

SHORT SINGLES



Shreyasi clinches double trap, Rashmee also wins

Jaipur: Bihar's Shreyasi Singh reclaimed the women's double trap title with a facile victory over ONGC's Shagun Chowdhary, while Rashmee Rathore of Andhra bagged the gold medal in skeet event on day two of the 60th National Shooting Championship Competition for Shotgun here. Army's Seema Tomar settled for the bronze in the double trap event. Winner in 2012, Shreyasi shot 98 to clinch the gold in an event where she had to contend with the silver medal last year. In the women's skeet, Rashmee beat Punjab's Ganemat Sekhon 13-11 in the finals to win gold, while Saniya Sheikh of UP bagged the bronze. Manisha Keer was the other top performer of the day, helping her Madhya Pradesh team bag two gold medals in the women's and junior double trap event. She also won an individual bronze.



Bumpy plane ride too much for Messi

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi had to reach for the sick bag as the plane carrying the Argentina team endured a bumpy ride from Buenos Aires to San Juan ahead of a World Cup qualifier. The Barcelona superstar and several of his team-mates took ill due to the turbulence during the journey to the city near the Andes where Argentina will face Colombia. The bout of illness will not stop Messi or any of his colleagues from playing in what is a crucial game for Argentina's hopes of reaching the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Edgardo Bauza's side are sixth in the South American qualifying group after 11 matches following a 3-0 defeat in Brazil last week. They are a point off fourth-place Ecuador, with the top four qualifying directly and the team in fifth going into a play-off against a team from the Oceania zone.



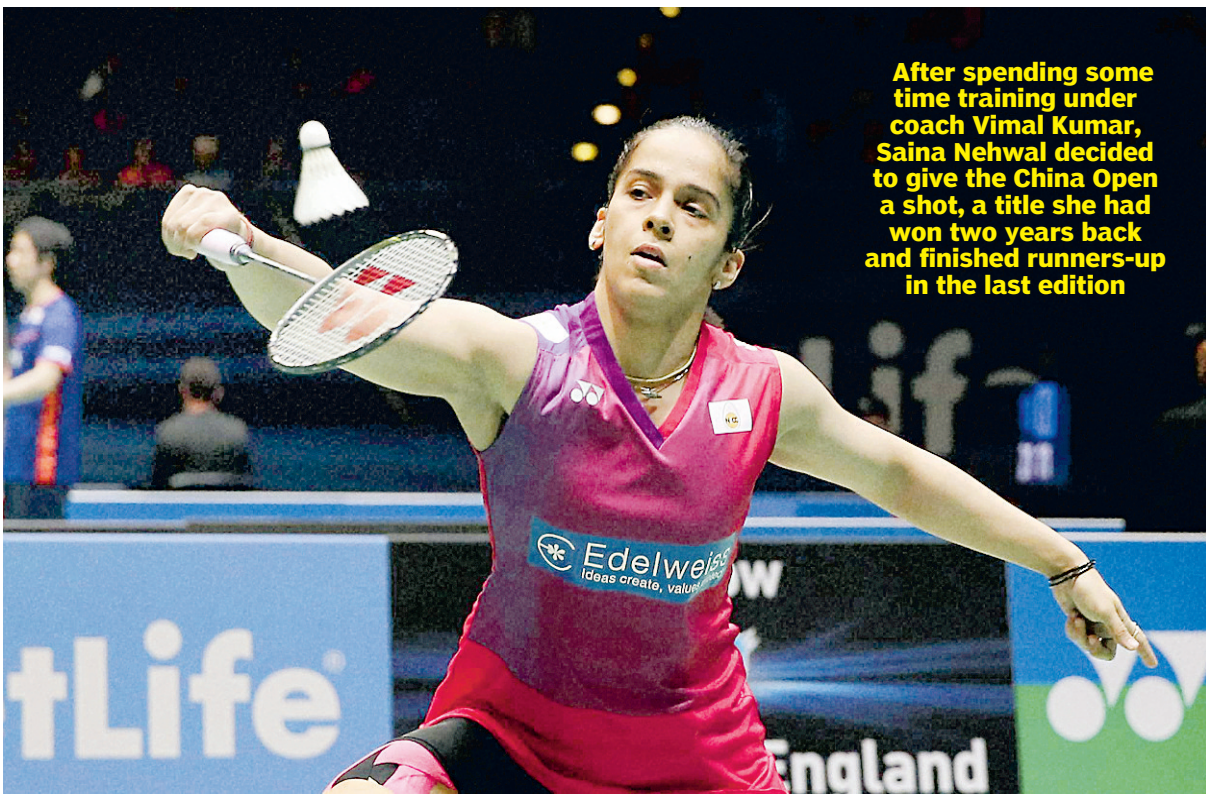
India lose to Taipei at Asian basketball tournament

