

Selection committee has its task cut out for the Windies tour

Indian team for three-match T20I series, as many ODIs and two Tests will be picked today

PREVIEW

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Selection of the Indian team for the tour of the Caribbean Islands always evokes feelings of nostalgia of the Ajit Wadekar-led Indian team's historic first Test series win there in 1971, Sunil Gavaskar's phenomenal collection of 774 runs, the remarkable spin bowling achievements of Bishan Bedi, S. Venkataraghavan, Erapalli Prasanna and Salim Durani's game-changing dismissals of Clive Lloyd and Garfield Sobers in the second innings of the second Test at Port of Spain.

But it was the prelude to the tour that saw the chairman of the selection committee Vijay Merchant voting in favour of Wadekar as captain, when juxtaposed with Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, that sort of made Indian cricket shake like a leaf.

Wadekar's elevation as captain, the selection of Gavaskar for the tour were the highlights of the tour and Merchant felt vindicated about the choice he made much against the cricketing fraternity's perception.

Positive thinking

Merchant's bold decisions and Gundappa Viswanath's selection at the instance of Pataudi for the series against Australia in 1969 was ac-



Big shoes to fill: In the absence of M.S. Dhoni, young Rishabh Pant is the obvious choice for the premier wicketkeeper's spot. •FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

claimed as a positive thinking on the part of the then selection committees.

And for the last five decades the Indian cricket fan has always expected the selectors to spring a surprise or two, when the time arrived to

pick teams for an overseas tour.

The choice of a couple of players for the middle-order slots for the recently concluded ICC World Cup, raised a few eyebrows and, after India's defeat against New Zea-

land in the semifinal, head coach Ravi Shastri rued the absence of proper No. 4 batsman.

Now it is time for a series in the West Indies that will start with a three-match T20I series, as many ODIs and fol-

lowed by two Tests in Antigua and Jamaica.

The selection committee, led by M.S.K. Prasad, has been involved not only in picking the national team across all formats, but also the India-A team in all three

formats. The selectors are scheduled to meet on Sunday and perform the exercise.

Nuanced opinion

And with the World Cup giving the panel an opportunity to make a nuanced opinion

on some players, it would be ready to make a few changes after taking into account the fitness reports of Shikhar Dhawan (recovering from finger injury) and Vijay Shankar (toe injury).

Prithvi Shaw has been laid

low by a hip injury and he looks a doubtful starter for even the Test series.

Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari, Khaleel Ahmed, Navdeep Saini, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Avesh Khan are all in action in the West Indies and are in the fray for the short format and one or two for the Test series.

Also Mayank Agarwal, who was chosen as a replacement for the injured Shankar during the World Cup. A team led by Shreyas will play the three unofficial Tests against the West Indies-A.

Horses for courses

The selectors would follow the horses-for-courses policy when it comes picking the squad for the three formats. There is a possibility of a few players being rested either for the T20Is or ODIs.

It has to be seen if the selectors would give one of the two wrist spinners, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, a break from international cricket.

With reports emerging that M.S. Dhoni would be working with the Territorial Army in the next two months, Rishabh Pant will be a straight-forward choice for all three formats. But it's possible that the selectors will either go for Wriddhiman Saha or K.S. Bharat for the Test series as a reserve.

MSD opts out of Caribbean assignment

Will be spending two months with his army regiment, says a BCCI official

DHONI UPDATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India captain M.S. Dhoni on Saturday made himself "unavailable" for the Indian team's tour of West Indies as speculation raged about his future.

An Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army, it is learnt that Dhoni would be spending better part of the next two months with his regiment.

A top BCCI official confirmed the development. "Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the tour of West Indies as he will be spending two months with



M.S. Dhoni. •FILE PHOTO

his army regiment," he said. Dhoni, 38, has intimated his decision to the BCCI prior to the selection committee meeting on Sunday.

With Dhoni pulling out of the tour, Rishabh Pant is expected to be first-choice wicketkeeper in all three formats, while Wriddhiman Saha will be Pant's back-up in Tests.

Only the enigmatic Dhoni knows about the finish line

If he thinks he is fit and performing, he has every right to stake his claim: Sandeep Patil

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

No star in Indian cricket has been as enigmatic as M.S. Dhoni. There were times when the selectors could not reach him. Even the Board president would be left clueless. The situation seems not to have changed.

For someone who wondered if he would get an opportunity to wear the India cap, the wicketkeeper-batsman progressed rapidly, led India to two incredible global title triumphs – ICC World T20 (2007) and World Cup (2011), besides becoming famous for his finishing skills. He commanded genuine respect from his peers and past stalwarts and his fan following across the world has been immense. They don't want Dhoni to retire. Some former stars don't want him to go.

But what about the nation-



Crucial call: M.S. Dhoni, no doubt, will want to time his retirement to perfection. •AFP

selectors? They would ideally want Dhoni to take a bow as they are keen to look ahead and nurture some youngsters. Technically,

Dhoni is available as long as he does not announce his retirement. Former National selection committee chairman Sandeep Patil had a

piece of advice. "As a selector, I am answerable only to the Board. I am answerable to Indian cricket. It doesn't matter if you are a big player

but you can't be bigger than the game. When I was the chairman, the committee took some tough decisions in the interest of the team and Indian cricket. It is not easy to tell a player that his time is up. If he does not fit into the scheme of things, you have to tell him sometimes. I am not suggesting Dhoni should quit. If he thinks he is fit and performing, he has every right to stake his claim. What ultimately matters is what plans do the selectors and the captain have," said Patil.

Time running out

Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh were some of the big players who were dropped.

"We never said they would be not picked again," insisted Patil. The then selection committee thought these

cricketers had a chance to come back. But, at 38, time may be running out for Dhoni.

Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the imminent tour of the West Indies as he has opted to serve the army for two months. A honorary lieutenant colonel, the former India captain's fascination for army is well chronicled. "I expect him to inform the selectors in time (about a probable retirement or his career plans). There is a lot riding on his shoulders," said an official closely associated with the developments.

