

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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BRIEFLY

Shubhankar Pathak posted as SDM Akhnoor, Lekh Raj Collector JDA

JAMMU, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered the transfer and posting of two officers. As per an order, Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Akhnoor. He will also hold the additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Akhnoor, until further notice.

In a related move, Lekh Raj, who was serving as SDM, Akhnoor, with the additional role of Sub-Registrar, has been transferred and posted as Collector, Jammu Development Authority (JDA), against an available vacancy.

10 shops, 4 houses damaged in massive fire in Gurez market

GUREZ, Oct 14 (Agencies): At least ten shops and four residential houses were destroyed in a major fire incident in Dawar market in border area of Gurez late last night, officials said.

An official told that fire started from a shop in Dawar market and quickly spread to other structures.

"Soon after the incident fire tender rushed to the spot to extinguish the fire. However, by the time it was brought under control, at least 10 shops and four residential houses were destroyed," he said.

Meanwhile, Army, in a post on X said: "In a swift response to twin fire incidents at Gujran and Dawar villages in Gurez, ChinariWarriors immediately responded with its Quick Reaction Teams alongwith fire fighting equipments to doze the raging fire and take control of the adverse situation. Prompt reaction of the Army and Fire Department saved precious lives and prevented loss to property, which was applauded by the local citizens".

Member of Parliament Sheikh Rashid also visited the fire victims and donated one-month salary as assistance.

Mehbooba Mufti urges admin to provide immediate relief to Gurez fire victims

SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Jammu Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti Monday expressed her deep concerns over the devastating fire in Dawar Tulai market in north Kashmir's Gurez. She urged the administration to provide immediate relief to those affected.

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Supreme Court refuses to entertain plea against LG's power to nominate 5 MLAs to J&K Assembly

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging the power vested on the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir to nominate 5 Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to the the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and PV Sanjay Kumar said it was not inclined to entertain the matter and asked the petitioner to first approach the High



Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"In many cases where we have entertained at first instance (bypassing High Court), we see many things get left out,"

the Court remarked.

This was after Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi appearing for petitioner Ravinder Kumar Sharma said that such nomination by

unelected LG can throttle the electoral verdict.

The J&K assembly has 90 elected members. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019 envisages nomination of 5 more MLAs by the LG to represent the displaced Kashmiri people and those from Pak Occupied Kashmir.

This raises the majority mark in the assembly from 45 to 48.

In the recently concluded assembly elections, the INDIA coalition of J&K National

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Restoration of Statehood, land rights more important than ministerial berths: Tariq Karra



SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra Monday said that the restoration of statehood, land rights, and creating jobs are more important than seeking ministerial positions in the upcoming

ing Omar Abdullah-led government in the Union Territory of J&K.

"We have not yet discussed the distribution of ministerial berths with our alliance partner," Karra told news agency.

He said that both Congress and the NC are part of the INDIA Alliance, which aims to end hate politics in the country.

When asked whether Rahul Gandhi would attend the oath-taking ceremony, he said they

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AAP seeks role for Party's Doda MLA in upcoming Omar Abdullah-Led J&K Government

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party has asked the National Conference-Congress alliance for a cabinet berth for its lone MLA from Doda in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir

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BJP to hold meetings soon to elect LoP in J&K Assembly: Ravinder Raina

JAMMU, Oct 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina felicitated the newly-elected party MLAs here on Monday and said the leader of opposition will soon be selected after holding meetings with party leaders under the command of central observers.

BJP national general



secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh, who has been appointed as

a central observer by the party, said they will hold meetings with the newly-elected legislators and other leaders on the issue and submit a report to central leaders for further action.

Led by Raina, several senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including former deputy chief minister Nirmal

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NC suggesting restoring A-370 not their cup of tea: Er Rashid

BANDIPORA, Oct 14 (Agencies): Member of Parliament from north Kashmir, Sheikh Rashid mocked National conferences frail stand on Article 370, saying the party suggests that it is not their cup of tea.

Rashid said, "It feels sorry to say that NC which was previously talking on restoring the status of 1953 are now hardly requesting for

statehood which they are also not sure of, adding NC 'lacks courage to stare into the eyes of Modi.'

The firebrand politician said that if BJP rules the country for 50 more years, does that mean NC will won't talk about the Article-370, referring to Omar's recent remarks.

People have put their hopes on the political

leadership, Rashid said, "this is why I suggest no to take oath until the statehood is restored."

He said Omar is rushing towards getting VIP treatment and other privileges.

The AIP chief, who had won the parliamentary elections by a landslide but lost in the legislative elections, said that he will "request Modi to let Omar run the govern-

ment smoothly."

"My same request goes to lieutenant governor, he should cooperate fully," Rashid, who is still out on bail said.

Neither courts, nor the Modi-led government will restore Article-370. For the article to be restored, Sheikh Rashid, who is also known as Engineer Rashid said, the leadership needs to

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Make in India has simply become 'Fake In India': Cong



NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Congress on Monday alleged that the objectives spelt out by the Modi government at the time of launch of 'Make in India' have turned out to be "jumlas", and that 'Make in India' has

simply become "Fake in India".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also said that in the last decade economic policy making has been far from being stable, predictable and

sensible.

"When he announced 'Make in India' in 2014 with his usual hype and hoopla, the non-biological PM set out four objectives. Ten years later, a quick status check: Jumla One: Increase the growth rate of Indian industry to 12-14% per year. Reality: Since 2014, annual growth rate for manufacturing has averaged around 5.2%," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Jumla Two: Create 100 million industrial jobs by 2022. Reality: The number of

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"Start of process to reclaim what we lost...": PDP's Waheed Para after Presidential Rule revoked in J&K

SRINAGAR, Oct 14 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party leader Waheed Para, said the revocation of the President's rule from Jammu-Kashmir is the start of the process to reclaim what the people lost in the last 6-7 years, adding that people's mandate was for restoring their dignity and protecting their identity.

The PDP leader said that people have pinned a lot of hope on the National Conference, and affirmed hope that the party will fulfil its promises.



Speaking to news agency, Para said, "People of Kashmir have voted for dignity. They have voted for the restoration of Article 370 and statehood. They have voted to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was robbed on August 5, 2019. This vote is not

only to remove Presidential rule but to restore their dignity and protect their identity. I hope this is a start to the process to reclaim what we have lost in the last 6-7 years."

"People have a lot of expectations from this government. We hope that the coming government will fulfil all the promises that they have made in their manifesto on which they have taken votes," he added.

The President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir was revoked on Sunday, clearing the way for the formation of a new

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EDITORIAL

Trachoma-Free
India

Trachoma is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* and is a leading cause of preventable blindness worldwide. Despite being nearly eradicated in many parts of the world, trachoma remains endemic in certain regions, particularly in developing countries, including India. The Indian government, in collaboration with various health organizations, has set a bold vision for a Trachoma-Free India, aiming to eliminate this disease through comprehensive strategies focused on prevention, education, and treatment.

Trachoma spreads through direct contact with infected individuals and indirectly via contaminated objects, such as towels and clothing. The initial symptoms include irritation and inflammation of the eyes, which, if untreated, can lead to severe scarring and eventual blindness. Children are particularly vulnerable, and the disease disproportionately affects marginalized communities, often exacerbated by poor sanitation and inadequate healthcare access.

India is one of the countries where trachoma remains a public health concern. While the prevalence of trachoma has significantly decreased over the years due to improved sanitation and public health initiatives, certain states still report endemic cases. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India has made substantial progress but continues to face challenges in completely eradicating the disease.

The Indian government has launched various initiatives aimed at eradicating trachoma, aligning with WHO's global strategy for elimination.

Public awareness campaigns are crucial for educating communities about trachoma, its transmission, symptoms, and prevention strategies. Community engagement is vital for behavioral change, especially in rural areas where traditional practices may hinder efforts to combat the disease.

Access to clean water and sanitation facilities is essential for preventing the spread of trachoma. The government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) aims to improve sanitation and hygiene practices across the country, indirectly contributing to the reduction of trachoma cases.

