

FROM PAGE ONE

Hemant Soren back as Jharkhand CM

"We will take Jharkhand to a new high by taking everyone along. Our government will ensure all-round development of each section of society. A new era of peace and prosperity will be ushered in the State," Mr. Soren said, after his swearing-in. He led the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance to a comprehensive win in the just-concluded Assembly election. The alliance won 47 seats in the 81-member House.

Later, Jharkhand Vikash Morcha (Prajantrik), led by former CM Babulal Ma-

randi and having three seats, extended unconditional support to his government.

Congress Legislature Party leader Alamgir Alam, Congress State president Rameshwar Oran, who had won the Lohardaga seat, and the lone RJD MLA, Satyananda Bhokta, were administered oath as Ministers.

Congratulatory messages started pouring in for Mr. Soren subsequent to his swearing-in, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former President Pranab Mukherjee.

Today's youth prefer to follow the system: PM

"This generation will play a major role in modernising India; I feel it beyond any doubt. On the birth anniversary of Vivekananda on January 12, on the occasion of National Youth Day, every young person should give a thought to this responsibility, taking one resolve or the other for this decade," he said.

Later in his address, Mr. Modi asked people to promote indigenous products

till 2022, when India completes 75 years of Independence.

He also spoke of an initiative in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh – the Himayat programme – for skill development and employment of those between 15 and 35 years who could not complete their studies "for some reason". He said 18,000 youth had received training under this programme in the past two years.

Most CBI fraud cases based on bank complaints

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid apprehensions of "undue harassment" by the three Cs – the CBI, the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General, figures show that most of the 90-odd bank fraud cases registered by the CBI this year were based on complaints from lenders.

In a major crackdown, when the CBI registered 42 cases and conducted searches at more than 190 loca-

tions across 16 States in the first week of November, action was taken on complaints received from various banks alleging fraud involving more than ₹7,000 crore. As fears of undue harassment had been raised, CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla attended a meeting chaired by the Union Finance Minister, with the chiefs of the public sector banks, the chief executive of the Indian Banks' Association and the representatives of leading private banks.

Priyanka's ride costs scooter owner dear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh traffic police slapped a fine of ₹6,300 for riding without helmets on the owner of a two-wheeler on which Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra travelled on Saturday to retired IPS officer S.R. Darapuri's residence in Lucknow, a senior official said on Sunday.

"Based on photographs we got from social media two persons could be seen riding a two-wheeler without helmet. It was verified and revealed the two-wheeler was driven by Dheeraj Gurjar. Based on the details of the vehicle, a challan was issued," Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Poornendu Singh said. According to the e-challan, the owner of the two-wheeler is Rajdeep Singh, who has to pay the fine.

Due process is a must to seek damages

Guidelines mandate court-monitored system of assessment based on evidence

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh government's acceptance of ₹6.27 lakh from the Muslim community as "compensation" for damages caused to public property during anti-CAA protests lacks due process.

The Supreme Court had *suo motu* laid down 10-point guidelines for assessment of damages and liability in its judgment in *Re: Destruction of Public and Private Properties Vs State of A.P and others* on April 16, 2009.

The assessment of "exemplary damages" for property destroyed in incidents of violence should be based on electronic media/private video evidence. The prosecution has to separately prove that the damage occurred during protests and was the result of "direct actions" of the persons concerned.

The claims are to be pro-

cessed under the aegis of the Supreme Court or the State High Court concerned.

The constitutional court involved would ultimately decide the liability for the damages caused. The State government cannot unilaterally decide exemplary damages. It has to be decided after judicial application of mind.

For one, wherever a mass destruction to property takes place due to protests or thereof, the High Court may issue *suo motu* action and set up a machinery to investigate the damage caused and award compensation.

When multiple States have suffered damages, the Supreme Court should take over cognisance.

In each case, the High Court or Supreme Court, as the case may be, should appoint a sitting or retired High Court judge or a sitting or re-



BACKGROUND

tired district judge as a Claims Commissioner to estimate the damages and investigate liability. An assessor is appointed to assist the Claims Commissioner.

The Claims Commissioner and the assessor, acting on the instructions of the High Court or Supreme Court, may summon video or other recordings from private and public sources to pinpoint the damage and establish

nexus with the perpetrators of the damage.

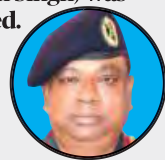
The principles of absolute liability shall apply once the nexus with the event that precipitated the damage is established. The liability will be borne by the actual perpetrators of the crime as well as organisers. Their shares would be decided by the court.

Exemplary damages should not be greater than twice the amount of the damages liable to be paid. Damages should be assessed for destruction to public or private property, injury or death and cost of the actions by the authorities and police to take prevent and contain the violence.

The Claims Commissioner would finally make a report to the High Court or Supreme Court, which would determine the liability after hearing the parties.

It (unprovoked firing by the BGB that killed BSF Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh) was totally unexpected and unwarranted. We have taken steps to avoid such situations. Inquiry is in process.

MAJ. GEN. MD. SHAFEEUL ISLAM
Director-General, Border Guard Bangladesh



held from December 25-30.

On the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Maj. Gen. Islam said he would not like to make any comments, while Mr. Johri has [the DG, BGB] had already clarified [on the NRC] that these were an internal matter of India.

In the aftermath of the re-

cent firing between the border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh, the two countries are updating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that are in place to prevent a repeat of such incidents. "It is unfortunate, unexpected incident. There are lessons to be learnt from it, on how to prevent such in-

cidents. We are drawing detailed SOP on this subject," Mr. Johri said on Sunday. "We have basic SOPs already in place. What we are doing is review it and plug certain gaps. It should be ready in the next few days," he added in response to a question from *The Hindu*.

In October, in an incident of unprovoked firing by the BGB, Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh of the BSF lost his life when they went to secure the release of Indian fishermen held in their waters. Commenting on the incident, Maj. Gen. Islam said it was totally unexpected

and unwarranted. "We have taken steps to avoid such situations. Inquiry is in process, after which we will take steps," he said. On the status of the Indian fisherman apprehended on the sea by the BGB, Maj. Gen. Islam said he had been handed over to the police.

'Smart fence'
Mr. Johri said a project to plug border gaps and deploy a "smart fence" along the riverine India-Bangladesh front in Assam was expected to be completed by July next year.

(With PTI inputs)

In maiden order, Hemant drops Pathalgadi cases

Jharkhand Chief Minister holds first Cabinet meeting: Assembly convened from January 6 to 8 to administer oath to MLAs

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Hemant Soren government on Sunday announced it was dropping all cases registered against people involved in the Pathalgadi movement and protests during the tweaking of the Chhotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) and Santhal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Acts in Jharkhand.

The first Cabinet meeting chaired by Mr. Soren also gave its nod to change the Jharkhand State logo. In the present State logo, the Ashoka Chakra is placed between four J-s.

"The State logo will be prepared afresh for which proposals will be invited. The new State emblem will reflect Jharkhand's culture, tradition, history and future," said Ajoy Kumar Singh, Cabinet Secretary, after the meeting.

Pro-tem Speaker
Veteran JMM leader Stephen Marandi was recommended to be pro-tem Speaker of the



Unity vibes: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren with parents Shibu Soren and Rupri Soren, Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Ashok Gehlot, M.K. Stalin, Sitaram Yechury, D. Raja, Sharad Yadav and other leaders in Ranchi on Sunday. •PTI

newly constituted Assembly.

A three-day session of the Assembly has been convened from January 6 to 8 during which the MLAs-elect will be administered oath of office and the new Speaker will also be finalised.

The Pathalgadi move-

ment was a vociferous campaign by people who had asserted that no project or programme can be implemented without the consent of the gram sabha.

Brutal police force
The Raghuraj Das government had crushed the move-

ment of self-rule using brutal police power. The movement had then spread to four districts of Jharkhand in 2017. Huge stone plaques, known locally as Pathalgadi, were put up at the entrance of villages. The plaques had main clauses of the Panchayats (Extension to Sche-

duled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) carved on them. They also warned outsiders not to enter villages without permission.

"As per our estimate, there were about 29 FIRs registered in five different police stations in connection with the Pathalgadi movement. In those FIRs, 109 persons were

named and there was mention of 15,000 anonymous villagers. Many of them were facing grievous charges including sedition," said Prafulla Linda, General Secretary of Adivasi Adhikar Manch.

Similarly, the JMM had fought the Assembly elections protesting against controversial amendment to CNT and SPT Acts.

Widespread protests
Although the BJP government had subsequently withdrawn its move to amend the Acts under public pressure, widespread protests had taken place across Jharkhand.

Changes in section 21 of the CNT Act and section 13 of the SPT Act would have enabled the government to allow use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Civil society groups and tribal organisations had vehemently opposed it. The Cabinet recommended immediate payment of all outstanding dues of all frontline contractual workers including para-teachers.

Pak. to host OIC meet on Kashmir, CAA

Diplomats say ministerial is linked to Saudi ties with Islamabad to counter rival Islamic formation

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Pakistan will hold a ministerial meeting of the 57-member Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir in April 2020, said official media in Islamabad. The development, according to diplomats, is linked to a broader Saudi-Pakistan deal.

The announcement came days after recently-appointed Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud visited Islamabad and met with the Pakistani leadership, including Prime Minister Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on December 26.

"I told the Saudi Foreign Minister that the OIC must



Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud

make a strong statement on India's Citizenship Amendment Act as well as on the situation in [Jammu and Kashmir]," Mr. Qureshi said in a press conference on Sunday.

According to Radio Pakistan, the officials had discussed holding the meeting

of ministers of the OIC grouping of Muslim majority countries, led by Saudi Arabia, to focus on the "human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and enactment of an anti-Muslim law in India". The report added that the ministerial meeting "is expected to be held in Islamabad in April 2020."

The Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the development until the meeting was officially announced by the OIC. If confirmed, the move would be a setback to the government's efforts to increase its engagement with the Islamic grouping, including attending the OIC conference in Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

Both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been muted in their comments on the government's actions in Kashmir as well as the CAA subsequently.

Malaysian initiative
Diplomats say the decision of the Saudi leadership to send its foreign minister on his first visit abroad to Pakistan, as well as to agree to an OIC statement on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act last week stems from Riyadh's concerns over losing control of key Islamic nations to a parallel formation, headed by Malaysia and Turkey, more than a desire to turn away from India.

On Dec 19, Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohammad had

convened the "Kuala Lumpur" summit, with the leaders of Turkey, Iran and Qatar, calling for reforms in the Muslim world.

Pakistan PM Imran Khan, who had agreed to attend the summit, pulled out at the last minute, after the Saudi Crown Prince reportedly advised him to.

"The bargain is clear: Saudi Arabia leads OIC nations to showcase its control of the Islamic world, while allowing its members to use the forum to attack their own rivals," said India's former Ambassador to KSA, Oman and the UAE, Talmiz Ahmed. "While OIC resolutions mean very little in real terms, Pakistan wants to use the forum against India."

'No politicking at educational institutions'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

As anti-citizenship law protests in various universities showed no signs of let up, Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal on Sunday said the Central government would not "at any cost" tolerate educational institutions turning into hubs of politicking.

He said that anyone was free to engage in political activities, but colleges and universities should be kept out of it, as many students came to study from far-off places.

"The Narendra Modi government is not going to tolerate this at any cost," he said.

Chief of the Defence Staff can serve till 65, says govt.

The tenure of the CDS post is, however, yet to be fixed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government has issued a gazette modifying the Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force to enable the appointment of the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) and fixing the upper age limit at 65.

"They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official gazette," the gazette says.

The Centre amended the Army Rules 1954, Naval (Discipline and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations, 1965, Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Regulations, 1963 and Air Force Regulations, 1964.

"The service regulations have been amended and not the Acts and it is the logical



Gen. Bipin Rawat

step after the Union Cabinet last week approved the creation of the post of CDS," an Army officer said.

However, the tenure of the CDS has not been fixed. The service chiefs have a tenure of three years or 62 years of age whichever is

earlier and it remains unchanged.

Last week, in anticipation of the announcement of the CDS, the Defence Ministry cancelled the handing over ceremony of the Baton of the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), to this week.

In the race
Outgoing Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat, who is also in the race of the CDS, is set to superannuate on December 31.

The Union Cabinet had last week approved the creation of the post who will be a four-star General and will function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and also as the Permanent Chairman of the COSC.

NRC an internal matter of India, says Bangladesh DG

After the recent firing between the border forces, the two countries are updating Standard Operating Procedures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is an "internal matter" of the Indian government, Director-General, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Maj. Gen. Md. Shafeenul Islam has said.

"This is completely an internal matter of the Indian government. Like any other border guarding force, BGB works to prevent illegal crossing..." he said on the NRC issue. To questions if there were any illegal border crossings from India in the aftermath of the NRC, Maj. Gen. Islam said there were

ren't any such.

"We regularly apprehend persons who cross the border," he said, adding these were Bangladeshis who came into India inadvertently or for work without proper documents. He said about 300 Bangladeshis were apprehended by the BGB this year while crossing the border.

Coordination meet
Vivek Johri, Director-General (DG), Border Security Force (BSF), and Maj. Gen. Islam were addressing the media on Sunday at the 49th border coordination conference

held from December 25-30. On the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Maj. Gen. Islam said he would not like to make any comments, while Mr. Johri has [the DG, BGB] had already clarified [on the NRC] that these were an internal matter of India. In the aftermath of the re-

cent firing between the border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh, the two countries are updating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that are in place to prevent a repeat of such incidents. "It is unfortunate, unexpected incident. There are lessons to be learnt from it, on how to prevent such in-

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In October, in an incident of unprovoked firing by the BGB, Head Constable Vijay Bhan Singh of the BSF lost his life when they went to secure the release of Indian fishermen held in their waters. Commenting on the incident, Maj. Gen. Islam said it was totally unexpected

BJP keeps distance from rally

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

The ruling BJP in Tripura has distanced itself from a rally called by the estranged party MLA, Sudip Roy Barman, to protest against the

rise in crimes against women in the country. The BJP said it will neither support nor oppose the rally but that those attending would not be allowed to indulge in anti-party activities.

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All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordele Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 E Mail ID: womenswelfare@welfare.org

Vivekanathan

INTERVIEW | RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

'CAA is perfectly legal and Constitutional, does not relate to any Indian'

Union Law Minister says the new citizenship law does not affect Muslim citizens; neither does it create any citizenship nor take it away

NISTULA HEBBAR

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad speaks on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), as well as the protests against these moves.

It's been suggested that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) goes against Article 14 of the Constitution and that there are enough provisions in the unamended Citizenship Act to provide citizenship to persecuted minorities.

The CAA is perfectly legal and Constitutional. Under Article 246 of the Constitution, Parliament has got the exclusive power to make laws with respect to any matters listed in the list one in the Seventh Schedule, in that, item 17 is to do with citizenship and naturalisation of aliens. Therefore, only Parliament has got sovereign powers to legislate on citizenship. Article 14, that you refer to, says equality before law and equal protection before law, but the Supreme Court has got more than 20 judgments where they say that if there is a reasonable classification of groups who form a class by themselves then that legislation will be valid. Here a persecuted, victimised group based on faith

of six communities from the three countries Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, which are declared Islamic countries, form that reasonable classification.

Therefore, this CAA does not relate to any Indian, even Muslims. Neither does it create any citizenship to them nor takes it away. Now take the case of precedents, Mrs. Indira Gandhi gave citizenship to Hindus exiled from Uganda, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in the case of Tamilians.

But they never made it religion-specific.

But did they say we add Muslims to these groups? Dr. Manmohan Singh in Rajya Sabha in 2003 specifically mentioned minorities fleeing our neighbouring countries. Mr. Ashok Gehlot and Mr. Tarun Gogoi wrote letters on this to the government from time to time. Congress doing it is ok, BJP doing it is bad. What is this logic.

The Congress's argument is

that they did not mention any specific religion either for inclusion or exclusion.

What did Dr. Singh say to Mr. Advani in 2003? The video says legacy persecuted minorities should be given citizenship. Coming back to your question on why CAA, individually people can be considered for citizenship, as more than 2,000 Pakistanis have been given citizenship, but the whole group of minorities who have been persecuted only because of faith needed the CAA. It's a fact that there were six-seven lakh minorities in Afghanistan now only 500 left, what happens to Hindus - rape, murder, forced conversion in Pakistan - is too well known. Go to Indore, to Jodhpur, to Majnu Ka Teela in Delhi to see their condition for yourself. Therefore, the entire group of these communities are being given a platform for citizenship. The law provides for that. Individual asylum, protection is always there. One particular provision is rarely talked of in this context is Article 25, which provides for all persons, not just citizens, the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion, therefore they have that right, after having coming to India.



There is a continuum being drawn between the CAA, the NRC and the NPR by those protesting. What is your view on this?

There are four concepts - the CAA, the Census, the NRC and the NPR. CAA we have already spoken of, the Census is an enumeration after every 10 years of Indians, it's also a constitutional sanction, but there is one issue, under the Census Act you cannot disclose the statistics of individuals, households. The NPR is a register of usual residents, not citizens. This you get from the Citizenship Act of 1955 and then there is a citizenship registration and issue of National I-card rule of 2003. Rule 3, sub-clause 4 says the Central government

may decide the date by which a population register might be prepared. The point is that you can release NPR data for better targeting of welfare, to be used by both Centre and State. On 7th May, 2010, during a debate in the Lok Sabha initiated by late Ananth Kumar, with the participation of Mr. Lalu Prasad, Mr. Mulayam Singh and Mr. Sharad Yadav, then Minister Mr. Chidambaram's reply says that it will be "obvious" that the NRC would be a "subset" of the NPR. Census 2011, he says will be conducted

in two phases, as well as reiterating the aims of the Census to do an "accurate de facto head count of the usual residents in India" within the deemed period. So, these very things I spoke of were spoken by the UPA, but they persist in their hypocrisy. Also the entire political class that is opposing us was supportive of the UPA on the same thing.

Coming to the NRC, it has a defined legal framework, also under Rule 4. The data would be collected, scrutinised by the registrars, appeals will be heard, but most important, the Registrar-General of citizens will have to notify the period and duration of the exercise in the official gazette. Nothing so far, not a word has been done so far.

Except that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said on multiple occasions that it will be undertaken.

Prime Minister Modi has clarified that no discussion has taken place so far. There is a possibility that it may happen, but there is a legal process attached to it. NRC preparation has a distinct legal process to be initiated, with defining of rules with adequate consultations. But

nothing has been done. The UPA did not repeal any of the amendments of 2003, which kicked in only in December 2004 despite heading a government propped up by the Left Front and the socialists. This double standard of the Congress is astounding. There is now a serious competitive, aggressive and, at times, extremist positioning for vote-bank politics. Elements like PFI, MQM, they are the urban Naxalites; the way they have hijacked the issue, it's regrettable that a party like the Congress is competing with them. We acknowledge the right to dissent and protest for all Indians but violence is not excusable. What were the hidden forces behind the sudden escalation of violence?

Did the government anticipate this level of protests?

We did not anticipate that the Congress will behave like this. My take is that hidden elements have joined hands to escalate the violence around the protests. In Uttar Pradesh, that is what happened, and the Internet had to be shut down for that reason. Protests and marches are fine, but if the

tukde [divisive forces] feel they will derail the government, that won't happen.

