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WALT AIR TIMES

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House Journal of The Waltair Club, Visakhapatnam

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From the President's Desk



Dear members,

Greetings!

May we all have a great new year after the unprecedented pandemic in 2020. I would like to bring to your notice that Special Investigation Team has issued a notice to the Club regarding the ownership of Club land. There are some rumours making rounds that Club would be taken over. I request all the members not to panic and not to entertain any fake news. Club is safe according to the Land Committee and Club Legal Counsel. In order to handle the issue, we have appointed a Land Committee headed by senior advocate Mr. Rama Das that would probe into the issue. We are also planning to conduct an EGM shortly to discuss in detail the above said matter.

We had a special guest on 7th January to our Club, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, His Excellency Sri Bandaru Dattatreya. He expressed his happiness visiting our Club and interacting with our members. He said that the Club building resembles a heritage building of Shimla. Ladies Committee organised Cake mixing event and Christmas party which were well attended and enjoyed by the members. Sunday Special Menu has become a super hit, having great demand from the members.

Let's look forward to a great 2021. I once again wish you all a very happy new year!

Best Regards,

P.Phaneendra Babu

MANAGING COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE MEMBERS		EDITORIAL BOARD
President Mr.P.Phaneendra Babu P-88 7997488488	Sports Mr. Jasti Srikanth S-819 9848015757	Bar Mr.G.Sivaji S-526 9866113311	Chairman Mr. M.A.Murale M-115
Vice-President Mr.M.A.Murale M-115 9848146580	General Services Mr. Vijaya Mohan Talasila V-254 9440190111	Library, Chamber & Erp Mr. Jogendra Suryadevara J-064 9177971799	Editor Dr. Hema Yadavalli H-22
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Hon. Treasurer Mr.D.Srinivas S-430 9849114535	Catering Mr.T.Rajesh Kumar R-383 9848755599	Ladies Sub-Committee Miss.Ch.Bhavya B-138 9866128900	

WALTAIR CLUB PROPERTY-REGARDING

Of late newspapers are publishing several stories about the Waltair Club property to needlessly sensationalize the issue. Many of the members are expressing their concern and anxiety at such news reports. Therefore it is felt necessary to apprise the members of the club about the relevant facts.

The Waltair Club was established in the years 1883 at the place where it now stands by taking the land on lease from one late Perla Narayana Chetty of Vizianagaram. Later in the year 1896 some more land on the north-eastern was also taken on lease from the same lessor where tennis courts, open air theatre etc., of the club existed. Later on 16.05.1900 Sri Perla Narayana Chetti executed a registered lease deed in favour of the Club for the total extent of Ac 31.87 cs., on an yearly rent of Rs. 39. The lease was perpetual in nature and the Club was given the liberty and right to make sheds, buildings, roads, drains and any other works on the leased land. There is no provision in the Lease Deed for surrendering the lease even in case of default in payment of rents.

While so in the year 1922 the then Visakhapatnam Municipality conducted survey of the properties situated within the municipal limits and assigned Town Survey numbers to the same and noted the persons who were having rights over the same. Accordingly the property in the possession of Waltair Club was assigned Town Survey numbers 1012, 1016, 1018 and 1021. It was noted therein that the Club was a permanent lessee of the land and that four houses were existing in T.S.No. 1012, tiled house with racquet court in T.S.No.1016 and ten tiled houses and thatched houses in T.S.No.1021. While so, later the then State of Madras of which Visakhapatnam was part enacted the Madras Estates Abolition Act, 1948 [later renamed as Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Estates Abolition Act] where under all the estates including Waltair Estate were abolished. As per Section 18 (4) and (5) of the Act every building in the estates together with site on which it stands and adjacent premises occupied as an appurtenance thereto stood vested in the person who owned building. Accordingly the land occupied by the buildings as well as the adjacent land stood vested in Waltair Club. A Ground Rent Patta was also issued by the Settlement Officer, Anakapalle in the year 1961 for the lands of Waltair Club and the genuineness of the same was confirmed by the Settlement Officer, Visakhapatnam in the same year.

Later the lands covered by T.S. Nos. 1012, 1016 and 1018 were acquired from time to time by the Government and VUDA and compensation was paid. However two small portions of those lands were sold away by the Club and one part at the extreme north-eastern side was given away to the Officers' Club. Waltair Club is now left with the land in T.S.No.1021 measuring about Ac.14.13 cents, after part of the land was acquired by the Government for formation of road.

So far as the Ground Rent Patta granted to the Club is concerned, the same was challenged by the Tahasildar, Visakhapatnam before the Government statutory authorities which were not successful. Ultimately on 01.03.2013 a notice was issued by the government to the Club to show cause why the lease in favour of the Club shall not be cancelled contending that the case of the Club falls under Section 20 of the Estates Abolition Act as the land is leased land and that after the said Act came into force all the rights and obligations under the lease shall be enforced by or against the Government. In fact Section 20 applies only to those cases which are not covered by Section 18 and 19. The Club filed Writ Petition in the High Court challenging the show cause notice and the same is numbered as W.P.13227 of 2013 and the High Court also granted stay of further actions by the Government until further orders. The Writ Petition is still pending. When the Government issued separate proceedings for recovery of compensation amount of Rs. 37 lakhs paid to the Club together with interest thereon, making in all Rs.1.81 crores, another Writ Petition is filed by the Club in the High Court numbered as W.P.10147 of 2013 and orders of stay are granted by the High Court. The same is also pending in the High Court.

So far as SIT (Special Investigation Team) is concerned the same is not a statutory body. It is constituted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to examine all records, conduct comprehensive enquiry and submit its report to the Government. Except for doing the same SIT has no other powers.

Finally I would like to state that the Executive Committee is sparing no effort to protect and safeguard the interests of the club in this regard.

(P. PHANEENDRA BABU)

HON. PRESIDENT

Announcements

1. All Members are requested to Contribute Rs.300 towards Contribution for Christmas and Pongal gifts for our staff members. Kindly note that the above mentioned amount will be debited to your account and members are requested to co-operate.
2. Republic Day Flag hoisting on 26th January, 2021 at 9.00 A.M. Followed by Breakfast. Members are requested to attend the same
3. Members are hereby informed that an amount of Rs 100 will be debited every month till further notice towards the Land Legal Fund to meet the legal expenses of the land matter. Members are requested to cooperate.

Member Honour



P L K Murthy, M-324, Proprietor of Visakha Ads has been elected as Chairman of Public Relations Society of India Visakhapatnam Chapter for the year 2020-22. Earlier he has served as President of Rotary Club Visakha Port city. He is currently Public Relations Chairman , Rotary International District-3020, Member of Andhra Pradesh Air travellers Association and Bharat Vikas Parishat. He is currently involved in many social causes in Visakhapatnam being a Swachh Bharat ambassador.



Jasti Srikanth(S-819) Chairman-Sports Committee, Chairman and Managing Director Sun Educational Institutions contributed an amount of Rs. 5,00,000 towards developing main grounds Basket Ball court and lighting facility.

Winners of Tambola held on 26.12.2020



1st Prize Winner - Mrs.Hamsini
W/o. Mr.V.K.Gupta (M.no.G-72)



2nd Prize Winners - Mrs.Pushpalatha
W/o Mr.P.V.N.B.Srinivas (M.no.S-999),
Mrs.K.Sailusha W/o. Mr.K.V.Avinash
(M.no. A-190), Mrs.Nirmala Devi
W/o. Dr. Satish Kumar Arya (M.no.S-869)



3rd Prize -
Mr.K.V.V.Satyanarayana
(M.NO.S-290)

MEMBERS DIRECTORY UPDATE

This is to request all the members to kindly send their current address, in case of any change, to the Club Office by 15th February 2021.
This will enable us to provide correct information in the New Directory.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the sad demise of our senior member.