Bangkok: The Indian U-18 women's basketball team have suffered their third successive loss with a 80-46 defeat to Chinese Taipei at the 23rd FIBA Asia U-18 championship here on Tuesday. Meng-Hsin Chen (17 points), Yu-Lin Kao (14 points) and J. Wang (14 points) were the outstanding performers for Chinese Taipei while Bhandavya Gowda (10 points), Priyanka Prabhakara (8 points) and Nishanti Masilamani (9 points) did well for India. Unlike Monday's match when India were up against the much taller China, this time around, the two teams were evenly matched in terms of size. India opened up a 7-6 lead early on before Taipei's defence clamped down allowing them to go on a 18-2 run to close the first quarter with a 24-9 lead. In the second quarter, Taipei continued to force India into sideline and baseline traps resulting in multiple turnovers. At halftime the score read 41-13 in favour of Taipei.

Saina eyes comeback, Sindhu aims for maiden title in China

Fuzhou (China), Nov. 15: Three months after limping out of the Rio Olympics due to a severe knee injury, Saina Nehwal will be back on the court to test her recovery when the Thaihot China Open Super Series Premier begins here tomorrow. Saina, the bronze-medallist at London Olympics, lost in her second match of the Rio Olympics to lower-ranked Maria Ulitina of Ukraine and what followed was a surgery and a long rehabilitation program. After spending some time training under coach Vimal Kumar, Saina decided to give the China Open a shot, a title she had won two years back and finished runners-up in the last edition.

The Indian will be up against Thailand's Pornnity Buranaprasertsuk, who she has beaten as many as nine times in the past, but the fourth seed knows well that those record won't matter when she walks out to the court tomorrow. "Saina is still short of endurance and strength," Vimal had said earlier. While Saina will resume her



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international journey, young P V Sindhu, who meanwhile became the toast of the nation after becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal at Rio, will look to annex her first super series title. After two second round exits, seventh seed Sindhu will hope for better results when she begins

her campaign against Chia Hsin Lee of Chinese Taipei. "My training has been very good. I am prepared well. I haven't seen the draw. It doesn't matter I guess since you have to play every good player at some stage. Nobody is going to be easy and everybody will fight till the last point so even if it is a lower

ranked player, you have to give your best," Sindhu said. In men's singles, Ajay Jayaram will be up against Zhu Siyuan of China, H S Prannoy will meet Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus and B. Sai Praneeth will face the experienced German Marc Zwiebler in the opening round. (PTI)

Want to implement sports code on state bodies: Goel

New Delhi, Nov. 15: Sports Minister Vijay Goel today said the National Sports Code might be implemented on state federations as well and asked the state ministers and secretaries to discuss the issue so that a decision can be reached with consensus. "We recently had a meeting with NSFs and they themselves suggested that the code of conduct should be implemented on the state federations as well. So the state secretaries and ministers can think about it if we can implement this code on the state federations after proper discussion and consensus," Goel said. "We have to implement this code of conduct on approx 95 per cent of the federations and the High Court has also given us the go ahead."



Goel, who was addressing the 'Conference of Ministers and Secretaries of The States', said his Ministry has already started preparing for the Tokyo Olympics. "Although there was no complaint from any athlete regarding the TOP scheme, many asked why it was not implemented earlier. So his target is to identify 10 universities who can build Centres of Excellence for the budding sportspersons. "We used to get players from school and colleges but now we see sportspersons from universities who have done well. So Our next target is to contact the 400 odd universities of the country and then identify 10 universities which would be interested in building Centres of Excellence. Our ministry will encourage such universities," he said. (PTI)



Members of Aurangabad Cloth Merchants' Association who have registered for the Lokmat Aurangabad Marathon, to be held on December 11. Seen in the picture are Shubhash Baheti, Vinod Loya, Sandeep Kruplani, Sheetal Sancheti, Gaurav Kelani, Girish Tolwani, Raji Tolwani, Kishore Kalda, Bhagchand Binayake, Pankesh Agrawal, Rajesh Kalda, Dilip Chotiani, Anup Agrawal, Sushil Matra



