

Fear, cold and lack of work force workers to leave Kashmir

Previously engaged in construction and fruit-picking, they find the going tough after the region lost its special status

AMIT BARUAH
NARBAL

Slowly, but steadily, migrant workers are exiting the Kashmir Valley. “*Mahaul theek nahin hai* (the environment is not good),” a bunch of workers from Uttar Pradesh say in unison outside their makeshift tents at Narbal on the outskirts of Srinagar.

More detailed conversations with the 70-odd workers on Friday morning revealed that fear, the cold, and lack of work were forcing them to return to their homes in Gorakhpur and Basti districts of Uttar Pradesh.

On the road to Handwara in north Kashmir, on the crossroads at Narbal, in a bunch of blue and white tents, men, women, and some children are huddled



Bleak times: Migrant workers in Narbal, about 15 km from Srinagar, getting ready to leave for their homes in Gorakhpur and Basti districts of Uttar Pradesh. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

together. “We are waiting for transport to take us home. We are hoping that a truck will come and pick us up this evening and take us to Jammu,” Ikram, who hails from Gorakhpur district, said. “It’s really cold and we have not been able to get any work on account of the frequent shutdowns. So, we have no option but to return

home,” Mr. Ikram added. These workers were previously engaged in construction activity and fruit-picking.

Heading home
On Friday evening, a couple of Tata Sumo vehicles were being loaded with the meagre belongings of the workers, all of them Muslims, who were headed homewards.

Without access to television, the workers seemed unaware of the killing of five migrant workers on Wednesday in Kulgam, south Kashmir, or the earlier killing of truckers, but repeatedly spoke about the general environment being bad for them.

No security personnel were stationed around the workers’ tents, though there were armed central paramilitary men deployed almost every kilometre along the 70-km drive from Srinagar to Handwara.

In Srinagar, too, there were a few migrant workers at construction sites. Ramzan, from Katihar in Bihar, said he had been living with his family for the past 15 years in Srinagar, but had fled after Kashmir’s special status was ended on August 6 by Parliament.

“I came back without my family a few days ago,” Mr. Ramzan told this reporter on Thursday while he was busy straightening an iron rod in the heart of Srinagar. Pointing to his friends, Mr. Ramzan said he was scared to return to the Valley, but the income of ₹500-600 a day was an attractive proposition.

J&K to shift political detainees during winter

34 leaders are held in Centaur Hotel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

As the winter sets in, the Jammu and Kashmir administration is looking for another accommodation to lodge 34 political detainees, currently in the Centaur Hotel here, as it lacks proper heating arrangements, officials said.

The winter chill has already started taking a toll on the health of the detainees that include National Conference, People’s Democratic Party and People’s Conference leaders and prominent social activists, as well as the security personnel guarding them.

They have been lodged at the hotel on the bank of the Dal Lake since August 5 when the Central government announced its decision to dilute Article 370 of the Constitution and split the State into two Union Territories.

According to the officials privy to the development, Centaur Hotel, owned by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), has submitted a bill of ₹2.65 crore to the Home Department for 90 days of boarding and lodging of the detainees.

The administration has, however, rejected the claims of Centaur Hotel, and argued that the facility was converted into a subsidiary jail on August 5 and therefore, only the government rates would be paid.

The rates sanctioned by the administration would be around ₹800 per day as against ₹5,000 charged by the hotel, the officials said.

The officials said steps would be taken soon to shift the detainees.

CII backs signing of RCEP, but farmers are against it

Ryots will stage protests across the country today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Even as farmers across the country are all set to hold protests on Monday against India joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), one of India’s largest industry bodies, has said there are a number of benefits the country will get from the RCEP, including being part of a much larger supply chain and being able to increase its exports.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is now in Bangkok, will make clear India’s stance on Monday on whether it will join the RCEP or not.

“Trade within RCEP nations is expected to increase once the agreement is signed,” the CII said in a report. “By being part of the block, India will get an opportunity to tap large and vibrant economies and increase its exports. Not being part of the block is tantamount to not having an even footing in terms of preferential access and losing export competitiveness. This will only harm India’s export and investment flow in the future.”

The report finds fault with RCEP opponents, saying that they focused too much on the harm that could arise out of a trade deal involving China and not enough on the opportunities for India.

Focus shifted
“Indian industry raised the alarm over RCEP without factoring into account the cost of not being part of



Echoes of a deal: The police detaining Youth Congress activists protesting against the RCEP in New Delhi. ■ PTI

RCEP,” it said. “Indian industry never looked towards RCEP as an opportunity to gain additional market access and to get integrated into a robust regional value chain.”

“Since 2012, the year in which RCEP negotiations were launched, this never became part of discourse – neither between industry and government nor among the industry members,” it added. “The entire narrative and consultations in India remained focused on defensive interests and protection against China.”

So far, the perception has been that India’s importance in trade arises out of its large market. However, the CII pointed out that as the RCEP progresses and favourable tariffs and Rules of Origin (ROOs) kick in, India could become a major hub for coordinating regional value chains through itself. That is, it could serve not only as a major market for final mar-

kets but also as a base for third-country exports, primarily to West Asia, Africa and Europe.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), a coalition of over 250 farmer organisations in the country, and representing about 10 lakh farmers, said that it would be organising a protest on Monday against India’s potential inclusion in RCEP and its detrimental effect on the domestic agriculture sector.

So far, Indian authorities, including Mr. Modi, have been ambiguous about India’s future regarding the trade grouping.

In an interview to the *Bangkok Post* newspaper, Mr. Modi said that while India was committed to a “balanced outcome” from the RCEP negotiations, it had to keep its interests and the various trade deficits it had with the other member countries in mind while negotiating.

New Indian demands may stall RCEP deal

PM makes no mention of signing the pact at leaders’ meet

REUTERS
BANGKOK

Leaders from China and Southeast Asian states called for swift agreement on what could become the world’s largest trade bloc at a regional summit on Sunday, but new demands from India left officials scrambling to salvage progress.

Hopes of finalising the Asia-wide Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which is backed by China, have been thrown into doubt at the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bangkok, Thailand.



Linked by ties: Narendra Modi flanked by Singapore and Thailand PMs Lee Hsien Loong, left, and Prayuth Chan-ocha. ■ AP

Summit host Thailand said late on Sunday that the deal could be signed by February 2020.

Thailand had previously said it aimed to conclude negotiations by the end of the year.

But Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not even mention the RCEP deal in opening remarks at a meeting with Southeast Asian leaders.

A Foreign Ministry official later told a media briefing “Let’s take all the RCEP questions tomorrow.”

A person with knowledge of New Delhi’s negotiations said new demands made last week “are difficult to meet.”

Committed to improving tax regime, says PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
BANGKOK/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the NDA government is committed to improving the tax regime in the country.

Speaking at the Aditya Birla Group Golden Jubilee celebrations, Mr. Modi said, “We are committed to further improving it [tax regime]. We are now starting faceless tax assessment so that there is no scope for discretion or harassment”.

The Prime Minister also praised key decisions of the government such as cut in the corporate tax rates, GST etc. “Our GST has fulfilled

the dream of economic integration of India. We want to work towards making it even more people friendly. All of what I have said just now makes India one of the world’s most attractive economies for investment,” Mr. Modi added.

“Ease of Doing Business is rising and so is ‘Ease of Living.’ FDI is rising. Our Forest Cover is rising. The number of patents and trademarks are rising. Productivity and efficiency are rising...,” he said.

On the tax regime, he further said that the number of taxes and tax rates are falling in the country.

Ayodhya: Muslim leaders urge restraint

Resolution appeals for ‘patience’ ahead of SC verdict on the disputed site

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Supreme Court verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute, prominent Muslim organisations met to appeal for peace and harmony irrespective of the outcome of the judgment.

The meeting was initiated by Navaid Hamid, President of the All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat.

‘Avoid provocation’
A resolution passed at the end of the meeting appealed that whatever the situation, it should be faced with “patience and endurance”, and called upon people to “avoid any kind of provocation and incitement and also stick to



Wajahat Habibullah

peace and optimism whatever be the circumstances”.

The participants at the meeting included president of the Jamiat Ulama Hind

Maulana Arshad Madani; President of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Er. Sadatullah Hussaini; president of the All India Jamiat-e Ahle Hadith Maulana Asghar Imam Mehdi Salafi; president of the All India Mashaikh Board Maulana Ashraf Kichauchi; president of the Indian National League Mohammad Sulaiman; former Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities Wajahat Habibullah; former Chairman of the Linguistic Commission of India Akhtarul Wasay’ and parliamentarians Jawed and Imran Hasan; and Imam Mohsin Taqvi.

Mr. Madani said he was hopeful that the outcome would be in favour of the Ba-

bri Masjid. “Even if the verdict is not in favour of Babri Masjid, it needs to be respected in any case. We appeal to both Hindus and Muslims to maintain peace and harmony. It’s essential that passions are not incited and that the court’s orders are respected,” Mr. Madani told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Habibullah said while effort to end communalism would continue, under no circumstances should there be any recourse to violence. “This also means no mass protests which could invite reaction. We appeal everyone to confine themselves to constitutional and legal means to remedy the situation,” he said.

Pak. rejects new map issued by India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government on Sunday rejected the latest political maps issued by India, which showed the entire Kashmir region as its part, calling them “incorrect and legally untenable”.

On the maps, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while Gilgit-Baltistan is in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

“Pakistan rejects these political maps, which are incompatible with the United Nations’ maps,” the Foreign Office said in a statement.

India, Uzbekistan ink three defence deals

MoUs seek to enhance cooperation in military medicine, education and training

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and Uzbekistan on Sunday signed three memorandums of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in military medicine and military education during the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

This was the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Uzbekistan in about 15 years, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Line of credit
Mr. Singh held bilateral consultations with his Uzbekistan counterpart, Major General Bakhodir Nizamovich Kurbanov, after which they jointly presided over the curtain raiser of the first India-Uzbekistan Joint Exercise, “Dustlik 2019”.

“India has offered a concessional line of credit of \$40 million for procurement of goods and services by Uzbekistan from India. The direct



Uzbek honour: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspecting a guard of honour in Tashkent on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

exchanges related to training, capacity building and education between the armed forces on both sides has also witnessed a significant upswing,” the statement said.

High-level meetings
The bilateral exercise will be conducted from November 4 to 13 at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent and will

Working Group on Defence Cooperation in February 2019, visit of the Defence Secretary of India in March 2019 and the first defence-industry Workshop organised in Tashkent in September 2019,” the statement pointed out.

Apart from the MoU on military medicine, two institution-to-institution MoUs on training and capacity building between institutes of higher military learning of the two countries were also signed.

“The MoU is a byproduct of interactions emanating from the MoU on military education signed between the two countries in October 2018,” the statement said.

The two Ministers also witnessed the first-ever exchange over a video-link between the College of Defence Management in Secunderabad and the Armed Forces Academy of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, it added.



Khamenei rules out talks with U.S.
TEHRAN
Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday again ruled out negotiations with Washington, a day before the 40th anniversary of the hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. AFP

IS claims responsibility for Mali attacks
BAMAKO
The Islamic State (IS) on Saturday claimed responsibility for a devastating raid that killed 49 Malian troops as well as a blast that led to the death of a French soldier. Friday's assault on a Malian military outpost at Indelimane in the eastern Menaka region near Niger killed 49 soldiers. AFP

Spain's far-right party could double its tally
MADRID
Spain's far-right Vox party could nearly double its number of parliamentary seats in next weekend's general election, according to an opinion poll published on Sunday. While the Socialist Party looks set to see its number of seats slip to 121 from 123 last time round, Vox will see tally jump to 46 from 24, said the poll. AFP

Court grants bail to Nobel winner Yunus
DHAKA
A court in Dhaka granted bail on Sunday to microcredit pioneer and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus over the firing of three employees by Grameen Communications. The three employees filed the cases in July, saying they were terminated illegally after seeking to form a trade union. Mr. Yunus has faced several investigations by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. AP

Sri Lanka election panel chief withdraws TV censorship order

He had banned political programmes on state channel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO
Sri Lanka's Election Commission chief on Sunday backed down from plans to censor a state-owned TV station following criticism that his actions were supporting the main Opposition candidate at this month's presidential polls.

In a surprise move, Commission chairman Mahinda Deshapriya had banned any political programming on the Independent Television Network (ITN) after accusing the channel of harming the campaign of frontrunner Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

"After considering many representations by several parties that my order was

Protests at Hong Kong's upmarket mall turn violent

Several demonstrators suffer injuries after face-to-face conflict with city police

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong anti-government protesters crowded an up-market shopping mall in running clashes with police on Sunday, with several suffering bloody wounds a day after parts of the Chinese-ruled city became a battleground.

A human chain in Cityplaza, in the eastern suburb of Taikoo Shing, turned into a bloody face-to-face conflict with police, running up and down escalators where families with young children had been window shopping just minutes before and watching skating on the ice rink.

Restaurant vandalised
Police said protesters had vandalised a restaurant after a peaceful chanting of slogans. Several people were wounded, one man in a white tee-shirt being beaten



Riot act: Policemen arresting a protester inside the City Plaza mall in the Tai Koo Shing area in Hong Kong on Sunday. AFP

with sticks by protesters. Another man lay in a pool of blood on the pavement. Media reports said a knifeman had attacked four people. Broadcaster RTHK said Democratic district Councillor Andrew Chiu was among the wounded and that part of his ear had been bitten off.

It was not immediately possible to verify the reports.

Police made several arrests as protesters shouted "black police!", a reference to their perceived brutality. Police fired pepper spray at reporters when they got too close. One journalist was ar-

rested. There were also scuffles, confrontations and vandalism in malls in the New Territories towns of Tai Po, Tuen Mun and Sha Tin, where police fired pepper spray as protesters hurled abuse. Pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, which Britain returned to Chinese rule in 1997, battled police across the main island on Saturday, furious at Communist Party leaders in Beijing and perceived Chinese meddling with Hong Kong's freedoms, which China denies.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam will fly to China this week to discuss how to make it easier for Hong Kong people to live and work on the mainland, her office said on Sunday. Ms. Lam will arrive in Beijing on Tuesday for a meeting the next day of the "leading group" for developing the Greater Bay Area of southern China.

Ukraine, not Russia behind DNC hack, claimed Manafort

Kiev entered Democratic Party servers and planted evidence to frame Moscow, believed Trump aide



Not my President: A protest against U.S. President Donald Trump in New York on Saturday. AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Documents released by the U.S. Department of Justice on Saturday indicated that a top adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump said as early as the summer of 2016 that Ukraine, not Russia, was behind a hack of Democratic party emails.

Mr. Trump and his surrogates have suggested that Kiev hacked Democratic National Committee (DNC) servers and planted evidence to frame Russia, as a way of undermining the legitimacy of

the U.S. leader's election.

Mr. Trump has pressured Ukraine's President to investigate that debunked conspiracy theory as well as his election rival Joe Biden — a move at the crux of an impeachment investigation against him in the House of Representatives.

The hundreds of pages of documents out on Saturday were part of an initial tranche released to U.S. media outlets Buzzfeed and CNN, which sued the government for access to notes from the investigation con-

In world's biggest listing, Saudi Aramco to float IPO

This is part of Riyadh's plan to diversify its economy

REUTERS
DHAHRAN

Saudi Arabia's giant state oil company finally kick-started its initial public offering (IPO) on Sunday. It announced its intention to float on the domestic bourse in what could be the world's biggest listing as the kingdom seeks to diversify its economy away from oil.

But in its long-awaited announcement, Aramco, the world's most profitable company, offered few specifics on the number of shares to be sold, pricing or the date for a launch.

Lower valuation
Bankers have told the Saudi government that investors will likely value the company at around \$1.5 trillion, below the \$2 trillion valuation touted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman when he first floated the idea of an IPO nearly four years ago.



Aramco also did not mention what measures it has taken to beef up security following unprecedented attacks on its oil plants in September.

Sources have said the oil company could offer 1%-2% of its shares on the local bourse, raising as much as \$20 billion-\$40 billion. A deal over \$25 billion would top the record-breaking one of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba in 2014.

"Today is the right opportunity for new investors to reap the benefits of Aram-

co's ability to achieve value, and boost it on the long-term," Aramco Chairman Yasir al-Rumayyan told a news conference at the company's headquarters in the eastern city of Dhahran. The company will spend the next 10 days talking to investors and sounding out their interest and the price range will follow, he said.

The IPO is designed to turbo-charge Prince Mohammed's ambitious economic reform agenda by raising billions to build non-energy industries and diversify revenue streams. Mr. Rumayyan said a decision on an international listing for Aramco shares will be made in the future, without giving a time frame or venue for the overseas listing.

Aramco accounted for about one in every eight barrels of crude oil produced globally from 2016 to 2018, it said on Sunday.

