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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 Mehfooz ur Rehman and Misbah ud Din, had already given their consent for the review petition, which would be filed within 30 days of the verdict.

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

tion.

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

“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 verdict.

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 Hindu*.

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 non-committal 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 FIR. A charge-sheet was filed against the man pursuant to which he has been facing trial.

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 pun-

ished to deter others from committing 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 settled 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.

Imported rules hit musical instruments

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

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

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 long.

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

which has to be secured to the seat; and checked-in luggage. Though allowing passengers to book an extra seat for their instrument is “encouraged”, it is not mandatory. Artists 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 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 mo-han veena his ‘aatma’ (soul). “Glued to my aeroplane window anxiously tracking my

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 “man-handling” of Mr. Lone.

The detainees also registered their protest against “poor facilities” at the MLA Hostel.

Sources said the authori-

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

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

Rail services resume in Kashmir Valley



In demand: Passengers boarding a train for Banihal from Srinagar on Sunday. ■NISSAR AHMAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Rail services in the Kashmir Valley resumed fully on Sunday – more than three months after being suspended due to security reasons – as the train chugged from Srinagar to Banihal through the restive south Kashmir, officials said.

A railway official said that “rail service in the Valley fully resumed this morning as the train chugged from Baramulla towards Banihal”. The official said there was only

one run scheduled for Sunday, while the train would make two runs on a daily basis from Monday.

The Railways conducted a trial run on Sunday morning before the actual service started, he added.

Rail service in the Valley had partially resumed on Tuesday as the train ran between Baramulla and Srinagar. The authorities have directed the Railways to ply the trains between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. only due to security reasons, the official said.

Preparing ground for J&K poll: Murmu

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

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

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

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 EC.”

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 & Kashmir.

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 be 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 said.

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 Damini Nath)

UAE citizens can get visa on arrival

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

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 Indian mission said 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.

My idea of India is being challenged: Vallabh

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

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

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 leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das in the upcoming Assembly election from Jamshedpur East.

A regular at press conferences 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-a-half. But that doesn’t mean that I will go to TV studios and call out people on the basis of the cap they wear.

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 expenses.

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 in-

terim president Sonia Gandhi on Monday.

“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 misuse of the past five years,” Mr. Chavan said when asked about the ideological differences between the Shiv Sena and the Congress.

APPEAL

18 years old Mr. **Muthu Pandi** needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. He suffers from T Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and has to undergo Chemotherapy at V.S.Hospital, Chennai. He urgently needs **Rs. 15,00,000/-** for his treatment. Donations sent by Ch / D.D. favouring **V.S.Medical Trust** will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch / D.D. / NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60162010063310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT (Please do not mention patient name on the Cheque).

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WWS

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 warships 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 Rajapaksas 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 side-stepped situations where it

was expected to take sides, including during the short period last year when Mr. Mahinda was sworn in as Prime Minister. In 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 same. At a rally last month, Mr.

Modi greets Gotabaya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to President-elect of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Sunday and congratulated him on his victory in the presidential election. Mr. Modi invited him to visit India at his early convenience. "The Prime Minister expressed confidence that

under the able leadership of Mr. Rajapaksa, the people of Sri Lanka will progress further on the path of peace and 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 election. "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.

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 sent to 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 e-commerce 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, cash-back, and buybacks for both online and offline trade.

Justice Gogoi retires as 46th Chief Justice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Justice Ranjan Gogoi, first person from the northeast 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 India on Sunday. Justice Gogoi, who was sworn in on October 3, 2018 as the 46th CJI, had 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.

Insurance companies to merge as planned: FM

'Progress hindered due to weak finances'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala 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 interaction. The proposed merger of National Insurance Co. Ltd.,

United India Insurance Co. Ltd. and Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. has not been able to move forward due to their weak financial position, official sources said. "These PSUs have sought 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 ratio of 1.5," officials said.

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 Monday. 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 dismiss-



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 its 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 its 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.



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 account.

Maternity cover
Q. 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?
SONAM KALA
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.

