

India in good space, but Windies has the firepower to test the best

Bhuvneshwar seems to have recovered from injury but Shami may get the nod after his stellar showing in the Afghanistan clash



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

In Manchester where its denizens dote on football, like it is in the rest of England, and are acrimoniously split between two clubs carrying the town's name as prefix – United and City, the ICC World Cup has been at best, a pleasant distraction. Even the tabloids slot cricket from page 12 in the sports supplement while newsprint is largely devoted to the women's football World Cup.

Restricted hype

The hype around cricket here at Old Trafford has largely been restricted to the sub-continental diaspora and the sheer interest that Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis have collectively displayed. Into this theatre of local indifference and the immigrant's love for a British game, India and the West Indies will step in for Thursday's clash.

Virat Kohli's men are in a good space, having defeated rivals ranging from the established to the minnows. Even though the skirmish against Afghanistan busted nerves at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl, India, like all efficient units, had the last laugh. Currently placed third on the table, the Men in Blue seem set to finish in the top four but the team-manage-



Seasoned pro: Dhoni is experienced enough to shed the baggage of criticism over his laboured batting in the last match. ■ AFP

ment refused to think too far ahead.

Prevailing mantra

Taking it one contest at a time and considering the joust featuring the men from the Caribbean Islands as another essential incremental step is the prevailing mantra. Surely, a triumph against Jason Holder's men will strengthen the lone foot that has already sneaked past the semifinal's door.

The lone lingering question was about Bhuvneshwar Kumar's fitness but the medium-pacer seems to have recovered from his hamstring strain. On a bright Wednesday, the seamer bowled on the practice pitch and did ex-

aggerated jumps while physio Patrick Farhart observed. The final word will be known at the toss but, after Mohammed Shami's hat-trick against Afghanistan, the think-tank may be tempted to rest Bhuvneshwar.

Losing momentum

The West Indies, meanwhile, has lost the momentum it gained from the opening win over Pakistan. Subsequently, it lost four and the defeats to Bangladesh and New Zealand have been soul-sapping. If Holder and company tuck into the venue's history, they might draw some inspiration. The great West Indian captain Clive Lloyd played for close to two decades with

the home county Lancashire and he was a magnetic presence.

Explosive batsmen

Holder has explosive batsmen in his arsenal, be it a Chris Gayle or a Carlos Brathwaite and is equally bolstered with the fresh quotient of Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran. The bowling too, relying on pace and bounce, has had its moments but beyond Sheldon Cottrell's cute salute after bagging a wicket or pouching a catch, nothing else lingers. Still, this is a team that can test the very best and, additionally, familiarity breeds awareness.

Thanks to the Indian Pre-

THE FACE-OFF					
India vs West Indies					
OLD TRAFFORD					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	Matches	Ind	WI	Tied	NR
Overall	126	59	62	2	3
World Cup	8	5	3	0	0

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

mier League and the notes being exchanged, quite a few West Indian players are aware of the strengths and the rare chinks of this Indian team. There is respect too.

No comment

When Gayle was asked about M.S. Dhoni's circumspect approach against Gulbadin

India vs West Indies - a World Cup timeline

1979, EDGBASTON: On the opening day of the second edition, Michael Holding's four-wicket burst restricted India to 190. Gordon Greenidge slammed an unbeaten 106 as West Indies cruised home

1983, OLD TRAFFORD: Yashpal Sharma's 89 and three-wicket hauls from Roger Binny and Ravi Shastri helped India win by 34 runs. It was the side's first ever loss in a WC match

1983, THE OVAL: Viv Richards hammered 119 as WI posted 282. In reply, India could only manage 216. Mohinder Amarnath played lone-ranger, scoring 80

1983, LORD'S (FINAL): When India was bowled out for 183 - K. Srikkanth top-scored with 38 - many were convinced that the mighty Caribbeans will complete a hat-trick of titles. However, Kapil's Devils had other ideas. Once Madan Lal got rid of the rampant Richards, thanks to a brilliant catch by the skipper, Mohinder took three in quick time as India won by 43 runs to script history

1992, WELLINGTON: Despite a good start, Anderson Cummins took four wickets as India was shot out for 197 with Mohd. Azharuddin the only batsman to make a half-century (61). Brian Lara's sizzling start as an opener and an unbeaten 58 from Keith Athurton ensured a smooth chase

