

IN BRIEF



Olympics flame festivities scaled back
Tokyo
Tokyo 2020 organisers said on Tuesday they were scaling back parts of the Olympic torch relay due to the coronavirus pandemic, but that spectators would still be allowed to watch from the roadside. Welcome ceremonies will no longer take place and departure ceremonies will be closed to the public. Torch-bearers with high temperature will be prevented from running their section of the relay. AFP



Maxwell goes all Indian for his engagement
Melbourne
Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell wore a sherwani and sported a 'tilak' during his Indian-style engagement ceremony to long-time partner Vini Raman here. Last month, Maxwell had announced his engagement with Vini, who he had been dating for quite a few years. IANS

Punjab govt. award for boxer Simranjit Kaur
Chandigarh
The Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday announced a cash award of ₹5 lakh for boxer Simranjit Kaur, who recently qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. The Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi assured that the Sports Department would provide her a suitable government job as per her eligibility. PTI

BFI employees to work from home
New Delhi
The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has decided to ask all its officials and employees to work from home from Wednesday in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We will review the situation after a week and take a call on how long to continue with it after that," BFI Executive Director R.K. Sacheti said. PTI

21-year-old football coach in Spain dies
Madrid
A 21-year-old youth football coach has died in Malaga after contracting COVID-19, his club said. Francisco Garcia, a youth team coach of Spanish league second division side Atletico Portada Alta, was found to be suffering from leukaemia. PTI

The Games that became the 'Missing Olympics'

Tokyo's 1940 bid was spearheaded by Jigoro Kano, the founder of modern judo and first Japanese member of the IOC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TOKYO
Fears are growing that this year's Olympics may be postponed or axed because of the coronavirus pandemic but Japan has been here before — the cancelled summer Games of 1940 were also due to be hosted in Tokyo.
Japan's military aggression in Asia forced the annulment of what became known as the "Missing Olympics" after the Games were switched to Helsinki before finally being scrapped because of World War II.
Tokyo officials originally touted a bid for the 1940 Games as a way to show the city had recovered from the devastating 1923 earthquake, according to author David Goldblatt in his history of the Olympics entitled "The Games".

'Recovery Games'
In much the same way, Japan has framed the 2020 Olympics as the "Recovery Games" — a chance to show the country is back on its feet after the catastrophic 2011 triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown.
Tokyo's 1940 bid was

spearheaded by Jigoro Kano, the founder of modern judo and first Japanese member of the International Olympic Committee, who stressed the importance of bringing the Games to Asia for the first time.
"I carry a grave resolve. The Olympics should naturally come to Japan. If they don't, the reason for this must be something unjust," said Kano in his plea to the IOC.

The Japanese had a special reason for wanting to celebrate 1940, as it coincided with the 2,600th year since the enthronement of the nation's legendary first emperor, Jimmu. Tokyo launched an official bid in 1932 and found themselves up against Rome and Helsinki.

Japan engaged in a fierce lobbying campaign that included pleading with Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini to step aside in their favour.
"In the you-scratch-my-back kind of deal that has become the norm in international sports politics, Mussolini announced with unusual candour, 'We will waive our claim for 1940 in favour of Ja-

pan if Japan will support Italy's effort to get the XIIIth Olympiad for Rome in 1944," wrote Goldblatt.

With just Tokyo and Helsinki left standing, the IOC plumped for the Japanese capital by 37 votes to 26.

'Cultural diplomacy'
Before the bid had been tabled, Japan in 1931 invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria and two years later withdrew from the League of Nations — the precursor to the United Nations — after the body refused to sanction the occupation.
The Olympic bid was therefore also an attempt to shore up international diplomacy, according to Asato Ikeda, assistant professor at Fordham University, New York, who has written about the 1940 Games.

Japan's bid was "part of its international cultural diplomacy in order to ameliorate the relationship with the Western democratic nations, especially Britain and the United States," Ikeda wrote in an essay in the Asia-Pacific Journal.

As preparations for the Games gathered pace, a sche-

dule was drawn up and posters were printed. The Opening Ceremony was set for September 21, 1940.

There were some hiccups though, including questions about whether the Emperor could declare the Games open, as the Japanese then held him to be semi-divine and therefore unable to be seen and heard by ordinary citizens.

'No other course'
As diplomatic pressure grew on Japan from outside, there was increasing clamour inside the country for cash to be diverted for military purposes.

Japanese diplomats at the time voiced concern in cables back to Tokyo that powers such as Britain and the United States could boycott the Games over Japan's war-like activity. Yet, in words familiar to those following the story of the 2020 Games, Tokyo insisted the show would go on.

