

Henry's triple blow stuns the top-order, shatters India's dream

Despite Jadeja's incredible knock and his gallant century stand with Dhoni, the Men in Blue fall short by 18 runs to crash out in the semifinals



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

The bugles were silenced, drums got discarded and disbelief reigned. For the Indian fans, a boisterous morning slipped into an afternoon of melancholy despite Ravindra Jadeja's incredible knock, as New Zealand stunned Virat Kohli's men in the World Cup semifinal at Old Trafford here on Wednesday.

Efficiency trumped flair and Kane Williamson's men showed that they could win without a snarl. Pursuing New Zealand's 239 for eight, India finished with 221 in 49.3 overs. Jadeja's 77 (59b, 4x4, 4x6) was pulse-pounding but it was fated to end in tragedy while the Kiwis snatched an 18-run victory.

Modest targets can be tricky and India needed a solid start but, instead, a nightmare ensued. Rohit Sharma nibbled at a Matt Henry (three for 37) delivery, the edge was grazed, wicket-keeper Tom Latham caught with glee and boom, the World Cup's most prolific batsman departed.

Joy in waves

Joy for the Black Caps came in waves. For the addition of a single run, India lost two wickets. Kohli missed some from Trent Boult as the left-armed's angle was tough to counter. The speedster then got one to straighten and Kohli, who tends to shuffle a bit more in his initial tenure, did that while trying to wrist one to the leg-side. The Indian captain missed, the pad got struck and Boult's appeal bellowed from the pit of his stomach. Kohli was adjudged out, he promptly sought a review and though the replays hinted that the ball was going over the bails, it was an 'umpire's call' decision and the agitated batsman left.

At five for two, the queasiness in the Indian dressing room worsened as K.L. Rahul fell to Henry. The delivery hovering near the off-stump rose and Rahul, who



Gone with the wind: Virat Kohli gives vent to his frustration after getting dismissed cheaply by Trent Boult. •AP

was riding the bounce, failed to withdraw his bat and Latham found another welcome thud into his gloves. India five for three and the fires raged.

Magic on the turf

Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik tried to resist, the former driving, the latter stone-walling and going 20 balls without a run. Karthik then clipped a four off Boult and just as the initial nerves eased, James Neesham sprinkled magic on the turf. Karthik sliced Henry and as the ball raced beyond backward-point, Neesham dived to his left, and his left hand reflexively darted out and plucked a catch for the ages. India 24 for four in 10 overs and in dire straits.

The game is a leveller though and when Pant flicked Lockie Ferguson, the uppish stroke popped out of Neesham's hands at short mid-wicket! Pant and Hardik Pandya shared a 47-run fifth-

INNINGS SCAN

NZ	IND
2	5
15	13
1	5
68 (2nd)	116 (7th)
4.78	4.46

PROGRESSION

NZ	IND
27/1	24/4
73/2	70/4
113/2	92/5
155/3	150/6
239/8	---

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
New Zealand	Taylor 74 (90b, 3x4, 1x6)	Henry 3/37 (10)
India	Jadeja 77 (59b, 4x4, 4x6)	Bhuvneshwar 3/43 (10)

wicket alliance but India was always behind the Duckworth-Lewis par score. And then Pant tried to deposit a left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner over mid-wicket, except that he found Colin de Grandhomme. India 71 for five in the 23rd over and the crowd yearned for a miracle.

M.S. Dhoni (50) and Pandya nudged the scoreboard but as the required rate went

past seven, the pressure was bound to tell. It did emphatically when Pandya miscued a slog-sweep off Santner and a patient Williamson tumbled and still held on. India 92 for six, down for the count and in walks Jadeja with rebellious ideas.

Stirring act

While Dhoni remained calm, Jadeja turned aggressor, loft-



ing Neesham and Henry for sixes and the crowd was alive. A stirring act took shape and when Jadeja etched his 50, besides the usual Rajput twirl of the bat, he gesticulated towards the commentary box, perhaps, an admonition to Sanjay Manjrekar, who recently made some critical remarks.

Jadeja rode his luck as a few shots teased the fielders but a massive six off Ferguson showed that the battle wasn't over yet and a hope-gifting partnership enthused the audience. Jadeja and Dhoni added 116 off 112 deliv-

STAT SPHERE

1 For the first time in this tournament, none of the top three Indian batsmen scored a half-century

2 The number of times Rohit and Kohli have been dismissed for a single-digit score in the same ODI in the last two years, the earlier occasion being the Champions Trophy 2017 final against Pakistan (India lost by 180 runs)

0/3 Kohli failed to cross double-figures in his last three WC semifinal appearances (9 vs Pakistan, 2011, 1 vs Australia, 2015, 1 vs New Zealand, 2019)

3/3 Kohli has been dismissed by left-arm pacers (Wahab, Johnson and Boult) all three times in the semifinals

5/3

India's score is the lowest for the loss of three wickets in WC semifinals, the previous one being Australia's eight (for three) against West Indies in the 1996 edition

MS Dhoni scored his 73rd ODI half-century in the match against New Zealand

5 New Zealand is the fifth team to reach consecutive World Cup finals (2015, 2019), Australia (1996, 1999, 2003, 2007), West Indies (1975, 1979 and 1983), England (1987, 1992) and Sri Lanka (2007, 2011) are the other sides to accomplish the feat

24 India's PowerPlay 1 total, the lowest in this edition, beating New Zealand's 27 (both in the semifinal)

74 Taylor's knock against India is the third highest by a Kiwi batsman in the WC semifinals after Martin Crowe's 91 (Pakistan, 1992) and Grant Elliott's 84 not out (South Africa, 2015)

77 Jadeja's score is the highest by a batsman batting at No. 8 or lower in WC knockout games. Holder's 42 (WI vs NZ, 2015) was the previous best

116 Dhoni and Jadeja's partnership is the second century association for the seventh wicket or lower in WC chases. The 117-run stand between Zimbabwe's Iain Butchart and Dave Houghton also came against New Zealand (1987 edition)

COMPILED BY ANANTAJITH RA.

