### FROM PAGE ONE

## Muslim law board to file review petition

He also said that rejecting the land would not amount to contempt as the directions of the apex court were to the Central government and not to the Muslim community.

Mr. Jilani said three of the six Muslim plaintiffs in the case, Mohammad Umar, Maulana Mehfuz ur Rehman and Misbah ud Din, had already given their consent for the review petition, which would be be filed within 30 days of the

Iqbal Ansari, one of the litigants, stayed away from the meeting and said he did not seek any review peti-

He argued the move was pointless and wanted to avoid anything that could vitiate the atmosphere in the

"Now that the court has decided, we will follow the court verdict. Now I don't need to pursue it further." Mr. Ansari said. He. however, added that other litigants were free to file a review petition if they wished.

Asked about Mr. Ansari's stance, Mr. Jilani alleged that the former could have been pressured by the Ayodhya administration to not issue statements against the

# Allow Farooq to attend House: Opposition

As the party's senior most leader, Mr. Abdullah should have been present. "I told the government that it is their constitutional obligation to ensure that Dr. Abdullah attends Parliament. The Srinagar electorate should not go unrepresented," Mr. Masoodi told The

The government has detained Dr. Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Mr. Masoodi said that since the MP was detained under the PSA, the government did not need court orders to revoke the detention.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the meeting Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi remained noncommittal on Lok Sabha member's release. "We have got a suggestion in this regard. We will see what can be done within framework of the law," Mr Joshi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his customary remarks at the meeting reiterated that the government

was ready to discuss every issue and exhorted everyone to make the winter session as productive as the last one. "Inside the meeting the government and the PM say that the government is ready to debate whatever issues the Opposition wants to raise. We get this assurance in every meeting ahead of every session. But in the House, whether the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, when we raise the issues, whether it's state of our economy or rising unemployment or agrarian crisis or inflation or Kashmir, the government stalls the debate," Mr. Azad said. Mr Azad had raised the issue during a meeting chaired by Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu too.

The Trinamool Congress, represented by Mr. Bandhopadhyay and Rajya Sabha member Derek O' Brien also raised the issue of interference in administration by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar.

# Marriage not 'good enough' to quash FIR: Delhi HC

Thereafter she registered the ished to deter others from FIR. A charge-sheet was filed against the man pursuant to

During the course of the trial, they got married. In the petition before the High Court, the victim had given her 'No objection' affidavit for quashing of the FIR.

The man argued that since the matter has been amicably settled, the continuation of case will render the compromise meaningless.

Justice Sethi, however, remarked that, "even when there is a settlement, the view of the offender and victim will not prevail since it is in the interest of society that the offender should be puncommitting a similar crime".

The judge also referred to a judgment of the Supreme Court which said that "heinous and serious offences involving mental depravity or offences such as murder, rape and dacoity cannot appropriately be quashed though the victim or the family of the victim have set-

tled the dispute". In the case in hand, the HC noted that it was the case of the victim that she was deceived by the man and sexual relations were established on the pretext of false promise of marriage and she was subjected to emotional, physical, mental and sexual abuse.

# J&K detainees slam police action

Political leaders objected to an attempt to strip-search PC chief Sajjad Lone

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

At least 32 high profile political detainees staged a protest on Sunday against the police's alleged bid to "strip and humiliate" Peoples Conference chief Sajjad Lone while the leaders were being shifted to a new detention centre in Srinagar.

The incident took place around 2 p.m. when the authorities began shifting the detainees in batches from the Centaur Hotel to the MLA Hostel in Srinagar.

Sources said the first batch of leaders, crammed into a small vehicle, comprised Peoples Democratic Party youth president Waheed Para, J&K's Peoples Movement chief and IAS topper Shah Faesal and Peoples Conference chief Lone, an ally of the BJP in J&K between 2015 and 2018.

Sources said Mr. Lone was frisked as the vehicle reached the gates of the MLA Hostel. The situation turned ugly when he was asked to remove his clothes, eliciting an angry response from both



On the move: Political detainees being shifted to the MLA Hostel from the Centaur Hotel in Srinagar on Sunday. • PTI

Mr. Para and Mr. Faesal. This was followed by a scuffle, sources added.

The police allegedly used force to separate the politicians, who have served as lawmakers and Ministers in the previous regime. As other detainees reached the detention centre, they joined the protest against the "manhandling" of Mr. Lone.

The detainees also registered their protest against "poor facilities" at the MLA

Sources said the authori-

Rail services resume in Kashmir Valley

ties have used plywood sheets to close the verandas and the windows, turning the rooms in the multi-storey building into dark and cold

Police deny incident

However, when contacted by The Hindu, the police denied any such incident. "No such incident took place," said a police officer on the condition of anonymity.

"The place is not liveable even for hardcore criminals. The authorities are trying to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rail services in the Kashmir

Valley resumed fully on Sun-

day - more than three

months after being suspend-

ed due to security reasons -

as the train chugged from

Srinagar to Banihal through

the restive south Kashmir, of-

A railway official said that

"rail service in the Valley ful-

ly resumed this morning as

the train chugged from Bara-

mulla towards Banihal". The

official said there was only

SRINAGAR

ficials said.

Train goes from Srinagar to Banihal

put regional leadership on par with criminals - it reeks of political vendetta. The place is simply unhygienic and lacks basic facilities. My ailing father's health will only deteriorate in case such pathetic services are offered to him," PDP leader and former Minister Naeem Akhtar's daughter Sheryaar Khanam told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Khanam has decided to approach Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary. "I will seek a written undertaking from Mr. Chaudhary that my father is in safe condition and the place is medically feasible. The minimum government could do is to provide a clean and warm place in this chilly weather," she said.

Sources said the detainees have been asked to organise their own toiletries and were provided with small electric blankets and room heaters. "This is an attempt to make an example of the local leaders. If they are not spared, nobody will be in Kashmir. They are being made scapegoats," said Ms. Khanam.

one run scheduled for Sun-

day, while the train would

make two runs on a daily ba-

The Railways conducted a

trial run on Sunday morning

before the actual service

Rail service in the Valley

had partially resumed on

Tuesday as the train ran bet-

ween Baramulla and Srina-

gar. The authorities have di-

rected the Railways to ply

the trains between 10 a.m.

and 3 p.m. only due to secur-

ity reasons, the official said.

My idea of India is being challenged: Vallabh +

sis from Monday.

started, he added.

When asked if delimitation of constituencies would be carried out before the elections are announced, Mr. Murmu said, "That is a call that has to be taken by the

# Preparing ground for J&K poll: Murmu

EC will take final call on dates, says L-G

VIJAITA SINGH

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has said the administration was pro-actively preparing the ground to hold elections in the newly carved out Union Territory but added that he would not be able to give a timeline.

Former IAS officer G.C. Murmu, who took over as L-G last month, told The Hindu that unlike the UT of Ladakh, J&K is a UT with a legislature and there will have to be an elected government in place soon.

"We are preparing the ground situation. The final call on dates will be taken by the Election Commission. Some normalcy is also required and we have to ensure many things before elections are held," Mr. Murmu said.

President's rule in J&K has been extended thrice in the past one year, with the most recent extension coming on October 31.

### **Delimitation exercise**

On November 1, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora told reporters that the Home Ministry or the Law Ministry would have to first appoint the Delimitation Commission. Mr. Arora said the Law Ministry had sought legal advice from the EC and the Commission had hired two former officials -Shangara Ram and R.K. Srivastava - to assist in the process.

Mr. Murmu added that preparations for the J&K In-



G.C. Murmu, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu &

vestor Summit, postponed indefinitely in October, had begun and it would be held soon.

A senior government official said that President's rule cannot be prolonged further. "An L-G cannot run the administration alone. Preparations will have to done to hold the elections whenever time is conducive. There are issues like revising the electoral rolls. President's rule has been extended at least thrice, it cannot go on for long," the official said.

A senior EC official added that this would be the first Assembly of the UT of J&K. Since it would be starting afresh, it was likely that that the delimitation process would be conducted before the elections, the official

However, citing the example of the previous delimitation exercise in the country that started in 2001 and ended in 2008, the official said elections can take place even while the exercise is on. The official also raised concern about the harsh winter season that has set in and is expected to continue till April next year that could delay the election process further. (With inputs from

### UAE citizens can get visa on arrival

Srinagar on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India has extended the 'visa on arrival' facility to the citizens of the United Arab Emirates, the Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi announced on Sunday.

the step is aimed at increasing people-to-people contact between India and UAE. The double-entry visa on arrival facility will be available for UAE citizens up to 60 days and will be provided "only" to those who have earlier obtained e-visas and the usual paper visas. UAE citizens travelling to India for the first time are, however, advised to apply for the e-visa or the paper visa, it said.

Cong. spokesperson, who will take on Jharkhand CM in upcoming poll, says focus will be on development SOBHANA K. NAIR

In demand: Passengers boarding a train for Banihal from

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh describes himself as a first generation politician. He joined the Congress only in January 2018 and a year later, he is taking on BJP The Indian mission said leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das in the upcoming Assembly election

> from Jamshedpur East. A regular at press confe rences at the Congress headquarters at 24 Akbar Road, Mr. Vallabh shot into the limelight when he asked BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra how many zeroes there were in a trillion in the context of the Narendra Modi government's claim that India's economy would reach the \$5 trillion mark by 2024. Even

as Mr. Patra fumbled, Mr. Vallabh pedantically explained the number of zeroes in a billion, million and trillion (12 zeroes).

The question was definitely a no-brainer for Mr. Vallabh who holds a doctorate in credit risk management and was taken on as a Professor at the Xavier School of Management at just 32.

**Suffocating environment** Speaking to The Hindu, the Congress hopeful says no one from his family was into politics. Both his parents are teachers. "My idea of India was being challenged, people are lynched for their religion. They instructed what to eat and what not to eat. This environment was suffo-



Gourav Vallabh

cating for me. The party that was the closest to my idea of India was the Congress so I decided to join," he says.

"Every morning I do puja for more than an hour-and-ahalf. But that doesn't mean that I will go to TV studios and call out people on the basis of the cap they wear.

tweets on fire in Amazon forests, doesn't say a word when people are burned or beaten to death on the roads," he adds. The Congress is likely to

The Union government that

propose an anti-lynching law for Jharkhand in its manifesto on the lines of the one enacted in Rajasthan.

"In the past 30 months, 700 firms were wound up in Jamshedpur alone and 30,000 workers lost jobs. Who is responsible for this? My main agenda will be only development, development and development," Mr. Vallabh says. He adds that in Jharkhand, over the past five

years, 14,000 government

schools were closed by the

NDA government. And in-

stead of schools, the government has focussed on opening liquor shops, he alleges.

On the David vs Goliath contest, Mr. Vallabh says he is going into the contest not against a Chief Minister but against a candidate who failed his constituency. "I am only going to share with people, this is what you expected, this is what you deserved and this is the delivery," he says, matter-of-factly.

Mr. Vallabh says the narrative on Article 370 or even the Ram Mandir will have no impact in the State.

"At the end of the day, people need two square meals in a day, they want employment, they need houses, basic health and education facil-

# Imported rules hit musical instruments

U.S. FAA regulations, used as a model, are designed for smaller western violins, guitars and cellos

JAGRITI CHANDRA

Travelling is particularly stressful for Indian musicians because of the size of their musical instruments. A sitar is, for example, 5 feet long, while a guitar is 3 feet

But the rules don't help them. The U.S. regulator, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – on whose rules the regulators of different countries, including India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation, model their guidelines – has made provisions, keeping in mind western violins, guitars and cellos.

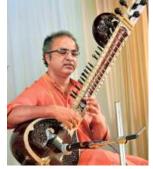
The FAA Modernization and Reform Act, 2012, which came into effect in March 2015, requires U.S. airlines to provide three options for carriage of instruments, depending on the size: smaller instruments to be carried as cabin-baggage and stowed in an overhead bin or below a seat; purchase of an extra seat for the instrument the seat; and checked-in luggage. Though allowing passengers to book an extra seat for their instrument is "encouraged", it is not mandatorv. Artistes recall that while two-three decades ago, they were allowed to buy an extra seat for fragile instruments due to safety concerns, this provision was withdrawn over the years. The petition launched by

which has to be secured to

maestro Shubhendra Rao calling for airline accountability for this special cargo has received more than 10,600 signatures and many world-renowned Indian musicians have joined the cause. Each has a story of agony or suspense that came with air travel.

### Dropping the 'aatma'

Grammy winner and Padma Bhushan awardee Vishwa Mohan Bhatt calls the mohan veena his 'aatma' (soul). "Glued to my aeroplane window anxiously tracking my



Kozhikode. • S. RAMESH KURUF

instrument, I once saw it falling from the top of a 4-5-foothigh tractor trolley carrying baggage to the plane. My heart sank."

Ustad Baha'ud'din Mohiuddin Dagar, who plays the rudra veena, once arrived at a concert in Nottingham and opened the protective case only to realise that the 'tumba' was cracked completely. "It was like being bereaved. How then can you expect a musician to perform? But there are commitments to the audience, the organisers and the sponsors."

The musical instruments are irreplaceable. Mr. Rao's sitar, for instance, is made with a pumpkin that was more than 20 years old and a piece of wood seasoned for 70 years. It took two years to make, and four to five years for its owner to play it before it could produce the trademark sound the sitarist is known for. The maker, Rikhi Ram, says the soundboard can be replaced with a new one, but it will not be able to produce the same quality of

The instrument is packed in a tough fibreglass case and secured by a thick vinyl padded cover and, therefore, for the sitar to break without deliberate harm is impossible, says cellist and Mr. Rao's wife, Saskia Rao de Haas. It can only be an "act of stupidity or malice". Her own horror stories from air travel forced her to make a travelling cello, a smaller version of For Ustad Shujaat Khan,

the Indian cello.

whose musical lineage extends seven generations - he is the son of Ustad Vilayat Khan - the mishandling of musical instruments is a sign of apathy and disrespect to artistes. "Everyone is ready to bend rules to accommodate the super rich, politicians, Bollywood stars; but a classical musician, for some reason, seems to come very low in the scheme of importance," he told *The Hindu* in a telephone interview.

The problem faced by Indian artistes is a global phenomenon and a nightmare for many musicians.

Artistes quoted in the story have encountered mishandling by both Indian and international carriers.

Air India says it checked CCTV footage at the Delhi and New York airports and had not found evidence of pilferage or mishandling of Mr. Rao's instrument by its

### Stalin gives ₹5 lakh to Coimbatore girl's kin

KARTHIK MADHAVAN COIMBATORE

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Sunday met the parents of Rajeswari, a woman who lost her left leg in an accident involving an AIADMK flagpole.

During a visit to a private hospital along with other DMK leaders, he gave the victim's kin a cheque for ₹5 lakh towards medical ex-

Addressing reporters later, Mr. Stalin accused Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami of trying to feign ignorance about the accident. "The Chief Minister feigned ignorance on Rajeswari losing her leg in the accident, just as he said he was unaware of the [police] firing incident [during the anti-Sterlite agitation] in Thoothukudi," he said.

Thirty-year-old Rajeswari was involved in an accident on November 11.

# 'Congress to decide on Maharashtra govt. soon'

T.K. ROHIT CHENNAI

The Congress High Command in Delhi is likely to take a decision on forming a government in Maharashtra in an alliance with the Shiv Sena and the NCP in the next two days, former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said on Sunday.

Mr. Chavan, who was in Chennai to attend a couple of meetings, added that NCP chief Sharad Pawar is scheduled to meet Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi on Mondav. "For the Congress it's a

major step [to ally with the Shiv Sena], but considering the people have rejected the BJP, the intention is not to allow that party to form a government through the backdoor and continue their misrule of the past five years," Mr. Chavan said when asked about the ideological differences between the Shiv Sena and the Congress.

**APPEAL** 

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THE HINDU DELHI MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

# Will Gotabaya make peace with India?

Given his polarised mandate, Sri Lanka president-elect may need New Delhi's help in Tamil regions

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI For many in South Block, the election in Sri Lanka will bring relations around full circle from five years ago. In October 2014, during Gotabaya Rajapaksa's visit to New Delhi, when he was Defence Secretary to his brother, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, both the Ministry of External Affairs and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval delivered to him a tough message: that the Modi government took a stern view of Sri Lanka allowing Chinese naval war-

ships into Colombo harbour. The message clearly didn't go down well with Mr. Gotabaya, and a week later, the PLA-Navy's submarine Changzheng-2 and the warship Chang Xing Dao arrived in Colombo on a five-day visit anyway.

Sri Lanka insisted it had informed Indian officials about the plan in advance, and that the docking was routine, but the event put the Rajapaksa regime and the Modi government on collision course.

Matters came to a head shortly after, when an Indian diplomat based in Colombo was accused of conspiring with the Opposition leaders to defeat President Rajapaksa, and subsequently re-



**Looking ahead:** Local diplomats have been holding meetings with the Rajapaksas, expecting to build on traditional ties between New Delhi and Colombo. • AP

turned to Delhi. In the elections that followed, Mahinda Rajapaksa lost to Maithripala Sirisena, who was warmly welcomed by the Modi government.

### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

A lot has changed between the government and the Rajapaksas since that fraught period five years ago. The Raiapaksas are now back in power, although it is Mr. Gotabaya who is President, not Mahinda, because of two-term limits on the presidency.

