

TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m.  
**Badminton:** China Open, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.  
**India vs Bangladesh:** 2nd T20I, Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Europa League:** Sony Ten 1, Sony Ten 2, Sony Ten 3 & Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday).

IN BRIEF



LeBron sparks Lakers comeback

WASHINGTON  
LeBron James scored 30 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and passed off 11 assists on Tuesday, leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 118-112 comeback victory at Chicago with his third consecutive triple double.  
**The results:** Charlotte Hornets 122 bt Indiana Pacers 120 (OT); Boston Celtics 119 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 113; Atlanta Hawks 108 bt San Antonio Spurs 100; Los Angeles Lakers 118 bt Chicago Bulls 112; Oklahoma City Thunder 102 bt Orlando Magic 94; Denver Nuggets 109 bt Miami Heat 89.

India holds Vietnam in second friendly

HANOI  
The Indian women's football team played out a 1-1 draw with host Vietnam in the second FIFA international friendly here on Wednesday. Thai Thi Thao put the host in the lead in the 39th minute before before India came back strongly in the second half to equalise through Ranjana Chanu in the 57th minute. PTI

Diksha, Ridhima share first round lead

NOIDA  
Diksha Dagar and Ridhima Dilawari returned cards of three-under 69 to share the lead after the first round of the 14th leg of the Hero women's Pro Golf Tour, here on Wednesday. Tvesa Malik and Gaurika Bishnoi are chasing the leaders closely after firing 71 each at the Noida Golf Course. PTI

Indian u-19 football team suffers setback

AL KHOBAR (SAUDI ARABIA)  
India began its 2020 AFC U-19 Championship qualification campaign on a disappointing note, losing 2-0 against Uzbekistan here on Wednesday. Khoshimov Ulugbek and Olimjonov Muzaffar were the scorers. India next plays host Saudi Arabia at the same venue on Friday. PTI

Young 'keeper Dheeraj gets a look-in

NEW DELHI  
Young goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh got his maiden call-up into the National team as head coach Igor Stimac announced a 26-member squad for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifying matches against Afghanistan and Oman later this month. The 'Blue Tigers' will play Afghanistan at Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, on November 14 in a first-leg match before taking on Oman in Muscat on November 19 for the second-leg tie. India had lost to Oman 2-1 in the home-leg at Guwahati on September 5. PTI

Shariq, Gunasekar shine in Central Secretariat's big win

KOLKATA  
A brace apiece by Shariq Mohammed and M. Gunasekar in the second and fourth quarter respectively enabled Central Secretariat to post a 5-0 win over Calcutta Port Trust Sports Club in a Pool D match of the 123rd Beighton Cup hockey tournament at the SAI Complex on Wednesday.  
**The results: Pool A:** Indian Oil 7 (Manpreet-2, Arman Qureshi, Karajwinder Singh, Roshan Minz, Hardik Singh, Gurjinder Singh) bt Tamil Nadu XI 1 (Joshua). **Pool B:** Indian Navy 9 (Jugraj Singh-2, Ved Prakash Bhatt-2, Kuldeep Singh, Pawan Rajbhar, Nitesh, Ajinkya Jadhav, Manjinder Singh) bt Bishalaki Sports Academy 0. **Pool D:** Central Secretariat 5 (Shariq Mohammed-2, M. Gunasekar-2, Iktidar Ishrat) bt Calcutta Port Trust Sports Club 0.

# 'We have to listen to supporters'

Gilchrist says South Africa seems to be slowly slipping and lacking consistency

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

Former Australia wicket-keeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist said the intent of day/night Tests is to keep the game current and engage with the fans.

"We have got to listen to the public and what the supporters are saying. I did not see any reason for India not to play a day/night Test in Australia last year, especially with the fast bowling attack they had," said Gilchrist.

He is travelling with Western Australia (WA) Premier Mark McGowan to promote WA and Perth, in particular.

Gilchrist talked to *The Hindu* about the World Cup next year, state of Australian cricket and concerns about the decline in South African cricket. *Excerpts:*

**Who would you pick as the likely semifinalists of the T20 World Cup?**

Australia has lagged behind in international T20s, generally it had not picked its best team in bilateral series. The fast bowlers had been rested and recently Steve Smith played his first T20 series in three-and-a-half years.



It's done this way: Adam Gilchrist at a coaching clinic organised by Tourism Western Australia.

\*VIVEK BRENDE

And now suddenly we are picking our best team for matches in our backyard. We looked like having a well balanced line-up in the series against Sri Lanka and in the first two matches against Pakistan, especially in Australian conditions.

