

# Rohit and Rahul blaze away as India canters to victory

Mathews' fighting century and his 124-run partnership with Thirimanne go in vain for Sri Lanka; Bumrah proves a tough customer again



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LEEDS

A few days ago, while awe-lubricated his voice, Virat Kohli said: "Rohit Sharma is the best one-day player." The Indian skipper's words found further validation as Rohit etched his fifth hundred in the current World Cup and it also proved to be a third on the trot.

The vice-captain's rapturous knock (103, 94b, 14x4, 2x6) and the synergy he found from fellow centurion K.L. Rahul (111, 118b, 11x4, 1x6) deflated Sri Lanka as India clinically won its World Cup fixture at Headingley here by seven wickets.



**Ably ally:** K.L. Rahul complemented Rohit Sharma with his first century of the World Cup. \*AFP

## Afternoon's anthem

On a Saturday that dawned with a drizzle and subsequently embraced sunshine, the chants of "Rohit, Rohit" turned out to be the afternoon's anthem while a sea of blue with flecks of orange, exulted. Pursuing Sri Lanka's 264 for seven that was mounted upon a splendid 113 (128b, 10x4, 2x6) by Angelo Mathews, Kohli's men replied with 265 for three in 43.3 overs.

India's chase found an ideal launch-pad through Rohit and Rahul's 189-run partnership off 181 deliveries. Laith Malinga's tussle with his Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit was an important element and the latter won the joust. Malinga wavered outside off-stump and Rohit with a half-step, drove him past covers. The curly-haired menace then over-compensated on the leg-side and the Mumbaier elegantly on-drove.

Kasun Rajitha, the other seamer, equally felt the heat of Rohit's willow and both the premier batsman and his understudy Rahul prospered and the fight ebbed away from Dimuth Karunaratne's men. India's first-wicket pair devoured the bowlers and the aggression was distilled into correct cricketing shots.

Even when they reached their respective fifties with an identical modus-operandi

— sixes off spinner Dhananjaya de Silva, the strokes had beauty as the overwhelming flavour. Just as he neared his hundred, Rohit played a cover-drive for the ages. Malinga sealed both cover and extra-cover but the batsman nonchalantly drove through the small gap. This was a master at work and though Rohit perished immediately after reaching his milestone, the warm pats on his back from the opposition fielders, reflected the aura he exuded.

## Rahul takes over

Rahul then extended the aesthetic mauling, driving, pulling and being unhurried at the crease while his captain Kohli applauded from the other end. A glide to third man off Malinga, ushered in another special hundred for the day and India's cup of joy brimmed. The pacer, who suffered two more fours at the opener's hands, had his vengeance with a bouncer that grazed the glove but the Men in Blue were by then just a few hits from the winning post.

Earlier, Karunaratne opted to bat and he and Kusal Perera coped well with Bhuvneshwar Kumar but found an impenetrable fortress in Jasprit Bumrah. When Karunaratne tried to dab past point, he couldn't hoodwink

another southpaw — Ravindra Jadeja. Incidentally, the last-named was drafted into India's playing eleven along with Kuldeep Yadav after Mohammed Shami and Yuzvendra Chahal were rested.

## Early trouble

Soon while trying to cut, the Sri Lankan captain edged Bumrah to M.S. Dhoni, who had a busy morning. Perera, meanwhile, swung hard at Bhuvneshwar and the catch eluded Kuldeep as he and Hardik Pandya nearly collided. On seven then, Perera couldn't capitalise as he snicked Bumrah and warmed Dhoni's gloves. Two more wickets collapsed as Kusal Mendis lunged forward to Jadeja and heard the



**Purple patch:** Rohit Sharma, with his fifth three-figure knock and third on the trot, moved past Kumar Sangakkara's record of four centuries in an edition. \*AFP



(53), scripted a vital 124-run fifth-wicket partnership. The two preferred the doughty approach and once Mathews punched Kuldeep for four, his confidence grew. Thirimanne then swept the chinaman bowler and the Indians had to constantly alter their lines as they had to contend with the right-left mix of Mathews and his partner.