Grind Master members who have registered for the Lokmat Aurangabad Marathon, to be held on December 11. Seen in the picture are (standing from L) Parmeshwar Sonawane, Ajinkya Kulkarni, Abhijeet Kamble, CEO Sameer Kelkar, Anil Khandagale, Raju Budhwant, Chandan Rajput and Prashant Yeole. (Sitting from L) Vilas Dabhade, Nilesh Talware, Vijay Khakke, Avinash Shinde, Krushna Wishing, Samadhan Solunke and Sachin Durgist.

Aurangabad gymnasts impress

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Aurangabad gymnasts clinched a silver medal and a bronze medal in the State-level Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship held at Jalgaon. Aurangabad's silver medal came in the under-10 girls event, while the bronze was clinched by the under-12 girls. The triumphant gymnasts were trained by Rahul Tandale at the Garware Community Centre. The secretary of the Maharashtra State Gymnastics Association Dr. Makarand Joshi, president of the Aurangabad District



Gymnastics Association Adv. Sankarshan Joshi, secretary Sagar Kulkarni, Community Centre's Sunil Sutawne and other gymnastics officials have congratulated the youngsters on their impressive performance.

We need to use Arjuna awardees to nurture talent: Rathore

New Delhi, Nov. 15: Athens Games silver medallist shooter Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore feels the State Federations need to identify their top 50 athletes and use the active Arjuna Awardees to nurture talent in order to help India prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "We did a study to find out the number of sports in which the top 30 countries had won medals at Rio Olympics. From 1-10 countries, 60 per cent medal they won in four sports, 80 per cent medal that the 11-20 countries won were in four sports, and from 21-30 countries, four sports contributed 90 per cent of the medal," Rathore said. "If we want to win medals in 2020 Olympics, it is important that all states prepare for it. We don't need excessive amount of funds but will power and concentration of effort." "There are 800 Arjuna Awardees in this



country, say at least 50 per cent will be active. How can we use this 400 Arjuna Awardees or if we are not then why, we need to think about that. There are many medal winners working in Railways, doing government jobs, we need to use their passion to nurture talents," he added. The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting also stressed on the need to align the system and professionalise the operations. "We don't have spaces to play. If we can identify the empty spaces that are under some government agency in the country and give that ground to the former sportspersons to make their clubs, it will bring professionalism," he said. "It is important to have a club culture. It will create opportunity and encourage competition. Coach led athletes centric programs is very important." (PTI)

Batra's main focus is to make hockey popular and reachable

New Delhi, Nov. 15: The first non-European to head the International Hockey Federation, newly-elected FIH President Narinder Batra today said his main focus would be on the 10-year Hockey Revolution strategy starting from 2019, which aims at making the sport more popular and reachable. Batra, who was elected President last Saturday, said as part of the Hockey Revolution programme the world body is set to introduce a nine-team home-and-away league of international teams which also serve as Olympic and World Cup qualifiers. "There is one game I am passionate about is hockey. I want to contribute to the game and make it more popular and bigger," Batra told in his first media

conference here after becoming the world body chief. "As part of the plan, the FIH will introduce a 10-year Hockey Revolution programme from 2019. The programme's aim is to ensure the next generation takes up the sport. It's overall aim is to make hockey more popular and reachable. "From 2019 we will have hockey all throughout the year. We will start a new league which is very important in the context of FIH. It will be a home-and-away league which will witness participation from nine countries. "The league will be a qualifier for Olympics and World Cup. Top two teams of the league will qualify for Olympics and the World Cup. The league will be organised over 6 months and will be held on Saturdays and Sundays," he said. The new FIH chief said they have also kept the option of organising the league on a neutral venue



in case a country like Pakistan has issues hosting the event on their home soil. "We have kept the neutral venue option for teams like Pakistan provided they agree to play," Batra said. Further elaborating on his plans, Batra said he wants to take hockey across the globe in a bid to increase "reach and revenue". "My role in FIH will be to increase geographical boundaries of the sport. I want to expand hockey to Africa, Pan America, Oceania and Asia. I want to increase the number of international teams from 10-12 to 20-25. "If you can increase your boundaries, revenue will automatically increase," he said. (PTI)