

# Joy for Karnataka, heartbreak for Tamil Nadu in a humdinger

One run separates the teams; skipper Pandey pulls his weight for the winner while Aparajith and Vijay Shankar do their best for the team in yellow

## MUSHTAQ ALI

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
SURAT

Just like the IPL final earlier in the year, a team in blue prevailed over a team in yellow by one run as Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu to retain its Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy crown in an exciting climax at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium on Sunday. This is Karnataka's second title of the season after the Vijay Hazare Trophy in October and gave skipper Manish Pandey, who is getting married on Monday, a perfect wedding gift.

In the IPL summit clash, Mumbai Indians had pipped Chennai Super Kings by a solitary run.

Chasing 181 and needing 13 off the last over, R. Ashwin smashed K. Gowtham for two boundaries off the first two balls but the off-spinner came back strongly in the last four deliveries.

Vijay Shankar was run out off the fifth ball while going for a second run and M. Ashwin failed to connect properly when his team needed three off the final delivery.

From 80 for four in the 10th over, Vijay Shankar (44, 27b, 5x4) and B. Aparajith (40, 25b, 1x4, 3x6) were involved in a 71-run stand for the fifth wicket off just 7.1 overs. The two took Tamil Nadu



Having the last laugh: Karnataka edged out Tamil Nadu in a thriller. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

close to the target before Aparajith holed out to long-on at the start of the 18th over.

For TN, the openers failed to provide the blazing start it needed before Washington Sundar and Dinesh Karthik steadied things with a 39-run stand. However, two quick wickets by J. Suchith and Gowtham put the skids on the chase.

Earlier, after being asked to bat, Pandey led from the front with an unbeaten 60 (45b, 4x4, 2x6) to help Karnataka post 180 for five.

Tamil Nadu opened the

bowling with its trump card – off-spinner R. Ashwin – who was assigned the tough task of keeping the Karnataka openers, K.L. Rahul and Devdutt Padikkal, in check. The two looked watchful and took calculated risks, with Rahul hitting Ashwin for a couple of boundaries and Padikkal flicking left-arm pacer Natarajan for a six over square-leg.

### Wily Ashwin

In the fifth over, Rahul stepped down and sent Ashwin soaring over long-on for a six. Off the next, he attempt-

ed the same but the bowler outsmarted him by pulling back the length and having the India opener caught at long-on. The wily off-spinner had Mayank Agarwal caught and bowled off the very next delivery.

Pandey and Rohan Kadam ensured that Karnataka did not lose its way in the middle overs, stringing together a 65-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Pandey started with a six and a four off leg-spinner M. Ashwin over long-on. He enjoyed a slice of luck in the



Turning point: Vijay Shankar's run out proved decisive in the final analysis. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

## SCOREBOARD

**Karnataka:** K.L. Rahul c M. Ashwin b R. Ashwin 22 (15b, 2x4, 1x6), Devdutt Padikkal b Washington 32 (23b, 3x4, 2x6), Mayank Agarwal c & b R. Ashwin 0 (1b), Manish Pandey (not out) 60 (45b, 4x4, 2x6), Rohan Kadam c Natarajan b M. Ashwin 35 (28b, 5x4), Karun Nair c Natarajan b M. Ashwin 17 (8b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-5, w-9): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 180.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-39 (Rahul, 4.2 overs), 2-39 (Mayank, 4.3), 3-87 (Devidutt, 9.5), 4-152 (Rohan, 17.3), 5-180 (Karun, 19.6).

**Tamil Nadu bowling:** R. Ashwin 4-0-34-2, Natarajan 4-0-30-0, Washington 4-0-28-1, M. Ashwin 3-0-33-2, Sai Kishore 1-0-5-0, Siddharth 2-0-24-0, Vijay Shankar 2-0-21-0.

