

big shout

Today's Question:  
In the US poll who would you have voted for?

alwaz on ur mind  
4567  
sms SU <space> A or B or C to 4567 for answer.  
A:Dems B: Republicans C:Laden  
\* Premium charges apply

Yesterday's Question:  
Is the Australian Cricket Team an arrogant bunch?

31% Yes

59% No

10% Ask Pawar

filea mail

MOTOROLA RAZER V3i

Want to trade: Motorola Razer V3i.  
Will trade for: Anything cool.  
Contact: Sunil Vithani on 9833086909



VCD PLAYER

Want to trade: VCD player.  
Will trade for: Anything cool/cash.  
Contact: prabhu\_rn@rediffmail.com



Photo used for representation only

Have anything to trade for something you always wanted to have? Send your bid to [speakup@dnaindia.net](mailto:speakup@dnaindia.net)

E-mail [speakup@dnaindia.net](mailto:speakup@dnaindia.net), call 39888888 Extn 455 | Team Speak Up: Kiran Wadhwa, Devraj Uchil, Salil Deshpande, Radhika Agarwal

# A gentleman's game?

They say cricket is about pushing one's limits. But cricketers today seem to be pushing the limits of decency



■ The nudge that says it all: Damien Martyn pushes Pawar aside as the Australians converged in a group hug on November 5, 2006 – Vipin Pawar

## BAD BOYS' CLUB:

- Ricky Ponting gestures to Sharad Pawar to hand him the trophy, in contravention of all protocol
- Damien Martyn nudges the BCCI President off the stage
- Zimbabwe Test cricketer Mark Vermulen was banned for one year for on-field violence. A few days later, he was charged with setting a section of the country's cricket academy on fire
- Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif banned for using performance-enhancing drugs
- Shoaib Akhtar accused of slapping coach Bob Woolmer and of drunken brawls in a discotheque apart from unpleasant behaviour with Greg Chappell's wife

## Statistical evidence:

The number of penalties imposed on players for breach of the ICC's Code of Conduct has increased since the code was enforced in 1992:

Year	No of breaches
1992	9
1993	5
2004	35
2005	36



“Who called it a gentleman's game – the English, who spent half their time trying to knock out the Australians? In fact, now it is more subdued. The players are covered from head to toe. Earlier, there was bodyline bowling when Douglas Jardine tried to smash the living daylights out of Bradman's boys.”

– Jackie Shroff. Actor and ardent cricket fan



## Gentlemen are probably stressed

Cricket is still a gentleman's game. The sledging that Pakistan and Australia used to get into has reduced considerably, and that's a good sign.

The present controversies are indeed an unhealthy trend which are exposing flaws of this generation of cricketers. But this could be happening due to high levels of stress.

– Vinay Rohira



## Today's cricketers need more discipline

With the controversies surrounding the game, one can hardly call it a gentleman's game any more. And this is not doing the game much good.

Lack of discipline has beleaguered the game, thereby starting an unhealthy trend. It's sad to see that though the cricketers should/ have to follow a code of conduct, nobody sticks to it.

– Prakash Rai

## The new ICC: Indian Commercial Cricket

Cricket has ceased to remain a gentleman's game. This is evident from the controversies the game has been embroiled on or off the field. Never before has cricket been dragged into such controversies.

I guess the present generation cricketers have no love for the game, but are there only for money. The game has become too commercialised.

– Akhil Nagpal



## What they do off the field doesn't matter

Gentleman's game or not, I love the game. I'm not bothered about what cricketers do off the field. To me, their performance on field is what matters.

Just watch the game and appreciate or criticise their performance. Let them do their own things, why bother?

– Nikhil Jadhav

## Off road

### These trekkers stumble upon something extraordinary at Dhakoba fort

Rohan Rao. Kalyan

At 6.30am on Sunday, six of us boarded a bus to Murbad from Kalyan with plan to trek Durg-Murbad. From Murbad, we had to reach Palu, a small settlement ahead of Dhasai and from there to Amboli ghat to the foot of Dhakoba peak. After treading the barely-motorable road in a jeep, we finally got there at about 9am.

Amboli ghat is densely forested and the cattle trails can be misleading. So we took the longer route and after an exhausting two-and-a-half-hour climb, we reached a tiny temple at the top. There we saw a rocky patch good enough for a trail and followed a gully that led us to a plateau. On the right, we could see the Dhakoba peak. It was 1pm by then. We came across two people trekking to Amboli. We discussed routes with them, though I figured neither of us really knew what we were talking about.

We climbed towards Dhakoba peak. Once we got there, we were

confronted by a magnificent view of the twin pinnacles of Gorakghad and Macchhindragad. The view was breathtaking view. After impromptu gasping and exclaiming, we started on our way down from the other side. We decided to have lunch at Dhakoba temple, which lies on the ridge connecting Durg and Dhakoba.

Dinner seemed to affect our sense of direction and we found ourselves staring down a steep drop. Grudgingly, we retraced our steps back to the temple and managed to find the trail to the base of Durg fort and further to the Durga devi temple. We dropped our sacks for the day and animatedly talked about the steep descent into the Konkan through the Kuthedhar ghat the next day. While a few of us went to check the route with the locals, the rest pitched the tent, unpacked some more food and built a fire.

We awoke at 6.30 am and walked through the chilly mist to reach the top. The windswept peak glimmered with the first



■ Breathtaking view of Dhakoba peak from Amboli ghat

beams of the morning sun. After a quick breakfast of bread and jam, we headed down Kuthedhar ghat. The 3,000-feet descent into the Konkan was steep, and mildly put, unnerving. However, there were handholds all the way

down. We reached the base at Kuthedhar village after three frightening, but exciting hours. We walked for another 30 minutes to Rampur and took a jeep back to Dhasai, tired and exhilarated.

## numericks



1745, July 26 is when first recorded women's cricket match was held

Source: www.icc-cricket.com

## the billboard



'It was a Sikh gentleman who shot Jessica dead'. Some gentleman indeed who goes shooting a girl.

– Ramesh Seth

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## Sudoku

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### Yesterday's solution

3	9	6	1	5	7	2	4	8	H	F	B	I	A	D	E	C	G
1	7	8	2	6	4	9	3	5	C	G	D	B	E	F	A	H	I
5	2	4	9	8	3	6	7	1	A	I	E	C	G	H	B	F	D
9	6	2	5	3	1	4	8	7	F	B	A	D	I	G	H	E	C
8	1	3	4	7	9	5	6	2	E	C	G	H	F	A	I	D	B
4	5	7	6	2	8	3	1	9	D	H	I	E	B	C	F	G	A
6	8	5	3	1	2	7	9	4	I	D	F	A	C	E	G	B	H
2	4	1	7	9	6	8	5	3	B	E	C	G	H	I	D	A	F
7	3	9	8	4	5	1	2	6	G	A	H	F	D	B	C	I	E

## How to play

Fill each of the blank boxes with the number grid from 1-9, and the letter grid from A-I with no letters or numbers repeating in vertical, horizontal rows or 3x 3 grids. Do not repeat any letters in a line. Each puzzle has only one solution.

				1			4	
2				4	6	9	3	5
	7					8		
6			3			4	5	
				8				
	8	2			9			7
		5					7	
4	2	9	1	7				3
7			6					

	F		C				E	
D				B				H
			G	I		D	A	
	G		H	A	C		B	
	I		E	G	B		A	
		E	A		F	I		
H				D				A
	D			I			C	

Feel strongly about something? Speak up and let the world know. Mail us your opinions on [speakup@dnaindia.net](mailto:speakup@dnaindia.net)

– Vinod Nair