There is a section which feels Dhoni would want to extend his international career by playing the T20 format but the selectors may have their own views on the subject. As for the finish line, only the enigmatic Dhoni knows.

Sreeja-Mousumi duo wins a thriller

Pooja and Reeth Rishya fail to make the cut in women's singles

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul of India survived a tense finish against Wales' Charlotte Carey and young sensation Anna Hursey to enter the women's doubles quarterfinals of the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championship at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

Tiring day

After a tiring day for both girls – they played three women's qualification singles matches followed by two rounds in the doubles events – the Indian girls saw off the Welsh challenge 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-8 in a battle that stretched over half-an-hour.

Sreeja and Mousumi will now take on Zhang Wan Ling and Tan Lilin Jassy, who stunned the third-seeded duo of Ho Tin-Tin and Denis Payet from England.

In the singles preliminary stage, 15 of the 22 Indian paddlers qualified for the main draw. Only two of 11 women – Pooja Sahasrabudhe, who finished third in her group, and T. Reeth Rishya, who failed to capitalise on a couple of match points in her crunch match



Grinding it out: Mousumi Paul and Sreera Akula survived a Welsh scare. •BISWARANJAN ROUT

– fell by the wayside.

Bowing out

In men's singles, Sourav Saha, Anirban Ghosh, Arjun Ghosh, Jubin Kumar and Siddhesh Pande couldn't make the cut.

The results (round-of-16):

Women's doubles: Madhurika Patkar & Archana Kamath (Ind) bt Louiza Kourea & Fotelini Melietie (Cyp) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Gai Rui Xuan & Wong Xin Ru (Sgp) bt Offiong Edem & Celilia Akpan (Ngr) 11-9, 11-8, 4-11, 6-11, 13-11.

Pooja Sahasrabudhe & Krittiwika Sinha Roy (Ind) vs Alice Li Sian Chang & Lee Xin Ni (Mas)

11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4; Melissa Tapper & Michelle Bromley (Aus) bt Emily Bolton (Eng) & Lim Eunice Zoe (Sgp) 11-9, 11-4, 11-13, 11-4; Zhang Wan Ling & Tan Lilin Jassy (Sgp) bt Ho Tin-Tin & Denis Payet (Eng) 11-6, 11-9, 10-12, 8-11, 11-8.

Sreeja Akula & Mousumi Paul (Ind) bt Charlotte Carey & Anna Hursey (Wal) 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-8; Ho Ying & Tee Ai Xin (Mas) bt Peng Kai & Feng Chunyi (Aus) 13-11, 11-1, 11-6; Sutirtha Mukherjee & Sagarika Mukherjee (Ind) bt Ishara Madurangi & Jithara Warnakulasuriya (SL) 11-3, 11-8, 11-6.

The qualifiers' list:

Women: Krittiwika Sinha Roy, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Sreeja Akula,

la, Mousumi Paul, Prapti Sen, Selena Selvakumar, Divya Deshpande.

Sagarika Mukherjee, Anusha Kutumbale (Ind), Feng Chunyi (Aus), Chang Alice Li Sian Chang (Mas), Nimotalia Aregbesola, Ajoke Ojomu (Ngr), Wong Xin Ru, Gai Rui Xuan, Lim Eunice Zoe (Sgp).

Men: Bode Abiodun, Azeez Jamiu (Ngr), Thomas Jarvis (Eng), Sushmit Sriram, Manush Shah, Sanil Shetty, Jeet Chandra, Ronit Bhanja.

Sudhanshu Grover (Ind), Lucas Tan, Pang Yu En Koen, Chew Zheyu Clarence (Sgp), Muhammad Rizal, Leong Chee Feng, Javen Choong (Mas), Marios Yianguou (Cyp).

Lowry continues to buzz, leads by four strokes

The Irishman's eight-under for the day puts him well ahead of Fleetwood



REUTERS
PORTRUISH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Ireland's Shane Lowry was on the brink of his first Major title after shooting a nerveless eight-under 63 on Saturday to take a four-shot lead into the final round of the British Open.

Lowry, 32, did not drop a shot all day and streaked clear of the field with three consecutive birdies at 15, 16 and 17.

Tommy Fleetwood, with a five-under for the day, was second with 12-under.

Holmes slips to third

J.B. Holmes, the other joint leader, slipped to the third spot after a two-under for the day and 10-under overall. Brooks Koepka and Justin Rose kept themselves in contention, finishing at nine-under overall.

Earlier, Danny Willett's superb six-under 65 helped him climb the leaderboard. The Englishman, winner of the Masters in 2016, missed a birdie putt on the 18th that would have set a new course record as the calm

weather produced a birdie feast.

The 46-year-old Westwood, still hunting for a first Major, birdied the second, third and fourth holes and was briefly on his own at the top of the leaderboard.

Defending champion Francesco Molinari's hopes of retaining the title looked over after he could only manage a one-over 72 to leave him two-over going in to the final day.

A flurry of bogeys and double bogeys on the back nine spoiled the card of Shubhankar Sharma, who tumbled from a decent T48th at the start of the day to a disappointing 72nd.

Bright to bad

Shubhankar birdied the Par-5 second for the second day running and then had a birdie on the ninth too. But all that changed once the back nine began.

Double bogeys on the 10th and 11th were followed by a bogey but he had a bogey-bogey on 13 and 14. He had a double bogey on the 15th before finishing with a birdie on the 18th.

Top scores:

1. Shane Lowry (-8 in third round, -16 overall); 2. Tommy Fleetwood (-5, -12); 3. J.B. Holmes (-2, -10); 4. Brooks Koepka (-4, -9) and Justin Rose (-3, -9); 6. Rickie Fowler (-5, -8) and Lee Westwood (-1, -8); 72. Shubhankar Sharma (+6, +6).



The swing factor: Tommy Fleetwood stormed up the leaderboard with a five-under on Saturday. •REUTERS

Sindhu in her first final of season

Downs All England champion Chen in straight games



Easy outing: P.V. Sindhu held her own in the first game and then completely dominated the second against Chen Yufei. • ROBERTUS PUDYANTO/GETTY IMAGES

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

India's P.V. Sindhu entered the final of the Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over All England champion Chen Yufei of China here on Saturday.