The Congress has acknowledged that it doesn't have the street strength to organise such widespread protests. So what is this reference to their behaviour?

Their comments lead to giving voice to these causes. Let me reiterate, India is as much home to Hindus as it is to Muslims. From leaders like Ashfaqullah Khan to Maulana Azad, to Abdul Kalam to Param Vir Chakra Abdul Hamid, their contribution to the country is widely known and appreciated.

The NRC in Assam was hardly a role model in terms of a process to count citizens. Wouldn't it be worse if scaled up for the entire country?

Assam is a different case, under the Citizenship Act of 1955 there is a clause 6A, there is a special provision for Assam under the Rajiv Gandhi Accord. There is also an undertaking to preserve the culture and heritage of Assam. UPA did nothing for this, it was the Modi government which did.

Opponents of CAA against Dalits: Nadda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP working president J.P. Nadda said here on Sunday that those opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act were "anti-Dalit" as "70-80%" of the beneficiaries of the Act were from the community.

Mr. Nadda said the CAA, passed by Parliament earlier this month, would give citizenship to Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis who had fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan till December 31, 2014.

Speaking at an event organised by a Dalit group here, he said opponents of the Act, led by the Congress, were misleading people by saying it would take away citizenship of Muslims. Referring to criticism that the Act had left out Muslims, Mr. Nadda said the community was not a minority in those countries.

He said "today's Dalit leaders" were opposing the Act, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the "biggest protector of Dalits".

Minister takes chopper to avoid protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TEZPUR

In order to avoid the protests against the amended anti-citizenship law by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) here, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took a five-km helicopter ride to reach the venue of a function held to pay tribute to the deceased BJP MLA Rajen Borthakur.

After arriving in Tezpur by helicopter from Guwahati on Saturday, Mr. Sarma could not go to Ghoramari, where the programme was taking place, due to the agitation of the AASU.

Protesters blocked the National Highway 15 between Tezpur and Ghoramari opposing the Minister's visit and shouted slogans against the amended Citizenship Act.

Mr. Sarma had to eventually take the chopper to attend the venue of the tribute function organised by the BJP workers of the Rangpara constituency.

'Youth must take lead in protests against CAA'

Around 1,000 youths take part in first large-scale rally in Bhopal against the contentious law

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

"Our children will ask us what we did to save the Constitution when it was being toyed with through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. So, the youth need to take to the streets and lead," says Osama Shameem, a former student of Aligarh Muslim University.

Now a banker, Mr. Shameem along with a thousand youths, including students, took part in the first youth-led large-scale march in Bhopal against the Act and the proposed nationwide implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), on Sunday night.

'Raising our voice'

"We're here not just to oppose the Act, but raise our voice against hate crimes and police brutality inflicted on students across the country in an attempt to suppress dissent, which a right guaranteed to us by the Constitution," says Aurangzeb Azam, a mechanical engineer, who



Students taking out a rally against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Bhopal on Sunday night. *SIDHARTH YADAV

coaches engineering aspirants.

Calling upon the Centre to make its stand clear on the NRC, Mr. Azam says, "The government is deliberately creating confusion. On the one hand, Home Minister Amit Shah said in Parliament the NRC will be implemented nationwide, on the other Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it wouldn't. This assurance rings hollow and

creates more confusion."

Holding placards and the national flag, the protesters, under the aegis of the Joint Action Committee Against CAA and NRC, began the march from the Gauhar Mahal along the Upper Lake at 8 p.m. and culminated at the Taj-ul-Masjid mosque in the old city, where they staged a sit-in on the staircase at the entrance.

A former student of the Ja-

Since the government is asleep, there is a need to wake it up. Not through violence, but student-led movements

A PROTESTER

mia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Hasan Qureshi, now a businessman, alleges that the Centre is making "concerted efforts" to lend the issue a communal tinge.

"Official documents state the National Population Register is the first step to the NRC, while the government maintains it hasn't even discussed the NRC. Does Mr. Modi even know what's going on in his government?" asks Mr. Qureshi.

On the unrelenting nature of protests across the country despite clampdown by authorities, Sana Azhar, a student of psychology, says, "If we stop raising our voice, the government will continue inflicting its unconstitutional

policies on us. Therefore, the movement must continue."

Echoing her, Mohsin Ali Khan, an organiser of the march, says the protests will continue until the Centre rolls back the "unconstitutional" law. "We'll sit on roads, shut our businesses if required, until our demands are met. We are starting the youth-led protests from Bhopal, as it's the State capital, and will take it to other cities," he adds.

'Equality guaranteed'

When the Constitution guarantees equality, he says, the government is attempting to "drive a wedge" between different communities. "Not just Muslims, people from several faiths are present at the protest. No one can break us," he says. Stating that the protesters are inspired by freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, Ainal Yaqeem, a local student activist said, "Since the government is asleep, there is a need to wake it up. Not through violence, but student-led movements."

Women, lawyers held for anti-CAA kolam protest

Political leaders slam police action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Chennai police detained eight persons, including five young women, who were part of a platform called Citizens Against CAA Group, for drawing kolams (rangoli) to voice their protest against the CAA and NRC on Sunday morning in Besant Nagar. Cases were registered against them and they were released later. Among those detained were three lawyers who sought to defend those confined in a hall by the police.

Political party leaders, including DMK president M. K. Stalin, MDMK leader Vaiko and Manithaneya Makkal Katchi leader M. H. Jawahirullah criticised the police action, while Minister for Tamil Culture Ma Foi K. Pandiarajan defended their detention.

Police said the protesters had informed them that they wanted to draw kolams with anti-CAA/NRC/NPR messages near the Besant Nagar bus terminus between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

But they had not been



The police picked up the protesters while they were drawing kolams at Besant Nagar in Chennai on Sunday. *BIJOY GHOSH

granted permission.

According to Gayathri, one of those detained, the protesters assembled in Besant Nagar around 7.30 a.m. and were attempting to draw kolam when the police asked them to leave the place.

"We then went to different streets and requested the house owners to give us permission to draw kolams. Some residents did not give us permission and we did not draw in front of their houses," she said.

However, when they were

drawing the kolams, the police picked them up and detained them in a hall.

A senior police officer said, "We just asked them to leave, when they were drawing kolams on the main road. But they started drawing kolams with anti-CAA slogans, in front of people's houses, to which many objected. We have statements from two such residents."

A member of the Citizens Against CAA said that it is shocking they were picked up for drawing kolams.

While four young women and a youth were initially detained, later police detained three lawyers who went to meet them.

The police registered cases under Sections 143 (punishment for unlawful assembly) and 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the IPC against them.

Reacting to the incident, Mr. Stalin tweeted, "This is a clear example that the authoritarianism of the despicable AIADMK is increasing day by day."

Mayawati suspends MLA in M.P. for backing CAA

BSP voted against Bill in Parliament

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Declaring that the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) acts immediately against legislators who break party discipline, party president Mayawati on Sunday suspended the membership of an MLA in Madhya Pradesh, Ramabai Parihar, for not toeing its line on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and supporting it publicly. The BSP has two MLAs in the State and supports the Kamal Nath government

As Ms. Parihar backed the new law brought in by the BJP government at the Centre at a function in her Patharia Assembly constituency in Damoh district, it drew the ire of the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, whose party voted against the Bill in Parliament and has been vociferously calling out police action against protesters in the State.

On Saturday, in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Patel, Ms. Parihar congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the "smooth passage" of the Bill, and was extolled in re-



Mayawati

turn by the BJP leaders. "It is a decision which should have been taken much before. I and my family support the CAA," she had said.

Ms. Mayawati said on Twitter: "The BSP is a disciplined party and in case MPs or MLAs break its discipline, immediate action is taken. In the same order, BSP MLA Ramabai Parihar from Patharia has been suspended from the party for supporting the CAA. She has been banned from taking part in party events."

The BSP was the first to oppose the 'divisive' and 'unconstitutional' law, even voted against it in Parliament and had submitted a memorandum to the President requesting it be rolled back, Ms. Mayawati wrote.

A priest in the middle of anti-CAA protests

He was let go, but served a notice later

AMARNATH TEWARY
VARANASI

A day before social activists, intellectuals, students and research scholars took out a march in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at Beniabagh here, two policemen came knocking on the door of Fr. Anand Mathew who had just returned to Varanasi. They took out a piece of paper and respectfully asked him to sign it.

After he had complied, they asked him what it was all about. Fr. Mathew said it was a notice served on him under Section 149 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. "It says if I am involved in any unlawful protest against the CAA or NRC, action will be taken against me."

Fr. Mathew from Kerala has been living in Varanasi for 45 years. A "Gandhian" social activist, he is a coordinator of the Sanjha Sanskriti Manch, an umbrella organisation of social groups and organisations working in different fields concerning human lives and livelihood in Varanasi. It was natural for Father Mathew to participate in an anti-CAA and NRC protest march at the Beniabagh ground on December 19. "By evening, 76 protesters were arrested and packed into two buses... I



Fr. Anand Mathew

was in one of them, but at the police station when they started counting all of us and calling out our names, my name was missing. I and a few others were allowed to leave," he said.

Since then Father Mathew has been working for the release of the arrested, including two women, Ekta Shekhar and Sania. "We hope that they get bail on January 1 when the case is heard in the city's Sessions court," he says sitting in Ms. Shekhar's residence in the Adarsh Nagar locality of Varanasi. Father Mathew had organised a prayer meeting at the residence on December 28 for the release of Ms. Shekhar, her husband Ravi Shekhar and 54 others.

But does he see a change in the usual bonhomie in Varanasi these days, especially after 2014?

"Yes, a lot has changed... Police have become brazen...our constitutional values are being seriously threatened," he says.

ELSEWHERE



Cyclone Sarai batters Fiji, two killed

WELLINGTON
Tropical Cyclone Sarai was moving slowly away from Fiji on Sunday, leaving two people dead and more than 2,500 needing emergency shelter. The cyclone damaged houses, crops and trees, cut power and forced the cancellation of several flights, stranding holidaymakers visiting the island nation, which is a major tourist draw. AFP

50 dead as cold wave grips Bangladesh

DHAKA
At least 50 people have died in Bangladesh as cold weather continues to sweep across the country, officials said. The country's lowest temperature this year was recorded at 4.5° C early on Sunday in Tetulia, a border town in Bangladesh's north, the weather office said. The weather office said the cold snap, accompanied by chilly winds and dense fog, was likely to continue for few more days. REUTERS

U.S. forces hit Iraqi Hezbollah bases

WASHINGTON
The U.S. has bombed the headquarters of the Iran-backed Iraqi Hezbollah militant group in Iraq and Syria, the Pentagon said on Sunday, following a rocket attack in Iraq that killed an American civilian contractor. "In response to repeated Kata'ib Hizbollah (KH) attacks on Iraqi bases that host Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) coalition forces, U.S. forces conducted precision defensive strikes against five KH facilities in Iraq and Syria that will degrade KH's ability to conduct future attacks against OIR coalition forces," a Pentagon spokesman said in a statement. AFP

Five people stabbed at New York rabbi's home in 'terrorist' attack

The incident happened during celebrations for the Jewish festival of Hanukkah

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONSEY

An intruder stabbed and wounded five people at a rabbi's house in a New York suburb late on Saturday, in an incident the State Governor said was "an act of terrorism" after a spate of attacks on Jewish targets.

Local media reported that a man with a machete entered the rabbi's property in Monsey, Rockland County, during celebrations for the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, knifing several people before fleeing.

Victims were rushed to nearby hospitals, with no official details on their injuries. The police said a suspect was later arrested.

"This is an act of terrorism. I think these are domestic terrorists. They are trying to inflict fear," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo told reporters at the scene on Sunday. "They're motivated by hate. They are doing mass attacks. These are ter-



Difficult times: A Jewish man walking near the area where five people were stabbed in Monsey on Saturday. •REUTERS

rorists in our country perpetrating terrorism on other Americans, and that's how we should treat it."

Last year, a white supremacist walked into a Pittsburgh synagogue and killed 11 people – the deadliest attack against the Jewish community in the United States.

Earlier this month, six people, including two suspects, were killed in a Jersey City shooting at a kosher deli, which authorities said was fuelled in part by anti-Semitism.

A report in April from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) stated that the number of anti-Semitic attacks in 2018 was close to the record of 2017, with 1,879 incidents.

"I was praying for my life," said witness Aron Kohn, 65, comparing the knife used by the attacker to "the size of a broomstick."

Mr. Kohn threw chairs and tables in an attempt to head off the assault. "I saw him stabbing people," he added. "He injured a guy, he was bleeding in his hand, all ov-

er." Mr. Kohn said the attacker tried to enter the adjacent synagogue, but it was locked.

Yossi Gestetner, of the Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council (OJPAC), told *The New York Times* that one of the victims was a son of the rabbi. "The house had many dozens of people in there," Mr. Gestetner said. "It was a Hanukkah celebration."

Israel condemns attack

Rockland has the largest Jewish population per capita of any U.S. county, with 31.4%, or 90,000 Jewish residents.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country "strongly condemns the recent displays of antisemitism including the vicious attack at the home of a rabbi in Monsey, New York."

"We will cooperate however possible with the local authorities in order to assist in defeating this phenomenon," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Turkey evacuates victims of Somalia bomb blast

Military plane lands with doctors, medicine in Mogadishu

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOGADISHU

A Turkish military plane on Sunday evacuated 16 gravely wounded victims of a devastating bombing that killed 79 people and overwhelmed local health services, in the latest attack on a city dogged by insecurity.

The aircraft also brought doctors to help treat the some 125 people injured in Saturday's blast, which happened when a vehicle packed with explosives detonated at a busy security checkpoint.

"The rescue mission continues since yesterday when the blast occurred and after long and diligent efforts, we have managed to evacuate 16 of the wounded people to Turkey for further medical treatment," Mogadishu Mayor Omar Mohamed Mohamud told reporters at the airport.

No group has claimed the bloody attack, however President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo has blamed Isla-



Seeking aid: A couple carrying their wounded child to be airlifted to Turkey for treatment on Sunday. •AP

mist group Al-Shabaab, which regularly carries out car bombings and other attacks on the capital, in their decade-long bid to topple the internationally-backed government.

Saturday's bombing was the deadliest since truck exploded in 2017 near a fuel tanker, creating a fireball that killed over 500 people.

"There are still rescue operations going on to assist those who have been massacred by the terrorists while going about their busi-

ness," Somalia's Information Minister Mohamed Abdi Heyr said. "We have received this morning doctors and medicine sent by the Turkish government and we are working to separate people seriously wounded from others in order to send them outside the country and the rest will be treated by the doctors," he added.

The Minister said about 24 doctors specialising in trauma had arrived from Turkey – a key ally of Somalia.

3 Indians die in Egypt accident

13 injured after two buses carrying tourists crashed into a truck

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CAIRO

Three Indians were killed and 13 others injured when two buses carrying tourists crashed into a truck in Egypt's Suez governorate, the Indian Embassy here said on Sunday.

The buses were heading to the beach-resort town of Hurghada on Saturday when they collided with the truck near Ain Sokhna town, about 120 km east of Cairo.

"We regret to inform that



Paramedics transporting a victim upon arrival at Suez General Hospital. •AFP

3 Indian citizens have lost their lives in the bus accident that occurred on 28 December near Ain Sokhna.

Others who are injured are receiving medical treatment at various hospitals in Egypt," the Indian Embassy in Egypt tweeted, adding that relatives of the victims had been informed.

The Embassy said there were 16 Indian tourists on the buses.

According to the local media, the deceased also include two Malaysians and three Egyptians. More than 20 people were injured and rushed to the hospital.

Blast hits military parade in Yemen

Six dead, several injured; Houthi rebels blamed

REUTERS
DUBAI

A missile fired by the Iran-aligned Houthi group struck a military parade in Yemen's town of al-Dhalea, killing at least six people and injuring others, government-allied southern separatist forces who control the area said on Sunday.

No claim of responsibility was made and Houthi media



People gathering at the scene of a blast in al-Dhalea, Yemen. •REUTERS

did not immediately comment on the blast or accusation.

The missile struck a pa-

rade ground where a military graduation for Security Belt forces had just finished, statements from the Security Belt group and the al-Dhalea southern separatist forces said. The Security Belt forces are part of a government-aligned southern separatist front in south Yemen which favours the creation of an independent state. They are also backed by the United Arab Emirates in a fight against Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group.

Witnesses said the blast occurred near a guest plat-

form during the parade, causing injuries and deaths. They reported seeing bodies at the scene. Pictures from the scene showed a blast hole in the concrete floor of an outdoor square. Six people died and between 15 and 25 were injured, according to local health authority figures quoted by the local forces' spokesman.

Yemen has suffered from almost five years of conflict since the Houthi movement ousted President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's government in late 2014.

Taliban council agrees to ceasefire in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The Taliban said on Sunday it has agreed to a temporary ceasefire. It provides a window during which a peace agreement with the U.S. could be signed.

A peace deal would allow Washington to bring home its troops from Afghanistan and end its 18-year military engagement there. The U.S. wants any deal to include a promise from the Taliban that Afghanistan would not be used as a base by terrorist groups.

Intra-Afghan talks

The Taliban chief must approve the agreement but that is expected. The duration of the ceasefire was not specified but it is being sug-

gested it would last for 10 days.

Members of the Taliban negotiating team met for a week with the ruling council before they agreed on the ceasefire. The team returned on Sunday to Qatar, where they maintain their political office. Officials familiar with the negotiations spoke on condition of anonymity.

A key pillar of the agreement, which the U.S. and the Taliban have been hammering out for more than a year, is direct negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the conflict. Those intra-Afghan negotiations are expected to be held within two weeks of the signing of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal.

Putin thanks Trump for intel on attacks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Sunday thanked U.S. counterpart Donald Trump for intelligence that helped foil attacks on Russian soil, the Kremlin said.

Mr. Putin thanked Mr. Trump "for the transfer, through special services, of information allowing the prevention of terrorist acts," the President's office said in a statement.

Russia's FSB, a successor to the KGB, quoted by Russian agencies, said two citizens were arrested for planning an attack in St Petersburg during the New Year festivities. They appeared to have been preparing a "terrorist act".

Ukraine rivals exchange 200 prisoners in controversial swap

It was initiated by Russian and Ukrainian leaders

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHECKPOINT MAYORSKE

Ukraine and Russia-backed separatists in the country's war-torn east exchanged 200 prisoners on Sunday, swapping detained fighters for civilians and servicemen held captive in some cases for years in two breakaway regions.

Kiev handed over to separatists five riot policemen suspected of killing protesters during a pro-Western uprising in 2014 as part of the swap, sparking public outrage. "The mutual release of the detainees has



An Ukrainian prisoner being embraced by his mother after his release. •AFP

ended," the Ukrainian presidential office said in a statement on Facebook, adding that it would provide more details later.

The presidency said Kiev received 76 captives, while separatist officials said the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics took in a total of 124.

The head of the Lugansk stronghold, Leonid Pasechnik, congratulated his people on a new "victory" ahead of the New Year's festivities.

De-escalating tensions

The exchange came after Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky held their first face-to-face talks in Paris on December 9 and agreed measures to de-escalate Europe's only active war. The swap, which was overseen by monitors from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, came three months after Ukraine carried out an exchange with Russia of 35 prisoners each.

