

TV PICKS

India vs South Africa: 1st Test, fifth day, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Rugby World Cup: Sony Six (SD & HD), 10 a.m.
Hero Women's Indian Open golf: DSport, Noon
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
Premier League: Star Sports Select 1 & Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.20 p.m. & 8.40 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
IAAF World Championships: Star Sports 3 & Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

NE members to meet after Dasara

G. VISWANATH MUMBAI
Representatives of the six north-east States – Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram – will meet after Dasara to discuss matters related to the BCCI Annual General Meeting and election to be held here on October 23.
For the first time these States will attend the BCCI AGM as full members.
“That’s the reason we have approached the Supreme Court asking the cooling off period to be applied prospectively, not retrospectively. We were either associate or affiliate members. We will pursue the case,” said North-East Cricket Development Committee convenor Naba Bhattacharjee.
The six States became full members on the basis of the Justice Lodha Reforms rule ‘one State, one member, one vote’.
“We will meet after Dasara. We are all together. About the election, we have not heard from anyone, we have not received any feelers,” said Bhattacharjee.

Indians in ASBC commissions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)
Altogether seven boxing aficionados from the country have made it to various commissions of the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC).
As per the new list of commissions released by the continental body, Kishen Narsi is heading ASBC’s 13-member competitions commission while Hemanta Kumar Kalita is a member of the youth commission.
High performance director Santiago Nieva is part of the coaches commission.
Narendra Kumar Nirwan is a member of the refereeing and judging commission, while Dr. Karanjeet Singh has been named in the five-member medical commission.
Priti Bariya (women’s commission) and Digvijay Singh (marketing commission) are the others to represent India.

Poonacha and Sowjanya triumph

Madhwin and Rashmikkaa win junior boys’ and girls’ titles



Champions: Top seeds Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavisetti won the men's and women's titles at the Fenesta National tennis championship. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NATL. TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI
Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavisetti asserted themselves as the No.1 seeds in winning the men’s and women’s titles in the Fenesta National tennis championship here on Saturday.
The 24-year-old Poonacha, tall and wiry, rode on his better athleticism and forceful game to beat second seed Aryan Goveas 6-2, 7-6 (4), while Sowjanya beat four-time champion Prerna Bhambri 6-4, 6-2.
It was high quality entertainment for tennis enthusiasts assembled in strength.
“It is a dream for me to win the National championship,” said Poonacha.
“Niki has a big game. The national title should give him the confidence to [believe] what I have been constantly telling him... that he has the game to win big,” said Rohan Bopanna, who watched the final through live streaming.
For Sowjanya, it was confirmation of her ability to stroke with intelligence and punch.
Prerna made a fight of it, twice breaking back in the first set, but Sowjanya did

not let the fight linger for long. The key to the contest was winning the first set, and Sowjanya did that at 6-4, scotching the revival, after having led 5-1.
Both champions made it a point to thank physio Anand Dubey for making it possible for them to play and win. Poonacha was being treated for a lower back strain through the week, while Sowjanya had to address a sprained neck every day.
The champions collected ₹3,00,000 each and the runners-up were presented ₹2,00,000 each.
The Chairman and Managing Director of DCM Shriram group, Ajay Shriram, congratulated the champions and thanked the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and its life president Anil Khanna, for the bond spanning more than 25 years.
Madhwin Kamath and Rashmikkaa Shrivalli Bhמידipaty won the junior boys’ and girls’ titles.
The results (finals):
Men: Niki Poonacha bt Aryan Goveas 6-2, 7-6(4). **Women:** Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Prerna Bhambri 6-4, 6-2. **Under-18: Boys:** Madhwin Kamath bt Udit Gogoi 6-2, 7-6(1). **Girls:** Rashmikkaa Shrivalli Bhמידipaty bt Sandeepthi Singh Rao 6-0, 6-4.

