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1. Sports Ministry holds its first Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting outside Delhi (Jan. 23, 2023)

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) organised its **first Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting** on January 19 and 20 outside Delhi and during the Hockey World Cup in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

An overview of the news

- The MOC members met to discuss the major agenda of India's Olympic program and proposals for the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** athletes.
- The Indian men's and women's hockey teams are the only teams that are funded under MYAS's TOPS Scheme and get an annual expenditure of **Rs 24 cr** under **Sports Authority of India's (SAI)** Annual Calendar for Training and Competitions (ACTC) scheme.
- Normally, MOC members from all over India visit Delhi every month to discuss agenda related to TOPS.
- During the outbreak of COVID-19, the meetings were conducted through a video conferencing so that the athletes do not suffer due to the delay.
- After the lockdown, the meetings have adopted a hybrid approach where one meeting a month is held virtually, while the other is held as a physical meeting.

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**.

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3. India Open Badminton: Korean sensation An Seyoung wins Women's singles final (Jan. 22, 2023)

Korean sensation An Seyoung wins Women's singles final

In the **India Open Badminton Championship**, Korean sensation **An Seyoung** wins **Women's singles final** on 22 January at **K D Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi**.

An overview of the news

- In the finals, An Seyoung beat World No.1 **Japanese Akane Yamaguchi** 15-21, 21-16, 21-12.
- In the semifinal on 21 January, **Viktor Axelsen** defeated **Indonesia's Jonatan Christie** 21-6, 21-12.
- Axelsen has earlier won the India Open in 2017 and 2019.
- In other semifinal, former world junior champion **Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn** defeated **Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia** 27-25, 21-15 to reach the final.

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5. National Sports Club of India Snooker Open Crown 2023 (Jan. 22, 2023)

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB's) **Laxman Rawat 'Boulkline'** emerged **winner** at the NSCI All India Snooker Open, **defeating fellow PSPB challenger Aditya Mehta** 9-6 in a best-of-17-frame final.

An overview of the news

- Laxman Rawat had finished runner-up in the previous edition of the tournament, losing to Sourav Kothari.
- This is Rawat's first major title after two-three years.

NSCI Snooker Open Crown

- The NSCI Snooker Open Crown is a snooker tournament organised by the National Sports Club of India (NSCI).
- The tournament is open to players from all over India and consists of a best-of-17-frames final.
- The tournament is considered a major title in Indian snooker and the champion of the tournament is awarded the NSCI Snooker Open Crown.

6. Sports Ministry suspends all activities of Wrestling Federation of India (Jan. 22, 2023)

The **Sports Ministry** has suspended all activities of the **Wrestling Federation of India** till the appointment of a monitoring committee to oversee the functioning of the Wrestling Federation of India on 21 January.

An overview of the news

- These include suspension of ranking events and refund of entry fees collected from participants.
- The government has already suspended **Vinod Tomar**, assistant secretary of the federation.
- The Monitoring Committee will investigate the allegations levelled against the Executive Committee of the Federation and ensure efficient management of the Federation.
- Wrestling Federation of India President **Brij Bhushan Singh** was accused by the wrestlers of running the union arbitrarily and sexually abusing women players.

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8. Dhaka Marathon: Kenyan Stanley Bett Champion in male category, Bangriya Bharatsinh from India wins in South Asian category (Jan. 21, 2023)

The **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon** 2023 was held in the capital city **Dhaka** on 20th January.

An overview of the news

- The marathon was inaugurated by Bangladesh Home Minister **Asaduzzaman Khan**.
- Among the elite runners, 21 men and 17 women participated in the full and half marathon.
- **Kenyan runner Stanley Kiprotich Bett** became the **champion of the marathon** with a timing of 2 hours 8 minutes and 10 seconds.
- He was followed by another Kenyan runner, **Joseph Kayengo Muniwoki**, who finished second with a timing of 2 hours 8 minutes and 50 seconds.
- In the women's sprint category, **Bashanke Imoshe Billo (Ethiopia)** emerged **champion** with a timing of 2:35:25 while **Tekla Kirongo of Kenya** came **second** in 2:35:29.

Indian performance

- Indian marathon runner **Bangaria Vikram Bharatsingh** clocked 2:18:28 in the **South Asian men's section**.
- He was followed by **Anil Kumar Singh (India)** with a timing of 2 hours 20 minutes and 30 seconds.
- In the **South Asian female marathon** runner category **Pushpa Bhandari** from **Nepal** came on top with a timing of 2 hours 48 minutes and 2 seconds while **Mahamarakkalage Sujani Piumika Madumali Perera** from **Sri Lanka** came **second** with 2 hours 48 minutes and 22 seconds.

Full marathon, half marathon

- Runners cover a distance of **42.19 kilometres** for a **full marathon** while a distance of **21.09 kilometres** is required to be completed for the **half marathon**.

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10. Shubman Gill becomes 5th Indian to score double century in ODIs (Jan. 19, 2023)

India's young batsman Shubman Gill has become the 5th Indian to score a double century in ODIs against New Zealand.

An overview of the news

- In the match played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, Shubman Gill scored 208 runs in 149 balls with the help of 19 fours and 9 sixes.
- Shubman Gill **completed his double century by hitting Lockie Ferguson for three consecutive sixes** during the match, **becoming the first batsman in the world to do so**.
- With this, Shubman has also **become the youngest player in the world to score a double century in ODIs**.

- Shubman Gill has become the fastest Indian batsman to score 1000 ODI runs in 19 innings.
- Shubman Gill has joined an exclusive club of five Indian batsmen to score a double century along with Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan.
- India's **Sachin Tendulkar is the first batsman to score a double century in ODI** format. He achieved this feat in 2010 by scoring 200 runs against South Africa.
- India's Rohit Sharma is the batsman with most 3 double centuries in ODI cricket.