Mathews relished a lifetime on 61 when he hoisted

Jadeja and Bhuvneshwar spilled the catch. The all-rounder continued unhindered though the alliance ended with Thirimanne succumbing to Kuldeep. Mathews reached the three-figure mark with an upper-cut off Pandya and even though he holed out during the slog, the Sri Lankan total had acquired strength. Rohit and company, however, felt otherwise.

bails being whipped while Avishka Fernando fell to the combine of Bumrah and Dhoni.

Sri Lanka gasped at 55 for four in the 12th over and Mathews had to douse the fire. He precisely did that and with Lahiru Thirimanne

INNINGS SCAN			PROGRESSION		
SL	IND		SL	IND	
2	1	Maidens	52/2	10 overs	59/0
24	30	Fours	83/4	20 overs	109/0
2	3	Sixes	127/4	30 overs	189/0
124 (5th)	189 (1st)	Best stand	200/5	40 overs	234/1
5.28	6.09	RR	264/7	50 overs	--

  

TOP SHOWS		
For	Batting	Bowling
Sri Lanka	Mathews 113 (128b, 10x4, 2x6)	Rajitha 1/47 (8)
India	Rohit 103 (94b, 14x4, 2x6)	Bumrah 3/37 (10)

## STAT SPHERE

**1** Rohit and Rahul have become the first pair to put on 150-plus opening stands in back-to-back matches in the WC. They had put on 180 against Bangladesh

**1** Mathews scored 244 runs between 2011 and 2019, the most in ODIs at Headingley, before being dismissed. He surpassed Trescott's aggregate of 225 (2005-2006). Root is third with 184 (2018-2019)

**2** Rohit and Rahul are the second set of openers to score individual tons in a WC match, after Tharanga and Dilshan (twice in 2011, vs Zim & Eng)

**3** Number of consecutive centuries for Rohit in ODIs. He is the second Indian after Kohli (2018) to do it. Sangakkara's four on the trot in 2015 is the record

**3** Number of centuries for Mathews in ODIs, all coming against India and in a losing cause. The Sri Lankan has joined Salman Butt, Javed Miandad, Geoff Marsh, Chris Cairns and Nasir Jamshed who scored their first three ODI 100s against India. Butt had four

**4** Man-of-the-Match awards for Rohit in this WC, the joint highest in a single edition, equalling Aravinda (1996), Klusener (1999), Yuvraj (2011)



**4** Number of century partnerships India has recorded in this WC, the most by any team. Australia and England have three each

**5** Number of hundreds Rohit has notched up (8 inns) in this WC, the most in a tournament, bettering Sangakkara's four (7 inns) in 2015

## MOST 100S IN THE WORLD CUP

- 6/16 inns Rohit
- 6/44 Tendulkar
- 5/42 Ponting
- 5/35 Sangakkara

## HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE IN THE WC (MIN. 15 INNS)

- 69.78 Rohit (16 inns)
- 63.52 de Villiers (22)
- 63.42 Clarke (21)
- 63.31 Richards (21)

## Iconic and inspirational



**Phenom:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has applauded M.S. Dhoni for changing "the face of Indian cricket." It also posted a video celebrating the former Indian skipper's achievements. Dhoni turns 38 on Sunday. \*AFP

## Staying in the present is Rohit's success mantra

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
LEEDS

The smile ain't leaving Rohit Sharma's face. The ODI batting behemoth sauntered into the press conference hall at Headingley here on Saturday evening. He blinked once, nodded at known faces and, when asked about whether he is conscious of his fresh records, India's centurion in a winning cause against Sri Lanka, said: "I am not here for the records, I am here to play cricket, score runs and lift the (World) Cup."

And what's his mantra for success? "Staying in the present," he replied.

When probed about being dropped from the 2011 World Cup squad and if that is perhaps pushing him to work harder, Rohit countered: "It has been eight years now and I have moved on."

## Big brother

Yuvraj Singh had recently tweeted about a chat he had with Rohit during the IPL



**Seasoned campaigner:** Angelo Mathews came in for praise from skipper Dimuth Karunaratne. \*AFP

and the opener revealed the nature of that conversation: "Yuvvi is like a big brother. I was telling him about getting starts in IPL but not converting those and he said when it mattered I will deliver, he was hinting at the World Cup. He was in a similar space before the 2011 World Cup."

For now, Rohit wants to cut out the surround sound of advice and expectations.

