Read all the 30 questions in 15 minutes. While reading, mark the ques-

tions into categories wise easy, manageable and tough. This is done to have an overall idea about the questions and make a rough plan.

3. Don't worry about the tough ones

The moment you find that there are a few tough questions; it is natural that you start worrying about them. This is not required and will only harm your performance.

The fact is that they may look a bit tough on the surface, but when you actually work on them you will find most of them to be much easier than they seemed. So be happy about the easy ones and don't get unduly worried about the tougher lot.

4. Prioritise your attempt

Always attempt the easy questions first and then move on to the manageable ones and ensure that you complete them before taking on the difficult ones. This will ensure that you are not leaving any question that you know.

Once you successfully attempt all the easy and manageable questions, your confidence will grow and you will be mentally ready to take on the more challenging questions.

5. Ensure speed and accuracy

Use quicker methods in calculations to ensure that you are not wasting time and your answers are correct. For example, if you make an error in the sign of a term (+/-), you may not be able to solve questions involving quadratic equations

or linear equations. Therefore avoiding silly mistakes is very important to save time. Always follow the tricks we discussed in speed strategies.

6. Keep an eye on your watch

Keeping an eye on your watch is of course not to increase your stress. This is just to see that you are broadly adhering to the time allocation we discussed in the beginning. A minor variation is not at all a reason to worry.

7. Avoid thinking too much about a question

Thinking about the questions before you attempt them is essential; but not to such an extent that you waste a lot of time on one question.

Also you need not write a very lengthy answer to a question just because the question is easy and you know it very well. Remember, you need to just answer the question and nothing more. Any over-attempt will be a mere waste of time.

8. Revise your answers

Usually the question papers are set in such a way that even after attempting all the questions, students should be left with 5-10 minutes in the end to revise their answers. Do not waste your time and revise all your answers.

9. Select your options wisely

In certain questions you will be provided multiple choices. Do not hurry and make your choice smartly. Read questions carefully: Before you begin writing answer, read question

carefully. See what is being asked in the question.

10. Use easy language

While writing your answer, make sure that you use easy to understand language. An examiner will rather be impressed by a conceptual answer written in simple language than with one without any conceptual language but written in flowery language.

11. Follow word count

For questions, especially in language and literature papers, where word count for the answer is provided, stick to word count. Do not over exceed the word limit. Also do not be a miser and wrap up your answer in very less word count.

12. Be neat and clean

Write your answer in a clean and legible handwriting. Not everyone has a beautiful handwriting but anyone can write answers with proper space and punctuation and in a legible handwriting. Remember that if your answer sheet is not clean and handwriting illegible, it will be unfavorable to you. Use margin wherever necessary.

13. Avoid using slangs

Remember that written English is different from spoken English. Using slang words or SMS language will be counted as spelling mistake and you will be penalized for the same.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout Punjab)

JU signs MoU with Growbyte IT Providers Private Limited Hyderabad



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Jammu and M/s Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, on Friday at University of Jammu (JU). Under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU, the Department of CS & IT, has moved one more step forward in building the industry-academia collaboration in form of MoU which is fourth of its kind in the recent times.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, on behalf of the University of Jammu and Madhu Vadlamni, Director, M/s Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. The objective of the MoU is to provide technical and developmental opportunities for

software development, organization of faculty development programmes, provide project assistance, conduct of seminars and workshops on recent trends in the emerging areas of Computer Science, which will mutually benefit the students, scholars, and faculty members of the Department.

Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Research Planning, and presently, holding the charge of Vice Chancellor, while appreciating the efforts made by the department, expressed the sincere hope that such interactions with the corporate sector shall not only confine to the fraternity of Computer Science Department but also such expertise shall be extended in setting up of latest digital facilities like creation of incubation centres at JU.

Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean

Academic Affairs, University of Jammu, and former Vice Chancellor, Cluster University, Jammu, while congratulating the initiative, appreciated the consistent efforts made by the department to provide the high end opportunities to the students to learn industrial skills. Prof. Anju Bhasin further added that such initiatives shall enhance the capabilities of the students to meet the challenges of fast growing IT sector.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies and Former Director, IIM, Sirmour, HP, while speaking on the occasion, welcomed the officials of the corporate sector and emphasized that such mutual collaborations of academia and industry shall enable the institutions of higher learning to get an exposure in the latest IT trends in field of

academics and research.

Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Head, Department of Computer Science & IT, apprised the dignitaries about various initiatives taken by the department including organization of workshops, FDPs, invited lectures etc., from time to time. Prof. Abrol further briefed the dignitaries present about the MoU and the academic initiative taken up by the Department in the latest domains like AI, ML, IoT, Cyber Security, Advance Networking etc. Prof. Abrol further said that the department is also planning to set up the AI/IoT labs in the near future.

M/s Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, is a global IT consulting company with in-depth expertise in providing end-to-end solutions especially, working in the area of Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) working on the diverse projects in desktops and web-enabled applications, service oriented and complex enterprise architecture etc.

Prof. Vibhakar Mansotra, Prof. Vinod Sharma, Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma, Dr. Shubhnanand Singh Jamwal, Jasbir Singh, Dr. Suresh Rao, Dr. Haneet Kour, Dr. Rajneet Kaur, and Namrata Karluia, Ayushi Gupta among others attended the MoU signing event in the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat.

Renowned Skydiver inspires NCC Cadets in Nagrota

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Jan 12: The air crackled with excitement at the NCC training academy in Nagrota where cadets of the 5 J&K Battalion NCC are undergoing their Combined Annual Training Camp.

Today, however, the usual training exercises took a backseat as an exceptional guest speaker took the stage, Group Captain Kamal Singh Oberh.

A figure revered in the world of skydiving, Group Captain Oberh boasts an impressive 150 jumps to his name, a feat that pales in comparison to his pioneering spirit. He holds the distinction of being the first Indian to skydive over the unforgiving landscapes of Antarctica and the Arctic region, pushing the boundaries of human courage and endurance.

Oberh's address wasn't a mere recount of his daredevil escapades. It was a master class in motivation, a tapestry woven with tales of unwavering determination, meticulous planning, and the unyielding pursuit of excellence. He painted vivid pictures of hurtling through the icy in winds of the poles, the



adrenaline rush coursing through his veins as he breached the boundaries of gravity.

But beyond the adrenaline rush, Oberh emphasized the meticulous planning and rigorous training that underpin each jump. He spoke of the intricate calculations, the weather monitoring, and the constant risk assessment that precede every leap. He instilled in the young cadets the importance of discipline, focus, and the ability to make quick decisions under pressure.

His words resonated deeply with the cadets. Their eyes, wide with admiration, reflected the spark of inspiration igniting within them. Oberh wasn't just sharing his experiences; he was planting seeds of courage, resilience, and a thirst for pushing boundaries in their hearts.

The lecture wasn't just

JKSTIC approves funding for SMVDU Research Projects



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Jammu and Kashmir Science and Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology, UT of J&K has approved funding to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) for the six research projects in various emerging areas.

The projects have been granted to Dr. Yathesh Anand, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul-Haq, and Dr. Ankush Raina from the School of Mechanical Engineering, Er. Ashish Suri and Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta from the School of Electronics

and Communication Engineering and Dr. Sanjeev Anand from the School of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Management as the Principal Investigators.