Judge blocks Trump's insurance proclamation

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

A federal judge in Oregon on Saturday temporarily blocked a Trump administration proclamation that would have required prospective immigrants to prove they would have U.S. health insurance within 30 days of their arrival or enough money to pay for "reasonably foreseeable medical costs."

Judge Michael Simon in U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon, granted a 28-day temporary restraining order that prevents the rule

from taking effect on November 3. The legal challenge against it will continue. In an order, Judge Simon said the potential damage to would-be immigrants and their families justified a nationwide block.

Facing a likely risk of being separated from their family members and a delay in obtaining a visa to which family members would otherwise be entitled is irreparable harm, he wrote. Seven U.S. citizens and an advocacy organisation had filed a lawsuit to block the rule.

Airbnb bans 'party houses' after deadly Halloween shooting

5 people were killed in the California incident last week

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Airbnb's boss announced on Saturday that the online platform, which offers private homes for rent for short periods, is banning "party houses" after a deadly shooting at a Halloween event in California.

Five people were killed and others wounded in a Thursday night shooting in Orinda, California, in a house that had been rented on Airbnb.

"Starting today, we are banning 'party houses' and we are redoubling our efforts to combat unauthorised parties and get rid of abusive host and guest conduct, including conduct that



Brian Chesky, CEO and co-founder of Airbnb. REUTERS

leads to the terrible events we saw in Orinda," Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky said on Twitter. To do this, Airbnb will increase "manual screening of high-risk reservations flagged by our risk detection technolo-

gy," create a "dedicated 'party house' rapid response team," and take "immediate action" against those who violate guest policies, Mr. Chesky wrote.

Michael Wang, the owner of the home where the shooting took place, told *The San Francisco Chronicle* that he rented his house to a woman who said she was organising a family reunion for a dozen people.

The sheriff's department said they were responding to a noise complaint at the house around the time the shooting was reported. Three people died at the scene, while two more passed away after being hospitalised, police said.

'Whistleblower must come forward'

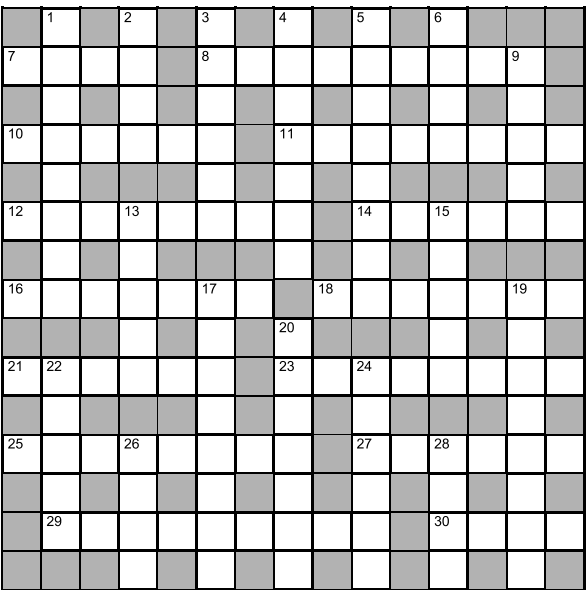
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump called on Sunday for the unmasking of the whistleblower whose complaint launched the House impeachment investigation against the U.S. President. This comes amid an intensifying effort by Republican lawmakers to attack the credibility of the whistleblower.

Described only as an intelligence official who once worked at the White House, the whistleblower was the first to raise concerns about Mr. Trump's attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden. "The Whistleblower got it so wrong that HE must come forward," Mr. Trump said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12771

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ACROSS

- 7 Don't eat quickly (4)
- 8 Rod's fantastic mind-game (9)
- 10 Prohibit a North American fruit (6)
- 11 Fifty one in area get faith (8)
- 12 Medical treatment arranged daily by sister (8)

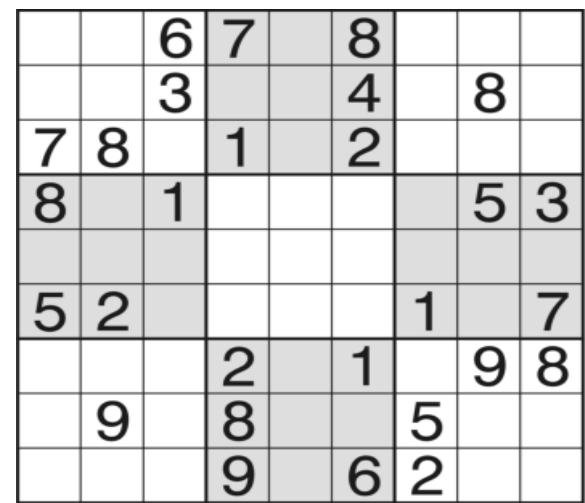
DOWN

- 1 A strike in large town? That's a disaster! (8)
- 2 Sicilian mountain's European insect returned (4)
- 3 So, a tub can be made into a submarine (1-5)
- 4 Speech for No.10, Downing Street, perhaps (7)

(set by Incognito)

- 14 Initially, athletic persons held copper showing keen insight (6)
- 16 Heartless boy with another heartless boy finally (2,3,2)
- 18 Ceased wandering around Portugal and fled (7)
- 21 "Fruit" by King is more unseemly (6)
- 23 Veteran's grandfather clock (3-5)
- 25 For example, sun-fish and bird (8)
- 27 Tear out packet and eat like a bird (4,2)
- 29 Leader's gift? Hides papers! (9)
- 30 Again, dyke protects Indiana Jones (4)
- 5 Girl goes ahead, I hear, and gives wrong information (8)
- 6 Only men allowed to return guns (4)
- 9 Ring is fixed in the middle of hooter — it can be used for hanging (5)
- 13 Spring endlessly with Indian dress (5)
- 15 Half plum held by French friend produces a savoury taste (5)
- 17 Iris' bust is broken leading to a painful condition (8)
- 19 Esmeralda endlessly creates gems (8)
- 20 Hybrid ass left lemon-grass strewn (7)
- 22 Arise and dress (3,2)
- 24 Second-in-command Levy's carrying a record (6)
- 26 Regrets ruse going awry (4)
- 28 Cocaine, to some extent, is a killer (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12770								
C	L	P	I	E	B	S		
S	A	K	I	R	E	S	I	S
T	N	E	I	T	F	A		
A	B	A	C	S	P	I	T	F
U	H	T		M	L			
T	R	A	P	D	O	O	R	A
G	I		A	T		I		
C	L	A	N		P	R	I	D
A		U	L		L	E		
T	R	A	C	E	R		S	T
V	A	L	L	E	T		A	G
L	I	A	X	U	R	V		
S								
M	H	S	S	H	E	L		

FAITH

Bhishma, warrior & devotee

Bhishma as the commander in chief of the Kaurava army is a warrior par excellence who is committed to dharma, duty and righteousness and he treads the limits of these sensitive issues with remarkable insight. But he scores as a devotee par excellence as well and this is revealed in his famous hymn Bhishma Stuti that he offers to Krishna on seeing Him in person during his dying moments, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse.

Overwhelmed on seeing Krishna, Bhishma recalls the war and of his fight with Arjuna and Krishna on the second day and confesses how he had rained the most powerful arrows incessantly on them. Krishna knew only too well of Bhishma's intent which was to make Him take up arms so that his pledge would be fulfilled. So, under the pretext of shielding Arjuna from danger, He had descended from the chariot, and, holding the Sudarshana chakra in His hand, He had rushed at Bhishma. Notwithstanding the upper garment that had slipped from His body, with His chest pierced with arrows and flowing with blood, with sweat and dust all over His body and his forehead covered by lovely locks of hair, with strides carrying tremors, He had rushed towards Bhishma like a lion attacking an elephant. None but the Lord could be so magnanimous towards His devotee, says Bhishma with heartfelt emotions.

For, the Lord knew that it was Bhishma's Kshatriya dharma to confront Him in battle and graciously had accepted it as his prayer. He also knew that Bhishma had meditated only on Krishna Nama when he aimed the powerful astras and accepted these as flowers offered in worship. Bhishma fought with the sole desire to be granted entry into Vaikunta which could happen only with God's grace.

GOING GIG

The trend of micro tasks is gaining popularity among students looking for different career options, make money, and build their portfolio

NISHA RAMCHANDANI

Deepika* is a final-year engineering student in Ahmedabad. Recently, her friend suggested that she takes up micro gigs for extra pocket money. It was then they discovered, Frapp.in, a platform offering new work opportunities and micro-gigs for students. Since then, Deepika and her friends are hooked – most gigs or tasks on the platform are digital marketing based and Deepika and her friend earn anywhere from ₹500 to ₹5,000 a day. Deepika tells me that going-gig is cool and many students in her class have taken up such tasks.

Bengaluru-based career guidance firm, Lodestar, is seeing an increase in the number of youngsters going gig. As per their estimates, this number currently stands at 10-15% (of

urban college-goers).

Micro tasks

The word 'gig' is a slang word meaning 'a job for a specified period of time'. While multi-tasking or taking up multiple tasks to supplement an income is not new, going 'gig' is definitely the new cool, especially among students. According to Murlidhar S., Founder and CEO of Lodestar, "Their motivations are freedom to pursue a career of choice and flexibility of time. Also, the ability to focus on work related to their passion and not get stuck in a job where work content is driven by the company."

An example of a micro task is when a large FMCG brand pays a student to create content and promote a brand campaign. This task can fetch the 'content-creator' up to ₹5,000 per post.

Sources

There are several new-age platforms/ apps that students can download on their smartphone; they include Frapp.in, FeedMyPockets and GigIndia among others. "A majority of our taskers are from the 18-24 age group, mostly students. These students complete a variety of tasks on the platform across marketing, operations

While multi-tasking or taking up multiple tasks to supplement an income is not new, going 'gig' is definitely the new cool.

and research for different brands," says Niranjan Nakhate, co-founder of Frapp.in.

Adds Nakhate, "The additional money earned by stu-

dents is used in making aspirational purchases whether they are branded shoes or a coffee at Starbucks. Some also use it to supplement the family income."

Value add

"As a career guidance company our mantra is 'follow your passion' and your 'Passion is your Paycheck'. Given this, we

strongly encourage youngsters to discover themselves and find the work that they would love to do. The nature of the assignment – whether a traditional job or gig, does not matter," says Murlidhar. He further adds, "If you like ethical hacking and can focus on developing your skill/expertise in that, so be it, take up gigs that help enhance your expertise."

According to Nakhate, "We have noticed that students who are pursuing a particular professional skill such as coding or design not only earn more but get a chance to work on real-time projects by large technology companies they would not earlier have had access to. That is a value add as it already builds their portfolio and helps them land a better job."

Companies such as Bounce, Flipkart, Amazon and Samsung among many others, have multiple gig openings all year round.

The last word

Rishabh*, a student from a leading Mumbai arts college says, "I take up multiple gig tasks as they provide me with flexibility and career options. I am able to follow my passion and work for a company I want to, for a duration I am comfortable with."

Another student from Mumbai could not land an internship for six months. Finally, she landed gigs with Samsung, Sony Music, Fastrack to create content – she has created multiple music videos, dance videos, fitness videos and has even got free phones from Samsung – that has inspired her juniors to go gig too.

Parents are also open to the idea of their kids going gig, as it makes them proud that their kids are following their passion and earning from it too.

*Names changed on request.

The writer writes on the Future of Work. She leads outreach at Axilor. Nisha@axilor.com



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

IN BRIEF

Super computer Lab

Mahindra Ecole Centrale (MEC), in Hyderabad has launched a Supercomputer Lab. The lab supports high intensity computations, both for Artificial Intelligence applications and complex simulations in physical sciences and engineering. The laboratory is home to two of MEC's Centers of Excellence: Artificial Intelligence and 3D-Experience. At the core of this is massive computing power, enabled by the DGX-1 Supercomputer, multiple powerful servers, and a set of 30 workstations, all interconnected through an extremely fast data communication network.

Ticket to Harvard

Singapore-based Skillizen Learning Foundation is conducting a life skills Olympiad for school students on December 14 and 15. Students from Classes III to XII can pay ₹490 and register for this before November 30. Interested students and/or parents can register directly, without having to enrol in the school. This Olympiad gives participants an opportunity to make decisions about real-life situations by applying essential life skills. Winners will get an opportunity to visit Harvard University and the runners-up will receive iPads and Kindles as prizes. Registration is open online at www.lifeskillsolympiad.org.

English through songs

Have you ever wondered what other resources you can use to improve your English skills than reading newspapers and watching the news? These are great ways to learning the language and one of them is learning English through songs. Surprised? Yes, you should be, as music is a unique way of learning the language.

Quite a lot of lyrics talk about the local culture, introduce you to different accents as English is not spoken in one particular manner the world over, as well as slang used by native speakers to communicate in an informal way. You can also learn pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. Songs are catchy and stay in your head for days together.

Teachers at British Council, use songs to help children learn English in an entertaining and interesting manner. Check out their course options at www.britishcouncil.in

REFLECTIONS

Cherish diversity

Cultivating friendships across cultural groups can reduce prejudice

CHINTAN GIRISH MODI



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

I was raised in a Jain family, but my parents sent me to a school where I met Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. I was never forbidden from making friends with people of other faiths, and I am grateful for that because I learnt to cherish diversity from a young age. My years at college and university broadened my exposure to traditions that were not part of my own community. Have you had similar experiences in the educational institutions you have studied at?

Earlier this month, a non-profit organisation called Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), which is based in the U.S., published a report titled *Friendships Matter: The role of peer relationships in interfaith learning and development*. Its findings could have significant implications for us in India as well. It states, "Few other sources of influence make a greater impact on college students than their peers. Engaging a diverse peer group cultivates students' understanding and appreciation of other cultures and reduces prejudice."

My curiosity, over the years, has led me to books, shrines, talks and meditation retreats. Today, my spiritual practice is grounded in Budd-

Life would have been bereft of beauty without friends who created learning opportunities for me by sharing their culture

hist teachings, but I stay open to inspiration from Sufi and Bhakti poetry, Wiccan ritual, Jewish mysticism, and feminist wisdom. The last one might be a surprise for some, but for me, spirituality is deeply connected to social justice.

Unity in diversity

The IFYC report suggests that close friendships across cultural differences can reduce prejudice because "such relationships involve deep emotional investment and sustained interactions between the friends, over time." My life would have been bereft of beauty without friends who created learning opportunities for me by sharing their culture. What I have gained from tagging along to a gurudwara for *langar*, joining them for an evening of *qawwali* at a dargah, and participating in Durga Puja at a makeshift *pandal*, is a tremendous respect for pluralism which lies at the heart of Indian society.

Our ability to live in harmony is now under attack from divisive forces such as vote-bank politics, religious extremism and sensational media. This is a trend that is being observed in several parts of the world. The Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand, the Easter Sunday bombings at churches in Sri Lanka, the militant attacks on Hazaras at a Ramadan procession in Balochistan, the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting in U.S., and the bomb attack on a mosque in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, are all recent examples of times wherein places of prayer became sites of murder and mourning.

This is terrifying. What can you do to quell this epidemic of hate? You can study, eat, socialise and make friends with people of other faiths. You can familiarise yourself with their values and belief systems. You can speak up in solidarity with people whose voices are muzzled. You can commit to navigating troubled waters through dialogue, instead of choosing violence.

The writer is a researcher who works at the intersection of peace education, gender equality and queer rights.

VOICES

Confidence is the key

The personal interview, during placements, is a crucial step which decides if a student makes the cut. Experts and students weigh in

NEHA RUPEJA



UJAS SHAH, GRADUATE 2019, MEGHNAD DESAI ACADEMY OF ECONOMICS, MUMBAI

The personal interview is the final stage in the recruitment process. To perform well, one must stay abreast of global economic and political events, as these are conversation starters. You should also know your CV inside out – expect questions on your work experience, projects you may have worked on, interests, and skills, among other things. Understand your strengths, weaknesses and what you bring to the table for the company. Research about the company you are applying for as it sends a message about how serious you are about your candidature.



SANDEEP BHARDWAJ, DEAN, ACADEMICS, VESIM B-SCHOOL, MUMBAI

The first impression is the last impression, thus, students ought to be well dressed and well-groomed. A shabby look is a recipe for disaster as it conveys an indifferent attitude. Candidates should be polite and affable, but not seemingly desperate. He/she must be thorough with the details of the recruiting company.

This shows his/her interest and curiosity. Finally, the goal of the interview must be to understand roles, responsibilities and future prospects, and not to bargain for higher salary.



VISHIKA RANAWAT, B.SC IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING MANAGEMENT, DR. AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT CHANDIGARH

When it comes to the hospitality industry, one must conduct oneself with utmost professionalism. Candidates must be fluent in English and general communication skills. Technical knowledge of related fields, as well as general awareness about hotels is important.

Industry professionals are not looking for associates but managers who have entrepreneurial skills. Confidence is the key to handling various situations that take place in the interview room.



