

Chahal-Rohit show highlights India's facile win over South Africa

After the leg-spinner's four-wicket haul restricts the Proteas, the opener slams an unbeaten century to guide the team home; Morris and Rabada's efforts go in vain



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
SOUTHAMPTON

Splendid batsmanship and oriental spin, the twin attributes that influenced India's cricketing history, combined well at the Hampshire Bowl here on Wednesday.

The fusion, evident through Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 122 and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's four for 51, helped Virat Kohli's men register a six-wicket triumph and start their World Cup campaign on a winning note at South Africa's expense.

Pursuing South Africa's 227 for nine, India finished at 230 for four off 47.3 overs.

Rabada's hostile spell

Meagre targets can be tricky and openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit had to contend with Kagiso Rabada's hostile overs. The speedster along with Chris Morris briefly had Rohit hopping. But it was Dhawan, who succumbed, as Rabada induced the south-paw to nick one.

The stands that lapsed into a stunned silence regained their voice on sighting Virat Kohli. The decibel levels soared when Rohit hooked a six off Rabada and followed it up with two fours.

Rohit and Kohli found synergy through their singles, high-fives and a steady tempo. When Kohli did that patented slap-pull off his to pick a four off Andile Phehlukwayo, all seemed fine in batting paradise.

But off the very next delivery, Phehlukwayo drew Kohli out and the snick was paused by a leaping Quinton de Kock.

India 54 for two in 15.3 overs and the stage set for K.L. Rahul to present his credentials at No. 4.

Useful partnership

Luckily for Rahul, he could imbibe confidence from Rohit and an 85-run third-wicket partnership took shape.

Rahul straight drove a four off Phehlukwayo but largely played second-fiddle to Rohit, who scattered the spinners, be it Imran Tahir or Tabaiz Shamsi.

India seemed on course but against the run of play, Rahul spooned a catch off Rabada. India 139 for three but with M.S. Dhoni sauntering in and Rohit in supreme form, it was all about nudging



Lights out! Rassie van der Dussen's decision to reverse sweep Yuzvendra Chahal turns fatal. •ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

the score. The required rate stayed within reach and attention shifted to Rohit's ton and India's eventual victory, both were attained without fuss though Dhoni fell at the business-end. But by then his 74-run fourth-wicket partnership with Rohit had sealed South Africa's fate.

Miller drops a sitter

Interestingly on 107, Rohit's mistimed shot off Rabada popped out of a shocked David Miller's hands. That moment encapsulated South Africa's despair while it plunged towards its third successive defeat.

Earlier, Faf du Plessis elected to bat and watched his decision unravel. Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept it tight. Jasprit Bumrah was a clear and present danger and a fidgety de Kock watched Hashim Amla depart.

Bumrah homed in, Amla tried to cover the line, the

ball rose, deviated and Rohit caught well at second-slip.

South Africa was tentative and it got worse when de Kock's drive off Bumrah, fussed though Dhoni fell at the business-end. But by then his 74-run fourth-wicket partnership with Rohit had sealed South Africa's fate.

It was time for du Plessis to lead from the front and he stitched a 54-run third-wicket partnership with Rassie van der Dussen.

And just as the skies turned sombre, Hardik Pandya hustled the batsmen, striking du Plessis twice on his gloves. The South African captain did not flinch and with van der Dussen, smoothly countered Kuldeep Yadav.

Double blow

India then inflicted a double-blow in the 20th over. The killer punches were albeit delivered slowly as Chahal (four for 51) with his lean presence, jaunty steps and a big grin, rolled his arm over. van der Dussen attempted a pre-med-

itated reverse-sweep while du Plessis had no clue to the one that slid straight and in both instances, the timber rattled.