Riyadh arrests dozens for 'indecent', harassment

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia has arrested more than 200 people for violating "public decency" – including by wearing immodest clothing – and "harassment", the police said, in the first such crackdown since the ultra-conservative kingdom began easing social norms.

Some 120 men and women have been arrested over the past week for offending public morals, including wearing "inappropriate clothes", the Riyadh police said in a series of statements on Twitter since Tuesday. It added that unspecified penalties were imposed on the violators.

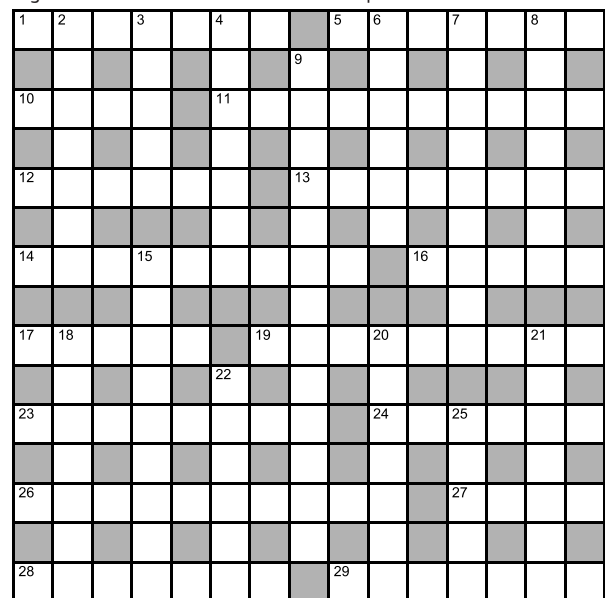
Another 88 people were arrested in various harass-

ment cases, the police have added in separate statements, after several women complained on social media that they were harassed at the MDL Beast music festival in Riyadh earlier this month. The electronic music festival, which drew tens of thousands of fans, was billed by organisers as the biggest ever to be hosted in the kingdom.

This marked the first such mass crackdown since de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman began easing social restrictions in the ultra-conservative kingdom, lifting decades-long bans on cinemas and women drivers while allowing gender-mixed concerts and sporting extravaganzas.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12819

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



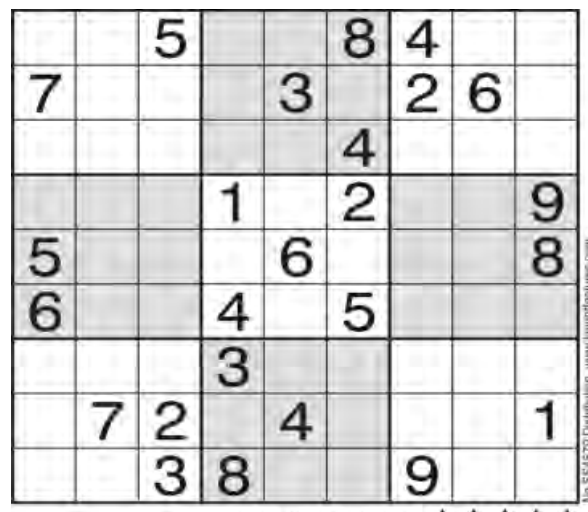
ACROSS

- 1 Swimming sea coral – not a fish (7)
- 5 Rock diva catches girls starting to elope (7)
- 10 Goan articles, essentially about greeting (4)
- 11 Fever, returning last month after leaving South Africa is controlled (10)

(set by Avtaar)

- 12 A priest – he's in trouble once again (6)
- 13 French tree is trimmed and shaped for cutting board (8)
- 14 Cool fellow returning for love at Virginia is New York's pro (2,5,2)
- 16 A pretty grave (5)
- 17 I seal ground passage (5)
- 19 See leaders of Glasgow accepting royal invitation to host marriage function (9)
- 23 Paying respects to newly anointed sultan, I start to genuflect (8)
- 24 Santa's close to the rider (6)
- 26 Warehouse with gold stocks is recovered by Dollar Bank's customers (10)
- 27 Stone – cut all round, polished and luminescent, originally (4)
- 28 Wives, on vacation, getting nervy about monsters (7)
- 29 Senile foggy Haroldson stripped at one party after another (3,4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Avtaar ditches son's snack filled with essence of wheat starch (7)
- 3 Gas measurement unit (5)
- 4 "Hoot" is a high sound from a hooter (7)
- 6 Nomadic outsiders went around like this with sis (6)
- 7 Half-cooked gnocchis decays in absence of hard bacteriae (9)
- 8 Vote guys for Conservative party (7)
- 9 A dietician's advise to an anorexic, possibly, is useless (1,3,3,2,4)
- 15 Ninety nine out of hundred and two students end, say, in first class (3,3,3)
- 18 Ludicrously, Stokes is dismissed in a nonsensical manner (7)
- 20 Bill getting extremely casual about America's charge (7)
- 21 Married male employee having drive (7)
- 22 Attendant's touching underskirt (6)
- 25 Upcoming star gets over bypass (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12818

C	F	E	S	F				
U	P	T	O	R	E	H	E	A
A	O	D	A	R	I			
E	N	D	O	E	N	E	R	R
D	S	A	I	D	L	E		
E	A	S	T	E	R	S	U	N
C	E		S	E		R	F	L
C	A	M	P	U	S		R	U
R	H	O	N	E	S	T	B	R
B	A	I	H	I	L	L	T	I
T	E	N	N	I	S	I	L	L
K	T	R	L	L	S			
B	A	S	E	M	E	N	T	L
R	R		T	A				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	6	4	8	3	2	9	5
4	3	5	9	7	2	8	1	6
8	9	2	6	5	1	7	3	4
9	5	1	2	4	6	3	7	8
7	2	8	1	3	5	4	6	9
6	4	3	8	9	7	5	2	1
5	6	9	3	2	4	1	8	7
3	8	7	5	1	9	6	4	2
2	1	4	7	6	8	9	5	3



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

ASK US



N. SREEKANTH

Q. Must nominees submit legal heirship certificate and consent letter from related persons along with death certificate while claiming money after the death of the principal depositor?

N.R. SANTHANAM

A. Nomination in the bank account is only for the limited purpose of operation of the account in case of death of the account holder. Further, the nominee becomes custodian of the funds after the death of the account holder and he acts as a trustee in distributing the money lying in the bank account to the legal heirs of the account holder. The bank is right in asking for the legal heir certificate and no objection letters from other persons mentioned in the legal heir certificate for entitlement of the amount lying in the said bank account.

Q. I am a retired State government staff who is receiving pension. I have been an assessee for three decades. As a pensioner also, I am paying I-T. I also get a monthly honorarium of ₹20,000 from an institution. There is no employee-employer relationship. Can I show this as income from other sources?

JOTHIRAJ

A. Honorarium is generally a payment given for services that are rendered nominally without charge. Therefore, honorarium received by a person is chargeable to income tax under the head "Income from Other Sources" as there is neither employee and employer relationship nor is it a profession run for profit/gain. Irrespective of usage of such honorarium received by the person, it is taxable in their hands. It has to be disclosed in the applicable ITR under "other income detail" by describing the source appropriately under "Income from Other Sources". Further reasonable and justifiable expenses incurred for earning this honorarium can be claimed against this honorarium.

Q. I'm now staying in rented accommodation. I don't own residential property. I get rent allowance and there is no HRA. Am I eligible to claim deduction for rent paid? Kindly guide me on how to include it in I-T returns

AJAY MOHAN

A. Rental allowance, popularly known as HRA (House Rent Allowance or by whatever name it is called) can be availed as an exemption on satisfying conditions prescribed. HRA is an allowance specifically granted to an assessee by his employer to meet expenditure actually incurred on payment of rent in respect of residential accommodation occupied by the assessee. Exemption available is the least of the following — a. actual amount of such allowance received b. rent paid minus 10% of basic and DA or 50% of basic and DA (in case of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai) c. 40% in other cases. It is also required by the assessee to possess relevant proof of rent paid and rental agreement. It is advisable you get in touch with HR department to ensure they process your Form 16 appropriately.

Q. I work for SBI. I have availed a housing loan of ₹40 lakh jointly with my husband. The self-occupied property is in my husband's name. Who can avail housing loan interest exemption of ₹2 lakh and repayment of principal? Loan repayment is from my salary.

S. SREE PRIVA

A. To claim interest deduction under Sec. 24 of the Act, you must be an/owner of the house property and the housing loan is to be availed in the name of the owner/s. In your case, though the loan is borrowed in a joint manner, the property is in the name of your husband. Therefore, interest and principal wholly paid by you towards the housing loan during the assessment year cannot be claimed as a deduction under Sec. 24 and Sec. 80C, though the loan is jointly borrowed. (The author is a partner, GSS & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

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.

Points to ponder for women making investments

Understanding the nature and role of asset types will help improve financial returns

MEERA SIVA

Investors build their portfolio from among the choice of products at their disposal. And women, more than men, often work with a limited bouquet of offerings that fit within their comfort zone. To add to this, the risks and return potential of these financial products are not understood. As a result, while they make investments, limited wealth is created.

Gold buying

One popular choice among women is buying gold. Purchasing the yellow metal is simple, with easy access. Besides, there is ample liquidity to sell the

same. Also, you can pledge it to raise money anytime. And the returns are sweet — if you had bought gold a year ago, you would have got about 20% return. So, why would gold not be a good investment option? For one, the paper returns for gold are hardly realised when buying jewellery, which is the most popular option.

For instance, there are various costs added to the product that greatly reduce the net return, unless you purchased coins. Two, storage of gold can be risky and add to your costs such as the cost for renting a storage locker. Three, gold can be unwieldy

when building a large portfolio. For instance, if you plan to build a net worth of ₹1 crore, you would need 3 kg of gold. This is not easy to manage.

Suggestion: Consider buying gold in non-physical forms such as ETFs or e-gold. It is good to have less than 10% of your portfolio in gold investments as the long-term return potential is debatable; you can tactically change the allocation based on market outlook.

Chit funds

Another popular choice, due to its accessibility, is subscribing

to chit funds. This is a household product that enables savings and comes with the potential to avail loans. The advantages for many women, especially in smaller cities, is door-step service. While chit funds have reasons for their popularity, there are downsides. For one, there are high risks in unregistered chit funds where frauds are quite rampant. And, default by any borrower in the group can affect not just the returns but also your principal. As a result of the risks taken by the person running the chit operation, transaction costs are high and often, this is not well understood or documented. Even excluding the risks, the returns in a chit scheme are not easy to calculate.

For instance, there is a sequence of periodic cash flows that varies monthly. You receive a lump sum amount somewhere along the investment period. Calculating the internal rate of return (IRR) for this is not easy and if you do so, it will show that the return is not high.

Suggestion: Unlike in the past, there are many invest-

ment products that are available online. It is good to learn about them and expand your choices rather than go with proximity as the criteria.

Insurance schemes

Insurance providers such as LIC offer schemes that score high among women.

This is primarily due to the push factor from sales agents who are known to them and hence, offer trust and comfort. The problem with many of these schemes is low return. This is not obvious due to the nature of the product. For instance, there is a sequence of investments you make over a period and there are payouts in a later period.

This requires complex calculations to work out the annual rate of return.

Also, if you stop premium payment, the policy would lapse and may lead to loss of money. And often, there is heavy mis-selling in insurance and the agents may not be upfront about the various clauses — which adds to risk of loss.

Suggestion: Consider insurance as separate from savings. Ask for annual return numbers for the product and check the terms on payment lapses.

Fixed deposits

Opening a fixed deposit (FD)

seems like a simple and no-risk idea and many women take to this. While there are no risks or complexities in this, the downside is the lost opportunity — the rate of interest is usually low, especially if you consider taxes.

Also, the term of the FD is often selected without consideration to the interest rate outlook. For example, you may pick a one-year term as it gives a good rate.

But if rates are on a downward trend, locking the rate for a longer period would be better to maximise return.

Suggestion: Keeping a small pool in fixed deposits for emergencies is a good idea. Any further returns on savings may be obtained through debt funds, bonds or other instruments.

Women must take a holistic view of their finances and not stay within their comfort zone of investment products.

There are many temptations including sales pressures, proximity, familiarity and anecdotal evidences of returns, to pick the known choices; but knowing the downside of the products will help you see their role in the portfolio and not over-invest in one, to help maximise return and manage risks.

(The author is an independent financial consultant)



COVER NOTE: TERM LIFE POLICY

Giving you focussed coverage

Term life insurance policy covers the risk of death during a chosen period

K NITYA KALYANI

Term policy is a no-frills life insurance policy. It covers the risk of death during a chosen term, say 20 years or until the life assured reaches a specified age. Once that term is completed, the policy ceases and there is no maturity value for survival beyond the term. The premium for this policy is equally no-frills, making it the most value-for-money policy.

All Indian life insurance companies offer term policies and it is easy to compare premium rates for a given term and the life assured's age through the premium calculators that every company has to have on its website.

For example, a 25-year old male will pay between ₹7,700 and ₹14,500 a year for a term policy until age 75 for a sum assured of ₹1 crore. This is for a simple scenario where he has a clear medical history and is not a smoker. This policy means that if the policyholder dies before age 75, and the policy is in force, their nominee will receive the sum assured. If the policyholder lives past their 75th birthday, the policy terminates and nothing is payable.

Many companies have a discounted premium if you buy the policy online through their website. This



A life policy can be enhanced with additional covers, called riders, on payment of additional premium. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

will suit many younger professionals.

The policy can be enhanced by taking additional covers, called riders, on additional premium payment. Riders cover specified additional risks, have a separate sum assured and can be opted for only at the time of taking the policy. Before you choose riders, see if your basic policy has any of the covers built into it.

Under the accidental death rider, an additional claim amount (being the sum assured under the rider) is paid to the nominee if the policyholder dies in an accident. Since the main pol-

icy will also pay the death claim anyway, if the death is due to an accident, this rider payout will be over and above that.

Death due to an accident while the policyholder was driving under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs is an exclusion under the policy as is death due to accident when involved in criminal activities or in adventure sports, in hazardous activities or due to self-inflicted injuries or due to any sexually transmitted diseases or due to overdose of drugs or alcohol.

If the policyholder were to contract a terminal illness

during the term of the policy, the sum assured will be paid during the policyholder's lifetime itself. The rider for permanent disability due to accident carries a waiver of all future premiums for the main policy.

Riders for specified critical illnesses have the benefit of a lump sum payout if the policyholder is diagnosed with any of them, and some companies also carry a premium waiver for the rest of the policy term.

The policyholder's spouse can be covered under the same policy through a rider.

What are the requirements to be met before you can buy a term policy? You have to show income proof that justifies the sum assured you want. Medical tests will be required for larger sums assured and companies have their own internal norms and requirements.

Please ensure you fulfil all the nomination requirements and keep your address and contact information up to date with your insurance company so that they can service the policy whether it is with regard to sending you premium reminders or processing a claim.

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

BLACKBOARD: MF DIVIDENDS AND NAVS

How dividends impact NAVs

A lower net asset value is not always bad news

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What does dividend in a mutual fund scheme mean?

■ As part of their portfolios, mutual fund schemes hold securities. These securities are churned based on various parameters such as price and fundamentals, among others. When a scheme makes a profit through these transactions, the fund manager, at times, does out dividends to the unit holders.

A scheme could register gains also on account of dividends announced by the companies whose shares are held under the scheme. Even bond schemes can pay dividends as the debt papers in which the scheme invests pay interest.

How does dividend impact the net asset value (NAV)?

■ The NAV is the price of each unit of a mutual fund scheme. It reflects the total value of the underlying securities. If such securities are sold in order to book profit and distribute dividend to the unit holders, then the NAV would be proportionately affected. Hence, after every dividend announcement, there is a fall in the NAV to reflect the payouts.

Do all schemes give dividend?

■ Not necessarily. Dividend payouts depend on the scheme's performance. During a downturn in the market, schemes might not announce a dividend. Also, one can keep in mind that most equity schemes have two options — dividend and growth. Under the divi-



dend option, investors get payouts whenever a dividend is announced. In a growth option, the dividend is reinvested in the scheme and the unit holder gets additional units in lieu of the dividend. So, while the NAV might still take a hit, the unit holder will have more units.

Does low NAV mean poor performance?

■ Again, not necessarily. NAV is based on many factors, including the total AUM of the scheme. A fund manager may decide to do regular dividend payouts that would bring down the NAV even though the scheme may be faring pretty well.

One should look at the track record of the fund rather than just the NAV before investing in a scheme. Also, a lower NAV means an investor will get more units compared to a scheme that has a higher NAV. Interestingly, the dividend is based on the face value of the units and not on the NAV and hence, more the number of units, more would be the absolute dividend received.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"A Happy and a Prosperous New Year to you! But read all offer documents carefully as for the prosperous part..."

