

Rohit leads the charge as India asserts superiority over Pakistan

Bowlers get into the act after his century and Kohli's 77 take the side to a mammoth total; Zaman-Babar stand the only bright phase for Sarfaraz's men



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

Under Manchester skies, bright one moment, brooding the next second, India found its sunshine at Old Trafford here on Sunday. In their World Cup clash against Pakistan, Virat Kohli's men proved they are far too superior with an 89-run triumph.

Rohit Sharma's masterly 140 (113b, 14x4, 3x6), his second in the current championship, helped India post 336 for five. Though the Indian innings suffered a one-hour break when the skies opened up at 1.45 p.m., Kohli's merry bunch placed at 305 for four in 46.4 overs, cruised upon resumption.

Later, Pakistan scored 166 for six in 35 overs but following another rain-intervention, the target as per the Duckworth-Lewis method was pegged at 302 from 40 overs. Sarfaraz Ahmed's men finished with 212 for six.

During Pakistan's reply that was delayed by another drizzle, openers Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman were watchful. India then had a bitter-sweet moment as Bhuvneshwar Kumar retreated to the dressing room with a left hamstring strain. Vijay Shankar stepped into complete the over and with his first ball in a World Cup, struck Imam on his pad and in line with the stumps.

Joining hands

Much hinged on Zaman and Babar Azam and the duo built a 114-run second-wicket partnership. Jasprit Bumrah offered width and the batsmen also tucked into Shanar, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal. Zaman survived a stumping appeal but India found its breakthrough when Kuldeep slipped one through Babar's defence. The chinaman bowler then snapped up Zaman.

More was to follow when Pandya scalped Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik. Pakistan had lost four wickets for a mere 12 and India was on top. Once Shankar dismissed Sarfaraz and another shower descending upon the turf, India was well ahead. Pakistan could never compete in the remainder of the pursuit.

Earlier the day dawned



Rocking start: Rohit Sharma made the Pakistan bowlers pay for the wayward length with an assortment of pulls and cuts en route to a big century. • REUTERS

bright, suffered a drizzle and once the droplets paused, Sarfaraz won the toss and elected to field. After the national anthems were played, Kohli put an arm around Rohit and patted K.L. Rahul. The last two named emerged as India's openers. Mohammad Amir commenced the attack and Rahul played out a maiden over.

Lull before storm

It was the lull before the storm. Rohit, who nearly dragged a Hassan Ali delivery onto his stumps, eased his nerve once he drove the seamer and pulled Amir's bouncer. Amir, warned twice for running onto the danger-area, bowled a nagging line but the pressure he built, was dissipated at the other end. Rohit cut Ali and when the seamer erred down the leg-side, the mighty willow-wielder pulled a six.

A run-out seemed a probable deal-breaker and one almost happened but Rohit survived and he instantaneously square-drove Wahab Riaz for four. India was 53 for no loss in 10 overs and it was time to consolidate. Rahul (57) shed his twitchiness and launched into the spin-

ners. Imad Wasim was swept and Shadab Khan got cut.



When leg-spinner Shadab gifted a full-toss, Rohit tucked into it like a hungry

Mumbaikar relishing his pav bhaji and the six smacked of disdain.

No respite

Sarfaraz swapped his seven bowlers but there was no respite as Rahul greeted Malik with a six. When Riaz returned for his second spell, he was warned for running onto the danger area. The left-arm speedster switched to around the wicket and Rahul perished in the inner circle but by then the lanky batsman had added 136 for the opening wicket.

When Kohli arrived, the acoustic limits were breached. The Indian cap-

tain stole his singles and two besides etching fours and when Rohit reached his ton, Kohli dispensed a warm hug and India was in batting paradise. Rohit and Kohli shared a 98-run second-wicket partnership which concluded when the former

scooped Ali to Riaz at short fine-leg. The rain-intermission affected Kohli's rhythm but Pandya dished out a cameo while M.S. Dhoni missed out on the run-feast. Yet, by then, India had done enough to acquire pole position.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
K.L. Rahul c Babar b Riaz 57 (78b, 3x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma c Riaz b Hassan 140 (113b, 14x4, 3x6), Virat Kohli c Sarfaraz b Amir 77 (65b, 7x4), Hardik Pandya c Babar b Amir 26 (19b, 2x4, 1x6), M.S. Dhoni c Sarfaraz b Amir 1 (2b), Vijay Shankar (not out) 15 (15b, 1x4), Kedra Jadhav (not out) 9 (8b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-9): 11; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 336.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-136 (Rahul, 23.5 overs), 2-234 (Rohit, 38.2), 3-285 (Pandya, 43.5), 4-298 (Dhoni, 45.1), 5-314 (Kohli, 47.4).

