

MAGAZINE

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Cricket is a team game and it takes contributions from all 11 for the unit to be successful over a period of time. However, there come individuals who make a telling difference in collective fortunes. In case of the current Indian lot, it's easy to see that Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin are breaking barriers and inspiring the team to new heights. Venkata Krishna B and Atreyo Mukhopadhyay find out what makes them click and why they are expected to lead India's quest for sustained excellence.

MASTER MINDS

Breathed only in September, Virat Kohli's batting against South Africa's batsmen in the semi-final of the 2011 World Cup. The adjustment he showed in the final, which stands as an immense performance and a benchmark in Indian cricket, is a story of a young man who has overcome adversity to become a star.

He had a very successful career in the first three years of his international career. Kohli's career started with a bang in 2010 when he scored 100 in his debut Test match against West Indies. He followed this up with a century in his first One Day International (ODI) match against South Africa. Kohli's performance in the final of the 2011 World Cup, where he scored 51 runs in a match that India won by a narrow margin, is a testament to his ability to perform under pressure.

WORLD-MAKING OF A DECADE
Ravichandran Ashwin's career has been a roller coaster. He started as a spin bowler but moved to become a batting all-rounder. He has scored centuries in all formats of the game. His performance in the 2013 World Cup, where he scored 400 runs, is a testament to his ability to perform in big matches. He has also been a key player in India's success in the 2011 World Cup, where he scored 127 runs in the final.

Virat Kohli's batting and all-round performance has been a key factor in India's success in the 2011 World Cup. He has scored 127 runs in the final, which was a crucial moment in the match. His performance in the final is a testament to his ability to perform under pressure. He has also been a key player in India's success in the 2011 World Cup, where he scored 127 runs in the final.

The only thing that has changed is the way he has played. He has become a more aggressive batsman and a more effective all-rounder. This is a testament to his ability to adapt to the demands of the game.

THE ABILITY AND EAGERNESS TO CHANGE IN ORDER TO SECURE WHAT KOHLI WANTS SETS HIM APART. HE DOESN'T NEED OPONENTS TO SET TARGETS. HE SETS THEM HIMSELF.

One of the reasons Kohli is becoming a star is his ability to adapt to the demands of the game. He has become a more aggressive batsman and a more effective all-rounder. This is a testament to his ability to adapt to the demands of the game. He has also been a key player in India's success in the 2011 World Cup, where he scored 127 runs in the final.

BALANCING ACT
While the captain's role is to lead, it is also to balance the team. Kohli's role as a batsman and all-rounder is a testament to his ability to balance the team. He has become a more aggressive batsman and a more effective all-rounder. This is a testament to his ability to adapt to the demands of the game.

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Contemporary cricket demands aggressive. That's what we see in Virat. He's clear about what he wants, willing to work hard and ready to take strong decisions for it. There's a fire in him. He's not just playing for himself, he's playing for the team. He's not just playing for himself, he's playing for the team. He's not just playing for himself, he's playing for the team.

Ajit Wadekar

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Virat Kohli, the Indian batsman, has been chosen for the 2011 World Cup. He is the only batsman to have scored a century in all three formats of the game. He has also been a key player in India's success in the 2011 World Cup, where he scored 127 runs in the final.

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TRIBAL TALES OF EXOTICA

Hidden in the labyrinths of rural Karnataka is the unique culture of the ancient Kuruba and Kodava tribals, one of India's most endearing folk traditions

By KRISHNARAJIYENGAR

An early morning flight, a masala dosa and a six-hour drive from Bengaluru bring you to an oasis of idyllic calm and peace. Kabini is Karnataka's very own Eden, hidden away in a lush, verdant landscape at the foothills of the Nilgiris and watered by the tranquil Kabini river. The songs of rare birds are symphonic to the lapping waters of the river, as one gently sails from the mainland to the lush vestige of the Indian tiger, the Nagarhole National Park, for a rendezvous with the wild.

A tryst with the life of tribals unveils one of India's most endearing folk traditions. The Kuruba peoples of Kabini are as intriguing in their ethos as they are in their way of life and hospitality. A protected tribe, they are renowned for their age-old harmony with the wild rather than interaction with humans. It is believed that after the fall of the Pallava Empire, many Kurubas settled in south India as small land owners and farmers. On the other hand, many are said to have

been hiding in the forests and adapted to the environment and to the wild, developing their own distinct culture as a result of their isolation.

Sunset soirees of Kuruba dance and music enliven audiences from the world over. A close knit band of local performers in traditional white attires ready themselves for an evening of high-voltage synergy at Orange County, Kabini's cultural haven and the biggest platform for the locals to express their art and culture. Using fire to heat the animal skin drum tops by increasing the tightness of the membrane, they make magic

with rhythm, which plays a vital role in most tribal music and dance ceremonies.

Generally led by a village elder, instruments resembling the 'Thavil' drum and Nadaswaram-like bugles render hypnotic grooves as the band of dancers gyrate energetically

Speaking their own dialect with Kannada being their lingua franca, the locals are welcoming despite linguistic barriers. Thatched, mud-plastered, eco-designed huts called *haddis* are

humble leitmotif homes of the Kurubas. Meat being a popular staple, *meen* Saru with red boiled rice (spicy river fish) and pork harididu (minced pork) are among the famous Kuruba delicacies.

A mesmerising maze of tall trees under a pristine blue sky suggests that you are well into the coffee capital of Asia. A three-hour drive from Kabini brings you to the sprawl-

ing coffee plantations of Coorg, or Kodagu, home to the Kodava tribe. An ancient people, the Kodavas are elegant, energetic and exceptional in their culinary and musical talents. Of warrior origin, they took to agriculture but reflect the boisterous, raw energy in their dances.

Acrobatics are an integral part of their ceremonies. Under a moonlit sky at the Orange County ground, hypnotic drumming sets the mood for balancing acts, whirling and dances. Draped in classy turbans and black overcoats, a regal touch distinguishes them from the humbly-clad Kurubas. The fiery warrior aggression is the underlying nuance of their music and dance.

A gentle boat cruise down the Kaveri offers a first-hand encounter with life on its banks. One might be startled by rapid gun shots shattering the stillness. "That is to announce the arrival of the tribe's newborn," smiles the guide.

Essentially meat-eaters, pork finds a special place in Kodava cuisine, while the use of jackfruit, spices and coconut is extensive. Pandi curry (pork curry) and spicy Kozhi (chicken) are a must-try for meat-lovers. Akki roti made of rice flour and kumru curry, a wild plant mushroom delicacy, are among the vegetarian Kodava delights. And of course, sipping premium local Sidapur Coffee early morning to the chirping of birds is a fine way to usher in the innocence of dawn.



(Clockwise from above) Kodava cuisine; *haddis*, mud houses of the Kurubas; Kodavas in tribal gear