For its part, New Delhi has worked on building ties on both sides of the political aisles, and carefully sidestepped situations where it

was expected to take sides, including during the short period last year when Mr. Mahinda was sworn in as Prime Minister. I

n September 2018, Mr. Mahinda told *The Hindu* in an interview during a visit to Delhi that it was "time to move on" from the misunderstandings of the past. Nonetheless, with Mr. Gotabaya now in charge, New Delhi will have several apprehensions.

While his brother, a lifelong politician has been able to make his peace with New Delhi, the question remains about whether Mr Gotabaya, a more stentorian military man, has done the

At a rally last month, Mr.

Justice Gogoi

retires as 46th

Chief Justice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India on Sunday.

the tenure of a little over 13

months. His tenure as

judge and CJI was marked by some controversies,

personal allegations and

path-breaking judgments.

Justice Sharad Arvind

Bobde, 63, will succeed

Justice Gogoi as the 47th

CJI on Monday. Justice Bobde will have a tenure of

over 17 months and is due

to retire on April 23, 2021.

He has decided several key

cases and was also part of

the Ayodhya verdict.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT of Mr. Rajapaksa, the Prime Minister Narendra people of Sri Lanka will Modi spoke to Presidentprogress further on the elect of Sri Lanka Gotabaya path of peace and

Rajapaksa on Sunday and congratulated him on his victory in the presidential election. Mr. Modi invited him to visit India at his

Modi greets Gotabaya

early convenience. "The Prime Minister expressed confidence that under the able leadership prosperity and fraternal, cultural, historical and civilisational ties between India and Sri Lanka will be further strengthened." stated a press note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs

Gotabaya said that his government's foreign policy would be "neutral."

However, many worry that a tilt towards China will be inevitable, given the Rajapaksas' past preferences as well as Mr. Gotabaya's acrimonious relationship with the United States, which has often raised his role as defence chief during the war against the LTTE in 2009 amid allegations of human rights violations.

Sri Lanka's debt situation will also mean a greater role for China, which is the island's biggest investor and creditor.

Mr. Gotabaya, unpopular for his role in the war against LTTE in these areas, was defeated in all of the Northern Province's five districts and in three districts in the Eastern Province in Sunday's

"Given his polarised mandate, Gotabaya should actually want India's friendship in resolving tensions with the North and East region, and India should move in quickly to ensure more development projects in those areas," says former diplomat in the Indian High Commission in Colombo Prabha Rao.

Officials say that contrary to public perception, however, local diplomats have been meeting with both Mr. Mahinda and Mr. Gotabaya in the recent past, and they expect to build on traditional ties between New Delhi

and Colombo.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi, first

person from the northeast Finance Minister Nirmala to reach the top of judiciary and credited for bringing the curtains down on the decades-old politically and religiously sensitive Ayodhya land dispute, retired as the Chief Justice of Justice Gogoi, who was sworn in on October 3, 2018 as the 46th CII, had

> The proposed merger of National Insurance Co. Ltd.,

United India Insurance Co.

"These PSUs have sought

# Rajya Sabha's momentous days can now be cherished for ever

Book chronicles history of the Upper House since 1952

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha has sat beyond midnight on nine occasions and so far its longest sitting was on December 17, 1981 when the House sat till 4.43 a.m. to debate and clear Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) to ensure that normal life of people is not obstructed by strikes and shutdowns

The only other record to rival the 1981 sitting is when the Upper House sat till 3.22 a.m. to discuss the purchase of the Bofors gun in December 1986

This and many other such nuggets are part of Rajya Sabha: The Journey since 1952, a publication brought out by the Rajya Sabha secretariat to mark the 250th session of the Upper House that begins from

Rajya Sabha's first sitting was on May 13, 1952.

### **Extended debates**

The longest debate on any given subject till date was on the government's failure to provide adequate security to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in wake of his assassination at Sriperumbudur by LTTE cadres.

The discussion went on for 12 hours and four minutes on June 4, 1991. Demolition of the Babri Masjid was debated days after the incident from December 18-21, 1992, for 11 hours and 37 minutes.

The Upper House which on March 9, 2010, cleared the Women's Reservation Bill that proposes to reserve 33% of all seats in Lok Sabha for women, has a dismis-



Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, Opposition leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien releasing the book commemorating the 250th session. •PTI

sal record itself in terms of women members.

So far, Rajya Sabha has had 2,280 members including those who serving more than one term.

Of these only 209 were women – a measly 9.1%. In 2014 it had the highest number of women members at 31 and in 1970 the lowest at 14.

Under Congress governments from 1952-1969 and again between 1972-1977, there was no leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha since no opposition parties had enough members to stake claim to the position.

### Three expulsions

In 67 years of it's existence, the Upper House has expelled only three members. First member to be expelled was Subramanian Swamy on November 15, 1976 after his "conduct and activities were found to be derogatory to the dignity of the house". Mr. Swamy back as a member of the House now

The other members to be

expelled are Dr. Chattrapal Singh Lodha in December 2005 and Sakshi Maharaj in March.

Speaking at an all party meeting on Sunday, Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu said, "Rajya Sabha has come a long way in addressing the challenges faced and meeting the requirements of the nation from time to time. But we still have miles to go in letting our country realize it's full potential by making up for the missed time and opportunities and in respect of the functioning of the House itself.'

The upper house will also hold a special discussion on the role of Rajya Sabha in Indian polity and need for reforms.

Also to commemorate the occasions Vice-President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Venkaiah Naidu will launch a special ₹250 silver coin and ₹5 postal stamp. Two special editions of historic speeches made in the upper house too will be released.

# Minimum operating price sought for online sales

It is a price war, say traders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In an effort to create a level playing field for online and offline retailers, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has written to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal seeking implementation of a "minimum operating price" below which

items cannot be sold. The traders body also asked the government to direct banks to offer cash-back

schemes for offline retailers. "Looking at it as a price war, it is high time the government stepped in to enforce a "Minimum Operating Price" (MOP), which is the price consisting of landing price, operational cost and reasonable profit margin. Below the MOP, no product should be sold in the market," the letter said.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) while expressing its concern on

the continuation of unethical and unfair business practices of e-commerce companies, prominently Amazon and Flipkart, despite the FDI policy and repeated warnings by the government, suggested the introduction of MOP in a communication Mr.Goyal on Sunday.

"It is further disappointing that several banks are also involved in this nexus by offering various cash-back schemes exclusively to online sales," the CAIT added. "In this way, brands and ecommerce companies and banks create a mechanism to lower the prices than the actual market value and causing high level of GST and other revenue loss to the government."

The CAIT also asked Mr. Goyal to enforce a uniform policy of discounts, cashback, and buybacks for both online and offline trade.

# Insurance companies to merge as planned: FM

'Progress hindered due to weak finances'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Sitharaman has said the government would move forward on the merger of the three state-run general insurance companies as announced in the previous Budget. "This was a Budget announcement and I will be moving forward on that," the Minister said in a media

Ltd. and Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. has not been able to move forward due to their weak financial position, official sources said.

capital infusion from the government. There is a need for immediate recapitalisation as per their current balance sheet position, according to which they are either on or below the minimum required insolvency



Sri Lanka's former civil war-time Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the presidential election on Sunday. His primary opponent, Sajith Premadasa, won in the districts across the northern and eastern provinces dominated by ethnic minorities with high poverty levels. The wins across those districts with relatively lower populations were not enough compared to Rajapaksa's wins in the regions with a high

The 2019 elections recorded 70.47 83.72% vote turnout, the highest ever in Sri Lankan

High turnout: 90 presidential election 50

High margin: The win margin of Rajapaksa over Premadasa was the fourth highest ever. Chandrika Kumaratunga's 1994 margin is the highest ever

10.26% points 1982 13.84 secured by 1988 5.48 1999 2005 1.86 2010 17.73 2015 3.7

CHRISTIAN

The win

marains

vere narrow

(Badulla:

HINDU

share was achieved in Matara (67.25%), he won narrowly in some of the densely populated western and southern regions

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA The darker the Map shows majority religion red, the poorer BUDDHIST across some by Rajapaksa 4.3% points; oints), while

# Who is Gotabaya Rajapaksa?

Former soldier makes political debut, clinches presidency

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Addressing Colombo-based foreign correspondents in March 2017, Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he was not sure if he would enter politics, since he had never been a politician unlike his seasoned brothers. "But Donald Trump has come from [business]. We have to see," he said, keeping open what seemed like a small window

In less than three years, the former soldier-turned bureaucrat has made his political debut, clinching Presidency. On Monday, the wartime defence secretary will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's 7th Executive President, bringing back the Rajapaksa clan his brother former President Mahinda Rajapaksa was unseated in 2015 - to

'Saviour' who ended war To many in Sri Lanka's maiority Sinhala-Buddhist community, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 70, is a "saviour" who spearheaded the military victory over the rebel LTTE a

power once again.

A supporter of Gotabaya Rajapaksa carrying a party flag in Colombo. • AFP

decade ago. Following the Easter terror attacks in April this year, which killed over 250 people, his supporters felt the need for such a "saviour" again.

Mr. Rajapaksa currently faces multiple cases of alleged corruption - charges he has denied – and civil suits in the U.S. for alleged torture of a Tamil, among others, during the Rajapaksa administration that spanned a decade from 2005. He was linked to the murder of a well-known editor in Colombo in 2009, but a U.S. court - where the journalist's family sought civil action against Mr. Rajapaksa - rejected it citing his "foreign official immunity".

Like many Sri Lankans, Mr. Rajapaksa held dual citizenship but had to give up his American citizenship in order to run for President. However, critics continue to question his claim of renouncing it, citing U.S. Federal register. Meanwhile, two Colombo-based activists are legally challenging the validity of his Sri Lankan citizenship as well.

During the final years of the war, Mr. Rajapaksa along with his other brother Basil Rajapaksa and a senior bureaucrat - was part of a "troika" that held frequent meetings in New Delhi, with senior officials there.

Last year, an influential Buddhist monk called Mr. Rajapaksa a "Hitler" who would discipline society. Later, his brother Mr. Basil said he would be a "Terminator", who would end corruption. But after his win on Sunday, Mr. Gotabaya promised, "I will be President for all Sri

# Sri Lanka elections: how did the minorities vote, and why?

The fact that Sajith Premadasa secured 80% vote share in the Northern and Eastern Provinces shows that Tamils and Muslims of the regions rejected Gotabaya

MEERA SRINIVASAN

As the outcome of Saturday's presidential polls in Sri Lanka became clear, some voters' message to the winner Gotabaya Rajapaksa was even clearer.

The island's minority Tamils and Muslims, most of whom live in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, had voted decisively for ruling party candidate Sajith Premadasa, giving him over a million votes - about 80% of the vote share in the regions. In effect, they had rejected Mr. Rajapaksa, a powerful former defence secretary accused of war-crimes - which he has denied – and linked to anti-Muslim reactionary

"We respect the mandate of the people of the country and congratulate Mr. Rajapaksa, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that he polled so low in the two provinces. This is an issue we must address, and he must engage with elected representatives of the minorities," Jaffna legislator and Tamil National Alliance (TNA) spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran

According to Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Leader Rauff Hakeem, a Minister in the incumbent government, the voting pattern demonstrated "a deeper polarisation" of communities. Pointing to "many challenges" and "hard decisions" ahead, he said the most urgent priority was to maintain law and order, respect rule of law and nurture the country's pluralistic and democratic values.

Compiled by Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Graphic by Karthick S.T. | Source: Election Commission of Sri Lanka, Reuters, Household income and expenditure survey - 2016, Census 2011

"We fervently hope for peace and amity, restoration of harmony and lasting goodwill among all communities under your administration,"



Sri Lankan Tamils at a rally in Jaffna, demanding international probe into the alleged atrocities during the civil war. • AP/FILE

he said in a letter to President-elect Mr. Rajapaksa. For Tamils, Mr. Rajapak-

sa's former avatar brings back disturbing memories of stifling military surveillance We respect the mandate... but we cannot lose sight of the fact that he [Gotabaya] polled so low in the two provinces

M.A. SUMANTHIRAN

and many enforced disappearances – for which families are still seeking answers. The brutal finish to the war with the Tamil Tigers in 2009, took away lives of tens of thousands of civilians and the wounds have hardly healed in the last decade.

For Muslims, on the other hand, it is fear, according to N.M. Ameen, President of the Sri Lanka Muslim Council. The post-war years saw frequent attacks on Muslims and the Easter bombings in April made the community a target of hate and violence unleashed by hard-line

**Anti-Muslim attacks** 

"Even if people don't associate Mr. Rajapaksa with the anti-Muslim attacks that followed Easter, they fear that forces behind them might feel emboldened under his presidency," he said.

Mr. Rajapaksa knows this, as his tweet on Sunday indicated.

"I am the President of not only those who voted for me but also those who voted against me and irrespective of which race or religion they belong to," the newly-elected leader said.

"That is a very welcome message and shows his willingness to reach out," Mr. Ameen noted. "National leadership in a plural country like ours only grows stronger with the support of all communities."



### At least 7 killed in gas explosion in Bangladesh

At least seven people were killed and eight injured on Sunday after a gas pipeline exploded in the Bangladeshi port city of Chittagong, a police official said. The pipeline exploded in front of a five-storey building, blowing some of the building's walls off, Mohammad Mohsin said, citing witnesses. The injured were taken to hospital, he said, adding the death toll could rise as some were in critical condition, RELITERS

# Leaked papers give details of Xinjiang clampdown

'1 mn from minority groups detained'

REUTERS BEIJING

A trove of leaked Chinese government documents reveals details of its clampdown on Uighurs and other Muslims in the country's western Xinjiang region under President Xi Jinping, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

United Nations experts and activists say at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other Muslim minority groups have been detained in camps in Xinjiang.

The documents show how Mr. Xi gave a series of

internal speeches to officials during and after a 2014 visit to Xiniiang following a stabbing attack by Uighur mili-

tants at a train station that

killed 31 people.

The report said Mr. Xi called for an "all-out 'struggle against terrorism, infiltration, and separatism' using the 'organs of dictatorship,' and showing 'absolutely no mercy'." The documents show that the Chinese leadership's fears were heightened by terrorist attacks in other countries and the U.S. drawdown of troops from Afghanistan.

# Khamenei backs petrol price hike, blames enemies for 'sabotage'

Iran curbs Internet access after agitators clash with police

REUTERS

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday backed petrol price increases that have sparked protests across Iran, blaming opponents of the Islamic Republic and foreign enemies for "sabotage", State television reported.

"Some people are no doubt worried by this decision... but sabotage and arson is done by hooligans not our people. The counter-revolution and Iran's enemies have always supported sa-



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

botage and breaches of security and continue to do

so," Mr. Khamenei said. Riot police and security forces clashed with demonstrators on Saturday in Tehran and dozens of cities across the country, . Internet access in Iran was curbed after the prot-

ests at the order of a state security council, the semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

Mr. Khamenei said the increase in gasoline prices was based on expert opinion and should be implemented.

The price of petrol was raised to 15,000 rials (\$0.13) a litre from 10,000 rials and rationed. Additional purchases would cost 30,000 rials per litre.

# Ahead of IPO, Aramco values itself at \$1.71 trillion

It plans to sell 1.5% stake to raise \$24 bn

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Sunday put a value of up to \$1.71 trillion on energy giant Aramco in what could be the world's biggest IPO, but missed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's initial target of \$2 trillion.

Aramco said it would sell 1.5% of the firm in a blockbuster initial public offering worth at least \$24 billion.

"The base offer size will be 1.5% of the company's outstanding shares," the state-owned energy giant said in a statement that set

the price range at 30-32 Saudi riyals per share (\$8-8.5). The much-delayed offer-

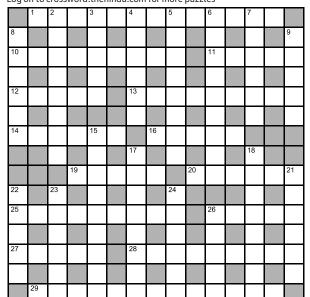
ing is scaled down from original plans, but it still rivals the world's biggest listing so far - the \$25 billion float of Chinese retail giant Alibaba in 2014.

Aramco had initially been expected to sell a total of 5% on two exchanges.

But the firm has said there are no current plans for an international stock sale, indicating that the long-discussed goal had been shelved for the time

### **THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12783**

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles





To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

ACROSS 1 One has interest perhaps on a girl, and disturbed inside proceeds without poise repeatedly (5,3,5)

10 Perhaps a Syrian making a fuss crossing obstruction (9) 11 State where a multitude is being sent back (5)

12 God is everything one has to start with (5)

### 13 Tolerant with a primarily nice, but almost boring man (9) 14 Dirty-looking husband inside a small boat (6)

16 Delivers some rum in casks... 19 ... to doctor in shack at the rear

to have (5) 20 Angry Malaysians, many out on strike (6)

custody of child and take across country (9) 26 Sterile catheters first added to

25 Somehow make up, gain

27 Leaf is tender, right inside (5) 28 Replace it, make a copy (9)

29 Appliance needs very little current, close to zero volt energy; novel to begin with (9,4)

### DOWN

2 Taking a risk? Government's meandering (8)

3 Biblical name in Arabic for messiah, in translation loses meaning essentially at the

4 Birth defect didn't stop her from flying (6)

### (set by Afterdark)

5 Awful Andrea leaves one daughter stuffed almost (8)

**6** Good suggestion to have large gin mixed with some salt and

7 A school has charges for children (6)

8 Proof of a degree needed to get a vehicle (2,4)

9 Leave my pet off (5)

15 As per terms of agreement, Nehru was forced to accept ceasefire at the end: embarrassed in retreat (9)

17 Paint her awesome attributes in nude (2,3,3) 18 Graduates are changing by

midterm, maybe related to interest (4,4) 21 Maybe Vikram's fifty plus and superhot essentially (6)

22 Ask if frigate is holding a boat

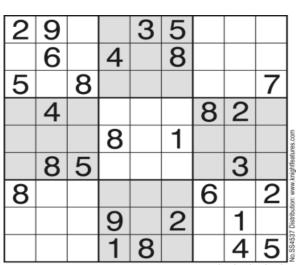
23 Perhaps air bubbles are mobile; will burst (6)

24 Setback on round five for

chess champion (6)

26 Fabric is fashionable, almost new and old (5)

### **SUDOKU**



### Solution to puzzle 12782 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★公公公

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### **FAITH**

### Karma Yoga relieves stress

Stress management techniques available today advise practices, such as meditation, yoga and listening to music, to provide relief to stress. These are useful, no doubt; but at best they act as those medicines to bring down temperatures in case of sickness, while the 'root cause' is not ad-

But more than 5,000 years ago, Krishna has precisely analysed and discussed the root cause of stress when explaining Karma yoga and shows how it is possible to live and cope with and not escape from ground realities, pointed out Swami Mukundananda in a discourse.

