

Nagaland brings ILP in Dimapur

November 21, 1979, is the cut-off date for people from outside

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Even as the Lok Sabha debated the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, on Monday, the Nagaland government extended the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to Dimapur, the commercial hub of the State.

The decision makes it mandatory for “every non-indigenous person” who entered the district after November 21, 1979, to obtain an ILP within 90 days.

The notification said non-indigenous persons living in Dimapur prior to November 21, 1979, would have to produce documents as evidence to get a certificate from the Deputy Commissioner for exemption from the permit system.

Except Dimapur, the ILP has been applicable to the rest of Nagaland. Known as



Rage of a region: People protesting during the 12-hour Assam bandh called by the North East Students' Organisation in Guwahati on Tuesday. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

“mini India”, Dimapur district has a mixed population.

Exempt from CAB

Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, protected by the ILP requirement, have been exempted from the provisions of the CAB along with the whole of Meghalaya, Mizoram and the tribal areas of Tripura and Assam as covered in the Sixth Schedule of the Consti-

tion. Residents of other States have to mandatorily obtain an ILP to visit the protected States.

On Monday, Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha that Manipur would be brought under the ILP system, exempting it from provisions of the CAB. Except non-tribal areas in Assam and Tripura, the entire northeast has been exempted from the CAB.

There have been protests across the northeastern States against the Bill that nullifies the 1985 Assam Accord, which called for detection and deportation of anyone who entered the State after March 24, 1971. The Bill makes the Accord redundant as it is likely to benefit non-Muslims among the over 19 lakh people excluded from the National Register of Citizens.

720 eminent people flay CAB, NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than 720 writers, actors and activists have spoken out against both the Citizenship Amendment Bill and the NPR-NRC, calling them “ill-conceived.”

In a statement signed by Justices P.B. Sawant (SC ret'd.), Hosbet Suresh (Bombay HC ret'd.) and B.G. Kolse Patil (ex-Bombay HC), and Javed Akhtar, Harsh Mander, Aparna Sen and Swami Agnivesh, among others, the group said: “We must unequivocally reject CAB 2019 and at the same time in the same breath, NPR/NRC.”

“For the first time there is a statutory attempt to not just privilege peoples from some faiths but at the same time relegate another, Muslims, to second-rate status,” noted the group.

“...the present government appears intent on causing huge upheavals within Indian society.”

U.S. panel recommends sanctions against Amit Shah

‘Bill sets a legal criterion for citizenship based on religion’

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

In the wake of the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha, the U.S. International Commission on Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has expressed concern over it and considered recommending sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other top leaders.

“If the CAB passes in both Houses of Parliament, the United States government should consider sanctions against the Home Minister and other principal leadership,” a December 9 statement from the USCIRF said.

The Commission, an independent and bi-partisan federal government body, called the Bill’s passage “deeply troubling”.

“The CAB enshrines a pathway to citizenship for immigrants that specifically

If the CAB passes in both Houses of Parliament, the United States government should consider sanctions against the Home Minister and other principal leadership

U.S. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

excludes Muslims, setting a legal criterion for citizenship based on religion. The CAB is a dangerous turn in the wrong direction; it runs counter to India’s rich history of secular pluralism and the Indian Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law regardless of faith,” it said.

“In conjunction with the ongoing National Register of Citizens (NRC) process in As-

sam and nationwide NRC that the Home Minister seeks to propose, USCIRF fears that the Indian government is creating a religious test for Indian citizenship that would strip citizenship from millions of Muslims,” it said.

Not warranted: India

In response, the External Affairs Ministry said India had the prerogative to validate its citizenry through various policies like any other country. “The statement made by the USCIRF is neither accurate nor warranted. The Bill provides expedited consideration for Indian citizenship to persecuted religious minorities already in India from certain contiguous countries...,” said Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

JD(U) leaders slam party for supporting Citizenship Bill

It violates secular principle, say Prashant Kishor, Pavan Verma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, in the Lok Sabha on Monday has sent ripples across BJP ally Janata Dal(U), with party vice-president Prashant Kishor and national general secretary Pavan Verma expressing disappointment over the party’s support for the Bill.

In a tweet late on Monday night, Mr. Kishor sought to underscore that the Bill was “incongruous” with the constitution of the party, headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, which swore by secularism and Gandhian ideals.

“Disappointed to see JDU supporting #CAB that discriminates right of citizenship on the basis of religion. It’s incongruous with the party’s constitution that car-



Prashant Kishor

ries the word secular thrice on the very first page and the leadership that is supposedly guided by Gandhian ideals,” the poll strategist-turned-politician tweeted.

Mr. Verma too took to the micro blogging site on Tuesday to express much the same. “I urge Shri Nitish Kumar to reconsider support to the CAB in Rajya Sabha. The Bill is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and against the unity and harmony of the

country, apart from being against the secular principles of the JD(U). Gandhiji would have strongly disapproved of it,” he tweeted.

Party unfazed

While the party did not comment specifically on Mr. Kishor or Mr. Verma’s comments, Rajya Sabha member and JD(U) Bihar unit chief Bashishtha Narayan Singh said the party was keeping to its stance of supporting the Bill in the Rajya Sabha as well. “There is a line the party has taken and will keep to it,” Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Participating in the debate on the Bill, the party’s leader in Lok Sabha, Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh, said the JD(U) was supporting the legislation since it was “not against secularism”.

Congress hints at moving Supreme Court on CAB

Bill is unconstitutional, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) was passed in the Lok Sabha, the Congress on Tuesday targeted the government. The party appeared to be preparing to move the top court on the issue, as the Opposition may not have the numbers to stall the Bill’s passage in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet, “The #CAB is an attack on the Indian Constitution. Anyone who supports it is attacking and attempting to destroy the foundation of our nation.”

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said the Supreme Court would now be the battleground of the contentious Bill, as “elected representatives had abdicated their responsibility”. “CAB is unconstitutional. Parliament passes a Bill that is patently



Rahul Gandhi

unconstitutional and the battleground shifts to the Supreme Court,” he said in a tweet.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said in a tweet, “Last night at midnight, India’s tryst with bigotry and narrow minded exclusion was confirmed as the CAB was passed in the Lok Sabha. Our forefathers gave their lifeblood for our freedom. In that freedom, is enshrined the right to equality, and the right to freedom of religion.”

Sena to oppose Bill in RS, seeks clarity on queries

The party voted for the Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

In a political somersault, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced on Tuesday that the Shiv Sena would oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha till there was clarity on the queries posed by the party during the debate in the Lok Sabha.

On Monday, the Sena had voted with the government on the Bill.

Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Mr. Thackeray said a detailed discussion on the Bill was necessary. “We need to change this notion that one who supports the Bill and the BJP is a patriot and one who opposes it is anti-national. The government should answer all the issues raised on the Bill,” he said.

The change in stance of



Uddhav Thackeray

the Shiv Sena with three members will not alter the equation in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress with 46 members, Trinamool (13), SP (nine), TRS (six), DMK (five), NCP (four), RJD (four), CPI (M) (five), BSP (four), AAP (three), PDP (two) and JD(S), CPI, MDMK, IUML and Kerala Congress(M) (one each) are opposed to the Bill. With two Independents and one nominated member, they have a total of 109.

The BJP, which is the lar-

gest party in the Rajya Sabha with 83 members, has the support of the AIADMK (11), BJD (seven), JD(U) (six), Akali Dal (three), TDP and YSR Congress Party (two each), and Sikkim Democratic Front, Bodoland People’s Front, Naga People’s Front, Lok Janshakti Party, RPI, PMK and AGP (one each), along with four Independents and three nominated members. Together they stand at 128.