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)				Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure		Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS					PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.25	8.50	9.00	Karnataka Bank	6.80	6.80	6.70	6.70
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.00	7.80	7.00	South Indian Bank	6.90	6.60	6.60	6.60
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.00	8.00	7.30	7.30	Federal Bank	6.70	6.50	6.60	6.60
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.40	8.25	Axis Bank	6.50	6.40	6.50	6.50
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	Karur Vysya Bank	6.75	6.35	6.45	6.45
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	8.35	City Union Bank	6.60	6.60	6.35	6.35
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.10	8.00	7.50	7.00	CSB Bank	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
North East Small Finance Bank	8.50	7.25	7.25	6.75	Yes Bank	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25
AU Small Finance Bank	7.77	7.00	7.77	7.50	ICICI Bank	6.40	6.20	6.40	6.40
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.10	7.10	7.00	HDFC Bank	6.40	6.30	6.40	6.30
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					FOREIGN BANKS				
Indian Bank	6.50	6.45	6.50	6.30	CitiBank	5.25	4.75	5.00	5.25
Syndicate Bank	6.50	6.40	6.25	6.25	Deutsche Bank	7.75	5.50	7.00	7.75
Bank of Maharashtra	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50	HSBC Bank	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.00
State Bank of India	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	DBS Bank	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
Andhra Bank	6.10	6.00	6.10	6.10					
Canara Bank	6.40	6.40	6.25	6.25					
Bank of India	6.40	6.40	6.25	6.25					
Union Bank of India	6.45	6.30	6.30	6.30					
Indian Overseas Bank	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40					
Allahabad Bank	6.70	6.50	6.25	6.25					
Oriental Bank of Commerce	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25					
Central Bank of India	6.30	6.30	6.25	6.25					
United Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.00					
Bank of Baroda	6.30	6.25	6.25	6.25					
Punjab National Bank	6.30	6.30	6.25	6.25					
UCO Bank	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.25					
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.45	6.45	6.45	6.45					

FD rates as on Dec. 26, 2019

Source:Paisabazaar.com

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)				Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)			
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh	(in %)		Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh	(in %)
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)				
State Bank of India	8.15-8.80	8.40-8.95	8.50-9.05	(in %)	Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.55-10.25	9.55-10.25	9.55-10.25	(in %)
UCO Bank	8.05-8.15	8.05-8.15	8.05-8.15	(in %)	Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.60-9.25	8.65-9.35	8.70-9.40	(in %)
Indian Overseas Bank	8.20	8.30	8.45	(in %)	Bandhan Bank	9.50-11.25	8.75-11.50	9.00-11.50	(in %)
Oriental Bank of Comm.	8.00-8.30	8.00-8.30	8.35-8.55	(in %)	Karur Vysya Bank	8.65-12.50	8.65-12.50	8.65-12.50	(in %)
Allahabad Bank	8.20-8.65	8.20-8.65	8.30-8.85	(in %)	IDFC First Bank	8.15-12.15	8.15-12.15	8.15-12.15	(in %)
Punjab National Bank	7.90-8.50	8.05-8.75	8.05-8.85	(in %)	South Indian Bank	8.75-10.00	8.75-10.00	8.75-10.00	(in %)
Indian Bank	8.05-8.30	8.05-8.40	8.05-8.55	(in %)	Yes Bank	9.85-13.00	9.85-13.00	9.85-12.50	(in %)
Canara Bank	8.05-10.05	8.05-10.05	8.05-10.05	(in %)					
United Bank of India	8.00-8.15	8.00-8.15	8.15	(in %)					
Corporation Bank	8.10-8.20	8.10-8.20	8.10-8.35	(in %)					
Bank of Baroda	8.15-9.15	8.15-9.15	8.15-9.40	(in %)					
Union Bank of India	8.20-8.55	8.20-8.55	8.25-8.85	(in %)					
IDBI Bank	8.25-8.80	8.25-8.80	8.25-8.80	(in %)					
Syndicate Bank	8.00-8.60	8.00-8.70	8.10-8.70	(in %)					
Bank of India	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.00	(in %)					
Central Bank of India	8.00-8.30	8.00-8.30	8.00-8.30	(in %)					
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS									
ICICI Bank	8.65-9.10	8.65-9.35	9.10-9.40	(in %)					
Axis Bank	8.55-11.50	8.55-9.40	8.55-9.40	(in %)					
Citi Bank	8.07-8.92	8.07-8.92	8.07-8.92	(in %)					
Federal Bank	8.55-8.60	8.60-8.65	8.65-8.70	(in %)					
RBL Bank	10.30-12.50	11.65-12.15	11.65-12.15	(in %)					

Rates as on December 26, 2019

Source:Paisabazaar.com

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Renewing our vows to Delhi

Take a trip to the city's heritage sites, in order to recommit to its historic past



R. V. SMITH

Now that the new year dawns and the old one expires, it's time to explore fresh avenues and renew acquaintance with old ones. There's no better way to begin 2020 than by visiting Delhi's monuments, which have seen many a sun rise and set on them. So set out on New Year's Day, as the world recovers from hangovers, to discover our city. These dozen-odd monuments are worth a visit to make it a really memorable occasion. You can also pick others that form a part of the thousand and more that dot Delhi. They are a delight to tourists and picnickers, as they wish each other "Naya Sal Mubarak".

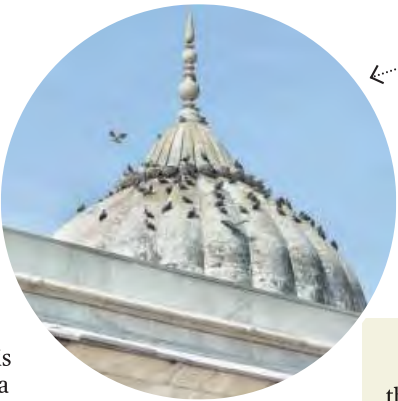
Red Fort, Old Delhi

The Muthamman Burj is the octagonal tower adjoining the Khwabgah or the sleeping room of the emperor. From here, he would appear every morning before his subjects for the daily "darshan". If people did not see the ruler, it meant that all was not well with him and this could lead to unrest. There's a balcony projecting from the side, built in 1808-09 by Akbar Shah II from where King George V and Queen Mary appeared before the public during the 1911 Delhi Durbar, when the city was reinstated as the capital of Hindustan after its temporary transfer to Calcutta following the Uprising of 1857.

The Dewan-e-Khas, or the Hall of Special Audience for the nobles of the Mughal empire, is the place where the Peacock Throne was installed until it was looted by Nadir Shah in 1739. Nearby is the Rang Mahal where dance performances were held every evening for the entertainment of the emperor, his nobles, and the harem. Through the mahal flowed the Nehar-e-Bhist or stream of paradise on which princes and princesses floated love letters to idle away the time on boring summer afternoons while trying to escape the heat.

Mumtaz Mahal, the ladies' chamber, which became the Mughal Museum in which the Chogha or gown of Bahadur Shah Zafar and the Gharara or skirt or Zeenat Mahal, his favourite queen, were on display, along with the weapons of the Mughal kings, including the rapier of Shah Jahan and the gigantic Sword of Aurangzeb.

PHOTO: BISWARUP GANGULY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Humayun's Tomb, Nizamuddin

The 'mortuary of the Mughal dynasty' served as the model for the Taj Mahal and it was here that were buried a host of princes and princesses, besides Dara Shikoh, the unfortunate eldest son of Shah Jahan, whose headless body was interred here after his execution by Aurangzeb.



THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Nizamuddin Dargah

The grave of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya is situated here, attracting lakhs of pilgrims every year, especially during the annual Urs or death anniversary of the saint.



The palace of Bhuri or Bhooli Bhatiyari, Central Ridge Reserve Forest

The ruined palace, a hunting lodge, dates back to Feroz Shah's time but now only an arched gate survives. It's supposedly one of Delhi's haunted parts.

Qutub Minar, Mehrauli

The Tower of Victory rises above the plain of Delhi like an eternal sentinel built by Qutubuddin Aibak, the first of the Slave Kings in honour of Hazrat Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a Sufi saint. It was completed by Iltutmish, who came to the throne after the sudden death of Aibak. Feroz Shah Tughlak repaired and added to the monument. Alai Minar, within the Qutub Complex, is a rival to the Minar and was planned by Alauddin Khilji. He could not complete it, and so his construction exists like a huge elephant trunk, massive in thought and conception. Alai Darwaza is Alauddin's gigantic gateway.

THE HINDU ARCHIVES



Lal Kot, near Siri Fort

The eastern wall of Qila Rai Pithora of Prithviraj Chauhan near the ruins of Alauddin's Siri Fort is a lingering specimen of Hindu architecture constructed by the most famous Chauhan ruler before the Sultanate dynasty came to power.



Metcalfe's "Folly", Mehrauli Archaeological Park

This landlocked lighthouse built by Sir Thomas Metcalfe, British Resident at the Mughal Court is the only lighthouse built away from the sea, with an adjoining boathouse.

PHOTO: INDRAJIT DAS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Feroz Shah Kotla

The fort complex built by the third Tughlak emperor, Feroz Shah Tughluq that has ruined palaces and a garden, topped by an Ashoka Pillar. Every Thursday hundreds of people come here to place their petitions in the niches, seeking help from the Jinns, who are supposed to haunt the complex. The emperor was not buried here but in Mehrauli.

PHOTO: BIBEK RAJ PANDEYA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Pir Ghaib, Civil Lines

The shrine of the saint who disappeared is part of the complex known as Feroz Shah Tughluq's observatory and continues to be a riddle for tourists and others. It was perhaps a hunting lodge in its original form.

THE HINDU ARCHIVES



Arab Sarai, Nizamuddin

Built by Humayun's wife Haji Begum, for the Arab masons who constructed her husband's tomb. Not far from it is the tomb of Mirza Ghalib, next to which is the grave of his wife, Umrao Begum. Budding poets visit the place to seek inspiration here.



Qadim Sharif, Paharganj

The tomb of Feroz Shah's son Fatah Khan is in Old Delhi and known as Qadim Sharif because of the foot imprint of the Prophet that is said to be placed on the grave, though it was meant to be installed on Firoze's own tomb, but the son died before the father.

PHOTO: INDRAJIT DAS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The shrine of Hazrat Turkman Bayabani, Turkman Gate

The Saint of the Wilderness is in Old Delhi, near which are the graves of Razia Sultan and her sister Sazia, daughters of Iltutmish. The saint is invoked by those seeking boons.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

The past 10 years observed a growing love for indie dogs in online and offline spaces

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Two years ago, with bated breath, Raj Rihal waited at Chicago O'Hare airport for a special addition to his home. The Los Angeles-based concept artist was anticipating the arrival of neither a relative nor a long-lost friend, but Khushi, an onyx indie dog with a sharp snout and perked up ears. Yes, Raj had adopted an indie dog flown in from Delhi with the help of International Street Dog Foundation in the United States and Karma Animal Trust in Rishikesh. The vetting process was thorough and the communication about Khushi's initial years was constant between the pup's foster mother and Raj.

"I'd wanted to adopt since I was a kid visiting Delhi and seeing these dogs," recalls Raj. When Khushi was brought to Los Angeles and slowly assimilated in her new surroundings, she became part of a growing community of indie dog transplants. "I can see the ripple effect of what has been happening in India over the last 10 years," Raj observes.

Indeed, indie dogs or *canis familiaris* have been around for almost 6,000 years but they only truly started being appreciated when animals rights' organisations exerted their collective influence on them during the early 2010s.

Despite the existence of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, animals rights' groups, including Hyderabad-based People For Animals claim this Act needs to be updated as indie dogs are culled for numbers when budgets run low for sterilisation, as well as for other loopholes in the legislation. So far these entities have relied on crowdfunding sites which only sprouted around 2013.

Delhi-based Stray Relief and Ani-

Many a bark for paws-itivity



Best friend Raj Rihal with Khushi, this year's Great Indian Dog Show • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, R RAGU

Arundati Rao in Hyderabad found a tawny-hued indie pup. She created an Instagram post for the adoption announcement which instantly went viral. "People just melted at the sight of her picture, especially the ones of her snuggled up with my golden retriever Sage. I didn't anticipate this much response for an indie; I had over 60 to 75 reposts on Instagram and shares on Facebook," she recalls. "Immediately offers to adopt her poured in, from places like Kurnool, Nellore, Vizag, apart from Hyderabad. In just two days, I got over 50 prospective enquiries for her adoption, then I started filtering them on the basis of suitability to take care of a small puppy." Eventually with the help of a foster, the pup now named Billobabe found her forever home in Hyderabad.

Here is to hoping for updated legislations for indie dog protection in 2020.

mal Welfare (STRAW)'s Compassionate Classrooms initiative formalises concepts of sensitisation and humane treatment into school textbooks, working with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and state educational boards.

It is not just the major metro cities where indie dogs have been embraced. Cities like Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore have hosted dog shows for indie dogs; a move which subverts the stereotypical snobbery of dog shows.

In the media

Social media has also changed the way people consume information about indie dogs. In the mid-2010s, Instagram accounts such as that of The Modern Mowgli in Delhi and Faridabad or Street Dogs Of Bombay help catalyse adoptions.

The master of chill-hop

Australian DJ and producer Flume talks sets and playlists fresh off his show at Sunburn Festival in Goa

ANURAG TAGAT

In 2020, Australian DJ and producer, Harley Streten aka Flume, will find out if he's second time lucky at the Grammys. Nominated for his 2019 mixtape *Hi This Is Flume*, which presented a futuristic, experimental look at the ever-melding worlds of electronic music and hip-hop, he's in the same category as electronic music titans such as The Chemical Brothers and forward-thinking producers such as Apparat, Tycho, and fellow Aussie dance music group Rüfüs Du Sol, for Best Dance/Electronic Album.

Flume already won a Grammy in 2017 for his album, *Skin*, in the same category. Prior to that, he was a favourite in his home country, when he released a self-titled album in 2012. While earlier albums featured collaborations with fellow Aussie artists such as Chet Faker, he has levelled up to include underground hip-hop's rising stars like JPEGMAFIA and slowthai in more recent work. Along the way, he ticked off performances at top festivals such as Lollapalooza and Coachella in 2014. In a conversation ahead of his DJ set at Sunburn Festival in Goa over this weekend, marking his India debut, Flume reflected on the nomination: "It is such a surprise, especially as it was such an experimental group of songs — it is really nice to be acknowledged amongst other artists I'm fans of too." The genre-hopping playlist is essentially a mix of moods rather than any concept-bound, cohesive album.

Watching him at Sunburn would've been slightly more special for anyone who was at



The live show this year has been really fun to perform — I've enjoyed being able to mix things up and work some real world activities in. We're seeing different reactions in different cities, too. This is a DJ set, so it is nice being able to play other music that's not my own.

How do you keep learning?

Getting out of the studio has been really productive to making new music. I think I used to assume that putting more hours into the studio was the only way to get something done, but now I have been focussing on finding good inputs to get good outputs.

What's on your playlist right now?

I've been loving American singer Toro Y Moi, British rapper slowthai, London producer MisingNo, contemporary dance music by Quiet Bison, electro-pop from Caroline Polachek and electronic music by Mono/Poly.

What is the one track you want to hear during a New Year's party?

Anything from Bicep (an electronic music duo from Belfast, Northern Ireland).

What else is coming up in 2020?

I'm heading back to LA pretty early in the year, and am excited to work on some new music. I'll also be performing the new live show at a few festivals coming up. A couple are announced, like Ultra Miami and Electric Forest, and a few more will be announced soon.

You've played around with live sets, so how do you treat your DJ sets?

In an e-mail interview, Flume shares more on his process and approach to shows. Edited excerpts.



A decade in diets

SUNALINI MATHEW

"We all know that if we consume too much beer, cake, pizza and cheeseburgers and all the other things that make life frankly worth living, we will add pounds to our bodies because we have taken in too many calories," says Bill Bryson in his new book, *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*. The author, who is neither doctor nor scientist, writes for the layperson.

It's apt that he talks of the knowledge we now have of what will make us overweight or obese. Obesity itself was declared a disease in 2013; fat a noun that refers to a food group, never a person. A decade ago, *In Defense of Food* came out, and over the years, we had internalised author Michael Pollan's guideline to "eat food, not too much, mostly plants." We also got more involved in what we consumed, not leaving it just up to our doctors and dietitians to dictate to us.

Power to the people

Celiac disease or even gluten sensitivity has caused people years of suffering with anything from bloating and diarrhoea to breathing difficulty. People suffering from this and various other autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, asthma, and allergies that do not have cures in allopathic medicine, have found relief from diet changes.

"People have stood up and talked about food," says Rachna Chhachhi, a Mumbai-based nutri-

How we, the people, industry, and practitioners, have all played a role in shaping our food choices over the past ten years

tional therapist and cancer nutrition coach. "The reaction against gluten and dairy has happened because there has been suffering at a physical and mental level." Rachna, who reversed an auto-immune condition she was afflicted with, wrote about managing lifestyle diseases through food, in her 2014 book, *Restore*.

We also know a great deal more, "and understand the science" behind food and health better, says Lovneet Batra, a Delhi-based sports nutritionist. "People today know what inflammation within the body is and what causes it [packaged and refined foods, for instance]," she says. This doesn't mean people won't drink Diet Coke, "but they know it's not a good thing to put into the body."

Lovneet adds that the thought has shifted, from calories to chemicals – people want to eat

organic, stay away from packaged and junk foods, and understand that nutrition is personalised.

A supplemental corollary

Similarly, a decade ago, Ritika Samadhar, Regional Head, Department of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, was busy drawing up therapeutic diets for those afflicted with renal failure, diabetes, and heart and other problems. Today, her patients are those who look for wellness so-

better-skin or -hair diets; women on the verge of menopause ask how they should regulate what they eat; and there are those looking at weight loss for a wedding. This proactivity and heightened awareness of wellness, combined with the availability of preventive health check-ups has meant that deficiencies too get detected.

"Vitamin D3, B12, and micro-nutrient deficiencies like magnesium – these have been seen a lot this decade," says Ritika. Which has led to a boom in the supplements market, including functional foods and drinks (such as those that have probiotics), and dietary supplements (from minerals and vitamins to *Chyawanprash*).

A 2017 publication on nutraceuticals, a sector of dietary supplements, by the Confederation of Indian Industry, reads: "While the Global Nutraceuticals market is growing at a CAGR of 6.5%, as per the Drug Marketing and Manufacturing Association, the Indian nutraceuticals market is growing at a much faster rate of 16%."

This is also because we now have a substantial senior population: According to Sheela Krishnaswamy, a dietitian based in Bengaluru, "The elderly are not able to digest or assimilate as many nutrients as they would have in younger years."

Fads and feuds

Rachna also talks about people taking up polarised views on the two diets of the decade: keto

From green juices and blueberries we have now settled into a pattern of the flexible diet, eating local and seasonal. GETTY IMAGES

and vegan. "People with obesity and diabetes swore by either when they realised that eliminating one food group could have an impact on the body. But what they did was to feed one imbalance with another," she says.

Keto, this decade's Atkins and Dukan, as well as the vegan diet, both have cult-like followers who hope to 'convert' people. Diets from previous decades did not have this going for them. For every Netflix *The Game Changers* (a documentary that talks of a vegan diet as best for fitness) there is *The Magic Pill* (a documentary that glorifies keto).

Both work only for a short period, says Rachna, adding that "we now know keto over a long period can impact the kidney and going vegan for long can cause chronic fatigue." This is possibly the first time that fad diets worked "because our earlier eating habits were so bad," she elaborates.

This decade also saw the rise of the Mediterranean diet, fuelled in India by olive oil companies that hoped to displace locally-made traditional oils. They offered junkets to influencers like dietitians and journalists to olive oil-producing countries, selling the benefits of the oil. There was no doubt of the benefits, but we didn't need it either for our bodies or our style of cooking.

Back to basics

Despite this, our native foods have seen a bump up, thanks to a larger movement in revival of all that's traditional and a new-found pride in our culture itself. They've also been marketed well, with pretty packaging that targets adults, taking us back to our roots (Conscious Food, Kiru), or children, taking the food to them (Slurrp Farm, Akiva Superfoods).

"The scriptures have become the backbone of modern healing and a lot of onus is put on food. We always knew what to eat if we had a stomach upset or poor digestion," says Manjari Chandra, Delhi-based dietitian. She says now with the Ministry of AYUSH, we have access to traditional healers who can tell us which texts these come from.

However, there are some nuances here: while people may have found their roots and are willing to try out new health foods in India, they are also travelling more and experiencing world cuisine. All of this comes at a time when there's also stress on living a sustainable lifestyle and eating lo-

cal and seasonal too. "This has led to the growth of a number of 'foreign' foods, like quinoa being grown in India," says Sheela. We needn't be alarmed though, because foods like tomato that do not form a part of our traditional diets have been incorporated into our cooking.

This East-meets-West approach has led to the nascent stages of integrative nutrition in India. This means that a blend of traditional medical practices that use food as medicine, and nutrition and dietetics as studied in university might soon be practised.

"This is an evolving branch of study, and we always thought our (Ayurveda) system is very different from theirs (the West's allopathy practice). Now we realised that there's a lot in common," says Sheela. The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology in Bengaluru, has a course for this.