The grant, totalling a budget of Rs 39.35 lakhs, was announced as part of the JKSTIC scheme for 02 years.

The selected projects span various emerging domains, showcasing a strategic alignment with the latest advancements and societal needs.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, expressed gratitude for the support from JKSTIC, emphasizing

ing the pivotal role such grants play in advancing research capabilities within the university.

He highlighted the collaborative nature of the projects, which involve multidisciplinary teams from SMVDU working on innovative solutions.

The projects cover a diverse range of emerging areas, including UAVs, Electric Vehicle technology, Nano Tribology, 3D Printing etc. addressing challenges and opportunities on both regional and global scales.

The grants are expected to boost SMVDU's position as a leading research institution and contribute to the advancement of science and technology in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

The university, known for its dedication to academic excellence, is poised to make significant strides in emerging areas, with the support of funding agencies like JKSTIC's visionary funding initiatives.

Dozens of Cong, NC activists join BJP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Over three dozen prominent activists of Congress and National Conference (NC) of Panchayat Keincha, Mandal Kahra, Doda, joined BJP in a programme held at village Bunjoura. They were welcomed into the party fold by BJP senior leader & VDC Cell Convenor Basant Raj Thakur and BJP Nanaji Deshmukh Library Co-Convenor Ramesh Katoch.

Basant Raj Thakur, on this occasion, said that with each passing day, the prominent leaders and activist of Congress, NC and other parties are joining BJP in large numbers. It is due to the growing popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the rise in graph of Bharatiya Janata party in entire length and breadth of the UT.

He said that the good governance model of Narendra Modi has made people realize the need to strength BJP and return modi as PM for third consecutive term. He assured the new entrants that each one of them will get due respect in the party and their services will also be utilized to reach people in their

respective areas with the programmes and policies of the BJP.

Ramesh Katoch, while speaking to the new entrants, said that BJP is a big family having people from all faiths in its fold, who are working with dedication to educate and help the people in availing the benefits of various welfare schemes of the union government, which have brought changes in the lives of the poor, the women, farmers, down trodden and needy population of the UT, like other parts of the country.

Prominent among those who joined BJP included Shabir Ahmed, Taseem Pathania, Majid Hussain, Akram Ahmed, Zafarullah Butt, Rashid Ahmed, Mandir Ahmed, Parvaz Peeraj, Shamash Din, Yasar Hussain, Shabir Ahmed, Imran Hussain, Ishrat Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed, Mohd. Sharief, Abrar Ahmed, Tariq Hussain, Reyaz Ahmed, Mohd. Maqbool, Imtiyaz Ahmed, Mohd Faqeer, Saif Din, Yousaf Mugal, Gulam Mahidin Shah, Shoki Parray, Mohd Faqeer Pathan, Saleem Akhter, Mohd. Hussain, Parvaz Ahmed, Mohd. Yousaf and Zakir Hussain.

Army conducts of Ex-Serviceman Rally



Top News Report

DODA, Jan 12: Indian Army conducted an annual Ex-serviceman Rally at Sports Stadium, Doda aimed to address the needs & problems of Ex-serviceman and Veer-Naries related to pension, emoluments, health and orient them on various benefits and schemes. The event was aimed at providing a platform for veterans to share their experiences and to connect with each other and to show appreciation for the contribution and sacrifices made by veterans of the armed forces.

The rally was attended by a large number of Ex-servicemen from the Doda region.

A total of 165 Ex-servicemen, 10 Veer-Naries, 04 Widows and 371 civilians attended the event. The Army dignitary addressed the ESM rally and interacted with Ex-servicemen and felicitated the Veer-Naries and veterans of Doda region and ensured them timely resolution of their grievances.

He also highlighted the contribution of the Ex-servicemen for their country and expressed gratitude and admiration

for their families. The Indian army has always been committed to the welfare of its veterans and their families.

The Indian army's dedication to the welfare of Ex-servicemen is a testament to its commitment to serving and protecting the nation.

The Army is proud of its veterans and is committed to providing them with the support they need to lead fulfilling lives after their service to the nation. The gathering was also briefed about the welfare schemes by Zila Sainik Board and ECHS department.

The Ex-servicemen expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts to organize such rallies and provide support to veterans. They also shared their experiences and offered suggestions for improving the welfare of Ex-servicemen.

For enhanced accountability, display information boards at site of work being executed under Defect Liability Clause: Balvinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: S Balvinder Singh renowned RTI Activist stated that amidst the prevailing practices in government construction projects, there arise a crucial need to address concerns related to defect liability periods of the works executed.

As of now every government's construction work carries the defect liability clause ranging from one year to three years whereby contractors ten percent amount of the bill is withheld for that defect liability period and is released only after the defect liability period is over.

While fostering accountability, this practice highlights the essential requirement for transparent and accessible mechanisms to address defects.

Singh strongly urge the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) administration to take proactive measures in guiding



engineers to implement visible provisions at construction sites governed by the defect liability clause. This involves installing informative boards, prominently displaying details such as the contractor's name, Name of nodal officer along with his/her contact number & date covering the defect liability period. The

proposal underscores the need for appointing a nodal officer in every department to facilitate a streamlined process for defect reporting.

As per Balvinder Singh this groundbreaking initiative aims to empower the public, providing them with a direct channel to voice concerns about defects

to designated officials through contact information prominently displayed on these boards.

As one of the RTI reply of Balvinder Singh, revealed that in majority of the cases, where defects developed during the defect liability clause, concerned Junior Engineer has not reported the matter to the higher officers like Assistant Executive Engineer, Executive Engineer or Superintendent Engineer.

Singh earnestly request the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to intervene and instruct Heads of Departments (HODs) in each engineering department, especially PWD (R&B), to promptly install these information boards.

This strategic step not only ensures timely defect rectifications but also nurtures a culture of transparency and accountability, ultimately benefiting citizens and enhancing the development landscape of the region.

VBSY: IEC Van Traverses through panchayats of block Nowshera & Seri in Rajouri District

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 12: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has become a driving force in the implementation of various government schemes and ushering in comprehensive development in Rajouri district.

Central to this endeavor is an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van, a dynamic mobile platform designed to effectively communicate and create awareness about the diverse initiatives undertaken as part of the Yatra. The van plays a pivotal role in engaging with local communities, imparting crucial knowledge, and empowering residents to avail themselves of the benefits offered by government schemes.

The VBSY has recorded notable success in the implementation of

various government schemes in Rajouri District. These schemes, crafted to elevate living standards and provide essential services, have been executed with exceptional efficiency on the ground. Consequently, the community has experienced tangible improvements and witnessed positive changes in their daily lives.

Today, the VBSY IEC vans traversed through the panchayats of Handan, Langhar, Kalsian, Bhawani-A, Deeing, Gakhrote, Mangal Devi-A and Mangote of block Seri as well as Nowshera. This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reaching every corner of the district and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives are felt at the grassroots level.

The impact of the Yatra is evident in enhanced

access to healthcare, education, and basic amenities, contributing to the overall progress of Rajouri District. Meticulously planned and executed, this initiative aligns with the core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the community.

The VBSY symbolizes progress and collaboration, embodying the spirit of Viksit Bharat Sankalp. By bringing government schemes to the grassroots level and ensuring comprehensive coverage, it has created a platform for empowerment and upliftment. This transformative journey in Rajouri District stands as an exemplary model of effective governance, community engagement, and collective determination to build a better and prosperous India.