1996, GWALIOR: It was West Indies which was bundled out for 173 this time as Manoj Prabhakar and Anil Kumble picked up three each. Sachin Tendulkar made the most of an early reprieve to score a quick 70 and set up a comfortable five-wicket win

2011, CHENNAI: Yuvraj Singh's magnificent 113 and Virat Kohli's useful 59 piloted India to 268 despite Ravi Rampaul finishing with a five-for. West Indies was in the hunt as opener Devon Smith made a valuable 81 but the chase was derailed after Zaheer Khan removed Smith, triggering a collapse from 154 for two to 188

2015, PERTH: In a low-scoring encounter, West Indies recovered from 85/7 to reach 182, thanks to Jason Holder's 57. India's reply, too, did not take off smoothly, but skipper M.S. Dhoni's unbeaten 45 steered the side home



Yuvraj Singh, India's hero in 2011

SERVO CRICKET TRIVIA

SERVO
WORLD-CLASS LUBRICANTS

Chris Gayle is the only batsman to hit a six off the first ball of a Test match.

We are aware of the challenges, says Arun

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

India's bowling coach Bharat Arun squared up to the media at Old Trafford here on Wednesday and answered a volley of questions dealing with the imminent World Cup clash against the West Indies and the arsenal under his command. He also neatly side-stepped a controversial query on India's orange jersey for the game involving England. *Excerpts:*

The West Indies note:

They are an outstanding side and play positive cricket. We are aware of the challenges and our plans are in place. It's a big challenge for the bowlers, especially when they come after you. But whenever batsmen like Chris Gayle or Carlos Brathwaite come after you, there is a chance in it for the bowlers too.

The Afghanistan recap:

If



Cool quandary: India has an embarrassment of riches in the pace department, says Bharat Arun. ■ AFP

you look at our first three games, we put up big scores, but in the Afghanistan match, the wicket was sticky. It was tricky to bat and it was

a question of understanding those conditions and adapting to that.

Pandya's growth: Over a period of time, it was a big

challenge for him to bowl 10 overs but he realised that he needed to develop a certain armoury. He has worked on his slower balls and slow bouncers and all this has given him the confidence to go through those 10 overs.

Dhoni's sedate knock:

Had we probably lost a wicket at that stage (when Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav stitched a partnership against Afghanistan), then things would have turned out differently. So I don't think it's too much of a concern. There is always a constant dialogue between the batsmen, the support staff, the batting coach and the head coach Ravi Shastri. I can't really get into the details but there is a constant dialogue for us to improve.

Bhuvneshwar's fitness:

His injury (hamstring) is not of any great concern. It is just a niggle but it gave us an opportunity to plug (Mo-

ammed) Shami into a game. The fact that he has done exceptionally well means that we have an embarrassment of riches and we would take a (selection) call as per the conditions.

Shami's evolution:

Shami was in a totally different mindset (previously when he was dropped) and we – head coach and I – had to speak to him and draw a future map for him and had to convince him regarding that. He was also going through certain personal problems. We made him focus on his cricket and the rest is there for everybody to see.

The orange jersey:

To be honest, we are not aware of what colours we are going to be wearing. So we have not given any thought to that and our focus is on the match. We bleed blue, right? Blue is going to be our predominant colour and that's it.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER

When it comes to the West Indies, hope floats and then it turns sour.

Having campaigned its World Cup campaign on a winning note against Pakistan, the men from the Caribbean Islands subsequently lost to Australia, England, Bangladesh and New Zealand while the game involving South Africa was washed out.

Boxed into a tight corner and set to face off against India at Old Trafford, the West Indies skipper Jason Holder spoke to the media here on Wednesday. *Excerpts:*

Big game:

Everybody's upbeat and playing India is always a big game. We need to finish the campaign as best as we can and our objective is to win all three games. We have shown glimpses here and there about what we can



Jason Holder. ■ AFP

produce but we just haven't brought it together and it has hurt us. So it's time now for a perfect game.

Losses and recovery:

It's been two crushing defeats (against Bangladesh and New Zealand) and we felt them drastically over the last couple of days. I think it's important for everybody to just draw on their own resources and look at themselves in the mirror and

make sure that learning takes place. There's no point to drop our heads.