According to sources, Sena MPs were originally instructed to abstain from voting. The decision was changed at the last moment under pressure from a senior Lok Sabha member of the party. The displeasure of the NCP and the Congress over the difference of opinion was conveyed to Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut.

Baahubali 2 in Hindi is the biggest Bollywood film of the decade

NAMRATA JOSHI

Bollywood's box office business (nett domestic) may have more than doubled from 2010 to 2019 – from about ₹1,700 crore to about ₹4,000 crore – but the biggest success story of the decade is not a Hindi film. According to the box office numbers compiled by Mumbai-based media consulting firm, Ormax Media, it's the Hindi dubbed version of the Telugu-Tamil bilingual *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion* that has raked in the most money for Bollywood. Ormax Media estimates the Hindi version's nett domestic box office earnings to be ₹510 crore, which is ₹135 crore more than the second biggest earner of the decade *Dangal*.

It's interesting to note that none of the top 20 earners are led by female actors. Women-centric films, that too only two, feature in the list of the most liked films of the decade (based on positive Word of Mouth generated) with Kangana Ranaut's *Queen* perched at the ninth position and Vidya Balan's *Kahaani* down at No. 17.

While the footfalls have been stagnant in the ₹28-32 crore range for the last seven to eight years, the increase in nett earnings for the Hindi film industry has come largely because of a steady year-on-year increase in the ticket price and a more friendly tax structure because of Goods and Services Tax (GST). "The average ticket price today is about ₹140, compared to less than ₹100 in 2010," says Shailesh Kapoor, CEO and founder of Ormax Media.

Star power

While Salman Khan, with almost six films in the top 20 grossers' list, is the top male star of the decade,



Over 10 years: (Clockwise from below) Stills from *Baahubali 2*; *Uri* and *Tees Maar Khan* •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the last 10 years, Salman Khan has emerged as the biggest male star, Katrina Kaif as best female star and *Tum hi ho* the most popular song



Akshay Kumar has left the other two Khans – SRK and Aamir – behind to occupy the number two position. Kumar is also second after Ranveer Singh in the list of the ris-

ing male stars of the decade compiled on the basis of the growth in their popularity in 2015-2019 as against 2010-2014.

Katrina Kaif is the female star of the decade followed by Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt. Alia followed by Deepika and Kareena head the rising female star list.

The most popular soundtrack of the decade is the music for *Aashiqui 2* with *Tum hi ho* sung by Arijit Singh at number one; and *Sunn raha hai na tu* by Ankit Tiwari at the third spot. The list, otherwise, has a number of item numbers strewn all over – *Munni badnaam hui* (*Dabangg*, 2010); *Sheila ki jawani* (*Tees Maar Khan*, 2010); *Baby doll* (*Ragini MMS 2*, 2014); *Chikni chameli*



(*Agneepath*, 2012); *Chittiyaaan kalaiyan* (*Roy*, 2015).

In vogue

What have been the big trends for the Hindi film industry in the last decade and what will be the future determinants? The ex-

plosion of digital content/OTT platforms in the latter half of the decade has meant that it's either the big budget films like *Baahubali* and *War*, which offer a big-screen experience, that have been performing well in cinemas or it's concept films like *Badhaai Ho* that have stood out. The middle-of-the-road content is not getting traction because the audience would rather watch it online later," says Kapoor.

It's not just the language films like *Baahubali* that are setting the benchmark for Bollywood. An important shift this decade has been the growth of the Hollywood business in India, which has tripled from 2010 to 2019. Says Kapoor: "It has created more exposure to international content, often in dubbed formats, making the viewers expect a certain quality of production, VFX and storytelling from Indian content too."

PEOPLE

Of all the jazz clubs

Love, loss, war and the fight for freedom come together in Sharbari Zohra Ahmed's debut novel



In Sharbari Zohra Ahmed's *Dust Beneath her Feet*, Yasmine Khan, 26-year-old proprietor of the Bombay Duck, has created a home away from home for a vibrant cast of characters. There is Asma who imagines she's a character out of Bronte novel; Patience, the good-time girl; and Radhika, who is light on her feet and has darkness in her mind. It is Kolkata in 1942 and the city swarms with American soldiers. "Yasmine wanted to create an environment for the American soldiers that was similar to something that might have been in New York – a nightclub with singing, dancing, food and drink," says Sharbari. "When the Americans started coming in, a separate economy had to be created to entertain and house them."

Dust Beneath her Feet tells the story of Yasmine and Edward Lafaver, an American soldier, set against the backdrop of momentous events. The 48-year-old author says, "I didn't set out to write a feminist text. I think these women are feminists. I was focused on the characters and their story, of this independent woman falling for this American soldier in the twilight of the Raj."



The Connecticut-based writer insists that people who have criticised the book as looking at feminism, race and gender through a modern lens are misguided. "If they knew anything about the women who would have worked in a club like Bombay Duck, they would see that these women were much more modern some women today.

They are financially independent; some had opportunities to marry, which they deliberately turned down because it would mean the loss of their freedom. They were well educated, well read, politically savvy and schooled in the art of conversation."

Sharbari says there is no attempt to exoticise India. "I don't think there is anything exotic about war, famine or deprivation, not to mention institutional bigotry and oppression. The West has a tradition of romanticizing the Raj but it was cataclysmic for our people. I show the women as whole people, flawed, glorious and human."

Describing the beginnings, Sharbari says, "Yasmine showed up, started poking at me saying 'I have a story'. I couldn't get her out of my head. I am still not sure what she looked like. Yasmine is more of a feeling. I started writing 15 years ago. I was a very different writer then, much younger, still idealistic... Many things happened in between, life happened and then I started writing for television and that was a very consuming job."

In the process of adapting the novel into a screenplay, Sharbari's dream cast includes Kalki Koechlin for Patience and Rekha as Shireen, Yasmine's no-nonsense mum.

MINI ANTIHAK CHHIBBER

FOOD REVIEW

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

All through the '70s and '80s there were only two cuisines that dominated the Delhi restaurant scene, Indian (predominantly Mughlai) and Chinese. Of course, we had our own version of Chinese food, which became so popular and famous that there exist Indo-Chinese restaurants in Manhattan and New Jersey. But we struggled with authentic Chinese restaurants.

Back in the day, there were only three restaurants for the real deal: House of Ming at the Taj Mansingh, which still exists with an almost un-



On offer Oriental (Clockwise from extreme left) Chicken Char Sui Dumplings; Prawn Crystal Hargao; Sichuan Braised Pork Belly; chef Zheng Wei •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was too thick and the fillings poor. Whilst the Prawn Hargao was okay, the filling in the pan-fried lamb sticklers tasted like *desi* keema. The water chestnut and taro dumpling was a lump of pastry with some chestnuts thrown in and was tasteless.

The Beijing Roast Duck is also avoidable. The meat was cold; there was no crispy skin and it felt as if the condiments and duck had just been thrown on to the plate. The Crispy Pork Ribs were no better – no crispiness or crunch, and poor flavours. The exotic mushrooms in mala sauce was the nail in the coffin so to speak. Insipid at best. Mala sauce is meant to be an oily, spicy and almost numbing sauce. At Yi Jing it was definitely not any of that. Finally, the handmade noodles were more like a fettuccine (cooked al dente) than anything Chinese.

Go with: Someone you need to take to a five-star hotel, but you don't want to pay five-star rates.

Spacebar: 6,000 sq. ft with seating for 112

How much? ₹4,500 for two excluding cocktails

Getting there: The first floor of the Sheraton, Saket. Best to cross the restaurant and enter Dakshin instead.

Still NOT ARRIVED

Delhi's struggle with authentic Chinese food continues

changed menu; Tea House of the August Moon at the Taj Palace, which closed doors in 2009; and Taipan at the Oberoi, which has been replaced by the horribly expensive, Baoshuan.

