

Rahul justifies the faith reposed in him... and how!

Except for the blip against England, India has had someone delivering at critical moments throughout the tournament



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

Strong teams seize the tipping-point moments and always have a player who delivers a critical performance. India did that all through the World Cup, though there was a blip against England. The triumph over Sri Lanka at Headingley in Leeds on Saturday falls into the template of unerring dominance.

The cricketers from beyond the Palk Strait revived themselves through a ton from Angelo Mathews, but Virat Kohli's men never slackened. And when it was time to chase, openers Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul struck centuries and sealed the contest.

Indelible imprint

The ability to leave an indelible imprint starts from the very top. While Rohit has gleaned all the attention, it is important to acknowledge Rahul's contribution. A successful opening pair is difficult to replicate and India

had a problem when Shikhar Dhawan left with a fractured left-thumb.

In Rahul, the management had a readymade solution – albeit from the longer format, and he wasn't a left-hander like his injured predecessor. Additionally, he needed to strike a chemistry with Rohit.

In the face-off involving Pakistan, there was an initial issue of running between the wickets but Rohit and Rahul got their 'yes' and 'no' in order and shared a 136-run partnership. Rahul scored a 57 and subsequently etched 30, 48, 0, 77 and 111. He also built two massive alliances with Rohit: 180 against Bangladesh and 189 in the joust featuring Sri Lanka.

While Rohit seemingly scores hundreds for fun, Rahul had to wrestle with a string of soft dismissals after laying the base. "I am not going to break my head over it," the Karnataka player said, but he was conscious of the aberration, be it a tame shot to covers or a cute reverse sweep that found the fielder at short fine-leg!

Stern tests

Finally, he maximised on a foundation and his ton against Sri Lanka augurs well for India as it gears up for the sterner tests starting with the semifinal against New Zealand at Old Trafford here on



Fighting back: Rahul has wrestled with a string of soft dismissals after laying the base. ■ REUTERS

Tuesday.

Ever since he burst through the ranks in Bengaluru, it hasn't been easy for

Rahul. Unlike his famous namesake the reticent Rahul Dravid, the Mangaluru-bred lad had an extrovert-streak.

But he did the hard yards at the National Cricket Academy's gym and nets till the next-door Cubbon Park's

trees yawned.

A nervous Test debut followed by an extreme mix of poor scores and big knocks

has now settled down into consistent yields. He had an erratic stint in the blue shade too. Just when he was resolutely clinging to his Test whites came the intense scrutiny following the misogynistic remarks linked to him and Hardik Pandya in a *Koffee with Karan* episode.

Back to the basics

An apologetic Rahul got back to the drawing-board of social etiquette. Slowly he winged back and the recent Indian Premier League helped him lure the right attention. He amassed 593 for Kings XI Punjab and was placed second below David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Promptly, Rahul gained the selectors' nod for the World Cup while the wheels of fortune unravelled for Ambati Rayudu, who retired with a sense of unspoken hurt. Crickering fates run on slender threads and Rahul is aware of his fresh lease.

The flaws

The lanky player has an array of strokes and even tried a mini-helicopter shot on Saturday. But he has a tendency to get carried away and can be tentative around the off-stump. Once these flaws are rectified, Rahul should become a permanent event in India's ODI playing eleven even after Dhawan returns.

BCCI raises banner issue with ICC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEEDS

Aircraft flying over the Headingley Stadium with anti-India banners is "unacceptable", a miffed BCCI has said while raising concerns over the safety of its players with the ICC.

Minutes after the India-Sri Lanka match began, a plane carrying the message 'Justice for Kashmir' flew above the ground. After half-an-hour, another aircraft flew over the stadium with a banner 'India Stop Genocide, Free Kashmir'.

Midway into India's run chase, a third aircraft was seen with a banner 'Help End Mob Lynching'.

"This is completely unacceptable. We have written to the ICC expressing our concern. If this kind of incident is repeated in the semifinals, it will be really unfortunate. The safety and security of our players is paramount," said a BCCI official.

"We are incredibly disappointed this has happened again," the ICC had said in a statement.

Rohit has a template: Bangar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LEEDS

Sanjay Bangar stressed that India is in a good space and primed to perform in the World Cup semifinal. He praised Rohit Sharma's consistency and also backed the middle-order. India's batting coach spoke at Headingley here on Saturday after Virat Kohli's men defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets.

Rohit the class act: The secret behind his great progress in ODIs is that he understands his game and has a template which he follows and it has given him success. On a tour, based on the conditions and the country we are playing, we interact as to what tweaks could be added. But all credit to him because he has worked hard and for any batsman to get five hundreds (in the World Cup) is very special. It is not just about his personal success; he is also helping K.L.



Making his presence felt: Hardik Pandya has played some good knocks in the middle-order. ■ REUTERS

Rahul and giving him the space that is required. From the team's point of view, these contributions are very critical.

Middle-order blues? I don't think so because whoever has got to bat, obviously they haven't got to bat for longer periods of time except for the Afghanistan game. Apart from that,

Hardik (Pandya), Mahi (M.S. Dhoni) and Rishabh (Pant) have got some knocks under their belt. So they are in good nick.

New Zealand in the semis: We played in New Zealand and played five games against them. So we know what they are capable of and what their strengths are and we will keep an eye on that.

'I don't take praise or criticism seriously'

On some pitches, slower balls work, on some they don't: Bumrah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LEEDS

After strangling batsmen during India's last league game involving Sri Lanka in the World Cup clash at Headingley here on Saturday, speedster Jasprit Bumrah, self-effacing as ever, downplayed his achievements while speaking in the ICC mixed media zone.

Team before self: I don't take praise or criticism seriously. My focus is on preparation, execution and what I can do for the team. As far as the bowling unit is concerned, we are happy that everybody has contributed and taken wickets, be it Hardik (Pandya) or (Mohammed) Shami. I have also taken wickets.