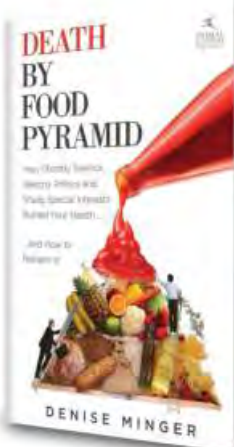
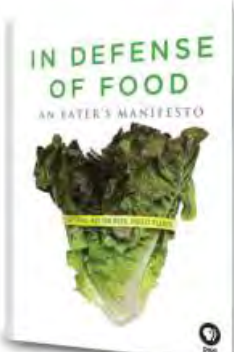
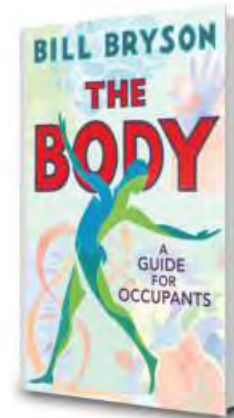
A change in thought

"We have so far been following American and British guidelines which may not have been correct for us in India. For instance, internationally, it is still said that 50% of food should be carbohydrates, based on the food pyramid," says Manjari. But the 2014 book *Death by Food Pyramid: How Shoddy Science, Sketchy Politics and Shady Special Interests Have Ruined Our Health* talks of how this diagram has no value.

It's also true that the 'big food' industry has manipulated the West a great deal more than it did India. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics says that "100-percent fresh or reconstituted fruit juice can be a healthy part of the diet of children older than one year when consumed as part of a well-balanced diet."

This is a reference to packaged juices, which Indian dietitians reject for regular healthy children, as we believe packaged foods are best avoided. However, as the food industry in India grows, it's beginning to have a greater impact on how the government regulates it: Despite planning to, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is yet to pass the colour-coded labelling on foods high in fats, sugar, and salt (HFSS).

Collectively, we have managed to talk a great deal about food and nutrition, without being able to bring down obesity levels in our cities. This is the next decade's greatest worry.



People have taken up polarised views on the two diets of the decade: keto and vegan, each eliminating one food group

POOCH CAFE



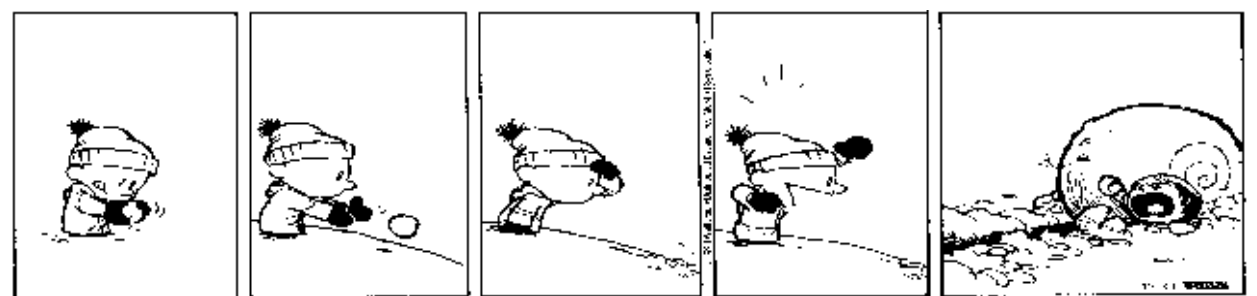
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



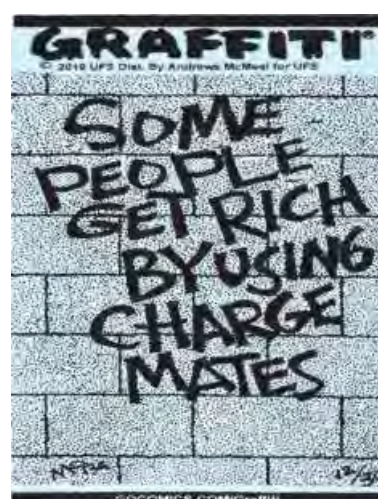
TIGER



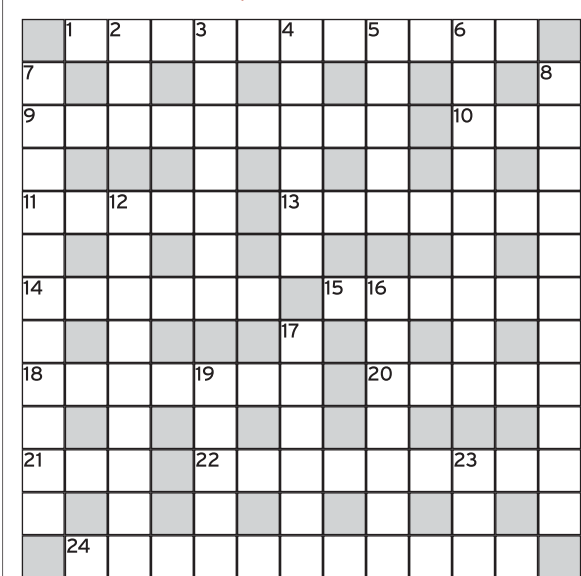
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13263

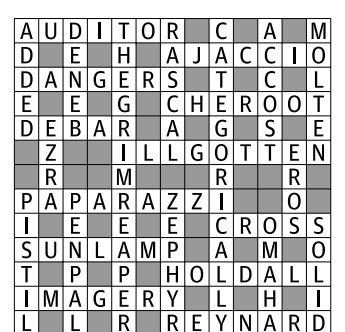


- variation (7)
- 4 Powerful (6)
- 5 More pleasant (5)
- 6 Contiguous (9)
- 7 Popular 1920s' American dance (5,6)
- 8 Type of sausage (11)
- 12 Quick-tempered (9)
- 16 Previously (7)
- 17 Cuban leader, d. 2016 (6)
- 19 Assumed name (5)
- 23 Cleopatra's supposed nemesis (3)

The solution will appear on December 31, 2019.

Solution No. 13262

- Across
- 1 Basic (11)
- 9 Lackadaisical (9)
- 10 Pint glass of beer, perhaps (3)
- 11 Felony (5)
- 13 Twisting force (7)
- 14 Pulchritude (6)
- 15 Alleviation of pain or distress (6)
- 18 Baroque keyboard composition (7)
- 20 'Message received' (5)
- 21 Sphere (3)
- 22 Very complicated or detailed (9)
- 24 Instrument for registering earthquakes (11)
- Down
- 2 Last month (abbr) (3)
- 3 Local language



With the exam season coming up, institutions and administrators need to take steps to curb the debilitating issue of malpractice

■ P. V. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN

Exam, in some form or the other, is an integral part of any academic activity. As with all good things, in exams also, malpractices seem to be growing, and it should be curbed.

Any dishonest and improper act associated with an exam, aimed at gaining undeserved advantage, is an exam malpractice. Such malpractices can be grouped under two categories, based on their sources of origin.

One is candidate-oriented, and the other is system-generated. In the first one, either the candidate or anyone interested in the welfare of the candidate, like the parent(s), siblings or friends may be involved. The types of such malpractices could be: copying in the exam hall from bits of information carried by the candidate clandestinely into the hall, or from the neighbouring candidates, bribing examiners for lenience and favourable assessments, altering marks/grades in certificates, impersonation and so on. Plagiarism in project reports and MPhil/PhD thesis, which are also exam materials, can also be grouped under this.

The second type, namely the system-generated malpractices



Exercise caution: Be mindful of malpractices.

include inappropriate question paper set by unqualified examiners, repeating recent previous years' questions (that happened recently at Anna University), or question papers set in a hurry without adequate time. Teachers' ineffective teaching methods, failure to cover the syllabus, unethical earning desires through tuitions and favouritism, hall supervisors' carelessness and an institute's greed to produce high results through sponsored mal-

Exams are an integral part of any academic activity. As with all good things, in exams also, malpractices seem to be growing, and it should be curbed. Any dishonest and improper act associated with an exam, aimed at gaining undeserved advantage, is an exam malpractice.

practices like allowing group copying are some more of this kind.

The problem with malpractice is when unchecked, it produces 'square pegs for round holes', with mismatch between result and requirement, imbibing disre-

gard to morality, aiding creation of fraudulent and corrupt citizens.

This is an issue that can be addressed with the right education. Enough ethical values must be infused into the students at the ha-

bit-formative school level, with moral instruction classes and/or workshops and lectures by competent personalities. Above all, teachers, administrators and parents must set themselves as examples fit to emulate.

As a negative measure, the perils of punishment for wrongdoers in exams must be made well-known to students and parents. Malpractices will impact negatively on the institutions al-

Deterrents

Some specific modes of exam malpractices need special attention.

Copying: In almost all competitive exams using objective type questions, including NEET and JEE, a few 'versions' of the question paper are used. All the versions of question papers used for an exam will have the same questions, but not in the same order. Candidates occupying neighbouring seats will receive question papers of different versions, thus making it impossible to copy from neighbours. However, in the case of Tamil Nadu Professional Courses Entrance Exams (TNCEE), which used such versions, I came across an attempted malpractice, in which a candidate, with a view to pass on to others, tried to write on a loose sheet the first few words of each question (as per the version of his question paper) along with the correct answer code (one of 1, 2, 3 and 4). To outsmart such attempts, in the subsequent years, in addition to jumbling of questions, I jumbled the answers too. This is for the kind notice of the interested examining authorities.

Another interesting aspect of TNCEE was that the candidates were not informed of the code letter (usually, one of A, B, C, ...), corresponding to their version of the question paper, and hence not troubled with mentioning that code in the response sheet. Before evaluation, the computer captured the version from the identical seven-digit serial number printed on the question booklet and the corresponding response sheet.

Impersonation: Impersonation in entrance exams has

earned prominence with reference to NEET2019-UG. Any admission system based on an entrance exam consists of four major components: (i) an exam (ii) evaluation and ranking, (iii) counselling and allotment, and (iv) actual admission in the allotted institution. The errors that could occur in each of them are independent and not exclusive.

It is true that the impersonator cannot be easily detected in the first three stages. But the real candidate will face the music in the final stage, namely admission, where the beans can be easily split – if the admitting authority at the allotted institution does his/her job properly.

Clearly, there cannot be any compromise on the correct identification of the candidate. Photographs, physiological and biometric methods using fingerprints, face or iris scan and signatures can be used for verifying identities. Even with all these, mistakes still do happen. That is why, attestation of photos by responsible personalities, insistence on using copies of the same photo on all documents produced during the entire duration of study, starting from applying for the entrance test, are some measures that could help to mitigate this evil.

Videographing/photographing the exam hall, with the seated candidates, without infringing on the confidential aspects of the process, may not only be helpful for any later analysis, if required, but also serve as a deterrent to indulgence in such malpractices.

The writer is former professor and Director, Entrance Examinations and Admission, Anna University, Chennai.

IN CONVERSATION

Transforming lives

Well into its 10th year, Teach For India has produced a pool of individuals of all ages, across the country, who are helping address a crisis

■ MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

Some time ago, a photo of a small girl standing outside a classroom with an empty bowl, in the hope of getting some leftovers from the students' meals went viral. However, her fortunes vastly changed when a good samaritan decided to step in, and got her admitted to the school. Not every child, though, is as lucky. Many children miss out on this basic right and that is what Teach for India (TFI), founded by Shaheen Mistri, decided to address.

A few months ago, TFI marked a decade of service by releasing *Grey Sunshine*, a collection of stories, authored by its chief of city operations Sandeep Rai, highlighting the organisation's journey. He explains that the book is about human stories underlying a national crisis we see, and yet don't see every day – the state of Indian education.

"Over the last 10 years at TFI, I have met people who have moved me to tears. Their stories have been simultaneously filled with despair and hope. They have also been filled with leadership and courage," reminisces Rai. "Together, those stories have repeatedly reminded me that we have an injustice in this country that today, guarantees that more than 75% of the country's children are destined to drop out. Those kids are destined for a future that is, at best, bleak. Those sto-



ries – and the immense and urgent need for change that underlies them – need to be told."

TFI serves more than 38,000 low-income children across seven cities. Children enter their classrooms with strengths and assets that are seldom noticed by the world. They also enter, though, battling challenges. How does one study when one is simultaneously battling issues of malnutrition and scarcity? How does one catch up when one enters school – at the second standard – already multiple years behind one's more affluent peers? And how does one complete school when one shows up, every day, confronting realities of corporal punishment, teacher absenteeism, and of apathy? Rai says



Sandeep Rai

that confronting these challenges every day and ensuring that they are rooting themselves in a grounded sense of optimism that doesn't get jaded, has forced them to continuously evolve.

"Our children are the direct recipients of India's inequity. They understand the depths and implications of the educational crisis far better than

any scholar or practitioner; that's because they have experienced it. Yet, they are too often powerless and voiceless, largely because of their age and penury. We need our children – the recipients of these solutions – to be co-creators along, and lead change, along with us."

Teaching leadership

Rai opines that leadership and teaching are intricately tied.

"I have had the remarkable privilege of watching more than 4,000 people enter and complete TFI's two-year fellowship. These are young Indians who decided to leave their pre-defined career paths and teach in a low-income classroom for two years. Afterwards, 70% of them continued to remain in education. Today, those leaders are starting their own schools, running organisations that are serving the poor, holding important roles in politics, and so much more. Together, those numbers give me hope. They tell me that we have a country that wants change – and they are willing to do something about it," says Rai.

It is also essential to note that each of those 4,000 stories started out in the classroom. They were made possible because of a decision to get proximate to India's realities. "Our Fellows overwhelmingly point to one big reality underlying their teaching experience: in the process of changing their students' lives, they themselves are growing and transforming into better human beings," explicates Rai. "They are growing into better listeners, planners, and influencers. And because of all that they are witnessing, they are growing more aware and hopeful. It is that transformation – facilitated by the process of teaching – that is equipping them to lead towards a better tomorrow," he smiles, signing off.

INITIATIVE

Six Cs of success

Communication and confidence are key qualities one needs to become employable



Future-ready: The first batch of graduates with Rakesh Godhwani.

■ DEEKSHA TERI

The world is moving so fast that institutions are not able to catch up with the ever-changing industry requirements. By the time teachers get ready to teach a subject, it gets outdated. Changes in technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics will make many jobs obsolete. The need to bridge this gap is what led Rakesh Godhwani to set up School of Meaningful Experiences (SoME), Bengaluru, in 2018.

After getting a job in Wipro in 1997, Godhwani realised that his real strength was his ability to communicate. Wanting to impart this skill, Rakesh started teaching others how to communicate and present their ideas in meetings, sowing the seed for SoME.

The School was established on the concept of six Cs of success: Communication, Confidence, Curiosity, Creativity, Collaboration and Competence. "I believe that when two human beings connect to work together in a professional setting or outside it, the essential skills needed at that time are communication and confidence. But these two qualities are just the tip of the iceberg. If the person is not curious, creative, collaborative and competent, the other two will not work. And this is what we call as the Six Cs of our philosophy," explains Godhwani.

Godhwani believes that it cannot be achieved by students sitting in the classrooms and cramming answers, or solving test papers on their mobiles.

"I also believe that while a learner has to know the subjects, she/he has to also know how to present their ideas in front of others, persuade them to see the bigger picture, manage conflicts, handle bullies, deal with failures, negotiate and persevere in getting things done. All of these are essential skills which we bring inside our programmes at SoME."

There are programmes targeting those between 11 and 25 years of age, and the flagship programme is a Diploma in Six Cs basic version that runs for 21 weeks between July and December.

The first batch of students graduated at the beginning of the month, and stories of their transformation have been encouraging. For instance, one of the students has shared how this programme has helped her gain confidence and speak in front of her class which she was never able to do earlier.

The school plans to push their online platform harder in order to attract students from all over the country. "We have successfully tested a batch of online students, and the tech platforms are so stable that after a point it doesn't feel like I am teaching in a virtual classroom. Teens today are tech-savvy and are anyway quite used to using apps and gadgets for learning. Most of them have done some sort of online programme already. In fact, they taught me a thing or two about the technology I didn't know myself," says Godhwani.

For details about SoME, look up: <https://some.education>

SCHOLARSHIPS

Chinese Government Scholarship

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, has announced this award for Indian students to pursue undergraduate, master's, doctoral, general scholar and senior scholar programmes. Selected students will receive variable awards.

ELIGIBILITY: Permanent citizens of India who have passed class XII, bachelor's degree and master's degree and are maximum of 25

years, 35 years and 40 years old respectively.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will get scholarships provided by the Government of China and the cost of airfare for onward air tickets only (India to China).
DEADLINE: January 24
APPLICATION: Online <http://www.b4s.in/edge/CGSI>

Lady Tata Trust Young Researcher Award

Lady Tata Memorial Trust, Mumbai, has announced this scholarship to reward young Indian scientists with an outstanding track record

in biological sciences, a deep commitment towards finding innovative solutions to major problems related to human diseases, and the potential for high-quality research. Selected researchers will get monthly stipend and other benefits.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian nationals below the age of 40 years, who possess a PhD degree in any biological science or a master's degree in medical sciences, have at least four years professional experience, and hold a regular position in a university/organisation/institute in India.
PRIZES AND REWARDS: The

selected researcher will receive ₹25,000 per month and a contingency grant of ₹7 lakhs per year.

DEADLINE: January 15
APPLICATION: Online <http://www.b4s.in/edge/LTMI>

NBHM Doctoral Scholarship Scheme

National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM), India, has opened this scholarship for the doctoral scholars who are pursuing their studies in math/applied math for the academic year 2020-21. The scholarship is intended to support the pursuit of research leading,

to a PhD degree in math/applied math.

ELIGIBILITY: Scholars enrolled in a full-time PhD programme in math/applied math, in a recognised university or institution in India, or are aspiring to get enrolled by August 2020, can apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars will get stipend up to ₹35,000 per month and a yearly contingency grant of ₹40,000.

DEADLINE: January 5
APPLICATION: Online <http://www.b4s.in/edge/NBHI>

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

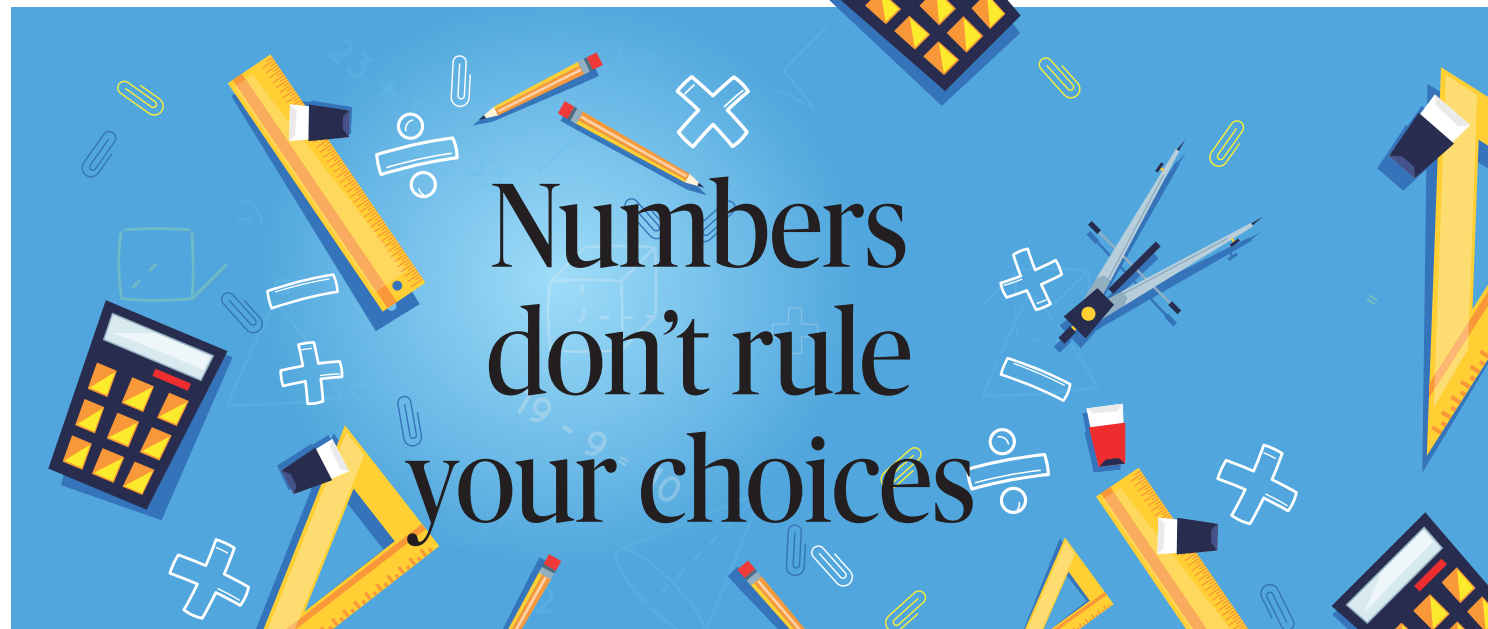
Impetus to girls

Internshala has announced its annual scholarship, Internshala Career Scholarship for Girls (ICSG). It is an annual award of ₹25,000 which is meant to help advance a girl's career in her chosen field – academics, sports, arts, and so on. It will be awarded as an allowance for pursuing an internship or undertaking a project in the chosen field, payment towards a specialised training pro-

gramme, special equipment, and so on.