The integration of trachoma screening into primary healthcare services is vital. Health workers are being trained to identify and treat cases of trachoma early, thereby preventing complications. The WHO recommends the SAFE strategy—Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, and Environmental improvement—as an effective approach to tackle the disease.

Partnerships with non-governmental organizations play a crucial role in outreach and treatment efforts. Organizations such as the Himalayan Cataract Project and the Fred Hollows Foundation work closely with the government to implement screening programs and provide surgical interventions for advanced cases.

Despite these initiatives, several challenges remain in the fight against trachoma. Limited healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas, poses significant obstacles. Additionally, social stigmas and lack of awareness can hinder treatment and prevention efforts.

Investment in healthcare infrastructure, particularly in remote regions, is crucial. This includes training local healthcare workers, improving diagnostic capabilities, and ensuring access to essential medicines.

Involving community leaders and local influencers in awareness campaigns can significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of health messages. Culturally tailored education programs can promote better hygiene practices and encourage community participation.

Establishing robust monitoring systems to track progress and identify areas needing improvement is vital. Regular assessments can help refine strategies and ensure that resources are allocated effectively.

The vision for a Trachoma-Free India is ambitious but achievable with concerted efforts from the government, healthcare providers, NGOs, and the communities themselves. By prioritizing education, improving sanitation, and ensuring accessible healthcare, India can eliminate trachoma and protect the vision of millions. The journey toward eradication will not only improve public health but also enhance the quality of life for countless individuals, fostering a healthier, more equitable society. A united front against trachoma will pave the way for a brighter future, free from the threat of preventable blindness.

A Tribute to Lt.Rattan Tata Business giant, Tycoon & Philanthropist

By: O.N.KOUL

The passing away of Rattan Tata, the great industrial leader and philanthropist is an irreparable loss to Indian economy, society and the country at large. His death has created a big void which is difficult to fill. Rattan Tata will be remembered for his valuable and outstanding contributions to India's economic and social development. He was the tallest leader of corporate social responsibility and had given much importance to business's responsibility towards society. Rattan Tata was a doyen of industry and a tall philanthropist and his towering socio-economic contribution and honesty and integrity will continue to inspire Indian industrialists and economic leaders. He was in fact an institution in himself and his death is a very big loss to the country and with his death an era has come to end. Rattan Tata has played commendable role in transforming Indian economy and society. Rattan Tata was the son of Naval Tata, who was adopted by Raranji Tata, son of Jamshedji Tata, the founder of the Tata Group. He graduated from Cornell University collage of Architecture with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He joined the Tata Group in 1961 starting on the shop floor of Tata Steel. He was born on 28 December 1937 in Bombay, British India—present day Mumbai & passed away on October 9, 2024 at the age of 86 years after a brief illness at Mumbai. His death is mourned by the Industrial circles, political leaders, the government and the society at large. He was an Indian businessman who became chairman—1991-2012 & 2016-17 of the Tata Group, a Mumbai-based conglomerate. He was widely admired not only for his stewardship of the one of the country's largest conglomerates but also for his personal ethics and philanthropic activities. Tata was regarded as a visionary leader, and his

legacy is one of compassion and innovation that transcends the confines of the corporate realm to impact millions of ordinary lives. In his life time he received two of India's highest civilian honors—the Padma Vibhushan 2008 & the Padma Bhushan 2000. Rattan Tata was a member of a prominent family of Indian Industrialists and philanthropists, credited with pioneering much of country's industrial establishments and practices. His grandfather Jamshedji Tata founded the Tata Group in 1968—the businesses under this umbrella, including Tata Steel, played a key nation building role when India achieved independence from British rule in 1947. The Tata Group was later expanded by Ratan Tata's uncle J.R.D Tata, who founded prominent subsidiaries such as Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, and Tata Salt. Among the pioneering achievements of the Tata Group were the establishment of the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel (1903, Mumbai), India's first hotel with electricity, and the founding of Air India—1932 as well as the country's first indigenous cosmetics brand, Lakme—1952. Rattan Tata became chairman of Tata Sons at a crucial period of India's growth story—the liberalization of its economy. His ascent was impeded by the stiff resistance from existing senior leadership. He consolidated power by implementing a retirement age policy, changing reporting structure, and terminating certain executives. Tata aggressively sought to expand the conglomerate, and increasingly focused on globalizing its businesses. In 2002 the group acquired London-based Tetley Tea for dollar 431.3 million, and in 2004 it purchased the truck—manufacturing operations of south Korea's Daewoo Motor's for dollar 102 million. Tata Steel completed the biggest corporate takeover by an Indian company when it acquired the giant Anglo-Dutch Steel manufacturer Corus for dollar 11.3 bil-

lion in 2007. The following year Tata oversaw Tata Motor's purchase of the elite British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the Ford Motor company. The dollar 2.3 billion deal marked the largest—ever acquisition by an Indian automotive firm. In December 2012 Tata retired as Chairman of the Tata Group. He briefly served as interim chairman beginning in October 2016 following the ouster of his successor, Cyrus Mistry. Tata returned to retirement in January 2017 when Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed chairman of the Tata Group. Rattan Tata left a legacy of philanthropy. Tata belonged to the Indian community known as the Parsis, followers of the Zoroastrian faith and well known for their public service work. He was greatly admired for his philanthropic interests, which included supporting research and improvement in the field of education, medicine, and rural development. He established and enhanced hospitals and research centers that helped advance cancer care. He was also committed to reducing social and economic inequality. In 2004 the Tata Group announced plans to build India's first indigenous semiconductor manufacturing facility in the state of Assam, which generated employment for more than 25,000 local residents. Donations by the Tata Group and the related philanthropic collective called Tata Trusts have led to the establishment of a variety of institutions and scholarships in U.S Universities. These include a biological and physical sciences research facility at the University of California, San Diego, and an executive center at Harvard Business School—both are named Tata Hall. An endowment to Cornell University provides financial aid to students from India. A donation from Tata Consultancy Services to Carnegie Mellon University funds research into cognitive systems and autonomous vehicles. The Tata Center of Technology and Design at the Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology works on providing solutions to challenges faced by communities that have limited access to electricity, low income, and poor literacy. Tata was known for his love of animal, dogs in particular. Tata advocated for animal welfare all his life. During his life, Tata invested in over 30 start-ups, primarily in a personal capacity, with some through his investment company. Rattan Tata was a supporter of education, medicine and rural development and considered a leading philanthropist in India. Tata supported University of New South Wales Faculty of Engineering to develop capacitive deionization to provide improved water for challenged areas. In short Rattan N Tata was among India's respected and loved industrialists, who took Tata Group to new heights and touched the fabric of the nation through his contributions across different areas including philanthropy. One of the most internationally well-known Indian business leaders, Rattan Tata was known for his humility and compassion while also his vision, business acumen, integrity and ethical leadership. The passing of Rattan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has left significant leadership gap at Tata Trusts. In fact his passing left Indian economy and philanthropy orphaned. It will take many years to fill the void created by his death. It is no exaggeration to say that Rattan Tata was a half business magnate and half saint. May God send many such industrial and social giants so that India will continue its economic and social development. Rattan Tata's philosophy will continue to inspire the corporate world as well as society. May his soul rest in peace.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

Boon or bane? Decoding the Reality of NEP 2024

By: Vijay GarG

NEP 2024, a successor to the NEP 2020, aims to revamp India's education system comprehensively. It proposes several significant changes across various educational levels, from pre-school to higher education. Some of its key highlights include the emphasis on early childhood care and education, the introduction of vocational education from Grade 6, the restructuring of higher education, and the incorporation of technology for better learning outcomes.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2024 has been a subject of intense scrutiny and debate, particularly regarding its implications for higher education in India. Advocates laud its potential to revolutionize the sector, while critics express reservations about its practicality and long-term effects. NEP also encourages global exposure and collaboration. Management institutes may offer exchange programs, international internships, and collaborations with foreign universities to provide students with a global perspective and enhance their competitiveness in the international job market. This article aims to delve into the nuanced aspects of NEP 2024, weighing its advantages and disadvantages to discern whether it is a boon or a bane for higher education.

