

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m. & 9 a.m.
Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
T10 League: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD) & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5, 7.10 & 9.30 p.m.
Hong Kong Open badminton: Star Sports 3, 11.30 a.m.
Afghanistan vs West Indies: Third T20I, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.40 p.m.
Euro 2020 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30; Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.
Brazilian GP: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.
ATP Finals: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Harden crosses 40 for fourth time

LOS ANGELES
 James Harden scored 44 points and had eight rebounds as Houston Rockets beat Indiana Pacers 111-102 on Friday to stretch its winning streak to six games. Harden scored 40-plus points for the fourth time in six games.

The results: Charlotte Hornets 109 bt Detroit Pistons 106; Orlando Magic 111 bt San Antonio Spurs 109; Houston Rockets 111 bt Indiana Pacers 102; Memphis Grizzlies 107 bt Utah Jazz 106; Washington Wizards 137 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 116; Oklahoma City Thunder 127 bt Philadelphia 76ers 119; Boston Celtics 105 bt Golden State Warriors 100; LA Lakers 99 bt Sacramento Kings 97.

Messi strike sinks Brazil

RIYADH
 Lionel Messi struck on his return to international duty on Friday following a three-month ban as Argentina defeated fierce rival Brazil 1-0 in a friendly here. Messi netted the only goal of the game at the King Saud University Stadium on 13 minutes, tapping home the rebound after his penalty was saved by Brazil goalkeeper Alison. AFP

Abhishek Gaur triumphs

GURUGRAM
 Top seed Abhishek Gaur of Navy beat second seed Ajay Malik 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament. **The results (final):** Abhishek Gaur bt Ajay Malik 6-4, 6-4; **Semifinals:** Abhishek bt Rakshit Rishi 6-2, 1-6, 7-6(5); Ajay bt Ominder Baisoya 6-4, 7-5.

Manu Bhaker fires her way to two gold medals

Lakshay Sheoran wins trap and double trap

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
 Manu Bhaker won the women's air pistol and sports pistol gold medals for Delhi University in the all India inter-University shooting championship organised by the Manav Rachna University at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range. Manu was bang on target in winning the 10-metre event with a score of 583, three points ahead of Yashaswini Singh Deswal.

Lakshay Sheoran, the Asian Games silver medalist, won the trap and double trap gold medals for Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar.

Nivetha Nenthirasingamani won the women's trap gold for Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu, two points ahead of Kirti Gupta of University of Delhi.

The results: Men: 10m air pistol: 1. Vikash Kumar 582; 2. Arjun Singh Cheema 581; 3. Sharvan Kumar 581. **Team:** 1. Punjab University, Chandigarh 1728; 2. Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak 1723; 3. Delhi 1707. **25m rapid fire pistol:** 1. Udhayveer Sidhu 584; 2. Adarsh Singh 577; 3. Japtyesh Singh 576. **Team:** 1. Punjab University, Chandigarh 1737; 2. GNDU, Amritsar 1616; 3. MDU, Rohtak 1611. **25m standard pistol:** 1. Udhayveer Sidhu 573; 2. Mitesh Gohil 569; 3. Vijayveer Sidhu 568. **Team:** 1. Punjab University,

Kapur shares lead with two Aussies

Cut at one-under leaves 30 Indians in the fray

PANASONIC OPEN

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI
 In-form Shiv Kapur was with Aussies Adam Blyth and Terry Pilkadaris atop the leaderboard as the \$400,000 Panasonic Open headed for a thrilling finish here.

On a breeze-swept Classic Golf and Country Club course, when the players found it tough to control the ball during the second half of Saturday, early-starter Blyth shot an incredible, bogey-free nine-under 63 – one off the course record – to go 10-under.

Shiv Kapur, involved in a playoff in the Thailand Open last Sunday, again moved into title-contention following a successive 67. After sinking five birdies from around six feet for a 32 on the front-nine, Kapur could only add one birdie on the back-nine.

Pilkadaris shot a 68 to make it a three-man leaders' pack at 134 – two better than Chinese Taipei's Hung Chien-



In title contention: Shiv Kapur came up with yet another 67 in the second round to move into joint lead. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yao and three-time runner-up Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman.

Young Kshitij Naveed Kaul, joint leader on reaching under-10 after eight holes, dramatically dropped five shots

on the next 10 holes to finish the second and penultimate round at even-par.

What hurt Kaul's prospects were the two double-bogey – on the 13th and 18th holes. Effectively, Kaul's front-nine

32 stood undone by the back-nine 40.

