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1. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty won men's doubles at the Badminton Asia Championships gold medal (May 1, 2023)

On 30 April, **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** created history by becoming the **first Indian men's doubles pair to win a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.**

An Overview of the News

- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** defeated **Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yee in a three-game match.**
- This historic achievement is only the **second gold medal** India has won at the **Badminton Asia Championships**, the first gold medal being won by **Dinesh Khanna in 1965 in the men's singles category.**
- He won the **Commonwealth Games gold medal in 2022** and was part of the historic **Thomas Cup winning team.**

Badminton Association of India (BAI):

- It serves as the governing body for **badminton in India.**
- BAI is registered as an association under the **Societies Act.**
- **Since 1936**, BAI has been responsible for organising and hosting national level badminton tournaments in India.

Establishment - **1934**

Headquarters - **New Delhi**

President - **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

Badminton Asia Championship:

- It is an **annual badminton tournament organised by the governing body Badminton Asia**
- The tournament has been held **since 1962** and has been an annual event since 1991.

2. Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023, won by Sergio Perez (May 1, 2023)

Sergio Pérez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the fourth round of the **2023 Formula 1 World Championship** held in Baku.

An Overview of the News

- **Pérez won the race beating Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen.**

- The Azerbaijan Grand Prix is a **Formula One race held annually since 2017** at the **Baku City Circuit in the capital city of Azerbaijan.**
- Azerbaijan is a country located in both **Asia and Europe, bordered by the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus Mountains.**
- The country's **capital is Baku**, known for its mediaeval walled Inner City.
- The Palace of the **Shirvanshahs** is located within the inner city of Baku. It was built in the **15th century as a royal residence.**

About Azerbaijan

Capital - **Baku**

Currency - **Azerbaijani manat**

Official language - **Azerbaijani**

Government - **Republic, Unitary State, Presidential System, Constitutional Republic, Semi-Presidential System**

Continent - **Europe, Asia**

President - **Ilham Aliyev**

Vice President - **Mehriban Aliyeva**

Prime Minister - **Ali Asadov**

National Assembly Speaker - **Sahiba Gafarova**

3. Pankaj Singh elected president of Indian Cycling Federation (April 27, 2023)

BJP MLA from Noida and son of Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, **Pankaj Singh** was elected as the **President of the Cycling Federation of India (CFI).**

An Overview of the News

- The election was held during the **Annual General Body meeting in Nainital**, and Pankaj Singh was elected unopposed.
- **Maninder Pal Singh was elected general secretary** for the second time in a row.
- **Sudesh Kumar from Kerala was elected as the treasurer.**
- **Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Kerala and Telangana** elected two members each to the Executive Council.
- **Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar** elected one member each to the Executive Council.

About Cycling Federation of India (CFI)

- It is the **national governing body** for **cycling in India and was established in 1946.**
- It is recognized by the **Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)**, the world governing body for the sport of cycling.
- The main responsibilities of the CFI include **promoting, developing and regulating cycling activities in India.**
- The CFI organises various national and international cycling events including **road races, track cycling, mountain biking and BMX events.**
- It also oversees the selection and training of Indian cyclists for major international competitions such as the **Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships.**

4. Mahavir Singh Phogat appointed as President of MMA-1 Federation (April 26, 2023)

Renowned wrestler and coach Mahavir Singh Phogat was appointed as the **President of MMA-1 Federation.**

An Overview of the News

- Phogat's appointment as the President of the MMA-1 Federation is **aimed at developing and promoting MMA in India.**
- Phogat's role as president will primarily involve identifying and nurturing young talent in the sport of MMA in India.

About Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

- It is a full-contact combat sport involving **striking, grappling and ground fighting.**
- It incorporates techniques from various **combat sports around the world.**
- The term "**mixed martial arts**" was first used in **1993 by a television critic reviewing UFC 1.**
- **Valle Tudo** in Brazil and interstylistic competition in Asia were **precursors to modern MMA.**
- The Gracie family brought **Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to America in the 1990s**, which led to the founding of the UFC in 1993.

About Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)

- UFC is a major **American mixed martial arts (MMA) promotion company** and is **owned and operated by Zuffa**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Endeavor Group Holdings.

- As of 2022, the UFC is the **world's largest MMA promotion by events held globally.**
- The company follows the **unified rules of mixed martial arts** and has 12 weight classes, including eight for men and four for women.
- **Dana White** has been the president of the UFC since 2001 and has been instrumental in its success.

Established - **1993**

Founders - **Art Dewey, Bob Meyerowitz, Ryan Troutsdale, Campbell McLaren, David Isaacs, John Milius, and Rorian Gracie**

Headquarters - **Las Vegas, Nevada, US**

MMA-1 Federation President - **Mohammed Ali Budhwani**

5. Carlos Alcaraz wins second consecutive Barcelona title (April 25, 2023)

Carlos Alcaraz won his **second consecutive Barcelona title** on 23 April, defeating **Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets.**

An Overview of the News

- Alcaraz has **won his third trophy of 2023** and **ninth of his career** after victories in **Buenos Aires and Indian Wells.**
- It was **Alcaraz's fourth win in four meetings with Tsitsipas.**

Football Club Barcelona:

- **It is a professional football club based in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.**
- Barcelona is one of the **most successful clubs in Spanish football history.**
- The club was **founded in 1899** by a group of **Swiss, Spanish and English footballers.**
- Barcelona is also known for their **youth academy, La Masia**, which has produced many of the club's greats such as **Lionel Messi, Xavi and Andrés Iniesta.**

President - **Joan Laporta**

6. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project (April 24, 2023)

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project

Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the '**One Panchayat, One Playground**' project in **Kallikkad** on 19 April 2023 with the goal of reviving the sports culture in the state.

An Overview of the News

- The project aims to establish **high-quality playgrounds in every panchayat**, a local self-government in India, to promote community gatherings and social interaction.
- The playgrounds will be **constructed within three years**, with **113 panchayats identified for the initial phase of the project**.
- Each playground is expected to cost around **Rs one crore**, with the sports department covering half of the cost and the remaining funds raised from various sources such as **legislative and local body funds, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and public-private partnerships**.
- Lack of quality playgrounds in about **450 local bodies across the state** is a major issue that the '**One Panchayat, One Playground**' project aims to address.

About Kerala

Capital - **Thiruvananthapuram**

Official Bird - **Great Hornbill**

Governor - **Arif Mohammad Khan**

Chief Minister - **Pinarayi Vijayan**

Origin of rivers in Kerala

- Periyar River
- Bharathapuzha River
- Pamba River
- Chaliyar River
- Chalakudy River

India's longest lake - **Vembanad, Kerala**

7. Kiptom wins London Marathon in 2nd fastest time (April 24, 2023)

Kiptom wins London Marathon in 2nd fastest time

Kelvin Kiptum, a 23-year-old **Kenyan athlete**, won the **London Marathon** and set the **second fastest time in history for the distance**.

An Overview of the News

- **Kiptum finished the race with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute and 25 seconds, breaking the course record but only 16 seconds short of Eliud Kipchoge's world record.**
- Kiptum finished behind elite runners **Amos Kipruto, Tamirat Tola and Mo Farah**, who finished ninth at age 40 with a time of 2 hours 10 minutes and 28 seconds.

About the London Marathon

- It is an annual long distance running competition that takes place in **London, UK**. It was **first organised in 1981**.
- The event attracts elite athletes and amateur runners from around the world. **Participants walk 26.2 miles (42.2 km) through the streets of London**, passing famous landmarks such as **Buckingham Palace and Tower Bridge**.
- In addition to elite men's and women's races, there are also **wheelchair races** and mass participation events for amateur runners.

London:

- It is the **capital of England** and the **United Kingdom** and is a city with a **rich history that dates back to Roman times**.
- The iconic '**Big Ben**' clock tower is home to **Westminster Abbey** in the centre of London as well as the site of the **British Monarchy's coronation**.
- **Across the River Thames** from the centre of **London is the London Eye observation wheel**, which provides panoramic views of the **South Bank cultural precinct and the entire city**.

