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1. 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 |

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|------|--------|-------------|---------|
| 2022 | Bhopal | Maharashtra | Haryana |
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| 2022 | Bhopal | Maharashtra | Haryana |

3. 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**.

4. 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.

5. Pakistani wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal announces retirement from all forms of cricket (Feb. 8, 2023)

Recently Pakistan's wicket-keeper batsman Kamran Akmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

An overview of the news:

- Kamran Akmal decided to retire after being made a part of the national selection committee by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).
- Akmal was recently appointed as the batting consultant for the Babar Azam-led side Peshawar Zalmi for the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

International career:

- Akmal made his Test match debut against Zimbabwe in November 2002 and he also made his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in November 2002.
- Akmal featured in 53 Tests, 157 ODIs and 58 T20 Internationals for Pakistan.
- In Test matches, he has 2648 runs at an average of 30.79, including six centuries and 12 half-centuries.

- He has scored 3236 runs in ODIs at an average of 26.1 including five centuries and 10 half-centuries.
- He has 987 runs in T20 at a strike rate of 119.64.

6. Australia's Aaron Finch announces retirement from International Cricket (Feb. 7, 2023)

Australia's T20 World Cup-winning captain **Aaron Finch** has announced his retirement from the **T20 Internationals**, this brings an end to his international cricket career for Australia spanning 12 years.

An overview of the news

- Earlier, the opener had announced his retirement from the 50-over format in **September last year**. He also played **five Test matches** for Australia.
- Finch captained Australia to their maiden **ICC World T20 title in 2021**.
- Australia's most successful captain in the history of T20 International cricket, Finch will continue to play for the **Melbourne Renegades in the Big Bash League (BBL)**.
- Host Australia had failed to make it to the knockout stage of the 2022 T20 World Cup.

International Cricket Career

- Finch made his international debut in **2011 in a T20 International match** against England. He made his **ODI debut in 2013** against Sri Lanka.
- He made his **Test debut against Pakistan in 2018**.
- Finch played **146 ODIs** at an average of around 39 and **103 T20 Internationals** at an average of 34.28 and a strike-rate of 142.53.
- Finch holds the record for the highest score in T20 Internationals twice, scoring **156 against England in 2013** and **172 against Zimbabwe in Harare in 2018**.
- Aaron Finch has captained the Australian team in **76 T20s and 55 ODIs**.

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8. ITBP won the title of National Ice Hockey Championship 2023 (Feb. 6, 2023)

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has won the National Ice Hockey Championship 2023 title.

An overview of the news

- The **12th edition** of the competition has been organized in Ladakh, Leh.
- The championship was **organized by the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)**.
- The ITBP team won the title for the third consecutive time by **defeating Ladakh Scouts in the final with a score of 1-0**.
- Held at the ice hockey rink in Ladakh, one of the highest altitude areas in the world, the country's top ice hockey teams participated in the national championship.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- It was established in 1962, after the Indo-China War of 1962. It is usually deployed in the Himalayan mountains along the border with China.
- Motto: Bravery – Perseverance – Dedication
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Director General: Anish Dayal Singh

9. Saudi Arabia to host 2027 Asian Cup football tournament (Feb. 6, 2023)

Saudi Arabia has been selected to **host the 2027 Asian Cup football tournament** during the 33rd AFC Congress recently held in Manama, Bahrain.

An overview of the news

- India also submitted a bid to host the 2027 Asia Cup but later withdrew its name.

Asian cup football tournament 2027

- **Slogan: Forward for Asia**
- Host Cities: Dammam, Riyadh and Jeddah

2023 Asian Football Cup

- The **host country of the 2023 Asian Football Cup is Qatar**. Its original host was China which expressed its inability to hold the tournament due to the COVID-19 situation.
- About **24 teams will participate** in this tournament.
- It will be organized from **16 June to 16 July 2023**.

Asian Football Federation (AFC)

- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of Asian football and one of the six continental confederations of FIFA.
- It was formed in 1954 in Manila, Philippines.
- Currently Members - 47
- Headquarters - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- AFC President - Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain

10. Two national youth records set in athletics events at Khelo India Youth Games (Feb. 6, 2023)

Two national youth records were set in athletics events at the [Khelo India Youth Games](#) in Madhya Pradesh on 5 February at the **T T Nagar stadium in Bhopal**.

An overview of the news

- **Delhi's Sonam** set a new record in **200m steeplechase** with a timing of 6.45.71 minutes.
- On the other hand, **Siddharth Chaudhary of Rajasthan** created a new record of 21.04 meters in shot put.
- The previous national record in men's youth shot put was set by **Dipender Dabas in 2017** when he threw at 20.99 meter.
- **Madhya Pradesh** won the overall championship in athletics in the **boys category** and **Maharashtra** in the **girls category**.
- **Maharashtra** topped the medal table with **79 medals including 26 gold**.
- **Haryana is second** with a total of 53 medals including 22 gold and host Madhya Pradesh is third with 21 gold medals.
- Madhya Pradesh also has a total of 53 medals.