

## **Virat Kohli breaks Brian Lara's record for most double centuries as captain**

- Virat Kohli scaled yet another milestone, becoming the first skipper to hit six double centuries in Test cricket.
- The 29-year-old Indian thus surpassed West Indies great Brian Lara, who held the record previously with five double tons in Tests.

## **Russia banned from 2018 Winter Olympics over doping**

- Russia was banned from the 2018 Winter Games by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over its state-orchestrated doping programme, but clean Russian athletes will be allowed to compete under an Olympic flag. The sanction was the toughest ever levelled by the IOC for drug cheating and was delivered just 65 days ahead of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
- In announcing the decision, IOC president Thomas Bach accused Russia of “perpetrating an unprecedented attack on the integrity of the Olympic Games and sport”.

## **India wins first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship**

- India won the first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship in a title clash against Nepal in Guwahati, Assam on 5 December 2017.
- India, who were the clear favourites, beat Nepal 3-0. The Indian team came into the final without losing a single match and continued their good run with Aryaman Tandon, who defeated Nepal's Dipesh Dhami 21-9, 21-15 in the boys' singles competition, to give India an early initiative.

## **Union Government to soon launch 'Khelo India' programme**

- Union government would soon be launching the Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs 1756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. The programme aims at mainstreaming sports as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.
- The announcement was made by the Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore while addressing the Yuva Sambardhana Utsav organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, at KIIT Campus, Bhubaneswar on 10 December 2017.
- According to Rathore, the initiative marks a watershed moment in the history of Indian sports and will impact the entire sports ecosystem, including infrastructure, community sports, talent identification, coaching for excellence, competition structure and sports economy.

## **India set to host Afghanistan for their first-ever cricket Test match**

- India will host newly promoted Test side Afghanistan for their first-ever Test match in **Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Noida, Uttar Pradesh**, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced in December.
- The dates of the historic Test will be chalked out later, BCCI acting Secretary Amitabh Choudhary announced after a Special General Meeting here.
- He said India will also host 81 matches across all the three formats from 2019 to 2023 according to the new Future Tours Programme (FTP).

**Rohit Sharma becomes 1st batsmen to score 3 ODI double centuries**

- Indian batsman Rohit Sharma created history on 13 December 2017 by becoming the first batsman in the history of cricket to score three double centuries in one-day internationals (ODI).
- The ace batsman achieved the feat during India's second ODI against Sri Lanka in Mohali, Punjab, in which India put up a mammoth score of 394/4 in 50 overs.
- This is Sharma's second double century in the 50-overs' format against Sri Lanka. The last one was at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata in November 2014 when he played a knock of 264, the highest-ever score by a batsman in an ODI innings.
- His first-ever double century in ODI was against Australia in November 2013 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru when he made 209 runs.

**Brazilian football star Kaka announces retirement**

- Former Brazilian World Cup champion Kaka announced his retirement as a player, suggesting that a management career at his old club AC Milan could be on the cards.
- He started his storied career with Sao Paulo in Brazil, where his performances attracted the attention of Europe's leading clubs and prompted a move to Milan in 2003.
- It was while at Milan that Kaka picked up the Ballon d'Or, awarded annually to the world's best player. He was the last player other than Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi to receive the prize.

**PV Sindhu loses to Japan's Yamaguchi in Dubai World Superseries final**

- India's ace shuttler, P V Sindhu had to settle for the silver medal at the BWF Dubai World Series Finals 2017 in Dubai, UAE on 17 December 2017, after she went down fighting against Japan's top-seeded Akane Yamaguchi.
- Sindhu lost to Yamaguchi by 15-21, 21-12, 21-19 in a match that lasted for an hour and 34 minutes. Considering her unbeaten streak and the fact that she had already defeated Yamaguchi at the group stage, Sindhu was the clear favourite before the summit clash began.

**Odisha CM inaugurates Tribal Sports Meet 2017**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in December inaugurated the Tribal Sports Meet 2017, a first-of-its kind event in the country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha.
- The Chief Minister inaugurated the sports meet through video conferencing at the state secretariat, an official statement said.
- Patnaik also unveiled the logo of the event and mascot of the meet 'Olly'.

**Rohit Sharma equals fastest century record in T20 internationals**

- Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma in December equalled David Miller's record for the fastest century in the shortest format of the game. He scored a 35-ball century against Sri Lanka in the second T20 international in Indore.
- David Miller had scored a century in 35 balls against Bangladesh in October this year.
- It is the fastest ever century by an Indian cricketer in T20Is and he is also the first batsman from India to hit two centuries in T20 Internationals.

**Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand Wins World Rapid Chess Championship**

- Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand has regained the World Rapid Chess Championship after defeating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev in the tie-break play-off.
- Anand, a former world champion, outclassed World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the ninth round of tournament and was placed joint second at the start of the final five rounds.