Arjuna is asked to put in his best efforts and fight the war with the sole aim that it is his duty, not get attached to outcomes. When the essence of this teaching is internalised, it becomes clear that stress in one's life is not owing to engaging in hard work but owing to attachment to the outcomes of one's hard work. On the eve of exam, the student gets unduly stressed if the thoughts are only on the result. The way out is to remain focussed on sincere and committed study effort alone. This will take away the stress. A soldier in the army can convert his state of life into one of devotion and pure intentions by working for the welfare of the nation.

The greatest of yogis are engaged in their duties, having given up all attachment. When a skilled surgeon hesitates to perform surgery on his own son, it is owing to his attachment. He cannot afford to get distracted and commit mistakes. It is an art to learn to live in the world without allowing the world to enter into oneself. As long as the boat is on water, it is safe. But the moment the water enters it, it spells danger. Devotion is being aware of the divine at all times, no matter what work one is engaged in.

### **ASK US**



K. NITYA KALYANI

### **Protecting family**

Q. Recently I joined the State government service in Maharashtra. I get a net salary of ₹35.000 per month. I am unmarried and live with my father (aged 52), mother (aged 48) and brother (aged 23). Please guide me on the correct healthcare policy for my entire family with full coverage. SHIVAM TALBAR

A. First, please inform yourself about the health insurance coverage available to you through your employer, Government of Maharashtra. It is likely to be a reasonably wide cover and an efficiently priced one being a large, group insurance scheme.

You will have very little to do in administering it, as the premium will be deducted from your salary directly and claims, if any, will be handled through your office. It is very likely cashless treatment will be available in a wide network of hospitals.

Your parents, if dependent on you, are also likely to be covered under the same scheme for additional premium. There could be different conditions for each category of insured such as sum assured, co-pay and sub-limits. If you feel the need for additional cover, you can buy a top-up or super top-up hospitalisation policy and/ or a critical illness cover and/or a major surgery policy.

For the premium you pay for these policies, you can avail income tax deduction. Your brother, however, is unlikely to be covered under the scheme. In fact, even in a commercial hospitalisation policy, any siblings will not be covered. Since you want coverage for your brother, you have the option of paying for a separate hospitalisation policy for him. This would be more of a gift of the premium amount to him. Insurance for your parents may not be an option under your employer's policy. Reasons could be they are not financially dependent on you, for example, or the scheme does not envisage coverage for parents.

In this case, there can be a policy for your parents and brother, provided he is financially dependent on them. There would be conditions like he should be unemployed and still a student and would carry an age limit too. Income tax benefits would accrue only to the first insured and the premium payment should be from their own bank

### **Maternity cover**

O. I am 27 years old and I have not taken any health insurance policy. I want to purchase health insurance for me and my future wife for maternity expenses cover. But my fiancée has already taken a health policy that doesn't include a maternity scheme. Which policy should I take now?

A. Here are some options for you. Your fiancée can continue with her policy and opt for maternity benefit as a rider which has a waiting period of 2 to 5 years, depending on the insurance company. She can also take a maternity benefit policy on a standalone basis, available from some companies. For your coverage, you can get added to her policy and there would be a family discount on the premium. Income tax benefits will accrue only to her. You can opt for a separate policy, in which case, each of you can claim income tax benefits. You can take a new policy and add your fiancée to it and opt for maternity benefits for her, but she will lose the benefits she has accrued on her current policy. Tax benefits will accrue only to you.

(The author is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific  $recommendations for investment\ in\ a\ particular$ mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

# Balanced advantage funds help in uncertain times

While their equity component aids in generating capital appreciation, their debt portion facilitates steady income

NAVEEN KUKREJA

Equity indices are nearing their historic peaks with high valuation despite subdued macroeconomic indicators and stagnant corporate earnings. With large cap and midcap indices such as BSE Sensex, Nifty 50, BSE MidCap and NiftyMidcap trading at PE multiples of over 27, mutual fund investors may be wondering if they should commit fresh lump sum investments, given stretched valuations and fear of correction. Such investors can invest in dvnamic asset allocation funds, also popularly known as balanced advantage funds.

### What are dynamic asset allocation funds?

As the name suggests, dynamic asset allocation funds are hybrid funds, which manage their investment in debt, equity and equity derivatives dynamically, without any limits specified by the SEBI. This gives these funds the freedom to manage their exposure to equity and debt in response to changing market conditions and various valuation metrics such as price-toearnings (P/E), price-to-book (P/B) multiples, and the like.

Most of these funds use proprietary quantitative models to re-balance their exposure between equity and debt. These funds increase their equity exposure when valuations are low and decrease it when valuations become high.

### Pluses of balanced advantage funds

Moderate risk: Balanced advantage funds help in balancing the risk-reward ratio by investing equity, equity-related instruments and debt instruments, in varying proportions, depending on changing market conditions and valuations.

While their equity component helps in generating capital appreciation, their debt component helps in generating steady income. They also hold positions in equity derivatives to shield their portfolio from market corrections.

As they reduce their equity exposure during rich valuations, it helps them contain the downside emanating from over-valued markets. The increasing exposure to equities during falling markets also helps exploit the low valuations of quality stocks. Thus, their dynamic debt-equity mix allows them to have lower risk than diversified equity funds while generating higher returns than debt funds.

tion: Asset allocation is the process of spreading investments across various asset classes according to one's investment

Outsourced asset alloca-

ly, mutual fund investors do it on their own by spreading their investments across equity, debt and the like, and re-balance them on the basis of changing market conditions, investment horizon and risk profile. However, analysing the market conditions may not be every retail investor's cup of tea. Many investors also find it difficult to execute asset alloca-

horizon and risk profile. Usual-

tion by themselves due to greed and fear. Additionally, frequent re-balancing may also lead to increased investment cost because of exit loads and short-term capital gains tax.

Balanced advantage funds solve these problems by allowing you to outsource asset allocation related decision-making to fund managers. Their in-house quantitative models fund managers to make asset allocation-related decisions based

Minuses of balanced advantage funds The cautious approach taken by balanced advantage funds during stretched market valuations can adversely impact their performance. Reduced equity exposure in a sustained bull rally may lead them to lose on changing valuations. Quantitative models also out on market opportunities help these funds to rule out huand underperform equity man bias while making asset funds with a significant margin. Downside risk may still remain: Despite the freedom to change their equity and

allocation.

Tax efficiency: Equity and equity-oriented mutual funds are more tax efficient than debt funds and debt-oriented hybrid funds, especially for those in the higher tax slabs. In order to be treated as equity funds for taxation purposes, most balanced advantage funds usually increase their position in equity derivatives, whenever their exposure to stocks goes below 65%. As equity-related derivatives are treated as equities for taxation, balanced advantage funds continue to be treated as equity instruments even if their actual exposure to stocks goes below 65%.

> lanced advantage funds. **Expense ratio:** The expense

**Large Cap Equity Funds** Annualised returns (%) 1 year **ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund** 11.20 12.40 10.10 **Axis Bluechip Fund** 25.80 18.60 12.30 **Motilal Oswal Focused 25** 21.70 12.30 12.10 **Balanced Advantage Funds** Annualised returns (%) **ICICI Prudential Balanced** 13.20 10.50 10.40 Advantage Fund **HDFC Balanced Advantage Fund** 9.70 9.80 8.85 **ABSL Balanced Advantage Fund Ultra Short Bond Funds** Annualised returns (%) Franklin India Ultra 10.03 8.88 9.25 **Short Bond Fund** 9.20 7.90 8.50 **ABSL Savings Fund** 7.78 **Kotak Savings Fund** 8.87 8.20

exposures from 0 to 100%, balanced advantage funds generally continue with a sizeable equity component even during overvalued market conditions.

Hence, their continued equity exposure during over-valued markets will not allow them to totally do away with downside risk in the event of a steep market correction

Lack of liquidity: Balanced advantage funds charge exit loads of up to 1% on redemption within one year of investment. Liquid funds, ultra-short duration and most of the low duration and short duration funds do not charge exit loads. Hence, short term debt funds offer higher liquidity than ba-

ratio of balanced advantage funds can go up to 2.6%, similar to what equity funds charge. While the expense ratio in case of short-term debt funds usually remains within 1%, their direct plans charge less than 0.50%. The higher expense ratio of balanced advantage funds can further affect returns if a steep

ty of their investment horizon. **Uncertainty on tax:** Despite the freedom to take position in equity derivatives for availing equity taxation, some balanced advantage funds choose to keep their equity component (including the equity derivatives) below 65% due to market outlook of their fund manage ment. In such cases, it attracts

tion coincides with the maturi-

would always be an element of uncertainty for investors regarding tax treatment. In summary, balanced advantage funds are equipped to make the most from both overvalued and under-valued mar-

ket conditions.

debt taxation. Their investors

come to know about the tax

treatment only after the end of

the financial year. Thus, there

However, their conservative approach can lead them to underperform pure equity funds in the long run. Balanced advantage funds should also not be considered an alternative to short term debt funds. They are best suited for moderaterisk investors with long term financial goals.

(The writer is CEO & Cofounder, Paisabazaar.com)

# Top up your equity SIP as and when your earnings grow

Investing a constant monthly amount may leave you with a smaller pot of money at the time of retirement or for any other goal

### VIVEK ANANTH

Many talking heads on television, experts and investment advisers constantly implore retail investors to continue their systematic investment plans, or SIPs, despite the recent turbulence in the stock markets. While continuing the SIPs is no doubt important, what is equally important is also increasing the SIP amounts as and when your income increases.

A constant monthly SIP amount could leave you with a smaller pot of money at retirement or for any other goal for which you are saving up money. One reason for this is because you may not consider inflation while setting a target. A ₹1 crore goal for retirement may sound large today and you may base your SIPs on this target. But if you are young and have several years to go for re-

### Total corpus after yearly increase in SIP

in MFs (₹)	SIP period	CAGR	₹0	₹500	₹1000	₹1500	₹2000	₹2500	₹3000
2,000	10 years	10%	4,13,104	7,94,380	11,75,657	15,56,933	19,38,209	23,19,485	27,00,761
5,000	20 years	10%	38,28,485	62,74,651	87,20,818	1,11,66,985	1,36,13,152	1,60,59,319	1,85,05,486

tirement, the value of ₹1 crore at the time of your retirement may not be the same as it is today. Thus, you may find that you are running short of a comfortable corpus if you don't increase your SIP amounts at regular intervals. This is especially true for investors who are in their mid-20s to mid-30s as they have a longer period to accumulate money for a nest egg.

Another reason why you may end up with a smaller corpus is that your affordability might be lower when you start. Hence the need to step up your SIPs as your affordability increases. Let's take an example. Say you are a 23-year-old and want to travel the world at some point in your life and buy a house. Based on inflation expectations, you estimate that you need ₹10 lakh to travel the world after 10 years and ₹60 lakh after 20 years so that you can buy a house (could differ based on the city you live in).

These are the only two financial goals that you have as of now. To accumulate enough money for both goals, you choose to invest every month in an equity mutual fund.

For the travel goal, you can now only afford to invest ₹2,000 a month and for the goal to buy a house you can afford to invest ₹5,000 a month. You decide not to increase your SIP allocation each year and continue investing the same amount for both the goals. To keep it simple, you expect a CAGR of 10% over the 10-year and 20-year periods.

### Little growth

After 10 years, the ₹2,000 a month that you invested will grow to just ₹4.13 lakh, while after 20 years, the ₹5,000 a month that you invested will create a corpus of ₹38.28 lakh. You will undershoot both your goals by a large amount. If you

earn a higher return, that itself could help you get closer to the corpus. But, this is not a given as it depends on market fac-

Now, let's see what happens if you increase your monthly SIP amount by just ₹500 every year for both your goals, assuming the same 10% CAGR. For the travel goal, the corpus that you could accumulate at the end of 10 years would be around ₹8 lakh, while for the goal to buy a house at the end of 20 years you would accumulate around ₹62.75 lakh. The corpus you accumulate almost doubles for your travel goal,

while it overshoots your initial estimated amount for your goal to buy a house.

In the table, you can see the various possibilities if you increase your SIP amount by different amounts.

The thing with systematic investment into equity mutual funds is to hold your nerve in the face of adversity. This could be markets falling by 10% or stagnating for 2-3 years. It would take a lot of courage to increase your equity SIP allocation in such a situation.

Many people park their savings in debt products like recurring deposits, fixed deposits, public provident fund, debt funds and small savings scheme run by the government. Debt should be a part of your portfolio, but you should continue your equity SIPs and increase them whenever you

### LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Don't believe everything in the advertisements. Nobody can look so happy after spending money!"

	New car loan - R	ates and charges	
Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Oriental Bank of Commerce	7.95-8.50	10,126-10,258	Rs 2,500-7,500
State Bank of India	8.75-12.10*	10,319-11,148	NIL till 31.12.2019
Axis Bank	8.95 -11.20	10,367-10,921	Rs 3,500-5,500
HDFC Bank	9.50-10.25	10,501-10,685	Rs 3,000-10,000
RBL Bank	13.50-14.00	10,505-11,634	1%
Indian Bank	8.85-9.20	10,343-10,428	upto Rs 10,236
Union Bank of India	8.20-8.70	10,186-10,307	up to 15,000
Punjab National Bank	8.55-9.00	10,270-10,379	Upto Rs 1,500
Bank of India	8.60-9.20	10,282-10,428	NIL till 31.12.2019
South Indian Bank	9.00-9.75	10,379-10,562	Upto Rs 10,000
Canara Bank	8.45-11.05	10,246-10,884	Rs 1,000-5,000
Bank of Baroda	8.60-10.35	10,282-10,710	Rs 500 till 31.12.2019
Indian Overseas Bank	8.70	10,307	Rs 500-10,000
Federal Bank	9.25	10,440	Rs 1,500-2.500
United Bank of India	8.70-9.00	10,307-10,379	Rs 600-11,800
IDBI Bank	8.85-9.45	10,343-10,489	Rs 1000
Allahabad Bank	8.55-10.00	10,270-10,624	Upto Rs 8696
*Additional concession of 0.2	5% on application throu	ah YONO. Further conce	ession of 0.20% on purchase o

electric vehicle.

Rates and charges as on 14th November 2019 Source: Paisabazaar.com

	PERSONAL LO	DAN - RATES AN	D CHARGES	
Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee
State Bank of India	10.55-14.95	10,759-11,882	2,152-2,376	Upto 1% of loan amount
Citi Bank	10.5-18.99	10,747-12,968	2,149-2,594	Upto 3% of loan amount
HDFC Bank	10.75-21.3	10,809-13,611	2,162-2,722	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
Bank of Baroda	11.35-16.35	10,959-12,252	2,192-2,450	2% of loan amount
Axis Bank	10.85-24	10,834-14,384	2,167-2,877	Upto 2% of loan amount
ICICI Bank	11.25-22	10,934-13,809	2,187-2,762	Upto 2.25% of loan amount
Union Bank of India	10.1-14.2	10,648-11,686	2,130-2,337	Upto 0.5% of loan amount
Canara Bank	11.35-15.05	10,959-11,908	2,192-2,382	Upto 0.5% of loan amount
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Upto 3% of loan amount
Punjab National Bank	10.75-14.5	10,809-11,764	2,162-2,353	Upto 1.8% of loan amount
UCO Bank	11.15-11.55	10,909-11,009	2,182-2,202	Upto 1% of loan amount
Bandhan Bank	15-16.19	11,895-12,210	2,379-2,442	1% of loan amount
South Indian Bank	11.1-14.2	10,896-11,686	2,179-2,337	2% of loan amount
Central Bank of India	10-11.25	10,624-10,934	2,125-2,187	Upto Rs 500
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99-24	10,869-14,384	2,174-2,877	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
IDBI Bank	12-14	11,122-11,634	2,224-2,327	1% of loan amount
Yes Bank	13.99-16.99	11,632-12,424	2,326-2,485	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
Rates as on 14th November 2019				Source: Paisabazaar.com

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SAIKAT MAJUMDAR

I was an okay student in school, sort of halfway between the passable and the disastrous, with (very) occasional flashes of unexplained brilliance. But I was in high demand before the exams. I had an exotic skill. I could write in a microscopic hand and yet make every single letter legible. And I could fit a fairly solid answer on the French revolution or crop rotation on paper the size of a folded napkin.