Dr. BHARATH KUMAR
(M.NO.B-80)-EXPIRED
ON 04.01.2021

Himachal Governor's visit

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, His Excellency Sri Bandaru Dattatreya visited our Club on 7th January. He expressed his happiness visiting our Club. He planted saplings in the Club and then interacted with some of the members. He said that the Club building resembles a heritage building of Shimla.



We LOVE **OUR** WALTAIR CLUB

Dear Members

We are proud to announce that, for the first time in the history of Waltair Club, we are bringing out a Coffee Table Book showcasing the glorious journey of 135 years of **OUR** Club. Members can suggest a suitable title for the book which will be acknowledged in the book.

Let's celebrate the glory of our Club !!

Managing Committee

Editorial Team

Suggestions can be mailed to info@waltairclub.com
mentioning **COFFEE TABLE BOOK TITLE** in the subject



**WALT AIR
PRES
VIJ JIS FO**



SPORTS CARNIVAL

DAY	DATE	GAMES	TIME
DAY-1	06-02-2021 (SATURDAY)	LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30PM
		SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		VOLLEY BALL	4:30 PM
DAY-2	07-02-2021 (SUNDAY)	LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30PM
		SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		VOLLEY BALL	04:30 PM
DAY-3	08-02-2021 (MONDAY)	LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30PM
		SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		FOOT BALL	03:30 PM
DAY-4	09-02-2021 (TUESDAY)	SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		FOOT BALL	05:00 PM
DAY-5	10-02-2021 (WEDNESDAY)	BADMINTON (WOMEN) (MEN AND WOMEN DOUBLES)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		SQUASH (MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		TABLE TENNIS (WOMEN & CHILDREN)	03:30 PM
		MOTHER & CHILD GAMES	05:00 PM
		WALKING (MEN & WOMEN)	6:30 AM & 4:30 PM
		SQUASH(WOMEN, MEN & CHILDREN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
DAY-6	11-02-2021 (THURSDAY)	BADMINTON(WOMEN, MEN & WOMEN DOUBLES)	03:30 PM
		TABLE TENNIS(WOMEN & CHILDREN)	10:00 AM
		SNOOKER	03:30 PM
		IRON MAN (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		CYCLING (MEN & WOMEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		RUNNING (MEN & WOMEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		SQUASH (MEN & WOMEN, CHILDREN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
DAY-7	12-02-2021 (FRIDAY)	SNOOKER	10:00 AM
		CHEF COMPETITION	12:00 PM
		BADMINTON(WOMEN)	03:30 PM
		TABLE TENNIS (WOMEN & CHILDREN)	03:30 PM
		CARROMS (MEN & WOMEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		CHESS (MEN & WOMEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		PAINTING (MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN)	03:30 PM
		RANGOLI (WOMEN)	03:30 PM
		KHO-KHO (MEN & WOMEN)	05:00 PM
		SQUASH(MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
DAY-8	13-02-2021 (SATURDAY)	SNOOKER	10:00 AM
		BADMINTON(WOMEN)	03:30 PM
		CARROM & CHESS	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		TUG OF WAR (WOMEN)	04:00 PM
		TUG OF WAR (MEN)	05:00 PM

R CLUB EVENTS FOUNDATION



IVAL 2020 - 21



DAY	DATE	GAMES	TIME
DAY-9	14-02-2021 (SUNDAY)	VOLLEY BALL SENIORS	06:30 AM
		LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		CAR RALLY (MEN & WOMEN)	09:00AM
		SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		ALL CHILDREN GAMES	03:30 PM
		THROW BALL (WOMEN)	03:30 PM
		KABADDI (MEN)	05:00 PM
DAY-10	15-02-2021 (MONDAY)	BADMINTON (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		SNOOKER	10:00 AM
DAY-11	16-02-2021 (TUESDAY)	TABLE TENNIS (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		BADMINTON (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		GYM	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
DAY-12	17-02-2021 (WEDNESDAY)	SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		TABLE TENNIS (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		BADMINTON (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		GYM	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		SNOOKER	10:00 AM
		BILLIARDS	10:00AM
		TABLE TENNIS (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
DAY-13	18-02-2021 (THURSDAY)	BASKET BALL	05:00 PM
		BADMINTON (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		YOGA	06:30 AM & 04:30 PM
		SNOOKERS	10:00 AM
		BILLIARDS	10:00 AM
		TABLE TENNIS (MEN)	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		BASKET BALL	05:00 PM
DAY-14	19-02-2021 (FRIDAY)	CRICKET SENIORS	05:30 PM
		LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		YOGA	10:00 AM
		SNOOKER	05:00 PM
DAY-15	20-02-2021 (SATURDAY)	CRICKET	03:30 PM
		LAWN TENNIS	06:30 AM & 03:30 PM
		SNOOKER	10:00 AM
DAY-16	21-02-2021 (SUNDAY)	CRICKET	03:30 PM
		PRIZE DISTRIBUTION EVENT	05 : 00 PM Onwards (Main Grounds)





WALT AIR CLUB
PRESENTS
VIJ JIS FOUNDATION



CHAMPIONS

SPORTS CARIN VAL 2020 - 21

CRICKET TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY

19TH & 20TH

2021



Hotel Apsara



VIVEK KUMAR SAHU
OWNER



VIKRANTH
CAPTAIN



Sreekanya
CINEGLITZ



SESHU BABU
OWNER



LATIF
CAPTAIN



Best Western PLUS
Tejvivaan



SHRIKANTH
OWNER



AVINASH
CAPTAIN



MANTENA RAVI TEJA
OWNER



AKHIL
CAPTAIN



RAHUL GANAPATHI
OWNER



KRANTI KIRAN
CAPTAIN



SHASHANK REDDY
OWNER



DEELIP ARVIND
CAPTAIN





WALT AIR CLUB
PRESENTS
VIJ JIS FOUNDATION



SPORTS CARNIVAL 2020 - 21

VOLLEY BALL TOURNAMENT



Srikanth Jasti
Owner



Mallik Varma
Captain

FEBRUARY
6TH & 7TH
2021



Anji Babu
Owner



Sridhar T
Captain



Polisetti Narasimha Rao
Owner



Krishnakanth
Captain



Subba Rayudu Neikanti
Owner



Aditya Ravi
Captain



Balaji Gupta
Owner



Anandh Katineni
Captain



Vinay
Owner



Manik Raj
Captain

Prudhiv Constructions
Engineers and Batch Mix & Holmix Contractors



Kishore Pinnaka
Owner



Srikanth Kalva
Captain

VIJAYNAGAR
bioTech



DV Raju
Owner



Venkat Phani
Captain

CAKE MIXING EVENT



Christmas is no fun without the traditional Christmas cake. The Christmas spirit came alive at The Waltair Club as we celebrated our annual cake mixing ceremony for Children & Ladies of Waltair Club. The event took place at the food court on 11th Dec' 20. The event was elaborately arranged complete with colourful balloons and stars all over, a fully-decorated Christmas tree with gifts under it and Christmas carols playing in the background.

Plastic gloves, tissue aprons, caps and masks were distributed to all and everybody moved towards the 24 feet long steel table on which the ingredients were kept. The chopped, grated and sliced dried fruits were not just heaped on the table but were laid out in colourful combination in the shapes of a Snowman and Santa Claus. Accompanied with lot of cheering, litres of rum was gradually added to the mix. While the fruits will add an element of natural sweetness, the richly dark colour and the intense flavour will come from the liquor added. The cake mixture is kept in storage to mature until around Christmas when it will be blended with the cake batter and baked and distributed amongst the members during the Christmas eve.







