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1. PM Modi inaugurate 44th Chess Olympiad-2022 at JLN Indoor Stadium in Chennai (July 28, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 44th Chess Olympiad at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai on 28 July.

Important facts

- The Chess Olympiad will be held from 28 July to 10 August at Punjeri village in Mamallapuram.
- The winners of the tournament will be awarded a total prize of Rs 5 lakh.

About Chess Olympiad

- It is a biennial team event, in which teams from around 190 countries compete for honours over a period of two weeks.
- This championship has been organised since 1927.
- International Chess Federation (FIDE) organises the tournament and selects the host nation.
- FIDE is an international organisation based in Switzerland that links various national chess federations and serves as the governing body of international chess competition.
- It was founded in Paris, France, on July 20, 1924.
- In 1999, FIDE was recognized by the International Olympic Committee.
- FIDE President - Arkady Dvorkovich

Indian champion

- Vishwanathan Anand of India is the only Indian player who has won a World Chess title .
- He has won it five times 2000,2007,2008,2010,2012.

Please see post of 20 June 2022 also

2. Max Verstappen wins 2nd consecutive French Grand Prix (July 26, 2022)

Red Bull's Formula One racing driver Max Verstappen has won the French Grand Prix title on 24 July 2022.

Important facts

- Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton and George Russell finished second and third respectively.
- With this win, Verstappen secured his 69th podium finish.

- Max Verstappen has won seven races in 2022 - Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, Miami Grand Prix, Spanish Grand Prix, Azerbaijan Grand Prix, Canadian Grand Prix and now French Grand Prix

- **List of 2022 F1 Race Winners**

| F1 Race | Winners |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Bahrain Grand Prix | Charles Leclerc (Ferrari Monaco) |
| Saudi Arabian Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) |
| Australian Grand Prix | Charles Leclerc (Ferrari Monaco) |
| Azerbaijan Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) |
| Canadian Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) |
| Spanish Grand Prix | Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) |
| British Grand Prix | Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) |
| Austrian F1 Grand Prix | Charles Leclerc (Ferrari Monaco) |

3. 1st Khelo India Fencing Women's League started at Talkatora Indoor Stadium (July 25, 2022)

The first Khelo India Fencing Women's League was started on 25 July 2022 at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

Important facts

- The first of its kind national fencing competition for women will be held in three phases till July 29.
- Phases 1 and 2 are scheduled in New Delhi, while the final phase will be held in Patiala.
- More than 300 women cadets from 20 states will participate in the competition in junior (under-17), junior (under-20) and senior categories.
- The Khelo India Women's Fencing League is an open national level ranking tournament for women.
- Fencers registered with the Fencing Association of India (FAI) portal and nominated by their respective State Associations are also participating.

- A total of Rs 1.54 crore has been sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India for this event. The prize money for each phase has been fixed at Rs 17.10 lakh.
- Tokyo Olympian and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athlete Bhavani Devi will be the league's participant in the senior category event.
- Bhavani Devi will represent Tamil Nadu.
- Also other TOPS athletes participating in the league are Shreya Gupta (J&K), Vedika Khushi (Chhattisgarh), Tanishaa Khatri (Haryana) AP and Sheetal Dalal (Haryana).

4. Neeraj Chopra wins silver at World Athletics Championships (July 25, 2022)

India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has won a silver medal in the World Athletics Championships held in Eugene, USA.

Important facts

- He has become the first Indian male athlete to win a medal in the history of this tournament. He is also the first Indian to win a silver medal in this competition.
- Prior to this, veteran athlete Anju Bobby George had won a historic bronze medal in 2003.
- Anju Bobby George won the bronze medal in the long jump.
- Neeraj won the silver in the fourth round by throwing a javelin 88.13 metres away.
- Grenada legend Anderson Peters retained his gold medal with a throw of 90.46m in his second attempt.
- Yakub Valdes of Czech Republic has received the bronze medal.

About Neeraj Chopra

- Neeraj Chopra is a track and field athlete competing in javelin thrower.
- Neeraj created history by winning the gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics 2021 by throwing the 87.58m javelin.
- He is the second Indian after Abhinav Bindra to win a gold medal in athletics at a World Championship level.
- Neeraj Chopra was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in March 2022.