Bhuvneshwar's off-day: Some days some bowlers can go for runs. We bowl a lot of difficult overs for the



Cool customer: Jasprit Bumrah has bowled exceptionally well at the death. ■ REUTERS

team. He was clear in his execution just that some days batsmen play well. Overall,

the pitches are getting slower but today (Saturday) it was not that bad.

Five-bowler strategy: Everybody is taking a lot of responsibility and that's a good sign for us. In most of the games, only five bowlers have bowled and it's been going like this throughout the campaign.

Variations in play: It depends on the size of the boundary and what end you are bowling from. Sometimes you have a longer boundary on one side, sometimes you don't. So you analyse that. On some pitches, slower balls work, on some they don't and you bowl length balls.

Hardik Pandya's value: He has been bowling well. Even in the IPL he worked a lot on his bowling. He is still adding new things and is open to new ideas and changes. He contributes in the field and also with the bat. Overall as a package, it's a positive sign.

Match officials for semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEEDS

The English duo of Richard Illingworth and Richard Kettleborough will officiate in the first semifinal between India and New Zealand at Manchester on Tuesday.

Australian Rod Tucker will be the third umpire, Englishman Nigel Long the fourth official and former Australian player David Boon the match referee.

The second semifinal between Australia and England at Edgbaston on Thursday will be officiated by Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmanasen and Marais Erasmus of South Africa.

New Zealand's Chris Gafaney will be the third umpire and Pakistan's Aleem Dar the fourth official.

Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka will be the match referee.

Go with both wrist-spinners: Kumble

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

India should field both its wrist-spinners in Tuesday's semifinal clash against New Zealand, believes Anil Kumble. Yuzvendra Chahal was rested from India's meeting with Sri Lanka while Kuldeep Yadav was left out of the side that faced Bangladesh. Kumble, though, is in favour of deploying both against the Kiwis. "If it was England in the semifinals, you would have thought differently. But since it's New Zealand, I'd certainly go with both," he told *The Hindu* here on Sunday.

Virat Kohli seemingly has another difficult decision to make in Manchester, in having to choose between Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami. Kumble would prefer to see the latter in action. "If you have a slow



Anilspeak: Kumble feels India should choose five attacking bowlers for the semifinal against New Zealand. ■ FILE PHOTO

pitch at Old Trafford, then maybe Bhuvni, but otherwise my five bowlers will be the five attacking options," he said. "Shami has been brilliant. Jasprit Bumrah has been exceptional whenever he's come on to bowl. Hardik Pandya has been really good, giving 10 overs consistently. So these would be my best three seamers, to go with the two wrist-spinners."

Exceptional Rohit

Kumble, who is an exclusive cricket expert with CNN-News 18, was effusive in his praise of Rohit Sharma. "Five hundreds with two games to go - you can't ask for a better tournament," he said. "And look at the quality of those hundreds as well.

The final phase

Semifinal 1
July 9: India vs New Zealand, Old Trafford, 3 p.m.

Semifinal 2
July 11: Australia vs England, Edgbaston, 3 p.m.

Final
July 14: Winner of SF 1 vs winner of SF 2, Lord's, 3 p.m.

All times IST

Where they finished

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	9	7	1	1	15	0.809
Australia (Q)	9	7	2	0	14	0.868
England (Q)	9	6	3	0	12	1.152
New Zealand (Q)	9	5	3	1	11	0.175
Pakistan	9	5	3	1	11	-0.43
Sri Lanka	9	3	4	2	8	-0.919
South Africa	9	3	5	1	7	-0.03
Bangladesh	9	3	5	1	7	-0.41
West Indies	9	2	6	1	5	-0.225
Afghanistan	9	0	9	0	0	-1.322

Q: Qualified for semifinals

Warner, Carey heroics not enough for Australia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Australia will play England in the World Cup semifinals after the holder suffered a dramatic 10-run defeat against South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday.

David Warner marked his first match against South Africa since his ban with his third hundred of the World Cup, but it was not enough to prevent Australia from suffering its second loss of the league stage.

SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA VS AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AFRICA 325 for six in 50 overs.	Phehlukwayo 3 (3b); Extras (lb-4, w-3); 7; Total (in 49.5 overs): 315.
AUSTRALIA David Warner c Morris b Pretorius 122 (117b, 15x4, 2x6), Aaron Finch c Markram b Tahir 3 (4b), Usman Khawaja b Rabada 18 (14b, 3x4), Steve Smith lbw b Pretorius 7 (6b, 1x4), Marcus Stoinis run out 22 (34b, 4x4), Glenn Maxwell c de Kock b Rabada 12 (20b, 1x4), Alex Carey c Markram b Morris 85 (69b, 11x4, 1x6), Pat Cummins c Duminy b Phehlukwayo 9 (15b, 1x4), Mitchell Starc b Rabada 16 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Jason Behrendorff (not out) 11 (6b), Nathan Lyon c Markram b	
FALL OF WICKETS 1-5 (Finch, 2.1 overs), 2-33 (Smith, 6.3), 3-95 (Stoinis, 18.3), 4-119 (Maxwell, 24.1), 5-227 (Warner, 39.1), 6-272 (Cummins, 44.4), 7-275 (Carey, 45.2), 8-301 (Khawaja, 48.1), 9-306 (Starc, 48.5).	
SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING Tahir 9-0-59-1, Rabada 10-0-56-3, Pretorius 6-2-27-2, Morris 9-0-63-1, Shamsi 9-0-62-0, Phehlukwayo 2.5-0-22-2, Duminy 4-0-22-0.	
MoM: Faf du Plessis. South Africa won by 10 runs.	

No regrets: Duminy

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MANCHESTER

Jean-Paul Duminy looked emotional as he walked into the mixed media zone post his last international assignment after South Africa's win over Australia on Saturday.

"It is fitting to say that it was my last international game completely. I have been considering it for the last couple of months and I have made the decision that it will be the last game. There is a big relief and appreciation for amazing 15 years of international cricket," Duminy said at the Old Trafford.