ELIGIBILITY: Any Indian girl between the age group of 17 to 23 years. The applications will be shortlisted based on four elements including the fight against odds, achievement, purpose, and need.

Deadline: January 15
 For more details, visit: <http://bit.ly/ICSG-2020>



Numbers don't rule your choices

Is math the unfortunate albatross around your neck that will guarantee you the course of your choice? Here are some options to bust that myth

CAREER CUES
RICHIA DWIVEDI SAKLANI

Math evinces really strong reactions from students. But, we are told by parents, teachers and counsellors that this nightmare is compulsory in classes XI and XII, if we want to pursue any good business or management courses. And it is true in most cases, but not all.

Yes, you do not need to compulsorily study math in class XII to pursue a management programme from reputed universities. So, in order to provide relief and a direction to all the non-math students, here are the different universities from across the world, offering management courses without math.

India
Most universities such as University of Delhi, Ashoka University, IP University, NMIMS and so on, require students to study math in class XII. But, there are other good alterna-

tives available for students, without math, to pursue a BBA programme in some of the upcoming universities in India. Some of these include India Institute of Management, Indore (Integrated BBA + MBA programme), S.P. Jain School of Global Management, Flame University, Christ University, O.P. Jindal Global School of Business, IILM University, Azim Premji University, Symbiosis International University, to name a few.

Most of these universities are based on a liberal education model, giving the choice to the stu-

dent to choose his/her major area of focus in the final year of graduation. Mainly, admission into them is granted through an entrance exam, followed by an interview.

United Kingdom

Coming to the most sought after country for UG admissions in 2019, the U.K. is another top destination to pursue a management course. Most of the universities here require math in class XII, but there is a way for non-math students to get an admission in the management programme as well. In this case, the universities require the student to complete a foundation year, before granting them an offer of ad-

mission. Some of these universities are University of Warwick, University of Bath, Cardiff University, Middlesex University, Lancaster University, and Loughborough University

Most of the universities have a common application, in which a student is required to write one personal essay and upload his/her class XII predicted scores, except University of Warwick which has its own application form.

Canada

Giving the U.K. a tough competition, Canada is also among one of the best countries for students. There are a few reputed universities that offer a foundation programme for students not having a math background whereas some provide direct admission based on class XII scores. A few of these universities are University of Waterloo, York University, Thompson Rivers University and Simon Fraser University

Now, a word of practical advice. You will notice that though you have options, these are limited. So, it will be good for students to opt for math in class XI and XII as it will increase your options. So, really, chin up and eat that frog.

*Inputs from Simran Kaur, Associate Counselor at Inomi Learning.

The writer is Founder and CEO, Inomi Learning, a Gurugram-based career and college guidance firm. info@inomi.in

KNOWLEDGE

Q1

After more than a decade of preparation, the Louvre Museum is hosting one of the world's most expensive art exhibitions to commemorate the 500th death anniversary of an artist.

He was a polymath who had a broad range of interests: invention, drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, medicine, astronomy, and so on.

Name this artist who shares his name with a Hollywood actor.



Q2

A cricket match was played between the All-England Team and Hallam XI in 1858. Locals were impressed by the All-England Team's bowling performance, and especially by H.H. Stephenson's achievement.

To show their appreciation, the locals pooled their money and bought him a clothing accessory. What gift did they buy him that gave rise to a commonly used term in cricket?



Q3

In March 2019, NASA had to cancel the first all-female spacewalk on the International Space Station due to the unavailability of a suit in the correct size for astronaut Anne McClain. Hence, a new moon suit, formally known as the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) was unveiled for the 2024 mission.

The new suit gives the wearer a customised fit irrespective of their body size. It is designed to give more flexibility to the astronauts.

As the 2024 mission aims to put the first woman on the moon, it is aptly named after the twin sister of Greek god Apollo. Name her.



COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

A1. Leonardo da Vinci
A2. Hat-trick
A3. Artemis

Answers

Think on your feet

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH
S. UPENDRAN

"Hey, there's a big bump on your forehead. Did you have a dustup with someone?"

"Dustup with someone? What are you talking about?"

"The word is sometimes used in informal contexts to mean to have an argument or a fight with someone."

"I see. Well, I didn't have a dustup with anyone. I somehow managed to bang my head against the wall. I did have a major dustup with Sujatha about the proposed conference."

"That's nothing unusual. You and Sujatha are famous for your dustups. I had a dustup with the new manager, yesterday."

"Really? You have fought with your new boss already? What was it about?"

"He was giving my friend a hard time. Making fun of him, actually. I was in no mood to sit by and let him get away with it!"

"To sit by? In other words, you felt that your boss was doing something wrong."

"And I was in no mood to allow it to continue. I put a stop to it. I am your friend. I cannot just sit by and watch you waste all your hard-earned money on a silly car."

"Are we just going to sit by and let the students decide what is good for the university? Tell me, why were you upset with your boss?"

"He was telling my friend that he lacked the ability to think on his feet, and..."

"Think on his feet? Does it mean having the ability to think quickly?"

"Actually, it is the ability to think quickly in tricky situations - when you are under tremendous pressure. If you have the ability to think on your feet, you will come up with new ideas and..."

"And quickly come up with possible solutions to problems."

"Very good. It also suggests the ability to make decisions quickly. Nowadays, most companies are looking for people who can think on their feet. They are not interested in those who just follow orders - those who merely do as they are told."

"That's true! Last week, the gas cylinder began to leak. Luckily for us, my mother was able to think on her feet and found a way to stop it."

"That is a good example. When I was in school, I was never able to think on my feet."

"I never had that problem. Listen, since I have the ability to think on my feet, do you think I will be able to get a job in your company?"

"If you join my company, you will probably end up having a dustup with everyone there."

"I'll probably have one with you every day. Tell me, is dustup written as one word or two?"

"Some people write it as one word. Others put a hyphen between dust and up."

"Thanks. Let's hope you don't have another dustup with your boss before the year ends."

He who hesitates, meditates in a horizontal position. Ed Parker

The writer teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. upendranke@gmail.com

OFFBEAT... TOURIST GUIDE



Show them the world

With a rise in the number of tourists around the world, the demand for guides is also increasing

■ GEETA PADMANABHAN

"I am David Nadal, your tour director. Buenos dias!" said the nattily-dressed man at the arrival lounge of Madrid, Spain. Anticipating our question, he added, "No relation to the famous Spaniard!" In the two-week-tour that followed, David (pronounced "Daveed") helped us combat the glitches - sickness, theft, forgetfulness, oversleeping - and made sure we had a great time visiting his country and imbibing its layers of history and culture.

While his skills were sharp and his outlook inborn, he needed training and certification to be hired. David speaks impeccable English, Portuguese, French and a smattering of German and has a degree in Tourism, but "the best training is to run trips." We were surprised he was a freelancer. In fact, several of the local guides were freelancers too. Cortina, the feisty guide, said, "I work when I choose to. I am doing well."

Trafalgar, the company David works for, "asks for 5-10 years' experience doing trips. But, over all, you need to love your job to do it properly." David has been a TD (Tour Director) since 1999, and being one is "absolutely my choice. I like meeting people from all around the world. I enjoy the freedom I have, compared to spending the whole day in an office. And, of course, travelling is my passion." Any memorable incident as a TD? "I have so many. But one of the nicest is when a man and a woman met in my trips and a year later got married!"

With India's tourism industry opening up and tourist destinations getting connected, I wondered if qualified tourist guide jobs were getting a boost too. The first page I googled had headings such as "20 Best tour guide jobs (Hiring Now!)", "Tour Guide Jobs", "173 Tour Guide Openings", "27 Tour Guide jobs in India - Linke-

dIn. Tour Guide Bhopal, India. Exhibition Tour Guide. Tour Operator (specialised in Pilgrimage Holyland Tour)", and so on.

The calls were for tour consultants, executives, operation and reservation executives, and guides. Job openings for this field are scattered across the country.

Skills

Each hiring organisation is bound to have its special requirements depending on its client profile. But based on traveller experience and feedback, one can safely assume the following as essentials for this job:

- 1 Be well-informed about the places - history, current restrictions, rules and regulations.
- 2 Excellent problem-solving abilities.
- 3 Good sense of humour and open enthusiasm to sustain the interest of tourists.
- 4 Communication skills to make sure your instructions are understood.
- 5 Being flexible, if it fits with the tour. I was helped whenever I opted to visit the museum instead of the shopping plaza.
- 6 Good organisational skills. Our coach seats were forwarded every morning. We got to sit in different parts of the coach, and made new friends.

Courses

There are at least 22 well-known institutes offering travel/tourism courses. Go through websites such as shiksha.com and thebestschools.org for information on courses, job profiles and qualifications.

1 Madras University offers a three-year diploma in Travel and Tourism. Eligibility for the course is a class XII, preferably with commerce subjects, with a minimum aggregate score of 50%. The course fee is between ₹50,000 to ₹4 lakh.

2 Benaras Hindu University provides a two-year diploma in Tourism Management, and is open to all those who have passed class XII (Intermediate) or equivalent exam. The number of seats available in this course will be 60 (30 for Faculty of Arts and 30 for South Campus Barkachha).

While his skills were sharp and his outlook inborn, he needed training and certification to be hired.

ETCETERA

PGP in Business Leadership

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, has inducted the first batch of students for a full-time, one-year postgraduate course on Business Leadership, earlier this month. The programme is aimed at shaping young graduates with relevant work experience into potential business leaders, through a high-intensity and holistic curriculum and regimen. The programme will have constant industry engagement and placement assistance.

Actuarial Common Entrance Test

The Institute of Actuaries of India is conducting the Actuarial Common Entrance Test (ACET) for students who have completed class XII exams. The test will be held on February 29 and the registration closes by January 28. After clearing ACET, students can write actuarial exams at their own pace. <http://www.actuariesindia.org/>

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN



'It's a huge feeling to be World champion and means a lot to me'

Koneru Humpy bests Lei Tingjie to claim the women's rapid crown; Carlsen reigns supreme amongst men

CHESS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

It is a dream come true for Koneru Humpy!

Tipped by Viswanathan Anand more than a decade ago to be a World champion, Humpy became one on Saturday by winning the women's World rapid chess championship at the Grand Sports Arena of the Luzhnik Olympic Complex in Moscow.

Intense

The 32-year-old from Vijayawada, arguably the best-ever women's chess player from India, emerged triumphant in an intensely-contested championship which went down to the wire.

Humpy, seeded 13th, claimed the title after drawing the Armageddon game against China's Lei Tingjie and went home richer by \$40,000. The Indian and Chinese had, along with Turkey's Ekaterina Atalik, finished with nine points from 12 games.

The men's crown was won by classical World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway.

Not targeting title

Reflecting on the historic triumph, the first Indian woman to win the World rapid title said she was hoping only



Well played! Newly-crowned World rapid champion Koneru Humpy offers her congratulations to Lei Tingjie after their title-deciding match. ■ PICTURE COURTESY: FLICKR.COM/FIDE

for a top-three finish as she was keen to improve her game in the format.

"Frankly, rapid and blitz formats are not my cup of tea. But, I must say that I played some quality chess in crunch games to clinch the title.

"There was no pressure at all but I did have a feeling that it was the best chance for me to have a go. I was tense before the second game in the tie-breaker for there was no plus or minus here. I had to respond quickly but I handled the situation

really well," the champion stated.

The ONGC officer is on a comeback trail after taking a break from competitive chess in 2016 to start a family.

"This win means a lot to me. It is a huge feeling to be a

World champion. I have been waiting for this to happen, though not certainly in the rapid format," said a happy Humpy.

"To be a World champion in any format is definitely a dream for any chess player and I am no different. That

A quest resurrected

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

The queen is back!

Koneru Humpy's triumph is the biggest by an Indian in chess. That makes India one of the few countries that have produced the World rapid chess champions both among men and women. Viswanathan Anand has won it multiple times.

The genial genius from Chennai has also won the more important classical World championship (in which the games are played over much longer duration than the rapid one and thus is more prestigious).

Humpy had come close to becoming the classical World champion in the past, but could not quite finish the job. She saw her rivals becoming stronger,

while she had to take a break for a couple of years from competitive chess following childbirth.

Back to her best

If there were doubters who had felt her best might be behind her, she proved them wrong – even before the World rapid championship. She has performed superbly in the first two legs of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess, which is part of the process to identify the challenger for the next World championship.

After winning the opening leg at Skolkovo (Russia) last September, she finished runner-up in Monaco to maintain her lead in the overall Grand Prix points. It was just a few days after the Monaco

event the World rapid championship commenced in Moscow. She also deserved to win a senior World title after claiming just about every championship for various age-groups, beginning with the World Under-10, way back in 1997.

Four years later, she won the World junior championship at 14, when the age-limit was 20. She also became only the second woman in history, behind Hungarian Judit Polgar, to cross 2600 Elo points.

It had seemed it would only be a question of when, and not if, she wins the World title. But somewhere along the line, the hopes began to fade a bit. In Moscow, they have been resurrected.

South Africa draws first blood

Rabada, Nortje do the damage to break England's resistance



The end! The South African players celebrate victory after Stuart Broad was bowled by Kagiso Rabada. ■ REUTERS

ENGLAND IN SA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CENTURION

South Africa broke down stubborn England resistance to win the first Test of their World Test Championship series by 107 runs at the SuperSport Park on Sunday.

England needed 376 to win but despite some committed batting was bowled out for 268 on the fourth day.

An enthralling contest swung South Africa's way when left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj bowled Ben Stokes to halt a brief flurry of strokes as the allrounder and captain Joe Root tried to lift the scoring rate before the second new ball was due.

The new ball then had an

immediate impact with Kagiso Rabada having Jonny Bairstow caught at gully before Anrich Nortje claimed the crucial wicket of Root, who made a fighting 48 before he was caught behind.

It was the second time in the day Nortje claimed a

wicket with the second ball of a new spell after he made the first breakthrough of the day by dismissing top-scorer Rory Burns for 84. The remaining wickets fell quickly, with Rabada finishing with four for 103 and Anrich Nortje claiming three for 56.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa – 1st innings: 284.

England – 1st innings: 181.

South Africa – 2nd innings: 272.

England – 2nd innings: R. Burns c Rabada b Nortje 84, D. Sibley c & b Maharaj 29, J. Denly lbw b Pretorius 31, J. Root c de Kock b Nortje 48, B. Stokes b Maharaj 14, J. Bairstow c Hamza b Rabada 9, J. Buttler c Pretorius b Rabada 22, S. Curran c de Kock b Rabada 9, J. Archer c van der Dussen b Nortje 4, S. Broad b Rabada 6, J.

Anderson (not out) 0; Extras (b-8, lb-3, w-1): 12; Total (in 93 overs): 268.

Fall of wickets: 1-92, 2-139, 3-158, 4-204, 5-222, 6-232, 7-251, 8-256, 9-262.

South Africa bowling: Rabada 24-3-103-4, Philander 20-8-35-0, Nortje 17-4-56-3, Pretorius 16-6-26-1, Maharaj 16-3-37-2.

MoM: Quinton de Kock.

South Africa won by 107 runs, takes 1-0 lead in the 4-match series.

Big victory for Australia despite Blundell's fighting century

Pattinson begins dismantling, Lyon completes task as Kiwis chase daunting target

NZ IN AUSTRALIA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

Nathan Lyon took four wickets as Australia thrashed New Zealand by 247 runs to win the second Test here and the series on Sunday with a battling century from opener Tom Blundell proving futile.

The Black Caps, chasing a massive 488 to win, were in serious trouble after a fiery James Pattinson ripped through the top order to leave them reeling at 38 for three.

Fighting partnerships

But some fighting partnerships spearheaded by Blundell delayed the inevitable until Lyon worked his magic as the pitch deteriorated.

Blundell was last man out for a swashbuckling 121 – his second Test century and his first in two years – as New Zealand was dismissed for 240 with Trent Boult not batting after fracturing his hand in the first innings.

It was the second heavy defeat for the Black Caps, who lost by 296 runs in Perth and will be playing for pride in the final Test at Sydney later this week.

Pattinson, playing for the injured Josh Hazlewood, did the early damage. New Zealand had reached 32 without



In vain: Tom Blundell fought gamely in a tall chase. ■ AFP

loss when he snared the key wickets of Tom Latham, batting linchpin Williamson and the experienced Ross Taylor for three just runs.

Latham, scorer of a dogged 50 in New Zealand's 148 first innings, fell for eight when he edged a thunderous delivery to the diving Paine. Blundell, in only his third

Test, and B.J. Watling put on 72 before Lyon finally broke their dangerous partnership.

Lyon then mopped up Colin de Grandhomme and Mitchell Santner before Tim Southee was run out in a horror mix-up, with Blundell swinging his bat before he was caught by Lyon off Marcus Labuschagne.

SCOREBOARD

Australia – 1st innings: 467.

New Zealand – 1st innings: 148.

Australia – 2nd innings: D. Warner c Blundell b Wagner 38, J. Burns c Watling b Santner 35, M. Labuschagne run out 19, S. Smith c Southee b Wagner 7, M. Wade (not out) 30, T. Head b Wagner 28; Extras (lb-4, b-4, w-2, nb-1): 11; Total (for five wickets, decl. in 54.2 overs): 168.

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-100, 3-110, 4-110, 5-168.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 9-0-30-0, Southee 15-3-44-0, de Grandhomme 5-0-14-0, Wagner 17-2-1-50-3, Santner 8-0-22-1.