**Tamil Nadu:** M. Shahrulkh Khan c Suchith b Gopal 16 (17b, 3x4), C. Hari Nishaanth c Pandey b More 14 (12b, 3x4), Washington Sundar b Gowtham 24 (19b, 2x4), Dinesh Karthik st. Rahul b Suchith 20 (16b, 3x4), B. Aparajith c Pandey b More 40 (25b, 1x4, 3x6), Vijay Shankar run out 44 (27b, 5x4), R. Ashwin (not out) 16 (9b, 3x4), M. Ashwin

(not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-3, w-1): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 179.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-26 (Nishaanth, 2.6), 2-37 (Shahrulkh, 4.1), 3-76 (Karthik, 8.6), 4-80 (Washington, 9.6), 5-151 (Aparajith, 17.1), 6-178 (Vijay Shankar, 19.5).

**Karnataka bowling:** More 4-0-32-2, Gowtham 4-0-31-1, Koushik 4-0-38-0, Gopal 4-0-37-1, Suchith 4-0-38-1.

**Toss:** Tamil Nadu.

Karnataka won by one run to retain the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

# BCCI to pursue relaxation in conflict of interest clause

Results in the deferment of appointment of Cricket Advisory Committee



All set: Sourav Ganguly arrives at the BCCI office for the board's AGM. ■ PTI

## AGM

AMOL KARHADKAR  
MUMBAI

With the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) deciding to pursue relaxation in the conflict of interest (COI) clause for the involvement of former cricketers in administrative and technical capacity, it has resulted in the 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) deferring the appointment of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).

The delay in appointing the CAC will mean that the fate of the senior National selection panel will continue to hang in the balance, at least for a few more days.

"The conflict clause stops everyone, A to Z it stops everyone. It has got former cricketers and former administrators also.

"That is why we can't make the CAC, we can't make proper selectors," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly after chairing the first AGM in three years.

"We are going back to the court for all these clarifications because some of these I

don't know where we will finish. The conflict issue stops us from everything, to get good people and keep them for longer and to stop them from doing other things is very difficult."

The conflict of interest clause inserted in the BCCI rulebook, forced by the apex court, resulted in all the three members of the then high-profile CAC – Ganguly, V.V.S. Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar – resigning.

Their successors, who were acting on an interim basis, also tendered their resignations recently, with Kapil Dev, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shanta Rangaswamy stepping down from their posts.

Even the Committee of Administrators (CoA), in its last status report, had recommended to the Supreme Court relaxation in the conflict clause.

### Fate uncertain

The delay in CAC's appointment will mean the fate of M.S.K. Prasad's selection committee remains uncertain. Prasad and Gagan Kho-

## Salient features

### Contracts for domestic cricketers

The AGM approved central contracts for domestic cricketers "through state associations", according to Ganguly. The next step is to chalk out a plan before the end of the Ranji Trophy, depending on the revenue each association generates and the quality of cricketers

### Azharuddin's dues cleared

Dues cleared for Mohammad Azharuddin. They had been held back since the former India captain was banned for his alleged involvement in the match-fixing scandal in 2000. The Hindu understands that the amount to be disbursed to him is approximately 1.5 crore. Azharuddin attended the meeting on Sunday as HCA president

### Pink-ball Test to continue

Some of the cricketers who featured in India's maiden

day-night Test in Kolkata recently may have been apprehensive about sighting the ball under lights, but Ganguly stressed that the pink-ball Tests are here to stay

### No-ball umpire in IPL

The Kolkata Test featured an additional umpire to only monitor no-balls via television. Ganguly said the experiment had been a success and will be persisted with during IPL 2020

### Infrastructure subsidy

It was decided to raise the infrastructure subsidy for State associations from 70 crore to 100 crore. This will help various associations complete their new stadium projects or grounds in the interiors faster. Gujarat CA's ambitious project - the largest cricket stadium in the world with a capacity of 1.10 lakh - is set to be inaugurated in March next year

da have served four years as selectors, while the other three – Sarandeep Singh, Jatinder Paranjpe and Devang Gandhi – have been in the

role for three years.

According to the revised rules, no individual can be a selector for more than five years.

# Ganguly reveals suspicious approach in Mushtaq Ali Trophy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

With two of the four prominent intra-State T20 leagues facing a corruption crisis, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly revealed that the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 championship too had an incident of a player reporting a suspicious approach to the anti-corruption unit.