But a lot can change in the next 12 months. So you have the usual suspects – Australia, England, India and New Zealand.

**Australian cricket seems to have settled down after the return of Steve Smith and David Warner?**

Clearly much more settled down than this time around last year when we had our two best batsmen, Smith and Warner, out. We are 12 months further away from the sandpaper incident in South Africa. Well, time heals things.

**South Africa was outplayed by India in the recent series in India?**

That's a concern. I think South African cricket is in a delicate situation. They seem to be slowly slipping and lacking in consistency.

They have had seen Hashim Amla, A.B. de Villiers and Dale Steyn leaving the scene.

They have also been decimated by Kolpak, which is the players going away to UK.

I hope South African cricket would be the main agenda at the ICC level as to how they are going to maintain interest for the game in that country, because we cannot afford to have more high profile nations dropping away and the enthusiasm for the game disappearing.

# Ravi Kumar to appeal for reduction in suspension

WEIGHTLIFTING

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning weightlifter K. Ravi Kumar, who has been suspended for four years for a doping violation, will appeal against the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) disciplinary panel decision seeking a reduction in the sanction.

Ravi, who had bagged a gold and a silver in 2010 Delhi and 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games respectively, had tested positive for

ostarine (enobosarm), selective androgen receptor modulators (SARM) and dihydroxy-LGD-4033 SARM at the National weightlifting championships in Visakhapatnam in February last.

"He submitted that he started training in November 2018 after a gap and consumed various food supplements to increase his strength. He also consumed a new food supplement called SARM.

"He admitted that he did not bother enquiring about whether it contained any prohibited substance and

therefore was deeply regretful of his lapse in judgement," said a Facebook post from NADA.

"This falls under Article 10.6.3 which provides for benefit on account of 'prompt admission,' and so as per Article 10.11.2 the period of ineligibility shall start running from the date of sample collection (February 26, 2019)."

Confident

Ravi, who was among the 14 weightlifters to have tested positive in-competition for banned substances, was confident about getting some re-

lief from the appeal panel.

"There are certain grounds which I had brought to the notice of the NADA panel. I will highlight these points (before the appeal panel) and am sure of getting a reduction in the period of suspension," Ravi said on Wednesday.

"I hope to make a comeback again and sign off with a good performance in an international event," he said.

Ravi has paid a 'fine' of ₹50,000 imposed by the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) for the anti-doping rule violation.

# Huge demand for day/night Test tickets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The day-night pink ball Test match, which will be held between India and Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens here from November 22, has been well received by the fans with a huge demand for tickets.

"Thirty per cent of the online saleable tickets for the first three days (5,905 tickets) has been sold out, while over 3,500 tickets for the fourth day of the second Test have been sold," Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) secretary Avishek Dalmiya said on Wednesday.

The CAB will make the event memorable by felicitating some cancer survivors.

"With the help of Global Cancer Trust, around 20

breast cancer survivors will be invited on the first day of the match. They will be greeted by the CAB. Cancer patients will have a chance to play (fun cricket) at the Eden Gardens on the third day," Dalmiya said.

Five gold coins, specially designed for the occasion, will be handed over to the VVIPs as memento.

The CAB has decided to upgrade the medical facilities. With assistance from the Woodlands Hospital, two ICU equipped ambulances, critical care assistance, nurses and medicine will be there to handle emergency situations.

Hoardings will be put up around the city and video clips will be played in cinema halls to promote the historic event.

# More medals but no Olympic quota

ASIAN SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU  
DOHA

It was a heart-breaking day for India, though it won eight medals, as the Olympic quota places eluded its grasp in the Asian shooting championship on Wednesday.

Olympian Kynan Chenai qualified joint first with 122 out of 125 but ended sixth in the final. Kuwait swept the three medals and one of the quota places, while the other two were bagged by Taipei and Qatar.

Similarly, Anish Bhanwala finished 11th in men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol while 10th-placed Thailand bagged the fourth quota place. A below-par 90 in the last 4-second series undid Anish's good work.

Though junior World champion Vijayveer Sidhu shot 586 in the MQS section, which was better than the

578 by Anish, it was no consolation for the Indian squad which missed two quota berths.

In women's trap, Shreyasi Singh missed a berth in the final after a tie shoot at 114.

The Indians clinched quite a few team medals, taking its tally to 13, including four gold.

The results:

**Men: 25m rapid fire pistol:** 1. Lin Junmin (Chn) 35 (585); 2. Li Yuehong (Chn) 32 (588); 3. Yao Zhaonan (Chn) 27 (578); 11. Anish Bhanwala 574; 14. Adesh Singh 571; 15. Bhavesh Shkawat 571. MQS: Vijayveer Sidhu 586; Gurpreet Singh 577.  
**Team:** 1. China 1751; 2. Korea 1736; 3. India 1716.

