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1. Italy's Marco Bezzecchi wins Indian MotoGP premiere (Sept. 26, 2023)

Italian motorcycle racer Marco Bezzecchi, representing the Mooney VR46 Racing Team, took victory in the inaugural Indian MotoGP event held at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh on September 23, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- Marco Bezzecchi completed the race in an impressive time of 36 minutes, 59 seconds and 15 microseconds.
- Second place in the race was taken by Spain's Jorge Martin, representing Prime Pramac Racing, while third place was taken by France's Fabio Quartararo, representing Monster Energy Yamaha.
- The coveted winner's trophy was presented to Marco Bezzecchi by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- The Indian MotoGP event was organized by FairStreet Sports (MotoGP India) under the supervision of the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM), the international governing body for motorsports.
- Buddh International Circuit, located in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, is a famous venue which previously hosted three Formula 1 car races between 2011 and 2013.

Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM):

- It is the global authority overseeing motorcycle racing.
- It was originally founded in Paris, France in 1904 as the Fédération Internationale des Clubs Motocyclistes (FICM), changing its name to Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme in 1949.

2. Indian shooting trio creates world record and wins first gold medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou (Sept. 25, 2023)

India's first gold medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China was won by the men's 10m air rifle shooting team of Divyansh Panwar, Rudraksh Patil, and Aishwarya Pratap.

An Overview of the News

- India's men's 10m air rifle shooting team also set a new world record with a score of 1893.7 points, surpassing China's previous record set in August.
- The 19th Asian Games officially began on September 23, 2023, and will end on October 8, 2023.

India's First Gold in Cricket:

- India women's cricket team won the gold medal by defeating Sri Lanka in the final match held at the Pingfeng Cricket Ground in Hangzhou on the third day of the Asian Games on September 25, 2023.
- This was India's first gold medal in cricket at the Asian Games, which used the T20 format.
- The team was led by Harmanpreet Kaur, who played her 100th match as T20 captain. Bangladesh won the bronze medal.

3. Indian women's shooters won India's first medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games (Sept. 25, 2023)

India's women's shooting team comprising Ramita, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ashi Chowksey won a silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 19th Asian Games on September 23, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- The 19th Asian Games officially began on September 23, 2023, and will end on October 8, 2023.

India's medal table of the first day in the Asian Games:-

- India's second medal in Hangzhou was won by Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind in the men's lightweight double sculls event and a silver medal.
- The men's eight-rowing team also won a silver medal.
- Babu Lal Yadav and Lekh Ram won bronze medals in the men's pair rowing event.
- Ramita won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air rifle event.
- India finished the first day with a total of five medals: three silver medals and two bronze medals.

First gold medal in Hangzhou

- The first gold medal of the Hangzhou Asian Games was won by China's Zhou Jiaqi and Qiu Xinping in the women's lightweight double sculls event.

The remarkable performance of India and China in Jakarta 2018

- At the 18th Jakarta Asian Games held in 2018, China won notable medals with a total of 289 medals including 132 gold medals, 92 silver medals and 65 bronze medals and India won a total of 70 medals including 16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze medals.

China's continued dominance

- China has consistently topped the medal tally at the Asian Games since the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games.

4. China's President inaugurates the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games 2023 (Sept. 25, 2023)

Chinese President Xi Jinping officially opened the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China on September 23, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- The Games take place every four years but were postponed from 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions in China.
- The last 18th Asian Games were hosted in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2018.

China hosting for the third time

- China has hosted the Asian Games twice before, in 1990 (Beijing) and 2010 (Guangzhou).
- The 19th Hangzhou Asian Games will be held from 23 September to 8 October 2023.

Opening Ceremony

- The opening ceremony was held at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium, also known as the Big Lotus.

Hangzhou Games mascot and slogan

- During the flag-raising ceremony, the mascots of the Hangzhou Games, Chenchen, Congcong and Lianlian, were introduced. They are a trio of robots.
- On the game's official website, these robots are called "Memories of Jiangnan", taking their name from a Chinese poem.
- The slogan of the Games is 'Heart to Heart, @Future.'