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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 dynamic 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-to-earnings (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 in 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 com-

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



horizon and risk profile. Usually, 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 allocation 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 help fund managers to make asset allocation-related decisions based on changing valuations. Quantitative models also help these funds to rule out human bias while making asset 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%. 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 out on market opportunities and underperform equity funds with a significant margin. Downside risk may still remain: Despite the freedom to change their equity and debt

Table with 4 columns: Fund Name, 1 year, 3 year, 5 year. Rows include Large Cap Equity Funds (ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund, Axis Bluechip Fund, Motilal Oswal Focused 25) and Balanced Advantage Funds (ICICI Prudential Balanced Advantage Fund, HDFC Balanced Advantage Fund, ABSL Balanced Advantage Fund).

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 balanced advantage funds. Expense ratio: The expense 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 market correction coincides with the maturity 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 management. In such cases, it attracts debt taxation. Their investors come to know about the tax treatment only after the end of the financial year. Thus, there 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 over-valued and under-valued market conditions. 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 moderate-risk investors with long term financial goals. (The writer is CEO & Co-founder, 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

Table with 10 columns: Starting SIP in MFs (₹), SIP period, Expected CAGR, ₹0, ₹500, ₹1000, ₹1500, ₹2000, ₹2500, ₹3000. Rows show SIP amounts of 2,000 and 5,000 over 10 and 20 years.

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 factors. 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 can.

Table with 4 columns: Name of Bank, Interest rate (%), EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh, Processing fee (% of loan amount). Rows list various banks and their loan terms.

*Additional concession of 0.25% on application through YONO. Further concession of 0.20% on purchase of electric vehicle.

Rates and charges as on 14th November 2019

Source: Paisabazaar.com

Table with 5 columns: Name of Lender, Interest rate (%), EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh, EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh, Processing fee. Rows list various lenders and their loan terms.

Rates as on 14th November 2019

Source: Paisabazaar.com

■ 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

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 of their respective attainments’.

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



A MUGGY AFFAIR

Why do our examinations encourage rote learning? Is there a way students can get out of this unproductive habit?

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

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 student body.

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).



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Every year, thousands of 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 syllabus, and frame a question on it and write its answer.

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>

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ Focus Area Science Technology Summer Fellowship

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, coming from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, and 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

■ INSPIRE Scholarship For

http://www.b4s.in/edge/FAS5

■ Summer Research Fellowship Programme 2020

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

■ INSPIRE Scholarship For

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 summer-time attachment fee of ₹20,000

APPLICATION MODE: Online

DEADLINE: December 31

http://www.b4s.in/edge/INS8

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN



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Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CenTa) creates exciting careers for teachers through CenTa® Certification, Micro-Credentials, Teaching Quotient and Teaching Professionals' Olympiad.

Licensing is the key

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



WIDE ANGLE
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 got some 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 economic potential, medical security, and so on. While there are many pros, there are some cons too. However, advantages seem to outweigh the disadvantages.

My professor, Dr. Rajagopal Gikbikote put it succinctly, "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?