**Trap:** 1. Talal Alrashidi (Kuwait) 42 (120); 2. Khaled Almuhdaf (Kuwait) 38 (121); 3. Naser Meqlad (Kuwait) 29 (122); 6. Kynan Chenai 13 (122); 9. Manavjit Sandhu 118; 11. Prithviraj Tondaiman 117.  
**Team:** 1. Kuwait 363; 2. India 357; 3. Qatar 354.

# Ashwin and Hardik star for South Zone

SPORTS BUREAU  
NAGPUR

Ashwin Achal (69 n.o.) and Hardik Worah (3/16) took South Zone past North Zone in the J.K. Bose T20 cricket tournament for sports journalists on Wednesday.

**The scores: Wednesday:** South Zone 159/2 in 20 overs (Ashwin Achal 69 n.o., Ramesh Kote 43 n.o.) bt North Zone 129/8 in 20 overs (Chetan Sharma 50, Hardik Worah 3/16).

**Tuesday:** West Zone 136/4 in 20 overs (Ripple Christie 36, Sanjeev Samyal 33) lost to South Zone 137/2 in 18.2 overs (Ashwin Achal 57 n.o., Karthik Lakshmanan 28).

East Zone 110 in 19.4 overs (Hirak Malakar 60, Vinay Yadav 4/24, Jaswinder Sidhu 3/11) lost to North Zone 111/7 in 16.2 overs (Lakshyajit Gogoi 3/33).

# Sai Praneeth and Kashyap advance

End of campaign for Sameer, Saina and two doubles pairs

CHINA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
FUZHOU (CHINA)

P. Kashyap and B. Sai Praneeth advanced in contrasting styles but Saina Nehwal crashed out in the opening round of the China Open here on Wednesday.

Kashyap registered a comfortable 21-14, 21-3 victory over Thailand's Sitthikom Thammasin in 43 minutes, while World Championships bronze medalist B. Sai Praneeth overcame Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia 15-21, 21-12, 21-10 in the opening round battle.

However, it was curtains for Sameer Verma as he lost 21-18, 21-18 against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu in 45 minutes.

There was no end to Saina's lacklustre run of form as the Olympic bronze-medallist crashed out following a 21-9, 21-12 defeat to local fa-

vourite Cai Yan Yan in mere 24 minutes.

To add to India's woes, the men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B. Sumeeth Reddy also crashed out in the first round, losing 23-21, 21-19 to Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik.

The mixed doubles pairing of Pranav Jerry Chopra and Sikki Reddy also exit after going down 21-14, 21-14 to Wang Chi-Lin and Cheng Chi Ya of Chinese Taipei.

**The results (first round):**  
**Men:** P. Kashyap bt Sitthikom Thammasin (Tha) 21-14, 21-3; B. Sai Praneeth bt Tommy Sugiarto (Ina) 15-21, 21-12, 21-10; Lee Cheuk Yiu (HKG) bt Sameer Verma 21-18, 21-18.  
**Doubles:** Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Mas) bt Manu Attri & B. Sumeeth Reddy 23-21, 21-19.  
**Women:** Cai Yan Yan (Chn) bt Saina Nehwal 21-9, 21-12.  
**Mixed doubles:** Wang Chi-Lin & Cheng Chi Ya (Tpe) bt Pranav Jerry Chopra & Sikki Reddy 21-14, 21-14.

# Ankita Raina bows out in first round

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
SHENZHEN

Ankita Raina failed to capitalise on a fine start as she lost 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 to Fang Ying Xun of China in the first round of the \$100,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

In the doubles pre-quarterfinals, Ankita and Bibiane Schoofs of the Netherlands went down in straight sets to Nao Hibino and Makoto Niomiya of Japan.

In the Challenger in Kobe, Japan, Ramkumar Ramanathan, seeded fourth with Purav Raja, made the doubles quarterfinals as the Ratiwatana twins from Thailand, Sanchai and Sonchat, retired when the Indians led 4-2 in the first set.

Correction

In singles, Ramkumar had defeated Jumpei Yamasaki of Japan 6-4, 6-1 in the second round after a bye in the first.

Owing to an error in com-

pilation, the result was given wrongly in these columns on Wednesday.

**The results:**  
**\$100,000 ITF women, Shenzhen, China: First round:** Fang Ying Xun (Chn) bt Ankita Raina 3-6, 6-1, 6-0.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Nao Hibino & Makoto Niomiya (Jpn) bt Bibiane Schoofs (Ned) & Ankita 6-3, 6-3.