Yorkers that sizzle:

Length bowling has worked pretty well in this tournament. And guys who have also been able to execute yorkers have had success as well. I guess it depends on the venue and how the conditions play.

Stay long, score runs:

Shai (Hope) has done a reasonable job. Hety (Shimron Hetmyer) has shown glimpses of brilliance, as well as Nicholas (Pooran).

It's up to them to take it deeper. They have got to be the rock and soul for our team and they have got to set up games and learn to close them out.

A guy who has done that through the tournament is Kane Williamson. He sets it up, goes big and bats down to the very end.

Problem of plenty calls for tough decisions



Dean Jones
SELECT DUGOUT CORNER

Bhuvneshwar Kumar is a quality bowler, but I'll stick with Mohammed Shami for the West Indies outing. Shami was outstanding against Afghanistan. The stats, too, work in Shami's favour. He has a superb ODI record against West Indies, with 24 wickets in 11 games.

When you have a wonderful amount of resources at your disposal, you have to take tough decisions, for which you need tough leaders. India have that in Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri.

There has been a debate recently on M.S. Dhoni's strike rate, but you won't hear me utter a single negative thing about him. Dhoni reads the game better than

anyone. Maybe he is more suited to the No. 4 spot, but you must remember that the pitch used in the Afghanistan game proved to be difficult for all batsmen.

I think the Old Trafford Stadium at Manchester will be better for batsmen. You can get big scores here.

England racked up 397 for six here against Afghanistan, and hopefully, India can bat first and get a 350-plus total. If the West Indies peters try to bowl short to K.L. Rahul and Rohit Sharma, they will get pulverised. I would like to see Jason Holder share the new ball with Sheldon Cottrell, with Oshane Thomas coming in later. Holder and Cottrell need to pitch it up, get some movement and blow the Indian top-order away.

The biggest problem facing the West Indies, however, is their opening batting combination. Chris Gayle simply has to get it right, as there is a lot at stake here.

(Tune in to Select Dugout on Star Sports Select 1 on India match days and Sundays)

Universe Boss keen to linger longer

Gayle revises his retirement plan, to sign off after the home series against India

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

The 'Universe Boss' isn't finished yet. Chris Gayle, who had earlier hinted at retiring from international cricket once the World Cup concludes, sprang a surprise, both for the media and his skipper Jason Holder at Old Trafford here on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old West Indian came for an impromptu press conference and, as tongues wagged about a probable retirement announcement, the belligerent opener, true to his style, hit those speculations out of the park.

Some scribes, perhaps contemplating a tribute piece, asked Gayle about his memorable achievements and the rare moments when he lost his rag. He answered those queries with a disarming smile but when specifically probed about his plans beyond the World Cup, he replied: "Maybe a Test match against India and then I will definitely play the ODIs against India. I won't play the T20s. That's my plan."



Twist in the tale: Chris Gayle's announcement not only surprised the media but also his skipper Jason Holder. ■ AFP

The flummoxed reporters were wondering if he uttered those words in jest.

Incidentally, India's tour

of the Caribbean islands during August and September will feature three T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests.

The second Test would be at Gayle's bastion, Kingston's Sabina Park in Jamaica, and may be he wants his farewell there.

Yet, doubts lingered, the tea turned cold, conversations went in circles and it was time to check with Holder.

The West Indian captain was queried about Gayle's retirement-reversal and, after conceding that he just heard the news, Holder said: "I was just updated by Phillip (Spooner, West Indies media manager). He didn't really say anything in the dressing room."

"But it's great for cricket and it's good to have Chris around. He has got a lot to offer and hopefully his body can hold up. I guess I have to go downstairs and have a serious conversation with him (laughs). But, yeah, if he is dedicated to playing for the West Indies, it's going to benefit us."

The man, who made a mockery of boundary ropes, seems to have pushed his finish line just a wee bit.

'I am up there with the greats'

India match: Hopefully, it will go down to the wire and West Indies will win.

The pantheon: I am definitely up there with the greats, without a doubt.

Batting advice: When you get those starts, you have to convert the fifties into hundreds and be consistent.

