

# In the end, England claimed the cup, New Zealand the hearts

Hosts' win may spur youngsters to take to cricket as opposed to football; Williamson continues Kiwi tradition of using sum of team's parts to beat fancied opposition



Ruling the world: The jubilant England players with the ultimate prize. ■ AFP



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LONDON

A long-drawn championship with its starting grid harking back to May 30, finally wound to a close through se-

conds that stretched inexorably at Lord's here on Sunday. The finest World Cup final since the quadrennial tournament's inception in 1975, twisted and turned as both eventual champion England and runner-up New Zealand fought the good fight.

Drawn level at 241 after the full duration of the contest and again on par at 15 following the super-over's conclusion, boundaries scored through the day became the last word. It was a touch unfair on New Zealand, which with 17 hits, paled to En-

gland's 26.

The boundary rule evoked questions and asked for his reaction, England captain Eoin Morgan said: "If you could give me an alternative, I would be able to compare the both. But I can't think of an alternative at the moment. The rules are obviously set out a long time ago and we have no control over them."

**Ambivalent**

Morgan's New Zealand counterpart Williamson felt ambivalent: "It is pretty hard to

swallow when two teams have worked really, really hard to get to this moment in time and when sort of two attempts to separate them as winner and loser and it still doesn't perhaps sort of shine with one side coming through. It is what it is. The rules are there at the start."

The climax had its multiple talking-points but there is no denying that England and New Zealand deserved to be in the summit clash. All this summer, England has roused itself to the 'it is coming home' slogan and Morgan's

## Top of the charts

After the completion of an exciting tournament, we take a look at some players who made their presence felt



MOST RUNS

Player	Inns	Runs	Ave	SR	100/50	4/6
Rohit (Ind)	9	648	81.00	98.33	5/1	67/14
Warner (Aus)	10	647	71.88	89.36	3/3	66/8
Shakib (Ban)	8	606	86.57	96.03	2/5	60/2
Williamson (NZ)	9	578	82.57	74.96	2/2	50/3
Root (Eng)	11	556	61.77	89.53	2/3	48/2
Bairstow (Eng)	11	532	48.36	92.84	2/2	67/11
Finch (Aus)	10	507	50.70	102.01	2/3	47/18
Azam (Pak)	8	474	67.71	87.77	1/3	50/2
Stokes (Eng)	10	465	66.42	93.18	0/5	38/11
Roy (Eng)	7	443	63.28	115.36	1/4	51/12



MOST WICKETS

Player	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	SR	4w/5w
Starc (Aus)	10	27	5/26	5.43	20.5	2/2
Ferguson (NZ)	9	21	4/37	4.88	23.9	1/0
Archer (Eng)	11	20	3/27	4.57	30.2	0/0
Mustafizur (Ban)	8	20	5/59	6.70	21.6	0/2
Bumrah (Ind)	9	18	4/55	4.41	28.0	1/0
Wood (Eng)	10	18	3/18	5.16	29.8	0/0
Amir (Pak)	8	17	5/30	4.90	25.7	0/1
Boult (NZ)	10	17	4/30	4.83	34.9	2/0
Shaheen (Pak)	5	16	6/35	4.96	17.6	1/1
Woakes (Eng)	11	16	3/20	5.24	31.8	0/0

**MOST DISMISSALS BY WICKETKEEPERS**

Latham (NZ) (Dismissals, Ct/St) 21 | 21/0, Carey (Aus) 20 | 18/2, Hope (WI) 16 | 16/0, Sarfaraz (Pak) 14 | 13/1, Buttler (Eng) 14 | 12/2

## Umpires' error: Taufel

'Only five should have been awarded'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON/MELBOURNE

Former international umpire Simon Taufel on Monday said officials standing in the World Cup final made an "error of judgement" in awarding six runs, instead of five, to England for an overthrow.

"It's a clear mistake... it's an error of judgment. They (England) should have been awarded five runs, not six," Taufel, a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year, told foxsports.com.au.

The onfield umpires, Kumar Dharmasena and Maais Erasmus, added six to the England total - two runs plus four overthrows for the ball reaching the boundary.

Taufel, however, defended the officials. "In the heat of what was going on, they thought there was a good chance the batsmen had crossed at the instant of the throw," Taufel said.

