

Team work has been the cornerstone of India's success story

Small and useful contributions from the players have helped the Men in Blue maintain a winning run in this World Cup



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

India's triumph over Pakistan here at Old Trafford on Sunday blended the big moments with the small successes. Well-oiled teams get this symmetry right, the players are alive to the situation and every move advances the squad's fortunes. "I cannot single-handedly chase a 300-plus score. Others chip in, partnerships happen and inside the dressing room, we recognise those contributions," Virat Kohli recently said.



Camaraderie: The Indian team is gelling well and every player is playing a part in the team's victories. *REUTERS

Building blocks

The Indian captain was pointing out how a winning performance is linked to multiple building blocks. Strong units have efficiency at their core and feature cricketers, who can chip in the crucial 30, prise out wickets and may be effect a run-out. The West Indies in its pomp had Gus Logie and Larry Gomes in the ranks. They may have lived in the shadow of Clive Lloyd, Vi-

vian Richards, Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, but there is no denying the duo's intrinsic merits.

Rohit Sharma's splendid 140 was the cornerstone of India's batting and his knock gained cumulative strength thanks to the supporting cast - K.L. Rahul (57) and Kohli (77). Towards the end, Hardik Pandya and Vijay Shankar too chipped in.

Cut to the bowling, a damp landing area affects Bhuvneshwar Kumar's final delivery stride, he bowls, twitches, gingerly feels his left leg and then returns to the dressing room. It is a blow to India but a nonchalant Shankar's first ball is on the money. Straight, homing into Imam-ul-Haq's pads and India gets its first break. Kohli and company are

thrilled and the Tamil Nadu all-rounder gets his hair ruffled. "I was so blank, because I wasn't expecting it (to bowl) at that time. It was swinging a bit so I just thought I should hit the right areas. Getting a wicket off your first ball is always special," Shankar recalled his special moment, Kuldeep Yadav, who bagged two wickets subse-

quently, also praised Shankar: "He bowled really well and in these conditions, you need fast bowlers. When Bhuvu bhai got injured, we had five bowlers and we knew that if we kept picking up wickets, the pressure of losing Bhuvu would become less." Rahul, pitch-forked into the opener's slot after a thumb injury laid low Shik-

har Dhawan, grabbed the opportunity and looked the part. "Rohit and Shikhar have been number one and two and they have owned these positions. I had to wait for my chance and I am just happy that I got to bat in the top three. Mohammad Amir is a quality bowler and we had to focus from ball one. We got used to the wicket, gave the bowlers and the

Bhuvneshwar out for next few matches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER

Bhuvneshwar Kumar is likely to miss India's next set of games following a left hamstring strain that he suffered during the World Cup match against Pakistan here at Old Trafford on Sunday.

During his third over and after delivering the fourth delivery, the seamer was in visible discomfort and left the turf.

Later, at the presentation ceremony, Virat Kohli said: "Bhuvu's

case looks like a niggle, a case of slipping on the footmarks. It doesn't look too serious at the moment and looks like he could recover in a couple of games from now, maximum of three games."

With Bhuvu joining the list of the walking-wounded, that includes Shikhar Dhawan, Mohammed Shami is expected to step into the playing eleven when India takes on Afghanistan at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl on Saturday.

ball the respect that it demanded and we carried on," Rahul said. "I give myself six out of 10 and hopefully I can get better," he added.

Hard work pays

Both Rahul and Shankar were not certainties for the World Cup but through their sheer weight of performance over the previous six months, they broke open the door. "Making a World Cup debut against Pakistan is something great for me. World Cups come once in

four years, the whole world will be watching. I have always given importance to the right preparation. I work really hard and keep myself fit. I should keep improving my cricket," Shankar said.

Kohli's men have opted to rest for two days before gearing up for their Saturday's joust against Afghanistan at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl. And it helps to know that so far they have only lost to nature once - the rains at Nottingham's Trent Bridge!

The Chinaman bowler who rattled the Pakistanis

India now has the advantage in middle-overs with KulCha bowling well in tandem

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

Sunday's adrenaline-sprinkled but rain-marred World Cup clash between India and Pakistan at Old Trafford, had entered a decisive phase. Pursuing 336, Sarfaraz Ahmed's men needed a pivotal partnership and Fakhar Zaman and Babar Azam were precisely doing that, nudging the single, blocking the good deliveries and slamming the loose ones.