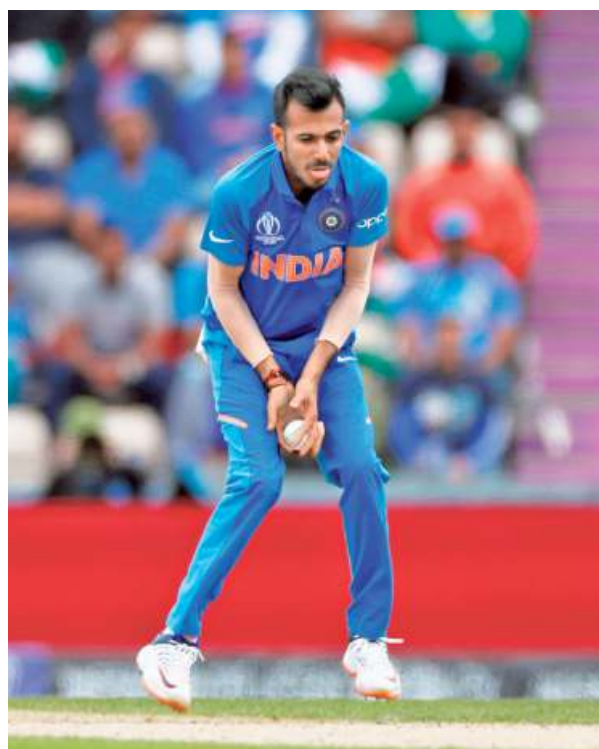
Soon Kuldeep rapped Jean-Paul Duminy's pads and South Africa slumped to 89 for five in 23 overs. It was time for the second recovery act and David Miller and Phehlukwayo forged it through their 46 runs for the sixth wicket till the duo fell to an ecstatic Chahal.

South Africa found a late wind through the blades of Morris and Rabada and their 66-run eighth-wicket partnership, but that belated surge could not scuttle India's best-laid plans.

Next assignment

INDIA: June 9 vs Australia, The Oval, 3 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICA: June 10 vs West Indies, Southampton, 3 p.m.



Gotcha! Yuzvendra Chahal snaps up a return catch off David Miller. •REUTERS

STAT SPHERE

2 World Cup hundreds for Rohit. This is his 23rd in ODIs, and he ranks third among Indians

Most ODI centuries for India

- 49 Tendulkar
- 41 Kohli
- 23 Rohit
- 22 Ganguly
- 16 Dhawan
- 15 Sehwaag

2 Rohit's 122* is the second highest individual score by an Indian in a World Cup chase, after Tendulkar's 127* (vs Kenya, Cuttack, 1996)

2 Chahal registered the second-best figures by an Indian on WC debut

4/35 Shami, vs Pak, Adelaide, 2015

4/51 Chahal, vs SA, Southampton, 2019

4/56 Mohanty, vs Ken, Bristol, 1999

7 Rohit becomes the seventh Indian to hit multiple hundreds (WC). This was the team's 26th hundred in the WC (overall 168th). India joined Australia for the most three-figure knocks in the tournament

Centuries by Indians in WC

- 6 Tendulkar, 4 Ganguly
- 2 Dravid, Sehwaag, Kohli, Dhawan, Rohit
- 1 Kapil, Gavaskar, Kambli, Ajay Jadeja, Yuvraj, Raina

50 Number of ODI wins in 69 matches for Kohli as captain, the quickest from the subcontinent

Fewest games taken to record 50 ODI wins (as captain)

- 63 Lloyd 63 Ponting
- 68 Cronje 69 Kohli
- 70 Richards

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INNINGS SCAN

RSA	Ind
1 Maidens	4
13 Fours	22
3 Sixes	2
66 (8th) Best stand	85 (3rd)
4.65 RR	4.84

PROGRESSION

RSA	Ind
34/2	10 overs 34/1
80/4	20 overs 78/2
123/5	30 overs 129/2
161/7	40 overs 171/3
227/9	50 overs --

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
South Africa	Morris 42 (34b, 1x4, 2x6)	Rabada 2/39 (10)
India	Rohit 122* (144b, 13x4, 2x6)	Chahal 4/51 (10)

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2	5.802
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	5.754
Australia	1	1	0	0	2	1.86
England	2	1	1	0	2	0.9
Bangladesh	1	1	0	0	2	0.42
India	1	1	0	0	2	0.302
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	2	-0.998
Pakistan	2	1	1	0	2	-2.412
South Africa	3	0	3	0	0	-0.952
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	0	-1.243

*till the South Africa-India match on June 5

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

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Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	0	-1.243

