

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.
India vs Bangladesh: First Test, day one, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.45 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Afghanistan vs West Indies: First T20I, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.
FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualifiers: Afghanistan vs India, Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
ATP Finals: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
FIFA Under-17 World Cup: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
Euro 2020 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 1, Sony Ten 2, Sony ESPN & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday).

IN BRIEF



Lakers eclipse Suns, bounce back

LOS ANGELES
Kyle Kuzma "clicked" to drain two clutch three-pointers as the Los Angeles Lakers bounced back to score a 123-115 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday. Kuzma hit back-to-back threes in the final three minutes of a see-saw battle to finally sink the Suns.
The results: Indiana Pacers 111 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 85; Philadelphia 76ers 98 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 97; Miami Heat 117 bt Detroit Pistons 108; Chicago Bulls 120 bt New York Knicks 102; Atlanta Hawks 125 bt Denver Nuggets 121; Los Angeles Lakers 123 bt Phoenix Suns 115; Utah Jazz 119 bt Brooklyn Nets 114; Sacramento Kings 107 bt Portland Trail Blazers 99.
AGENCIES



Trent Boult moves to Mumbai Indians

NEW DELHI
New Zealand's left-arm fast bowler Trent Boult will play for Mumbai Indians in the next season of IPL after being traded by Delhi Capitals. Fast bowler Ankit Rajpoot will represent Rajasthan Royals after a successful trade by Kings XI Punjab.
IANS

Ghosal crashes out of Worlds

DOHA
Saurav Ghosal's tenure in the PSA world men's squash championship ended on Monday with a 11-6, 11-8, 12-10 loss to top seed Mohamed El Shorbagy of Egypt in the pre-quarterfinals.

Ridhima, Diksha in the van

KOLKATA
Ridhima Dilawari birdied the last hole to grab a share of the lead with Diksha Dagar after round one of the 15th leg of Hero WPGT here on Wednesday. Ridhima, looking for her fifth title of the season, and Diksha carded a one-under 71 each.
PTI

Arsene Wenger gets a FIFA appointment

LAUSANNE
Arsene Wenger has been named FIFA's chief of global football development, the governing body announced on Wednesday. FIFA said he would be responsible for the growth of the game "for both men and women around the world."
AFP



Tour de France legend Raymond Poulidor dead

BORDEAUX
French cyclist Raymond Poulidor, who gained huge affection as an eternal runner-up in the Tour de France, has died at the age of 83, his wife said on Wednesday. From 1964 to 1976 Poulidor finished second in the Tour de France on three occasions and was third five times in an era dominated by Eddy Merckx.
AFP

Indians may find it tough to dominate

The event has moved to the Jack Nicklaus-designed Classic Golf and Country Club

PANASONIC OPEN

RAKESH RAO GURUGRAM
Seven home-grown winners in eight editions of the \$400,000 Panasonic Open underline the Indian domination of this annual event.
But for the first time, the event has moved away from the Delhi Golf Club and comes alive at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Classic Golf and Country Club on Thursday. For this reason, the chances of an Indian winning on Sunday stand lessened since most Indian professionals do not get to play on this 7,114-yard course.
With the 'home' advantage effectively out of the equation, the battle involving 68 Indians challenge and 58 overseas contenders is expected to be fought on an even keel.
Unlike the tree-lined fairways of the Delhi Golf Club, the course here encourages the long hitters. This course is far more forgiving and a professional can get away

with even a wayward tee-shot. The driver and woods come into play more often and the big, finely-manicured greens encourage attacking approach shots.
Experience will help
Experience can come handy and there are at least three well-known names in the field – Jeev Milkha Singh (13 international wins), Arjun Atwal (10) and Jyoti Randhawa (9) – have it in plenty. But their form is far from encouraging. In fact, Randhawa will be making his 300th appearance as a professional.
Defending champion Khalin Joshi, Shiv Kapur (champion in 2017), Chiragh Kumar (2015), besides seasoned campaigners, Digvijay Singh (2012) and Mukesh Kumar (2016) are around. Again, it remains to be seen how they deal with the challenges posed by this course.
If the Classic International championship held here in September is anything to go by, Indians could find it

tougher than expected. After all, only four Indians could break into the top-15 list. Rashid Khan, third at 19-under, was two shots behind the winner Rory Hie.
Yongcharoenchai in form
Going purely by form, Thailand's Suradit Yongcharoenchai looks good to do well. The winner of the Mercuries Taiwan Masters this season, Yongcharoenchai is currently the highest-ranked player in the field, at ninth on the Order of Merit.
Another Thai Pavit Tangkamolprasert, joint second with Shiv Kapur at the Thailand Open last Sunday, he will be looking to add to the Venetian Macao Open title triumph.
Also, watch out for Argentina's Miquel Carballo, winner of the Indonesia Open in September. When he played the Classic International that month here, he did not shoot a single over-par round.
Overall, a close title-race is expected and an unexpected winner cannot be ruled out.



