

An epochal day remembered as the Windies clash beckons India

Rain hampers scheduled practice, but the forecast is promising ahead of Kohli's men's next assignment on Thursday



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

A historical day, steeped in awe and nostalgia, dawned to the accompaniment of rain at Manchester. Kapil Dev holding aloft the Prudential World Cup on June 25, 36 years ago at Lord's, has shimmered forever in the collective memory of all Indians. The remembrance gives a huge fillip to the good old days of a generation that grew up in the 1980s.

But there was nothing heartening from a sporting point of view here on Tuesday. The constant drizzle moisturised red-bricked walls, tiled roofs, swaying trees, hurriedly opened umbrellas and, wretchedly for cricket, the turf at Old Trafford with its covered pitch, lush-green outfield and five pigeons looking for worms.

Optional indoor nets

Understandably, the Indian team cancelled its scheduled practice stint and instead opted for a round of optional nets at the indoor facility with its massive black and white picture of Wasim Ak-



Eye for perfection: Virat Kohli displayed twinkle-toes and finesse during an indoor nets session at Old Trafford on Tuesday. • AP

ram, who played for home county Lancashire, near the entrance. The Pakistani great is snapped up side-on in his final delivery stride, about to unleash aesthetic violence with the red cherry.

Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ravindra Jadeja and Vijay Shankar turned up and, among the support staff, Ravi

Shastri kept a sharp eye. The coach is the lone link that the Men in Blue have with Kapil's Devils. Shastri was part of the 1983 squad and played in five games. Incidentally, he featured in the preliminary clash against the West Indies here at Old Trafford. His left-arm spin garnered three wickets and that, with a simi-

lar effort from seamer Roger Binny, helped India stun the defending champion by 34 runs.

In the thick of things

Since then, the Mumbaier evolved over many summers, donned various roles, most of them linked to com-

mentary, and finally occupied the coach's chair.

Older and with a broader midriff and slower gait, Shastri remains very much in the thick of things. His gaze was on Kohli as the Indian captain had an extended hit in the three nets – two bowling machines and one for



Ravi Shastri, with his 1983 World Cup medal. • ALL SPORT

throw-downs.

Shastri observed Kohli's shoulder-alignment while the batsman unfurled a volley of strokes. A straight drive, issued like a gun-shot, had everyone scrambling and yelling 'watch it'. Later, sweeps, paddle and conventional, were finessed and Kohli displayed twinkle-toes too while essaying lofted shots.

Interestingly, Bhuvneshwar, who is recovering from a hamstring strain, bowled briefly. The medium-pacer had missed last Saturday's game against Afghanistan at Southampton, and is on the



England has reached the finals thrice but has never won an ODI World Cup.

road to recovery. The selectors, including chairman M.S.K. Prasad, Gagan Khoda and Jatin Paranjpe were present. Paranjpe manned the bowling machine when Jadeja kept hoisting with abandon, one such effort cannoned into the roof's mesh and forced the scribes, watching from their balcony tier, to instinctively duck.

Good news

Meanwhile, the wet weather outside was the kind that made the heart yearn for hot chocolate. Thankfully, there is some good news as the forecast for Thursday, when India takes on the West Indies, is sunny.

Much water has flowed down the Thames since Kapil's men defeated the mighty West Indies in an unforgettable final and, as India progresses in the World Cup's latest edition, form and fortunes have changed over the last three decades.

Kohli's men remain on the ascendant while the West Indies desperately needs a win to nourish its fragile hopes of staying alive in the championship. Time flies, things change.



Aggressive intent seemed to be the morning's theme as Shankar worked on his pull and hook while batting close and with a racquet

Finch, Behrendorff-Starc duo put Australia in semifinals

After the skipper's century propels the side to 285, the left-armers shoot out England for 221

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LONDON

England's hopes of making it to the World Cup semifinals received a jolt as it suffered a 64-run loss to Australia at Lord's on Tuesday.

Left-arm seamer Jason Behrendorff claimed five for 44 and Mitchell Starc four for 43 as the host lost the plot while chasing Australia's 285 for seven and was bundled out for 221.

Put in to bat, Aaron Finch's captain's knock of 100 off 116 deliveries – his second century of the tournament – to guide Australia to a competitive total.