Major medals won by Neeraj Chopra

- 2022 Kuortane Games (Gold Medal)
- 2021 Tokyo Olympics (Gold Medal)
- 2018 Commonwealth Games (Gold Medal)
- 2017 Asian Athletics Championships (Gold Medal)

5. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma unveils 131st Durand Cup trophy (July 22, 2022)

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam, unveiled the three Durand Cup trophies in a glittering ceremony at Guwahati on 21st July.

Important facts

- Three trophies of the 134-year-old Durand Cup, Asia's oldest football tournament, were unveiled.
- The tournament will be held for the first time in Assam's Guwahati from August 17 to September 4.
- As part of the trophy tour involving five cities, Guwahati, the venue of 10 Group D games, was chosen as the first stop.
- It will see participation of 20 teams from across the country including 11 ISL teams.
- The matches of the tournament will be held at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.
- Apart from Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal and Kishor Bharati Kridangan in Kolkata in West Bengal and Naihati Stadium in North 24-Parganas district will host the matches.
- The three trophies, the Durand Cup (a rolling trophy and the original prize), the Shimla Trophy (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) are on a five-city tour.
- It was flagged off from Kolkata on July 19, 2022 and will be the first time the host will leave for Imphal in Manipur after being in Guwahati for two days.

131st Durand Cup

- There will be a total of 47 games in this tournament, with both Guwahati and Imphal hosting 10-games of group C and group D each.
- All the seven knockout games will be held at three venues in West Bengal.
- The inaugural pool matches will begin from 16 August at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Kreerangan (VYBK) Stadium in Kolkata.
- The matches will be held on August 17 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati and on August 18 at the Khuman Lampakh Stadium in Imphal.
- The tournament will culminate with the Grand Finale to be held at VYBK on 18 September 2022.

About Durand Cup

- The tournament was started in 1888 under the leadership of Sir Henry Durand, a renowned Indian civil servant and Foreign Secretary of India.
- It was first held in Shimla.
- The most successful teams are East Bengal and Mohun Bagan with 16 wins each.
- BSF comes in third place with 7 wins.

6. Singapore Open : PV Sindhu wins first Super 500 title (July 18, 2022)

India's PV Sindhu defeated China's Wang Zhiyi in the women's singles final to clinch the Singapore Open Badminton Super 500 tournament title.

Important facts

- Sindhu defeated Saina Kawakami of Japan in the semi-finals to secure her place in the final.
- This is Sindhu's third title of the current season. He won two Super 300 tournaments, the Syed Modi International and the Swiss Open.
- PV Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal at the Asia Badminton Championship 2022 in Manila on April 30, 2022.
- Sindhu has won a gold, two silver and two bronze medals at the World Championships apart from a silver and bronze medal in the Olympics.

Other Category Winner

| Category | Winner | Country |
|------------------------|--|----------------|
| Men's singles | Anthony Sinisuka Ginting | Indonesia |
| Men's doubles | Leo Rolly Carnando/ Daniel Marthin | Indonesia |
| Women's doubles | Apriyani Rahayu/ Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti | Indonesia |
| Mixed doubles | Dechapol Puavaranukroh/ Sapsiree Taerattanachai | Thailand |

Singapore Badminton Open

- The Singapore Open is a badminton competition held annually in Singapore since 1929.

- In 2023, the tournament will be upgraded to a Super 750 event.
- The 2022 Singapore Badminton Open was held from 12 to 17 July 2022 at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore.
- In 2007, the Singapore Open became part of the BWF Super Series event.

7. ISSF World Cup : Arjun Babuta strikes gold in 10m air rifle (July 13, 2022)

Recently Arjun Babuta of India has won his first gold medal in International Shooting Sports Federation-ISSF World Cup.