Flying high: Kuldeep Yadav is back in business after a mediocre show in the IPL. *AFP

Kuldeep Yadav then steps in. A gentle amble leads to a whirring left arm and as the delivery curves and dips, Babar stays rooted to the crease, his legs and bat are not in sync and through the gap the white ball slides in and knocks the stumps. The bails light up, M.S. Dhoni roars and Kuldeep, the Chinaman spinner, is back in vogue. Then he scalps Zaman too and with his two for 32 yield, Kuldeep

had prised out Pakistan's heart. Later, speaking to the media in the ICC mixed zone, Kuldeep recalled Babar's

wicket: "It is my first World Cup match against Pakistan, so the expectations were a lot. The ball I bowled was a dream ball. The team needed

a wicket because Pakistan was in the middle of a good partnership. Babar and Fakhar bat well against spinners, rotating the strike and attacking when needed. Babar is a good player of spin. Taking his wicket was very important and when Fakhar got out almost immediately, they came under pressure."

Kuldeep's effort finally yanked him out of a middling show in recent times. In the Indian Premier League, turning out for Kolkata Knight Riders, he played nine games, bagged a mere four and had an economy rate of 8.66.

In the World Cup, he had a one for 46 against South Africa and a none for 55 while facing off with the Aussies. By his high standards - an overall tally of 90 wickets in 47 ODIs, the latest skid looked even more pronounced.

Thankfully, the Uttar Pra-

desh spinner regained his sizzle against Pakistan. Explaining his recent performances, Kuldeep said: "I have been bowling well from the first match, I don't ever doubt my skills. This is a 50-over game, it is a very long format, it is not like a T20.

Backing yourself

"Sometimes you bowl well and can still get hit, you may not get wickets. So at that time, it is very important to back yourself. In the match against Australia, I kept the scoring in check. "Although I didn't get wickets, their required rate kept going up. When the ball leaves your hand nicely and slowly, the wickets also start coming."

With Kuldeep seemingly back in the groove and striking a tandem with fellow spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, India has an advantage in the middle-over battles.

England has enough batting reserve

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MANCHESTER

With Jason Roy ruled out, England may have to re-jig its batting order when it squares off against Afghanistan in a World Cup fixture at the Old Trafford on Tuesday.

While Roy will be out of action for the next few games with a hamstring injury, captain Eoin Morgan - who had a sore back in the last fixture - hopes to be available for the clash, even though it would all depend on how he 'pulls up'. The home team, however, will hand a World Cup debut to James Vince and plans to see him as the opener.

Against the West Indies, England showed its depth in batting with Johnny Bairstow and Joe Root - who hammered a ton - stitching a solid opening partnership, and Chris Woakes chipping in with a steady knock of 40 at No.3.

And with chances of

Moeen Ali coming in against an Afghanistan side, which has looked weak so far, England has enough batting in reserve.

Though it came into the tournament with a lot of promise, Afghanistan has had a disappointing campaign so far - losing all four of its games - and against the host, the going could get tougher for the Gulbadin Naib-led side.

For the team from Asia, which is featuring in its second World Cup, nothing has really gone its way.

The batsmen have failed to settle in, while its spin

weapons - Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Zadran - have looked off-colour.

Expectations were riding high on Rashid, but the 19-year-old hasn't had a memorable campaign so far, bagging only three wickets.

But Tuesday's fixture will be played on the same surface used by India and Pakistan on Sunday, which favoured the Indian spinners, and Afghanistan will be hoping to put pressure on the England batting line-up.

England captain Morgan admitted that spin is 'probably Afghanistan's strongest component as a team.'

THE FACE-OFF					
England vs Afghanistan					
OLD TRAFFORD					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	MORGAN	NAIB			
	Eng	Afg	Tied	NR	
Overall	1	1	0	0	0
World Cup	1	1	0	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

Shakib and Liton batter West Indies into submission

Bangladesh capitalises on some shambolic fielding and wayward bowling to canter home with 51 balls to spare

REUTERS
TAUNTON

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan scored his second century in as many World Cup matches and Liton Das cracked an unbeaten 94 (69b, 8x4, 4x6) as they thumped West Indies by seven wickets on Monday.

Chasing 322 for a famous victory, Shakib took complete control with an unbeaten 124 off 99 deliveries, as his ninth ODI century guided Bangladesh home with 51 balls to spare.