Understanding NEP 2024
NEP 2024, a successor to the NEP 2020, aims to revamp India's education system comprehensively. It proposes several significant changes across various educational levels, from pre-school to higher education. Some of its key highlights include the emphasis on early childhood care and education, the introduction of vocational education from Grade 6, the restructuring of higher education, and the incorporation of technology for better learning outcomes.

Boons of NEP 2024
Emphasis on Holistic Development: NEP 2024 prioritizes holistic development by advocating for a multidisciplinary approach to education. By nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, the policy aims to produce well-rounded individuals capable of adapting to the complexities of the modern world.

Flexibility in Curriculum Design: One of the key tenets of NEP 2024 is the flexibility it offers in curriculum design

and implementation. This allows higher education institutions to tailor their academic programs to suit the evolving needs of students and industries, fostering innovation and relevance in education.

Promotion of Research and Innovation: The policy places a strong emphasis on promoting research and innovation in higher education. By establishing research clusters, funding opportunities, and collaborative initiatives with industry partners, NEP 2024 aims to elevate India's status as a global leader in scientific and technological advancements.

Integration of Technology: NEP 2024 recognizes the transformative potential of technology in education and advocates for its widespread integration. By leveraging digital platforms for content delivery, assessment, and collaboration, the policy seeks to enhance access to quality education and bridge the urban-rural divide.

Relevance to the 21st Century: The existing education system in India is often criticized for being outdated and too focused on rote learning. The NEP seeks to make education more holistic, flexible, and interdisciplinary, preparing students for the demands of the 21st-century workforce.

Highlighting Importance of Equity and Inclusion: There are significant disparities in education across different regions, socio-economic backgrounds, and demographic groups in India. The NEP aims to promote equity and inclusion by ensuring that all children have access to quality education, regardless of their background. It also emphasizes the importance of promoting Indian languages, arts, and culture in education. This is crucial for preserving and celebrating India's diverse cultural heritage and ensuring that education is culturally relevant to all students.

Emphasis on Teacher Training and Development: There is lot of emphasis on the continuous professional development and training modules to align educators with the new methodologies.

Increasing Role of the Private Sector: The role of the private sector, particularly in the higher education is extremely critical for translating the inclusionary vision and mission of the NEP. It's important to mention here that 70 percent of higher education institutions (colleges and universities) are run by the private sector. Signifi-

cantly, roughly 65% percent students are currently enrolled in private higher education institutions. Apart from this, the private sector participation brings much needed financial resources and innovation. Therefore, it is imperative for the government and regulatory bodies to create workable institutional mechanisms that would harness the contribution of the private sector and recognize them as equal partner in the NEP process.

Potential Banes of NEP 2024

Implementation Challenges: While NEP 2024 outlines ambitious goals for higher education reform, its successful implementation poses significant challenges. From infrastructural limitations to bureaucratic hurdles, translating policy directives into actionable strategies requires meticulous planning and sustained investment, which may be difficult to achieve in practice. NEP 2024 represents a bold step towards reforming India's education system and preparing its youth for the challenges of the 21st century. Its success hinges on effective implementation and addressing potential challenges. The biggest challenge is addressing implementation hurdles, bridging digital divides, reimagining assessment practices, and safeguarding against the commercialization of education.

Standardized Testing Dilemma: Despite advocating for a holistic approach to assessment, NEP 2024 retains a reliance on standardized testing as a benchmark for academic performance. Critics argue that this perpetuates a culture of rote memorization and exam-centric learning, neglecting students' individual strengths and learning styles.

Massive Task: First, the sheer size and diversity of India's education sector makes implementation an uphill task. For example, let's consider the size of the school education system alone. With more than 15 lakh schools, 25 crore students, and 89 lakh teachers, India remains the second largest education system in the world. The size of the higher education system is massive too. As per the AISHE 2019 report, India's higher education sector consists of 3.74 crore students in nearly 1,000 universities, 39,931 colleges, and 10,725 stand-alone institutions. Thus, a countrywide implementation of this mega education policy is going to be a mammoth exercise involving multiple stakeholders at

the state, district, sub-district, and block levels.

Challenge in Achieving Enrollment Targets: As the policy aims to double the gross enrollment ratio by 2035, this requires the creation of a new university every week for the next 15 years, which is a huge challenge.

Lack of Teacher Availability and Training: To deliver the upgraded curriculum effectively, India needs a sizable pool of competent teachers who are familiar with the new pedagogical approach. As teachers generally share a disciplinary anchoring culture, it is difficult to have educators with exceptional skills who are experts in one area and lean in other subjects as well.

Inadequate Funding: The successful execution of key initiatives requires availability of adequate financial resources for decades. In this regard, the NEP has stated that to realize the goals of the new policy, the country has to raise public spending on education to 6 percent of GDP.

Multiple Entry and Exit: NEPs multiple entry and exit options may face challenges in India because of the large student population. It could lead to a high annual intake in higher education. It can become difficult for universities to predict how many students would join and exit and government need to create awareness among stakeholders and also to create employment opportunities for different level of programmes like certificate, diploma and degrees.

By fostering a holistic approach to education, promoting inclusivity and accessibility, and leveraging technology for enhanced learning experiences, NEP 2024 has the potential to be a transformative force in shaping the future of education in India. However, careful consideration of its potential pitfalls and proactive measures to mitigate them are essential to ensure that it truly delivers on its promise of a brighter, more equitable educational landscape.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab -152107)

Dance ki Mallika: Sattriya dance exponent from Assam, Mallika Kandali says there is a lot to learn from Bhakti saints

An author, academician and Sattriya dance exponent Mallika Kandali is a firm believer in the great Indian traditions. The future can be best welcomed by the revisiting the past, believes the danseuse, who was in the city recently for a national seminar on Srimanta Sankardev at the Panjab University.

She performed three dance pieces — a Borgeet (raga-based devotional song) on Krishna-gopi bond, another Bharat Vandana and one sequence in Sattriya dance based on Japji Sahib from the Guru Granth Sahib. Receiving immense admiration for her performances, Kandali puts humbly, "I am just a medium. But I must admit, I really felt extremely happy, honoured and privileged to perform in Panjab University. It was great to get such a wonderful audience who appreciated the great work of Srimanta Sankardev."

The seminar was organised by Srimanta Sankardev Chair, Department of Indian Theatre and Department Of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Kandali sees many similarities between Srimanta Sankardev and Guru Nanak Dev. "Sankardev was born 20 years before Guru Nanak ji. Both of them preach love, brotherhood, high thinking and simple living," shares Kandali. Both the seers talk of unity of humankind, irrespective of religion, caste or



creed. Kandali insists, "Contemporary life is complex, full of conflicts. So in such a time, it is good to remember and follow the path of these Bhakti saints." Training in Sattriya dance since she was eight, Kandali has been learning, practising and now teaching. Sattriya is one of the major Indian classical dance forms that was introduced by the great saint-scholar Srimanta Sankardev and Shri Madhavdev in the 15th century Assam. While this used to be an all-male bastion, over the years there have been women who have taken to this dance form. "Even now in the monastic centres that we call Satra, women are not allowed. But outside,

on the secular stages, women have been performing from 60s onwards."

While initially there was resistance, Kandali has witnessed growing acceptance of women performers. "The challenges to be accepted as a woman Sattriya dancer were overcome long back during the 70s and 80s, but the society still holds prejudices against women. Following spiritual learning from Srimanta Sankardev, I feel that no matter what happens since I have surrendered myself to this devotion of Bhakti through dance performance, I will keep on trying."

