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1. Axelsen and Yamaguchi win BWF World Tour Finals (Dec. 11, 2022)

Axelsen and Yamaguchi win BWF World Tour Finals

Men's badminton world number one **Viktor Axelsen** won the **men's singles** title after defeating **Indonesian ace Anthony Ginting** at the season-ending World Tour Finals in **Bangkok** on 11 December.

The BWF moved its **\$1.5 million flagship event** to the Thai capital's Nimibutra Arena after the tournament's original host China pulled out of the tournament due to Covid restrictions.

Men's Singles Final

- Defending champion **Axelsen** appeared fresh, relaxed, energetic and in control as he cruised to a 21-13 win in the first game.
- His confidence had been shakey following a surprise loss to India's **H S Prannoy** on 9 December -- only his third defeat this year -- but he appeared to be a different player on 11 December.

Women's Singles Final

- Defending world champion **Akane Yamaguchi** of **Japan** won the **women's singles title** by defeating **Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan**.
- In the women's singles final, Yamaguchi won in straight games 21-18, 22-20 in a close match.
- With that, Yamaguchi became the **first women's singles player** since Ye Zhaoying in 1997 to claim the All England Open, World Championships and end-of-season finals all in the same year, as per the Badminton World Federation.

About BWF World Tour

- The BWF World Tour is a Grade 2 badminton tournament series, sanctioned by **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.
- It is a competition open to the top world ranked players in singles (men's and women's) and doubles (men's, women's and mixed).
- The competition was announced on 19 March 2017 and came into effect starting from 2018.

2. HS Prannoy beats Viktor Axelsen in BWF World Tour finals (Dec. 10, 2022)

HS Prannoy beats Viktor Axelsen in BWF World Tour finals

In **badminton India's HS Prannoy**, on 9 December, registered a magnificent win over Olympic and world champion **Viktor Axelsen** in his final **BWF World Tour Finals 2022** match in **Bangkok**.

Important facts

- **Prannoy** prevailed 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 over **Axelsen** in 51 minutes. It is his **second win** over the Dane shuttler in seven meetings.
- After losing the first game, Prannoy fought back to win the two games and the match in 51 minutes.
- Seeded third in the tournament, Prannoy had lost his earlier two Group A matches. In both matches, the Indian shuttler lost after playing a three-game contest.
- Prannoy was the lone Indian player competing at the 2022 season-ending **BWF World Tour Finals** - where only the top 8 players/pairs of the year take part.

About BWF World Tour

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3. Air Warrior Corp Amar Singh Devanda Finishes 6th in 24 Hour Ultra Marathon in Taiwan (Dec. 9, 2022)

Air Warrior Corp Amar Singh Devanda Finishes 6th in 24 Hour Ultra Marathon in Taiwan

Cpl Amar bagged **sixth position** by covering a distance of **204.47 Kms in 24 Hrs Ultra Marathon** organised by **Chinese Taipei Association** of Ultra runners for 2022 at **Soochow University, Taiwan**.

Important facts

- Cpl **Amar Singh Devanda** represented India in the event.
- A total of **31 runners** comprising **21 males** and **10 females** from **5 countries** participated in the event. The competition started on 3 December 22.
- Prior to this, during **Asia-Oceania 24 Hrs Championship 2022** held at **Bengaluru**, Cpl Amar covered 257.618 Kms on 3 July 2022 and created a **new national record**. The Indian team led by him stood first in the championship.

4. Meghna Ahlawat becomes TTFI's first female president (Dec. 9, 2022)

Meghna Ahlawat becomes TTFI's first female president

Meghna Ahlawat was elected the **first-ever woman president of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)**, while former veteran **Kamlesh Mehta** was elected as the general secretary. **Patel Nagendra Reddy** was elected as the treasurer.

Important facts

- Ahlawat, who is the wife of Haryana deputy chief minister **Dushyant Chautala**, contested against Gujarat home minister **Harsh Sanghvi**.
- The **Delhi High Court** had suspended TTFI in February and appointed a **Committee of Administrators (CoA)** to take over its functioning.
- **Dushyant Chautala** was the previous TTFI president. The Delhi High Court had barred members of the suspended executive board from taking part in the elections.

About TTFI

- It was established in **1926**.
- It is a founder member of the **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)** and has been at the forefront in the promotion of the game in India and the world.
- It has the affiliation of **34 state units and 37 institutions**.
- It is one of the most active among all sports federations in the country.
- India is represented through TTFI in all the major international championships like Olympics, World, Commonwealth, Asian and all Pro tours.

5. Congress Wins Himachal Pradesh Assembly Election (Dec. 9, 2022)

Congress Wins Himachal Pradesh Assembly Election

The **Congress** wrested **Himachal Pradesh** from the BJP by winning **40 seats** in the **68-member assembly** in the hill state.

Important facts

- The **BJP won 25 seats**, while eight ministers of state, including Suresh Bhardwaj, Ram Lal Markanda and Surveen Chowdhary, lost the elections.
- The Independents won from **three constituencies** and the **Aam Aadmi Party**, which had contested from 67 seats, **failed to open its account**.
- Independent candidates were successful in winning three seats.

- The Congress' vote share was **43.9 per cent** and the **BJP's was 43 per cent - a gap of less than one per cent.**
- Traditionally, Himachal Pradesh has never allowed a government in power for a second consecutive term in the **last 37 years.**
- The practical Himachali voter has always thought that no party should be allowed to get too comfortable on the seat.