I guess you are getting the drift? I was busy before exams; not studying, but cramming as many algebra equations, as many history and geography answers, entire booklets on plant and animal life – all on sheets of paper that could fit into the boys' underwear. That was the preferred location, though some experimental types tried socks, insides of belt-loops, and a few other places.

### Valuable aid

It was a skill that held me in even better stead in college, where the questions were within guessing range but the answers were longer. A single napkin took care of the entirety of Shakespeare's plays and Durkheim's theory of suicide was half a napkin.

They were the best study-aid I could have personally devised.

The questions themselves, the anthologies of test papers, were proudly on sale through-

...the clerical model of the colonial university in India rarely encourages the production of new knowledge or questions by its passivised student body.

out College Street in Kolkata, most notably right before the cash counter of the University of Calcutta. The expectation appeared to be that they would be the first purchase a student would make after registering at the university. It was like buying school uniform.

To understand the high value placed on this curious skill, we need to recall the origin story of our institutions of higher education.

The universities set up in India by the British, in the 19th century, were nothing like the centres of higher learning that had existed in Western Europe for centuries. 'The first universities that came into being in 1857 in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras,' writes sociologist Andre Beteille, 'were set up primarily for conducting examinations and awarding degrees, and not for undertaking research or even teaching'. Research was confined to specialised institutions such as the Asiatic Society or the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, and teaching was left to the colleges

In 1857, the British government passed the Acts of Incorporation, which established the three universities in the three presidencies: Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras. The preambles to the three Acts, scholar Suresh Chandra Ghosh points out, were all pretty similar. They all defined the objects of the universities as 'ascertaining by means of examination the persons who have acquired proficiency in different branches of Literature, Science and Art and rewarding them by Academic Degrees as evidence their respective attainments'.

Have you wondered why the arts came to develop in such an inartistic manner at so many leading Indian universities?



How did the humanities become the shadow of a competitive exam subject, complete with question banks, coaching manuals, and endless cycles of memorialisation and mugging up?

### Clerical model

The answer belongs to the history of a university system put in place to serve the administrative needs of a colonial empire; an education meant to be an effective factory of government clerks and bureaucrats.

Under this system, education is simply seen as the consumption of knowledge. Exams test how well you consumed it. In serving their administrative goal, the British left out the other major function of universities, already well-established in the 19th century by Wilhelm von Humboldt at the University of Berlin – that of the production of new knowledge. It is no surprise that the clerical model of the colonial university in India rarely encourages the production of new knowledge or questions by its passivised stu-

If you go to College Street today, you will see right next to the historic structures of the University of Calcutta and Presidency University, the crowded collection of makeshift stalls that once sold real books. Now, they sell nothing but coaching manuals and question banks. In New India, the collections of BA and B.Sc question papers have, for the most part, been replaced by question banks for GRE, GMAT, and entrance tests for engineering and medicine.

The soul of the colonial clerk now lives in different bodies.

The writer is professor of English and creative writing at Ashoka University, and is the author of College: Pathways of Possibility.

@\_saikatmajumdar.

### ETCETERA

### ■ Strathclyde Business School Masters Scholarships

INSTITUTION: Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow

ELIGIBILITY: The scholarships will be awarded on merit, rather than financial need, to candidates who demonstrate excellent academic performance (current and/or previously gained) in their master's programme application; any relevant extracurricular or professional experience and career development and who will contribute to the overall academic, cultural and experiential profile of the programme cohort.

LEVEL OF STUDY: Master's SCHOLARSHIP VALUE: £7,000 DEADLINE: February 2020 to July 31, 2020

### ■ Merit Scholarship 2020

INSTITUTION: The University of Sheffield, the U.K.

ELIGIBILITY: Your programme must be scheduled to commence at the University of Sheffield in September 2020.

You must receive an offer for a course studied in full, at the University of Sheffield. All undergraduate degree courses are eligible with the exceptions of Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200). For tuition fee purposes, you must be self-funded and eligible to pay the overseas tuition fee, and you must not be a sponsored student.

LEVEL OF STUDY: Undergraduate SCHOLARSHIP VALUE: 50% of the tuition fee

COMMENCES: September 2020
DEADLINE: May 04, 2020 at 13:00
GMT

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/ scholarships/undergraduate/international-undergraduate- merit-scholarship

### CIVIL SERVICES

# Smart strategy

Not sure how to start preparing for the exam? Here is a headstart

MANOJ K JHA

A goal without proper planning remains a mere dream. This is also true in the case of civil services. The Civil Service Exam, being the toughest exam in the country, requires more than just preparation. It requires what is called 'strategy plus preparation'. A good strategy draws a thin line of separation between aspirants and smart aspirants. The latter becomes more productive with fewer inputs, whereas the former are less productive with more inputs.

UPSC Civil Services Exam consists of three stages: preliminary exam (objective), main exam (written) and interview (personality test).



candidates work hard to clear the exam, but only a few lucky ones get through. Aspirants who are confused about how to start preparations for the UPSC should follow these points:

Understand your syllabus: An accurate understanding of the nature, clarity, and scope of the syllabus is crucial for good preparation. It helps in understanding what to read and what not to read. The questions asked in the exam are always within the syllabus and hence keeping a close eye on syllabus is fundamental.

Strategy is important: Before you start your preparation, a smart strategy needs to be scripted keeping in mind the details of each step that you have to go through. A proper strategy is an extensive plan about what you are doing, how you

A proper strategy is an extensive plan about what you are doing, how you are doing it and what resources you need to do it.

are doing it and what resources you need.

Choose your study material: Choosing study material is not a simple task and requires proper guidance. It is always a good idea to begin preparation by getting subject fundamentals in place. The best source to get clarity and a good hold on various subjects are the NCERT books (from class VI

to class XII).

Focus on important concepts: Instead of rigorous studies, studying smartly is the ideal way. What does studying smartly mean? It means understanding the nerve of the exams

and adjusting to it accordingly. Reading the stuff that is important for the exam is the core principle of smart study.

Current affairs: Stay updated with what is going around in the world. Current affairs and contemporary issues are, in fact, the dynamic areas. Read one national newspaper daily and keep adding the current developments to the all topics given in syllabus. You also need to read some specialised magazines to cover some special portions of the syllabus, like *World Focus* for International Relation.

Study the pattern: Aspirants must go through the previous years' question papers. It helps in determining the type of questions, and also helps in identifying the best source of reading material. An analysis of previous years' papers helps in understanding the syllabus in a better perspective, and helps identify the areas from which more questions have been asked. Practice tests come in handy for candidates. These tests not only help all candidates in preparing for the mains, but also help in learning time management. Practise writing on a daily basis. Pick up an editorial from a newspaper or a topic from the sylla-

bus, and frame a question on it and write its answer.

Use your resources: The usability of the information that you get from books or newspapers is a crucial step in UPSC preparation. You must be smart enough to fit a piece of fact or information in the best way. The Internet helps in staying updated with whatever is happening around. However, the usability of the Internet is one thing that aspirants should use for making useful value additions to their preparation.

Focus on key words:

Make short notes after reading a topic several times, as they will serve as an oxygen canister to you during exam days. Look for keywords during preparation, as well as during writing the exam. For example, every question would have a question tag such as "critically analyse", "discuss", "elaborate", "comment", and so on.

Health first: Last, but not the least, is proper care for your health. It must be a part of your IAS/IPS strategy. One must exercise or go to the gym, to remain healthy, as well as maintain higher concentration during study hours.

The writer is a faculty member at GS Score, New Delhi.

### Defence tech summit

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) students will be conducting the first-ever 'Defence Tech Summit'. This will be organised entirely by students of the institute during January 03-05, as a part of *Shaastra*. The summit aims to contribute to indigenisation of defence technology in a major way.

A major objectives of this summit are to showcase and boost the defence

start-up ecosystem by providing a networking forum and to enlighten the youth about opportunities in this rapidly advancing field. It will provide an opportunity for defence and technology enthusiasts to debate, congregate, learn, interact and network with the pioneers in the field. For registration and further information, visit https://summit.shaastra.org

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n the photo, Dr. B.P. Pandey - OSD to Minister of

Education, Government of Delhi, Ms. Meeta

Sengupta, - Education strategist and writer, and

Mr. Narendra Ranade - Marketing Director

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ELIGIBILITY: Student or teacher from any university and college affiliated to UGC/AICTE/MCI/accredited institutions of state universities, coming from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, and have a minimum average score of 65% in core

Indian Academy of Sciences, Ben-

postgraduation.
PRIZES AND REWARDS: Monthly fellowship and round trip train fare
APPLICATION MODE: Online
DEADLINE: November 30

subjects from class X to

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Summer Research
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Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and The National Academy of Sciences, Prayagraj invite applications from students or teachers.

ELIGIBILITY: Student or teacher from any university and college affiliated to UGC/AICTE/MCI/accredited institutions of state universities and students studying UG, PG and integrated courses. The applicants must have a minimum average score of 65% in core subjects from class X to postgraduation.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Monthly fellowship and round trip train fare.

APPLICATION MODE: Online

DEADLINE: November 30
http://www.b4s.in/edge/SRF1
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Higher Education

An offering by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, for students who have passed class XII this year.

ELIGIBILITY: Students between the ages of 17 and 22 years, who have passed class XII exams from any central/state board in India, with aggregate marks within the top 1% of the class can apply. Applicants should also be pursuing a BSc/BS/Int.MSc/MS degree course in basic and natural sciences from any recognised institute/college/university.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: 10,000 students will receive an annual scholarship of ₹60,000 and summertime attachment fee of ₹20,000

APPLICATION MODE: Online

DEADLINE: December 31

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Courtesy: buddy4study.com

EAR SHOT
ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN



**KNOWL EDGE** 

This ancient Indian empire spread as far as Afghanistan to Bengal to the Deccan plateau. The empire lasted from

The common name for the executive wing of New Zealand's parliament building comes from the natural

the inspiration for its design which is also the name of the

During the Middle Ages,

whenever people had extra in-

come, they dropped it into

pots which were made of an

A3. Piggy Bank; the clay was called Pygg

Al. Mauryan Empire

322 BC to 187 BC and had its capital city at Pataliputra (Patna). The empire gets its name from the fact that its ancestors had

lived in a region where peacocks were abundant, hence named themselves 'from

the land of peacocks'. Which empire is

world. From the outside, this building

looks like it is made of repeating, same

sized compartments resembling the cells

found inside the natural structure that in-

spired its design. What is considered to be

orange-coloured clay. Over the years, Eng-

lish potters received requests to shape these jars like an animal which appealed to

customers and delighted children. This is

Plan ahead

said to be the origin of what?

COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

building?

# Licensing is the key

While many teachers dream of getting a government job, the process of applying for one seems like a nightmare



ALBERT P'RAYAN

A month ago, the Tamil Nadu Teachers' Recruitment Board (TRB) notified that it invites applications for direct recruitment from eligible candidates for the post of assistant professors in Tamil Nadu Collegiate Educational Service for Government Arts and Science colleges and Colleges of Education.

I was surprised to learn that almost everyone who is eligible for the post advertised has applied. Some are willing to quit their lucrative positions in private institutions and are ready to start their career as assistant professors with a lower salary. Why are they ready to take a lower paying job? Why does everyone want a government job, even though there are some private educational institutions that pay salary on a par with government institutions?

Recently, I initiated a discussion on social media on why many teachers chase their dream of getting into government educational institutions, and thought-provoking responses from those who have had government jobs, those who are in government service and those who aspire to get into government services. Here are some of the reasons given by them – job security, equality, decent pay, permanent income, regular increment, periodical promotion, freedom to teach the way you want, less documentation, vacation, five-day work culture, post-retirement nomic potential, medical security, and so on. While there are many pros, there are some cons too. However, advantages

My professor, Dr. Rajagopal Gibikote put it succintly, "Two factors are important: one, happiness at wherever you are working, and financial security for now and for the future - you need not ask for anything else." Yes, many teachers believe that working in government educational institutions can provide them with happiness and financial security.

### Lucrative

Yes, teaching positions in government institutions are lucrative and attractive. But, are right candidates with adequate knowledge, skills, capabilities and experience recruited for such positions? How transparent is the recruitment process?

The earlier deadline of October 30 for submitting applications to the Tamil Nadu Teachers' Recruitment Board (TRB) was extended to November 15 at the request of applicants, who expressed their difficulties of going from pillar to post to collect their documents from various colleges where they served, and get the documents attested by authorities in time. The applicants were required to submit the following documents before applying online: detailed ex-

seem to outweigh the disadvantag-Transparency should be created and maintained. Only

> perience statement, service certificates, attendance record, salary statement, affidavit, and so on. On the part of the TRB, it is necessary to scrutinise all records to ensure that only the candidates with 'real experience' are consi-

dered for the post advertised.

transparency can defeat

manipulation of data.

I spoke to a couple of teachers who had to go to different colleges in different districts to collect their documents. They had to be on leave for about 10 days to get their work done. They felt that collecting numerous documents was a tedious process for them. Wouldn't it be great if the process of applying for TRB was made simpler? Here are my suggestions:

### **Teaching license**

Teaching license refers to the teaching credential that is needed to allow a person to legally practise teaching in a particular region or country. Candidates who are eligible for teaching at the tertiary level should be certified by a competent government or government-approved authority and be given teaching license to practise teaching just like medical doctors are given license to practise medicine.

Each teacher should be given a unique identity number. Only licensed teachers should be permitted to teach in colleges and universities. There are many advantages of issuing eligibility certificates to teachers and giving them unique ID numbers. This will enhance the quality of teaching in colleges and also prevent cases of impersonation or duplication of teachers

### Service book

A service register or service book is maintained for each government employee and it has all the details about the employee's work. Similar to the service record, if an employment register is created for each employee working in private educational institutions and the details of service, salary, provident fund, and so on, are maintained and updated properly, employees can produce the same to their new employer when they switch jobs. In the case of those who apply for teaching positions through TRB, instead of spending so many days going from pillar to post to collect

ments from several institutions, the applicants can just produce the service record and save their time, money and energy.

so many docu-

### **Salary accounts**

It should be made mandatory that all educational institutes credit their staff's salary to the salary accounts. This will facilitate an employee to produce their salary statement when required. Salary statements will indicate how long an employee has been working in an organisation and whether they had any break in service in between. There is an urgent need to reform the system that is in practice in many private educational institutions. Transparency should be created and maintained. Only transparency can defeat manipu-

pointed as teachers in government educational institutions. Only such teachers can make a difference in the lives of students studying in government colleges.

The writer is an academic, columnist and freelance writer rayanal@yahoo.co.uk

# Credible or credulous?



**KNOW YOUR ENGLISH** 

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning of 'nerd'? (SK Rajendran, Madurai)

used to show disapproval, rhymes with 'herd', 'bird' and 'curd'. A 'nerd' is someone who is socially very awkward; he doesn't know how to behave when he is in the company of others. He says or does the wrong thing. He is extremely intelligent, but the things he can talk about are the limited topics that he is passionate about; he finds it difficult to make polite conversation. Physically, he is not appealing. The four male characters in the television series, 'Big Bang Theory', are classic examples of nerds. The well-known American writer of children's books, Dr. Seuss, coined the word.

Like most nerds, Devi spends most of her time in the library.

They tell me that Nathan is a computer nerd.

What is the meaning of 'tiger by the tail'? (R Janet,

Hyderabad) How safe would you feel if you held a ferocious tiger by its tail? Not very, I am sure. While you are holding on to the tail, you are constantly worried about the teeth at the other end. The expression 'have a tiger by the tail' is frequently used in everyday contexts to suggest that you have taken on a task which you are not truly prepared for – you have inadvertently bitten off more than you can chew. The situation you are in or the person you are dealing with is dangerous. You have too big a problem to cope with, and you have no clue how to wriggle out of it.

I was keen on becoming the The word, which is mostly team leader. Now, six months later, I feel like I have a tiger by the tail.

> What is the difference between 'credulous' and 'credible'? (K Javalakshmi, Erode)

> Although both words come from the Latin word 'credere' meaning 'to believe or trust', they have vastly different meanings. When you say that someone's story is 'credible', what you are suggesting is that it sounds believable. When you say that someone made a 'credible' witness, you are suggesting that he came across as someone 'worthy of trust'. 'Credulous', on the other hand, has a negative connotation. When you refer to someone as being 'credulous', what you are suggesting is that he/she is willing to believe whatever the oth-

naive or gullible. Raju's account of how the accident happened didn't sound credible at all.

er person tells him/her. He/she

'trusts' others blindly; he/she is

Das doesn't have a job. He makes ends meet by duping credulous tourists.

Be nice to nerds. Chances are, you'll end up working for one. Bill Gates

The writer teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University,

Hvderabad. upendrankye@gmail.com

### lation of data and records. Competent, meritorious and OFF THE EDGE dedicated persons should be ap-



I am 23 and due to health issues, I was not able to secure an engineering degree (ECE major). But I still managed to attend the entire course and secure credits. I don't know where to apply for a job. Where can I apply as a fresher? Please guide me with possible job opportunities. I prefer to work and learn. To learn, I am interested in proofreading, business writing and typing. Please suggest short-term courses and other possible options too. - Vaishnavi SK

Dear Vaishnavi,

There are many basic job openings for students who have completed their B.E in ECE. Do get in touch with some recruitment agencies that specialise in recruiting for companies listed under ECE. Have you tried working on your CV? Signing up and posting it on hiring sites such as Naukri.com, Freshersworld, Careers 360, The Careers Guide, indgovtjobs.in and Monster.com? Are you active on LinkedIn? What about being in touch with your college department and asking them for basic leads? There are also some good openings in the government sector.