Sindhu showed her brilliance once again as she saw off World No. 3 Chen 21-19, 21-10 to enter her first final of the season.

The World No. 5 Indian, who reached the last four at Singapore and India Open this year, set up a summit clash with Japan's fourth seed Akane Yamaguchi.

Sindhu holds a 10-4 advantage over Yamaguchi, whom she has defeated in their last four meetings.

Chen, who won the Australia, Swiss and All England this year, has been the most prolific player this season and looked good in the first game but a fighting Sindhu held her own and then com-

pletely dominated the second to seal a place in the final.

India's campaign ends

At the Russian Open in Vladivostok, Meghana Jakkampudi lost both her mixed and women's doubles matches as India's campaign ended.

Meghana and Dhruv Kapila, seeded eighth, lost to Indonesia's seventh seeds Adnan Maulana and Mychelle Chrystine Bandoso 21-6, 21-15 in the mixed doubles semifinal which lasted just 27 minutes.

In women's doubles, Meghana and Poorvisha Ram failed to cross the last-four hurdle at the \$75,000 tournament.

Fourth seeds Miki Kashihara and Miyuki Kato of Japan stunned the top-seeded Indian duo 21-10, 21-8 in 33 minutes.

Hima claims 400m gold

SPORTS BUREAU
HYDERABAD
NOVE MESTO NAD METUJI
(CZECH REPUBLIC)

Hima Das clocked a season-best 52.09s as she won the women's 400m gold in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix on Saturday.

This was Hima's first 400m after she retired midway through quarter-mile heats at Asian championships in Doha in April.

M.P. Jabir won the 400m hurdles gold in 49.66s. National 400m record holder Muhammed Anas, who ran the 200m here, clocked 20.95s for the silver.

The results (winners and events featuring Indians): Men, 200m: 1. Jan Volko (Slo, 20.80s); 2. Muhammed Anas (20.95). 400m: 1. Hima Das (52.09s); 2. V.K. Vismaya (52.48s); 3. Saritaben Gayakwad (53.28); 4. M.R. Poovamma (53.74); 5. R. Vithya (54.19). Others: V. Subha (54.22); V.K. Shalini (55.39).

U Mumba holds off Titans

Bengaluru Bulls overcomes Pirates' challenge

PKL-7

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Former champion U Mumba warded off a late challenge from Telugu Titans to script a 31-25 win in the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League Season-7 opener at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

The home fans were stunned as star raider Siddharth Desai was kept quiet in the first half, his first six raids fetching no points as U Mumba took a 17-10 lead at the break.

In what was expected to be a battle between U Mumba captain and defender Fazal Atrachali and Siddharth, it was the former who dislodged a few lessons in the art of tackling by pinning the latter down with support from Rohit Baliyan and Surrender Singh.

An all-round display by U Mumba, which scored the first all-out of the game through Abhishek Singh's raid, powered ahead 13-6. U Mumba held on to its



Action-packed: A U Mumba raider tries to wriggle out of the Titans' grasp. • NAGARA GOPAL

lead till the break, thanks to the defence manned efficiently by Fazal, Sandeep and Surrender.

Rajnish shines

After the break, Titans' battled back through Rajnish who kept the team in the hunt, especially in the last 20 minutes. He scored seven points and was easily Titans' best player of the day.

Though Siddharth scored his first point of the game with only eight minutes to go for the final whistle, he recovered to finish with five

points. However, he was clearly below par this day.

Thought Titans came up with a super tackle to reduce the lead to 22-30 with two minutes remaining, it proved too little too late.

In the second match of the day, defending champion Bengaluru Bulls began its campaign with a hard-fought 34-32 victory over three-time champions, Patna Pirates, in the second match of the evening.

The results: U Mumba bt Telugu Titans 31-25; Bengaluru Bulls bt Patna Pirates 34-32.

Bindra banking on younger crop to deliver the goods

'Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature right from the beginning'

SHOOTING

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

It may have been excluded from the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham but shooting still remains among India's high hopes when it comes to building up on its Olympic medal count in Tokyo next year. Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medalist, is banking on the younger crop to deliver the goods next year.

Despite the likes of Rajvardhan Singh Rathore (silver in 2004), Bindra (gold in 2008), Gagan Narang and Vi-

jay Kumar (bronze and silver in 2012) keeping it among medals, a majority of India's shooters are found to crumble under the pressure of the big occasion. After all, Bindra, who retired after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic, was the closest to a medal among India's 16 shooters.

"I think a lot has changed from Rio to now. If you look at what is happening, a lot of success is coming from the young generation. The youngsters of today are very different. Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature, right from the beginning, and I think that is an indication of course for the sport which

The youngsters of today are very different. Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature.

will develop but also how society in India has grown and changed," Bindra said after awarding medals to the team championship winners of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship on Friday.

'More confident'

"The youth of today are far more confident. I think that makes a lot of different because it gives them a lot of



Abhinav Bindra. • FILE PHOTO

self-belief. I think the crunch situation is a year away from now and we will know in Tokyo how they fare. I wish them luck."

In an effort to groom youngsters and help them

translate the belief into a structured high-performance programme, Bindra started the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance (ABPT).

The fifth centre of ABPT – which aims at providing the best of scientific and technological enhancement measures – started in Bhubaneswar earlier in the year.

The centre is equipped with the latest technological evaluation and rectification equipment along with an expert team led by Dr. Kartik Doshi.

"Bhubaneswar is becoming the hub of sport. The (Odisha) government has been extremely supportive.

A lot of sporting action is coming here.

"We've set up a lot of these high performance centres for various sports. Makes a lot of sense to supplement the work that the high performance centres with the work that we are doing," Bindra said.

"We do high performance, we do injury prevention, we do injury management, so it's part and performance of sport right at the elite level but also at the grassroots level.

"So it was a perfect destination. It's a very supportive administration... It's been fantastic and we could translate our vision into reality."