In the last decade, there have been only two additions to this list, China Kitchen at the Hyatt Regency (which, by the way, is introducing a new hot pot option which I've tried and is fantastic) and Shang Palace at the Shangri-La's-Eros Hotel.

So when I heard that a new Chinese restaurant has opened at the Sheraton New Delhi, which boasts of the fabulous south Indian restaurant, Dakshin, I was very excited. Yi Jing (Mandarin for, to change the classic), claims to serve Chinese food "incorporating traditional cooking techniques... in refreshing and inventive ways". However, despite the charming manager, Abhinav Kumar, and his colleague Teresa, the food reminded me of

Mainland China, on a bad day.

The vibe: It felt as if halfway through the project, the budgets were cut. The designs are grand, a private dining room to accommodate 16 with its own bar and large balcony, a separate hot pot section and a Tie Ban (iron plate, similar to teppanyaki) counter. But then the tables, the chairs and sofas all seemed poor. The red crystal chandeliers seemed cheap, but were probably authentic – made in China?

Do try: The Sichuan Chilli Chicken, which was delicately fried and had the awesome hit you get from Sichuan Pepper. The White Chocolate and Ginger Cheesecake, which is served like an ice cream bar. Innovative and with a good balance of flavours.

Skip: The dimsums – the skin



5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CONCERT

Guitar duet

Internationally acclaimed Australian guitar music duo, Grigoryan Brothers, will be performing this evening. The brothers, Slava and Leonard Grigoryan, working professionally as a duo for 16 years, are popular for the breadth of their repertoire embracing genres such as classical, jazz and contemporary music.

VENUE: Multipurpose Hall, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Canvas

The ongoing solo art show titled *Mysterious Lines* by Lucknow-based Dheeraj Yadav conveys the intensity of human emotion. Curated by Vandana Sehgal, the artist paints his subject on a related book and blends the physicality metaphorically through colours and thoughts which get inscribed.

VENUE: Art Konsult Gallery, Hauz Khas Village
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

Winter special

Playboy Tap Bar and Kitchen, a restaurant in Gurugram, has rolled out its new food menu for the onset of winter. On till 15th December, the menu offers signature dishes like Avacado Cucumber Salad, Mezze Platter, New Orleans Grilled Chicken Pizza, Wok Tossed Tiger Prawns, Olive Tapenade Grilled Fish, to name a few.

VENUE: Global Foyer Mall, Sector 43
TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

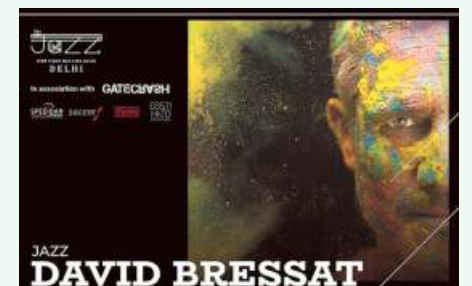


EXHIBITION

Art

Iss ghat antar baag bagiche is a homage to Haku Shah, the reticent artist who grew up imbibing the Gandhian philosophy. Eighty works from the archive of the late artist including paintings, sculptures and work from the series Nitya Gandhi/ *Living Reliving Gandhi* are on display.

VENUE: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, South Court Mall, Saket 145, DLF
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



GIG

Jaaz

The Piano Man Gurugram is hosting David Bressat Quintet live tonight. The pianist and composer David Bressat, who has been on the jazz scene for 15 years, will play originals from his albums. The band comprises bassist Florent Nisse, drummer Charles Clayette, saxophonist Eric Prost, and trumpeter Aurélien Joly.

VENUE: 32nd avenue, Sector 15 Part 2
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



TATA ALTROZ XZ DIESEL SPECIFICATIONS	
LENGTH	3990mm
WIDTH	1755mm
HEIGHT	1523mm
WHEELBASE	2501mm
KERB WEIGHT	1150kg
ENGINE	1497cc, 4-cyl, turbo-diesel
POWER	90hp at 4000rpm
TORQUE	200Nm at 1250-3000rpm
GEARBOX	5-speed manual
TYRES	185/60 R16

NIKHIL BHATIA

In a nutshell, the Altroz is Tata's answer to the Maruti Suzuki Baleno, Hyundai i20 and Honda Jazz. The Altroz not only marks Tata's entry into the competitive premium hatchback segment, but is also the launch vehicle for their all-new modular ALFA (Agile, Light, Flexible, Advanced) architecture that will form the basis for a slew of new Tatas to come. The Altroz also happens to be the first Tata to get BS-VI-compliant engines – a 1.2-litre naturally-aspirated petrol and a 1.5-litre turbo-diesel – paired with manual gearboxes for now.

While the Altroz's silhouette is conventional hatchback, the multiple stylistic flourishes on the body work cohesively to elevate the overall look of the car. The shark nose-like front end, the black-finished sleek grille, the swept-back headlights and high-set fog lamps (also home to the LED DRLs) give the Altroz its distinctive face.

Moving to the sides, the upswept windows come underlined by a black embellishment that tapers towards the rear, in effect, giving the illusion of a car with a sporty tipped-forward stance. What is sure to be a bit polarising is the placement of the rear door handles on the C-pillar.

Round the back, the Altroz gets a dual-tone theme, with the spoiler, tail-light surround and upper tail gate finished in black. Buyers also have the option of a black roof for the full effect (XZ trim only).

Each of the Altroz's four doors opens to 90 degrees, and getting into the front section of the cabin is particularly easy. The Altroz's dash has a layered look to it, with the centre console featuring turquoise back-lighting. The free-standing 7.0-inch touchscreen is positioned atop the dashboard (in clear sight), and material quality is

Flight of the ALTROZ

A peppier petrol engine, more refinement and a greater focus on connectivity would make the hatchback easier to recommend

good by class standards. However, there are places where the panel gaps aren't consistent.

Large seats mean comfort up front is well taken care of, while the flat-bottomed leather-wrapped steering feels great to hold. Frontal visibility is good, though the thick A-pillars do create blind spots. The part-digital instrumentation also requires some getting used to. The



First view The Altroz makes an immediate impression because of the way it looks
• GAURAV THOMBRE, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

squared-out dials aren't easy enough to follow and the digital tachometer – displayed on a 7.0-inch display – only highlights an engine speed range, rather than a specific rpm. The digital screen also houses an informative multi-information display and what's nice is that it even relays navigation instructions from a connected smartphone.

The cabin also scores well on storage space and gets plenty of cupholders – including within the glovebox, which also has a compartment to stow your tablet – a storage bay under the driver's armrest and even an umbrella holder on each of the front doors.

Getting into the back seat is not as comfy as it's made out to

be. The doors open wide, but the aperture between the seat and B-pillar isn't the largest. The rear cabin doesn't feel as airy or spacious as some rivals, but you really won't have reason to complain on either count. There's enough knee room for six-footers to sit in comfort, and if you sit bolt upright, you will find headroom just about adequate. The relatively high-set rear seat also offers a fairly good view out the windows. There is enough shoulder room to seat three abreast at the back. What also helps is the flat floor, which will be a trait on all ALFA architecture Tata cars.

The high loading lip for the 345-litre boot can make it difficult to load heavy luggage, but the well-shaped boot means you can fit in plenty of stuff. The single-piece rear seat backrest can also be folded to increase room.

Where the Altroz lags behind the curve is in connectivity. There's no eSIM-based connected tech, and even the 7.0-inch screen doesn't work as slick as you'd like it to. The Harman sound system does deliver fair sound quality though.