ASIT K. BARMA, PROFESSOR, MARKETING, IFIM BUSINESS SCHOOL, BENGALURU

First, your resume should have an elevating pitch. All your communication during the interview, your experiences and your subjects should collectively establish the story.

Go through the job description thoroughly. Visualise the candidate profile that the role warrants, and explore how you fit into it.

Know the company well – its business, customers, competitors, and positioning – and think of an idea that can improve the company's business performance. Keep it conversational.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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THINK MARKETING. THINK MICA.

One has to introspect to find inner strength



Every one of us faces a constant issue: how to make the most of life. There is no easy answer. No tried and tested formula of solutions and explanations because everyone's situation in life is unique and each of us is a package of very complex intuitions, reflexes and responses. The art of living is the most difficult of all the arts. And the art of ethical living an even more refined play in life. Many things that make perfect sense in our get-up-and-grab-it environment will not suit the person who runs along ethical lines knowing that lasting satisfaction and achievement can come only by that route.

How shall we keep those batteries charged?

Timeless teachings
I came across a word last month – insourcing. We have all heard of outsourcing responsibilities and work. What about the reverse? And the idea of strengthening oneself? Though it is true that luck plays a role in life, we can try to direct our lives by not only thinking strongly enough about what we know we can do, and need to do,



Have you tried insourcing?

but by also acting on it. There may be many obstacles and walls but the point is to think carefully and repeatedly about how to drill through or jump over them. Find the sources for quiet determination and perseverance within yourself. When you are faced with reversals or disappointments, in-source for strength of mind.

What is stopping you? Is it a person? Is it lack of money? Lack of time perhaps? A qualification? Most things can be managed if you assess your situation and skills realistically. No use thinking you

want to play Wimbledon if you have never hit the tennis court, right? So remember that meditating on your situation in life is not the same as day-dreaming. You have to take steps to be what you want to become.

I thought I could share some metaphors that might help my readers. Both are from timeless teachings. The first is “learn to be like a rock” when people say things about you and against you. But when you speak, let your words be no more painful than the touch of a falling flower. Another

other image is much grander and comes couched in both an appeal and a strong suggestion. Consider the lion! What are the four features of the lion that we might draw inspiration from? The lion knows no fear. Though he is alone the lion never feels lonely. He never feels trapped. He never feels weak and helpless. So, raise your head, and look no further than yourself.

Insource!

The writer is Series Editor, Living in Harmony, (Oxford University Press).
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KNOWLEDGE

Q1

In 2013, the Howrah Bridge faced a form of erosion due to hygiene and pollution-related problem that has plagued most of India. This form of pollution has led to acidic red and brown coloured stains at the base of the pillars, due to which the pillars started to corrode. The city authorities had to paint them and use fibreglass to prevent the damages from becoming dangerous. What was the cause of this structural damage?

Q2

About 1,300 years ago, the Pallava kings had strategic trade connections with a few south-east Asian countries. They sought the help of Chinese emperors to fight back Arab and Tibetan intrusions in South Asia. The Descent of the Ganga/Arjuna's Penance, a rock carving commissioned by the Pallavas, depicts the flow of Bhagirathi from the Himalayas. It is considered to serve as a reminder of India-China relations in sharing resources. Supposedly, these are the reasons for choosing which UNESCO World Heritage Site in South India as the venue for Sino-/Indian diplomatic talks in October 2019?

Q3

Mark Waugh was one of the most graceful batsmen to play cricket. He is also the twin brother of Australian cricketer Steve Waugh. Though his career started strong, he ran into trouble in Sri Lanka. He scored four ducks or zeroes in a row. This poor run of form earned him the nickname “____”. What was this sobriquet that they gave him, that shares its name with a German automobile brand?

WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

Answers

A1. Paan Spitting
A2. Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram
A3. Audi!

Don't knuckle under pressure



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH
S. UPENDRAN

“What’s the matter with you? You look really angry about something.”
“It’s Sujatha again! As usual, she irritated me so much that I just had to...”
“Stay away from her for a while. She’s always pushing your buttons.”
“Pushing my buttons? What are you talking about? I am wearing a T-shirt.”
“Yes, I can see that. The informal expression ‘push someone’s buttons’ mostly means to say or do something to irritate someone. This is just one of the meanings.”
“I see. So when you push someone’s buttons, you’re doing it deliberately. You want the person to get irritated. You’re just being mean.”
“I guess you could say that. Your aim is to get the person upset or angry.”
“I know! How about this example? Geetha’s husband knew how to push her buttons.”
“Sounds good. He knew what would upset her. It’s also possible to say, ‘press someone’s buttons’. I’ve been doing a lot of deep breathing. My new boss has been pressing my buttons all morning.”
“Maybe I should start doing the same thing when I’m with Sujatha. Better still, maybe I should just stop meeting her. The next time she calls...”

Giving in
“Knowing you, you’ll go and meet her. When it comes to Sujatha, you always knuckle under.”

“Knuckle under? What does it mean? Does it mean to give up?”
“It means to give up power or control. In other words, you do what the other person tells you to. You unwillingly accept their authority. For example, the administration knuckled under to all the demands of the students.”
“My father was under a great deal of pressure to sign the deal. But instead of knuckling under, he submitted his resignation.”
“That’s a good example. He probably didn’t want to knuckle under to a bunch of thugs.”
“That’s probably one of the reasons. I guess he also felt that if he signed, his friends would have no regards for him. And also, he’d...”
“They would have no regard for him – not regards for him.”
“Are you sure? I’ve always heard people say...”
“If you’re talking about the respect you have for someone, then the expression that’s used is ‘regard for’ and not ‘regards for’.”
“I see. I have the highest regard for people who go out of their way to help others.”
“Sheila has always held her aunt in high regard.”
“The Minister keeps saying that he has the highest regard for other people’s opinions. I don’t think that’s true.”
“You know what they say. Never trust a politician.”

I didn't mean to push all your buttons. I was looking for the mute button. Anonymous

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Develop a factful mindset



THINK
ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

Examine problems from multiple lenses to get a holistic picture

Last month, I discussed four strategies for promoting “factfulness” so that we make reasoned judgements. To mitigate against the sway of false propaganda and fake news, we can further expand our cognitive toolkit.

In their book, *Factfulness*, Hans, Ola and Anna Rosling caution us that fear and facts don’t abide together. Our “fear instinct” is duly exploited by traditional and social media. For example, in 2016, 10 planes crashed and were reported by press, the world over. However, the media doesn’t state that these were 10 of 40 million flights that landed without incident that year. In fact, 2016 was the “second safest year in aviation history.” But, alas, that doesn’t get reported. So, when you are not in any immediate danger but your alarm bells chime, don’t blindly submit to your fears.



Assess your risks when you are calmer.

Be wary of numbers, big or small, presented in isolation. Ask for baselines so that you have something to compare the figures with. Amounts and rates can “tell different stories.” As a rule of thumb, comparing rates may be wiser, especially with groups of varying sizes.

Clarity, a must
We also have a penchant for drawing generalisations. The Roslings advocate that you “look for differences within and similarities across groups” as the categories we draw in the first place may be faulty. Further, when we hear the term majority, we assume it implies “most people.” But statistically, majority could range from 51% to 99% of the group. Actual percentages provide more clarity.

The “destiny instinct,” compels us to assume that “innate characteristics” determine the future of people and countries alike. This belief is akin to what psychologist Carol Dweck calls a “fixed mindset,” that doesn’t allow for individuals, groups, cultures or countries to change in substantial ways. Many people believe that women from certain religious denominations have more children than others. The Roslings, however, point out that very poor women, across religious groups, tend to have more children. As incomes rise, women from all religions have smaller families.

Before ascribing a particular trait to an individual or group, examine contextual factors that contribute to a phenomenon. Note that gradual changes may result in profound shifts over time.

Humans also prefer simple solutions, which the Roslings call our “single perspective instinct.” However, most real-world problems are far too complex for straightforward solutions. Examine problems from multiple lenses to get a holistic and accurate picture. Critique your own solutions and scrutinise your arguments for weaknesses.

We also single out individuals or groups who can be blamed for problems. Our tendency to blame constrains our thinking as we then don’t pay heed to other factors that may be contributing to a problem. To overcome this propensity, look for systemic causes rather than pointing fingers at people.

Finally, we need to curb our impulsivity and fondness for quick-fixes. To minimise our “urgency instinct,” pause and assess situations instead of responding on the fly. By following these prescriptions, we can “develop factful ways of thinking” and avoid falling prey to distorting human frailties.

The writer is Director, PRAYATNA.
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Fellowship programme

The University of South Florida (USF), Tampa has announced the launch of the fifth Kalam Postgraduate (PhD) Fellowship being offered to students who have graduated (or are in the process of graduating) from an Indian university in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programme. The online application to USF for a Ph.D. programme requires submission of a research proposal in any of the following areas: Applied Anthropology, Business Ph.D. programmes, Cell Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Criminology and Psychology, among others. Awarded to one student per academic year, the USF fellowship waives tuition fee for all four years, pays health insurance and fees and also provides a 12-month stipend. Full details, including eligibility criteria, deadline, and the application form will be available on <https://www.usf.edu/world/>. The fellowship result will be announced mid-April 2020.

IN CONVERSATION

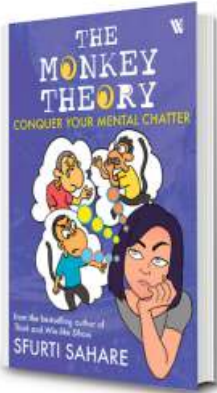


DEEKSHA TERI

In today’s day and age when everything is ‘fast and furious’, it is difficult to control the ‘furious’ part. A majority of people today, especially youngsters, are stressed not because of what is happening outside, but mainly because of what is happening inside their heads: what topic to pursue, which classes to take, which

Monkey chatter

Often our minds get influenced by everything happening around us. In her book, Sfurti Sahare shares tips on handling mental chatter



dress to wear, how to manage time...these thoughts have no end.

Sfurti Sahare, in her book *The Monkey Theory: Conquer Your Mental Chatter*, names these thoughts as ‘monkey chatter’. She says that on observing people, she realised that what happens inside someone’s head is mainly because of the thoughts generated. “If these thoughts are positive, then, the result is positive, but if these thoughts

are disturbing, then it takes away life’s peace and excitement,” says Sfurti.

“The concept of mental chatter is simply to tell you that it is easy to control your behaviour and manage anger, frustration and anxiety. It is easier to handle procrastination and laziness once we know how to use mental chatter in our favour,” she continues.

Take control
Sfurti’s book talks about how these chatters can be used to enhance one’s performance in decision-making, studies, and life in general. “The monkey theory can help you understand the negative patterns inside your head. It can

- Purple Island**
- “The Purple Island is a place where the wild monkeys (wild thoughts, that is) cannot attack you; only the good monkeys stay there. This island does not carry the past or the future. It believes only in the present moment and anyone can hop in here.”
 - Create your own Purple Island by following this simple step: Close your eyes, breathe in and out slowly, and focus on process. “You have to feel how the breathing is happening and how the oxygen is going in and carbon dioxide is coming out.”
 - This will help a “calming nothingness settle from within” and be “a soothing balm of serenity.”

help you be in the present, and execute things properly to take your fears away and to make sure that everything lies in what you do right now.”

Talking about the issues that the youth face today, Sfurti says how procrastination has become a huge part of the problem, but adds that it can be tackled with some effort. “They have to be super passionate about what they want to do; that is important. Second, they have to keep meeting new people who are from different walks of life, attend conferences, invest money on their education and learn new skills by attending webinars,” she says. Sfurti encourages students to dream “Have a goal which will make you crazy and passionate enough to go and achieve that very thing.”

Another thing that Sfurti brings up is the tendency of the youth today to get influenced easily. “They see their favourite actors and get influenced; they hear something which is not in their favour and get influenced. It is important to first understand that the opinions people give are theirs, and have to figure out what will work for them,” explains Sfurti. She urges students to find their calling and stick to it.

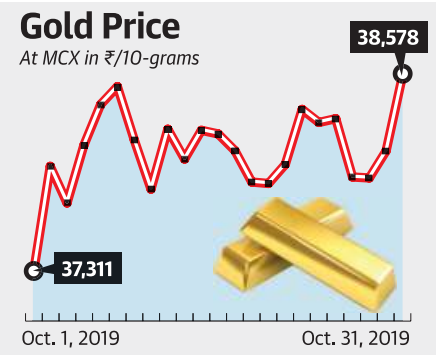
New TOEFL app

Educational Testing Services (ETS) is introducing the TOEFL official app which will be available on iStore and Google Play. The app will offer similar features to students’ online accounts, including test registration, test prep, scores and disability accommodations. The TOEFL programme will now deliver scores faster than before and students will be able to view their scores online, approximately six days after the test date.

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN





Gold, silver prices to remain rangebound

B. KRISHNAKUMAR
After an up move in the early part of the month, the prices of precious metals remained largely rangebound during the rest of October. The flow of weak economic data from the U.S. played a key role in bolstering sentiment towards precious metals in the first week of October.

Precious metal prices recovered towards the end of October as the dollar came under pressure after the U.S. Federal Reserve cut interest rates. The uncertainty surrounding the U.S.-China trade deal also helped the cause.

At the end of October 2019, Comex gold closed 2.8% higher at \$1,514.8 an ounce while Comex silver was up 6.3% to settle at \$18.1 an ounce.

In the domestic market, the price of gold futures at MCX appreciated by 4.5% in October to close at ₹38,578 per 10-grams. MCX silver futures, too, was strong and closed 6% higher at ₹46,764 per kilogram.

The short-term outlook for Comex gold and silver is positive. Comex gold is likely to head towards its immediate resistance level of \$1,535-1,550/ounce zone.

However, there is a risk of gold price falling to lower levels if the recent high of \$1,562/ounce is not taken out. Until the price moves past \$1,562/ounce, there is a likelihood of a 'rangebound' to 'negative' trend in gold. A fall below \$1,450/ounce would indicate the gold price could seek lower levels.

For now, \$1,562 and \$1,450/ounce are the key levels to focus on for Comex gold. A breakout past either of these levels would set the tone for the next big move in gold.

The short-term outlook for silver is also positive. Comex silver could rally to the short-term target of the \$18.7-19/ounce range. However, a fall below the support at \$16.5/ounce would indicate that the short-term trend is negative in silver and could push the price lower to \$15-15.5/ounce. A move past the positive trigger level of a high of \$19.6/ounce would indicate that silver has resumed the recent medium-term uptrend.

Similar to Comex gold, the trend in silver prices, too, would hinge on the breakout past key levels of \$16.5/ounce on the lower side and \$19.6 on the higher side. Expect the price to remain rangebound until either of these levels is broken.

The outlook for MCX gold and silver appears positive. The gold futures price at MCX is likely to rise to the target of ₹39,800-40,500 per 10 grams.

The positive view would warrant a reassessment if the price falls below the support zone at ₹38,000-38,100 per 10 grams. Below ₹38,000, MCX gold could ease to the ₹34,500-34,750 zone.

MCX silver could move higher to the immediate target of the ₹48,400-48,800 zone. There is a strong support for silver at the ₹45,100-45,200 zone. A close below ₹45,000 would invalidate the positive outlook and could push MCX silver price to lower levels of ₹39,000-39,500 per kilogram.

To summarise, precious metals are likely to remain rangebound. A breakout past key trigger levels mentioned above would set the tone for the next big move. Until then, expect a volatile and rangebound trend to persist.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. The views and opinions featured in this column are based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX and the Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)

Why women need financial planning

Not only do women get paid lesser than men, they also have to stretch the rupee longer and may receive poor advice as well

MEERA SIVA
When it comes to matters of money, the adage 'what is good for the goose is good for the gander' is not true. Men and women undergo different life experiences, differ in their knowledge and attitude towards risks; and as financial planning is a very personal exercise, there is a need to look at the course of action for women, differently.

More than men, women have a greater need to think hard and actively manage their finances, for at least four reasons. Unfortunately, they are less likely to consider investment as a priority. Here are four key factors why women should take an active role in money management.

Lesser earnings
It is a well-documented fact that for the same job, women earn 20% less than men on an average, globally. Their lifetime earnings are, hence, lower compared to men in similar careers. This reduces their savings and retirement kitty.

Women also tend to have career breaks to handle family situations.

For example, they may take a few years off after the birth of a child. These breaks may affect their earnings in at least two ways. One, there is loss of salary; they may stop any SIP or other regular savings, affecting investments early in the career.

Two, they may fall behind slightly in their career when they re-enter after a break.

These losses may add up, especially if they take a different job profile to balance work and home.

Also, many women choose not to work due to various reasons, as data from the labour force participation rates for women show. For instance, the 2018 report by the World Economic Forum shows a 66% gender gap in India, in terms of economic participation.

Question of longevity
Women must also make their money stretch for many more years. Data from the WHO in 2018 for India showed that women have an average life expectancy of 70.3 years, compared to 67.4 years for men. Living longer requires having a larger retirement kitty to fund their expenses.