When Zeenat Aman said Deepika Padukone would be perfect choice for 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram'; this is what she meant

With her acting prowess, actress Deepika Padukone has found a home in the hearts of moviegoers. Even veteran actress Zeenat Aman is an admirer of her work.

In the latest episode of Disney+Hotstar's 'Koffee with Karan 8', Zeenat Aman marked her gracious presence with Neetu Kapoor. The two went down memory lane as they discussed their busy work life, co-stars, marriage, motherhood, and even grandmotherhood with host Karan Johar.

Interestingly, during the rapid-fire segment, Karan went on to ask Zeenat about her choice of actress who would be appropriate to play the role of Rupa in the sequel to Satyam Shivam Sundaram (1978). Without any second thought, she took the name of Deepika Padukone.

'Satyam Shivam Sundaram' is a 1978 romantic drama film produced and directed by Raj Kapoor and written by Jainendra Jain. It starred Shashi Kapoor and Zeenat Aman in the lead roles. In the film, she played the



role of Rupa with a disfigured face.

During the episode, Zeenat recalled how she got the role in the iconic, albeit controversial film, directed by Raj Kapoor.

Zeenat Aman recalled, "I didn't think that he would even think of casting me in this kind (Rupa) of role. Because she is the daughter of a priest. One day we were shooting at Esel Studios, which is on the road to RK (RK Studios). After packing up, I just dressed myself up

in my version of what I thought he (Raj Kapoor) would think of Rupa." On how she prepared for the role, she added, "With tissue paper stuck on my face. And make-up, and choti (braid), and ghagra-choli. Then I went to RK Studios. He had this man on Friday, John, and then I said, John, please tell sir that Rupa has come. So he said, Rupa? Who is Rupa? Then he (Raj Kapoor) called me inside his cottage, and I went. Then he was gobsmacked," Zeenat

Aman recalled.

Zeenat Aman shared what Raj Kapoor said later to his wife, Krishna Raj Kapoor.

"He said that this girl is a huge star. She doesn't need to do this. It's her passion for this that makes me want to give her the part. You know what he did: on an old song of Nargis ji, Jago Mohan Pyaare, he shot a whole reel with his vision of Rupa. It was so exquisite what he shot. Better than the entire film." She added that he showed the clip to film distributors.

"He wanted to show them, yes, Zeenat Aman can be Rupa. All territories were interested," she added.

Zeenat Aman is now all set to make a comeback to the silver screen with Manish Malhotra's film 'Bun Tikki', which also stars Abhay Deol and Shabana Azmi. The film is directed by Faraz Arif Ansari and also stars actor Abhay Deol. Jyoti Deshpande, Dinesh Malhotra, and Marijke Desouza will produce the film under the umbrella of Manish Malhotra's Stage 5 Productions.

Neetu Kapoor on why husband Rishi Kapoor stopped bullying people in his last days



Actor Neetu Kapoor in a recent episode of the chat show 'Koffee with Karan 8' talked about late actor Rishi Kapoor's relationship with his children Ranbir and Riddhima.

Neetu graced the coffee couch along with veteran star Zeenat Aman.

During a conversation with the show's host Karan Johar, the 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' star recalled the time she spent with her late husband in New York when he was receiving treatment for cancer.

She said, "So Karan for me, I don't like to remember the sad part. I like to remember the good part of our relationship and of our time in New York. So New York was really sad, but we had the best year, I had the best year of my life."

She also revealed how the 'Karz' actor

would rarely be casual and friendly with his kids but that changed in the final days.

"Because you know Chintu Ji (Rishi Kapoor) is a very loving person. He had a lot of love in him. But there was something he never really showed his love. He always kept his distance and bullying people, not show his love. Especially with me and my children, he was like a big thing. Respect and all and with that he lost out on a lot with his children. He was never a friend to them," she said.

She added, "But that year, he opened up. He showed love, went towards me also he was so lovely. We had the best time." Rishi Kapoor passed away on April 30 in the year 2020 at the age of 67.

He was suffering from leukaemia. He was in New York for a considerable amount of time for his treatment. Neetu was there for him as a rock-solid partner through thick and thin.

Rishi and Neetu got married on January 22, 1980, and share two children, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and superstar Ranbir Kapoor.

Back in the 70s and 80s, the couple starred in several hits together, like 'Amar Akbar Anthony', 'Khele Khele Mein', 'Rafoo Chakkar', 'Kabhi Kabhie', 'Besharam' and many more, and inspired generations with both their on-screen and off-screen romance.

Kareena Kapoor Khan does not seek validation from social media

Kareena Kapoor Khan has been in the Hindi film industry for over two decades and enjoys a massive fan following. In 2020, the diva made her debut on social media.

Kareena currently enjoys a fan following of 11.4 million on Instagram. About the importance of social media, Kareena said, "I enjoy using social media, but for me it is a way to connect with my fans and give them a glimpse into my life. I don't seek validation from social media at all, but I'm happy that I get a lot of love from my fans."

"As an artiste, I'm stepping into the shoes of powerful characters and that's validation enough for me. So, while I appreciate the love on Instagram, my true validation comes from the roles I take on, the stories I tell, and the legacy I'm building as an artiste in the world of entertainment," she added.

However, there have been good and bad



days in her journey in Hindi cinema, which began in 2000 with the film Refugee.

Kareena also revealed that the toughest part of being a superstar was, "Lack of privacy."

In characteristic Haryanvi lingo, actor Randeep Hooda, in Chandigarh, left the audience in splits and also spoke about his upcoming film Veer Savarkar

Randeep Hooda — the Haryana lad who made it big in not only Bollywood, but also shone in Hollywood film Extraction — was in Chandigarh on Wednesday to unveil the trophy of the fifth edition of Chitra Bharti Film Festival. The festival will be held in Panchkula this February.

Like a proud Haryanvi, his opening lines for the jam-packed crowd at the Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh, were, "Sab ne Ram Ram bhai."

Keeping the mahaul light, Hooda made a sarcastic comment about his bad memory as he forgot the names of those present alongside him on stage! He later said, "I have a strong belief that a good film leaves a deep and long-lasting impact on the minds of people."

On a witty note As he talked about films, festivals and their significance, the



reference to Manipur enthused the crowd! Randeep, who recently married actress and his long-time girlfriend Lin Laishram, from Manipur, said, "Stories are everywhere; so, a film about Kerala should be watched in Haryana or a story from Haryana in Manipur or one based in

girl, "I didn't have a sarkari naukari."

Real to reel

About his most-anticipated film of the year, Swatantra Veer Savarkar, where he plays the titular role, he said, "When the role of Savarkar ji came to me, I knew so little about him. But when I read books, especially English ones, I witnessed how there were just two paragraphs on the Strong Revolution (Sashakt Kranti) against the British and how the sacrifice of these heroes was undermined. In fact, there are so many untold stories of revolutionaries and their contribution to the freedom struggle."

On taking to direction and production for this film, Hooda said, "I was happy portraying Savarkar ji and knew could perform well, but donning the director's hat was a whole new experience. I was the first one to arrive on

sets and the last one to leave."