Kandali is passing on her expertise to the next genera-

tion through a dance institute — Parampara Pravah at Guwahati. Classical dance forms are only for those who really have a deep interest in arts, Kandali says, "Classical arts are not like the popular item numbers which you see, but there is a constant flow of interest, there is a constant response." She is happy that the youth is open and enthusiastic about old classical arts. "Quite a few young people are very serious. I really appreciate that. Despite their busy schedules and complex lifestyles, they are giving their best to learn and practice. Sattriya actually gives you the mantra to lead a good lifestyle. It brings peace of mind and the element of spirituality is inculcated."

An author of three books — Nriyakala Prasanga Aru Sattriya Nritya, Sattriya: The Living Dance Tradition of Assam and Mati-Akhara: The Grammar of Sattriya Dance — recitation is another favourite field of Kandali. She has also recited and recorded the poems of many veteran poets of Assam.

Her Punjab visit has left her in awe of Punjab warmth as well as hospitality. "We have always loved the people of Punjab for their heroism, for their warmth. I have had such lovely times here and wish to reciprocate. Come to Kaziranga, watch our beautiful mighty river Brahmaputra — there is a lot to explore in Assam."

Mallika Sherawat recollects how Bollywood tried to shame her after the landslide success of 'Murder'



Bollywood actor Mallika Sherawat, who can be seen in the recently released movie 'Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video', has spoken about how she was shamed in Bollywood after the landslide success of her erotic thriller 'Murder'.

The actor appeared on the podcast of Ranveer Allahbadia, and spoke about how success also opened another dimension for her, the one of envy from the people in the industry.

She said, "There was a lot of slut sham-

ing at the time. I think they wanted me to feel ashamed of myself. And they wanted me to feel ashamed of the bold scenes I did. And in a way, feel ashamed of the success of murder."

She said that 'Murder' was not just about showing the skin and that it had a certain depth and relatability in its narrative.

She shared, "A story, a film, such a big hit, just on the basis of just the skin show can't happen. There has to be some depth to the story. Women resonated with

it. The story resonated with a huge section of the population in India. A married woman's loneliness, that resonated with a lot of people, with women. That's why murder is an enduring classic. It has got the status of a classic, a cult film today".

When asked what the producer of the film, Mahesh Bhatt told her during those times, the actor said, "I used to go to him while crying. Look, Mr Bhatt, he knew all the names. This actor is talking to me like this on my face, she's talking like this. Mr Bhatt said, 'Enjoy it'. He has his own philosophy. He said, 'The day they stop talking about you, that day you will cry'".

She further mentioned, "So he said that you should feel happy that they're talking about you. How many women they talk about. So this is how, I think he was trying to toughen me up. And look, whoever has played long innings in Bollywood, ask any one of them".

"There are so many ups and downs in Bollywood. To live with them, to endure them, and to face the next day with a smile is very difficult. No one survives a weekend in Bollywood. It's difficult to survive a weekend," she added.

Shehnaaz Gill gives a peep into "Sajna Ve Sajna" practice

Actress Shehnaaz Gill, who is featured in the revamped version of the track Sajna Ve Sajna, has given a peek into the practice session of the track from the film Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video.

Shehnaaz posted a video on Instagram, where she is seen dancing with her choreographers Shazia Samji and Piyush Bhagat. The actress is seen doing the hookstep of the song, which was originally from the 2003 film Chameli, starring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Rahul Bose. "Le teri hogayi yaar #sajnavesajna #shehnaazgill #sunidichauhan," she wrote as the caption.

The revamped version of the track features Shehnaaz and Rajkumar Rao. It is sung by Sunidhi Chauhan, who crooned the original track and Divya Kumar. Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video also stars Triptii Dimri, Mallika Sherawat, Rakesh Bedi and Vijay Raaz.

On the professional



front, Shehnaaz has been a part of films like Kala Shah Kala, Daaka,

Honsla Rakh, Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan and Thank You for Coming.

When Naseeruddin Shah told Javed Akhtar that 'Sholay' is a copy of Chaplin, Eastwood's films

Actor-filmmaker Naseeruddin Shah says he once had a discussion about the definition of originality with Javed Akhtar when he told the screenwriter that his 1975 classic "Sholay" was a copy of Charlie Chaplin and Hollywood filmmaker Clint Eastwood's works.

"Sholay," which Akhtar co-wrote with former writing partner Salim Khan, is regarded as one of the greatest and most influential Indian films of all time.

"I remember Javed Akhtar had once said to me, 'Something can be called original when you cannot find its source'. I was talking to him about 'Sholay', and I said, 'You have copied every scene; you did not leave any of Charlie Chaplin's films; besides, Clint Eastwood is felt in every frame."

"But he said, 'the question is not about where you have lifted a reference from; it's about how far you have taken it.' It is difficult to define originality. William Shakespeare, who is considered a great play-



wright, apparently was also copying stuff from old plays. But originality was there in the way they presented," said Shah.

Directed by Ramesh Sippy, "Sholay" was a Dacoit Western combining the elements of spaghetti westerns, popularised by Eastwood, and Samurai cinema. It featured an ensemble cast of the biggest names of the 1970s: Dharmendra, Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjeev Kumar, Hema Malini, Jaya Bhaduri, and Anjad Khan.

Shah, who made a mark in movies from the parallel cinema "Nishant," "Jaane Bhi

Do Yaaro," and "Mirch Masala," as well as created a space for himself in commercial cinema with "Hero Hiralal," "Vishwatma," and "Mohra," said he admires directors Mrinal Sen, Basu Chatterjee, Satyajit Ray, Anurag Kashyap, and Vikramaditya Motwane.

"Films of Mrinal Sen, Basu Chatterjee, and Mr. Ray were a novelty. A film like 'Bhuvan Shome', 'Sara Aakash', or 'Ankur' received a great deal of coverage, but there were not that many people making those films."

"Today, there are people such as Anubhav

Sinha, Anurag Kashyap, and Vikramaditya Motwane, and there are successors to Basu Chatterjee, like Rajkumar Hirani. So, there is a group of madmen who are making the movies they believe in, but another wave is unlikely. Today, the situation in the industry is grim," the 74-year-old added.

Shah said his directorial "Man Woman Man Woman," a short film, is a small drop in the ocean. The movie stars his wife Ratna Pathak Shah, son Vivaan Shah, Saba Azad, and Tarun Dhanrajgir.

The 26-minute film depicting love and companionship across two generations was screened at the IFF.

Shah said people expect something dark and intense from him.

"So, this film came as a surprise to most people," he added. Shah, whose latest work includes web series "IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack" and films "Kutty" and "Gehraiyaan," said he is enjoying doing cameos, as enjoyment is the "most

important thing" for him today.

"I do not have to hanker for great roles; I have done my share of those. I am happy doing cameo roles because they do not require that much effort," he said.

Shah's son Imaad Shah, who scored the music for the film, was all praise for his parents.

"I was growing up around wonderful actors. The workshops that would happen at home, dealing with different kinds of texts, whether English, Hindi, or Urdu. I feel they both are not offered their best roles; films are waiting to utilise them fully," he added.

Azad, who was previously dating Imaad Shah, said working with Ratna Pathak Shah — whom she referred to as 'maa' — was "easy" and "wonderful."

"Because of our relationship, and we know each other, so there is already a maternal kind of thing. For me, it was a dream. I was dying to do this for years before Baba asked me to do it," she said.

Hina Khan shares picture of her 'single eyelash', call it her 'motivation'

Hina Khan shares emotional birthday message amidst cancer battle

Actress Hina Khan has revealed that she is nearing her last cycle of her chemotherapy and shared a picture of her "single eyelash", which she tagged as her "motivation."

Hina took to Instagram, where she shared a close-up picture of her eyelash.

She shared the same picture in her stories section and called it "The last leaf."

For the caption, she wrote: "Wanna know

what's my current source of motivation? Once part of a mighty and beautiful Brigade that adorned my eyes. My Genetically long and beautiful lashes..."

"This BRAVE, LONE WARRIOR my last standing Eyelash has fought it all beside me Nearing the last cycle of my Chemo this single Eyelash is my MOTIVATION. We shall see this all through

Yes we will InshaAllah."

Hina revealed that she has never worn false eyelashes but now she does.