I am not sure what doing a short-term course in proof reading and typing will do for you at this stage. What do you think it will fetch you, as a monthly salary? You can certainly learn it as an additional skill as and when you have the time for it. Right now, however, please focus on getting a job in the field that you have an educational qualification in. Stay focused and

I am 19 years old and pursuing B.Com (Hons.). I have also opted for coaching for the CAT exam and I wish to crack it and gain admission into IIM - Ahemdabad. But, of late, I have been doubting myself and have second thoughts about continuing this coaching as I feel it is way out of my league. What should I do? How do I prepare myself if I continue with this? - Manisha Jain

Dear Manisha.

What is making you feel so overwhelmed and underconfident about these classes? There are over two lakh aspirants who take the CAT each year. Have a frank chat with your mentor and raise your concerns with him/her. Discuss your specific fears and reasons of why you feel it is out of your league? Confront the issues and come up with a coping workable, helpful strategy to nip this nagging fear that is demotivating and not helping you.

Don't let anyone get under your skin. There may be some bright students in your class who are intelligent, but you are no less. Work hard and stay sincere to your practice. Make sure you plan your time sensibly and are able to do the work that needs to get done to stay connected in the next class. B-r-e-a-t-h-e and get some rest and fun. Make the process enjoyable and

Disclaimer: This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com. The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'

# Make the right connect When creating a network, ensure that you include individuals from

all backgrounds



Networking is a frequently used word in the corporate world. But it's not about the 'how' of networking that I am interested in today, but rather, the 'who'. In fact, it is not even about networking, but who we connect with.

A colleague often talks about someone in the workplace who makes a difference to her day and turns a dull moment into a bright one by his little actions. It is not a team member, not a manager, not one of the senior executives, but someone who makes tea in the office cafeteria. This person, who she fondly calls 'brother' had taken the trouble to learn her preference for sugar and whenever he makes tea for her, it is always that very special cuppa, sweetened by his concern and friendliness. This gentleman, through his personalised attention, was making a positive impact on my colleague.

Often, when we connect with people with humility and openness, they can surprise us with a kind gesture. It is important to never underestimate our connections, and how they can help us in the most wonderful ways. It is critical not to be guided by titles alone when we connect. At the same time, our need to connect cannot be based on a selfish "what can I get from this individual?" element either. It is our inherent need to connect with fellow human beings. No man is an island, as John Donne succinctly put it. But when



we create our network of islands, we need to ensure we include individuals from all backgrounds. Our security personnel, janitors, taxi drivers, cafeteria staff, can all be our precious connections. And these connections are not built on LinkedIn, but over smiles, greetings and mutual respect.

### **Connections count**

Sometimes, it is easy to lose sight of these simple truths, of the power of a smile or pleasantry. All the more reason to remind ourselves that all our connections are equally precious and equally worthy of respect. Now even if we were occasionally motivated by the "what's in it for me" principle, we will see that sometimes the most valuable information or help may be from the most unexpected

I also believe that in this endeavour, it is critical to have a keen eye, observe people and their behaviours. Some may be new to an environment that you both share. They may display signs of being lost or confused. Reaching out to

Our security personnel, janitors, taxi drivers, cafeteria staff, can all be our precious connections. And these connections are not built on LinkedIn, but over smiles, greetings and mutual respect.

someone new, offering a helping hand and connecting truly makes a difference. And such gestures are rarely forgotten.

Some of you reading this may be people-oriented. You may face no issues connecting and may even be popular. Then there are a few who may be introverts and it's not easy for us to overcome our hesitation. Connecting to others could take longer but even then, it's worth going through the effort because our connections can make our day, some day. If not with a cup of tea, then with a friendly smile perhaps.

The writer is a poet and heads corporate communications at UST Global, a digital technology company. @anupamaraju

### ADMISSIONS

**■** Undergraduate programmes 2020

INSTITUTION: Azim Premii University, Bengaluru **DURATION:** Three to four years (depending on the course)

COMMENCES: July 2020 **CERTIFICATION:** B.Sc. degree in Physics, Biology or Mathematics and B.A. degree in Economics or

Humanities and B.Sc.B.Ed. Dual degree in Science and Education - Choose from Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Mathematics. **DEADLINE:** November 22 ugadmissions@apu.edu.in or 1800 843 2001

■ Professional Diploma in **Banking Management** 

**INSTITUTION:** Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management, Mumbai **DURATION:** Four months **COMMENCES:** December 6 **DEADLINE:** November 29 https://ask.careers/courses/ professional-diploma-inbanking-management/ 022 6670 1111/ +91 99300 88330

■ MSc Hazards and Resilience

**INSTITUTION:** University of Sheffield, the U.K. **DURATION:** One year **ELIGIBILITY:** Holders of a three-year bachelor degree

with a minimum of 60% or "first class" (BEng, MEng, BSc) in civil and structural engineering or other appropriate engineering or science subject. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent. Applications will be considered if students have appropriate professional qualifications and work experience, but they will need a strong background in the areas covered on the course.

**COMMENCES:** September 2020 FEES: £23,750 https://

www.sheffield.ac.uk/ postgraduate/taught/ courses/2020/ hazards-and-resiliencemsc-pg-certificatepg-diploma

**Relations, Law and Security INSTITUTION:** The University of

**■** MSc/LLM International

**DURATION:** One year **ELIGIBILITY:** First or upper second-class Honours degree, or international equivalent, in social sciences/law subjects or substantial professional experience. IELTS 6.5 (no individual test score below 6.0).

Strathclyde, Glasgow

**COMMENCES:** September 2020 FEES: £16,400 hass-pg-enquiries@ strath.ac.uk

### **INDIAN INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY**

JEE (ADVANCED) 2020

Joint Entrance Examination [JEE (Advanced) 2020] for admission to various programs (listed at https://jeeadv.ac.in) of all IITs will be held as per the

> Date : Sunday, May 17, 2020 Paper-1 09:00 - 12:00 IST Paper-2 14:30-17:30 IST

Both the papers are compulsory. JEE (Advanced) 2020 will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode. Visit https://jeeadv.ac.in for details & **Organizing Chairman** 

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

In 2012, American pop singer Katy Perry arrived on an ornate palanquin at Chennai's YMCA College of Physical Education stage. Leading a group of dancers dressed in shiny I Dream of Jeanie and Aladdin's Jasmine-esque costumes, the then 27-year-old made her India debut kick-starting the Indian Premier League season.

With a brief interlude featuring Hindustani beats, she seductively, lovingly even, crooned 'California Girls', rife with double entendre lyrics like 'So hot/ We'll melt your popsicle'. Perhaps hotter than the April Indian summer, her performance, with its lavish costumes and props, raised the bar for live music concerts in the country.

She was back to headline the first edition of the OnePlus Music Festival in Mumbai over the weekend. "It has been seven years since I've been to India, and I've got lots of new songs and visuals to share," says the 35-year-old. "It will be a blast getting to reconnect." She will be sharing the stage with the likes of British pop singer Dua Lipa, Indian EDM artiste Ritviz, and post-rock band, aswekeepsearching.

Age of streaming

In the time since Perry was last here, the global music industry has completely changed. "The amount of content that's created to keep up with the average person's attention span is enough to make your head spin," she says. For one, artistes are dissing the album route to drop singles with plenty of social media push. Take American singer Charli XCX, who, several months before releasing her album in September, dropped a string of standalone tracks to guarantee sales. She'd even tweeted, "Angels, your mother is about to feed you new music for five months straight. You deserve it and you're

The petite brunette isn't the only one capitalising on the potential of streaming music. Billie Eilish, The Chainsmokers, Camila Cabello and almost everyone making music today are all following suit, including Perry. "I

welcome."

love technology because it allows me to give to my fans as well as get their feedback much quicker," she says, about streaming platforms. "I agree that in this age of constant content, you're also told about algorithm-this and algorithm-that, but, at the end of the day, I think that the authentic artiste and their content will always rise to the top. There's a balance to be struck between data and intuition."

### Perry for your thoughts

In true Katy Perry style, reinvention is always round the corner. She's held her own, and more, amid changing trends. This year alone she's released 'Harleys in Hawaii', 'Small Talk', and 'Never Really Over', among others. For the latter, she created alternate endings to the music video, to feature on Spotify Canvas (a new feature on the app that allows artistes to add a full screen, and three to eight-second moving visual to tracks). "I love the opportunity to hide Easter eggs for my biggest fans and keep

### **HEADLINE MAKERS**

■ With *Teenage Dream*, she became the second artiste, after King of Pop Michael Jackson, to have five Number One songs from the same album -'California Gurls', 'Teenage Dream', 'Firework', 'Last Friday Night', and 'E.T.

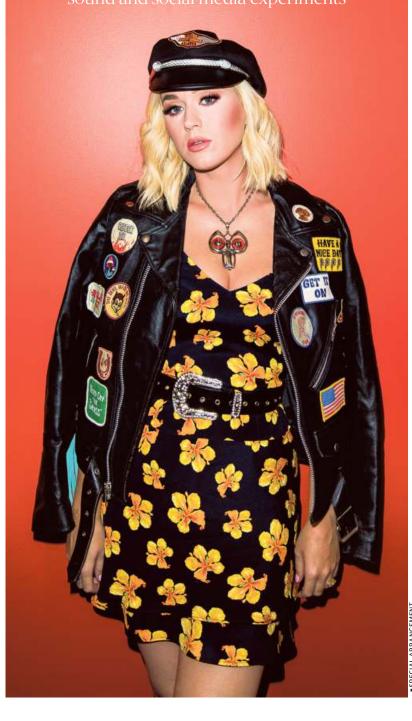
■ When 'Roar' was certified Diamond by the Recording Industry Association of America, Perry became the first artiste to have three Diamondcertified singles in the US, after 'Firework' and 'Dark Horse'

> them constantly engaged with new content to get back to the song," she says, touching upon TikTok as a powerful platform to market music. "I think you should always keep your toolbox full. But you should also know which tool is right for each iob."

It has been an eventful year for the singer, who, after more-than-a-decade of making music and touring the world, is kicking back to maintain a work-life balance. "I'm enjoying this experiment [releasing music one single at a time, to allow each song to shine on its own] in my career, but I'll not dismiss a larger body of work in the near future," says Perry, who has just been booked to perform at the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup finals, with a

# The evolution of Katy Perry

Not one to be overtaken by singers like Cardi B and Ariana Grande, the American artiste is holding her own with an ever-changing sound and social media experiments



### **STANDING WITNESS**

With mixed reviews, Witness didn't perform as well as her previous works. Perry also drew flak after she admitted that one of its popular songs, 'Swish Swish', was about a feud with fellow pop star, Taylor Swift. The post-release period of the album, she later admitted, brought on "situational depression" because she held the public's opinion in such high regard.

concert during both the pre-game show and the post-match celebration, in Australia.

### Then and now

But the singer – who, in February, got engaged to actor Orlando Bloom - has a less than exemplary side, too, that continues to court controversies. This August, she recalled two products from her line of footwear, a loafer called the Rue Face and a sandal titled the Ora Face, which brought blackface to mind. She has also been accused of sexual misconduct more than once. Model Josh Kloss, who starred in her video for 'Teenage Dream', alleged that she'd sexually assaulted him at a party; Russian journalist Tina Kandelaki claimed that a drunk Perry tried to kiss her without consent; and, last year, Perry kissed a then-19-year-old Benjamin Glaze during his American Idol audition.

This is quite a contrast to her upbringing. Born to Pentecostal pastors, she's previously revealed how she'd handed out 'How to Find God' pamphlets at a Marilyn Manson concert. And before blowing up on the global pop musical radar with 'I Kissed a Girl', she made Christian rock and gospel music - even releasing her debut album, Katy Hudson, in 2001.

A commercial failure at the time, she later collaborated with Glen Ballard, the producer of Canadian singer Alanis Morissette's 1995 album, Jagged Little Pill (of which she was a fan), to write new music and reinvent herself.

In 2008, she released the sexuallyfuelled One of the Boys. But it was Teenage Dream in 2010 that cemented her meteoric rise, replete with an album cover that had her lying nude on a fluffy pink cloud.

Three years later, *Prism* earned her a nomination for Best Pop Vocal Album at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards, featuring the arena banger 'Roar'. And in 2015, she took things a notch higher with a memorable Superbowl half-time performance alongside Missy Elliot and Lenny Kravitz.

The 12-minute show, with Perry

straddling a metal tesseract-ed lion, snagged the highest Super Bowl ratings ever, with 118 million people tuning in. Perry had arrived, and in grand style.

### Birth of a liberation

Perry's transformation – be it her looks or her music - wasn't as drastic as Britney Spears', writhing to 'I'm a Slave for You', or Christina Aguilera's muddy 'Dirrty'. But with her 2017 album Witness, it was evident she'd broken away from her upbringing. During this time, a short pixie cut - her hair had fried out translated shifting visual aesthetics, from a scintillating pin-up girl to pastels tones with candy colours, and eventually an edgy look. It directly mirrored the evolution of her sound.

Open about her fear of intimacy and oversexualising herself, the 2017 album was also a breaking of the shackles of expectations, a liberation. "I've never been one to follow trends, and I always strive to tell my story and my truth on the best sonic wave that matches it. That is my most authentic sound," she admits. "I'm just putting out music on my own timeline.'

The statement rings true with the sonic transitions of Witness, which featured a heavy electronica influence, a marked shift from her previous work. Perry continued to sing about love and romance, but strategic collaborations made sure the music was never frothy and frilly.

The likes of Nicky Minhaj, Migos and Skip Marley, coupled with plenty of explicit lyrics, ensured that the singer transcended the tweeny demographic she long associated with. This time, there was also an emphasis on being a strong woman, a theme she'd been skirting in the past.

When prodded about using her art as a tool feminism, she says music is genderless. "Music and lyrics can resonate with you if they come from the heart of the artiste and reach out to the listener's heart," states Perry. "I hope being a strong, empathetic female is a general good influence for other strong, empathetic females to succeed."

Perry has come a long way since side gigs like starring in Gym Class Heroes' 'Cupid's Chokehold' video in 2005 and delivering back-up vocals to Mick Jagger's 'Old Habits Die Hard' in 2004. She has gone from demure spiritual music to sexually-charged bubblegum pop to a new, easy sound in 2019. And despite her several ups and downs, she continues to remain one of the most bankable and successful musical artistes of all time - as KatyCats will reaffirm today, at the DY Patil Stadium, rocking to 'Roar' and 'Harleys in Hawaii'.

**DOWN MEMORY LANE** 

# Two towers to history

Some things stand out in Delhi's history, not like a sore thumb, but as a living memorial of the past



The Ajitgarh tower atop a lofty hill near the old Sabzimandi was originally built to commemorate a British field force, and now honours the Indian heroes of the uprising of 1857. It is not far from the Flagstaff Tower on the Ridge, where the British put up their last stand against the sepoys.

It was here that Harriet, the wife of Captain Peter Tytler, spent a long time after giving birth to a daughter on a straw-strewn cot during the mid 19th century monsoon. She has left a good account of those days in a journal she wrote on her return to England after suffering many hardships.

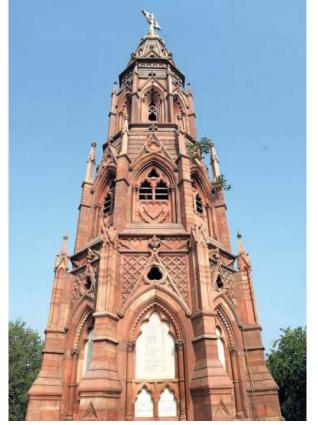
You remember the brave

lady when you visit Jitgarh in the evening and look down upon the city. Reading the names of those who perished there 132 years ago and thinking of their plight in that dreadful summer makes the hair stand on end.

There was Taylor's Battery, for instance, which played havoc from this spot on the advancing sepoys and on the civilians, some of them trying their best to save their lives from the firebreathing guns of the Company Sarkar.

But now all is calm and quiet and only the rising sun is an irritant of sorts on this hill which leads to Hindu Rao Hospital. It makes one almost believe the Manichean philosophy that everything springs from either light or darkness. In this case was it darkness that led to light? Close to the towe is a Devi temple discovered some time ago by a chartered accountant, Rajesh Rampal.

Now move on to another tower, Shah Burj, built by Shah Jahan at the north-east end of the Red Fort. The em-



Majestic architecture Ajitgarh tower; (below) Flagstaff Tower SANDEEP SAXENA, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

peror met only his confidantes in the tower to discuss matters of State.

The tower was damaged in the bombardment from the other side of the Yamuna by Ghulam Qadir Rohilla during the reign of Shah Alam, but repaired. It was from here that a Mughal prince jumped into the river to seek support for his captive father, the blinded emperor. In 1857, it was the tar-

get of British gunners. A 17th century cannon parked on the grounds of Hardinge Library in Old Delhi is a relic of that time. It needed no expert to reveal that it belonged to the Mughal period. The name "Kila Shikan" written on it translated into "Destroyer of Forts". This could place it between the reigns of Jahangir and Aurangzeb.

That was the period when perhaps the largest number of forts were destroyed to subdue refractory rulers, the Rajputs and those of the Bahamani kingdom among them. But Haji Kallan, an expert on oral history,

thought it belonged to Gardika-Waqt (time of trouble) when the Mughal empire was on the decline in the latter half of the 18th century.