Things were no different when due to unforeseen and undisclosed circumstances, Hooda had to also produce the film. "It was actually like being the father of a bride, who is worried about everything. The cast and crew would use the property, but it was the producer who had to keep a tab on damage to property and other logistics. However, desire and determination kept me going."

Hooda also said in addition to entertainment, a film should carry a social message too. "These days, more than feature-length films, people find reels entertaining. My friends asked how I would bring masses to the theatres to watch Savarkar ji's story, as nobody knew him. So, my idea was to make it entertaining and message-oriented as well."

Celebs give their opinion on the Maldives-Lakshadweep controversy

In recent years, the Maldives has become a favourite destination for Indian celebs. Now, that the Maldives-India controversy has flared-up, we ask celebs whether they are likely to include the Maldives in their travel plan.

Only for the rich

Ismail Umar Khan I am aware of the controversy, and action has been taken against the official who made racist and derogatory comments. Many Indians may not even know that the Maldives exists, but after this controversy, people will be aware of it. All these destinations are for the rich, whereas most of us are happy with our Indian beaches. As far as I'm concerned, the Maldives was never on my cards. Let me first explore my country; the rest can wait.

Won't tolerate it

Charrul Malik The Maldives' economy depends on tourism, and more than 25 per cent of tourists are from India. When they attack India, it's an attack against their economy.

Well, this is very pleasing to see celebrities promoting India. Definitely, this will only do better for the Indian economy and people. I have never been to either the Maldives or Lakshadweep. I would love to go to Lakshadweep. It's on my bucket list. I really don't get influenced by any controversy and don't pass judgments. But against our country, against our PM, if anyone speaks a single wrong word, we won't tolerate, and of course, we won't go there... come what may.

Lakshadweep it is

Rinku Ghosh I think the entire world needs to learn from India, to be humble and modest. We have everything. From mountains to sea, from forest to desert, from river to forest. India is complete. India doesn't believe in putting someone down just to put oneself up. The Maldives' tourism is largely dependent on India. Such kind of derogatory statements are not acceptable. I have not visited the Mal-



dives. When we have Lakshadweep, why do we need to visit the Maldives?

Looking inwards

Lokit Phulwani I personally believe that the freedom of expression should be exercised in a democratic and responsible manner, and in ways that do not spread hatred, negativity, and hinder close relationships, especially between international partners. India in itself is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world offering the best, be it mountains, desert, or pristine beaches. Have plans to explore within before looking at anything outside.

Create an alternative

Nikhil Nanda The Maldives has been a beautiful destination. I have visited it, but after the controversy caused by the distasteful statements made by the ministers there, no Indian should ever visit the Maldives anymore. We should only be creating an alternative for the Maldives and luxury.

Yami Gautam: Got to do something different which I'd been longing to do as an actor with 'Uri'



As the blockbuster film URI: The Surgical Strike completed five years of its release on Thursday, actress Yami Gautam said that she got to do something different in the film. Yami expressed: "It's been five years of URI, and I

must say it's undeniably a very special film for me." Directed by Aditya Dhar, the film starred Vicky Kaushal, Yami Gautam and Paresh Rawal.

Yami said: "URI was our modern-day cinematic version of the

living legend, our Indian Army. Everyone who was associated with this film cherished the thunderous response we received from every corner of the world.

"To be part of URI, a story that celebrates the bravery of our Indian Army and the nation's spirit, was an honour for me. It was a film where I got to do something different, which I'd been longing to do as an actor."

Yami Gautam, who portrayed the character of Pallavi Sharma in the film, added: "The film was the result of the hard work of every department, which worked day and night to deliver a one-of-a-kind cinematic experience to the audiences. Forever grateful to Aditya for making it all happen and leading the film with unmatched passion and sincerity, Pallavi Sharma is and will always hold a special place in my heart."

I am emotional for first time in life, says PM Narendra Modi as he begins 11-day religious exercise ahead of Ram temple consecration

Says it is his good fortune that he will be a witness to the auspicious occasion

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that ahead of the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, he would undertake a strict code of conduct for 11 days and dedicate himself to the will of God.

"I have decided to start an 11-day religious meeting exercise before the consecration rituals on January 22 and am fortunate to begin my exercise today from Nasik Dham Pandhavi, the divine land where Lord Ram spent a lot of time," said an emotional prime minister in an audio message to the people whom he urged to immerse themselves in Ram worship in the coming days.

Describing himself as fortunate to be the chosen one to represent 140 crore Indians and their faith through consecration of the idol, the PM said he was feeling emotional for the very first time in his life.

The PM remembered Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary today and how he spent his life trying to awaken a slumbering Indian consciousness.

"That same self-confidence is



before us today in the form of a grand Ram temple which is our identity," the prime minister said urging people to share their feelings on the occasion through the Namoh app.

The PM who is in Mumbai on Friday to inaugurate the longest bridge on sea, Atal Setu, also saluted Jija Bai, the mother of

Shivaji who, he said, had a tremendous role in shaping a sovereign India as we see it today.

"It is also natural for me to remember my mother today. She worshiped Sita-Ram till the end of her life," the PM said.

While counting himself as blessed to be representing all Indians when he enters the

sanctum sanctorum of Ram temple on January 22, the PM said though he would witness the divine moment in person, all 140 crore Indians would be with him.

"All Ram worshippers will be with me. That moment will be a moment of our collective realisation. I will carry with me the inspiration of innumerable people who sacrificed their lives for the Mandir, the inspiration of endless tales of nameless people and their valour and of the resilience shown over a long wait of 500 years," Modi said, adding that he would enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple with the energy of everyone and would feel their presence.

The 11-day social and moral code of conduct the PM entered into on Friday is prescribed in Hindu scriptures as a mandatory exercise ahead of a task like consecration of an idol.

The code of conduct involves a range of tasks, including fasting, and observance of a set of values.

Called Yam Niyams, these codes are strict and require tremendous self-discipline.

PM Modi inaugurates Atal Setu, India's longest sea bridge in Mumbai



MUMBAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Rs 17,840 crore Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, the longest bridge as well as the longest sea bridge in the country connecting south Mumbai with Nhava-Sheva in Navi Mumbai. The six-lane trans-harbour bridge is 21.8

km long with a 16.5 km long sea-link.

The bridge will provide faster connectivity to the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport and reduce the travel time between Mumbai and Pune.

It will also improve connectivity between the Mumbai Port and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

The foundation stone

of the bridge had been laid by prime minister Modi in December 2016.

The PM on Friday also laid the foundation stone of an underground road tunnel connecting the Eastern Freeway in eastern Mumbai to Marine Drive in south Mumbai.

The 9.2 km tunnel will be built at a cost of more than Rs 8700 crore.

Next-generation air-defence missile Akash tested successfully

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation Akash (AKASH-NG) air-defence missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on Friday.

The AKASH-NG is a state-of-the-art missile system capable of intercepting high speed, agile aerial threats.

"The successful flight test has paved the way

for user trials," the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

'User trials' means the missile and AKASH-NG system have moved to second stage as the forces would conduct its trials at their level. The Indian Air Force already has inducted the Akash Missile system. The AKASH-NG is an upgrade of that.

The flight-test was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at a very low altitude. During the flight-test, the target



was successfully intercepted by the missile and destroyed. It has validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consist-

ing of the missile with indigenously developed radio frequency seeker, launcher, multi-function radar and command, control and communica-

tion system.