There's much to like about the way the Altroz drives. The new platform shines immediately, with a great ride and handling balance. The suspension manages

to absorb the rough stuff at low speeds with ease, and the ride improves the faster you go, with the car feeling comfortable and sure-footed at triple-digit speeds. There's a confidence in the way the Altroz changes direction too. Turn-in is slick (better so on the heavier diesel) and there's a lovely feeling of connect at the steering, which is light at low speeds but weights up effectively as speeds increase.

Moving to the petrol engine, the unit is essentially an updated version of the Tigor's 1.2-litre, three-cylinder unit featuring dual variable valve timing and a higher compression ratio. Resultantly, power is up to 86hp while max torque is 113Nm. The figures are par for the course, but overall performance does leave you wanting. Part-throttle responses are pleasant and the engine is earnest at low speeds, but it lacks the pep you get in a Baleno. The engine also doesn't have much to give at the top end and the three-cylinder thrum becomes audible as you rev harder. The 5-speed gearbox isn't the slickest, though a light clutch does make the car easy to live with in town.

It's the diesel that feels like the more complete package. The 1.5-litre, four-cylinder engine is from the Nexon, albeit in a lower 90hp/200Nm state of tune. It can feel a bit hesitant in on-off throttle driving, but it's quick to settle into a rhythm too. The build-up of power is linear from low down, and there's a mild step up closer to 1,800rpm. You'll like the easy access to power and the comfort with which the diesel gets to cruising speeds. Again, this isn't an engine to wind hard – it gets gravely beyond 3,000rpm – but keep it in its comfort zone and you'll manage to rake up the kilometres without much fuss. A point worth highlighting is that the diesel test cars were running on BS-VI-grade diesel brought in from Delhi. The 5-speed gearbox, here too, feels its best with gentle inputs, and the clutch is light enough.

The Altroz makes an immediate impression because of the way it looks. It's got a show value that no other car in this class can match. And that counts for a lot today. It makes for a practical family car too, with a cabin that offers enough by way of space and comfort. As an added plus, it is also good to drive, with arguably the best dynamics among premium hatchbacks.

A peppier petrol engine, better refinement and a greater focus on connectivity are things on our wish list, and are elements that would make the Altroz easier to recommend. What's also a question mark for now is fuel economy. All said, the Tata Altroz has some solid positives and has the potential to make its place in the premium hatchback segment. All that's left is for Tata to price it well. With a price tag between ₹5-8 lakh (estimated, ex-showroom), the Altroz could just upset the apple cart.



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



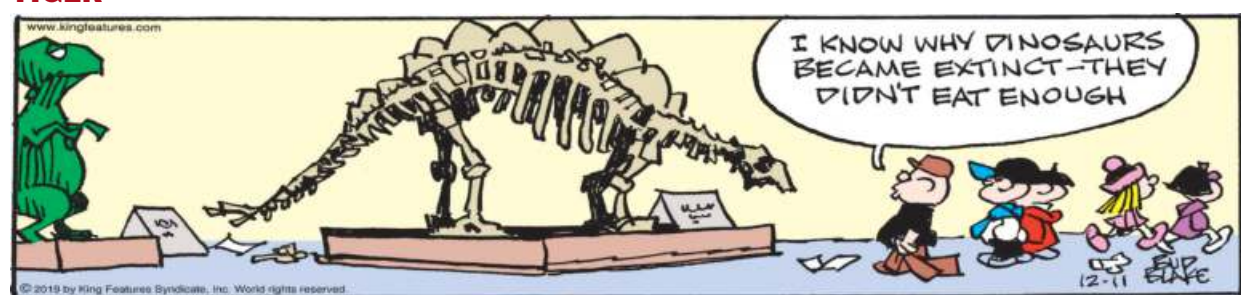
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



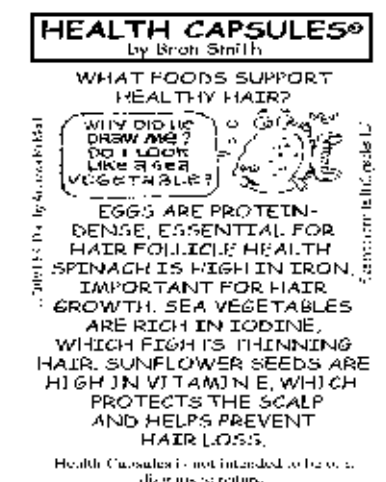
CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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- 2 Go into solution (8)
- 4 Deliver a sermon (6)
- 5 Debauched (10)
- 6 Honey-based drink (4)
- 7 Symbol written on sheet music to indicate pitch (4)
- 10 Scene of uproar and confusion (4,6)
- 12 Unconnected (8)
- 13 Third largest of the Channel Islands (8)
- 16 Coercion (6)
- 18 Fire – bag (4)
- 19 Enthusiastic (4)

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- Across
- 1 Corpse (4)
- 3 Widespread outbreak of disease (8)
- 8 Twilight (4)
- 9 Capital city on the Danube (8)
- 11 Teenage (10)
- 14 Uniform – suffering from gastric distress (6)
- 15 Prolonged distressing experience (6)
- 17 Railing at the side of a balcony (10)
- 20 The Granite City (8)
- 21 Front of the leg below the knee (4)
- 22 Benevolence (8)
- 23 Nervous (4)
- Down
- 1 Easily influenced (8)

B	L	I	N	D	M	A	N	S	B	U	F	F	
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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 12, 2019.

Solution No. 13246

Kohli's men should get their act together

There will be no dearth of support for the Caribbean crusaders

WI IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI
"It's coming home" was the theme song for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, but by the time England started living up to the tag of 'favourites', it had been adopted as the unofficial theme song for the ICC World Cup earlier this year.

The fans in the Maximum City, while entering the Wankhede Stadium for the deciding rubber of the three-match T20I series between India and West Indies, could well be humming the same song. Not just in anticipation of India's series triumph but even with multiple "home" connect the match offers, from both the teams.

Three Indian players – vice-captain Rohit Sharma, middle-order dasher Shreyas Iyer and the new kid on the block Shivam Dube – are Mumbaiers.

Quiet series
While Dube will be keen to continue in the same vein after making his promotion to No. 3 count in Thiruvananthapuram, Rohit and Shreyas will hope to turn things around on their home turf after a relatively quiet series so far.

Thanks to the Indian Pre-



Ready to fire: Rohit Sharma, second from left, and Shreyas Iyer, right, will hope to turn things around on home turf. • VIVEK BENDRE

mier League (IPL), though, support will not be limited to the home team. With Kieron Pollard – who has spent more years in the Mumbai Indians (MI) camp than captain Rohit – leading the West Indies, there will be no dearth of support for the Caribbean crusaders come Wednesday night. Pollard isn't the lone

member in the opposition camp with a strong local connect.

Lendl Simmons, the opener who repeated his World T20 semifinal heroics on Sunday by anchoring a perfect chase, has been a star performer in one of MI's four IPL title-runs. So has Evin Lewis, whose twin knocks so

far would have reinvigorated interest among IPL franchisees for the auction after being released by MI.

If Simmons and Lewis can stage an encore of the strong foundation they laid on Sunday, the Men in Blue will have to play out of their skin in order to avoid the ignominy of conceding the series.

One of the clichés used by teams all around the world is to "focus on our own performance rather than worry about the opposition". Kohli's comrades – most of whom preferred to take it easy with only six turning up for Tuesday's optional practice session – would have to use the same yardstick and

make drastic improvement in their performance to avoid the series from slipping away.

In an effort to build the squad with an eye on the T20 World Cup, India may be giving a long rope to some of the fringe players. It has resulted in errors – not just with bat and ball, but more worryingly in the field – at inopportune times.

If India is to enjoy a home run at the Wankhede, such basic mistakes will have to be eliminated. Otherwise the fans will have to sing "it's coming home" to praise Pollard instead of Kohli.

The teams (from): India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Sanju Samson.