Christmas is the festival which inspires the spirit of sharing and caring.

Soaking in the spirit of Christmas, Waltair Club Ladies Committee 2020-21 celebrated the festival with enthusiasm and following the MHA guidelines on December 24, 2020 at the jubilee grounds, Waltair Club.

The theme of the programme was The Chocolaty X-Mas.

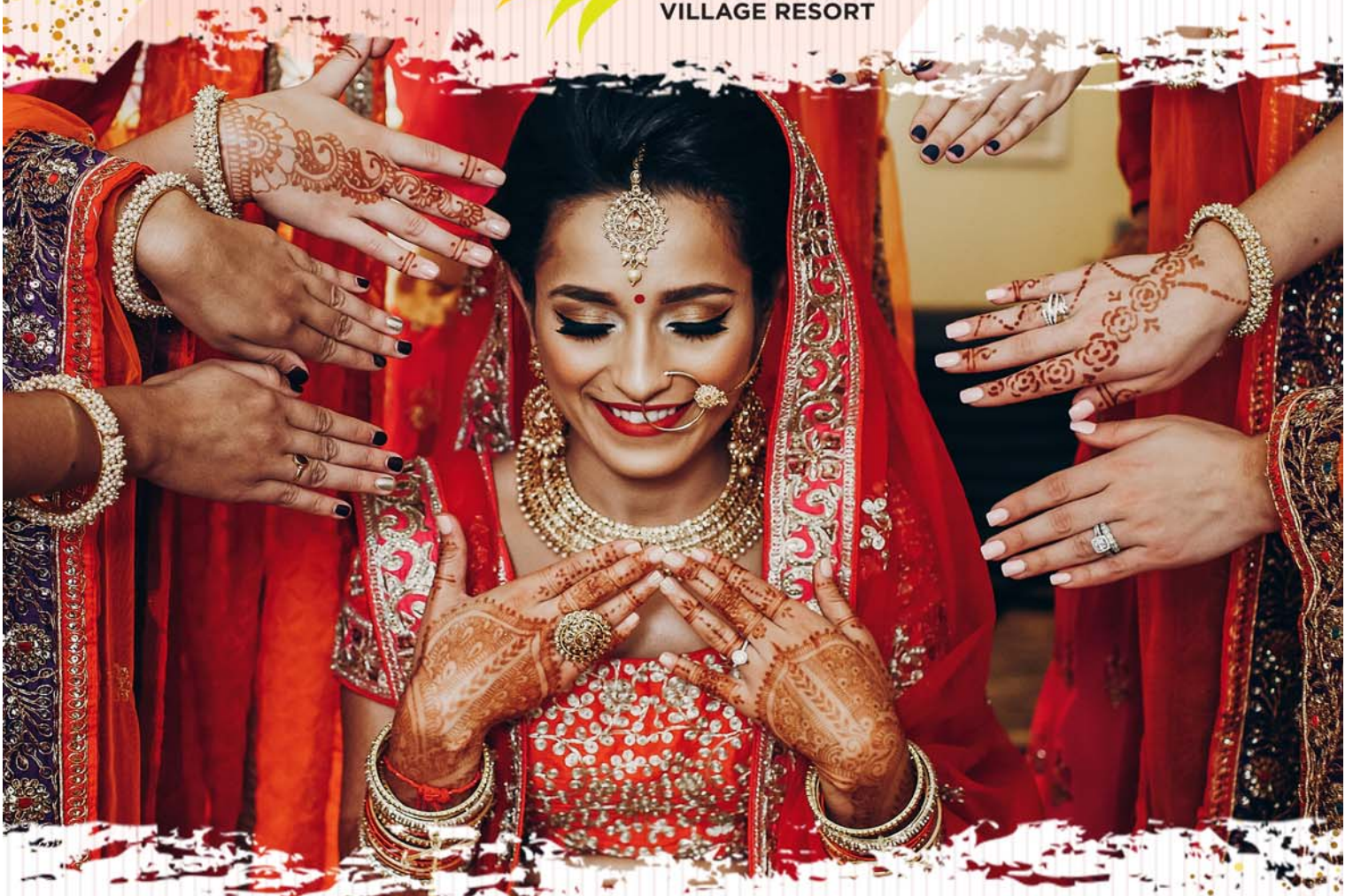
The grounds were beautifully decorated according to the theme filled with chocolates and candies. The ground was filled with food stalls, game stalls and shopping stalls. The Ladies committee members were dressed in red (Santa's favourite colour). To bring the joy in children and the members they were entertained with magic show, juggling show and DJ. The children were also entertained learning pottery and they could take home the pots they made. To inculcate the spirit of sharing we distributed a small Christmas gift to all the children of Waltair Club. The boundless joy of celebrating the festival was visible on the faces of all the children. Due to covid restrictions Santa came in an open top car to avoid rushing and contact between the kids and santa. The faces of children were lit with so much happiness seeing Santa and they enjoyed the goodies given by santa.







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Senior Citizens' Meet



To celebrate New Year and Bhogi, a musical nite was organised on 10th January and this programme was a tribute to the legendary singer SP Balasubramanyam. The famous orchestra band that has got a Limca book record entertained the members with melodious numbers. There was a good participation from senior members. The event was sponsored by the Club members Dr Kumar Raja, Govind, Ronold Williams, Kanthi Sekhar, Muppidi Prabhakar and SSN Swamy. Senior members extended their thanks to the Managing Committee and Committee Member Rajesh. Senior member M.V.Narayana Rao offered his services to make the event a grand success. Next senior citizen meet will be held in April, 2021. All the senior members who have not yet contributed the yearly amount of Rs 1000 are requested to do so.

D. Raj Gopal Reddy (R 65)

Chairman, Senior Citizen Committee (2020-21)





IIT-JEE MAIN All India Ranks

<p>Chy. M.Sai Mukund</p> <p>Open Category</p> <p>688th OC Rank</p>	<p>Chy. S.Vamsi</p> <p>Open Category</p> <p>1437th OC Rank</p>	<p>Chy. J.Lahari</p> <p>Open Category</p> <p>7164th OC Rank</p>	<p>Chy. G.Vinay</p> <p>Open Category</p> <p>259th PWD Rank</p>
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37 Students qualified for JEE Advanced

BITSAT
SCORE

410
450

M.Sai Mukund

357
450

Selected for KVPY Fellowship Award
Sponsored by Dept. of Science & Technology Govt. of India



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JEE MAIN B.ARCH Paper II

851th
Rank

OBC Category

G.PRANAVAKSHARI

NATA
Marks

149 /200

A.K. MAHESWARI

Let's go fly a Kite!

- Dr. Padma Murale

"With your feet
on the ground, you're a
bird in flight

With your fist
holding tight, to the
string of your kite."

Kite flying is one of the most vividly colourful and joyous traditions associated with the Hindu harvest festival of Makar Sankranti or Thai Pongal. This festival marks the Uttarayan or northward journey of the Sun and its transit into the Zodiac of Makara or Capricorn, and is celebrated on 14th January. Sankranti is dedicated to Surya, the Sun God, and is one of the few Indian festivals observed as per the solar cycle, falling on the same day of the Gregorian calendar every year. This is the day when following the Winter Solstice, the winter season in India officially ends, ushering in the advent of spring. The festival is symbolic of the transition from the chilly gloom of winter to the cheerful freshness of spring. With the newly harvested sesame, sugarcane and rice, Sankranti is a time of celebration - of families coming together around Bhogi bonfires, of laughter and games and the wonderful taste of Pongal, which is offered to the Sun God. The glorious custom of flying gaily coloured kites in all shapes and sizes is an integral part of this festival.

