In a historic vote, the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday impeached President Donald Trump for the abuse of power and obstruction of Congress

The voting was largely along party lines in the **Democrats-controlled House**

Total strength of House: 435

ARTICLE 1, ABUSE OF POWER

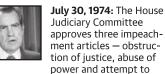
ARTICLE II, OBSTRUCTION OF



Now, the President's trial will go to the Republican-controlled Senate, where a two-thirds majority is needed

BEFORE TRUMP, THREE OTHER U.S. PRESIDENTS FACED IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS. NONE WAS OUSTED FROM OFFICE





approves three impeachment articles - obstruction of justice, abuse of

impede the impeachment process — after the Watergate scandal



Impeached Trump faces trial in Senate

This lawless, partisan impeachment is a political suicide march for the Democratic Party, says President

REUTERS

The impeachment of President Donald Trump in the U.S. House of Representatives on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress sets the stage for a historic trial next month in the Republican-controlled Senate on whether he should be removed from office.

But it was unclear on Thursday how or when that trial would play out after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she might delay sending over the articles of impeachment to the Senate in order to pressure that chamber to conduct what she viewed as a fair trial.

Democrat

President Andrew

for reconstruction

after the American

Civil War put him

Congress started

proceedings after

Johnson fired his

Secretary of War

1868: The House

votes 11 articles of

February 24,

impeachment

In May, the

Senate aquits

in conflict with

impeachment

Congress

Johnson's push

Mr. Trump said the ball was now in the Senate's court. "Now the Do Nothing Party want to Do Nothing with the Articles & not deliver them to the Senate, but its Senates call!" Mr. Trump said on Twitter. "If the Do Nothing Democrats decide, in their great wisdom, not to show up, they would lose by Default!"

Representative Hoyer, the No. 2 House Democrat, said on MSNBC that Democrats would like the Senate to first approve a \$1.4 trillion spending plan and a trade agreement with Canada and Mexico before turning to impeachment.

mostly party-line votes on Wednesday in the Democratic-led House came after long hours of bitter debate that reflected the partisan tensions in a divided America, and made Mr. Trump the third U.S. President to be impeached.

Mr. Trump is certain to face more friendly terrain during a trial in the 100impeachment launched by Pelosi in Sepmember Senate, where a vote to remove him would tember a "witch hunt." require a two-thirds majori-At a raucous rally for his ty. Ms. Pelosi said after the vote she would wait to name

re-election in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the House voted, Mr. Trump said the impeachment would be a "mark of shame" for Democrats and Ms. Pelosi, and cost them in the 2020 election.

"This lawless, partisan impeachment is a political suicide march for the Democrat Party," Mr. Trump said. "They're the ones who should be impeached, every

What's next for President?

Americans are split by half on sacking Trump, says a poll

STANLY JOHNY

It is tragic that the President's

reckless actions

make im-

peachment

necessary.

He gave us

no choice

Donald Trump became the third President in American history to be impeached on Wednesday night when a majority of Representatives voted in favour of the two articles of impeachment drawn up by House Democrats. The articles, essentially the charges against the President, accuse Mr. Trump of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, both related to the Ukraine scandal.

How the House voted?

It was certain before the vote that the impeachment resolution would go through the House of Representatives, which is controlled by the Democrats. In the 435-member House, the Democrats have 233 members, while the Republicans have 197. The House voted on the impeachment articles largely along the party lines. The first article got 230 votes. The tally on the second article was 229-198. Two Democrats – Reps. Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey and Collin Peterson of Minnesota, both from districts that backed Mr. Trump in the 2016 presidential election - voted against both articles. Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, whose district was also carried by Mr. Trump in 2016, voted for the first article but against the second. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D) of Hawaii voted to "present" on both votes.

On what charges?

Both articles of impeachment are related to the Ukraine scandal, which means the democrats did not consider the Robert Mueller report on Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 election and Mr. Trump's handling of the issue for the impeachment. The first article, on abuse of power, is



about Mr. Trump's conduct in the Ukraine scandal. The Democrats allege that the President abused his power by putting pressure on Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to launch a probe against Joe Biden, the former Vice-President and a Democratic presidential candidate for the presidential election, and his son Hunter Biden. The President is accused of withholding both a White House meeting and military aid to Ukraine. The article states Mr. Trump "corruptly solicited the government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations" into Mr. Biden and into "a discredited theory" that Ukraine interfered with the 2016 presidential election.

EXPLAINER

The second article, on obstruction of Congress, alleges that Mr. Trump obstructthe Congressional impeachment inquiry by refusing to cooperate with it. The President, who has denied all charges, urged several witnesses not to testify before the House panel and asked the White House and other departments not to comply with House subpoenas. President Trump "has directed the unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas," states Article II.

Is Trump out of office?