In reply, England was reeling at 53 for four at one stage after its top-order failed to fire.

Though Ben Stokes (89) and Jos Buttler (25) forged a 71-run stand for the fifth wicket, the equation changed once Marcus Stoinis sent back the latter.

Stokes then built a 53-run alliance with Chris Woakes (26) before being castled by Mitchell Starc. After his exit, England's hopes died.

Earlier, on a cloudy morning, the Aussies got off to a solid start with Finch and David Warner (53) forging a 123-run opening partnership – their fifth 50-plus association in a row.

Moeen strikes

However, England applied the brakes through Moeen Ali who got Warner for 53.

Skipper Finch, who



In the zone: Finch found his range yet again. • AFP



Yorked! Stokes is done in by a Starc special.

• DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES

earned a reprieve on 15, went on to score his 15th ODI century off just 115 balls.

But he was dismissed by Jofra Archer off the next ball,

hitting straight to long-leg.

It was left to wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who smashed 38 off 27 balls, to take the defending champion to 285.

THE FACE-OFF					
New Zealand vs Pakistan					
EDGBASTON					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	WILLIAMSON		SARFARAZ		
Matches	NZ	Pak	Tied	NR	
Overall	106	48	54	1	3
World Cup	8	2	6	0	0

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

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia	7	6	1	0	12	0.906
New Zealand	6	5	0	1	11	1.306
India	5	4	0	1	9	0.809
England	7	4	3	0	8	1.051
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	2	6	-1.119
Pakistan	6	2	3	1	5	-1.265
West Indies	6	1	4	1	3	0.190
South Africa (E)	7	1	5	1	3	-0.324
Afghanistan (E)	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

*till the England-Australia match on June 25; E: Eliminated

STAT SPHERE

1 Behrendorff returned a career-best 5/44 as he combined with Starc (4/43) to become the first left-arm pace opening pair to share nine wickets in an ODI

1 Finch is the first batsman to record two hundreds against England in the WC – he had scored 135 in Melbourne in 2015

4 The Warner-Finch duo is the fourth to notch up three century partnerships in a WC:

- Aravinda-Gurusinha (1996)
- Gilchrist-Hayden (2007)
- Dilshan-Sangakkara (2015)
- Warner-Finch (2019)

6 Stoinis' run out is Australia's sixth, the most for a side in this WC

15 Number of ODI centuries for Finch, the fourth quickest to achieve the feat

- FEWEST INNINGS TO 15 TONS**
- 86: Amla
 - 106: Kohli
 - 108: Dhawan & Warner

- 112: Finch
- 126: Root
- 143: Anwar
- 144: Ganguly

44 Australia's lowest score after the first PowerPlay (10 overs) so far. It has not lost a wicket in this period in six of the seven games

- 55/0 vs Afg, Bristol
- 48/4 vs WI, Nottingham
- 48/0 vs Ind, Oval
- 56/0 vs Pak, Taunton
- 53/0 vs SL, Oval
- 53/0 vs Ban, Nottingham
- 44/0 vs Eng, Lord's

England has lost three of the four games when chasing in this WC (vs Pak, SL & Aus) while it was successful against WI

Next assignment

AUSTRALIA: June 29 vs New Zealand, Lord's, 6 p.m.
ENGLAND: June 30 vs India, Edgbaston, 3 p.m.

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND

AUSTRALIA
Aaron Finch c Woakes b Archer 100 (116b, 11x4, 2x6), David Warner c Root b Moeen 53 (67b, 6x4), Usman Khawaja b Stokes 23 (29b, 1x4), Steve Smith c Archer b Woakes 38 (34b, 5x4), Glenn Maxwell c Buttler b Wood 12 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), Marcus Stoinis run out 8 (15b, 1x4), Alex Carey (not out) 38 (27b, 5x4), Pat Cummins c Buttler b Woakes 1 (4b), Mitchell Starc (not out) 4 (6b); Extras (lb-4, w-4): 8; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 285.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-123 (Warner, 22.4 overs), 2-173 (Khawaja, 32.2), 3-185 (Finch, 35.3), 4-213 (Maxwell, 38.2), 5-228 (Stoinis, 41.5), 6-

250 (Smith, 45.4), 7-259 (Cummins, 47.1).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 10-0-46-2, Archer 9-0-56-1, Wood 9-0-59-1, Stokes 6-0-29-1, Moeen 6-0-42-1, Rashid 10-0-49-0.

