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1. India's star female tennis player Sania Mirza has announced her retirement (Jan. 11, 2023)

India's star female tennis player **Sania Mirza** has announced her **retirement** in January 2023. This year's **Australian Open and Dubai Tennis Championships** will be her last tournaments.

An Overview of the news

- She will play in women's doubles at the Australian Open in January 2023 with **Kazakhstan's Ana Danilina**, which will be her last appearance at any **Grand Slam**.
- Sania missed the US Open last year due to an elbow injury.

International Tennis Career of Sania Mirza

- Sania has won the **mixed doubles title** of **Australian Open in 2009, French Open in 2012, US Open in 2014**.
- Apart from this, she has won the **2016 Australian Open, 2015 Wilmington, 2015 US Open title** in women's doubles.
- Sania Mirza has won many titles and honours in her career. She has been awarded the **Arjuna Award in 2004, Padma Shri in 2006, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2015 and Padma Bhushan in 2016**.

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3. South African all rounder Dwaine Pretorius announces retirement from international cricket (Jan. 11, 2023)

South African all-rounder **Dwaine Pretorius** has announced his **retirement** from international cricket on 9 January 2023.

An Overview of the news

- Cricket South Africa (CSA) confirmed this. He made his international debut in **2016.**
- The 33-year-old Dwayne represented South Africa in all **three formats of cricket.**
- He played **30 T20 Internationals, 27 ODIs and three Test matches.** This includes **two World Cups.**
- Pretorius had his best bowling performance in T20 Internationals in 2021 with **5-17 against Pakistan.**
- Dwayne Pretorius will now be seen in cricket action in **IPL 2023.** Pretorius will represent **Chennai Super Kings** in the upcoming IPL. Chennai Super Kings bought Pretorius for his base price of **Rs 50 lakhs.**

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5. Talon Griekspoor of the Netherlands won the singles title at the Maharashtra Open tennis tournament in Pune (Jan. 8, 2023)

The **Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor** prevailed in three-set final against **Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi** to win his **maiden ATP World Tour title** as the first-time finalists dished out a gripping game of tennis in Pune on 7 January.

An overview of the news

- Griekspoor (World No. 95) won a thrilling **4-6 7-5 6-3 title** against his French opponent in two hours and 16 minutes to clinch the **fifth edition of Tata Open Maharashtra title**.
- Both the players put on a scintillating performance in front of a packed Center Court crowd at the **Balewadi Stadium** and enthralled the fans with their breathtaking shot-making and tenacity.
- The two had played a lot of junior tennis together, and in the **2021 season**, were on a winning spree of Challengers, with Griekspoor **winning eight of those titles, Bonzi winning six**.
- It has been almost a decade since the Netherlands won a singles title on Tour.
- South Asia's only ATP 250 was organised by the **Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA)** in association with the Government of Maharashtra for the fifth year in Pune.
- Earlier, the Indian pair of **N Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan** finished **runners-up in doubles** after going down 4-6, 4-6 against fourth seeded pair of **Sander Gille and Joran Willijn** in the final.
- Gille and Vliegen secured their sixth ATP Tour title.

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7. Koustav Chatterjee is India's 78rd Chess grandmaster (Jan. 3, 2023)

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19 year old **Koustav Chatterjee** of West Bengal became India's **78th** chess Grandmaster, securing the third and final GM norm at the MPL 59th National Senior Chess Championship 2022 being held in New Delhi. He is the 10th Grandmaster from West Bengal.

- This was the third GM norm for Koustav Chatterjee and he also crossed 2500 Elo rating points. To become a GM a player has to secure three GM norms and 2500 live Elo rating points.
- **Viswanathan Anand was the first Indian to become the Chess Grandmaster in 1988.**

Chess rating System

- Chess rating system is used in chess to estimate the strength and skill of a player.
- In chess, the Elo rating system is used to grade the players by International chess governing body FIDE.
- The highest rating for a chess player is **Grand Master or GM** followed by International Masters or IM and then Masters etc.
- Players are invited to various chess tournaments in the world depending upon their grading.

FIDE

The International Chess Federation or French acronym FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) is an international organization that was set up on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France.

It is the international body which governs world chess championships.

President of FIDE: Arkady Dvorkovich,

Headquarters of FIDE: **Lausanne, Switzerland**

8. DEXA: BCCI introduces new selection criteria for Team India (Jan. 2, 2023)

The BCCI announced a major change in the **selection criteria of players** on 1st January.

Important facts

- To review the team's performance in 2022, **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** president **Roger Binny** and secretary **Jay Shah** met India captain **Rohit Sharma**, head coach **Rahul Dravid** and chief selector **Chetan Sharma** on January 1.
- The future of Indian cricket was discussed in the meeting, which was also attended by National Cricket Academy (NCA) director **VVS Laxman**.
- The new criteria have been brought in to ensure the fitness of players before their selection as the team has been facing a serious injury crisis for the last one year.
- The fitness of Indian cricketers has been a matter of concern with players like **Deepak Chahar** not playing regularly.
- Fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** is also out for a long time due to a back injury.

What are the new selection criteria?

- The new rule brought back the **Yo-Yo test** and made it mandatory for players to be selected for the national team.
- Players must take a '**DEXA**' before being selected for the Indian team across all formats.
- Emerging players have to play enough domestic seasons to be eligible for selection in the national team.

What is a Yo-Yo test?

- The Yo-Yo test is an **aerobic endurance fitness test** that involves running between markers placed **20 metres** apart at increasing speed.
- The test was introduced during **Virat Kohli's tenure** as India captain and initially the passing score was 16.1, which was increased to 16.5.

What is Dexa?

- DEXA, also called '**bone density test**', is an X-ray technique used to measure bone strength.
- From this it can be ascertained whether there is any risk of breaking or losing bones of the test taker or whether a player is at risk of fracturing any part of the body.
- It also helps measure body composition and record **body fat and muscle mass**.

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10. Smriti Mandhana nominated for the ICC Women cricketer of the year award 2022 (Dec. 31, 2022)

Smriti Mandhana nominated for the ICC Women cricketer of the year award 2022

Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian player to be included in the 2022 ICC women's cricketer of the year nominee list announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). She has also been nominated for the best women player in T 20.

The International Cricket Council has announced the shortlisted cricket players for its year end awards. Four players are shortlisted in the men's and women category for its various annual awards taking into account the performance of the players in the calendar year.

Players nominated for the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022

Smriti Mandhana of India, Nat Sciver of England, Amelia Kerr of New Zealand and Beth Monney of Australia.

Players nominated for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2022

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, England Test team captain Ben Stokes, Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe and the New Zealand Test team captain Tim Southee.

ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2022

England Test team captain Ben Stokes, Johnny Bairstow of England, Usman Khwaja of Australia and South African fast Bowler Kagiso Rabada.

International cricket Council is the international governing body of cricket.

Headquarters: **Dubai**

Chairman: **Greg Barclay** of New Zealand