With Duminy and Imran Tahir calling it a day, the national team is set to go through a transition period.

The ODI journey

	DUMINY	TAHIR
199	Mat	107
5,117	Runs	157
150*	HS	29
36.81	Bat Avg	7.85
4	100	0
27	50	0
69	Wkts	173
4/16	BBI	7/45
45.55	Bowl Avg	24.83
82	Ct	25
0	5w	3

Khawaja out

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Usman Khawaja will miss the rest of the World Cup with a hamstring strain.

Matthew Wade will replace Khawaja in the squad, subject to confirmation from the ICC.

Marcus Stoinis was also hampered by a side strain against South Africa.

Mitchell Marsh has been added to the squad as cover for Stoinis.

Top of the charts

BATTING	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50
Rohit Sharma (IND)	8	8	647	140	92.42	98.77	5	1
David Warner (AUS)	9	9	638	166	79.75	89.48	3	3
Shakib Al Hasan (BAN)	8	8	606	124*	86.57	96.03	2	5
Aaron Finch (AUS)	9	9	507	153	56.33	102.21	2	3
Joe Root (ENG)	9	9	500	107	62.5	91.74	2	3
BOWLING	Mat	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Ave	Econ	SR	5w
Mitchell Starc (AUS)	9	9	26	5/26	16.61	5.18	19.2	2
Mustafizur Rahman (BAN)	8	8	20	5/59	24.2	6.7	21.6	2
Lockie Ferguson (NZ)	7	7	17	4/37	18.58	4.96	22.4	0
Jasprit Bumrah (IND)	8	8	17	4/55	19.52	4.48	26.1	0
Mohammad Amir (PAK)	8	8	17	5/30	21.05	4.9	25.7	1

Gauff's clash against Halep headlines Manic Monday

Divij Sharan, partnering Marcelo Demoliner, remains the lone Indian in the fray



N. SUDARSHAN
LONDON

Sport works best when there is space for both the familiar and the novel. Familiar to make it more watchable and easier to follow; novel to keep it from getting boring, provide for the thrills that accompany a prodigy's rise and reinforce the notion that sport is, after all, the preserve of the young.

Of late in tennis, these two strands have existed in entirely different worlds, limited to the men's and women's Tours respectively.

It's only at the Majors that they have an opportunity to entwine and ensure eclectic, first-rate tennis whichever way you look.

'Manic Monday' at Wimbledon 2019, when all 32 of the singles pre-quarterfinalists will have their moments under the sun – or under a steady, spitting drizzle which is never far off in these parts – will bear testament to this.

The big names

There is Roger Federer, who is into the second week of Wimbledon for an astonishing 17th time in 21 years, and will hope to become the ol-



Signs of a break-out star: Cori Gauff has captured the imagination of millions world-wide, and her biggest achievement thus far has been her steadfast refusal to fall off the emotional cliff. *AP

dest men's singles Slam champion; Rafael Nadal, who will be gunning for a record-equalling third French Open-Wimbledon double; Novak Djokovic, who will look to defend his crown, and Serena Williams, seeking her 24th singles trophy to tie Margaret Court.

Then there is the irresistible 15-year-old American Cori Gauff, ranked 313 in the world, whose run from the

qualifying – to which she was awarded a wild card – has captured the imagination of millions world-wide.

Until Friday, all three of her main draw matches had made it to the top-eight of BBC's most-watched list, with the third-round win over Polona Hercog topping with 5.2 million viewers, comfortably beating Nadal-Nick Kyrgios at 3.7m.

Nadal will open proceed-

ings on Centre Court against Joao Sousa and Serena on Court 1 versus Carla Suarez Navarro, but it will be Gauff's clash against Simona Halep – second on Court 1 – that will headline the day.

Gauff's biggest achievement thus far has been her steadfast refusal to fall off the emotional cliff, quite unlike most break-out stars following their biggest moments.

The triumphs over five-time Wimbledon winner Venus Williams and 2017 semi-finalist Magdalena Rybarikova were stunning, enough for a lifetime's worth of stories.

But the Hercog contest was a severe test of patience, judgement and skill, which she passed with flying colours.

In Halep she will face the most-rounded of her oppo-

- 16 singles pre-quarterfinals are scheduled for the day
- Gauff's three main draw matches made it to the top-eight of BBC's most-watched list
- Federer hopes to become the oldest men's singles Slam champion
- Nadal is primed for a record-equalling third French Open-Wimbledon double

nents yet, a Grand Slam champion and former World No.1 who looked menacing in her thrashing of Victoria Azarenka on Friday. Gauff though is not someone to flinch.

Two others to exhibit similar youthful exuberance, albeit to a lesser degree, are 23-year-old Matteo Berrettini and 21-year-old Ugo Humbert, who will take on Federer and Djokovic respectively. Berrettini is coming off a stellar grass season (just one loss from 12 matches) and was recently marked out for success by none other than Federer himself.

However, Monday's clash may come too early for the Italian. Humbert, meanwhile, dispatched the highly rated Felix Auger Aliassime in straight sets but Djokovic will present a significant step up.

Under the radar

One player who has quietly slipped under the radar has been World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty. It hasn't stopped the

Monday's matches

- MEN**
- 1-Djokovic vs Humbert
 - 2-Federer vs 17-Berrettini
 - 3-Nadal vs Sousa
 - 8-Nishikori vs Kukushkin
 - 15-Raonic vs 26-Pella
 - 21-Goffin vs Verdasco
 - 23-Bautista Agut vs 27-Paire
 - Querrey vs Sandgren
- WOMEN**
- 1-Barty vs Riske
 - 3-Pliskova vs Muchova
 - 6-Kvitova vs 19-Konta
 - 7-Halep vs Gauff
 - 8-Svitolina vs 24-Martic
 - 11-Serena vs 30-Suarez Navarro
 - 21-Mertens vs Strycova
 - Zhang vs Yastremska

reigning French Open champion from being at her efficient best on her favourite surface, losing just 12 games.