The 32-year-old, who became the second Bangladesh player to pass 6,000 runs in ODIs after Tamim Iqbal, made his fourth consecutive 50-plus score to go to the top

Next assignment
BANGLADESH: June 20, vs Australia, Trent Bridge, 3 p.m.
WEST INDIES: June 22, vs New Zealand, Old Trafford, 6 p.m.

of batting chart with 384 runs.

Satisfying

"To stay at the wicket till the end was most satisfying," man-of-the-match Shakib said after leading the second highest successful run chase in World Cup history, matching Bangladesh's effort against Scotland four years ago.

"I've been working on my batting and it's paying off. I

INNINGS SCAN				PROGRESSION			
WI	BAN	WI	BAN	WI	BAN	WI	BAN
2	0	32/1	10 overs	70/1	86/1	20 overs	138/3
20	32	151/2	30 overs	210/3	243/5	40 overs	305/3
11	6	321/8	50 overs	--	116 (2nd)	Best stand	189* (4th)
6.42	RR	7.75					

know if I bat at number three I'll get more opportunities, more time to bat," Shakib said.

After Bangladesh started strongly through openers Tamim (48) and Soumya Sarkar (29), Shakib and Liton added 189 runs for the fourth wicket to take the game away from West Indies.

World Cup debutant Liton, who smashed Shannon Gabriel for three consecutive sixes in the 38th over, scored the winning runs with a boundary off the same bowler.

Hope's patient knock

Earlier, West Indies opener Shai Hope made a patient 96 (121b, 4x4, 1x6) while opener

Evin Lewis and Shimron Hetmyer also made half-centuries to help the Caribbean side post 321 for eight after being asked to bat.

Hope anchored the innings superbly while Lewis hit 70 before Hetmyer's 26-ball 50 and skipper Jason Holder's 33 off 15 balls boosted the West Indies total.

"I thought we were about 40-50 runs short, the wicket played well throughout," Holder said.

"We could have been more disciplined with the ball and we also let ourselves down in the field. It was just a situation where we never got momentum going as we should," said Holder whose team is seventh in the standings.

Shakib... in phenomenal form



2 Shakib (40b) scored the joint second fastest 50 for Bangladesh in the WC, with Mushfiq (vs Afg, Canberra, 2015). His ton is the quickest by a Bangladesh batsman in WC

Liton smashed Gabriel for three successive sixes



2 The 189-run unbeaten stand between Shakib and Liton is the second highest for the fourth wicket in the WC, behind the 204 by Clarke and Hodge (Aus vs Ned, Basseterre, 2007)

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES
Chris Gayle c Mushfiq b Saifuddin 0 (13b), Evin Lewis c sub b Shakib 70 (67b, 6x4, 2x6), Shai Hope c Liton b Mustafizur 96 (121b, 4x4, 1x6), Nicholas Pooran c Sarkar b Shakib 25 (30b, 2x4, 1x6), Shimron Hetmyer c Tamim b Mustafizur 50 (26b, 4x4, 3x6), Andre Russell c Mushfiq b Mustafizur 0 (2b), Jason Holder c Mahmudullah b Saifuddin 33 (15b, 4x4, 2x6), Darren Bravo b Saifuddin 19 (15b, 2x6), Oshane Thomas (not out) 6 (11b); Extras (lb-6, w-16): 22; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 321.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-6 (Gayle, 3.2 overs), 2-122 (Lewis, 24.3), 3-159 (Pooran, 32.2), 4-242 (Hetmyer, 39.3), 5-243 (Russell, 39.6), 6-282 (Holder, 43.4), 7-297 (Hope, 46.6), 8-321 (Bravo, 49.6)

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Mortaza 8-1-37-0, Saifuddin 10-1-72-3, Mustafizur 9-0-59-3, Mehidy 9-0-57-0, Mosaddek 6-0-36-0, Shakib 8-0-54-2.

BANGLADESH
Tamim Iqbal run out 48 (53b, 6x4), Soumya Sarkar c Gayle b Russell 29 (23b, 2x4, 2x6), Shakib Al Hasan (not out) 124 (99b, 16x4), Mushfiqur Rahim c Hope b Thomas 1 (5b), Liton Das (not out) 94 (69b, 8x4, 4x6); Extras (b-1, w-25): 26; Total (for three wkts. in 41.3 overs): 322.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-52 (Sarkar, 8.2), 2-121 (Tamim, 17.3), 3-133 (Mushfiq, 18.6).
WEST INDIES BOWLING
Cottrell 10-0-65-0, Holder 9-0-62-0, Russell 6-0-42-1, Gabriel 8.3-0-78-0, Thomas 6-0-52-1, Gayle 2-0-22-0.
Toss: Bangladesh. **MoM:** Shakib.

