

India’s fringe players get an opportunity to stake a claim

Three-match T20I series against West Indies begins today; the return of Pollard and Narine bolsters the hosts; injured Russell pulls out

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUDERHILL (USA)

Back on the road following its unfulfilled World Cup wish, India will begin its preparations for the T20 showpiece event next year with a three-match series against the West Indies here on Saturday.

As captain Virat Kohli pointed out before leaving for the Caribbean tour, the main objective of the T20Is and the subsequent ODI series against the West Indies is to try out the fringe players who are on the selectors’ mind.

It will be a crucial couple of weeks for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who are back in the mix after being sidelined for the World Cup. With India looking to solidify its middle-order, both have a good opportunity to make a case.

Back in the swing

Spin all-rounder Washington Sundar and pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Deepak Chahar are also back in the T20 squad while speedster Navdeep Saini and Deepak’s brother Rahul are in line to make their India debut.

Will aspire for India coach job in future, says Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Former skipper Sourav Ganguly on Friday said he aspires to be India’s cricket coach some time in the future, but has no interest in the high-profile position at this point.

Ganguly said he’s definitely interested in the India coach’s job but not at the moment as his plate is full.

“Definitely, I’m interested but not at this point of time. Let one more phase go then I will come into the fray,” Ganguly said.

The 47-year-old is currently the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president, besides being associated with IPL franchise Delhi Capitals as the team advisor. He also does commentary and is the host of a popular Bengali quiz show.

“Currently, I’m associated with too many things – IPL, CAB, TV commentary. Let me complete this. But I will definitely put my hat into the ring at some stage,” Ganguly said.



Sweet memories: Rahul will look forward to Saturday’s outing as he scored an unbeaten 110 in his last innings at the venue. • AP

With Rohit Sharma and a fit-again Shikhar Dhawan set to open, the No. 4 spot is likely to be occupied by K.L. Rahul, who has fond memories of the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium, having scored an unbeaten 110 in his

last innings here almost three years ago.

Mohammed for Russell

The explosive Kieron Pollard and spinner Sunil Narine are back in the side though Chris Gayle will only be seen in the

ODIs. Jason Mohammed was named as the replacement for the injured Andre Russell.

The squads (from):

West Indies: Carlos Brathwaite (Capt.), John Campbell, Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer, Ni-

cholas Pooran, Kieron Pollard, Rovman Powell, Keemo Paul, Sunil Narine, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas, Anthony Bramble, Jason Mohammed, and Khary Pierre.

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, K.L.

STAT SPHERE

How India and West Indies stack up in T20Is



VIRAT KOHLI



CARLOS BRATHWAITE

Overall	P	W	L	NR
West Indies	110	51	55	4
India	115	71	41	3

H2H

P	WI	Ind	NR
11	5	5	1

POLLARD

M: 59	M: 48
R: 788	Wkts: 50
HS: 63*	BB: 4/12

NARINE

Ave: 19.70	Ave: 20.68
SR: 127.50	ER: 6.02
100s/50s: 0/2	4w/5w: 1/0



ROHIT BHUVNESHWAR

M: 94	M: 37
R: 2331	Wkts: 36

HS: 118

Ave: 32.37	Ave: 25.83
SR: 137.68	ER: 6.97
100s/50s: 4/16	4w/5w: 0/1

Rohit Sharma (102 from 94 games), currently third in the list of six-hitters in this format, has a chance to claim the top spot overtaking Guptill (103/76) and Gayle (105/58)

T20Is schedule

Aug. 3: Lauderhill (Florida)

Aug. 4: Lauderhill (Florida)

Aug. 6: Providence (Rhode Island)

All games at 8 p.m. IST

Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, and Navdeep Saini.

Match starts at 8 p.m. IST.

‘Ronaldo inspires me’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ZURICH

An avid football fan, India cricket captain Virat Kohli says he draws inspiration from Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo as he successfully took up more challenges than his iconic Argentine contemporary Lionel Messi with an

“unmatched” work ethic.

“For me, Cristiano is above everyone else. His commitment and work ethic is unmatched. He wants it that bad – you can see it every game. I support every club at which he plays. He inspires me,” Kohli told FIFA.com.

