# The night of the long rods

Protests that began last year over a fee hike in Jawaharlal Nehru University fed on campus rivalry and culminated in politically targeted violence. **Kallol Bhattacherjee** reports on the clash between the Leftist student organisations and the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad



Heavy police deployment outside JNU on January 6 following the brutal attack on students and faculty by a masked mob on January 5. (Below): JNUSU President Aishe Ghosh addresses the media near Sabarmati hostel on January 6. • R.V. MOORTHY

e's known as Khaki in Jawaharlal Nehru University's Sabarmati hostel. A Kashmiri student, Khaki likes playing badminton in the open spaces of the university's sprawling campus when he is not studying. He rarely bothered about the ideological differences amongst his friends in JNU's politically charged atmosphere. His friends used to point out to him that he was quite popular on campus with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student organisation affiliat-Sangh, but Khaki would dismiss them. "No, yaar," he would say. "I am friendly with all sides. Politics means nothing to

But on January 5, Khaki could not afford to be apolitical or ignore what was happening on campus. He was in his hostel when, all of a sudden, a group of people broke into his room with rods, he recounts to a group of psychiatrists assembled in Sabarmati hostel on December 9. They scattered on the floor all the neatly laid books is his room, he says. Despite his cries, they stomped on the blankets and broke the glass panes. Khaki is emotionally bruised and this is why the psychiatrists have come: to help the deeply divided university cope with the latest trauma.

### Fee hike protest

It all began when protests broke out against the revised fee structure that the JNU administration under Vice Chancellor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar drew up in 2019. These protests dragged on as neither the university authorities, led by the Vice Chancellor, nor the Human Resources Development Ministry could meet the core demand of the students: to roll-back the steep increase in fees. Towards the end of October, the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) called for a "complete university strike" against the draft hostel manual which was part of the fee hike project of the university. The campus had been non-functional since the fee was raised.

The reopening of the winter semester was getting delayed as neither the JNU administration nor the JNU Teachers' Association had managed to come up with any solution to the problem. Registration is a JNU-specific issue. Every six months, all the students in the university enrol themselves afresh for the courses that semester. This is also when the faculty give them feedback on their

To register or not to register for the winter semester was the main issue on campus. JNUSU opposed the registration process. It believed that simply doing so would mean surrendering to the revised fee structure. "We marched towards Rashtrapati Bhawan in December to register our complaint when we were lathi-charged by the Delhi Police. The whole world watched as this happened," says Sucheta Talukdar, a stu-

On the other hand, students say, teachers, mainly from the right-leaning JNU Teachers' Federation, had been pushing them to register. Gathering at the State Bank of India to pay the fees, the students consulted one another on the issue. Many were not sure what to

The see-saw continued on January 3 and 4 when several rounds of heated discussions and spats took place between the JNUSU and the ABVP, which oroll out the admission proc dure. ABVP's posters on campus read: "By preventing and threatening bonafide students willing to register for the winter semester, the JNUSU has lost its legitimacy, morality and cause of its very existence." JNUSU maintained that registering would amount to acceptance of the higher fee structure that it had been protesting over the last five months. JNU has a 'zero semester' system, which means that a student can opt out of a semester citing health or family issues. If all students refused to register, reasoned JNUSU, it would make the semester a 'zero semester' for everyone, a welcome scenario for the prot-

On January 4 morning, students say members of the JNUSU, led by JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, marched to the main server of the campus and forcibly disconnected it. This led to a scuffle outside the server room, a sign of things to come. As Ghosh was leaving the server room, she and others were stopped and beaten up by some students, Sucheta

However, ABVP activist Shambhavi Jha, a Russian language student from JNU , says WiFi on campus had become nonfunctional even before January 4. "We believe that JNUSU disconnected the servers even before January 4. We were unable to access WiFi needed for admission-related work," she says.

### The final confrontation

These events snowballed into the final confrontation of January 5. On the afternoon of that cold Sunday, teachers and students gathered together at Sabarmati T-point, ironically for a peace march. "We had been planning to gather at Sabarmati hostel to initiate a dialogue among the students. We gathered at Sabarmati T-point with placards and posters," says Amit Thorat, Assistant Professor at the Center for the Study of Regional Development.

Around the same time, says Chandan (name changed), a student at the School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, a large group of students had congregated at Mahi-Mandavi hostel and then dispersed at 3 p.m. There was a murmur going around that the longstanding tensions between the ABVP and JNUSU would blow up. Students were apprehensive and nervous: it seemed like something terrible was go-

ing to happen. Chandan took his scooter and rode around campus. He says he did not want to miss out on any of the "action". Chandan was also concerned about the safety of a woman friend; he wanted to ensure that she was safe in case a fracas broke out. He rode around for a while and then went to Periyar hostel near the North Gate, an area known as Dakshinapuram. Even as he was talking to fellow students, Chandan says he saw a teacher belonging to a right-wing political group hand out sticks and rods the hostel. "Some of the rods appeared new and shiny and drew my attention. I was stunned to see this young Assistant Professor distributing these to students," he says. "The teacher kept saying 'jaldi karo (act fast)' while distributing the rods and sticks," he says. The teacher had found himself in the midst of a controversy earlier as his appointment had drawn flak in the academic

A group of students rushed to inform the teachers at Sabarmati T-point that an Assistant Professor was busy arming some students with sticks and rods. By then a mob had quickly arrived, their faces covered with dupattas and masks. They were armed with sticks and began to assault the teachers, multiple students say. Professor Sucharita Sen was hit on her head repeatedly. Thorat says he had reached the backyard of Periyar hostel by then, where he was assaulted by the masked members of the gang for taking their photographs on his phone.

The masked lot then moved to the girls wing of Sabarmati hostel and targeted the rooms of Kashmiri students, like Khaki, and other minority students, says Jyoti Priyadarshni, a student. Three students stood up to the attack. As the gang went from room to room, Monica Bishnoi, Priyadarshni, and Raashi stood outside and confronted the gang mem-

The teacher kept saying 'jaldi karo (act fast)' while distributing rods and sticks to the students.

Student, School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, JNU

bers. Alerting the women of the hostel even as they chased away the attackers, these young students emerged as the saviours on the long night of terror in Sabarmati hostel

### Fear of new trouble

The night came to an end but fear and trauma have only begun, say students. They are afraid as they continue to share hostel space with those whom they suspect were among the masked men and women. Thorat and others are could not have targeted faculty without help from insiders.

Chandan explains the lingering mental trauma and after-effects of the violence. "A courier delivery man knocked on my door on Tuesday. The knock was loud but I could not bring myself to open the door. My heart was beating fast and I told my roommate that this could be a trick; maybe some people were planning to assault me," he says. The courier man eventually went away. Following the violence, the dhabas and small eateries on campus are slowly returning to normalcy, but assaulted students continue to wear broken spectacles, injuries on their head and face, and anxiously scan their surroundings, anticipating another round of assault. No amount of assurance makes them feel comfortable. "Our outdoor activities have drastically reduced. Many of us are so tired that we sleep for more than 12 hours. We have stopped our morning walks," says Krishan Takhar of the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, indicating that students who usually spend hours at the famous central library of the university are unable

Apart from the presence of some of the key members of the masked gang among the students of the right-wing student bodies, the battered activists also fear the security agency of the campus. The agency, Cyclops Security and Allied Services, took charge a month before the complete university strike was called by the JNUSU students. In a notification issued on September 18, JNU's security department was asked to remain

"extra vigilant". The note said, "They have been instructed to verify the identity of the person entering JNU Campus/ building, to their full satisfaction. All residents are requested to carry their ID cards... Together we can make JNU a secure campus."

Once the strike and sit down protest began, the students realised that the guards intended to assault them. "On one occasion we spent a night protesting at the administration block. Some girls were huddled together early in the morning. Suddenly a guard snatched away our razai (thick blanket)," says Sucheta. She also claims that the guards slapped her and others some

time between January 3 and 5. The security agency boasts of appointing ex-servicemen for security assignments. However, visitors to the campus say they noticed a subtle change in the rules for entering the campus soon after the agency took charge. In the old system, guards gave plastic tokens to outsiders entering the campus. Thorat noticed one day, when he was being driven into the campus by a friend, that the guards were not always asking for the tokens to be returned. But students also add that they are not wary of all the security guards. They are friendly with many of the previous security guards, who even called them after the January 5 incident to enquire about their well being, they say.

### So far, a controversial tenure

Ever since Kumar took charge in January 2016 from Sudhir Kumar Sopory as Vice Chancellor of INU, there has been trouble. In March 2018, eight women accused Professor Atul Johri, at the university's School of Life Sciences, of sexual harassment. Subsequently, the Delhi High Court stopped him from accessing his office and the school premises. Despite the restraint order from the court, Johri continued to teach and access his room and laboratory even as students continued to protest against his presence. The breakdown of the Gender Sensitization Committee Against Sexual Harassment, or GSCASH, which used to be at the forefront of protecting students against sexual assault on campus, has also been a major issue during Kumar's tenure. GSCASH was dismantled and replaced with a new outfit called the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), set up by the administration. In 2018, *The Wire* reported how the ICC leaked a complaint from a student to the ABVP. This jeopardised the identity of the complainant. As a result, the ICC could not gain the trust of the students. The JNU administration guided by the Vice Chancellor replaced the more representative GSCASH with the ICC. JNU-SU claims that the ICC is staffed by the administration's "loyalists" and lacks the transparency required for deterring sexual harassment on campus. Apart from the complaint against Johri, sever-

There is no way a student can maintain his academic and personal freedom. We are constantly reminded that to remain safe we must align with one group or the other.

al cases of sexual harassment that raise disturbing questions about gender fairness on campus remain unaddressed.

The hostels in JNU are named after the rivers of the country to represent the unity of India. However, students and teachers on campus say that the university is deeply splintered today. In such a polarised campus, where a student protest against fee hike has taken the form of an anti-government movement, the biggest victims are the students who want to remain removed from campus politics and intellectually curious. There is no way a student can maintain his academic and personal freedom. We are constantly reminded that to remain safe we must align with one group or the other," says Krishan, a student. Apart from the students, the teachers are also divided. The JNU Teacher's Association has held many protest rallies against the Vice Chancellor. Its members were brutally assaulted on January 5. The INU Teacher's Front has accused the JNU Teacher's Association of disrupting academic life on campus. A group called JNU Commons has emerged to safeguard the intellectual autonomy of students and scholars and provide space to those who want to maintain a distance from all these issues and yet show commitment to justice and fairness on the

As the police investigation continues, questions hang in the air about the future of the investigation itself. Students claim that they saw police in civvies inside the campus even as the assault and heavy stone-pelting targeted female students of the Left. It was only several days after the traumatic day, on Thursday night, that the police removed large posters near the university. These had been pasted by a self- proclaimed Hindu Sena leader, Surjeet Yadav, and accused student leaders of being "balaatkaari (rapists)", "pro-Chinese" and "anti-national Leftists".

Meanwhile, the administration is still pushing for students to register. "There were concerns among some of us about whether or not we should register but after the attack of January 5 more students feel that it's better to stay united and avoid registering this semester. January 5 was the last day of registration but only a fraction of students had registered by then. Now the admin has extended the registration process but this option is not vet popular," says Deepak Kumar, senior research scholar at the Centre for Law and Governance.





### FROM PAGE ONE

## SC tells govt. to review restrictions on J&K

Justice Ramana, who wrote the verdict, said the court had no intention to delve into the political propriety of what the government did in J&K. "Democratic forces" would be the judge of that. The court said it merely sought to balance citizens' liberty and their security.

Though liberty and security were often portrayed to be at loggerheads, the court said, the government cannot take recourse to blanket use of the "power under Section 144 CrPC [for issuing restrictions] as a tool to prevent the legitimate expression of opinion or grievance or exercise of any democratic

### 'Abuse of power'

Repetitive orders under Section 144 CrPC was an abuse of power, Justice Ramana observed. Raising the freedom of free speech and expression on the Internet as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, the court said the State cannot cite the extensive reach and impact of the Internet as a medium in order to restrict this right.

Petitioners Anuradha Bhasin, Kashmir Times editor, and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad had said the government's shutdown of Internet and telecom services had cut off Kashmir from the rest of the world. Holding trade, occupation or commerce dependent on the Internet as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g), the court said that in a globalised Indian economy, right of trade through Internet fostered consumerism and availability of

"Suspending Internet services indefinitely is impermissible under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services [Public Emergency or Public Service] Rules, 2017. Suspension could be utilised for temporary duration only," the court held.

A "complete and broad" suspension of telecom and Internet services should be resorted to only as a drastic measure in an "unavoidable" situation.

The court pointed out that the government was able to continue with the suspension of Internet services because the 2017 Rules did not define word "temporary". No time-limit was prescribed in the rules. The court asked the legislature to repair this lacuna. Till then, any order of Internet suspension under the rules would be reviewed within a week of its issuance.

## Stay on NCLAT order reinstating Cyrus Mistry

Chief Justice Bobde orally remarked that prima facie the NCLAT might have committed an "adjudication error" by ordering the reinstatement of Mr. Mistry.

"There was no such prayer for reinstatement made. This is an error, we feel, which permeates the whole order [of the NCLAT]... The tribunal was granted a prayer that was never made," the CJI said.

The court, however, agreed to hear detailed arguments on the aspect. It recorded in its order an assurance given by the Tata side that they "do not not intend to take any steps with regard to Article 75".

Sons to "compulsorily purchase" shares of any shareholder. The NCLAT had also directed Tata Sons to not invoke Article 75 of the Articles of Association of Tata Sons against the Shapoorji Pallonji group, a minority shareholder. Mr. Mistry is a scion of the group.

### Seeks status quo

The assurance from the Tata side to not invoke Article 75 was given after senior advocate C.A. Sundaram, for Shapoorji Pallonji, vociferously argued against the stay order. Mr. Sundaram instead sought status quo, saying that as a minority shareholder with shares worth crores, he was "completely in the dark" about what was hap-

pening within Tata Sons.

"We will protect you... so far nothing has diluted your shares," the CJI responded. The court posted the ap-

peals after four weeks, saying there was no urgency in the issue. "You [Mistry] have not been in the saddle for three years... what is the urgency now?" Chief Justice Bobde said. The Tata Sons' appeal said the NCLAT decision to bring Mr. Mistry back to the helm was a blow to corporate democracy and rights of the board of directors. Mr. Mistry's tenure as chairman and director of Tata Sons expired in March 2017. The NCLAT decision to restore him to his "original position" for the trary to company law, a recipe for disaster and sets a dangerous precedent in law, it submitted.

The company argued that a majority of the board of directors at Tata Sons had voted for Mr. Mistry's replacement as chairman on October 24, 2016 after losing confidence in him. He was again removed as the director of Tata Sons on February 6, 2017 following the procedure that applied to corporate appointments.

In his separate appeal, Mr. Tata said the NCLAT verdict had virtually pulled down the governance and corporate structure painstakingly built by the founders of the Indian multinational con-

## IIP reverses slump, grows by 1.8% in Nov.

Mining sector output decelerated to 1.7%, from 2.7% in the year earlier period.

The data for November further revealed that production of capital goods, a barometer of investment, contracted by 8.6%. This compares with a contraction of 4.1% in November 2018. Also, there was a contraction of 3.5% in the infrastructure and construction goods segment.

While consumer durable

output was in the negative territory, the consumer non-durable segment or FMCG goods recorded a small growth of 2% (against contraction of 0.3% in November 2018).

As per the NSO data, 13 out of the 23 industry groups in the manufacturing sector showed positive growth during November 2019 as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

## Judge's bail condition: attend CAA session

Earlier, during a hearing in the SC on December 18, CJI Sharad A. Bobde had orally suggested to the government to publicise the actual intent of the Act so that there was no confusion among the pu-

blic about its objectives and aims. "There is need to publicise why the Act is passed. There is a need for that," Justice Bobde addressed Attorney General K.K. Venugopal for the Centre.

## Section 144 not a tool to suppress opinion: SC

'Disapproval of govt. action cannot lead to restrictions'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The orders of restriction issued under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) could not be used as a tool to suppress legitimate expression, opinion and grievances in a democracy, the Supreme Court ruled on Friday.

Referring to the submissions by petitioners that the police were still restricting the movement of people during the day in Jammu and Kashmir, the court said it was neither proper nor correct on the part of the State to resort to such acts. "If a government thinks there is a threat to law and order..., it must follow due procedure, taking into consideration the rights of citizens, and pass only appropriate and need-based

restrictive orders," it said. The court noted that the orders issued under Section 144 in Jammu and Kashmir did not explain that restrictions were imposed in anticipation of a threat to law and order or to prevent loss of life and property. This was



On alert: Security personnel on duty in the Nowgam area of Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

despite the fact that government had argued that the restrictions were imposed because of the erstwhile State's history of cross-border terrorism and infiltration and other security issues. Divergent views and disapproval of government action could not lead to imposition of Section 144, the

court said. The power was meant to be used only in case of public emergency or in the interest of public safety. Magistrates could not apply a straitiacket formula without assessing the objective and material facts. Restrictions could not be excessive in nature or duration, it said.

On the contention whether Section 144 could be invoked against the public in general or against specific groups or persons, the court referred to the Madhu Limaye judgment that a general order could be passed if the number of persons was so large that a distinction could not be made without

## Govt. stand on total Net blockage rejected

'Goal behind curb should be legitimate'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected the argument of the Jammu and Kashmir government that it opted for a blanket suspension of Internet services in the Valley because it lacked the technology to allow selective online access.

"If such a contention is accepted, the government would have a free pass to put a complete Internet blockage every time. Such complete blocking/prohibition perpetually cannot be accepted by this court," the court said.

However, it noted that there was "ample merit" in the government's argument that Internet could be used to propagate terrorism in J&K, thereby challenging the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.

'No excessive measures' But the court made it a point to observe that peace in J&K should be achieved without "excessively burdening" the fundamental right of free

It held that a restriction imposed on fundamental

SC ruling will restore information flow: Cong.