SOUTH AFRICA

Hashim Amla c Rohit b Bumrah 6 (9b, 1x4), Quinton de Kock c Kohli b Bumrah 10 (17b, 1x4), Faf du Plessis b Chahal 38 (54b, 4x4), Rassie van der Dussen b Chahal 22 (37b, 1x4), David Miller c&b Chahal 31 (40b, 1x4), Jean-Paul Duminy lbw b Kuldeep 3 (11b), Andile Phehlukwayo st. Dhoni b Chahal 34 (61b, 2x4, 7x6), Chris Morris c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 42 (34b, 1x4, 2x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 31 (35b, 2x4), Imran Tahir c Jadhav b Bhuvneshwar 0 (2b); Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-6): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 227.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-11 (Amla, 3.2 overs), 2-24 (de Kock, 5.5), 3-78 (van der Dussen, 19.1), 4-80 (du Plessis, 19.6), 5-89 (Duminy, 22.6), 6-135 (Miller, 35.3), 7-158 (Phehlukwayo, 39.3), 8-224 (Morris, 49.2), 9-227 (Tahir, 49.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 10-0-44-2, Bumrah 10-1-35-2, Hardik 6-0-31-0, Kuldeep 10-0-46-1, Chahal 10-0-51-4, Jadhav 4-0-16-0.

INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan c de Kock b Rabada 8 (12b, 1x4), Rohit Sharma (not out) 122 (144b, 13x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli c de Kock b Phehluk-

wayo 18 (34b, 1x4), K.L. Rahul c du Plessis b Rabada 26 (42b, 2x4), M.S. Dhoni c & b Morris 34 (46b, 2x4), Hardik Pandya (not out) 15 (7b, 3x4); Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 47.3 overs): 230.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Dhawan, 5.1 overs), 2-54 (Kohli, 15.3), 3-139 (Rahul, 31.3), 4-213 (Dhoni, 46.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Tahir 10-0-58-0, Rabada 10-1-39-2, Morris 10-3-36-1, Phehlukwayo 8.3-0-40-1, Shamsi 9-0-54-0.

Toss: South Africa. MoM: Rohit. India won by six wickets.

Rohit's best ODI innings, says India skipper

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SOUTHAMPTON

Virat Kohli expressed satisfaction over India's fine start in the World Cup.

"It was a very professional effort from us. It was a low-scoring game because of the pitch. Starting well is important, and we got nicely together as a team," the Indian captain told the media here on Wednesday evening.

The skipper was effusive in his praise of Rohit Sharma and said: "This is by far Rohit's best ODI innings."

When pressed about the spin-twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav and the rationale of often playing them together, Kohli replied: "Kuldeep and Chahal's performance in South Africa last

year was a massive factor in playing them together. Kuldeep controlled the innings and Chahal mixed things well."

Kohli also rated Jasprit Bumrah's spells highly and said: "You see batsmen being absolutely clueless against Bumrah, he is rushing them. I have not seen Hashim (Amla) get out like that."

Meanwhile Chris Morris, who did his best both with the bat and ball for South Africa, rued the schedule. "The schedule has been tough on us," the speedster said and then sought to comfort fans back home and requested them to keep supporting the Proteas. "I have been working on my bowling too," Morris added.



Opening salvo: Jasprit Bumrah's initial burst set the tone for the Men in Blue. •AP

Festive spirit in lead-up to India's first match

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
SOUTHAMPTON

The days leading up to India's first World Cup game against South Africa at the Hampshire Bowl, lacked buzz.

A few banners at city junctions and the odd query from a taxi driver about the latest scores, were the only hints that cricket's showpiece event was on in the United Kingdom.

But on Wednesday, the hype, drama and colour that permeates India's cricketing sojourns, was on full view.

Uber, the taxi-aggregator, sensing a rise in demand, hiked its rates. And as various correspondents headed towards the venue, fans were milling on all roads, be it the ones skirting past quaint tiled homes with their



Having fun: Indian fans dancing away outside the Hampshire Bowl ahead of the contest against South Africa. •REUTERS

flower beds outside or the winding black ribbon cutting through the woods which akin to what Robert Frost

once wrote, are lovely, dark and deep. And as the scribes went past Marshall Drive, a path-

way in honour of the late West Indian pace legend Malcolm Marshall, who also turned out for Hampshire, a sea of blue greeted the eyes. The Indian flag was waved with gusto, the team t-shirt was the common attire and balti curries, both chicken and vegetarian, were stirred in steaming cauldrons at take-away joints.

Finally it felt like a big game was truly on and the Indian diaspora cheered Virat Kohli's men as they limbered up, yelled 'Dada' on sighting Sourav Ganguly, and sought fellow commentator Harbhajan Singh's autographs. There was no dearth of cheeky one-liners, often scribbled across banners and one read: "Kohli is at the wheel, tell me how good does it feel?"

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Henry's four-for restricts Bangladesh

Shakib comes good again before the Kiwi speedster puts the skids on the Tigers



Out of safety: Tom Latham gleefully uproots the stumps to catch Mushfiqur Rahim short of his crease.