**\$54,160 Challenger, Kobe, Japan: Second round:** Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Jumpei Yamasaki (Jpn) 6-4, 6-1.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Purav Raja & Ramkumar bt Sanchai Ratiwatana & Sonchat Ratiwatana (Tha) 4-2 (retired).  
**\$15,000 ITF men, Meshref, Kuwait: First round:** Adil Kalyanpur bt Kunal Anand 7-5, 6-1; Kai Whnelt (Ger) bt Ishaque Eqbal 6-3, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Maputo, Mozambique: First round:** Jatin Dahiya bt Rishi Reddy 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-2; Kelsey Stevenson (Can) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: First round:** Ramya Natarajan bt Anfisa Danilchenko (Rus) 6-2, 6-2.

# Melanie Jones appointed Cricket Australia director

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SYDNEY

Cricket Australia on Wednesday appointed former international Melanie Jones as its director.

Jones debuted for Australia in 1997 when she joined the team and won her first two World Cups (2005). The following year saw her make her first Test century on debut (131), in her first of the two successful Ashes campaigns (2004).

"I'm excited to have this opportunity to work with the Board to strengthen cricket's bond with the community and ensure a healthy and sustainable future for the next generations," Jones said.

The 47-year-old was also recognised earlier this year with one of country's highest honours, the Medal of the Order of Australia, for her services towards cricket.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Mackenzie and Padmanabh go on a scoring spree

NEW DELHI: Chris Mackenzie smashed six goals in powering Sahara Warriors to a 7 to 4-1/2 win over Cavalry-Krishna Polo in a preliminary round match of the Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh Cup 14-goal polo tournament on Wednesday. In another match, Sona Polo beat Jindal Panther 7-6, thanks to a five-goal spree by Padmanabh Singh. In the semifinals to be played on Friday, at the Jaipur Polo ground, Warriors will play Panther, while Sona Polo will clash with Cavalry-Krishna Polo. **The results (league):** Sahara Warriors 7 (Chris Mackenzie 6, Satinder Garcha) bt Cavalry-Krishna Polo 4-1/2 (Ravi Rathore 3, handicap 1-1/2); Sona Polo 7 (Padmanabh Singh 5, Gerardo Mazzini 2) bt Jindal Panther 6 (Simran Singh Shergill 3, Salim Azmi 2, Daniel Otamendi).

**Profitable day for Deep Munim**  
CHANDIGARH: Deep Munim knocked out third seed Nitin Jaipal Singh 7-6(3), 7-5 in the under-18 boys quarterfinals of the AITA Super Series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA

Complex on Wednesday. Deep, as the top seed, made the under-16 semifinals after battling past Yashwardhan Singh 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In the girls under-18 quarterfinals, Kavya Khirwar battled hard against qualifier S.R. Ananya for a 5-7, 6-4, 7-6(7) victory.

**Other results (quarterfinals): Boys: Under-18:** Krishan Hooda bt Ajnabi Dahiya 6-3, 6-3; Divanshu Hooda bt Yogee Panwar 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Sushant Dabas bt Shashikant Rajpur 6-0, 6-0.

**Under-16:** Khush Sharma bt Ansh Kundu 3-6, 6-0, 6-2; Sukhpreet Singh Hoje bt Ajay Singh 7-6(1), 6-2; Jitin Kumar Chetry bt Tushar Mittal 6-3, 6-3.

**Girls: Under-18:** Vaishnavi Adkar bt Janani Ramesh 2-6, 6-1, 6-0; Deepalakshmi Vanaraja bt Sanjamni Arora 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; Vanshika Choudhary bt Aarni Reddy Yellu 6-1, 6-3.

**Under-16:** Vaishnavi Adkar bt Aarni Reddy Yellu 6-4, 6-1; Suryanshi Tanwar bt Anoushka Sharma 6-2, 6-2; Janani Ramesh bt Harleen Kaur Dhanda 6-4, 6-1; Sanvi Ahluwalia bt Hitkanya Narwal 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

# Maheshwari sets new steeplechase record; Bushra Khan Gauri also sets National mark

NATL. JR. ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU  
GUNTUR

Telangana's G. Maheshwari set a National record on the final day of the 35th National junior athletics championship at Acharya Nagarjuna University campus here on Wednesday.

Maheshwari, a trainee of SAI-Gopi Chand Mytrah under SAI athletics coach N. Ramesh in Hyderabad, ran the girls under-20 3000m steeplechase in 10:34.10s that erased the time of 10:53.91 set by Nandini Gupta in Lucknow in 2017.