*till the West Indies-Bangladesh match on June 17

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

IN BRIEF



Henderson on top of Canadian heap

NEW YORK
Brooke Henderson fired a two-under 69 on Sunday to grab a one-stroke victory at the LPGA Meijer Classic, becoming the winningest Canadian golfer in history with her ninth career crown. Henderson had been level with Sandra Post, former Masters champion Mike Weir and George Knudson on eight victories until capturing her second Meijer title in three seasons. It was the second title of the year for the 21-year-old prodigy, who also took the LPGA Lotte Championship in April in Hawaii. AFP



Olympic silver medallist Kirwa banned for doping

PARIS
Kenya-born Bahraini Eunice Jepkirui Kirwa, who won marathon silver at the Rio Olympics in 2016, has been suspended for four years for doping, the Athletics Integrity Unit announced on Monday. Kirwa had been provisionally banned since May after the prohibited blood-booster EPO was detected in her blood sample. Her four-year suspension is backdated to May 7, 2019. The 35-year-old finished second in Rio behind Kenya's Jemima Sumgong, who was banned for eight years in January for attempting to hinder an investigation into her use of EPO by supplying false documents. AFP



Garcia hangs on for seventh career title

NOTTINGHAM
France's Caroline Garcia claimed her first title of 2019 by holding off Donna Vekic 2-6, 7-6(4), 7-6(4) to win the Nottingham Open on Sunday. Garcia needed to polish off her semifinal against American Jennifer Brady in the morning 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 after rain played havoc with the schedule. The heavy load appeared to take its toll as Croatian Vekic romped through the opening set of the final. However, Garcia composed herself to hang on for her seventh career singles title. AFP

Woodland bags his first Major title

Tops a clutch of 31 players returning under par totals

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PEBBLE BEACH (USA)

Gary Woodland won the 119th US Open on Sunday, capturing his first Major title with a 13-under total to deny two-time defending champion Brook Koepka's bid for history here.

Woodland punctuated the victory with a birdie bomb at 18, a final flourish in a display of back-nine fortitude that saw him convert a 54-hole lead for the first time in eight career attempts.

Special finish

"Once that went in, it all kind of came out of me, it was special to finish it off here at Pebble Beach," said Woodland, who threw his arms in the air then pumped his fist.

He knew his total was one better than the 12-under posted by Tiger Woods in his US Open victory in 2000. But 19 years ago, Woods was the only player under par, marching to victory by a massive 15 strokes while Woodland topped a leader-



One to cherish: Gary Woodland's display of back-nine fortitude saw him convert a 54-hole lead for the first time in eight career attempts. AFP

board that featured 31 players under par. Most dangerous was Koepka, trying to become just the second player – and the first in more than a century – to win the US Open three straight times. He started the day four

strokes off Woodland's lead and immediately applied pressure with four birdies on his first five holes. But his three-under 68 left him three strokes shy on 10-under 274.

Koepka did grab a slice of US Open history, becoming the fourth player to complete

four rounds in the 60s. Minutes later, Woodland became the fifth with a final scoreline of 68, 65, 69, 69.

England's Justin Rose, who started the day one shot behind Woodland, struggled to a three-over 74 to finish tied for third on seven-under

Who is Woodland?

Born in **Topeka, Kansas (USA)**
Age 35
Turned professional in **2007**
Best finish before 2019 US Open win: Tied-6th, 2018 PGA Championship
Career titles: 4 (2011 Transitions Championship, 2013 Reno-Tahoe Open, 2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open, 2019 US Open)
Played Division II basketball at Washburn University
Won two high school state basketball championship titles at Shawnee Heights HS
One of the longest hitters on the PGA Tour

with Americans Xander Schauffele and Chez Reavie and Spain's Jon Rahm.

Woodland, who admitted he used to have trouble handling the rush of adrenaline in pressure situations, displayed impressive poise on a day when plenty of players

Record-breaking Lloyd propels USA into last 16

Scores twice in the first-half

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Carli Lloyd became the first player to score in six consecutive Women's World Cup matches as the United States brushed aside Chile 3-0 on Sunday to secure a passage into the last 16.