The cut came at one-under 143 and left 67 professionals, including 30 Indians. Former champions Chiragh Kumar and Digvijay Singh along with

Arjun Atwal missed the 'cut'. **Leading second-round scores:** 134: Adam Blyth (Aus) (71, 63), Shiv Kapur (67, 67), Terry Pilkadaris (Aus) (66, 68).

136: Hung Chien-Yao (Tpe) (67, 69), Siddikur Rahman (Ban) (69, 67); 137: Teemu Putkonen (Fin) (70, 67), N. Thangaraj (Sri) (69, 68), Rashid Khan (67, 70), S. Chikkarangappa (69, 68) and Vikrant Chopra (67, 70).

Other Indians who made the cut: 138: Khalin Joshi (67, 71), Veer Ahlawat (69, 69).

139: Tapy Ghai (71, 68), Kshitij Naveed Kaul (67, 72), Karandeep Kochhar (67, 72); 140: Aman Raj (68, 72), M. Dharmaraj (67, 73), Pravin Pathare (69, 71), Om Prakash Chouhan (70, 70); 141: Henderson Gupta (72, 69), Aadil Bedi (69, 72), Shankar Das (67, 74); Arjun Prasad (67, 74), Kapil Kumar (69, 72).

142: Devyanshu Bajaj (72, 70), Sanjay Kumar (68, 74), Sanjeev Kumar (71, 71), Jeev Milkha Singh (70, 72); 143: Udayan Mane (72, 71), Sunil Chowrasia (72, 71), Amardip Malik (72, 71), Jyoti Randhawa (72, 71), Mukesh Kumar (72, 71), Himmat Rai (71, 72), Viraj Madappa (69, 74) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (71, 72).

It's Ace Ace Ace vs Isabella

HYDERABAD: Ace Ace Ace and Isabella may fight out the finish of the Ghulam Ahmed Memorial Cup (1,600m), the main event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Nov. 17).

1. MEDAK PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1-15 p.m.: 1. Hurricane (4) Abhay Singh 62, 2. Negress Princess (7) R.S. Jodha 62, 3. Run Runner Run (8) Afroz Khan 62, 4. Ursula (6) A.A. Vikrant 61.5, 5. Vallee Ikon (9) Gaurav Singh 61.5, 6. Country's Pet (3) Santosh Raj 59, 7. Blazing Speed (5) Irvan Singh 57.5, 8. Golden Adara (1) Ajeeth Kumar 51 and 9. Dumbledore (2) Rafique Sk. 50.

1. NEGRESS PRINCESS, 2. BLAZING SPEED, 3. GOLDEN ADARA.

2. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-45: 1. Greek Soul (5) Ashhad Asbar 55, 2. Portstewart (4) A. Imran 55, 3. Spicy Star (1) Koushik 55, 4. Aintree (3) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 5. City Of Fusion (8) Rohit Kumar 53.5, 6. Coastal Cruise (2) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 7. Ice Berry (9) Nakhath Singh 53.5, 8. Queen Daenerys (7) Kuldeep Singh 53.5 and 9. Royal Valentine (6) B.R. Kumar 53.5.

1. AINTREE, 2. QUEEN DAENERYS, 3. ICE BERRY.

3. GOLCONDA CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2-15: 1. Magnetosphere (1) Ashhad Asbar 60, 2. Valee Tiger (2) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3. Blue Empress (6) Robbie Downey 58, 4. Alexanderthegreat (7) Koushik 57.5, 5. Unstoppable (8) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 6. Gazebo (4) Akshay Kumar 57, 7. Lancashire (6) Irvan Singh 54.5 and 8. Glendale

(3) Jitendra Singh 51. **1. MAGNETOSPHERE, 2. GAZEBO, 3. UNSTOPPABLE.**

4. SRI SHAMAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2-45: 1. Arc Of History (2) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Asteria (3) Akshay Kumar 59, 3. Royal Green (1) Gaurav Singh 57, 4. Sarvatra (10) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 5. Royal Dynamite (4) Ajit Singh 56.5, 6. Platinum Classy (9) Afroz Khan 56, 7. Top Contender (8) Gaddam 54, 8. Gladstone (7) Irvan Singh 53, 9. Humaaghar (6) Rafique Sk. 53 and 10. Proud Warrior (5) B.R. Kumar 53.