A victory over fellow grass-lover Alison Riske, can potentially land her at Serena's doorstep in the last eight.

Doubles specialist Divij Sharan, partnering Marcelo Demoliner, remains the lone Indian in the field, and will take on the top-seeded pair of Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo.

THE RESULTS

Men: Third round: Joao Sousa (Por) bt Daniel Evans (GBr) 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.
Mixed doubles: Second round: Eden Silva (GBr) & Evan Hoyt (GBr) bt 16-Divij Sharan & Yingying Duan (Chn) 6-3, 6-4.

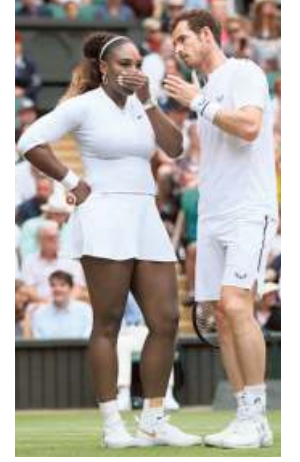
Serena feels the pressure of hype

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Serena Williams confessed to almost being overcome by the pressure of partnering British sporting icon Andy Murray in the Wimbledon mixed doubles, but it all worked out in the end as they won their first round match against Germany's Andreas Mies and Chile's Alexa Guarachi 6-4, 6-1.

Seven-time singles champion Williams had fulfilled Murray's search for a partner – World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty had been previously mooted. However, as the match loomed on Centre Court her nerves began to jangle as she feared she would let down Murray on the court where he won two Wimbledon singles titles and the 2012 Olympic gold.

"At some point I started feeling a lot of pressure," said Williams on Saturday.



Andy Murray and Serena Williams. *REUTERS

IN BRIEF



Teunissen's Jumbo-Visma wins team time trial

BRUSSELS Dutch outfit Jumbo-Visma stormed to victory on the Tour de France team time trial on Sunday with Mike Teunissen keeping the yellow jersey after the 27.6km race around Brussels. Geraint Thomas' Ineos finished 20 seconds behind. AFP



Hima, Anas and Jabir win gold in Polish meet

KUTNO Star Indian sprinter Hima Das won her second international 200m, clocking 23.97s, at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland on Sunday, ahead of V.K. Vismaya. There were gold medals for Muhammed Anas (men's 200m, 21.18s) and M.P. Jabir (men's 400m hurdles, 50.21s) also. PTI

Tajikistan stuns India

Stages a dramatic comeback after being down 2-0

INTERCONTL. CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
AHMEDABAD

Tajikistan made a spectacular comeback, scoring four goals in the second half, to shock a young Indian side that was leading 2-0 on one stage, in the opening match of the Intercontinental Cup at the EKA Arena on Sunday.

Watched by a crowd of around 7000, India went ahead through captain Sunil Chhetri who scored off a fourth minute penalty and also found the target in the 41st minute. Tajikistan turned things around after the break, showing better coordination, as Komron Tursunov, Sheriddin Boboev, Muhammadjon Rahimov and substitute Shamrom Samiev scored.

India's dominance was complete in the opening half, the new-look side getting into quick passing bouts that head coach Stimac has been trying to inculcate. The Croatian left out seasoned defender E. Anas and Sandesh Jinghan after both suf-



Shortlived: India went ahead in the fourth minute and also added a goal in the 41st, but Tajikistan rallied well. *PTI

fered injuries.

Even before the Tajiks could settle into a rhythm, India nosed ahead. Lallianzuala Chhangte won a penalty for the host when he was brought down in the box by Tajik defender Siyovush Asrorov. Chhetri found the net from the spot, adopting the 'paneka' technique – a short chip over the goalkeeper.

Doubling it

India doubled the lead 37 minutes later when Chhetri turned finisher again after Udanta Singh and Desai had

combined well to create an opportunity.

Tajikistan found the target in the 56th minute when Tursunov outwitted his marker Narinder Gehlot. The equaliser came two minutes later through Mandar who gifted a chance to Boboev with a faulty clearance.

Rahimov hoisted the lead in the 71st before Samiev sealed the issue three minutes later.

The result: India 2 (Chhetri 4-pen, 41) lost to Tajikistan 4 (Tursunov 56, Boboev 58, Rahimov 71, Samiev 74).

Record title No. 4 for United States

Rapinoe and Lavelle score in 2-0 win over the Netherlands

WOMEN'S WC

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LYON

The United States won its record fourth Women's World Cup title and second in a row, beating the Netherlands 2-0 Sunday night when Megan Rapinoe converted a penalty kick in the second half and Rose Lavelle added a goal.

Rapinoe scored in the 61st minute after a video review determined Stefanie van der Gragt had fouled Alex Morgan with a kick to the shoulder in the penalty area.

Two days past her 34th birthday, Rapinoe slotted the ball past goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal for her sixth goal of the tournament to win the Golden Boot as leading scorer. The oldest player to score in a final, she struck a familiar victorious pose with arms outstretched.

"It's surreal. I don't know how to feel like now. It's ridiculous," Rapinoe said. "We're crazy and that's what makes us so special. We just have no quit in us. We're so



Top of the world: The U.S. women's team celebrates its triumph. *REUTERS

tight, and we'll do anything to win."

Lavelle, at 24 the team's up-and-coming star, added her third goal of the tournament on an 18-foot left-footed shot in the 69th after a solo run up the centre of the field. "She's superstar, not even in the making, she's straight up superstar at this point," Rapinoe said.

The result: United States 2 (Rapinoe 61-pen, Lavelle 69) bt the Netherlands 0.

Kickin' around

1 Rapinoe is the first player to score off a penalty in a final. She is also the oldest to net in a summit clash (34 years 2 days)

■ United States' Jill Ellis is the first coach to win the title twice

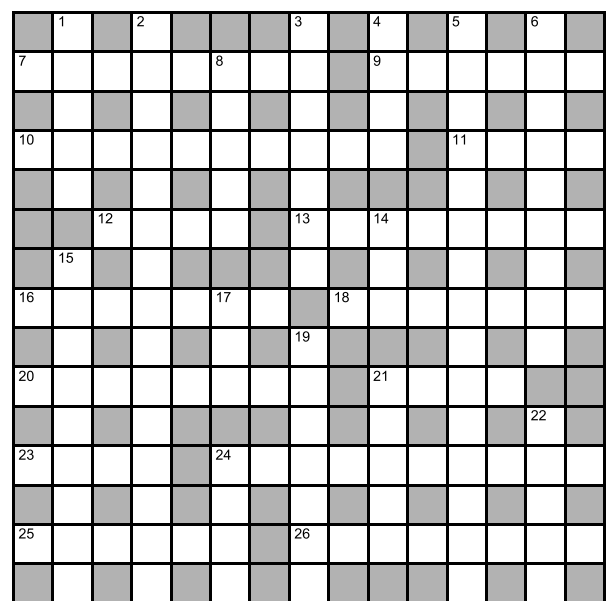
4 USA's fourth title (1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019) is twice as many as any nation's

12 It has won 12 consecutive matches at the WC, the longest in history (men and women)

26 The champion's goal tally at the 2019 edition, the highest in a tournament

44 USA has lost just one of its last 44 matches across all competitions (W38 D5 L1), a 1-3 loss against France in January 2019

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12672



- ACROSS**
- 7 Authorize the African city's brief linking to the surge from the east (8)
 - 9 Discarded vitamin imbued by mistake at this place (6)
 - 10 Simultaneous change of detectives in front of the medical department (10)
 - 11 Stroke requiring strenuous effort... (4)

- (set by Neyantha)
- 12 ...from the Chelsea selection as well (4)
 - 13 Pacify the one entering to welcome the maiden with a drink (8)
 - 16 Dying one responsible for a shutdown? (7)
 - 18 Run with the boy to cut up a little green legume and build character (7)
 - 20 Time to get rid of the page break and save (8)
 - 21 Trade in the round mitts (4)
 - 23 Leading left-handed openers favour this stroke (4)
 - 24 Model's reception gets garbled after fluorine contamination (10)
 - 25 Show horror at the twist behind the note (6)
 - 26 First-class vessel sent back with a V-shaped mark (3-5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Son goes on top of the cages to get the inside story (5)
 - 2 Change in script seen in a version including the note sent up with hesitation (15)
 - 3 Disbelief shown by the powerless shipmate at sea (7)
 - 4 Split apart after having played an accompaniment on the radio (4)
 - 5 Annoyance may result if I toss antacids out (15)
 - 6 Arbitration participant's integration goes haywire after logging out of the Iranian website (9)
 - 8 Stroke by an underwater explorer to get the rook to move (5)
 - 14 Valuable mineral in a Nordic coin (3)
 - 15 A compulsion for the players and umpires in a downpour? (4,5)
 - 17 Fish eggs found by a Greek character reportedly (3)
 - 19 Edit the legal document without a header found inside the rolled-over jug (7)
 - 21 First wicket for the opener with a bold stroke (5)
 - 22 Stroke by one getting slashed in German wine (5)
 - 24 Drawing power of the peepul leaf extract (4)

SUDOKU



- Solution to puzzle 12671**
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| C | O | M | E | U | P | P | A | N | C | E | | | |
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| I | N | E | R | T | S | Z | A | | | | | | |
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| S | T | E | N | O | S | I | S | G | R | E | A | S | |
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| A | S | S | A | M | E | O | C | L | O | C | K | | |
| E | G | T | T | G | I | E | | | | | | | |
| M | O | B | I | L | E | P | H | O | N | E | | | |
- Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**
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| 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
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| 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
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FAITH

Learning from elements

Srimad Bhagavatam talks of how we can learn many lessons from the elements. The Earth bears the weight of every living thing. It supports hills, and trees, besides supporting animals, birds and human beings. It lives for the sake of others. So, the very place on which we live shows us that we must live selflessly, said P.T. Seshadri, in a discourse. Hills and trees too show us that we must help others. Trees give us fruits. When it rains, water flows down the slopes of hills. Thus, the hills too benefit us. Nature, therefore, teaches us that we are born to help others. From the earth we should learn the virtue of patience. If we suffer in life, we should see that as a result of our parabdha karma. The wind, when it blows, touches everything in its path. But does it claim kinship with any of these things? It picks up the fragrance of flowers, and spreads that fragrance. It never thinks of that sweet smell as belonging to itself.

Likewise, a yogi may travel to many places, but remains detached and unaffected by anything. Similarly, the atma, which is inside the body, controls the body. But when its time on earth ends, the atma exits the body, and is not attached to the body. In the same way, a jnani is totally detached. Akasa is everywhere – it is inside everything and all around us. The Supreme One too, is inside everyone and is also all around us. Winds disturb clouds in the sky and scatter them. Does the sky bother about this? It may be connected to the clouds, but it has no attachment to them. Similarly, a jnani remains untouched by the gunas for which the five elements are responsible. Water cleans us up, and signifies purity. Jnanis live pure lives, and with their advice and guidance, they cleanse us. They bathe us in spiritual experience.

TV PICKS

Wimbledon: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
Hero Intercontinental Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.

Red card steals thunder from Messi and Co

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAO PAULO

Lionel Messi was harshly sent off as Argentina secured third place at the Copa America with a 2-1 victory over Chile on Saturday.

In a niggly and fractious match, five-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi and Chile captain Gary Medel were given their marching orders eight minutes from half-time after tangling on the goalline.

Sergio Aguero and Paulo Dybala scored the first half goals that ensured victory for Argentina.

But the match will be most remembered for the double sending-off and the melee it sparked.

Innocuous clash

In what seemed an innocuous clash, a frustrated Messi shoved Medel in the back as the centre-back shepherded the ball out of play. A furious Medel responded by chest-bumping Messi twice in an incident that probably merited no more than a single yellow card for the Chilean.