How did the cannon come to be displayed until lately in what is now a huge car park? Because that ground was for years the "open air store" of the Delhi Municipal Corporation, which obliviously did not think much of the relic. Some old residents, however, remembered that it was once installed at the Town Hall and fired every afternoon - a practice that continued in the former princely

States until quite recently. The cannon, which looks much like the one in the Red Fort War museum, was either captured by the British in 1857 or it was probably located in the offices of the East India Company, which are believed to have been situated at the site now occupied by the Delhi Main Station. A better place for it could be in the vicinity of Jitgarh.

The writer is a veteran chronicler

Fit as a fiddle V. K. Palani and his students training

■ R ASHOK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Fighting fit at 93

Nonagenarian wrestler V. K. Palani continues to be the driving force behind the 75-yearold Palanganatham Akhada

PRADEEP KANNA

"I am 93 years old but I don't feel it," declares V. K. Palani, who runs the Pudhu Yuga Valibha Deha Payirchi Salai, a traditional gym in Palanganatham. He teaches the art of mud wrestling to people who are less than half his age. "My students tell me they are fans of Sylvester Stallone, who at 73 has a gym-sculpted body," he says, smiling. He adds: "I rely on my diet and disciplined lifestyle."

"Even now, I wake up at 4 a.m. everyday and go to bed by 10 p.m. This is a habit from childhood. Back then, I used to walk, no matter where and how far I had to go," says the nonagenarian. For four decades, he worked in Meenakshi Mills and walked eight to 10 kilometres each day from home to work. Now, he tries to walk as much as possible but often cycles.

Fit as a fiddle, Palani credits his mother, who fed him half a litre of raw milk with almond paste every morning. Now, he sticks to fresh fruit and no-oil food. "I prefer idlis over dosa and occasionally indulge in small quantities of fish or meat,



er cooks," he says. To his students, Palani advises a simple diet: raw coconut, dates and ulundu urundai (black gram laddoo) dipped in sesame oil.

His love for kushti bloomed watching his elder brother do it for fun. "When I was growing up, wrestling was very common among the Muslim community in the city. Many of them practised kushti in their backyards; I started learning it from a man called Sikkandhar Bhai. He owned a local akhada near my house. He taught us to use the generic wooden club bell or the 'karla kattai' for weight lifting and I still use it," he says. The instrument weighs 12 ki-



lograms and Palani holds one with both hands and rotates it for twisting, turning and bending exercises.

cooks • V. K. PALANI

"I insist that my students do basic exercises with the karla kattai before jumping into the *akhada*. But people ask for dumbbells of different weights."

The kushti centre was started in 1944 by him and two of his friends. The centre was registered as a

Trust in 1998. Palani says, in those days, the Communist party used to support the kushti centres and help the pehelwans (wrestlers). He recalls the names of K. S. Kumar, Palanganatham Periaswamy, T. Krishnan, M Muniyandi, T. S. A Periaswamy and Mandai Ramu among other famous yesteryear wrestlers, saying he enjoyed watching their matches.

Palani stays in the centre and trains 15-to-55 year-olds. "They are my only connection to the world outside; the akhada is my lifeline," he says. Every morning and evening, he prepares the kodha (mud pit), about 8x8 feet in size, for his students. A few police personnel come during the day to practise rope training, while his students come before sunrise and after sunset. At any given time, for his 4 am-to-6 am and 6 pm-to-8 pm classes, there are about two dozen boys learning kushti. "It is all for fitness, not to become a professional wrestler," says Palani, who charges ₹150 per student per month. It is still very affordable, he says, and adds that he only wants the youth to adopt a healthy lifestyle and remain fit.

A ND-NDE

# Close your eyes, and listen...

ASMR is making its foray into wellness as a relaxant for people with anxiety and insomnia, but is there science behind it?

SWETA AKUNDI

It was past midnight, but sleep still eluded Ayushi Khemka, founder of Mental Health Talks India, Delhi. "It was one of my lowest phases of depression," she recalls now, three years later. Her solution to this insomnia would be to plug her headphones in, and open a playlist she had curiously named, 'That part of the Internet.' It had the soft and scratchy sounds of chalk on

For many, listening to ASMR sounds like these is still a niche hobby. It sounds technical ASMR stands for autonomous sensory meridian response – however, what listeners like Ayushi feel are and in the fingers."

ASMR videos promising to ease you into sleep have garover nered 50 million views on You-Tube. They feature sounds such as the scratching of rubber mats and scrub brushes, nails tapping on wood and marble, squishing of bath sponges, of bath salts and haircuts, and more. Apps for meditation have be-

blackboard.

"tingles, riding down the spine

sand being moved around,

gun including ASMR. Headspace and Calm use Nature sounds, also considered ASMR; others like Mindwell, launched

earlier this year, have special ASMR categories, as does Canadian app Relax Melodies. "ASMR began as a very

niche form of content, but it quickly became evident to us that our users would benefit from this kind of experience," says Aster Justine Haile, content creator for Relax Melodies. She claims that their ASMR-driven bedtime storiesare now the most sought after section on their app. "With millions of testimonies online, the proof

is in the fact that people keep coming back to ASMR as an effective tool for relaxation and better sleep."

In this age of constant video consumption, for many, the ASMR auditory works primarily because it allows people to shut off every other sense. On bad days, Shashank Surisetty, an IT professional from Hyderabad, likes to unwind by listening to Nature ASMR sounds, such as raindrops falling on a roof, wood being chopped, or twigs cracking. "Even if I watch something relaxing, I am thinking about what kind

of screen it would look better on! But listening to these sounds is a relaxing experience," he

Ayushi explains how, much like meditation, it helps improve focus. She has

gone from listening to ASMR, to trying and producing those sounds on her own, by buying kinetic sand and slime. "When I am having a bad anxiety attack, I immediately use my kinetic sand to produce that ASMR. It gives me something to do with my hands," she says. "It's like this cheap first aid therapy."

The growth of ASMR videos has spawned an equal number of people online who scoff at it. Even within the ASMR community, different triggers affect different

whispers in particular, are divisive. A person gets close to the camera, gently waves their fingers about, and whispers, often role-playing as someone – a doctor, a make-up artist. While some enjoy the whispering sounds travelling from one ear to another, others find it creepy, even sexual in nature.

"We don't know very much about ASMR from a scientific perspective, although there are some early studies. It certainly seems to be something that many people experience, but why it occurs and what its implications are

> for mood disorders or psychiatry in general are still unknown," says Mindfit head Dr Shyam Bhat, Bengaluru-based psychiatrist.

A 2015 peer-reviewed research done on ASMR by Swansea University, United Kingdom, suggests links between the phenomenon and "temporary improvements

in symptoms of depression and chronic pain in those who engage in

We need research into whether the markers for a calm state, such as heartbeat and sweat, change after listening to ASMR sounds. There is the question of whether the tingling sensation is a result of cognitive bias, much like placebos. "Is this purely a biological phenomenon? Or is it caused by psychological, cultural and social factors, such as living in a hyper stimulating, isolated and emotionally deprived environment?" Dr Bhat won-

### TRACKING ASMR TRENDS

Google trends show a spike in 'ASMR' search worldwide in 2018. Videos of head massage by Indian barbers has reached

Most of the Indian searches come from Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur, where the ASMR sounds of mukbang — videos of people eating large amounts of foods — are popular.

In the ultimate Internet crossover, ASMR meets dog and cat videos, as hannels now feature videos of their pets conducting ASMR taste tests.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

### **HYPE OR HAPPENING?**

# Weighted blankets



HAPPENING

SUSAN JOE PHILIP

Getting a good night's sleep has big health benefits. But it may not be easy for many, and to help them, the bedding industry has come up with many products, from feather pillows to memory foam mattresses to help people along. Added recently to this list is the weighted blanket.

While it may look like a normal quilt, it is filled with glass beads or plastic pellets instead of light-weight feathers or the slightly heavier

cotton. The weight from the blanket creates an even pressure

on the body. "The blanket is soft and gives the user a snug feeling. The weight of the blanket is decided according to the weight and comfort of the user. Typically, a person weighing 60 kilograms can use a five-kilogram blanket," says Dr MS Kanwar, Senior Consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care, and Founder, Apollo Sleep Disorder Institute, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi.

"Positive Effects of a Weighted Blanket on Insomnia", a study published in the Journal of Sleep Medicine and Disorders done on 31 people found that, "When the participants used the weighted blanket, they had a calmer night's sleep, with a decrease in movements. Subjectively, they believed that using the blanket provided them with a more comfortable, better quality, and more secure, sleep."

Another study, "Exploring the Safety and Therapeutic Ef-

fects of Deep Pressure Stimulation Using a Weighted Blanket" published in Occupational Therapy in Mental Health done on 32 people shows a drop in anxiety for 63% of them, and 78% preferred the weighted blanket as a calming modality.

While anyone can use them, it is especially useful for those who suffer from anxiety. "I have tried it on my patients with insomnia and got mixed results. While some were comfortable and got better sleep using it,

others found it inconvenient due to the restriction in movement

caused due to the weight. But my patients who suffered from anxiety showed a positive response to it. Even then, it is not clear if it is the effect of the blanket, as these patients were also on medication," says Dr Kanwar.

In India, "It is catching on, but I don't think it will ever become a standardised treatment." The most important thing is still sticking to a sleep routine. "Try to sleep and wake up at a particular time every day. Have a light dinner at least two hours before you sleep. Avoid electronic screens half an hour before sleep and remember to exercise for at least 45 minutes every day. A glass of warm milk can also induce sleep," he says. In addition, if a weighted blanket helps, there's no evidence to say you should avoid it.

In this column, we decode health trends and decide if it's all just 'hype' or actually happening

### **POOCH CAFE**









# **PEANUTS**







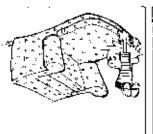
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

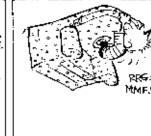






### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**





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1 Member of a

**10** Impair (3)

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Christian group that

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13 Very small fish that

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14 Yikes, I've dropped

9 Baby's discomfort





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3 Record of wages

4 Section of legal document (6) 5 Anaemic looking (5) 6 Small plant with creeping stems, sometimes scarlet (9) **7** Too thin? (11) 8 Initial (11) 12 Sheltered (9)

**16** Resting serenely

Solution will appear

in The Hindu dated

November 19, 2019. Solution No. 13226

A ND-NDE

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17 State (6) 19 Sorts (5) **23** Pa (3)

### **TIGER**





# **WUMO** Everything on red! The only thing Dwight had left was his family

### **PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**











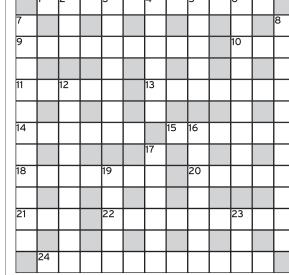
### HEALTH CAPSULES® IS THERE A DIET THAT CAN STAVE OFF DEPRESSION?

Halp THREE Hor Doss! ONGOING RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT A DIET HIGH

IN FRUITS, VEGETABLES, WHOLE GRAINS, FISH AND UNPROCESSED LEAN RED MEATS CAN PREVENT THE ONSET OF DEPRESSION. ACCORDINGLY, A DIET HIGH IN PROCESSED FOODS CAN INCREASE THE RISK OF DEPRESSTON.

Head to Coperates is not intended to be of a disgressive nation

### **THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13227**



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016 something! (6) 15 Bailey's circus

> (4,3)20 High-tension power line support (5) 21 Peter Nissen's ubiquitous structure (3) 22 Play the field (9) 24 Various bits (4,3,4)

2 Device making sound

■ Down

partner, d. 1891 (6)

18 Cold summer drink

S N A K E S K I N C L N E A L A R M
H O L I D A Y T M A
O I I P R I V A C Y
O C E A N I A M S O
L D G D R E S S E R

P O O H E N C O O P R E G E N C Y C T I I M D T E E N A G E G L A D E H U T SEMAPHORE

# India and Bangladesh get ready for pink ball battle at the Eden

Pujara, Pant, Gill, Vihari and spin twins Ashwin and Jadeja turn up for training session while the biggies, including skipper Kohli, Rohit and Rahane, give it a miss



Let's have a look: It will be a guessing game for Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri on how the pink ball will behave. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

AMOL KARHADKAR

It may not have been a 'Super Sunday' for the local sport lovers with India annihilating Bangladesh in less than three days to finish the game off on Saturday itself, but for the few dozen passengers on an early morning flight to Mumbai, it turned out to be a 'Selfie Sunday'.

With captain Virat Kohli and senior batsman Ajinkya Rahane seated together, the flight attendants had a tough time with a constant spree of passengers entering the front of the aircraft

Back in Indore, though, the Holkar Stadium was all lit up as India and Bangladesh had an optional net session under lights in the evening. With the seniors either heading back or preferring to recover at the hotel, only six members of the Indian team turned up for the session along with the support staff.

While the spin duo of R. Ashwin and Ravindra Iadeia along with No. 3 Cheteshwar Pujara were the only members of India's first-choice XI who turned up for the gig, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Hanuma Vihari also had a long vigil at the nets.

Despite the absence of the biggies, Sunday evening indicated that both the teams have taken the next step while preparing for the maiden pink-ball Test in India. Both India and Bangladesh practised for a while before and during the first Test, but Sunday gave the first serious hint of training under floodlights in white flannels.

### Entering the unknown

Incidentally, it's not just India which will have its first taste of a floodlit Test. Even Bangladesh will feature in its first day-night Test. Perhaps entering into the unknown will bridge the quality gulf between the two sides, which was evident during the mauling in the first Test.

While the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) is leaving no stone unturned in terms of adding razzmatazz off the field during the Test,

one is not sure whether the cricket will live up to the billing due to a variety of factors.

First and foremost, it will be the first time the pink ball manufactured by SG, the BCCI's ball partner for home games, will be used in a First Class match.

While the consensus among the India camp is that the ball will swing more than usual, how it will behave once it softens, that too under lights, is anybody's

### Impact of dew

Besides, the impact of dew also remains to be seen. To minimise it, the match is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.; still the dew factor will come into play once the floodlights are at full blast, at least for the final session.

Sighting the ball under lights is also going to be a huge factor. Catching and fielding in the deep could well turn to be tricky in Kolkata

Over to Eden!

### Pink ball Tests How the day-night version of the longest format has panned out:

Date	Match	Venue	Result
Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2015	AUS vs NZ	Adelaide	Australia won by four wickets
Oct. 13-17, 2016	PAK vs WI	Dubai	Pakistan, by 56 runs
Nov. 24-28, 2016	AUS vs SA	Adelaide	Australia, by seven wickets
Dec. 15-19, 2016	AUS vs PAK	Brisbane	Australia, by 39 runs
Aug. 17-21, 2017	ENG vs WI	Birmingham	England, by an innings and 209 runs
Oct. 6-10, 2017	PAK vs SL	Dubai	Sri Lanka, by 68 runs
Dec. 2-6, 2017	AUS vs ENG	Adelaide	Australia, by 120 runs
Dec. 26-29, 2017	SA vs ZIM	Port Elizabeth	South Africa, by an innings and 120 runs
March 22-26, 2018	NZ vs ENG	Auckland	New Zealand, by an innings and 49 runs
June 23-27, 2018	WI vs SL	Bridgetown	Sri Lanka, by four wickets
Jan. 24-28, 2019	AUS vs SL	Brisbane	Australia, by an innings and 40 runs
Nov. 22-26, 2019	IND vs BAN	Kolkata	?

### Women

Nov. 9-12, 2017 AUS vs ENG Sydney Match drawn

INDIAN

**PREMIER** 

# City of Joy gears up

Y.B. SARANGI

The City of Iov is gearing up to host the first-ever pink ball day-night Test match at the Eden Gardens here.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has joined hands with Creocraft to give life to the Eden's walls, which will tell the story of a cricketer and his journey from the maidan to the na-



Decking the walls: Artists painting the Eden Gardens to tell the story of a cricketer's journey from the maidan to the

# IPL 2020 Teams & Shopping List



Squad:

Ambati Rayudu,

K.M. Asif, Deepak

Chahar, Dwayne

### Going all-out

Mascots of the Test - Pinku and Tinku - were unveiled in the presence of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Sunday, in the hope that it would attract kids to the

Over 20 artists studying at the Indian Art College are

working day and night to paint this idea on the walls

of the iconic stadium.

Harbhajan Singh, Imran Tahir, N. Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Kedar Jadhav, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Monu Singh, M.S. Dhoni, M. Vijay, Ravindra Jadeia, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shane Watson, Shardul Thakur, and Suresh Raina Slots left:

Purse remaining:

# Rajasthan

Ben Stokes. Jofra Archer. Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Jos Buttler, Manan Vohra, Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag, Sanju Samson, Shreyas Gopal, Steve Smith,

Five (three domestic, two overseas)

₹14.60 Cr.



Squad: Ankit Rajpoot, Mahipal Lomror, Mayank Markande, Shashank Singh and Varun Aaron

Slots left: 11 (seven domestic, four Purse remaining

28.90 Cr.



### Sunrisers Hyderabad Squad:

Abhishek Sharma. Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar Billy Stanlake, David Warner, Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shreevats Goswami Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, T Natarajan, Vijay Shankar, and

Wriddhiman Saha Slots left: Seven (five domestic, two overseas) Purse remaining:

₹17 Cr.