Also, women often cannot rely on property or other asset ownerships. While the law provides equal rights, the practical situation is that men tend to own assets and there are social and other impediments in implementing property rights of women. So, they end up having to relying on others to fund their old age.

They are saddled with more responsibilities and have to foot more expenses.

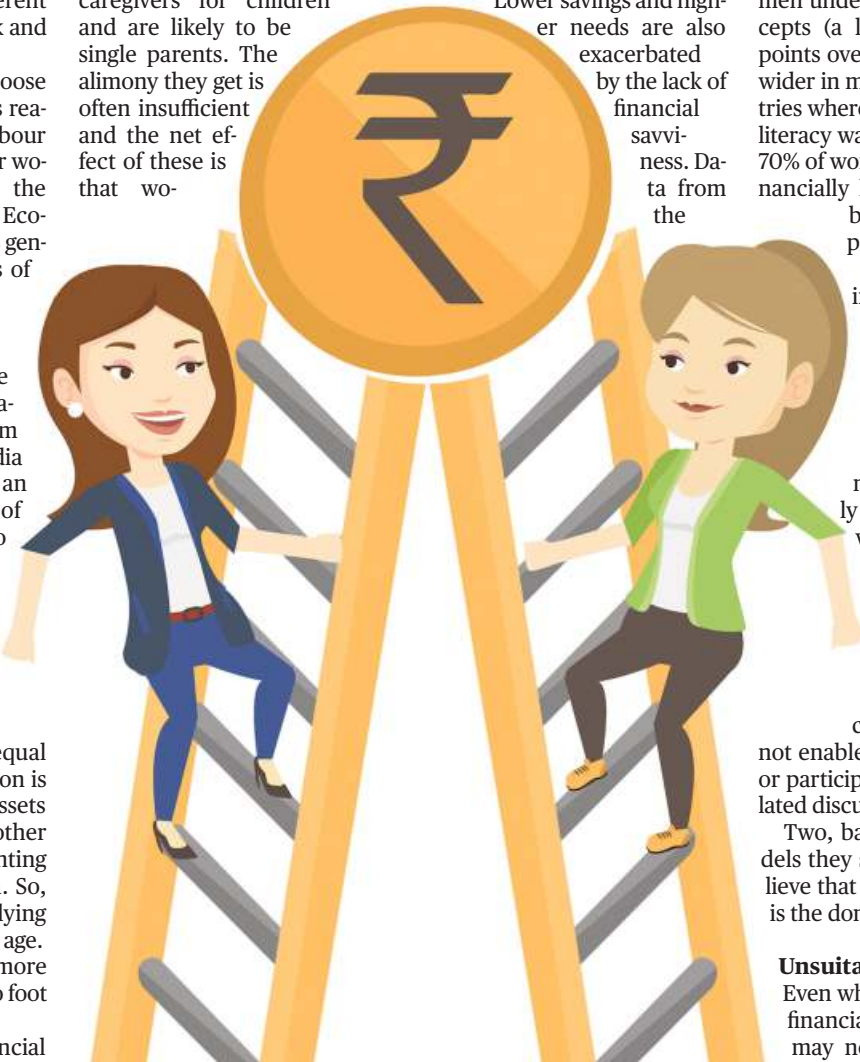
For instance, the financial

consequences of divorce tend to affect women more adversely.

They are often the primary caregivers for children and are likely to be single parents. The alimony they get is often insufficient and the net effect of these is that wo-

men have less money to put away.

Awareness
Lower savings and higher needs are also exacerbated by the lack of financial savviness. Data from the



2017 Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center study on gender gap in financial literacy showed that only 20% of women understood financial concepts (a lag of 8 percentage points over men). The gap was wider in more developed countries where the overall financial literacy was high. For example, 70% of women in Canada are financially literate but lag men by 17 percentage points.

Financially literate individuals do better at budgeting, saving money, controlling spending, handling debt, participating in financial markets, planning for retirement and successfully accumulating wealth.

However, there are possibly many reasons why women are not aware of finance. One, their peer group and social pressures may not enable them to hear about or participate in investment-related discussions.

Two, based on the role models they see, they tend to believe that money management is the domain of men.

Unsuitable advice

Even when they are aware of financial products, women may not invest right. One

reason for this is that they need a different style of approach. For instance, they may be more attuned to think about savings, rather than investing. Many also don't trust information provided by financial institutions or feel confident about transactional services.

Two, the advice generally given is geared more towards men. For example, studies in developed countries such as the U.S. showed that the language used was more returns-focussed (which suits men) rather than addressing risk-mitigation.

Starting late, a challenge

Three, women may have a late start in investments and when they are vulnerable. For instance, the responsibility may be thrust on them when their spouse is unwell or there is a crisis. They are likely to be mis-guided by commission-based advisers who may fail to give the best advice that suits the woman's financial knowledge and risk-taking ability.

Four, there may also be stereotypes at play which may lead to women being given ultra-conservative advice. As a result, they may stick to low-risk instruments that give low-returns, even if they had had the ability to take risks early in their career.

(The author is a Chartered Financial Analyst and an independent consultant)

ASK US



VIDYA BALA

Q. I have been investing in equity since 2001 by directly buying stocks and via the mutual fund route. My return never touches the 12%-mark and is only around 8-9%. In 2016, I sold all my stocks and invested in Portfolio Management Services (PMS) of a reputed firm. Initially, I was happy with the profit but in the last one year, the performance has not been up to the mark and my capital has seen an erosion. Kindly advise whether I can continue in PMS or if I must withdraw the funds and invest on my own.

RAVI

A. You have been investing in equities long enough to expect good returns. However, from what you say, the stocks or funds chosen by you did not deliver quite well. It is also possible that you were either churning your portfolio often or tried timing the markets. These factors may also have hurt compounding. From 2001, any lump sum or SIP investment in top quartile equity funds would have delivered double-digit returns.

Coming to your question on PMS, it is not surprising that your PMS portfolio did not perform well in the past one year. Most equity products have been struggling to deliver and if you had been in high-risk

themes such as mid or small-cap portfolios, then there is a good chance that your portfolio would have seen erosion. It is hard to comment on whether the PMS product you are with is a bad one, merely based on this performance.

Please be aware that many PMS products deliver very well in a rally and manage poorly in downturns. Talk to the PMS agent/representative to know what went wrong and what their strategy is to recover. Give it 2-3 quarters and if performance further slips (compared with the market), then consider moving out and invest the same in an asset-allocated combination of multi-cap, mid cap and debt funds, using the systematic transfer plan (STP) route. Do not try to choose just top performers. Look for funds that have shown consistency over the years.

Q. I am 20 years old. I have been investing in post office RD account at ₹1,000 per month. Now, I have ₹60,000 in hand and am thinking of investing further. I want some suggestions on where to invest the money to get good returns with no risk. Please suggest the best option.

MINATO L. MEHTA

A. Risk and returns are highly correlated. You can take higher risks and earn more or lose more. You can take lower risks and earn less and lose less or lose nothing. Since you do not wish to take risk, you have chosen the right option in government schemes like post office RD. You can also consider bank deposits and quality corporate deposits like HDFC, Sundaram Finance or Bajaj Finance.

Having said this, if you do not have any need for the money in the next few years, given your age, you should consider some exposure to equity through

mutual funds. If you start with market-linked products like mutual funds early on, you will have enough time to allow the market to work in your favour. Your risk capability is higher when you are young, if you do not need the money in the short term.

Q. My parents are around 60 years of age. They recently sold some land and got about ₹1.25 crore which they want to invest and get regular income. Please advise how and where to invest and in which type of fund. Also, how should we identify a certified financial adviser?

MITHUN JAIN

A. If either of your parents have crossed 60, then he or she can invest ₹15 lakh in Post Office Senior Citizens' scheme and government's pension scheme through LIC's Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandhana Yojana. Both these have among the best interest rates among fixed return products. This should provide them some steady income.

Another ₹20-30 lakh can be invested in fixed deposit options in large public or private banks and corporate deposits such as HDFC, Sundaram Finance or Bajaj Finance. If there is further need for income, they can consider investing in liquid and ultra-short-term debt funds and do a systematic withdrawal plan (which is automated) for a fixed sum every month.

Once they set aside the capital needed for their regular income, a small portion can be allocated for emergency medical needs.

The rest can be invested in combination of equity funds and low-risk debt funds to allow their corpus to grow and withdraw them when they need it in later years or pass it as legacy.

An adviser will help assess

their requirement and risk and accordingly decide whether they can handle some equity exposure. You can visit the web site https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmid=13 to find a registered investment adviser (RIA) in the city you live in. Understand the fee and state the requirement clearly so that your need is well met.

Q. I am a 23-year-old female working in the corporate sector. After adjusting my expenses, I can invest ₹25,000 every month. I am thinking of investing in ELSS as it will save on my tax as well as give me high returns. FDs have very low interest rates and do not interest me. Please suggest how I should go about investing my money.

LEENA

A. Given your age, it is a good idea to invest in tax-saving funds (ELSS) instead of tax-saving deposits. As you rightly observed, bank deposits not only yield lower returns, but the interest is also taxable.

Hence, the returns post tax are not great. ELSS enjoys deduction of up to ₹1,50,000 along with other tax-saving options. Consider your EPF, insurance or any other deductions and then invest in ELSS for the remaining amount. You need not invest in ELSS beyond this, since you do not get any added tax benefit.

There are similar MF products without Section 80C deduction but that can deliver good returns.

After meeting your Section 80C investments, consider investing about 60% in open-ended multi-cap equity funds and about 40% in corporate bond funds.

This is assuming you have at least a five-year time frame. Else, reduce your equity

allocation and increase investments in corporate bond funds.

Q. I am a student currently preparing for law entrance examinations. Every month I save ₹5,000-₹10,000 from my allowance. I feel I should channelise this amount, though trivial, into good investments. Please suggest some options, if any.

SRISHTI RATHORE

A. The amount you are saving is not trivial at all. ₹10,000 per month saved for, say, the next 3 years can leave you with ₹4-₹4.5 lakh if you build a portfolio with some equity.

Assuming you have a 3-5-year period at least, consider about 50% of your investment in a multi-cap equity fund and another 50% in a short-term debt fund with low credit risk. If you need any money for the near term, simply park them in liquid funds or invest in FDs that allow you to break without any penalty.

Q. I am 24 and I intend to take a break of two years beginning next financial year. My total income is ₹8,11,000. After deducting ₹25,000 (education loan interest at 12% for 5 months), ₹60,000 (rent), ₹1,50,000 (ELSS SIP), and ₹10,000 (savings account), my taxable income is ₹5,66,000. Should I prepay the education loan from a tax and savings perspective? I will be paying another ₹35,000 as interest for the remaining financial year. If I don't prepay, I can claim deduction on interest. There are no penalties on prepaying. How should I invest the ₹66,000 above ₹5 lakh for efficient tax management? I have additional uninvested savings of ₹5.5 lakh which I intend to invest. I need liquidity of ₹2.5 lakh p.a.

for the next three years. Please advise.

AYUSH

A. There are two parts to your question. One, on managing taxes for the current year and second, how to invest your savings and meet your liquidity needs for the next 2-3 years.

On the first question, we do not know when you took your education loan as the deduction is available for only up to 8 years. Also note that the deduction is only against 'taxable income.' We are not sure if you have other sources of taxable income from next year.

If such income will be available during your break, then you can continue to claim the education loan deduction under Section 80E.

Else, claim the deduction for the current fiscal and then prepay it immediately thereafter, if you have enough surplus.

On your savings of ₹5.5 lakh, again, if you are dependent on this saving for the next 2-3 years, then calibrate your expenses and ensure you manage within the savings.

Given that you need liquidity, you must consider only a combination of quality corporate deposits and liquid funds and ultra-short-term debt funds. You can do a systematic withdrawal plan from these funds in an automated manner to meet your monthly expense requirements.

(The author is Founding Partner - PrimelInvestor.in, a unit of Redwood Research)

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.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Daddy, the hi-tech uncle has come to collect rent!"

Life insurance term plan premium

Age: 30 Years, Sum insured- Rs. 1 crore, Cover upto- 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover	Annual premium (Rs.)	
			(Male)	(Female)
ICICI Prudential Life	iProtect Smart	99 Years	12,502	11,028
HDFC Life	Click2Protect 3D Plus	99 Years	12,478	11,004
Max Life	Online Term Plus	85 Years	10,148	7,670
Aegon Life	iTerm	100 Years	8,331	6,861
TATA AIA Life	Sampoorna Raksha	100 Years	9,912	9,086
PNB MetLife	Mera Term Plan	99 Years	10,146	8,675
Kotak Life	Kotak e-Term Plan	75 Years	9,558	8,260
Aditya Birla Capital	Ultima Term	85 Years	10,270	8,733
Edelweiss Tokio Life I	Zindagi+	80 Years	9,206	7,522
Exide Life	Smart Term Plan	75 Years	8572*	7346*
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80 Years	8,260	7,080
Aviva Life	iTerm Smart	80 Years	9,007	7,741
DHFL Pramerica Life	Flexi e-Term	75 Years	9,403	8,026
Future Generali Total	Flexi Online Term	75 Years	9,427	8,184
Bharti Axa Life	Flexi Term	85 Years	9,440	8,260
Canara HSBC OBC Life	iSelect	80 Years	9,491	8,022
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi-Term	80 Years	11,012	8,719
IDBI Federal Life	iSurance Flexi Term	80 Years	12,402	10,136
Bajaj Allianz Life	eTouch Online Term	75 Years	14,067	10,896
SBI Life	eShield	80 Years	15,070	12,898

*Exide coverage upto 60 yrs for age 30 yrs

Source: www.policybazar.com

Health insurance premium

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (Rs.)
Religare Health	Day Care Treatments	NCB Super Premium	8,675
	Family Floater option	Care	7,887
	Health Checkups	Care with unlimited recharge	8,478
	After Hospitalization	NCB Super Premium with UAR	9,267
Max Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments	Health Companion +	8,764
	Health Recharge (Money Saver)	Health Companion	9,862
	Hospitalization at Home	Go Active	11,747
	Alternate Medicine	Heartbeat Gold	15,319
Star Health	Family Floater option	Medi Classic	9,204
	Restoration of cover	Star Comprehensive	11,476
	Wellness Factors		
	Network Hospitals Covered		
Apollo Munich Health	After Hospitalization	Optima Restore	11,024
	Day Care Treatments	Easy Health Individual Standard	9,613
	Hospitalization at Home	Easy Health Individual Exclusive	12,067
	Hospital Room Eligibility	Easy Health Individual Premium	14,945
HDFC Ergo General	Day Care Treatments	Energy Gold	20,036
	Hospitalization at Home	Energy Silver	14,136
	Alternate Medicine	Energy Gold with Co pay	17,216
		Energy Silver with Co pay	11,316
Cigna TTK Health	Hospitalization at Home	Health Suraksha Silver	22,908
	Hospital Room Eligibility	Health Suraksha Gold	9,380
	Alternate Medicine	Health Suraksha Silver with Region & ECB	11,162
		Health Suraksha Gold with Region & ECB	10,083
Bajaj Allianz Health	Day Care Treatments	ProHealth - Protect	11,998
	Hospitalization at Home	ProHealth - Plus	8,979
	Alternate Medicine		10,119
	Family Floater Option		
United India	Hospital Room Eligibility	Individual Health Guard	11,569
	Alternate Medicine	Health Ensure	7,642
	Family Floater Option		

All premia are for sum insured of Rs. 10 lakh for a 30-year old male/female, non-smoker in a metro city

Source: www.policybazar.com

MADHUR TANKHA

Even as the conversation around food has begun to revolve around nutrition and diets, Amanda Clegg and Victoria Byrne have brought their book *Hope and Spice*, to India. At the launch event at the British High Commissioner's at his residence in Delhi, they spoke about their experiences working with the not-for-profit Asha Community Health and Development Society.

The duo went into the not-of-ten-spoken-about communities in 12 of Delhi's districts – Seelampur, Trilokpuri, Mayapuri, Anna Nagar, Tigri, Peeragarhi to name a few – and documented how the women choose ingredients and cooked with limited resources.

Over 11 months, 100 women cooked for Amanda and Victoria, who recorded their conversations and documented the cooking methods. Their biggest takeaway: the realisation of the joy of community sharing.

"These are invisible women but have a vibrant food culture. The world would never have been able to hear their stories. As they spend a lot of time at home, food for them is a form of expression," says Amanda, who has been coming to India every year from 2008, though her connection to the country goes back to when her maternal grandmother lived in Calcutta and her paternal grandfather worked in an oil refinery in Digboi, Assam, where her father was born.

Amanda says most of the home style Indian dishes can be eaten as a wholesome meal. "There is Dal Tadka and Allo Saag, Allo Tamatar, Bharta, which are eaten in Indian homes as a balanced meal. This is not what people in the West associate with your kind of food. So this is what we are popularising the world over," she says, of the book that was launched in the U.K. last October and in America last month.

