

TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 5.30 & 8 a.m.  
**Vijay Hazare Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**UEFA Champions League:** Sony Ten 2, Ten 3 & Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 2, Ten 3, Six & ESPN (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



**Andy Murray named in Davis Cup team**  
LONDON  
Former World No. 1 Andy Murray has been named in Britain's team for next month's revamped Davis Cup tournament as he continues his encouraging comeback from career-saving hip surgery. The 32-year-old Scot, who won the European Open on Sunday for his first title in over two years, joins his doubles playing brother Jamie, along with Dan Evans and Neal Skupski in the Leon Smith-captained team. A fifth member will be confirmed later. **REUTERS**



**Hewitt backs Kyrgios in Davis Cup team**  
MELBOURNE  
Wayward tennis talent Nick Kyrgios may be a "different character" but Australia's Davis Cup team is better with him in it, according to captain Lleyton Hewitt. "Nick's a different character and I understand that and we're not always going to put everybody in the same box. I feel like on the Davis Cup court he's done everything I've needed in the past whenever he's been a part of the team. He hasn't put a foot wrong," said Hewitt. **REUTERS**

**Federer delighted at Murray's successful comeback**  
BASEL

Roger Federer praised Andy Murray's weekend Antwerp title just 10 months after the former number one underwent a hip resurfacing. "Andy's achievement was great. I was a little bit torn, since he beat (fellow Swiss) Stan (Wawrinka) in the final, but it was a great way for him to come back. He's been playing to try and get close to his old level," the 20-time Grand Slam winner added of Murray, who competed on the circuit for four straight weeks ending in Antwerp on Sunday. It's nice to see Andy healthy again. I remember in the locker room of the Australian Open (when a tearful Murray played in pain and lost in a five-set first round match in January). It was very confusing for him and for all of us. I'm extremely happy for him," Federer said. **AFP**

**Padmanabh scores six**  
NEW DELHI  
Padmanabh Singh scored six goals in guiding Rajnigandha Achievers to a 9-4 victory over Aravali Polo in a league match of the Bhopal Pataudi Cup 8-goal polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Tuesday.  
**The results (league):** Sona Polo 11(Abhimanyu Pathak 5, Shamsheer Ali 4, Siddhant Singh, Naveen Singh) bt Horse & Wagon 9 (Dhruvpal Godara 5, Basheer Ali 4). Rajnigandha Achievers 9 (Padmanabh Singh 6, Daniel Otamendi 3) bt Aravali Polo 4 Roddy Williams 2, Angad Kalaan 2).

**Mysuru Wednesday's races cancelled**  
MYSURU  
The Stewards of the Mysore Race Club have decided to cancel the races scheduled to be held on Wednesday (Oct. 23) due to persistent overnight rains and inclement weather that have rendered the track not conducive for racing.

# Punjab done in by 'illogical rule', says skipper Mandeep

Skewed scheduling another grouse raised by teams allotted matches in an area prone to flooding

HAZARE TROPHY

**ASHWIN ACHAL & N. SUDARSHAN**  
BENGALURU  
After being knocked out in the quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy by Tamil Nadu under cruel circumstances, the Punjab team didn't emerge from its dressing room for a good hour. It was not known what was said, but it surely couldn't have been a happy room.  
When skipper Mandeep Singh did make his way out to address the media, he expressed his disappointment in no uncertain terms.  
His side was undone by an "illogical rule", which counted the number of group stage wins to decide the qualifier in the event of a wash-out.  
The two sides hadn't even played the same number of matches. Even if Punjab had

won all eight of its group games, it would have still been booted out as Tamil Nadu had secured nine wins from as many outings.  
**Another plight**  
Punjab's second grouse was that it had secured a spot in the elite Group B on the basis of its fine performance in the previous edition but was now being punished for it.  
The opponent, Tamil Nadu, sitting in the lower Group C based on lesser past performance, was rewarded instead.  
As Mandeep explained, if the Karnataka-Pondicherry quarterfinal outing a day earlier had been washed out, it would have been Pondicherry, Plate topper (lowest group), that would have progressed at the expense of mighty Karnataka (on better