‘Looking forward to launch Sania 2.0’

Aiming for comeback at Australian Open

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Sania Mirza is an inspiration for Indian sports, tennis in particular. “I have been coming to this tournament for nearly 20 years. It is nostalgic for me,” said Sania as she addressed the gathering at the presentation function of the Fenesta National tennis championship, where a special book, commemorating the 25 editions hosted by DCM Shriram Group, was launched.
Sania had herself competed in the event and had won the women’s doubles title as a 14-year-old with Ankita Bhambri and had also won the mixed doubles with Rohan Bopanna.
“The national championship is very special to win. We used to prepare through the year for this. People need to understand its importance. Sunil Kumar won it as a 16-year-old, and it was a great stepping stone for his career,” recalled Sania.
Sania – attempting to relaunch her career after child birth, with the Australian Open – said, “I started my career here, and I am looking forward to launch Sania 2.0 now.” She also said that



Sania. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

she was training four to five hours every day to regain her fitness.
Sania also expressed her pleasure with Sumit Nagal’s progress – he has reached a career-best rank of 135 – and complimented Mahesh Bhupathi for backing the youngster. Even as she praised Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi, she hoped that they would make it to the next level soon, as they were not getting younger.
About her advice for those aspiring to follow her footsteps on the Grand Slam stage, Sania said, “They need to have a good team. I know that Karman has a good team. She has been injured for about five months. I really feel that she has it in her.”

Christine Wolf takes a one-stroke lead

Tvesa Malik and Anika Varma at tied ninth

INDIAN OPEN

ANANT KAUR GURUGRAM
A final-hole birdie for a bogey-free five-under 67 gave Austria’s Christine Wolf a one-stroke lead at 208 after three rounds of the Hero Women’s Indian Open at the DLF Golf Course and Country Club here on Saturday.
Tied third on Friday, England’s Meghan MacLaren moved to second following a 69. Overnight leader Australia’s Whitney Hillier (72) and second-placed Norway’s Marianne Skarpnord (71) were tied third at 210.
Home talents Tvesa Malik and amateur Anika Varma

shot 71 and 67 respectively to be tied ninth at 215.
Impressive start
Tvesa started impressively but double-bogeyed the 13th hole. She immediately recovered with a birdie on the next one.
Fifteen-year-old Anika built on a good start for six birdies.
Wolf, notably nervous at the start, stuck to her game plan. She putted well and made more pars. After the turn, she birdied four times to take the lead.
Among the Indians, Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall, Astha Madan, Gaurika Bishnoi, Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs, Seher Atwal, and Jahnavi



Doing it right: Christine Wolf putted well, made several pars and after the turn, birdied four times. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vi Bakshi were looking for an improved finish.
Third round scores: 208 Christine Wolf (Aut) (73, 68, 67); 209 Meghan MacLaren (Eng) (67, 73, 69); 210 Mariaane

Skarpnord (Nor) (68, 71, 71) and Whitney Hillier (Aus) (67, 71, 72); 211 Tonje Daffinrud (Nor) (73, 70, 68); 215 Tvesa Malik (Ind) (72, 72, 71), and Anika Varma (Ind) (76, 72, 67).

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Gaur wins title
GURUGRAM: Abhishek Gaur beat Yugal Bansal in the final of the ₹100,000 AITA men’s ranking tennis tournament organised by Pradhan Tennis Academy.
The final was postponed and held the following week, as the players were busy with the qualifying event of the Fenesta National championship.
The results (final): Abhishek Gaur bt Yugal Bansal 7-5, 2-1 (conceded); **Semifinals:** Yugal Bansal bt Pradeep Deswal 6-0, 6-1; Abhishek Gaur bt Kavish Kathuria 7-5, 6-4.
Ishaque, Nitin and Mohit in the fray
CHANDIGARH: Ishaque Eqbal,

former Asian junior champion Nitin Kumar Sinha and former National champion Mohit Mayur will be some of the leading players competing in the ₹2.5 lakh Tribune AITA-ranking tennis tournament here from Monday.
Four-time National champion Prerna Bhambri will be the top seed in the women’s section, which will offer a total prize purse of ₹100,000. Kashish Bhatia and Arthi Muniyan will be some of the other top players taking part.
In the qualification matches on Saturday, Krishan Hooda and Udayayir Singh reached the third round of the men’s