New Zealand – 2nd innings: T. Latham c Paine b Pattinson 8, T. Blundell c Lyon b Labuschagne 121, K. Williamson lbw b Pattinson 0, R. Taylor b Pattinson 2, H. Nicholls st Paine b Lyon 33, B.J. Watling c Warner b Lyon 22, C. de Grandhomme c Warner b Lyon 9, M. Santner c Paine b Lyon 27, T. Southee run out 2, N. Wagner (not out) 2, T. Boult absent hurt 0; Extras (lb-7, nb-1, w-2): 10; Total (in 71 overs): 240.

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-33, 3-35, 4-89, 5-161, 6-172, 7-212, 8-214, 9-240.

Australia bowling: Starc 15-3-59-0, Cummins 18-4-47-0, Pattinson 12-3-35-3, Lyon 23-4-81-4, Labuschagne 3-1-11-1.

MoM: Travis Head.

Australia won by 247 runs, seals series 2-0.

Siddle quits internationals



Peter Siddle. ■ GETTY IMAGES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

Veteran Australian bowler Peter Siddle announced his international retirement on Sunday after a 67-Test career, with national coach Justin Langer praising him as giving his "heart and soul" to the team.

The 35-year-old had been called up to the second Test squad in Melbourne but was not selected in the side to face New Zealand and decided to call it quits.

"Just being able to play, to walk out, wear the baggy green – I'd watched guys like Punter (Ricky Ponting), Steve Waugh, guys like that wear it, represent Australia," he said.

"Every time I stepped out was amazing, I don't think I could pick one special one. At the end of the day, to play one is amazing, to end up playing what I did is truly special," he said.

VAR reviews aid Liverpool in warding off Wolves

Late strikes help Chelsea spoil Arsenal manager's Arteta's home debut

PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Liverpool continued its relentless march towards a first Premier League title in 30 years, but Jurgen Klopp's men needed the benefit of two VAR reviews to see off Wolves 1-0 on Sunday.

Sadio Mane scored the only goal three minutes before half-time as the Senegalese's strike was allowed to stand after initially being ruled out for handball against Adam Lallana. Moments later Wolves had an equaliser scored by Pedro Neto disallowed by VAR for the tightest of offside decisions.

Chelsea ruined Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta's home debut as Tammy Abraham's late strike sealed a dramatic 2-1 win after Bernd Leno's horrific blunder turned

the tide in a thrilling London derby on Sunday.

Leading through Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's early goal, Arteta was just seven minutes away from securing his first victory in his second game in charge.

But Arsenal goalkeeper Leno made a hash of coming to catch a free-kick and Jorginho tapped in to spark a Chelsea fightback that climaxed in Abraham firing home with three minutes left.

The results: Liverpool 1 (Mane 42) bt Wolverhampton Wanderers 0; Arsenal 1 (Aubameyang 13) lost to Chelsea 2 (Jorginho 83, Abraham 87). **Saturday:** Burnley 0 lost to Manchester United 2 (Martial 44, Rashford 90+5); Norwich 2 (Vrancic 18, Aurier 61-og) drew with Tottenham 2 (Eriksen 55, Kane 83-pen); West Ham 1 (Fornals 45) lost to Leicester 2 (Iheanacho 40, Gray 56).



The clincher: Tammy Abraham, right, takes flight as a delighted Mason Mount tags him after the former netted Chelsea's last-gasp second goal. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Sougo's brace earns Mumbai a hard-fought win

ISL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Two stylish goals by Modou Sougo set up Mumbai City FC's hard fought 2-1 win in the Indian Super League game at the Mumbai Football Arena here.

Hyderabad FC fought till the end in the action-packed match, scoring only in the 86th minute through Bobo

Disallowed goal

The visitor scored again in the 90th minute, but the goal was disallowed. Matthew Kigallon was caught off-side when Bobo slotted the ball in.

Marcelinho Pereira came close to scoring twice for Hyderabad – the Brazilian wearing the captain's armband was first hustled by a

Pratik Chaudhary charge onto his body, then was denied by the upright after the goalkeeper was beaten by a looping shot to the far post.

Quick movement

The host's first goal was the result of quick movement by the blues.

Subhashish Bose picked out Diego Carlos, free and ready on the left.

The latter arrived at the goalline with a burst of speed, turned the ball across for Sougo to direct home with a right-footed strike to the right.

The forward celebrated his first goal this season with a run across the half, holding his finger up in triumph to the dugout.

Sougo beat the goalkeeper a second time with a diagonal volley, on the bounce

off a long pass lobbed towards him.

Kamaljit Singh, under the visitor's bar, remained on his toes right through the first half. Carlos tested him in the second minute, going wide down the left, cutting in and essaying a curling right-footed shot.

The goalkeeper was in position to punch the threat away.

A few minutes later, Pereira misfired a free-kick on the edge of the box, after Mohammed Larbi tricked the defence with sudden twist to roll the ball towards his teammate.

The win took Mumbai to fourth place after 10 games, while Hyderabad remained 10th.

The result: Mumbai City FC 2 (Modou Sougo 6, 78) bt Hyderabad FC 1 (Bobo 86).

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 a.m.
Big Bash League: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 1.40 p.m.

IN BRIEF



James on a high as Lakers snap losing streak

LOS ANGELES
LeBron James scored a team high 21 points and equalled his season's best of 16 assists as Los Angeles Lakers snapped an NBA four-game losing streak with a 128-120 win over Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday.
The results: Miami Heat 117 bt Philadelphia 76ers 116; Washington Wizards 100 lost to New York Knicks 107; LA Clippers 107 lost to Utah Jazz 120; Milwaukee Bucks 111 bt Orlando Magic 100; San Antonio Spurs 136 bt Detroit Pistons 109; Portland Trail Blazers 120 lost to LA Lakers 128; Chicago Bulls 116 bt Atlanta Hawks 81; Houston Rockets 108 bt Brooklyn Nets 98; Minnesota Timberwolves 88 lost to Cleveland Cavaliers 94; Boston Celtics 97 lost to Toronto Raptors 113; Sacramento Kings 110 lost to Phoenix Suns 112; New Orleans Pelicans 120 bt Indiana Pacers 98; Golden State Warriors 121 lost to Dallas Mavericks 141; Denver Nuggets 119 bt Memphis Grizzlies 110. AFP



Murray to miss Oz Open with pelvic injury

LONDON
Tennis star Andy Murray has pulled out of next month's Australian Open owing to a pelvic injury. "Unfortunately I've had a setback and as a precaution need to work through that before competing," the Scot was quoted as saying by BBC. Murray, a three-time Grand Slam winner, had his eyes on playing a first Grand Slam singles event since Melbourne 12 months ago. Murray will now not be in action until February at the earliest. IANS



Petersen in SA squad for injured Markram

PRETORIA
South Africa on Sunday added batsman Keegan Petersen to the squad for the second Test against England in Cape Town next week, replacing the injured Aiden Markram. The uncapped 26-year-old scored 111 for South Africa-A against England last week in the last warm-up game before the first Test in Pretoria, where opener Markram injured his finger. REUTERS



West Ham sacks Pellegrini

LONDON
West Ham sacked manager Manuel Pellegrini after Saturday's 2-1 home defeat to Leicester left the Hammers just one point above the Premier League's relegation zone. In a statement, joint-chairman David Sullivan said: "It has become clear that a change is required to get the club back on track in line with our ambitions this season." AFP

'I have a lot more tennis left in me'

Sania Mirza, set for a comeback, says the first target is to be healthy, not winning or losing

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Six-time Grand Slam winner, Sania Mirza, says she is excited and nervous about her comeback when she will partner Ukrainian Nadiia Kichenok in the Hobart International and Rajeev Ram of US for the mixed doubles in the Australian Open next month.

"I could have easily hung up my boots, enjoyed my life instead of struggling to play the game for hours under the sun," says 33-year-old Sania in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* on Saturday, after a three-hour training session with Davis Cupper Saketh Myneni, Olympian Prarthana Thombare and the young talent G. Sai Karteek Reddy here.

"But, honestly I am enjoying and glad to put myself back in this kind of position and be able to compete. Something to be very proud off. So, whatever comes now, it will be a bonus," she says.

"I love playing tennis. I feel I have a lot more tennis left in me. It was not a plan all along definitely. For, there were so many unknowns when you are blessed with a baby (Izhaan). Like how emotional you will be, how physically challenging it will be and how your body reacts," said Sania. "The big issue is how long I can do this," she added.

What were the biggest



New innings: Sania Mirza, seen with son Izhaan, wants to see whether she can still play top-flight tennis and aspires to compete in the Tokyo Olympics. • V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

challenges? "A lot really. Luckily, I have solid family support of parents and my sister Anam. This has been the easier part of my journey so far.

"And, losing 26 kg weight in four to five months and starting from negatives, not even zero, when your body completely changes, you lose all your muscles, it was never easy," Sania explained.

"I have no set goals like winning any title. I just want

to see whether I would be able to compete at the highest level or not," she said.

"Yes, certainly, Tokyo Olympics is at the back of my mind for sure. And, it will be great if I can make it to what would be my fourth Olympics," she said.

"But, again, that is not something which is my immediate goal. I have to see how my body reacts, behaves after my match-play. So, the first target is to be healthy, not

winning or losing," she added.

Will there a critical review after the Hobart and the Australian Opens? "I think it will be too soon to make a judgement.

"After a two-year long gap, at least couple of months and a couple of more tournaments are needed to do that," says Sania.

On her new doubles partners, Sania says she is excited to partner Rajeev. "I

never played with him. But, he is a very close friend of mine since I was 12 and he 14 years. It will be lot of fun and more so he is the defending champion in Melbourne," says Sania.

"Nadiia is a very solid player, ranked World No.38. Well, I am not saying I am going there to win the Australian Open, but I want to enjoy every moment," she concluded.

Violence mars DDCA AGM

Anguished former stars appeal for BCCI intervention

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Ugly scenes, highlighted by videos on social media, marked the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Sunday.

Blows were exchanged between officials of the rival groups and allegations flew from all quarters as Delhi cricket once again was "shamed" by power-hungry officials.

DDCA Apex Council member Rajan Manchanda was allegedly manhandled by a supporter of the group which claimed majority support at the AGM.

"They can't stoop lower than this. All they want is power because lucrative contracts have to be handed to their cronies. There is [₹]25 crore to be looted and siphoned off and this is just the beginning," said Manchanda, who told *The Hindu* that he had to seek police help.

Black day

Another Apex Council member and Director, Sudhir Agarwal, termed it a "black day for DDCA" and called for strict action against the "goons." He claimed,



Kirti Azad. • FILE PHOTO KUMAR



Madan Lal. • FILE PHOTO

"The AGM was disrupted by a few supporters of officials who are claiming majority after Resolution 3, 4 and Removal of Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed was defeated by almost 75% of the members. These goons also manhandled (BJP) MLA Om Prakash Sharma and also snatched the attendance register. There is enough video and photo evidence available."

Taking note of the incidents, former India allrounder Madan Lal, in an appeal to Board president Sourav Ganguly, tweeted, "Delhi cricket Mecca and producer of so many players who represent India. A big shame for the DDCA who run this game!!! Time for the BCCI to take a strict action and change the scene of Delhi

cricket. Delhi cricket in the hands of hooligans.

"Sincerely pray n hope something can be done to save this game and the future of so many cricketers who want to play for prestigious Delhi and represent their country."

Ugly face
Another India star and former Member of Parliament, Kirti Azad, also reached out to Ganguly.

"In light of what has been happening for the last several years, violence was being expected in the DDCA premises. The ugly face of the DDCA has been visible in the AGM today, for which the inaction by the BCCI also is responsible," he said.

Azad added, "With Mr. Rajat Sharma (last DDCA presi-

dent) too opting to resign, in view of what he states loot and corruption in the DDCA, the BCCI must step in to safeguard its funds and to take charge of cricket.

"In fact, a Forensic Audit Report commissioned by Justice Vikramajit Sen proved all this malfeasance but is gathering dust in DDCA. To stop horse trading and also to stop the loot of subsidy and other funds, I implore the BCCI to immediately appoint an administrator to take charge of DDCA's operations. Also, the funds currently available with DDCA should not be allowed to be swindled, as alleged by the outgoing president."

Former Test cricketer Gautam Gambhir, who was Govt. Nominee in the DDCA till recently, also expressed his shock as he too asked for action immediately. "DDCA GOES 'ALL OUT'... AND DDCA IS ALL OUT FOR A SHAMEFUL DUCK. Look, how handful of crooks are making mockery of an institution. I'd urge @BCCI @SGanguly99 @JayShah to dissolve @delhi_cricket immediately. Surely, sanctions or even a life ban for those involved."

RACING

Dandy Man fancied for Common Land Plate

HYDERABAD: Dandy Man has an edge in the Common Land Plate (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Monday (Dec. 30).

1. R.C.T.C. PLATE (DIV. II), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-45 p.m.: 1. Charcoal (4) Rohit Kumar 55, 2. Days Of Reckoning (7) A.A. Vikrant 55, 3. Greek Soul (8) Irvan Singh 55, 4. Beautiful Luv (1) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 5. Cephalonia (5) I. Chisty 53.5, 6. Due Diligence (3) Neeraj 53.5, 7. Purple Rain (2) B.R. Kumar 53.5 and 8. Queen Daenerys (6) Kuldeep Singh 53.5.

1. DUE DILIGENCE, 2. BEAUTIFUL LUV, 3. QUEEN DAENERYS

2. TRADE FARE PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2-15: 1. Mind Reader (5) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Nova Scotia (7) Nathan Evans 58, 3. Healthandhappiness (3) Gaddam 55.5, 4. Alta Vita (1) Surya Prakash 55, 5. Super Act (9) A.A. Vikrant 54, 6. Bedazzled (10) Kuldeep Singh 53, 6. Ashwa Calvari (6) Ashhad Asbar 52.5, 8. Dazzling King (2) Jitendra Singh 51, 9. Let It Be Me (4) Ajit Singh 51 and 10. Royal Girl (8) B.R. Kumar 51.

1. NOVA SCOTIA, 2. MIND READER, 3. ALTA VITA

3. R.C.T.C. PLATE (DIV. I), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-45: 1. Art In Motion (4) Kuldeep Singh 55, 2. City Of Passion (2) Rohit Kumar 55, 3. Elegant Stroke (8) Nakhat Singh 55, 4. Hidden Hope (3) Gopal Singh 55, 5. Bulls Ace (9) N. Rawal 53.5, 6. Cheltenham (6) I. Chisty 53.5, 7. Fashion Universe (7) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 8. Lifetime (4) Mukesh Kumar 53.5 and 9. Tuff Warrior (5) Ajit Singh 53.5.

1. FASHION UNIVERSE, 2. LIFETIME, 3. ELEGANT STROKE

4. DECCAN PRINCE PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-15: 1. Ta Ta (7) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Man Apart (2) Surya Prakash 59.5, 3. Takisha (10) Jitendra Singh 59.5, 4. Loch Stella (9) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 5. Southern State (5) Deepak Singh 58.5, 6. Shakesphere (6) Koushik 56.5, 7. Air Salute (4) I. Chisty 54.5, 8. Hurricane (12) Abhay Kumar 54.5, 9. Secretary (8) Ajeeth Kumar 52.5, 10. Moka (13) Ajit Singh 51.5, 11. Ursula (3) Rafique Sk. 51.5, 12. Dance All Night (1) Afroz Khan 50.5 and 13. Khan Sahib (10) Gaddam 50.5.

1. LOCH STELLA, 2. HURRICANE, 3. SECRETARY

5. COMMON LAND PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (not won since July 1st 2019), rated 40

to 65 (Cat. II), 3-45:

1. Big Brave (2) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Dandy Man (4) Ashhad Asbar 59, 3. Vancouver (3) Surya Prakash 59, 4. Avantika (5) Irvan Singh 58, 5. N R I Heights (9) Koushik 57.5, 6. Kingswood (6) Afroz Khan 57, 7. Vijay's Empire (1) Ajit Singh 56, 8. George Cross (7) Mukesh Kumar 54.5 and 9. Sea Castle (8) Akshay Kumar 53.5.

1. DANDY MAN, 2. SEA CASTLE, 3. N R I HEIGHTS

6. PEDDAPALLI PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25, 4-15: 1. Invasion (3) Koushik 60.5, 2. Negress Princess (7) Abhay Singh 60.5, 3. Smarty (10) Ashhad Asbar 60.5, 4. Snow Castle (4) B.R. Kumar 60.5, 5. Southern Meteor (5) Irvan Singh 60.5, 6. Honourable Guest (8) Deepak Singh 59.5, 7. Run Runner Run (9) Afroz Khan 59.5, 8. Shivalki Sand (6) Rohit Kumar 56, 9. Country's Pet (11) Santosh Raj 55.5, 10. Cowboys Delight (2) Jitendra Singh 52.5 and 11. Dumbledore (1) Akshay Kumar 50.

1. DUMBLEDORE, 2. SMARTY, 3. NEGRESS PRINCESS
Day's best: DANDY MAN
Double: DUE DILIGENCE - FASHION UNIVERSE
Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 & 6; Tr (f): 1, 2 & 3; (f): 4, 5 & 6; Tla: all races.

Agni takes the honours

HYDERABAD: Agni (Akshay Kumar up) won the first division of the Mayor's Cup, the main event of the races held here on Sunday (Dec. 29). The winner is owned by M/s. Prakash Babu, V. Krishna Das & Rajesh Sanghani and trained by D. Netto.

1. MUSICAL MORN PLATE (1,200m), 2-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): CONSCIOUS GIFT (I. Chisty) 1, Artemis Arrow (Rafique Sk.) 2, Waitoma (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Spicy Star (Irvan Singh) 4. Hd, 3 and 1-1/2. Im, 12.16s. ₹9 (w), 5, 16 and 5 (p). SHP: 40, FP: 265, Q: 177, Tla: 774. Favourite: Conscious Gift. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Miss Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

2. NEXT MOVE PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. II): RASIKA (Mukesh Kumar) 1, All Star General (Akshay Kumar) 2, Dillon (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Ultimate Risk (Ajit Singh) 4. 1/2, 2 and hd. Im, 42.18s. ₹71 (w), 22 and 6 (p). SHP: 14, FP: 388, Q: 94, Tla: 601. Favourite: All Star General. Owners: M/s. Sreeramulu Bommisetty & Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy.

3. MAYOR'S CUP (DIV. II), 1,200m, 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): MON GENERAL (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Warrior Supreme (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Super Dart (Gopal Singh) 3 and Honest Hunter (B.R. Kumar) 4. Nk, hd and hd. Im, 11.57s. ₹10 (w), 5, 17 and 8 (p). SHP: 86, FP: 151, Q: 121, Tla: 705. Favourite: Mon General. Owner: Mr. S.R. Sanas. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

4. HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): WOOD BRIDGE (Nakhat Singh) 1, Rutilant (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Hope Is Eternal (Aneel) 3 and Joy Of Giving (G. Naresh) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1/2. Im, 39.82s. ₹38 (w), 16, 7 and 11 (p). SHP: 23, FP: 252, Q: 132, Tla: 1683. Favourite: Valee Tiger. Owners: M/s. Aziz Ahmed Khan, Mohammed Rasheed Ali Khan & Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: Faisal Hassan.