Brian Lara's health: Hopefully, he will have a speedy recovery and be back on the park as soon as possible.

The Bumrah effect: Bumrah is the No. 1 bowler, but I just have to take that into the stride and play according to the situation.

Career highs: Two triple centuries in Test cricket and a double century in the World Cup are right on top.

Young guns for the future: Nicholas Pooran is going to be a world-record breaker, he is going to be a savage youngster, trust me. And Shai Hope is a guy who actually may be a future captain.

Lara discharged



Brian Lara.
■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MUMBAI

West Indies batting legend Brian Lara was given the all-clear and discharged from a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday, a day after he was admitted because of chest pains.

"He was discharged at 12 noon. His condition is normal," hospital spokesman Parag Dhurke said.

Lara was rushed to hospital on Tuesday in India's financial capital where he is currently working for Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the ongoing cricket World Cup.

The 50-year-old Trinidadian underwent an angiography "as a precaution", Dhurke said. "His health is good," he added.

Classy Azam pilots Pakistan to a crucial win

Sohail plays perfect foil; Neesham and de Grandhomme rescue Kiwis after Shaheen rips through the top-order



Stroke-filled: Babar Azam hit 11 boundaries during his match-winning knock. ■ REUTERS

WORLD CUP

SHAYAN ACHARYA
BIRMINGHAM

Babar Azam's unbeaten century powered Pakistan to a six-wicket win against New Zealand and helped it stay on course for a semifinal berth. Chasing a target of 238 at Edgbaston on Wednesday, Pakistan rode on Azam's power-packed innings and Haris Sohail's 68 to cross the line with five balls to spare.

Kiwis' first loss

After the openers fell cheaply, Azam strung together two partnerships – 66 with Mohammad Hafeez and 126 with Sohail – to help Pakistan end New Zealand's unbeaten run in this edition.

In the morning, young pacer Shaheen Afridi had laid the foundation for the win. Born eight years after Pakistan won its first and the only World Cup title in 1992, the left-armer ripped through the New Zealand top-order to leave it tottering at 83 for five.

However, a fighting partnership between Jimmy Neesham (97 not out) and Colin de Grandhomme (64), who added 132, took the Kiwis to 237. The duo first rescued the side before bludgeoning the bowlers as 85 came off the last 10 overs.

Azam's feat

■ Babar Azam (68 innings) is the second quickest to notch up 3,000 ODI runs, after Hashim Amla (57)

The seasoned Mohammad Amir had provided the early breakthrough, casting Martin Guptill for five.

Shaheen then took over, bowling with verve to pick up three for nine in his first six overs.

Sarfraz's stunner

While New Zealand captain Kane Williamson stood firm at one end, Shaheen sent back Colin Munro and Ross Taylor, who was brilliantly caught behind by Sarfraz Ahmed.

Williamson built a 37-run partnership with Neesham before he was dismissed by Shadab Khan for 41.

Neesham and de Grandhomme fought back, taking advantage of Sarfraz's reluctance to go for the kill.

However, it did not hurt Pakistan as Azam and Sohail ensured a facile win.

Next assignment

PAKISTAN: June 29 vs Afghanistan, *Headingley*, 3 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND: June 29 vs Australia, *Lord's*, 6 p.m.

SCOREBOARD PAKISTAN VS NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND
Martin Guptill b Amir 5 (4b, 1x4), Colin Munro c Sohail b Shaheen 12 (17b, 2x4), Kane Williamson c Sarfraz b Shadab 41 (69b, 4x4), Ross Taylor c Sarfraz b Shaheen 3 (8b), Tom Latham c Sarfraz b Shaheen 1 (4b), James Neesham (not out) 97 (112b, 5x4, 3x6), Colin de Grandhomme run out 64 (77b, 6x4, 1x6), Mitchell Santner (not out) 5 (5b); Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-4); 9; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 237.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Guptill, 1.1 overs), 2-24 (Munro, 6.2), 3-38 (Taylor, 8.6), 4-46 (Latham, 12.3), 5-83 (Williamson, 26.2), 6-215 (de Grandhomme, 47.4).

PAKISTAN BOWLING
Hafeez 7-0-22-0, Amir 10-0-67-1, Shaheen 10-3-28-3, Wasim 3-0-17-0, Shadab 10-0-43-1, Riaz 10-0-55-0.

