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1. Aishwary wins gold medal in men's individual 50m rifle 3 positions competition at ISSF World Cup (Feb. 23, 2023)

In Shooting, India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar on 22 February claimed the **gold medal** in the **men's individual 50m rifle 3 positions competition at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.**

An overview of the news

- The 22-year-old Tomar, who also won gold at the **Chagwon World Cup** last year, won 16-6 to beat **Alexander Schmir of Austria.**
- Earlier, India's **Tilottama Sen** had won the **bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle.**
- **India continues to top the medal tally** with four gold. Hungary is second with two gold medals.

2. Saurashtra beat Bengal by 9 wickets to bag second Ranji Trophy title (Feb. 19, 2023)

Saurashtra won the **Ranji Trophy 2022-23 title** by defeating **Bengal by 9 wickets** in the final match played on February 19, thanks to the superb bowling of team captain and left arm pacer **Jaydev Unadkat.**

An overview of the news

- Saurashtra won their **second Ranji Trophy** title at the **Eden Gardens in Kolkata.** Saurashtra won the Ranji Trophy title for the first time in **2019-20.**
- Saurashtra needed 14 runs to win, which they achieved at the loss of 1 wicket in 2.4 overs.
- This is the second title win of the Saurashtra team in the last three seasons.
- **Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya**, who were the heroes of Saurashtra's victory, together broke the back of Bengal's batting, and the team could only manage 241 runs in the second innings.
- Unadkat took 9 wickets, while Chetan Sakaria took 6 wickets.
- Saurashtra won the toss in the match and decided to bowl first.
- Bengal could score only 174 runs in the first innings while batting.
- Unadkat took three wickets while Chetan Sakaria also took three wickets. Chirag Jani and DA Jadeja got two wickets each.
- Saurashtra then took a huge lead over Bengal by scoring 404 runs in the first innings.

- The second innings was also poor for Bengal and the team could only manage 241 runs.
- In such a situation, he could get a slight lead of 11 runs over Saurashtra.
 - Saurashtra captain **Unadkat** was adjudged **man of the match** for his nine-wicket haul in the match, while teammate **Arpit Vasavada** was adjudged **player of the Ranji season**.

Brief Scores

- **Bengal** - 174 and 241 in 70.4 overs (Manoj Tiwary 68, Anustup Majumdar 61; Jaydev Unadkat 6/85, Chetan Sakariya 3/76).
- **Saurashtra** - 404 and 14/1 in 2.4 overs.

Ranji Trophy Tournament

- The Ranji Trophy tournament has been played **since 1934**.
- The first match was played between **Madras and Mysore** at the Chepauk Ground from 4 November 1934.
- **Mumbai** has won this tournament 41 times.
- For the first time in 86 years, the 2020/21 season Ranji Trophy had to be cancelled due to Corona.
- Ranji Trophy is named after **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**.
- Number of teams- **37**
- Most runs - **Wasim Jaffer (10665)**
- Most wickets - **Rajinder Goyal (640)**

3. Ben Stokes breaks world record for smashing most sixes in Test cricket history (Feb. 19, 2023)

England Test captain **Ben Stokes** on 18 February became the player to hit the **most number of sixes in the history of Test cricket**, surpassing England coach and former New Zealand cricketer **Brendon McCullum** in the match against **New Zealand**.

An overview of the news

- Stokes holds the world record for hitting **two sixes** in the second innings of the first Test between **England and New Zealand at Mount Maunganui (New Zealand)**.
- Stokes played an innings of **31 runs in 33 balls**, which included three fours and two sixes.
- Wicket-keeper Tom Blundell stumped him off the bowling of all-rounder Michael Bracewell.

- In **90 Test matches**, Stokes scored a total of **5,652 runs** at an average of 36.00 with 109 sixes and 12 centuries and 28 fifties.
- His individual best score in Tests is **258**.
- McCullum has **107 sixes** in **101 Tests**. He scored **6,453 runs** at an average of 38.64. He has 12 centuries and 31 fifties in Tests with a best score of 302.