**Proving otherwise**

"Obviously TV replays showed otherwise. The difficulty you (umpires) have here is you've got to watch batsmen completing runs, then change focus and watch for the ball being



Simon Taufel. ■ FILE PHOTO

### WHAT THE LAW SAYS

According to Law 19.8, pertaining to "Overthrow or wilful act of fielder", the law states: "If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be any runs for penalties awarded to either side, and the allowance for the boundary, and the runs completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act."

picked up, and watch for the release (of the throw)," Taufel said. "You also have to watch where the batsmen are at that exact moment."

## 'The bat of God' didn't decide it

In a tie, you start looking at every delivery: Williamson

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LONDON

Shortly after England won the World Cup at New Zealand's expense on Sunday, a meme began to do the rounds on WhatsApp. It had a picture of Ben Stokes lying on the ground with an outstretched bat, and the caption was: 'The bat of God.' It was a reference to 'The hand of God' phrase which Diego Maradona uttered after his upper limb played a part in a goal against England in the 1986 FIFA World Cup quarterfinal at Mexico City.

Cut to the present when everyone was losing his head during the nail-biting final over at Lord's, Stokes slammed a six off Trent Boult. Off the next ball, the all-rounder swung towards mid-wicket and attempted a two. Martin Guptill's throw, zooming in at the striker's end, struck the outstretched willow held by Stokes and ricocheted to the boundary. England got six in the kitty (an all-run two, plus an overthrow four) and the summit clash slipped into a climax that will be spoken about for generations to come.

The sliver of luck, the am-



Turning point: The four overthrows, after the ball deflected off Ben Stokes' bat, proved crucial. ■ REUTERS

bit of sportsmanship and the rules pertaining to such overthrows came up for discussion with both captains. First up New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said: "The (overthrow) rule has been there for a long time. Well, you can't sort of look at that and think perhaps that decided the match. There were so many other bits and pieces to that game that were so important. When it comes down to a tie, you start looking at every single delivery, don't you? It was a pretty tough pill to swallow."

Later, his England counterpart Eoin Morgan said: "I wasn't quite sure what had happened. I was trying to figure out, did he hit it, did the 'keeper hit it? I was trying to stay in the moment. I wasn't celebrating. It is not something you celebrate or cheer... well, I didn't because that could be us on the other side of it."

With acclaimed former umpire Simon Taufel questioning the merit of awarding six for the overthrow, the last word is yet to be heard on this controversy.

## The wheels have turned for Stokes

Skipper Morgan effusive in praise of the all-rounder

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LONDON

T.S Eliot wrote in *The Waste Land*: "April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land." If Ben Stokes looks back in time, he might agree. On an April night at humid Kolkata's grand sporting theatre, the Eden Gardens, the 2016 ICC World Twenty20 final was at its tipping point.

The West Indies needed 19 from the last over and Stokes steamed in to bowl. A few minutes later, he was on his haunches and feeling disconsolate. Carlos Brathwaite had just hammered four consecutive sixes to wrest the trophy.

In the years that followed, Stokes had a brawl outside a pub and it further harmed his reputation. While much water flowed down the Hooghly and the Thames, he evolved. Stokes is now a premier all-rounder and his batting prospers when stress mounts.

**In the hunt**

In the World Cup final at Lord's on Sunday, it was Stokes who kept England in the hunt against New Zealand. His unbeaten 84 and



Superhuman: Eoin Morgan feels that Ben Stokes deserves all the attention he gets. ■ PETER SUMMERS/GETTY IMAGES

the runs he scrambled in the Super Over proved critical and it was his moment of redemption as Eoin Morgan's men were crowned the champions. A July night at London proved to be the perfect antidote for the nightmare suffered at Kolkata.

Morgan recognised the effort that Stokes had put in and said: "To come through it is extraordinary. He is almost superhuman. He has carried the team and our batting line-up. I know Jos (Buttler) and the partner-

ship was extraordinary, but to bat with the lower order the way he (Stokes) did was incredible."

Reverting to that distant night when Brathwaite soared and Stokes slumped, Morgan said: "A lot of careers would have ended after what happened in Calcutta (Kolkata). But Ben has led the way and has stood up. He had a huge day out (in the final) and we are thankful."

