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1. Assamese swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika becomes the first from North East to cross North Channel (Sept. 21, 2022)

Popular Assamese swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika became the first swimmer from Northeast India to cross the North Channel.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- Elvis Ali Hazarika has also become the **oldest swimmer** in India to swim across the North Channel.
- It took Elvis and his team **14 hours and 38 minutes** to achieve the feat.
- Hazarika, earlier this year, became the **first person** from North East India to cover the **Indo Arabian Gateway Mumbai** circle with his relay team.
- In November 2021, he became the **first Assamese to successfully swim from Dharamtar Jetty to the Gateway Of India**, Arabian Sea, the total length of which is around **38 kilometres**.
- In 2019 itself, he became the first person from Assam to cross the **Catalina Channel in the United States**.

What is the North Channel ?

- The North Channel is the strait between **north-eastern Northern Ireland and south-western Scotland**.
- It begins north of the Isle of Man, where the Irish Sea ends and runs north-west into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The width of the Northern Channel is **21 km**, at its narrowest point located between Tor Head in Northern Ireland and the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland.

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3. Bangladesh win SAFF Women's Football Championship for the first time (Sept. 20, 2022)

Bangladesh registered a historic title win for the first time by defeating Nepal 3-1 in the final of the SAFF(South Asian Football Federation) Women's Football Championship at Rangshala Stadium in Kathmandu on 19 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- In the tournament, Bangladesh captain **Sabina Khatun** scored the most goals in five matches with eight goals.
- She was adjudged the **best player of the tournament** for her outstanding performance. The Bangladesh team was also given the **Fair Play Award**.
- Bangladesh goalkeeper **Rupana Chakma** was named the **best goalkeeper**. In the tournament, she blocked most of the goals scored against Bangladesh and allowed only one goal.
- **5-time champion India** failed to play in the final of the sixth edition.
- **Nepal** knocked out India in the semifinals.

SAFF Women's football Championship :

- Currently the member countries of SAFF are **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**
- It is held every **two years.**
- India has won the **first 5 editions** so far, beating **Nepal four times** and **Bangladesh once in the final.**
- SAFF was founded in **2010.**

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5. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates All India Police Judo Cluster in New Delhi (Sept. 20, 2022)

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur inaugurated the 7th edition of the All India Police Judo Cluster 2022 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi on 19 September 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The event is being organized by **Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF)** and will be held from 19-24 September 2022.
- More than 1,500 players from 41 teams are participating in the competition.

6. 1000 Khelo India center to be set up by 2023: Anurag Thakur (Sept. 19, 2022)

Speaking at a function in Mumbai, the Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur on 18 September 2022 said that one thousand Khelo India sports centers will be set up in the country by 2023. He said that the government has so far approved 590 centers.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Khelo India Sports Center Scheme :

- The Khelo India Centers have been launched by the Union Sports Ministry in partnership with the state governments to ensure the availability of grassroots-level sports infrastructure across the country.
- **In June 2020 the** Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had announced plans to set up 1000 new Khelo India Centers, all over India. At least **each district** of the country will have **one Khelo India Sports Center**.
- An exception has been made for the North-East states, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Ladakh where **two centers** are to be established per district.

What will the Khelo India Sports Center Do ?

- The center will focus on developing sports infrastructure and provide training to the sportsperson in one discipline.
- The respective state governments will have to hire former athletes to facilitate the management of these centers in a proposed low-cost and effective sports training mechanism.
- The central government will provide financial assistance for the remuneration of the past champion athletes as coach, support staff, purchase of equipment, sports kits, consumables, participation in competition and events.

7. Bajrang Punia wins Bronze medal at the 17th Wrestling World Championship 2022 (Sept. 19, 2022)

The Tokyo Olympic Bronze medallist Bajrang Punia won a bronze medal at the 17th Wrestling World Championships 2022 by defeating Puerto Rico's Sebastian Rivera in the men's 65kg freestyle category on 18 September 2022.

The 17th Wrestling World Championships 2022 was held at **Belgrade, Serbia** from 10 -18 September 2022.

This was the **fourth medal** for Bajrang Punia in the Wrestling World Championships.

Earlier, he won bronze at Budapest (Hungary) 2013, silver at Budapest 2018 and bronze at Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan) 2019.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

• ***Other Medal winners for India :***

- In the 17th Wrestling World Championship 2022, India won two medals.
- Apart from Bajrang Punia, **Vinesh Phogat** won a bronze medal in women's 53kg freestyle.

8. Bengaluru FC wins the 131st Durand Cup beating Mumbai City FC (Sept. 18, 2022)

Bengaluru Football Club (FC) won its first Durand cup title by beating Mumbai City FC by 2-1 in the final of the 131st Durand Cup held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (also known as Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata on 18 September 2022.

N. Sivasakthi and Alan Costa scored the goals for Bengaluru while Lalengmawia Ralte scored for the Mumbai City club.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Three trophy for the winner :

- **The winner of the Durand Cup is given three trophies. They are the Durand Cup** (a rolling trophy and the original prize), the **Shimla Trophy** (also a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904) and the **President's Cup** (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).
- The Bengaluru Football club was presented with all the three trophies for its win.

131st Durand Football tournament :

- It was hosted by three states, Assam, Manipur and West Bengal.
- Assam and Manipur hosted the tournament for the first time.
- This year 20-top teams of the country, including all 11 teams from the Indian Super League (ISL) participated as compared to 16 teams that participated last year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Durand Cup :

- Durand football tournament or Durand cup is the **oldest football club tournament in Asia.**
- It was started in 1888 and the first tournament was held in Shimla.
- Initially it was a football tournament for different regiments of the British army and it was later opened to the civilians.
- The Tournament is organised by the **Indian Army and All India Football Federation.**
- The winner is given three trophies, Durand Cup, Shimla Trophy and the President's cup.
- The Cup is named after the **foreign secretary of British India, Mortimer Durand.**
- **FC Goa was the 130th Durand Cup winner.**

9. Ajeet singh wins gold and Devendra Jhajharia wins silver at the World Para Athletics Grand prix in Morocco (Sept. 18, 2022)

The India duo of Ajeet Singh and Devendra Jhajharia won gold and silver respectively in the F-54 Javelin event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix held in Marrakech, Morocco on 17 September 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Ajeet Singh won the gold with a throw of 64 meters while the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 silver medallist had to settle for silver with a throw of 60.97 meters.
- 2020 Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist **Nishad Kumar** won the gold medal in men's T47 high jump.
- India has so far won **3 gold medals, two silver** and **a bronze** in the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Morocco.
- The World Para Athletics Grand Prix was held in Marrakech, Morocco from 15 - 17 September 2022.

10. Pranav Anand and A R Ilamparthy crowned champion at the World Youth Chess Championship 2022 (Sept. 17, 2022)

Indian teenager chess prodigy Pranav Anand and A R Ilamparthy won the under -16 and Under -14 categories title respectively in the World Youth Chess championship at Mamaia, Romania on 16 September 2022.

Pranav Anand also became **India's 76th Grandmaster** when he secured the necessary 2500 Elo Rating points while playing in the championship.

The FIDE World Youth Chess championship 2022 (under 18,16,14) for boys and girls was held at Mamaia, Romania from 5-17 September 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

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**