

# Despite loss, Men in Blue will continue to be a potent threat

The No. 4 spot continues to be a work in progress; the middle-order yet again failed to take India through



## INDIA REVIEW

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
BIRMINGHAM

Minutes after New Zealand scripted a sensational triumph over India in the World Cup semifinal at Manchester's Old Trafford on Wednesday, the customary hand-shakes between the rival units occurred. The victor's camp muted its joy and the losers kept a lid on their emotions, it was a poignant moment in which mutual respect lingered.

The special bit was when Kane Williamson and Virat Kohli met. They shook hands, hugged and the New Zealand skipper put an arm around his Indian counterpart's shoulder. Words were exchanged and it was one man understanding the anguish of the other.

Later Williamson said: "There is obviously a huge amount of respect for India



Tame end: Virat Kohli's men topped the league table but faltered in the semifinals after the top-order collapsed. • AP

and I certainly hope that their fans are very much behind them and respect that the game of cricket can be a tough one on a number of occasions."

But once it sunk in that India, one of the pre-tournament favourites had crashed, Twitter and the media space wavered between the sighs of support and the sounds of knives being sharpened. The first part was essential but the second segment proved to be unedifying.

India had a phenomenal run at the World Cup, scripting seven wins while losing

that one game to England besides encountering a wash-out in the league joust involving New Zealand. Being a table-topper with 15 points was a validation of the team's strengths. Resilience was evident too from the way the injury-enforced absence of Shikhar Dhawan and Vijay Shankar, was accepted. But it wasn't as if there were no flaws.

Just as the Black Caps were scripting an upset, a statistic popped on television - India's top-order had contributed 69% of its runs and among the rest, the middle-order offered just 30

and the tail a forgettable one!

### Delaying the inevitable

As long as the top troika flourished, things were going extremely well and equally much hinged on the speedsters where Jasprit Bumrah (18 wickets) prospered.

But once New Zealand dismissed Rohit Sharma (648 runs and five hundreds in this World Cup), Kohli and K.L. Rahul, through a fine exposition of fast bowling, India had a tough act to follow. The middle-order struggled and all that Ravin-

dra Jadeja and M.S. Dhoni could do was to delay the inevitable loss.

Questions have been raised about the alleged presence of six fielders outside the 30-yard circle against the norm of having only five at the time Dhoni got run out and whether it constituted a no-ball. But if that was the case isn't a run out the only dismissal allowed from a no-ball? Then the whispers were about why did Dhoni come in at No. 7. To be fair to the think-tank, there was a rain-threat and an eye had to be kept on the Duckworth-Lewis par score.

## India @ CWC 2019 - A report card

| BATTING           | Mat | Inns | Runs | HS  | Ave   | SR     | 100s/50s | 4s/6s |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|--------|----------|-------|
| Rohit Sharma      | 9   | 9    | 648  | 140 | 81.00 | 98.33  | 5/1      | 67/14 |
| Virat Kohli       | 9   | 9    | 443  | 82  | 55.37 | 94.05  | 0/5      | 38/2  |
| K.L. Rahul        | 9   | 9    | 361  | 111 | 45.12 | 77.46  | 1/2      | 31/5  |
| MS Dhoni          | 9   | 8    | 273  | 56* | 45.50 | 87.78  | 0/2      | 20/5  |
| Hardik Pandya     | 9   | 9    | 226  | 48  | 32.28 | 112.43 | 0/0      | 21/4  |
| Shikhar Dhawan    | 2   | 2    | 125  | 117 | 62.50 | 103.3  | 1/0      | 17/0  |
| Rishabh Pant      | 4   | 4    | 116  | 48  | 29.00 | 89.23  | 0/0      | 15/1  |
| Kedar Jadhav      | 6   | 5    | 80   | 52  | 40.00 | 80.80  | 0/1      | 6/1   |
| Ravindra Jadeja   | 2   | 1    | 77   | 77  | 77.00 | 130.50 | 0/1      | 4/4   |
| Vijay Shankar     | 3   | 3    | 58   | 29  | 29.00 | 77.33  | 0/0      | 6/0   |
| Dinesh Karthik    | 3   | 2    | 14   | 8   | 7.00  | 41.17  | 0/0      | 2/0   |
| Yuzvendra Chahal  | 8   | 1    | 5    | 5   | 5.00  | 100.00 | 0/0      | 1/0   |
| Bhuvneshwar Kumar | 6   | 2    | 2    | 2   | 1.00  | 50.00  | 0/0      | 0/0   |
| Mohammed Shami    | 4   | 3    | 2    | 1   | 0.66  | 33.33  | 0/0      | 0/0   |
| Jasprit Bumrah    | 9   | 3    | 1    | 1*  | -     | 100.00 | 0/0      | 0/0   |
| Kuldeep Yadav     | 7   | 2    | 1    | 1*  | -     | 50.00  | 0/0      | 0/0   |