The wheel has indeed turned for Stokes and England is on a high.

## It took a little bit of luck: Morgan

Skipper says the Black Caps and Williamson were 'incredible'

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LONDON

Eoin Morgan sat in the makeshift press conference hall at the tennis courts inside the Lord's complex. An unforgettable Sunday was ebbing away amidst whoops of delight outside from the excited fans. He kept the World Cup trophy next to him and it sparkled in the light.

The host captain's eyes were moist, England had just edged past New Zealand in a classic final and the skipper was overwhelmed. He lauded his squad and empathised with Kane Williamson's men.

**Excerpts**

**A special moment:** To me and to the team, and everybody who has been involved over the last four years, it means absolutely everything. The planning, hard work, dedication, commitment and a little bit of luck today really got us over the line. It's been an incredible journey. I still can't quite believe, that is why I am carrying it (the cup) around as much as I can. I can't believe we got over the line. Sport



Unreal! 'I still can't quite believe, that is why I am carrying the cup around as much as I can,' an overwhelmed Morgan said at the press conference. ■ CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

sometimes is about fine margins. It was the finest of margins but I am thankful it went our way.

**The Black Caps:** I commend the Black Caps and Kane, they have been incredible. The fact the trophy is sitting here is because we got the rub of the green. New Zealand, throughout the group stages, was absolutely outstanding and in the semi-final was very ruthless against India. They compete against the very best and they do it in a fashion that

you would have no qualms in turning around to your kid and saying, "Please idolise these guys, they are very admirable."

**Super Over:** To play in a Super Over at the end of an extremely draining day takes a huge amount out of you, so it was about remaining calm. Jofra (Archer) was pretty easy. We were trying to keep it simple and bowl yorkers until he bowled that short ball, so it was about reaffirming what he was trying to do and he did a great job.

## Williamson talks about the 'uncontrollables'

Feels that there were a couple which were hard to swallow

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LONDON

Mindful of the fact that staying neutral is of paramount importance, journalists aren't the types that reveal much. But the mask slipped briefly at Lord's on Sunday night when Kane Williamson concluded his post-final press-conference.

New Zealand had just lost the World Cup to England and the visitor's skipper put a lid on his grief, managed a few weak jokes and spoke at length about varying emotions and his team. Just as he walked away, the hall broke into spontaneous applause. It was a singular moment when respect and empathy merged. **Excerpts**

**Visceral sorrow:** Obviously, just gutted. The guys put in a huge amount of work to get this opportunity, to come and play in another World Cup final. Throughout this whole campaign, in a lot of my press conferences, I have spoken about 'uncontrollables' and there were a couple which were hard to swallow.



Moving past it: Williamson put a lid on his grief, managed a few weak jokes and spoke about varying emotions and his team. ■ MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

**England's moment:** Not just this match, but throughout, for all the cricket they have played, England are deserving winners. Either side walking away with the title probably feels fortunate after having it go down to a tie. **Fighting total:** We sort of wanted 250, 260. We knew that it wasn't easy and we were expecting it to dry a lit-

tle bit more and it did do that. In the first 10 overs, the movement we were able to get and picking those early wickets were due to the pitch and the bowlers putting the ball in great areas. The amount of heart and fight the guys have shown throughout this whole campaign, probably none more than the match we have just

### ICC Team of the Tournament

Rohit Sharma
Jason Roy
Kane Williamson (c)
Joe Root
Shakib Al Hasan
Ben Stokes
Alex Carey (wk)
Mitchell Starc
Jofra Archer
Lockie Ferguson
Jasprit Bumrah
12th man: Trent Boult
(in batting order)

witnessed.

**Player of the tournament:** An individual performance is only a contribution to something greater than yourself and that is the team. The only thing you can perhaps think of at this point in time is what more could I have done? Individual accolades are secondary to the efforts that everybody within the whole squad and the support staff are putting into the bucket.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian team for next month's tour of the West Indies will be announced on July 19, but there is no clarity on M.S. Dhoni ahead of the limited-overs leg beginning on August 3.