The IPL auction will be held in Kolkata on December 19



Squad:

### **Mumbai Indians**

Aditya Tare, Anmolpreet Singh, Anukul Roy, Dhawal Kulkarni, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Lasith Malinga, Mitchell McCleneghan, Quinton de Kock, Rahul Chahar, Rohit Sharma, Sherfane Rutherford, Suryakumar Yadav,

and Trent Boult Slots left: Seven (five domestic, two overseas)

**Purse** 

₹13.05 Cr.



### Kolkata Knight Riders **Squad:** Andre

Russell, Dinesh Karthik, Harry Gurney, Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasidh Krishna Rinku Singh Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill Siddhesh Lad. and Sunil Narine

Slots left: domestic, four overseas)

remaining:

₹35.65 Cr.

With the dust settling on the trade

window, a look at the dugouts after

Squad:

AB de Villiers, Devdutt Padikkal, Gurkeerat Singh, Moeen Ali, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini, Parthiv Patel, Pawan Negi, Shivam Dube **Umesh Yadav** Virat Kohli. Washington Sundar, and Yuzvendra

Slots left: 12 (six domestic, six overseas)

remaining: ₹27.90 Cr.

# Kings XI Punjab

Squad: Arshdeep Singh, Chris Gayle, Darshan Nalkande, K Gowtham, Hardus Viljoen, Harpreet Brar, Jagadeesha Suchith, Karun Nair, K.L. Rahul, Mandeep Singh, Mayank Agarwal, Mohammed Shami, Muieeh ur Rahman, M. Ashwin, Nicholas Pooran, and Sarfaraz Khan

Slots left: Nine (five domestic four overseas) **Purse** 

remaining: ₹42.70 Cr.



Compiled by Ra. Anantaajith

Avesh Khan, Axar Patel, Harshal Patel Ishant Sharma Kagiso Rabada, Keemo Paul, Prithvi Shaw, R. Ashwin, Rishabh Pant, Sandeep Lamichhane Shikhar Dhawan. and Shreyas Iyer

Slots left: 11 (six domestic, five overseas)

**Purse** remaining

₹27.85 Cr.

# Berdych calls



Tomas Berdych. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tomas Berdych confirmed on Saturday at the ATP Finals here that he was retiring 17 years after turning professional. The Czech World No. 103 won 13 titles, reaching a career-high of fourth in the rankings in

Berdych, 34, was a top-10 player from July 2010 until October 2016 but has struggled with a back injury over the past two seasons.

# Thiem meets Tsitsipas in final

The Austrian gets past Zverev in straight sets

### ATP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dominic Thiem defeated defending champion Alexander Zverev to join Roger Federer's conqueror Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of the ATP Finals here.

The Austrian fifth seed saw off the big-serving German 7-5, 6-3 on Saturday after Greece's Tsitsipas had beaten Federer 6-3, 6-4.

### **Fourth time lucky**

Thiem is playing in his fourth ATP Finals but during his first three trips to the season finale, he won only three matches and never advanced out of the group stage at the O2 Arena.

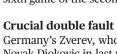
Zverev landed 75% of his first serves but Thiem was tougher in the big moments,

### sixth game of the second set.

Germany's Zverev, who beat Novak Djokovic in last year's final, went toe to toe with Thiem in a relatively uneventful first set but served a double fault to lose the open-

at the beginning of the seagain to trail 4-2.

take the match, winning with



breaking in the 12th game of

the opening set and in the

cond set but was broken Thiem fended off a couple of break points in the following game and served out to

He regrouped and settled

back into his serving rhythm

Other result: Doubles (final): Pierre-Hugues Herbert & Nicolas Mahut bt Raven Klaasen & Michael Venus 6-3, 6-4.

a forehand down the line.



Power packed: Dominic Thiem was tougher in the big moments against Alexander Zverev. ■ GETTY IMAGES

# Verstappen wins thriller in Brazil

REUTERS

SAO PAULO Max Verstappen won a thrilling Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix for Red Bull on Sunday with Pierre Gasly a surprise second for Toro

Six times world champion Lewis Hamilton finished a close third for Mercedes but under investigation by the stewards after a late collision with Red Bull's Alex Albon that denied the Thai a first

busy, with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc colliding to put each other out of the race, while Hamilton's team mate Valtteri Bottas retired with an en-



Super Sunday: Max Verstappen celebrates his Brazilian GP win. • REUTERS

Special day: Champion Duckworth, second from right, with runner-up Clarke, left, and the

dignitaries. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Duckworth the last man standing

Overcomes Clarke's challenge; Ramkumar-Purav duo triumphs

### **CHALLENGER**

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

Crowd favourite James Duckworth gave himself the best chance of making a mark at the Australian Open 2020 by winning the KPIT MSLTA Challenger Series title, beating Jay Clarke over three-action packed sets 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a final spanning two hours and 18 minutes at the MSLTA on Sunday.

School of Tennis hard courts The triumph will push the

Australian to 82nd when the

Monday, granting him a direct entry into the main draw of his home Grand Slam in Duckworth weathered a

rankings are released on

storm in the first set as Clarke proved quite competent in his serve-and-volley game. The second seed pulled himself up in the second set while the third set saw the players go into auto mode and produce winners. Both varied their shots, ventured to the net frequently, and tested each other with drop

clinched with a backhand sliced passing shot to leave Clarke standing, Duckworth collapsed on the court facing the sky, kicking his legs in delight and relief as the fans rose to cheer a new champion in the sixth edition of the tournament.

When match point was

### Valuable money

Duckworth was richer by \$7,200, valuable money for a Grand Slammer funding the Tour expenses from his own pocket. The runner-up earned \$4,240.

manathan and Purav Raja, the top seeds, won as expected. Ramkumar put behind his

In doubles, Ramkumar Ra-

singles semifinal loss as he and Purav won an exciting final against compatriots Saketh Myneni and Arjun Kadhe. The winning combination earned \$3,100 and the runner-up \$1,800

The results (finals): Singles: James Duckworth (Aus) bt Jay Clarke (GBr) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Doubles: Ramkumar Ramanathan & Purav Raja bt Saketh Myneni & Arjun Kadhe 7-6(3), 6-3.

### Gurbaz stars for Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Teenage opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 79 (52 balls) set up Afghanistan's 29-run series-clinching win over the West Indies in the third T20I on Sunday.

Afghanistan posted 156

for eight and restricted

West Indies to 127 for se-

The scores: Afghanistan 156/8 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 79) bt West Indies 127/7 in 20 overs (Shai Hope 52. Naveen-ul-Hag 3/24): Toss: Afghanistan; Man-ofthe-Match: Gurbaz; Afghanistan won the series 2-1.

### TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 8 a.m. FIFA U-17 WC: Final, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. T10 League: Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.10 p.m., 9.30 p.m.

### Ramya & Jennifer lose

SPORTS BUREAU CANCUN (MEXICO)

Ramya Natarajan and Jennifer Rosa Dourado of Brazil were beaten 6-4, 6-1 by Mayuka Aikawa and Utaka Kishigami of Japan in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament.

The result: \$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: Dou-(pre-quarterfinals): Mayuka Aikawa & Utaka Kishigami (Jpn) bt Jennifer Rosa Dourado (Bra) & Ramya Natarajan 6-4, 6-1.

### Anurag wins 1500m freestyle

NEW DELHI: Anurag Dagar of Delhi won the under-19 1500m freestyle event with a time of 16 minutes 21.58 seconds in the 65th National School Games swimming competition at the Shyama Prasad Mukheriee Swimming Pool on Sunday.

The meet was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, at the Chhatrasal Stadium.

The results: Boys: Under-19: **1500m freestyle:** 1. Anurag Dagar 16:21.58; 2. Deep Venkatesh Gilda 17:00.42; 3. Akshit Choudhary 17:05.84. Under-17: 800m freestyle: 1 Aneesh Gowda 8:33.95; 2. Dhyan Balakrishna 8:53.88; 3. Sampann Singh 9:03.75.

### Gerardo gives Sona Polo title

NEW DELHI: Gerardo Mazzini scored nine goals, including three in the sixth and final chukker, to help Sona Polo to a 12-11 victory over Rajnigandha Achivers in the final of the Indian Masters 14-goal polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo ground on Sunday.

Sonal Polo trailed 9-10 at the end of the fifth chukker before Mazzini, who was adjudged the MVP, turned it around with those three oais. Mare Blitz, ridden by Mackenzie who scored eight goals for the runner-up, was declared

the 'best polo pony.' The result (final): Sona Polo 12 (Gerardo Mazzini 9, Abhimanyu Pathak 3) bt Rajnigandha Achievers 11 (Chris Mackenzie 8, Satinder Garcha 2, Siddhant Sharma).

### Lu takes title

SPORTS BUREAU GWALIOR

Top seed Lu Jiajing of China beat seventh seed Sofia Shapatava of Georgia 7-5, 6-2 to clinch the title in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Sunday. The result (final): Lu Jiajing (Chn) bt Sofia Shapatava (Geo) 7-5, 6-2.

### Leading players for Odisha Premier League

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Some of the leading players of the country -National champion Niki Poonacha, Ishaque Eqbal, Kunal Anand, Prajwal Dev, Suraj Prabodh, Mohit Mayur and Ansu Bhuyan – will compete in the third Odisha Tennis Premier League, organised by Neelachal Sports Foundation at the KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, from Dec. 4 to 8.

National champion Sowjanya Bavisetti, Jennifer Luikham, Bhuvana Kalva, Yubrani Banerjee, Sai Samhitha, Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi, Avika Sagwal, Anaam Almas, Dakshaa Patel and Rituparna Choudhary will be the women players.

The team jerseys were unveiled on Sunday at a special programme here.

# 'Fan base led to start of X1 Racing'

Armaan Ebrahim trying to break that barrier by making it accessible

ANANT KAUR

Amidst so many franchisebased sports leagues, X1 Racing League is the latest to join the bandwagon. Armaan Ebrahim and Aditya Patel have started this motorsport league and the former thought of this idea because of the large fan base for the sport in India.

"X1 racing is a franchise based league. We are six franchises from six different cities and have adopted some new race formats which are much shorter than normal races like Formula 1. Nowadays, the attention span of people is really short, so it has to be exciting, fun-filled and with a little bit of drama involved," Armaan told The Hindu.

Each team will get to pick five drivers - two international and three Indian. One male and a female international driver is mandatory with one domestic Indian

It is also interesting to



Innovative: Armaan hopes better infrastructure will increase accessibility after the league catches the public eye. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

know the contribution of esport racing which later offers a chance to the winner to become a racing driver in actual event. "E sports is a simulator racing, we go to each of the six franchise cities," said Armaan.

**Training** He added: "The winner of the competition will get contacted by X1 and receive training by experts to become an actual race driver. Basically, motorsport has been termed as an expensive sport. We are just trying to break that barrier by making it accessible. It is a great incentive to get involved in the

Interestingly, the league will have only one make of cars. It is upto the drivers' coordination and talent to get the best out of themselves.

"In the F1 pit stop, the engineers change the tyres but in this league you will see the driver himself being replaced. We provide the mechanics, service, engineer and the cars," said the 30-year-old.

Motorsport is restricted to just three tracks in the country – Buddh International Circuit (BIC) in Greater Noida, Madras Motor Race Track, Chennai and Kari Motor Speedway, Coimbatore.

Armaan hoped better infrastructure will increase accessibility after the league catches the public eye as it is technologically driven

Former F1 driver Vitantonio Liuzzi, Narain Karthikeyan and some top women drivers will be participating in the league, slated to start on Nov. 30 at the BIC.

# Ombudsman stays Rajat's resignation

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

The resignation of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) president Rajat Sharma has been stayed by Ombudsman Justice (Retd) Badar Durrez Ahmed, Following complaints from (government nominee) Rajan Tewari and DDCA members Darshan Singh and Siddharth Singh, Justice Ahmed passed an order on Sunday to maintain status quo in the DDCA.

"The common thread running through the complaints is that a very serious and anarchic situation prevails in the administration of the affairs of DDCA.

This has allegedly been caused by disruptive actions by some members of the Apex Council which purportedly led to the President, CEO, CFO and GM, Cricketing Operations tendering their resignations,' Justice Ahmed observed.

The purported resolutions were "said to have been passed by circulation

by the Apex Council on November 13." he noted. "These purported resolutions are said to be illegal and in violation of section 175 of the Companies Act, 2013, as the proposed resolutions were not circulated to all the members of the Apex Council."

On the move by the Apex Council to reinstate Vinod Tihara, the suspended secretary of the DDCA, the order read, "One purported resolution seeks to reinstate Tihara. It is pertinent to note that the reference is pending with me and Vinod Tihara had been given two weeks time to respond. No reply has been received from

**Urgent steps needed** 

Justice Ahmed noted, "After considering the complaints, I find that urgent steps are called for in the interest of the game of cricket. Prima facie no purported resolution reinstating Vinod Tihara ought to have been passed when the very issue was under consideration of the Ombudsman.

"This is apart from the fact that, prima facie, it appears that proper procedure for circulating a proposed resolution was followed.

The Ombudsman concluded, "In these circumstances, in order that the interest of the game of cricket and its administration by DDCA is not jeopardised, I stay the operation of the said three purported resolutions and direct the maintenance of status quo ante as existing on November 12, 2019. The resignations mentioned above shall be kept in abeyance.

"All these persons who had tendered their resignations shall continue to discharge their duties in the interest of the game. No further resolution in this regard be sought to be passed by members of the Apex Council without the permission of the Ombudsman and without following proper procedure."

Justice Ahmed will hear the matter further on November 27.

### MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY SCORES

**GROUP A** 

Bihar 134/8 in 20 overs (MD Rahmatullah 64) lost to Uttarakhand 138/4 in 19.1 overs (Karanveer Kaushal 56 n.o., Vaibhav Singh Panwar 35 n.o.).

Karnataka 172/9 in 20 overs (K.L. Rahul 34, Pavan Deshpande 63, Heramb Parab 5/24) bt Goa 137 in 19.3 overs (Aditya Kaushik 48, Malliksab Sirur 27, Prabhudessai 28, Suvash Shreyas Gopal 3/14).

Andhra 147/7 in 20 overs (Kranthi Kumar 43, Naren Reddy 43) lost to Services 151/5 in 18.4 overs (Lakhan Singh 38, Rahul Singh 41, Rajat Paliwal 27, K.V. Sasikanth 3/32).

**GROUP B** 

Kerala 119/8 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 38) bt Uttar Pradesh 42/4 in 7 overs (Akshdeep Nath 30 n.o.). Target revised to 44 in seven overs, Kerala won

G. VISWANATH

Meghalaya's Abhay

Dhirendrasingh Negi raced

– in the Syed Mushtaq Ali

Wankhede Stadium here on

scored 207 for four, won the

match by 25 runs. Mizoram

overs. The previous record

made 182 for two in 20

Sunday. Negi's team, which

Trophy (SMAT) at the

to the fastest 50 – off 14 balls

by 1 run via VJD method.

Tripura 69/7 in 16 overs (Aniket Choudhary 3/15) lost to Raiasthan 74/1 in 5 overs (Mahipal Lomror 50 n.o.)

Tamil Nadu 168/8 in 20 overs (B. Aparajith 33, Dinesh Karthik 58, Vijay Shankar 26, Yash Thakur 3/23) bt Vidarbha 55 in 14.5 overs (R. Sai Kishore 3/9, Vijay Shankar 3/12).

**GROUP C** 

Arunachal Pradesh 106/9 in 20 overs (Rahul Dalal 26, Uvais Ahmad 27, Sarandeep Singh 4/ 25, Karanveer Singh 3/15) lost to Chandigarh 108/0 in 9.1 overs (Manan Vohra 68 n.o., Shivam Bhambri 39 n.o.).

Hyderabad 174/3 in 20 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 90 n.o., B. Sandeep 41 n.o.) bt Chhattisgarh 153/9 in 20 overs (Harpreet Singh 62)

**GROUP D** 

was held by Karnataka's

Robin Uthappa, who had

scored a 15-ball 50 in 19

South Zone Twenty20

qualifier at Murugappa

minutes with five 4s and as

many 6s against Andhra in a

Chennai on October 21, 2011.

match for Meghalaya, the

Uttaranchal-born right

hander bludgeoned the

Mizoram attack for an

Playing his 13th Twenty20

Negi smashes fastest half-century in SMAT

Bengal 132/7 in 20 overs (Vivek Singh 43, Abhimanyu Easwaran 28, Suresh Kumar 4/17) lost to Pondicherry 135/6 in 19.4 overs (D. Rohit 55).

Mumbai 206/5 in 20 overs (Prithvi Shaw 63, Aditya Tare 82, Siddhesh Lad 32 n.o., Riyan Parag 3/30) bt Assam 123/8 in 20 overs (Riyan Parag 38).

Madhya Pradesh 159/6 in 20 overs (Rajat Patidar 69, Venkatesh Iver 34. Harshal Patel 3/ 34) lost to Haryana 162/6 in 18.5 overs (Shivam Chauhan 41, Himanshu Rana 25, Rohit Sharma 37, Sumit Kumar 44 n.o.).