| BOWLING           | Inns | Overs | Maidens | Wkts. | BBI   | Ave.  | Eco. | 4w/5w |
|-------------------|------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Jasprit Bumrah    | 9    | 84    | 9       | 18    | 4/55  | 20.61 | 4.41 | 1/0   |
| Mohammed Shami    | 4    | 35.1  | 2       | 14    | 5/69  | 13.78 | 5.48 | 2/1   |
| Yuzvendra Chahal  | 8    | 74    | 0       | 12    | 4/51  | 36.83 | 5.97 | 1/0   |
| Bhuvneshwar Kumar | 6    | 51.4  | 1       | 10    | 3/43  | 26.90 | 5.20 | 0/0   |
| Hardik Pandya     | 9    | 79    | 1       | 10    | 3/60  | 44.70 | 5.65 | 0/0   |
| Kuldeep Yadav     | 7    | 67    | 2       | 6     | 2/32  | 56.16 | 5.02 | 0/0   |
| Vijay Shankar     | 1    | 5.2   | 0       | 2     | 43518 | 11.00 | 4.12 | 0/0   |
| Ravindra Jadeja   | 2    | 20    | 0       | 2     | 1/34  | 37.00 | 3.70 | 0/0   |
| Kedar Jadhav      | 3    | 6     | 0       | 0     | -     | -     | 5.66 | 0/0   |

With Dhoni's explosive skills on the wane, Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya were backed to hustle the runs even though it was a steep climb.

### Fitting the template

And in a classic case of being damned if you do and damned if you don't, there was heartburn over Dhoni's relatively slow batting (50, 72b) when compared to Jadeja's flaming effort (77, 59b). Yes, the former skipper's strike-rate was sedate but it fitted into the template of resuscitating a scorecard that had slumped to



Australia is the only team to lose an ODI thrice after scoring 350+ runs batting first. 92 for six in 30.3 overs while chasing New Zealand's 239 for eight. Overall, India was the stand-out squad in the league phase, but in the semifinal New Zealand proved to be the better outfit. It is time to accept that

# England rides on Roy's assault, sets up summit clash with New Zealand

Woakes and Archer deal the early blows before Smith wages a lone battle and lends substance to the Australian total

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
BIRMINGHAM

England fans with their 'we are bringing it home' slogans specific to the World Cup, had plenty to cheer at a packed Edgbaston here on Thursday. Eoin Morgan's men dished out a command performance in the semifinal against old foe Australia. An eight-wicket victory was sealed and New Zealand awaits in the final at Lord's on Sunday.

Chasing Australia's 223, which largely rested upon Steve Smith's 85 (119b, 6x4), England scored 226 for two in 32.1 overs with Jason Roy's marauding 85 (65b, 9x4, 5x6) head-lining the triumph.

### Disdain

England's pursuit soared upon its regular template of muscular batting exemplified by Jonny Bairstow and Roy. The openers gauged the bowlers before Roy dismantled the Australian attack. Two fours were pounded in an over off Mitchell Starc and disdain emanated from Roy's blade as he moved across and flicked a six off the speedster over fine-leg.