"You don't want someone yapping in your ear all the time," he quipped.

But what about his relative failure to convert his tons into Daddy hundreds, like he did in the past? "It is not much of a worry because eventually we won, but yes the plan is to bat deep and if I am in such a position again come the semifinals, I will ensure that I stay," he answered.

## Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	9	7	1	1	15	0.809
Australia (Q)	8	7	1	0	14	1.000
England (Q)	9	6	3	0	12	1.152
New Zealand (Q)	9	5	3	1	11	0.175
Pakistan (E)	9	5	3	1	11	-0.430
Sri Lanka (E)	9	3	4	2	8	-0.919
Bangladesh (E)	9	3	5	1	7	-0.410
South Africa (E)	8	2	5	1	5	-0.080
West Indies (E)	9	2	6	1	5	-0.225
Afghanistan (E)	9	0	9	0	0	-1.322

\* till the India-Sri Lanka match on July 6. Q: Qualified, E: Eliminated

## India the favourite

Meanwhile, Dimuth Karunaratne backed India to win the World Cup. After his team suffered a seven-wicket defeat against Virat Kohli's men, the Sri Lankan captain said: "India has balance. It has good bowlers and a top-order that is scoring centuries. It has a better chance to win this World Cup."

The skipper lauded Rohit and mentioned that the

opener keeps "batting and batting" and is an ideal inspiration for young batsmen. Karunaratne praised Angelo Mathews but rued that they couldn't give a winning World Cup farewell to Lasith Malinga.

And as for the game, he said: "We just couldn't squeeze India. Their bowlers did well and then their batsmen played fearless cricket."

## Umpire Gould calls it a day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LEEDS

Englishman Ian Gould brought down the curtains on his umpiring career after officiating in the India-Sri Lanka match here on Saturday.

Gould officiated in 74 Tests and 140 ODIs. An accomplished wicketkeeper, he played for England in the 1983 World Cup, figuring in 18 ODIs in total.



Ian Gould. \*AP

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**Superb knock:** South African skipper Faf du Plessis signed off with a brilliant ton. ■REUTERS

## South Africa piles it on

du Plessis (100) and van der Dussen (95) make merry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MANCHESTER

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis led from the front with a century and Rassie van der Dussen made a superb 95 as the Proteas piled up 325 for six against Australia in the concluding league match on Saturday.



Mitchell Starc equalled Australia legend Glenn McGrath's record of most wickets at a World Cup, set in the 2007 edition in the Caribbean, when he moved to 26 wickets after a return of two for 59.

du Plessis, who won the toss, and van der Dussen put on 151 for the third wicket in front of a sun-drenched crowd. It might have been a different story, however, had Australia wicketkeeper Alex

**Australia 191 for four**

■ Australia was 191 for four in 35 overs with Warner (102) and Carey (35) at the crease.

Carey not missed a chance to stump van der Dussen off off-spinner Glenn Maxwell when the batsman had made just four.

Aiden Markram, opening the innings after Hashim Amla was ruled out with a knee injury playing football during warm-up on Friday, set the tone with two well-timed boundaries.

Nathan Lyon struck twice to have Markram stumped

### SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA VS AUSTRALIA

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
Aiden Markram st. Carey b Lyon 34 (37b, 1x4, 1x6), Quinton de Kock c Starc b Lyon 52 (57b, 7x4), Faf du Plessis c Starc b Behrendorff 100 (94b, 7x4, 2x6), Rassie van der Dussen c Maxwell b Cummins 95 (97b, 4x4, 4x6), Jean-Paul Duminy c Stoinis b Starc 14 (13b, 1x4), Dwaine Pretorius b Starc 2 (5b), Andile Phehlukwayo (not out) 4 (3b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-10, w-13); 24; Total (for six wkts. in

for 33 and fellow opener Quinton de Kock caught at short third man for 52.

But du Plessis completed his third successive fifty and fourth of the tournament before he advanced down to drive fast bowler Pat Cummins for a superb six. A single helped him reach the landmark in 93 balls, with seven fours and two sixes.

van der Dussen fell short of his maiden ODI hundred when, trying to hit the last ball of the innings for six, he holed out to Maxwell off Cummins. He faced 97 balls including four fours and four sixes, with the 30-year-old now boasting an ODI average of 73.77 from 14 innings.