PAKISTAN BOWLING
Amir 10-1-47-3, Hassan 9-0-84-1, Riaz 10-0-71-1, Wasim 10-0-49-0, Shadab 9-0-61-0, Malik 1-0-11-0, Hafeez 1-0-11-0.

PAKISTAN
Revised target: 302 in 40 overs.

Imam ul-Haq lbw b Vijay Shankar 7 (18b, 1x4), Fakhar Zaman c Chahal b Kuldeep 62 (75b, 7x4, 1x6), Babar Azam b Kuldeep 48 (57b, 3x4, 1x6), Mohammad Hafeez c Vijay Shankar b Pandya 9 (7b, 1x6), Sarfaraz Ahmed b Vijay Shankar 12 (30b), Shoaib Malik b Pandya 0 (1b), Imad Wasim (not out) 46 (39b, 6x4), Shadab Khan (not out) 20 (14b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-6): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 40 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Imam-ul-Haq, 4.5 overs), 2-117 (Babar, 23.6), 3-126 (Zaman, 25.2), 4-129 (Hafeez, 26.5), 5-129 (Malik, 26.6), 6-165 (Sarfaraz, 34.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 2.4-0-8-0, Bumrah 8-0-52-0, Vijay Shankar 5.2-0-22-2, Hardik 8-0-44-2, Kuldeep 9-1-32-2, Chahal 7-0-53-0.
Toss: Pakistan.
Man-of-the-Match: Rohit Sharma.
India won by 89 runs (DLS method).

Next assignment

INDIA
June 22 vs Afghanistan, Southampton, 3 p.m.
PAKISTAN
June 23 vs South Africa, Lord's, 3 p.m.

STAT SPHERE

1 Rohit (358) has smashed most international sixes by an Indian, surpassing Dhoni's 355. Tendulkar (264), Yuvraj (251), Ganguly (247) and Sehwag (243) follow in that order

1 Kohli has become the fastest to reach 11,000 ODI runs (222 innings), eclipsing Tendulkar's record (276). The India captain was also the quickest to 8,000, 9,000 and 10,000 runs

1 India's 336/5 is its highest total against Pakistan in the World Cup, surpassing

the 300/7 it scored in 2015 (Adelaide)

2 Rohit notched up the second highest individual score against Pakistan in the WC, after Symond's 143* (Jo'burg, 2003)

2 Rohit recorded only the second hundred by an Indian against Pakistan in the WC. The first one was scored by Kohli (Adelaide, 2015)

3 Rohit's 85-ball century is the third fastest by an Indian against Pakistan in ODIs. Both the fastest hundreds were scored by Sehwag (80 & 84b)

4 Vijay Shankar became the fourth bowler to pick a wicket off his first ball in World Cup after Ian Harvey, Malachi Jones and Mohammad Yousof

5 Number of consecutive 50-plus scores by Rohit in ODIs. He is the fourth Indian to do so after Tendulkar, Kohli (twice) and Rahane

100%

India has won all the seven matches it has played against Pakistan in the WC

MARGIN OF WINS
1992: 43 runs
1996: 39 runs
1999: 47 runs
2003: 6 wkts
2011: 29 runs
2015: 76 runs
2019: 89 runs (DLS method)



THE FACE-OFF	
WEST INDIES vs BANGLADESH TAUNTON	
HEAD-TO-HEAD	
	MORTAZA
Holder	NR
Overall	37
World Cup	4
Mat	21
WI	14
Ban	0
Tied	0
NR	2
World Cup	3
Mat	0
WI	0
Ban	0
Tied	0
NR	1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia	5	4	1	0	8	0.812
New Zealand	4	3	0	1	7	2.163
India	4	3	0	1	7	1.029
England	4	3	1	0	6	1.557
Sri Lanka	5	1	2	2	4	-1.778
West Indies	4	1	2	1	3	0.666
South Africa	5	1	3	1	3	-0.208
Bangladesh	4	1	2	1	3	-0.714
Pakistan	5	1	3	1	3	-1.933
Afghanistan	4	0	4	0	0	-1.638

*Till the India-Pakistan match on June 16



The magician: Kuldeep Yadav is cock-a-hoop after deceiving Babar Azam with a beauty. • AFP

A very good phase in my life, says Rohit

Feels that having a new-born daughter has left him in a good space

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

On Father's Day, Rohit Sharma attributed his current purple patch to him being in a relaxed state following the birth of his daughter.