Bairstow played his part, mostly second-fiddle, but it was Roy's day. Nathan Lyon was greeted with a thunderous six and when Australian captain Aaron Finch gambled on Smith, the part-timer was hoisted for three mammoth sixes in an over that yielded a bountiful 21. Finch swapped his bowlers and changed the field but nothing could stymie Roy's



Beaten all ends up: Peter Handscomb's defence is breached by Chris Woakes, leaving his stumps in disarray. • AP

**We were totally outplayed. We came here expecting to win. We trained well, we had enough breaks and we are disappointed. It was tough conditions at the start and we had to find a way for a platform.**

**Wasted review**  
If there was a worry, it centred around Bairstow, who slipped and hurt his leg. In a while, he perished to Starc but by then the first-wicket pair had added 124 in 17.2 overs. The batsman, ho-

wever, wasted a review and that came back to haunt when Roy was wrongly adjudged out caught behind to Pat Cummins, by Kumar Dharmasena. There was no edge but Roy could not seek a review as Bairstow had finished the quota.

But England stayed unruffled as Joe Root got quickly off the blocks, whipping and cutting while Morgan survived the customary barrage of bouncers and essayed his impetuous strokes. And when the winning strike came, the skies opened up on cue and a drizzle commenced.

Earlier, after Finch elected to bat, he immediately became part of the batting horrors. Shaping to defend,

Finch got trapped in front by Jofra Archer. The captain sought a review but found no relief.

### Early trouble

David Warner lashed two fours but failed to withdraw his bat in time when Chris Woakes (three for 20) extracted some lift from the surface. The edge was taken and England supporters, who previously had booed the opener, now bellowed from the stands. The speedster then castled Peter Handscomb and Australia was 14 for three in the seventh over.

If Australia partially shrugged that initial skid and went past the 200-mark, credit is due to Smith and the way he guided a few partner-

## STAT SPHERE

- 1 There will be a first-time winner on Sunday after England joined New Zealand in the final.
- It has been 23 years since there has been a new World Cup champion, Sri Lanka being the last team to do so in 1996
- This is the first time Australia has lost a World Cup semifinal after winning its previous seven
- 2 Australia has been bowled out in the knockout stages (excluding finals) of the WC for the second time in 11 appearances, the previous one being the 1999 tied semifinal against South Africa at Edgbaston
- 4 England will play in its fourth final, the second most by a team after

Australia. It last reached the final in 1992 which, incidentally, had the same format as the current edition

- Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow's 100-plus partnerships in this World Cup, the most by a pair in an edition
- 5 Roy's sixes in his match-winning 85, equalling Ganguly's (vs Kenya, Durban, 2003) record for most sixes in a semifinal
- 12 Catches taken by Root in the outfield, going past Ponting's record of 11 in 2003
- 27 Starc overtakes McGrath's record-haul (26 wickets, 2007) in an edition
- 50 Smith-Carey's 103-run partnership was the 50th 100-plus stand by an Australia duo, the most in World Cups

### Roy fined

- England's Jason Roy has been fined 30% of his match fee for showing dissent to the umpire upon his dismissal
- Two demerit points have been added to his disciplinary record. He escaped suspension

ships. First, he linked with Alex Carey in a 103-run alliance for the fourth-wicket. The first steps were laced with fear and some blood as Archer slammed one into Carey's helmet and the south-paw suffered a cut on his face.

Medical aid was provided and Carey wrapped a long

bandage around his face. The nerves were eased when he drove Woakes and Smith pulled Ben Stokes. The two remained industrious and Carey drove and swept. Fidgety before the ball is released but always in a state of zen-serenity when the projectile heads his way, Smith drove Liam Plunkett straight down and all seemed fine with the universe.

But as it happens when a partnership ebbs, wickets fell in clusters. Leg-spinner Adil Rashid scalped Carey and Marcus Stoinis and Australia wobbled at 118 for five in the 28th over. Smith, though, remained unfettered and added valuable runs with Glenn Maxwell

**Our performance in the last three games got better and better and we took it one step further. Everybody out there loved every ball that was bowled and we had a bit of a day out.**

and Starc.

Smith succumbed in the slog as he failed to beat wicketkeeper Jos Buttler's throw and walked away to boos from an audience keen to remind him of last year's ball-tampering crisis. At the break, Australia's total seemed reasonable but it proved illusory as Roy seized the clash with his inimitable aggressive style.