Batsman who hit most sixes in test cricket

- Australia's **Adam Gilchrist** is third after **Stokes (109)** and **McCullum (107)** to hit **100 sixes** in Test cricket.
- **Chris Gayle** of West Indies is **fourth** in the list with **98 sixes** and **Jacques Kallis** of South Africa is **fifth with 97 sixes**.
- India's **Virender Sehwag** is in **sixth place**, he has hit **91 sixes**. Sehwag is the Indian to hit the most sixes in Tests.

4. Akshdeep Singh and Priyanka Goswami won National Race Walking Championships (Feb. 15, 2023)

National Race Walking Championships

Akshdeep Singh and Priyanka Goswami have won the **National Race Walking Championships** in **Morabadi, Jharkhand**, on 14 February.

An overview of the news

- With this, both have qualified for the World Championships to be held this year and the Olympics to be held in **Paris next year**.
- **Akshdeep Singh** clinched the men's **20km event gold** with a stunning **national record**.
- **Women's 20km** event national record holder **Priyanka Goswami** also **won a gold** qualification for both the **World Championships and 2024 Olympics**.
- In the **men's 20 km walk event**, **Akshdeep Singh** won the **gold medal** by clocking 1 hour 19 minutes 55 seconds, which is a new national record.
- He beat the **previous national record** of 1h 20m 16s clocked by **Sandeep Kumar at the 2021 National Race Walking Championships** in Ranchi.

5. WPL 2023: Smriti Mandhana created history, became the most expensive player (Feb. 15, 2023)

Smriti Mandhana

India's star opener **Smriti Mandhana** has become the **costliest player** in the ongoing player auction for the **Women's Premier League (WPL)**.

An overview of the news

- She joined **Royal Challengers Bangalore for Rs 3.4 crore** after winning the highest bid in the ongoing **Women's Premier League 2023** auction in Mumbai.
- A total of **448 players** were included in the auction, out of which **87 players** were bought by the franchises. **30 foreign players** were also involved in this.
- **Ashley Gardner (Australia)** was at **number two** in the list of expensive players. He was bought by Gujarat Giants for **Rs 3.20 crore**.
- **Natalie Sciver** is at number three. She was bought by Mumbai Indians for 3.20 crores.
- India's all-rounder **Deepti Sharma** is at **number four**. Deepti is included in UP Warriors for **2.60 crores**.
- **Jemima Rodrigues** was at **number five**. He was included in their team by **Delhi Capitals for 2.20 crores**.

About Smriti Mandhana

- Smriti Mandhana is a young and talented **left-handed Indian batsman** and former captain of the Indian women's cricket team.
- Mandhana is known for her attacking batting style and has been a consistent performer in the T20I format.
- Mandhana made her T20I debut in **April 2013 against Bangladesh**.
- In the T20 International format, he has played **65 matches and scored 1743 runs at an average of 27.61**.
- His highest score in T20 International format is 83 and he has 9 fifties to his name.
- In June 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awarded her as the **Best Female International Cricketer**.
- In December 2018, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** awarded her the **Rachael Hayhoe-Flint Award** for the best female cricketer of the year.

6. Former England captain Eoin Morgan retires from all forms of cricket (Feb. 14, 2023)

England captain Eoin Morgan

Former **England captain Eoin Morgan** announced his retirement from **all forms of cricket** on 13 February.

An overview of the news

- Morgan had said goodbye to international cricket on **28 June 2022**. He announced his retirement from all three formats of cricket.

- Eoin Morgan captained the **ODI World Cup** played in England in the **year 2019** and won his team the **title**. He also became the **first captain to win the ODI World Cup for England**.
- Morgan has scored **2458 runs** playing a total of **115 T20 matches**. While playing **248 ODIs**, he scored **7701 runs**.
- Morgan captained England in **126 ODIs and 72 T20Is**, registering **118 wins** as captain in both formats.
- Apart from this, he scored **700 runs in 16 Test matches**.
- Born in **Dublin**, Morgan made his ODI debut for **England in 2009** at the age of 16 against Ireland.

7. Jean-Eric Vergne wins Hyderabad E-Prix (Feb. 12, 2023)

The seasoned **Jean Eric Vergne of DS Penske automobiles** won an action-packed **Formula E Prix** in **Hyderabad** on 11 February.