"It is a very good phase in my life. Having a new-born daughter has left me in a good space. Plus I have had a good IPL and the focus here was to start well. For us as a team, it is important to keep ticking all the boxes," the opener told the media here on Sunday night.

Asked about his splendid 140 that laid low Pakistan in a crucial World Cup game at Old Trafford, Rohit highlighted the batting approach: "As a batsman,

The focus here was to start well. For us as a team, it is important to keep ticking all the boxes

when the conditions are challenging, you got to assess it. The pitch was under cover for the last two days and we needed to assess and ensure that you don't lose too many wickets upfront. The idea was not to lose wickets, build a platform and then take the game forward. It was a satisfying knock."

Rohit also allowed his new partner K.L. Rahul to bat first: "Rahul also likes to take first strike, so I wanted

to give him that space. Nothing specific, I wanted to make sure he is comfortable because he is opening after a while."

The Indian vice-captain staunchly supported spinner Kuldeep Yadav: "He is someone who needs a lot of confidence before going into a spell. He is a match-winner and has a good record. He got us two crucial wickets. He didn't start the tournament the way he would have liked to but we wanted to give him the confidence. He is one of our premier bowlers."

Handling pressure better
Meanwhile, Sarfaraz Ahmed said that India tended to

handle pressure better in high-stakes games. "I think in World Cup matches where the pressure is more, India has had an upper hand and they have won more matches. We won a good toss but we didn't capitalise on the conditions and we didn't hit the right spots," the Pakistan captain said.

Sarfaraz lauded Rohit's superb ton and said: "Rohit played really well and initially he had his luck and we missed a run-out and these are the chances you got to grab in such a big game." On the road ahead, Sarfaraz said: "We need to win the remaining four to stay in contention for a semifinal. We need to play good cricket."

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- Bigger the goal, more the monthly amount and time



On target: Gurjit struck twice, once off a penalty corner and the other off a penalty stroke. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gurjit powers India to victory over Poland

Her brace helps the team register a 5-0 result

WSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HIROSHIMA

Gurjit scored a brace to lead the Indian women's hockey team to a dominant 5-0 victory over Poland at the FIH Women's Series Finals here on Sunday.

Right from the outset, India was on the attack, the left flank causing problems for Poland's defence time and time again.

Though Poland enjoyed the lion's share of possession, India's speedy attacks put it on the backfoot.

Put under pressure by Sunita Lakra, Poland faltered in playing out from the back, and the ball fell to Navjot Kaur on the left. Her

cross was inch perfect, directed towards the far post, found Jyoti who deflected it home.

Flurry
India won a flurry of PCs in the final five minutes of the quarter. From one of them, Vandana Katariya pounced on a loose ball – after Gurjit's dragkick had been saved by Gabara – to score India's second. Off another, Gurjit slotted home into the bottom left-corner to give India a 3-0 lead at half-time.

A India won a penalty stroke in the 35th minute, and Gurjit duly dispatched it to score her second and India's fourth goal.

The final quarter was an ill-tempered affair, with both

teams reduced to 10 at times, after a few players earned cards.

India was in firm control, though, and its regular circle penetrations kept Poland on the defensive.

Brilliant effort
India's fifth and final goal came through a brilliant effort from Navneet Kaur in the 56th minute.

She took the ball with her back to the goal, turned away from her marker and unleashed a shot into the bottom corner.

Gabara got a hand to it, but the power of the shot proved too much for her.

The result: India 5 (Gurjit 2, Jyoti, Vandana, Navneet) bt Poland 0.