Gowtham wrecks WI-A



Telling spell: Krishnappa Gowtham’s five-for brought India-A back into contention. • FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Krishnappa Gowtham (five for 17) bundled out West Indies-A for 149 in its second innings on the third day of the second ‘Test’ on Friday.

Chasing a target of 278, the India-A openers Priyank Panchal (19) and Mayank Agarwal (29) took the team to 50 for no loss at tea.

Warrior strikes early

Gowtham’s impressive spell read 7.5-3-17-5. He was ably supported by Sandeep Warrior (three for 43), who ran through the host’s top-order and left it reeling at 12 for four at close on day two.

Earlier, Shivam Dube (79, 85b) and opener Priyank Panchal (58, 125b) shared a 124-run stand for the sixth wicket as India-A was dismissed for 190 in its first innings.

Pacer Chemar Holder was the standout bowler for the hosts, taking five for 54 in 12.5 overs and helping his team gain a healthy 128-run lead.

The scores:

West Indies-A 318 & 149 (Sunil Ambris 71, Sandeep Warrior three for 43, Krishnappa Gowtham five for 17) vs India-A 190 (Priyank Panchal 58, Shivam Dube 79, Chemar Holder five for 54) & 50 for no loss.

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIRMINGHAM

Rory Burns’ unbeaten maiden Test century saw him defy Australia for more than six-and-a-half hours as he led a determined England batting effort in the Ashes opener at Edgbaston on Friday.

England was 267 for four at stumps on the second day of the first Test, just 17 runs behind Australia’s first-innings score of 284.

Standing ovation

Ashes debutant Burns was batting on 125 and he received a huge ovation from the crowd as he walked off. England vice-captain Ben Stokes was 38 not out, having helped Burns add an unbroken 73.

England resumed on 10-0 with Burns four not out and Surrey teammate Jason Roy on six.

But Roy never looked comfortable on Friday and, on 10, edged fast bowler James Pattinson low to Smith at second slip, with England then 22 for one.

Skipper Joe Root had returned to No. 3 in a bid to lead from the front.



Rory’s day out: Burns was solid in defence and assured in strokeplay. • GETTY IMAGES

But he was almost bowled leaving off-spinner Nathan Lyon’s first ball.

The star batsman had an even luckier break on nine when given out caught behind off Pattinson only for his review to reveal the ball had hit the off-stump without dislodging a bail.

Meanwhile, Burns was content to pick off anything loose, including an over-pitched ball from Pat Cummins he on-drove for four.

Root had another moment of good fortune when given out lbw to recalled pa-

ceman Peter Siddle on 14. But in a match already full of overturned decisions, his immediate review revealed an inside edge.

Root cashed in as he too, but fell soon afterwards when he chipped a Siddle slower ball back to the bowler, who took a fine one-handed catch to end a second-wicket partnership of 132.

Then, Joe Denly and Jos Buttler fell cheaply after tea to leave England 194 for four, before Stokes helped revive the innings.

SCOREBOARD

Australia – 1st innings: 284.

England – 1st innings: Rory Burns (batting) 125, Jason Roy c Smith b Pattinson 10, Joe Root c & b Siddle 57, Joe Denly lbw b Pattinson 18, Jos Buttler c Bancroft b Cummins 5, Ben Stokes (batting) 38; Extras (b-5, lb-7, w-2): 14; Total (for four wkts. in 90 overs): 267.

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-154, 3-189, 4-194.

Australia bowling: Cummins 21-6-65-1, Pattinson 17-2-54-2, Siddle 21-5-43-1, Lyon 28-4-79-0, Wade 1-0-7-0, Head 2-1-7-0.

UP Yoddha, Telugu Titans in a thrilling tie

PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

UP Yoddha and Telugu Titans played out a thrilling 20-20 tie in the ProKabaddi League Season-7 second leg.

In a clash between evenly matched sides at the NSCI indoor stadium, the final minute produced unexpected twists and turns.

Siddharth Desai launched into the final raid for Titans, shuffled across the mat forcing the defence to shift positions. Sumit at left corner lost his balance and fell beyond the line.