In girls' under-16, Madhya Pradesh's Bushra Khan Gauri set a new National mark in the 2000m with a timing of

6:24.71, that bettered Amrita Patel's mark of 6:25.66.

**The results: Boys: Under-20: 200m:** 1. Abhin B. Devadiga (Kar) 21.41s, 2. Prasad Kailash Ahire (Mah) 21.43, 3. Ajith John (Ker) 21.71. **400m hurdles:** 1. Dhaval Mahesh Utekar (Guj) 51.36, 2. Harshvardhan Satish Bhosle (Mah) 52.36, 3. Rakshit (Kar) 53.78. **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Mohammed Nur Hasan (UP) 9:23.48, 2. M. Manoj Kumar (Ker) 9:32.32, 3. Suhas Prabhakar Bankar (Mah) 9:37.96. **4 x 400m:** 1. Delhi (Ansh, Himashu, Rashid & Vikrant Panchal) 3:13.08, 2. Haryana 3:13.71, 3. Kerala 3:14.97. **Triple jump:** 1. Praveen Chithravel (TN) 15.85m, 2. Gailey Venister (AP) 15.46, 2. E. Aravinth E (TN) 15.43. **Shotput:** 1. Aniket (Utk) 17.97; 2. S.R. Rahul Kashyap (Kar) 17.96, 3. Saurav Tanwar (Har) 17.88.

**Boys: Under-18: 200m:** 1. N. Shanmuga Srinivas (AP) 21.34s (MR, Old: 21.50, Nisar Ahmed, Ranchi, 2018), 2. Shashikanth Virupakshappa Anga (Kar) 21.35, 3. Aniket Choduhary (TS) 21.83. **1500m:** 1. Satya Dev (Har) 4:04.36, 2. Harendra Kumar (Del) 4:05.03, 3. Saurabh Rawat (Mah) 4:05.72. **3 km walk:** 1. Sumik Kundu (Har) 8:34.04, 2. Puneet Yadav (Har) 8:36.47, 3. Mo nu (Maharashtra) 8:38.51. **400m hurdles:** 1. A. Rohith (Ker) 52.88, 2. Akhil Babu (Ker) 54.21, 3. V.S. Pranav (TN) 54.31. **2000m steeplechase:** 1. Atul Bhisingbhai Gamit (Guj) 5:49.23 (MR, Old: 5:51.90, Raj Kumar, Mangaluru, 2017), 2. Sourabh Antil (Har) 5:54.20, 3. Sunil Joliya Janabhaji (Guj) 6:03.68.

**Under-16: 200m:** 1. Kapil (Har) 21.99s, 2. Aman Khokhar (UP) 22.18, 3. Riday Samar Jana (Mah) 22.26. **2000m:** 1. Amit Chaudhry



Making a splash: Telangana's G. Maheshwari on her way to a National record. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(UP) 5:42.77, 2. Walter Kandulna (TN) 5:42.85, 3. Dushyant (UP) 5:44.61. **Hammer throw:** 1. Nirbhay Choudhary (Del) 64.58m, 2. Devang (Del) 56.50m, 3. Anuj Arun Dengale (Mah) 47.67.

**Girls: Under-18: 200m:** 1. Priya Habbathanahally (Kar) 24.49s, 2. Jeevanji Deepthi (TS) 24.67, 3. Payal Vohra (Del) 24.97. **1500m:** 1. Ankita (Utk) 4:28.20 (MR, Old: 4:35.40, Lili Das, Ranchi, 2015), 2. Pooja (Har) 4:28.79, 3. Tai Hiraman Bamhane (Mah) 4:44.66. **3000m:** 1. Rebi Pal (UP) 9:50.64, Drashtiben Pravinbhai Chaudhri (Guj) 9:51.02, Supriti Kashyap (Jha) 9:53.85. **400m hurdles:** 1. C. Vishrutha (TN) 1:04.40, 2. B. Ranga Johnsni (AP) 1:06.34, 3. Nirmal Punia (Har) 1:06.40. **2000m steeplechase:** 1. Madhura Vrudhishi Shetty (Mah) 7:22.80, 2. Vandana Mori (Guj) 7:23.73, 3. Manju Ajay Yadav (MP) 7:33.95.

**Under-20: 200m:** 1. Kaveri Laxmanadapa Patil (Kar) 24.48, 2. Santra Teresa Martin (TN) 24.65, 3. K. Roshini (TN) 24.78. **400m hurdles:** 1. K.M. Nibha (Ker) 1:01.55, 2. Khsudheep Kaur (