5. MAYOR'S CUP (DIV. I), 1,200m, 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): AGNI (Akshay Kumar) 1, King Maker (Surya Prakash) 2, Asteria (Afroz Khan) 3 and That's My Class (Nakhat Singh) 4. Hd, hd and nk. Im, 11.35s. ₹8 (w), 5, 7 and 16 (p). SHP: 30, FP: 44, Q: 40, Tla: 237. Favourite: Agni. Owners: M/s. Prakash Babu, V. Krishna Das & Rajesh Shanghai. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. SWEET GIRL PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): CITY OF BLOSSOM (Afroz Khan) 1, Midnight Dream (I. Chisty) 2, City Of Blossom (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Sporting Smile (Jitendra Singh) 4. 2, 2 and 2. Im, 37.81s. ₹39 (w), 9, 6 and 8 (p). SHP: 23, FP: 227, Q: 85, Tla: 1,049. Favourite: Gustu Look. Owners: M/s. K. Thambuvan Reddy & Nirmal Singh. Trainer: Satyanarayana. Jkt: ₹3,08,221(one tkt.). Runner-up: 3,669 (36 tkts.). Mini Jkt: 1,562 (85 tkts.). Tr (f): 602 (55 tkts.), (f): 591 (66 tkts.).

ISL reschedules six games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Indian Super League has rescheduled six matches of the ongoing 2019-20 season due to various factors.

According to a statement posted by ISL on its website, the game between North-East United FC (NEUFC) and Chennaiyin FC, which was postponed on December 12 due to CAA protests in Guwahati, will now be played on February 25 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium.

NEUFC's engagement against Jamshedpur FC has been moved from January 2

to February 10 "due to non-availability of the stadium" because of Khelo India Youth Games.

The organisers have also swapped the games between Chennaiyin FC and Bengaluru FC (scheduled on February 7) and NEUFC vs Kerala Blasters FC (scheduled on February 9).

The match between Hyderabad FC and Jamshedpur FC has been moved by a day to February 13, while the February 13 match between FC Goa and Mumbai City FC has been advanced to February 12.

Easy for Odisha, Assam

NATL. VOLLEYBALL

SPORTS BUREAU
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha, Pondicherry, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand posted straight-set wins over Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, West Bengal and Jharkhand in the men's category on day five of the senior National men's and women's volleyball championship here on Sunday.

In the women's section, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Andhra

Pradesh had it similarly easy over Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Assam, Bihar and Punjab.

The results (day five):

Men: Odisha bt Jammu & Kashmir 3-0; Pondicherry bt Tripura 3-0; Assam bt West Bengal 3-0; Madhya Pradesh bt Bihar 3-2; Himachal Pradesh bt Manipur 3-0; Chhattisgarh bt Chandigarh 3-0; Gujarat bt Maharashtra 3-1; Uttarakhand bt Jharkhand 3-0.

Women: Uttar Pradesh bt Pondicherry 3-0; Himachal Pradesh bt Chandigarh 3-0; Madhya Pradesh bt Assam 3-0; Uttarakhand bt Bihar 3-0; Gujarat bt Chhattisgarh 3-1; Andhra Pradesh bt Punjab 3-0.

'Focused on my game and recovery'

Injuries are part of being a professional athlete: Bhuvneshwar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

India pace bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who missed out the recent limited-over series against the West Indies at home due to a side strain, and is recuperating now, says he is not sure whether he needs a surgery or not and hence can't predict the timing of his comeback till he consults a doctor.

In an interaction with the media during the promotional event with ASICS here on Saturday, Bhuvneshwar refused to debate on the recent controversies surrounding the National Cricket Academy on the fitness issues of some cricketers.

"It is not proper for me to comment on this. I am more focused on my game and recovery," he said.

Priority

"My main aim is to get back to full fitness as soon as possible.

"The World Cup (T20) is still a long way. My job is to comeback soon and do well and not to worry about the team selection.

"For me, personally, it has been a good year. Well, injuries are part and parcel



Cutting edge: Bhuvneshwar Kumar attributed India's excellent showing this year to a strong pace-bowling unit. • NAGARA GOPAL

of being a professional athlete" he said.

"It has been a great year for the Indian cricket. We have won almost every series this season. Of course, when you don't win the World Cup, you will always have that regret.

"But that is life. There will be ups and downs," he said after inaugurating the ASICS store here on Saturday.

The 29-year-old, who is

very popular here being a member of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, is all praise for the Indian pace attack.

"I think it is a great sign. A few years back, if you look at the matches in India, we are more dependent on spinners.

"But now we have a very strong fast bowling unit and that is the reason we are winning more tournaments," he said.

Ashish and Satish claim Olympic qualifiers spot

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Asian silver-medallist Ashish Kumar (75kg) and veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) booked their places in the Indian men's boxing squad for next year's Olympic qualifiers, while comeback man Vikas Krishan (69kg) advanced to the finals on the opening day of the trials here on Sunday.

Ashish defeated reigning National champion and South Asian Games gold-medallist Ankit Khatana in a unanimous verdict to be assured of a spot in the squad for the Asia/Oceania zone qualifiers in China, scheduled from February 3 to 14.

Satish, a Commonwealth and Asian Games medallist, booked his berth with a split verdict triumph over Naren-dar. Joining the two was Sachin Kumar, who claimed

the 81kg spot with a victory over Brijesh Yadav.

In other results, Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Vikas Krishan moved into the final with a unanimous win over Ashish Kulkheria. Vikas will face Duryodhan Negi in the final on Monday. Negi defeated Naveen Boora in a split decision.

Another CWG gold-winner Gaurav Solanki (57kg) too advanced to the final by getting the better of Kavinder Singh Bisht, an Asian silver-medallist and a world quarterfinalist. Next up for Solanki is Mohammed Husamuddin, a CWG bronze-medallist, who edged past former youth World champion Sachin Siwach.

In the 91kg category, Naveen Kumar won against Gaurav Chauhan in a split decision to set up a final clash with CWG bronze-medallist Naman Tanwar.

Olympic qualification — the highlight of a profitable year

While men's team adapts admirably to the new methods of Graham Reid, women go from strength to strength under the guidance of Marijne

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

In a year when top-ranked teams were busy fighting it out in the Pro League and amping up their game against the toughest opponents, the highlight for the Indian men and women's hockey teams was booking the all-important ticket to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to round up the year.

Crucial wins

Having decided against being part of the elite nine-nation competition — eight for men after Pakistan pulled out — the Indian teams had to make do with lower-ranked opponents in the first half of 2019 but came out victorious in the few events that mattered. And, none more than the Olympic Qualifiers in November, hosted at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar that has become the virtual home of Indian hockey.

While the men had an easy outing in the two-leg Quali-

fiers against a much-weaker Russia that, nevertheless, did expose a few chinks in the Indian armour, the women sealed their Tokyo spot in dramatic fashion, led by captain Rani Rampal, against USA.

The wins managed to soothe the hurt the teams had been carrying since the disappointment of the 2018 Asian Games.

There were other highs as well for the men — Hockey Series Finals winner, runner-up at Sultan Azlan Shah Cup after going down to Korea in the shootout and the Olympic Test Event in Tokyo that gave the team crucial first-hand experience of the venue, conditions and surface that they would face seven months from now.

An additional challenge for the players was getting used to coach Graham Reid's style. The Australian, a former assistant to the legendary Ric Charlesworth when the Kookaburras ruled world hockey and led them at the Rio Olympics, took charge

just before the men travelled to Australia and only had a few months to find his best combination for the qualifiers.

Assisted by analytical coach Chris Ciriello, with whom he worked as a player, Reid managed to find the sweet spot between youth and experience.

It was a different battle for Sjoerd Marijne and his women. The Dutchman, appointed in 2017, shunted to the men's team midway before being moved back to lead the women in 2018, made sure the team went from strength to strength through the year, both physically and mentally.

Working with scientific advisor Wayne Lombard — credited unanimously by the girls for their vastly improved fitness, strength and stamina — Marijne brought the full weight of his experience as a motivational speaker to work on the mental toughness of the team.

Unafraid to use psychological aids to understand them

better, Marijne began with a winning series against Spain and Ireland that laid the template ahead of the Series Finals in Hiroshima. The women exacted revenge for the final defeat to Japan at the Asiad and gathered enough points to ensure they played the Qualifiers at home. It made all the difference.

Juniors do well, too

The juniors, both men and women, too did well enough to merit attention. While the men began with a disastrous outing at the 8-Nations tournament in Spain — that saw chief coach Jude Felix being summarily dismissed, a vacancy that remains unfilled — they made up with a runners-up finish at the Sultan of Johor Cup.

The women, meanwhile, won the 3-Nations tournament in Canberra towards the year-end. The team also won the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations tournament, registering 10 wins and two draws in the 16 matches it played.



Tokyo-bound: The Indian men and women's hockey teams after winning the qualifiers in Bhubaneswar in November. •PTI

A fascinating year for Indian shooting

Manu and Saurabh swept all the four gold medals in mixed air pistol in the World Cups

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

The biggest surprise of Indian shooting, in a year it dominated world shooting, was Manu Bhaker being asked to compete in the junior section of mixed air pistol in the ongoing National Championship in Bhopal.

It has already been chronicled well that Manu and Saurabh Chaudhary swept all the four gold medals in mixed air pistol in the World Cups this season in Delhi, Beijing, Munich and Rio de Janeiro.

Manu won the Asian championship gold with Abhishek Verma and the World Cup Final gold with Russian Artem Chernousov. It was a phenomenal climax when Manu won the individual women's air pistol gold in the World Cup Final in Putian, China, to affix her stamp of class.

It has been an encouraging growth of the young girl from Haryana, who won the women's World Cup in Guadalajara in 2018, on her debut at that level, when she was 16 years of age.

When others were busy winning the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games me-



Saurabh Chaudhary.



Manu Bhaker.



Apurvi Chandela.

dals, Manu was digesting harsh lessons, after high scores in qualification. She then bounced back to win the Youth Olympics gold.

Incredible

It was equally incredible this year that Manu showed great character and fighting spirit, after missing the Olympic quota, owing to a pistol malfunction, in sports pistol in the Munich World Cup this year, to win the air pistol Olympic quota the next day in air pistol, when she missed a medal by 0.1 point.

Despite her many accomplishments, Manu does not have the Arjuna award.

She did win the junior mixed air pistol gold in the National championship, despite being sidelined by Haryana for the senior mixed event. When the best of shooters — who had secured 15 Olympic berths for Tokyo 2020 — fumbled, Manu stood tall to win the women's and junior air pistol gold in the National championship apart from the silver in the sports pistol.

In such a scenario, it may

be difficult to keep Manu away from competing in three events in the Olympics next year.

Dominant season

Indian shooting has been so dominant this season, that such shining performances like that of Manu has gone unnoticed.

Three shooters, Elavenil Valarivan, Saurabh Chaudhary and Divyansh Singh Panwar, ending the year as No.1 and winning the Golden Target award from the International Federation, was the

■ Three shooters, Elavenil Valarivan, Saurabh Chaudhary and Divyansh Singh Panwar, ended the year as No.1

crowning glory for Indian shooting on the global stage.

Equally fascinating was how Abhishek Verma and Saurabh Chaudhary swept all the four gold medals, two each in men's air pistol, in the four World Cups.

Apurvi Chandela was amazing as she won two World Cup gold medals at home and abroad, with World record to boot in women's air pistol.

It was a lively season with Indian shooting overwhelmed the world, including power house China.

The shotgun came short, except for the brilliant manner in which Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan won the two Olympic quota places in skeet with a dramatic gold and silver finish in the Asian Championship. Indian shooting has no time to celebrate the brilliant season, as it attempts to set its sights on the Olympics in Tokyo.

IAN S
NEW DELHI

Jeremy Lalrinnunga, who became the first ever Indian to win a gold medal at the Youth Olympic Games last year, said he is currently fulfilling his father's dream by representing India in various senior weightlifting competitions. The 17-year-old's father was a junior boxing champion, but couldn't go on to represent India.

Biggest inspiration

"My father has been the biggest inspiration in my career. He has backed me fully since the time I decided to take up weightlifting. He was a boxer so he has shared all his experience of being a sportsperson with me.

"He was a junior champion, but unfortunately, he didn't go on to play for India and therefore I am fulfilling his dream," said Lalrinnunga.

The weightlifter, who hails from Aizawl (Mizoram), is currently looking to book a berth at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Lalrinnunga has clinched two silver medals in the 67 kg category this year.



Big inspiration: Jeremy Lalrinnunga represents India in various senior weightlifting competitions. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I am preparing to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics at the moment. The last Olympic qualifying event will be held in April next year.

"I am training for that competition. I have won two silver medals in the 67 kg category this year. I clinched the first one in the EGAT's Cup International weightlifting championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and won the second one in the 6th Qatar International cup in Doha," said the 17-year-old.

Lalrinnunga, who won gold in the first and second edition of the Khelo India

Games, said that the competition is like an international-level tournament. He competed in the 62 kg and 67 kg in the first and second edition respectively.

"The Khelo India Youth Games is a very good experience for young athletes. The competition is like an international-level tournament. It's a very good competition.

"The Indian government and Sports Authority of India are supporting all the upcoming athletes. With their continued support, India will win Olympic medals in the future," said the weightlifter.

Vijayveer on the mark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL

Vijayveer Sidhu was in top form as he shot 580 to beat Olympian Gurpreet Singh by two points for the gold in the men's 25-metre standard pistol in the 63rd National championship on Sunday.

Vijayveer beat his twin brother Udayveer by six points for the junior gold, as the two also helped their team Chandigarh to the junior gold and the men's silver.

In another non-Olympic event that does not feature a final, Sib Kumar Ghosh won the men's 50-metre free pistol gold, one point ahead of Gaurav Rana, who won the junior gold.

The results: 25m standard pistol: Men: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 580, 2. Gurpreet Singh 578; 3. Udayveer Sidhu 574.

Team: 1. Army Marksmanship Unit 1707; 2. Chandigarh 1693; 3. Haryana 1689.

Juniors: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 580; 2. Udayveer Sidhu 574; 3. Harsh Gupta 572.

Team: 1. Chandigarh 1699; 2. Haryana 1680; 3. Delhi 1672.

50m free pistol: Men: 1. Sib Kumar Ghosh 556; 2. Gaurav Rana 555; 3. Jitu Rai 554.

Team: 1. Army Marksmanship Unit 1648; 2. Rajasthan 1638; 3. SSB 1636.

Juniors: 1. Gaurav Rana 555; 2. Arjun Singh Cheema 548; 3. Nikhil Chandila 548.

Team: 1. Punjab 1630; 2. Haryana 1599; 3. Uttar Pradesh 1595.

A year of many highs and few lows for Indian boxing

In the professional circuit, Vijender Singh remained unbeaten



Making a wave: Amit Panghal's 2019 gold rush began in the season-opening Strandja Memorial, one of Europe's oldest and most competitive tournaments. ■FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

History-making performances, some selection drama on the sidelines and ignominy due to big-ticket dope fails — Indian boxing was all this and much more in an action-packed year dominated by pint-sized dynamo Amit Panghal.

To count the positives, 23-year-old Panghal fetched India its first-ever silver at the men's world championships, the redoubtable M.C. Mary Kom was mostly in top form and medals poured in internationally courtesy a deep talent pool.

In the professional circuit, Vijender Singh remained unbeaten, still looking for an opponent who can stand up to the raw power of his punches.

Downside

On the downside, a flip-flop selection policy led to six-time World champion Mary Kom being dragged into an unsavoury controversy, and the accomplished duo of Neeraj Phogat (women's camp) and Sumit Sangwan (men's camp) flunked dope tests, sending down shockwaves within the fraternity.

For most part, Indian boxing had lots to celebrate and it started with the season-opening Strandja Memorial, one of Europe's oldest and most competitive

tournaments.

Panghal's 2019 gold rush began in the tournament, which was also his last competition in the 49kg category.

Former junior World champion Nikhat Zareen and Meena Kumari Devi became the first set of Indian women boxers to finish on top at the same event. Zareen later went on to hit the headlines by vociferously raising the demand for a trial against Mary Kom.

Panghal moved up to 52kg in March, and though he sounded a bit nervous about the shift, the results told a different story. He grabbed a gold immediately, at the Asian Championships in April, to assert his supremacy in the new division.

Pooja Rani, a boxer who felt shy about wearing gloves at the start of her career, ensured that women too went home with a gold with her best ever performance at the event. Mary Kom gave it a miss to prepare herself for the world championships.

Then came the world championships in September and October, the blue-riband event which lost some of its sheen after being stripped of Olympic Qualifier status by the International Olympic Committee due to the alleged administrative mess and financial mismanagement in the International Boxing Association (IBA).

There was some drama when the Indian women's squad was finalised for it, as Zareen protested after being stopped from appearing for a scheduled trial bout. However, it didn't make much of a difference to the final list as Mary Kom was picked based on her golds at the India Open and an Indonesian tourney besides the consistent performance in the national camp.

What also tilted the scales in the veteran's favour was her victory over Zareen in the India Open semifinals.

Watershed moment

In the world championship for men, Panghal gave India a watershed moment by making the finals after Manish Kaushik (63kg) fetched the bronze, which had earlier been also achieved, in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015.

The silver made Panghal the undisputed top name in Indian men's boxing and he capped the year by winning the Best Boxer Award at the BFI's first ever pro-style league.

As for the women, 20-year-old Manju Rani, who lost her father — a BSF man — to cancer in 2010, found the individual glory she was looking for when she took to the sport. She was the lone Indian to make the women's world championship final this time and signed off with

a silver medal. The iconic Mary Kom had to be content with a bronze this time.

The BFI had decided that the gold and silver-winners from the women's world championship would be given direct selection for next year's Olympic qualifiers.

However, the body's President, Ajay Singh, stirred up a hornet's nest by stating that the BFI would make an exception for Mary Kom (51kg) and select her without a trial.

Zareen raised the protest card and even wrote to the sports minister, demanding a trial.

The BFI, after maintaining a stoic silence, announced trials and the controversy finally ended after an angry Mary Kom defeated the younger boxer to not just make the cut but also prove a point about her abilities at 36.

The sport itself remained in doldrums internationally with the International Boxing Association taking charge of the Olympic qualification process and the conduct of the competition in the Olympics.

This was after AIBA failed to convince IOC of its financial well-being and integrity, which took a severe hit during the 2016 Rio Olympics due to poor judging.

The coming year promises to be a big one for Indian boxing.

Mane bags Tata Steel Tour C'ship

IAN S
JAMSHEDPUR

The 2019 Tata Steel PGTI season had a fitting finale as the battle for the season-ending Tata Steel Tour Championship went down to the wire at the Golmuri Golf Course with multiple contenders in the fray in the dying stages of the tournament. But it was the Pune-based Udayan Mane's "steely resolve" that helped him triumph in 'Steel City' at the ₹ 1.5 crore event by a slim one-shot margin.

Mane's (67, 66, 64, 65) determined final round effort of 7-under 65 saw him establish a new PGTI record for the lowest tournament total as he closed the week with a 26-under 262.

It was Mane's eighth professional title and his second win on the PGTI this season. The impressive winning cheque worth ₹ 22,50,000 catapulted Mane from ninth to third place in the Final PGTI Order of Merit for 2019.

Kolkata-based Indian star SSP Chawrasia (63, 67, 65, 68), who was leading by two shots till the 14th hole, carded a 68 on day four and thus had to settle for second place with 25-under 263.