There are 64 dishes, mostly vegetarian, with text and images in this coffee table book. From Seelampur there's biryani, qorma and kofta; from Kusumpur Pahari where a substantial number of South In-



Celebrating food and communities

Two British women have co-authored a cook book based on the recipes of 12 communities in Delhi, where they work with Asha, a not-for-profit

dians live, there's Lemon Rice, Fish Fry, Coconut Fish Curry. Bengalis, Malayali, Tamilians, Kashmiris, who have made Delhi their home over the years, have



been featured. Excerpts from a conversation with the authors, who also took the pictures.

What factors helped you decide to write this book?

Amanda: For the past 11 years, I have been visiting Delhi to spend time with communities where Asha works. I love hearing stories of these women. I came to know how they were trained and encouraged to get their children educated. Back home, I work in food

innovation and am a passionate cook. So I was curious to learn how these women with limited resources cook for their families. I have a family too in Britain and I wanted to have a conversation with these women about the domestic aspects of their lives. That is when the idea of a book was born.

Was seeing them cook in a tiny kitchen an eye-opener for you?

Amanda: Back home, we have such large kitchens with multiple equipment but they don't have cooking skills. They rely on supermarkets. Here they work without equipment right from scratch taking the right blend of spices

and creating vibrant dishes, which are fantastic. Although they don't have resources, the food they cook is seasonal and really tasty. We can learn so much from them.

What are your favourites from Hope and Spice, and can you tell us the stories behind them?

Amanda: One of my favourite recipes is Mutton Kofta. It was from a lady called Pinky, living in Chandrapuri. Every woman came with one dish. She surprised me when she arrived with a tray of three dishes and a beautiful romali roti. Her creativity and passion for food was quite evident. We included a picture of her and her

dish in this book. Like her, it was generosity of these women to have hosted us with food which they cook occasionally. It is a recipe that I cook regularly. My husband and kids love it as it can be cooked in half an hour. It breaks the myth that Indian food is complicated. It is really so tasty that it has personal favourite.

Victoria: For me it was spicy papad. In Britain we call it papadom. We loved watching how women make flat breads. They are dexterous with their hands. Ramkali, a grandmother from Jeevan Nagar Ashram who never cooked outside her family, made Besan Papads for me. We don't make flat breads back home. The next day, Ramkali sent a pile of papo-

dams wrapped especially for us to take with us home.

What is the common thread that runs through all the 12 communities?

A change has come about in their lives. As we work for Asha, we organised pot luck lunches where everyone brings something. Women learnt that the roti they brought with them is the same as the roti made by other ladies, who don't live in their locality. Normally, they were not sharing lunch with ladies of other castes. They now have a sense of community feeling and even share cooking tips with each other.

Copies at info@asha-india.org; ₹1,000

Mixing well (Clockwise from left) Victoria Byrne and Amanda Clegg (right), Pinki and her Mutton Kofta, Ramkali preparing spicy papads • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



DOWN MEMORY LANE



R. V. SMITH

Last week, Phoolwalon-ki-Sair or the flower festival in memory of a Mughal prince was held at Mehrauli. It was organised, as always, by the great-great-great grandchildren of those who took part in the first festival over 200 years ago. Among the organisers of the Sair-e-Gulfaroshan (a walk of the flowers) is S. Kumar, successor of the late Yogeshwar Dayal on whose initiative the festival was revived.

The story behind it

This festival, unique to Delhi, owes its origin to an incident in the Red Fort in the second decade of the 19th century.

Mirza Jahangir, the favourite son of Akbar Shah II, was denied the right to be his successor in preference for his older brother Abul Zafar (who was later known as Bahadur Shah Zafar).

One day, when the British Resident at the court went to meet Akbar Shah, the topic of succession came up again, but the Resident (Charles Seton) stated the East India Company's known position in favour of Zafar firmly. Angered, Mirza Jahangir fired at Seton just as he was leaving, but missed. Seton turned his horse back and asked the prince to apologise, but he refused and taunted him instead.

The Resident then went back and returned with a whole posse of British troops, bent on avenging the insult. The prince was arrested and exiled in Allahabad in 1812.

His mother, Queen Mumtaz Mahal II, vowed that if he were to return she would offer a *chadar* (sacred cloth) and floral *pankha* (fan) at the shrine of Hazrat Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki and a canopy at the Yogmaya Mandir close by. As things turned out, her wish actually came true.

Flowers for the prince

Phoolwalon-ki-Sair began in Mehrauli in Bahadur Shah Zafar's brother, Mirza Jahangir's memory, but he's forgotten in the recent flower festival



Floral tribute Phoolwalon-ki-Sair was revived in 1961 by Yogeshwar Dayal; troupe performing the festival at Mehrauli • PTI, SANDEEP SAXENA

buddin Bakhtiar Kaki and a canopy at the Yogmaya Mandir close by. As things turned out, her wish actually came true.

Mirza Jahangir was sent back to Delhi after the British relented and there were grand celebrations. Since then, the festival has been observed as a symbol of communal harmony, except for brief periods during and after the revolt of 1857, and then again in the 1940s, right up to the Partition. Jawaharlal Nehru revived the festival at the instance of



philanthropist Yogeshwar Dayal in 1961, and so it continues, with many states taking part. Interestingly, the first *pankha* made by the women of the *salatin* (lesser quarters), in the Red Fort, was kept in the Diwani-i-Khas as the queen wished. Mirza Jahangir's behaviour on his return to Delhi worsened, and Akbar Shah agreed with the British (after he tried to poison his older brother twice) that he be sent back to Allahabad. There he whiled away his time drinking Hoffmann's

cherry brandy and making merry with nautch girls.

Lord Hastings described him as wearing a Tartar dress, a crimson robe, blue vest, lined with fur and a high conical cap ornamented with fur and jewels, though it was the peak of summer. He had long hair, a handsome young man gone astray. The prince died in 1821, long before his parents, and was buried in a beautiful tomb in Delhi.

The festival today

Phoolwalon-ki-Sair wends its way through Mehrauli to the fountain (Jharna) led by *shehnai* players in brocade sherwanis and then to the ship-shaped Jahaz Mahal. Bahadur Shah Zafar, who was considered gay by his father and so supposedly unworthy to be his successor, presided over the festival with great aplomb until 1856.

Despite all the fanfare surrounding the festival, one thing that seems like a forgetful omission is that no one makes any public offerings at the grave of Mirza Jahangir, whose exile started the tradition.

Dayal, almost resembling Nehru in dress, height and features, once disclosed that he had heard from his ancestors that at the first Phoolwalon-ki-Sair the roses were brought from the Taj gardens and the Chameli flowers from Fatehpur Sikri.

Later flowers were also picked from the Hayat Baksh garden in the Red Fort and used for making the *chadar* for the tomb of Hazrat Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki and the canopy offered at the Yog Maya temple in Mehrauli.

The plan to get roses from Ispahan could, however, not materialize but the royal envoy managed to get some from the garden in Iran where Omar Khayyam is buried as the poet was a favourite of the romantic Mirza Jahangir.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

Sujata and Taniya Biswas might have launched their sustainable sari brand in 2016, but their association with the garment goes back to their childhood. The sisters recall their grandmother's soft cream *mulmul* sari that kickstarted their obsession. Every sari enthusiast has a similar story of how they fell in love with the drape – and they like to talk about it. This is what the duo want to capitalise on with their new podcast, *Musings of Suta*.

Hooked to podcasts themselves, the entrepreneurs realised the potential for their stories to reach a larger audience than just their social media followers. "When we wanted to listen to podcasts about budding businesses run by women entrepreneurs, we couldn't find any. We realised that there aren't many women talking about their bootstrapped business and decided to be the pioneers," begins Taniya.

Hubhopper, India's largest podcasting and audio-on-demand platform, came on board to help them make this a reality. Delhi-based tech entrepreneur and founder of the platform, Gautam Raj Anand, says the partnership worked because, "Suta and Hubhopper have similar origin stories – in both cases, the founders quit their day jobs and started their own ventures. We also have a common consumer base, which is listening to audio content, and looking for stories of sustainable brands they can support".

Four episodes in, the siblings have spoken about being business partners, festive clothing memories, and their insights on how saris are perceived. "We wanted it to be about our journey, our lives, the



Sujata and Taniya Biswas (above) and Gautam Raj Anand (below) • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Saris on air

Sisters Taniya and Sujata Biswas highlight people's love for the garment on their new podcast

learnings and stories that pushed us and inspire us to keep going," explains Sujata, adding, "Every topic has been chosen to help anyone dealing with a similar situation, and addresses both the fun and seriousness of being an entrepreneur. We will also be talking about our experiences with the weavers, how it humbled us and why we want our saris to reach as

many cupboards as possible." The show is brief, at approximately 12 minutes, which makes for easy listening.

While they sound a bit self-conscious in the first couple of episodes, they have now hit their stride in a more conversational, unscripted tone. Language was a deciding factor in the reach. "Our numbers improved once we started speaking in Hinglish. We have around 70% coming back for the next episode," says Taniya. The first season will not have guest speakers, but Sujata muses, "If we're picked up for a second season, why not?"

Listen to the podcast on [hubhopper.com](https://www.hubhopper.com)



It's all in the GENES

A1, A2 or entirely avoidable? Why consuming milk is getting complicated

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

The entry to the cowsheds at Mr Dairy in Gurugram is dramatic. Beethoven's 'Fifth Symphony in C Minor' plays – and one of the 60 brown Sahiwal cows hops over a low ledge, prancing away to a patch of maize, barley, corn, wheat, and alfalfa. The five-month-old farm-and-office on the Gurguram-Faridabad Road includes hydroponically grown micro-greens, from an organic farm in Ambala, in their fodder. Tushar Singh, the 32-year-old founder of this dairy farm, says it makes his cows' coats shine. Singh calls Mr Dairy a "start-up" despite the venture being a revival and revamp of a nearly six-decade-old dairy business called Nanak, which his grandfather started in 1962. Before shutting down in 2001, Nanak had hit a daily supply of close to 21 lakh litres of milk a day across North India. Singh's father, who was heading the business by then, gave it up because "he said, 'I don't want to poison the public'" – which he was doing by way of adulteration to meet daily demand. This is not a new problem. We have known that urea, soap, starch, and formalin (a preservative known to cause damage to the gastrointestinal tract, liver and kidney) regularly feature in our packaged milk. The dairy industry has been injecting cows with antibiotics to increase yield – the chemicals have been ultimately finding their way into our cuppa. The latest conundrum in the dairy world however is this: A choice between A1 and A2 milk. And Mr Dairy has given into the argument for the latter.

The origin story

A1 and A2 are two forms of beta-casein, a sub-group of casein that is the largest protein group found in milk. Originally, all cows would produce only A2 protein. Over the millennia however, a genetic mutation made many of them start producing both A1 and A2 proteins, with some producing A1 only. According to Dr N Murali,

Head, Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding at the Veterinary College and Research Institute in Namakkal, this mutation is "natural". In 2000, armed with research about the alleged dangers of A1 milk, Corran McLachlan, a New Zealand-based scientist and entrepreneur, founded A2 Corporation (later rebranded as The a2 Milk Company). He claimed that the prominence of A1 beta-casein over A2 could be a public health issue, leading to type 1 diabetes, autism, an increased risk of heart disease, and digestive issues. The assumption is that BCM-7, an opioid peptide released when digesting A1, affects the immune and GI system. Recent research studying the effects of milk on Chinese children, published in the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, says that gastrointestinal dysfunction "may be at least partially attributed to the...release of...BCM-7 from beta-casein, rather than lactose intolerance". India's desi cow breeds like Tharparkar, Gir, and Sahiwal have a genetic make-up that yields milk high in A2. "All indigenous breeds, or Bos indicus, have a higher frequency of A2 protein," says Murali. However, over the years,

As per Google trends, which maps searches on its platform, we've been Googling A2 since 2004



cross-breeding with foreign breeds like Jersey and Holstein Friesian (which give twice as much milk per day as desi cows, though A1-rich), to meet commercial interests, has only muddled the gene pool.

Et tu, A2?

Google's Ngram tool, which maps the occurrence of a term in published books, shows that 'A2 protein' started coming up in the late '60s, way before McLachlan came into the picture. It was only at the beginning of 2018, however, that the term hit a worldwide peak on Google trends. Globally, most interest has come from New Zealand, home to McLachlan's The a2 Milk Company. Searches from Australia are a close second, and India a distant third. Now, well-established dairy brands like Amul too have started selling what they claim to be A2 cow milk. This, despite the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) not yet having established any standards to differentiate between the milks. The likes of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University – under whose jurisdiction Murali's institute in Namakkal comes – can only certify each animal as purely A1 or A2, or having one gene as dominant over the other. As if these grounds were not shaky enough, A2 milk is also more than twice the price of regular packaged milk.

Further, "A few years after The a2 Milk Company's patent, the claims that A1 causes schizophrenia, heart disease, type 1 diabetes were reviewed [by the scientific community] and held to be unsubstantiated," says Dr Subhash Wangnoo, senior endocrinologist at the Apollo Centre for Obesity, Diabetes & Endocrinology. In 2009, the European Food Safety Authority had also agreed that there was no cause-and-effect relationship between consuming A1 protein and the illnesses alleged. "There are no long-term cohort studies [studies across generations to establish cause of a disease] to say conclusively that A1 milk is bad or A2 is good," stresses Dr Shobna Bhatia, Head, Department of Gastroenterology at the KEM Hospital in Mumbai. While cow's milk and A2 are used interchangeably, it is relevant to note that all buffalo milk is A2. In Namakkal, where Dr Murali is located, A2 buffalo milk is available at ₹50 from a local dairy farmer. Buffalo milk also contains less "problematic cholesterol" than cow milk does, he says, even though the latter has found favour in the recent past due to lower fat content.

Purity over noise

Back at Mr Dairy, Singh adds another dimension to the issue:



Yay or nay? Children with prolonged exposure to dairy with exclusion of other foods, are likely to be constipated

regardless of whether your milk is A1 or A2, it can come with a whole host of other problems, especially when packed in plastic, and not stored under 4°C. The brand sticks to one-litre glass bottles only, at ₹160. This is noteworthy, especially since Singh's parent-brand Nanak, claims to have introduced pouched milk in the early '80s. "We created this whole poly-pack mess, and we are now trying to clean it up," he says. Indie milk start-ups are now choosing to tackle the problem of purity instead of getting into the A1 versus A2 debate. Whyte Farms, a brand available in Delhi, focusses on providing only organic, hormone-free milk at ₹70 for a one-litre bottle. Happy Milk, an organic brand in Bengaluru, retails at ₹80 per litre, but they offer PET bottle options too. The flip-side to the purity argument, is that when the milk reaches the pasteurisation stage, any real goodness

from the organic nature of the milk, is killed. "By pasteurising, we're killing disease-causing bacteria, but also the good bacteria, which help us digest the milk," says dietician Manjari Chandra. Sidestepping all of this though, are voices that suggest there is no real need for milk. A child with abdominal pain is the most common patient in paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist Dr Sarath Gopalan's practice. "Almost one in five," he says. "In India, the major cause for this is constipation, and children with a prolonged exposure to milk and milk products, with exclusion of other foods, are almost always likely to be constipated." Also, calcium from milk is not easily absorbed, says Chandra, adding that "it's better absorbed through freshly-set, home-made curd". Your final takeaway? If your child is happy drinking a glass or two of milk, that's fine. But if every morning is a struggle, you may want to try something else, because as Chandra notes, up-to 60% of South Indians and 30 to 50% of North Indians are lactose-intolerant – an inflamed gut will not absorb nutrients anyway. Medical professionals are not buying into the A1-A2 theory just yet, but organic milk from a glass bottle might be decidedly better than what we get out of a plastic packet.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



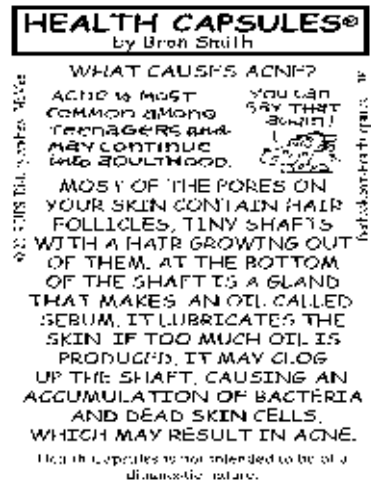
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



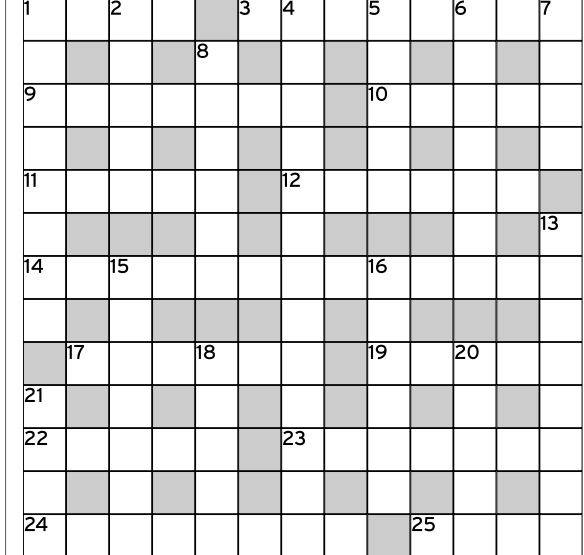
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13215



- Across: 1 American tramp (4), 3 Area covered with trees (8), 9 Fascinate (7), 10 Very bright (5), 11 Ryan O'Neal's actress daughter (5), 12 Rigid support for a broken bone (6), 14 On the other hand (13), 17 Barista's product (6), 19 da Gama, Portuguese explorer, d. 1524 (5), 22 Garment – period of work (5), 23 Aged (7), 24 Ponder (8), 25 Siegfried and Tristan Farnon, for example (4), Down: 1 Customary (8)

2 Large broad bay – middle part of a slack rope (5), 4 Exaggeration (13), 5 Demon (5), 6 Move forward (7), 7 Lower part of an interior wall (4), 8 Cook just below boiling point (6), 13 Words with the same meaning (8), 15 Radioactive element – rout him (anag) (7), 16 Overrun (6), 18 Belong (3,2), 20 Carefree and lively outing (5), 21 Person taking drugs (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated November 5, 2019. Solution No. 13214

ROSEMARY HIS
I T E A V N U
FLAIR TRAWLER
E R R I L A P
S T A Y I N G P O W E R
A E G G O I
B O R Z O I A L L I E S
U R P I M E
N A R R O W E S C A P E
D E U E E L P
A R S E N A L L D O P A
N I D E E L D N
T Y N E O R N A M E N T

Mushfiqur Rahim stars in Bangladesh's historic win over India

India's sub-par score hardly proves a challenge for the visitor's top-order, which was better equipped to deal with the challenges thrown at it

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

From inviting India to bat on a slow surface to reaching the target in style, Bangladesh stayed in command. Smart out-cricket, no dropped catches and the shift in gear when needed saw Bangladesh script a historic first T20I win over the host here on Sunday.