The origin of kites in India is still disputed and we have a charming story of Lord Rama flying a kite. According to



some historians, kites were invented in China in the 2nd century BC, during the great Imperial Han dynasty and were brought to India along the Silk route, perhaps by well-known Chinese travellers like Fa Hien and Hiuen Tsang. Over the years, the shape of

kites evolved and they became more aerodynamic and kite flying turned into a popular pastime for young and old. The 17th century poet, Tulsidas in his 'Ramcharitmanas,' describes an interesting anecdote about how Lord Rama's kite went soaring upwards right into Indralok and the trusty Hanuman was the kite-runner who flew all the way there to retrieve it!

During Mughal times, the Emperors patronized and encouraged kite flying and it developed into a sport. They held competitions and people would engage in kite fights using abrasive thread coated with glass powder, better known as manja, and vied with each other to cut the opponent's kite strings. In colonial times, it is said that people even used kites to protest against the Simon Commission in 1928, by flying kites with the slogan 'Go back Simon' printed on them. This is the reason why kites are associated with patriotism to this day in India, and are flown on Independence Day!

During the Sankranti festival, after the cold winter months, people are encouraged to step out into the sunlight with their colourful kites and get their dose of Vitamin D from



the sun. Coming out to fly kites gives people a chance to bask in the sunshine and spend time outdoors. Kite festivals are also conducted in various parts of the country and people participate in good numbers, with kites galore dotting the azure sky. Kites are a metaphor for Life; for the joy and gratitude of people as they give thanks to the Sun God. There is hardly anyone who does not know the thrill of flying a kite or perchance the sheer delight of watching them dancing on the breeze, over trees and rooftops against the backdrop of a clear blue sky.

This festive season, let us hark back to the simple pleasures of our childhood and

"Let's go fly a kite, up to the highest height!"

May this Sankranti be the harbinger of good health and abundant prosperity for us all!



Andy (first name Andrew, middle name Apparao) stood at the Seahorse Junction scratching his head. The scene was surreal: he both was, and was not, on what *looked* like the 75 Feet Road near the port area of Vizag ... a street that was fast becoming his regular haunt ... but the greenery surrounding him in this lush garden-of-Eden-ish landscape suggested that it was not. Also, he could have sworn that this forked junction on the road was brand new—why, it wasn't there just a few hours ago when he had walked down, headed in the other direction, to visit his uncle (for the third time, no less) at the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (or VPT, as it's locally known)!

His uncle's friends found him vastly fascinating and he was repeatedly invited to VPT on one pretext or another ever since he had arrived in Vizag for a long-postponed holiday. The fascination was understandable: while his mane of thick, blond hair and piercing blue eyes were a stark contrast to his permanently tanned, albeit light, complexion, and was enough to cause folks to do a double take, his distinct American accent when he spoke English along with his fluency and perfect diction in Telugu, literally his mother tongue, added a second layer of intrigue.

On the first day that he visited his uncle's office, the hallowed chambers of the General Manager, and met with the old gentleman's colleagues and cronies, Andy was reminded of a comic book that he had read as a child, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* because a funny thought struck him: he himself could be described as *A Wall Street Yankee in Visakhapatnam Port*. It kind of rhymed. You see, Andy fancied himself to be a witty person with a penchant for puns.

Anyway, back to the Seahorse Junction. At its intersection was an elegant signpost with two arrow-shaped signboards, one reading 'Early Gates' pointing to the left and the other, with the legend 'YL Dwaram', pointing to the right.

'What on earth could all this mean?' he wondered, scratching his head.

One minute he was cheerfully ambling along on a pleasantly sunny afternoon, heading home for a nice hot meal, and the next, he was in this otherworldly setting.

Was he an unwitting victim of alien abduction? Had a UFO descended on Vizag and beamed him up to this place? If so, where were the *Scary Movie* type alien characters or the little green men from Mars with their tentacles and probes? Why was he stranded here in the middle of nowhere? And, if this were indeed a spaceship from another galaxy, why did it bear a strong resemblance to the sets of *Jungle Book* where at any moment a bear could pop out of the undergrowth and burst into song about the bare necessities?

Andy, after he graduated from comics, became an avid watcher of films, TV shows and cartoons, so none of the movie references in his ruminations were a surprise.

Was he in the middle of a dream? or worse, in the throes of a nightmare?

'Nay!' he thought he heard a voice say, making him jump out of his skin.

He whirled to see a horse standing beside him and then almost smiled to himself when the thought occurred to him that it was probably not a horse, but a mare and not just any mare, but a pitch black 'night' coloured mare. If it were indeed one, it would then be a 'nightmare come true', ha-ha! ... However, being no expert, he couldn't really tell if the horse was in fact the female of the species.

He looked at it again and noticed that it was looking intently at the signboards in front of him with an expression on its face that he could not immediately fathom, instantly bringing to his mind a BBC TV series he had watched a long time ago, in which, he faintly recollected, a guy walks into an art shop looking for a painting of a displeased horse down on its luck, but is only able to find paintings of a vexed kitten, an inconvenienced badger, a perturbed hen, an unfulfilled horse, a frustrated donkey, a disillusioned platypus and a disgruntled owl. Or something like that.

The horse beside him didn't look like any of these; it looked more like one on the horns of an acute dilemma, or maybe one could say, a deeply puzzled, or even an intensely non-plussed, horse. And he realized, putting two and two together, pretty cleverly he thought, with a mental self-congratulatory pat on his back, that the horse had merely neighed. It wasn't a talking horse as he had fleetingly supposed it to be when he thought it had said 'nay'.

It was while he was cogitating over which of these emotions correctly fitted the horse's expression, that he was startled to hear a 'to-whit to-who!' emanating from the same direction as the horse. It was time for him to jump, a second time, out of his skin—he had only just gotten back into it, come to think of it.

The need to establish the source of this sound was compelling. He turned his gaze away from the horse's face to find himself staring into the wide eyes of a large barn owl perched on the back of the horse. Now, this was all getting a bit much!

He thought he heard a rumble and looked up to see storm clouds gathering. Ominous.

He needed to collect his thoughts and get a grip on whatever the hell was going on here.

He turned his attention back to the signboards thinking, 'I just can't understand what is happening to me!'

when he heard someone say, 'Harrumph! I just can't understand what is happening to me!'

For a third time in a row, he took hurried leave of his skin, or so it seemed. The voice came from the same direction as the horse and the owl.

He once again turned to look at the horse and the horse said, 'Whatever on earth is going on? Where am I?'

This whole affair, thought Andy, was becoming, rather like the experience of Alice, the Wonderland girl—curiouser and curiouser.

'Is this all a dream? With a talking horse, to boot!' he muttered to himself.

The owl said, 'not really' and nodded its head sagely, when a black bat flitted in and circled overhead a few times before settling upside down on the horse's ear and studying the signboards that had floored him and the horse (mare?).

The owl talks too! This is definitely a dream, like the one Alice had when she thought she had fallen down a rabbit hole and found all kinds of speaking animals, mad hatters and talking cards.

Once again, the owl, seeming to read his thoughts, nodded sagely and said, 'No, this is not a dream. Hi, I'm Hedwig, by the way.'

'Andrew Appar ... uh, Andy,' muttered Andy, grumpy at how things were turning out.