Siddharth took his time to return, waiting for seconds to run out and at 20-19 his teammates leaped in joy in anticipation of a victory. The mood gripped the team bench, resulting in captain Abozar Mighani rushing in to join the others in the celebrations.

Titans were docked a technical point for jumping the gun, the tie had not finished by then. A review of the decision also did not go in their favour.

Titans suffered a double blow when rival skipper and catching specialist Nitesh



Note the point! Siddharth Desai returns from a successful raid. • COURTESY PKL

Kumar showcased his craft with a Super Tacke on Siddharth with five minutes left, followed by a successful raid by Shrikant Jadhav for Yoddha as the match raced to a climax, 18-all and 19-all.

Rishank Devadiga and Siddharth are two familiar faces for kabaddi fans at the NSCI, from their U Mumba days and drew cheers even though they were in opposite camps.

The Yoddha defence took time to execute their plan for

Siddharth, trapping the big man in the fourth and fifth raids. Ashu Singh and Sumit were involved, getting their target on the left corner and in the middle respectively.

Siddharth tried to break free once, only to be lifted off the mat. His contribution till the break, was four raid points.

Catchers came into focus in the second half, scores level at 11-11 with C. Arun pulling off two tackles for Titans. Sumit got a grip on Sidd-

harth, then Nitesh Kumar single-handedly caught Rajnish as the tussle for the upper hand intensified.

However, the teams returned with a point each.

The results:

Telugu Titans 20 (Siddharth Desai 5, Farhad Milaghardan 4, Abozar Mighani 4) tied with UP Yoddha 20 (Shrikant Jadhav 4, Amit 4, Nitesh Kumar 4).

U Mumba 32 (Surinder Singh 9, Abhishek Singh 6) bt Gujarat Fortnuegiants 20 (G.B. More 3, Ankit 3).

UTT

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

The depth in the Goa Challengers line-up came to the fore as it bounced back to register an 8-7 win over defending champion Dabang Delhi in the Ultimate Table Tennis league here on Friday.

Though the teams are virtually assured of a place in the semifinals, the battle for supremacy was fought on an even keel with Goa claiming the bragging rights.

The points position

After three rounds, Goa leads with 26 points, followed by Chennai Lions and U Mumba (24 each), Dabang Delhi (23), RP-SG Mavericks (21) and Puneri Paltan (17).

Goa suffered a setback before the start of the match when World No. 9 Cheng I-Ching had to be rested owing to indisposition. Her replacement Shruti Amrute, making her debut, was expected to be blanked by Bernadette Szocs, the Romanian ranked 14th in the



Gritty: Archana kept her cool to clinch it for Goa. • COURTESY UTT

world. But after losing the first two games, Shruti pulled off the third on ‘golden point.’

The point given by Shruti spurred her teammates on, making them believe that they could come out stronger. Eventually, given the margin of Goa’s victory, Shruti’s contribution did prove crucial.

Entertaining contest

An upbeat A. Amalraj, ranked 137, nailed the 63rd-

ranked Jon Persson 2-1 in an enthralling battle to repeat his 2016 performance in a World Tour event. The match, which witnessed some long and thrilling rallies, left Amalraj roaring after clinching the final point.

In mixed doubles, World championship medallist Alvaro Robles and partner Archana Kamath bounced back from 0-5 to take the first game on golden point. But G. Sathyan and Szocs were not to be denied as they claimed

the next two, putting Dabang 5-4 ahead.

However, Sathyan could not add to the advantage as his opponent Robles took the first two games before Sathyan restored parity (6-6).

This left Archana looking to seal the tie for Goa against Krittwika. “Krittwika has always been a tough rival for me,” Archana was to confess later.

When Krittwika, playing aggressively, won the first game, Dabang sighted victory. But Archana bounced back to race away with the second.

The tie-deciding finale witnessed a close battle between Archana and Krittwika before the former stamped her authority.