Slow pitch
On the Ferozeshah Kotla pitch that offered slow and low bounce, Mushfiqur Rahim led the charge like he is expected to. Overall, the visiting top-order batsmen proved better equipped to deal with the challenges thrown at them and eventually, the punishing seven-wicket win was validation of their self-belief on Sunday evening.

Following this drubbing, second in succession after batting first, India needs to bring out its 'A' game in the remaining two outings. Otherwise, it will be hard to deny Bangladesh its first-ever series triumph over the host.

India's sub-par 148 for six, that too, after the last two overs produced 30 runs – thanks to the finish-with-a-flourish from Washington Sundar and Krunal Pandya – never looked enough unless the bowlers dealt some serious blows early in the chase.

Once the Bangladesh top-order got over the fifth-ball



Guiding star: Mushfiqur Rahim's unbeaten half-century was punctuated with some innovative shots as he helped Bangladesh draw first blood in the three-match T20I series. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

loss of Liton Das, to cross the half-century mark, the target always looked gettable. Debutant opener Naim Sheikh, after a strokeful 26, holed out to Shikhar Dhawan to ignite India's hopes in the eighth over. But with wickets in hand, Bangladesh looked assured in spite of gradually rising required run-rate.

Experienced duo
With 50 needed off the last

five overs, the experienced duo of Soumya Sarkar and Mushfiqur kept the scoreboard ticking by drying up the dot balls and sending the odd ball across the ropes.

When Sarkar was cleaned up by Khaleel Ahmed, Bangladesh needed 35 of 18 balls. Almost immediately, India let go of its best chance of bouncing back. Mushfiqur was dropped by Krunal, who also let the ball roll over the

midwicket ropes. Chahal was made to feel worse with skipper Mohammad Mahmud Ullah sending the last ball for a four.

Next over from Khaleel effectively sealed India's fate. Mushfiqur carved out four successive boundaries to bring his team to the threshold of a historic win. Facing debutant Shivam Dube, Mahmud Ullah put the finishing touches with a six!

Earlier, the match opened with an action-filled over. Two boundaries from Rohit Sharma had the crowd on its feet before Shaiful Islam brought them down by winning a leg-before appeal. With him, the skipper also took away the DRS option.

For the statistically inclined, Rohit's 99th T20 appearance took him past M. S. Dhoni's 98 and placed him at the top of the India list.

STAT SPHERE

1 It is Bangladesh's first-ever win over India in the nine T20Is the neighbors have played against each other

1 Rohit Sharma with 2452 runs is now the highest run-getter for India in T20Is, overthrowing Virat Kohli's tally of 2450

2 Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle has become the second individual to officiate in 100 T20I games as a Match Referee. New Zealand's Jeff Crowe leads with 119 matches

99 Number of T20Is played by Rohit, the most by an Indian, overtaking M.S. Dhoni with whom he was tied before Sunday's match

Nothing like beating India in India, so this means a lot to me..
— MUSHFIQUR RAHIM

"It was a defendable score, and we made mistakes on the field. The guys are a bit inexperienced, and they can learn from that, perhaps not make them the next time — ROHIT SHARMA

1000 Sunday's international at the Kotla was the 1000th in the shortest format

INDIA
Rohit Sharma lbw b Shafiul 9 (5b, 2x4), Shikhar Dhawan run out 41 (42b, 3x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Mahmud Ullah b Aminul 15 (17b, 2x4), Shreyas Iyer c Naim b Aminul 22 (13b, 1x4, 2x6), Rishabh Pant c Naim b Shafiul 27 (26b, 3x4), Shivam Dube c & b Afif 1 (4b), Krunal Pandya (not out) 15 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), Washington Sundar (not out) 14 (5b, 2x6); Extras (lb-3, w-1): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 148.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-10 (Rohit, 0.6 overs), 2-36 (Rahul, 6.3), 3-70 (Shreyas, 10.2), 4-95 (Dhawan, 14.5), 5-102 (Dube, 15.6), 6-120 (Pant, 18.2).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Shafiul 4-0-36-2, Al-Amin 4-0-27-0, Mustafizur 2-0-15-0, Aminul 3-0-22-2, Soumya 2-0-16-0, Afif 3-0-11-1, Mosaddek 1-0-8-0, Mahmud Ullah 1-0-10-0.

BANGLADESH
Liton Das c Rahul b Chahar 7 (4b, 1x4), Mohd. Naim c Dhawan b Chahal 26 (28b, 2x4, 1x6), Soumya Sarkar b Khaleel 39 (35b, 1x4, 2x6), Mushfiqur Rahim (not out) 60 (43b, 8x4, 1x6), Mahmud Ullah (not out) 15 (7b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (for three wkts. in 19.3 overs): 154.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Liton, 0.5 overs), 2-54 (Naim, 7.5), 3-114 (Soumya, 16.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Chahar 3-0-24-1, Washington 4-0-25-0, Khaleel 4-0-37-1, Chahal 4-0-24-1, Krunal 4-0-32-0, Dube 0.3-0-9-0.

Toss: Bangladesh

Man-of-the-match: Mushfiqur.

Bangladesh won by seven wkts. to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The Dutch win T20 WC qualifier

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DUBAI

The Netherlands cruised past Papua New Guinea by seven wickets in the final of the T20 World Cup qualifying tournament with Ben Cooper and Brandon Glover starring with bat and ball.

Both the Dutch and PNG had already made sure of their places at next year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

PNG struggled to 128/8 off its 20 overs with Glover taking 3/24 before the Dutch reached the target with six balls to spare after Cooper had made 41 off 33 balls.

Ireland beat Namibia by 27 runs in the third-place play-off.

UTHRA GANESAN BHUBANESWAR

The Indian men and women hockey teams booked their tickets to Tokyo Olympics in contrasting fashion, not so much in the margin of their victories as the manner of those victories and the quality of opposition they were up against.

And that would have given both Graham Reid, in charge of the men, and Sjoerd Marijne leading the women's charge several points to ponder in the next 10 months. While the men smashed an aggregate of 11-3 against minnows Russia, the dominance that was expected from a team ranked 17 placed higher was missing.

Finishing
"I think for me what we need to get better in is finishing. We are creating a lot of opportunities, which is great. Need to get more return. Also in deep defence, we have to get tighter, we are still giving



Dreaming big: Coach Marijne says the aim will be for the most beautiful coloured medal – gold – at Tokyo. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

away too many opportunities. I told the players we have nine months, just get better and better," Reid said after Saturday's second leg of the Qualifiers.

Pro-league exposure
The big advantage for the men is the exposure they would get in the Pro League starting January.

"Pro League is a big opportunity to work out for the Olympics and there are a lot of games during that period," he added.

That is a luxury Marijne

doesn't have. In fact, Hockey India is yet to work out a competition schedule for them between now and July 2020. But then, the girls are used to it.

They lost Marijne to the men's side midway through a European tour in seven months, only to get him back in another eight months. They do not have an analytical coach, Eric Wonink being shunted to the junior side after three years with the women.

"We have a dream and the dream is to go to the Olym-

pics, and the most beautiful colour for a medal is gold. Preparation starts tomorrow morning.

"We all can see, we played well in one half. But now we have to do it for the entire match," Marijne said.

Focus on the mind
Having worked on strength and fitness, Marijne is now focussing on the mind, his half-time speech on Saturday the real-life version of a movie.

"At half-time I told the girls, it's 0-0. It starts all over, we cannot change what happened in the first half but we can do differently in the second. I want to see another team. It's your moment, go with your head up. (And) you don't go down with your head down. And it was different team," he said.

In another 10 months, both Reid and Marijne will hope their respective teams work out the chinks in their respective armours at Tokyo.

Jamshedpur holds BFC

ISL
AMITABHA DAS SHARMA JAMSHEDPUR

Subrata Paul's untiring vigil at the Jamshedpur FC goal helped the host hold defend champion Bengaluru FC to a goalless draw, here at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Sunday.

The former India goalkeeper made a series of spectacular saves to deny the visitor its first win of the tournament.

Sunil Chhetri tested Paul with a long-ranger as early as in the sixth minute. Jamshedpur counter-attacked, but a fine attempt from Sergio Castel found the post.

Paul's best came when Bengaluru FC launched a barrage of attacks in the first quarter. In what was essentially a contest between two alumni of the Tata Football Academy – Paul and Sandhu – at either post, Paul emerged the better pupil, reading and anticipating the Bengaluru FC attacks.

Paul denied Bengaluru defender Juanan in the 13th minute, catching his header from point-blank range. Seven minutes later, he palmed out Harmanjot Khabra's goal-mouth attempt before coming to justify the moniker of 'Spiderman' once again in the injury-time, clearing a rasping drive from Bengaluru forward Rafael Augusto.

By the 55th minute of the match, Bengaluru had made almost a dozen attempts at the Jamshedpur goal, only to find Paul blocking all the passages.

Just as a harried Bengaluru appeared to relax its attack, Jamshedpur found two good opportunities which were saved by Sandhu. The India international blocked the 54th minute effort from midfielder Mohammad Mobashir before making a great reflexive save on an acrobatic attempt from the host forward Farukh Choudhary.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 0 drew with Bengaluru FC 0.

Lakshya wins

FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY)

India's Lakshya Sen bagged his second successive BWF World Tour Super 100 title with a thrilling 17-21, 21-18, 21-16 win over China's Weng Hong Yang in the SaarLoLux Open here on Sunday.

Lakshya needed 59 minutes to overcome Weng for his third successive singles title of the season.

He had clinched the Belgian International challenge and Dutch Open Super Tour 100 in his last two outings.

Djokovic claims his fifth Paris Masters title

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Novak Djokovic eased to a record-extending fifth Paris Masters title by brushing aside Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov in Sunday's final, boosting his hopes of taking the year-end World No.1 spot.

The top seed claimed a dominant 6-3, 6-4 victory over his 20-year-old opponent, who looked nervous after being the beneficiary of Rafael Nadal's withdrawal before their scheduled semifinal.

Djokovic will lose top spot in the rankings to Nadal next week, but could still equal Pete Sampras' record by finishing a sixth year as the world's best player.

The 33-year-old Nadal is a fitness doubt for the ATP

Tour Finals, which start in London on November 10, due to an abdominal muscle strain, while Djokovic has won the season-ending championships five times.

Djokovic, who lost to Russian Karen Khachanov in last year's Bercy final, saved the only break point he faced as he sealed his fourth win from as many matches against the World No. 28 Shapovalov.

The 16-time Grand Slam champion has now won 34 Masters titles, moving to within one of Nadal at the top of the all-time list, and 77 on the ATP Tour in total.

It was Djokovic's fifth trophy of the season after previous triumphs at Wimbledon and the US Open, as well as at the Madrid Open and in Tokyo.



Cruising: This was Djokovic's fifth trophy of the season – after Wimbledon, US Open, the Madrid Open and Tokyo. ■ AP

Gomes injury mars Everton fightback

Leicester moves back to third; Chelsea survives a tense finish

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES LIVERPOOL

Cenk Tosun's stoppage-time header earned Everton a 1-1 home draw against Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Sunday in a match overshadowed by a bad-looking injury to Everton midfielder Andre Gomes.

Dele Alli's goal just past the hour mark appeared to have ended Tottenham's long wait for a Premier League away win.

Spurs were reduced to 10 men in the 79th minute when Son Heung-min's tackle on Gomes resulted in the Portuguese midfielder suffering what looked to be a bad leg injury.

South Korean forward Son looked distraught as he realised the extent of the injury to Gomes who was carried off on a stretcher after a lengthy delay.

Earlier, Caglar Soyuncu's first goal for his club and a late effort by Jamie Vardy earned Leicester City a 2-0 win at Crystal Palace to move it back into third place in the Premier League on Sunday.

On Saturday, Frank Lampard said "sloppy" Chelsea needs to be more clinical af-



Traumatising: Everton's Andre Gomes screams in agony after a horrific injury. ■ REUTERS

ter it survived a tense finish for a 2-1 victory at lowly Watford.

Lampard's side bounced back from its midweek League Cup defeat against Manchester United to make it five successive league wins.

In Italy, Matthijs de Ligt made sure Juventus kept hold of top spot in Serie A on Saturday after his first goal for the club saw off local rival Torino, leaving Inter Milan in second despite Romelu Lukaku taking his league tally to nine with a brace in a 2-1 win at Bologna.

Inter had briefly led after Lukaku slotted home a 92nd-

minute penalty to snatch the three points at Bologna, but Juve retook first place thanks to De Ligt, who smashed home the only goal of the game in Turin with 20 minutes remaining.

The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 0 lost to Leicester 2 (Soyuncu 57, Vardy 88); Everton 1 (Tosun 90+7) drew with Tottenham 1 (Alli 63).

La Liga: Valladolid 3 (Fernandez Moreno 40, Unal 50-pen, Ramirez 90+4) bt Real Mallorca 0; Villarreal 0 drew with Athletic Bilbao 0.

Bundesliga: Fortuna Duesseldorf 2 (Hennings 38-pen, Thommy 61) bt Cologne 0.

Serie A: Atalanta 0 lost to Cagliari 2 (Pascal 32-og, Oliva

58); Genoa 1 (Pandev 22) lost to Udinese 3 (De Paul 32, Serna 87, Lasagna 90+4); Lecce 2 (Lapadula 18, Falco 42) drew with Sassuolo 2 (Toljan 35, Berardi 85); Verona 2 (Salcedo 52, Pessina 81) bt Brescia 1 (Balotelli 85).

Saturday: Premier League: Watford 1 (Deulofeu 80-pen) lost to Chelsea 2 (Abraham 5, Pulisic 55).

La Liga: Sevilla 1 (Vazquez 28) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Morata 60); Real Madrid 0 drew with Real Betis 0.

Serie A: Torino 0 lost to Juventus 1 (De Ligt 70); Bologna 1 (Soriano 59) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Lukaku 75, 90+2-pen).

Bundesliga: Union Berlin 1 (Polter 90-pen) bt Hertha Berlin 0.

Bhanwal misses bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BUDAPEST

Three-time medallist Sajjan Bhanwal (77kg) missed out on a bronze in Greco-Roman category but Ravi (97kg) reached the repechage round at the U-23 wrestling World championships here on Sunday.

Turkey's Serkan Akkoyun proved too strong for Bhanwal and won 10-1 by superiority in the bronze medal contest.

Ravi was blanked 8-0 by Georgian grappler Giorgi Melia in the pre-quarterfinals, but, with the latter making it to the final, the Indian was presented with another chance to fight for a medal.

Among other results of the day, Arjun Halakurki lost his 55kg repechage bout 10-2 to Norayr Hakhoyan of Armenia.