Nayan and Vishnu share spoils in MRF Formula 1600

Ashwin rules the roost in Formula LGB 1300 category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Young gun Ashwin Datta from Chennai spearheaded a momentous podium sweep for his team Momentum Motorsports in the highly competitive Formula LGB 1300 category, holding off two Bengaluru schoolboys while Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) and local challenger Vishnu Prasad won a race apiece in the premium MRF F1600 class on day two of the MRF MMSF FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MMRT, here on Saturday.

Also in the limelight was Coimbatore veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) who shrugged off a poor qualifying session where he finished fifth, and won the popular Indian Touring Cars race with a measure of comfort, while Chennai's R.P. Rajarajan took the honours in the Super Stock category after a tough fight. Pune lad Pratik Sonawane topped in the Volkswagen Ameo Class race.

In the first MRF F1600 race, Chatterjee benefitted from a drive-through penalty for pole-sitter Sohil Shah from Bengaluru for jump start and once in front, he opened up a comfortable lead to win from Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar and Coimbatore's Bala Prasath.

Balu sizzles
Earlier, Balu, who had a



On the podium: Ashwin Datta flanked by second-placed Tijil Rao, right, and third-placed Chirag Ghorpade. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

poor qualifying session due to a technical hitch with his car, was not to be denied when the eight-lap race got underway. Some four corners before the end of the first lap, the Coimbatore star jumped four positions to take the lead and never looked back.

Behind him, after the initial jostling for track positions, Karthik Tharani (VW Motorsports) seemed content to hold his second spot behind Balu while further back, Nikanth Ram (ARKA Motorsports) won a tight battle with another VW factory driver Ishaan Dodhiwala, to complete the podium.

Meanwhile, Oman's Shihab Al Habsi and Finn Elias Seppanen shared the top honours in the two Formula 4 SEA races.

(13:35.140); 3. Raghu Rangasamy (Mamallapuram) (13:35.732).

Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) (15:22.141); 2. Karthik Tharani (VW Motorsports) (15:31.209); 3. Nikanth Ram (ARKA Motorsports) (15:38.667).

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. RP Rajarajan (Performance Racing) (16:23.257); 2. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (16:25.808); 3. Sudanand Daniel (Race Concepts) (16:27.363).

Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1): 1. Ashwin Datta (Momentum Motorsports) (15:23.678); 2. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsports) (15:25.447); 3. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsports) (15:33.840).

Volkswagen Ameo Class (Race-1): 1. Pratik Sonawane (Pune) (15:36.937); 2. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (Mumbai) (15:41.501); 3. Jeet Jhabakh (15:45.786).

Formula 4 SEA (Race-1, 11 laps): 1. Shihab Al Habsi (Oman) (20:40.847); 2. Elias Seppanen (Finland) (20:43.526); 3. Alistar Yoong (Malaysia) (20:44.174). Race-2 (12 laps): 1. Seppanen (19:57.398); 2. Young (19:57.948); 3. Al Habsi (19:58.826).

VW targets ITC crown in its 10th year

'Idea with one-make championship is to give the drivers a chance to compete'

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

For Volkswagen India, there are a lot of reasons to celebrate as it commemorates its 10th year of participating in Indian motorsports. Its one-make series, the Ameo Cup, has been given the status of a national championship with pro and junior category winners crowned national champions in the Ameo Class.

The German manufacturer, also for the first time, has stepped up its involvement by fielding its factory team in the premier championship in the country, Indian Touring Cars category. It had a great start in the first round in Coimbatore, winning all three races against nimble opponents like the Esteem which weigh far less than the Ventos that VW is using.

Keeps up good form

On Saturday, VW continued its good form in the series with a second-place finish despite the MMRT being a tough track with its long sweeping corners.

Sirish Vissa, head of VW motorsports India said, "First round was great, we exceeded our own expectations. But this is a track that's quite different compared to the Kari speedway. Herewe were off compared to where we should be in terms of

pace on Friday but we are working on it and next round should be better."

Speaking about ten years of being involved in motorsports, Vissa added, "Our idea with one-make championship is to give the drivers, who have never had any kind of racing experience before, a chance to come in and compete. This is the core of our programme. On an average, we have nine guys or girls who come in every year."

Vissa said, "As a manufacturer, for us, when we do the motorsport program, it makes zero difference because, as of right now, our main focus is on developing drivers, bringing in new technology into the sport and elevating the sport."

"The Ameo class from this year – there is a lot more weight to it. That is bragging rights for the driver. The recognition they get is much better."

Vissa also hoped more brands entered the ITC category and that VW was ready for a competitive fight, saying, "We would love to do it. It brings value to a certain extent and other manufacturers need to come in and compete. Winning ITC as a manufacturer is a big thing for it is the premier class of racing in India."



Setting the pace: Volkswagen leads the pack in the ITC saloon category. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pinot reigns, Alaphilippe increases lead

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
COL DU TOURMALET

France celebrated on Saturday as Thibaut Pinot conquered the Pyrenean summit of the Col du Tourmalet with Julian Alaphilippe following him across the line to extend his overall Tour de France lead.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas lost 35 seconds after being dropped by Pinot at the death, while his Ineos co-captain Egan Bernal finished a few seconds behind the winner at the first of seven summit fin-



Coming good: Thibaut Pinot led a French one-two. • AFP

ishes over 2000m. Thomas is now over two minutes behind Alaphilippe

in the general classification after he started to suffer with 500m to go.

Jyothsna stuns Srista

Nandhini outwits Pratyshua

NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARAIKUDI

It was a day of surprises yet again with L. Jyothsna of Tamil Nadu pulling it off over fifth seed Srista Seshadri and Nandhini Sairapalli of Goa outwitting eighth seed Pratyshua Bodda of Andhra Pradesh in the 46th National women's chess championship at the Chettinad Public School here on Saturday.

But Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB), Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) and Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra), the top three seeds, marched into the third round without much difficulty.

However, six time champion IM S. Vijayalakshmi survived some anxious moments before splitting points with Y. Saranya.