**No clarity on Dhoni**

"The selectors will meet in Mumbai on July 19. We have not heard from Dhoni but what is relevant is the communication between the player and selectors," said a BCCI official.

Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah are likely to be rested.

**Need to reapply**

The BCCI will also invite fresh applications for the support staff, including head coach, and Ravi Shastri will need to reapply.

Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R. Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup.



# Mentally the toughest match: Djokovic

Says he coped with the crowd by hearing 'Novak' when they chanted 'Roger'



N. SUDARSHAN  
LONDON

Novak Djokovic termed his nerve-wracking 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(4), 4-6, 13-12(3) victory over Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final as "mentally the toughest match he was ever part of."

"I had the most physically demanding match against [Rafael] Nadal that went almost six hours [Australian Open 2012]. But mentally, this was at a different level," the 32-year-old said.

"For most of the match I was on the back foot. I was one shot away from losing. [But] in the most important moments, all three tie-breaks, I found my best game. It was a flashback to the US Open when I saved two match points against Federer as well [2010 & 2011]."

"It was a huge relief in the end, honestly. These kind of matches give sense and value to every minute you spend



**One for the ages:** Djokovic believes the marathon final against Federer was the kind of match that gives sense and value to every minute they spend on the court, training. • AFP

on the court training and working. I try to play the match in my mind before I go on the court. I probably could not play this kind of scenario (smiling). But I always try to imagine myself as a winner. I think there is a power to that."

It was not just Federer who Djokovic was up against, but the crowd as well. "At times you just try to

ignore it, but it's quite hard," he said. "So, when the crowd is chanting 'Roger' I hear 'Novak' (smiling). It sounds silly, but it is like that. I try to convince myself that it's like that."

**This one will sting**  
For Federer the defeat will surely sting. Even in 2018, he had lost to Kevin Anderson in the quarterfinals after be-

ing a match point up in the third set. But on Sunday, he was clearly the better player, winning 218 points to Djokovic's 204, hitting 94 winners to 54 but tallying just ten unforced errors more (62-52).

The 37-year-old had also denied the Serb – arguably the greatest of returners – an opportunity to break till deep inside the fourth set.

More importantly, to beat two of your greatest rivals back-to-back to claim a ninth Wimbledon and 21st Grand Slam overall would have ranked very high in the list of achievements.

"One shot I guess, don't know which one to pick, your choice," said the distraught Swiss about the two missed championship points. "If I could have picked before the match to be at 9-all in the fifth, that wouldn't be a terrible thing. But it was definitely tough having those chances. I don't know what I feel right now. It's such an incredible opportunity missed, I can't believe it."

### 'It hurts, and it should'

Asked how he would recover, Federer said: "take it on your chin, and move on. You try to forget, try to take the good things out of this match. Similar to '08 maybe [versus Nadal], I will look back and think, well, it's not that bad after all. For now, it hurts, and it should, like every loss does at Wimbledon. I think it's a mindset. I'm very strong at being able to move on because I don't want to be depressed about an amazing tennis match."

## Celebrating the champs



**The prize:** Wimbledon men's champion Novak Djokovic and women's winner Simona Halep pose for a photograph with their trophies. • AFP

# India-A makes it 2-0

Gaikwad, Gill and Saini have a field day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Opens Rituraj Gaikwad and Shubman Gill struck fine half-centuries before Navdeep Saini's flier guided India-A to a 65-run win over West Indies-A in the second unofficial ODI of the five-match series here.

India-A leads the five-match series 2-0 after the visitors won the first ODI by an identical 65-run margin.



Navdeep Saini. • FILE PHOTO

### Decision backfires

The home team's decision to invite India-A to bat on Sunday night backfired as Gaikwad (85, 102b) and Gill (62, 83b) shared 151 runs for the opening wicket to set up a total of 255 for eight at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

While defending the target, pacer Saini's five for 46 saw West Indies-A capitulate for 190 in 43.5 overs.

Gaikwad and Gill batted for nearly 31 overs and struck nine boundaries and three sixes between them.

While Gaikwad hit five fours and two sixes, Gill found the fence four times and crossed it once.

Manish Pandey (27), Hanuma Vihari (23) and Ishan Kishan (24) all got starts, but Romario Shepherd (four for 36) made a solid comeback

in the death overs to contain India-A.