PAKISTAN
Imam-ul-Haq c Guptill b Ferguson 19 (29b, 3x4), Fakhar Zaman c Guptill b Boulton 9 (10b, 2x4), Babar Azam (not out) 101 (127b, 11x4), Mohd. Hafeez c Ferguson b Williamson 32 (50b, 5x4), Haris Sohail run out 68 (76b, 5x4, 2x6), Sarfraz Ahmed (not out) 5 (3b, 1x4); Extras (w-7); Total (for four wkts. in 49.1 overs): 241.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-19 (Zaman, 2.6), 2-44 (Imam, 10.2), 3-110 (Hafeez, 24.5), 4-236 (Sohail, 48.3).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Boulton 10-0-48-1, Henry 7-0-25-0, Ferguson 8.1-0-50-1, de Grandhomme 2-0-12-0, Santner 10-0-38-0, Neesham 3-0-20-0, Williamson 8-0-39-1, Munro 1-0-9-0.

Toss: NZ; **MoM:** Babar Azam.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	7	6	1	0	12	0.906
New Zealand	7	5	1	1	11	1.028
India	5	4	0	1	9	0.809
England	7	4	3	0	8	1.051
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Pakistan	7	3	3	1	7	-0.976
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	2	6	-1.119
West Indies	6	1	4	1	3	0.19
South Africa (E)	7	1	5	1	3	-0.324
Afghanistan (E)	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

*Till the New Zealand-Pakistan match on June 26; Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

Vismaya bags bronze

GOLENIOW (POLAND): V.K. Vismaya ran a personal best 52.58s as she won the women's 400m bronze at the Goleniow Athletics Park international meeting here on Wednesday. It was the Kerala girl's first run under 53s with her previous best being 53.27 (in Patiala in March). M.R. Pooamma was fifth with 53.71. Poland's Iga Baumgart-Witan (51.74s) and Cuba's Roxana Gomez (51.97) won the gold and silver.

Dutch break Japanese hearts

Last-gasp penalty sees the Netherlands through to quarters



The clincher: Lieke Martens scores the Netherlands' second goal from the penalty spot. ■ REUTERS

WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS
RENNES

The Netherlands reached the women's World Cup quarter-finals for the first time when Lieke Martens' last-gasp penalty earned it a 2-1 victory against Japan on Tuesday.

Martens put the Dutch in front after 17 minutes, only for Yui Hasegawa to level on the stroke of halftime, but the forward sent the European champion through with a spot kick in the last minute.

Japan, which hit the woodwork twice, dominated the second half but lacked the finishing touch.

The Netherlands will play Italy on Saturday. **The results:** The Netherlands 2 (Martens 17, 90-pen) bt Japan 1 (Hasegawa 43).

The schedule

QUARTERFINALS

June 27: Norway vs England (Match no. 45), 00.30 a.m. (Friday)

June 28: France vs USA (46), 00.30 a.m. (Saturday)

June 29: Italy vs Netherlands (47), 6.30 p.m.

June 29: Germany vs Sweden (48), 10 p.m.

SEMIFINALS

July 2: Winner of 45 vs Winner of 46 (49), 00.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

July 3: Winner of 47 vs Winner of 48 (50), 00.30 a.m. (Thursday)

FOR THIRD PLACE

July 6: Loser of 49 vs loser of 50, 8.30 p.m.

FINAL

July 7: Winner of 49 vs winner of 50, 8.30 p.m.

(All times IST)

Federer seeded ahead of Nadal at Wimbledon

Defending champion Djokovic, Roland Garros winner Barty get pride of place

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Roger Federer has been seeded second ahead of great rival Rafael Nadal for Wimbledon despite trailing the Spaniard in the World rankings.

Nadal complained earlier this week that Wimbledon's unique formula for seeding that combines ranking points with form in grass-court competitions was disrespectful.

World No. 1 and defending champion Novak Djokovic is the top seed.

Eighteen-time Grand Slam winner Nadal, ranked No. 2 in the world, is therefore guaranteed to be in the same half of the draw as either Federer or Djokovic.

"Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the matches I have to win," Nadal had told

a Spanish TV channel on Monday.