Sanskriti Goyal (Uttar Pradesh) held three-time National champion and sixth seed Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 2 bt G. Sandhya (AP) 1; Potturi Saye Srreeza (TS) 1 lost to Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 2; Y. Saranya 1.5 drew with S. Vijayalakshmi (AI) 1.5; Srista Seshadri 1 lost to L. Jyothsna 2; Sanskriti



Big scalp: L. Jyothsna pulled off a surprise win over fifth seed Srista Seshadri. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sharing points with Siddhali Shetye (Maharashtra).

But before the start of the third round, the players relaxed a bit celebrating the International Chess Day with Arun Kumar, the vice-chairman of the Chettinad school.

Important results (second round, TN unless specified): Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) 2 bt G. Sandhya (AP) 1; Potturi Saye Srreeza (TS) 1 lost to Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 2; Y. Saranya 1.5 drew with S. Vijayalakshmi (AI) 1.5; Srista Seshadri 1 lost to L. Jyothsna 2; Sanskriti

Goyal (UP) 1.5 drew with Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 1.5; Nandhini Sairapalli (Goa) 2 bt Pratyshua Bodda (AP) 1; P.V. Nandhidhaa 2 bt V. Toshali (AP) 1; C.H. Meghana (Rlys) 1 lost to Vantika Agrawal (Del) 2; M. Mahalakshmi M (Rlys) 1.5 drew with Dhanya Patel (Guj) 1.5.

Srishti Pandey (Mah) 1 lost to Michelle Catherine 2; Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 2 bt Potturi Suresh (AP) 1; Siddhali Shetye (Mah) 1.5 drew with K. Priyanka 1.5; C.M.N. Sunyuktha 2 bt Isha Sharma (Kar) 1; Neha Singh (Bih) 1 lost to S. Meenakshi (AI) 2.

TV PICKS

Commonwealth TT: DD Sports, 10 a.m.
Indonesia Open badminton: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
The Open golf: DSport, 3.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ibrahimovic nets hat-trick for LA Galaxy

LOS ANGELES
Zlatan Ibrahimovic lived up to the bravado on Friday, scoring all three goals to power the LA Galaxy to a hard fought 3-2 victory over MLS rivals Los Angeles Football Club. The unstoppable 37-year-old showed he's still capable of astounding feats by dominating the smaller LAFC defence and scoring when it counted the most for his second career MLS hat-trick. "When you play against a rival like that, in a full stadium, I get pumped. I get adrenaline. This is considered to be the biggest game in the league and I show up in the biggest games," said Ibrahimovic. AFP



Dortmund sinks Liverpool in US tour opener

CHICAGO
Danish internationals Thomas Delaney and Jacob Bruun Larsen scored second half goals as Borussia Dortmund handed Liverpool a 3-2 defeat in the opening game of the Premier League giants pre-season US tour on Friday. Paco Alcacer was the other scorer. In sweltering heat at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana, Bundesliga side Dortmund punished a rusty defensive display from the European champions, who were missing several star players. AFP

Algeria crowned AFCON champion

CAIRO
Baghdad Bounedjah's early goal propelled Algeria to a first Africa Cup of Nations title in 29 years after a fiery 1-0 victory over Senegal in Friday's final in Cairo. Bounedjah's deflected past Senegal goalkeeper Alfred Gomis gave Algeria a second-minute lead. The goal proved to be enough for the 1990 champions to lift the trophy on foreign soil for the first time. For Senegal, the long wait for a first continental crown goes on as coach Aliou Cisse, the captain of the 2002 runners-up, fell short again. AFP

Mortaza ruled out of Sri Lanka tour



Mortaza. • AP

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka and in Mortaza's absence, opening batsman Tamim Iqbal will lead the side.
The right-arm pacer picked up a left hamstring injury during training, which was later revealed to be a grade 1 tear, and it has ruled him out of action for around three to four weeks, International Cricket Council (ICC) reported.
Tamim does have previous international leadership experience, as he led the Tigers in one Test in New Zealand in 2017 following an injury to then-captain Mushfiqur Rahim.

The Uwe effect in Shivpal's block

National coach to watch the Indian closely in Finland after change of technique

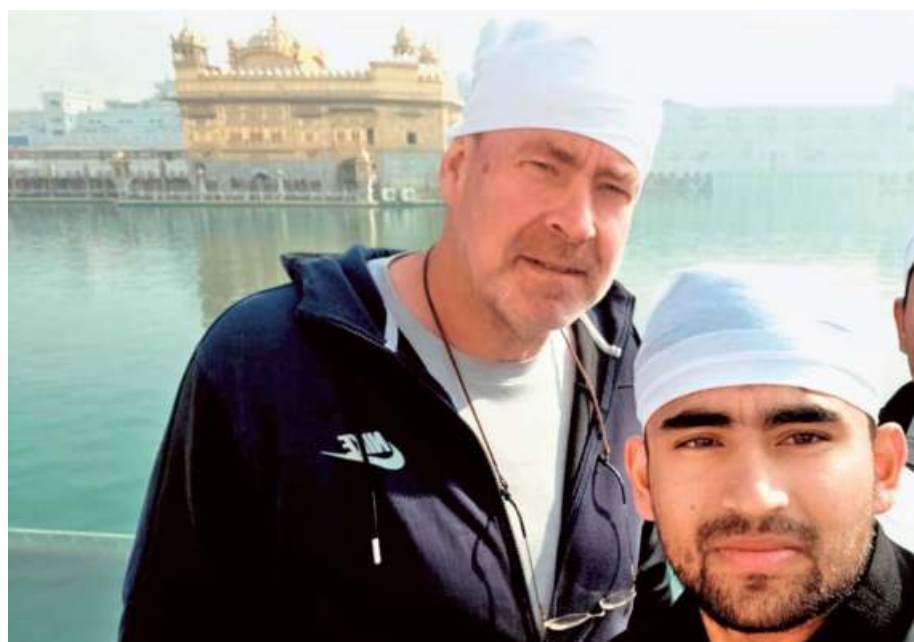
ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI
A few days ago, one felt there were cracks appearing in the country's exciting javelin world after a chat with German Uwe Hohn.