The results:

Goa Challengers bt Dabang Delhi 8-7 (Shruti Amrute lost to Bernadette Szocs 8-11, 8-11, 11-10; A. Amalraj bt Jon Persson 11-7, 8-11, 11-8; Alvaro Robles & Archana lost to G. Sathyan & Szocs 11-10, 9-11, 8-11; Robles bt Sathyan 11-9, 11-8, 5-11; Archana bt Krittwika Sinha Roy 6-11, 11-2, 11-8).

Saturday’s fixture: Puneri Paltan v U Mumba (7 p.m.).

TV PICKS

Badminton: Thailand Open, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.
The Ashes: 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m.
UTT: Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
West Indies vs India: 1st T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.
Global T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Referee Frappart about to make history

PARIS
Stephanie Frappart will take charge of the UEFA Super Cup between Liverpool and Chelsea in Istanbul on August 14, becoming the first woman to referee a major men's match in European competition. France's Frappart, 35, refereed the Women's World Cup final between the United States and the Netherlands in July, and last season became the first woman to officiate a Ligue 1 match. **AFP**

Anderson packs off Chotrani

KUALA LUMPUR
L. Anderson of England ended the hopes of Veer Chotrani, defeating him 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7 in the quarterfinals on Friday in the World junior individual squash championship here. The junior women's team championship will be held from August 5 to 9.



Kvitova withdraws from Rogers Cup

TORONTO
Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova has withdrawn from next week's Rogers Cup here after failing to recover from an arm injury which has dogged her season. Tennis Canada said in a statement on Friday the 29-year-old Czech star's withdrawal would mean former World No.1 Serena Williams is now given a top eight seed. Venus Williams will take the available space in the main draw while a wild-card spot would be handed to Svetlana Kuznetsova. Kvitova said in a statement she had pulled out after the left-arm injury that forced her to withdraw from the French Open flared up again. **AFP**

Indian GP shifted to Patiala

K. KEERTHIVASAN CHENNAI

The fifth and final Indian Grand Prix will not be held in Chennai, but in Patiala on August 16.

The Chennai Grand Prix was scheduled on September 1, but Athletics Federation of India (AFI) decided against it as it felt two back-to-back events in Patiala followed by the National Inter-state meet from August 27 to 30 in Lucknow will definitely give the athletes a better chance to qualify for the Doha World championships to be held between September 27 and October 6.

"We decided to organise the event in Patiala based on the request from players and coaches," C.K. Valson, Secretary of AFI, told *The Hindu* here on Friday.

The events scheduled in the competition:
Men: 100m, 400m, long jump, shot put, discus, javelin, pole vault; **Women:** 100m, 400m, long jump, shot put, discus, javelin.

Satwiksairaj-Chirag make the semifinals

Sai Praneeth loses to Tsuneyama

THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BANGKOK

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty qualified for the men's doubles semifinals but B. Sai Praneeth crashed out of the men's singles event at the Thailand Open here on Friday.

While Rankireddy and Shetty registered a hard-fought win over qualifiers Choi Solgyu and Seo Seung Jae of Korea, Sai Praneeth suffered a straight game defeat against seventh seed Kenta Tsuneyama of Japan.

After posing some challenge in the first game, Sai Praneeth, who reached the semifinals of last week's Japan Open, lost 21-18, 21-12 in the quarterfinals. With Sai Praneeth's exit, the Indian challenge has ended in the singles event.

However, the unseeded Indian combination of Rankireddy and Shetty fought

valiantly for exactly an hour to get past the Korean rivals 21-17, 17-21, 21-19 in a quarter-final duel.

The win was Rankireddy and Shetty's maiden victory over the Korean pair.

The 16th-ranked Indians will take on another Korean combo of Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol in the semifinals on Saturday.

However, it was curtains for Rankireddy in the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles event as he and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 13-21, 15-21 to third seeds Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino of Japan in a lopsided encounter that lasted just 28 minutes.

The results (quarterfinals): Men: B. Sai Praneeth lost to Kenta Tsuneyama 21-18, 21-12. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Choi Solgyu & Seo Seung Jae 21-17, 17-21, 21-19.

Mixed doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Ashwini Ponnappa lost to Yuta Watanabe & Arisa Higashino 21-13, 21-15.