WORLD CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON Veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan scored a half century but New Zealand pacer Matt Henry started with the ball to bowl Bangladesh out for 244 in 49.2 overs at the Kennington Oval on Wednesday. Shakib scored 64 off 68

balls, his innings laced with seven fours, but lacked support from the other end as Bangladesh kept losing wickets. For the Kiwis, Henry (four for 47) was the pick of the bowlers.

Put in, Bangladesh openers Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar were off to a good start, sharing a 45-run stand before Henry clean-bowled

NZ stays on course

• Chasing a target of 245, New Zealand was 162 for four in 32 overs with Ross Taylor holding fort with a 68-ball 70.

Sarkar (25) just when he was looking good. Iqbal (24) followed suit, skying a Lockie Ferguson bouncer to Trent

Boult at midwicket. Mushfiqur Rahim (19) and Shakib then joined hands for a 50-run partnership for the third wicket before the former ran himself out.

Shakib and Mohammed Mithun also looked good with a 41-run stand but Colin de Grandhomme ensured the Kiwis kept taking wickets at regular intervals.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH Tamim Iqbal c Boult b Ferguson 24 (38b, 3x4), Soumya Sarkar b Henry 25 (25b, 3x4), Shakib Al Hasan c Latham b de Grandhomme 64 (68b, 7x4), Mushfiqur Rahim run out 19 (35b, 2x4), Mohammad Mithun c de Grandhomme b Henry 26 (33b, 3x4), Mahmudullah c Williamson b Santner 20 (41b), Mosaddek Hossain c Guptill b Boult 11 (22b), Mohammad Saifuddin b Henry 29 (23b, 3x4, 1x6), Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Latham b Boult 7 (9b), Mashrafe Mortaza c Boult b Henry 1 (2b), Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-8, w-9): 18; Total (in 49.2 overs): 244.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-45 (Sarkar, 8.3 overs), 2-60 (Tamim, 13.2), 3-110 (Mushfiqur, 23.5), 4-151 (Shakib, 30.2), 5-179 (Mithun, 37.1), 6-197 (Mahmudullah, 42.3), 7-224 (Mosaddek, 46.2), 8-235 (Mehidy, 48.2), 9-244 (Mortaza, 49.1).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING Henry 9.2-0-47-4, Boult 10-0-44-2, Ferguson 10-0-40-1, de Grandhomme 8-0-39-1, Neesham 2-0-24-0, Santner 10-1-41-1.

Toss: New Zealand.

Washout threatens to upset scheduling

Women's final could share top billing with men's title match

ROLAND GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS The organisers at Roland Garros were facing a scheduling nightmare on Wednesday after the entire day's play was washed out with the prospect of another deluge expected to swamp Paris on Friday, possibly forcing the women's final to be

played alongside the men's on Sunday.

Tournament director Guy Forget said he remained hopeful of the Open finishing on time on Sunday.

However, if the weather continues to deteriorate, the women's final could be shifted from Saturday to Sunday, sharing top billing with the men's title match.

"We always have to study

the worse case scenario," said Forget.

It was the second time since 2016 that all play was cancelled.

Back-to-back matches

The decision left Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep to play their quarterfinals on Thursday and semifinals on Friday if they get through.

India kickstarts its journey for an Olympic spot

Faces 22nd ranked Russia in its first game

HSF

UTHRA GANESAN BHUBANESWAR

Initially not scheduled to train on the eve of its opening game of the Hockey Series Finals (HSF) here, India decided to turn up after all on Wednesday evening, for a brief workout.

The only request was to have it later than usual with the team keen on catching up with the cricket team's opening World Cup encounter against South Africa in England.

Unlike the latter, however, the hockey team would face a more modest opposition in Russia (ranked 22) to kickstart its journey for an Olympic spot.

On paper, the target for fifth-ranked India is an easy one with the next best team here being South Africa, at 16. The stakes, though, are much higher.

The Indians missed the bus at the Asian Games last year and paid for it by losing a handful of senior players. The World Cup here six months ago was a disappointment and saw the team end up being coach-less for a good part of the first four months of 2019.

No worries

Graham Reid is unlikely to worry about suffering a similar fate here, a top-two finish being enough for India to advance to the Olympic Qualifiers.

But reaching the final would not suffice with India expected to win the competition and set a few scoring records en route, like it did in Jakarta before fumbling in the semifinal.

The team seems to have learnt its lessons well.