West Indies: Kieron Pollard (Capt.), Lendl Simmons, Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul, Khary Pierre, Denesh Ramdin, Sherfane Rutherford, Hayden Walsh Jr., Fabian Allen, Sheldon Cottrell and Kesrick Williams.

Umpires: Nitin Menon and Nandan; **Third umpire:** C. Shamshuddin; **Fourth umpire:** Anil Chaudhary; **Match referee:** David Boon.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

'My game doesn't change when we bat or bowl first'

Masters of the chase

India has won nearly 70% of the T20 matches in which it batted second while West Indies has managed a win % of just above 40 in games it has chased

Team	Matches	Matches batting 2nd	Wins batting 2nd	% wins batting second
India	125	62	42	67.7
West Indies	118	60	25	41.7

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

It is among the most dominant outfits in world cricket in longer formats, but when it comes to the shortest avatar, the Men in Blue have been consistently inconsistent. One of the major issues to have plagued Virat Kohli and Co. in the last 12 months is the inability to win while batting first.

As much as India's reputed batsmen have failed to put up a formidable total while batting first, as opposed to chasing down gargantuan totals, its bowlers have faltered in defending moderate to sizeable totals.

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma stressed that while he prefers to assess the conditions before starting to play shots, batsmen have to execute the roles assigned to them.

"It also depends on how your partner is batting. It's very, very important that

you complement your partner and specific role has been given to all our batters. We try and stick to that role and yes at times, you need to be different and we all are prepared to do that.

"When we need to approach differently, we are prepared to do that. But the situation should provide us to do that. My game doesn't change when we bat first or bowl first," Rohit said.

Rohit was non-committal whether Shivam Dube's promotion – the left-hander batted at No. 3 in the second T20I – will be persisted with.

"I don't know if it's going to be a long-term plan or just for one game, but everything depends on the composition, what are the bowling options they have.

"Just to change the momentum we did that in the last game. You never know if it will happen in this game or not," Rohit said.

Pollard is a smart leader: Rohit

Proactive with all players, says Windies coach Simmons

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

These are early days for Kieron Pollard as captain of the West Indies' white-ball cricket team.

After an undistinguished start, losing the Twenty20 series 2-1 to Afghanistan in Lucknow recently, the 32-year-old Trinidadian led his team to a 3-0 win in the ODI series.

All along, the all-rounder, who has lit up many an IPL match, knew that the bigger challenge was to come against India.

Pollard, presently the most popular West Indian among fans in India, especially Mumbai, has made a fine impression as captain in the two matches so far.

This was readily acknowledged by his Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma here on Tuesday.

"The West Indies plays well as a team and now is under the leadership of Kieron Pollard whom I know really well.

"As a leader I know what



In control: Kieron Pollard's captaincy skills has come in for appreciation. • VIVEK BENDRE

he expects from his team. Pollard is a smart player.

"When it comes to MI, he has always been part of the leadership group. He's a very smart thinker of the game. He has great knowledge about the game and this helps him handle situations on the ground pretty well," Rohit said.

West Indies coach Phil Simmons pointed out that Pollard is proactive with all players.

"He lets them know exactly what he wants from them. He's been good in the sense that they know that he'll give everything for the team. That's where he's started," said Simmons.

'Don't mess around with Dhoni'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India coach Ravi Shastri says no one can "mess around with" Mahendra Singh Dhoni if he decides to be in contention for next year's T20 World Cup but the former captain would "never impose himself" on the team.

"That (Dhoni) guy is a legend. The last thing he will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him. He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL," Shastri said on the show 'The Inspiration' to be telecast on India Today TV.

Asked if he isn't ruling out a comeback by the 38-year-old, Shastri answered, "The amount of sport he has played... if he puts himself in contention... if he feels after the IPL that 'I am good enough to play for India', don't mess around with that."

Dhoni had recently stated "don't ask anything till January."

National selection committee chairman M.S.K. Prasad has, however, made it



Understanding professional: Ravi Shastri says that M.S. Dhoni will never impose himself on the Indian team.

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

clear that the panel has "moved on" and Dhoni is aware of its intent to blood youngsters such as Rishabh Pant keeping in mind next year's T20 World Cup in Aus-

tralia. Dhoni was seen training with Jharkhand's under-23 team in Ranchi last month, triggering a fresh round of speculation on a possible comeback.

Russian star Lasitskene slams officials over ban

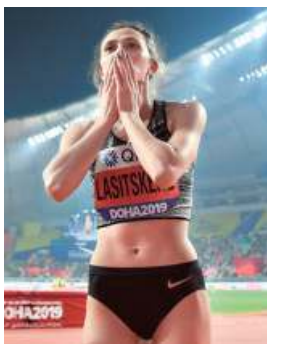
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

One of Russia's top athletes, three-time World champion high jumper Mariya Lasitskene, on Tuesday called sports officials to account after her country was banned for four years from international competition.

In her open letter published by *Championat.com* sports website, Lasitskene, a long-time critic of Russian sports officials, demanded to know who has been punished over the country's doping scandal and the fact that she cannot compete under the Russian flag.

Lasitskene missed the 2016 Rio Olympics because of the doping crisis and had threatened to leave Russia so as not to miss the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

"Have we done an internal investigation?"



Lasitskene. • FILE PHOTO

Who was punished?" Lasitskene asked.

In Paris, Russian President Vladimir Putin slammed the decision as a "politically motivated" ruling that "contradicted" the Olympic Charter.

"There is nothing to reproach the Russian Olympic Committee for and if there is no reproach towards this committee, the country should take part in competitions under its own flag," Putin said.

The man who dignified and illuminated the craft

Neville Cardus learnt the importance of lacing his reports with humour



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Is Neville Cardus relevant today? That's a question asked often. Just the fact that it is being asked is testimony to his significance. As Alan Gibson, writer and commentator said: "All cricket writers have been influenced by Cardus, whether they admit it or not, whether they have wished to be or not, whether they have tried to copy him or tried to avoid copying him.

Changed the course of writing
He was not a model, any more than Macaulay, say, was a model for the aspiring historian. But just as Macaulay changed the course of the writing of history, Cardus changed the course of the writing of cricket. He showed what could be done. He dignified and illuminated the craft."

The pioneer never loses relevance. Now, over four decades after his death, Duncan Hamilton has written a superb biography of this fine writer who just happened to focus on cricket and music. *The Great Romantic: Cricket and the Golden Age of Neville Cardus* earned Hamilton his third William Hill Sports Book of the Year award. Biographer and subject are well matched; Hamilton is the mod-

ern stylist who writes with enviable flow.

Cardus-assessment has veered between hagiography and peremptory dismissal, getting closer to the latter thanks to increasing number of formats and instant communication. Reading cricket reports for their style and elegance is not as popular as getting the running scores on the phone.

Here's Cardus on left-arm spinner Wilfred Rhodes' bowling: "Every ball a decoy, a spy sent out to get the lie of the land; some balls simple, some complex, some easy, some difficult; and one of them – ah! which? – the master ball."

What, nothing about 'dot' balls or strike rates?

Well researched

Hamilton's is a modern biography: definitive, well researched, sympathetic, and with a profound understanding of the times Cardus lived in and wrote about. Cardus aspired to literature; the sport needed that ambition.

In his debunking essay, *Cardus and the Aesthetic Fallacy*, Derek Birley upset legions of Cardus-worshippers; yet even he admitted that "The hankering after aesthetic significance is harmless and often enjoyable."

Hankering after significance is human, after all. No one likes to believe that what he is doing is of no import whatever. To ensure that his work be seen as important, Cardus had to first show that what the cricketer did was important. Performer and recorder

(or critic) need each other more than either is willing to admit.