Valiant stand: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept the Indian hopes alive in Bangkok. ■ FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

TVS Racing's Sivanesan and Ahamed to start from front row

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Sivanesan Sethu came up with a stunning lap to complete a 1-2 starting line-up for TVS Racing in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category qualifying session in the third round of the MRF-MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championship here on Friday.

Sivanesan, clocked a sizzling Imin, 54.325s, followed by teammate and fellow Chennai rider K.Y. Ahamed (1:54.87). Hyderabad's Rahil Shetty of Sparks Racing (1:55.001) completed the front row for Saturday's race.

Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing, led by Bengaluru riders Anish Shetty (1:57.384), and Abhishek Vasudev (1:59.890), and Chennai's Aravind Balakrishnan (2:00.969), qualified for the



Scorching the track: Sivanesan Sethu took the pole position in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

top three spots in that order in the Pro-Stock 201-300cc class.

Ryhana impresses

Championship leader Ryhana Bee of Sparks Racing (2:11.216), teammate Ann Jennifer (2:12.189) and Speed Demonz Racing's Lani Zena Fernandez (2:14.007) were the top three qualifiers in the girls' category.

Lighting up the day's pro-

ceedings was a bunch of teenagers, led by 15-year-old Mohammed Mikail from Chennai.

He scorched the track in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup riding the FIM Moto3-spec NSF 250R bikes to take pole position in 1:48.949.

Jagan, a seven-time National champion, had a disappointing run with a 2:03.413 and came in ninth.

Chamorro's brilliant brace sinks Sporting

Bagan's organised approach puts its rival under pressure from the outset

DURAND CUP

Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA

Amidst bouts of heavy monsoon showers, Salvador Chamorro's brilliant brace enabled Mohun Bagan to record a 2-0 win over Mohammedian Sporting in the inaugural match of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Friday.

Bagan's organised approach put Sporting under pressure from the outset of the Group B encounter.

It seized initiative by scoring in the second minute through Spaniard forward Chamorro's header off Joseba Betia's free-kick.

Fine coordination

Mariners' fine coordination and passing in the season opener spoke a lot about its preparations.

Aided by a neat back-line and an active midfield, led



Double delight: Mohun Bagan's Salvador Chamorro is pleased after scoring his and the team's second goal. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

by Betia, Bagan consistently pressed hard as most of the part of the action in the opening period happened in the Sporting half.

Bagan doubled its lead when Ashutosh Mehta's precise cross from right was slotted in by Chamorro with another header in the 22nd

Neeraj stuns Mesiano, enters final

Solanki and Sahani confirm two more medals

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Reigning India Open gold medallist Neeraj stunned 2016 World champion Alesia Mesiano to enter the final of the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial international boxing tournament in Kaspysk, Russia on Friday.

Neeraj, a bronze medallist at the Strandja Memorial, eked out a narrow 3-2 win over Mesiano in the 57kg category to assure himself at least a silver.

It was a neck-and-neck fight, but a series of clear punches from the Indian in the final round sealed the tie in his favour.

Earlier, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gaurav Solanki and 2019 India Open silver medallist Go-

vind Sahani assured two more medals for India by entering the semifinals.

Solanki defeated Russia's Maksim Chernyshev 3-2 in the 56kg category on Thursday. Also, Sahani outboxed Tajikistan's Shermukhammad Rustamov in the 49kg category to earn an RSC win.

However, it was curtains for Ashish Insha in the quarterfinals of the 52kg, losing 1-4 to Russia's Islamitdin Ali-soltanov. The match was in the balance till the last round before Ashish conceded a few clear punches in the dying minutes.

2018 India Open gold medallist Sanjeet had to concede his bout against Russian counterpart Daniel Lutai after suffering a cut on his forehead in the first round of the match.

time. Ugandan Mudde Musa sent in a beautiful pass and Arthur Kouassi lunged to execute a header.

Nevertheless, an alert Bagan keeper, Shilton Paul, dived to his left to make a spectacular save.

Sporting brought in forward Mohammed Amirul in the second half and gave a much-improved performance, switching to attacking mode.

It created a few good chances but could not score due to poor finishing.

For Sporting, the best opportunity came in the 74th minute but Satyam Sharma's shot was blocked by Paul.