Odd one out

"The only thing that doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it.

"If they all did it, it would seem more correct.

South Africa's Kevin Anderson is seeded fourth, well ahead of his ranking of eight, after reaching the final for the first time last year, with

Dominic Thiem, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas all bumped down one position.

The women's seedings do mirror the rankings with Roland Garros champion Ashleigh Barty top of the pile for the first time at a Grand Slam ahead of Naomi Osaka.

Defending champion Angelique Kerber is seeded fifth with seven-time Wimbledon champion Serena Williams down in 11th.



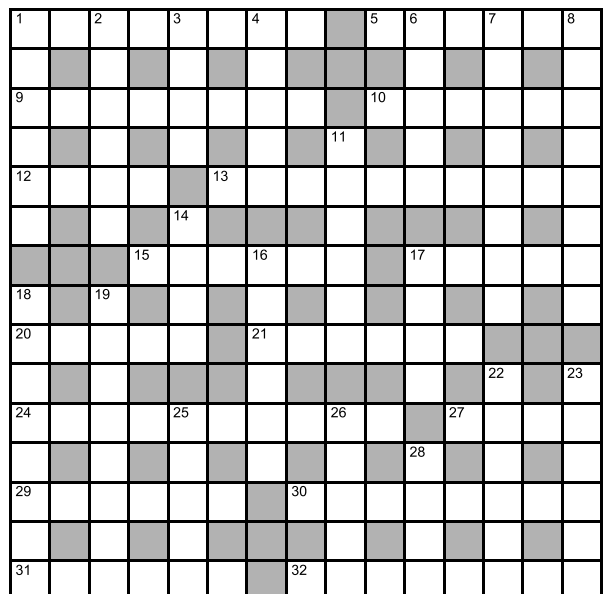
Tough luck: Nadal, right, is guaranteed to be in the same half of the draw as either Federer or Djokovic. ■ AFP

The seedings

Position	Men	Women	Position	Men	Women
1	Novak Djokovic	Ashleigh Barty	17	Matteo Berrettini	Madison Keys
2	Roger Federer	Naomi Osaka	18	Nikoloz Basilashvili	Julia Goerges
3	Rafael Nadal	Karolina Pliskova	19	Felix Auger-Aliassime	Johanna Konta
4	Kevin Anderson	Kiki Bertens	20	Gilles Simon	Anett Kontaveit
5	Dominic Thiem	Angelique Kerber	21	David Goffin	Elise Mertens
6	Alexander Zverev	Petra Kvitova	22	Stan Wawrinka	Donna Vekic
7	Stefanos Tsitsipas	Simona Halep	23	Roberto Bautista Agut	Caroline Garcia
8	Kei Nishikori	Elina Svitolina	24	Diego Schwartzman	Petra Martic
9	John Isner	Sloane Stephens	25	Alex de Minaur	Amanda Anisimova
10	Karen Khachanov	Aryna Sabalenka	26	Guido Pella	Garbine Muguruza
11	Daniil Medvedev	Serena Williams	27	Lucas Pouille	Sofia Kenin
12	Fabio Fognini	Anastasija Sevastova	28	Benoit Paire	Hsieh Su-wei
13	Marin Cilic	Belinda Bencic	29	Denis Shapovalov	Daria Kasatkina
14	Borna Coric	Caroline Wozniacki	30	Kyle Edmund	Carla Suarez Navarro
15	Milos Raonic	Wang Qiang	31	Laslo Djere	Maria Sakkari
16	Gael Monfils	Marketa Vondrousova	32	Dusan Lajovic	Lesia Tsurenko

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12663

(set by Gridman)