50 overs): 325.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-79 (Markram, 11.3 overs), 2-114 (de Kock, 17.4), 3-265 (du Plessis, 42.5), 4-295 (Duminy, 46.5), 5-317 (Pretorius, 48.5), 6-325 (van der Dussen, 49.6).

**AUSTRALIA BOWLING**  
Starc 9-0-59-2, Behrendorff 8-0-55-1, Lyon 10-0-53-2, Cummins 9-0-66-1, Smith 1-0-5-0, Stoinis 3-0-19-0, Maxwell 10-0-57-0.  
**Toss:** South Africa.

## Record-setting Federer and Nadal roll on

In the women's section, World No. 1 Barty and former champions Serena and Kvitova make the last 16

REUTERS  
LONDON

Roger Federer kept tennis statisticians on their toes on Saturday as he mopped up a few more records by trampling all over Lucas Pouille's dreams in a rip-roaring 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(4) win to reach the fourth round of Wimbledon.

The Swiss became the first player – man or woman – to notch up 350 match wins at the All England Club, equalling five-times champion Bjorn Borg in eighth place on the Open Era list for most Wimbledon men's singles match wins.

Rafael Nadal was in ruthless form as he marched into the fourth round with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 rout of France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in 108 minutes.

The victory was his 51st at the All England Club, equalling five-times champion Bjorn Borg in eighth place on the Open Era list for most Wimbledon men's singles match wins.

**Nishikori's quiet march**  
Kei Nishikori's quiet-but-efficient victory will feature in no tournament highlight retrospectives, but it did make some milestones.



**Golden jubilee:** Rod Laver, who did the 'calendar Grand Slam' in 1962 and 1969, holds aloft the replica of the Wimbledon trophy presented to mark the 50th anniversary of his last title at the All England Club. ■AFP

The 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win over American Steve Johnson marked the player's 400th tour-level match win and saw him reach the round of 16 for a fourth time, sharing the Japanese record with Ai Sugiyama. The eighth seed will next face Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin for a place in the quarterfinals.

In other match-ups, American Sam Querrey overcame John Millman of Australia and Tenny Sandgren ousted 12th seed Fabio Fognini of Italy.

Earlier, in the women's section, top seed Ashleigh Barty swatted aside Briton Harriet Dart 6-1, 6-1 to become the first Australian woman to make the fourth round of Wimbledon since Jarmila Wolfe in 2010.

**Strycova stuns Bertens**  
In a minor upset, Barbora Strycova stunned fourth seed Kiki Bertens 7-5, 6-1 to reach the fourth round for the first time since 2014, when she went on to make the quarterfinals.

Serena Williams, seeking a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam crown, stayed on course with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 victory over Germa-



**Marching ahead:** Seven-time champion Serena Williams made the second week at The Championships for the 16th time in her illustrious career. ■REUTERS

ny's Julia Goerges in a rematch of last year's semifinal. Belgium's 21st seed Elise Mertens also advanced with a battling 6-2, 6-7(9), 6-4 win over Wang Qiang but it was

the end of the road for 13th seed Belinda Bencic who was beaten 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Alison Riske.

Local hope Johanna Konta, who had defeated Ameri-

can Sloane Stephens in their three previous meetings this year, had to dig deep to down the American 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 and set up a last-16 clash with Czech Petra Kvitova.

### THE RESULTS

**Third round: Men:** 2-Roger Federer (Sui) bt 27-Lucas Pouille (Fra) 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(4); 17-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt 24-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) 6-7(5), 7-6(2), 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3; Mikhail Kukushkin (Kaz) bt 33-Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) 6-3, 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-5.

Sam Querrey (USA) bt John Millman (Aus) 7-6(3), 7-6(8), 6-3; 8-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt Steve Johnson (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 3-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Jo-

Wilfred Tsonga (Fra) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; Tenny Sandgren (USA) bt 12-Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-6(12), 6-3; Ugo Humbert (Fra) bt 19-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

**Women:** 1-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Harriet Dart (GBR) 6-1, 6-1; Alison Riske (USA) bt 13-Belinda Bencic (Sui) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 11-Serena Williams (USA) bt 18-Julia Goerges (Ger) 6-3, 6-4.