1. ASTERIA, 2. ARC OF HISTORY, 3. PROUD WARRIOR.

5. ARISTOCRAT PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3-15: 1. Starlight (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Mark My Word (4) Nakhath Singh 59.5, 3. Chase Your Dreams (7) Santosh Raj 58, 4. Tootsie Roll (5) Afroz Khan 58, 5. Magical Skill (3) Jitendra Singh 57, 6. Platts Tour (1) Gopal Singh 55.5, 7. News O' Star (8) Gaurav Singh 53.5 and 8. Pontius Pilate (2) Surya Prakash 53.5.

1. MARK MY WORD, 2. STARLIGHT, 3. PLATTS TOUR.

6. CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-45: 1. Exclusive Blue (1) Ashhad Asbar 60, 2. N R I Symbol (11) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 3. Midnight Dream (6) Jitendra Singh 58, 4. Blazer (10) Afroz Khan 57.5, 5. Esteve (2) Akshay Kumar 56, 6. Galloping Gangster (7) Robbie Downey 55.5, 7. Linewiler (9) Ajit Singh 55, 8. Prince Valiant (3) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 9. Strategist (4) Irvan Singh

54.5, 10. Flamboyant Lady (5) Nakhath Singh 52.5 and 11. Her Legacy (8) N. Rawal 52.

1. PRINCE VALIANT, 2. GALLOPING GANGSTER, 3. FLAMBOYANT LADY.

7. GHULAM AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m) 3-y-o & over (Cat. I), 4-15: 1. Highly Acclaimed (5) Surya Prakash 54.5, 2. Phenomenal Cruise (2) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 3. Ace Ace Ace (1) Akshay Kumar 52, 4. Air Strike (6) Irvan Singh 52, 5. Isabella (3) Robbie Downey 52 and 6. Be Sure (4) Nakhath Singh 50.5.

1. ACE ACE ACE, 2. ISABELLA.

8. GRACE HANOVER PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4-45: 1. Mind Reader (13) Jitendra Singh 60, 2. Handsome Duo (2) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 3. Red Snapper (6) Akshay Kumar 57, 4. Star Racer (7) Rohit Kumar 57, 5. Beyond Limits (3) Robbie Downey 55.5, 6. Ashwa Calvarti (8) G. Naresh 54, 7. Farmville (12) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 8. Vijays Maestro (10) Gopal Singh 53, 9. New Comer (4) G.P. Bopanna 52.5, 10. Smarty (9) Ashhad Asbar 52.5, 11. Wood Bridge (1) Surya Prakash 52, 12. Agilis (11) Rafique Sk. 51.5 and 13. Khan Sahib (5) Gaddam 51.5.

1. MIND READER, 2. RED SNAPPER, 3. STAR RACER.

Day's best: PRINCE VALIANT. Double: ASTERIA – MIND READER.

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; **Mint Jkt:** 5, 6, 7 & 8; **Tr (0):** 1, 2 & 3; **(ii):** 3, 4 & 5; **(iii):** 6, 7 & 8; **Tla:** all races.

Finland enters first major finals

Sweden seals Euro 2020 place; Italy eases past Bosnia

EURO QUALIFIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Finland qualified for the first major tournament in its history with a 3-0 win over Liechtenstein while Sweden sealed its place at the Euro 2020 finals following a victory in Romania.

Norwich City forward Teemu Pukki scored twice in Helsinki and Jasse Tuominen also netted to bring the home crowd pouring onto the pitch at the final whistle as Finland wrapped up second place behind Group J winner Italy on Friday.

Roberto Mancini's Italy registered a record 10th straight win as they eased past Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0 in Zenica.

Francesco Acerbi, Lorenzo Insigne and Andrea Belotti scored for Italy, which has bounced back impressively after failing to qualify for last year's World Cup year for the first time since 1958.

"Mancini has done a great job, he has given us clear ideas in a short period of



Two-goal hero: Teemu Pukki's, left, rich vein of scoring continued in the win over Liechtenstein. *REUTERS

time. We are proud of the record of ten consecutive wins but our objectives and our dreams are honestly others," said Belotti.

Bosnia is guaranteed a place in the play-offs after finishing top of its UEFA Nations League group last year.

Sweden qualified for a sixth straight European Championships after a 2-0 success in Bucharest that eliminated Romania from contention.

Seven different players were on target for already-qualified Spain in a 7-0

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Sunday's matches
Group A: Bihar v Uttarakhand; Goa v Karnataka; Andhra v Services.
Group B: Kerala v Uttar Pradesh; Rajasthan v Tripura; Tamil Nadu v Vidarbha.
Group C: Arunachal Pradesh v Chandigarh; Chhattisgarh v Hy-

derabad.
Group D: Bengal v Pondicherry; Assam v Mumbai; Haryana v Madhya Pradesh; Mizoram v Meghalaya.