### Dealt with

Asked whether the allegations of corruption in the Karnataka Premier League and Tamil Nadu Premier League are of concern to the BCCI, Ganguly said: "We have dealt with it. We have spoken to the respective State associations. As you know, KPL is on hold now.

"Then there is one in Chennai, one in Saurashtra and one in Mumbai. Saurashtra and Mumbai haven't seen any

complaints. Chennai has suspended its two franchises.

"It's very hard to stop tournaments on the basis of who gets approached. Even in Syed Mushtaq Ali, I was told that one of the players got approached.

"That's not wrong. What's wrong is what you do after getting approached, whether it's right or wrong.

"In some of these cases, the teams seem to be involved, so we are dealing with it. We have to get the Anti-corruption (systems) right."

Contrary to Ganguly's statement, the TNPL corruption scandal hasn't resulted in the suspension of an individual or a team. Besides, the T20 Mumbai's second season had a reported approach to a senior player for underperforming during the knockouts.

## Root, Burns hit centuries

REUTERS  
WELLINGTON

Joe Root ended a poor run of form when he scored his 17th Test century and led England to 269 for five before rain ended play early on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand on Sunday.

Root, who had not scored a Test century since early February, and was averaging just 27.10 this year prior to his current innings, was on 114 at stumps as England came within striking distance of New Zealand's 375. Root had earlier combined with Rory Burns (101) in a 177-run third wicket partnership.

## SCOREBOARD

**New Zealand –1st innings:** 375.

**England –1st innings:** R. Burns run out 101, D. Sibley lbw b Southee 4, J. Denly c Watling b Henry 4, J. Root (batting) 114, B. Stokes c Taylor b Southee 26, Z. Crawley c Watling b Wagner 1, O. Pope (batting) 4; Extras: (lb-14, nb-1): 15; Total (for five wkts. in 99.4 overs): 269.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-11, 2-24, 3-201, 4-245, 5-262.

**New Zealand bowling:** Southee 26-3-63-2, Henry 21.4-5-56-1, Wagner 23-3-76-1, Mitchell 12-4-28-0, Santner 17-4-32-0.

# Pakistan staring at big defeat

Visitors 39 for three after Australia enforces follow-on

## PAKISTAN IN AUS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ADELAIDE

Pakistan was battling to stave off defeat in the day-night second Test against Australia on Sunday after being forced to follow on, with Tim Paine's men needing seven wickets to clinch the series 2-0.

The visitor, which has lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia, was in big trouble at 39 for three when rain forced an early end, 248 runs behind with two days left and its top order decimated.

It had resumed on an overcast afternoon at 96 for six in its first innings, in reply to Australia's 589 for three declared, built on the back of David Warner's monumental 335 not out.

### Yasir's maiden ton

Yasir Shah smacked a dogged maiden Test century and Babar Azam hit 97 but it was all out for 302 and still 287 runs adrift, with Mitchell Starc the hero, taking six for 66.

Australian skipper Tim Paine enforced the follow on and the second innings started badly for Pakistan.



Spoilsport rain: Australia's players celebrate Mitchell Starc dismissal of Azhar Ali even as the heavens open up. ■ AP

## SCOREBOARD

**Australia – 1st innings:** 589 for three decl.

**Pakistan – 1st innings:** S. Masood c Paine b Hazlewood 19, Imam-ul-Haq c Warner b Starc 2, A. Ali c Smith b Cummins 9, A. Shafiq c Paine b Starc 9, B. Azam c Paine b Starc 97, I. Ahmed c Paine b Starc 10, M. Rizwan c Paine b Starc 0, Y. Shah c Lyon b Cummins 113, S. Afridi lbw b Starc 0, M. Abbas c Warner b Cummins 29, M. Musa (not out) 12; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (in 94.4 overs): 302.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-3, 2-22, 3-38, 4-69, 5-89, 6-89, 7-194, 8-194,

9-281.

**Australia bowling:** Starc 25-6-66-6, Hazlewood 14-2-48-1, Cummins 22.4-2-83-3, Lyon, 22-3-65-0, Labuschagne 10-2-32-0, Smith 1-0-6-0.