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND
Martin Guptill c Kohli b Bumrah 1 (14b), Henry Nicholls b Jadeja 28 (51b, 2x4), Kane Williamson c Jadeja b Chahal 67 (95b, 6x4), Ross Taylor run out 74 (90b, 3x4, 1x6), James Neesham c Karthik b Pandya 12 (18b, 1x4), Colin de Grandhomme c Dhoni b Bhuvneshwar 16 (10b, 2x4), Tom Latham c Jadeja b Bhuvneshwar 10 (11b), Mitchell Santner (not out) 9 (6b, 1x4), Matt Henry c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 1 (2b), Trent Boult (not out) 3 (3b); Extras (lb-5, w-13): 18; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 239.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Guptill, 3.3 overs), 2-69 (Nicholls, 18.2), 3-134 (Williamson, 35.2), 4-162 (Neesham, 40.6), 5-200 (Grandhomme, 44.4), 6-225 (Taylor, 47.6), 7-225 (Latham, 48.1), 8-232 (Henry, 48.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 10-1-43-3, Bumrah 10-1-39-1, Pandya 10-0-55-1, Jadeja 10-0-34-1, Chahal 10-0-63-1.

INDIA

K.L. Rahul c Latham b Henry 1

(7b), Rohit Sharma c Latham b Henry 1 (4b), Virat Kohli lbw b Boult 1 (6b), Rishabh Pant c de Grandhomme b Santner 32 (56b, 4x4), Dinesh Karthik c Neesham b Henry 6 (25b, 1x4), Hardik Pandya c Williamson b Santner 32 (62b, 2x4), M.S. Dhoni run out 50 (72b, 1x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Williamson b Boult 77 (59b, 4x4, 4x6), Bhuvneshwar Kumar b Ferguson 0 (1b), Yuzvendra Chahal c Latham b Neesham 5 (5b, 1x4), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-3, w-13): 16; Total (in 49.3 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Rohit, 1.3), 2-5 (Kohli, 2.4), 3-5 (Rahul, 3.1), 4-24 (Karthik, 9.6), 5-71 (Pant, 22.5), 6-92 (Pandya, 30.3), 7-208 (Jadeja, 47.5), 8-216 (Dhoni, 48.3), 9-217 (Bhuvneshwar, 48.6).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Boult 10-2-42-2, Henry 10-1-37-3, Ferguson 10-0-43-1, de Grandhomme 2-0-13-0, Neesham 7.3-0-49-1, Santner 10-2-34-2.

Toss: NZ. MoM: Matt Henry. New Zealand won by 18 runs.

Dhoni's final bow?

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

When M.S. Dhoni trudged away following a run out at Old Trafford here on Wednesday, a question lingered in the press box: "Are we seeing him for the last time in the blue shade?" With speculation over a probable retirement swirling in the air, it was understandable that the former captain came up for discussion in the post-match media interactions.

First up, Kane Williamson was asked to comment on Dhoni's strike-rate and then the reporter questioned derisively: "Would you have

picked him in your team?" The New Zealand skipper looked perplexed and countered: "He is not eligible to play for New Zealand, isn't he?" And when the correspondent persisted, Williamson praised Dhoni: "He is a world-class player and if I was the Indian captain I would have picked him. His contribution was excellent. Is he looking to change his nationality? We might consider him (grins)."

Later, when Virat Kohli was probed about any input from Dhoni specific to his career's conclusion, the Indian captain categorically said: "He hasn't told anything."



What's up? Speculation is rife about Dhoni's future. •AFP

'The game changed in the first 40 minutes'

Kohli 'proud of the way the team played through the tournament'

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

India's batting heart was flung aside in the first 10 overs as New Zealand speedsters Trent Boult and Matt Henry pegged away with wickets and maidens. Virat Kohli conceded that the phase when his team was reduced to five for three and then 24 for four, had repercussions that lasted through the World Cup semifinal which Kane Williamson's men won at Old Trafford here on Wednesday.

"The game pretty much changed in those first 40 minutes and credit to the New Zealand bowlers, the pressure they created was immense and they bowled in the right areas," the Indian captain said in the post-match press conference.

"You obviously feel bad about the result and everyone wants to win. In hindsight you can think differently. We are sad but we are not devastated. Today we were not good enough, a bad day at the knockouts and you are



Fine innings, but... Jadeja drew praise from skipper Kohli who termed the left-hander's innings 'his best.' •REUTERS

out of the tournament," he added.

Speaking about the dismissals, Kohli said: "Rohit (Sharma) got a really good ball, the ball I got was pretty decent. Yes in some cases shot selection could have been better. For the first seven or eight overs we didn't get a ball to drive, it was the

perfect spell of fast bowling."

Pant will learn

Asked to comment on Rishabh Pant's manner of exit through a shot that was struck straight to a fielder in the deep, Kohli became the protective senior: "Look, Pant is an instinctive player and his partnership with

(Hardik) Pandya was commendable. In hindsight he will learn, he is young. When I was young I made many mistakes. I am sure he will reflect on it and become stronger."