event. They were joined by Dhananjay Singh, Neeraj Yashpaul and Shashikant Rajput.
Mohak, Gulshan star for RRG
NEW DELHI: Mohak Datta (five for 17) and Gulshan Singh (75 not out) enabled Rohtak Road Gymkhana (RRG) defeated Friends CC by 10 wickets to enter the semifinals of the 12th Pelicans (under-16) cricket tournament.
The scores:
Friends CC 114 in 31.1 overs (Mohak Datta five for 17) lost to RRG 115 for no loss in 10.2 overs (Gulshan Singh 75 n.o.).

David Hussey is KKR’s chief mentor

Kyle Mills roped in as the bowling coach

IPL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday announced the appointment of former Australia all-rounder David Hussey as the team’s chief mentor ahead of the next edition of the IPL.
Former New Zealand pacer Kyle Mills was named bowling coach. The two will work with former wicket-keeper-batsman Brendon McCullum, who will be head coach.

Hussey and McCullum played for KKR from the inaugural season in 2008 till 2010. Hussey, who played over 300 T20s in international and franchise tournaments combined, will be assisting his former KKR teammate in forming the new think tank following the departure of South African great Jacques Kallis, who was the head coach till the last season.
Mills, who retired in 2015 as New Zealand’s second highest ODI wicket-taker with 240 wickets, replaces former Zimbabwe pacer



David Hussey. • GETTY IMAGES

Heath Streak.
“It is great to welcome David Hussey and Kyle Mills to the Kolkata Knight Riders family,” KKR CEO and MD Venky Mysore said in a statement.

Winning start for Ajay Pendor

Krushanvir beats Arun Verma via disqualification

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)
Ajay Pendor made a bright start on his debut in the National boxing championships by upsetting the experienced Govind Kumar Sahani in a 49kg bout at the Baddi University of Emerging Sciences and Technology here on Saturday.
Pendor, a three-time gold medal winner in School National Games and a silver medalist in Khelo India Games, showed his tenacity in winning a 3-0 verdict.
While Sahani, representing Nagaland, boxed aggressively, 18-year-old Pendor showed his steely resolve. The tribal boy from Akola, Maharashtra, changed his game plan after receiving deep cuts on both eyebrows.



Aggressive: Krushanvir Singh’s, left, attacking play unnerved Arun Verma. • AKHILESH KUMAR

He boxed from a distance and scored through a combination of three punches.
“I had doubts before the start of the bout, but my fear went away once I entered the ring. I had to adapt as per the requirement. I am happy to have overcome a big hurdle in the first round,” said Pendor.

In another interesting 49kg bout, Krushanvir Singh, a Haryana origin boxer from Daman and Diu, showcased his superb attacking game to beat Arun Verma of Haryana through ‘disqualification’.
Krushanvir’s flurry of punches baffled Verma, who dropped his teeth guard five

times including thrice in the second round. The referee penalised Verma after he dropped the teeth guard in the third round and awarded the bout to Krushanvir.
Other important results (preliminary rounds): 49kg: Vinod Tanwar (SSCB) bt Heli Tana Tara (Aru) 5-0; Sonu Dhull (RSPB) bt Kakarla Govind (AP) 5-0; Vipin Kumar (Chd) bt Shiv Kant (Pun) 3-2; Amrit Lal Satnam (MP) bt Rishi Kumar (Raj) 3-0; Suraj Soy (Jha) bt Mohd. Zaheed (Tel) 4-1.
52kg: Parshotam (Har) bt Amal Uday (Ker) 5-0; Rahul Niltu (HP) bt G. Vamsi (AP) 5-0; P.L. Prasad (SSCB) bt Shanborlang Marbaniang (Meg) 5-0; Manish Sahu (Cht) bt Ravi Yadav (Raj) 3-2.
91kg: Naman Tanwar (RSPB) bt Ashish Bhandor (HP) 5-0; Sumit Sangwan (Har) bt Rizwan Ahmed (Guj) RSC-R1.
+91kg: Naveen (Har) bt Reynold Joseph (Mah) 5-0.