## SCOREBOARD

### AUSTRALIA

David Warner c Bairstow b Woakes 9 (17b, 2x4), Aaron Finch lbw b Archer 0 (1b), Steve Smith run out 85 (119b, 6x4), Peter Handscomb b Woakes 4 (12b), Alex Carey c sub b Rashid 46 (70b, 4x4), Marcus Stoinis lbw b Rashid 0 (2b), Glenn Maxwell c Morgan b Archer 22 (23b, 2x4, 1x6), Pat Cummins c Root b Rashid 6 (10b), Mitchell Starc c Buttler b Woakes 29 (36b, 1x4, 1x6), Jason Behrendorff b Wood 1 (4b), Nathan Lyon (not out) 5 (6b); Extras (lb-6, w-10): 16; Total (in 49 overs): 223.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Finch, 1.1 overs), 2-10 (Warner, 2.4), 3-14 (Handscomb, 6.1), 4-117 (Carey, 27.2), 5-118 (Stoinis, 27.6), 6-157 (Maxwell, 34.5), 7-166 (Cummins, 37.4), 8-217 (Smith, 47.1), 9-217 (Starc, 47.2).

### ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 8-0-20-3, Archer 10-0-32-2, Stokes 4-0-22-0, Wood 9-0-45-1, Plunkett 8-0-44-0, Rashid 10-0-54-3.

### ENGLAND

Jason Roy c Carey b Cummins 85 (65b, 9x4, 5x6), Jonny Bairstow lbw b Starc 34 (43b, 5x4), Joe Root (not out) 49 (46b, 8x4), Eoin Morgan (not out) 45 (39b, 8x4); Extras (lb-1, w-12): 13; Total (for two wickets in 32.1 overs): 226.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-124 (Bairstow, 17.2 overs), 2-147 (Roy, 19.4).

### AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Behrendorff 8.1-2-38-2, Starc 9-0-70-1, Cummins 7-0-34-1, Lyon 5-0-49-0, Smith 1-0-21-0, Stoinis 2-0-13-0.

Toss: Australia.  
MoM: Woakes.  
England won by eight wickets with 17.5 overs to spare.

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# Whirlwind demolition takes Serena a step closer to record

Svitolina, seemingly overwhelmed by the enormity of the occasion, is no match for Halep's unwavering consistency



N. SUDARSHAN  
LONDON

Serena Williams is one win away from a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title after a 59-minute 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Barbora Strycova in the semifinals on Thursday. She hit 28 winners to Strycova's eight, won 24 of 27 first-serve points and 13 of 16 at the net in her most commanding performance at this year's championship.

Standing in her way in Saturday's summit clash will be the 2018 French Open champion Simona Halep, who dominated a nervous Elina Svitolina 6-1, 6-3. The two matches were far from engaging, but for Serena and Halep they were the best routes to the final.

On paper, Halep-Svitolina looked the closer match-up, separated as they were by just one ranking spot - Halep's 7 to Svitolina's 8 - and locked at a head-to-head of 4-4. But Svitolina, despite not being a stranger to winning big titles like she proved at the 2018 WTA Finals, seemed overwhelmed by the enormity of the occasion - this was



**Lasting power:** Simona Halep won a whopping 25 of the 32 points which lasted nine shots or more as she bested Elina Svitolina.  
• CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

her first Slam semifinal - and was no match to Halep's unwavering consistency.

**Tight and tense**

The first few games were tight and tense, with long exchanges. But Halep was the one with superior focus and lasting power and she didn't allow Svitolina a single hold. In the second set, after a few

sedate games, Halep broke twice from 3-3 to run away with the match.

"It is one of the best moments of my life," said Halep, for whom it will be the third Major final and first at SW19. "It was not as easy as the scoreline. But I was prepared to fight for every ball."

No wonder she won 25 of 32 points which lasted nine

shots or more.