Kohli was also satisfied with the run rate that Ravindra Jadeja and M.S. Dhoni maintained through their partnership: "The way they batted together I felt it was the perfect tempo. MS (Dhoni) was given that role of coming in a bad situation and taking control."

Jadeja's innings drew praise from his leader and Kohli said: "I have been watching him for 10 years and this was his best knock. At that point (in the slog) we felt that we could close the game. Jadeja has been an under-rated cricketer but he is priceless."

Visibly disappointed, Kohli, though, drew some cheer from the 'semifinal appearance' and said that he "is proud of the way the team played through the tournament."

'It wasn't a 300-wicket, 240 or 250 was ideal'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER

Kane Williamson often does a shy half-smile, not for him are the extremes of unbridled joy or soul-numbing anguish. After marshalling New Zealand well and springing a shock-defeat upon India in the World Cup semifinals here at Old Trafford on Wednesday, the skipper was measured in his words, mixing guarded praise with dry wit. Excerpts:

A tough game

It was important to maintain our vitality and we know what a class side India is. We thought close to 240 was competitive on a pitch like this and it was an incredible game. We had a great starting point when we got those wickets and then the rebuilding phase gets tricky. We had some good deliveries there, sometimes they don't take the edge, but today they took (it).

The Jadeja special

The innings that (Ravin-

dra) Jadeja played was as if he was playing on a different pitch. It was a brilliant innings and India showed what a class side it is and we had a very good game of cricket spilling over two days.

Dhoni's run out

We all know the game is a fine line. We have seen (M.S.) Dhoni finish games earlier and to get him run out with a direct throw was excellent.

A staggered contest

I think the guys slept pretty well. We were focusing on what we could achieve on this surface. It wasn't a 300-wicket, it was a mid-200 wicket, 240 or 250 was ideal. And then it was a brilliant start with the ball.

The catching philosophy

Just watch the ball and catch it. Just watch it, (perhaps say) 'someone please catch it' (grins) and if it is mine then catch it.

The final

Anybody can beat anybody, so it is important to put your feet on the ground.

England will need to be at its best

Defending champion Australia has proved its credentials

WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BIRMINGHAM
England seems primed to win its maiden title but it will take a special effort to upstage arch-rival and defending champion Australia in the second semifinal here on Thursday.

Considering the fire-power the host possesses, many current and former players have said it is England's World Cup to lose, a trophy it has not been able to lift despite making the final in 1979, 1987 and 1992.

On the other hand, Australia has been so consistent in the mega event that it is yet to lose a semifinal, having won six and one being a dramatic tie against South Africa in the 1999 edition.

Not many would have put their money on Australia as recent as four months ago but Aaron Finch and his team have made a phenomenal comeback that began with a rare series win in India in March.

England may have won 10 out of its last 12 meetings against Australia but knows well that the piece of statistic counts for little heading into the semifinal, especially after the Eoin Morgan-led side's 64-loss to in the league stage.

But England is back to its best since that loss to Australia as it beat India and New Zealand in their final two league games.

The squads:
Australia: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Jason Behrendorff, Alex Carey, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Pat Cummins, Peter Handscomb, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon, Glenn Maxwell, Kane Richard-



Impact player: Jason Roy will be key to England's fortunes against Australia. • DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES

THE FACE-OFF					
AUSTRALIA vs ENGLAND					
EDGBASTON					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	Mat	Aus	Eng	Tied	NR
Overall	148	82	61	2	3
World Cup	8	6	2	0	0

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

son, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner and Adam Zampa.

England: Eoin Morgan (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Tom Cur-

ran, Liam Dawson, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, James Vince, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

It's a Federer-Nadal semifinal as scripted

The Swiss records his 100th win at SW19; Djokovic crushes Goffin; Agut in maiden Slam semifinal



N. SUDARSHAN LONDON

More than a decade after their momentous Wimbledon final in 2008 – a match for the ages that ended under semi-darkness – Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal will lock horns again, this time a round earlier.

The two won their respective quarterfinal matches on Wednesday against Kei Nishikori and Sam Querrey to set up their 40th head-to-head meeting on Friday. While Federer came through a tense four-setter 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 for his 100th win at SW19, Nadal doused a spirited challenge from the service-heavy American 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

"Well, we have a lot of information on Rafa and so do they about us," said a smiling Federer about facing Nadal. "We can all talk tactics for the next two days or just say it's grass court tennis and I am going to attack. If he can defend, it's good for him or it's good for me. I mean, people hype it up, just like in the French Open. It was a joy to play on his court. Now, I'd love to play on grass. Let's see what happens."

Toughing it out

The eight-time Wimbledon champion, though, had to tough it out against Nishikori. The Japanese broke early in the first set forcing the Swiss to play catch-up. Federer pounced in the second right at the beginning, just when Nishikori appeared to switch off, and maintained the lead throughout. He



Sublime: Novak Djokovic lost just six games – his least ever at Wimbledon – during his dismantling of David Goffin. • REUTERS

broke open the contest at 3-3 in the third set and never looked back.

"The beginning was brutal," Federer said later. "Kei was smashing returns and I had to make adjustments and stay with him. I had to get the lead and protect it in the second and then start a normal match at one-set all. I served well from there. It was a good serving performance against a great returning player."