Rare sight: Indian trio of Arjun Atwal, Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa will tee off at the Panasonic Open.
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Winning return for Karman

WOMEN'S ITF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GWALIOR
Karman Kaur Thandi made a winning return to the professional circuit as she patiently worked her way to a 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Zeynep Sonmez of Turkey in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the City Centre Tennis Complex on Wednesday.
Understandably rusty – she had not played a match since retiring in the qualifying round of the Miami event in March – Karman handled the match with remarkable composure despite the fluctuating flow of the contest.
There was a lot more punch to Karman's serve and strokes, and she started well, but lost the first set.
Thereafter, however, she turned the match around in her favour with a high quality game. She took a 4-1 lead in the second set, but stayed cool to weather the storm when Zeynep equalised and had a chance to force the tie-break.
Karman accelerated well to clinch the second set and ran up a 5-0 lead before al-



All focus: Karman Kaur Thandi played with remarkable composure despite the fluctuating flow of the contest.
*KAMESH SRINIVASAN

lowing a token game to her opponent in the decider.
The results (first round):
Jia-Jing Lu (Chn) bt Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 7-6(5), Vladia Katic (Isr) bt Dan Ni Wang (Chn) 7-5, 6-3; Silvia Njric (Cro) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-2, 6-2; Funa Kozaki (Jpn) bt Rutuja Bhosale 7-5, 6-3; Gergana Topalova (Bul) bt Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-0; Karman Kaur Thandi bt

Zeynep Sonmez (Tur) 2-6, 7-5, 6-1; Melanie Klafner (Aut) bt Zeel Desai 6-4, 6-0; Berfu Cengiz (Tur) bt Petia Arshinkova (Bul) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Sofia Shapatava (Geo) bt Sara Yadav 6-4, 6-0; Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) bt Karin Kennel (Sui) 6-2, 6-4; Maria Timofeeva (Rus) bt Riya Bhatia 6-4, 6-2; Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Diana Marcinkевичa (Lat) bt Mahak Jain 6-2, 6-3.

Prajnesh sails past Sood

Nagal, Ramkumar and Sasi Kumar, too, progress to the third round

CHALLENGER

SPORTS BUREAU PUNE
Prajnesh Gunneswaran, India's No. 1 singles player, cruised past Chandril Sood 6-1, 6-3 in the second round of the KPIT MSLTA Challenger tennis tournament at the MSLTA School of Tennis courts, Balewadi Sports Complex, on Wednesday.
Prajnesh, who had lost his father recently, put his personal grief behind him to demolish Sood.
Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sasi Kumar Mukund also moved into the pre-quarterfinals.
With Manish Sureshkumar already making it to the last-16 stage, five Indians remained in the fray. Eight Indian players, including 10th seed Saketh Myneni, made their exit.
Ergi Kirkin clawed back from the brink to knock out Myneni 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Third-seeded Nagal

fought back from 4-1 down in the second set to stop a fighting Aryan Goveas 6-3, 7-6(5) in a contest that lasted one hour and 16 minutes. Ramkumar, the sixth seed, hammered eight aces en route to a 6-3, 6-4 win over Markos Kalovelonis while eighth seed Sasi Kumar cruised past Japan's doubles specialist Toshide Matsui 6-2, 6-3.
The results (second round): Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Chandril Sood 6-1, 6-3; Sumit Nagal bt Aryan Goveas 6-3, 7-6(5); Steven Diez (Can) bt Yusuke Takahashi (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Markos Kalovelonis (Gre) 6-3, 6-4; Roberto Ortega-Olmedo (Esp) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-3, 6-2; Sasi Kumar Mukund bt Toshide Matsui (Jpn) 6-2, 6-3; Duckhee Lee (Kor) bt Aziz Dougaz (Tun) 6-3, 6-4; Ergi Kirkin (Tur) bt Saketh Myneni 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; Cem Ilkel (Tur) bt Kaza Vinayak Sharma 6-2, 6-1; Ivan Nedelko bt Dhruv Sunish 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; Brydan Klein (GBR) bt Siddharth Rawat 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.