6. Deepika Padukone to unveil FIFA World Cup Trophy during final in Qatar (Dec. 7, 2022)

Deepika Padukone to unveil FIFA World Cup Trophy

Deepika Padukone will unveil the **FIFA World Cup trophy** in **Qatar** before the World Cup final on December 18.

Important facts

- The 36-year-old Dipika will be the first actor to receive such an honour at the **world's most-watched sporting event.**
- The FIFA World Cup final will be held on December 18 at the **Lusail Iconic Stadium in Qatar.**
- A few months back, Deepika represented India at the **Cannes Film Festival** as a jury member.
- **Nora Fatehi**, an actor and dancer, performed last week at the FIFA World Cup 2022 Fan Festival at **Al Bidda Park in Doha.**
- She performed on the World Cup anthem "**Light the Sky.**" She also performed some of her hits, such as '**O Saki.**'
- Deepika will be seen in the film Pathan alongside Shahrukh Khan and John Abraham.

7. NADA to develop Apps to assist athletes verify medicines with prohibited substances (Dec. 3, 2022)

NADA to develop Apps to assist athletes verify medicines

The [**National Anti-Doping Agency of India \(NADA\)**](#) is developing **Apps to assist athletes** to verify medicines with prohibited substances.

Important facts

- Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India **Sujata Chaturvedi** announced the app at the **Inclusion Conclave** organised by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in New Delhi.
- The inclusion Conclave was attended by participants from **India and 20 countries**.
- Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator, India also addressed the gathering.
- **NADA Director General and CEO Ritu Sen** said the conclave was a step towards ensuring that the anti-doping program is inclusive and athletes with disabilities are not left behind.
- NADA is making all efforts to spread awareness to make Indian sports dope-free including sports for disabled players.

8. Third T20 World Cup cricket tournament for Blind to be held in India (Dec. 2, 2022)

Third T20 World Cup cricket tournament for Blind to be held in India

The **third T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind** will be held from December 5 to 17, 2022 in **India**.

Important facts

- The participating countries of the World Cup 2022 are **Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India**.
- Around 150 players from all countries will participate in the tournament and there will be a total of 24 matches across nine cities in India.
- The tournament is being organised to mark the **World Disability Day** celebrations universally.
- The inauguration of the World Cup on December 5 at **Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium, Gurugram**.
- Former India batter **Yuvraj Singh** is the **brand ambassador** of the tournament.

About T20 World Cup cricket tournament for Blind

- Cricket World Cup for the Disabled is an initiative of the **Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)** in association with **Samarthanam Trust**.
- This championship has been organised **since 2012**.
- Since its inception, Samarthanam Trust has organized over 30,000 visually impaired matches.

9. Rituraj Gaikwad smashes 7 sixes in an over to make world record (Nov. 28, 2022)

Rituraj Gaikwad smashes 7 sixes in an over to make world record

On 28 November, **Rituraj Gaikwad**, playing for **Maharashtra**, became the **first batsman in List-A cricket** to hit **7 sixes** in an over in the **quarter-finals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy**.

Important facts

- Gaikwad made this record against **Uttar Pradesh in Ahmedabad**.
- He remained unbeaten after scoring **220 runs off 159 balls**. This is his first double century in List-A cricket, before that 187 not out was his best score.
- This is also his sixth century in the last 8 innings of Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- In the **49th over** of the innings, he scored **43 runs** including **7 sixes** on left arm spinner **Shiva Singh**.
- On the first ball, Rituraj hit a six over long-on, on the second ball he also hit a straight six, on the third ball he hit a six on the leg side to complete the hat-trick, on the fourth and 5th ball he hit a six over mid-off, the 5th ball was also a no ball.
- This is the most expensive over in **List-A cricket**, in which a total of 43 runs were scored.
- Batsmen who have hit six sixes in an over include **Sir Garfield Sobers, Ravi Shastri, Herschelle Gibbs, Yuvraj Singh, Ross Whiteley, Hazratullah Zazai, Leo Carter, Kieron Pollard and Thisara Perera**.

10. PT Usha will be the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association (Nov. 28, 2022)

PT Usha will be the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association

High-flying **PT Usha** is all set to become the first woman president of the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** as she has emerged as the only candidate in the election for the post to be held on December 10.

Important facts

- November 27 was the last day for filing nominations and none other than PT Usha filed a claim.
- PT Usha has won the **Asian Games gold medal**. At the same time, in the **1984 Olympics**, she finished fourth in the final of the 400 meters hurdles.

- PT Usha, the **first woman President of the Indian Olympic Association**, is 58 years old.
- PT Usha has won **11 medals in Asian Games and 23 medals in Asian Championships** in her career. These include 18 gold medals.
- PT Usha has won 4 gold medals in **Asian Games** and 14 gold medals in **Asian Championships**.
- She is currently the committee head of the **Pratibha Sangh of India**. This committee conducts national level Indian Talent Olympiad exams in schools all over India.
- PT Usha, who hails from **Kerala**, has studied at **Providence Women's College, Kozhikode**.
- In 1991, she was married to Inspector V. Srinivasan of the Central Industrial Security Force.
- Apart from the post of President, elections will also be held for the posts of Vice President (Women), Joint Secretary (Women). Twelve candidates are in the fray for four members of the executive council.
- **Ajay Patel** of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is set to be the senior vice-president as he is also the lone candidate for the post.