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1. DEXA: BCCI introduces new selection criteria for Team India (Jan. 2, 2023)

The BCCI announced a major change in the **selection criteria of players** on 1st January.

Important facts

- To review the team's performance in 2022, **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** president **Roger Binny** and secretary **Jay Shah** met India captain **Rohit Sharma**, head coach **Rahul Dravid** and chief selector **Chetan Sharma** on January 1.
- The future of Indian cricket was discussed in the meeting, which was also attended by National Cricket Academy (NCA) director **VVS Laxman**.
- The new criteria have been brought in to ensure the fitness of players before their selection as the team has been facing a serious injury crisis for the last one year.
- The fitness of Indian cricketers has been a matter of concern with players like **Deepak Chahar** not playing regularly.
- Fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** is also out for a long time due to a back injury.

What are the new selection criteria?

- The new rule brought back the **Yo-Yo test** and made it mandatory for players to be selected for the national team.
- Players must take a '**DEXA**' before being selected for the Indian team across all formats.
- Emerging players have to play enough domestic seasons to be eligible for selection in the national team.

What is a Yo-Yo test?

- The Yo-Yo test is an **aerobic endurance fitness test** that involves running between markers placed **20 metres** apart at increasing speed.
- The test was introduced during **Virat Kohli's tenure** as India captain and initially the passing score was 16.1, which was increased to 16.5.

What is Dexa?

- DEXA, also called '**bone density test**', is an X-ray technique used to measure bone strength.
- From this it can be ascertained whether there is any risk of breaking or losing bones of the test taker or whether a player is at risk of fracturing any part of the body.
- It also helps measure body composition and record **body fat and muscle mass**.

2. Smriti Mandhana nominated for the ICC Women cricketer of the year award 2022 (Dec. 31, 2022)

Smriti Mandhana nominated for the ICC Women cricketer of the year award 2022

Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian player to be included in the 2022 ICC women's cricketer of the year nominee list announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). She has also been nominated for the best women player in T 20.

The International Cricket Council has announced the shortlisted cricket players for its year end awards. Four players are shortlisted in the men's and women category for its various annual awards taking into account the performance of the players in the calendar year.

Players nominated for the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022

Smriti Mandhana of India, Nat Sciver of England, Amelia Kerr of New Zealand and Beth Monney of Australia.

Players nominated for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2022

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, England Test team captain Ben Stokes, Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe and the New Zealand Test team captain Tim Southee.

ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2022

England Test team captain Ben Stokes, Johnny Bairstow of England, Usman Khwaja of Australia and South African fast Bowler Kagiso Rabada.

International cricket Council is the international governing body of cricket.

Headquarters: **Dubai**

Chairman: **Greg Barclay** of New Zealand

3. Ronaldo joins Saudi club Al Nassr with record \$214 million contract (Dec. 31, 2022)

After leaving the **Manchester United club** on 30 December 2022, **Portugal team captain Cristiano Ronaldo** has joined **Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr** on a two-and-a-half-year contract.

Important facts

- Ronaldo left **Old Trafford** after a television interview last month. He said that he has been cheated by the club.
- Al Nassr issued a statement saying that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner will be under contract until 2025.

- Although he did not reveal any financial details, Ronaldo's contract is estimated by the media to be worth more than **200 million euros (\$214.04 million)**, the highest salary in football history.
- Ronaldo will move to Saudi Arabia after a stellar spell at Spanish club Real Madrid from 2009 to 2018, winning two La Liga titles, two Spanish Cups, four Champions League titles and three Club World Cups.
 - Ronaldo's inclusion will provide a boost to the Saudi Arabian club, which is looking to add to its **nine Saudi Pro League titles**.

About Al Nassr

- Al-Nassr is a club from **Saudi Arabia** that competes in the **Saudi Pro League**. It is one of the most successful teams in the country. It was formed in **1955**.
- Al-Nasr, nicknamed **Al-Alami or Faris Najd**, is located in the capital city of **Riyadh**. It is formally managed by Rudi Garcia of Roma, Marseille and Lyon.
- Cameroon striker **Vincent Aboubakar** joined in 2021 and is a key player for the team.
- Brazilian defensive midfielder **Luiz Gustavo** and former Arsenal shot-stopper **David Ospina** signed for the club in 2022.