Participating teams and events

- Nearly 12,500 athletes from 45 countries and territories in Asia are competing in 61 disciplines across 40 sports.
- India has sent a strong delegation of 665 members to these games.
- During the opening ceremony, the Indian team flag was raised by Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic bronze medalist in boxing Lovlina Borgohain.
- India will compete in 41 out of 61 disciplines, with both men's and women's cricket teams participating for the first time.

New Games Launched

- E-sports, breakdancing and sport climbing have been introduced for the first time in the Asian Games.

Next Asian Games

- The inaugural Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951.
- The 2026 Asian Games will be hosted in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, while the 2030 Games are scheduled for Doha, Qatar.
- Similar to the Olympics, the right to host the Asian Games is awarded to a city rather than a country.

5. Indian cricket creates history: No. 1 ranking in all formats (Sept. 24, 2023)

The Indian men's cricket team achieved a feat by becoming the top-ranked team in all international cricket formats: Test, One Day International (ODI) and T20 International.

An Overview of the News

- Ahead of the three-match India-Australia ODI series in September 2023, India was already the No. 1 ranked team in T20 International and Test cricket.
- In the first match of the series held in Mohali, Punjab on 22 September 2023, India, under the captaincy of KL Rahul, defeated Australia by 5 wickets.
- India's win in this match took them to the No. 1 spot in the MRF Tires Men's ODI Team Rankings, overtaking Pakistan.
- India has 116 rating points, while Pakistan is in second place with 115 rating points, and Australia is in third place with 111 rating points.
- Pakistan had an unsuccessful Asia Cup 2023 campaign as they failed to qualify for the finals. In contrast, India gained valuable ranking points by winning their 8th Asia Cup title.
- This is the second instance in men's cricket history when a team has achieved the No. 1 ranking across all formats. Earlier only South Africa had achieved this feat in August 2012.
- Notably, four Indian players currently hold the No.1 ranking in their respective formats in the ICC Rankings: Suryakumar Yadav in T20 Internationals, Mohammed Siraj in ODIs, R. Ashwin in Test Cricket as a bowler, and Ravindra Jadeja in Test Cricket as an all-rounder.

The top five ranked men's cricket teams across all formats are:

| Rank | T20 International | One Day International | Test |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. | India | India | India |
| 2. | England | Pakistan | Australia |

| | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3. | Pakistan | Australia | England |
| 4. | New Zeland | South Africa | South Africa |
| 5 | South Africa | England | New Zeland |

6. Goa Governor launches the Mashaal (torch) for the 37th National Games (Sept. 9, 2023)

Goa Governor **P.S. Sreedharan Pillai** launches the **Mashaal for the 37th National Games.**

An Overview of the News

- The launch took place at the **Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Donapaula**, in collaboration with the **Sports Authority of Goa** and the **Department of Sports and Youth Affairs.**
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Torch relay to ignite enthusiasm and unity

- Dr. Pramod Sawant announced **Goa's readiness to host the National Games.**
- The 'Mashal' will travel through Goa and other states for four days, especially in rural areas to encourage enthusiasm and participation.
- Sports Minister Govind Goude encouraged all Goans to participate and support the success of the Games.

National sports anthem with Amitabh Bachchan

- Governor Pillai presented the National Games anthem, sung by legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan.
- The anthem featured the traditional Goan instrument, the Ghumat, and featured a collaboration between Goan singers and other talented artists.

Important Points

- Joint CEO of National Sports Organizing Committee - **Dr. Geeta S. Nagvenkar**
- Sports Minister - **Govind Gaudé**
- Minister of State for Tourism - **Shripad Naik**
- Chief Minister of Goa - **Dr. Pramod Sawant**

7. Former Zimbabwe cricket captain Heath Streak passes away at the age of 49 (Sept. 4, 2023)

Former Zimbabwe cricket captain Heath Streak passed away at the age of 49 due to colon and liver cancer on 3rd September 2023.