Journalists using the Internet at a governmentrun media centre in Srinagar.

rights without appropriate justification was disproportionate. The goal behind a restriction should be legitimate. The degree and scope of a restriction should be proportionate to what was actually necessary to combat an emergency, the court

The State should resort to the least restrictive measure while taking into consideration the facts and circumstances. A restriction should be supported by sufficient material and amenable to judicial review, the court

### 'State cannot deny free speech on Net'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to express any views on whether "access to Internet" is a fundamental right.

In its 130-page judgment directing the government to "forthwith" review its orders suspending Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, the court merely confined itself to declaring that the freedoms of speech, expression and conducting business on the Internet are fundamental rights integral to Article 19 of the Constitution and subject to reasonable restrictions.

"None of the counsels have argued for declaring the right to access the Internet as a fundamental right and therefore we are not expressing any view on the same," Justice Ramana, who authored the verdict, wrote. The court clarified that the right to free speech and expression includes the right to disseminate information.

It said the State cannot restrict or deny free speech on the Internet because the medium can circulate information widely.

### Mamata likely to meet Modi in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the State Secretariat and extended to her an invitation to attend the sesquicentenary celebrations of the Kolkata Port Trust on Sunday, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also scheduled to attend.

The development has triggered a possibility of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister sharing the dais at the event.

'A rebuff to the arrogant stance of the Centre'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress on Friday said that the Supreme Court's ruling that dissent cannot be suppressed by imposition of prohibitory orders in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) had given a jolt to the Modi-led government.

Welcoming the judgment, former Union Law Minister Kapil Sibal termed the order 'historic' while former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said it was a "rebuff to the unconstitutional and ar-

rogant stance of the Central government and the J&K administration on restrictions imposed there"

Mr. Chidambaram also demanded that Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik step down from his position, owning up his actions as the former J&K Governor.

"The entire team in J&K that designed and executed the plan should be changed. A new set of administrators who respect the Constitution should be appointed. The former Governor of J&K, Mr. Satpal Malik, should own responsibility and resign from his present post of Governor, Goa," Mr. Chidambaram said in a series of

The entire team in J&K that designed and executed the plan should be changed. A new set of administrators who respect the Constitution should be appointed CHIDAMBARAM, CONGRESS LEADER

At a press conference held at the Congress headquarters, Mr. Sibal said the top court's observation that prohibitory orders under CrPC Section 144 cannot be used indefinitely to suppress freedom of speech and expression and difference of opinion was "path-breaking".

"I would like to tell the Home Minister today to

please listen to the voice of the people. Don't just rain lathis (batons) on them," Mr. Sibal said, adding that the top court's order will restore free flow of information from the region.

"Why don't you allow us to visit Jammu and Kashmir? Why do you not have faith in us or the people of India? If people from outside India have the right to visit Jammu and Kashmir, why not us? Do you consider us as perpetrators of violence?" the former Minister asked. "I want to ask the Prime

Minister: 'Why do you have so much affection for foreigners and why not for the people of India? At least, you should be more transparent and open with the people of India'," he added.

"SC delivers first big jolt of 2020 to illegal activities of Modi Govt by stating importance of Internet as a fundamental right. Double shock for Modi-Shah that dissent cannot be oppressed by imposing section 144," Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala said in a tweet.

## Bukhari shakes up politics in Valley 26 political detainees

Four leaders quit PDP a day after party expelled nine others who met envoys

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Altaf Bukhari, 60, Kashmir Valley's top businessman with just five years of experience in politics, has triggered a churning, with over 13 leaders quitting the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The National Conference (NC) is fearing an "attempt to change the goal post for regional parties".

Four leaders, including former MLA Yawar Mir, resigned from the PDP, a day after the party expelled nine leaders for their decision to meet a team of 15 ambassadors and diplomats, as part of a delegation led by Mr. Bukhari, and submit to the Lt. Governor a memorandum seeking statehood and domicile laws.

There is growing international pressure to restore a genuine political process in Kashmir, and Mr. Bukhari has emerged as a leader to voice the new demands and fashion new mainstream politics. His approach will pressure the other parties to re-frame their goals.

Sources said the jailed PDP president, Mehbooba Mufti, has ordered action against all "those compromising on the party's position on Article 370 and 35A".

"Those who were expelled or resigned are just a bunch of opportunists who enjoyed the power when the PDP was ruling Jammu and Kashmir. It will not deter the party from pursuing its rightful agenda," a senior leader told The Hindu.

Mr. Bukhari, the richest candidate in the 2014 Assembly election with assets worth ₹84 crore, was side-



Altaf Bukhari

lined by the PDP for negotiating with the BJP without Ms. Mufti's approval in 2016. Eventually expelled, Mr. Bukhari became the first leader in the Valley to meet European Union parliamentarians in Delhi in October and 15 Ambassadors on January 9.

Departing from the regional parties' demands for greater autonomy and selfrule, Mr. Bukhari has set a new goal: statehood and domicile laws. Even PDP patron Muzaffar Hussain Baig's nephew Javaid Baig, a former MLA, has decided to back Mr. Bukhari. "There was a dire need for politicians like him to begin the process of reconciliation so as to secure statehood and guarantees for land and job rights. Restoration of Article 370 is impossible, and we need to revisit our stand," said Mr. Baigh.

Sources said Mr. Bukhari would likely float his own party, with a few PDP and NC leaders ready to join him.

"Mr. Bukhari's politics is a dangerous departure for regional politics. From 'azaadi', autonomy and self-rule, Mr. Bukhari has lowered the goal to reservation in jobs and new laws for land sale to outsiders," a senior NC lead-

# released in Kashmir

Move coincides with visit of envoys

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The J&K administration released 26 political detainees on Friday, coinciding with the tour of the 15-member foreign envoys to Jammu.

A government spokesman said the administration revoked the detention of 26 persons detained under J&K Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978.

Those released include scores of lower-rung political activists mainly held in the government clampdown on August 5 and two senior lawyers, Nazir Ahmad Ronga, 65, and Abdul Salam Rather, 71.

However, members of the separatist Hurriyat and JKLF remain in custody, as does the president of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association

Mian Oavoom. Friday's release is the first major decision on detentions since the August 5 clampdown by the Centre. It comes a day after several Valley-based political leaders raised the issue with the visiting 15-member envoys' team in Srinagar and sought their intervention to put pressure on the Centre.

Meanwhile, the visiting ambassadors were briefed by a high-level team led by Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subramanian and DGP Dilbag Singh in Jammu, where they shared their assessment of the situation post August 5 and "measures under way to tackle militancy and restore peace".

The envoys also met Kashmiri Pandits at a migrant camp in Jagati.

## Rahul takes a dig at PM over budget meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday targeted Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, alleging that his "most extensive" budget consultations were reserved only for the super rich and crony capitalists and not

farmers, students, vouth, women or the middle class. "Mr. Modi's most exten-

sive budget consultation ever, is reserved for crony capitalist friends & the super rich. He has no interest in

the views or voices of our farmers, students, youth, women, government & PSU employees, small businessmen or middle class

tax payers," he wrote on Twitter, using the hashtag 'SuitBootSarkar'. As Finance Mi-

nister Nirmala Sitharaman did not attend the meeting, the Congress took a dig. "Here's a suggestion,

next budget meeting, consider inviting the Finance Minister," the Congress said on its official Twitter handle, using the hashtag 'FindingNirmala'.

### Activists had filed RTI query seeking data from SBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after the Finance Ministry released a fresh notification to issue electoral bonds (EBs), a Right to Information (RTI) query has revealed that more than 11,770 EBs worth almost ₹6,000 crore had been sold in the past two years.

RTI activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri, who sought to know from the State Bank of India (SBI) the number of EBs their 29 authorised branches had sold since January 2, 2018,

claimed that 23 branches furnished information.

'Poll bonds worth ₹6,000 cr. sold in 2 years'

These 23 branches had revealed that 11,770 EBs worth ₹5,936.7 crore had been sold since January 2, 2018.

**₹1 crore denomination** "Of the 11,770 bonds, 5,463 were of the denomination of ₹1 crore which means that 92% of the amount given through bonds was in the denomination of ₹1 crore. For 6 branches: Lucknow, Patna, Ranchi, Vishakhapatnam, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram, no information has been received till date,"

the activists said in a statement. "All the branches denied

persons who purchased bonds in the denomination of ₹1 crore stating that 'the information sought by the applicant cannot be disclosed as it is in fiduciary capacity, disclosure of which is exempted under 8(1)(e) and 8(1)(j) of RTI Act, 2005'... This is a violation of peoples'

"The public authority has failed to weigh the issue of larger public interest, which is mandatorily required in each case in which information is denied under section 8 of the RTI Act," they added.

right to know," the activists

In a related development, the Congress party attacked

information on the names of the government for bringing out a fresh notification for issuing EBs just ahead of the Delhi elections. "This government is

> bonded to electoral bonds," senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said at a press conference. "They have a great bonding with electoral Former Finance Minister

P. Chidambaram retweeted a message put out by the official handle of the Congress party that said, "The next phase of Electoral Bonds have begun – right before the Delhi elections. Coincidence? Or is the BJP simply just funding their legalized loot and organized plun-

THE HINDU DELHI SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2020

## 9 suspects in JNU violence identified, say police

Among those named are JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, ABVP cadre

STAFF REPORTER

Five days after masked goons thrashed students and teachers in JNU, the Delhi police claimed at a press conference on Friday that they had identified nine suspects responsible for the attack.

Those named are JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, Dolan Samanta, Priya Ranjan, Sucheta Talukdar, Bhaskar Vijay Mech, Chunchun Kumar and Pankaj Mishra. Two other suspects named, Vikas Patel and Yogendra Bharadwaj, are believed to be members of the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

### No arrests made

So far, no arrest has been made by the Delhi police, which has been accused of standing around when the masked goons made good their escape from the campus on Sunday night.

Joy Tirkey, DCP (Crime) and the head of the SIT formed to investigate the JNU violence, released the pictures of the "suspects" that they obtained from mobile recordings of the violence.

At the briefing, he said the student groups and unions that attacked Periyar Hostel and server room had been identified as also the student groups involved in the attack

on teachers and students inside Sabarmati hostel.

All the photos released by the police were taken in daylight while Sabarmati hostel was attacked after sunset. The police did not throw any light on the armed masked miscreants photographed at Sabarmati.

"A scuffle on January 5 was triggered when a group of students vandalised the CIS room and damaged the server resulting in delay in the registration process. Another group of students opposed the act, leading to the fight but security guards intervened and they were dispersed," said Mr. Tirkey.

He added that at 3.45 p.m. a group of students attacked selected rooms in Periyar Hostel.

After this a WhatsApp group (Unity Against Left) was formed at 5 p.m. A large group of miscreants attacked teachers and students gathered at Sabarmati T-point for a peace meeting.

The mob also attacked specific rooms in Sabarmati Hostel.

Three Union Ministers – Prakash Javadekar, Piyush Goyal and Smriti Irani – said the "Left design" had been "unmasked." Left leaders accused the Delhi police of being a "government stronge."

(With PTI inputs)



Voicing dissent: Left students forming a human chain during a silent protest against the recent violence on the JNU Campus in New Delhi on Friday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

### 'Probe shoddy; sack police chief, JNU VC'

Accusing the Delhi Police of conducting a "shoddy" investigation into the Jawaharlal Nehru University violence case, the Congress on Friday alleged that it was clearly influenced by the government, the Home Minister and the ruling party, and demanded the removal of the city police chief and the university's vice chancellor. PTI

## ecent vice chancehor. Ph

## Raghuram Rajan condemns attacks on students, teachers

 $\underset{\text{NEW DELHI}}{\underline{\textbf{SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT}}}$ 

Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan has condemned the attacks against students and teachers at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), noting that they lend weight to claims that the Indian government is suppressing its citizens.

"While the identities of the attackers remain unclear, what is clear is that many of the attacked were activists, and neither the government-appointed administration nor the police intervened," he wrote on Thursday, in a post published on Linkedin.com.

"When even elite universities become literal battle-grounds, accusations that the government is attempting to suppress dissent – even if by apathy rather than design – gain substantial credibility."

'We bear responsibility'

Dr. Rajan, who currently teaches at the University of Chicago, also blamed those who voted for the government whether for economic reasons, or out of indifference, prejudice or fear.

"we the public also

"...we, the public, also bear a responsibility. After all, it was the citizenry that put our leaders into office and acquiesced in their divisive manifesto, which they have taken as their marching orders," he wrote.

Dr. Rajan expressed support and admiration for the young people marching on the streets, a seeming reference to the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

He also singled out for praise those who have stood up for their convictions in the face of great risk including IAS officers and Bollywood actors who resigned because they could not serve in good faith, a Bollywood actress who stood with JNU victims (a reference to Deepika Padukone), an Election Commissioner who acts with integrity despite the harassment of his family (a reference to former Commissioner Ashok Lavasa), and journalists who stand against government pressure to bring out the truth.

"These people show through their actions that they think truth, freedom, and justice are not merely lofty words, but ideals worth sacrificing for," he wrote, calling on all citizens to rededicate themselves to the spirit of the In-

# Assam-specific CAA rules sought

'Must prove pre-2014 presence too'

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

Amid protests in Assam over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday, asking for specific additions to the rules being framed for the Act.

According to government sources, the two Assam politicians said the rules for CAA should have a clearly delineated provision for furnishing of documents for proof that applicants have been present in India since before the cut-off date of December 31, 2014 as the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise that had been undertaken in the State had the cut-off date of 1971.

### **Exercising caution**

Mr. Sonowal had, in fact, written to Mr. Shah, to incorporate suggestions for rules being framed for CAA.

Significantly, the Union Home Ministry too is said to be treading cautiously on the framing of rules and remains firm on provision of documentary proof of entry into India before the cut-off date of 31st December 31,



Amit Shah and Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal during a meeting in November.

2014. No information is as yet available on just what documents would be acceptable as proof of entry.

### **Assam suffering**It is also being deliberated

whether or not Assam-specific rules can be incorporated.

The State has been on the boil since the passage of the CAA, with protesters stating that it reversed all the gains of the Assam Accord of 1985 and the NRC exercise that was conducted under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

The two Ministers asked that a short window period be provided for applications under CAA in Assam as the NRC exercise had already been completed there.

# Supreme Court asks Centre to reply to UN official's plea on Rohingya

racism, racial discrimina-

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to respond to an application made by a United Nations Special Rapporteur to intervene in a batch of petitions filed by the Rohingya community against the government's move to conduct their mass deportation from India.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde took note of the plea made by E. Tendayi Achiume, who is a UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of

tion, xenophobia and related intolerance, to assist the court on India's human rights obligations to racial equality and nondiscrimination in the light of the international conventions signed and ratified by it. It said the move by the Union Home Ministry would be 'incompatible' with India's human rights obligations.

**'Obligated by law'**"The objective in making

this intervention is to assist the court by offering expertise on State parties'

obligations under international law with regard to the prevention of racial discrimination against migrants, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and populations otherwise perceived as 'foreign.' It is also to aid the court in upholding India's obligations, in the spirit of an amicus curiae," the application, represented by senior advocate C.U. Singh, explained.

The application has detailed annexures on the UN's findings on Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingya.

## Priyanka Gandhi visits BHU, offers support to protesters

Accusing the govt. of trying to 'break' the country, she praises those protesting against the CAA



**Taking stock:** Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaking to the media after interacting with BHU students. • Pri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday accused the BJP government of trying to "break" the country and the constitution and praised those who protested against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Varanasi.

Visiting Varanasi to offer support to BHU students and civil society members who were arrested and jailed for

two weeks for protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Ms. Vadra said she was "proud" of them for their 'struggle."

"What the government is doing is against the constitution. They want to break the constitution and the country," Ms Vadra told reporters.

Ms. Vadra also met the family of Sagir, a nine-year-old boy who died in a stampede triggered by a police lathi-

charge during the protests.

Over 60 persons, were ar-

rested on December 19 while marching in protest against the CAA and the NRC towards the Beniabagh Maidan in the city.

Ms. Vadra said the students and activists were kept in jail for 15 days and serious charges were slapped against them for "holding a peaceful demonstration." "A lot of injustice has been done," she said.

### New facility to tackle cybercrimes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) on Friday.

The I4C is a sevenpronged system, which includes a cybercrime reporting portal, analysis of threats, capacity building, research and innovation, creating an ecosystem for cybercrime management and a joint cybercrime investigation platform for law enforcement agencies. The project was approved in October 2018 at an estimated cost of ₹415.86 crore, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.

### Special focus

On August 30, the MHA had unveiled its National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. Mr. Shah said in a tweet that "citizens can report any kind of cyber crime irrespective of the place where it has occurred" through the website.

The portal enables filing of all cybercrimes with specific focus on crimes against women, children, particularly child pornography, child sex abuse material, online content pertaining to rapes/gang rapes.

So far, more than 700 police districts and more than 3,900 police stations have been connected with this portal, the MHA said.



## Iranian missile downed airliner: Trudeau U.S. rejects Iraq request to

This may have been unintentional, but Canadians have questions and they deserve answers, says PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

OTTAWA

Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Thursday intelligence "multiple" sources indicate that Iran shot down a Ukrainian airliner after it took off from Tehran, killing all 176 on board, including 63 Canadians.

Mr. Trudeau's comments came as video emerged that appeared to show the moment the airliner was hit.

That and other footage posted on social media increasingly pointed to a catastrophic mistake by Tehran's air defense batteries in bringing down Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 early on Wednesday.

The video, which The New York Times said it verified, shows a fast-moving object rising at an angle into the sky before a bright flash is seen, which dims and then continues moving forward. Several seconds later an explosion

Citing information from allies as well as Canada's own intelligence, Mr. Trudeau said the plane appeared to have been hit by an Iranian surface-to-air (SAM) missile.

"We know this may have been unintentional. Canadians have questions, and they deserve answers," Mr. Trudeau told reporters.

Mr. Trudeau was backed by other Western leaders, including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who said mounting evidence pointed to a missile strike.

U.S. President Donald Trump indicated that Washington officials believed that the plane was struck by an Iranian missile. "I have my suspicions," Mr. Trump said, adding that "somebody could have made a mistake."