In 87kg, Sunil Kumar

raised hopes of a bronze when he emerged victorious 5-3 in his first repechage bout against Aleksandar Georgije Stjepanetic of Sweden. However, his hopes were dashed in the second repechage bout when Croatia's Ivan Huklec beat him 6-3.

None of other Indians could manage to win a round. In 60kg qualifiers, Sachin Rana was shown the door in a 5-2 win by China's Ligu Cao while Rahul was beaten 8-0 by Russia's Magomed Yarbilov in the same round of 72kg.

Neeraj too failed to make any impact as he went down 1-10 to Serbia's Branko Kovacevic in the qualifying bout in 82kg.

Ravinder (67kg) started his campaign from the pre-quarterfinals but could not overcome the first hurdle as he was edged 2-1 by Haci Karakus of Turkey.

US GP: Bottas on pole

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AUSTIN

Valtteri Bottas kept alive his hopes of delaying Lewis Hamilton's sixth drivers' world championship celebrations by claiming pole position with a record lap on Saturday in qualifying for Sunday's United States Grand

Prix. The Finn clocked a best lap in one minute and 32.029 seconds to outpace Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel by 0.012 seconds.

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull ahead of Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and Hamilton, who was fifth.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Deodhar Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF



James powers Lakers to win against Mavericks
LOS ANGELES
LeBron James had a triple double and Danny Green hit a buzzer beater to force overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers stunned the Dallas Mavericks 119-110 on Friday.
The results: Washington 109 lost to Minnesota 131, Detroit 113 bt Brooklyn 109, Orlando 87 lost to Denver 91, Portland 128 lost to Philadelphia 129, Memphis 105 lost to Phoenix 114, Milwaukee 115 bt Toronto 105, Golden State 87 lost to Charlotte 93, Oklahoma City 115 bt New Orleans 104.



So crowned first Fischer Random World champion
OSLO
USA's Wesley So crushed World champion and local hero Magnus Carlsen 13.5 to 2.5 in the final to win the first official World Fischer Random chess championship here on Saturday. Ian Nepomniachtchi beat Fabiano Caruana to claim third place in the event recognised by FIDE as a new variety of chess.

Ramya Natarajan loses semifinals
CANCUN (MEXICO)
Ramya Natarajan was beaten 6-2, 6-2 by Rachel Gailis of the US in the semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here.
The results: \$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico Singles (semifinals): Rachel Gailis (US) bt Ramya Natarajan -2, 6-2.

Indian women go down to Vietnam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's team suffered a 3-0 defeat to host Vietnam in the first of the two FIFA international friendly matches in Hanoi on Sunday.

Thi Nhung (8th minute), Thi Van (82nd) and Thi Thuy Hang (89th) scored a goal each for the hosts to secure a comfortable win.

Aditi Chauhan pulled off a terrific save in the 12th minute to deny Vietnam from doubling the lead.

At the stroke of the half-hour mark, Bala Devi unleashed a superb shot from centre only to see it missing the target by a whisker.

The two sides will face-off once again in their second friendly on Wednesday.

India-C appears the favourite

India-B would look to bounce back from its defeat in the inconsequential match

DEODHAR TROPHY

Y.B. SARANGI
RANCHI

The motivation to win a title will act as catalyst for the players of India-B and India-C when the two sides lock horns in the final of the Deodhar Trophy tournament at the JSCA Stadium here on Monday.

India-C impressed in its two outings by picking up eight points and would try to maintain its all-win record by giving another fine performance in the summit clash.

India-B, which lost to India-C in a match of only academic interest, will be keen to reverse the result when it matters the most.

Interestingly, India-C had defeated India-B in the final to claim the crown in the previous edition.

India-C would be pleased to know that the final would be played on the same pitch where it had put up the record-breaking total of 366 for three against India-A in



Time to fire: India-B will look to youngster Priyank Panchal to get the team off to a good start. ■ FILE PHOTO: N. SUDARSHAN

the league stage.

It needs its openers, captain Shubman Gill and Mayank Agarwal, to come good again and provide a solid start to repeat that feat.

Batting depth

The well-balanced India-C has got depth in its batting.

When it stumbled to 126 for five against India-B, Axar Patel and Virat Singh joined hands to take the team to a competitive total.

The options in bowling give India-C some advantage. Pacers Ishan Porel, Dhawal Kulkarni and spinners Axar and Lalaj Saxena, who re-

turned best-ever Deodhar figures of seven for 41 against India-A, and Mayank Markande are capable of applying the brakes on the opposition.

Good mix

The Parthiv Patel-led India 'B' – comprising a good mix of young and experienced batsmen such as Rituraj Gaikwad, Priyank Panchal, Yashasvi Jaiswal, B. Aparajith and Kedar Jadhav – is no less in batting and already has a 300-plus total to boast of. It just needs to rise to the occasion.

All-rounders Vijay Shankar and K. Gowtham and experienced bowlers Mohammed Siraj and Shahbaz Nadeem offer variety.

"Deodhar Trophy is one step higher than Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"Everyone wants to perform well here. It's an important tournament, a historic one and we want to win this," said Aparajith, the highest run-scorer in the tournament so far.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Kirori Mal College wins inter-college boxing title with 23 points

Host Kirori Mal College won the Delhi University inter-college boxing title for men with six gold, two silver and a bronze medal.

Akash, Ankush, Satyam, Ishmeet, Manvinder and Harsh won the gold medals for Kirori Mal which topped the table with 23 points. Dayal Singh College and Deshbandhu College finished second and third respectively with 14 and six points.

In the women's section, Lakshmi Bai College emerged the champion with 15 points, ahead of Jesus and Mary College and Kalindi College which gathered 11 and eight points respectively. Kirori Mal won a gold medal in the women's section through Himani, in

the 48 kg event.

All the boxers of Kirori Mal were coached by Manoj Panwar.

Sahara Warriors and Sona Polo declared joint winners

Sahara Warriors and Sona Polo were declared joint winners, as the final of the Maharaja Hari Singh Cup 12-goal polo tournament could not be played owing to bad weather condition and poor visibility, at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Sunday.

de Grandhomme's 'safe hands' help New Zealand level series

ENGLAND IN NZ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WELLINGTON

The safe hands of Colin de Grandhomme proved crucial as New Zealand drew level with England 1-1 in their Twenty20 International series here on Sunday.

While de Grandhomme was pouncing all four skied balls that went his way, England was left to rue an uncomfortable day in the field with six spilled chances including three by James Vince.

New Zealand made the most of errant fielding to post 176 for eight.

England, in reply, looked comfortable at 91 for four in the 11th over before New Zealand removed the remaining six wickets to end the innings with a ball to spare.

The scores:
New Zealand: M. Guptill c Vince b Rashid 41, C. Munro lbw b Curran 7, T. Seifert c Billings b Mahmood 16, C. de Grandhomme b Gregory 28, R. Taylor lbw Jordan 28, D. Mitchell c Jordan b Curran 5, J. Neesham



Shining bright: Martin Guptill, at the top of the innings, clouted 41 off 28 deliveries. ■ GETTY IMAGES

c&b Jordan 42, M. Santner c Brown b Jordan O, T. Southee (not out) 4, Extras (lb-3, w-2): 5; Total (for 8 wkts. in 20 overs): 176.
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-57, 3-85, 4-96, 5-121, 6-151, 7-151, 8-176.

England bowling: Curran 4-0-22-2, Mahmood 4-0-46-1, Jordan 4-0-23-3, Brown 2-0-32-0, Rashid 4-0-40-1, Gregory 2-0-10-1.

England: J. Bairstow c Mitchell b Southee O, D. Malan c Guptill b Sodhi 39, J. Vince c Santner b Ferguson 1, E. Morgan c de Grandhomme b Santner 32, S. Billings c de Grandhomme b Sodhi 8, S. Curran c Grand-

homme b Santner 9, L. Gregory c de Grandhomme b Southee 15, C. Jordan c Guptill b Santner 36, A. Rashid b Mitchell 4, S. Mahmood c Southee b Ferguson 4, P. Brown (not out) 4, Extras (lb-2, wd-1, nb-0): 3; Total (for in 19.5 overs): 155.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-3, 3-40, 4-64, 5-91, 6-93, 7-134, 8-144, 9-148.

New Zealand bowling: Southee 4-0-25-2, Ferguson 4-0-34-2, Santner 4-0-25-3, Neesham 2-0-23-0, Sodhi 4-0-37-2, Mitchell 1.5-0-9-1.

Toss: England
MoM: Santner.
New Zealand won by 21 runs to level the series 1-1.

Aquatics issue: Sports Minister intervenes to assure swimmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju intervened to assure swimmers about proper conduct of the all India inter-University aquatic championships being held at the Lovely Professional University, Phagwara.

There have been complaints from swimmers about various issues, including wrong results and timings, with some of the best swimmers in the country being shocked by the awful conduct.

"The matter is being investigated by AIU and I am confident that the correct course of action will be taken soon", wrote the Sports Minister, on Twitter.

On being prompted by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Joint Secretary of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Dr. Baljit Singh Sekhon, wrote to the organising secretary of Lovely Professional University, seeking a response within 24 hours for the series of complaints, which also had video proof.

"Submit the name of officials deputed for the conduct of this event and in case any officials were involved in discrepancy or malpractice, relieve them from duty with immediate effect and report their name to undersigned.

"Immediately suspend the students from all the events who were involved in deception and report the rectified result to the undersigned", wrote De. Sekhon.

He also warned that "no unprofessional conduct" would be tolerated in University sports.

Carlsen is the top draw

Tata Steel Chess Rapid and Blitz tournament from Nov. 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The battle between some of the finest chess brains in the world will be held in one of the most prominent address of learning in the country – the National Library.

The Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz 2019 will bring together nine of the top 15 players of the world this year with World Champion Magnus Carlsen as the top draw of the competition.

With the inaugural edition of the tournament last year eliciting a huge response, the organiser sought make the tournament more attractive by including the name of Carlsen.

The tournament will be played over five days from November 22 to 26.

India will have former World champion Viswanathan Anand as the leading

name with his younger compatriots P. Harikrishna and Vidit Gujrathi adding strength to the country's most prestigious chess event in rapid format.

Top names

The list of 10 names in the tournament released by the organiser has Carlsen, Anand, Ding Liren, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Levon Aroonian, Anish Giri, Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura, Harikrishna and Vidit.

This is the first time Carlsen is coming to India to play a competitive tournament after he dethroned Anand in the World championship match in Chennai in 2013.

True to his reputation as one of the fastest thinkers in world chess, Anand won the Blitz event in the inaugural edition beating Japan-born American GM Nakamura,

■ Carlsen is coming to India for the first time since 2013

■ Anand will be leading India's charge

■ P. Harikrishna and Vidit Gujrathi will add strength to the country's most prestigious event

who became the overall champion.

Anand's win also worked as a crowning moment for the tournament, which established itself as a premier event among the country's growing chess fraternity.

"The fact that India has more FIDE-registered players than any other country in the world makes it more significant to have a top level tournament happening in the country," said a senior official of Tata Steel.

Vijays Singham obliges in Deccan Star Plate

HYDERABAD: Vijays Singham (Robbie Downey astride) won the Deccan Star Plate, the main event of the opening day's races held here on Sunday (Nov. 3). The winner is the property of M/s. Vijay Racing & Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Sushel Kumar Gupta and trained by Laxman Singh.

1 SRISAILAM CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **GUIDING FORCE** (N. Rawal) 1, Loch Stella (C.P. Bopanna) 2, His Excellency (Aneel) 3 and Patron Saint (Jitendra Singh) 4. 1/4, 1/2 and 1/4. Im, 13.49s. ₹43 (w), 7, 6 and 6 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 331, Q: 143, Tla: 451. Favourite: His Excellency. Owners: Dr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, M/s. M. Sudheer Reddy & Sharath Chandra Reddy Malipedhi. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

2 BEGINNERS PLATE (1,100m), maiden 2-y-o only (Cat. I), (Terms): **TRUMP STAR** (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Aintree (Ajit Singh) 2, Queen Daenerys (Kuldeep Singh)

3 and Ice Berry (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and 2. Im, 7.84s. ₹38 (w), 9, 7 and 7 (p), SHP: 37, FP: 386, Q: 243, Tla: 2,311. Favourite: Astronaut. Owners: M/s. Eswarachandra Rajagopal Tripuraneni, G. Raghunandan Chary, Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Mr. P. Ranja Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

3 DECCAN STAR PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **VIJAYS SINGHAM** (Robbie Downey) 1, Flamboyant Lady (Nakhat Singh) 2, Sitara (Neeraj) 3 and Linewiler (R. Ajinkya) 4. 1, shd and 7. Im, 12.01s. ₹8 (w), 5, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 30, Q: 23, Tla: 58. Favourite: Vijays Singham. Owners: M/s. Vijay Racing & Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Sushel Kumar Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

4 M.B. MANGALORKAR MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **RED**

SNAPER (Jitendra Singh) 1, Tiger Of The Sea (Aneel) 2, Angel Tesoro (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Bob Campbell (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 3-1/4 and 4-3/4. Im, 27.11s. ₹15 (w), 6, 6 and 8 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 43, Q: 22, Tla: 66. Favourite: Tiger Of The Sea. Owners: Ms. Meka Ahalya & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

5 SRISAILAM CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BEST FRIEND** (Jitendra Singh) 1, Handsome Dou (Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Human Touch (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Love Machine (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 2-3/4, 1/2 and 1-1/4. Im, 13.38s. ₹18 (w), 6, 6 and 11, SHP: 16, FP: 47, Q: 20, Tla: 458. Favourite: Handsome Duo. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Satheesh.

6 M.B. MANGALORKAR MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45: **MIND READER** (Nakhat Singh) 1, Flag Of Honour

(A.A. Vikrant) 2, Bar Et Law (Koushik) 3 and Augensterm (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 6-3/4, shd and 1-3/4. Im, 26.74s. ₹29 (w), 9, 7 and 11 (p), SHP: 25, FP: 228, Q: 120, Tla: 2,057. Favourite: Aristocrats Charm. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Satheesh.

7 OWN OPINION PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **CALIFORNIA BEAUTY** (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Air Salute (Afroz Khan) 2, Red River (Jitendra Singh) 3 and Glendale (Rohit Kumar) 4. 4, hd and 1-3/4. Im, 13.81s. ₹39 (w), 9, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 156, Q: 53, Tla: 273. Favourite: Air Salute. Owners: M/s. Shaik Kassam, S.Z. Quraishy & Tulasi Ram Kaskana. Trainer: Sk. Waseem.

8 jkt: ₹7,630 (61 tkts.). Runner-up: 267 (746 tkts.). Mini jkt.: 4,701 (15 tkts.). Tr (i): 472 (119 tkts.). (ii): 826 (88 tkts.).

Fantastic finish for Barty

The Australian dethrones Svitolina



On top: Ashleigh Barty proved her credentials as the world's best player by taking the year-end crown. ■ GETTY IMAGES

WTA FINALS

REUTERS
SHENZHEN

Ashleigh Barty finished the season in style by beating defending champion Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-3 to add the WTA Finals title to her end-of-year World No.1 ranking on Sunday.

Barty, who became the first Australian to top the rankings at the end of the year since they were introduced in 1975, capped a stellar season having also won at Roland Garros in June.

Barty became the first Australian to win the WTA Finals since Evonne Goolagong Cawley claimed her second title in 1976.

“It’s been the most in-

credible year for me,” said Barty, who pocketed a record \$4.42 million for her victory in Shenzhen, where the tournament was being held for the first time as part of a 10-year residency.

“It’s been an incredible new era in women’s tennis and to play in front of this spectacular crowd has been amazing.”

There was little between the pair until the penultimate game of the first set when Barty fended off a break point before putting Svitolina’s serve under pressure in the following game.

The results (finals): Ashleigh Barty bt Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-3; Timea Babos & Kristina Mladenovic bt Barbora Strycova & Hsieh Su-Wei 6-1, 6-3.

Ritik Malik, Shaili Singh, Chanda and Nivya Antony make a mark

NATL. JR. ATHLETICS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUNTUR

Ritik Malik (Delhi), Shaili Singh (Karnataka), Chanda (Delhi) and Nivya Antony (Kerala) set new National records in the boys’ under-18 100m, girls’ under-16 long jump, girls’ under-20 1500m and girls’ under-20 pole vault events on day two of the 35th National junior athletics at Acharya Nagarjuna University campus here on Sunday.

Malik’s 10.65s broke the National and Meet records of Gurindervir Singh (10.69, 2017) and Praveen Muthukumaran (10.75, 2011).

Chanda clocked 4:17.18 in the 1500m to beat Lili Das’s 4:17.29 set in 2016.

Nivya Antony of Kerala came up with 3.75 m to set a new National and Meet record eclipsing Mariya Jaisson’s 3.70m sset in 2015 in Ranchi.