30-Carla Suarez Navarro (Esp) bt Lauren Davis (USA) 6-3, 6-3; 21-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt 15-Qiang Wang (Chn) 6-2, 6-7(9), 6-4; 6-Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Magda Linette (Pol) 6-3, 6-2.

19-Johanna Konta (GBR) bt 9-Sloane Stephens (USA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; Barbora Strycova (Cze) bt 4-Kiki Bertens (Ned) 7-5, 6-1.

**Mixed doubles: Second round:** Laura Siegemund (Ger) & Artem Sitak (NZ) bt 13-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) & Rohan Bopanna (Ind) 6-4, 6-4.

## Subah Ka Tara for feature event

**BENGALURU:** Subah Ka Tara, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Chief Minister's Cup (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 7). False rails (width about 8.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

**1. SNOW DEW PLATE (1,600m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30 p.m.: 1. Cavaliere (7) Antony 56, 2. Defender (1) Zervan 56, 3. Mighty Red (2) Darshan 56, 4. Roman Senator (3) Sandesh 56, 5. Silver Eclipse (8) Rayan 56, 6. Streaming Gold (5) Neeraj 56, 7. Hukumat (6) Trevor 54.5 and 8. Sainthood (4) T.S. Jodha 54.5.

**1. ROMAN SENATOR, 2. DEFENDER, 3. STEADFAST GOLD**

**2. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (1,100m),** rated 00 to 20, 3-00: 1. Scarlet Princess (2) John 60, 2. Song And Dance (6) Noornal 60, 3. Majestic Heroine (7) Nazrul 59, 4. Singhsab (3) Koushik 58.5, 5. Prime Star (5) Tauseef 58, 6. Smile Of Peace (1) T.S. Jodha 58, 7. Global Ruler (8) P. Mani 57, 8. Dombreakerules (11) S. Shareef 56, 9. Tudor Prince (9) Ashok K 56, 10. Odyssey (10) Raghavere Singh 55.5 and 11. Magnitude Queen (4) N.B. Kuldeep 55.

**1. SCARLET PRINCESS, 2. SINGHSAAB, 3. TUDOR PRINCE**

**3. D.M. SHIVASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m),** rated 45 to

65, 3-30: 1. New Moon (-) (-) 60, 2. Dr Logan (4) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 3. Aeolus (8) Zervan 58, 4. Nikandros (6) Md. Asif Khan 56.5, 5. Standout (2) Antony 55.5, 6. Silver Dew (3) Bhawani Singh 54.5, 7. Attorney General (1) A. Merchant 54 and 8. Masada (5) S.A. Amit 53.5.

**1. AEOLUS, 2. DR LOGAN, 3. STANDOUT**

**4. CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m),** 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Captain Courage (5) John 60, 2. Cavallo Veloce (9) A. Imran 60, 3. Accolade (6) Suraj 58, 4. Dream Catcher (10) Akshay K 57, 5. Into The Spotlight (3) Sandesh 57, 6. Smile Stone (1) Irvan 57, 7. Southpaw (11) P.S. Chouhan 57, 8. The Champ (4) N.S. Parmar 57, 9. Eastern Star (2) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 10. Star Baron (7) Zervan 56.5, 11. Subah Ka Tara (12) Trevor 56.5 and 12. Organ (8) Neeraj 55.

**1. SUBAH KA TARA, 2. ACCOLADE, 3. CAPTAIN COURAGE**

**5. BASQUE PLATE (DIV. 1),** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Mystic Flame (2) Zervan 60, 2. Gerontocrat (8) John 59.5, 3. Optimistic Approach (3) Koushik 59.5, 4. Sahara (1) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 5. Orenda (9) Sandesh 58, 6. Land Of Liberty (4) Rajesh K 57.5, 7. Nitroxam (7) Shobhan 57.5, 8. Spirit Bruce (10) Darshan 57.5, 9. Black Whizz (6) Akshay K 57 and 10.

Amazing Skill (5) Mark 56.5.