'So, do you know what is happening then?' he asked.

'I do,' said Hedwig.

Andy glanced up at the sky and noticed that a silver lining had actually appeared along the far edge of the dark cloud. Phew!

'We're all dead.'

The silver lining disappeared.

'Whaaattt???' Andy squeaked in a high falsetto that would have made the entire cast of *The Sound of Music* go Grinch-green with envy.

'Yes, dead.'

'And where, exactly, are we?' he stammered.

'At the crossroads.'

'The crossroads to where?'

'To where the signposts say, Andy,' the owl sighed. 'Go left to get to the Early Gates and take the right fork to go to YL Dwaram.'

'I've heard of the Pearly Gates but not the "Early" Gates and what in the lord's name is "YL Dwaram"?'

'The Early Gates is where they initially screen you before you can be sent on to the Pearly Gates. And YL Dwaram is the front office of the gateway to Yama Lokam where you register your presence and wait for further processing by Chitragupta's team.'

A funny thought occurred to him. If Bill Gates were to die and arrive at the Early Gates, one could say that the Late Gates was at the Early Gates. He chortled at his own wit, but his bubble of mirth soon evaporated. This was all

turning into a pretty grave business, seriously, no pun intended (but knowing Andy, it probably was).

He hadn't a clue about the mortality rates of the Vizag population, but was fairly sure that it would have to be more than one human a day. So where were the others? And why were animals here? Did they also get to go to the same hells and heavens that humans do?

'There are a couple of reasons why we see only the four of us here together. One is because we all died at precisely the same time. The other is that we have something in common. The bat used to live in the same temple in whose courtyard was a tree in which I lived. When the temple was cleared for reconstruction and the tree pruned in the process, we both went to live in a church nearby, the bat settling nicely in the belfry. The mare, likewise, was owned by a padre who personally groomed her every day, all the while reciting the Lord's Prayer and when he transferred out, he gifted her to a friend who was a temple priest.

'As you are of mixed parentage, you are here in our company. Probably no one else with a similarly mixed parentage died at precisely the same moment as we did and so we are the only ones here. And that is why we all have a choice. We can either choose to take the Early Gates route or the YL Dwaram route.

'And why shouldn't animals be here? Don't they have souls? And don't they accumulate Karma like everyone else? Doesn't the cycle of life and death apply to them?'

The situation was such that it could now be bound with official red tape, like the important files on his uncle's table, but marked '**CRAZY**' instead of '**URGENT**' or '**FOR YOUR EYES ONLY**' or whatever else they stamp on red tapes in port trusts in India.

Andy was now, like Ms Swann of *The Pirates of the Caribbean* fame, in the middle of a very live nightmare.

'Thank heavens we're on 75 Feet Road and not on *Elm Street*,' Andy thought to himself, but he seemed to have inadvertently said it out loud.

'Look behind you,' said Hedwig.

Andy pivoted to see yet another road sign that read 'Elm Street'. No more 75 Feet Road!

This was going beyond a joke. First of all, it seemed like all the clichés and done-to-death metaphors in the world had converged for a convention at the Sea Horse Junction in Vizag—a nightmare involving an actual mare, a wise owl, a bat in the belfry, gathering clouds, a silver lining, down the rabbit hole, Connecticut Yankee ... and to top it all, the whole shebang seemed to have a Hollywood-movies theme!

'So ... what do I do now?'

'That's entirely up to you. You can either choose to take the left fork or opt for the right. Just as it is up to the rest of us to decide which route to take.'

'Right! Great!'

Andy screwed his eyes tightly shut and willed himself to wake up.

The Kingpin



Raghav Chitra (R-477)

The role technology plays in our lives, especially over the course of the last year has been critical to say the least. It has not only helped sustain livelihoods but also serves as our go to source of entertainment. I shudder to think what 2020 would have been without technology. Denied of our regular avenues of entertainment, our home systems found themselves getting an upgrade. Last year saw a catalysed demand for bigger, better screens (read 43", 55" & 65") and a host of secondary and tertiary devices that lead to it- Game consoles, OTT boxes, soundbars and home theatre systems. Just like how all roads lead to Rome, all these devices lead to screens.

While we get to each of these devices in due time, lets spend some time talking about the "roads" that lead us to these screens, a seemingly

futile/harmless piece of wire that is most often taken for granted or even ignored, the HDMI cable, also called the king of A/V cables. You could spend 5 digits or more to get the latest 4K screen, but cheap out on the piece of cable connecting to your screen and trust-you-me when I say this, and that could be the difference between you watching something and having the <insert custom follicle count> hair on your arms stand up while you're watching.

In an ideal world, shopping for HDMI cables should be a simple process, but with 3 standards, multiple sub-variants that vary in speed and other technicalities that I shan't bore you with, it can seem confusing and difficult. You need the

	HDMI version						
	1	1.1	1.2-1.2a	1.3-1.3a	1.4-1.4b	2.0-2.0b	2.1
Full HD Blu-ray Disc and HD DVD video	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consumer Electronic Control (CEC)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DVD-Audio	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Super Audio CD (DSD)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Auto lip-sync	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dolby TrueHD / DTS-HD Master Audio bitstream capable	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Updated list of CEC commands	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3D video	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethernet channel (100 Mbit/s)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audio return channel (ARC)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 audio streams	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
2 video streams (Dual View)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Hybrid Log-Gamma (HLG) HDR OETF	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Static HDR (HDR static metadata)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dynamic HDR (HDR dynamic metadata)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Enhanced Audio Return Channel (eARC)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Variable Refresh Rate (VRR)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Quick Media Switching (QMS)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Quick Frame Transport (QFT)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Auto Low Latency Mode (ALLM)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
VESA DSC 1.2a	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	1	1.1	1.2-1.2a	1.3-1.3a	1.4-1.4b	2.0-2.0b	2.1



right cable for the job, and ideally you want to spend as little as possible for it. After all, it's just a cable. Right? I could end this article right now and say buy Cable X but I think its important for you to know what for what. So, I dug up this table to help me summarise.

For the rest, there is good news. As illustrated by the table, all the latest variants are backward compatible. So if you're lazy to do the homework and read specifications, my recommendation is simple - get the Amazon Basics High-Speed HDMI cable. It is reliable, fast and very very affordable. It should help you get the best out of both your devices and your TV especially given that TV's that truly support HDMI 2.1 are far and few and will take some time before they become "mainstream"

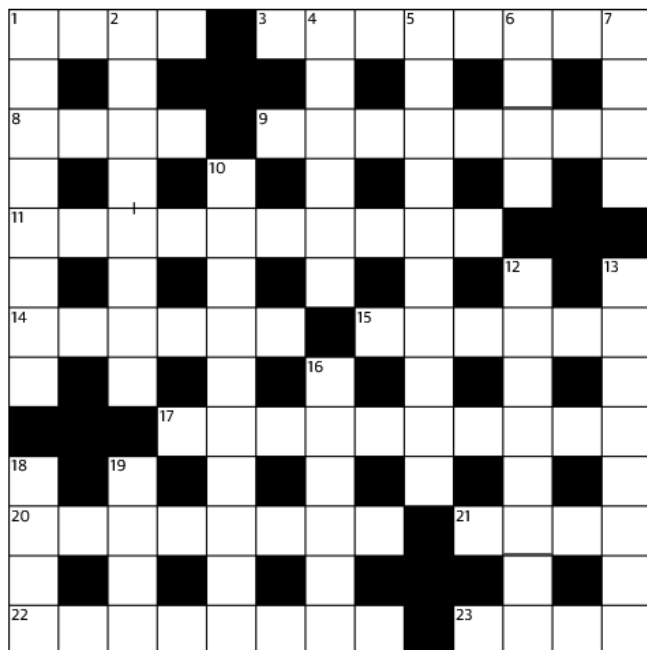
PS: No points for guessing where to pick them up from



Cerebrations!