The Netherlands said that its military intelligence also had information indicating that an "Iranian anti-aircraft missile" probably brought down the plane.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board late on Thursday said it had received formal notification of the crash from Iran and would send a representative to join the crash probe.

Iran's Foreign Ministry earlier invited the U.S. plane maker Boeing to "participate" in the inquiry.

With tensions high between the U.S. and Iran, the disaster unfolded just hours after Tehran launched ballistic missiles towards bases in Iraq housing U.S. troops.

Ukraine called for United Nations support for a broad investigation, and sent 45 crash investigators to Tehran to take part in the inquiry led by Iranian authorities.

### Tehran rebuffs claims

But Iran's civil aviation chief denied on Friday that a missile downed the Ukrainian airliner. "One thing is for certain, this airplane was not hit by a missile," Iran's civil aviation chief Ali Abedzadeh said, adding that "any remarks made before the data is extracted (from the plane's black box flight recorders) ... is not an expert opinion." Mr. Abedzadeh said Teh-

ran had invited "Americans, Canadians, the French, Ukrainians and the Swedish" to be present during the investigations, showing that "we are honest in our procedure". He said the missile theory could not be "scientifically correct" because it was not possible for an airliner to be hit and "continue flying for 60 to 70 seconds".

And "the debris collected has been in a very limited area. If there was an explosion in the wings it should have been much more scattered," he added, noting that analysing the black box data



Paying tribute: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a candlelight vigil in Ottawa on Thursday for the victims of the plane crash in Tehran. • AP

Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky

"We are grateful for the

valuable support of the Un-

ited States in investigating

the causes of the crash," Mr.

Zelensky told Mr. Pompeo,

according to a statement re-

He said he met chargşe

d'affaires Kristina Kvien and

received important informa-

tion which could help in the

investigation." Mr. Zelensky

and Foreign Minister Vadym

Prystaiko also met with oth-

er U.S. officials including

Ms. Kvien, the acting U.S.

Ambassador to Ukraine.

leased by his office.

## U.S. hands over 'important data' on crash to Ukraine

Goal is to establish the truth: Zelensky

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

U.S. officials have given Kiev information "important" about the crash of a Ukrainian airliner in Iran, President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday after phone talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Mr. Zelensky said on Facebook that the possibility the plane had been shot down by a missile was not ruled out "but it has not yet been confirmed." He asked for Ukraine to

be given all the information needed to conduct a thorough investigation. "Our goal is to establish the undeniable truth," he

motives." In a phone call with Mr. Pompeo, he thanked Washington for its support.

said. "The value of human

life is above all political

### **Enough proof** missile struck plane: Boris AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Thursday that there was now "a body of information" that the Ukrainian Boeing 747 was brought down by an Iranian missile.

"There is now a body of information that the flight was shot down by an Iranian Surface to Air Missile. This may well have been unintentional," Mr. Johnson said in a statement on the air disaster in which four British passengers died.

He reiterated the call for "all sides urgently to de-escalate to reduce tensions in the region." "We are working closely with Canada and our international partners and there now needs to be a full, transparent investigation," into the plane crash, he added.

### Angry at an attack seen as violating Iraqi sovereignty and enmeshing the country again in war, Iraq's caretaker Irag's caretaker premier Prime Minister asked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo late on Thursday to send a discuss troop withdrawal, delegation to begin withdra-

Adel Abdel Mahdi

discuss troop withdrawal

Says it is ready for a conversation, but not about pullout

but our right, appropriate force posture in the Middle The State Department East," State Department sposaid it was ready for "a conkeswoman Morgan Ortagus versation" - but not about said in a statement.

'Force for good'

tion sent to Iraq would be Calling the U.S. "a force for dedicated to discussing how good," Ms. Ortagus said: "We want to be a friend and

prosperous and stable Iraq."

President Donald Trump has described the 2003 US invasion of Iraq as a mistake and in the past criticised U.S. troop deployments, in Iraq and elsewhere, as wasteful.

Nonetheless, he has responded angrily to Iraqi efforts to expel U.S. troops, even threatening sanctions on a country promoted as a

Mr. Pompeo, speaking to reporters, said that the U.S. troops' mission in Iraq was "very clear" – training local forces and fighting the Islamic State extremist group.

"As times change and we get to a place where we can deliver up on what I believe, and the President believes, is our right structure, with fewer resources dedicated to that mission, we will do so,"

## U.S. sanctions target eight top Iran officials, metals industry

'It will continue until regime stops funding global terrorism'

House briefing. Among the

Council, Mohammad Reza

Ashtiani, the Iranian armed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The United States on Friday

rejected a request by Iraq to

start talks on pulling out its

5,200 troops, notching up

the discord after Washing-

ton killed a top Iranian Gen-

eral in Baghdad.

wal arrangements.

removing troops.

"At this time, any delega-

to best recommit to our stra-

The United States on Friday announced fresh sanctions against eight top Iranian officials it accused of working to destabilise the region, as well as against more than a dozen leading producers of metals in the Islamic republic.

"As a result of these actions, we will cut off billions of dollars of support to the Iranian regime," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters at a White

officials targeted in the new measures were Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security

forces Deputy Chief of Staff and Gholamreza Soleimani, the head of the Basij militia, a volunteer force loyal to the regime. The U.S. Treasury also slapped sanction on 17 Ira-

nian metals producers and mining companies, which, it said, generated billions of

dollars in revenue. The sanctions also includ-

ed a network of three entities that are based in China and the Seychelles as well as a vessel "involved in the purchase, sale, and transfer of Iranian metals products," the Treasury said in a statement.

Mr. Mnuchin said the measures hitting Iran's economy "will continue until the regime stops the funding of global terrorism and commits to never having nuclear

### **ELSEWHERE**



Impeachment articles may reach Senate next week WASHINGTON

The Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives is poised to transmit articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate next week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Friday. REUTERS

### Fiancee plotted murder of Sikh man: Pak. police

The police in Pakistan have termed the death of a 25vear-old Sikh man as a case of "contract killing". They have arrested Prem Kumari,18, for plotting the murder of Parvinder Singh, as she did not want to marry him. PTI

## Gotabaya orders probe into anti-graft panels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Friday ordered a presidential probe into the previous go vernment's anti-corruption panels which investigated the members of the Raiapaksa family, including himself.

Two retired senior judges and a former police chief have been appointed to the panel which has been mandated to come out with a report within six months from January 9, according to a gaissued by government.

The work of the Financial Crime Division (FCID) of the police, the Bribery and Corruption Commission and the police's special investi-



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

gation units would come under the focus of the probe covering the period commencing January 9, 2015 to November 16, 2019, the day of the presidential election when Mr. Rajapaksa was elected President.

The probe would focus on whether any public service personnel had been politically victimised during the previous government through its probe panels.

## Strong winds merge two enormous fires in Australia

Blaze spreads over 6,00,000 hectares in eastern States

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Strong winds in Australia merged two enormous fires into a mega blaze spanning an area four times the size of Greater London on Friday, while tens of thousands rallied to again demand action on climate change.

"The conditions are difficult today," said Shane Fitzsimmons, rural fire service commissioner for South Wales State.

"It's the hot, dry winds that will prove once again to be the real challenge.

Temperatures soared above 40° Celsius in parts of New South Wales and Victo-



Making a stand: Protesters rally in Melbourne, in response to the ongoing bushfire crisis in Australia. • GETTY IMAGES

ria, where attention was focused on the two fires that linked to form yet another monster blaze of more than 6.00.000 hectares.

In Sydney and Mel-

bourne, thousands of people again took to the streets to demand Australia's conservative government do more to tackle global warming and reduce coal exports.

## Senior police officer among the dead

blast at Pakistan mosque

15 killed, 20 injured in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A powerful blast at a mosque during Friday evening prayers killed at least 15 people, including an Imam and a senior police officer, and left 20 others injured in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, three days after a bomb explosion claimed two lives in Quetta.

The nature of the explosion, which occurred inside the mosque during Maghrib prayers in the Ghousabad neighbourhood, was not immediately known, Dawn newspaper reported.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Amanullah was among the 15 people killed in the incident, Quetta Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Abdul Razzaq Cheema

According to some media reports, the slain police officer was the likely target. Last month, unidentified

gunmen killed the DSP's son in Quetta, The Express Tribune reported. Twenty others were also injured in the blast, the re-

port said. Law enforcement agencies have cordoned off the

area to investigate the incident. The mosque, which is located in a densely-populated Pashtun-majority area,

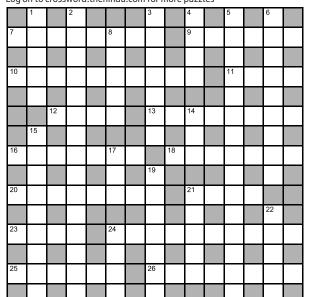
was being searched by the

bomb disposal squad and

security personnel.

### **THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12830**

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles





To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code ACROSS 7 Basilica tap ultimately helping to make a siege weapon (8) 9 Class cut short to obtain hard

10 Assent in German by the Frenchmen to break the key to a sailing ship (10)

11 Original board of the hedge fund making a choice for the indecisive (4)

### 12 Bird, a string-controlled flier?

**13** Mercury removed by the irate fishmonger ends up getting a sword-like shape (8)

16 Ranch hand finding equipment from the east in a hooded

18 A checkout for the afterlife?

20 Abnormal loss of strength for

the model attached to a bird entering the continent (8) 21 Cries like a corvine bird after

the lawsuit's announcement

23 Grave bishop replacing an Oriental book (4)

24 Hidden cut needed patching after Tesla's entry (10)

25 Dismissal mode is reportedly clear (6) 26 Lath manufacturing prior to countering the quote showing

the nature of a good fielder

DOWN

1 Horizontal number line? (1-4) 2 Hail bland length used to effect a particular mode of dismissal (8,3,4)

### (set by Neyartha)

3 Dumpster almost destroyed in a dismissal mode (7)

4 Celebrity's son steps down for the old aristocrat (4)

5 One might shake or break it in front of a small gate for a particular mode of dismissal

6 Chronicler in Hawaii spoils write-up on the Scot (9)

8 Procedure for Rishi to place the uniform on top (5)

15 Cap boxed by the stooge

14 Settled the petty guarrel after the power cut (3)

accidentally becomes ruined (4,2,3)17 Campaign that may be a result

of batsmen crossing over (3) 19 Talks profusely about going around the gate for a flood-

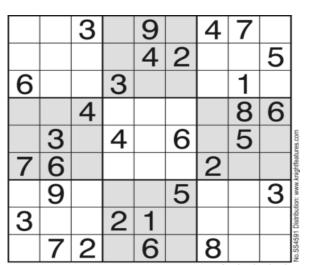
21 Dismissal mode may cause friction after resistance drops, following the loss of the opener (5)

prevention item (7)

of the Spanish return for the 24 Separate the parts of the playground object (4)

22 Authorized by law, a number

### **SUDOKU**



### Solution to puzzle 12829 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | _        | _ | _ | _             |   |          |   |   | _          |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---------------|---|----------|---|---|------------|
| Р | Е | Е | R | Ε | s | s |   | В | 1 | G | 0 | Т | R | Υ | 7        | 3 | 6 | 1             | 9 | 5        | 4 | Я | 2          |
| L |   | Г |   | Z |   | Υ |   | Е |   | 0 |   | Т |   |   | <u>'</u> | 9 | 0 | ᆣ             | 9 | 9        |   | _ | _          |
| Ε | Ν | S | U | Ε |   | С | Α | R | Т | 0 | U | С | Τ | Ε | 1        | 9 | 2 | 18            | 4 | 6        | 3 | 5 | 71         |
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| S | 0 | W | С | Α | R | Ρ | Е | Т |   | Ε | Α | S | Е | D | Ø        | Э | 4 | /             | 2 | 3        | р |   | 9          |
| Ε |   | Н |   |   |   | Τ |   |   |   | S |   |   |   | S | 6        | 1 | 7 | a             | 3 | Ω        | 2 | 1 | 5          |
|   | С | Ε | S | S |   | Α | Д | С | L | Т | Ε | R | Υ |   |          | ш | 1 | 9             | J | O        | _ | 7 | J          |
|   |   | R |   | ┙ |   | Ν |   | Ν |   | Ε |   | 0 |   |   | 5        | 2 | 3 | 4             | 6 | 7        | 1 | 9 | 8          |
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| D |   | L |   | Η |   | D |   |   |   | Ε |   | R |   | R | 7        | U | 9 | J             |   | _        | O | - | 9          |
| G | R | Ε | Α | Т | D | Α | Ν | Е |   | R | 0 | D | Е | 0 | 13       | 7 | 5 | 16            | 8 | 4        | 9 | 2 | 11         |
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### **FAITH**

### Benefits of satsanga

Rishis of yore, endowed with the awareness of the past, present and future, have perceived clearly the changes that are characteristic in each Yuga and the kind of effect it will have on the people. They have always stressed the importance of satsanga, or association with the good, as most essential to all at all times. Such association helps one to develop detachment and cultivate the ability to discriminate between the real and the unreal in this world.

Anticipating the kind of confusion about the values and goals of life that is to prevail in Kali Yuga and the difficulty in aligning with the good, the sages have narrated the stories of great heroes and kings who have faced life stoically, and abided by dharma even in the most trying of circumstances. Such narratives are hence considered to be on a par with satsanga in inspiring and instilling the essential values and dharma for every individual, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse. This beneficial effect is seen in the way the Pandavas are able to cope with the mental and physical strain that their exile has brought on them when Sage Brihadaswa consoles them and narrates the story of Nala to

Nala becomes a victim of the influence of the spirit of Kali and loses his sense of judgment. Deceived by Pushkara in a game of dice, he loses his wealth and kingdom and is forced into exile. Nala deserts his wife who has accompanied him. He wanders about and is almost mad in his loneliness before he regains all he has lost and is reinstated as king. At least Yudhishtira's mind is sound, and he has his brothers and the brahmanas with him in the forest. Trials and tribulations are the lot of man and have to be borne with fortitude is the truth of life.

with customers has led to double digit

eading to a rise in revenue guidance along with expanding operating margins

Q3FY20

23,092.00 21,400.0

4,466.00 3,610.00

Our deepening engagement

### MARKET WATCH

|           | 10-01-2020 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex    | 41,600     | 0.36     |
| US Dollar | 70.94      | 0.38     |
| Gold      | 40,554     | -0.20    |
|           |            |          |

| NIFTY 50                           |                           |                |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
|                                    |                           | CHANGE         |
| Adani Ports                        |                           |                |
| Asian Paints                       |                           |                |
| Axis Bank                          |                           |                |
| Bajaj Auto                         |                           |                |
| Bajaj Finserv                      | 9372.25                   | 23.00          |
| Bajaj Finance                      | 4144.85                   | 20.65          |
| Bharti Airtel                      | 457.00                    | 3.10           |
| BPCL                               | 470.25                    | 0.30           |
| Britannia Ind                      | 2989.75                   | 11.3           |
| Cipla                              | 473.50.                   | 3.40           |
| Coal India                         | 205.30                    | 7.30           |
| Dr Reddys Lab                      | 2933.00                   | 12.50          |
| Eicher Motors                      | 20432.75.                 | 103.8          |
| GAIL (India)                       | 125.35                    | 1.6            |
| Grasim Ind                         |                           |                |
| HCL Tech                           |                           |                |
| HDFC                               |                           |                |
| HDFC Bank                          |                           |                |
| Hero MotoCorp                      |                           |                |
| Hindalco                           |                           |                |
| Hind Unilever                      |                           |                |
| ICICI Bank                         |                           |                |
| IndusInd Bank                      |                           |                |
| Bharti Infratel                    |                           |                |
| Infosys                            |                           |                |
| Indian OilCorp                     |                           |                |
| ITC                                |                           |                |
| JSW Steel                          |                           |                |
| Kotak Bank                         |                           |                |
| L&T                                |                           |                |
| M&M                                |                           |                |
|                                    |                           |                |
| Maruti Suzuki<br>Nestle India Ltd. |                           |                |
|                                    |                           |                |
| NTPC                               |                           |                |
| ONGC                               |                           |                |
| PowerGrid Corp                     |                           |                |
| Reliance Ind                       |                           |                |
| State Bank                         |                           |                |
| Sun Pharma                         |                           |                |
| Tata Motors                        |                           |                |
| Tata Steel                         |                           |                |
| TCS                                |                           |                |
| Tech Mahindra                      |                           |                |
| Titan                              |                           |                |
| UltraTech Cement                   |                           |                |
| UPL                                | 600.30                    |                |
|                                    |                           |                |
| Vedanta                            | 159.95                    |                |
|                                    | 159.95                    |                |
| Vedanta                            | 159.95<br>251.75<br>44.75 | -1.90<br>-2.5! |

### TT BUY TT SELL 70.74.....71.06 92.53 .92.95 10.22 .10.26 ...52.66 ...54.38 52.42. Malaysian Ringitt . 17.35..... 17.44

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The latest tariff order on ca-

ble TV pricing from the Tele-

com Regulatory Authority of

India (TRAI) will trigger a

massive disruption for the

country's broadcasting in-

dustry and lead to job losses

as well as closure of smaller,

niche channels, the Indian

Broadcasting Foundation

(IBF) said on Friday, ques-

tioning the regulator's move.

TRAI unveiled a 33% cap on

discounts that can be offered

to cable subscribers opting

for a channel bouquet and a

pricing cap of ₹12 per chan-

nel to be included in a bou-

quet, down from ₹19 per

channel in the current re-

gime. The changes, that also

include a restriction on the

number of bouquets that can

On January 1 this year,

Warn of channel closure, job losses

## Infosys CEO Salil Parekh gets clean chit

No evidence of financial impropriety or executive misconduct, says the firm's audit committee report

BENGALURU

Tech major Infosys on Friday said its Audit Committee found no evidence of financial impropriety or executive misconduct

The panel had looked into the allegations contained in anonymous whistle-blower complaints, conducted an independent investigation and determined that the allegations were substantially without merit, the company said in a stock market filing.

It may be recalled that in October, the Infosys board received anonymous whistle-blower mails raising a bunch of allegations against managing director and chief executive officer Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy.