ENGLAND
James Vince b Behrendorff 0 (2b), Jonny Bairstow c Cummins b Behrendorff 27 (39b, 5x4), Joe Root lbw b Starc 8 (9b, 2x4), Eoin Morgan c Cummins b Starc 4 (7b, 1x4), Ben Stokes b Starc 89 (115b, 8x4, 2x6), Jos Buttler c Khawaja b Stoinis 25 (27b, 2x4), Chris Woakes c Finch b Behrendorff 26 (34b, 2x4), Moeen Ali c Carey b Behrendorff 6 (9b, 1x4), Adil Rashid c Stoinis b

Starc 25 (20b, 3x4, 1x6), Jofra Archer c Warner b Behrendorff 1 (4b), Mark Wood (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-3): 9; Total (in 44.4 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Vince, 0.2), 2-15 (Root, 3.3), 3-26 (Morgan, 5.5), 4-53 (Bairstow, 13.5), 5-124 (Buttler, 27.2), 6-177 (Stokes, 36.6), 7-189 (Moeen, 39.3), 8-202 (Woakes, 41.3), 9-211 (Archer, 43.3).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Behrendorff 10-0-44-5, Starc 8.4-1-43-4, Cummins 8-1-41-0, Lyon 9-0-43-0, Stoinis 7-0-29-1, Maxwell 2-0-15-0.

Toss: England.
MoM: Finch.
Australia won by 64 runs.

Lara recovering after hospitalisation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Former West Indies captain Brian Lara was rushed to the Global Hospital in Parel on Tuesday noon after he complained of uneasiness and chest pain.

He is in the city as an expert commentator for Star Sports for the ICC World Cup.

While the hospital authorities refused to divulge any information, sources said that he underwent a series of medical investigations including an angiography.

He is being kept under the observation of cardiologist Dr. Praveen Kulkarni and may be discharged in a day or two.



Brian Lara. • AFP

"He is doing well. The tests reports have not shown anything worrisome", said a source.

A statement from the hospital said that the patient has clearly stated that he does not want his health condition made public.

According to sources, Lara was rushed to the hospital from a nearby hotel and the hotel's in-house doctor accompanied the legendary cricketer. Sources said that Lara was on leave as a commentator from June 24 to 27.

Exertion in gym

Later, Lara in an audio recording said he may have exerted himself a bit at the gym in the morning which led to a pain in the chest.

As the pain continued, he went to the hospital for some tests and added the doctors were happy with the results.

The West Indian great thanked all for the concern saying he would be back in his hotel 'tomorrow'.

Unforgettable moment: Patil

Nation remembers us every year on June 25, says Yashpal

'83 MEMORIES

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
HYDERABAD

Sandeep Patil does not remember his wife's birthday or his wedding anniversary. "True. But 25th June 1983 is a date which is part of my life. Unforgettable."

For Yashpal Sharma, too, it is a significant day. "The nation remembers us every year on June 25th. It is an invigorating feeling when we remember that historic moment."

Patil has many pleasant memories and anecdotes related to the World Cup triumph. Some told, some not.

"Watching the West Indian players make their way into the Indian dressing room is vivid. It was kind of them. I must say it was a scene none would have thought of. But it happened. What a formidable line-up it was and what a moment when all those great names came to our dressing room after the match got over," Patil recalled.

At the lunch break (matches were of 60 overs-a-side duration), Patil saw someone tapping his shoulder. "I turned to face Viv (Richards). He was praising me for my innings against England (in the semifinals). The West Indians were almost certain they were winning the final. Who would have known! I sat near the Lord's dressing room window soaking in the joy, watching the celebrations all over."



Pat from the PM: Indira Gandhi greets Yashpal after India's World Cup triumph. Patil is on the right. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

On return, the team was felicitated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Hyderabad House. "Imagine being served by the Prime Minister... She broke protocol to receive us alone at the Gate and then, at the reception, she served each member personally. What a moment it was! I asked for Paani-Poori and she accompanied me to the stall serving the snacks," recalled Patil.