Go on! Be a smart ass!
Put your thinking cap on!!

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Manage (4)
- 3 The West (8)
- 8 Respite (4)
- 9 Stroke of luck (8)
- 11 Student of China (10)
- 14 Secure, stabilise (6)
- 15 Gold-coloured alloy (6)
- 17 Incessant talker (10)
- 20 Well-off (8)
- 21 Forward, saucy (4)
- 22 Circle of longitude (8)
- 23 Heroic in scale (4)

Down

- 1 Gigantic (8)
- 2 High-collared sweater or T-shirt (4-4)
- 4 Cower (6)
- 5 Tactless (10)
- 6 And the rest (2,2)
- 7 Cultivate (4)
- 10 Tracker dog (10)
- 12 Bend over in pain, laughter etc. (6,2)
- 13 Impractical, idealistic and optimistic (8)
- 16 Lines of verse (6)
- 18 Placid (4)
- 19 At a distance (4)

BRAIN TEASERS

1. On a street there are 25 houses-10 of the houses have fewer than six rooms, 10 of the houses have more than seven rooms, and 4 houses have more than eight rooms. What is the total number of houses that are either six, seven, or eight rooms?

- (a) 5
- (b) 9
- (c) 11
- (d) 14
- (e) 15

2. Beads are strung onto a necklace in this order: red, white, green. A design that begins on red and ends on white could be composed of the following number of beads:

- I. 17
- II. 29
- III. 35
- (a) I only
- (b) III only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I and III only
- (e) I, II, and III

3. Jane is three times as old as Ann; three years ago, Ann was a year younger than Joyce is now. If Ellen is twice as old as Ann, list the four girls in descending age order.

4. What is the next letter in the following series: a c d b e g h i f j l m n ?

- (a) k
- (b) l
- (c) m
- (d) n
- (e) o

5. In the diagram, where a circle is inscribed in a square and another square is inscribed in the circle, if a side of the larger square is 10, what is the area of the smaller square?



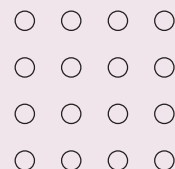
6. Three friends eat breakfast at a restaurant. They estimate that the bill should come to Rs. 30. They split the bill 3 ways and pay Rs. 10 each. When the bill comes, it is Rs. 25. Since this is not divisible by 3, they each take Rs. 1 back, and a Rs. 2 tip is left. Since each paid Rs. 9 and $9 \times 3 = \text{Rs. } 27$, plus Rs. 2 for the tip, where did the extra rupee go?

7. Unscramble the words to make a phrase about the movies: SGITHL, AEMRAC, CTONIA

8. Suppose there are two buckets, one that contains a gallon of water and the other that contains a gallon of alcohol. A cup of alcohol from the second bucket is poured into the bucket of water. A cup of the resulting mixture is then poured back into the bucket of alcohol. Which is now true?

- a. There is more water in the alcohol than alcohol in the water.
- b. There is more alcohol in the water than water in the alcohol.
- c. There is the same amount of water in the alcohol as alcohol in the water.

9. Using six straight lines without retracing, connect all sixteen circles.



Key on page31

A Test of Character: A Primer to Test Match Cricket through India's Heartbreak and Redemption

- Sagar Tetali AS - 1060

Test cricket is an odd sport. I've heard people even contend that it isn't really a sport, that it is a game. Teams play for up to five days, batting twice each, and often, you don't get a result: a drawn match is a possibility. Players aren't as athletic as they are in football, or even T20 cricket. There's very little contingency as far as time is concerned, and a lot (probably too much) depends on the weather and the surface of the cricket ground. When India was going to Australia, they were going with something else to worry about, besides the weather and the grounds: their best batsman and captain, Virat Kohli, was going back home after the first in four matches: he was going to be on paternity leave for the birth of his first child.

For a country that takes its cricket team as seriously as it takes its armed forces, this was a reminder: there are some things outside of work, and sometimes you need to make an effort to stick around for those. (And about paternity being the equal of maternity in the hierarchy of social duties) However, this still meant that India was going in severely handicapped-it was already missing its other star batsman, Rohit Sharma -to face the best bowling attack in the world. They also had the best test batsman-the Bradman of our generation: Steve Smith. And this was a serious rivalry: after decades of being an underdog in world cricket, India was taking its place amidst England and Australia as a top cricketing nation-under Kohli they had won the first ever test series in Australia in late 2018-early 2019. But back then, they didn't have Smith. This time, the Aussies were baying for blood.

On 17th December, India won the toss and chose to bat. Then came the barrage. In Australia, the pitches are hard and the ball comes quick and high. This is when all those time-worn cliches of cricket being the "Gentleman's game" walk silently into their graves-A good fast bowler can bowl like he means to take the head of a batsman off. But you're also in trouble even if the ball keeps low. Indian batsmen tend to bat with something called a high backlift-what this means is they lift the bat high before they bring it down to play a shot: this is because balls don't come as quick and hard at you in India and they can use the extra lift to generate power for



Indian Men's Captain and ICC Men's Cricketer of the Decade, Virat Kohli.

Courtesy: India Today

their shots. In Australia, this means that if a quick ball comes rollicking towards your stumps, you can't quite get the bat down in time to block it properly. Both openers walked back with 17 runs between them after the ball crashed into, and uprooted their stumps. Then came Cheteshwar Pujara.

Fast bowling has two components: pace and swing. Pace seems self-explanatory, but every time a fast bowler comes in to bowl, they're exerting a pressure equivalent to five times their body weight. This necessarily means they can't do it all day. Swing is a funny and unique thing: when the ball is shiny and new, depending on how they hold the ball, a fast bowler can get the ball to move in the air, because of weird aerodynamics-deceiving the batsmen and getting the ball to clip an edge of the bat and go to the fielder or move in to undo their stumps. This magic wears off as the ball gets rougher and older. If a batsman can last the first few hours, navigating the minefield of quality fast bowling, the ones who come after him have an easier time. Cheteshwar Pujara does not have the talents of a Kohli or a Steve Smith: what he does have is patience. He made 43 of 160 balls, blocking the best and craftiest of traps laid for him, and by the time he was done, the Australian quicks were sweating, out of breath, and out of ideas.

After he departed, Virat Kohli was left batting with the vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane. They looked ready and able: Virat Kohli played with the patience of a zen master, a complete contradiction to his persona. He hadn't scored a hundred all year, but this time, in what was going to be his last test match of the year, it looked like divine intervention couldn't stop him; and then-in a moment of horror: Rahane called him for a run, and then said "No" after Kohli had run half way down the pitch. There was no time to get back. The Indian captain was run out-what commentators refer to as the biggest wicket in world cricket-fell for a sublime 74. Rahane departed minutes later, in what looked like a case of survivor's guilt. On December 17th, 2020, Rahane was the butt of every joke on twitter. The rest of the lineup didn't last too long.



Cheteshwar Pujara takes a long stride to defend an incoming ball.