4. Hockey Haryana Women's U-18 team wins Khelo India Youth Games 2022 (Dec. 31, 2022)

Hockey Haryana Women's U-18 team wins Khelo India Youth Games 2022

Hockey **Haryana's women's team** won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 **Women's Under 18 Qualifiers title** after defeating **Madhya Pradesh 2-0** in the final at **Bhubaneswar** on December 30.

Important facts

- In the final match, **Pooja and Gurmail Kaur** scored a goal each for Haryana to turn the match in their favour.
- **Odisha** stepped up to claim **third place** after beating **Jharkhand** by 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
- **Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand** have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games (Women) to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

Awards List

- **Best Goalkeeper:** Kavita (Haryana)
- **Best Defender:** Yogita Verma (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Best Midfielder:** Manisha (Haryana)
- **Best Striker:** Bhumshika Sahu (Madhya Pradesh)

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6. Hockey Madhya Pradesh clinches Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's U-18 title (Dec. 31, 2022)

Hockey Madhya Pradesh clinches Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's U-18 title

In hockey, **Madhya Pradesh** clinched the title **by defeating Odisha 6-5** in the **Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18** qualifier title in **Bhubaneswar** on 30 December.

Important facts

- In a thrilling final, **Jamir Mohammad** was the star of the final, scoring a hat-trick, while Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Zaid Khan and captain Ankit Pal scored one goal each for Madhya Pradesh.
- On the other hand, Anmol Ekka, Paulus Lakra, Deepak Minz and Akash Soreng scored one goal each for **Odisha**.

- **Haryana defeated Jharkhand** 2-0 to secure the **third position** in the competition. Amandeep and Roshan scored the goals for Haryana.
- With this, **Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Jharkhand** have qualified for the **Khelo India Youth Games** to be held in **Madhya Pradesh** next year.

- **Award List**

- **Best Goalkeeper** : Ravi (Haryana)
- **Best Defender** : Sundaram Rajawat (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Best Midfielder** : Prem Dayal Giri (Odisha)
- **Best Striker** : Ali Ahmad (Madhya Pradesh)

7. Hockey Madhya Pradesh clinches Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's U-18 title (Dec. 31, 2022)

Hockey Madhya Pradesh clinches Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's U-18 title

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8. Koneru Humpy win's Silver at the World Chess Blitz championship (Dec. 30, 2022)

Koneru Humpy win's Silver at the World Chess Blitz championship

Former Indian World Rapid Chess champion **Koneru Humpy** won the **silver medal** in the women's section of the **FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship** that concluded in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 30 December 2022.

She finished on 12.5 points, just half a point behind the winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan. Koneru Humpy has won the World Rapid Chess Championship 2019.

World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2022

The International Chess governing body FIDE organises World Rapid and Blitz chess championship at the end of the year. This year it was held in Kazakhstan's capital **Almaty** from 26-30 December 2022.

World Rapid Chess Championship

It was held on 26 and 28 December at Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In the Rapid section the Men's title was won by No.1 **Magnus Carlsen** of Norway. It was the 4th time that Carlsen has won the Rapid title.

The women's title was won by the Chinese Grand Master **Tan Zhongyi**.

Savitha Shri of India won the Bronze medal in the world Rapid section.

World Blitz Chess Championship

It was held on 29 and 30 December at Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The men's section was won by **Magnus Carlsen**. He became the first player in chess history to hold the **Classical chess world championship, Rapid world championship** and the **Blitz world Championship** at the same time.

Women's Section

The women's section was won by **Bibisara Balabayeva** of Kazakhstan.

Koneru Humpy came second and won the Silver medal.

Indian medal winners in the Rapid and Blitz event

Only **three Indian's** Viswanathan Anand, Koneru Humpy and Savitha Shri have won medals at the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz chess championship.

