

PRESS RELEASE

INDIAN CROSSWORD LEAGUE 2019

Bangalore

December 22, 2019

Mohsin Ahmed, a former space scientist and currently a student of IIM Bangalore lifted the IXL Champion trophy 2019, beating a field of top 30 contestants from India and abroad. The result was declared at the end of the Grand Finale of the seventh edition of the global online-offline Indian Crossword League at Hotel Royal Orchid in Bangalore.

Ramki Krishnan a 4 time IXL champion of Chennai was declared the runner-up.

The day saw a written elimination round, at the end of which six top contestants qualified for the onstage final. The on-stage finale witnessed a rather fierce battle between the top cruciverbalists of the league. The top two ended up scoring 70 each leading to a tie. However on the basis of performance of the preliminary round Mohsin trumped Ramki.

Trailing them on 3rd was Vinoo Sanjay while the written preliminary round was topped by Venkatraghavan S.

The 30 contestants had earlier qualified for the Grand Finale after 8 online weekly rounds conducted between September and the first week of December on www.crypticsingh.com.

The top 30 was a diverse lot with a good number of them from IIT-IIM background. This year IXL also had a New Jersey round on November 24.

Indian Crossword League, popularly called IXL, is an annual online-offline global competitive platform to test the mettle of Crossword buffs. It was started by Extra-C in the year 2013, the Year of the Crossword, for it was the centenary year of the first published Crossword, then known as wordcross. The creator was Arthur Wynne and the wordcross was published in the Christmas-eve edition of New York World on December 21, 1913. At some point of time, the wordcross became crossword, thanks to a typo.

The contest comprises 8 weekly online rounds on the website crypticsingh.com. A leaderboard is created every week and after the 8 rounds the top 30 on the final cumulative leaderboard are called for a final offline showdown at Bengaluru. The winner lifts the IXL Crossword Champion trophy.

Mr. J.R.K. Rao, CEO National Institute of Smart Governance, Hyderabad handing over the 2019 IXL Champion Trophy to Mohsin Ahmed, IIM Bangalore.