Barker cites a cable from Tokyo City Hall to the IOC which said: "The citizens of Tokyo are doing their utmost to make the 1940 Games a success." But the Japanese Olympic Committee even-

tually bowed to the inevitable and forfeited in July 1938, saying what they euphemistically called "the trouble with China" had made staging the Games impossible.

"The organising committee and the people of Japan were deeply disappointed in having to give up the Games, but, in the circumstances, no other course was open," the "Olympic News" bulletin published in Tokyo wrote at the time.

"With the worsening international relations and increasing military activities in the Asian continent, the cancellation might not have been that surprising," Ikeda said.

The Winter Games, due to be held in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo, were also scrapped and the war put paid to the proposed rescheduling in the Finnish capital.

The next time the Olympic torch was lit was for London in 1948, four years after the city had originally been due to host. But Japan, as a defeated power, was excluded and Helsinki staged the next summer Games in 1952.

Tokyo finally became the first Asian city to host the Olympic Games in 1964.



A poster of the 1940 Olympic Games. ■ FILE PHOTO

Japan Olympic panel official has coronavirus

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TOKYO

Japan Olympic Committee deputy chief Kozo Tashima said on Tuesday he had contracted coronavirus.

"Today, my test result showed positive for the new coronavirus," Tashima said in a statement, issued via the Japan Football Association, which he also heads.

"I have a mild fever. Examinations showed a symptom of pneumonia, but I'm fine. I will concentrate on treatment following doctors' advice," he said.

Tashima said he had been on a business trip since February 28, first heading to Belfast to attend the annual general meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

From March 2, he visited Amsterdam for a Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) meeting to give a presentation on Japan's bid for the 2023 women's World Cup.

And On March 3, he attended a general meeting of the same body.

"In Amsterdam and in Europe in early March, the level of nervousness against the novel coronavirus was not the same as now," he said in the statement.

"Everyone was still doing hugs, handshakes and kisses (cheek kissing)."

He then travelled to the United States to watch the Japanese women's team in action and to lobby for the wo-



Kozo Tashima. ■ AFP

I have a mild fever. Examinations showed a symptom of pneumonia, but I'm fine. I will concentrate on treatment following doctors' advice

men's World Cup, before returning home on March 8.
"In the United States, too, the sense of crisis about the novel coronavirus was not as serious as now," he said.

Staff at the Japan FA have been working from home as a precaution against the virus, but Tashima said he went to the association building several times last week and attended meetings. He began feeling chills and experienced a mild fever from Sunday. He went to a local public health centre on Monday and told them about his travel history.

During the UEFA gatherings, Tashima said he saw Swiss and Serbian football chiefs, who have tested positive for the virus, although he added it was not clear how he contracted the infection.

Prithviraj Tondaiman tops trap event

Darshna pips Areeba in women's skeet; Shreyasi reigns

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prithviraj Tondaiman shot 120 out of 125 in men's trap in topping the Olympic selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Tuesday.

As there are no finals for these trials, the qualification scores are final. Olympian Kynan Chenai was two points behind Tondaiman, while the young Manavadiya Singh Rathore shot 117.

These scores go into the overall moving average of the shooters, in deciding their status in their respective events.

With the world in the grip of coronavirus outbreak, it may be hard to focus on the trials. More so for the trap shooters, who do not have an Olympic quota to fight for, as only the skeet shooters Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Mairaj Ahmad Khan had managed to win the Olympic quota with gold and silver medals in the Asian Championship.

In fine form
Angad himself was in fine form as he shot 121, five points more than the next best score by Gurjoat Singh. Mairaj Khan could muster only 115, as he struggled with a string of low scores.

In women's skeet, Darshna Rathore shot 117, two points clear of Areeba Khan. In women's trap, Shreyasi Singh topped with 112.

The shotgun shooters will have two sets of trials, to compensate for the two World Cups that they missed in Nicosia, Cyprus and Delhi. Some shooters will have the option of skipping the second trial.

In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, in which India has not won an Olympic quota, Arpit Goel topped with 586, one point ahead of Vijayveer Sidhu. Olympian Gurpreet Singh was woefully off colour, especially with scores of 82 and 80 in the 4-second

series.

The results:
Men: 25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Arpit Goel 586; 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 585; 3. Anish Bhanwala 583; 4. Udhayveer Sidhu 573; 5. Gurpreet Singh 557.

Trap: 1. Prithviraj Tondaiman 120; 2. Kynan Chenai 118; 3. Manavadiya Singh Rathore 117; 4. Jungsher Singh Virk 113; 5. Manavjit Singh Sandhu 111.