Abiding memory

For Yashpal, the abiding memory was the six he hit off Bob Willis in the semifinal at Manchester. "I was sitting in the stands (in 1979) when Richards hit Mike Hendricks for a similar six. It was on my mind and wanted to emulate that shot. I picked Willis' line

early. I was not even sure of playing but was pleasantly surprised to be picked ahead of Vengsarkar. I batted at different positions but was glad I could contribute."

Yashpal was India's second highest run-getter, with super knocks against West Indies in the opener and the semifinal.

"I have happy and some not so happy memories. Somehow I never got recognition from my captain (Kapil Dev)," Yashpal said.

Kapil's response to *The Hindu* was: "I have always talked of Balvinder Sandhu's ball to Gordon Greenidge, Kirti Azad's ball to Ian Botham, how can I not talk of Yashpal. His batting was the key and he was an important part of the win."

We owe it to storytellers, writers: Kapil

Presenter/sports anchor Nikhil Naz releases his book *Miracle Men*

'83 MEMORIES

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI
For most people present in the banquet hall of a city hotel on Tuesday afternoon, it was nostalgia time. Precisely 36 years after lifting the Prudential Cup, Kapil Dev was among those sharing some anecdotes connected with India's first World Cup triumph.

The occasion was the release of the book *Miracle Men* written by presenter/sports anchor Nikhil Naz. The function was attended, among others, by former cricketers and sports journalists from print and electronic media.

The famous catch

Asked about the famous catch he took to dismiss Vivian Richards in the final, Kapil underplayed the effort and said, "That's what we were told to do by our coaches — when running back, try to take the catch sideways."

"During those days, the fielding drills were not like what you see today. Today, it



Nostalgia: Kapil Dev shares interesting anecdotes connected with India's first World Cup triumph during the book launch. ■R.V. MOORTHY

is far more intense and fielders are far more aware of what they need to do to get better."

Madan Lal, another key member of the victorious team, hailed Kapil's captain-

cy and denied having "snatched the ball from Kapil" to bowl the over that saw the dismissal of Richards.

"No one can snatch the ball away from a captain. Irrespective of seniority, Kapil was a quality all-rounder," said Madan Lal.

Kirti Azad, asked about the low-trajectory ball that dismissed Ian Botham in the semifinals, said, "I still don't know how I bowled that delivery. That ball simply shot through."

No comparison
The all-rounder described Kapil's catch and the epic knock of 175 against Zimbabwe as "without a parallel." He said, "comparisons are not always fair but Kapil's efforts remain beyond compare."

Naz touched upon the research behind the book and revealed, "While working on this book I discovered it was not true that the India-Zimbabwe match was not shown because BBC was on strike."

BBC gives it a miss
"The truth was, on that day (June 18) four matches were scheduled. The BBC chose to cover the England-Pakistan match and the one involving Australia and West Indies, thereby giving the other two matches — India-Zimbabwe

and New Zealand-Sri Lanka — a miss."

Kapil was quick to add, "I remember, no match was shown live that day. I think, two matches were recorded and showed later."

He praised Naz for putting it all together and expressed his admiration for storytellers, authors and writers, for bringing these stories to the next generation. "We sportspersons owe it to you"

Also present at the function was former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi, who was part of the selection committee that chose India's World Cup squad.

Bedi praised the cricketing acumen of selectors Kripal Singh and Hanumant Singh and acknowledged the immense contribution of Ambar Roy and Chandu Borde, the other two selectors.

"There was agreement on every member selected. We believed these boys could win. Each player gave his all and returned with the Cup that very few expected to come India's way," he concluded.

Cavani helps Uruguay top group

Meets Peru in quarterfinals; Japan and Ecuador eliminated



Firing it in: Edinson Cavani's perfectly-timed header against Chile gave Uruguay the bragging rights in Group C on Monday. ■REUTERS

COPA AMERICA

REUTERS
RIO DE JANEIRO

A late header from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay a 1-0 win over holder Chile on Monday which saw it snatch the top spot in Group C at its opponent's expense and set up a quarterfinal meeting with Peru.