**Pakistan – 2nd innings:** S. Masood (batting) 14; Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Hazlewood 0; A. Ali c Smith b Starc 9; B. Azam c Paine b Hazlewood 8; A. Shafiq (batting) 8; Total (for three wkts; in 16.5 overs): 39.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-2, 2-11, 3-20.

**Australia bowling:** Starc 4-1-10-1, Hazlewood 8-3-15-2, Cummins 4.5-2-14-0.

## EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS  
ROME

Leicester City reclaimed second spot in the Premier League in dramatic fashion as Kelechi Iheanacho's stoppage-time goal earned it a 2-1 victory over luckless Everton on Sunday.

Jamie Vardy had equalised for Leicester in the 68th minute after Richarlison had given Everton a deserved first-half lead.

Iheanacho's goal was initially disallowed for offside but after an agonising VAR wait the decision was overturned, sparking scenes of joy for the hosts and dejection for Everton.

Leicester moved back above Manchester City and is three points ahead of the champion with 32 from 14 games, eight behind Liverpool.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer suffered another frustrating afternoon as his team was held to a 2-2 draw by lowly Aston Villa at Old Trafford on Sunday.

United is ninth on 18 points with Villa 15th on 15. Inter Milan moved above



Two-goal hero: Lautaro Martinez fires in Inter Milan's opening goal against SPAL. ■ AP

Juventus, which was held by Sassuolo, to the top of the Serie A table with a 2-1 win at home to SPAL thanks to a Lautaro Martinez double on Sunday.

Inter is now one point ahead of Juve on 37 points, while SPAL remains second from bottom and without a win in its past seven matches.

Leon Bailey scored twice as Bayern Munich crashed 2-1 at home to 10-man Bayer Leverkusen. Hansi Flick lost for the first time in five

games as Bayern's interim coach after Jamaica winger Bailey scored first-half goals for Leverkusen.

Mid-table Leverkusen finished with 10 men after defender Jonathan Tah saw a late red card for fouling Philippe Coutinho.

**The results: Premier League:** Wolves 1 (Doherty 64) drew with Sheffield United 1 (Mousset 2); Norwich 2 (Pukki 21, Cantwell 45+2) drew with Arsenal 2 (Aubameyang 29-pen, 57); Leicester 2 (Vardy 68, Iheanacho 90+4) bt Everton 1 (Richarlison 23); Manchester

United 2 (Heaton 42-og, Lindelof 64) drew with Aston Villa 2 (Greash 11, Mings 66).

**Serie A:** Juventus 2 (Bonucci 20, Ronaldo 68-pen) drew with Sassuolo 2 (Boga 22, Caputo 47); Parma 0 lost to AC Milan 1 (Hernandez 88); Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 16, 41) bt SPAL 1 (Valotti 50); Lazio 3 (Immobile 9, 36-pen, Alberto 45+1-pen) bt Udinese 0.

**La Liga:** Sevilla 1 (Carlos 63) bt Leganes 0; Athletic Bilbao 2 (Raul Garcia 41-pen, Berchiche 83) bt Granada 0; Espanyol 2 (Roca 20-pen, Calleri 90+3) lost to Osasuna 4 (Santos 46, Avila 49, Moncayola 84, Torres 90+2-pen).

**Bundesliga:** Borussia Munchengladbach 4 (Thuram 3, Embolo 46, 71, Herrmann 51) bt SC Freiburg 2 (Schmid 6, Hoeler 58).

**Saturday: Premier League:** Southampton 2 (Ings 78, Ward-Prowse 83) bt Watford 1 (Sarr 24).

**La Liga:** Real Mallorca 1 (Wakalibille 55-pen) lost to Real Betis 2 (Joquin 7-pen, Fekir 33); Valencia 2 (Rodrigo 49, Torres 70) bt Villarreal 1 (Zambo Anguissa 54).

**Serie A:** Brescia 0 lost to Atalanta 3 (Pasalic 26, 60, Ilicic 90+2); Genoa 0 lost to Torino 1 (Bremer 77); Fiorentina 0 lost to Lecce 1 (La Mantia 50).

**Bundesliga:** Bayern Munich 1 (Muller 34) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Bailey 10, 35).