Following this, the Audit Committee conducted an investigation with the assistance of independent legal counsel Shardul Amarchand

### The whistle-blower saga



Mangaldas & Co. and

chairperson D. Sundaram

said the committee "deter-

mined that there was no evi-

dence of any financial impro-

executive

Infosys's Audit Committee

PricewaterhouseCoopers.

people wrote to the Infosys board and U.S. SEC claiming

In October 2019, a group of

IT firm was taking 'unethical' steps to boost short-term revenue, profit

 CEO Salil Parekh was bypassing reviews/ approvals for large deals Mr. Parekh had asked staff to

make certain 'assumptions' to show higher margins

 Several multi-billion dollar deals had nil margin

CFO was also guilty in the

misconduct."

The findings of the investigation, the report said, were adopted by the company's board and the committee concluded that no restatement of previously announced financial statements or other published financial information was

Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani said, "I am pleased that after a rigorous investigation, the... committee has found no wrongdoing by the company or its executives. CEO Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy are strong custodians of the company's proud heritage."

### **Additional stress**

Addressing the media, he said, "Our financial team was put under additional stress this time as they have [had] to work on this Audit Committee Report and the Q3 financial results at the same

The investigation team conducted 128 interviews with 77 persons, including relevant company personnel. Some 46 people were identified to collect relevant

documents, electronic and forensic data required for investigation.

The committee reviewed over 2.1 lakhdocuments and images, to the tune of 8 terabytes of data, for the ninemonth ended September 30, 2019, the statement said.

On the key findings on company matters, the report said the allegations regarding treasury policy were unsubstantiated as the company strictly complied with its treasury policy, without any interference or pressure from either the CEO or CFO.

The allegations regarding visa costs and allegations regarding large-deal approvals were also unsubstantiated, it

Regarding personal allegations made against Mr. Parekh, the report said that all allegations regarding personal matters of the CEO proved to be without merit.

## Infosys net surges 23%, firm raises guidance

Large deal wins worth \$1.8 bn signed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Metrics

EPS (basic ₹)

Revenue from operations\*

Infosy said its overall performance for the third quarter, ended December 31, was 'satisfactory' on multiple broad-based growth, steady increase in client metrics and large deal wins worth \$1.8 billion.

The firm has witnessed a 23% year-on-year rise in its net profit for the quarter. Net profit rose to ₹4,466 crore compared with the ₹3,610 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

Total revenue for the third quarter grew by 7.9% to ₹23,092 crore, up from the ₹21,400 crore in the year-earlier period.

### Operating profit up

Operating profit stood at ₹5,064 crore during the quarter, an increase of 4.8% year-on-year (YoY). The quarter saw its operating margin improving by 20 basis points to 21.9% compared with the previous quarter.

Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said, "[The] Q3 results further underscore that we remain steadfast in our journey of sustained client relevance and deepening engagement with them, as they partner with us in navigating their next in the digital transformation era. For us, this has translated into double-digit growth year-to-date, leading to an increase in revenue guidance, accompanied by expanding operating margins.

Infosys posted a cumulative revenue of ₹67,524 crore and an operating profit of ₹14,447 crore, a YoY growth of 10.4% and 1.3% respectively, in the last nine months of the current fiscal.

COO U.B. Pravin Rao said, "large deal wins continue to be robust with a growth of 56% so far this year."

Commenting on operating margins, CFO Nilanjan Roy said, "Operating margins improved further during the quarter, driven by relentless cost optimisation and operating leverage. Cash generation was extremely strong with cumulative free cash flow crossing \$1.5 billion.

"Return on equity increased further to 25.9%, driven by margin expansion and increased shareholder payouts." The firm revised its FY20 revenue outlook upwards to 10-10.5% in constant currency. Operating margin guidance was maintained in the 21-23% range.

In Q3, digital revenue accounted for 40.6% of the firm's total revenue, against 38.3% in the previous quarter and 32.5% in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

## Yes Bank board member quits

Nod for ₹10,000 cr. fund-raising; bank rejects \$1.2 bn offer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Yes Bank said it was looking into the fit and proper status of Uttam Prakash Agarwal, its independent director who resigned citing governance issues, as directed by the Reserve Bank of India. Mr. Agarwal was heading

the bank's audit committee. Yes Bank said the board

was scheduled to discuss the fit and proper status of Mr. Agarwal at Friday's board meeting but he resigned before the meeting started.

"In this respect [Mr. Agarwal's fit and proper status], the bank had obtained legal opinions from eminent jurists. These opinions were to be considered by the nomination and remuneration



the bank in their meetings scheduled for January 10, 2020. However, prior to the commencement of the proceedings of these meetings, the bank received the resignation of Mr. Agarwal," the lender said in a filing to the

exchanges. Mr. Agarwal was appointed as an additional director (independent) on November 14, 2018 for five years. A

chartered accountant, he chaired the audit committee of the board.

### Citax offer

Separately, the bank has also informed the exchanges that the board, at its meeting on Friday, decided not to proceed with the \$1.2 billion investment offer of Erwin Singh Braich/SPGP Holdings in the bank. The offer was made in November 2019.

The offer of \$500 million investment from Citax Holdings and Citax Investment Group, scheduled to be discussed at the board meeting, could not be taken up and would be taken up later.

The board also approved raising funds of up to ₹10,000 crore, through debt

## Tech major hires 12,000 people in third quarter

'Dependence on H-1B visas reduced'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Infosys has reported a gross hiring of 12,000 people in third quarter of the fiscal. Some 7,000 of these came from campus recruitment, while the rest were lateral

Chief Operating Officer Pravin Rao said, "We had a further reduction in attrition, demonstrating the results of our continued efforts towards strengthening employee engagement and value proposition." Infosys saw its attrition declining for the last two consecutive quarters. The most recent quarter saw it coming down to 19.6% against 21.7%, in the

2019. The headcount stood at 2.43.454 at the end of December 2019 with a net addition of 6,968 people. Offshore employee locali-

sation improved to 72.3% against 71.3% a year ago, and its overall utilisation too moved up to 80.4% from 79.8% a year ago. The firm said it had reduced dependence on H-1B visas by increasing focus on localisation. "There are so many changes taking place in the company and people who are unable to cope with these changes may be allowed to leave," he said.

Earlier, CEO Salil Parekh said the uncertainty for the industry from Brexit would

## RBI chalks out financial inclusion strategy for 2024

Aims at universal mobile access to financial services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chalked out an ambitious strategy for financial inclusion till 2024, in which it aims to strengthen the ecosystem for various modes of digital financial services in all Tier-II to Tier VI centres to create the necessary infrastructure to move towards a less-cash society by March 2022.

While charting out a National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) for the period 2019-2024, RBI said, "Financial inclusion is increasingly being recognised as a key driver of economic growth and poverty alleviation the world over."

One of the objectives of the strategy includes in-



creasing outreach of banking outlets of to provide banking access to every village within a 5-km radius or a hamlet of 500 households in hilly areas by March 2020. RBI said that the aim was also to see that every adult had access to a financial service provider through a mobile device by March 2024. With the aim of providing basic of

is increasingly being recognised as a key driver of economic growth the world over financial services, a target

**Financial inclusion** 

has been set that every willing and eligible adult, who has been enrolled under the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yogana, be enrolled under an insurance scheme and a pension scheme by March The plan is also to make

the Public Credit Registry (PCR) fully operational by March 2022 so that authorised financial entities could leverage the same for assessing credit proposals from all

## Gem and jewellery exports dip 2% in Dec.

Industry seeks budgetary sops

LALATENDU MISHRA

With the December 2019 gem and jewellery export and import numbers showing a decline, the industry has asked the government to intervene and has sought budgetary sops.

As per available data, the overall gross exports of gems and jewellery declined 1.89% to \$2,435.93 million during December 2019 as compared to \$2,482.96 million in December 2018.

The overall gross exports of the commodity declined by 5.30% to \$27.69 billion during April to December 2019 as compared to \$29.23 billion during the same period last year. The overall gross import of gems and jewellery in April to December 2019 showed a decline of 6.52% to \$18.68 billion from \$19.98 billion registered during April to December 2018. The overall gross import of rough diamonds in April to December 2019 showed a decline of 15.86% to \$10.16 billion from \$12.07 billion registered during April to December 2018. "We hope the govern-

ment is watching the tumble in our export numbers and would [heed] our long standing requests on duty reduction on gold, platinum and diamonds. Ease of doing business on customs issues, resolution of GST input credit challenge and introduction of a new progressive SEZ policy are some of our suggestions," Colin Shah, vice chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, said.

### CDC invests ₹400 crore in CIFCL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cholamandalam Invest ment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL), the financial services arm of Murugappa Group, has raised ₹400 crore Tier-II debt from the U.K.-based CDC Group Plc. through the issuance of 10year rupee denominated masala bonds.

This is CIFCL's maiden masala bond issue, which medium road transport operators and MSME customers," said Arun Alagappan, MD, CIFCL.

## CAMS files draft papers for initial public offer

Issue size may be about ₹1,500 crore

prospectus (DHRP) for an

likely to be worth about ₹1,500 crore, is an offer-forsale from existing shareholders like National Stock Exchange, HDFC, Acsys Investments, along with the promoter entity Great Terrain Investment, that is managed by Warburg Pin-

As per the draft document filed by the company, CAMS has an aggregate market share of 69.4% based on

sets under management (AAUM). Its MF client list in cludes four of the five largest MFs based on AAUM. The size of the MF RTA

business was approximately ₹860 crore in 2018-19 while the industry is estimated to have grown at a CAGR of 20% in the last four years, according to a Crisil report, the draft document stated.

### Higher net profit

Further, CAMS registered a net profit of ₹82.75 crore in the six months ended September 30, 2019, which was higher than the ₹63.21 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

In FY 2018-19, net profit was pegged at ₹130.9 crore, lower than the previous fiscal's profit of ₹146.31 crore.

ty has not sustained. While

## Worst auto sales decline in 2 decades

Prior to 2019, annual sales fell only twice in 22 years — in 2007 and 2008

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With domestic vehicle sales continuing to decline in December by 13%, the auto industry recorded its worst-ever annual sales fall in two decades in 2019, as consumer sentiment remained subdued amid a slowdown in the economy.

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday, in December 2019, the total vehicle wholesales stood at over 14.05 lakh units as against over 16.17 lakh units in the year-ago month. For the full year, vehicle manufacturers sold over 2.3 crore units across categories in 2019, a decline of 13.77% from over 2.67 crore vehicles

sold in 2018 Prior to 2019, the industry had witnessed a decline in

% change Full year 2019 from Dec -18.91 1,42,126 -8.40 18,19,948 Utility 30.02 9,84,801 4.78 85,252 Vehicles Medium and 21,388 -31.70 2,88,623 -27.10 heavy CVs Light 45,234 1.26 5,66,136 -7.13 commercial vehicles 3,06,550 -16.03 -24.52 58,41,259 Scooters Motorcycles 6,97,819 1,20,12,896 -12.92 try. "Festive season positivi-

annual sales only twice since SIAM started recording the data in 1997 – in 2007 when overall sales declined by 1.44%, and in 2008 when the sales fell 1.11%. SIAM president Rajan

we have seen some improvement, the consumer sentiment continues to remain low," he added. "Economic growth remains an area of Wadhera said that while deconcern... the GDP growth growth had been "lesser" in forecast does not bear good December, some challenges news for the industry, espestill remained for the induscially for the commercial

vehicles segment, which is clearly linked to it. If the economy grows at 6-7% in the Q1 of next fiscal, CVs should return to growth levels as seen 3-4 quarters back. Besides, low demand from rural areas continues to be a matter of concern," Mr. Wadhera said. In December 2019, pas-

senger vehicle sales declined by 1.24% to over 2.35 lakh units, with car sales falling 8.4% to over 1.42 lakh units and those of vans dipping 53.6% to 8,408 units. However, utility vehicle sales grew 30% to 85,252 units. Mr. Wadhera said going forward, he expected UVs to continue growing on the back of new model launches, while car sales may "remain flattish".

For the full year, PV sales declined by 12.75%, which too is the steepest decline in over two decades, to over 29.62 lakh units.

## **Engineering exports** to be same as last year

India facing capacity shortage: EEPC

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

Engineering exports this financial year are expected to be almost the same as that of last year (2018-2019), according to Ravi Sehgal, chairman of EEPC India.

Mr. Sehgal, who was in Coimbatore on Thursday, told The Hindu that at the beginning of 2019-2020, the estimate was that engineering exports this fiscal would be about \$85 billion. Between April and November 2019, the exports were down 1% compared to the same period the previous year. "Last financial year, it was \$ 81 billion. This year, it is expected to be almost the same," he said.

The U.S. and the EU are major destinations for engineering exports and China's supplies have come down drastically due to several reasons such as pollution issues, high labour cost, antidumping duties, etc. European clients had ap-

proached Indian companies

in the beginning of this fi-

nancial year as Chinese supplies reduced. But, India did not have adequate capacity. "We have capacity shortages. We would have reached \$90 billion [engineering exports] if [we had

had] capacity," he said. Now that Indian exporters know that there is po-

tential, they are investing. Most of the foundries are in the MSME sector and so, investments for capacity expansion do take time, he said. "India is still a preferred destination. We will see the effect in 2020."

|           | 10-01-2020 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex    | 41,600     | 0.36     |
| US Dollar | 70.94      | 0.38     |
| Gold      | 40,554     | -0.20    |
| Brent oil | 65.18      | -0.01    |
|           |            |          |

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 10 CURRENCY British Pound Japanese Yen (100)... Swiss Franc Singapore Dollar

Retail Silver (1g).

Broadcasters protest new tariff regime

> be offered, are slated to kick in from March 2020. A new tariff regime for cable TV subscribers was introduced just last year by the TRAI with a view to improving choices and bringing down costs for TV viewers though costs have not necessarily gone down. Customer costs may not go down even after TRAI's fresh pricing

### norms, broadcasters reckon. Viability of pay TV

N.P. Singh, MD and CEO, Sony Pictures Networks India, and president of the IBF, said the fresh changes to tariffs, introduced 'in less than 12 months,' will severely impair broadcasters' ability to compete with other unregulated platforms and adversely affect the viability of the pay TV industry.

might be listed on the London Stock Exchange or any other international stock exchange, in future, the company said in a statement. "CDC and CIFCL have joined hands to address the business credit requirements of small and

## initial public offer (IPO).

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Computer Age Management Services (CAMS), one of India's largest registrar and transfer agents (RTAs) for mutual funds (MFs), has filed the draft red herring

The public issue, which is

mutual funds' average as-



Lebanese designer Elie Saab's.

The Delhi-based designer, who retails from giants like Harvey Nichols and Saks Fifth Avenue, has hardly a fortnight left for his runway debut at the Paris Haute Couture Week (PHCW), but through our long conversation earlier this week, he doesn't once look at his watch. The sobriety of his jeans, white trainers, black Tshirt and two-decade-old black jacket is in stark contrast to how excited he is - the debut makes him the first Indian designer to be invited by the Committee of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture to be a guest member at the PHCW.

"I'm still trying to figure this out," he admits, pulling up a blog that gives me a crash course on haute couture: only the French Ministry of Industry is authorised to grant the use of this tag, and currently, just 16 grand couturiers, such as Jean Paul Gaultier and Givenchy (other than seven recognised foreign members and yearly guest members) can. One of the prerequisites to be in the 16, however, is an atelier in Paris employing at least 15 people.

"Being a made-in-India brand, I can only be in two categories. Either as a guest member or, depending on

my work through a few more seasons, I can graduate to a foreign member category," says Mishra.

This is where he brings in Elie Saab. In 2003, when the Lebanese designer was 39 and barely known, he was invited by the Chambre Syndicale to be a guest member. Rahul turned 40 last November, a month before the invitation was made public. If he follows Saab's trajectory, he could be on his way to being inducted as a foreign member by 2023, and will expand into a mega empire, like Saab who now also sells perfumes and has ventured into interior design.

This is not Mishra's first brush with an

Art for art's sake

"Investors are going to take the poetry out and put business in," to keep pushing poetry as long as now in a better place to give more makes, much like artists do with



Mishra is currently

international spotlight.

In 2014, the National In-

stitute of Design grad-

uate was the first Indian

designer to win the Wool-

mark Prize. He has also shown a

lot at the Paris Fashion Week, even debuting his couture collection in Fall

2019. The recognition this year seems

like the next natural rung in the

collection is twofold: his recent trip to

the Maldives and visuals from the film

Madagascar, which he's watched a number of times because of his

He shows me an almost-finished blouse. On it, his signature 3D em-

broidery takes the form of layered flo-

ra and fauna - tigers, peacocks, mon-

keys, leopards and various birds,

amid lush greens with a heart of pale

blue embroidered water. The gar-

ments, despite techniques like zardo-

zi, resham ka kaam, and fareesha em-

broidery, are machine washable - "it

is robust haute couture," he says -

and they're relatively light, at about

But Mishra is hesitant to answer ques-

tions on the materials if they are tied

to ideas of sustainability. While he is

known for his fidelity to handlooms

**Un-learning sustainability** 

800 gm.

■ GETTY IMAGES

says Mishra, who isn't ready to partner with anyone yet. "I want possible." With the PHCW, he is space to his artistic sensibility he even wants to start putting serial numbers to the pieces he

their canvas reprints.



### **Smart collabs**

Two Indian jewellers, Mehta & Sons and Anjali Bhimrajka Fine Jewels, are "co-creators" for the show, making complementing jewellery. This is how Mishra says he collaborates to smartly manage the finances of a bigticket event.

and green practices, he isn't convinced with the way these ideas are getting popularised. "For us, sustainability boils down to the pace of consumption. Even the most organic cotton will be unsustainable if that's the only crop grown on that soil for a long time. You need to grow pulses and some cycles of vegetation to replenish what the soil needs. Anything that's grown too much or too fast isn't sustainable. We need to consume at a more natural pace," says Mishra, who grew up in Malhausi, a village two hours from Kanpur.