Witty and intelligent

Cardus may not have planned it that way, but he could not have been unaware of its advantages. His players often came across as witty and intelligent because he was witty and intelligent. It gave heroes a new dimension and drew into the game thousands who might not otherwise have cared for it.

Cardus was self-taught, worked his way up from the slums where he was born to a prostitute. His fans included Bradman and Wodehouse, Pinter and Beckett. The novel of a person of that background going on to receive a knighthood might have been rejected by publishers.

As Hamilton writes, "He managed to transform himself so successfully into the figure he wanted to be all along – a gentleman writer – that the figure he had once been all but vanished... throughout his early life, Cardus purposefully dusted over the tracks of his upbringing even when pretending to come clean about it."

He put words into the mouths of his characters that "god intended to," said Cardus when challenged about some of his quotes. This was perhaps necessary to elevate the craft from the basement of sportswriting to its attic. In his centenary year, I wrote that Cardus was the Dickens of cricket writing, bringing to it characters and dialogues the novelist might have.

Hamilton has dug much deeper. From Dickens, he says, Cardus learnt prolificacy. He learnt how to exploit plot; to create and develop characters. He learnt the importance of lacing his reports with humour. "No one can understand Cardus's approach to cricket writing without also understanding his absorption in Dickens."

Impressionist painter

Commenting on Cardus' description of fast bowler Ted McDonald, Hamilton says, "He admired him in paragraphs that were almost heart-shaped with love." Cardus was an impressionist painter – not a documentary photographer. Anyway, as John Arlott said, Cardus hadn't made up nearly as much as he was accused of.

The reason Cardus didn't go to Australia to report on the Bodyline series was not because "I knew trouble was brewing," but, as Hamilton points out, it was because he had become infatuated with a woman and couldn't bear to stay away for so long. "He had his cricket friends, his music friends, and his girlfriends," said Arlott, "and he stored them in different rooms." Hamilton's book provides the key to two of those rooms. The music room generally remains locked.

This book might lead to a Cardus revival. Or not. Hamilton has achieved the difficult task of humanising an icon while clearing the rubbish away from the pedestal on which he stands.

India signs off with a record haul of 312 medals

Six Indian boxers emerge victorious on the final day



Champion: The triumphant squash team of Tanvi Khanna, Sanya Vats, Urwash Joshi and Sunayna Kuruvilla. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SAG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU

India ended its South Asian Games campaign with a best-ever medal haul of 312 and finish on top for the 13th time-in-a-row, in the regional multi-sporting event, here on Tuesday.

India collected 174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze after 10 days of competitions to surpass the 309 it had won in the previous edition at home in 2016.

But the number of gold In-

dia won this time was 15 less than the previous edition.

Sri Lanka was a distant second with 251 medals while Nepal finished with 206.

On the concluding day, India added 18 medals (15 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) with the boxers fetching six gold and 1 silver.

Overall, the country's pugilists won 12 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze.

The Indian cagers fetched both the men's and women's gold by defeating Sri Lanka (101-62) and host Nepal (127-46) in their respective sum-

mit clashes.

Mixed luck

In squash, India won gold and a silver in the women's and men's team events respectively.

Prominent medalists: Boxing: Gold: Men: Vikas Krishan (69kg), Sparsh Kumar (52kg), Narender (+91kg). **Women:** Pinki Rani (51kg), Sonia Lather (57kg), Manju Bambariya (64kg). **Silver:** Varinder Singh (men's 60kg).

Squash: Gold: Women; **Silver:** men.

Basketball: Gold: Men & women.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.
BWF World Tour Finals: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m. & SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan v Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10 a.m.
Hero I-League: DSport, 5 p.m.
India v West Indies: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
UEFA Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3, Six & ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



George returns to haunt Pacers

LOS ANGELES
Paul George returned to haunt his former team as Los Angeles Clippers scored a 110-99 NBA victory over Indiana Pacers. Meanwhile, NBA champion Toronto Raptors was given a scare before securing a late 93-92 victory over Chicago Bulls. **The results:** Milwaukee Bucks bt Orlando Magic 110-101; Boston Celtics bt Cleveland Cavaliers 110-88; Chicago Bulls lost to Toronto Raptors 93-92; Indiana Pacers lost to LA Clippers 110-99; Houston Rockets lost to Sacramento Kings 119-118. **AFP**



I'm no cheat, says Reed after penalty row

MELBOURNE
Former Masters champion Patrick Reed denied he was a cheat on Tuesday after being penalised for improving his lie, insisting his actions were not intentional. Reed was docked two strokes for improper swings during the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas. "... If you do something unintentionally that breaks the rules, it's not considered cheating..." Reed said. His Presidents Cup teammates, including Woods, have rallied behind him. **AFP**

IOCL and ONGC cruise into the final

NEW DELHI
Ramkumar Ramanathan scored a 6-1, 6-3 win over Udit Gogoi that helped Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) beat Oil India Limited 2-0, after the country's No.1 Sumit Nagal had beaten Chandra Shekar Mohanty 6-1, 6-1, in the semifinals of the 39th Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter unit tennis on Tuesday. In the other semifinal, Vishnu Vardhan and V.M. Ranjeet guided Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to a 2-0 victory over Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The women's event, which had attracted only seven players, had a blow as the country's No.1 Ankita Raina withdrew, owing to a strained knee. In her absence, defending champion Mahak Jain set up a title clash against Prerna Bhambrani, who got past Riya Bhatia, in the individual event. **The results:**
Men (semifinals): Indian Oil bt Oil India Limited 2-0 (Sumit Nagal bt Chandra Shekar Mohanty 6-1, 6-1; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Udit Gogoi 6-1, 6-3); **ONGC bt Gas Authority of India Limited 2-0** (Vishnu Vardhan bt Jitender Sharma 6-1, 6-0; VM Ranjeet bt Vijay Sundar Prashant 6-2, 6-4).
Women (final): Indian Oil bt Engineers India Limited 2-0 (Prarthana Thombare bt Aarti Narayan 6-0, 6-0; Riya Bhatia bt Rima Singh 6-0, 6-0).

Dhruv, Atharva in quarters
NEW DELHI
Dhruv Sunish and Atharva Sharma defeated Tarun Anirudh Chilakalapudi and P.C. Vignesh 4-6, 6-4, 10-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament in Cairo. Facundo Juarez and Argentinian Octavio Volpi got the better of Iancu-Lustinian Ghinda of Canada & Arpit Sharma 6-3, 6-3.

Baby puts Kerala in the driver's seat

With two wickets down, Delhi has a huge task on hand

A. VINOD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In making his sixth championship century, skipper Sachin Baby guided Kerala to a massive first innings total of 525 for nine declared on the second day of its Ranji Trophy Elite Group A and B match at the St. Xavier's Stadium, Thumba, on Tuesday. With two days remaining, Kerala further strengthened its grip reducing Delhi to 23 for two at close.

The day belonged entirely to Kerala captain Baby as he converted his overnight 36 (in the team total of 276 for three) into a huge century with a superb display of batmanship and quiet determination.

The start of the day was in no way promising for Kerala as Vishnu Vinod and Mohammed Azharuddeen fell rather cheaply, leaving Kerala on 310 for five after nine overs. But, Baby and Salman Nizar combined for a fine 156-run partnership, the latter especially keeping the strike rotating and coming up with a stroke-filled 77 (144b, 9x4, 2x6).

The 'superstitious' Baby, in an apparent endeavour to keep his focus, asked the scorer to blank out his individual contribution from the scoreboard after he had reached 75. The captain obviously did not want indivi-



Single-minded focus: Sachin Baby carved out a well-constructed century to give Kerala the advantage. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dual milestones to distract him from his focus on the team's cause. He appreciably cut down on strokes, waiting for chances to score, leaving the rival bowlers in absolute frustration.