Woodland hangs on for one-shot lead

Rose follows behind, with Koepka and two others also in contention

US OPEN

REUTERS PEBBLE BEACH (USA)

An ice cool Gary Woodland held his nerve under mounting pressure to secure a one-shot lead heading into the final round of the U.S. Open after seeing off challenges from Justin Rose and Brooks Koepka on Saturday.

Woodland, who could not manage a top-10 finish in his first 27 Majors, looked as if he played for the big prizes in the game every week as he carded a third round two-under 69.

“We just got to play golf shots and hopefully come up with one less than anyone else,” said Woodland.

Both Woodland and Rose were pursued by Koepka, who had a tidy bogey-free 68 that left him four off the pace with his hopes of becoming the first player in ov-

er a century to sweep three straight U.S. Opens very much alive.

Also lurking four back were South African Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion who carding a one-under 70, and Chez Reavie, who fired a 68 to move into contention.

Woods and Mickelson disappoint

Two of the Pebble Beach headliners Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson had disappointing third rounds that saw them drop out of contention. Woods even-par 71 left him at even par for the tournament and 10 behind the pacesetter Woodland.

The leaderboard: 202: Gary Woodland (68-65-69); **203:** Justin Rose (65-70-68); **206:** Louis Oosthuizen (66-70-70), Chez Reavie (68-70-68), Brooks Koepka (69-69-68); **207:** Rory McIlroy (68-69-70); **208:** Chesson Hadley (68-70-70), Matt Kuchar (69-69-70).



In the chase: Chez Reavie carded a three-under 68 in the third round to stay in pursuit on Saturday. ■AFP

Colombia stuns Argentina

VAR denies Peru twice against Venezuela

COPA AMERICA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SALVADOR (BRAZIL)

Roger Martinez and Duван Zapata put a dent in Lionel Messi's hopes of finally landing a major international title as Colombia began its Copa America campaign with a 2-0 win over Argentina on Saturday.

Martinez struck a stunning opener on 72 minutes and fellow substitute Zapata sealed the win three minutes from the end after Argentina had dominated the second half of this Group B encounter in Salvador.

It had been 20 years since Colombia last beat Argentina at the Copa America.

“We knew it had been many years, I'm delighted but the Copa isn't finished,” said Zapata. “We're going to enjoy this win.”

This was supposed to be World Cup quarterfinalists Colombia's hardest group test with matches against Paraguay and Asian champions Qatar to come.

Argentina hasn't won a major tournament in 26 years and was beaten finalists in the last two editions of the South American showpiece, as well as the 2014



Contrasting emotions: Duван Zapata, who scored Colombia's second, takes the match ball even as Argentina's Lionel Messi looks despondent. ■AFP

World Cup. “The players know there is a long way to go and we have two matches left,” said Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni.

“The important thing is to stay on the right path and correct our mistakes.”

Ten-man Venezuela held on following the dismissal of Luis Mago to claim a 0-0 draw with Peru, which had two goals chalked off by VAR, in their opening match

on Saturday. The point left the two sides joint second in Group A behind host Brazil.

Peru had the better of the match at a near empty Gremio Arena in Porto Alegre but was twice denied victory after offside decisions taken following consultation with the video assistant referee.

The results: Group A: Venezuela 0 drew with Peru 0. **Group B:** Argentina 0 lost to Colombia 2 (Martinez 72, Zapata 87).

Sweden routs Thailand

WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS NICE

Sweden produced a breathtaking display of attacking football to thrash Thailand 5-1 in Nice on Sunday and book its place in the last 16 of the women's World Cup.

Centre back Linda Sembrant broke the deadlock for Sweden with a thumping header off an Elin Rubensson free kick, before midfielder Kosovare Asllani pounced on a rebound to

double the lead.

Fridolina Rolfo hammered in a third from outside the box while, forward Lina Hurtig and Rubensson scored in the second half.

The results:
Group F: Sweden 5 (Linda Sembrant 6, Kosovare Asllani 19, Fridolina Rolfo 42, Lina Hurtig 81, Elin Rubensson 90+6-pen) bt Thailand 1 (Kanjana Sung-ngoen).

On Saturday:
Group E: Canada 2 (Fleming 48, Prince 79) bt New Zealand 0.



Slotting in: Elin Rubensson scores Sweden's fifth goal from the penalty spot. ■REUTERS

La Rondine claims Mayor's Cup

BENGALURU: La Rondine (Neeraj) won the Mayor's Cup, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 16). The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep by Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Dhanjibhoy and Mr. & Mrs. Z.K. Dhanjibhoy and trained by Vishal Gaikwad.