One-sided

The winning margin might not have been near to its record-breaking 13-0 hammering of Thailand in its opening Group F game, but this was still an extremely one-sided victory for the holder.

Lloyd netted twice in the first-half either side of a Julie Ertz goal, as the USA joined Sweden – which downed Thailand 5-1 earlier – in qualifying for the knockout phase from the group.

USA's goal difference is such that a draw against Sweden in Le Havre on Thursday will see it advance in first place.



Glimmering show: USA's Carli Lloyd became the first player to score in six consecutive Women's World Cup matches. AFP

Hat-trick hero in the 2015 final win over Japan, Lloyd squandered the chance to get a third goal in this game as she missed a late penalty, but her double still took her into the record books.

The 36-year-old has now overtaken the mark of Birgit Prinz, the German who found the net at five consecutive matches at the 2003 World Cup.

Lloyd opened the scoring in the 11th minute, volleying home first-time on her left foot after a headed clearance by Su Helen Gaez fell to her at the edge of the box.

The second came in the 26th minute as Ertz met a corner from the right with a brilliant near-post header which Chile goalkeeper Christiane Endler got a touch to but could not keep out.

The result: USA 3 (Lloyd 11, 35, Ertz 26) **bt Chile 0.**
Tuesday's matches: Jamaica vs Australia; Italy vs Brazil (both 00:30 a.m., Wednesday).

Qatar scripts remarkable comeback

Uruguay starts campaign with a hammering of Ecuador



The equaliser: Qatar's Boualem Khoukhi's strike helped the Asian Cup champion share points with Paraguay. REUTERS

COPA AMERICA

REUTERS
RIO DE JANEIRO

Qatar fought its way back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Paraguay in its first ever Copa America game on Sunday, proving it will be no pushover in the tournament by pulling off a thrilling revival at a near-empty Maracana stadium.

The 2022 World Cup host is one of two guest teams at the South American championship along with Japan.

However, its debut got off to a nightmare start when Paraguay's Oscar Cardozo smashed in from the penalty spot in the fourth minute.

Qatar caused its opponent plenty of problems but after Cardozo had another strike ruled out after a VAR-review, the Asian Cup cham-

panion conceded again when Derlis Gonzalez scored early in the second half with a long-range rocket.

Striker Almoez Ali made amends for spurning an earlier sitter by pulling his side back into the game with a distance strike which looped into the net in the 68th minute.

Nine minutes later, Boualem Khoukhi levelled with a scrappy finish.

In a Group C match at Belo Horizonte, Uruguay crushed Ecuador 4-0 in its opener with help from an early sending off that deflated its opponent and assured the 15-times champion the simplest of starts.

Uruguay was already leading 1-0 from a sixth minute when Jose Quintero was shown a VAR-assisted red card for

throwing an arm in an aerial challenge.

The 23rd minute sending off put Uruguay firmly in the driving seat and Edinson Cavani with an acrobatic volley and Luis Suarez with a poacher's goal made it 3-0 by half-time.

The Uruguayans took their foot off the pedal in an uneventful second half but an own goal from Arturo Mina 12 minutes from time, confirmed by VAR, sealed a miserable night for Ecuador.

The result puts Uruguay on top of group, with Japan and Chile being the other teams.

The results: Group B: At Rio de Janeiro: Paraguay 2 (Cardozo 4-pen, Gonzalez 56) draw with Qatar 2 (Ali 68, Khoukhi 77).
Group C: At Belo Horizonte: Uruguay 4 (Lodeiro 6, Cavani 33, Suarez 44, Mina 78-og) bt Ecuador 0.

'You got this, Woodland'

Gary Woodland took inspiration from Special Olympics golfer Amy Bockerstette, who played the 16th hole at the Waste Management Phoenix Open a few months ago.

Amy, who has Down's Syndrome, managed to make par on the practice hole, confidently told Woodland "I got this" before making tough shots.

Before Woodland's third round at the US Open, Amy tweeted to Woodland: "You got this." After his triumph, Wood-



Amy Bockerstette. COURTESY: AMY BOCKERSTETTE/TWITTER

land spoke to Amy on Facetime from the media centre. "I used your positive energy, you were awesome," he told her.

were pressing on a receptive Pebble Course.

Louis Oosthuizen got to nine-under. So did Adam Scott. Only Rory McIlroy was going backwards, the Northern Ireland star's bid doomed by a brace of double-bogeys.