Lunch was taken at 410 for five with Baby having duly completed his century off 194 balls. Finally he made his exit after a masterly 155 (274b, 13x4). The declaration came almost 40 minutes after tea, leaving Delhi to play

out a possible 14 overs.

But, as it turned out, neither Anuj Rawat nor Kunal Chandel was able to rise to the occasion, being cleaned up by Sandeep Warrier and Jalaj Saxena.

A huge task remains for the rest of the Delhi batsmen to avoid an abject surrender, staring at an arrears of 502 runs.

The scores:
Kerala — 1st innings: P. Rahul lbw b Mishra 9, Jalaj Saxena c

Lalit b Baroka 32, Robin Uthappa c Lalit b Sangwan 102, Sachin Baby b Lalit 155, Vishnu Vinod b Shivam 5, Mohammed Azharuddeen c Rawat b Baroka 15, Salman Nizar c Mishra b Baroka 77, S.K. Monish lbw b Shivam 9, Sijomon Joseph (not out) 14, Sandeep Warrier c Rawat b Lalit 0, K.M. Asif (not out) 7; Extras (nb-5, b-5, lb-2): 12. Total (for 9 wkts. decl. in 165 overs): 525.

Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-186, 3-276, 4-281, 5-310, 6-466, 7-497, 8-505, 9-507.

Delhi bowling: Sangwan 14-4-38-1, Saini 17-3-64-0, Mishra 34-8-107-1, Shivam 34-5-112-2, Baroka 30-0-128-3, Rana 15-3-22-0, Lalit 21-3-47-2.

Delhi — 1st innings: Anuj Rawat b Saxena 15, Kunal Chandel c Azharuddeen b Warrier 1, Dhruv Shorey (batting) 6, Nitish Rana (batting) 0; Extras (lb-1): 1. Total (for 2 wkts. in 12.5 overs): 23.

Kerala bowling: Warrier 5-2-9-1, Asif 4-2-6-0, Saxena 3-0-7-1, Monish 0.5-0-0-0.

We need a complete overhaul in doubles: Jwala

Jwala's Academy of Excellence launched

BADMINTON

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Echoing the growing murmurs in the Indian badminton circles, doubles specialist G. Jwala has questioned the centralization of badminton power in the Gopichand Academy.

"He (Gopi) is the chief coach, chief selector, owns his coaching academy, holds the posts of district association president, secretary of Telangana association, he is part of Khelo India, Premier Badminton League, TOPS, GoSports Foundation etc. "It's all on paper, not my imagination. So if there is conflict of interest, ask questions," she asked mediapersons soon after the launch of Jwala Gutta Academy of Excellence here on Tuesday.

Questioning the idea behind holding the National camps only at the Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad, Jwala said: "I have attended camps at many



New venture: Jwala Gutta, Sushil Kumar and Vijender Singh at the launch. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

places such as Bangalore, Jalandhar, and after 2006, it has only been happening at the Gopichand Academy. Personally, I had no problems since I live there, but it is not fair. Why camps only in Hyderabad?"

Raising the pitch, Jwala asked, "tell me how many Telugu players are there in the Indian team? Are you trying to tell me that in last 10 years India couldn't produce

a non-Telugu player to play for the country. Even people who are non-Telugu, they are playing for Telangana state."

Asked if she believed playing for Gopichand Academy was seen as a passport to get into the Indian teams at various levels, Jwala said, "I don't think so."

Responding to a question pertaining to Gopi's recent comment that he had no

authority, Jwala said, "when I read that interview, I had a laugh. How could anyone, who built the system since 2006 and stays in charge even to this day, complain of not having authority?"

Presently on the junior selection panel, Jwala said: "I can't think of one doubles player with whom I want to play today. What we need is a complete overhaul in doubles. We need a different ecosystem for doubles, that's how doubles will come up. Doubles doesn't needs just a coach right now."

"It needs correction in the administration of doubles. The whole system is wrong in doubles now."

Earlier, the Jwala's Academy of Excellence was launched by former Union Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy in the presence of Olympic medalists Sushil Kumar and Vijender Singh, besides Jwala and her father, Kranti.

The 55-acre Academy, located about 30 minutes drive from the Gopichand Acade-

my in Moinabad, Hyderabad, is expected to be a world-class facility. It is expected to begin operations in the next couple of months. With a tie-up with Sujatha School, 100 residential slots are also available.

With 14 courts under the supervision of Dronacharya awardee Mohammad Arif, the Academy begins operations with badminton before opening up other disciplines.

Mentor

Jwala said, "my role will be that of a mentor and obviously, I want to focus more on doubles. Since I am not trained to coach, I will help the children by sharing my experience."

"There will be a lot of work since I will be dealing with parents, coaches, children and looking after every aspect that makes my Academy different from the rest. One more thing is sure. I will pay my coaches well and look after them."

It's an emotional moment: Azhar Ali

Test cricket returns to Pakistan



Raring to go: Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, left, and his Pakistan counterpart Azhar Ali with the trophy. •AP

SL IN PAKISTAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAWALPINDI

The return of Test cricket to Pakistani soil is an emotional occasion, captain Azhar Ali said on Tuesday. But that will not come in the way of his team's efforts to make amends for a disastrous tour of Australia.

Pakistani players will play Test cricket at home after a gap of 10 years when they take on Sri Lanka in a two-Test series starting here on Wednesday. A 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team had led to a freeze on cricket in Pakistan, which has been playing its home

matches on neutral venues. "All the players are very emotional about this Test series. It is great to be back to our home grounds and I just hope that Test cricket returns regularly to Pakistan now, Azhar told a media conference.

Azhar also conceded that the series is a make-or-break situation for his team, as it has not been playing well in Test cricket for some time now. "It is unacceptable the way we lost in Australia. The last two series in South Africa and Australia have been tough for us."

"We need to turn to reverse our results and get back on the winning track," he said.

Arsenal ends worst winless run in 42 years

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON

Arsenal caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg believes a weight has been lifted off his players' shoulders after a three-goal blitz in nine second-half minutes helped the team down West Ham 3-1 on Monday to end the Gunners' worst winless run in 42 years.

Arsenal suddenly sparked

Punjab bests CCFC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUDHIANA

Late strikes from Dipanda Dicka, Thoiba Singh and Sergio Barboza helped host Punjab FC beat holder Chennai City FC 3-1 and register its first win in the I-League on Tuesday. Pedro Manzi scored for CCFC.

The results:
At Ludhiana: Punjab FC 3 (Dipanda Dicka 78, Thoiba Singh 88, Sergio Barboza 90+1) bt Chennai City FC 1 (Pedro Manzi 85).
At Imphal: Neroca FC 1 (Bou-bacar Siaka Diarra 31) lost to East Bengal 4 (Jaime Colado 21-pen, 52-pen; Juan Mera 33, Marcus Espada 65).

Rampage meets Maharaja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Rampage defeated Team C.V. Rao 145-136 to enter the semifinals of the Winter National bridge championships at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Rampage will meet Mah-

araja, which beat Bangur Cement 190-108 in the quarterfinals.

Indian Railways-A, which got past Team Hemant Jalan 150-139, will take on Formidables, a 163-63 winner over Team Arun Jain, in the other semifinal.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 1, DAY 2

Group A: Andhra 211 vs Vidarbha 268/4 in 97 overs (Ganesh Satish 113 batting, Mohit Kale 82).

Hyderabad 233 vs Gujarat 295/9 in 83.2 overs (Manprit Juneja 94, Rujul Bhatt 65, Mehdi Hassan 4/78).

Kerala 525/9 decl. in 165 overs (P. Rahul 97, Robin Uthappa 102, Sachin Baby 155, Salman Nizar 77) vs Delhi 23/2 in 12.5 overs.