Sporting missed another chance as Kouassi and Tirthankar Sarkar could not score due to some misunderstanding between them in the 82nd minute.

The result: Mohun Bagan 2 (Salvador Chamorro 2 and 22) bt Mohd. Sporting 0.

Sonam grabs gold, Komal in final

WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

India's Sonam Malik dished out a dominating performance and conceded just three points on her way to a second successive gold medal at the World Cadet Championship while Komal assured herself at least a silver in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Sonam trounced China's Binbin Xiang 7-1 in 65kg final.

In the 40kg final, Komal will fight it with American Sterling Blayke.

Hanny Kumari is in contention for a bronze in 46kg and she is up against Mexico's Adriana Berenis Hernandez Sanchez while Bha-

gyashree Fand will clash with Sweden's Eva Olivia Linnea Forsberg in 61kg bronze medal bout.

Madhuri Patel, though, lost her bronze medal clash 8-0 to Aida Kerymova from Ukraine.

In men's freestyle, four bronze medals were grabbed by the Indians. Udit defeated Azerbaijan's Javid Javadon 11-2 in the 48kg bronze bout while Aman got the better of Turkey's Muhammet Karavus 10-6 in 55kg.

Manish Goswamy bagged bronze in 65kg with a 5-2 win over Azerbaijan's Kudratbek Nurullaev while Anirudh Kumar defeated Salar Saied Habibiehani 8-1 in 110kg.

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Mastering the 4-second series is the key to glory in rapid fire pistol. Vijay Kumar had shown the way by winning the London Olympic silver in 2012. In the last Olympics in Rio, Gurpreet Singh had shot 581 for the seventh place, as he missed the final by two points.

Young Adarsh Singh, the reigning national champion, gave further hints about the bright prospects for India in the event, as he won both the men's and junior gold in the 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shooting championship which concluded at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Friday.



Impressive show: Champion Adarsh Singh is flanked by Gurmeet Singh and Anhad Jawanda. Baljit Singh and NRAI joint-secretary Pawan Singh are also seen. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

After stumbling to an indifferent start in the final, when the first series fetched him one out of five, Adarsh strengthened his hold over the pistol by shooting only in the range of 3-5 in the rest of the competition, in the

conds. Timing is the key, and the staccato shots, fired with a mesmerising rhythm hinted at the boy's command.

Army's Gurmeet Singh matched the Haryana lad shot for shot in the second half of the men's final, but Adarsh had established a one-point lead by then.

Former secretary-general of NRAI, Baljit Singh Sethi, presented the medals. The championship is being held in the memory of Sardar Sajjan Sethi, the father of Baljit Sethi and the first administrator of the shooting range.

The results: 25m rapid fire pistol: Men: 1. Adarsh Singh 27 (584); 2. Gurmeet Singh 26 (575); 3. Anhad Jawanda 22 (575); **Juniors:** 1. Adarsh 30 (584); 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 27 (572); 3. Ayush Sangwan 21 (569).

Need to better my turns, kicks off the wall: Srihari

The 18-year-old is hopeful of achieving the Olympic Qualifying Time

SWIMMING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Srihari Nataraj is hopeful of achieving the Olympic Qualifying Time ('A' standard) in the 100m and 200m backstroke races for next year's Tokyo Games.

Srihari's personal best in the shorter event is 55.49, which while being a whisker away from the 'B' time (55.47) is some distance away from the 'A' cut (53.85). In the 200m, the Bengaluru swimmer's best of 2:02.08 – a national record clocked at the World Championships in South Korea last week – needs bettering if he is to match the 'A' (1:57.5) or even

the 'B' (2:01.03) standard.

But the 18-year-old believes he can achieve the 'A' times – which would guarantee Olympic qualification – with improvements in specific areas. "It's possible; I just need to make sure that my turns and kicks off the wall are good," he said here on Friday.

"What happens is that I run out of oxygen when I am on my back while doing the flip under water. So I am working on my lung capacity. I am working to get a better push off the wall, get a better glide, so that I can improve my timing."