Incredibly, Paraguayan referee Mario Diaz de Vivar showed the two captains the red card.

The result (third place playoff): Argentina 2 (Aguero 12, Dybala 22) bt Chile 1 (Vidal 59-pen).

IN BRIEF



Birdie hat-trick puts Arjun Atwal at T-9

BLAINE (USA)
Arjun Atwal, despite a double bogey on the back nine, closed with a brilliant hat-trick of birdies that gave him a second straight 68 for a tied ninth at the inaugural 3M Open golf tournament here on Saturday. Atwal is three shots off a leaderboard comprising Matthew Wolff (62), Collin Morikawa (64) and Bryson DeChambeau (70). Meanwhile, Anirban Lahiri (75) missed the 54-hole cut as he was tied 83rd.

Afghanistan's to play Windies in India

NEW DELHI
Afghanistan will play a full series against the West Indies, including a Test match, in its adopted home country India in November, the country's cricket board said. The series will also include three T20Is and three ODIs, beginning from November 27. The venues are yet to be decided. The one-off Test will mark Afghanistan's third appearance in the longest format. It was beaten on debut by India last year, but defeated Ireland by seven wickets in March at Dehradun. **The schedule:** T20Is: Nov. 5, 7 and 9; ODIs: Nov. 13, 16 and 18; One-off Test: Nov. 27-Dec. 1.



Aditi placed tied 51st after three rounds

ONEIDA (USA)
Aditi Ashok shot a three-under 69 to be tied 51st at the end of the third round of the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic golf tournament here. The 20-year-old Indian had six birdies against four bogeys. Sung Hyun Park's three-under 69 left her in a four-way tie for the lead with Shanshan Feng (65), Tiffany Joh (66) and Ariya Jutanugarn, at 20-under 196.

Double for Sethu, Ravikumar, Abhimanyu

Maiden win for Ryhana Bee in girls' championship

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) and Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) completed a double apiece in contrasting styles on the concluding day of the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National motorcycle racing championship at the MMRT here on Sunday.

Ravikumar was in a league of his own posting an authoritative win by a country mile in the premium Pro-Stock 301-400cc race, his second of the weekend, while behind him, Amarnath Menon (Team Alisha Abdullah) denied TVS Racing another 1-2 by pipping K.Y. Ahamed.

Sethu repeated his race one win from Saturday over TVS Racing's Jagannathan for a double in the Pro-Stock 165cc class.

After exchanging leads with Jagannathan through the race, Sethu made a heart-stopping pass on the last corner of the last lap to pull off a superb win while Ahamed scrambled to third spot.

Bengaluru-based Anish Shetty (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) survived a close fight with Mathan Kumar (Erula Racing) to win the Pro-Stock 200-300cc race with Abhishek Vasudev, also from Bengaluru, a dis-



On the podium: Deepak Ravikumar, centre, who scored a double in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category, flanked by K.Y. Ahamed, left and Amarnath Menon. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tant third. Meanwhile, defending champion in the Girls (Stock 165cc) category, Ann Jennifer suffered a rare defeat as she finished third behind her Sparks Racing team-mate Ryhana Bee and Alisha Abdullah (Team Alisha Abdullah) in the five-lap race.

It was Bee's maiden win in the championship as she made capital of a favourable situation that had pole-sitter Jennifer fumbling at the start and then getting caught up in

traffic.

While Bee disappeared in the distance, Jennifer could not pass Alisha and decided to hold position with an eye on the championship points.

The results (Provisional): National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc (Race two, eight laps): 1. Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) (15mins, 31.358secs); 2. Amarnath Menon (Team Alisha Abdullah) (15:45.432); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (TVS Racing) (15:45.558). **Pro-Stock 200-300cc (Race two, eight laps):** 1. Anish Shetty

(Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (16:22.798); 2. Mathan Kumar (Erula Racing) (16:22.876); 3. Abhishek V (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (16:55.918).

Pro-Stock 165cc (Race two, eight laps): 1. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (16:07.033); 2. Jagannathan (TVS Racing) (16:07.152); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (TVS Racing) (16:09.355).

Novice - Stock 165cc (Race two, eight laps): 1. Abhimanyu Gautam (Sparks Racing) (13:10.877); 2. Venkatesan I (Team Motomania) (13:13.508);



Ryhana Bee

3. Mohan Babu P (Team Rockers Racing) (13:15.079).

Girls (Stock 165cc, five laps): 1. A Ryhana Bee (Sparks Racing) (11:11.579); 2. Alisha Abdullah (Team Alisha Abdullah Racing) (11:20.990); 3. Ann Jennifer AS (Sparks Racing) (11:21.078).

One-Make Championship: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup - Honda NSF 250R (Race two, eight laps): 1. Varoon Sadasivam (Chennai) (14:53.899); 2. Kavin Samaar Quintal (Chennai) (15:03.271); 3. Geoffrey Emmanuel (Chennai) (15:32.943).

Honda CBR 150 (Race two, Six laps): 1. Lal Nunsanga (Aizwal) (13:28.925); 2. Lalrinzuala Tlau (Aizwal) (13:29.167); 3. Samuel Martin (Bengaluru) (13:30.521).

TVS Open (Apache RTR 310, Race two, eight laps): 1. Vivek Pillai (Chennai) (16:01.298); 2. Karthik Mateti (Hyderabad) (16:16.321); 3. Soorya PM (Chennai) (16:18.106).

Novice (Apache RTR 200, Race two, six laps): 1. Venkatesan (Chennai) (13:13.644); 2. Manoj Y (Chennai) (13:14.210); 3. Lakshmi Prasad Balaji (Vellore) (13:15.231).

Indians disappoint

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU
LONATO (ITALY)

Anantjeet Singh Naruka (72) and Areeba Khan (60) shot 132 between them and placed 26th in mixed skeet team competition in the shotgun World Championship here on Sunday. Mairaj Ahmad Khan (70) and Kartiki Singh Shaktawat (59) shot 129 and placed 32nd among 37 teams.