Skeet: 1. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 121; 2. Gurjoat Singh 116; 3. Amrinder Singh Cheema 116; 4. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 115.

Women: Trap: 1. Shreyasi Singh 112; 2. Kirti Gupta 111; 3. Rajeshwari Kumari 108; 4. Seema Tomar 104.

Skeet: 1. Darshna Rathore 117; 2. Areeba Khan 115; 3. Ganemat Sekhon 110; 4. Jasmeen Kaur 109.

Hockey junior Nationals postponed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Hockey India announced that the junior men's National championships here (A & B division) have been postponed due to Covid-19.

The B division Nationals scheduled from April 15 to 26 will now be held from May 14 to May 21 while the A division scheduled from April 10 to 17 will now take place from May 19 to 30 (both at SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here), according to a release from Hockey India.

"Keeping in mind the safety of the players, Hockey India has taken a decision to postpone the annual National Championships for junior, sub-junior men and women categories. Although we have announced the new dates for these national championships, Hockey India will continue to monitor and evaluate the Covid19 situation in India and we will be prepared for any scenario," Hockey India President Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad said.

Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu President Sekar J Manoharan told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday that "given the situation it is understandable [on the postponement]. We are happy and will be ready to host the Nationals in May. We will now hold the camp in April."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12886

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11						12	
13				14			
	17	18				19	20
21						22	
23						24	
25						26	
27						28	

■ ACROSS

- Most idiotic celebration cut short by lawyer's force (8)
- Relative endlessly caring for little bird (6)
- Animal eating away top of tree in clumsy act (7)
- Around early morning sees bats and cat (7)

(set by Gridman)

- Talk of boy recalled route taken (9)
- Predict for Oriental diocese (7)
- Amount received is coming for ever and smoothly, apparently (6)
- "Pigs" — Cameraman's botched plan to disgrace someone (5,8)
- Furiously Cain hums to such an extent (8)
- Even if you ___ of here, you've got the answer (4,3)
- Relatives play out Scene I (6)
- Er... he's...(Result of absolute drive) (5,8)
- Mad, mad grandee finally rehabilitated (8)
- Take me back to the limits of Puducherry — near intimations of heaven (8)
- New input among transformed Tories is yet to come (2,5)
- Monster and insect without a main outlet (7)
- Drink stashed away by domestic assistant (6)
- Tears up each plant (6)

■ DOWN

- Is very generous — what an archaeologist does (4,4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12885

S	P	R	I	T	P	L	U	S	P	O	I	N	T
Q	U	U	A	N	R	N	I	W					
U	N	M	A	R	R	I	E	D	U	N	T	I	E
A	B	N	S	E	N	R	E						
R	I	O	J	A	L	A	R	G	E	N	I	S	T
E													
O	B	E	S	I	T								
N	T	D											
E	S	C	H	E	W	S							
E													
E	S	T	A	B	L	I	S	H					
N	E	A	L	N	O	L	L						
D	I	R	G	E	T	A	R	P	A	U	L	I	N
U	A	E	E	T	T	O	E						
P	A	S	S	P	O	R	T	S	E	L	D	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The three gunas

The whole of prakriti or nature is constituted of the three gunas, satva, rajasa and tamasa, and the Lord is the creator and controller of these. But He is not under their sway. Among them, Satva is superior to rajasa and tamasa better than tamasa. People, the wealthy, the strong, the intelligent, are all bound by the gunas that are nothing but mental states, temperaments or thoughts. So, everyone is a necessary combination of the three gunas.

But human beings are blessed having been given a choice to improve and try to convert from tamasa to rajasa and then to satva, pointed out Srimati Sunanda in a discourse. The nature of satva is shown to be expressed as calmness, purity, tranquillity, harmony and a sense of equilibrium. When satva prevails, one is calm and serene and has noble thoughts. Rajasa is seen as activity in desire, power and energy and so when rajasa is dominant, one is hopeful, ambitious and so on. Tamasa is seen as inertia and is expressed as dullness, laziness, weakness, etc. When under tamasa, one tends to lack incentive. Moreover, the three gunas and their manifestations in the universe keep the people engrossed in the world to such an extent that they do not recognise the Paramatma, who is their cause, even as the sun is not perceived by people when it is hidden behind the clouds.

One should train oneself to identify the inherent predominant tendency in oneself that governs the nature of one's thoughts. By practice of bhakti, vairagya, nishkama karma and so on, it is possible to shed the effects of tamasa and rajasa and maintain satva. But one has to learn to rise above satva too, says Krishna. Only then is he a Gunatita and is eligible to be established in atma jnana. As long as one is ruled by the gunas, one cannot hope for salvation.