He wishes the industry would look at sustainability more deeply. For instance, his brand has consistently rehabilitated karigars mostly from pockets in and around Baundpur in West Bengal - who otherwise move from weaving clusters and villages to live in sub-standard conditions in metro cities where de-

New inductee (Clockwise from left) Designs from Mishra's previous shows; the designer; a moodboard and sketch from his upcoming line ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

signers' workshops are. His "decentralisation of production" he says is an important step in sustainability. It reduces the strain on urban centres for starters, a root cause of various kinds of pollution in urban pockets. "It also makes more economic sense for me; there are better workspaces at lesser rent, and the workers are closer to their own homes and families," he notes.

### 2020 and beyond

Mishra, who has even sold at the nowshut iconic Parisian boutique, Colette says that the future of retail is "kind of bleak" across the world. It is the era of trunk shows, pop-ups and online retailing, and therefore there is a need for strong branding for young designers like himself.

With this in mind, and an eye on the future, he wants to engage with need-based production (against orders), and not be compelled to become inventory-heavy.

While he sees this as a smart model for couture in India, and for the future of the planet, he also distances himself from commenting for the industry, stating that "the

products are all different, and everyone creates their own universe". Online retailers,

though, get his vote. Farfetch, Yoox and Lyst are some internet-native sites he sells from. He especially likes New York-based Moda Operandi – both Mishra and his NID batch mate, Aneeth Arora (of pero), retail there – which lets customers

ket, but also facilitates production based on real time need. As far as he is concerned, this might be the most responsible way forward.

view a designer's entire run-

way collection and pre-order

directly without relying on a re-

tailer or stockist's curation. This

not only democratises the mar-

# Letting lungs go

In a time of unrest The Aahvaan Project, a folk music and storytelling collective born in 2015, is coming into its own with performances that comment on society

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Vedi Sinha, 27, was drifting along for a while trying to find her niche. The singer-storyteller, who grew up in Delhi, finishing school at Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, and later graduating from a film and video course at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, felt uncertain and out of place for a gruelling few months. It was a chance volunteering stint at the week-long travelling folk music festival in Rajasthan, called the Kabir Yatra, that was a point of pivot in her life.

"I went there sometime in



2015 I think. And I went as a volunteer because I had no money at the time," she recalls. The first few days were busy and a blur. When she finally had the time to attend a performance in full, she was moved. "It was when a singer, Prahlad ji was singing. I felt everything around me fade. For the next two hours, I was so affected," she says, adding that she "realised how in the garb of spirituality, the idea of humanity gets shoved in the background, and religion takes over."

She started writing again, weaving her observations and thoughts about the world into stories. "It is a meditative release of emotions of things I'm seeing and feeling around me. I always wanted to understand



and tell stories," Vedi, who has also been conducting storytelling workshops in government schools, through not-for-profit initiatives like Anjuman, Miracle Foundation, Greenpeace, and Balwadi pre-schools, says. She then bought an *ektara*, a single

stringed instrument that produces a distinct twang, and is often heard accompanying travelling folk singers.

'My sister and I learned classical music for a little while as kids, but I never felt like I was fully able to sing. Folk however, A calling Vedi Sinha (centre) performing with her group ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

allows you to really let your lungs go," says Vedi.

It felt like a calling - and so, finding collaborators to put the pieces together, she called her effort The Aahvaan Project. The core members today include her twin Pakhi, and long-time collaborators guitarist Ujjwal Raj Sen and percussionist Makrand Sanon.

The group has been performing in intimate gatherings. Their first gig was just a couple months ago at the Indian Women Press Corps, and later at smaller sabha-styled spaces. Kintsugi Studios, a Delhi-based recording space for indie artists has already had a Kintsugi Singles video recorded and produced The Aahvaan Project's Chakka (up on YouTube).

Tonight, they will perform an hour-long set, called Kahani Lashon Ke Pul Ki. The piece is told through the eyes of Vedi's ektara, which observes the stories of people and the state of things as it travels through the country along with the artist.

In addition to Vedi's words, the set includes snippets of poetry by Ali Sardar Zafri and Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

7 p.m. onwards; for details on the location and venue, email theaahvaanproject@gmail.com

## Storytellers unite

### A themed evening of music and stories blended with ghazals for poetry lovers

SUPRIYA RAMESH

Anhad, a music band of speciallyabled people, other music groups like The Midnight Walkers and United Sessions, and poetry reciters like Roopam Sharma, will perform at Tamaashaa, a musical poetry show in Delhi this Sunday. The Modern Poets, who have organised over 50 shows around India, including thirty-five in Delhi, says Tamaashaa is their latest presentation, with the theme of the 2015 film *Tamasha* in mind. The Ranbir Kapoor starrer had the protagonist overcome societal expectations and follow his dream of being a storyteller. Edited excerpts from an interview with Mohit Dwivedi, co-founder of the group.

Is there any current social issue on which you are focusing?

Mental illness has become one of the major and common most problems among youngsters, be it students, job-hol-

ders, or artists. Most go through this phase of depression and anxiety at least once in their career. Keeping this in mind we will be performing different acts to create awareness.

### Can you tell us about your earner snows?

Shows like *Dhanak* (for speciallyabled children), Sankalp (an initiative for old age homes and orphanages), Yes I Stammer (for the people who stammer) and The Basics (where all the art forms like comedy, singing, drama, poetry, came together) were our few major projects. Their sequels are also coming soon.

### What are your upcoming shows?

An event fully dedicated to transgenders called The Third, and Green Day, a plantation drive are the two main events on our list for now.

> Tamaashaa, January 12th, 5 p.m. onwards, at La Vie En Rose Fashart Cafe, Saket. For tickets, Insider.in; upwards of Rs.200

> > Mohit

Dwivedi ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Amarrass Records is hosting Amarrass Nights, an evening of music highlighting the Kamaicha, a folk instrument played only by the Manganiar community. The event will feature the rendition of Sufiyana kalaams by the Ghewar & Firoze Khan brothers, followed by qawwalis of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan by the Rehmat-e-Nusrat group. **VENUE:** Sunder Nursery, Nizamuddin TIME: 7 p.m. - 10.p.m.



**Asia-inspired works** Thread through Asia, a solo show by French artist and Zen practitioner Guyseika will be inaugurated today at Galerie Romain Rolland. On view until 16th January, the exhibit is the result of more than 20 years of his exploration of Asian cultures. The show features over 50

contemplative works done in various media VENUE: Alliance Française de Delhi, Lodhi Estate TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Art and food

Imperfecto Shor presents an amalgamation of art and food with artist Mandira Chawla and chef Akanksha Dean. Mandira with her creations. will showcase art inspired from nature and beauty. The event will witness items prepared by Akanksha, which includes creations like The Royal Portal and Smoked Chicken Pizza. **VENUE:** Imperfecto Shor Cafe, Aerocity TIME: 12 noon onwards



**Comic act** Pacific Mall is hosting a stand-up comic act called Kaafi Wild Hai by Appurv Gupta, this evening. The show will feature Appurv in his signature avatar of Guptaji, who will narrate, in Hinglish, some of his favourite stories, each having a 'wild' character, promising an evening of entertainment.

**VENUE:** Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden TIME: 7:30 p.m. onwards



### American classic

Select Citywalk will screen Hollywood film Casablanca, directed by Michael Curtiz. Set in World War II, this 1942 romantic film centres on an American expatriate who must choose whether or not he should help his former lover and her fugitive husband in escaping from Casablanca.

**VENUE:** Saket District Centre, Pushp Vihar тіме: 6:30 р.т.



Real and measured Deepika Padukone plays Malti, an acid attack survivor • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

emotions, if not in the film) that she had been a part of, find a place on screen. entirely drenched

you misty with

It's unfair to begin the review of a

Meghna Gulzar film with a refe-

rence to her father. However, it's al-

so difficult not to, because Chha-

paak's title track, written by him,

has been playing on loop in my

head, even a day after having

watched the film. "Koi chehra mita

ke, aur aankh se hata ke; chandd

chheente uda ke jo gaya: Chhapaak

se pehchaan le gaya (Someone

erased one's face and turned one

invisible, while leaving behind a

splatter in the air; Took away the

core of one's being with a mere

splash)"- by stringing together a

few simple words Gulzar gets to the

heart and soul of Laxmi Agarwal's

life, its horrors and struggles and

those of many other acid attack sur-

vivors like her. "Sab jhulas gaya

(Everything got singed)", is how he

NAMRATA JOSHI

Despite the attempt to whip up minor controversies on social media, the perpetrator of the crime – Naeem Khan - doesn't quite lose his religion or find himself converted to Hinduism in the film. Only his name changes to Babbu aka Bashir Khan. It's to the credit of the writers – Meghna and Atika Chohan – that religion doesn't become the defining point or the font of Babbu's villainy. Nor does Babbu's religion and community get demonised for his individual wrongdoing. It's a welcome change from the "violent Islamist" trope that recent Bollywood films keep falling into. Save one scene featuring Babbu's rather evil looking mom, religion is treated in a matter of fact way. The transgressions of Babbu are religion-agnostic; they are to do with his own patriarchal mindset, warped psyche, male toxicity and an overtly possessive streak when it comes to Malti.

ends the song. It is indeed about life partures on other fronts too in turning to ashes for Laxmi (Malti in Chhapaak. The obvious one is overthe film) in the blink of an eyelid, turning the notion of vanity assobut also about how she rises from ciated with stardom. In eschewing a it, Phoenix-like; how a bottomless linear telling, the film ends up tragedy also sets her ashore, helps showing the real radiant face of its lead for the longest time, only to-Even though she may have wards the end. From the very start, changed the names of the dramatis it doesn't fight shy of showing the personae and made the narrative facial impairment caused by an go back and forth in time, Meghna acid attack, in all its unsightliness, is scrupulous in following Laxmi's with nary any relief. Yet it's also not journey in every possible detail exploitative or manipulative. And, her own story, the people around it's to Deepika Padukone's credit, her, her relationship with them, the who one is not used to "seeing" in various situations, challenges and this manner, that her Malti grows dilemmas thrown at her, even the on you and somewhere down the

road you cease to notice the disfi-

There are refreshing, radical de-

### Chhapaak

**DIRECTOR:** Meghna Gulzar CAST: Deepika Padukone, Vikrant Massey, Madhurjeet Sarghi STORYLINE: Based on the life of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal and her campaign to stop the sale of acid in India RUN TIME: 123 minutes

gurement, and take her for the person that she is.

The film also has a very real and wonderfully written male character – Amol, the NGO activist and Malti's friend, confidant and more. Vikrant Massey is spot-on in pinning down a modern crusader's sense of despair, frustrations, and cynicism. Only someone as bitter as Amol could very believably spell out the sad hierarchy in the gruesome crimes against women – "Rape ke aage acid attack ki kya pooch (What say does an acid attack case have in front of rape)?" His seeming lack of humour is played off well against Malti's surprisingly sharp, though well-concealed wit.

"Acid aap pe nahin, mujh pe phainka hai. Aur mujhe party karni hai (Acid was thrown at me, not you. And I want to party)," she takes the mickey out of the killjoy that he is. Or when she says of his stern ways, "Wo sarkar thodi hain jo unse darein (He is not the government that we should be running scared of him)". Call it zeitgeist, but the film critics at the preview laughed aloud together at the unintended irony of these lines, given the contemporary political context.

The "silent pyaar" between Amol and Malti casts a mellow shade. Malti herself comes across as a subdued person, complete with a shy smile and diffident demeanour. She is a woman of few words and it reflects in the spartan dialogue too.

In a way, this is reflective of the film's muted, low-key appeal at large. The cataclysmic incident later, Malti's life ahead is all about the basic and the fundamental - several reconstructive surgeries, ongoing court cases, and petition for ban on acid. There are no major troughs and ridges and the writers desist from injecting any additional drama into things either. The endemic societal patriarchy gets a throwaway, casual reference like the cop balking at the phone numbers of boys stored in Malti's mobile, or in the scepticism about the case ever getting registered.

The script keeps moving, doesn't dwell too long and pointedly at any juncture to stress on any point. Whether it's the brother's friends calling Malti a ghost worthy of being packed off to a circus or her packing away her jewellery because she doesn't have the ears or nose to sport them on, or sharing a candid, fun togetherness with her father who is drinking on the sly. Everything flows on.

It's this sparseness, minimalism, and austerity in the telling, and an essential quietude that lend Chhapaak an emotional force of its own; though some may end up finding it measured to a fault.

The only excess the film indulges in, is Fabindia. The wardrobe of almost every character/actor appears to have been sourced from the store. And that makes for quite a visual splash.

## Between fervour and fatigue

*Tanhaji—The Unsung Warrior* kicks off well, flounders in the middle, only to revive and serve a few good punches in the climax



Narrative salvaged Ajay Devgn does an efficient job as Tanhaji • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

If there's a condition called period drama/historical fatigue, then I am suffering a wee bit from it. Little then to get excited about yet another Hindi film that aims to make Indians proud of who we are by taking us back to the past, right to the end of the 17th century, when we used to be the "sone ki chidiva" (prosperous), till "baahari taaqat" (foreign invaders) came and split us apart. "Hum apni hi dharti par gunehgaar ho gaye (We turned guilty in our own motherland)," says a voiceover at the very start of the film.

However, the fictionalised account (there are disclaimers aplenty) of the life of Tanaji Malusare, one of Maratha emperor Shivaji's bravest generals, has a swashbuckler touch that manages to work, partially if not entirely.

It's 1670. Tanhaji (Ajay Devgn) is busy preparing for his son Rayba's wedding when he has to leave it all aside to go on a mission for Shivaji (Sharad Kelkar) to recapture Kondhana fort for the Marathas from the Mughals. It's part of Aurangzeb's plan to use the strategic fort as the base for his Mughal expansion into South India, and the fort is in control of

### Tanhaji - The Unsung Warrior

**DIRECTOR:** Om Raut CAST: Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Saif Ali Khan, Sharad Kelkar **STORYLINE:** Fictionalised account of the life of Tanaji Malusare, Shivaji's military leader, who recaptured the Kondhana fort for the Marathas from the Mughals RUN TIME: 131 minutes

his Rajput officer Udaybhan Rathod (Saif Ali Khan).

Things kick off well with Devgn's flying entry. Soon it all becomes about one battle set-piece after another, or song-n-dance extravaganzas, all enhanced by 3D and played to booming, militaristic soundtrack, the particularly rousing 'Ghamand Kar'. There is much play on the bhagwa (ochre/saffron) colour, some scheming dissenters within the Maratha army, and human chess games between Aurangzeb and the Shah of Iran. But the dreaded Islamophobia is contained, though not entirely done away with.

A certain ennui starts to set in, in the middle, despite the grand scale and execution. However, things do come to a head effectively again in the climactic se-

quence. The scaling of the steep hill fort of Kondhana, Tanhaji's kinetic combat with Udaybhan, and that last strike at victory. It does work itself to some kind of collective catharsis and adrenalin rush. The hero and villain sit on convenient extremes. Devgn is suitably efficient as the one who can't do anything wrong. But Udaybhan gets interpreted a la Alauddin Khilji, perhaps just because of his association with Aurangzeb.

Saif Ali Khan plays the manic, unhinged guy who'd chop off an elephant's trunk without so much as blinking, and eat crocodile's meat. There's a hint of backstory about class politics coming in the way of his love for a girl called Kamal (Neha Sharma) now a widow in his captivity. It may have given a good context to his villainy but the thread is left hanging. Sharad Kelkar makes for a handsome and dignified Shivaji, as we have known him through our dives into history books as well as the Amar Chitra Kathas series.

The women however -Shivaji's mother Rajmata Jijabai (Padmavati Rao) and Tanhaji's wife Savitri (Kajol) – expectedly, have almost no role to play, other than as being the keepers of the male conscience.

### **POOCH CAFE**

her find herself.



NGO Chhany Foundation (Chhava





### **PEANUTS**









### **HAGAR THE HORRIBLE**





### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**









回数回

To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

7 Speeded up (9) 10 Isolated spot (9) 12 West Sussex racecourse (8) **15** Taxing (7)

16 Come to

understand (6)

sequence (3)

**18** Shin bone (5)

20 Broad smile (4) 23 Uninterrupted

### **TIGER**

**WUMO** 

HEY, PIG, WHATS

ONO



From the future war between

vegans and carnivores

THE PLUMBING ABOVE

AND MY PHONE

**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** 

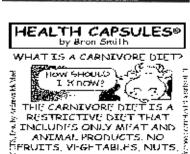




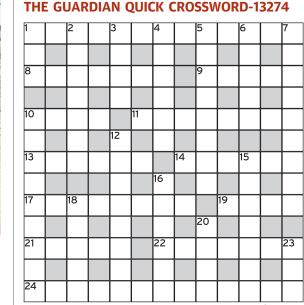
GRENADE! It's full

of vitamins!





SEEDS OR GRAINS, JUST MEAT. SCURVY IS A RISK ON THIS DIST BECAUSE MEAT CONTAINS VERY LITTLE VITAMINIC, ANOTHER DOWNSIDE: THERE IS LITTLE OR NO SCIÉNCÉ BÉHIND THIS DIÉT. THÈRÉ MAY BÉ LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES TO A MEAT-ONLY DIET.



### © GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016 21 Forbidden (5)

Across 1 Policy of strict law enforcement (4,9) 8 Distressing (7) 9 Established (3.2) **10** Cry loudly (4)

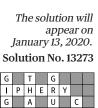
11 Back to front (8) 13 Sri Lanka, formerly (6) 14 Means of avoiding

something (3-3) **17** Retract (8) 19 Defended

22 Haven (7) 24 Norwegian polar explorer d. 1928 (5.8) Down 1 Fastener (3)

2 Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch, for example (7) 3 Petty quarrel (4) 4 Soothed (6) 5 Cockney tea (5,3) 6 Brief written

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





OH MY





MAYBE

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a

successfully (4)

A ND-NDE

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

**7** oneru Humpy first caught the world's attention at Cannes.

The beautiful, serene city on the French Riviera is known for its prestigious film festival, which dates back to 1946. But in 1997, it was also the venue of the World Youth Chess Championship, in which Humpy won the girls' under-10 title.