In junior mixed skeet, It was a below-par performance by the Indians as they finished at the bottom.

Arjun Thakur (60) and Darshna Rathore (66) were 13th while Gurnihal Singh Garcha (57) and Parinaaz

Dhaliwal (54) were 15th and last.

Yashaswini fourth

Meanwhile at the 30th Universiade in Napoli, Youth Olympics finalist Yashaswini Singh Deswal qualified in the second place but slipped to the fourth spot in the women's air pistol final.

Yashaswini was second in qualification with 573 behind World Cup gold medalist Kim Minjung (582) of Korea, who pipped the Indian to the bronze.

The results: 10m air pistol: 1. Dorsa Arabshahi (Iri) 240.1 (571); 2. Haniyeh Rostamiyan (Iri) 238.7 (568); 3. Kim Minjung (Kor) 218.7 (582); 4. Yashaswini Singh Deswal 197.7 (573); 10. P. Shri Nivetha 566.

Indians strike it rich with four gold medals

SPORTS BUREAU
ALMATY

Mohammed Salahuddin took the triple jump gold, with a personal best 16.64m, ahead of compatriot Mohammed Zuber (16.21), in the G. Kosanov memorial international athletics meet here on Sunday.

M. Sreeshankar won the long jump with a 7.78m effort.

Another one-two

India had a one-two in men's javelin thanks to Sa-

hil Silwal (77.40m) and Rohit Yadav (75.36).

Meanwhile, Saritaben Gayakwad won the women's 400m gold in the Kutno international meet in Poland clocking a season-best 52.77s.

Soniya Baishya (53.73) and K. Rithya (53.73) took silver and bronze while V.K. Shalini was sixth in 55.25.

In the men's event, K.S. Jeevan clocked 46.56s while Kunhu Mohammed (46.93) and Amoj Jacob (47.24) were behind him.

Cavallo Veloce wins Chief Minister's Cup

BENGALURU: Cavallo Veloce (A. Imran) won the Chief Minister's Cup, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (July 7). The winner is owned by Mr. Arun Alagappa and trained by B. Suresh.

1 SNOW DEW PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms): ROMAN SENATOR (Sandesh) 1, Defender (Zervan) 2, Odyssey (Raghuveer Singh) 3 and Singhasab (Koushik) 4. Not run: Majestic Heroine and Donbreak-therules. 4-3/4, 2/4 and Snk. Im. 07:16s. 1/8 (w), 11, 14 and 20 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 35, FP: 47, Q: 27, Trinella: 69 and 34, Exacta: 630 and 540. Favourite: Roman Senator. Owner: Mr. M.A.M.R. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

2 RAMKIRPAL PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20: SCARLET PRINCESS (John) 1, Smile Of Peace (T.S. Jodha) 2, Odyssey (Raghuveer Singh) 3 and Singhasab (Koushik) 4. Not run: Majestic Heroine and Donbreak-therules. 4-3/4, 2/4 and Snk. Im. 07:16s. 1/8 (w), 11, 14 and 20 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 35, FP: 47, Q: 27, Trinella: 69 and 34, Exacta: 383 and 103. Favourite: Scarlet Princess. Owners: Mr. Soumitra Banerji & Mr. R.M. Ramaswamy. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

3 D.M. SHIVASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 45 to 65: AEOLUS (Zervan) 1, Dr Logan (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Silver Dew (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Standout (Antony) 4. Not run: New Moon. 5, 3-1/4 and 3. Im. 23:86s. 1/3 (w), 12 and 16 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 35, FP: 36, Q: 31, Trinella: 108 and 63, Exacta: 156 and 49. Favourite: Aeolus. Owners: Mr. Rienze M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

4 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o & over. (Terms): CAVALLI VELOCE (A. Imran) 1, Accolade (Suraj) 2, Dream Catcher (Akshay K) 3 and Southpaw (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 2-3/4, 1-1/4 and Lnk. Im. 10.91s. 1/8

(w), 21, 13 and 20 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 44, FP: 178, Q: 88, Trinella: 726 and 551, Exacta: 19,026 and 8,154. Favourite: Accolade. Owner: Mr. Arun Alagappa. Trainer: B. Suresh.

5 BASQUE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: SAHARA (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Gerontocrat (John) 2, Mystic Flame (Zervan) 3 and Optimistic Approach (Koushik) 4. 3-3/4, 1/2 and 3. Im. 24.91s. 1/4 (w), 15, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 47, FP: 139, Q: 57, Trinella: 204 and 82. Exacta: 4,259 and 2,899. Favourite: Gerontocrat. Owners: Mr. Abdul Azeez & Mr. Neil Darashah. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

6 PENDRAGON PLATE PRINCESS (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: MARCO POLO (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Ekalavya (Sandesh) 2, Radiant Treasure (Arshad) 3 and Three Wishes (Bhawani Singh) 4. 3-1/4, 1/4 and 3/4. Im. 38:27s. 1/2 (w), 11, 17 and 30 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 61, FP: 98, Q: 73, Trinella: 996 and 369. Exacta: 3,120 and 1,031. Favourite: Marco Polo. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal, Mr. Gautam Aggarwal & Mrs. Geeta Aggarwal. Trainer: Pra-deep Anniah.

7 BASQUE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: BOLD MOVE (S. Shareef) 1, Panama (Arshad) 2, Depth Charge (R. Manish) 3 and Rezal (Raghuveer Singh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/4 and 2-1/4. Im. 25:63s. 1/3 (w), 17, 23 and 12 (p), SHP: 74, THP: 44, FP: 1,069, Q: 348, Trinella: 1,504 and 645. Exacta: 11,839 and 5,074. Favourite: Winning Heart. Owners: Skambha Equine Enterprises Pvt Ltd rep by Mr. Martin John Tower & Mr. John Thomas D. Trainer: Irfan Ghatla.