Needing 256, West Indies-A lost John Campbell in the second over to Khaleel Ahmed.

Saini, who came in to bowl as second change, then rattled the West Indians by dismissing Sunil Ambris, Roston Chase and Jonathan Carter in quick time to reduce the hosts to 77 for five.

Raymon Reifer played a fighting 71-run knock off 105 balls but he lacked support from the other end.

Shepherd remained not out on 34.

The third unofficial ODI will be played at the same stadium here on Tuesday.

## van Aert wins Stage 10

### TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ALBI

Dutch rookie Wout van Aert won Stage 10 of the Tour de France on Monday as Julian Alaphilippe extended his overall lead after a blistering late charge split the peloton.

Alaphilippe started the attack from 20km out and defending champion Geraint Thomas and his Ineos team joined in to leave at least four of their rivals trailing home 1min 36 adrift at the finish in Albi.

## Umashankar keeps winning; stays on top

Ishaan Madesh dominates Cadet section opens massive lead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar kept up his winning run to remain on top of the Senior standings in the JK Tyre-FMSCI National Karting Championship (X-30 class).

Nirmal won three of four races at the Meco Kartopia track here on Saturday, before following that up with three more podium finishes on Sunday. It took his points tally to 137 from four rounds, putting him on top of the standings ahead of Debarun Banerjee (81) and Aditya Swaminathan (79).

Meanwhile, in the Junior category, Bengaluru's Ruhaan Alva turned in a fine performance on the weekend, claiming 33 points on Saturday and a perfect 40 on Sunday to move to 130 points. He leads the standings from Arjun Nair (101) and M.R. Rishon (74).

In the Cadet section, Bengaluru's Ishaan Madesh continued to dominate proceedings, opening up a massive gap at the top of the standings. Madesh leads with 153 points, ahead of Shriya Lohia (107) and Sai Shiva Sankaran (89).



Ishaan Madesh, centre, who leads the Cadet standings in the JK Tyre-FMSCI National Karting Championship (X-30 class), flanked by Shriya Lohia, left, and Sai Shiva Sankaran at the Meco Kartopia track here on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Elavenil pips Mehuli to retain air rifle crown

Priya Raghav and Vibhuti Bhatia pick up medals in 50m pistol

### JUNIOR WC

SPORTS BUREAU  
SUHL (GERMANY)

Elavenil Valarivan defended her air rifle title with a majestic performance in the final at the junior World Cup here on Sunday.

Fresh from her outing in the Universiade, where she won silver, Elavenil shot 251.6 in the final to beat compatriot and qualification-topper Mehuli Ghosh (630.4) by 1.4 point. Elavenil had qualified in the eighth place for the final from a strong field of 124 shooters.

Together with Shreya



**Top shot:** Elavenil Valarivan, flanked by Mehuli Ghosh, left, and Oceanne Marianne Muller is all smiles after her triumph. • ISSF/ FACEBOOK

Agrawal who shot 625.4, Elavenil and Mehuli clinched the team gold, as India sat pretty on top of the table

with six gold, six silver and two bronze medals.

In the women's 50m pistol, Priya Raghav and Vibhuti

Bhatia claimed silver and brozue with 535 and 531 points respectively. Russia's Nadezhdda Koloda won with 543. The Indian team also got a silver.

In junior men's trap, Bhowneesh Mendiratta shot 116 to miss the final by three points. Manavadiya Singh Rathore 72 out of 75 overnight, slipped following rounds of 22 and 20. He was 31st with 114, one spot ahead of Vivaan Kapoor (113) while Vishwa Kundu had a total of 112. The Indian trio of Bhowneesh, Vivaan and Vishwa had a total of 341 to missed the medal by two points.

In junior women's trap, Preeti Rajak and Kirti Gupta shot identical score of 106 to place 15th and 16th respectively. The duo missed the final by three points.

**The results: Junior women: 10m air rifle:** 1. Elavenil Valarivan 251.6 (627.5); 2. Mehuli Ghosh 250.2 (630.4); 3. Oceanne Marianne Muller (Fra) 228.0 (628.2); 17. Shreya Agrawal 625.4. **Team:** 1. India 1883.3 WRJ; 2. Hungary 1880.0; 3. Singapore 1877.4.