Serena-Strycova, which followed on Centre Court, appealed tactically, but there was little doubt as to whose racquet it rested on. Strycova was different to the players Serena had faced until then. At 33, the Czech was the oldest first-time Grand Slam women's singles semifinalist in the Open Era and had got

there by following her serve to the net, playing the slices, keeping the balls low and denying opponents pace.

**On the prowl**

From the outset, Serena was on the prowl for the early, point-ending shot to stop Strycova from displaying her craft. She broke twice in succession, in games four and

**Friday's action**

**MEN'S SEMIFINALS**  
**Centre Court**  
1-Djokovic vs 23-Bautista Agut (5.30 p.m., IST)  
**followed by**  
2-Federer vs 3-Nadal

six. Two points in that phase stood out. At 2-4, 15-15, Strycova attempted a drop with such underspin that the ball seemed set to die instantly. But Serena's anticipation and footwork got her to it and she executed a remarkable down the line drive. An inch-perfect on-the-run backhand pass earned the double break. Serena, it seemed, was everywhere.

At 2-2 in the second set, she stepped it up again. Strycova was up 30-15, but a crosscourt forehand winner earned the 2018 finalist a look.

The World No. 54 crumbled, serving a double fault and backing it up with a sliced error. At 2-4 and a break point down, she missed an easy forehand volley and let out a loud shriek. The resistance had snapped and Serena was soon in her 11th Wimbledon final.

**THE RESULTS**

**Semifinals:** 7-Simona Halep (Rom) bt 8-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) 6-1, 6-3; 11-Serena Williams (USA) bt Barbora Strycova (Cze) 6-1, 6-2.



**Tactical win:** Serena Williams read Barbora Strycova's gambit of slowing down the pace well and countered perfectly.  
• CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

## Will Roger Federer's grass-court genius come to the fore?

Or can Rafael Nadal roll back the years to 2008 and trump the Swiss?

N. SUDARSHAN  
LONDON

The last time Roger Federer played Rafael Nadal on the hallowed grass at Wimbledon, the latter still wore pirate pants and sleeveless shirts. In the 2008 final, under fading light and flickering flashbulbs, Federer's soaring grass-court majesty was stopped in its tracks by a relentless Nadal as he completed the first French Open-Wimbledon double among men since Bjorn Borg in 1980.

It was supposed to signal the changing of guard, from a 26-year-old 12-time Major winner to a 22-year-old who had just won his fifth. But in the decade since then, the two have proved that it was anything but that.

Federer completed his own double a year later and added eight Grand Slams while Nadal morphed into an all-court warrior and increased his by 13.

### Fedal 40

Federer and Nadal gear up for their first meeting at Wimbledon, since their iconic 2008 title showdown (in pic), in the semifinals on Friday. Ahead of their 40th clash, a look at how their matches have panned out

**Head-to-head: Nadal leads 24-15**

**THE BREAK-UP:**

- Round-wise:**
- Final (24 times):** Nadal leads 14-10
- Semifinals (10 times):** Nadal ahead 7-3
- Quarterfinals (twice):** Nadal won both matches
- Round-of-16 (once):** Federer won
- Round-of-32 (once):** Nadal won
- Round-robin (once):** Federer won
- Surface-wise:**
- Outdoor Clay (16):** Nadal holds a 14-2 advantage
- Outdoor Grass (3):** Federer leads 2-1
- Outdoor Hard (14):** Nadal has an 8-6 lead
- Indoor Hard (6):** Federer leads 5-1



**At Grand Slams:**  
**Titles:** Federer (20), Nadal (18)  
**Head-to-head:** Nadal leads 10-3.  
**At Wimbledon:**  
**Titles:** Federer (8), Nadal (2)  
**Head-to-head:** Federer leads 2-1  
**Round-wise:**  
**FINAL (THREE TIMES):**  
**2006:** Federer won 6-0, 7-6(5), 6-7(2), 6-3  
**2007:** Federer won 7-6(7), 4-6, 7-6(3), 2-6, 6-2  
**2008:** Nadal won 6-4, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-7(8), 9-7  
**Last meeting:**  
**FRENCH OPEN (2019):**  
**SEMIFINALS:** Nadal won 6-3, 6-4, 6-2