The day's honours, however, went to World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who dismantled David Goffin 6-4, 6-0, 6-2. A lot had to go right for the 21st seed if he was to threaten Djokovic. At just an inch under six feet, he doesn't necessarily intimidate his opponents. His serve-speed doesn't rank

Thursday's schedule

Women's semifinals

Centre Court
7-Halep vs 8-Svitolina (5.30 p.m. start)
followed by
11-Serena vs 5-Strycova

high enough to give him the first-mover advantage that can be crucial on grass.

But he covers for his shortcomings with clever changes of pace, court-speed and persistence. He appeared to maximise these talents for a fleeting while, going up a break in the first set and serving at 4-3, before bearing the full brunt of the Djokovic onslaught.

The six games that Djokovic lost were his least ever at Wimbledon, bettering the

seven he conceded to Yen-Hsun Lu in 2010. He will now take on Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut, who defeated Argentine giant-killer Guido Pella 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to make it to his maiden Slam semifinal.

The turnaround from Djokovic in the first set was swift. After having broken the defending champion in the seventh game, Goffin lost his rhythm from 30-0 up. A double fault and an unforced error brought the Serb right back before a decision by the umpire to award a point to Djokovic instead of a replay following a contentious line call seemed to throw the Belgian off.

He would save the break point with a fine volley but couldn't do much when Djokovic drew him into a long

rally and dealt the killer blow with a volley of his own. From thereon, the four-time champion won 15 of 17 games, including eight on the bounce, to drain the Centre Court of all its energy and with it any lingering suspense of an upset.

THE RESULTS

Men's singles: Quarterfinals: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 21-David Goffin (Bel) 6-4, 6-0, 6-2; 23-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt 26-Guido Pella (Arg) 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; 2-Roger Federer (Sui) bt 8-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; 3-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Sam Querrey (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

Mixed doubles: Third round: 1-Bruno Soares (Bra) & Nicole Pietrangeli (USA) bt Andy Murray (GBR) & Serena Williams (USA) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Sagan takes the fifth stage

TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS COLMER
Peter Sagan burst into life on the Tour de France when he claimed the fifth stage at the end of a 175.5-km bumpy ride from St. Die des Vosges on Wednesday.

The three-time World champion from Slovakia beat Belgian Wout van Aert and Italian Matteo Trentin in a sprint finish to strengthen his grip on the points classification as he looks to secure a record-breaking seventh green jersey.

Sagan has 144 points in the points classification with Australian Michael Matthews in second place on 97.

France's Julian Alaphilippe retained the overall leader's yellow jersey.

Poland show not accurate gauge of India's chances

Better indicator would be the World Championships

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN NEW DELHI
Touted as a strong prospect for India at the Tokyo Olympics, Hima Das is currently the toast of the nation for winning back-to-back races in the first week of July.

Hima is part of the elite Indian quartermilers training for more than two months in Spala, Poland, along with a few javelin throwers and shot-putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor. However, it is important to put things in perspective.

The most common refrain for going abroad is quality competition that is not possible in India. That, however, does not bear out. At Poznan, there were just a handful of Jamaicans and Thai runners across all events,

none among the top runners from their respective countries. Even the top Polish athletes were missing.

Hima won the 200m in 23.65 seconds, far from her personal best of 23.10 while V.K. Vismaya was third in 23.75, a personal best. Mohd. Anas Yahya was the only one who came close to doing his best, registering a season's best timing of 20.75 (his record is 20.63) in 200m to finish third.

All-India race

In the women's 400m, it was an all-India race that saw all four time over 54 seconds. The best-placed Indian male quartermiler was K.S. Jeevan with 47.25s. Kunhu Mohammed managed 47.48, a far cry from even his season's best of 46.47 at the Federation Cup earlier this year.



Hima Das. • BEN HOSKINS/GETTY IMAGES

Tejinderpal Singh Toor could not cross the 20m mark.

At Kutno, the Indians ran amongst themselves and against club athletes from

around Poland. Hima and Vismaya slipped to 23.97 and 24.06 respectively but still completed a 1-2 for India. For the record, her gold-winning performance in Poznan will not put her among the top-300 in the world today.

"The federation itself is realistic. These competitions are mainly in and around the athletes' training base in Spala and are entered into for experience. They are not part of the official annual calendar," an AFI official admitted.

However, it may be noted that the Sports Ministry has approved ₹65.93 lakh for competitions in Spala and around, probably including the Czech Republic, for nine athletes and two coaches during the period 15 June to 15 August.

With club level competi-

tion and falling standards, one wonders about the supposed gains for the Indian athletes in such long camps abroad without adequate international competitions.

It's not just the runners whose performances raise questions. Javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, who managed an impressive 86.23m at the Asian meet, has been slipping gradually, his last outing being 76.90 in Poland. Vipin Kasana has not participated at all during this time while Davinder Singh Kang and Rajinder Singh have had poor outings in one event each.

A more accurate reflection of India's chances and standards would be, therefore, at the World Championships in September-October. Till then, it would do well to temper hopes and adulation.

Tajikistan stuns Syria

INTERCONTL. CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA AHMEDABAD

Tajikistan brightened its title-round chances, shocking fancied Syria by two second half goals, in the Intercontinental Cup at the EKA Arena here on Wednesday.

Striker Komron Tursunov found the lead before Ilhomjon Barotov netted the second to help Tajikistan reach six points after two matches.

The Tajiks, who had surprised India in the opener, just need a draw against DPR Korea to make the final. Syria created a few chances in the first half but was unlucky not to find the net as three of its attempts came off the framework.