1 ICH DIEN PLATE (2,000m), rated 15 to 35; **HERE AND NOW (Suraj)** 1, Ice Speed (John) 2, Extremelydangerous (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Track Striker (Antony) 4. 11-1/4, 1-1/2 and Nk. 2m, 07.28s. ₹17 (w), 11 and 18 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 71, FP: 36, Q: 30, Trinella: 754 and 604, Exacta: 1,484 and 475. Favourite: Here And Now.

2 HIS MAJESTY PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **ABIRA (Neeraj)** 1, Brothers In Arms (Suraj) 2, Desert Combat (Trevor) 3 and Mr Humble (Dhanu Singh) 4. 10-3/4, 5-1/4 and 1-3/4. Im, 11.05s. ₹17 (w), 10, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 33, FP: 32, Q: 19, Trinella: 50 and 21, Exacta: 421 and 270. Favourite: Abira.

3 ABOLINE PLATE (1,100m), rated 15 to 35; **ANFIA (John)** 1, Morrane Gabriella (R. Pradeep) 2, She's Superb (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Industrialist (Dhanu Singh) 4. 5, Shd and Nk. Im, 06.32s. ₹18 (w), 13, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 41, FP: 81, Q: 61, Trinella: 80 and 27, Exacta: 231 and 160. Fa-

vourite: Anfia.

4 MYSTIC MEMORY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over; **AIR COMMAND (John)** 1, Sahara (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Baymax (Abhay Singh) 3 and Decisive (Nazerul) 4. 3/4, 3 and 5-1/2. Im, 11.98s. ₹33(w), 13, 13 and 14 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 46, FP: 67, Q: 36, Trinella: 175 and 90, Exacta: 2,494 and 1,480. Favourite: Sahara. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd, Mr. Arjun Mangalorkar & Mr. Siddharth Morzaria. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

5 MAYOR'S CUP (1,600m), rated 60 & above; **LA RONDINE (Neeraj)** 1, Punjabi Girl (Trevor) 2, Magistero (Darshan) 3 and New Moon (Arshad) 4. Not run: Buscadero and Sea King. 2-3/4, 3/4 and 3-1/2. Im, 36.51s. ₹16 (w), 11, 15 and 24 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 41, FP: 57, Q: 35, Trinella: 261 and 120, Exacta: 464 and 250. Favourite: La Rondine.

6 KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **STAR SUPERIOR (Suraj)** 1, Watchmyscript (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Prevalent Force (Zervan) 3 and Costa Brava (Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 3-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 34.97s. ₹13 (w), 10, 21 and 16 (p), SHP: 66, THP: 29, FP:

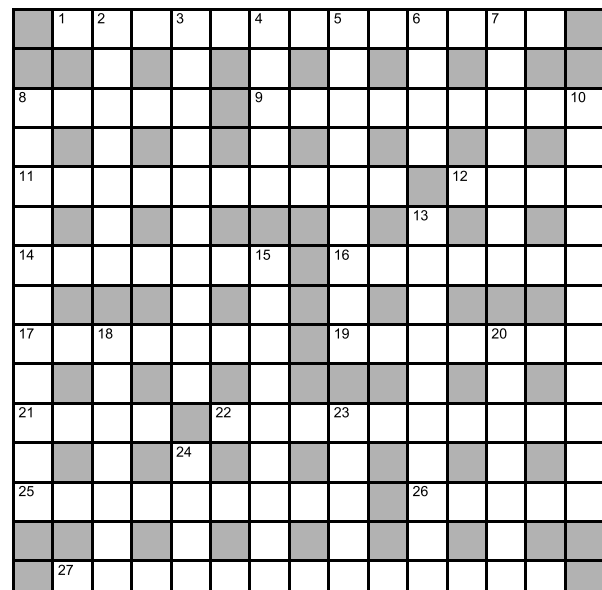
156, Q: 100, Trinella: 466 and 200, Exacta: 769 and 276. Favourite: Star Superior.