"We are not complacent. One good day in the field and you never know.

"We felt our finishing needed improvement and the past three weeks have been very important for us in terms of getting these right," India skipper Manpreet Singh said.

Ramandeep Singh's return is part of trying to shore



A lot to play for: P.R. Sreejesh, right, will have a key role under the bar for India.

up the finishing and going by his outings in the practice games so far, the forward has recovered completely from his knee injury.

India did not have a great build-up to the tournament, losing big against Australia in its tour Down Under but won its two practice matches here easily.

An honour

Russia, meanwhile, said it was an honour to play India in the opener.

"India is an excellent team. We watched the World Cup matches here and are looking forward to experience that feeling," Pavel Golubev said.

Hot weather

With the temperatures shooting past 45 degrees and the state government advising people to stay in

doors during the day, the organisers have tried to work around the conditions by slotting some of the games early morning.

On Thursday, South Africa and USA would be the first ones to do so while Poland plays Uzbekistan in the day's other game.

For the Indians, though, the unknown factor has always been a banana peel they have often tripped on.

Barring Japan and South Africa, they haven't played the rest anytime in the near past and, as the team admitted, that makes it difficult to plan. The best option would be to emulate Australia, which simply goes all out against unknowns, leaving no scope for upsets.

That would be the biggest contribution from Reid in his maiden test.

The schedule: June 6: South Africa vs USA (8.45 a.m.); June 7: Japan vs Mexico (8.45 a.m.); June 8: USA vs Mexico (5 p.m.); June 9: Russia vs Poland (5 p.m.); June 10: USA vs Japan (8.45 a.m.); June 12: 4th Pool A vs 4th Pool B (8.45 a.m.); June 14: Loser of Match 14 vs Loser of Match 15 (8.45 a.m.); June 15: Third place playoff (5 p.m.); Final (7.15 p.m.); Pool A: India, Russia, Poland, Uzbekistan; Pool B: Japan, South Africa, USA, Mexico

It could be a tale of 'chin music' in Australia-Windies duel

PREVIEW

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON Jason Holder's West Indies is reviving memories of its World Cup glory days with a pace attack that has the ability to strike fear into the opposition batsmen.

The two-time champion opened its campaign by skitting out Pakistan for just 105 at Trent Bridge as the quicks made good use of the

THE FACE-OFF: Australia vs West Indies; Finch, Head-to-head, Holder; Table with Matches, Aus, WI, Tied, NR; LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

bouncer. Oshane Thomas led the way with four for 27, while Andre Russell, Sheldon Cottrell and captain

Holder provided good support as the West Indies cruised to a seven-wicket win. When West Indies de-

feated Australia in the inaugural 1975 World Cup final at Lord's, its side included a four-man pace battery.

Fearsome foursome

And when it defeated England four years later in another Lord's final to retain the title, the West Indies did so with the original "fearsome foursome" of Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Colin Croft and Joel Garner.

Nobody is suggesting the current line-up is yet in that class, but the fact they bowled Pakistan out cheaply without Kemar Roach and Shannon Gabriel shows that, once again, West Indies has an impressive stock of fast bowlers.

Australia, which began the defence of its title with a seven-wicket rout of Afghanistan, will pose a far sterner challenge at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Speed is back in vogue at this World Cup

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Is speed the new weapon in one-day cricket?

The West Indies bowlers, in the match against Pakistan at Nottingham, recreated the aura of the glorious past when the likes of Malcolm Marshall, Andy Roberts and Michael Holding, Sylvester Clarke would put the fear of physical hurt in the minds of some of the established batsmen.

The scorching pace generated by Jofra Archer at The Oval against South Africa was an early indication that pace was going to work at this World Cup as much as seam, swing and spin. Marshall, Jeff Thomson, Dennis Lillee were bowlers who believed in just blowing the batsmen away with their aggression. The new crop of international fast bowlers think the same.

Speed, actually, was never out of vogue. Says former international Ian Pont, now head coach at the Ultimate

Pace Foundation, "I don't think speed ever went away. It goes in cycles unless you are coaching it, which very few of us have got to grips with yet. The fact remains, if you have real pace it is unsettling a batsman. No one likes to be peppered by rapid, short-pitched bouncers or searing yorkers. The game is far better with pace in it."

Known for his technical excellence, Pont picks Archer and South African ace Kagiso Rabada for special mention.

"I think Archer's action is simple and repeatable, plus he goes through the key '4 Tent Peg' positions, aligned correctly.