The striker glanced Jonathan Rodriguez's cross into the net in the 82nd minute to break the deadlock in a finely balanced game played with a fierce competitive edge even though both teams had already sealed their place in the last eight.

Cavani had been sent off in Uruguay's 1-0 defeat to Chile in the 2015 quarterfinals and he and his team-

mates celebrated the goal as if it had just won them a trophy.

In Belo Horizonte, Japan and Ecuador were eliminated after their 1-1 draw gifted Paraguay a quarterfinal berth as one of the two best third-placed sides.

The results: Group C: Uruguay 1 (Cavani 82) bt Chile 0; Ecuador 1 (Mena 35) drew with Japan 1 (Nakajima 15).

India's recovery after the 2007 fiasco can be an inspiration



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Sport can be cruel. Yesterday's champions become today's no-hopers, top teams sink below the level required to remain competitive. Younger players and fans know only failures, older ones try to convince them of the power of the glory days.

Take a look at the World Cup table. The three teams at the bottom are Afghanistan, South Africa and the West Indies. South Africa were the No. 1 team not so long ago and West Indies twice World champions. Afghanistan, except against India, have looked somewhat out of their depth, leaving the romantics struggling to find inspiring things to say about them.

An oft-repeated story

Yet in recent years, Afghanistan's has been the story of cricket. A team put together in times of strife in the refugee camps of another country, whose 'home' turf is a third country. The story has been told many times, yet it still surprises commentators that someone like Mohammed Nabi looks so "cool and calm" in the face of "great pressure" as he did while nearly getting his team over the line.

A bit of perspective here. Nabi has been through worse than a yorker-rich over from Jasprit Bumrah. His father was kidnapped and held for ransom while his country was in turmoil.

At least one cricketer was killed by an American raid. Australian all-rounder Keith Miller put things in perspective

when he said, "Pressure? There's no pressure in cricket. Real pressure is when you are flying a Mosquito with a Messerschmitt up your a@#!" No doubt Nabi and his mates will have their own definition of 'pressure'. Cricket is unlikely to figure in it.

West Indies might have just squeezed into the World Cup with a five-run win over Scotland, aided by an umpiring decision because there was no DRS in the qualifying tournament.

But they have a team capable of playing with the big boys on level terms. Individual successes didn't mesh well enough to carry them forward, however. Had they done well, made it to the final, it would have revived the game back home that's been struggling in recent years against official corruption, diminishing pool of players, administrative apathy and the drawing power of other sports.

Both West Indies and South Africa lost key players through injury, but their decline recently has been the other story of cricket. Rebuilding can be a long and troubling process; after this performance, older players are likely to call it a day (Chris Gayle said before the tournament that this would be his last), and younger players will wonder if they can handle the transition.

It is a fate that Pakistan and Sri Lanka face too, although in their cases, there is still a mathematical chance that they could qualify. A slim one, though.

When the focus is on the big boys, there is a perverse delight to be had (besides the regular pleasure) when a less fancied team shows the world they can play the game too.

This year — and not for the first time in a World Cup — it has been Bangladesh's turn to cause fancied teams periods of worry. They may not make it to the semifinals; too many things have to fall into place before that can happen.

But they have displayed an energy and a never-say-die spirit that is the essence of all sport.

With some luck (and better catching) they could have added Australia to their list of scalps, along with South Africa and West Indies. David Warner, dropped on 10 went on to make 166, and Bangladesh's reply of 333 (chasing 381) moved the match into the realm of the might-have-beens. In Shakib Al Hasan, seemingly at his peak at the age of 32, Bangladesh have the potential player of the tournament, an all-rounder who has been carrying the team on his shoulders. Shakib's centuries against England and West Indies were followed by a five-wicket haul against Afghanistan; performances that haven't really got their due. Only Kapil Dev and Yuvaraj in the years that India won have done this double before.

Slower wickets, fewer runs

Bangladesh have two matches left, against India and Pakistan, and although they beat India in the 2007 World Cup and Pakistan in 1999, the odds are not in their favour. But Afghanistan's performance against India would have given them cause for cheer. Slower wickets have ensured fewer runs and thus closer matches that have favoured the lesser teams.