**1. MYSTIC FLAME, 2. GERONTOCRAT, 3. SAHARA**

**6. PENDRAGON PLATE (1,600m),** rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Armenia (1) Suraj 60, 2. Mariachi (4) T.S. Jodha 60, 3. Ultimate Power (8) Darshan 59.5, 4. Radiant Treasure (3) Yash 58.5, 5. Marco Polo (7) P.S. Chouhan 56.5, 6. Ekalyava (2) Sandesh 55, 7. Three Wishes (6) Bhawani Singh 55, 8. Indian Brahmos (9) A. Merchant 54.5 and 9. Ocean Park (5) S.A. Amit 52.

**1. MARIACHI, 2. MARCO POLO, 3. ARMENIA**

**7. BASQUE PLATE (DIV. 1),** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Winning Heart (7) Zervan 60, 2. Mahanati (2) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 3. Quick Action (3) M. Naveen 57.5, 4. Beond Reach (1) A. Merchant 57, 5. Rezaiz (8) Raghavere Singh 56, 6. Panama (5) Arshad 55, 7. Depth Charge (4) R. Manish 54.5, 8. Bold Move (10) S. Shareef 54, 9. Halfsize (6) N.B. Kuldeep 54 and 10. Kingsfield (9) S.A. Amit 54.

**1. WINNING HEART, 2. BOLD MOVE, 3. DEPTH CHARGE**

Day's best: ROMAN SENATOR  
Double: MARIACHI - WINNING HEART  
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (0): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

## India gets into Intercontinental Cup with WC in mind

We do not have much time but we will try to use it wisely, says coach Stimac

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
AHMEDABAD

As the Indian national team prepared to make its second international event in two months, the new head coach Igor Stimac reminded that the prime objective of his side will be obtaining the necessary impetus for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers starting in September.

The Hero International Cup assignment is primarily being treated as a sparring session for the side to sharpen the skills for the tough challenges ahead.

"Football is so beautiful that it can surprise all of us. I wish we can become one of the nice surprises in the up-



Stimac with Chhetri. ■COURTESY: AIFF

coming qualifiers. But I will not make promises. I will do my best on a daily basis,

working on the players so that they can improve and advance their game. We do not have much time but we will try to use it wisely," Stimac said.

The Croatian gaffer is looking to overhaul the Indian team and also its playing style.

### Adapting to new style

When India takes on Tajikistan in the opening game at the EKA Arena on Sunday, Sunil Chhetri and his colleagues will not just be looking at retaining the title but also at adapting to the new shape and style that Stimac is looking to infuse in the team.

Retaining the nucleus of side with some seniors like Chhetri, Sandesh Jinghan, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Pritam Kotal, Pronoy Halder, Udanta Singh and Rowlin Borges (and recalling E. Anas from retirement), Stimac has infused a lot of young names who he thinks are the investment for the future.

"It is more important for us get together certain things in our performance that will help us in doing well in the (FIFA World Cup 2022) qualifiers.

"We are now focused on doing well in the qualifiers and I will not at any time put pressure on my players about results in this tournament," was how Stimac laid down

the team's priority. For the young blood in the side like Anirudh Thapa, Sahal Abdul, Jobby Justin, Mandar Rao Desai, it will be about displaying the right attributes which the head coach is looking for.

### The fixtures

- July 7: India vs Tajikistan
- July 8: Syria vs DPR Korea
- July 10: Tajikistan vs Syria
- July 13: India vs DPR Korea
- July 15: DPR Korea vs Tajikistan
- July 16: India vs Syria
- July 19: Final

### SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## Storm Breaker wins Juvenile Sprinters' Million

**BENGALURU:** Storm Breaker (Yash up) won the Juvenile Sprinters' Million, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 6).

The winner is owned by Mrs. B.E. Saldanha, Mr. Mark Saldanha, Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole and Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Byram N. Jeejeebhoy and trained by M. Narredu.

**THE RESULTS**

**1. NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (1,400m),** rated 15 to 35: Brothers in Arms (Suraj) 1, Blarney Stone (A. Ramu) 2, Shivalik Kiss (Shobhan) 3 and Amber Crown (Bhawani Singh) 4. Not run: Goodwill Warrior. 1-1/4, 2 and 4-1/2. Im, 26.36s. 216 (w), 11, 18 and 12 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 41, FP: 93, Q: 67, Trinella: 181 and 39. Exacta: 555 and 327. Favourite: Brothers in Arms.