It was the beginning of one of the most remarkable careers in Indian sport. Since its opening scene was played out in a city that has previewed some of the classics of world cinema, it is perhaps not surprising that the script of Humpy's life has had twists and turns aplenty.

Moscow witnessed the pleasantest of turns two weeks ago, when Humpy surprised many, including herself, by winning

She could win the [classical-format] World Championship in her very next attempt. She is a stronger player than the two women [Ju Wenjun, Aleksandra Gorvachkina] competing in the World Championship at the moment

PRAVEEN THIPSAY | GM

the Women's World Rapid Championship, the biggest achievement to date by a female Indian chess player.

### A long time coming

The 32-year-old would be the first to admit, though, that she should have been world champion at least a decade ago. She was, for a considerable period, the second-strongest woman in chess history, behind only Judit Polgar. And given tnat Polgar, the highest-rated female player ever, used to compete only with men, it's something of a surprise that Humpy wasn't officially crowned as the queen at that

Indeed, by now, she should have won the world title in classical chess, not just in rapid. For the uninitiated,

chess competitions are held in three formats - classical, rapid and blitz - played with varying time controls. Wins in classical chess are valued higher, just as a victory in a cricket Test carries more weight than one in a One Day International or Twenty20 International.

prefers Humpy the classical format, which gives more time than other concedes that the world rapid title came as a sur-

"The tournament was announced just a fortnight before, so there wasn't much time to prepare or think about it," says Humpy over the phone from her home in Vijayawada, a few hours after arriving from Moscow. She played solid chess, keeping her nerve during the tense closing moments of the event. "It was the happiest moment of my life, yes, but I wasn't expecting it, as rapid chess hasn't

### Calm under pressure

exactly been my cup of tea."

Praveen Thipsay, India's third Grandmaster, isn't surprised, however, by Humpy's success in the shorter format. "She has this ability to play correctly even when she is under time pressure, and that means she can calculate well in rapid chess," he says. "This is a fantastic achievement, no doubt. But, even two decades ago, I had felt that she had the potential to

become world champion." This is not just because Thipsay has lost to her on at the same venue. She won the chessboard. One of those defeats came during the National 'A' championship at Kozhikode in 2003, when Humpy, the only woman in India's premier domestic tournament, began her campaign in astonishing fashion. Just 16 then, she started by beating just about everybody in sight and led the tournament until the eighth round before finishing sixth.

### THE HUMPY FILE

• Born March 31, 1987 (Gudivada, Andhra Pradesh) • Began learning chess at

• Highest rating: 2623 (2009)

• Current rating: 2580

• Highest ranking: No. 2

• Current ranking: No. 3 Timeline: early start,

consistent success 1993: First tournament

(Vijayawada city championship; first in

1995: Won first State championship (under-8) 1996: Won first National

championship (under-10) 1997: Earned FIDE rating (2140) at National 'B' championship | Won first

global championship (world Before that, she had

scored an incredible 16 out of 17 points in the National women's 'A' championship 15 games – the first 11 in a and drew two. Sne did that in what was India's strongest women's championship ever. She was also making a point. She hadn't played the three previous editions because she felt it wasn't competitive enough

of courage. Humpy has had more than

for her. But her critics inter-

preted the decision as a lack

under-10 title)

1999: Asian under-12 boys' champion

**2000:** Asian junior champion 2001: World junior (under-20) girls' champion at 14 | First title in men's open events (Hotel Lipa International, Hungary) | Became Woman

**2002:** Became Grandmaster

2003: Asian champion

**2006:** Two gold medals at Doha Asian Games

2007: Two gold and two silver 2011: Challenger for the world

2012: Bronze at World Rapid

Championship

2015: Bronze at World Team

2019: World rapid champion

her share of critics - and this began before she even turned 15. When she became a Woman Grandmaster, after scoring her final norm from a Hungarian tournament, ed in public.

She answered all her doubters in emphatic fashion. She was just 18 when she first became World No. 2, behind Polgar, and remained there for the next five years. Since October 2002, she has never fallen out of the world's top 10. At 17, she

STACKING UP

1 Rafael Nadal

2 Novak Diokovic

3 Roger Federer

6 Stefanos Tsitsipas

7 Alexander Zverev 8 Matteo Berrettini 9 Gael Monfils

10 Roberto Bautista Agut

13 Diego Schwartzman

WTA Women's Top 15

14 Denis Shapovalov

15 Stan Wawrinka

12 Fabio Fognini

ATP Men's Top 15

OUR # PLAYER

2004 World Championship (classical). She entered the last four in 2008 and 2010, too. In 2011, she lost the title match to China's Hou Yifan.

"I know I should have won at least one World Championship from all those events," rues Humpy. "Regardless of all the tournaments and age-group titles you win, what really matters is the world title."

When it came to agegroup events – and there are several in chess – Humpy was a serial winner. After the under-10 world title, she won the under-12 and 14 events. More significantly, she won the World Junior Girls' Championship in 2001. She was 14 then; it was an under-20 event.

Two years earlier, she had caused a sensation by winning the Asian Under-12 Boys' Championship. Clearly, she was following the path laid down by Polgar, who competed with men and rose to World No. 8, with wins over the likes of Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen.

Much like Polgar, the youngest of three sisters who were taught chess by their father, Humpy's career, too, was shaped by her father. In fact, Laszlo Polgar, an educational psychologist reached the semifinals of the who wanted to prove that

geniuses were made and not born, was an inspiration for Koneru Ashok, a national-level player. He wanted to make his first daughter a champion (her very name was derived from the word). He even quit his job as a college lecturer in order to fo-

cus on her chess. Ashok has been her primary trainer, although Humpy, for the last six years, has virtually been working on her own. "I was following her games in Moscow online," Ashok says. "When she defeated China's Lei Tingjie in the final, I was ecstatic."

### **Second innings**

The world rapid title has come to Humpy in what is her second innings. She had taken a two-year break following childbirth.

The past few

have seen Humpy steadily get back to her best. The first and second places she earned in the opening legs of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix, which is a part of the cycle for the next classical World Championship, preceded her triumph in Moscow. She is ranked No. 3 now. Her Elo rating of 2580 may be some distance from her peak of 2623 (in 2009), but she has proven that she is a strong challenger for the

classical title once again. "She could win the World Championship in her very next attempt," says Thipsay. "She is a stronger player than the two women [Ju Wenjun, Aleksandra Goryachkina] competing in the World Championship at the moment."

You bet Humpy is itching

liaht: Humpy under the watchful eyes of her father and coach Koneru

Ashok in Hyderabad in 1997. ■ THE HINDU



### **GAME THEORY**

### Klopp's Reds pursue Wenger's Invincibles

Liverpool hasn't been beaten in the Premier League since January 12, 2019 - a run it will aim to extend today, when it plays Tottenham away. A look at where this streak ranks among the Premier League's best:

LONGEST UNBEATEN STREAKS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE





May 7, 2003-Oct. 23, 2004 **536** days

Manager: Arsene Wenger Streak ended by Man. United

This is the only streak to span three Premier League seasons

It's also the only streak to contain a complete title run – the 2003-04 Invincibles season

Arsene Wenger and Arsenal are the only manager and club to have recorded two unbeaten streaks of at least 30 matches







Manager: Arsene Wenger Streak ended by Everton

Apr. 8, 2017-Jan. 13, 2018

Manager: Pep Guardiola

Streak ended by Liverpoo

**281** days











AGE POINTS EVENTS

17

16

17

33 9,985

32 9.055

38 6,590

21 5,300

22 3,345

33 2,530

32 2,290

27 2,125

20 2.050

34 1,955

5,825

Rank 128 A 2 spots Rank 122 A 2 spots

# PLAYER AGE POINTS EVENTS 7,851 5,462 3 Simona Halep 4 Naomi Osaka 22 5,311 5 Elina Svitolina 25 5.075 21 6 Bianca Andreesc 4,935 7 Petra Kvitova 29 4,721 4,685 9 Kiki Bertens 10 Serena Williams 3,935 11 Arvna Sabalenka 21 2.940 12 Johanna Konta 28 2,825 13 Madison Keys 2,767





### **English Premier League Standings**

| •  | 1  | Liverpool      | 20 | 19 | 1 | 0  | 49 | 14 | 35         | 58 |
|----|----|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|------------|----|
| er | 2  | Leicester      | 21 | 14 | 3 | 4  | 46 | 19 | 27         | 45 |
| e  | 3  | Man. City      | 21 | 14 | 2 | 5  | 56 | 24 | 32         | 44 |
|    | 4  | Chelsea        | 21 | 11 | 3 | 7  | 36 | 29 | 7          | 36 |
|    | 5  | Man. United    | 21 | 8  | 7 | 6  | 32 | 25 | 7          | 31 |
|    | 6  | Tottenham      | 21 | 8  | 6 | 7  | 36 | 30 | 6          | 30 |
|    | 7  | Wolves         | 21 | 7  | 9 | 5  | 30 | 27 | 3          | 30 |
|    | 8  | Sheffield      | 21 | 7  | 8 | 6  | 23 | 21 | 2          | 29 |
|    | 9  | Crystal Palace | 21 | 7  | 7 | 7  | 19 | 23 | -4         | 28 |
|    | 10 | Arsenal        | 21 | 6  | 9 | 6  | 28 | 30 | <b>-</b> 2 | 27 |
|    | 11 | Everton        | 21 | 7  | 4 | 10 | 24 | 32 | -8         | 25 |
|    | 12 | Southampton    | 21 | 7  | 4 | 10 | 25 | 38 | -13        | 25 |
|    | 13 | Newcastle      | 21 | 7  | 4 | 10 | 20 | 33 | -13        | 25 |
|    | 14 | Brighton       | 21 | 6  | 6 | 9  | 25 | 29 | -4         | 24 |
|    | 15 | Burnley        | 21 | 7  | 3 | 11 | 24 | 34 | -10        | 24 |
|    | 16 | West Ham       | 20 | 6  | 4 | 10 | 25 | 32 | -7         | 22 |
|    | 17 | Aston Villa    | 21 | 6  | 3 | 12 | 27 | 37 | -10        | 21 |
|    | 18 | Bournemouth    | 21 | 5  | 5 | 11 | 20 | 32 | -12        | 20 |
|    | 19 | Watford        | 21 | 4  | 7 | 10 | 17 | 34 | -17        | 19 |
|    | 20 | Norwich City   | 21 | 3  | 5 | 13 | 22 | 41 | -19        | 14 |



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|------|---------------|-------|-----|---|----|----|----|------------|-----|
| #    | TEAM          | GP    | W   | D | L  | GF | GA | GD         | PTS |
| 1    | Inter Milan   | 18    | 14  | 3 | 1  | 39 | 15 | 24         | 45  |
| 2    | Juventus      | 18    | 14  | 3 | 1  | 35 | 17 | 18         | 45  |
| 3    | Lazio         | 17    | 12  | 3 | 2  | 40 | 17 | 23         | 39  |
| 4    | Roma          | 18    | 10  | 5 | 3  | 33 | 19 | 14         | 35  |
| 5    | Atalanta      | 18    | 10  | 4 | 4  | 48 | 25 | 23         | 34  |
| 6    | Cagliari      | 18    | 8   | 5 | 5  | 33 | 27 | 6          | 29  |
| 7    | Parma         | 18    | 7   | 4 | 7  | 24 | 25 | -1         | 25  |
| 8    | Napoli        | 18    | 6   | 6 | 6  | 28 | 25 | 3          | 24  |
| 9    | Torino        | 18    | 7   | 3 | 8  | 24 | 26 | -2         | 24  |
| 10   | Bologna       | 18    | 6   | 5 | 7  | 28 | 30 | <b>-</b> 2 | 23  |
| 11   | Verona        | 17    | 6   | 4 | 7  | 19 | 20 | -1         | 22  |
| 12   | AC Milan      | 18    | 6   | 4 | 8  | 16 | 24 | -8         | 22  |
| 13   | Udinese       | 18    | 6   | 3 | 9  | 14 | 28 | -14        | 21  |
| 14   | Sassuolo      | 18    | 5   | 4 | 9  | 30 | 31 | -1         | 19  |
| 15   | Fiorentina    | 18    | 4   | 6 | 8  | 22 | 29 | -7         | 18  |
| 16   | Sampdoria     | 18    | 4   | 4 | 10 | 14 | 27 | -13        | 16  |
| 17   | Lecce         | 18    | 3   | 6 | 9  | 22 | 36 | -14        | 15  |
| 18   | Brescia       | 18    | 4   | 2 | 12 | 16 | 31 | -15        | 14  |
| 19   | Genoa         | 18    | 3   | 5 | 10 | 19 | 36 | -17        | 14  |

### Spanish LaLiga Standings

| <b>~ ~ ~ ~</b> | "  | LEMIN           | 01 | ** | - |    | 01 | Un | GD.        |    |
|----------------|----|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|------------|----|
|                | 1  | Barcelona       | 19 | 12 | 4 | 3  | 49 | 23 | 26         | 40 |
| LaLiga         | 2  | Real Madrid     | 19 | 11 | 7 | 1  | 36 | 12 | 24         | 40 |
|                | 3  | Atletico Madrid | 19 | 9  | 8 | 2  | 22 | 12 | 10         | 35 |
|                | 4  | Sevilla         | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4  | 24 | 18 | 6          | 35 |
|                | 5  | Real Sociedad   | 19 | 9  | 4 | 6  | 33 | 25 | 8          | 31 |
|                | 6  | Valencia        | 19 | 8  | 7 | 4  | 29 | 25 | 4          | 31 |
|                | 7  | Getafe          | 19 | 8  | 6 | 5  | 26 | 20 | 6          | 30 |
|                | 8  | Athletic Bilbao | 19 | 7  | 8 | 4  | 20 | 13 | 7          | 29 |
|                | 9  | Villarreal      | 19 | 8  | 4 | 7  | 33 | 26 | 7          | 28 |
|                | 10 | Granada         | 19 | 8  | 3 | 8  | 25 | 25 | 0          | 27 |
|                | 11 | Levante         | 19 | 8  | 2 | 9  | 26 | 29 | <b>-</b> 3 | 26 |
|                | 12 | Osasuna         | 19 | 5  | 9 | 5  | 26 | 25 | 1          | 24 |
|                | 13 | Real Betis      | 19 | 6  | 6 | 7  | 26 | 32 | -6         | 24 |
|                | 14 | Real Valladolid | 19 | 4  | 9 | 6  | 17 | 23 | <b>-</b> 6 | 21 |
|                | 15 | Alaves          | 19 | 5  | 5 | 9  | 20 | 29 | -9         | 20 |
|                | 16 | Eibar           | 19 | 5  | 4 | 10 | 18 | 29 | -11        | 19 |
|                | 17 | Celta Vigo      | 19 | 3  | 6 | 10 | 16 | 29 | -13        | 15 |
|                | 18 | Real Mallorca   | 19 | 4  | 3 | 12 | 18 | 33 | -15        | 15 |
|                | 19 | Leganes         | 19 | 3  | 5 | 11 | 16 | 30 | -14        | 14 |

19 2 5 12 14 36 -22 11

### German Bundesliga Standings

20 Espanyol

| LIGA | _1 | RB Leipzig    | 17 | 11 | 4 | 2  | 48 | 20 | 28  | 37 |
|------|----|---------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|----|
| LIGA | 2  | M'gladbach    | 17 | 11 | 2 | 4  | 33 | 18 | 15  | 35 |
|      | 3  | Bayern Munich | 17 | 10 | 3 | 4  | 46 | 22 | 24  | 33 |
|      | 4  | Dortmund      | 17 | 8  | 6 | 3  | 41 | 24 | 17  | 30 |
|      | 5  | Schalke       | 17 | 8  | 6 | 3  | 29 | 21 | 8   | 30 |
|      | 6  | Leverkusen    | 17 | 8  | 4 | 5  | 23 | 21 | 2   | 28 |
|      | 7  | Hoffenheim    | 17 | 8  | 3 | 6  | 25 | 28 | -3  | 27 |
|      | 8  | SC Freiburg   | 17 | 7  | 5 | 5  | 27 | 23 | 4   | 26 |
|      | 9  | Wolfsburg     | 17 | 6  | 6 | 5  | 18 | 18 | 0   | 24 |
|      | 10 | FC Augsburg   | 17 | 6  | 5 | 6  | 28 | 31 | -3  | 23 |
|      | 11 | Union Berlin  | 17 | 6  | 2 | 9  | 20 | 24 | -4  | 20 |
|      | 12 | Hertha Berlin | 17 | 5  | 4 | 8  | 22 | 29 | -7  | 19 |
|      | 13 | Frankfurt     | 17 | 5  | 3 | 9  | 27 | 29 | -2  | 18 |
|      | 14 | Mainz         | 17 | 6  | 0 | 11 | 25 | 39 | -14 | 18 |
|      | 15 | Cologne       | 17 | 5  | 2 | 10 | 19 | 32 | -13 | 17 |
|      | 16 | Dusseldorf    | 17 | 4  | 3 | 10 | 18 | 36 | -18 | 15 |
|      | 17 | Werder Bremen | 17 | 3  | 5 | 9  | 23 | 41 | -18 | 14 |
|      | 18 | Paderborn     | 17 | 3  | 3 | 11 | 20 | 36 | -16 | 12 |
|      |    |               |    |    |   |    |    |    |     |    |

**379** days

Oct. 23, 2004-Nov. 5, 2005

Manager: Jose Mourinho

Streak ended by Man. United

**MANCHESTER UNITED** Dec. 26, 1998-Oct. 2, 1999 (281 days)

Manager: Alex Ferguson Streak ended by Chelsea

**CHELSEA** Dec. 23, 2007-Oct. 25, 2008 (308 days)

Manager: Avram Grant/ Luiz Felipe Scolari Streak ended by Liverpool

Apr. 11, 2010-Feb. 4, 2011 (300 days)

Manager: Alex Ferguson Streak ended by Wolverhampton Wanderers

**MANCHESTER UNITED** 

iop Indians ▶



20 Spal

18 3 3 12 12 28 -16 12

## After Rahul-Dhawan show, bowlers take over

Sri Lanka fails to make a match of it; India seals series with a commanding performance

### SL IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR

India's middle-order ensured that the solid foundation laid by K.L. Rahul and Shikhar Dhawan didn't go waste as Kohli's men overwhelmed Sri Lanka by 78 runs in the final T20I and seal a 2-0 in the three-match series here on Friday.