**Wet blanket:** View of the Alur ground where matches were affected by the poor drainage facilities. ■SUDHAKARA JAIN

NRR as both teams had seven wins each). He didn't have to explain that this would have been a travesty.  
Curiously, none of the knockout games have reserve days.  
Mandeep emphasised that

reserve days were a must, a call that was backed by scathing posts on Twitter by his Punjab teammates and India

## Karthikeyan, Aravindh and Priyanka win

Divya escapes with a draw; Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali lose

WORLD JR. CHESS

**RAKESH RAO**  
NEW DELHI  
Decisive battles proved to be the flavour of the day as medal aspirants fought relentlessly on the leading boards as the World junior chess championship inched towards the business end here on Tuesday.  
Second seed M. Karthikeyan was the last to emerge triumphant after 82 moves in the eighth round that witnessed second to eight boards producing worthy winners.  
On the top board, seventh seed Evgeny Shtembuliak who drew before was joined at 6.5 points by Spain's Miguel Ruiz Santos, who surprisingly outplayed R. Praggnanandhaa in just 28 moves.  
For Praggnanandhaa's sister, girls' fifth seed R. Vaishali, too, it was time to learn a thing or two.  
After cracking the whip against N. Priyanka, Vaishali



**Turning the tables:** N. Priyanka, left, battled to a brilliant win over R. Vaishali in the eighth round. ■RAKESH RAO

did not reckon with the fighting abilities of her lesser-rated rival. Priyanka displayed all her grit and came up with a desperate rook-sacrifice.  
Later, she cashed in on Vaishali's misreading of the position to win in 46 moves.  
On the second board, Divya Deshmukh escaped with a draw against Iran's Mobina Alinasab and shared the third spot at six points. Fourth seed Russian Polina Shuvalova led with seven points.  
Among the boys, the best show came from Karthi-

keyan. He came up with a patient display to defeat Russian prodigy Volobar Murzin, the lad who almost nailed Aravindh Chithambaram on Monday.  
Karthikeyan and three others share the third spot at six points, half a point behind the leaders.  
Aravindh, playing black, scored over Rithvik Raja to be joint seventh with four others at 5.5 points.  
The struggling girls' top seed Zhu Jiner (4.5) agreed to a nine-move draw against USA's Thaila Cervantes Lan-

deiro, while an indisposed Vantika Agarwal (4) gave a walkover to teammate C. Lakshmi (5).  
**Important results (eighth round):**  
**Open:** Shant Sargsyan (Arm, 5.5) drew with Evgeny Shtembuliak (Ukr, 6.5); Miguel Santos Ruiz (Esp, 6.5) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (5); M. Karthikeyan (6) bt Volodar Murzin (Rus, 5); Aram Hakobyan (Arm, 6) bt Semen Khanin (Rus, 5); Viktor Gemenzhyan (Rus, 5); Viktor Gemenzhyan (Rus, 5) lost to Mihnia Costachi (Rou, 6); N.R. Visakh (5) lost to Or Bronstein (Isr, 6); Rithvik Raja (4.5) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (5.5); P. Iniyan (5) drew with Stefan Pogosyan (Rus, 5).  
**Girls:** Polina Shuvalova (7) bt Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 5.5); Divya Deshmukh (6) drew with Mobina Alinasab (6.5); Dinara Dordzhieva (Rus, 5.5) drew with Sriшти Pandey (5.5); N. Priyanka (5.5) bt R. Vaishali (4.5); Rakshitta Ravi (4.5) lost to Aakanksha Hagawane (5.5); Li Yunshan (Chn, 5.5) bt Mrudul Dehankar (4.5); Arpita Mukherjee (5) drew with P. Supreetha (5).

## Smooth start for Sindhu

FRENCH OPEN

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
PARIS  
World champion P.V. Sindhu began her French Open campaign with an easy win over Michelle Li of Canada in a women's singles first round on Tuesday. The World No. 6, who has been struggling of late, beat Li 21-15, 21-13 in 44 minutes.  
The Indian, who had a 5-2 record against the World No. 8 before Tuesday's match, had last beaten Li at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.  
Since claiming the Worlds, Sindhu has looked awfully out of form and

failed to cross the second round in three tournaments (China Open, Korea Open and Denmark Open).  
In men's singles, Subhankar Dey upset Tommy Sugianto of Indonesia to advance to the second round. The World No. 42 rallied to beat his World No. 17 opponent 15-21, 21-14, 21-17 in 78 minutes.  
This was Subhankar's second win over the former World No. 3 this year following the success at the India Open in March.  
**The results (first round): Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt Michelle Li (Can) 21-15, 21-13. **Men:** Subhankar Dey bt Tommy Sugianto (Ina) 15-21, 21-14, 21-17.