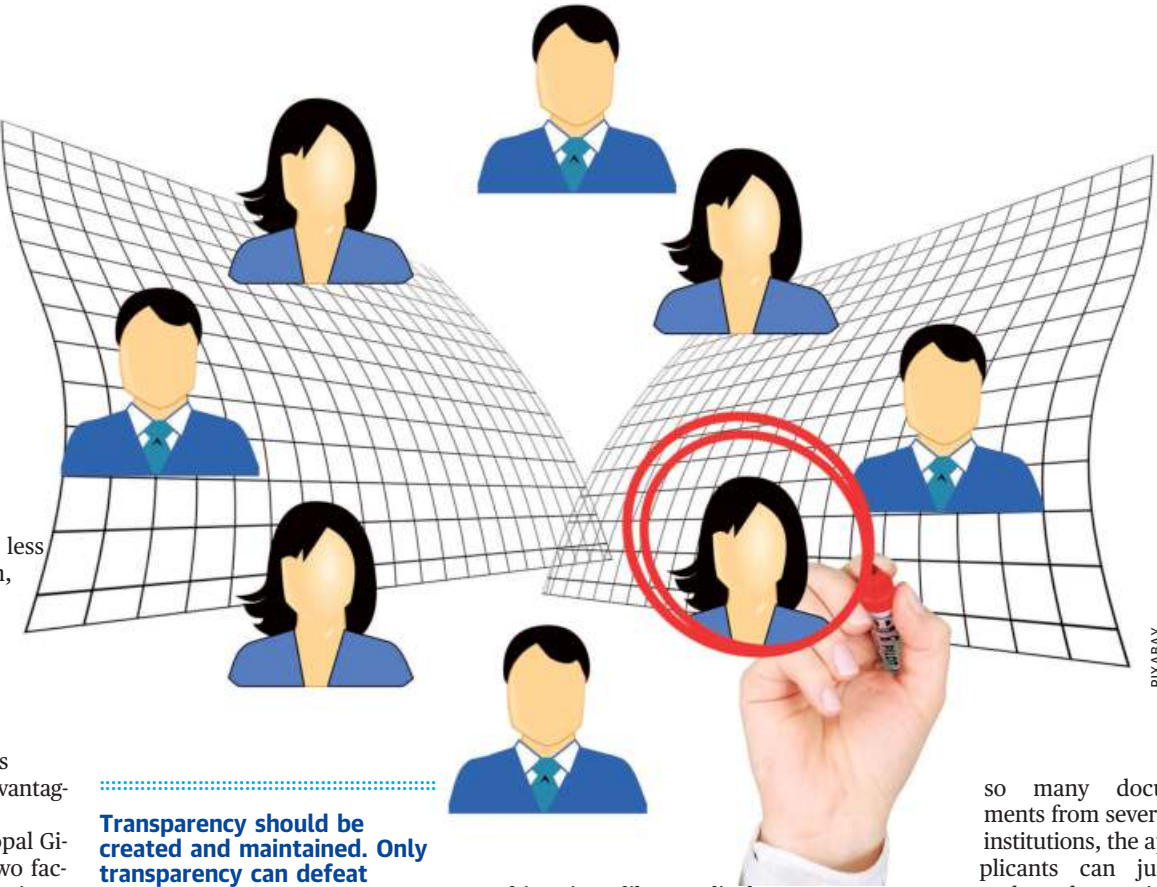
The earlier deadline of October 30 for submitting applications to the Tamil Nadu Teachers' Recruitment Board (TRB) was extended to November 15 at the request of applicants, who expressed their difficulties of going from pillar to post to collect their documents from various colleges where they served,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

Transparency should be created and maintained. Only transparency can defeat manipulation of data.

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 considered for the post advertised.

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

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

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 manipulation of data and records.

Competent, meritorious and dedicated persons should be appointed 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

Make the right connect

When creating a network, ensure that you include individuals from all backgrounds



Ps & Qs
ANUPAMA RAJU

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 source.

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

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

Credible or credulous?



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH
S. UPENDRAN

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

The word, which is mostly 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 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 Jayalakshmi, 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 other person tells him/her. He/she 'trusts' others blindly; he/she is naive or gullible.

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

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, Hyderabad. upendrankye@gmail.com

KNOWLEDGE

Q1

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



Q2

The common name for the executive wing of New Zealand's parliament building comes from the natural 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 inspired its design. What is considered to be the inspiration for its design which is also the name of the building?



Q3

During the Middle Ages, whenever people had extra income, they dropped it into pots which were made of an orange-coloured clay. Over the years, English potters received requests to shape these jars like an animal which appealed to customers and delighted children. This is said to be the origin of what?



COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

A3. Piggy Bank; the clay was called Pyggy

A2. Beehive

A1. Mauryan Empire

Answers

Plan ahead



OFF THE EDGE
NANDINI RAMAN

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, Careers360, 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 good luck.

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 motivating.

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'

ADMISSIONS

Undergraduate programmes 2020

INSTITUTION: Azim Premji 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-in-banking-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-resilience-msc-pg-certificate-pg-diploma

MSc/LLM International Relations, Law and Security

INSTITUTION: The University of

Strathclyde, Glasgow 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).

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 following schedule:-

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 & updates.

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 Jeannie* 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 stand-alone 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 welcome."

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

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 Diamond-certified 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 job."

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



■ GETTY IMAGES

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



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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 sexually-fuelled *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

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



R. V. SMITH

The Ajitgarh tower atop a lofty hill near the old Sabzi-mandi 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



CM YK



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 target 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 Jahan-gir 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 obviously 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 of Delhi

Fighting fit at 93

Nonagenarian wrestler V. K. Palani continues to be the driving force behind the 75-year-old 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 Payirichi 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,

Fit as a fiddle V. K. Palani and his students training
■ R ASHOK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



"I prefer *idlis* over *dosa* and occasionally indulge in small quantities of fish or meat, which my youngest daughter cooks" ■ V. K. PALANI

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

"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

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 'Dirty'. 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 Minaj, 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'.