Despite a stutter in the middle, when it lost four wickets in 13 balls, India dominated right from the start after being asked to bat

With the hosts making three changes - Manish Pandey, Sanju Samson and Yuzvendra Chahal coming in for Shivam Dube, Rishabh Pant and Kuldeep Yadav - Rahul and Dhawan had to fire at the top. And the duo did just that once Dhawan was given a reprieve by Dasun Shanaka at deep square-leg when he was on one.

Rahul got going with a cover drive and a punch off Angelo Mathews' gentle medium-pace in the second over before sweeping Dhananjaya de Silva over the square-leg fence in the fourth.

### **Exquisite strokes**

Having raced past his partner, Rahul was soon joined by Dhawan, whose extraordinary whip off Lasith Malinga's final ball of the fifth over was truly breathtaking; so was Kohli's straight six off Mathews in the 17th over.

Between those two shots came Sri Lanka's best passage of play. At 97 for no loss in the 11th over, and with Ra-



On the go: K.L. Rahul was in superb form yet again. • VIVEK BENDRE

hul and Dhawan in no mood to relent, Pandey and Samson were in danger of not getting an opportunity to

However, the two Sri Lankan wrist-spinners - chinaman bowler Lakshan Sandakan and leggie Wanindu Hasaranga - struck at regu-

lar intervals as India slipped to 122 for four in the 13th ov-

Dhawan swept Sandakan straight to deep mid-wicket, giving Samson a chance to emerge from the dugout. The Kerala stylist stroked the first ball he faced over longoff for a six, but was trapped ly from Hasaranga. Sandakan then surprised Rahul with a wrong 'un and wicketkeeper Kusal Perera whipped the bails off. Two deliveries later, Shreyas Iyer offered a return catch to Sandakan after hitting his first ball for four.

in front off the next – a goog-

(Shanaka, 13.3), 7-110 (Has-

### **INDIA BOWLING**

Bumrah 2-1-5-1, Shardul 3-0-19-2, Saini 3.5-0-28-3, Wash-4-0-37-2. ington

the three-match series 2-0.

## We dominated the series: Dhawan



Nailing it: Kusal Perera is beaten all ends up by a Navdeep Saini special. • VIVEK BENDRE

AMOL KARHADKAR

Kohli resurrected the in-

nings with a 42-run partner-

ship off 28 balls with Pandey before misjudging a second

run and falling short of the crease. Pandey and Shardul

then ensured India crossed

the 200-run mark, the latter

employing the long handle.

Once India put on a gargan-

tuan 201 for six – above-par

even on a flat deck at the

Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium - the fate of the

Sri Lankans was all but

sealed. The visitors couldn't really give the 34,000-odd

turnout a thrilling finish as

the top-order departed in no

It was left to the expe-

rienced Mathews and the

energetic Dhananjaya de Sil-

va to repair the innings after

the Indian pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur

and Navdeep Saini had re-

duced the team to 26 for

Mathews was severe on

Washington, hammering the

bowler for sixes before hol-

ing out to long-on off the

same bowler with Pandey

taking a superb running

catch. Dhananjaya went on

to complete a half-century -

his second in T20Is - but

that was not enough on a day

when the islanders were tho-

roughly outclassed.

**Falling apart** 

If the second T20I at Indore was a cakewalk for India, the final one saw Virat Kohli's men demolish Sri Lanka with a clinical performance. Despite trying out 14 of the 15 members in the squad, India was never really stretched.

Shikhar Dhawan stressed that India dominated the series, "We obviously dominated the series, but there were challenges. I would say for me, it was to play well after coming back from an injury. I had to perform... so everyone had different challenges," said Dhawan when asked whether India was tested at any point during the series.

"Some of the new players coming in, they had their own goals and challenges. The pressure to perform is always there in international cricket. I would say we still dominated the series and everyone overcame their

own challenges." The series saw Dhawan, Navdeep Saini and Jasprit Bumrah prove their fitness and skill after returning from injuries while Sanju Samson and Manish Pandey got game-time on Friday.

Sri Lanka captain Lasith Malinga took full responsibility for the team's loss.

### Outplayed

"We were outplayed. I was the seniormost and main bowler and I had to perform, but I couldn't pick a single wicket in the series. I take full responsibility," said Malinga. "Overall, it's a learning experience for the youngsters and, hopefully, they will keep improving in future."

Malinga said the only way was upwards and hoped the batsmen realised "the importance of building an innings and partnerships rather than playing big shots all

### **SCOREBOARD** INDIA

K.L. Rahul st. Perera b Sandakan 54 (36b, 5x4, 1x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Gunathilaka b Sandakan 52 (36b, 7x4, 1x6), Sanju Samson lbw b Hasaranga 6 (2b. 1x6). Manish Pandev (not out) 31 (18b, 4x4), Shreyas Iyer c & b Sandakan 4 (2b, 1x4), Virat Kohli run out 26 (17b, 2x4, 1x6), Washington Sundar c Sandakan b Kumara O (1b), Shardul Thakur (not out) 22 (8b, 1x4, 2x6); Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 201.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-97 (Dhawan, 10.5 overs), 2106 (Samson, 11.3), 3-118 (Rahul, 12.3), 4-122 (Shreyas, 12.5), 5-164 (Kohli, 17.3), 6-164 (Washington, 17.4) SRI LANKA BOWLING

Malinga 4-0-40-0, Mathews 3-0-38-0, Dhananjaya 1-0-13-0, Kumara 4-0-46-1, Hasaranga 4-0-27-1, Sandakan

### **SRI LANKA**

Danushka Gunathilaka c Washington b Bumrah 1 (2b), Avishka Fernando c Shreyas b Shardul 9 (7b, 1x6), Kusal Perera b Saini 7 (10b, 1x4), Oshada Fernando run out 2 (5b), Angelo

Mathews c Pandey b Washington 31 (20b, 1x4, 3x6), Dhananiava de Silva c Bumrah b Saini 57 (36b, 8x4, 1x6), Dasun Shanaka c & b Shardul 9 (9b, 1x6), Wanindu Hasaranga run out O (2b). Lakshan Sandakan st. Samson b Washington 1 (2b), Lasith Malinga c Kohli b Saini O

(in 15.5 overs): 123. **FALL OF WICKETS** 1-5 (Gunathilaka, 0.6 overs),

(1b), Lahiru Kumara (not out) 1

(1b); Extras (b-1, w-4): 5; Total

2-11 (Avishka, 1.3), 3-15 (Oshada, 3.1), 4-26 (Perera, 5.1), 5-94 (Mathews, 11.2), 6-110 aranga, 13.5), 8-118 (Sandakan, 14.6), 9-122 (Dhananjaya, 15.3).

3-0-33-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Man-of-the-match: Shardul Thakur; Man-of-the-series: Navdeep Saini.

India won by 78 runs to clinch

## **STAT SPHERE**

Kohli has become the sixth player, and the fastest to reach 11,000 International runs (169 matches, 195 innings), as captain. The others are Ponting. Smith, Fleming, Dhoni and Border

Number of half-centuries by Dhawan in T20Is (61 matches/59 innings)

India's T20I victories a<mark>gainst a particular</mark> team, equalling a record held by Pakistan (two opponents) Most wins against a team in T20Is

India vs SL (19 matches) **13** Pak vs SL (21) 13 Pak vs NZ (21)

This is India's 17th victory in 19 series against Sri Lanka across formats, the other two were drawn. The last time India lost to Sri Lanka was in the 2008 away Test series

India has won 13 out of the 15 series it has played in T20Is. One was drawn and the lone defeat came against NZ in 2019

**Number of T20Is missed** by Samson between two appearances, the most

73 Samson (2015-20)

65 Umesh (2012-18)

56 Karthik (2010-17)

### 43 Shami (2017-19) **33** Jadeja (2017-19)

## Australia skipper Finch eager to see Bumrah-Labuschagne duel

Hazlewood, back in the team after recovering from injury, is looking good: senior assistant coach McDonald

### **AUS IN INDIA**

SHAYAN ACHARYA MUMBAI

As the Australian team embarks on a three-match ODI series against India, it will draw inspiration from the remarkable victory it earned here last year. After losing the first two matches, the Aussies scripted a fine comeback to take the series 3-2.

Aaron Finch, who leads the side for the series starting here next Tuesday, said all would depend on the execution of plans to counter the Indian bowling unit.

"You have got different challenges. You have guys like (Jasprit) Bumrah who

can move the ball... you have the consistency of (Ravindra) Jadeja, (Yuzvendra) Chahal, Kuldeep (Yadav), so you can't take the challenges lightly. You have to be prepared with your own gameplan to take them on," Finch said on Friday.

captain said.

Finch expects an exciting contest between Jasprit

international cricket, you can't take anything lightly. You can't put more emphasis on one over the other, otherwise you can find yourself coming up pretty short," the

### **Exciting contest**



"At the end of the day, it's



At the helm: Australia captain Aaron Finch and coach Andrew McDonald look to carry the team's Test form into white-ball cricket. • PRASHANT NAKWE

Labuschagne.

"Yes that (contest) is going to be exciting. The improvement we have seen in Marnus' game over the last 12

months has been huge and that has been reflected in his scores and the impact that he is having in Tests," said

The in-form Labuschagne is set to make his ODI debut. The 25-year-old Labuschagne recently moved up to

third spot in the ICC Test

bt Denis Shapovalov 4-6, 6-1,

7-6(4); Viktor Troicki & Nikola

Cacic bt Peter Polansky & Adil

Spain bt Belgium 2-1 [Roberto

Bautista Agut bt Kimmer Cop-

pejans 6-1, 6-4; Rafael Nadal

lost to David Goffin 6-4, 7-6(3);

Nadal & Pablo Carreno Busta bt

Sander Gille & Joran Vliegen 6-

Shamasdin 6-3, 6-2].

7(7), 7-5, 10-7].

### **ODI** schedule

Jan. 14: Mumbai

■ Jan. 19: Bengaluru

■ Jan. 17: Rajkot

rankings. "He takes enough time to refresh and recharge his batteries, because playing here can be tough. He will be ready to go and no doubt. He is an exciting player, one who just keeps

time," Finch said. The Australia captain was also all praise for Bumrah. "He (Bumrah) is obviously a fantastic bowler and someone who, when you are not

getting the job done all the

playing against him, you love watching bowl. He is fast and aggressive and his execution is pretty spot-on. More and more guys face him, the more exposure you get, the

more you start to under-

stand how he bowls," Finch

said. While the focus is on the Bumrah-Labuschagne battle, Australia's senior assistant coach Andrew McDonald who is in charge of the team for the India series – is also looking forward to a good show by Josh Hazlewood, who is back in the side after

an injury. McDonald said Hazlewood was shaping up well after the hamstring injury.

### Thrilling win for Windies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BRIDGETOWN

Sheldon Cottrell blasted a six off the penultimate ball to give the West Indies a thrilling one-wicket victory over Ireland in the second One-Day International at Oval on Kensington

Victory gave the West Indies a 2-0 lead in the threegame series after winning the opener at the same ground on Tuesday by five

The scores: Ireland 237/9 in 50 overs (P. Stirling 63, Simi Singh 34, A. Joseph 4/32, Cottrell 3/51) lost to West Indies 242/9 in 49.5 overs (N. Pooran 52, H. Walsh 46 n.o., K. Pollard 40, Simi Singh 3/

## Shafali helps India-C win Challenger Trophy



Winning smiles: The India-C team which clinched the

Challenger Trophy. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CUTTACK: Shafali Verma's blistering unbeaten knock helped India-C register an emphatic eight-wicket victory over India-B in the final of the T20 Challenger Trophy

on Friday. Chasing 132, opener Shafali smashed 89 from just 45 balls, with 15 fours and two finish line with 28 balls to spare. Earlier, Pooja Vastakar (43 n.o., 22b) had powered India-B to 131. The scores: India-B 131/6 in 20

sixes, as India-C crossed the

overs (Pooja Vastrakar 43 n.o., Manali Dakshini 3/15) lost to India-C 135/2 in 15.2 overs (Shafali Verma 89 n.o.).

### ATP CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Rafael Nadal suffered an upset singles loss but made amends in the doubles to keep Spain alive at the ATP Cup on Friday, with Novak Djokovic also surviving a scare before rallying to guide Serbia into a semifinal

against Russia. After Roberto Bautista Agut swept past Kimmer Coppejans 6-1, 6-4 in the first singles match, Nadal had the chance to wrap up a last four berth against David Goffin.

### **Heat and humidity**

But the 19-time Grand Slam winner struggled in the heat and humidity of Sydney, crashing 6-4, 7-6(3) to the 11th-ranked Belgium.

It sent the tie to a decisive doubles match, with Nadal

returning to partner Pablo Carreno Busta against Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen in a gritty 6-7(7), 7-5, 10-7 win. Spain will face Australia

Spain in semifinal; Serbia blanks Canada

in the last four. The results (quarterfinals):

Serbia bt Canada 3-0 [Dusan Lajovic bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 6-2; Novak Djokovic



Good win, but...David Goffin had the measure of Rafael Nadal but it wasn't enough for Belgium to advance. • AFP

## Khelo India off to a glittering start

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GUWAHATI

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday launched the third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games in a glittering opening show, which paraded the State's cultural diversity and the country's

oneness. In a unique show of solidarity, top athletes from all the seven north-eastern States joined Assam's champion athletes in the final torch relay before star runner Hima Das lit the symbol-

"I welcome all athletes from Kashmir to Kanyakuof India. Close to 6,800 athletes mari, from Arunachal to Gujarat. Over the next 13 days, showcase your talent to the best of your ability because the entire nation is looking



Hima Das. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

forward to seeing you play and bloom," Sonowal said, encouraging the future stars

from 37 States and union territories will compete.

Tripura's Priyanka Dasgupta grabbed the spotlight



on day one of the gymnastics competition by clinching the

girls' under-17 all-around crown. Jatin Kumar Kanojia of Ut-

tar Pradesh then claimed the boys' under-17 all-around gold with a measure of comfort.

A ND-NDE

### TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9

Ranji Trophy: Tamil Nadu vs Mumbai, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.

Khelo India Youth Games Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.; Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m. **Big Bash League**: Sony Six

(SD & HD), 1 p.m.; Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1
& SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6 p.m., 8.30 p.m. & 11 p.m. ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD),

7.30 p.m. Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m., 10.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

### RANJI SCHEDULE

Group A: Andhra v Hyderabad (Ongole); Kerala v Punjab (Thiruvananthapuram); Raiasthan v Guiarat (Jaipur): Vidarbha v Bengal (Nagpur). Group B: Railways v Madhya Pradesh (New Delhi); Tamil Nadu v Mumbai (Chennai); Uttar Pradesh v Baroda (Kanpur); Saurashtra v Karnataka (Raikot)

Group C: Assam v Chhattisgarh (Guwahati); Haryana v Odisha (Lahli); Jammu & Kashmir v Services (New Delhi): Tripura v Uttarakhand (Agartala); Maharashtra v Jharkhand (Nagothane). **Plate: Jan. 11:** Arunachal

Pradesh v Nagaland (Sovima); Chandigarh v Sikkim (Chandigarh); Pondicherry v Goa (Puducherry); Manipur v Bihar (Balurghat); **Jan. 12:** Mizoram v Meghalaya (Kolkata).

### IN BRIEF



Thunder spoils Westbrook's return

LOS ANGELES Danilo Gallinari scored a team high 23 points and Chris Paul delivered 18 as Oklahoma City Thunder spoiled the return of Russell Westbook with a 113-92 rout of Houston Rockets on Thursday. The results: Cleveland Cavaliers 115 bt Detroit Pistons 112 (OT); Philadelphia76ers 109 bt Boston Celtics 98; Minnesota Timberwolves 116 bt Portland



Trail Blazers 102; Oklahoma

City Thunder 113 bt Houston

Rockets 92. AGENCIES

Harry Kane out for three months

Tottenham Hotspur has been given a severe blow as the side's star forward Harry Kane has been ruled out for three months with a hamstring injury. In the game, Kane limped off the field after suffering an injury to his hamstring. Now the player would be undergoing surgery to repair his ruptured tendon in his left hamstring, "The decision to undergo surgery is not expected to impact the time frame that the England captain will be sidelined, with the expectation that he will return to training in April," Tottenham said. ANI

### CBI seeks info from NSFs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Bureau of Investigation has written to the all the National Sports Federations seeking the information required for its Sports Integrity Unit, which was set up in April

The agency has sought the registration numbers, addresses, particulars of office bearers and members of these sports bodies by January 17.

"The emergence of sports as an industry involving investment of huge sums of money on players, teams has brought with it the ever increasing spectrum of corruption, illegal betting and use of various forms of unfair means in order to influence the result of a game," said the let-

## Karthik stuns Abhijeet

Al Muthaiah gets the better of Pantsulaia

### **CHESS**

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Two-time winner Abhijeet Gupta and defending champion Georgia's Levon Pantsulaia, seeded five and six, crashed to unexpected defeats as several Grandmasters fell short of maintaining a clean slate after three rounds of Delhi International Open Grandmasters chess tournament here on Friday.

On the first of the two double-round days, Karthik Venkataraman accounted for Abhijeet in the third round after Al Muthaiah stunned Pantsulaia in the second.

Karthik, the 2018 National junior champion, gained a queenside pawn and went on to capture Abhijeet's knight before weaving a checkmating net in 40 moves.

Muthaiah, after catching Pantsulaia on the wrong foot. surprised another Grandmaster N. R. Visakh in 61 to be among 11 leaders.

The day also saw top seed from Tajikistan, Farrukh Amonatov drop half-a-point to Uzbekistan's Abdimalik Abdisalimov, third seed M. Kar-



Big scalp: Karthik Venkataraman, left, accounted for Abhijeet Gupta in the third round. CHESSBASE INDIA

thikeyan do likewise against Russia's Denis Eraschenkov and Utkal Ranjan Sahoo hold ninth seeded Russian Aleksey Goganov in the second round.