The system performance was also validated through the data captured by a number of radars, telemetry and electro optical tracking system deployed by the ITR. The flight-test was witnessed by senior officials from the DRDO, IAF, Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented the DRDO, IAF, public sector undertakings and the industry for the flight-test.

Bhushan Steel Bank Fraud Case: Enforcement Directorate Arrests 5

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has arrested five persons in connection with an alleged 56,000 crore bank loan fraud linked money laundering case against erstwhile Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL), official sources said Friday.

Those taken into custody on Thursday are Pankaj Kumar Agarwal, ex-chief financial officer Nitin Johri, Ajay Mittal, the



VP accounts Pankaj Kumar Agarwal, ex-chief financial officer Nitin Johri, Ajay Mittal, the

brother-in-law of former promoter Neeraj Singal, and Ajay Mittal's wife and sister of Neeraj Singal, Archana Mittal.

After completing the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), Bhushan Steel was taken over by Tata Steel Ltd in 2018.

According to the Enforcement Directorate, Bhushan Steel Limited's former Managing Director Neeraj Singal and his associates

formed several shell companies and the promoters and entities linked to BSL "rotated funds from one company to another through a chain of multiple entities" as part of an alleged bank loan fraud.

The money laundering case stems from a charge sheet filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), an investigative agency under the ministry of corporate affairs.

Bihar minor found naked under flyover, uncle arrested for rape

GOPALGANJ, Jan 12 (Agencies): A man in Bihar's Gopalganj has been arrested on charges of raping his minor niece.

The incident occurred when the mother of the minor found her under a flyover near her house, in a naked state.

The accused, Jitendra Shah, took his niece and daughter to a shop, where he bought them snacks.

He later sent his daughter home, taking his niece towards a river, where the accused committed the crime.

The family of the rape survivor began a hunt for her after she did not return home for quite some time. As she enquired with the locals, the minor's mother was told her daughter was seen going towards the river along with her uncle.



Upon reaching the spot, the woman found her daughter crying under a bridge, in a naked state.

The accused man, who was also found in a naked state nearby, fled the spot.

He was later arrested and action against him was taken under the POCSO Act.

Meanwhile, the victim was taken to a hospital for treatment, from where she was referred to another hospital.

Men who assaulted interfaith couple in Karnataka charged with gangrape

HAVERI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Seven men who allegedly barged into a hotel room and attacked an interfaith couple during their stay in this district have been charged with gangrape after the victim complained that she was sexually assaulted by them, police said on Friday.

In the case of moral policing, three men, who also belong to a minority community, have been arrested in connection with the incident that happened on January 8, they said.

"On Thursday afternoon, the victim's statement was recorded in front of a magistrate wherein she alleged that she was gang raped by seven men who also abused and assaulted her. So, based on her claim, we have added

section 376 D (gangrape) to the existing FIR. We have arrested three men in connection with the incident so far," a senior police officer said.

"Another suspect is hospitalised due to an accident he met a day after the alleged incident. So, once he is discharged, he will be taken into custody. Our teams are trying to trace the remaining suspects in the case. We have identified all of them," he said.

Earlier, the woman alleged the involvement of six men, and later she also mentioned other suspects who were accomplices, so the police were trying to secure all of them, he added.

According to the police, on January 8, at 1 pm, a 26-year-old

married woman who belongs to a minority community checked into the hotel room with a KSRTC driver aged 40, with whom she has been in a relationship for the past three years.

The entire assault which happened inside the hotel room was filmed by the gang.

The videos later became viral after they got circulated on social media platforms, police said.

In one of the videos, six men could be seen knocking on the door of a room.

When a man opens the door, the assailants could be seen barging in and heading towards the woman.

The gang verbally abused the couple, assaulted them and filmed the woman while

she tried to cover her face with a burqa.

According to police, when the couple entered the hotel, they were spotted by an auto-rickshaw driver.

Seeing the woman clad in a burqa with a man from another community, he immediately alerted the gang of local men who also belonged to the minority community.

They allegedly barged into the hotel room and started attacking the couple.

They also eventually dragged them out of the room, a senior police officer said.

The gang who arrived on three motorcycles drove the couple to an isolated place which was about a kilometre away from the hotel. Upon reaching there,

they started thrashing the couple. They also abused the woman and hit her with sticks, he said.

The woman alleged she was also gang-raped by them, he added.

Thereafter, the gang gave her Rs 500 and told her to go to her native place. She later went to Sirsi where her husband lives, the police officer said.

The accused members are not affiliated to any organisation, police said, adding that those arrested so far do not have any criminal background, but that needs to be verified.

Besides gang rape, other IPC sections included in the FIR are those pertaining to kidnap and assault, according to the police.

After state govt shoots down Imphal venue, Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to begin from private ground in Manipur's Thoubal: Congress



IMPHAL, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday said the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra would be flagged off from a private ground in Manipur's Thoubal district on January 14, instead of from the state capital Imphal.

Congress's Manipur president Keisham Meghachandra said permission was sought to begin the Yatra from the Hapta Kangjeibung ground in Imphal but the state government gave the go-ahead with certain conditions, forcing them to move the venue around 34 km at the last moment.

"We had proposed to the state government on January 2 that Hapta Kangjeibung public ground in Imphal be allowed for flagging off the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. We had also announced that the Yatra would start from Imphal, and culminate in Mumbai," he said.

"We met Chief Minister N Biren Singh on January 10 but were told that the permission would not be given. Later that night, an order was issued which gave permission for Hapta Kangjeibung ground but with a limited number of participants," he added.

Meghachandra said a

team of the state Congress again met Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi in the presence of DGP Rajiv Singh, and the deputy commissioner and SP of Imphal East.

"We were told that not more than 1,000 people would be allowed at the venue. As the permission was not given, we were in an alarming situation. Late on Thursday night, the Thoubal DC gave permission for flagging off the Yatra from a private land in Khongjom area of the district," he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge would flag off the Yatra from there, he said.

Another state Congress leader said there would be no change in the route even though the venue had to be changed.

After beginning in Manipur on January 14, the Yatra will culminate in Mumbai on March 20. It is scheduled to cover 6,713 km in 67 days while passing through 110 districts in 15 states.

Chennai Quick Guns to take on Gujarat Giants in Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 final

CHENNAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Chennai Quick Guns reached the final of Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 with a 31-29 victory over Telugu Yoddhas in the second semifinal at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Cuttack on Thursday. They will take on Gujarat Giants, who beat defending champions Odisha Juggernauts in the first semifinal. Despite Telugu Yoddhas seizing an early advantage, Chennai Quick Guns clawed their way back into the match with an impressive attacking performance in the final turn.

Ultimate Kho Kho, promoted by Amit Burman in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India, became the first Indian sports league to secure Series A funding, courtesy the UK-based BNP Group. The semifinals featured a number of guests, including Shri VK Pandian, chairman of 5T and Nabin Odisha, Shri Vineel Krishna, Sports Secretary, Odisha and Nasreen, the Arjuna Award-winning Indian Kho Kho team captain.

"Odisha is at the forefront of promotion and development of sports including indigenous sports like Kho Kho. Apart from having a franchise in Ultimate Kho Kho, it is also setting up a high performance centre for Kho Kho with AM/NS India," said Shri VK Pandian on the occasion.