Sailing through: Ramkumar was hardly stretched during his win over Markos Kalovelonis.
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India-B posts win

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD
Shaswat Rawat's century (129,119b) for India-C went in vain as India-B, thanks to a fine century by N. Thakur Tilak Varma (101, 106b), scored a seven-wicket win in the BCCI Challenger Trophy (under-19) one-day cricket championship here on Wednesday.
The scores: India-A 247 in 48.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 33, Sai Bharadwaj 34, Dhruv Jurel 74, K. Nitish Kumar 30, Sheer Malla 3/54) bt Nepal 140/9 in 50 overs (Bishal Bikram 71).
India-C 229 in 47.2 overs (Shaswat Rawat 129, Vikrant Singh 41, Akash Singh 3/38) lost to India-B 230/3 in 42.3 overs (N. Thakur Tilak Varma 101, Yash Dhull 86).

PBL to kick off on Jan. 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
Some of the top shuttlers, including World champion P.V. Sindhu, will be in action when the fifth edition of the Premier Badminton League (PBL), featuring eight teams, gets underway on January 20.
The season, which will conclude on February 9, will be staged in Chennai, Delhi, Lucknow, and Bangalore.
The league offers a total purse of ₹ six crore with the winner taking home a cheque for ₹ three crore.

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Sona Polo wins big
Padmanabh Singh, Gerardo Mazzini and Abhimanyu Pathak went on a goal-scoring spree as Sona Polo recorded an 18-7/1-2 win over Cavalry-Krishna in a league match of the Indian Masters 14-goal polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo ground on Wednesday.
In another match, Rajnigandha Achievers beat Jindal Panther 9-6, thanks to five goals by Chris Mackenzie.
The results (league): Sona Polo 18 (Padmanabh Singh 6, Gerardo Mazzini 5, Abhimanyu Pathak 5, Sunjay Kapur 2) bt Cavalry-Krishna 7-1/2 (Ravi Rathore 5, Vishal, handicap 1-1/2).
Rajnigandha Achievers 9 (Chris Mackenzie 5, Dhananjay Singh 2, Satinder Garcha, Siddhant Sharma) bt Jindal Panther 6 (Dhruvpal Godara 3, Daniel Otamendi 2, Simran Shergill).
Jesus and Mary College wins
Tamanna, Kritika and Tina combined to help Jesus and Mary College to the title with a 3-2 victory over Shri

Ram College of Commerce in the final of the Delhi University inter-college women's table tennis tournament at the Delhi University Sports Complex on Wednesday.
The results (final): Jesus and Mary College bt SRCC 3-2.
Semifinals: SRCC bt Miranda House 3-0; Jesus and Mary College bt St. Stephen's College 3-1.
Tejinder Singh Dhillon is chairman of WC jury
Tejinder Singh Dhillon has been appointed as the chairman of the Jury of Appeal by the International Shooting Federation for the World Cup Final in rifle and pistol to be staged in Putian, China, from November 17 to 23.
A recipient of the President's Police medal for exemplary service and Maharaja Ranjit Singh award, Dhillon has been a member of the national selection committee and technical committee for shooting sport.

Mixed luck for Ankit

SPORTS BUREAU TAIPEI
Ankita Raina lost 7-6(1), 6-1 to Vitalia Diatchenko of Russia, but made the doubles quarterfinals with Bibiane Schoofs of the Netherlands in the \$125,000 WTA tennis tournament here on Wednesday.
Ankita and Schoofs beat Susan Bandecchi of Switzerland and Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic of Germany 6-4, 7-6(4).
The results:
First round: \$125,000 ITF women, Taipei: Vitalia Diatchenko (Rus) bt Ankita Raina 7-6(1), 6-1.
Doubles: Bibiane Schoofs (Ned) & Ankita Raina bt Susan Bandecchi (Sui) & Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) 6-4, 7-6(4).