Too little too late

Even Tiger Woods got on the birdie bandwagon with six birdies on his last 12 holes. But after four bogeys on his first five, it was too little too late, the 15-time Major winner finishing two-under and

11 shots off the pace.

"Gary played a great four days. Cool way to go out on 18, to make that bomb," Koepka said.

"He deserves it, he's worked hard and I'm happy for him."

The results: 271: Gary Woodland (USA) 68, 65, 69, 69; **274:** Brooks Koepka (USA) 69, 69, 68, 68; **277:** Jon Rahm (Esp) 69, 70, 70, 68; Xander Schauffele (USA) 66, 73, 71, 67; Chez Reavie (USA) 68, 70, 68, 71; Justin Rose (Eng) 65, 70, 68, 74; **278:** Adam Scott (Aus) 70, 69, 71, 68; Louis Oosthuizen (RSA) 66, 70, 70, 72.

Divij and Demoliner make the main draw

SPORTS BUREAU
HALLE

Divij Sharan and Marcelo Demoliner of Brazil grabbed the lone qualifier spot for the doubles in the Noventi Open ATP 500 tennis tournament here. The Indo-Brazilian pair will play Oliver Marach and Jürgen Melzer of Austria in the pre-quarterfinals.

In the Fever-Tree Championships ATP 500 event on grass in London, Prajnesh Gunneswaran was beaten 6-1, 6-4 by James Ward of Britain in the first qualifying round.

The results: €2,219,150 Noventi Open, Halle, Germany: Qualifying doubles (second and final round): Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Divij Sharan bt Matthew Ebden (Aus) & Denis Kudla (US) 6-4, 6-4; **First round:** Demoliner & Divij bt Laslo Djere (Srb) & Benoit Paire (Fra) 6-2, 6-7(1), [10-8].

€ 2,219,150 Fever-Tree Championships, London: Qualifying singles (first round): James Ward (GBR) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-1, 6-4.

\$54,160 Challenger, Fergana, Uzbekistan: Singles (first round): Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) bt Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-4; Altug Celikbilek (Tur) bt Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-3, 6-4.

Lyngdoh back with BFC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Former Bengaluru FC midfielder Eugeneson Lyngdoh has rejoined the club on a one-year deal, it was announced here on Monday. The 32-year-old, who spent three years at BFC, signed for Kolkata side ATK in 2017 but now returns to Bengaluru.

"Ever since I first signed for Bengaluru FC I knew I was making the right decision. Now that I'm here again I want to relive those moments and create new ones," said Lyngdoh, who becomes the club's third Indian signing for the season after youngsters Prabhshukhan Singh Gill and Suresh Wangjam.

Shillong-born Lyngdoh, who originally arrived at BFC in 2014 from Rangda-

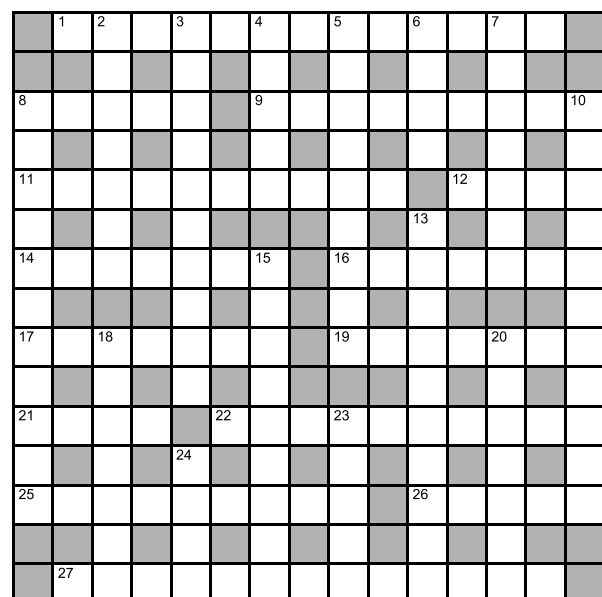


Eugeneson Lyngdoh. FILE PHOTO

joined United, was a fan favourite at BFC, as he went on to establish himself in the side under Ashley Westwood.