Group E: Gujarat v Jharkhand; Delhi v Sikkim; Jammu & Kashmir v Saurashtra; Nagaland v Odisha.

Sarita in AIBA athletes commission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Veteran Indian boxer L. Sarita Devi has been elected unopposed to the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) first-ever athletes commission to represent the Asian bloc.

Sarita was in the running as sole candidate from the region. The commission features one male and a female boxer from each of the five regional confederations (Asia, Oceania, Europe, Americas and Europe).

The 37-year-old is an eight-time Asian Championships medalist – five of them gold – and is currently



Sarita Devi. *FILE PHOTO

an athlete representative in the executive committee of the Boxing Federation of India, which nominated her for the position in the world body as well.

Best Indian shooters for WC Finals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The top four Indian women's air rifle shooters will be competing in the World Cup Finals to be staged in Putian, China, from November 19 to 22.

While Anjum Moudgil will be competing as the World Championship silver medalist in the event, the other three Apurvi Chandela, Elavenil Valarivan and Mehuli Ghosh had placed first, eighth and 10th, based on the performances in the four World Cups.

Anjum will also compete in the rifle 3-position event. Apurvi had won two gold medals.

India will be represented in all the events of the rifle and pistol competition.

Manu Bhaker will compete in the air pistol and sports pistol events, apart from the mixed air pistol competition. Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Rishi Sarnobat will be competing in the air pistol and sports pistol events respectively.

Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma who had

swept two gold medals each in the four World Cups in Delhi, Beijing, Munich and Rio will take part in air pistol apart from Shahzar Rizvi.

In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, Anish Bhanwala will be the only Indian.

In men's air rifle, it will be Divyansh Singh Panwar while Akhil Sheoran and Sanjeev Rajput will compete in the rifle 3-position event.

After the pre-event training on Monday, competition will start with the rifle 3-position event for men and women on Tuesday.

'I still have the thrill of competing'

Narain is upbeat about XI Racing League

S. DIPAK RAGAV CHENNAI

At 42, Narain Karthikeyan's passion for a life on the fast lane continues unabated. Narain is currently competing in the Super GT series in Japan and will be seen in action in India later this month.

He once again dons the owner's hat with his NK Racing Team in the upcoming XI Racing League, a franchise-based motorsport series that will kick-off later this month at the Budd International Circuit in New Delhi before a round in Chennai, where he will also be the lead driver of his team.

Will improve profile
 Speaking to *The Hindu*, Narain, who made his F1 debut in 2005 with Jordan before two years at Hispania Racing



Narain Karthikeyan. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sporting league off the ground, especially motorsports.

"It will be a good start to have some big international drivers and it should be a good TV product. The aim is to take the sport to the masses," said Narain.

"What Formula One couldn't do for India this could potentially do, which is developing and nurturing young driver. It could help the entire ecosystem and I am Gung-ho about it and greater things are to come," he added.

Narain's team includes Alice Powell (woman driver), Frankie Cheng, Arjun Bali and Yash Aradhya.

"And I still have the thrill of competing and being on the podium. Also thankfully I have not had many injuries in my career," he added.

Balaji-Jeevan duo bows out

SPORTS BUREAU HOUSTON

Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan were beaten 6-2, 7-6(4) by top seeds Jonathan Erlich and Santiago Gonzalez in the quarter-finals of the \$162,480 Challenger tournament in Houston.

The Indian pair collected 25 ATP points and \$1,920.

The results: \$162,480 Challenger, Houston, USA: **Doubles (quarter-finals):** Jonathan Erlich (Isr) & Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-2, 7-6(4). **\$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: Singles (pre-quarter-finals):** Viktoria Morvayova (Svk) bt Ramya Natarajan 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; **First round:** Ramya bt Delisha Guttikonda (US) 6-1, 6-0.

Vettel leads Ferrari 1-2 in practice

REUTERS SAO PAULO

Sebastian Vettel led a Ferrari one-two in practice for the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix on Friday, with Red Bull's Max Verstappen third fastest on an incident-filled afternoon at a damp Interlagos.

Vettel lapped in one minute 09.217 seconds on soft tyres with Monegasque teammate Charles Leclerc, who has a 10-place grid penalty for an engine change, 0.021 slower.