"This means he has far less chance of injury that vast majority of fast bowlers in the world are prone to. It helps him generate great pace in an effective & efficient way."

On Rabada, he notes, "He has to be right up there. He bowls 145 clicks plus, can nip the ball about and has mas-

tered a yorker. A very dangerous customer to face.

Lauds Bumrah

"Next would be Jasprit Bumrah. He has had a staggering rise in his bowling stock by being a very smart bowler. Hard to hit at the end of an innings, he can also generate close to 150kph speeds with an awkward style of action that gives him an advantage. His control and ability to mix his speeds with a great slower ball makes him a handful."

He points out Australia's Mitchell Starc as a key bowler. "Although he has not played much cricket recently, his left arm rockets and in-swing to a right hand batsman makes him deadly. He also has a great yorker and a wise head.

"I would also suggest keeping an eye out for Pat Cummins, Oshane Thomas and Trent Boult. And of course, the man we will all be talking about over the next 12 months, Archer."



Letting it rip! The pacy Jofra Archer's well-aligned action makes him less prone to injury.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12645

Crossword grid with numbered squares for clues.

ACROSS

- 1 Disregard criminal with allure (8); 5 A fellow insincerely encouraging extramarital relationship (6); 9 Conservative replaced hot rod beside animal (8); 10 Lebron zealously displaying medal, say (6)

(set by Lightning)

- 12 Severe resistance breaking tag used on social media (5); 13 Source of a liberal society's first set of documents (9); 14 Bishop missing the first jump and rebound (6); 16 Criticize expert with a cure for everything (7); 19 Book about the first shot in a tennis match (7); 21 A doctor (soviet) regularly quick in action (6); 23 It's not right to destroy a clue (hint) (9); 25 Plant on southern border (5); 26 Engineer to leave unknown stock (6); 27 Exhausted baker somehow moved up to escape (8); 28 Conjecture on Norse god covering European mythology at last (6); 29 Heartlessly yell breaking piece of burnt wood drum (8); DOWN: 1 Primarily careful, dislike giving up a dress (6); 2 Infamous trio soon united in rebellion (9); 3 Caught inside, wish to come back on time (5); 4 Irritate professional, bring out missing energy (7); 6 Nonresident set out for green island (9); 7 Chap nearly showing breathing disorder (5); 8 Broadcast ordinary threats with instrument (8); 11 Left mischievous child to walk awkwardly (4); 15 Short rant about guiding light (5,4); 17 Daughter wearing cool, short bonnet in youth (9); 18 Debate and set urgent matter aside for starters (8); 20 Cut leaderless sailing vessel (4); 21 Largely irritating ailment (7); 22 Entertainer from Japan exited a feast (6); 24 Avoid cheat pilfering diamonds (5); 25 Propelled through water with one teacher (5)

SUDOKU

8x8 Sudoku grid with numbers and difficulty rating: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12644 and Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Hidden dangers

Life has many attractions, which draw us towards them, but they hold hidden dangers. A moth is drawn towards a flame, and falls on it and dies. Just as its liking for the light leads to its death, so can desire lead to our downfall. This is among the many things that an avadhoota Brahmin tells King Yatu, in Srimad Bhagavatam, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. To trap a majestic male elephant, a trained female is sent towards it. Drawn to the female, the male elephant ends up being caught. So, do not yield to temptation, the ascetic tells Yatu. A deer in a forest hears some music and is attracted by it. Going to investigate where the music is coming from, the deer gets trapped in the net the hunter has laid for it.

That is why sadhus listen only to music that has its foundation in bhakti. Mere notes do not interest them, says the ascetic. The sadhu tells Yatu about a girl who is alone at home when a family comes seeking her hand in marriage. She begins to pound grains, to cook for the visitors. Her bangles make a noise, which she does not like. So, she wears only one bangle, so that there will be no noise. Sadhus too, like this girl, dislike noise, and therefore, always prefer solitude. A spider takes great care to spin its web, but sometimes it swallows the net. The ascetic says to Yatu, "When wise men say that the Supreme One swallows the earth during the deluge, people are sceptical. If a spider can swallow the net it made, can the Supreme One not swallow the world He is responsible for?"

A worm gets caught in a wasp's hole. The wasp stings the worm. Afraid, the worm tries to change its colour to dupe the wasp into thinking that it (worm) is, in fact, a wasp. The lesson from this is that if we keep bad company, we will eventually acquire bad characteristics.