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.

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
INDORE

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 Jadeja along with No. 3 Cheteshwar Pujara were the only mem-

bers 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 guess.

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: Men			
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			
Date	Match	Venue	Result
Nov. 9-12, 2017	AUS vs ENG	Sydney	Match drawn

Compiled by Ra. Anantaajith

City of Joy gears up

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

The City of Joy 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 national side.

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 Test.



Decking the walls: Artists painting the Eden Gardens to tell the story of a cricketer's journey from the *maidan* to the national side. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IPL 2020 Teams & Shopping List

With the dust settling on the trade window, a look at the dugouts after the shake-up



Chennai Super Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Mumbai Indians	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Kings XI Punjab	Delhi Capitals
Squad: Ambati Rayudu, K.M. Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Harbhajan Singh, Imran Tahir, N. Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Kedar Jadhav, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Monu Singh, M.S. Dhoni, M. Vijay, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, and Suresh Raina	Squad: Ankit Rajpoot, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Mahipal Lomror, Manan Vohra, Mayank Markande, Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag, Sanju Samson, Shashank Singh, Shreyas Gopal, Steve Smith, and Varun Aaron	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	Squad: 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	Squad: Andre Russell, Dinesh Karthik, Harry Gurney, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasad Krishna, Rinku Singh, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Siddhesh Lad, and Sunil Narine	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 Chahal	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, Mujeeb ur Rahman, M. Ashwin, Nicholas Pooran, and Sarfaraz Khan	Squad: Ajinkya Rahane, Amit Mishra, 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 (seven domestic, four overseas)	Slots left: 11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	Slots left: 11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	Slots left: 11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	Slots left: 11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	Slots left: 12 (six domestic, six overseas)	Slots left: 12 (six domestic, six overseas)	Slots left: 11 (six domestic, five overseas)
Purse remaining: ₹14.60 Cr.	Purse remaining: 28.90 Cr.	Purse remaining: ₹17 Cr.	Purse remaining: ₹13.05 Cr.	Purse remaining: ₹35.65 Cr.	Purse remaining: ₹27.90 Cr.	Purse remaining: ₹42.70 Cr.	Purse remaining: ₹27.85 Cr.

The IPL auction will be held in Kolkata on December 19

Berdych calls it a day



Tomas Berdych. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

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 2015.

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
LONDON

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, breaking in the 12th game of the opening set and in the sixth game of the second set.

Crucial double fault
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 opener 7-5.

He regrouped and settled back into his serving rhythm at the beginning of the second set but was broken again to trail 4-2.

Thiem fended off a couple of break points in the following game and served out to take the match, winning with a forehand down the line.

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



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 Rosso.

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 podium appearance.



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

The safety car was kept 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 engine problem.



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
PUNE

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 School of Tennis hard courts on Sunday.

The triumph will push the Australian to 82nd when the

rankings are released on Monday, granting him a direct entry into the main draw of his home Grand Slam in January.

Duckworth weathered a 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 shots.

When match point was 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.

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.

In doubles, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Purav Raja, the top seeds, won as expected.

Ramkumar put behind his 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
LUCKNOW

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 seven.

The scores: Afghanistan 156/8 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 79) bt West Indies 127/7 in 20 overs (Shai Hope 52, Naveen-ul-Haq 3/24); **Toss:** Afghanistan; **Man-of-the-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: Doubles (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 boys' 1500m freestyle event with a time of 16 minutes 21.58 seconds in the 65th National School Games swimming competition at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee 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 Achievers 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 goals. Mare Blitz, ridden by Chris 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 Egbal, Kunal Anand, Prajwal Dev, Suraj Prabodh, Mohit Mayur and Ansu Bhuyar – 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 Chilkalapudi, 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
NEW DELHI

Amidst so many franchise-based 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 driver.

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 e-sport 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 sport."

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, Malliksb Sirur 27, Suyash Prabhudessai 28, 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 (Aksheep Nath 30 n.o.). Target revised to 44 in seven overs, Kerala won

by 1 run via VJD method.

Tripura 69/7 in 16 overs (Aniket Choudhary 3/15) lost to Rajasthan 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 Bhambrl 39 n.o.).