Tajikistan enjoyed greater possession, but could not make inroads into the Syria box. Despite keeping its playmaker Firas Alkhatib

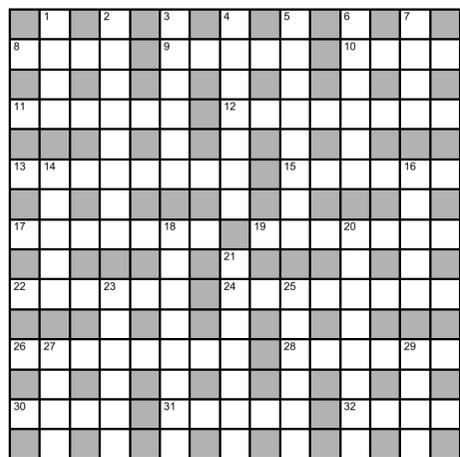
on the bench in the first half, its two men in attack – Shadi Al Hamwi and Mohammad Almarmour – troubled the Tajik defence a lot.

After Hamvi saw his 13th minute effort saved well by Tajik goalkeeper Rustam Yattimov, Syria kept working on the flanks, earning three golden opportunities, but failing to capitalise on them. Tajikistan came back strongly in the second half, going ahead immediately after the break. Tursunov found the target off a spectacular long-ranger that beat Syrian custodian Ibrahim Alma.

Even before Syria could regroup, Tajiks doubled the lead in the 67th minute when Ilhomjon Barotov tapped home an assist from Panshanbe Ehsoni.

The result: Tajikistan 2 (Komron Tursunov 46, Ilhomjon Barotov 67) bt Syria 0.

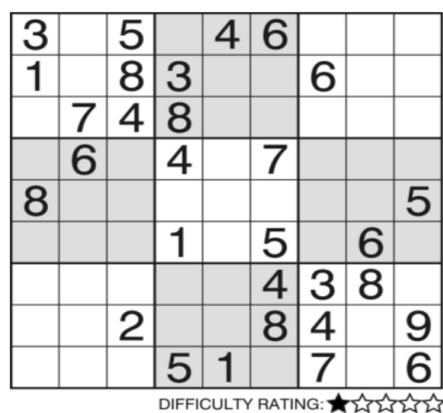
THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12675



- ACROSS**
8 Shake stone (4)
9 Fuses stink badly (5)
10 Agree, god makes ladies' fingers (4)
11 Reply, "Solution" (6)
12 US lecher may be a strongman (8)
13 Partially photograph a rise extraordinarily for a hypocrite (8)
- DOWN**
1 Low at the beginning of night and behave listlessly (4)
2 Deer running behind South London garden's impaled (8)
3 Goes around in feminine clothes (6)

- (set by Incognito)
- 15 Tells, letter by letter, "Magic incantations" (6)
17 Bringing down a plane on flat area above step (7)
19 Order naval officer without hesitation (7)
22 Write: A no-good city (6)
24 Svelte redhead on board ship slides (8)
26 Scold maid, "Nosh is bad" (8)
28 Crafty daughter followed small animal (6)
30 For starters, no earthing is lying – He took a giant step for mankind! (4)
31 Wined dancing astronaut (5)
32 After first half of June, heartless lady produces "Seventh Month" (4)
- 4 Claim he is abnormal saint (7)
5 El Salvador media's love for some coffee (8)
6 Moulded model contains uniform segment (6)
7 No charges for Liberty (4)
14 Hurl that chap on little boulevard (5)
16 Left district in Himachal Pradesh at end of September to get something related to 1 (5)
18 General returns, followed by another general carrying policeman's night dress (8)
20 A ham jar is broken by a ruler (8)
21 Shuns chess we played (7)
23 A referendum by old Greek god (6)
25 Begins an enterprise that is, to some extent, mad (6)
27 Sketched actor Barrymore (4)
29 Law broken by king and tramp (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12674

S	C	O	R	O	B			
S	U	E	Z	B	R	E	A	K
B	A	T	P	L	O	E		
S	P	A	R	T	H	A	T	C
O	I	I	H	S				
S	E	N	T	I	N	E	L	O
N	O	E	M	T				
N	A	R	W	H	A	L	R	A
S	E	T	T	E	R	S	W	A
T	T	E	R	H	C	T		
T	U	R	N	C	O	A	T	Q
I	E	R	R	U	R	G		
S	E	R	E	N	G	E	T	I
O	E	E	T	O	N			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Life and death

The Gita teaches humanity to outgrow limitations and make full use of the gift of human birth to attain liberation from the cycle of samsara, pointed out Srimati Prema Pandurang in a discourse. A jivatma has the faculty to meditate on the Supreme Brahman and if one is able to be steeped in Brahman at the moment of death, he is sure to attain Brahman, say the scriptures. Krishna points out to Arjuna that whoever at the time of death gives up his body and departs thinking of Him alone comes to His status of being. The Lord assures that one need not have any doubt in this.

The story of King Bharata who renounces his kingdom and is engaged in peaceful penance in solitude somehow gets attached to a deer and when he sheds his mortal frame his thoughts are preoccupied with the deer. He is born a deer and lives for some time in this form. But, owing to his previous samskara as a great devotee of the Lord, in his next birth he is born as Jadabharata and finally attains salvation. Krishna says that by dedicating one's mind and buddhi to Him even when one is engaged in one's duties and dharma, one can be sure of attaining Him. But what is the guarantee that one may think of God during one's last moments, since failing senses, deteriorating health etc may lead one to lose consciousness.