Srihari felt he needed to go out faster in both races. "In the 100, I need to go faster in the first 50. If I can flip for



Srihari Nataraj. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

26.2 in the first 50, I can come back for 27.5. That is 53.7, inside the 'A' cut. I'm now doing 28.1 on the back leg, so bringing that down to 27.5 is going to be harder than opening with 26.2.

"Even in the 200m, I need to go faster in the first 100. Right now, I feel I'm very conservative in the first 100 be-

cause I'm worried about tiring out in the second half," he said.

Srihari is leaving for the FINA World Junior Swimming Championships in Budapest later this month, before returning for the Senior Nationals in Bhopal. But the 10th Asian Age Group Championships, to be held in Bengaluru from September 24 to October 2, would give him his best chance of ensuring Olympic qualification, he felt.

"I'm accustomed to the weather in the city. I will get to stay at home and that's a big advantage. When you go abroad, you need to acclimatize, and get used to things like the food. When you're at home, your body will be able to perform better."

Big Sur wins feature event

BENGALURU: Big Sur (Sandesh up), won the Karnataka Mile Championship Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Friday (Aug 2). The winner is owned by Mr. Inderraj Anand & Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd and trained by S. Padmanabhan.

THE RESULTS

1 TRACK LIGHTNING STAKES (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): PALM READER (Suraj) 1, Bostonia (Trevor) 2, Desert Combat (M. Naveen) 3 and Silver Swift (Zervan) 4. 3/4, 11 and 3/4. 1m 12.51s. ₹18 (w), 10, 15 and 26 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 56, FP: 84, Q: 66, Trinella: 728 and 379, Exacta: 1,649 and 386, Favourite: Palm Reader. Owners: Skambha Equine Enterprises Pvt Ltd rep by Mr. Martin John Tower & Mr. John Thomas D. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

2 BOLD GESTURE PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20: AEROSPEED (Md. Akram) 1, Admirable (Irfan) 2, Himachali (Trevor) 3 and Kruger Park (S. Shareef) 4. 1/2, 3 and 6-3/4. 1m 07.03s. ₹60 (w), 14, 11 and 11 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 48, FP: 154, Q: 57, Trinella: 257 and 114, Exacta: 986 and 659, Favourite: Himachali.

Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: Samar Singh.

3 TREASURE GIRL PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: FICTIONEER (Antony) 1, Tiger Returns (R. Manish) 2, Charmaine (Trevor) 3 and Grecian Light (S. Shareef) 4. 1-3/4, 1/2 and Nk. 1m 13.76s. ₹53 (w), 19, 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 47, FP: 200, Exacta: 2,986 and 2,720, Favourite: Tiger Returns. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

4 KARNATAKA MILE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): BIG SUR (Sandesh) 1, Psychic Force (Zervan) 2, Sakura (Akshay K) 3 and Automatic (Suraj) 4. 3-1/4, Lnk and 2-3/4. 1m 36.77s. ₹ 22 (w), 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 21, FP: 43, Q: 26, Trinella: 50 and 36, Favourite: Big Sur. Owners: Mr. Inderraj Anand & Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

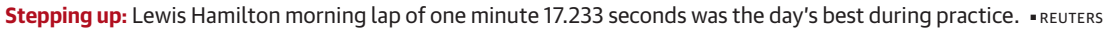
5 JAYANT SHAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,800m), rated 45 to 65: COSMOS (Zervan) 1, Angelino (Trevor) 2, Kirkwood (Dhebe) 3 and Lycurgus (S. Shareef) 4. 3-3/4, 3-1/4 and 2-3/4. 1m 50.61s. ₹31 (w), 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 35,

FP: 59, Q: 29, Trinella: 219 and 120, Exacta: 1,109 and 579. Favourite: Angelino. Owners: Mr. Rienze M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

6 SOUTHERN REGENT PLATE (1,400m), rated 30 to 50: AKITA PRO (S. Shareef) 1, Renegade (Zervan) 2, Winall (Antony) 3 and Shivalik Kiss (Vinod Shinde) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and 3/4. 1m 26.18s. ₹47 (w), 16, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 37, FP: 117, Q: 64, Trinella: 502 and 209, Exacta: 4,176 and 1,922, Favourite: Renegade. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

7 EPSOM PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: RED INDIAN (R. Manish) 1, No Opinion (K. Raghu) 2, Papadokia (Sai Kiran) 3 and Sloveina (Dhebe) 4. 1/2, 1-3/4 and 2. 1m 15.16s. ₹248 (w), 42, 13 and 54 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 132, FP: 1,194, Q: 541, Trinella: 9,198 and 11,825, Exacta: 1,20,946 and 17,278, Favourite: Silent Guardian. Owner: Mr. Hisqueel Taber. Trainer: Rajendra Singh.