Bangalore winter races from tomorrow

RIAZ BABU BENGALURU
The Bangalore winter meeting, covering 26 race days, is scheduled to commence on November 15 and conclude on March 21, 2020.
Racing will be held mainly on Fridays and Saturdays with the exception of The Catalyst Properties Bangalore Derby which has been scheduled for Republic Day and the Stayers Trial Stakes will be run on January 30.
Briefing the media here on Wednesday, BTC Chairman D. Vinod Sivappa said that the club would be paying stakes and incentives amounting to approximately ₹22 to 25 crore during the meeting. Nearly 70 jockeys, including 20 claiming allo-

Six Indian boxers in semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA)
Six Indian pugilists advanced to the semifinals of the Asian youth boxing championships here on Wednesday.
Selay defeated Philippines' Flint Jara 5-0, while Aman (+91kg) outpunched Taiwan's Kai-Hsung Wang. Narwal, up against a Taipei's Yu Lin, won 5-0.
In the women's draw, Chanu registered a 5-0 win over Korea's Eunsun Sun. Jasmine and Vinka were both rewarded for domination with early finishes. While Jasmine got the better of Japan's Kimura Mona, Vinka sailed past Taiwan's Hsueh-Tzu Tsui.

Real Kashmir prepared for the season

I-LEAGUE
UTHRA GANESAN NEW DELHI
Real Kashmir FC seems destined to forever be battling a lot more than just opponents on the field. For a club born to try and heal the scars of the massive 2016 floods in the State, it has been an achievement to reach the top tier of the I-League in just two years. The ongoing situation in the valley has not made things easier but the club insists things are as good or as bad as anywhere else.
"We are as prepared as any other State or city. We have the same assurances that any government gives to any club. We expect more people to turn up for the games than last year. The situation is like anywhere else, all these are mere excuses," co-owner Sandeep Chattoo told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interaction.
Started by Chattoo and Shamim Meraj, the club has managed to retain its entire coaching group, almost all its foreign players and most of the domestic ones from last season, a testament to their trust in the club and its officials. It has also led to the club aiming higher than its third-place finish last year.
More than just a club
"It's more than just a football club. The positivity coming out everyday is very important, it's an unreal feeling. It's the only hope for the youth in the State and we cannot let them down. Guys like Hammad and Danish are stars there, their faces on the hoardings. It means a lot.
"We have achieved something beyond football – we have managed to get the people together. When you see 20,000 young Kashmiris in the stands and policemen

standing behind them clapping with them, being part of it – you do not imagine that in Kashmir. We have broken those barriers through football," Chattoo added.
Asked if the team was prepared to play home games elsewhere, Chattoo insisted there was no reason to move out of Srinagar the first place. "If we cannot play on our own TRC Ground and home fans cannot see us play, the whole essence is lost. Things happen everywhere. Last year we went to the North-East, there was a curfew for six days but we didn't complain," he said.



Shikhar Dhawan and StanceBeam CEO Arminder Thind, left, at a function.
*ANAND KAUR

Dhawan taking it one step at a time

Opener targets a return to Test squad and says he is enjoying his cricket

ANANT KAUR NEW DELHI
The hunger on Shikhar Dhawan's face as he plots a return to the India Test team is evident. Having played his last Test, against England at The Oval in September 2018, he is eager for a comeback. Since then, India has played 11 Tests. To emphasise his efforts, Dhawan will join the Delhi team in Surat to play three Mushtaq Ali T20 matches.
Dhawan intends to take it step by step, "I love playing cricket and I always make sure to focus on my process and make it very strong. I was playing T20. I will play Ranji Trophy too and look to perform and be a strong contender to get back to the Indian team. I am as young as I was when I was playing Ranji. I have the same energy and determination. I am very happy."

StanceBeam Striker.
StanceBeam Striker is a smart cricket bat sensor which will provide data to be used in the analysis of a batsman's bat-speed and the different angles while playing. Dhawan feels it will trigger a different approach, "How much is the bat speed? Is it coming from the same angle from the first slip, is it coming in the same degree and angle or not? To see if the speed is coming to hit the sixes, in case I am not able to hit sixes. I can relate how much is my bat's speed. I can get better idea of it."
StanceBeam founder and CEO, Arminder Thind, believes there will be widespread usage of this technology. "The features are very relevant for a grass-root level player, who has just taken to the game and is trying to understand, so that he starts on the right note. It will also help at the elite level, where the minor variation of one or two percent actually makes the difference between winning and losing."
The two clarified they would seek necessary permission from the Board before introducing the technology at First Class level.

Different phases
Dhawan talked about the different phases and the various ups and downs which he has faced. "I am just enjoying my cricket and just want to go step by step. I want to make the best of the chances that I get," said Dhawan at the launch event of