**50m pistol:** 1. Nadezhdda Koloda (Rus) 543; 2. Priya Raghav 535; 3. Vibhuti Bhatia 531; 14. Harshada Nithave 491. **Team:** 1. Russia 1559; 2. India 1557; 3. Belarus 1524.

## Ashwin shines with bat and ball

SPORTS BUREAU  
NOTTINGHAM

India all-rounder R. Ashwin, followed his six wickets in the first innings with another six-wicket haul in the second but could not prevent his side Nottinghamshire from going down to Surrey by 167 runs in a Division One match of the English county championship on Monday.

Ashwin, who had claimed six for 69 in Surrey's first innings, finished with six for 75 in the second, operating with the new ball. Surrey declared at 224 for nine, setting Notts a target of 349. The latter was dismissed for 181, with Ashwin top-scoring with 66.



R. Ashwin. • FILE PHOTO

### TV PICKS

**Hero Intercontinental Cup:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 8 p.m.

## Blind cricket team for Jamaica tour

SPORTS BUREAU  
BENGALURU

The Indian blind cricket team will travel to Jamaica to play a limited-over series. World champion India will compete in three one-dayers and two T20 matches against the Jamaican blind cricket team. The tour starts with the first ODI on July 20.

**The Indian squad: B1 Category (totally blind):** Amol Karche, Jafar Iqbal, Basappa Waddagol, Sonu Golkar, K.N. Chandrashekar.

**B2 Category (partially blind):** Ajay Kumar Reddy, D. Venkatesh, Surajit Ghara.

**B3 Category (partially sighted):** Sunil Ramesh, Durga Rao, Pankaj Bhue, Deepak Malik.

## Anahat and Neel triumph

SPORTS BUREAU  
AMSTERDAM

Anahat Singh and Neel Joshi claimed the girls' under-13 and boys' under-17 titles in the Dutch junior Open squash tournament here on Sunday. Paarth Ambani finished runner-up in the boys' under-15 category.

**The results (finals only): Girls: U-13:** Anahat Singh bt Lauren Baltayan (Fra) 11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8; **Boys: U-17:** Neel Joshi bt Hassan Khalil (Eng) 10-12, 12-10, 11-4, 11-6; **U-15:** Rowan Darning (Ned) bt Paarth Ambani 11-6, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8.

## National women's chess from July 19

SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI

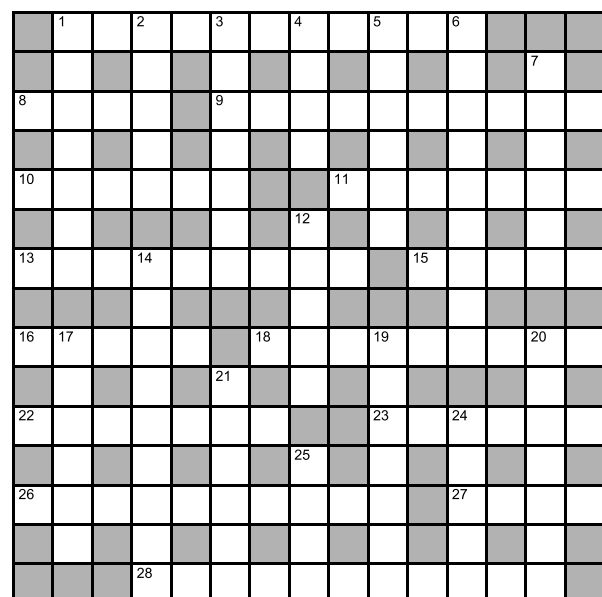
The National women's chess championship will be organised and sponsored by the Chettinadu Public School in Karaikudi from July 19 to 27. The Championship carries a total prize money of ₹15 lakh.

The competition has attracted 106 players from 20 States and four affiliated units of the All India Chess Federation. It will feature two International Masters, seven woman Grandmasters, 13 woman International Masters, and eight woman FIDE Masters.

The winner will represent India in the World Cup, a stepping stone for the World championship cycle. The championship will be conducted under the Swiss league system (with 11 rounds) for nine days.