Rajasthan 257 in 79.4 overs (Mahipal Lomror 60, Ashok Menaria 60, Salman Khan 53, Siddarth Kaul 4/69) vs Punjab 290/6 in 84 overs (Gurkeerat Mann 68, Mandeep Singh 122, Anmol Malhotra 68 batting).

Group B: Mumbai 431 in 106.4 overs (Prithvi Shaw 66, Ajinkya Rahane 79, Shams Mulani 89, Shardul Thakur 64) vs Baroda 301/9 in 69 overs (Kedar Devdhar 154 batting, Vishnu Solanki 48, Shams Mulani 5/99).

Himachal 120 & 182 in 38.3 overs (Rishi Dhawan 53, Anush Bains 74, Jaydev Unadkat 6/51) vs Saurashtra 141 in 36.2 overs (Snell Patel 42, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 47, Vaibhav Arora 6/48) & 96/3 in 28 overs (Harvik Desai 46).

Delhi — 1st innings: Anuj Rawat b Saxena 15, Kunal Chandel c Azharuddeen b Warrier 1, Dhruv Shorey (batting) 6, Nitish Rana (batting) 0; Extras (lb-1): 1. Total (for 2 wkts. in 12.5 overs): 23.

Kerala bowling: Warrier 5-2-9-1, Asif 4-2-6-0, Saxena 3-0-7-1, Monish 0.5-0-0-0.

17 overs vs Odisha 215/9 in 76.4 overs (Sujit Lenka 56, Puneet Datey 4/58).

Haryana 401 in 124.2 overs (Shubham Rohilla 142, Shivam Chauhan 117, Sumit Kumar 40, Anupam Sanklecha 4/82) vs Maharashtra 88/4 in 44 overs.

Tripura 289 in 81.2 overs (Pratyush Singh 40, Milind Kumar 59, Harmeeet Singh 56) vs Jharkhand 136 in 43 overs (Virat Singh 47, Rana Dutta 4/42) & 91/2 in 20 overs (Nazim Siddiqui 40).

Jammu & Kashmir 182 & 304 in 65.4 overs (Abdul Samad 60, Fazil Rashid 73 n.o., Ram Dayal 41, Rahil Shah 5/74) vs Uttarakhand 84 in 31 overs (Mohammed Mudhasir 5/13, Ram Dayal 4/28) & 18/3 in 9 overs.

Plate: Bihar 173 & 61/4 in 27 overs vs Pondicherry 300 in 79.3 overs (S. Anand 41, S. Karthik 41, Paras Dogra 70, Ashith Rajiv 50, Vivek Kumar 5/51, Ashutosh Aman 4/84).

Arunachal Pradesh 147 & 164/6 in 45 overs (Rahul Dalal 75 batting) vs Chandigarh 503/2 decl. in 76 overs (Arslan Khan 233 n.o., Shivam Bhambrani 105, Manan Vohra 124).

Sikkim 136 & 22/2 in 8 overs vs Goa 436/6 decl. in 105.4 overs (Smit Patel 53, Amit Verma 13, Snehal Kauthankar 134, Suyash Prabhudessai 91).

Mizoram 65 & 290 in 75.1 overs (Lalrhuiizela 60, K.B. Pawan 124) vs Manipur 289 in 80.1 overs (Chingangbam Singh 89, Rex Singh 65, Bobby Zothanganga 5/92, K. Lalhmimgmawia 4/47).

Meghalaya 285 in 96.5 overs (Puneet Bisht 125, Sanjay Yadav 61, Imliwati Lemtur 7/53) & 89/9 in 33 overs (Imliwati Lemtur 6/32) vs Nagaland 136 in 45.1 overs (Sanjay Yadav 9/52).

UEFA Champions League 2019-20

MATCHDAY 6: DEC 11 Head-to-head W D L

GROUP A	Standings	GD	Pts		
Club Brugge BEL	1	2	0	10	13
Real Madrid ESP	2	0	2	4	8
PSG FRA	3	0	2	6	3
Galatasaray TUR	4	0	2	-8	2

GROUP B	Standings	GD	Pts		
Olympiacos GRE	0	0	1	17	15
Red Star SRB	1	0	1	6	10
Bayern GER	3	1	1	-16	3
Tottenham ENG	4	0	1	-7	1

GROUP C	Standings	GD	Pts		
Din. Zagreb CRO	0	0	1	9	11
Man City ENG	1	0	1	-2	6
Shakhtar UKR	1	0	0	0	5
Atalanta ITA	4	0	0	-7	4

GROUP D	Standings	GD	Pts		
Leverkusen GER	1	0	2	6	13
Juventus ITA	2	0	2	1	7
Atletico ESP	3	1	0	-2	6
Lokomotiv RUS	4	0	0	-5	3

Diego Simeone
Atletico coach since 2011 — one of Europe's longest serving current managers

WINNING FEELING: PSG, Bayern, Manchester City and Juventus have all secured top spot in their groups with one match remaining — crucially avoiding toughest Last 16 ties

Last 16 places since 2003/04

Country	% of all places	Count
England	21.5%	55
Spain	19.5%	50
Italy	14.8%	38
Germany	14.1%	36

Home record in Champions League

Picture: Getty Images

Ayush, Dalima adjudged the best

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Football Delhi (FD) feted some of the best talent from the Capital on Monday at a function held at the Nehru Memorial Hall here. This was the first time ever that such an event was organised officially with awards given in 34 disciplines. This was on the initiative of FD president Shaji Prabhakaran.

Ayush Adhikari, who top scored for the team with six goals in the Santosh Trophy, was presented the best player (male) award while defender Dalima Chibber was adjudged the best player (female).

"I started playing football because my father was also a footballer and it was my en-

tire family's dream to see me doing well in the sport. This award will provide me all the inspiration needed to work harder and make both my family and India proud in the future," said Ayush.

Dalima called it, "an incredible feeling to see the efforts of all the footballers being recognised. Such awards and events motivate us. The best thing is even the people behind the scenes are getting the recognition they deserve."

India's under-16 player Rudransh Singh was chosen as the best youth player (male) while National under-17 vice-captain Aveka Singh won the best youth player (female) award for the season.

"With India playing the FIFA U-17 women's World Cup, this award is a huge source of motivation for me and I hope I can inspire many other girls to take up football. I hope to see each one of you coming out to support us next year," said Aveka.

The awardees: Male: Best player: Ayush Adhikari; Best youth player: Rudransh Singh; Best coach: Paritosh Sharma; Best referee: Umesh Bora; Best club: Garhwal Heroes; Best club of the decade: Hindustan FC; Oldest club: Youngmen FC. Diamond Award (ex-international players): Aziz Quraishi and Surender Kumar; Gold Award (ex-intl. players): Tarun Roy, Santosh Kashyap and Bhupinder Thakur.

Lifetime Service Awards (individuals): O.P. Malhotra, Syed Shaheen, N.K. Bhatia, Sunil Ghosh, Shankar Lal, Sharafatullah, N.K. Arora and Joginder Singh.

Journalist (Lifetime award): Kewal Kaushik; **Football expert and commentator (Lifetime Award):** Novy Kapadia; **Best College:** Zakir Hussain; **Best groundsman:** Rajesh.

Outstanding referees award: Melwyn D'Souza, Rizwan-ul-Haq, Mohammed Kamil, Ravi Shankar. **Female: Best player:** Dalima Chibber; **Best youth player:** Aveka Singh; **Best coach:** Disha Malhotra; **Best referee:** Usha Bhainsora; **Best club:** Hans Football Club; **Best College:** Janki Devi Mahavidyalaya.



Recognition: Ayush Adhikari (best male player) and Dalima Chibber (best female player). •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT