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### 1. Atanu, Mehuli re-included in TOPS ( May 11, 2023 )

**Olympian and World Championship silver medallist archer Atanu Das** has been **reincluded in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** following his impressive performances at the **domestic circuit and the Archery World Cup in Antalya this year.**

#### An overview of the news

- **Atanu, who shot 673** to finish **fourth in the men's recurve individual rankings**, is returning to international outdoor competition after almost **one-and-a-half years.**
- The other big name to feature in TOPS is rifle shooter **Mehuli Ghosh**, who won the 10m air rifle event at the **National Shooting Trials** this year.
- Apart from this, 15-year-old **Tilottama Sen** has also been included.
- Tilottama Sen had earlier this year **won a bronze medal** in the **10m air rifle event** at the **Cairo World Cup**, her debut in the senior circuit.
- **A total of 27 new names** were added to the TOPS Core and Development lists, taking the **total number of TOPS athletes to 270 (101 in Core, 269 in Development).**

#### Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

- It was **created in July 2014** under the auspices of the **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)** with the objective of identifying and preparing potential medal prospects for the **Olympic and Paralympic Games.**
- It is a flagship program of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- The idea of the scheme is to look to the future and fund a developmental group of athletes who have the potential to bring medals to the **Olympic Games in Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles in 2028.**

### 2. Fakhar Zaman, Naruemol Chaivai named ICC Players of the Month for April ( May 10, 2023 )

**Pakistani cricketer Fakhar Zaman** was named **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for April 2023 and **Thailand women's cricket team captain Naruemol Chaivai** was named **ICC Women's Player of the Month** for April 2023.

#### An Overview Of the News

- Fakhar's exceptional batting skills carried over into the ODI series, where he **scored a brilliant 117 off 114 balls in the first match**, helping **Pakistan win by five wickets.**

- Thailand women's cricket team captain **Naruemol Chaiwai** received the **ICC Women's Player of the Month award for April 2023**.
- Chaiwai played a key role in **Thailand's historic ODI series win against Zimbabwe**, displaying consistent high-scoring performances.
- Became the first player from **Thailand to receive this prestigious award**.

### **About ICC**

Establishment - **15 June 1909**

Headquarters - **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

Chairman - **Greg Barclay**

CEO - **Geoff Allardyce**

General Manager - **Wasim Khan**

Assistant - **Asian Cricket Council**

### **3. Badminton Asia appoints Umar Rashid as chairman of the Technical Officials Committee ( May 10, 2023 )**

Badminton Asia appoints Umar Rashid as chairman of the Technical Officials Committee

**Badminton Asia** appointed **Umar Rasheed, joint secretary of the Badminton Association of India (BAI)**, as the chairman of the Technical Officials Committee.

### **An Overview Of the News**

- As chairman of the technical officials' committee, Rasheed will oversee the development and implementation of rules and regulations to elevate officiating standards in badminton tournaments across the country.
- Rashid is committed to strengthening the governance of badminton in India and the region, by upholding the integrity of the game and ensuring high quality officiating in all tournaments.
- Rashid also serves as the **General Secretary of the Assam Badminton Association**, contributing significantly to the development of badminton in Assam and the Northeast region of India.

### **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 organizing 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** organized by the governing body **Badminton Asia**.
- The tournament has been held **since 1962** and has been an **annual event since 1991**.
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#### **4. Wakefit signs Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador ( May 8, 2023 )**

Wakefit signs Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador

**Wakefit**, a leading direct-to-consumer home and sleep solutions brand in India, has announced popular Bollywood actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its new **brand ambassador**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The company, known for its off-beat and engaging marketing communications, unveiled the partnership.
- In the campaign, Ayushmann can be seen calmly taking a power nap on the sets and refilling his energy meter.
- He later appears in a genre format called 'Sleep India Sleep', which addresses the serious problem of sleep deprivation in India and urges people to prioritize their sleep health.
- Ayushmann will be the face of the brand and will lead the upcoming campaigns, creating awareness and education about sleep health and its importance in modern times.
- The objective of the association is to strengthen the brand identity of the company and expand its affiliation across the country.

#### **5. Miss Universe Australia finalist Sienna Weir passes away at 23 ( May 6, 2023 )**

Miss Universe Australia finalist Sienna Weir passes away at 23

Australian fashion model and 2022 Miss Universe finalist Sienna Weir passed away following a horse riding accident.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- The accident happened on 2 April at the Windsor Polo Grounds in Australia.

- Sienna Weir was one of 27 finalists in the 2022 Miss Universe Australia pageant.

**Australia:**

- It is a sovereign country located in the Southern Hemisphere, consisting of the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and several other islands.
- It is the sixth largest country in the world by land area and the largest country in Oceania.
- The capital of Australia is Canberra, while the largest city is Sydney.
- The official language of Australia is English, and the country has a population of over 25 million.
- Capital - **Canberra**
- Government - **Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy**
- Emperor - **Charles III**
- Governor-General - **David Hurley**
- Prime Minister - **Anthony Albanese**

**6. Ajay Vij appointed as Country Managing Director of Accenture ( May 6, 2023 )**

Ajay Vij appointed as Country Managing Director of Accenture

**Ajay Vij** has been appointed as **Country Managing Director of Accenture**, a newly created role in the company.

**An Overview of the News**

- Mr. Vij's new role as Country Managing Director will include expanding his current responsibilities as the Corporate Services and Sustainability Lead for India.
- He will provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making for key priorities of the company.
- Sandeep Dutta has been appointed as the head of Accenture's India market unit.
- Rekha M. Menon, Senior Managing Director and Chairperson of Accenture in India, will retire on June 30.

**About Accenture**

- It is a global professional services company providing a range of services and solutions across strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations.
- The company was established in 1989 and is headquartered in Dublin, Ireland. It operates in more than 200 cities in 51 countries and has over 500,000 employees globally.
- Accenture's services are designed to help businesses improve their performance and achieve their goals through the use of technology and digital innovation.
- The company serves clients in a variety of industries including banking, healthcare, telecommunications and energy.
- Accenture is known for its expertise in digital transformation, cloud computing, cyber security and artificial intelligence.
- The company has partnerships with leading technology companies such as Microsoft, Oracle and SAP.
- Accenture has been recognized for its work by industry analysts such as Gartner and Forrester.

**7. Mark Nicholls appointed new president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) ( May 6, 2023 )**

Mark Nicholls appointed new president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)

**Mark Nicholls** has been elected as the next President of the **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.

**An Overview of the News**

- He will take over from current chairman **Stephen Fry** in October this year.
- His appointment was announced during the Annual General Meeting of the MCC.
- **Nicholls** became a member of the MCC in 1981 and had a successful professional cricket career spanning over two decades, in which he scored over 25,000 runs and took 173 wickets.

**Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC):**

- It is a cricket club which was established in 1787.
- MCC is one of the oldest and most prestigious cricket clubs in the world.
- Since 1814, the MCC has been based at the Lord's Cricket Ground in St John's Wood, London and is the owner of the MCC Lord's Cricket Ground.

Founder - **Thomas Lord**

**8. DRDO scientist Pradeep Kurulkar arrested in Pune on charges of espionage ( May 6, 2023 )**

DRDO scientist Pradeep Kurulkar arrested in Pune on charges of espionage

The **Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad** recently arrested a scientist of the **Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** on charges of espionage.

**An Overview of the News**

- The scientist named **Pradeep Kurulkar** was arrested in Pune on 3 May and brought to the ATS office in Pune on 5 May for further investigation.
- The Maharashtra ATS has accused Kurulkar of passing sensitive information to foreign intelligence agencies, which could compromise national security.
- According to the ATS, the scientist was in touch with Pakistan's intelligence agency operatives through various means including WhatsApp messages, voice calls and video calls.
- As per reports, Kurulkar was working at **DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)** in Pune, which develops and designs armaments for the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- Despite being in a responsible position, the scientist allegedly misused his position to compromise sensitive government secrets, which could pose a threat to India's security if it fell into wrong hands.
- The Maharashtra ATS registered a case against the scientist under Section 1923 of the Official Secrets Act 1923 and other relevant sections.

**Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**

- It is a premier defence research and development agency under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- It aims to make India self-reliant in critical defence technology and systems.
- It is working on several cutting edge military technology areas including aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, electronics, instrumentation, engineering systems, missiles, materials, naval systems, advanced computing, simulation, cyber, hypersonic technology, quantum computing and communications.
- DRDO's first project for the Indian Army was a surface-to-air missile (SAM) known as Project Indigo.
- Establishment - **1958**
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Chairman - **Sameer V Kamath**

**9. Former Karnataka HC Justice P Krishna Bhat appointed as administrator of BFI ( May 6, 2023 )**

The Delhi High Court has appointed former Karnataka High Court Justice P Krishna Bhat as the Administrator of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).

The Delhi High Court has appointed former **Karnataka High Court Justice P Krishna Bhat** as the Administrator of the **Basketball Federation of India (BFI)**.

**An Overview of the News:**

- The appointment has been made to conduct elections in the organisation, and it came into force with immediate effect.
- The Administrator will continue to act until a newly elected body takes over the BFI.
- The court has directed the administrator to ensure that the election process is completed as soon as possible in accordance with the Sports Code.
- The decision was taken in response to several petitions regarding the election of office bearers and members of the executive committee for the period 2023-2027.

**Basketball Federation of India (BFI)**

- It is the governing body for basketball in India.
- It is responsible for promoting and developing basketball at all levels through tournaments, grassroots programs and training opportunities.
- President - **K. Govindraj**
- Establishment - **1950**
- Headquarters - New Delhi
- Men's coach - **Veselin Matic**

**10. Indian-origin Neera Tandon becomes domestic policy advisor in Biden administration ( May 6, 2023 )**

Indian-origin Neera Tandon becomes domestic policy advisor in Biden administration

On 5 May 2023, an **Indian-American Neera Tandon** has been appointed as the **domestic policy advisor in US President Joe Biden's team**.

**Important Point:-**

- Tandon's appointment has been made keeping in mind the presidential election to be held in the US in 2024.
- Following Biden's decision to appoint Neera Tandon, she became the first Asian-American to lead the White House Advisory Council.
- Prior to this, Tandon served as Biden's staff secretary during this term.
- Neera Tandon responsibly processed all the paperwork that arrived on the President's desk.
- According to the White House, Neera Tandon oversaw decision-making processes in the domestic, economic and national security teams.

**Neera Tandon:**

- Neera Tandon was born in Massachusetts to Indian immigrant parents. Tandon studied at the University of California Los Angeles and Yale University.
- With over 25 years of experience working in public policy, Neera Tandon has worked with three US presidents, and also headed one of the country's largest think tanks for nearly a decade.
- Neera Tandon is the former US Secretary of State and a close aide of Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate in the 2016 presidential election.
- **Neera also helped pass the Affordable Care Act in the Obama administration.**