With great foresight, realised souls such as Adi Sankara, Kulasekhara Azhwar, Periazhwar, etc, focus on 'antima kala Smriti', that is, the thoughts that pass through the mind of a person in one's last moments that would decide the future of the atma. They teach us to pray to God to be with us and guide us at that time. Constant practice of meditation on God throughout one's lifetime alone can help to fight the strong distractions from outside world.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Wimbledon: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Five Brazilians in Copa team of tournament

PORTO ALEGRE
Five Brazilians have been selected in the 2019 Copa America's team of the tournament by the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL). Goalkeeper Alisson, right-back Dani Alves, centre-back Thiago Silva, midfielder Arthur and forward Everton featured in the competition's best XI, published by CONMEBOL on social media. The remainder of the team comprised Uruguayan centre-back Jose Gimenez, Peru left-back Miguel Trauco, Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes, Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal, Colombia playmaker James Rodriguez and Peru striker Paolo Guerrero. IANS

McLaren retains Sainz, Norris for 2020 season

LONDON
McLaren will keep the same driver pairing for the 2020 Formula One season after confirming Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris will retain their seats next year. "McLaren is pleased to confirm that Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris will continue as McLaren F1 drivers for the 2020 FIA Formula 1 season," McLaren said in a statement. AFP

Pique handed €2.1 million tax bill

MADRID
Barcelona's Gerard Pique will be forced to pay €2.1 million to Spain's tax authorities after his conviction for rights-image fraud was confirmed, a legal source told AFP on Wednesday. According to a May 13 decision the country's National Court rejected Pique's appeal against the 2016 sentence which required the former Spain international to pay €1.5 million in tax arrears and a €600,000 fine. The tribunal concluded Pique had faked the handover of his rights images to his Kerad Project company to pay less tax for 2008, 2009 and 2010. AFP

Saniya Sheikh finishes 30th

SPORTS BUREAU
LONATO (ITALY)
Former National champion Saniya Sheikh had the best finish, in skeet, among the Indian women, as she finished 30th with 112 in a field of 61 shooters in the Shotgun World Championship on Wednesday. Saniya had a series of 22, 23, 23, 22 and 22. Areeba Khan, who had shot 70 out of 75 overnight, faltered with rounds of 22 and 17 on the second day, and was 47th with a total of 109. Kartiki Singh Shaktawat shot 108 for the 50th spot among 61 shooters. In junior men's skeet, Gurnihal Singh Garcha (109), Ayush Rudraraju (107) and Arjun Thakur (104) were placed 31st, 32nd and 35th in a field of 36 shooters. **The result: Junior men's skeet:** 1. Daniel Korcak (Cze) 55 (120); 2. Andrea Lapucci (Ita) 54 (121); 3. David James Sneedon McNeill (GBR) 41 (118).

Gursimar and Amandeep share lead

SPORTS BUREAU
BENGALURU
Gursimar Badwal and Amandeep Dral shot identical scores of three-under-par 67 to share the lead on the opening day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour (Leg 10) at the Bangalore Golf Club on Wednesday. Ananya Datar (68) was one stroke behind the leaders in third. **The scores (top six after round one):** 67: Gursimar Badwal, Amandeep Dral; 68: Ananya Datar; 71: Sonam Chugh, Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi.

Dutee clinches 100m gold

Becomes the first Indian to win a sprint gold in a global event

WORLD UNIVERSIADE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAPOLI
National record holder Dutee Chand became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m dash event here.

The 23-year-old Dutee clocked 11.32 seconds to win the gold as she led the race from start to finish. Running at lane No. 4, Dutee was the first one out of the eight athletes to blast off the starting blocks and she made most of it to fend of a late challenge from Del Ponte (11.33) of Switzerland.

Lisa KwaYie of Germany took the bronze in 11.39 seconds in the race run past midnight Indian time on Tuesday.

The Odisha runner, whose National record stands at 11.24 seconds, thus became the first Indian to win a 100m gold in a global event.

She has now become only the second Indian sprinter to win a gold in a global event after Hima Das, who clinched the top spot in 400m in the World Junior Athletics Championships last year.

Earlier on Tuesday, Dutee qualified for the final with a time of 11.41 seconds in the semifinal, which had made her the first Indian sprinter to make it to the final of World Universiade. On Monday, she had advanced to the semifinals from the heats with a time of 11.58 seconds.

Pat from the President

President Ram Nath Kovind congratulated Dutee on her feat.

"Congratulations @DuteeChand for winning the 100m sprint at the Universiade, the World University Games, in Naples. This is India's first



Commanding show: Dutee Chand clocked 11.32 seconds to win a start-to-finish race. • FISU/TWITTER

A fighter to the core

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

'Pull me down, I will come back stronger'. Perhaps, this tweet by sprinter Dutee Chand, after winning the gold.

"This is truly special given the backdrop I entered this event. And more so because it gives me the tag of 'World' which is so important and invaluable for any athlete," Dutee told *The Hindu* from Napoli. "Honestly, I was expecting a third or a fourth place in my second appearance in these Games. But, when I qualified for the final, I decided to give it all and it was a very close race separating me and the

silver medalist," she said.

No pressure
Was there pressure before the final? "Not at all, for I knew that the University people would not say anything even if I didn't win any medal," the 23-year-old athlete said.

"But, the desire to come up with something special was there certainly as I am preparing for the Doha World championship later this year," says Dutee, who won two silvers in 100m and 200m in the Asiad last year. "The focus will be on 100m for sure even as I dedicate this medal to the Achyuta Samanta sir (founder of Kalinga

Institute of Technology, Odisha) for all their support," she said.

Dutee's coach-cum-commentator Nagapuri Ramesh of SAI says the gold is the result of lot of efforts at Gachibowli Stadium and thanks the initiative of the Gopi Academy-Mytra Foundation.