All eyes were on the in-form Ramji Kashyap going into Turn 1, but it was another big name player who grabbed all the attention. Telugu Yoddhas skipper Pratik Waikar was in regal form, scoring a whopping ten points for his team in turn. Chennai Quick Guns' first batch — Ramji, Vijay Shinde and Madan — earned the customary couple



of dream run points. But that was all that the Telugu Yoddhas attackers led by Waikar allowed their opponents. At the end of the turn, Telugu Yoddhas had a 14-2 advantage. Telugu Yoddhas consolidated the advantage in Turn 2 with their first batch of Waikar, Aditya Ganpule and Avdhut Patil staying on the mat for four minutes and seven seconds, and getting three dream run points. The first innings ended with the score at 17-14 in favour of Telugu Yoddhas.

Waikar continued his superb show in Turn 3, taking just four seconds to send back his first victim. The first Chennai Quick Guns batch lasted just two minutes and 11 seconds. That allowed Chennai Quick Guns' prime batch of Ramji, Shinde and Madan to come on the mat. They did their job, spending four minutes and 18 seconds on the mat and earning three dream run points. Telugu Yoddhas held a 29-17 lead going into the final turn.

The Chennai Quick Guns attackers however came to the party in Turn 4, sending back the first two Telugu Yoddhas batches in quick time and levelling the scores. And with Laxman Gawas sending back Avdhut Patil, the Chennai Quick Guns had the points they needed. Earlier, Gujarat Giants marched into the final, overcoming defending champions Odisha Juggernauts 29-27 in the

Asian Olympic Qualifiers: Sheoran clinches gold in men's 50m rifle 3 positions, Aishwary Pratap claims silver

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Indian shooters Akhil Sheoran and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar claimed gold and silver respectively in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event of the Asian Olympic Qualifiers, on Friday, continuing the country's dominant show in



of the individual competition comfortably with Aishwary taking second, Sheoran third and Swapnil (584) the fourth qualifying spots, as China's Yu Hao topped the 44-strong field with a 589.

Sheoran reaped the rewards for consistent shooting in the 45-shot final and was in the reckoning after every position. He went from strength to strength, breaching 153 in the first kneeling position, 154 in prone and then shot 100.9 over the first 10 standing shots to zoom to second place. Besides Tomar, Thailand's Thongphaphum Vongsukdee settled for the bronze medal after managing 448.8. The duo of Sheoran and Tomar combined with Swapnil Kusale to also win the team gold medal in the same event ahead of Chinese and South Korean teams. The Indians aggregated 1758 points, a huge 14 points more than the second-placed team.

In the individual qualification, Tomar was placed third with a total score of 588, while Sheoran finished sixth with 586.

India's Niraj Kumar Chain Singh also participated in the qualification but for gaining ranking points only and was not eligible for entry into the final. The medals won Friday took India's tally to 10 gold, eight silver and six bronze in the event. In the 50m rifle 3 positions, all three Indian men made the finals

of the individual competition comfortably with Aishwary taking second, Sheoran third and Swapnil (584) the fourth qualifying spots, as China's Yu Hao topped the 44-strong field with a 589.

Sheoran reaped the rewards for consistent shooting in the 45-shot

of the individual competition comfortably with Aishwary taking second, Sheoran third and Swapnil (584) the fourth qualifying spots, as China's Yu Hao topped the 44-strong field with a 589.

Sheoran reaped the rewards for consistent shooting in the 45-shot

Ranji Trophy: Former Amazon executive Koushik Vasuki making up for lost time with K'taka

KARNATAKA, Jan 12 (Agencies): Koushik Vasuki remembers the time — nearly a decade ago — when he took up late night shifts at Amazon just so he could play cricket in the morning. In his early 20s and yet to graduate to zonal cricket, he didn't have much choice. Cricket — his boyhood love since the time he played with a plastic bat and ball with his father in the Yelahanka railway quarters — was still plan A. But that in itself wasn't enough.



"Coming from a middle class family, you need to have a backup," he tells The Indian Express as his prime reason behind taking a longer route to make a profession out of his passion. Hence, the mechanical engineering course from Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering in Bengaluru, a year working in the corporate world, and eight years and counting as an employee at Central Tax and Customs. "It was never one thing at a time. During engineering, I did not play a lot of club matches because it was clashing with my exams, which is why they never picked me for zonals. When I had Karnataka Premier League games, I used to take up night shifts. Corporate jobs don't give you additional leaves for playing. It took a toll on my body," he says.

Reminiscing on the days of hard grind in early 2024, the 31-year-old sits as one of the standout performers at the start of the Ranji season after an impressive outing in the Duleep

Trophy final. It was Koushik's seven wicket burst on day one of the Ranji Trophy season which put Karnataka in position to snatch a win against Punjab. With just 10 first-class games under his belt, the late bloomer has come good with 49 wickets.

"I believe few things are destined to happen," Koushik says. "If given a chance, I'd be thinking three to four times before redoing this. If you ask me, my prime was between 2014-2020, when I was 22-28. I lost a good three-four years. But the competition was very high until 2018-19. You had three of the greatest fast bowlers who have played for the Karnataka side — the batch of R Vinay Kumar, Abhimanyu Mithun and Sreenath Aravind. It was only after they retired or went away from the game that we got a chance."

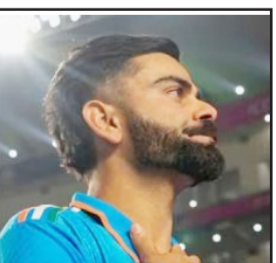
There's another reason, Koushik believes, that might have delayed his arrival on the domestic scene. A lower back issue that he suffered when he was 17 meant he had to cut down on pace when he played in the KPL. Mostly operating below 130kmph, he was deemed a bit slow.

To make up for the lack of pace, he would focus on accuracy, taking a cue out of his idol Glenn McGrath. "I started developing other skills... being accurate, trying to swing the ball instead of going for pace. It was about discovering what works for me and I was getting wickets. Last two years, I've been the highest wicket-taker for Karnataka in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. In the last Ranji season, I played five matches and picked up 24 wickets. At the end of the day, that is what matters."

Having missed out on the zonal and junior age group state cricket, Koushik credits the state's T20 league as his big launchpad into the senior team. "Guys like KC Cariappa, who was picked by Kolkata Knight Riders for a huge amount. He was a revelation at the time. In 2018, when I was picked for the state team, it was based on my performance in the KPL, where I was the most economical seamer. Our team also made it to the finals," says Koushik, who first featured in the KPL during the 2010 season for Sharnur Davangere Diamonds.

'Who's Virat Kohli? A player?': Ronaldo reacts after being asked about India cricketer

AHMEDABAD, Jan 12 (Agencies): Indian cricket talisman Virat Kohli may have an army of followers on social media but there are still some corners of the world that he is not easily recognisable. According to Statista, Kohli is the 13th most followed celebrity on Instagram with a follower count of 265 million. Footballers like Cristiano Ronaldo (with 616 million followers) and Lionel Messi (496 million followers) are easily on the top of the



list, Kohli is the most followed Indian on the social media platform. However, there are still some who don't know who he is. Recently, in a conversation with a YouTuber, Darren Jason Watkins Jr who runs the handle Show-Speed and is known as Speed, Brazil football legend Ronaldo was asked what he thought about Kohli.