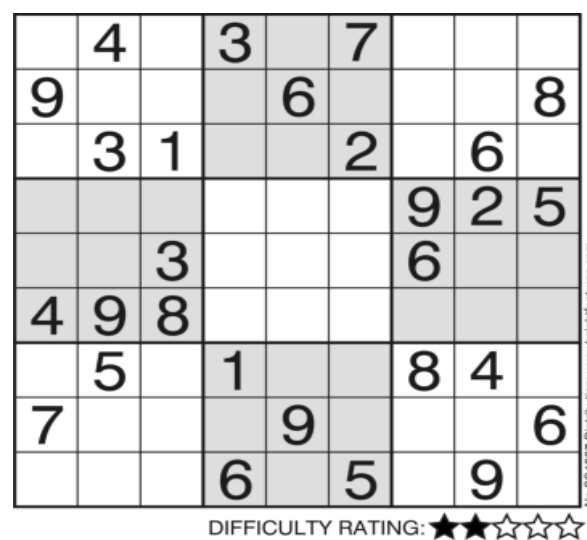


ACROSS

- 1 In Mumbai suburb carefully select a servant (8)
- 5 Waited for first-class offer by newspaper editor (6)
- 9 One news editor found among friends in early performances (8)
- 10 Angry outburst on seeing an enlarged photo (6)
- 12 Already cut, 27 rearranged (4)

- 13 Troop group in separation (10)
- 15 Saw half-a-dozen covered with morning moisture heading off (6)
- 17 20 push son to right extreme causing worries (5)
- 20 17 pull son back, causing alarm (5)
- 21 Indian bread placed back in French city (6)
- 24 Dumps – you're advised to eliminate them (5,5)
- 27 Bird sees a change of heart in 12 (4)
- 29 Work I rated off-road is calmer (6)
- 30 Place of seclusion costlier to reconstruct (8)
- 31 Being non-committal, leader leaves frame (6)
- 32 Father takes three directions to reach where uncle does business (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Section in the cradle of Polynesia for a snack from India (6)
- 2 Involved in getting directions for rich part of a city (6)
- 3 Bond 28 smashed (4)
- 4 Old bees turning quite fat (5)
- 6 Sir Toby perhaps starts bringing every little cask happily (5)
- 7 Fruit brewery crushed are under head of 'Dates' (8)
- 8 Be a substitute and put up an exercise in the river (8)
- 11 16 around to see gamekeeper (6)
- 14 17 wiped off insects (4)
- 16 11 out to roam about (6)
- 17 14 turned light blue (4)
- 18 When you do something thus, you don't break from custom (2,2,4)
- 19 Waiting, attempting to catch a rebel head (8)
- 22 Change whip (6)
- 23 Capture leaderless fellows with section on rearing up (6)
- 25 Hint's up on mountain climber's aid (5)
- 26 Father's guarantee about Latin dance (5)
- 28 3 dismantled brick oven (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12662
BOMBAY AVERAGED
RINSEUP SCANDALS
TSAITHEIRMS
SALTSATYAGRAHA
GUSTEINLE
ANECDOTTISTPIKE
LIENMANCURIST
BILIMGSGIN
LADYOFREHOUSE
AERILFPPT
CITATION SWEATY
KIANNATP
SICKLISTBREEZE

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
682594173
479381652
531267849
258916734
967438215
143725968
794652381
825173496
316849527

FAITH

Sage of great renown

The legend and life of Agastya is featured often in the puranas and Itihisas. In the course of their pilgrimage, when the Pandavas visit the ashram of Agastya and Lopamudra, Lomasa narrates many episodes from the sage's life that reveal his greatness, pointed out Sri Sankararama Dikshitar in a discourse. It is held that Agastya once came across some ancestral spirits dangling upside down. He asked them why they were in this position. They told him that they were his ancestors and they took up this position to persuade him to marry and beget progeny by which they would get oblations. So Agastya married Lopamudra, the princess of the Vidarbha kingdom. As per Agastya's wishes, Lopamudra renounced her wealth and possessions and accepted the austere way of life. She served Agastya with devotion and sincerity. But when they decided to have a child, Lopamudra wished that the sage should earn sufficient wealth for them to live in comfort. The sage decided that he could seek wealth from kings. But he was also particular that what he received as gift from anyone should not cause any loss or injury to others. All the three kings whom he approached showed the income and expenditure details of kingdoms and requested Agastya to take whatever he wanted.

Noticing that there was only nil balance in the account statements, Agastya ruminated that if he accepted any gift from them it would be a burden on the citizens. Through this incident Vyasa draws attention to the norms a king should adopt when dealing with revenue and tax issues. The subjects should not be taxed more than necessary for rightful public expenditure. It is also shown that accepting anything as gift from public revenue is sure to cause a burden on the people themselves.