No. Impeachment by the House doesn't remove an American President from office immediately. Impeachment means a majority of

House Representatives have approved the articles raised against the President, setting the stage for his trial in the Senate. After the trial. the Senators will vote on his conviction. A President can be convicted and removed from office with support of at least two-thirds of Senators (that is 67 in the 100member U.S. Senate). In the current Senate, the Republicans have a majority with 53 seats, while the Democrats have 47 (including two independents). This means for Mr. Trump to be convicted, the Democrats have to make sure that none of their Senators crosses the party line and at least 20 Republicans do that and vote for the conviction - an impossibility given the partisan mood in the Capitol. So far, the Republicans have rejected the charges against the President. So it's almost certain that Mr. Trump will be acquitted in the Senate.

Then why impeachment? Democrats say it is their constitutional duty to start the impeachment proceedings as the President's actions threaten the Constitution. The underlying message is that as next election is less than a year away, the voters can decide whether they want to re-elect a President who's impeached by the House. It's also about bad legacy for Mr. Trump. He's gone down in history as the third President to be impeached in the U.S. But it is not clear how the impeachment would impact the 2020 election. A Wall Street Journal/ NBC News survey, released on Wednesday, suggests that Americans are split 48-48% on whether to sack Mr. Trump from office. Some 90% of Republicans oppose the impeachment, while 83% of Democrats sup-

ELSEWHERE



Drag Musharraf's body, hang it for 3 days: court

ISLAMABAD Pakistan's special court that sentenced former military ruler Pervez Musharraf to death has said that his body should be dragged to the central square here and hanged for three days if he dies before his execution. In a detailed judgment, authored by Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waga Ahmad Seth, the court directed law enforcement agencies to "apprehend" Gen. Musharraf and ensure that the punishment is carried out; if he is found dead, his corpse be dragged to the D-Chowk, Islamabad, and be hanged for three days. PTI

Scottish leader steps up battle for referendum

'All options open if Johnson says no'

REUTERS

Scotland's nationalist leader Nicola Sturgeon will consider "all reasonable options" if Prime Minister Boris Johnson tries to stop her from holding a referendum on Scottish independence, she said on Thursday.

Ms. Sturgeon's pro-independence, anti-Brexit Scottish National Party (SNP) won 48 of Scotland's 59 parliamentary seats in last week's U.K.-wide election, which she said showed overwhelming support for her agenda to hold such a referendum.

As things stand, a referendum cannot take place without the U.K. government's



Nicola Sturgeon

consent.

"The question is often posed to me: 'What will you do if Boris Johnson says no?' As I've said before, I will consider all reasonable options to secure Scotland's right to self-determination," she said in a speech.

Sikh cab driver assaulted in California

the House managers, who

will prosecute the case, until

she knew more about the Se-

nate trial procedures. She

did not specify when she

would send the impeach-

ment articles to the Senate.

another four-year term in

the November 2020 presi-

dential election, has denied

wrongdoing and called the

Mr. Trump, who is seeking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 57-year-old Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver has been brutally assaulted and hit with a barbeque grill cover on the head in California, U.S., media reports said, in the second such attack in less than a fortnight.

Baljeet Singh Sidhu was parking his car outside his home in Richmond, California, SFGate.com reported, when a man asked him for a lighter. Mr. Sidhu said he didn't have one and the man left, but returned later asking for a ride for \$5. He told the man his shift was over. Then the suspect came back a third time and hit him on the head with a barbeque grill cover.

'Sri Lanka will develop Mattala airport'+ Gotabaya says no discussion with India on the project, indicating it is off the table

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's civil aviation authority will develop the southern airport in Mattala. near the strategically located Hambantota port, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said on Thursday, ruling out earlier proposals of a joint venture with India. However, he invited Indian companies, especially in the IT sector, to

invest in Sri Lanka. New Delhi – with known strategic interests in the airport adjoining the Chineserun Hambantota port - has in the past discussed a possible joint development plan with Colombo, to upgrade the loss-making facility in Mattala built by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

However, the project did not take off despite multiple rounds of negotiations.

"There is no discussion with India on this project, President Rajapaksa said, indicating that the project was now off the table. On the other hand, a small country like Sri Lanka welcomed foreign investment focusing on training Sri Lanka's human resources, he said. "There is a lot of worry about Chinese involvement in this region... the best thing is for other countries like India, Singapore, Japan, Australia, and ASEAN countries to invest here... that is how you can counter, just complaining won't do," he said, address-

ing foreign journalists. Responding to a range of



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

questions in his first interaction with foreign media since assuming office, President Rajapaksa said his government is focussing on rationalising the taxation system in order to improve the economy and restructuring the security apparatus to ensure enhanced national security.

Mr. Rajapaksa said he would dissolve Parliament early March, signalling the

likely conduct of general elections in late April.