He won one I-League title and two Federation Cups with the club, and was even named AIFF Player of the Year in 2015.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12655

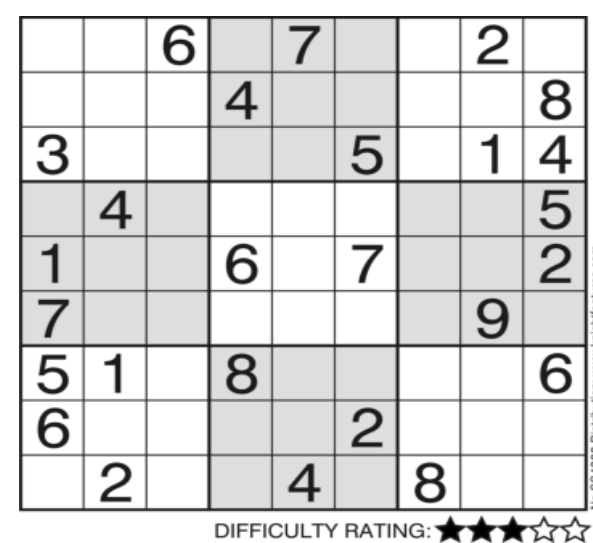


ACROSS

- 1 Leave the queue and misbehave (4,3,2,4)
- 8 Dim student breaks shoulder (5)
- 9 Fierce rogue snatches idiot's meaty dish (9)
- 11 Self-absorbed nut avoiding college to consume spirit (10)
- 12 Hard for fellow in panic to understand (4)

- (set by Dr. X)
- 14 Good wine for family (7)
 - 16 Amateur through analysis virtually flies an aircraft (7)
 - 17 Regular patron in a scrap with character outside (7)
 - 19 On the contrary, cooked me a fantastic Japanese dish (7)
 - 21 Waif's outfit kept in that case (2,2)
 - 22 Moment when violence flares up following strike on location (10)
 - 25 Being sexy, entices giddy youngsters on vacation to go out (9)
 - 26 Not right mocking Greek architectural style (5)
 - 27 Presenting gold case and band featuring a solitary in the middle (13)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Fix match! Go under, giving away runs (3,4)
 - 3 Be responsible for what might be displayed in a shop selling domestic animals (10)
 - 4 Incompetent fellow in assembly (5)
 - 5 Start to speak clutching one drink (9)
 - 6 Completely avoids conservative bank (4)
 - 7 Clever to embrace very upset wife – that's easily done (2,5)
 - 8 Start a conversation with techie? (5,3,3)
 - 10 Brexitier say, planning secret coup around island (11)
 - 13 Discourage fool chasing girl on stage (10)
 - 15 Bit of deluge flooding southern residences (9)
 - 18 Model wearing more vibrant lingerie (7)
 - 20 Go in van around French city (7)
 - 23 Strikes back holding oriental weapon (5)
 - 24 A thug sadly kills girl in American state (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12654
HOTONTHESTRAILL
UNRLLANN
DITTO APERTURES
ERCMCEU
EMANCIPATE WINO
PGASTRINP
PLEASED OPENSUP
GATIENP
KEENPSTOLLEN
EASYHEARTTHROB
TTPRACKKA
SPUNAYARNAGING
DWDCRIN
GOESTOTHEOLOGS

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
785946312
216853497
934127658
148679235
367582941
592314786
659738124
471295863
823461579

FAITH

They felt His presence

One stormy night, the first three Azhvars, Poigai Azhvar, Bhootatazhvar and Peyazhvar, took shelter in a small verandah of a house, one after another, eventually leaving only standing space for all three. But another presence was soon felt, and the three Azhvars through their verses showed who that other One was, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse.

Poigai Azhvar in his verse said that he used the earth as a lamp, the oceans as the oil and the Sun as the spark to light a lamp. Why does he talk of the earth, the oceans and the Sun? The earth holds so many riches – gold, precious stones, minerals and so on. Who put them all there? There are many creatures living in the oceans. Who made them live there? The waves hit against the shore all the time, only to go back. Who made them behave in this repetitive fashion? The Sun rises in the East and sets in the West. There is no change in this routine. Who made this happen? The answer to that is that the Supreme One – Lord Narayana – made all this happen. The Azhvars had knowledge of the Supreme One, as described in the Vedas, which enabled them to enjoy the greatness of the Lord by observing many things of this world.

Bhootatazhvar used his love as a lamp; the ghee he used was his eagerness to see the Lord; his thoughts of the Lord served as the spark to light the lamp, showing us that love for Him is important. The third Azhvar – Peyazhvar – described what he saw in the light of the lamps lit by the other two Azhvars. He said joyfully that he had seen the Lord. The Azhvars thus used nature to marvel at His greatness although they already had understood Him through Vedas.