8. Archery World Cup 2023: India won four medals in Antalya (April 24, 2023)

Atanu Das, Dheeraj Bommadevra and Tarundeep Rai won the silver medal

Indian men's recurve team comprising **Atanu Das, Dheeraj Bommadevra and Tarundeep Rai won the silver medal** at the **Archery World Cup 2023 Stage 1 held in Antalya, Turkey on 23 April**.

An overview of the news

- The Indian trio lost 4-5 to **China's Li Zhongyuan, Qi Jiangshuo and Wei Shaoxuan in the final**.
- While India lost the first two sets, they soon came back to win the next two sets to level the **scores at 4-4**.
- But in the **deciding fifth set**, the two teams were **tied 28-28, leading to a shoot-off, which was won by the Chinese team**.

- Earlier, the **fourth seeded Indian men's recurve archery team had defeated Italy, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Netherlands** on their way to the final.
- On the same day, **Dheeraj Bommadevra defeated Ilfat Abdullin of Kazakhstan 7-3 to win the bronze medal** in the men's individual recurve event.
- Thus with two medals on 23 April, **India ended the competition with four medals, including two gold, one silver and one bronze.**

Name of medal winners of India

- **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** - Women's Individual Compound - **Gold Medal**
- **Jyoti Surekha Vennam and Ojas Praveen Deotale** - Compound Mixed Team - **Gold Medal**
- **Atanu Das, Dhiraj Bommadevra and Tarundeep Rai** - Men's Recurve Team - **Silver Medal**
- **Dheeraj Bommadevra** - Men's Individual Recurve - **Bronze Medal**

9. Shaili Singh qualifies for Asian Games (April 21, 2023)

Shaili Singh qualifies for Asian Games

Shaili Singh won the women's long jump event at the Indian Grand Prix-4 held in Bengaluru on 19 April.

An overview of the news

- Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** has congratulated Shaili on her victory.
- With a **personal best of 6.76m**, she is now the **second highest long jumper in the history of India** and has qualified for the Asian Games.
- Shelly became the **second highest female long jumper after her idol and mentor Anju Bobby George.**
- Shelly's win in **Indian Grand Prix IV** is a huge milestone and will have a significant impact on the future of Indian sports.
- Athlete Shelly has been training hard at **NCOE Bangalore** under the **Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme** and her dedication and commitment towards the sport is truly inspiring.

10. Construction of multi-purpose indoor stadium started in Shillong (April 21, 2023)

Construction of multi-purpose indoor stadium started in Shillong

Presently the construction of **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Polo in Shillong** started and it is the largest stadium of its kind in the **North Eastern region**.

An Overview of the News

- It will be a **multi-purpose indoor stadium** which will provide state-of-the-art facilities for various disciplines such as **basketball, squash, badminton, table tennis, volleyball** and many more.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Polo Ground in Shillong is being renovated, upgraded and expanded to include a football field with natural grass turf and a state-of-the-art facility to host track and field events.
- The stadium is being constructed to high-quality standards, ensuring it will be fit to **host international sporting events**.

About Meghalaya

- It is a state located in **Northeast India**.
- It was formed on **January 21, 1972** by carving out two districts from the state of Assam: **United Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills**.
- **Shillong** is the capital and largest city of Meghalaya.
- Meghalaya is home to several indigenous tribes including the **Khasis, Garos and Jaintias**, each with their own distinct culture, traditions and languages.

Governor - **Fagu Chauhan**

Chief Minister - **Conrad Sangma (NPP)**

Official language - **English**

Legislative Assembly - **Meghalaya Legislative Assembly (60 seats)**

Rajya Sabha - **1 seat**

Lok Sabha - **2 seats**

Lake - **Umiam Lake**

River - **Kopili**

Festival - **Nongkrem Dance, Wangala Festival, Ahiya**

National Parks - **Balpakram National Park, Nokrek National Park**

Wildlife Sanctuaries - **Baghmara Pitcher Plant Wildlife Sanctuary, Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary, Siju Bird Sanctuary**