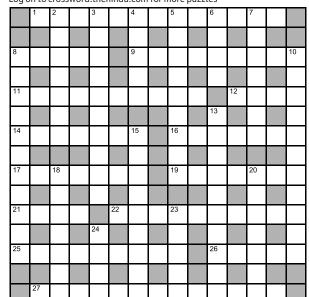
'I am the victim'

On the diplomatic controver sy with the Swiss government, following the alleged abduction of a local staffer of the Swiss Embassy in Colombo, President Rajapaksa said: "In this case, I am the victim," adding that available evidence showed the abduction claim "is not true".

"It was a planned thing to discredit me and my government... I want to clear my name and the government's... the legal side has taken over," he said, days after the staffer was arrested for "making a false accusation" that she had been detained and threatened.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12811

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



To play an interactive

version of this crossword

online, scan the QR code

ACROSS

- might do to bring about a
- complete reversal? (4,3,6) for leading socialite (5)

- 1 What spiritualists at séances
- 8 Show-off might abandon wife 9 Meddling salesperson about to
- interrupt training (9) 11 Avant-garde artist decided to feature nude works on a catalogue (10)

12 Animation when ball reverses, trapping Kohli at last (4) 14 Renowned poet shot around

- foreign isle (1,1,5) 16 Shrinking Asian lake further
- shortened in size (4,3)
- 17 State ultimately backing plan to bar most wine shops (7)
- 19 President is wearing different fur-lined cloak (7)
- 21 Free content found online (4) 22 Remember marine struggling
- in difficulty (4,2,4) 25 Wise guy in hill achieves insight and nirvana at last
- (4-2-3)26 Broadcasting suave socialite
- girl leaving (2-3) 27 Fanatics start to take part in

DOWN

- 2 American wielding power to force escalation (7)
- 3 Conductor say, spilling fine beer outside van (5,5)

4 Serving up some ale to

holidaymakers here? (5)

(set by Dr. X)

- 5 Maiden in tape with character - it's seen on digital images
- 6 Bit of free booze lifts spirit (4) 7 Ones fleeing from horrific regimes? (7)
- 8 Idiot involved in spraying ketchup, beginning to brashly evade responsibility (4,3,4)
 - marriage enters seedy bar to drink a lot of alcohol (2.2.1.6)

13 Rescuing from a tight spot

10 Fool facing ruin and end of

15 Dealers incorporating detailed strategy for tariff-related

when indisposed during fight

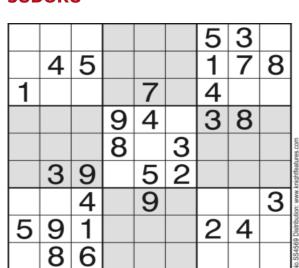
- economic conflicts (5,4) 18 Pack beginning to rob solitary Italian innkeeper (7)
- Greek dish (7) 23 Figure lurking around grabbed

head of state (5)

20 Fuss after suits sent back

24 Manipulate retrogressive, old system of transferring money

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12810 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku 7 6 2 8 1 9 3 4 5 5 4 8 2 7 3 1 9 6 9 1 3 4 6 5 2 8 7 256194738 874352961 1 3 9 6 8 7 4 5 2 3 9 5 7 2 8 6 1 4 4 2 1 5 3 6 8 7 9 687941523

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆

FAITH

Dangers of attachment

Srimad Bhagavatam has a story that shows the danger of over attachment to one's family, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. A male and female pigeon doted on their babies and looked after them well. One day, when both the adult birds were away looking for food, a hunter trapped the baby birds in a net. The mother bird tried to rescue them and was caught in the net too. The male bird flung itself against the net in a vain bid to save them, but it also got trapped in the net. Ultimately, familial attachment only brought sorrow to the two birds. Being attached to one's family also keeps one from thinking about moksha. Like the birds, we too spend our lives providing for our families, and worrying about them. This leaves no time for us to even think about moksha, leave alone seeking it.

But those with jnana do their duties, but remain unattached. Andal was the wife of Kooratazhvan, the disciple of Ramanujacharya. Andal survived her husband, and lived with her two sons, one of whom was Parasara Bhatta. One day, when Parasara Bhatta went to the Srirangam temple, Lord Ranganatha said to him, "I now give you the boon of moksha. Prepare to come to Paramapada." Parasara Bhatta was delighted at the prospect of departing for Sri Vaikuntha. But how was he to convey this to his aged mother? He went home hesitantly. But Andal knowing what had happened, welcomed her son and told him she was happy for him. Her son was blessed to go to Paramapada, and she was going to willingly and happily part from him.

Andal's jnana was such that she did not let maternal affection cause grief to her, for she knew that being in Sri Vaikuntha was what one should aspire for. Now that that prospect had come to her son, she was not going to weep.

A ND-NDE