The "Run Out of the Century": Kohli looks on, mid pitch, as Lyon takes his wicket



The Australians celebrate a wicket-India collapses for 36. Courtesy: India Today

Over the years, India has found itself with two world-class fast bowlers: Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami. They bowl tight lines-ones that make sure batsmen don't get scoring opportunities. This means they make mistakes, searching for runs. This, in turn, means they lose wickets. After they sent the openers packing, the ICC No. 1 Test Batsman of The Decade, Steve Smith stepped into the crease-but Ravichandran Ashwin, India's premiere spin bowler had plans. He pitched a few deliveries that spun miles to Smith, and then one that didn't-Smith edged it and it was caught behind the wicket. The Australian team bundled out for 53 less than the Indians. Both teams had finished their first go, and India was miles ahead; India needed to have its second go, and post a final total for the Australians to chase, and they were already 53 ahead.

When you go up against the best bowling attack in the world, sometimes, all they need is a couple of things to go their way. When India came out to bat, the grass was dry and sunburnt-the ball would lift higher off the surface, and the Indian openers still had that backlift problem. The two of them departed for 13 runs between them. Pujara was soon done in for 0. To protest against the collapse, to do something to take the attack back to the Australian quicks, Virat Kohli played a cover drive: one of the most beautiful, yet risky shots in all of cricket. This time, the risk didn't pay off. Soon, India was 36 for 9 wickets-and to add to their horror, Mohammad Shami, one of their two premier fast bowlers got a fast and hard ball to his arm-breaking it. He had to walk off the field, and the series itself, retired hurt, ending the Indian innings, leaving the Australians 89 to win-a veritable walk in the park. When India were all out for 36, it was their lowest score in a test innings in decades, the cricket world was stunned. Articles flooded the internet calling for heads to roll-A cricket writer asked if the rest of the series could be cancelled in favour of an ODI or T20 series, now that Kohli was departing, and Shami was ruled out due to an injury.

Sport is life compacted and heightened into melodrama: the highs are higher, the lows are lower, and the boring bits between them are almost entirely trimmed out. In test cricket, to climb back to redemption after a defeat, you have to be patient, grind out the tough periods, fight the dying daylight, the weather, and the hard earth-and have your sickle ready for the harvest when your time arrives. Ajinkya Rahane, the man who ran out his captain, had to now replace him and lead the fallen team in the second Test match. Replacing Shami was Mohammad Siraj. Siraj was about to play his first test match, but he was playing after a recent bereavement-the fast bowler from Hyderabad had lost his father after departing for Australia, but couldn't attend the last rites due to the COVID restrictions in the host country. When the BCCI offered him the option of returning later, Siraj refused. "My dad's wish was always this - mera beta, desh ka Naam Roshan Karna (my son, you should make my country proud). And, I will do that for sure," he told Sportstar. Siraj was lethal with his signature ball: a ball that moves into batsmen before they've had the time to see it properly,

forcing an awkward shot. Together with Bumrah and Ashwin (who dismissed Steve Smith yet again, this time for 0) he had Australia on the ropes, aided by someone who seemed to be a bowler's captain- Ajinkya Rahane, the ice to Kohli's fire: his poker face made for bad TV, but he seemed to be the sort of captain who puts his arm around his bowlers and listens to what they have to say. And then, he came out to bat.

The story of India's redemption is the story of Ajinkya Rahane: in the first innings of the previous test, he was responsible for captain Kohli's dismissal, in what was coined "the run out of the century"; In the second innings, he had made 0 after lasting 4 balls. This time, he was captain, and he was coming out to bat with his team for the first time after the disastrous collapse. Ajinkya Rahane made 112 runs-one of the finest, most disciplined centuries against the best bowling attack in the world- aided by cameos from the rest of his team-India made 326 to Australia's 195. Some would say the game, for all purposes, ended when Jasprit Bumrah's ball gave the gentlest of kisses to the top of Steve Smith's leg stump, dismissing the giant again, cheaply. I would say it ended when debutant Shubman Gill came out after Australia's innings ended and batted like a dream, thwarting the possibility of another 36 all out. But it was only fitting that calm, resolute Rahane scored the winning runs.

No Kohli, No Rohit, No Shami, No Ishant Sharma. 36 all out in the previous match. India had still gone on to win against the best bowling attack of this generation-the team that housed the modern day Bradman. No grand superstars had taken them soaring to victory, they had to earn it, training in pandemic-mandated bio bubbles, surviving ball-by-ball, outthinking and laying traps for the best batsman in test cricket, and holding on to their catches. Veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle compared the depleted Indian squad to an Indian middle-class family: a family that grinds out for survival and upward mobility with sacrifices and grit-no grandeur involved. There are two matches to go: as I write this the series stands level. The third is ongoing, but no matter what happens, India will not soon forget the roller-coaster of emotions that the Border-Gavaskar Trophy has been so far. The world is not fair: the Women's cricket series between India and Australia stands cancelled due to the effort it would take to hold it in the midst of a pandemic-it's clear that men's cricket is disproportionately privileged. But life, like sport, offers hope. As for that question-Is Test Cricket a sport or a game? Maybe it's neither: maybe it's some sort of existential performance put on by people wearing white- something made of the same stuff as life itself. Maybe all the world's a test match.



*Mohammad Siraj celebrates a wicket at the MCG.
Courtesy: Deccan Herald*



*Ajinkya Rahane On Reaching his Melbourne Century.
Courtesy: New Indian Express.*

Travelgram

Coonoor

Coonoor is neither a city or state, it is a Taluk and a municipality of Nilgiris district, which is a part of Tamil Nadu state. It is situated at the head of Hulikal ravine at an altitude of 1850m above the sea level. It is the second largest hill station located in the Nilgiri hills. Coonoor has developed as a tourist spot in the 19th century when the British made Ooty a popular hill station. Toda tribes have made their home in the Nilgiri hills for centuries. They make toda jewellery which is quite popular in this area. The panoramic view of the lush Nilgiri hills with its ravines, valleys and waterfalls is breath-taking. Trekking in Coonoor, especially in the Nilgiri Hills, is a popular activity for tourists. There are some day treks to waterfalls and through the surrounding forests that are absolutely rewarding. Both nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts can quench their thirst for a thrill in Coonoor.

Sim's Park

The Sim's park which is a botanical garden came into existence in the year 1874. The natural beauty of the sustained forest is scattered all over its length and breadth of the Nilgiri hills. The Hon'ble J.D. Sim, the then Secretary to Govt. and Major. Murray, the then Superintendent of the Nilgiris forests have planned and laid it out in an orderly fashion in a central place for themselves and the future generations. This exhilarating rendezvous park which was christened as Sim's park after the former.



This park is situated in deep ravine, 3 km to the north of Coonoor Railway Station. The maximum temperature goes up to 28 degree Celsius and the minimum falls to 5 °C. This park has more than 1000 plus species which makes it a great base to discover the hidden secrets of rare exotic plants.

Sprawling over an area of 12 hectares of land, the park is mainly divided into 4 sections as a small Lily pond, a rose garden, a boating area and a flowering plants area. It boasts of an array of trees introduced from different parts of the world and has walkways lined up with beautiful flowers. Other highlights of the park include Handsome Ornamental tree, Queensland Karry Pine and Rudraksha Tree.

A two-day fruit show is conducted here during the last week of May. The event is organized by the Department of Horticulture and has been held annually for 56 years.

HIGHFIELD TEA FACTORY

A visit to a hill station is incomplete without dropping by a tea factory. Located 2km northeast of Upper Coonoor, the highfield tea factory is an age old estate that will allow you to discover a wide range of tea flavours as well as witness the entire process of tea making. It is one of the best places for tea addicts to visit on their trip to Coonoor!



Law's Falls

The Law's falls has a height of over 180-feet surrounded by thick natural forests. It is set inside the Coonoor Forest Range with vast stretches of undisturbed nature around. It is an endearing place to be for naturalists and children.