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

GROUP D

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 Lal 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 Iyer 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 (Tarun Kohli 90, K.B. Pawan 72 n.o.).

GROUP E

Gujarat 128/7 in 20 overs

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 a technologically driven sport.

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
NEW DELHI

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.

Disruptive

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 him."

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 not 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.

Makhija beats Tomar to air rifle gold

Punjab University takes overall championship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

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 overall championship. Double trap gold medalist 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 Gujarat Sports 1830.7.

Skeet: 1. Sukhbir Harika 115; 2. Abinash Partap Singh 114; 3. Divyraj Singh 111. **Team:** 1. Punjabi 329; 2. Punjab 325; 3. GNDU 277.

Women: 10m air rifle:

1. Shriyanka Sadangi 628.4; 2. Nisha Kanwar 627.8; 3. Shreya Agarwal 626.4. **Team:** 1. Punjab 1867.7; 2. Rajasthan 1855.8; 3. GNDU 1854.0.

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

50m rifle prone: 1. Sunidhi Chauhan 625.2; 2. Gaayathri Nithyanandam 623.7; 3. Ayushi Podder 617.8. **Team:** 1. Bharathiar 1844.5; 2. GNDU 1844.1; 3. Punjab 1836.9.

Skeet: 1. Ganemat Sekhon 117; 2. Asees China 112; 3. Areeba Khan 112. **Team:** 1. Punjab 324; 2. Punjabi 218; 3. GNDU 191.

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 medalist 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 of 57.

Another former National champion, Manisha Keer, shot 21, 20 and 21 for the 20th spot with a total of 62.

Among the other prominent shooters, Varsha Tomar and Sushma Singh, a champion pistol shooter, 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 Sharma on 63.

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

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) 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.

1 MEDAK PLATE (1,000m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): 1. HURRICANE (Abhay Singh) 1, Ur-sula (G) (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Blazing Speed (Irvan Singh) 3 and Country'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 ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **PORTSTEWART**

(A. Imran) 1, Aintree (Akshay Kumar) 2, Coastal Cruise (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Greek Soul (Ashad Asbar) 4. Nk, 1/2 nk and 8. Im 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: S. Abbas.

3 GOLCONDA CUP (1,800m), 3-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. Sreekanth.

4 SRI SHAMLAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **ASTERIA** (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. Im 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.

5 ARISTOCRAT PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **NEWS OF 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. Im 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.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **PRINCE VALIANT** (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Galloping Gangster (Robbie Downey) 2, Flamboyant Lady (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Exclusive Blue (Ashad Asbar) 4. 2-1/2, nk and 1. Im 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.

7 GHULAM AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over (Cat. I): **PHENOMENAL CRUISE** (A.A. Vikrant) 1, 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: Isa-bella. Owners: M/s. P. Ranga Raju, K.S.N. Murthy & C. Nanda Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

8 GRACE HANOVER PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BEYOND LIMITS** (Robbie Downey) 1, Red Sniper (Akshay Kumar) 2, Handsome Duo (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Wood Bridge (Surya Prakash) 4. 3-1/2, 2, 1 and 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 Singh.

Jkt: 55,880 (six tkts), Runner up: 2,052 (70 tkts), Mini Jkt: 34,038 (one tkt), Tr (I): 2,762 (13 tkts), (II): 7,586 (3 tkts), (III): 629 (95 tkts).



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 bogey-putt 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 back-ground. This week, on the par-5s alone, this Bangalore pro was 10-under!

With an understandably-gutted Kapur, now a nine-time runner-up, staying away from the waiting mediapersons, Hyung, a three-time 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 score-boy 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, 68, 71).

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

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
PARIS

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 route.

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 major tournament since coming third at the 2014 World Cup and got what they needed in a scrappy goalless draw with Northern Ireland in Belfast.

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 place.

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

The World Cup runner-up needed just a point to ensure qualification from Group E.

In Saint Petersburg, the Hazard brothers made short work of Russia as already-qualified 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 0 drew with the Netherlands 0; Germany 4 (Ginter 41, Goretzka 49, Kroos 55, 83) bt Belarus 0.

Group E: Azerbaijan 0 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 Latvia 0.

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 53).



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
ULAAANBAATAR

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 sil-

ver 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), Sattender Singh (91kg) and Aman (+91kg).