Meghalaya 207/4 in 20 overs (Raj Biswa 36, Dwaraka Ravi Teja 53 n.o., Abhay Negi 50 n.o.) bt Mizoram 182/2 in 20 overs (Taruwar Kohli 90, K.B. Pawan

**GROUP E** Gujarat 128/7 in 20 overs

unbeaten 50 with six 6s and

singles. Negi and Ravi Teja

added 58 for the unbroken

Coming at the fall of

the conclusion of the 17th

over, Negi began with cut

four off seamer Lalhruai

cover driven six. He then

hammered a six over cover

Ralte and followed it with a

Saniav Yadav at 149 tor 4 at

two 4s, two 2s and two

fifth wicket.

(Urvil Patel 47, Kshitij Patel 32) lost to Jharkhand 131/1 in 18 overs (Anand Singh 26, Utkarsh Singh 42 n.o., Virat Singh 56

Sikkim 88/7 in 20 overs (Iqbal Abdulla 37, Karan Dagar 4/ 12) lost to Delhi 91/1 in 9 overs (Hiten Dalal 54 n.o.).

Saurashtra 149/7 in 20 overs (Kishan Parmar 28, Sheldon Jackson 55 n.o., Prerak Mankad 31, Aquib Nabi 4/43) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 155/4 in 19.4 overs (Jatin Wadhwan 35, Parvez Rasool 59 n.o., Abdul Samad 32 n.o.).

off seamer Lalnunkima

Varte before picking another

seamer G. Laibiakvela for a

four through cover and four

slash, long off and long on)

missed connecting the last

It was entertainment at its

consecutive 6s (long on,

in the 20th over Negi

best with both teams

making a combined 389

Odisha 149/9 in 20 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 42, Abhishek Raut 36) bt Nagaland 104 in 17 overs (Yogesh Takawale 31, Stuart Binny 31 n.o., Pappu Roy 3/21, Govinda Poddar 3/21).

# Makhija beats Tomar to air rifle gold

Punjan University takes overall championship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Parth Makhija of the University of Delhi shot 629.9 to win the men's air rifle gold, 1.4 points ahead of Olympic quota winner Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar of the Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, in the all-India inter-University shooting championship organised by the Manav Rachna University at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad.

Tomar, however, won the rifle 3-position event with a remarkably high 1177.

Shriyanka Sadangi won the women's air rifle gold for Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha, with 628.4, a thrilling 0.6 point ahead of Nisha Kanar of University of Rajasthan.

Sunidhi Chauhan swept both the rifle 3-position and prone golds for GNDU, beating Bhakti Khamkar and Gaayathri Nithyanandam respectively.

Ganemat Sekhon won the women's skeet with 117, for Punjab University, Chandigarh, which captured the ov erall championship. Double trap gold medallist of the London Olympics Peter Wilson, the special guest, exhorted the shooters to push barriers and reach the pinnacle with hard work.



Bull's eye! The Punjab University team with the overall championship trophy. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Men: 10m air rifle: 1. Parth Makhija 629.9; 2. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 628.5; 3. Vinaykumar Patil 627.4. Team: 1. Savitribai Phule Pune 1871.6; 2. GNDU 1867.9; 3. Punjabi, Patiala 1860.7.

50m rifle 3-position: 1. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 1177: 2. Rishi Girish 1156: 3. Nishant Dalal 1155. Team: 1. GNDU 3414; 2. Delhi 3410; 3. Swarnim Gujarat Sports 3405.

50m rifle prone: 1. Surya Pratap Singh 619.4: 2. Nishant Dalal 616.3; 3. Ranjan Kumar 616.2. Team: 1. Punjab, Chandigarh 1850.1; 2. Delhi 1837.7; 3. Swarnim Guiarat Sports 1830.7. Skeet: 1. Sukhbir Harika 115: 2. Abinash Partap Singh 114; 3. Divyaraj Singh 111. Team: 1. Pun-

jabi 329; 2. Punjab 325; 3.

**GNDU 277.** Women: 10m air rifle: 1. Shi-

ryanka Sadangi 628.4; 2. Nisha Kanwar 627.8; 3. Shreya Agarwal 626.4. **Team:** 1. Punjab 1867.7: 2. Raiasthan 1855.8: 3. GNDU 1854.0. 50m rifle 3-position: 1. Sunidhi

Chauhan 1168; 2. Bhakti Khamkar 1162; 3. Zenab Hussain Bandookwala 1154. Team: 1. GNDU 3417; 2. Barkatullah, Bhopal 3402; 3. Punjab 3396. 50m rifle prone: 1. Sunidhi

Chauhan 625.2: 2. Nithyanandam 623.7; 3. Ayushi Podder 617.8. Team: 1. Bharathiar 1844.5; 2. GNDU 1844.1; 3. Puniab 1836.9. Skeet: 1. Ganemat Sekhon 117:

2. Asees Chhina 112: 3. Areeba Khan 112. Team: 1. Punjab 324; 2. Punjabi 218; 3. GNDU 191.

### Paul takes Hawks home

LOS ANGELES: Paul George delivered 37 points in his home debut as Los Angeles Clippers scored the second most points in franchise history with a 150-101 rout of the short-handed Atlanta Hawks on Saturday.

The results:

Miami Heat 109 bt New Orleans Pelicans 94; Dallas Mavericks 110 bt Toronto Raptors 102; San Antonio Spurs 116 lost to Portland Trail Blazers 121; New York Knicks 102 lost to Charlotte Hornets 103; Minnesota Timberwolves 105 lost to Houston Rockets 125

Indiana Pacers 83 lost to Milwaukee Bucks 102; Chicago Bulls 111 lost to Brooklyn Nets 117; LA Clippers 150 bt Atlanta Hawks 101, AFP

### Harmeet claims title

Harmeet Desai, seeded fourth, defeated seventh seed A. Amalraj 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9 in the final of the ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open table tennis

championship on Sunday. This was Harmeet's second international title of the year after the Commonwealth championship in July at Cuttack.

Harmeet said it felt great to win his first title on foreign soil. "It wasn't a easy tournament for me as I had tough matches from the first round. I beat quite a few good Asian players," said the 26-year-old.

### Racing to victory



Rewarding excellence: The chairman of the Turf Authority Of India, N. Nithyanand Rao, presenting apprentice jockey C.K. Khaw with his trophy after he rode the Raffles Racing -owned Sacred Empire to victory in the Turf Authority Of India Goodwill Cup at the Perak Turf Club in Ipoh, Malaysia, on Sunday. Perak Turf Club CEO Soo Lai Kwok, club chairman Dato Cheah Choon King and other officials are also seen. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Phenomenal Cruise wins Ghulam Ahmed Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Phenomenal Cruise (A.A. Vikrant up) won the Ghulam Ahmed Memorial Cup, the main event of the races held here on Sunday (Nov. 17). The winner is owned by M/s. P. Ranga Raju, K.S.N. Murthy & C. Nanda Kumar and trained by D. Netto.

MEDAK PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o & I over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): 1. HURRICANE (Abhay Singh) 1, Ursula (6) (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Blazing Speed (Irvan Singh) 3 and Coun try's Pet (Santosh Raj) 4. 3, 1 and 2. Im 8.20s. ₹22 (w), 7, 19 and 6 (p), SHP: 54, FP: 358, Q: 179, Tla: 507. Favourite: Blazing Speed. Owner: Mr. Rakesh. Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy

 $2^{\text{ELUSIVE HERO PLATE}}_{\text{(1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only}}$ (Cat. II), (Terms): PORTSTEWART mar) 2. Coastal Cruise (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Greek Soul (Ashhad Asbar) 4. Nk. 1/2 nk and 8. 1m 15.40s. ₹16 (w), 7, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 37, Q: 15, Tla: 141. Favourite: Aintree. Owners: The Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co. Ltd. rep. by Mr. & Mrs. Dilip Thomas. Trainer:

GOLCONDA CUP (1,800m), 3-J y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): LANCASHIRE (Irvan Singh) 1, Blue Empress (Robbie Downey) 2. Unstoppable (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Gazebo (Akshay Kumar) 4. Hd, 5 and 6. Im 54.40s. ₹159 (w), 22, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 21, FP: 994, Q: 328, Tla: 2,254. Favourite: Blue Empress. Owner: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

A SRI SHAMLAL GUPTA ME-MORIAL CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): AS-TERIA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Proud Warrior (B.R. Kumar) 2, Arc Of History (Surya Prakash) 3 and Top Contender (Gaddam) 4. 1, 1/2 and 1. 1m 12.80s. ₹11 (w), 5, 7 and 12 (p), SHP: 24, FP: 52, Q: 41, Tla: 167. Favourite: Asteria. Owners: M/s. Anil Kumar Venkat Epur, Bharat Venkat Epur & M. Goutham Reddy. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

ARISTOCRAT PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): NEWS O' STAR (Gaurav Singh) 1, Pontius Pilate (Surya Prakash) 2, Tootsie Roll (Afroz Khan) 3 and Magical Skill (Jitendra

Singh) 4. 3, nk and 1-1/2. 1m 25.81s. ₹84 (w), 15, 5 and 13 (p), SHP: 14,

FP: 339, Q: 107, Tla: 1,906. Favour

ite: Pontius Pilate. Owner: Mr. Sarasam Madhusudan Reddy. Trainer: Ravinder Singh. CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY

6 (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): PRINCE VALIANT (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Galloping Gang-ster (Robbie Downey) 2, Flamboy-ant Lady (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Exclusive Blue (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 2-1/2, nk and 1. 1m 26s. ₹10 (w), 6, 8 and 11 (p), SHP: 24, FP: 31, Q: 18, Tla: 91. Favourite: Prince Valiant. Owner: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan. Trainer: Deshmukh.

GHULAM AHMED MEMORIAL 7 CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over (Cat. I): PHENOMENAL CRUISE (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Ace Ace Ace Ace (Akshay Kumar) 2, Be Sure (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Air Strike (Irvan Singh) 4. 1, 2 and 1-1/4. Im 38.60s. ₹35 (w), 16 and 8 (p), SHP: 12, FP: 156, Q: 51, Tla: 590. Favourite: Isabella. Owners: M/s. P. Ranga Raju, K.S.N. Murthy & C. Nanda Kumar.

GRACE HANOVER PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BEYOND LIMITS (Robbie Downey) 1, Red Snaper (Akshay Kumar) 2, Handsome Duo (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Wood Bridge (Surya Prakash) 4. 3-1/2, 3-1/2 and 2. 1m 27.20s. ₹24 (w), 12, 6 and 11 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 93, Q: 51, Tla: 479. Favourite: Mind Reader. Owners: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan & Barkath Alam Khan. Trainer: Laxman

Jkt: 55,880 (six tkts), Runner up: 2,052 (70 tkts), Mini Jkt: 34,038 (one tkt), Tr (i): 2,762 (13 tkts), (ii): 7,500 (25 tkts) 7,586 (3 tkts), (iii): 629 (95 tkts).

# Shagun and Rajeshwari in lead

### SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Former National champion Shagun Chowdhary and Rajeshwari Kumari were in joint lead with 71 out of 75 after three rounds in women's trap on the opening day of the 63rd National shotgun championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Sunday.

While Shagun had rounds of 25, 21 and 25, Rajeshwari was more steady with a series of 24, 23 and 24.

The two were followed by former national champion Shreyasi Singh (70), Pragati Dubey (69), Bhavna Chaudhary (68) and the World Cup silver medallist Seema Tomar (67).

Incidentally, Shagun and Shreyasi were the only shooters to have perfect

rounds. sDefending champion Varsha Varman's below-par show following rounds of 21, 16 and 20 saw her placed 32nd with a total

champion, Manisha Keer, shot 21, 20 and 21 for the 20th spot with a total of 62. Among the other prominent shooters, Varsha To-

mar and Sushma Singh, a

champion pistol shooter,

Another former National

had shot 58. Shefali Rajak led with 65, following rounds of 22, 22 and 21, among the junior women. She was followed by Suhanya Singh (64) and three others - Sabeera Haris, Kirti Gupta and Varda

Two more rounds on the morrow will be followed by the finals for junior women

Sharma on 63.



Seizing his chance: The 17-year-old Kim Joo Hyung with the Panasonic Open trophy in Gurugram on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Hyung triumphs as Kapur loses way

The Indian blows away a one-stroke lead on the final hole

### PANASONIC OPEN

RAKESH RAO GURUGRAM

For a long time, this is seriously going to hurt Shiv Kapur. Not because he finished tied runner-up for the second successive week, but for the manner in which he blew away a one-stroke lead on the 18th tee-box and handed on a platter, the Panasonic Open title to Korea's Kim Joo Hyung.

On a bright and breezy day, Kapur, at 14-under, looked set to become the first two-time winner of this \$400,000 event. But on the final hole, Kapur sent the ball 'out of bounds' and lost two strokes.

Further, on the green, Kapur missed a 20-foot bogeyputt needed to force a play-off.

At this point, Hyung having finished five groups ahead of Kapur at 13-under 203, celebrated with his father and friends behind the 18th green.

After all, it signalled his maiden win that made Hyung the second youngest winner behind Thailand's Chinnarat Phadugsil on the Tour at 17 years and 149 days!

Overnight tied-11th, Hyung led at -13, following a 65 before Kapur moved ahead with a 14th-hole birdie.

For Kapur, the horrendous tee-shot on the 18th cost dearly. In fact, in terms of money, the mishit was worth \$37,400! From being so close to getting the winner's purse of \$72,000, Kapur eventually received \$34,600 – as much as S. Chikkarangappa did for sharing the second spot.

Unfortunately, the drama at the finish pushed Chikkarangappa's 67 into the background. This week, on the par-5s alone, this Bangalore pro was 10-under!

With an understandablygutted Kapur, now a ninetime runner-up, staying away from the waiting mediapersons, Hyung, a threetime winner on the Asian Development Tour, held the spotlight.

### Dream come true

"It was a dream to win on the Asian Tour. Today, the dream came true. My parents have worked very hard to get me here. I still have to go far from here," said the champion, who was a scoreboy in the Philippines on the Asian Tour three years ago.

"When I shot a 65 today to give myself a chance to win, I was tied for lead with Shiv. But once Shiv took the lead, I was not sure. I guess, I am lucky to win."

Top-10 final-round scores: 203: Kim Joo Hyung (Kor) (70, 68, 65).

204: S. Chikkarangappa (69, 68, 67), Shiv Kapur (67, 67, 70). 205: Terry Pilkadaris (Aus) (66,

206: Rory Hie (Ina) (70, 68, 68), Vikrant Chopra (67, 70, 69), Hung Chien-Yao (Tpe) (67,

208: Sattee Prakongvech (Tha) (70, 69, 69), Veer Ahlawat (69, 69, 70) and Siddikur Rahman (Ban) (59, 67, 72).

# The Netherlands, Germany, Croatia qualify

### EURO QUALIFYING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Netherlands, Germany and World Cup finalists Croatia expanded a list of big hitters to qualify for Euro 2020 on Saturday as the trio booked their places at next summer's finals.

Austria also made it through to the multi-host tournament, which kicks off in Rome on June 12, with 16 sides now ensured of a spot at the 24-team event and only four places remaining from the main qualifying

It joins other big names such like world champion France, Spain, Italy and England, with European champion Portugal one win away from qualification.

Ronald Koeman's resurgent Dutch needed a point to qualify for their first maior tournament since coming third at the 2014 World Cup and got what they needed in a scrappy goalless draw with Northern Ireland

The draw allowed fierce rival Germany to move top in the group as Toni Kroos hit a brace in a simple 4-0 win over Belarus in Monchengladbach which saw it qualify for the Euros for the 13th time in a row.

A win over Northern Ire-

land in Frankfurt on Tuesday will guarantee Joachim Low's new-look side first

Croatia survived a scare to secure its place in the Euros after coming from behind to beat Slovakia 3-1 in

The World Cup runnerup needed just a point to ensure qualification from Group E.

In Saint Petersburg, the Hazard brothers made short work of Russia as alreadyqualified Belgium maintained its 100 percent record with a 4-1 win that secured it top spot in Group I. The results: Group C: Northern Ireland O drew with the Netherlands O; Germany 4 (Ginter 41, Goretzka 49, Kroos 55, 83) bt Belarus O.

Group E: Azerbaijan O lost to Wales 2 (Moore 10, Wilson 34); Croatia 3 (Vlasic 56, Petkovic 60, Perisic 74) bt Slovakia 1 (Bozenik 32).

Group G: Austria 2 (Alaba 8, Lainer 48) bt North Macedonia 1 (Stojanovski 90+3): Israel 1 (Dabbur 88) lost to Poland 2 (Krychowiak 4, K. Piatek 54); Slovenia 1 (Tarasovs 53-og) bt

Group I: Russia 1 (Dzhikiya 79) lost to Belgium 4 (T. Hazard 19, E. Hazard 33, 40, Lukaku 72); San Marino 1 (Berardi 77) lost to Kazakhstan 3 (Zainutdinov 6, Suyumbayev 23, Schetkin 27); Cyprus 1 (Efrem 47) lost to Scotland 2 (Christie 12, McGinn



Clinical: Toni Kroos led the way for Germany with a brace as it cruised past Belarus. •AP

## Indian women boxers clinch five golds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ULAANBAATAR

It rained gold for India at the Asian youth boxing championships as all five of the country's women finalists emerged victorious while two men signed off with silver medals here on Sunday. Naorem Chanu (51kg),

Vinka (64kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg) and Sushma (81kg) were the gold medallists.

Selay Soy (49kg) and Ankit Narwal (60kg) returned

with silver in the men's clashes. India signed off with 12 medals, bronze coming from Arundhati Choudhury (69kg), Komalpreet Kaur (+81kg), Jasmine (57kg), Satender Singh (91kg) and Aman (+91kg).