Former England star 'terrified' of what awaits Stokes and Co. in India without warm-up games: 'That's inexcusable'

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): England will be touring India for the first time since they radically changed their approach to Test cricket under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum. India host England in a five-match Test series starting on January 25. It will be England's first Test tour of India since their radical change in approach to the format under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum. While England took the world by storm in the initial series in which they showcased what has since come to be called 'Bazball', they failed to take the Ashes for the first time since 2015, being held to a 2-2 draw at home by Australia.

England have been preparing for the series with an 11-day training camp in Abu Dhabi and will not play any warm-up matches in India before the first Test. (Reuters) It meant that they ended 2023 with just one Test series win, which came in a one-off Test against Ireland. England now tour India for their first Test series in 2024 but former batter Mark Butcher has brought their preparation. England have been preparing for the series with an 11-day training camp in

Abu Dhabi and will not play any warm-up matches in India before the first Test. They will arrive in Hyderabad three days before the start of the first match.

"Frankly I'd be a little bit terrified if I was playing. Most of the guys haven't played any long form cricket since July. Very few of the squad were involved a great deal in the rundown of the County Championship which finished at the back end of September. We're now three months down the road with nobody having had any sort of middle practice at all," said Butcher on the Wisden Cricket Weekly podcast. "I would be a little bit concerned about not having felt that competition, being out in the middle and taking guard on something where the runs you make and your wicket are important," he said.

Butcher pointed out that England suffered for the lack of match practice against Australia. They will now be facing India in a Test series, widely regarded as one of the most difficult challenges in the sport. England have beaten India in India just once in this century, having stunned them in the 2012/13 series. They lost the last



two series 4-0 and 3-1. "They did a similar thing leading into the Ashes series at home during the course of this summer and were 2-0 down before they got going. You certainly couldn't say for sure that this England side with a lack of experience, or a lack of hot shot spin bowling options in particular, would be in a position to do anything like they did against Australia, coming

Comeback man Sumit Nagal completes sensational return to Australian Open

New Delhi, Jan 12 (Agencies): Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal continued his sensational return to the sport on Friday as he qualified for the 2024 Australian Open main draw after a gritty 6-4, 6-4 win against Alex Molcan of Slovakia at the Melbourne Park. This will be Nagal's second main draw appearance at the Australian Open, first in three years, and fourth overall at a Grand Slam tournament. Nagal, ranked 139th in the world, made the statement clear early on as he broke Molcan in his opening service game to race away to a 3-0 lead in the first set before his 26-year-old opponent broke back to level the score at 3-3 as the Indian lost his rhythm, registering 17 unforced errors in the first six games.

India vs Afg T20I series: Dube excels with bat and ball, T20 regulars play their roles as hosts record facile win

MOHALI, Jan 12 (Agencies): On Wednesday evening, Shivam Dube didn't even pad up at the nets. He spent his two hours bowling in small spells to different batsmen, before taking a few throwdowns from Raghav. It was a clear sign that the Mumbai man was not in contention to play in the first of

Jitesh Sharma, saw Rinku Singh do his thing from the other end, and reached his second T20I fifty in 38 balls as India coasted to the target of 159 with two and a half overs to spare for a six-wicket win. Dube's fortunes changed after he joined Chennai Super Kings, where MS Dhoni's

Ranji Trophy recently, but Dube is not someone who can do what a fit Pandya can. Dube is undoubtedly not the most fluent batsman while fronting up to pacers and his struggles against short-pitched bowling are well documented. Yet, Chennai and Dhoni were able to maximise his potential as he was used to destroy spinners in the middle overs. On Thursday, the left-hander remained unbeaten on 60 off 40 balls and took his team home.

On a cold January evening, in front of a packed PCA Stadium in Mohali, Rohit Sharma's comeback to India's T20 team with the bat lasted two balls.

The India captain, who was playing his first game for the country in the format in 14 months since the Adelaide loss to England in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal, was sold down the river by his opening partner Shubman Gill. It has been a tough couple of days for Rohit, who joined the Indian team late after his flight got delayed due to fog. Then he dropped Azmatullah Omarzai, whose 68-run stand with veteran Mohammad Nabi helped Afghanistan post



three T20 Internationals, but an injury to his Yashasvi Jaiswal gave him an opportunity, and the all-rounder grabbed it with both hands. With his military medium pace, Dube kept the run flow in check and even got the wicket of Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran. He walked out to bat when India had lost both their openers, and the visitors were sensing a route back into the contest. Dube first steadied the ship with Tilak Varma who scored a sedate 26, played the perfect foil to

advice turned his career around. "Mahi Bhai once told me something and those are the most encouraging and motivating words for me. He said, 'You're good. Just be fearless,'" Dube had told CSK TV during the last IPL season.

It would be harsh to compare Dube with Hardik Pandya, because the 30-year-old is not a proper all-rounder. Dube is a batsman who can chip in with a few overs. Yes, he did return with a six-wicket haul against Bihar in the

AAP Jammu starts Badlao Yatra from Kunjwani



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The AAP-Jammu started its second day Badlao Yatra from Kunjwani to Bhoori, Jammu. On the way, the AAP volunteers interacted with all sections of society, including senior citizens, house wives, educated youths, shopkeepers, from Kunjwani Chowk to Bhoori, Talab Tilloo, about the Delhi Model of governance which has become talk of the town across the country.

The Sr. AAP volunteers said that the AAP has taken its birth to the service of common man, the workers, laborers, farmers and exploited class of the society.

They congratulated Delhi and Punjab people for their wisdom & foresightedness who voted Kejriwal to serve the people, who has, because his visionary

pro- people politics & programs, revolutionized and galvanized the Delhi UT & given a new concept of governance in politics-i.e; "governance to serve & not to rule.

They added that Delhi type of governance is a death blow to communalism and hate policy of certain political parties. They claimed that same facilities can be introduced in J&K too if voted to power.

The AAP volunteers were raising slogans against ruling dispensation for their utter failure on all fronts and asked Modi government to boldly place its 10 year's report card before the Nation instead of hiding itself behind the proposed inauguration of Holy "Ram Mander" at Ayudhya, without its completion as highlighted by Shanker Acharya & many other PUJAR's

in social media.

The AAP volunteers also reminded that people were smartly befooled in 2014 Parliamentary election, promising Rs 15 lakh into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc.

The AAP leaders cautioned the masses that BJP has smelt rat of eating humble Pie in 2024 Lok Sabha election and that is why they are turning every stone to divert the attention of the public of the country in general and youth and

women folk in particular and make best use of their emotions for electoral gains.

While referring to the height of hypocrisy in the part of BJP in general & PM Modi in particular where, Modi in his open speech in Bhopal, M.P, on 27 June, 2023, he thumped his own chest and gave a guarantee to the country that will soon take action against the corrupt persons but to the astonishment of one and all, he inducted 9 cabinet Ministers in Maharashtra government by breaking NCP including Ajit Pawar against whom ED and CBI have registered cases in 70,000 crores most infamous Irrigation scam, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay Mudey, Hassan Mushrif etc against whom several cases are underway but the PM, Modi crossing all limits of shamelessness gives guarantee of taking action , what a height of hypocrisy, they claimed.

They added that BJP has now openly declared that all the corrupt should come to its fold & get cleaned off their sin in BJP's washing machine.