Hohn, the national javelin throw coach, was fuming about the technique of Shivpal Singh and Annu Rani, both Asian silver medalists. Shivpal's form was slipping around that time, from a personal best of 86.23m at the Doha Asian meet in April to the season's low of 76.90 in Poland towards the end of June.

Shivpal does not listen

"No left 'block' and Shivpal does not listen (when I try) to change this!" Hohn, the man with the longest throw in history, told *The Hindu* from Spala, Poland. "Annu also does not listen, that is why she has been throwing only 60m in the last few competitions."
Blocking is the point during which the thrower is in his delivery stance and the non-throwing side of the body comes to a halt and is



Fine-tuning: National javelin coach Uwe Hohn has been working on Shivpal Singh's 'block' to improve his throwing. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

locked in place. The block must work efficiently for a good throw. Things appear to have improved, at least in Shivpal's case.

"Shivpal is doing okay but he has little problems with his right knee. Annu was in good shape but trying way too hard and she does not listen or follow our advice.

And it's definitely not a language problem," said Hohn.

Shivpal, currently India's leading javelin thrower with Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champion Neeraj Chopra recovering from elbow surgery, will be in action in the Motonet Grand Prix in Joensuu, Finland, on Wednesday. And Hohn will

be watching the 24-year-old closely.

Better in training

Has he sorted out Shivpal's block? Is he comfortable with the change in technique? "We will see during the competition, in training it is much better at the moment," said Hohn.

India's consistent showing a good augury

Clinching individual medals from Olympic events stands out

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI
It has become a matter of routine for India to top the medals table in the World Cups this season.

Even as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Raninder Singh, is thrilled that the youngsters have topped the medals table for the fourth year in a row in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, it may have to be stressed that the Indian men and women have absolutely been brilliant in rifle and pistol in New Delhi, Beijing and Munich this year.

It was in the fitness of things that 14-year-old Esha Singh wound up the show for India by winning the bronze medal in mixed air rifle with Gaurav Rana. It could have been a better medal but for the duo slipping in the second qualification phase after having topped the first.

Rising to the occasion

Esha has done remarkably well to step it up on the international stage, following her sweep in the women's, junior and youth gold medals in air pistol in the National Championship in Thiruvananthapuram last year.

Esha had also won the individual silver in the junior women's air pistol, while Sarabjot Singh had won the gold in the junior men's air pistol. These are Olympic



On target: Esha Singh and Gaurav Rana who won the mixed air rifle bronze, with the Belarus and champion German teams in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

events and should augur well for the future of Indian shooting.

Even though India was No. 1 in the medals table, with 10 gold, nine silver and five bronze, the individual medals from the Olympic events, including the ones in the mixed events, stand out.

Icing on the cake

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar winning the junior men's rifle 3-position gold with a junior world record on the last day was the icing on the cake.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Anish Bhanwala was able to assert himself with the 25-metre rapid fire pistol gold, with an impressive margin.

His 584 in qualification should also be a good indication of India's bid to win the Olympic quota in the event, with Adarsh Singh also pressing his claim.

Elavenni Valarivan was ex-

cellent in winning the junior women's air rifle gold, ahead of Mehuli Ghosh who has been shooting world-class scores as a matter of routine in almost every competition.

Asian junior champion Yash Vardhan and World junior champion Hriday Hazarika could not get the individual medals, but were able to win the mixed air rifle silver and bronze medals with Shreya Agrawal and Mehuli Ghosh respectively.

Ten medals including four gold, in Olympic events, without considering the team medals, is a strong statement by the Indian team.

The results:
Mixed air pistol: 1. Germany (Andrea Katharine Heckner, Robin Walter) 16 (382, 571); 2. Belarus (Liubov Stralchona, Abdul-Aziz Kurdzi) 12 (383, 569); 3. India (Esha Singh, Gaurav Rana) 16 (378, 573); 4. China (Li Xue, Wang Zhehao 14 (379, 571); 15. India-A (Priya Raghav, Arjun Singh Cheema) 564.

Overthrow rules may be reviewed, says report

Press Trust of India
LONDON

The custodians of cricket laws, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is likely to review the overthrow rules in the aftermath of the controversy that rocked the just-concluded World Cup final between New Zealand and England, a newspaper report said.

According to a report in 'The Sunday Times', "There is a feeling at MCC that overthrows are worth looking at when it next reviews the laws of the game, which is the responsibility of the MCC Laws sub-committee."

The overthrow rules drew MCC's attention after New Zealand were left to rue a fortuitous, last-over overthrow that went for four after getting a deflection of Ben Stokes' bat to help England take the match into Super Over and eventually lift the trophy via boundary count.

Chasing New Zealand's 241 for 8, England needed nine runs from the final three balls when a throw by Martin Guppitt deflected off diving Stokes' bat for a boundary.

On-field umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Marias Erasmus awarded England awarded six runs in total.

But former ICC Elite Panel umpire Simon Taufel said as per the rules, the umpires should have awarded England five runs instead of six.

So, can we expect something like 82m on Wednesday?

"The result will not be the main target, but the technique. He should be able to throw that but we have already started our preparation for Doha and this competition will be direct out of training," said Hohn, a former world record holder.

He explained that Shivpal's mediocre throws in the last two meets were due to "fatigue and muscle imbalance".

In Finland, Shivpal will be up against Estonia's Magnus Kirt, the only one to throw over 90m this year, and Finland's 2012 London Olympics silver medalist Antti Ruuska. Shivpal has already qualified for this September's Doha World Championships and he appears to be in a hurry to make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics.

"I thought I'd go for 85m in Finland but our coach has told me that it should not be the focus now. He says something like 82 or 83 will be good. "The block is a bit better now and my left hand is more close, earlier it was straight."

Shiva Thapa claims gold

First Indian boxer to do so at President's Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

Making his international debut in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63kg, Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury.

Thapa had lost to Safullin in the Asian Championship semifinal earlier this year.

Signing off with a silver medal was woman boxer Parveen (60kg) who lost her final bout to local hope Rimma Volosenko.

"The new weight category

Tough road ahead for Neeraj

He has resumed training

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

He may have been the World No. 4 and won gold at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games but life will not be easy for Neeraj Chopra as he works his way back to the world circuit after the recent elbow surgery.