The bottom three can take heart from India's recovery after their disastrous performance in 2007. India bowed out of that World Cup in some disarray, having failed to qualify for the knockout.

The picture of the senior players with shocked expressions, some of them weeping openly, made an impact on a disappointed nation. Yet in four years' time the team had been rebuilt and did well enough to win the World Cup. Sometimes defeat can force changes that lead to victory.

Italy's dream return continues

Beats China to make the quarters for first time since 1991



Opening salvo: Valentina Giacinti, No. 19, scores Italy's first goal with the Chinese goalkeeper out of position. ■REUTERS

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONTPELLIER

Italy reached the women's World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in nearly three decades after beating China 2-0 in Montpellier on Tuesday.

A 15th-minute tap in from Valentina Giacinti and substitute Aurora Galli's fierce drive three minutes after the break saw Milena Bertolini's side see off a committed Chinese side and match its best run in the competition back in 1991.

The Italians will on Saturday aim for a shot at their first ever appearance in the last four.

"It's a great result after a difficult match. Today wasn't a display of beautiful football

but the girls gave everything and we were clinical," said Bertolini to TV station Rai. "To reach the quarterfinals is hugely satisfying."

Fancying its chances

Italy will fancy its chances after a dream-like run in France that saw it win Tuesday's last 16 clash after topping a group containing Marta's Brazil and pre-tournament dark horse Australia.

Giacinti started the move that gave Italy the lead after already having one effort ruled out for offside, feeding Barbara Bonansea on the edge of the box before the Juventus attacker slipped in Elisa Bartoli.

Roma defender Bartoli's low effort was eventually tapped by Giacinti following Peng Shimeng's smart save

and indecision from the Chinese defence.

The Italians had chances to extend their lead through Giacinti and her AC Milan teammate Valentina Bergamaschi, who forced a superb save from Peng, but China pinned them back as the half wore on.

Drilled low shot

However Italy effectively sealed its semifinal spot almost immediately after the restart through Galli, who collected Alia Guagni's pass and composed herself before drilling a low shot past Peng.

The results: Pre-quarterfinals: Italy 2 (Giacinti 15, Galli 49) bt China 0.

Spain 1 (Hermoso 9) lost to USA 2 (Rapinoe 7-pen, 75-pen); Sweden 1 (Blackstenius 55) bt Canada 0.

Sonogo beats Prajnesh

SPORTS BUREAU
ANTALYA

Lorenzo Sonogo best Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-7(3), 6-0, 7-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the €507,490 ATP tournament on Tuesday.

The results: €507,490 ATP, Antalya, Turkey: Pre-quarterfinals: Lorenzo Sonogo (Ita) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-7(3), 6-0, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF men, Harare: First round: Ishaque Eqbal bt Ethan Denzel Sibanda (Zim) 6-2, 6-2; Dhruv Sunish bt Aryan Goveas 6-7(4), 7-5, 7-5; Michael-John Every (Cuw) bt Yash Yadav 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Guy Orly Iradukunda (Bdi) & Aryan Goveas bt Lucas Catarina (Mon) & Mehluli Don Ayanda Sibanda (Zim) 6-4, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Naiman, China: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Meiqi Guo & Mei Xu Wu (Chn) Yarden Akler (Isr) & Snehal Mane 6-3, 6-3.

India bids to host 2023 IOC session

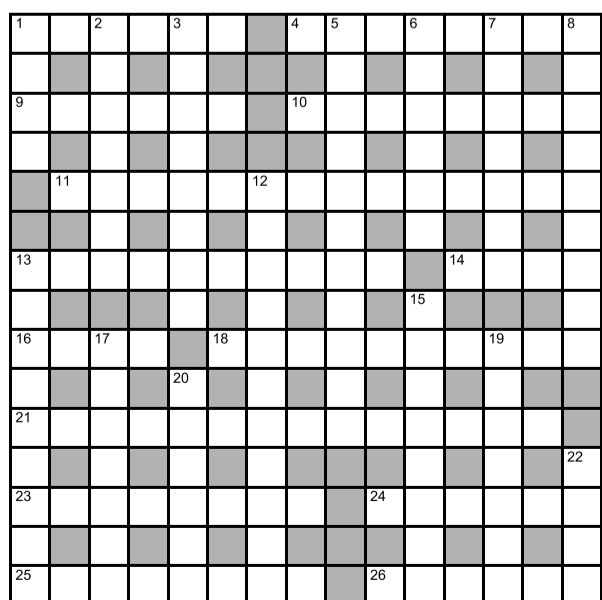
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUSANNE

India on Tuesday proposed to host the 2023 IOC session in Mumbai, which is expected to choose the host city for the 2030 Winter Olympics.