**2. RARE GEM PLATE (1,100m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), Slice of Heaven (Darshan) 1, Will To Win (Zervan) 2, Shivalik Kiss (Shobhan) 3 and Schafenberg (S.A. Amit) 4. Not run: Caesars Palace. 8-1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. Im, 05.94s. 228 (w), 13, 15 and 25 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 58, FP: 141, Q: 84, Trinella: 485 and 309, Exacta: 4,658 and 1,837.

Favourite: Indian Democrat. Owner: Mrs. Geetha Dilip Ranka. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

**3. MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (1,400m),** rated 00 to 20: Chula Vista (John) 1, Desert Angel (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Phoenix Reached (T.S. Jodha) 3 and High Tide (Dhebe) 4. 1/2, 3-3/4 and 2-1/4. Im, 26.99s. 221 (w), 13, 14 and 32 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 75, FP: 52, Q: 34, Trinella: 412 and 280, Exacta: 1,142 and 400. Favourite: Chula Vista.

Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalokar.

**4. KARNATAKA POLICE CUP (1,200m),** rated 60 & above: Into the Groove (Suraj) 1, Bora Bora (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Headi's Folly (Irvan) 3 and Diamond Rays (Neeraj) 4. Snk, 2 and 2-1/2. Im, 12.45s. 119 (w), 13, 41 and 14 (p), SHP: 132, THP: 38, FP: 594, Q: 394, Trinella: 1,668 and 391, Exacta: 3,618 and 1,447. Favourite: Into the Groove.

Owner: Mr. Chaduranga Kanthraj Urs. Trainer: S. Attalohali.

Mark Saldanha, Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole and Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Byram N. Jeejeebhoy. Trainer: M. Narredu.

**6. JULY PLATE (1,100m),** rated 15 to 35: Morrane Gabriella (R. Pradeep) 1, Mischief Flyer (A. Ramu) 2, She's Superb (Akshay K) 3 and Genuine Star (Suraj) 4. 1/2, 1-3/4 and 3/4. Im, 07.30s. 223 (w), 11, 23 and 13 (p), SHP: 64, THP: 43, FP: 240, Q: 258, Trinella: 384 and 190, Exacta: 1,210 and 818. Favourite: Morrane Gabriella.

Owner: Mr. R. Keshava Moorthy. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

**7. BHISHMA PLATE (1,200m),** rated 15 to 35: Bernardini (S. Shareef) 1, Industrialist (R. Manish) 2, Cosmic Feeling (Zervan) 3 and Darahasini (S. Mubarak) 4. Not run: A Heart-toremember. 2-1/2, Hd and 1-3/4. Im, 14.19s. 228 (w), 12, 13 and 11 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 44, FP: 117, Q: 116, Trinella: 161 and 43, Exacta: 411 and 297. Favourite: Cosmic Feeling.

Owner: Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala. Jackpot: 76,189 (105 tkts); Runner up: 196 (1,422 tkts); Treble (0): 105 (255 tkts); (ii): 1,319 (21 tkts).

## Sweden finishes third

### WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS  
NICE (FRANCE)

Sweden benefited from poor defending and the video assistant referee to defeat England 2-1 in the Women's World Cup football third place playoff match here on Saturday.

### Early goals

Early goals from Kosovare Asllani and Sofia Jakobsson were enough to see off Phil Neville's side, which pulled one back through Fran Kirby and had an Ellen White equaliser ruled out for handball.

Winger Karen Carney came on for Nikita Parris in the 74th to make her final appearance in an England shirt, having announced on Friday that she would retire after the match. However, she was unable to help her team claim a second successive third-place finish at the World Cup.

## Teunissen clinches opening stage



**Photo Finish:** Team Jumbo-Visma's Mike Teunissen, right, wins the stage ahead of BORA-Hansgrohe's Peter Sagan. ■REUTERS

### TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRUSSELS

Dutch rider Mike Teunissen won a chaotic opening stage of the Tour de France on Saturday after a collision in the final kilometre blew the bunch sprint wide open.

The 26-year-old Jumbo-Visma rider becomes the first yellow-jersey holder on the

2019 Tour and the first Dutchman to lead the race in 30 years. Teunissen edged Peter Sagan in a photo finish at the winning line, with the Slovak taking the green sprint points jersey after he won the early intermediate sprint. The Tour de France was given a festive send off as the 10