7 XISCA PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20; **MY LEXICON (Nazerul)** 1, Premier Premises (Arshad) 2, Savisa (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Phoenix Reached (P.S. Chouhan) 4. Not run: Odyssey. 4-3/4, 3/4 and Nk. Im, 07.72s. ₹41 (w), 14, 22 and 21 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 57, FP: 283, Q: 239, Trinella: 1,720 and 865, Exacta: 7,154 and 5,519. Favourite: Aerospeed.

8 MYSTIC MEMORY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over; **MULTIFACETED (Zervan)** 1, Wings Of Desire (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Bold Move (S. Shareef) 3 and Spanish Beauty (John) 4. 7-1/2, 5-1/4 and 1. Im, 11.37s. ₹15 (w), 11, 11 and 23 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 50, FP: 32, Q: 30, Trinella: 209 and 132, Exacta: 320 and 73. Favourite: Multifaceted.

Owners: Mr. Rienznie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius. Jackpot: ₹533 (1,310 tkts.); Runner-up: 137 (2,193 tkts.); Treble (0): 81 (257 tkts.); (ii): 141 (192 tkts.).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12654



- ACROSS**
- 1 What a trekker in desert might be very close to finding? (3,2,3,5)
 - 8 Rechecked it! Totally shows the same thing (5)
 - 9 Associate, presumptuous, rues silly cracks (9)
 - 11 Free issue includes film review (10)
- DOWN**
- 2 Brutality of Republican curbed by loss of power (7)
 - 3 When one might wear nice clothes from time to time (2,8)

- (set by Dr. X)
- 12 Drunkard's love for girl in group (4)
 - 14 Delighted by request to have intercourse endlessly (7)
 - 16 Author involved in creating opus speaks freely (5,2)
 - 17 Positive particles from uranium leaking out! Warn head of security (7)
 - 19 Many tucking into hot German bread (7)
 - 21 Feeling sick, queen discarded a piece of cake (4)
 - 22 Star and model entering home to cheat (10)
 - 25 Made up any rubbish answer in disdain (4,1,4)
 - 26 Growing old? Getting angry! Not right (5)
 - 27 Drives, drinks, crushes man on track and gets ruined (4,2,3,4)
 - 4 Man overwhelmed by work around March (5)
 - 5 A little stunned after Left topples Right in assembly polls (9)
 - 6 Not good to annoy judge (4)
 - 7 Public houses around Uri bombed and destroyed (2,5)
 - 8 Abundant financial resources? Peep happily through bills (4,7)
 - 10 One given to customer dancing over a little bargain in slump (8,3)
 - 13 Assessment of learner's performance in vehicle after crash – primarily disastrous (6,4)
 - 15 Law-breaker's burst of speed on precarious road (9)
 - 18 Toe accidentally broken by macho guy making shield for troops (7)
 - 20 Passing time, grin and talk about playing tricks (7)
 - 23 Shoot leader of bandits leaving farm (5)
 - 24 Mauls jerk about to throttle woman (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12653

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Veil of Maya

The purpose of human birth is to know the Supreme Brahman and it is the only goal worth pursuing, say the scriptures. They try to answer the query who this Brahman is and how to recognise Him. They hail Brahman as the One Imperishable, Infinite and Highest Truth who creates and sustains all that is manifest as the Many in this entire creation. To understand Brahman in these two aspects of the One and the Many is the true knowledge that liberates, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

In the Supreme Brahman, Knowledge, Vidya, and Ignorance, Avidya, are skillfully hidden by the web of Maya. Brahman casts this Maya as one would cast a net on the entire creation. He holds everything under His sway and also stands apart from all these. Brahman is the cause for the birth, growth and decay of all living beings. He is the creator of individual characteristics of all the objects and beings. But such is the power of His Maya that it deludes one into believing that the apparent manifest world is alone the truth. One identifies with the body and does not realise the atma within. Unless the spiritual aspirant is keen to seek the Truth and aims to attain the jnana pertaining to the real and the unreal, he cannot cross the samsara. Brahman's all pervasiveness has to be intuitively grasped.

For example, a piece of cloth is woven with the help of threads. Suppose one identifies with the thread alone, can it become the cloth that has its own identity in terms of shape, size, texture, utility value, etc? The truth that ghee is present in milk has to be uncovered by the awareness of the processes by which it is extracted. If realised souls know the Supreme Brahman as the Eternal Creator of manifold form, it is owing to His grace alone.