IOA President Narinder Batra and member Nita Ambani submitted the formal bid to the IOC chief Thomas Bach here. Batra is set to be elected as a new IOC member during the Session on Wednesday.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12662

(set by Avtaar)



ACROSS

- 1 Old city gang is backed by Gulf (6)
- 4 Found mean old dogs, say (8)
- 9 Hot model, starting to undress, is unmoved (2,4)
- 10 Footwear imbued with slightly coarse stains (8)
- 11 Protest against unreasonable tax organised at last, say, by Hagar the Horrible (4,10)

- 13 One who narrates stories about visiting exotic destinations, excepting South India (10)
- 14 President Eisenhower's staff (4)
- 16 Foreigner waives a claim (4)
- 18 Personal digital assistant? (10)
- 21 Supermom prepared healthy food with added milk (4,2,3,5)
- 23 Mention of deficit at Iona (8)
- 24 Clammy pound is filled with waste at the boundaries and on the left (6)
- 25 "It shows who's not fit to overcome tumour", Spooner said (4,4)
- 26 Sally's ashes (6)

DOWN

- 1 His tribe left Europe in a hurry (4)
- 2 Note from Avtaar's guru (7)
- 3 Faculty position attracting Psychology's top talent eventually gets cancelled (8)

- 5 French soup is garnished with chives and soy (11)
- 6 Welsh sappers have recovered something that explains heredity (6)
- 7 This language — extremely beautiful — variant of Bulgarian (7)
- 8 Darkest, medium-brewed drinks stocked in the local area briefly (9)
- 12 Paintings by Rembrandt finally recovered during legal proceedings may be fantastic sights (11)
- 13 National team wants new ball in the beginning (3,6)
- 15 Eventually, you grow fat playing this game (3-2-3)
- 17 Very clear and detailed order about festival in the North (7)
- 19 Naval vessel has top part flooded (2,5)
- 20 Deadly squall at Romania has moved upwards (6)
- 22 Set retracting ends of the polyp and cyst evenly (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12661

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Text that inspires

The Mahabharata is an extraordinary grantha that continues to exercise tremendous influence on people. Its vastness is matched by the innumerable riches it offers to humanity, pointed out Sri Sankararama Dikshitar in a discourse. When forced to live in exile, the Pandavas initially find it difficult to accept this situation. By listening to the stories of Nala and Damayanti, Savitri and Satyavan, etc, narrated to them by the sages, the Pandavas learn that adversity is common, though people in distress tend to think that their plight is the most miserable. They also realise that there is a limit to the trials and tribulations faced by human beings. Later, on the advice of Vyasa, Arjuna leaves for the Himalayas to do practice austerities for getting new astras from the devas. He propitiates Siva to obtain the Pasupata astras.

With Arjuna away and irked by his absence, the Pandavas brood about his state. Sage Lomasa, who had been to Indra Loka, visits them and gives them tidings of Arjuna. They learn from him that Arjuna has obtained the Pasupata from Siva; that he is now a guest of Indra and that after completing some tasks for Indra, he would join them. In the meanwhile, the Pandavas are advised to go on a pilgrimage to all the holy places in Bharata Varsha.

The epic throws light on the purpose of pilgrimage. Ideally a pilgrimage should be undertaken under proper guidance; bathing in the sacred rivers, performing sacred rituals and worshipping the deities are ordained for the pilgrim. Sage Lomasa, who accompanies the Pandavas, is well versed in the legends and lore associated with each of the sacred places and conducts the rituals ordained for pilgrims. He explains about the holy rivers that are endowed with the power to sanctify the people who bathe in them.