There were several third round casualties, among Grandmasters. Stanislav Bogdanovich (Ukraine), seeded 12, lost to Bangladesh GM Ziaur Rahman, David Alberto (Italy) surrendered to C. R. G. Krishna, M. R. Lalith Babu succumbed against Egypt's Abdelrahman Hesham and Niranjan Navalgund tamed Sergey Yudin (Russia). Other GMs who lost to higher rated

players were Vishnu Prasan-

na and Columbia's Camilo Rios Cristhian

Second seeded Russian Pavel Ponkratov was held in 46 moves by Belarus' GM Kirill Stupak in 46 moves, Saptarshi Roy drew with 11th seeded Russian Ivan Rozum in 49 moves, Sayantan Das proved equal to Belarus' GM Alexei Fedorov and Himal Gusain surprised Iran's upcoming talent Arvan Gholami in a battle of International

Leading results: Third round: Pavel Ponkratov (Rus, 2.5) drew with Kirill Stupak (Blr, 2.5); Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Per, 3) bt Camilo Rios Cristhian (Col, 2); Karthik Venkataraman (3) bt Abhijeet Gupta (2); Aleksej Aleksandrov (Blr, 3) bt Vishnu Prasanna (2); Saptarshi Roy (2.5) drew with Ivan Rozum (Rus, 2.5); C. R. G. Krishna (3) bt David Alberto (Ita, 2); Alexei Fedorov (Blr, 2.5) drew with Sayantan Das (2.5).

Second round: Farrukh Amonatov (Tik) drew with Abdimalik Abdisalimov (Uzb); Murali Karthikeyan (1.5) drew with Denis Eraschenkov (Rus, 1.5); Aleksey Goganov (Rus, 1.5) drew with Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (1.5); M. Pranesh (1.5) drew with Diptayan Ghosh (1.5); Adam Tukhaev (Ukr, 1.5) drew with Aaryan Varshney (1.5).

## Sindhu and Saina bow out

### MALAYSIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Olympic medal-winning Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal crashed out of the Malaysia Masters outplayed by familiar foes in the quarterfinals, ending the country's campaign here on

Reigning World champion Sindhu, who took the court first on Friday, was knocked out of the Super 500 badminton tournament by top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, while Saina was shown the door by Olympic champion Spaniard Carolina Marin.

Saina was no match for Marin, who took exactly half-an-hour to dispose of the Indian's challenge 21-8,

Tzu Ying, ranked second in the world, defeated Rio Olympics silver-medallist Sindhu 21-16 21-16 in the quarterfinal, extending her head-to-head record to 12-5.

This was Sindhu's second consecutive loss to Tzu Ying. She had lost to her in the French Open quarterfinals in October last year.

BENGALURU: Ice Floe, who has been well tuned, is expected to

score in the Bangalore City Police Commissioner Trophy (1,200m),

the main event of the races to be

False rails (width about 6m from

1,600m to the winning post) will

I maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.15 pm: 1. Handsome Rocky (1) K.

Raghu 55, 2, Shanaey (3) Irvan 55,

3. Sizzler (4) Chetan G 55, 4. Born Queen (5) Yash 53.5, 5. Capable (2)

Darshan 53.5, 6. Flamingo Road (7) Srinath 53.5, 7. Hitomi Sakuma

(6) R. Anand 53.5 and 8. Roc Girl

2. FLAMINGO ROAD, 3. SHANAEY

2 Kalhatti falls plate (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35,

2.45: 1. Girl With Pearl (7) T.S. Jodha 60, 2. Asgardia (3) Trevor

57.5, 3. Gazebo Talk (8) Vaibhav

57.5, 4. Azeemki Princess (2) Arvind Kumar 57, 5. Altair (6) Ir-

van 56.5, 6. Indian Star (4) P. Ramesh 56.5, 7. Southern Power

INFANTS PLATE (1,100m),

held here on Saturday (Jan. 11).

be in position.

(8) Jagadeesh 53.5.



Oh no! Saina Nehwal was no match for Spaniard Carolina Marin, losing in just half-an-hour. • AFP

Sindhu was erratic in the start, failing to capitalise on her leads and eventually lost the first game 16-21 to hand a 1-0 advantage to Tzu Ying.

In the second game, Sindhu could do little as Tzu Ying completely dominated the proceedings from start to

Trailing 11-20, Sindhu saved six match points but it came too late as Tzu Ying sealed the game 21-16.

Later in the day, Saina was outplayed by Marin. Saina and Marin were 6-6 in

(9) A. Imran 56.5, 8. Cameleons Image (5) Nazerul 56 and 9. Regal

3 (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o

& over, 3.15: 1. Propine (10) S. John 60, 2. Agnar (5) Arvind Kumar

59.5, 3. Songkran (1) Chetan G 58

4. Red Galileo (8) T.S. Jodha 57.5

5. Cashmere (3) M. Naveen 57, 6

Arrogance (9) Yash 56.5, 7. Indus-

trialist (6) Naveen Kumar 56, 8

Ramon (4) R. Manish 56, 9. Per

fectgoldenera (2) Shrevas Singh

55, 10. Premier Premises (7) Tre-

vor 54.5, 11. Annalease (11) S. Hus

sain 54 and 12. Bazinga (12) Sai

 $4^{\,\,\text{SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE}}_{\,\,(1,100\text{m}),\,\,\text{rated 00 to 20},\,\,3.45:}$ 

1. Bella Mamma (8) A. Vishwanath

60, 2. Gin Daisy (3) S. John 60, 3. Grecian Light (4) Vaibhav 60, 4.

Dontbreaktherules (9) Selvaraj 58.5, 5. Perfect King (5) M. Naveen

2. INDUSTRIALIST, 3. PROPINE

1. PREMIER PREMISES,

Force (1) R. Manish 56.

2. GIRL WITH PEARL,

3. SOUTHERN POWER

1. ASGARDIA,

Ice Floe expected to score

head-to-head before Friday's match.

London Olympics bronzemedallist, Saina was on the backfoot from the word go as Marin took the lead early in the first game at 10-6 and simply outsmarted the Indian to pocket it.

In the second game, the script turned out to be the same as Saina committed a lot of unforced errors allowing Marin to easily run away with the match and a place in the semifinals.

58.5, 6. Kruger Park (7) S. Shareef

58, 7. Kanthaka (6) Sai Kiran 56.5,

8. Princess Amu (1) Nazerul 55 and 9. High Hawk (2) Rayan 50.5.

BANGALORE CITY POLICE

(1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 4.15: 1.

Miniver Rose (11) Dharshan Ant-

ony 60, 2. Commodus (5) Trevor

59.5. 3. Alpha (9) R. Shelar 59. 4.

Spanish Beauty (3) S. John 59, 5. Animal Queen (7) Mark 58.5, 6.

Coloney Harty (2) R. Anand 57, 7.

Ice Floe (8) David Allan 57, 8,

Psychic Warrior (6) Yash 57, 9.

Panama (10) Shrevas Singh 56, 10.

Kimera (4) Arvind Kumar 55.5, 11. Aachen (12) C. Umesh 54 and 12.

Cuban Pete (1) Akshay Kumar

6 MAKARA SANKRANTI TROPHY (1,600m), rated 30 to 50, 4.45:

1. Foi Et Amour (5) David Allan 60,

2. Cavaliere (6) S. John 57, 3. After

TROPHY

1. GIN DAISY

2. KANTHAKA

1. ICE FLOE, 2

3. COMMODUS

. AACHEN,

3. PERFECT KING

5 BANGALUKE COMMISSIONER

# negligence'

Shivangini Gohain, the 12year-old Assam archer who was impaled by an arrow shot accidentally at the SAI centre in Dibrugarh, was training unsupervised and the mishap was a result of negligence by the local coach and officials, the State's archery association has said. The child was training at the Dakha Devi Rasiwasia College at Chabua when the incident took place on Wednesday.

Pulin Das, a joint-secretary of Assam Archery Association (AAA) said the injury happened as the trainees were practising without any coach and other officials. "There is a SAI contractual coach Marcy and he has left for the Khelo Games. He didn't instruct the trainees to stop the camp nor did the college principal, who acted as administrator of the extension centre, looked after the practice," Das told

## 'Archer's iniury due to official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PTI over phone on Friday.

Hours (8) Bhanu Singh 56.5, 4. Alexandre Dumas (9) Akshay Kumar

56.5, 5. Cuban (4) Trevor 56.5, 6

Ideological (3) Antony 56.5, 7. Fotogenic (1) S. Shareef 55.5, 8. Duxton (7) Darshan 54.5 and 9. Smile

KALHATTI FALLS PLATE (Div. 7 I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5.15: 1. High Admiral (7) R. Man-

ony 58.5, 3. Find (8) S. John 57.5

4. Legendary Princess (3) David Allan 57, 5. Alberto (4) Akshay Ku-mar 56, 6. King Of The Sand (2) A.

Imran 56, 7. Nawabzaadi (6) T.S. Jodha 56, 8. Star Citizen (9)

Chetan G 56 and 9. Augustina (5)

Double: BORN QUEEN - GIN DAISY

Of Joy (2) Rayan 53.

2. FOI ET AMOUR,

3. CAVALIERE

C. Umesh 54.5.

1. KNOTTY OAK,

3. ALBERTO

2. LEGENDARY PRINCESS,

Day's best: ICE FLOE

1. ALEXANDRE DUMAS,

### on February 2 KOLKATA More than 9000 runners

Kolkata marathon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

have registered for the fourth edition of the IDBI Federal Life Insurance Kolkata Marathon to be held on February 2.

Certified by Association of International Marathons and Distance Races and Athletics Federation of India, the event will have the marathon, half-marathon and timed 10k and 5k races.

Sachin Tendulkar is expected to flag off the run from the Rangers Ground, Red Road. The marathon will begin at 4:30 a.m., followed by the half-marathon at 6:30 a.m., 10k at 7:45 a.m. and 5k at 8:15 a.m.

Interested runners can register on http://www.kolkatafullmarathon.com. The registration fees are ₹1350 for the full marathon, ₹1110 for half-marathon, ₹850 for 10K and ₹600 for 5k.

## Siddhesh for Divyansh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Siddhesh Veer of Maharashtra will replace Divyansh Joshi in the World Cup

India U-19 squad: Priyam Garg (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak

Varma, Divyaansh Saxena, Dhruv Chand Jurel (Vice-Capt. & wk). Shashwat Rawat. Siddhesh Veer, Shubhang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankolekar, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Sushant Mishra and Vidvadhar Patil.

## Katz to meet Collignon for title

SPORTS BUREAU CHANDIGARH

It will be an all-Belgian affair as Martin Katz set up a title clash with Raphael Collignon in the boys' section of the ITF grade-3 junior tennis tournament on Friday.

The girls' final will be between Mika Dagan Fruchtman and Sabrina Kalandarov of Israel.

The results (semifinals):

Boys: Martin Katz (Bel) bt Jean Marc Malkowski (Sui) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Raphael Collignon (Bel) bt Han Chih Lin (Tpe) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. Doubles: Collignon & Katz bt Aditya Vardhan Roy Chowdhury & Dhruv Tanri 6-2, 7-5; Taym Alazmeh (Syr) & Tanapatt Nirundorn (Tha) bt Uddayvir Singh & V.M. Sandeep 6-3,

Girls: Mika Dagan Fruchtman (Isr) bt Juliette Bovy (Bel) 6-3, 7-6(9); Sabrina Kalandarov (Isr) bt Jiagi Huang (Chn) 6-3, 6-3. **Doubles:** Jasmine Conway (GBr) & Alessandra Simone (Ita) bt Yaroslava Bartashevich (Rus) & Amelia Waligora (Bel) 6-4, 6-4; Jiaqi Huang (Chn) & Yu-Yun Li (Tpe) bt Hu Xinyue (Chn) & Kim Yujin (Kor) 6-3,

## Bopanna & Koolhof duo wins title



Cool customers: Wesley Koolhof and Rohan Bopanna emerged champions in the ATP Qatar Open doubles

### **INDIANS ABROAD**

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna and Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands defeated Luke Bambridge and Santiago Gonzalez 3-6, 6-2, [10-6] to win the first doubles title of the season in the \$1,465,260 ATP tennis tournament here on Friday.

The third-seeded Indo-Dutch pair, which had earlier in the day knocked out the second seeds Henri Kontinen and Franco Skugor 7-5, 6-2, picked up 250 ATP points and \$76,870.

Meanwhile, Ankita Raina entered the semifinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's event in Bendigo, Australia, with a walkover from third seed Sachia Vickery of the US.

In the \$15,000 women's event in Monastir, Tunisia,

semifinals with a straight-set victory over Martyna Kubka of Poland, and the doubles semifinals in with Anastasia Tikhonova

Zeel Desai made the singles

The results:

\$1,465,260 ATP, Doha: Doubles (final): Wesley Koolhof (Ned) & Rohan Bopanna bt Luke Bambridge (GBr) & Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) 3-6, 6-2, [10-6]. Semifinals: Koolhof & Bopanna bt Henri Kontinen (Fin) & Franko Skugor (Cro)

\$25,000 ITF women, Bendigo, Australia: Quarterfinals: Ankita Raina w/o Sachia Vickery

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Martyna Kubka (Pol) 7-5, 6-4. Doubles: Anastasia Tikhonova (Rus) & Zeel bt Victoria Muntean (Fra) & Sabina Sharipova (Uzb) 5-7, 6-3, [12-

### Chennaiyin thrashes Hyderabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chennaiyin FC registered a 3-0 win over Hyderabad FC in the Hero ISL match here on Friday.

The visitors took the lead in the 40th minute, thanks to Rafael Crivellaro who showed fine opportunism to slam home a cross from Nerijus Valskis.

Three minutes later, Valskis' scorching left-footer beat a diving Kamaljit Singh. In the 65th minute, he scored again from close

Marcelo reduced the margin for Hyderabad in the 88th minute.

The result: Hyderabad FC 1 (Marcelo 88) lost to Chennaiyin FC 3 (Crivellaro 40, Valskis

### Double delight for Armaan

SPORTS BUREAU

Fifth seed Armaan Bhatia defeated top seed Ishaque Eqbal 6-3, 7-6(6) in the final of the Gondwana Cup ₹2.5 lakh AITA men's ranking tennis tournament here on Friday.

The winner was presented ₹31,250 while the runner-up got ₹21,000.

It was a double crown for Armaan, as he and Eqbal won the doubles title, beating the Qamar brothers from Jaipur, Faisal and Fardeen, 10-7 in the super tie-break.

The results (finals): Armaan Bhatia bt Ishaque Eqbal 6-3. 7-6(6). **Doubles:** Armaan & Eqbal bt Faisal Qamar & Fardeen Qamar 5-7, 6-3, [10-7].

### PBL: last leg moved to Hyderabad

SPORTS REPORTER BENGALURU

The last leg of Premier Badminton League (PBL) season five, which was scheduled to be held at Bengaluru from February 5-9, has been shifted to Hyderabad, the PBL stated in a media release.

### Real Kashmir holds Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SRINAGAR

Real Kashmir FC played out a 1-1 draw against former champion Punjab FC in its home I-League match here on Friday.

The 'Snow Leopards' equalised in the 62nd minute through Gnohere Krizo in front of a partisan crowd of 8,500 after Makan Chothe had given Punjab FC the lead in the 21st

After Thursday's draw, Punjab FC is placed third on the table with 10 points from seven games. Real Kashmir FC remains at eighth with six points from

"We played extremely well. It was a tough game," said Real Kashmir FC cofounder Sandeep Chattoo. The result: Real Kashmir 1 (Gnohere Krizo 62) drew with Punjab FC (Makan Chothe 21).

## Allow MAM Ramaswamy Trust horses to participate: Madras HC's directive to MRC

Judge says jockeys of the trust entitled to wear the gold-brown belt jersey

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.

The Madras High Court on Friday restrained Madras Race Club (MRC) from directly or indirectly preventing the participation of horses owned by Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust, represented by A.C. Muthiah, in its rac-

The court also ordered that the jockeys of the Trust should be allowed to wear the gold-brown belt jersey.

Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy further allowed the Trust to take its horses from the custody of the club for participation in races across the country When it was brought to the

notice of the judge that the next set of races was to commence from Tuesday, he ordered that the horses of the trust should be allowed forthwith to participate in the handicap and classic races.

The interim orders were passed on a civil suit filed by the Trust to declare as illegal, null and void a decision taken by MRC's Stewards Committee on December 26 to not allow the horses of the trust to participate in its races.

**Dispute** 

Tracing the history of the dispute, the judge recalled that industrialist M.A.M. Ramaswamy owned a large number of horses before his death on December 2, 2015.

Those horses participated in races conducted at MRC and other racing centres in the country. In April 2008, he had executed a power of attorney in favour of trainer Robert Foley with the respect to the horses.

Thereafter, disputes arose between him and his adopted son M.A.M.R. Muthiah.

In February 2015, the industrialist formed two trusts, one a public trust titled Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust and a private trust named Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar

The ownership of the horses were reportedly transferred by Mr. Foley to the private trust on November 16, 2015. However, pursuant to the death of the industrial-

ist, all properties, including the horses, owned by the private trust had supposedly got transferred to the public

Further, the public trust too, on its own, had purchased 62 more horses from various breeders since December 2015 and registered them under the MRC rules of

The trust now complained that MRC was preventing the 62 horses from participating after M.A.M.R. Muthiah had got elected as the chairman of the club in November 2019.

Club's contention

Denying the charge, the club informed the court that the decision to prevent the horses of the club was taken by a six-member Stewards Committee comprising of members with a sterling reputation and unimpeachable integrity. It was also pointed out that Mr. Muthiah was consciously not made part of the committee to avoid conflict of interest.

On the merits of the dispute, the club stated that its

tion of a public trust as owners of horses since the owner must be a legal owner and not an equitable owner. After hearing both sides,

rules do not permit registra-

the judge concluded that the public trust had made out a strong prima facie case for grant of interim orders since its horses had been participating in the races conducted by MRC for the last four years. He also did not find any prohibition in the rules of club for the participation of horses owned by a public