Rakshitta, Praggnanandhaa, Ghosh stay ahead

WORLD YOUTH CHESS

RAKESH RAO MUMBAI
Second seeds Rakshitta Ravi and R. Praggnanandhaa stayed in the lead in their sections as Indians continued to be among the front-runners in most categories after five rounds of World Youth chess championship here on Saturday.
Rakshitta, playing black, nailed seventh seed Varvara Poliakova of Belarus to take her tally to 4.5 points in the girls’ under-14 section. Dhyana Patel did well to hold fourth seeded Russian Ekaterina Nasyrova. Top seed Divya Deshmukh made short work of Aanya Agarwal to reach 3.5 points.
In under-18 section, a triumph over Arjun Kalyan put Praggnanandhaa (4.5 points) a point ahead of favourite Shant Sargsyan. The Arme-



Rakshitta Ravi.

nian claimed a three-fold repetition of moves leading to a draw against a better-placed R.K. Srihari.
Among the girls in under-18, A. Harshini blew away a winning position and settled for a draw against second seeded Mongolian Turmunkh Munkhzul.
In the under-16 section, Aronyak Ghosh stayed the lead at 4.5 points after holding fellow-overnight leader and Russian International

Master Rudik Makarian. Kushagra Mohan (3.5) held second seeded Georgian Nikoloz Kacharava.
Overnight Under-14 leader L.R. Srihari suffered his first loss after running into third seeded Azerbaijanian Aydin Suleymanli.
Important fifth-round results (Indians unless stated): **Under-18:** R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5) bt Arjun Kalyan (3.5); Aryan Gholami (Iri, 4.5) bt Viaslaslau Zarubitski (Blr, 3.5); Aditya Mittal (4) drew with P. Iniyani (3.5); Shant Sargsyan (Arm, 3.5) drew with R.K. Srihari (3); Mitrabha Guha (3.5) drew with Viktor Gazik (Svk, 3.5).
Under-16: Aronyak Ghosh (4.5) drew with Rudik Makarian (Rus, 4.5); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 4) drew with Stefan Pogoyan (Rus, 4); Arash Daghti (Iri, 4.5) bt Moksh Doshi (3.5); Kushagra Mohan (3.5) drew with Nikoloz Kacharava (Geo, 3.5).
Under-14: Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 4.5) bt L. R. Srihari (4); Pranav Anand (4.5) bt Sebas-

tian Poltorak (Pol, 3.5); Manish Kumar (3.5) lost to Aditya Samant (4.5); R. Abhinandan (4) drew with Alex Kolay (USA, 4); M. Sreeshwan (4) bt Khoi Pham (Ned, 3).
Girls’ Under-18: Honorata Kusharska (Pol, 4) drew with Viktoria Radeva (Bul, 4); A. Harshini (3.5) drew with Turmunkh Munkhzul (Mgl, 3.5); Zala Urh (Slo, 3.5) drew with Vantika Agarwal (3); Assel Serikbay (Kaz, 3.5) drew with Tarihi Goyal (2.5); Srishti Pandey (2.5) lost to Aashna Makhikha (3.5).
Under-16: Mrudul Dehankar (3) lost to B. Mounika Akshaya (4); Alessia Mikaela Ciolacu (Rou, 4) bt C. Lakshmi (3); Saina Saloni (4) bt Anjum Noshin (Ban, 3).
Under-14: Varvara Poliakova (Blr, 3.5) lost to Rakshitta Ravi (4.5); Ekaterina Nasyrova (Rus, 4) drew with Dhyana Patel (4); Bhagyashree Patil (3.5) drew with Ema Obada (Rou, 3.5); Parvian Ghomi (Iri, 3) lost to V. Sarayu (4); Divya Deshmukh (3.5) bt Aanya Agrawal (2.5).