"P.S - Haven't worn falsies in a decade, actually more, but now I do, for my shoots koi naaaa.. Sab theek ho jaana hai DUA," she wrote.

Earlier this month, on her birthday, Hina shared a glimpse of the heartwarming gesture she received from her friends and fans on her 37th birthday.



Hina took to her Instagram account and

shared a long note with a video in which Hina was

seen celebrating her birthday surrounded by all the love and appreciation for the actress as she's currently fighting stage three breast cancer for which she is receiving chemotherapy.

She wrote: "What a lovely surprise... It's been so many years of constant love, fanfare and unshakeable Support. I am blown away by your dedication, Your support, your genuine admiration every year. You outdo yourselves

every single time. In every thick and thin, in every hardship, every challenge.. you all, my HINAHOLICS have been like my Strength, my Shadow, My Guardians.. I know you have my back .. come what may .. and you have proved it over and over again and even in such a crucial phase of my life."

"Plz know Every single effort is noticed, cherished and appreciated.. from the flowers, personally written letters,

birthday cards, cakes, gifts and decorations to the sea of heartfelt messages encouraging me, boosting my confidence, acknowledging and recognizing my efforts. All of it is just pure happiness.. priceless. It means the world to me.. you all mean the world to me..."

"Blessed to have so much love. A big thank you to my fans for all the love and warm birthday wishes (with heart emoji) DUA". She concluded.

India committed to contributing to global health security: Nadda

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Collaboration across borders, sectors and disciplines is essential for creating lasting health solutions, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Monday, underlining India's commitment to meeting the increasing demand for pharma products while adhering to global quality standards.

Nadda, who inaugurated the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities organised by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), said the platform brings together experts and leaders from over 120 countries and reflects India's shared commitment for enhancing global healthcare standards and safeguarding public health.

Noting that India emerged not only as a global leader in health resilience and innovation but also reaffirmed its role as the pharmacy of the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said the country rapidly expanded its healthcare infrastructure and scaled its vaccine production to meet both domestic and global demands. "The successful roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme covering over a billion people is a testament to the robustness of our healthcare system and the dedication of our healthcare workers and soundness of our policies," Nadda stated.

As the pharmacy of the world India played a crucial role in ensuring affordable access to essential medicines, vaccines and medical supplies for nations across the globe.

"Guided by the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', we extend our support to more than 150 countries providing life saving drugs and vaccines during the pandemic. This spirit of international solidarity is the



heart of India's approach to global health," Nadda said.

"We believe that our progress is inseparable from the progress of the world and as such we remain committed to contributing to global health security and sustainability," he said. The platform, he said, presents a unique opportunity to discuss how cooperation between nations can be enhanced to tackle emerging global health challenges.

The platform provides a space to share knowledge, foster partnership and develop regulatory frameworks to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of medical products worldwide, the minister underlined.

In India, the CDSCO is the national regulatory agency and has developed a robust system for approving safe and efficacious drugs and medical devices in the country and for export to more than 200 countries in the world.

"Availability of quality medicines at affordable price is at the core," he said.

Eight drug testing labs are operational today and two more are in the pipeline. Eight mini testing labs are operational at ports for a quick testing and release of drugs and raw materials being imported, Nadda said.

The Union Minister also stated that more than 95 per cent regulatory processes currently have been digitized at CDSCO, bringing transparency and increasing trust among stakeholders.

"Considering the importance of medical devices in health care delivery, medical device industry in India is also being regulated. Drugs rules have been amended to make good manufacturing practice guidelines more comprehensive and at par with the WHO-GMP guidelines," he said.

Nadda also pointed out that in order to make drug supply chain robust, it has been made mandatory to provide bar code or quick response code (QR Code) on top 300 brands of drug products.

Similarly, QR code is mandatory on all API packs, either being imported or manufactured in India.

India remains fully committed to advancing global health, Nadda emphasised.

"We believe in skill, speed and scale and by focusing on these three aspects we have been able to meet the increasing demand for pharma products while adhering to global or global quality standards without any compromise," Nadda stated.

India is prepared to address pressing challenges from the antimicrobial resistance to ensuring equitable access to life saving treatments.

"The theme of this conference resonates with our core belief that collaboration across borders, sectors and discipline is essential for creating lasting health solutions. India stands ready to work hand in hand with the international community to drive meaningful change and ensure better health outcomes," he stated.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, who virtually joined the conference, commended India for hosting this crucial global regulatory forum and highlighted the importance of global cooperation in drug regulation, particularly in light of challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, the post-pandemic world, and the safe use of AI in healthcare.

Dr Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO Southeast Asia Region noted that India is the largest provider of generic medicines while the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is the third largest in the world.

She emphasised that a strong regulatory system is crucial to achieving universal health coverage and highlighted the need for strengthened regulatory convergence and information sharing between national regulatory authorities.

The event is being hosted for the first time in India by the CDSCO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The five-day conference brings together regulatory authorities, policymakers, and health officials from over 194 WHO member states.

'Scorpion' remark against PM: SC extends stay on defamation proceedings against Shashi Tharoor



NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday extended by four weeks the stay on the trial court proceedings against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor in a defamation case filed for his alleged "scorpion on Shivling" remark targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A bench comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti has granted four weeks' time to Delhi police and the complainant to file

their responses to Tharoor's plea.

"The interim order (of stay on the defamation proceedings) to continue," directed the bench.

The counsel appearing for Delhi police argued the main issue in the case was whether complainant Rajiv Babbar, a BJP leader, was an aggrieved party.

The top court, on September 10, had stayed the proceedings before the trial court in the defamation case filed against Tharoor.

The Congress MP had moved the top court against the high court's August 29 order, which refused to quash the defamation proceedings against him.

Tharoor had sought setting aside the trial court's April 27, 2019, order summoning him as an accused in the criminal defamation complaint.

The complaint was filed against Tharoor in the trial court by Babbar, who claimed that his religious sentiments were hurt by the Congress leader's statement.

In October 2018, Tharoor had claimed that an unnamed RSS leader had compared Modi to "a scorpion sitting on a Shivling". The Congress leader had said it was an "extraordinarily striking metaphor".

Four of family found dead in Kerala

KOCHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): A family of four, including two children, was found dead in their home in Ernakulam district on Monday, police said.

The incident occurred in Chottanikkara area.

Locals discovered the bodies of the couple, both school teachers, and their children in

their residence. Police were alerted by the ward member.

The bodies of the 12-year-old son and nine-year-old daughter were found on the bed, while their parents were discovered hanging.

Preliminary investigations suggest suicide due to financial distress, police said.

However, a thorough investigation is necessary to determine the exact circumstances and cause of the children's deaths, they said.

The incident came to light when the couple failed to report to their schools this morning, prompting them to notify local residents, police added.

Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai takes charge as DGMS (Navy)

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai assumed charge on Monday as the Director General Medical Services (Navy).

An alumna of the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in Pune, Sahai earlier was the first woman officer to be elected as the Colonel Commandant of the Army Medical Corps, a Navy spokesperson said in a statement.

"Prior to assuming charge as the DGMS (Navy), she was the first woman commandant of AMC Centre and College..." it said.

The Flag Officer was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on December 30, 1986, according to the statement.

It said Sahai has specialised in pathology and super-specialised



in oncopathology from the AIIMS, Delhi.

"The officer has been a professor and head of department, lab sciences at AHRR (Army Hospital Research and Referral) and BHDC (Base Hospital Delhi Cantonment). She has also been a professor at department of pathology, AFMC, Pune," the statement said.

She has a special interest in medical education and was awarded the prestigious Foundation for Advancement of International

Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) Fellowship for advancement of medical education from Philadelphia, USA, in 2013-14, it said.

In recognition of her distinguished service, the Flag Officer has been awarded the Sena Medal in 2024 and the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2018, and has been commended by the Chief of the Army Staff twice in 2008 and 2012, and by the GOC-in-C (Western Command) in 2010, the Navy spokesperson said.