Viswanathan Anand won the Gold medal in World Rapid and Bronze medal in World Blitz Championship 2017.

FIDE

The International Chess Federation or French acronym FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) is an international organization that was set up on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France.

It is the international body which governs world chess championships.

President of FIDE: Arkady Dvorkovich,

Headquarters of FIDE: **Lausanne, Switzerland**

9. Surya Kumar Yadav and Smriti Mandhana included in the ICC T 20 cricketer of the year award nominee list (Dec. 29, 2022)

Surya Kumar Yadav and Smriti Mandhana included in the ICC T 20 cricketer of the year award nominee list

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the list of nominated players for its various categories of year end awards.

2022 ICC Women's T 20 cricketer of the year nominee

Indian opening batter **Smriti Mandhana**, Pakistan's all-rounder Nida Dar, New Zealand's all-rounder Sophie Devine and Australian all-rounder Tahlia McGrath have been nominated for the ICC Women's T 20 cricketer of the year 2022.

2022 ICC men's T 20 cricketer of the year

Indian batter **Suryakumar Yadav**, Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe, Sam Curran of England and Pakistan's wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan have been nominated for the ICC men's T 20 cricketer of the year 2022.

2022 ICC women's ODI cricketer of the year nominee

South African bowler Shabnim Ismail, New Zealand All-rounder Amelia Kerr, England's all-rounder Nat Sciver and Australia's Wicketkeeper batter **Alyssa Healy** have been nominated for the ICC women's ODI cricketer of the year 2022.

2022 ICC Men's ODI cricketer of the year Nominee

Pakistan's Captain Babar Azam, Australian spinner Adam Zampa, Zimbabwe's batter Sikandar Raza and West Indian batsmen Shai Hope have been nominated for the ICC Men's ODI cricketer of the year 2022.

Earlier [Arshdeep Singh](#), [Yastika Bhatia](#) and [Renuka Singh](#) were included in the 2022 ICC emerging player of the year award nominee list.

International Cricket Council (ICC)

It is an international body which governs the men's and women's international cricket.

Headquarters: **Dubai**, United Arab Emirates

Chairman of ICC: **Greg Barclay** of New Zealand

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICC: **Geoff Allardice** of Australia

10. Arshdeep Singh, Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh of India nominated for the ICC emerging cricketer of the year 2022 men's and women's category respectively (Dec. 28, 2022)

Arshdeep Singh, Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh of India nominated for the ICC emerging cricketer of the year 2022 men's and women's category respectively

Indian **Arshdeep Singh** has been included in the men's and **Yastika Bhatia** and **Renuka Singh** in the women's section of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) emerging player of the year 2022 award nominee list.

The nominee list was announced by the ICC on 28 December 2022.

ICC emerging Men's player of the year award 2022 nominee

The ICC emerging Men's player of the year award 2022 nominee includes Indian fast bowler Arshdeep **Singh of India**, South African fast bowler **Marco Jansen**, Afghanistan's batsman **Ibrahim Zardan** and New Zealand's batsman **Finn Allen**.

Arshdeep Singh who plays for Punjab Kings team in the Indian Premier League (IPL) made his international debut for India in the T-20s and One Day International (ODI) in 2022. The fast-bowler played 21 T20Is for India, taking 33 wickets at an economy of 8.17.

ICC women's player of the year award 2022 nominee

Indian fast bowler **Renuka Singh** and Batter Yastika **Bhatia**, England batter Alice **Capsy** and Australian bowler **Darcie Brown** have been included by the ICC in its emerging women player of the year award 2022.

Last year **Janneman Malan** of South Africa and **Sanna Mir** of Pakistan were declared the ICC men's and women's player of the year award 2021 respectively.

International Cricket Council (ICC)

It is an international body which governs the men's and women's international cricket.

It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 and was later converted into the International Cricket Conference in 1965.

In 1987 it was renamed as the International Cricket Council.

Headquarters: **Dubai**, United Arab Emirates

Chairman of ICC: **Greg Barclay** of New Zealand

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICC: **Geoff Allardice** of Australia