The AAP volunteers said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake cor-

ruption charges while they themselves are on an MLA purchasing spree.

Hard-earned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the AAP volunteers alleged.

They further said that the BJP & Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED and CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" and BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds.

Prominent among those who joined the Yatra include Meharaj Malik, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Nirmal Mahna, Amit Langer, Rajesh Pangotra, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Mehar Singh, Jayeesh Gupta, Dixit Gupta, Amrik Singh Sasan, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Zahid Bhatti, Adv. Sanjeev Sereen, Adv. Sandeep Sharma, Ashni Matoo, Suresh Bhagat, Shadi Lal, Karan Attri, Omparkash Sharma, Sameer Choudhary, N.P Singh, Asif Gill, Amrik Singh , Sandeep Singh Parihar, Ranjodh Singh, R.K Lalotra, Bachan Lal, Jagdish Chander and Jamit Lal.

NSS unit of GDC R S PURA celebrates National Youth Day



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jan 12: On the occasion of National Youth Day, NSS UNIT in collaboration with Eco (Yuva) Club of Govt. Degree College, R.S Pura, celebrated National youth Day on Friday.

The programme started with a Live telecast of Honorable Prime minister, Narendra Modi's speech where college Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat, NSS coordinators Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS Members Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof. Vishal Sharma and Prof. Shafali Abrol (Convener Eco- Yuva Club) were present along with the NSS volunteers.

The same was uploaded on my Bharat Portal. A guest lecture cum symposium was also organized on the topic

"Swami Vivekananda teaching on youth, leadership education, Character, building etc.

About, fifty students along with faculty members attended the programme and near about fifteen students participated in the symposium which was judged by Dr. Rajinder Sharma (HOD, Botany) and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra (HOD Music).

Vishakha Sharma of semester 3rd bagged 1st position whereas 2nd and 3rd positions were bagged by Neetu Kumari and Malvi Sharma of 3rd and 1st semester respectively.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed among the participants.

In the second session a guest lecture was delivered by Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Physical Education and sport , GGM Science College,

Jammu with the primary objective to strength and motivate the youth of the college to show case their talent in different spheres of life.

Dr. Bakshi emphasized on the role of youth in shaping the destiny of the nation.

Dr. Chanchal Angral convener NSS also spoken on the event and she motivated the student to grab the opportunity coming their way and to prove themselves by acting as catalyst for the service of the nation.

The programme was organized under the patronage of Dr. Rajni Bhagat (Principal), Principal of the college and was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral (NSS PO) and her team and the formal voted of thanks was presented by Dr. Hari Singh NSS Member and the stage was managed by Dr. Renu Sharma.

KC College of Education celebrates Lohri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The cultural club of K.C. College of Education in collaboration with the NSS unit of the college organized a cultural event on the eve of Lohri festival.

It is believed that this festival commemorates the passing of winter solstice. Dr. Puja Sharma, Convener cultural club and Priya Gupta, NSS Program Officer arranged a special assembly in the college premises which was attended by all the faculty, staff and students with much zeal and enthusiasm.



The event started with a speech on religious, cultural and historical significance of Lohri festival by Taranjeet Kour, senior most faculty.

Thereafter, students presented colourful cul-

tural items. Everyone celebrated the festival with songs and dance especially Lohri songs.

The bonfire, a key feature of Lohri, was kept alight throughout the celebration, lighting up the spirit of joy, happi-

ness and togetherness. Principal of the college, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo appreciated the students and encouraged teachers to play a vital role in keeping the tradition and culture alive by celebrating such kind of festivals.

National Youth Day activities held at GDCW Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 12: GDCW Kathua's NSS Unit marked National Youth Day with fervor and intellectual engagement.

Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma, NSS Program Officer, delivered an insightful lecture on the life and history of Swami Vivekananda, attended by 50 enthusiastic volunteers.

The Red Ribbon Club orchestrated a touching tribute, with volunteers paying floral respects to Swami Vivekananda. This was followed by a lively group discussion



where volunteers delved into the profound impact of Swami Vivekananda's life.

In a collaborative effort, both NSS and Red Ribbon Club volunteers united to witness a

live streaming of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's speech at the National Youth Festival, fostering a sense of national unity and purpose.

These impactful activi-

ties were conducted under the patronage of Dr. Savi Behl, the Principal of the college, who played a pivotal role in orchestrating a memorable National Youth Day celebration at GDCW Kathua.

NSS volunteers watched live telecast speech of PM at GDC Marheen



Top News Report

MARHEEN, Jan 12: The NSS volunteers and the students of GDC, Marheen on Friday watched the live telecast speech of Narendra Modi, PM of India on the occasion of the celebration of National Youth Day.

During his speech he emphasized and endeavored to mobilize the NSS volunteers, Youth and the students of India , elaborating and emphasizing the need to create Amrit generation

(Youth)which keeps the national interest paramount.

He stressed the need to go beyond education and skills and called for alertness for the national interest and civic sense among the citizens.

He suggested the youth of India that they should work as per their interest and try to achieve their set goals in their life.

He also conveyed the youth that the Govt. of India shall provide them the right platforms as per their capability and

their field of interest as well.

The entire programme was organized under the Patronage of Dr. Anupama Gupta, principal of the college. The programme was managed by Dr Arun Dev Singh NSS Programme officer of NSS unit of GDC Marheen.

The faculty members who were present on the occasion Pardeep, Prof Anoop Sharma, , Dr Shallu, Prof Preeti, Prof Surbhi, Dr Barneet Kour, Dr Reemi, Dr Haseena and others.

Rich Harvest School celebrates Lohri, Makkar Sankranti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Rich Harvest School (RHS) scholars celebrated Lohri, the festival of warmth, which marks the beginning of the harvesting season, gives hope of Spring and bids farewell to the harsh winter.

A bonfire was lit on 12th January to make the students aware about the importance of Lohri and Makkar Sankranti. Students

sang songs and danced with joy to mark the occasion.

Senior students participated in the kite flying competition bringing cheers from the juniors.

Prasadam in the form of groundnuts and revari was offered to Agni Devta and distributed to students and staff.

The Director of the School Ruchi Charak and Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia congratulated the Students and Staff and wished them peace and prosperity.



Shiv Sena asks youth to stay away from drugs



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: On National Youth Day, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit sent message to the youth to stay away from drugs.

Under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni, Shiv Sainiks distributed quotes to stay away from drugs and tokens of blessing to the youth at Dogra Chowk , Jammu.

State Chief Manish Sahni said in his address that along with terrorism, narco terror is emerging as the biggest problem in Jammu and Kashmir

and what is even more worrying is the increase in the number of drug addicts. The present young generation is becoming a victim of drug addiction. In the last few years, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of youth taking drugs.

The drug trade in Jammu and Kashmir is increasing with every passing day.

The population of drug addicts in Jammu and Kashmir is shocking. The number of drug addicts has reached 15 lakh, touching 10-12 per-

cent, and 90% of these people are in the age group of 17 to 33 years. Sahni said that today is the birth anniversary of spiritual guru and inspiration for youth, Swami Vivekananda, which is celebrated as National Youth Day. Let us take a pledge together that we will not get addicted to drugs but will get addicted to hard work, success, patriotism and humanity.

General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Charman Rakesh Gupta and many others were present.