## Anandan wins two golds

MILITARY GAMES

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
WUHAN (CHINA)  
Para-athlete Anandan Gunasekaran won two golds in the disabled men's 100m and 400m ITI events to open India's medal count at the 7th CISM World Military Games here on Tuesday.  
Gunasekaran clocked 12 seconds to win the 100m, India's first medal in the on-going Games. Peru's Casas Jose was second in 12.65s and Fajardo Pardo Teodice-lo of Colombia took bronze in 12.72s.  
Later, the 32-year-old Indian clinched his second gold clocking 53.35s in the disabled men's 400m ITI event. Colombia's Teodice-lo (58.95) and Ranchin Mickael (1:00.31) took the silver and

bronze respectively.  
Meanwhile, shot putter Tajinder Singh Toor finished sixth with a best throw of 20.36m. Tajinder was in search of the Tokyo Olympics qualification mark of 21.10m.  
Romani Darlan of Brazil won gold with 22.36m while Poland's Bukowiecki Konrad (21.84m) and Bob Bertemes (20.66m) of Luxembourg were second and third.  
In the men's 400m, Muhammed Anas finished fourth in 46.86s.  
In men's boxing, Satish Kumar (+91kg) and Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) entered the quarterfinals. Satish beat O'Grifoa Antoine of Ireland 5-0 while Negi defeated Miliusha Dzmitry of Belarus 3-2.

## West Bengal paddlers reign

EZ NATIONAL

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOLKATA  
West Bengal beat North Bengal in both the men's and women's team finals in the National-ranking (East Zone) table tennis championship at the Howrah Indoor Stadium on Tuesday.  
**The results:**  
**Men: Final: West Bengal bt North Bengal 3-1** [Sougata Sarkar & Arjun Ghosh lost to Jayabrata Bhattacharya & Mainak Das 13-11, 11-9, 11-7; Ronit Bhanja bt Akaash Nath 11-8, 11-7, 11-2; Arjun Ghosh bt Mai-

nak Das 11-13, 11-5, 17-15, 12-10; Sougata Sarkar bt Akaash Nath 11-2, 11-7, 11-1].  
**Semifinals:** West Bengal bt Odisha 3-0, North Bengal bt Assam 3-0.  
**Women:**  
**Final: West Bengal bt North Bengal 3-1** [Prapti Sen & Surbhi Patwari bt Puja Paul & Sataporni De 11-3, 11-9, 11-7; Krittika Sinha Roy lost to Nikita Sarkar 5-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-9, 12-10; Surbhi Patwari bt Sataporni De 11-8, 11-8, 3-1, 12-10; Krittika Sinha Roy bt Puja Paul 11-8, 9-11, 11-3, 11-4).  
**Semifinals:** West Bengal bt Assam 3-0, North Bengal bt Odisha 3-0.

## Dream big, says Pankaj Advani

Feels the federation should televise the sport to educate them

ANANT KAUR

NEW DELHI  
It has been a "special" year for Pankaj Advani who won the Asian snooker title and the IBSF World snooker championship. He has possibly won everything in the sport. The 23 time World champion still reminisces about his first title which he won in China in 2003 on Diwali Day on October 25, "It was my Diwali gift to the nation". He also cherished his first Asian Games gold in Doha in 2006.  
The Padma Bhushan awardee emphasized that one should dream big to achieve greater things in life. "One should have the ability to dream big. I remember my first interview when I won the handicap tournament, and someone asked me what would you like to become? I said businessman. On after thought I also said a



**Plainspeak:** Pankaj Advani believes that achievements of every sportsperson should be appreciated regardless of the sport they are playing in. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHAKAR

World champion someday. Though it was impossible at that time but after eight years I won my first world title."  
Advani believes that achievements of every sportsperson should be appreciated by their own nation regardless of the sport they are

playing in. Recognising an individual's performance should be of utmost importance.  
"It is up to the country really, if winning a World championship is a big deal then obviously it will be a big deal, but if it's about the sport in which you win the

World championship then obviously it's double standards," the 34 year old told *The Hindu*.  
The current Asian snooker champion felt the federation needs to televise the sport to educate and instill better understanding of the sport.  
"Our federation needs to understand that the sport needs to be televised and for the people to consume it rather than just witness and play. It will give them an idea of what the sport is. When you educate the public there will be a deeper understanding of the magnitude of all our achievements," he said.  
Advani constantly works hard to improve his level everyday just for the passion towards the game. "I have won more than I have lost in my career," he said. "I wouldn't want that to change that."