It's impressive to see how sort of healthy he's stayed. A lot of them are saying, Oh, it's the end, by 2008. Similar to me in '09. We're still here. So it's nice to play each other again  
- FEDERER

Excited to be back on this court against him after 11 years. Against probably the best player in history on this surface, I know I have to play my best  
- NADAL

COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

**Modern-day rivalry**  
On Friday, the two will meet for the 40th time in tennis' most-celebrated modern-day rivalry.

While the overall numbers are heavily skewed in favour of Nadal - he leads Federer

24-15 - grass is Federer's territory and he is ahead 2-1. On non-clay surfaces, Federer holds a 13-10 advantage, including five wins in the last five. It was evident in the way the Swiss positioned grass as

"his court" and clay as "Rafa's court" after the win over Kei Nishikori on Wednesday.

Of late, Federer has also significantly tweaked his game - aided by a bigger racquet head - to better coun-

ter Nadal's high, top- and side-spun forehand into his one-handed backhand. It won him the 2017 Australian Open final and helped snap a six-match losing streak against the Spaniard at

Slams. It was no surprise that Federer picked the Melbourne match as the reference point ahead of the semifinal rather than French Open contest he lost five weeks ago.

Yet, as Federer acknowledged, the gap isn't very wide. After going five years without making a single quarterfinal at SW19 (2012-2017), Nadal has impressed in reaching two successive semifinals.

"He has improved so much," Federer said. "He's playing also very different than he used to. I remember back in the day how he used to serve, and now how much bigger he's serving and how much faster he finishes points. He can really hurt anybody on any surface. He's that good. He's not just a clay court specialist."

**Different take**

Nadal's take was slightly different. "I don't think we improved much," he said. "I think we managed to add things because we lost other things... because of age. I am running less so I need to serve better. Of course, I am hitting the backhand better. Maybe volleying and slicing better. But I don't know if my level today will beat my level of years ago. So, in terms of improvement, I don't know. In terms of re-adapting our games, for sure. That's what makes us keep playing with this intensity."

## Stage six for Teuns, Ciccone takes yellow

**TOUR DE FRANCE**

REUTERS  
CHAMPAGNE

Belgian Dylan Teuns won the sixth stage of the Tour de France, a 160.5-km ride from Mulhouse on Thursday.

The Bahrain-Merida rider beat Italian Giulio Ciccone, who claimed the overall leader's yellow jersey at the top of La Planchette des Belles Filles after a 7km ascent at an average gradient of 8.7%. Belgian Xandro Meurisse took third place.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas was the stron-

gest of the overall contenders as he took fourth place, two seconds ahead of fifth-placed Thibaut Pinot of France.

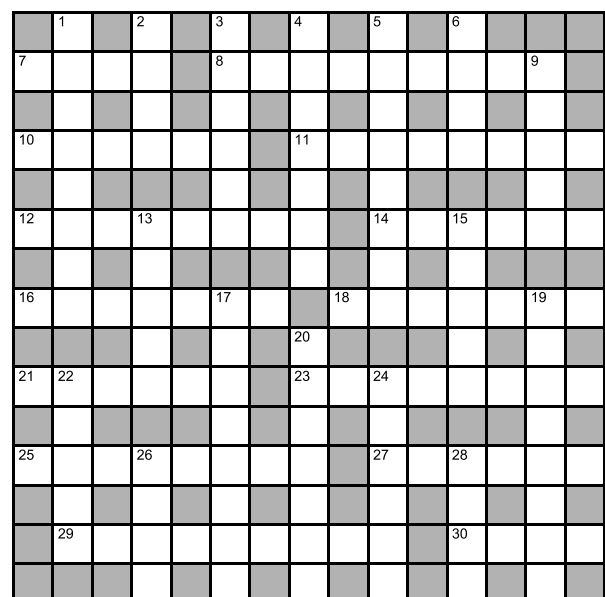
Teuns and Ciccone were rewarded for a daring breakaway early in Thursday's Stage 6 that they pursued all the way to the end.