RG Kar: Junior doctors' hunger strike enters 10th day, another medic hospitalised

KOLKATA, Oct 14 (Agencies): The 'fast-unto-death' by junior doctors in West Bengal to press for their demands in the wake of the RG Kar hospital incident entered the 10th day on Monday, even as another medic was admitted to hospital after his health condition deteriorated, officials said.

Pulastha Acharya of the NRS Medical College and Hospital was taken to hospital on Sunday night after he complained of severe stomach pain, they said.

Three of the junior medics who were on hunger strike in Kolkata and Siliguri city in the northern part of the state were earlier hospitalised in view of their health condition.

"Pulastha is in the CCU and his parameters have deteriorated. We have



formed a medical board to treat him," a senior doctor of the NRS Medical College and Hospital told agency.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant had on Sunday written to the Joint Platform of Doctors (JPD), urging them to call off their proposed demonstration on October 15, stating that the stir was coinciding with the state government's annual 'Durga Pooja Carnival' to be organised on the same day.

He also invited them for a meeting at state health department headquarters - Swasthya Bhawan - on Monday to discuss their demands.

In an email, Pant also urged the JPD to "advise" the junior doctors to end their hunger strike in the interest of their health and well-being.

The JPD, in a statement on Monday, expressed "profound disappointment" over the state government's decision to proceed with the carnival, "while

doctors and citizens are on the streets demanding justice and a safer healthcare system".

"Junior doctors have been on hunger strike for 10 days, with three of them now in the ICU, yet the government prioritises celebrations over addressing these grave concerns," it said.

"We do not seek to cancel the government's carnival, respecting the constitutional right to celebrate. Equally, we assert our right to peaceful, democratic protest without disrupting the festivities. It is disheartening that the government has asked us to withdraw the call of 'Droher Carnival' (demonstration) on October 15, which was intended to show solidarity with the agitating junior doctors," the statement said.

The junior doctors have been demanding

justice for the RG Kar hospital victim, immediate removal of Health Secretary N S Nigam, workplace security and other measures.

The other demands include the establishment of a centralised referral system for all hospitals and medical colleges in the state, the implementation of a bed vacancy monitoring system, and formation of task forces to ensure essential provisions for CCTV, on-call rooms, and washrooms at their workplaces.

The hunger strike from October 5 followed nearly 50 days of 'cease work' in two phases. Their agitation began after an on-duty post-graduate trainee was raped and murdered inside state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

Five including four students of private college killed in road accident in Kanpur

KANPUR, Oct 14 (Agencies): Four students of a private college were among five killed when their car was crushed between two speeding trucks on the Ruma-Bhaunti flyover here on Monday, police said.

The incident took place while the students were on way to their college, Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Rajesh Kumar Singh said.

The bodies were

brought out by cutting through the mangled car.

The deceased students have been identified as Ayushi Patel (first year of computer science), Garima Tripathi (second year computer science), Satish Kumar (third year computer science and engineering) and Prateek Singh (fourth year of electronics and communication engineering).

The identity of the



driver is yet to be ascertained.

"All the four students were travelling in a car driven by a driver on way

to the Pranveer Singh Institute of Technology and had hardly reached Panki when their car got sandwiched between

two trucks," Singh told agency.

The horrific accident resulted in the deaths of five persons, including four students and a driver.

The drivers of both the trucks fled from the scene soon after the accident leaving the trucks behind, he said, and added that both the trucks have been seized. The bodies have been sent for postmortem.

Four-year-old girl sexually assaulted by neighbour in Pune



PUNE, Oct 14 (Agencies): A man allegedly sexually assaulted his four-year-old neighbour in a slum in the Mundhwa area of Pune, police said on Monday.

The child's parents are labourers and were friends with the 32-year-old accused, who frequented their house, an official said.

"On Sunday afternoon, the girl's par-

ents were not home, and she was left in her elder sister's care. The accused visited their house and took the girl to his place," he said.

When the child's mother returned home, she asked her elder daughter to bring her back.

The girl then told the mother about the assault, the official said.

He added that the woman confronted the accused, who fled and has been absconding.

The woman then approached the police, and a case was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said.

Shashi Tharoor welcomes centurion Sanju Samson with 'ponnada' in Thiruvananthapuram

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Oct 14 (Agencies): Congress Member of Parliament and cricket enthusiast, Shashi Tharoor, warmly welcomed Sanju Samson upon his return to Thiruvananthapuram after his remarkable performance in India's record-breaking T20I victory against Bangladesh in Hyderabad on Saturday. Tharoor shared photos from the felicitation ceremony held at his residence on social media.

During their meeting on Monday, Shashi Tharoor presented Samson with a blue 'ponnada' (shawl). "Delighted to give a hero's welcome to 'ton-up Sanju' as @IamSanjuSamson returned to Thiruvananthapuram after his stunning century against Bangladesh. I found a 'ponnada' in the appropriate India colors to honor him with!" Tharoor wrote in his post.

Tharoor appeared thrilled to meet Samson after the India wicketkeeper-batter scored his maiden T20I hundred in India's record total of 297 against Bangladesh. Over the years, Tharoor has been a strong supporter



of Samson, frequently questioning the team management about the lack of opportunities for the Kerala superstar.

Samson conceded that he was unsure of his place in the T20i side after he bagged two ducks in a T20I series against Sri Lanka in July.

Samson found peak form in the nick of time. After failing to convert his starts into big substantial contributions in the first two T20Is of the series against Bangladesh in Gwalior and Delhi, Samson hit top gear in Hyderabad, smashing 111 from

just 47 deliveries.

Samson brought up his hundred in just 40 balls, becoming the second-fastest T20I centurion for India. Samson and captain Suryakumar Yadav added 173 runs for the second wicket in just 70 deliveries to power India to their highest-ever total in T20I cricket. India's 297 was also the second-highest total in the shortest format of the game after Nepal's 311 against Mongolia.

Samson revealed he was told by the Gautam Gambhir-led team management that he

would open the batting in the T20I series, three weeks in advance.

The Rajasthan Royals captain said the early heads-up helped him be better prepared for the series.

"Three weeks before the series, I was fortunate to get a message from the leadership group. I think Surya, Gautam bhai, and Abhishek Nayar told me that I would be opening," Samson said.

"That gave me some kind of proper preparation. I went back to the Rajasthan Royals academy, where I faced lots of new-ball bowlers. That preparation definitely helps you. I was coming in 10 per cent more ready for this series than any other. I think that communication helps you be better prepared," he added.

Samson is likely to feature in the couple of Ranji Trophy matches for Kerala before India head to South Africa for a T20I series in November. Samson is not part of the Test squad, which will take on a visiting New Zealand side in a three-match.

Will tweak rules in shooting: ISSF president



NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (Agencies): The sport of shooting will undergo a few changes before the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) president Luciano Rossi, who is in New Delhi to attend the World Cup Finals, said it was important to make the sport spectator friendly.

"For the first time in history the shooting events were held outside the main host city. It gave us an impression that the sport could

lose out but it is not the case as we have a very good relationship with the IOC," Rossi said.

"But we realise that we need to bring a few changes but at the same time stay connected with the sport. So we are bringing in a few changes in rules which will be implemented around the World Championships that will be held in 2026," he added.

When pressed further about what changes, Rossi said they may make all the finals eight-

shooter competitions. A few of the disciplines, including trap and 25m, have only six shooters competing for the three podium places.

"The point I am making is that the sport has to be made more exciting for the crowd. In Chateauroux, I could sense the excitement in the crowd when two shooters went into a shoot-off so that is the basis of all this. We have to move forward but at the same time not forget about the sport," he said.

Junior WC in India

Rossi also declared that they are in talks with the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) about hosting two major championships. The ISSF president hinted that a Junior World Cup could be held next year and that India is also in with a chance to hold an Olympics quota event for the 2028 Summer Games.