## Sheffield United stuns Arsenal

**AGENCIES**  
LONDON  
Sheffield United moved into the top half of the Premier League table with a 1-0 win over Arsenal at Bramall Lane on Monday that ended the Gunners' eight-match unbeaten run.  
Unai Emery's side had not been beaten in any competition since its 3-1 loss to Liverpool but it missed out on the chance to move up to third as the host earned a deserved victory.  
Lys Mousset poked home the winner from close range.  
**The result:** Sheffield United 1 (Mousset 30) bt Arsenal 0.

nue, defending champion Mumbai is no less a domestic heavyweight than Karnataka.  
Apart from Karnataka only Kerala got to play more than one match at the Chinnaswamy.  
In fact, when the fixtures were initially announced, Mumbai was scheduled to play two games there. After the opening two rounds in Bengaluru were washed out, the Mumbai Cricket Association even requested the BCCI to allot matches at Chinnaswamy more equitably.  
When the revised fixtures came out, Mumbai saw the match count reduced to one.

**Feedback welcome**  
When contacted on Monday, BCCI General Manager Saba Karim said players' feedback would be welcome. The BCCI will now have a lot to chew on.

## Modric, Neymar miss out on Ballon D'Or shortlist



Megan Rapinoe. ■AFP

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
PARIS  
While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.  
Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year.  
Neymar failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.  
Messi has just collected the FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016.

## Age is just a number: Ronaldo

**AP**  
TURIN  
Cristiano Ronaldo reassured Juventus supporters and his legions of fans worldwide that at 34 he's not ready for retirement yet.  
"Age is just a number. It does not mean that at 34, 35, 36 you are at the end of your career," Ronaldo said at a news conference ahead of Juventus' Champions League match against Lokomotiv Moscow on Tuesday. "I can show that with my performances."

## Kerala boys enter semifinals

JR. BASKETBALL

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
PATNA  
Defending champion Kerala boys moved into the semifinals of the 70th Junior national basketball championships here on Tuesday.  
Kerala defeated Madhya Pradesh 61-50 in the quarterfinals and will meet Punjab, which trounced Maharashtra 91-49. Uttar Pradesh edged out Tamil Nadu 83-80 to set up a semifinal clash

with last year's runner-up Rajasthan.  
**The results (quarterfinals): Boys:** Kerala 61 (Aaron Varghese 19, K. Mahesh 12, Tom Jose 10) bt Madhya Pradesh 50 (Harsh Singh 12, Hashwardhan Tomar 11, Surya Singh 10); Rajasthan 64 (Rajeev Singh 20, Jitendra Kumar 11, Rajeev Kumar 10) bt Chhattisgarh 33 (Salim Ali 20).  
Punjab 91 (Princepal Singh 15, Aman Sandhu 12, Rajan 12, Navkaram Singh 11) bt Maharashtra 49 (Tanay Thattre 19, Parth Kale 11); Uttar Pradesh 83

(Priyanshu 32, Tushal Singh 15, Robin Banarjee 10) bt Tamil Nadu 80 (T.S.Santosh 26, S. Michael Raj 15, Lokeshwaran 14).  
**Girls:** Kerala 66 (K.M. Nandana 12, Ameesha Jose 11, Ann Mary Zacharia 10) bt Gujarat 36 (Naiya Patil 11); Tamil Nadu 65 (S. Induja 12) bt Madhya Pradesh 32 (Lovely Yadav 11, Surabhima 10); Chhattisgarh 57 (Neha Varma 18, Elizabeth Ekka 14) bt Punjab 53 (Hariswaran Kaur 16, Priyanka Behar 11); Uttar Pradesh 64 (Kushbo Gupta 16, Alankrita Singh 15) bt Maharashtra 41 (Arya Riswadakar 12).