"It will be a difficult process to change his way of throwing and he needs a lot of trust and patience to do so," said national javelin coach Uwe Hohn.

"Neeraj is very talented and could throw very far but for that he has to be healthy! He is throwing too often with the upper body in front.

"If that happens, then his arm is too deep and there is stress on the shoulder and elbow. He started this way of throwing in 2017 and his history of shoulder injury started then."

Neeraj, according to deputy national coach Radhakrishnan Nair, has re-



Neeraj Chopra. •REUTERS

sumed training but the big question is whether he will be ready for this September's World Championships.

If he is at his best, Neeraj has the potential to win India's first-ever Olympic medal in athletics and the country will be keen to see him back in action as soon as possible.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

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Signing off with a silver medal was woman boxer Parveen (60kg) who lost her final bout to local hope Rimma Volosenko.

"The new weight category



Shiva Thapa. •FILE PHOTO

re-jigging of Olympic divisions, told PTI from Astana.

Thapa couldn't make the cut for the September World Championships after losing in the trials to Commonwealth Games silver-winner Manish Kaushik.

Thapa had defeated Kyrgyzstan's Argon Kadribekulu 4-1 in the last-four stage bout.

"Shiva had a great tournament, beating some really fancied opponents. It was an impressive performance," said India's High Performance Director Santiago Nievea.

Earlier, Sweetie Boora (81kg) and Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) had ended their campaign with bronze medals following semifinal defeats.

Peaty eyes hat-trick of world doubles

The Olympic champion sets sights on his 100m record

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA)

Britain's Olympic swimming champion Adam Peaty will channel his inner Mike Tyson as he looks to deliver a knockout blow to his world title rivals next week.

The double world record holder has not been beaten for five years over 100m breaststroke in major competitions – a streak rarely seen in sport and one that invites comparison to the great American hurdler Ed Moses.

Moses went unbeaten for 10 years between 1977 and 1987 but Peaty chose a boxing analogy to describe his mindset going into the world championships, which begins on Sunday in Gwangju, South Korea.

"I think it was Mike Tyson who said 'The closer I get to the ring, I'm a god' – and that really sticks in the thinking behind what I do," said Peaty.

"The closer I get to a world championships, the closer I get to an Olympics, that's where my strength really comes mentally," ad-

ded the 24-year-old, who is chasing a hat-trick of world doubles in the 50m and 100m. "You almost have to turn it off. I like going into those meets mentally fresh because by the time I get to the end of it I literally sleep for about a week."

First up, Peaty takes aim at his 100m world record of 57.10s on Monday.

"That's my main motivation now – how do I get below that magic 57," said the Briton, who has been flirting with that mark in training. "I need to be in the right frame of mind."

Victorious Sermon bags main event

BENGALURU: Victorious Sermon (Sandesh up), won the Nawab M. Arshad Ali Khan Memorial Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 20). The winner is owned by Mr. Chirag V. Shah and trained by Vishal Gaikwad.

THE RESULTS

1 DELHI CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 20: SOUTH BELL (Iran) 1, Above The Rest (R. Manish) 2, Purity (Antony) 3 and Winx (T.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: String Of Pearls. 3/4, 2 1/4 and 2 3/4. Im 27.09s. ₹ 81 (w), 21, 24 and 14 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 65, FP: 1,202, Q: 389, Trinella: 2,312 and 1,034, Exacta: 75,592 and 3,2396. Favourite: Purity. Owners: Mr. Md. Minhaj Raza, Mr. N. Mohan Reddy, Mr. B.K. Muralidhar and Mr. Sharat Kumar. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

2 MYSORE CUP (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): MZLIKAZI (Trevor) 1, Donna Bella (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Queen Regnant (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Mrs Thatcher (Sandesh) 4. 6 1/2, 4 and 2. Im 12.6s. ₹ 13, (w), 11, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 35, FP: 56, Q: 41, Trinella: 203 and 66, Exacta: 829 and 470. Favourite: MZlikazi. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Vishal Gaikwad.

3 CHENNAI CUP (Div. D), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: LAGOPUS (Tauseef) 1, Bold Runner (Sandesh) 2, Charmaine (Trevor) 3 and Simply Magical

(Yash) 4. 3-1/2, Nose and Hd. Im 07.10s. ₹ 32 (w), 13, 15 and 23 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 60, FP: 85, Q: 53, Trinella: 361 and 173, Exacta: 924 and 566. Favourite: Lagopus. Owner and Trainer: Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah.

7 ANGEL DUST TROPHY (1,200m), rated 30 to 50: COMMODUS (Trevor) 1, Mega Ikon (A. Imran) 2, Bernardini (Neeraj) 3 and Scarlet Princess (M. Prabhakaran) 4. Lnk, 4-1/4 and 5. Im 12.25s. ₹ 26 (w), 15, 32 and 19 (p). SHP: 61, THP: 60, FP: 157, Q: 136, Trinella: 821 and 270, Exacta: 13,141 and 15,018. Favourite: Commodus. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Manjiri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. K. Shasha Bindu Das and Mr. K. Kamesh. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

8 CHENNAI CUP (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: GALVARINO (Trevor) 1, Colonel Harry (Rajesh K) 2, Command post (R. Manish) 3 and Admirable (Iran) 4. 8. 2-1/2 and 3/4. Im 06.18s. ₹ 66 (w), 18, 99 and 12 (p). SHP: 396, THP: 74, FP: 12,336, Q: 1,711, Trinella: 59,147 (carried over) and 3,621, Exacta: 1,03,621 (carried over) and 44,409. Favourite: Commandpost. Owners: Mr. Gautam Basappa, Mr. Apana Subaiya P, Mrs. Poojya Prashanth and Mr. Prem Kumar Menon. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

9 CHENNAI CUP (Div. D), (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: LAGOPUS (Tauseef) 1, Bold Runner (Sandesh) 2, Charmaine (Trevor) 3 and Simply Magical

Jackpot: ₹ 70,964 (11 tkts); Runner up: 3,636 (92 tkts); Treble (0: 1,690 (19 tkts); (ii): 356 (172 tkts).