Soumya Swaminathan (Petroleum Sports Promotion Board) is the top seed.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12679

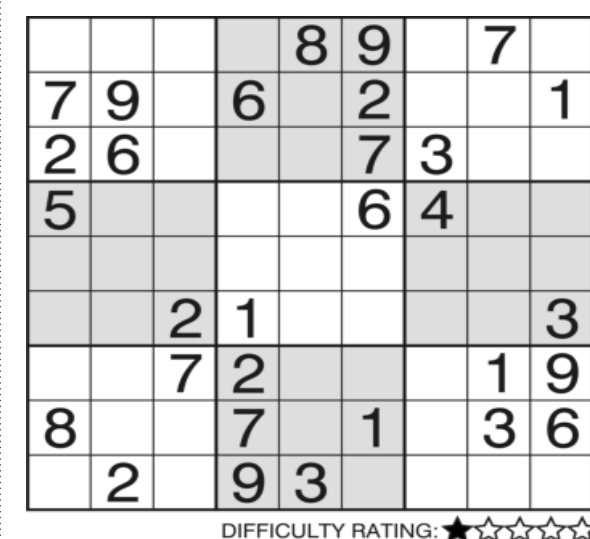


### ACROSS

- Separation from insanely dramatic one (11)
- Brand, and what one drives, society is attracted to it basically (4)
- One term brought about to describe young ones (celebrities) (10)

- (set by Vulcan)
- Sneak through a hedge intentionally to hide (4,2)
  - Pardon me, nasty is nasty (7)
  - Significant distance to one's last stop (9)
  - Starting to shiver – wears fur in this European capital (5)
  - Old physician, one that draws blood (5)
  - Honest one got to win (2,3,4)
  - Upper limit, say, for coating (7)
  - Large gathering is happy, it's casual inside (6)
  - Meeting Anne and Meg get prepared for (10)
  - Excellent selection of Indian eateries (4)
  - In addition, heartless drifter is wasteful (11)
- ### DOWN
- Had energy drink after day's final game (7)
  - Unite and rise without leader (5)
  - Period in the UK's green city, extremely critical (7)
  - Passionate singer on the up (4)
  - Some point I'm expressing eventually (2,4)
  - Wearing no designs European (9)
  - Best at especially protecting America (6)
  - Flat or inclined (5)
  - Remain doubtful, not well during leave (9)
  - Ageless, old-fashioned cricketer, never contained (6)
  - Meal that's no less (4,3)
  - Son's still surviving with this instrument (7)
  - Remove one employed by firm (6)
  - Notice nothing's up with her (5)
  - Second one to take a chance with Ace (4)

## SUDOKU



**Solution to puzzle 12678**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

## FAITH

### Get rid of faults

When we sew clothes, a small knot in the thread will make us stop our work until the knot is unravelled. If a big boulder is placed in the path of a rivulet, it will dam the flow of water. If we happen to bite a stone that has somehow found its way into the rice we are served, then it spoils the whole meal for us. In the same way, our faults act as hurdles in our life, resulting in loss of mental peace, elaborated Malayalam in a discourse. Lust, anger, ego, excessive happiness, arrogance due to our riches, gambling – all these are vices that will ruin our lives. Thiruvalluvar analysed the sorrow caused by various negative traits and warned that we should weed them out. If water stagnates, worms will breed in the water. If a lot of wealth accumulates in the hands of a person, then it leads to arrogance. He begins to treat others contemptuously. This is a huge fault, said Thiruvalluvar. It is all right to be angry about injustices in life. But unjustified anger will soon destroy us, just as fire destroys a piece of cotton within seconds.

A refined man is magnanimous by nature. He is never petty. Anger, pride, pettiness – these are listed as bad qualities by Thiruvalluvar. A virtuous man sees even a huge fault as a small one, while a man who lacks virtue sees even a small flaw as a big one. One should prepare to meet unforeseen difficulties that may arise in future.

Before the rainy season begins, an ant picks up its eggs in its mouth and takes them to a safe place where they will not be washed away by the rains. We should learn from the ants. We too should make provisions for the future and ensure our safety. It is easy to harbour wicked thoughts against others. Such thoughts lead to enmity. We should introspect and get rid of such thoughts.