An overview of the news

- The **fourth leg** of the Formula E season of the year 2022-23 was held in Hyderabad.
- This is the **first Formula E race** held in India.
- The Formula E race marked the successful return of top-level motorsport competition to India.
- Vergne faced a tough challenge from **Envision Racing's Nick Cassidy** in the 33-lap electrifying race but was able to hold him off in the end.
- The Hyderabad E-Prix was held on the **banks of Hussain Sagar Lake** and **India's first street circuit** built near NTR Garden.
- The winner's trophy was presented by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, **Anurag Thakur**.
- Nick Cassidy** (Envision Racing) and **Antonio Félix da Costa** (TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E Team) finished **second and third** respectively.

8. Khelo India Youth Games- 2022: Maharashtra finishes in first position, host Madhya Pradesh 3rd (Feb. 12, 2023)

The **fifth edition** of the **Khelo India Youth Games** culminated on February 11.

An overview of the news

- **Maharashtra** topped the medal tally by winning **161 medals including 56 gold**. While **Haryana stood second with 128 medals including 41 gold**.
- Host **Madhya Pradesh** finished third with **96 medals including 39 gold**.
- 5 thousand 812 players from 36 states and union territories participated in these games organised in nine cities.
- The participation of girls in these games was about **40 percent**.

Khelo India Youth Games

- The Games were hosted in Madhya Pradesh from **31 January 2023 to 11 February 2023**.
- For the first time water sports namely **Kayaking Canoeing, Canoe Salam and Fencing** were part of this edition of Khelo India Games.
- It was organized in **eight different cities** of the state.
- These eight host cities are **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Maheshwar, Mandla and Balaghat**.
- The **4th Khelo India Youth Games** was held at **Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula (Haryana)** from June 4 to 13, 2022, while some matches were also played in Chandigarh.

Khelo India Youth Games winners list

Edition	Host City	Winner	Runner-up
2018	New Delhi	Haryana	Maharashtra
2019	Pune	Maharashtra	Haryana
2020	Guwahati	Maharashtra	Haryana
2021	Panchkula	Haryana	Maharashtra
2022	Bhopal	Maharashtra	Haryana

9. President Murmu attends 2nd Indian Rice Congress at ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack (Feb. 11, 2023)

President **Draupadi Murmu** attended the **2nd Indian Rice Congress** at the **National Institute of Rice Research (ICAR) in Cuttack**, Odisha on February 11.

An overview of the news

- President Draupadi has called for **reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers** to save soil health.
- She underlined the importance of **bio-fortified rice** as rice is the only source of nutrition for a large number of poor people.
- She called upon the scientists to develop more and more **eco-friendly varieties of rice** to address the challenges of drought, water scarcity, soil health and climate change.
- The government has started a pilot project to distribute **bio-fortified rice** through the PDS and provision has been made in the budget for the same.
- Under **Aatmanirbhar package**, the government has approved **Rs 1.5 lakh crore** for the development of the agriculture sector.

About Rice

- Rice is a **staple food** for most of the population in India. It is a **Kharif crop**.
- It requires **high temperature (above 25 °C)** and high humidity with annual rainfall above **100 cm**.
- **West Bengal** is the major rice producing state where three crops of rice are grown, called '**Aus**', '**Aman**' and '**Boro**'.
- Rice is cultivated in about **one-fourth** of the total cropped area in India.
- Major producing states: **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab**.
- India is the **second largest producer of rice after China**.

10. Third Khelo India Winter Games begins in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir (Feb. 10, 2023)

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Khelo India Winter Games **at Gulmarg in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir**.

An overview of the news:

- The competition will be **organised from 10 - 14 February 2023**.
- In this, 1500 players from 29 states of the country will participate.

- The Khelo India Winter Games is **supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs** and Sports and is being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council as well as the Winter Games Association, Jammu and Kashmir.
- This is the **third edition** of Khelo India Winter Games. It was **started in the year 2020**.
 - Sports like snow shoe race, ice skating, ice hockey, skiing, snowboarding will be organised in the five-day competition.
 - Jammu and Kashmir had topped the previous two editions of the Khelo India Winter Games.