An Overview of the News

- Heath Streak is known for his skills as a fast bowler.
- Zimbabwe's all-time leading wicket-taker in Test cricket with 216 wickets at an average of 28.14.
- Scored 1,990 runs in Test matches at an average of 22.35.
- In ODIs, Streak took 239 wickets at 29.82 and scored 2,943 runs at 28.29.
- Represented Zimbabwe in 65 Tests and 189 ODIs from 1993 to 2005.
- Streak established the **Heath Streak Academy in 2014 to support cricket development in Zimbabwe.**

About Zimbabwe

- It is officially known as the Republic of Zimbabwe, located in Southern Africa.
- It is a landlocked country, situated between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers.
- Zimbabwe is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the north, and Mozambique to the east.
- Capital and largest city - **Harare**
- President - **Emmerson Mnangagwa**
- Vice-President - **Constantino Chiwenga**

8. India beat Pakistan in the final to win the Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 (Sept. 3, 2023)

India's men's hockey team won the Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman by defeating Pakistan in the final.

An Overview of the News

- India also qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey 5s World Cup Oman 2024 with this win.
- India's win against Pakistan in the final was India's first win in the Hockey 5s format after the previous three encounters.
- India came back from 2-4 down, which was followed by a penalty shootout, where they emerged victorious.
- Maninder Singh scored an important goal for India in the shootout.

- In the semi-finals, India defeated Malaysia by a score of 10-4 and Pakistan reached the final after defeating Oman by a score of 7-3.
- Hockey India announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh to each player and Rs 1 lakh to the support staff for their outstanding performance.

Hockey5s World Cup:-

- The 2024 Hockey 5s World Cup marks the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s World Cup, a global competition for men's and women's national hockey 5s teams every four years.
- The tournament, scheduled for **January 2024**, will be held in the city of **Muscat in Oman**.

International Hockey Federation (FIH):-

- It is the worldwide governing body for field hockey and indoor field hockey.
- Its headquarters is in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- Major international field hockey tournaments, including the prestigious Hockey World Cup, fall under the jurisdiction of the FIH.
- Formation - **7 January 1924**
- Established - **Paris, France**

Important points:-

- Hockey India President - **Dilip Tirkey**
- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister - **Anurag Singh Thakur**

9. Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships (Aug. 28, 2023)

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

An Overview of the News

- In the men's javelin final, Neeraj Chopra won the Gold medal with a **throw of 88.17 meters**.
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event with a throw of 87.82 metres.
- Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic won the bronze medal in the same event.
- In the javelin throw, Indian player Kishor Jena finished fifth, while Indian player DP Manu finished sixth.

Success in women's 3000m steeplechase:

- Representing India, Parul Chowdhary finished 11th in the women's 3000m steeplechase event.
- Parul Chowdhary qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Parul with her remarkable performance created a new national record in women's steeplechase by clocking 9:15:31.

Men's 4x400m Relay:

- The Indian team of Muhammad Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammad Ajmal Variathodi, and Rajesh Ramesh finished fifth in the men's 4x400m relay.
- He clocked a remarkable time of 2:59.92 in the final.
- The same group set a new Asian and national record of 2:59.05 s during the first qualifying round.

10. India shines in blind cricket at IBSA World Games: Women's team wins gold, men's team secures silver (Aug. 27, 2023)

India's blind women's cricket team emerged victorious in the T20 final of the IBSA World Games held in Birmingham. They won the title by defeating Australia in the championship match.

An Overview of the News

- The Indian women's cricket team won the gold medal on the same day by defeating Australia by nine wickets using the DLS method.
- The Indian team won a resounding nine-wicket victory over Australia in the final.

Indian men's blind cricket team:

- The Indian men's blind cricket team earned a silver medal at the IBSA World Games 2023 after losing to Pakistan in the men's T20 cricket final held at Edgbaston, Birmingham.
- The inclusion of cricket in the IBSA World Games began and both the Indian men's and women's blind cricket teams reached the finals, ensuring medals for India.

About IBSA World Games

- It was previously named the IBSA World Championships and the games are organized by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA). This international multi-sport event is held every four years.
- The Games provide an opportunity for blind and partially sighted athletes to compete in a variety of sports while showcasing their abilities on a global platform.
- The first edition of the IBSA World Games was held in the year 1998 in Madrid, Spain.

- The Games cover a wide variety of sports, including athletics, swimming, goalball and judo. These games provide a platform for the athletes to showcase their skills and sporting prowess.
- Competitions in athletics, swimming, goalball and judo within the IBSA World Games form an important part of the qualification process for the Paralympic Games. Successful performance in these events can lead to participation in the Paralympics.