Important facts

- He defeated Lukas Kozenisky of America 17-9 in the final held in Changwon, South Korea.
- Arjun secured the first position in the ranking round with a score of 261.1, while Lucas finished second with a score of 260.4.
- Israel's Sergei Richter won the bronze medal and India's Partha Makhija finished fourth.
- Arjun Babuta has won this gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event of the ISSF World Cup.
- India topped the medal tally with four gold, two silver and one bronze in the ISSF World Cup 2022, organised by the International Shooting Sports Federation in Cairo.
- Norway finished second in the table with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals.
- France finished third with three golds.

8. Jonny Bairstow, Marizanne Kapp win ICC Player of the Month award for June (July 13, 2022)

England batsman Jonny Bairstow was awarded the Men's Player of the Month by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for June 2022.

Important facts

- Bairstow beat compatriot Joe Root and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell to win the award.
- Bairstow had scored centuries in both the innings of the fifth Test against India and led England to victory. Apart from this, he also performed brilliantly in the Test series against New Zealand.
- In Women's Cricket, South Africa's Marizanne Cap has been selected for the ICC Player of the Month for the month of June.
- Marizanne Cap became the second ICC female player from South Africa to receive this award after Lizelle Lee.

- The ICC Player of the Month Award is given by the International Cricket Council every
- month from January 2021.

ICC Player of the Month List 2022

| Month | Winner Male | Winner Female |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| January 2022 | Keegan Peterson (South Africa) | Heather Knight (England) |
| February 2022 | Shreyas Iyer (India) | Amelia Kerr (New Zealand) |
| March 2022 | Babar Azam (Pakistan) | Rachel Haynes (Australia) |
| April 2022 | Keshav Maharaj (South Africa) | Alyssa Healy (Australia) |
| May 2022 | Angelo Mathews (Sri Lanka) | Tuba Hassan (Pakistan) |

9. Gujarat will host the 36th National Games in September, 2022 (July 11, 2022)

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced that the 36th National Games will be held in Gujarat for the first time from 27 September to 10 October.

• Important facts

- The prestigious event is being organised after a gap of seven years, last held in Kerala in 2015.
- Competitions will be held in six cities of the state namely Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar.
- Around 7000 players from across the country will participate in 36 sports.
- Indoor and outdoor events like Athletics, Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Judo, Kushmi, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho etc. will be organised.
- The 36th National Games were to be held in Goa in May 2020 but were postponed indefinitely due to the spread of COVID-19.

• About Gujarat State

- Formation - 1 May 1960
- Gujarat is also known as 'The Land of Legends'.
- The Gir Forest National Park in Gujarat is home to the only wild population of Asiatic Lions in the world.
- Gujarat is the main producer of cotton, tobacco and groundnut in the country.

- Garba is the main traditional dance of Gujarat.
- Lothal was the ancient city of Gujarat where India's first port was established.
- Capital- Gandhinagar
- Governor- Acharya Devvrat
- Chief Minister- Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Assembly seats-182
- Rajya Sabha seats- 11

10. Wimbledon 2022 : Novak Djokovic Beats Nick Kyrgios For Fourth Consecutive Title (July 11, 2022)

Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the men's singles title by defeating Nick Kyrgios of Australia in the final of Wimbledon Tennis Competition 2022 played in London.

• Important facts

- This is Djokovic's seventh Wimbledon and 21st Grand Slam title overall.
- Rafael Nadal of Spain holds the record for winning the most Grand Slam titles in men's singles. Nadal has won 22 Grand Slam titles so far.
- Djokovic has become the fourth player after Roger Federer, Pete Sampras and Björn Borg to win the title for four consecutive years.
- Kazakhstan's Elena Rybkina defeated Tunisian Ons Jabeur to win the first Grand Slam title of her career.

• Djokovic's Grand Slam title

- French Open- 02
- US Open - 3
- Australian Open - 9
- Wimbledon - 7
- Other winners of Wimbledon 2022

| Category | Winner | Country |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Men's singles category | Novak Djokovic | Serbia |
| Women's singles category | Elena Rybkina | Kazakhstan |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Women's doubles | Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniaková | Czech Republic |
| Men's doubles | Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell | Australia |
| Mixed doubles | Neil Skupski and Desira Kravčzyk | United Kingdom and United States |