Pat Cummins returns as captain as Australia announce ODI squad vs Pakistan

SYDNEY, Oct 14 (Agencies): Australia captain Pat Cummins will warm up for the Test series against India with a 3-match ODI series against Pakistan. Australia announced their 14-member squad for the home series against Pakistan, which is scheduled to be played in November, just before the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

Cummins has been resting since Australia's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign. The fast bowler had a brief stint in the Major League Cricket this season and has been resting for the past two months after that.

Australia announced their squad early on Monday morning, 14 October, which saw a good mix of youth and experience. Talented Jake Fraser-McGurk has been given another chance to solidify his position in the ODI team, having played only one match (T20I) in the England series.

Australia squad vs Pakistan

Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Cooper Connolly, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa



Australia vs Pakistan: Fixtures
First ODI: November 4: Melbourne
Second ODI: November 8: Adelaide
Third ODI: November 10: Perth

After the ODI series against Pakistan, Australia will take on India in a 5-match Test series - the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Australia also announced their squad for the tour games against India A, which is set to feature fast bowlers Scott Boland and Michael Neser, alongside young batting prodigy Sam Konstas.

The BGT is set to be a showcase bilateral series between the two sides and could be crucial in deciding who plays the final of the World Test Championship next year. Australia are the reigning WTC champions, having beaten India in the final back in 2023.

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green ruled out of India Test series

SYDNEY, Oct 14 (Agencies): Australia all-rounder Cameron Green will undergo a surgery for a stress fracture in his lower spine which will rule him out for six months, including the marquee Border Gavaskar Trophy against India.

The 25-year-old seam-bowling all-rounder was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his lower back after experiencing pain during last month's tour of the UK.

Green has previously suffered four stress fractures in his back but has not encountered any issues in that area since 2019.

While stress fractures are common among fast bowlers, Cricket Australia said Green has a "unique defect".

"Whilst spine stress fractures are not unusu-



al in pace bowlers, Cam has a unique defect in an adjacent area to the fracture that is believed to be contributing to the injury," a CA statement said on Monday.

Following a week of evaluations and discussions, Green decided to opt for a similar type of surgery undergone by several pacers including Jasprit Bumrah, James Pattinson, Jason Behrendorff, and Ben Dwarshuis.

"After thorough consultation it was determined Cameron would benefit from the surgery to stabilise the defect and reduce the risk of future recurrence," CA said.

The alternative to surgery would have involved rehabilitation and restricting his bowling during the five-match series against India, starting November 22 in Perth.

"The surgery has been performed successfully

with elite pace bowlers in the past. Recovery time is anticipated to be around six-months.

"The decision to proceed to surgery is with Cameron's long-term future as an all-rounder in mind," the statement added.

The operation will be performed by New Zealand surgeons Grahame Inglis and Rowan Schouten, which involves screws and titanium wire to bind vertebrae together, according to 'cricket.com.au.'

However, a six-month recovery time will mean Green misses the Border Gavaskar Trophy, February's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy tournament while his participation in the IPL is also in doubt.

His absence would also mean Australia will

have to rejig their batting order.

Green had returned to the Test side following veteran opener David Warner's retirement earlier this year with Steve Smith being pushed to open the innings.

However, the veteran batter struggled at the top of the order and could drop back to the number four position, which has been left vacant by Green. If that occurs, the Australian selectors will need to choose a new opener.

Additionally, Australia will also have to find someone to bowl Green's overs.

Mitchell Marsh did not bowl in Western Australia's Sheffield Shield match against Queensland and hardly rolled his arm while captaining the white-ball teams over the winter.

PAK vs ENG: Ben Stokes returns as England make 2 changes for 2nd Test

LONDON, Oct 14 (Agencies): Captain Ben Stokes has returned to the playing XI as England announced their playing XI for the 2nd Test against Pakistan in Multan, which will begin from October 15, Tuesday. Stokes had missed the last 4 Tests played by England, which included the entire series against Sri Lanka and the win in the first match of the series.

Stokes was rested for the first match and did do his part for the team by coming in to bring on drinks for his side. England cricket board

announced the playing XI on Monday and said that the skipper had completely recovered from the hamstring tear that had kept him out of the side since the end of August. Along with Stokes, Matthew Potts also returned to the team as Gus Atkinson and Chris Woakes were rested for the match.

Potts is returning to the team for the first time since the Lord's Test against Sri Lanka at the end of August.

"England Men have confirmed their XI for the second Test against Pakistan, which is set to



commence on Tuesday in Multan."

"Seamers Gus Atkinson and Chris Woakes are rested."

"England Captain Ben Stokes returns after missing the last four

Test matches. He has fully recovered from a hamstring tear, which has kept him on the sidelines since early August. Durham seamer Matt Potts returns to the side for the first time

since the Lord's Test against Sri Lanka at the end of August," read the statement.

ENGLAND PLAYING XI FOR 2ND TEST

Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (C), Jamie Smith, Brydon Carse, Matt Potts, Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir.

Pakistan have already made some big changes to their squad for the remainder of the series as they decided to drop Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah.

PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen aim to regain form at Denmark Open



ODENSE, Oct 14 (Agencies): Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be eager to bounce back from a disappointing resumption to their season when they compete in the USD 850,000 Denmark Open Super 750, starting Tuesday. Both players found the going tough in the Arctic Open in Vantaa, Finland, last week where former world champion Sindhu suffered a first-round exit, while 2021 world bronze winner Sen bowed out in the second round. At Arena Fyn in Odense, they will hope for better results as they lead India's challenge in this prestigious tournament, the 13th event of the 2024 BWF World Tour.

Sen, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, went down fighting to Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen last week.

Here, the 23-year-old from Almora will face China's Lu Guang Zu in his opening match -- an opponent he is yet to meet in professional badminton.

Should he advance, Sen might face Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in the second round, with reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand will, in all likelihood, be waiting for him in the quarter-finals.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, will need to quickly address the issues affecting her performance after a disappointing first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li, an opponent she had previously defeated 10 times.

Under the guidance of new coaches Anup Sridhar and Korea's Lee Hyun-il, she will open against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po and could potentially face China's Han Yue in the second round if she progresses.

In addition to Sindhu, India will have several other competitors in women's singles, including the in-form Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and promising talent Unnati Hooda.

Bansod, who had reached the quarter-finals of China Open, will go up against Vietnam's Nguyen Thy Linh at first, while Kashyap faces Thailand's Supanida Katethong.

Hooda, the 2022 Odisha Open winner, will compete against Lauren Lam from the USA.

While there will be no Indian representation in men's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who had missed the Paris Olympics, will compete in the women's doubles, taking on the fifth-seeded Malaysian duo of Pearly Tan and Thinnah Muralitharan.

The Panda sisters, Swetaparna and Rutaparna, will face off against Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tung of Chinese Taipei.

In mixed doubles, the husband-wife combination of B Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy are set to face Canada's Kevin Lee and Eliana Zhang, while Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Varyath will take on Indonesia's Rehan Kusharjanto and Lisa Kusumawati.

Steve Smith to return to number 4 spot for India Test series

MELBOURNE, Oct 14 (Agencies): Veteran Australia batter Steve Smith will return to his favoured number four position after a short stint as an opener in the upcoming Test series against India, national selector George Bailey confirmed on Monday.

Post opener David Warner's retirement earlier this year, Smith had willingly volunteered open the innings.

Although he made an unbeat-



en 91 in only his second Test in the new role, the 35-year-old didn't fare well in the series against New Zealand, collecting a total of 51 runs in four innings.

Bailey confirmed that captain Pat Cummins and head coach Andrew McDonald have decided to bring back Smith to his preferred slot.

"Pat (Cummins), Andrew (McDonald) and Steve Smith had been having ongoing conversations, separate to the untimely injury to Cameron (Green)," Bailey was quoted as saying by 'cricket.com.au'.

The opportunity to revert back to his old position arose after

all-rounder Cameron Green, who had filled Smith's role at No.4, opted to undergo a lower back surgery which will keep him out for six months.

"Steve had expressed a desire to move back down from that opening position, and Pat and Andrew have confirmed that he will be dropping back down the order for the summer." Australia will host India for the Border Gavaskar Trophy, starting on November 22 in Perth.