Jackpot: ₹5,74,680 (one tkts); Runner up: 2,160 (114 tkts); Treble (i): 3,514 (five tkts); (ii): 8,713 (four tkts).



Red Bull one-two on wet afternoon

REUTERS
BUDAPEST

The Briton's morning lap of one minute 17.233 seconds was still the day's best, with Gasly producing a 1:17.854 effort on the fastest soft tyres in the afternoon when the

The lost track time was still a setback for the Finn, who crashed out at a wet Hockenheim last weekend just when he looked likely to

Verstappen, the in-form driver of the moment with two victories from the last

The Monegasque Leclerc dropped to seventh after lunch on medium tyres, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo fifth for Renault and Kimi Raikkonen sixth in an Alfa Romeo.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUDAPEST

A statement by the Catalan government on Thursday, however, confirmed its back-

Following last month's renewal of the British Grand Prix's contract, Mexico may

"If they are confident that we can do it, then I am fine."

"You have to think about how much are those races being sold for? Do they put a huge amount in the pot?"

ANI
NEW DELHI

Mandhana returned to Storm while Deepti is all set to debut in the fourth edition of the tournament. The KSL will also see India batter



India T20I captain Harmanpreet Kaur rejoined

Lancashire Thunder. The KSL will begin on August 6, with Thunder and Southern Vipers playing in the curtain-raiser at Aigburth, Liverpool.

Complainant seeks his removal since he is an MP and holds a public position

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

However, the complaint filed by Sanjeev Gupta, a life member with the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, to the Committee of Adminis-

In the complaint, Gupta has claimed that "DDCA has breached Rule 6(5) of the BCCI constitution as they have elected/appointed Gautam Gambhir, former India player, as a member of the board. He is working as an observer and taking all key cricketing decisions, in breach of Rule 6(5)(d) since he is an elected MP from Delhi. Since he is holding public office from May 23, he stands disqualified to be part of any committee, council, repre-



The complaint also holds DDCA treasurer Om Prakash

The CoA confirmed the development and insisted no individual holding public office can be part of any committee in either BCCI or its affiliated units.

SPORTS BUREAU
LOS CABOS (MEXICO)

\$135,400 Challenger, Chengdu, China: Doubles (semifinals): Arjun Kadhe & Saketh Myneni bt Runhao Hua & Di Wu (Chn) 6-1, 7-5.

€46,600 Challenger, Liberec, Czech Republic: Doubles (quarterfinals): Jonas Forejtek & Michael Vrbensky (Cze) bt Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan

\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sowjanya Bavisetti & Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi bt Andreina Pino & Gala Squarcia-lupi (Ita) 6-3, 6-3.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"The HCL bridge is our flagship initiative in sports and I have seen it grow, in

tal MPs (Master Points as per the national federation). The remaining players should not have more than 100 total MPs. The qualifying event will feature Swiss league of 10 rounds, followed by the knock-out for top eight teams.

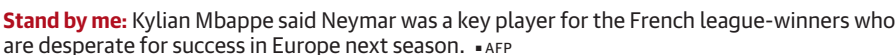
Everyone loves him, says the French World Cup winner

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHENZHEN (CHINA)

The 20-year-old Mbappe,

And the 27-year-old has been embroiled in rape allegations, vehemently de-

"We've found our way blocked the last few years. It's up to us to find a way to go as far as possible."



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISBANE

"I am not going to stop until I prove my innocence, and I am going to fight to get myself back in the pool because that's my dream and I'm never going to let that go," she told reporters afterwards.