Jackpot: ₹28,177 (26 tkts.); Runner up: 639 (491 tkts.); Treble (1): 193 (106 tkts.); (16): 1,071 (33 tkts.).

Anand draws with Karjakin

SPORTS BUREAU
ZAGREB

Viswanathan Anand held Sergey Karjakin as all battles ended with honours even in the 10th and penultimate round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour here on Saturday.

The results (10th round): Viswanathan Anand (4) drew with Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 4.5); Wesley So (USA, 6.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 7); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5.5) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 4); Ding Liren (Chn, 5) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm, 5.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 4.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 5.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 4.5) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 3.5).

Kashyap in Canada Open final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CALGARY

Former Commonwealth Games champion P. Kashyap produced a stellar show to outplay Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei and enter the men's singles final of Canada Open Super 100 tournament on Saturday. The sixth-seeded Indian won 14-21, 21-17, 21-18.

C'WELTH CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Favourite Abhijeet Gupta claimed his fifth title as India swept medals in all 16 sections of the Commonwealth chess championship here on Sunday.

After two other leaders, S. L. Narayanan and Aravindh Chithambaram, drew their top board battle in 32 moves, Abhijeet caught Arjun Erigaisi in a checkmating net in 39 moves to reach 7.5 points.

Aravindh topped a three-way tie for the second spot with Swapnil Dhopade and Narayanan at seven points.

Tania Sachdev retained the women's title after an anxious wait. After being tied at six points with Divya Deshmukh, Tania took the title on superior tie-break score. Bhakti Kulkarni came third.

The medalists:
Open: 1. Abhijeet Gupta (7.5)

2. Aravindh Chithambaram (7), 3. Swapnil Dhopade (7).
Women: 1. Tania Sachdev (6), 2.



Winning moves: Tania Sachdev and Abhijeet Gupta with their reward. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Divya Deshmukh (6), 3. Bhakti Kulkarni (5.5).

Open: Under-8: 1. Chinmay Kowshik (6), 2. Vivaan Saragoi

(5.5), 3. Amogh Bisht (5.5). Under-10: 1. Yash Bharadia (6), 2. A.R. Ilamparthi (6), 3. Daaevik Wadhawan (6); Under-12: 1. Garv Gaur (5.5), 2. Tanmay Jain (5.5), 3. Shreyansh Patnaik (5.5); Under-14: 1. L. R. Srihari (6), 2. Rohith Krishna (5.5), 3. Aditya Gampa (5.5); Under-16: 1. Arjun Erigaisi (6.5), 2. Dhruv Kashyap (5), 3. Jinan Jomun (5); Under-18: 1. P. Niyan (7), 2. Gaurav Zagade (5), 3. Vedant Panesar (4.5); Under-20: 1. Suyog Wagh (5.5), 2. Indrajit Mahindrakar (5.5), 3. Nilisu Pattanayak (5).

Girls: Under-8: 1. Aishani Pathak (6), 2. Yateer Kothari (6), 3. Tashna Aggarwal (5.5); Under-10: 1. Sneha Halder (6), 2. Hiya Panchal (6), 3. A.N. Shefali (5.5); Under-12: 1. Riddhi Patel (6), 2. G. Tejaswini (5.5), 3. Yashita Rout (5); Under-14: 1. Divya Deshmukh (6), 2. Yash Bir (5.5), 3. Chinnam Visthnavi (5); Under-16: 1. Bristy Mukherjee (6), 2. Meenatchi Rajam (5.5), 3. Nityanai Jain (5); Under-18: 1. K. Priyanka (6.5), 2. Sanskriti Goyal (6), 3. Srishri Pandey (5); Under-20: 1. Rutuja Bakshi (5.5), 2. Vishwa Shah (5), 3. B. Mounika Akshaya (5).

Neelash, Samriddhaa bag National titles

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

West Bengal's Neelash Saha stayed steady and won the open title while State-mate Samriddhaa Ghosh pulled off a big surprise to pocket the girls' trophy in the 30th National under-17 chess championship at the Oberon Mall here on Sunday.

The second-seeded Neelash, the overnight leader and a former under-13 National champion, had a good run here and defeated Gujarat's Aditya P. Melani in the final round.

"I was confident of winning the title as I had been consistent here," said the Kolkata-based Saha who finished with 9.5 points in the 11-round event. Incidentally, the top three finishers – top-seeded Aronyak Ghosh and Utsab Chatterjee were second and third – are also from Bengal.

Meanwhile Samriddhaa, the fourth seed, suffered a shocking opening round loss but still did not give up.

"I've messed up the last rounds in earlier championships but here, though I lost the opening round, I felt I could come back...I've seen players coming back," said Ghosh.



Winning duo: West Bengal's Samriddhaa Ghosh and Neelash Saha with their spoils. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was the win over Jyothsna (the third seed from TN, who was among the leaders after the previous round). This is my first National title."

Ghosh beat the overnight leader, Andhra Pradesh's ninth-seeded B. Kalyani, in the final round and after the top-seeded Saina Salonika drew her game against Delhi's Palkin Kaur, she emerged a clear winner with 8.5 points from 11 rounds.

Salonika and Kalyani were second and third.

Vinesh, Divya win gold; Pooja bags silver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MADRID

Putting up a dominating show, India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal after shifting to 53kg category, while Divya Kakran claimed the top honours in the 68kg category at the Grand Prix of Spain here.

In the eight-wrestler 53kg draw, Vinesh comfortably beat Peru's Justina Benites and Russia's Nina Minkovna before getting the better of Dutch rival Jessica Blaszka in the final.

Also standing atop the podium was Asian Games bronze medallist Divya, who lost just four points in her campaign.

The Indian grappler blanked Poland's Agnieszka Wieszczyk-Kordus in the final.

Pooja Dhanda (57kg) won the silver after losing the title clash to Russia's Veronika Chumikova.

Also winning silver medals were Seema (50kg), Manju Kumari (59kg) and Kiran (76kg).

Sakshi Malik withdrew from the competition due to a minor injury.