RACING

Well Connected and Impavid to fight it out

BENGALURU: Well Connected and Impavid may fight out the finish of the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore (2,000m), the stellar attraction of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 21). There is no false rails.

1 INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE CUP (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 1-15 pm: 1. Ramon (6) Arshad 60, 2. Constanza (4) Trevor 59.5, 3. Habanero (3) Noornabi 59.5, 4. Kimera (8) Srinath 59, 5. She's Stylish (1) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 6. Snow Queen (9) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 7. Aqua Blessing (7) Chetan K 56, 8. Jon Snow (5) Sai Vamshi 56 and 9. Red Indian (2) Nazerul 56.

1. CONSTANZA, 2. KIMARA, 3. AQUA BLESSING.

2 HYDERABAD CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 1-45: 1. Electra (2) Suraj 60, 2. Mustertion (10) Trevor 59.5, 3. King Of Shadows (5) Shobhan 58, 4. Amazing Angel (4) Chetan K 56.5, 5. Crack Of Dawn (9) Sandesh 56.5, 6. Andra King (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 7. Duxton (8) Jagadeesh 56, 8. Azeemki Princess (3) T.S. Jodha 55, 9. Blackhawk (11) Neeraj 55, 10. Mr Humble (7) Darshan 55 and 11. Firing Line (6) S.A. Amit 53.

1. ELECTRA, 2. CRACK OF DAWN, 3. MUSTERTION.

3 KOLKATA CUP (2,000m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 2-15: 1. Velocidad (8) Srinath 60, 2. Lycurgus (6) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 3. Nitromax (2) Akshay K 57, 4. Prince Charmo (5) M. Naveen 56.5, 5. Charmed Life (3) Trevor 56, 6. Rare Rhythm (7) T.S. Jodha 56, 7. Tanoura (1) Adarsh 54.5 and 8. Flirting Eyes (4) Neeraj 51.

1. VELOCIDAD, 2. LYCURGUS, 3. RARE RHYTHM.

4 MUMBAI CUP (1,400m), rated 45 to 65, 2-45: 1. Sakura (1) Akshay K 60, 2. Multifaceted (7) Zervan 58, 3. Air Command (8) Suraj 57, 4. Nikandros (7) B. Harish 56, 5. Psychic Warrior (10) Noornabi 55.5, 6. Turf Magic (3) Darshan 54.5, 7. Silver Dew (6) Bhawani Singh 54, 8. Corona Del Corsa (4) Antony 53.5, 9. Torsoro (5) R. Manish 53.5, 10. Akita Pro (9) Trevor 52.5 and 11. Ice Floe (11) Sandesh 51.

1. MULTIFACETED, 2. SAKURA, 3. AKITA PRO.

5 MYSTICAL MILLION (1,600m), 5 maidens 3-y-o, (Terms), 3-20: 1. Aachen (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Manzoni (4) Sandesh 56, 3. Mighty Red (6) Darshan 56, 4. North Winds (3) Yash 56, 5. Sir Lancelot (5) Neeraj 56, 6. Speaking Of Stars (7) Zervan 56, 7. Streaming Gold (2) Suraj 56, 8.

1. WELL CONNECTED, 2. IMPAVID,

Hokkaido (9) Akshay K 54.5, 9. Nicollini (8) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Prayer (1) 54.5.

1. NICOLLINI, 2. HOKKAIDO, 3. SPEAKING OF STARS.

6 B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 3-55: 1. Prevalent Force (11) Zervan 60, 2. Corfe Castle (5) Suraj 58, 3. Mauritania (10) David Allan 57, 4. Cavallo Veloce (8) A. Imran 56.5, 5. La Rondine (2) Akshay K 56.5, 6. Knotty Ash (1) Antony 53.5, 7. Automatic (7) P.S. Chouhan 52.5, 8. Brainstorm (12) Yash 52.5, 9. Star Baron (4) Dhebe 52, 10. Auburn (6) Neeraj 51, 11. Lady Legend (9) Trevor 50.5 and 12. Organic (3) Vinod Shinde 50.5.

1. CORFE CASTLE, 2. LADY LEGEND, 3. KNOTTY ASH.

7 KINGFISHER ULTRA DERBY BANGALORE (2,000m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Impavid (4) Sandesh 56, 2. Knight Templar (5) Zervan 56, 3. Malwa (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Royal Crystal (3) Neeraj 56, 5. Sir Supremo (2) Yash 56, 6. Southern Ruler (6) Bhawani Singh 56, 7. Anjeze (7) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Cosmic Ray (8) Suraj 54.5, 9. Hunt For Gold (9) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Well Connected (10) David Allan 54.5.

1. WELL CONNECTED, 2. IMPAVID,

3. ANJEZE.

8 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,200m), rated 75 & above, 5-10: 1. Kambaku (7) John 62.5, 2. Bold Command (4) Sandesh 60, 3. Star Carnation (3) Bhawani Singh 59, 4. Tororosso (6) S. Shareef 56, 5. Courage (2) Suraj 55.5, 6. Area Legend (9) Akshay K 53.5, 7. Bora Bora (10) P.S. Chouhan 52, 8. Saint Petersburg (1) Trevor 50.5, 9. Aeisir (8) Neeraj 50 and 10. Blue Blazer (5) Dhebe 50.

1. COURAGE, 2. AREA LEGEND, 3. AEISIR.

9 HYDERABAD CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-50: 1. Blarney Stone (2) A. Ramu 60, 2. Cosmic Feeling (8) Nazerul 60, 3. Lady Majestic (10) Akshay 60, 4. Skyfire (6) Vaibhav 60, 5. Stroke Of Genius (11) M. Naveen 60, 6. Eco Friendly (9) Iran 59, 7. Glorious Days (3) T.S. Jodha 59, 8. Truly Delightful (4) Ashok Kumar 58, 9. Lovely Sierra (5) A. Merchant 57.5, 10. Zala Princess (1) Rayan 57 and 11. Find (7) Antony 55.5.

1. COSMIC FEEL