"In sprints, a champion is one who knows when to accelerate and when to relax without reducing the speed. She is really good off the blocks. This is the reason why I made her go through the drills of speeding up to 30m and then relax for 20m with cones on the track and this seemed to have worked really well," Ramesh said.

such gold and a moment of immense pride for our country. Please keep up the effort, and look to greater glory at the Olympics," the President tweeted.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijju also applauded Dutee's efforts. "I've been passionately following since my childhood but it never came. Finally, for the first time, a

gold for India! Congratulations @DuteeChand for winning the 100m sprint at the Universiade, the World University Games, in Naples," Rijju said in his tweet.

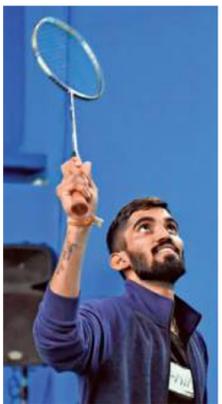
Srikanth focused on qualifying for Tokyo

Ace shuttler says it has been a great season for him so far

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

Ace Indian badminton player K. Srikanth said here on Wednesday that he's been focusing on the upcoming tournaments and qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics.

"There's a year left (for the Olympics). It's about playing the tournaments before the Olympics and qualifying. I think there are 15 tournaments until April next year. I would like to do well, probably win some and just try to improve," said Srikanth after inaugurating the VSR Sports Academy in Mogappair. The 26-year-old shuttler, who won four Super Series titles in 2017 and got to the World No. 1 ranking last year, said it's been a "great season" for him so far,



K. Srikanth. • M. KARUNAKARAN

and was looking forward to the rest of the year.

"I haven't been playing for the last two months, but

it's still been a great year. There are many more tournaments coming up, so I'm looking forward to doing well," said the World No. 9.

Asked if he feels there's been a slump in his form – when compared to 2017 – and subsequently his confidence, he said, "I think I've been doing well. I'm really confident about how I'm playing against all the top players. So, it's just about the moments.

"I haven't really lost very easy matches in the past few months. So, it's about pulling off those crucial points and, if you can get one or two of those, it can really change the whole course of the match. It's just about (owning) those moments and you have to keep working until you get that (right)."

Small margins of error cost us, says Gayle

Believes the ICC should go back to the old format of the World Cup

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Chris Gayle has turned out in maroon colours for the West Indies in five World Cups, starting from 2003 in South Africa. But the 39-year-old swashbuckling opener, who calls himself the 'Universe Boss', has not been able to show the way for the Caribbean team in the context of winning the World Cup.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Gayle who is the brand ambassador for adda52.com, India's online poker gaming site, said that the West Indies as a team believed it had the wherewithal to qualify for the semifinals, but was left disappointed in the end.

When asked to sum up his team's display, Gayle said: "Absolutely disappointed not making the last four. I should not be here. But that's life; in as much as we built the hopes of being in the semifinals, we could not. Given the start we had in the



Failed mission: Chris Gayle said West Indies believed it had the wherewithal to qualify for the semifinals. • VIVEK BENDRE

first game against Pakistan, everybody was pumped up and believed that the team would advance to semifinals. We should have gone for the kill against Australia and after losing this match we went a bit flat. We could not find the gear to come back. When one looks at the overall West Indies performance, we beat ourselves. We had some four or five games that were very close. We made small mar-

gins of error and that cost us."

Gayle believes that the ICC should go back to the old format of the World Cup. "Twelve teams split into two groups from which six teams play the Super Six and then the knockout from quarterfinals," Gayle said.

Passion still there

The Jamaican, who made his international debut in 1999,

Gold for Rakhi Halder

SPORTS BUREAU
APIA (SAMOA)

Seasoned Rakhi Halder aggregated 214kg to take the women's 64kg title in the Commonwealth weightlifting championships here on Wednesday.

The Commonwealth Championships are being held simultaneously together for the youth, junior and senior categories.

The medalists: Senior: Women: 59kg: Davinder Kaur snatch 80kg, clean and jerk 104kg, total 184kg (gold); **64kg:** Rakhi Halder 94kg, 120kg, 214kg (gold).

Junior and Youth: 59kg: Sukarna Adak 77kg, 101kg, 178kg (gold)

Junior: 64kg: Seram Nirupama Devi 85kg, 112kg, 197kg (gold)

Men: Junior and Youth: 61kg: Jacob Vanlaltuanga 112kg, 130kg, 242kg (gold).

Coach Reid keen to work on 'collective defending'

Wants to establish his style of attacking hockey

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

If Graham Reid's first three months in his role as India's Chief Coach have been about familiarizing himself with the job, the next four will be slightly more crucial. India will have to be in top form going into November's Olympic qualifiers, and Reid is aware that there is no room for slip-ups.

First on the agenda, as the Indian men's hockey team reconvenes for the National camp at the SAI here this week, is defence.

With the assistance of former Australia defender Fergus Kavanagh, Reid will hope to work on 'collective defending' – something that has become a catchphrase of his. "I have talked about the collective defensive mindset that we need," he said.

"Irrespective of whether you are a midfielder or a striker or defender, you have to tackle, get the ball off the opposition, and put pressure on them. That is what we are focusing on in the first week. Later on, we will look into the attack and what we do with the ball bit more."

The next six weeks, leading into India's Olympic Test event in Tokyo, will be an



New ideas: Graham Reid feels Indian needs to get better on the conversion rate. • K MURALI KUMAR

opportunity for Reid to firmly establish his style of play.