Shiv Sena advises not to expand cabinet before restoration of statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: The removal of President's rule from Jammu and Kashmir and giving a chance to the people's elected government is welcomed, now the time has come that the Modi government should respect the public opinion and fulfill its promises while return our state status with immediate effect, stated by Manish Sahni, president Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K.

In a program organized at the party's state central office today, State Chief Manish Sahni has welcomed the decision to remove President's rule from Jammu and Kashmir which was in place for about 6 years. Along with this, he has demanded from the Modi government at the Center to fulfill the promises of returning



Appoint retired army officer as Governor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has demanded restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and appointment of retired army officer as governor.

Sahni said that on 7 August 2020, Manoj Sinha was given the command of Jammu and Kashmir as Lieutenant Governor. During this period, municipal, Lok Sabha and assembly elections were conducted peacefully but no significant success was achieved in controlling terrorism. Sahni said that along with returning the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, an experienced army officer should be appointed as governor for this highly sensitive border and terror-affected state.

the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir during the

reorganization of J&K and soon and after the assem-

bly elections with immediate effect. Sahni said that

the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir have been completed and the people have given the NC-Congress a chance to form the government with full majority. Along with this, the declared Chief Minister of NC-Congress alliance, Omar Abdullah has also been advised not to expand his cabinet before the restoration of statehood. Sahni said that a situation like Delhi and tussle should not arise in Jammu and Kashmir.

On this occasion, social worker Baby Koul, Dr. Bharat Gupta along with a dozen others joined Shiv Sena (UBT). State head Manish Sahni welcomed them with Shiv Bandhan. General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President, Balwant Singh, president Kamghar wing Raj Singh, Secretary Rajesh Jandial were present on this occasion.

GDC Mahanpur participates in Inter-college Competition during Basohli Festival 2024



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Oct 14: GDC Mahanpur participated in the Inter-college Competition organized during Basohli Festival from 10th to 12th of October, 2024.

The competition was one of the series of events during three-day mega Basohli Festival 2024.

The Inter-college Competition comprised of four major events between three Colleges i.e. GDC Mahanpur, GDC Billawar and GDC Basohli.

The four events including Essay Writing Competition, Shloka Recitation Competition, Storytelling Competition and Painting Competition were organized.

ised.

The students of GDC Mahanpur participated in all the four events. Monika Sharma (3rd semester), Meenakshi Devi (3rd semester), Jyoti Devi (3rd semester), Megha (1st semester), Priti Sumbria (3rd semester), Sheetal Bhandwal (1st semester), Ashish Sharma (1st semester) and Arjun Singh (1st semester) were the students who participated in the four events.

The students of all the three Colleges participated with great enthusiasm. Jyoti Devi (3rd semester) of the College emerged as the winner of the Storytelling Competition.

Moreover, Priti Sumbria (3rd semester) took the second position in Essay Writing Competition and Monika Sharma (3rd semester) stood 3rd in the Shloka Recitation Competition.

The Prize distribution Ceremony took place on 12th of October, 2024 where all the winners of the four events were felicitated by the dignitaries.

The faculty members who participated as Jury members in the Competition during Basohli Festival were Dr. Jyoti Soodan and Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia. Other faculty members who participated in the Competition during Basohli Festival were Nisha and Dr. Sapna.

KC College of Education observes I'ntl Day for National Disaster Reduction

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: The United Nations General Assembly designated October 13 as the International Day for National Disaster Reduction as a part of its proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The Environmental Club of K.C. College of Education observed "International Day for National Disaster Reduction (IDDR) on 14th October, 2024 by organizing a seminar on the topic "Empowering the Next Generation for a Better Future".

The members of the

club, the students of semester - III, participated in the seminar where the participants discussed and shared their views on the topic and worked out various ways and means by which the future generations can be empowered for a better future.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo, Principal of the College added that empowering young individuals to believe in themselves and their abilities is important for their better future.

The whole event was convened by the convener of the club, Dr. Puja Sharma.

Sharda Buddh Vihar celebrates Dhamma Diksha Divas



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: Sharda Buddh Vihar organised a programme at Colonel Colony here on Monday to celebrate Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar's Dhamma Diksha Divas. Sharda Buddh Vihar President Dr Jeet Bazala explained the significance of Dhamma Diksha Divas, initiated by Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar on this day in 1956 at Dikshabhumi in Nagpur, where more than six lakh people embraced Buddhism, which gave a fillip to spread the message of Buddha, considered as a historical event.

R.L. Kaith said that Buddha's message assures peace and tranquillity worldwide. He stressed the need for understanding Buddhism by following Panchsheel and Arya Astana Marg propounded by the Buddha.

Hem Raj spoke on social and religious harmony as the need of the hour and recalled the contribution of the Lord Buddha and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for equality.

GDC Marheen organizes five days activities on "Panjh Din, Panjh Rangh, Dogra Sanskriti Sangh"



Top News Report

MARHEEN, Oct 14: GDC Marheen promotes Dogra Culture by celebrating five days long activities on the theme of "Panjh Din, Panjh Rangh, Dogra Sanskriti Sangh". The event was organized and supervised by the Department of Dogri in collaboration with IQAC and Cultural Committee. Opening ceremony of the whole event was inaugurated with the college decoration and by displaying different items related with Dogra Virasat such as Patry, Shiku, Dharat, Rongli Datan, Behni, Chhajji, Bhari,

Pakhi, Madani, Ramal, Chatti, Chakki, Tarakadhi, Tumbhi, Kunda-Danda, Manja, Tokri etc.

Moreover, a documentary was displayed depicting the spiritual philosophy and ideology of Baba Jitto, a Duggar Hero, to the staff and students of college.

The event was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta. In her address, she highlighted the importance of such events in raising awareness among students about dogra traditions, language and cuisine. She not only cherished the cultural tradition but also reinforce the

importance of preserving the unique heritage of the Dogra Community for future generation.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students as they showcase their creativity by decorating the college wall by making Guddiyen, flowers and wall hangers with colorful papers. The whole event was managed by Prof. Sandeep Chaudhary (Convener) and Dr. Shallu Rani (HOD, Department of Dogri). Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Prof. Anoop Sharma, Dr. Munisha Devi, Prof. Manu Saini also guided the students for their active participation.

GDC Billawar shines at Basohli Festival with multiple wins in Inter-College Competitions



Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Oct 14: Students of Government Degree College (GDC) Billawar brought pride to their institution by securing top positions in the Inter-College Competitions held during the Basohli Festival from October 10th to 12th,

2024. The competitions, part of the three-day grand festival, featured participants from GDC Billawar, GDC Mahanpur, and GDC Basohli in four categories: Essay Writing, Shloka Recitation, Storytelling, and Painting. In Shloka Recitation, Diksha Sharma (5th

Semester) and Hridhaydeep took home the first and second prizes, respectively. The Essay Writing competition saw Monika Malgotra (3rd Semester) win first place, with Zahid Malik (5th

Semester) securing third. Nisha Devi (5th Semester) earned third place in Storytelling, while Diksha Thakur (5th Semester) achieved second prize in the Painting category. The winners were hon-

ored at the prize distribution ceremony on October 12th, 2024. Faculty members Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Akshay Sharma, and Dr. Manu Sharma served as jury members during the event.

JJAR Hospital awarded NABH accreditation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 14: Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research (JJAR) Hospital has achieved a landmark by becoming the first private-sector Ayurveda hospital in Jammu and Kashmir to be awarded the prestigious NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) accreditation. This recognition underscores JJAR's commitment to providing the highest standards of healthcare in Ayurveda.

NABH accreditation is a testament to the hospital's exceptional quality in patient care, safety, and clinical practices. This certification enhances JJAR Hospital's reputation as a center of excellence. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr. Nitin Mahajan expressed pride in this achievement and reiterated the hospital's dedication to advancing Ayurveda and offering the best treatment to patients. Special thanks were extended to Dr. Vikas Gupta for coordinating and facilitating this process, as well as to the other staff members and the management for their continuous support and encouragement.

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