There were meet records for Lovepreet Singh (AFI-Punjab) and A.T. Daneshwari (Karnataka) respectively in the boys’ and girls’ under-20 100m races.

Lovepreet’s dash in 10.60 seconds was easily his personal best, improving on the 10.66 he clocked in the National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi last month. Sujith Kuttan held the record from 2010 with a time of 10.65.

Daneshwari rewrote one of the oldest records in the book, improving on V. Pandeeswari’s 11.92 seconds set



Nivya Antony of Kerala who set a new record in pole vault. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in 1996. Her own previous best was 11.88 seconds, clocked when finishing second in the Federation Cup for Juniors in September last. Today, she was quick off the block and blazed away to the finish, 13-hundredths of a second outside Dutee Chand’s National mark.

The results: All finals: Boys: Under-20: 100m: 1. Lovepreet Singh (AFI-Pun) 10.60s (**NMR**),

2. Abhin B. Devadiga (Kar) 10.88s, 3. C. Abhinav (Ker) 10.89s. **400m:** 1. Mohammed Jahir Rayhan (Bangladesh) 47.34s, 2. Rashid (Del) 47.76s, 3. Vikrant Panchal (Del) 48.23s. **1500m:** 1. Sunil Dawar (MP) 3:48.52 - (**NMR** old record 3:49.88 by Ajeet Kumar, 2018), 2. Ankit (Har) 3:50.71; 3. Vikas (Har) 3:52.87. **10 km:** 1. Suraj Panwar (Utk) 41:22.41, 2. Kamaldeep (Har) 43:16.10, 3. Farman Ali (UP) 43:31.31. **Decath-**



Shaili Singh set the long jump mark. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lon: 1. Umesh Lamba (UP) 6748 pts, 2. Dhaval Solanki (Guj) 6182 pts, 3. N. Krishnan (TN) 5711pts.

Girls: Under-20: 100m: 1. A.T. Daneshwari (Kar) 11.76s (**NMR**), 2. Nithya Gandhe (TS) 11.90s, 3. Kaveri Laxmangouda Patil (Kar) 12.03s. **400m:** 1. Nancy (Har) 55.31s, 2. Manisha Kushwah (UP) 55.43s, 3. Ritika (Del) 56.63s. **1500m:** 1. Chanda (Del) 4:17.18 (**NMR**), 2. Radha (Utk) 4:31.42, 3. Madhu (Har)

4:34.44. **Pole vault:** 1. Nivya Antony (Ker) 3.75m (**NMR & NR**), 2. Babita Patel (MP) 3.20, 3. Blessy Kunjumon (Ker) 3.15. **High jump:** 1. M. Jishna (Ker) 1.77m (**NMR** - OR Rekha in Ranchi 2018 - 1.75m), 2. Gracena G. Merly (TN) 1.74 m; 3. S.B. Supriya (Kar) 1.74 m. **Discus:** 1. M. Karunya (TN) 48.12m, 2. M. Priyadarshini (TN) 42.55m, 3. Paramjit Kaur (Pun) 42.13.

Boys: Under-18: 100m: 1. Ritik Malik (Del) 10.65s (**NR & NMR**), 2. V. Shashikant (Kar) 10.82s, 3. Rahul Sharma (UP) 10.88s. **400m:** 1. C.R. Abdul Razak (Ker) 47.90s, 2. Aniket Choudhary (TS) 48.75s, 3. Ram Chandra Sanga (Jhar) 48.87s. **Shotput:** 1. Amandeep Singh Dhaliwal (Pun) 19.16m, 2. Prince (Har) 18.56, 3. Adhish Ghildiyal (UP) 18.46. **Discus:** 1. Ashish Kumar (UP) 56.63m, 2. Harnoor Singh Sandhu (AFI-Pun) 56.37, 3. Satyan Singh (Utk) 55.30. **Decathlon:** 1. Usaid Khan (Maha) 7185pts, 2. Jayaram Chaudhary (Guj) 5913 pts, 3. Abdulla Abdul Maje (Ker) 5870 pts.

Under-16: 100m: 1. Kapil (Har) 10.93s, 2. Aman Khokhar (UP) 10.97s, 3. Riday Samir Jana (Maha) 11.14s. **400m:** 1. K. Mahesh (Telangana) 49.11s, 2. U. Ravi Teja (AP) 50.15s, 3. Rajibul Haque (Maha) 50.53s. **Pentathlon:** 1. N. Thowfeeq (Ker) 3201 pts; 2. K. Jayakumar (TN) 3200 pts, 3. Sabhavath Yugendar (TS) 3161 pts.

Under-14: 100m: 1. A. Gowtham (TS) 11.62s, 2. Deepak Toppo (Jhar) 11.63s, 3. Om Rajendra Itkelwar (Maha) 11.85s. **High jump:** 1. Aaditya Raghuvanshi (MP) 1.95m (**NR & MR**, Old NR Vijay Malik, 1.93m, Mangalagiri, 2017), 2. Kulbir Singh (Pun) 1.82m, 3. K. Pranay (TS) 1.79m. **Long jump:** 1. Rakesh Kumar Yadav (Bih) 6.39m, 2. K Balajeeva (TN) 6.36m, 3. Rajen-

dra Sidhu (Odi) 6.17m.

Girls: Under-18: 100m: 1. Jeevanji Deepthi (TS) 11.94s, 2. Avantika Santosh Narale (Maha) 12.09s; 3. Sudeshna Hanmant Shivankar (Maha) 12.12s. **400m:** 1. M.H. Priya (Kar) 55.27s, 2. Gorvi Nandana (Ker) 55.59s, 3. Deepanshi (Har) 55.79s. **Pole vault:** 1. Pavitha Venkatesh (TN) 3.50m; 2. Maisuri Timbadiya (Guj) 3.32m , 3. Arathy Nair (Ker) 3.00m. **High jump:** 1. Meera Shibu (Ker) 1.65m, 2. Khushi (Har) 1.65m, 3. Shruti Sudhir Kamble (Maha) 1.65m. **Long jump:** 1. P.M. Thabitha (TN) 5.85m, 2. P.S. Prabhavathi (Ker) 5.76m, 3. P. Babisha (TN) 5.70m. **Discus:** 1. Grima (Har) 44.72m, 2. Aditi Rajesh Bugad (Maha) 43.61m, 3. Krishna Jayashankar (AP) 43.59m. **5km:** 1. Munita Prajapati (MP) 24:32.30 - **NMR** - OR 24:43.54, Baljit Kaur, Ranchi, 2018), 2. Mansi Negi (Utk) 24:50.06, 3. Preeti (AFI-Pun) 25:13.87.

Under-16: 100m: 1. Ruthika Saravanan (TN) 12.35s, 2. Dishani Ganguly (WB) 12.41s, 3. Tamanna (Har) 12.47s. **400m:** 1. Rupal (UP) 55.37s, 2. Riya Nitin Patil (Maha) 57.43s, 3. Pon Siva Priyaa (TN) 59.69s. **Long jump:** Shaili Singh (Kar) 6.15m - (**NR & NMR**, Old 5.14m, Shaili Singh, Ranchi, 2018, 2. Susmita (Raj) 5.49m, 3. Kajal Soma Majji 5.48m (Odi). **Discus throw:** 1. Bharti (Utk) 41.34m; 2. Ramneet Kaur (Utk) 39.94m, 3. Harshdeep Kaur (Pun) 39.59m. **Under-14: 100m:** 1. Ishika Nishikant Ranade (Maha) 12.84s, 2. D.G.G. Jason (TN) 13.07s, 3. Saanika Subhash Bangera (Kar) 13.19s. **High jump:** 1. Pavana Nagaraj (Kar) 1.59m, 2. Mohur Mukherjee (WBI) 1.57m, 3. S. Subhika (TN) 1.48m. **Long jump:** 1. G. Niveethitha (TN) 5.33m, 2. Pariksha (Jhar) 5.07m, 3. Parvin Husnara (Jhar) 4.92m.

Jennifer holds nerve for maiden title

Easy for Preyesh, Priyanuj; Suhana sweats it out



The winners: Jennifer Varghese, Priyanuj Bhattacharya, S. Preyesh Raj and Suhana Saini are all smiles after emerging triumphant. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WZ RANKING TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
THANE

Jennifer Varghese converted her first final of a National ranking tournament into her maiden cadet girls’ title on the concluding day of the UTT West Zone National Ranking Table tennis tournament here on Sunday.

On a hectic Sunday at the Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhani school where cadet (under-12) and sub-junior (under-15) boys and girls played six rounds each, Maharashtra’s Jennifer held her nerve to edge past Sharvani Nagan of Tamil Nadu in the match of the day.

The 11-year-old paddler, who trains under Ujwal Wani at the Titan Club in Nagpur, showed her mettle and composure in the decider. Thanks to her rally game, she registered a narrow 10-12, 11-5, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 3-11, 11-9 win before bursting into

celebratory tears.

Straight-game wins

While S. Preyesh Raj of Tamil Nadu and Priyanuj Bhattacharya of PSPBA rolled over their respective opponents in straight games to win the sub-junior and cadet boys’ crown, respectively, Haryana’s Suhana Saina wiped off a 2-0 deficit to overcome familiar foe Lakshita Narang of Delhi 4-2 in the sub-junior girls’ final.

Suhana, having barely recovered from a viral infection, used the depth of the table well to force Lakshita into errors and win her second zonal title of the season.

While the Maharashtra paddlers will start vying for honours in the State Championship in Pune from Sunday evening, the national caravan will move to Bhavnagar for the Central Zone National ranking tournament, starting from November 7.

The results: Sub-junior: Boys:

Final: S. Preyesh Raj (TN) bt Aadil Anand (Mah) 11-4, 11-9, 11-8, 11-6. **Semifinals:** Aadil bt Tharun Shanmugham (TN) 11-7, 11-4, 11-7, 11-6; Preyesh bt Ankur Bhattacharjea (WB) 11-5, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7.

Girls: Final: Suhana Saini (Har) bt Lakshita Narang (Del) 4-11, 6-11, 13-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-7. **Semifinals:** Suhana bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 11-9, 11-7, 11-5, 7-11, 13-11; Lakshita bt Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) 11-8, 12-10, 15-13, 11-7.

Cadet: Boys: Final: Priyanuj Bhattacharya (PSPBA) bt Divyaj Roy Rajkhowa (PSPBA) 12-10, 14-12, 17-15, 11-9. **Semifinals:** Priyanuj bt K. Segal Singh (PSPBA) 11-8, 8-11, 11-5, 11-7; Divyaj bt Hriday Deshpande (Mah) 11-9, 11-4, 9-11, 11-4.

Girls: Final: Jennifer Varghese (Mah) bt Sharvani Nagam (TN) 10-12, 11-5, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 3-11, 11-9. **Semifinals:** Jennifer bt M. Hansini (TN) 2-11, 11-7, 11-8, 10-12, 11-4; Sharvani bt Nandini Saha (WB) 6-11, 11-6, 3-11, 11-5, 11-4.

Sarin strikes back to hold Karpov

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU
CAP D’AGDE (FRANCE)

Nihal Sarin, 15, bounced back to hold former World champion Anatoly Karpov 2-2 in a four-game rapid and blitz challenge match in Cap d’Agde on Saturday.

The first two rapid games were drawn before Karpov, 68, surged ahead by winning the first blitz. In the second, where Sarin played with white, he gained the upper hand after claiming a rook for a bishop. But the game ended abruptly on the 28th move when Karpov resigned after overlooking a knight move that ‘forked’ his king and queen.

“Not satisfied with the result. Failed to grab my chances, and he defended very well. I will be playing



Bouncing back: Nihal Sarin bested Anatoly Karpov in the second blitz game to share the honours. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

him again in a classical game next year,” said Sarin.

Karpov was at his vintage best in the first blitz game where he pulled off a stunning win from what appeared a theoretical drawn endgame.

Sarin held some advantage in the second rapid game, with black pieces. But his decision to exchange an active knight probably al-

lowed Karpov more defensive options and led to a draw.

The results: Rapid (25 minutes each + 10 second increment for every move): Nihal Sarin drew with Anatoly Karpov in 59 moves; Karpov drew with Sarin in 49 moves

Blitz (5 minutes each + 5 second increment for every move): Karpov bt Sarin in 69 moves; Sarin bt Karpov in 28 moves.

The real thing is coming: Kristine Lilly

Says the boys’ event was the just the primer

WOMEN’S U17 WC

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Kristine Lilly, the football star from the United States, who has played a record 352 internationals including five World Cups and scored 130 goals, did not hesitate to say that women’s football is in a top-notch position.

“If Messi can take a free kick, I can take it and if I can bend it, he can. But he may have a little more power. At the end of it, if it’s football, we are right up there, but if it’s physicality, it’s out of our control,” said the Boston-

based icon.

Kristine was here Mumbai to promote the FIFA Under-17 Women’s World Cup to be played in India from November 2, 2020.

Talking to *The Hindu* she said: “It’s just great to have the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup here. For a country as big as this, to host an event like this is really incredible. The Under -17 boys’ [event] was the driver, the real thing is coming. Hope to see women get the support the boys got two years ago. It’s a dream for the young girls, it’s something special for them.”



Kristine Lilly. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Kristine urged the young girls to play the game in a free manner. “Just go out there and play. Once you encourage them to do that, you

can see a spark in their eyes and a smile on their face. I don’t care from where the girl’s are from; if you are going to do something, do it.”

She declared that women’s football gets good attention in her country. “The sport of women’s football has grown so much in the United States that it gets enough attention. I played for 23 years and retired in 2010.

“The success we had and the continued success of the US team has been incredible. Some times, the women players are known more than the men. My life now is

teaching the kids the game. People recognise me enough, I appreciate it.”

The 48-year-old Kristine also touched upon a bigger audience for the sport and Thailand’s presence at the World Cup in France. “The viewership is bigger because there is more coverage. So as long as we grow on the media and players side, it’s going to be good for the game. We had Thailand for the first time at the world’s.

“Teams like Thailand, once they are there at the World Cup and once they return to their country, the game is going to grow.”

McIlroy claims WGC-HSBC Champions

Irishman gets the better of defending champion Schauffele in a playoff



All smiles: Rory McIlroy claimed his maiden first WGC-HSBC Champions title on Sunday ■ AP

GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

Rory McIlroy defeated defending champion Xander Schauffele on Sunday to win his first WGC-HSBC Champions tournament and continue his quest to retake the world’s top golf ranking.

McIlroy had a one-stroke lead coming to the 18th tee of regulation play but nearly put his drive into the lake, and ended with a par. That left him tied with Schauffele after the American carded a birdie.

But the 30-year-old Northern Irishman erased any doubt in the play-off replay of the par-5 18th, booming a drive to the middle of the fairway while Schauffele’s tee shot missed left.

McIlroy went on to win the hole and the \$1.745 million winner’s purse at the

par-72 Sheshan International Golf Club.

McIlroy is coming off a strong 2018-19 season that saw him climb the World golf rankings, and he said this week in Shanghai that his sights were set on retaking the top slot from its current holder, American Brooks Koepka.

As the sport buzzes with the return of Tiger Woods –who achieved a record-tying 82nd PGA Tour win this past week in Japan – McIlroy left little doubt that he also remains a potent force in world golf.

He did not drop a shot over his final 38 regulation holes and went 67-67-67-68 to finish at 19 under for the event.

Schauffele, gunning to become the first back-to-back winner of east Asia’s premiere tournament, shot a six-under 66 on Sunday.

A Dhoni-inspired experiment

JSCA lays out seven practice pitches made of different soil

CRICKET

Y.B. SARANGI
RANCHI

Inspired by M.S. Dhoni’s advice to develop red clay practice pitches at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) Stadium, the association has experimented on laying various types of tracks at the stadium complex here.

JSCA curator S.B. Singh, who has been overseeing the preparation of these pitches on the smaller practice ground inside the stadium complex for the last eight months, is delighted that the process is nearing

completion.

“Since Jharkhand players had some issues on red clay pitches on tours to southern states, Dhoni had suggested that we should prepare such tracks for practice ahead of crucial matches. When we finally decided for it, we thought why not do some experiments,” said Singh.

The JSCA brought black soil from Bolangir (Odisha) and Mokama Tal (Bihar) and mixed it with the local red soil to do the experiment.

Singh and his colleagues laid 11 strips of seven varieties.

“We mixed Bolangir and Mokama soil with the red

one at 60:40 ratio to see how these pitches behave. Also, we laid tracks of black soil from Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand apart from one of yellow soil.

“The grass is growing well and it’s a good indication.”

The final outcome will be known when players practise on these surfaces sooner than later.

“Dhoni will break a coconut and inaugurate the red clay pitch in the company of some age group cricketers in about a week or so.

“These facilities will help all players as they will learn how to play on different surfaces,” said Singh.



Breaking new ground: JSCA stadium curator S.B. Singh talks about the new practice pitches in Ranchi. ■ Y.B. SARANGI