Attacking game

"I love attacking hockey and high-pressing and getting the ball off the opponent, which is the smartest way to defend. I would like to have a passing game, which we need to work more on. We need to know when to dribble as well. The great thing is that these players have great skills, but now the question is how to get them to do it when required," he said.

If defence is the current area of focus, there is much to work on at the other end of the pitch too. "We need to get better on the conversion

rate," said Reid. "We are getting into the 25 and the circle pretty well; now, we need to convert those opportunities into more quality scoring chances. That is the key."

Communicating with his players has not been a problem for Reid.

"There are players who can speak English, those who can only understand it, and those who can't speak or follow the language," he said. "Whatever I have to say gets translated. Communication has to be always clear; so I would like to get some English lessons started as well. But it's not been hard to get my message across to the team."

Angad bags a bronze

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU
NAPOLI

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa held on to his good form to clinch the men's skeet bronze in the 30th Universiade on Wednesday.

Asian champion Angad, who had a world record 60 out of 60 in the final, shot 44 in the final and missed a better medal by one point. He had qualified for the final in third place with 122 out of 125. "I am upset that I missed the silver, but happy with the qualification," said Angad.

Coming back from ill-health, when he missed two World Cups, and competing in a top competition, it was an impressive performance by Angad.

"I was ill before this, had not trained much and needed a break after a hectic season. Before this competition, I got to prepare the way I wished, on my own and with the right intensity," said Angad.

He was pleased with the way he handled the scrutiny, and hoped that "this competition will be a stepping stone to the World Cup in Finland."



Angad.

It will be the last World Cup in shotgun to win Olympic quota places. Thereafter, it will be the Asian championship for the Olympic quota for the Indian shooters in their quest for a berth in Tokyo 2020.

It was the third medal for the Indian shooters, following the individual silver and team bronze by Elavenil Valarivan in women's air rifle.

The results:
Men's skeet: 1. Nicolas Vasiliov (Cyp) 56 (119); 2. Timi Vallone-mi (Fin) 54 (121); 3. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 44 (122); 17. Indreshwar Sekhon 101.

Ankita enters second round

SPORTS BUREAU
VERSMOLD (GERMANY)

Ankita Raina, the fourth seed, beat Natalija Kostic of Serbia 6-1, 7-6(1) in the first round of the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Wednesday.

Other results:
\$100,000 ITF women, Centrexville, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Tamara Korpatsch (Ger) & Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Nigina Abduraimova (Uzb) & Prarthana Thombare 6-2, 5-7, [10-5].

\$25,000 ITF women, Getxo, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Malalen Morante Oyague & Irati Urbaneja Salazar (Esp) 6-2, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF women, Hua Hin, Thailand: First round: Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Ayaka Okuno (Jpn) 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Patcharin Cheapchandaj (Tha) & Zhuoma Ni Ma (Chn) bt Nana Kawagishi (Jpn) & Snehal Mane 6-0, 6-2; Mana Kawamura & Himeno Sakatsume (Jpn) bt Mio Kozaki (Jpn) & Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-0.

€69,280 Challenger, Braunschweig, Germany: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nicola Kuhn (Esp) & Daniel Masur (Ger) bt Jamie Cerretani (US) & Sriram Balaji 7-6(1), 6-4.

Vijender looks forward to his first pro fight in the US

I don't believe in big talk, says the champion boxer

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Vijender Singh is excited ahead of his first professional fight in the USA and banks on the support of local Indians to make his mark there.

The former Olympic and World championships bronze medalist was to make his USA debut in April, but had to postpone his fight after receiving a cut on his eyebrow during sparring.

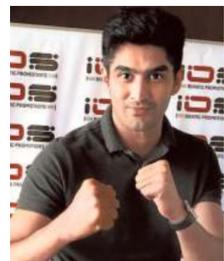
Vijender used the opportunity to make his debut in politics. However, he said he never quit boxing.

Back in training

"I was back to training soon after the elections were over and trained for one-and-a-half months.

"I trained with my trainer Lee Beard in Manchester for six-seven weeks before reaching here on Sunday," Vijender told *The Hindu* from Newark.

The unbeaten 33-year-old Indian star, who has remained unbeaten in his 10 professional bouts with seven knockout wins, will take



Vijender Singh.

on American Mike Snider at the Prudential Centre in Newark, on the undercard of Shakur Stevenson vs Franklin Manzanilla, on Saturday.

Not a problem

Vijender, who last appeared in a bout against Ernest Amuzu of Ghana in Jaipur in December, 2017, said his comeback was not a problem. "I have trained hard, done a lot of sparring and worked on my technique. I have concentrated on my basics. I will handle the next bout with my experience."

Throwing light on his approach, Vijender said, "I

need to be more patient. I will rely on my footwork and skills as it will be a long duel of eight rounds."

Vijender looked forward to feel at home against the 38-year-old American, who has a win-loss-draw record of 13-5-3, including eight knockout victories, in the super middleweight contest.

"The difference of fighting in the UK and the USA is that I have received a lot of messages from the Indians based here.

"I hope many of them will be here to support me."

Even as Snider warned the Indian of a "rough and ugly" contest, Vijender gave his familiar reaction. "I don't believe in big talk. I believe in doing my job well. "A door has opened for me. I am in the USA for a fight after eight years.

"Last time I had won a gold medal in the World Police Games in New York and this time I will be the winner as well. I look forward to achieving my long-standing dream of tasting success at the Madison Square Garden sooner than later," he said.