Teuns shook off Ciccone on the final 24% incline at the top of the ski station. But Ciccone still managed to wrest the yellow jersey off Julian Alaphilippe, the French rider who battled behind to keep hold of the race lead, only to come up a few seconds short.



**On top:** Bahrain-Merida rider Dylan Teuns wins the gruelling climb up Stage 6. • REUTERS

### THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12676



**ACROSS**

- 7 Hint: Violent uncle ejects first niece (4)
- 8 Famous air craftsman rigs medical (9)
- 10 Nude relative dumps the French boy (6)
- 11 7 goes: "Bad poems" (8)
- 12 Shackled, Mandela walks around Cape (8)

- (set by Incognito)
- 14 Outer layer of eye's clear, going around (6)
  - 16 State "Last month Lear collapsed" (7)
  - 18 Shoot! Al cried shudderingly! (7)
  - 21 Drink real cocktail in court (6)
  - 23 Congregation of leaders of European church clergy, laity (excluding spokespeople) in America (8)
  - 25 Hurricanes and calamitous storms initially crossed devastated Ceylon (8)
  - 27 Sweet Eric travels around Los Angeles (6)
  - 29 Touring places around tavern? That's tops! (9)
  - 30 150 notes produce musical symbol (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Stretch one leg at jumping (8)
  - 2 Met founder purchasing eleven electric lamps, for starters (4)
  - 3 Sal DNA produces a different tree (6)
  - 4 Ship carries American Indian director on long passages (7)
  - 5 Catapult is in middle of dance by Territorial Army (8)
  - 6 Sergeant Major's old gun's initial pollution (4)
  - 9 In literature, gloomy doctor has an organ (5)
  - 13 Real confusion about boy and fitter (5)
  - 15 Wildly Voltaire drops vat for flower (5)
  - 17 Rod's aunt goes round round buildings (8)
  - 19 LIC aides transferred and relieved from clerical duties (8)
  - 20 Ships containers (7)
  - 22 After loss of shoe in playhouse, threw one-handed basketball shot (3-2)
  - 24 Fold crown with no difficulty (6)
  - 26 Large gun's spoilt air pump (4)
  - 28 Secure coil of hair (4)

### SUDOKU



**Solution to puzzle 12675**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | S | S | M | E | M | F |   |   |
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| E | T | A | E | L | L |   |   |   |
| P | H | A | R | I | S | E | E | S |
| E | E | L | S | U |   |   |   |   |
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| P | L | C | N | A |   |   |   |   |
| A | D | M | O | N | I | S | H |   |
| R | L | G | E | A | A |   |   |   |
| N | E | I | L | E | D | W | I | N |
| W | O | E | S | E | A | K |   |   |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

### FAITH

#### Path of renunciation

If Adi Sankara's life typifies the true import of renunciation as stressed in the sastras, his works are equally helpful guides that initiate one towards seeking salvation, pointed out Nannilam Sri V. Rajagopala Ganapadigal in a discourse. It is held that Siva incarnated as Adi Sankara for the purpose of imparting the highest knowledge by which man can attain salvation from the cycle of births. Adi Sankara accepts sanyasa at a tender age and shows through example how to tread the path of renunciation. Through Viveka Chudamani and other granthas he tries to dispel the ignorance that binds mankind to samsara. It is only natural to seek happiness in life and worldly attractions beckon all people to seek the joy and happiness in these. But if one spends his lifetime in seeking these such as name, fame, wealth, relationships, etc, then it is all the more difficult to give up all these.

Since it is a great challenge to give up the different kinds of happiness that life affords, scriptures and sacred texts reinforce the truth that these joys that we expect or experience are full of faults. Unless one understands with full force this truth, it will be difficult to renounce these. For instance, if one sees a lizard in the food he has been looking forward to eat, would he have any second thoughts in rejecting the food? Being aware of the ephemeral quality of life's joys can help one to cultivate the spirit of renunciation. With this knowledge one can cultivate detachment to objects, places and people and gradually learn to renounce these. The knots of desires that spring in the human heart are only the effects of ignorance. So the important factor is to cut off desire. Then the senses can be subdued. The end of renunciation is when the desires that have already subsided do not rise again as also the sense of I and Mine.