It is named after Col. Law, who constructed the new Coonoor Ghat, this small waterfall attracts a huge crowd, and especially during post monsoons. It is also home to a great variety of birds.



Rallia Dam



Rallia dam was built in 1914, has a mesmerizing view of Coonoor at its backdrop, surrounded by Nilgiri hills, dense forests, a pleasant atmosphere, and invites tourists to spend some "ME" time away from the routine chores of everyday life. It is a great base for nature lovers and wanderlusts.

Nestled on the Wellington Road, is a hidden gem with a beautiful secluded spot where you can see rare species of wild animals such as Malabar Squirrels and Bisons in the forest. This is the main source of water in the Coonoor town and other nearby small villages.

Dolphin's Nose

Dolphin's Nose is a picturesque viewpoint at an altitude of 1550m above the sea level. This famous attraction offers a breathtaking view of the



mountains and the abundant tea estates in the area. Besides revelling in the glorious view, tourists can engage in other activities like horse riding and boating or set up a simple picnic and enjoy quality time!

DroogFort

DroogFort at Coonoor has a past historical glory. As per the legend, a demon resided in this fort many years back hence it is otherwise called as BakasuraMalai by the localities. The once beautiful fort is now in ruins and is a famous trekking spot for the tourists who trek their way to this place through Nonsuch Tea Estate. It was used as an outpost by the famous leader, Tipu Sultan in 18 CE.



The watchtower is an exceptional point for trekkers and adventure seekers. Also for avid bird watchers. An exotic number of rare species of birds fly their way through the fort and one can also spot a few Malabar squirrels and flying foxes in the area. It is necessary to be extremely careful as bison frequently roam around the premises, at times.

Heritage Toy Train

Having a duration of 5 hours, covering 46 km along with the negligible ticket price - is package of guaranteed romance, adventure, relaxation, nature and definite adrenalin-surge. It is a surviving symbol of heritage. Nilgiri Mountain Railways' (NMR) is a nostalgia-dipped toy train where the youngest X class locomotive is more than 50 years and the oldest more than 80.



As the train inches up its route between 1,069 and 7,228 ft., you can get off to pick flowers, maybe look up to find an elephant staring at you from two ledges above, point your camera to catch a pretty hoopoe posing on a tree, wonder about disappearing-deep gorges, or just scream your head off every time you pass through a tunnel. Its charm is fabled - the train has been whistling and chugging since 1899 - first from Mettupalayam to Coonoor, and since 1908, to Fernhill and Ooty - it's a journey through 16 tunnels and across 250 bridges.

Shopping

The shopping areas are filled with tea, tea and more tea. Apart from this exquisite house-hold linen and South Cotton fabrics are extremely popular.



Deep inside the Singara Tea Estates is Needlecraft, a shop that sells beautiful linen.

Fine Things is an exquisite boutique that houses a fine selection of Coimbatore, Mangalgi and other Southern linens. There are embroidered shawls, jackets and ethnic stuff you would like to take home as are local handicrafts, eucalyptus oil, honey, lace-work and others to choose from.

A must buy - Toda Jewellery made by the Toda tribe.

Best of them all is the locally made produce of nectars and jams of peach, pear, mulberry and passion fruit, all made and available locally!

Places to eat

La belle vie at McIver 180

La belle vie is the go-to place for comfort food in Coonoor. The restaurant offers some delicious European specialties as well as a variety of other cuisines. You can choose to sit on the lawn and enjoy a great meal in the balmy sunshine at this cozy, heritage villa. Fun Fact: The famous Bollywood movie, Kapoor and Sons was shot at this very place!

Café Diem

Café Diem is a vegetarian café that serves delightful Mediterranean, French and Italian delicacies. It's a small quaint place located away from the bustle of the city. The aesthetic is mesmerizing, comforting, and absolutely Instagram worthy! Don't miss out on this place if you're looking to polish your Instagram feed!



Coonoor Club (Affiliated to WaltairClub)



Coonoor Club is a quaint inn that brings the best of Coonoor to your doorstep. It is a member's only establishment open only for members, their guests & affiliated club members. The food & drinks are priced very low while the rooms are value for money. The club has a bar that is open from 11 to 11 and food is served from 8 am to 10 pm. You can take advantage of some of the amenities offered by Coonoor Club, including room service. In addition, guests can enjoy an on-site restaurant during their visit. As an added convenience, there is free parking available to guests.

There are tennis & shuttle courts along with snooker tables. Bridge is also very popular game at the club. Dress code is applicable at all public rooms. The high point of staying at the coonoor club is that you will be in good company.

Srikari Tadikonda S-734

Yogitha Yerra Y-018



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KEY TO CROSSWORD

1 C	O	2 P	E		3 O	4 C	C	5 I	D	6 E	N	7 T
O		O				R		N		T		I
8 L	U	L	L		9 W	I	N	D	F	A	L	L
O		O		10 B		N		I		L		L
11 S	I	N	O	L	O	G	I	S	T			
S		E		O		E		C		12 D		13 Q
14 A	N	C	H	O	R		15 O	R	M	O	L	U
L		K		D		16 S		E		U		I
			17 C	H	A	T	T	E	R	B	O	X
18 C		19 A		O		A		T		L		O
20 A	F	F	L	U	E	N	T		21 P	E	R	T
L		A		N		Z				U		I
22 M	E	R	I	D	I	A	N		23 E	P	I	C

SOLUTIONS TO BRAIN TEASERS

1. (c) 11

Houses that have fewer than six rooms is 10 (given). Houses that have six, seven, or eight rooms is x (unknown). Houses that have more than eight rooms is 4 (given). The total is 25. $10 + x + 4$ must equal 25, so x must be 11.

2. (e) I, II, and III

Where x is a whole number, the number of beads is $3x + 2$ since you are left with only a red and a white and all the rest are red, white, and green. Thus, see if x is a whole number where $3x + 2 = 17, 29$, and 35 .

Alternative solution: If the order is red, white, green..., then the number of beads you have ending in white is $r, w = 2; r, w, g, r, w = 5; r, w, g, r, w, g, r, w = 8$, so the sequence is 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35.

3. Jane, Ellen, Ann, Joyce

Translate from words to math:

$$Ja = 3A,$$

$$A - 3 = Jo - 1,$$

$$E = 2A.$$

So, $Ja = 3A, A = Jo + 2, E = 2A$, so $Ja > E > A > Jo$

4. e (O)

a c d b e g h i f j l m n o k
 ↔ ↔ ↔

5. 50

Draw lines to get additional information.

6. There was no extra rupee.

Watch that your mind doesn't deceive you. They thought the bill came to Rs. 30, but that doesn't make it the amount that we want to work with.

7. LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

8. (c) There is the same amount of water in the alcohol as alcohol in the water.

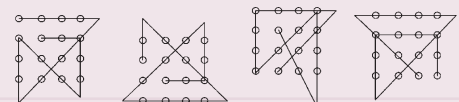
Let's say the cup of alcohol you pour in the water contains c gallons (c could be $1/10$, for example). Now the water bucket has a mixture of alcohol and water. Now you pour one cup (again, c gallons) of that mixture back into the alcohol bucket.

Let's say there are a gallons of alcohol and w gallons of water in that cup. So (1) $a + w = c$.

Now the amount of water poured into the alcohol is w . The amount of alcohol in the water bucket is $c - a$, since we poured a gallons of alcohol into the alcohol bucket from the water bucket. From (1) we get $c - a = w$, so (c) is true.

9. There are at least four different solutions.

Think outside of the box. Draw lines outside of the square that contains the circles.



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