

Sports News

Shahzar Rizvi Wins Men's 10m Air Pistol Gold

- Shooter Shahzar Rizvi ended a brilliant 2017 by winning the Men's 10m Air Pistol Gold at the 61st National Shooting Championship (NSCC), at the Karni Singh Shooting Range in January, 2018.
- Representing the Air Force, Shahzar won with a new finals national record score of 241.7, leaving Army's Yashwant Singh in silver medal position with a score of 237.7. Yashwant's teammate Omprakash Mitheral won bronze, securing 218.0 in the finals.

Vidarbha Thump Delhi by 9 Wickets to Clinch Maiden Ranji Title

- Vidarbha claimed their maiden Ranji Trophy after beating Delhi by nine wickets in the final of the country's premier domestic tournament in January, 2018.
- Chasing a target of 29, Vidarbha completed the task with loss of skipper Faiz Fazal's wicket.
- Opting to field, Vidarbha bowled out Delhi for 295 in the first innings with Rajneesh Gurbani picking up six wickets.

Star Sports is official broadcast partner for Khelo India School Games

- The Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs has chosen Star Sports as its broadcast and production partner for the upcoming Khelo India School Games for five years.
- The broadcaster has bagged the broadcast rights for the event till 2022.
- The Ministry did not give out specifics about the financials of the broadcast deal.

Viswanathan Anand wins bronze in World Blitz Chess championship 2017

- Chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand bagged a bronze in the World Blitz Chess Championship held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- On the first day of the championship, Anand suffered a loss at the hands of Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, however he put on a class act on the final day as he won against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

Meghalaya to Host 39th National Games in 2022

- Meghalaya is going to host the 39th National Games in 2022. In January, 2018, the State signed the host city contract for hosting the 39th National Games and would celebrate 50 years of statehood in 2022, reports said.
- It may be mentioned that after Manipur and Assam which had hosted the National Games in 1999 and 2007 respectively, Meghalaya will be the third state to host the games in 2022.

New Zealand player Colin Munro: First to score 3 centuries in T20

- Colin Munro became the first batsman in the history of T20 internationals to slam three centuries.
- Right behind him are fellow Kiwi Brendon McCullum, India's Rohit Sharma and West Indies' Chris Gayle and Evin Lewis – all who have two centuries each. Munro brought up his century in 47 balls before being dismissed by Carlos Brathwaite.

Virat Kohli Becomes IPL's Highest Paid Player Ever

- Virat Kohli will continue to play for the Royal Challengers Bangalore, as he has been retained by the team once again. AB de Villiers and Sarfaraz Khan are the other players that the RCB has decided to hold on to.
- After he was retained for Rs 17 crore, Kohli became the highest paid player in IPL history. He went past Yuvraj Singh's record of Rs 16 crore (bought by Delhi Daredevils). MS Dhoni was retained by the Chennai Super Kings for Rs 15 crore.

Khelo India logo launch kick starts mission of mass participation and excellence

- The vibrant Khelo India logo, reflecting the freshness, agility and vitality of New India was launched at a simple ceremony by the Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The logo also conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness.
- The three-stroke Khelo India logo, designed by Ogilvy India, has in-built modularity, allowing plenty of adaptability and flexibility into endless pictorial forms. The colour of the Indian flag evoke a sense of National pride and team-work.

Roger Federer Leads Switzerland to Third Hopman Cup Title

- Switzerland won their third Hopman Cup in January, 2018 as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber 4-3(3) 4-2 in the deciding mixed doubles to secure a 2-1 victory in the final at the Perth Arena.
- It was Federer's second Hopman Cup triumph after victory in 2001 alongside then world number one Martina Hingis.

Julia Goerges defeats Caroline Wozniacki to claim ASB Classic title

- Powerful-serving Julia Goerges stunned top seed Caroline Wozniacki with a straight-sets win in the WTA Auckland Classic final in January, 2018.
- The 29-year-old German, with a first serve topping 180 kilometres per hour (112 miles per hour), sent down 11 aces on her way to winning the Auckland title for the first time in her ninth attempt 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Wriddhiman Saha Breaks MS Dhoni's Record, Becomes First Indian Wicket-Keeper to Affect 10 Dismissals in a Test Match

- On day four of the first Test between South Africa and India, Wriddhiman Saha took four catches to complete ten dismissals in the match. With it, Saha has gone past former India captain MS Dhoni's record of nine dismissals in a Test match. Dhoni achieved the feat against Australia in 2014.
- Saha, who took five catches during South Africa's first innings, added five more in the second innings. Four of these catches came in the first session of day four. Indian bowlers produced an impressive pace bowling to dismiss South Africa cheaply in their second innings.

Yusuf Pathan handed five months suspension after failing dope test

- Indian all-rounder Yusuf Pathan was in January, 2018 handed a five-month retrospective suspension for failing a dope test, a sanction which will end on January 14 after the BCCI accepted his plea that the violation was inadvertent.
- The 35-year-old Pathan had provided a urine sample as part of the BCCI's anti-doping testing program during a domestic T20 match between his team Baroda and Tamil Nadu on March 16 last year.

Aanchal Thakur creates history by winning India's first medal in an international skiing competition

- Aanchal Thakur, a 21-year-old from Himachal Pradesh, created history in January, 2018 when she became the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing. Aanchal clinched bronze at the Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup in Turkey.
- The event is organised by the International Ski Federation (FIS) — skiing's international governing body — at the Palandoken Ski Centre in Erzurum. Aanchal won the medal in the slalom race category.

Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore unveils the Khelo India Anthem

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in January, 2018 unveiled the Khelo India Anthem Commencing on January 31, 2018, the Khelo India School Games will be the first programme to mark the beginning of Khelo India, a

category defining, holistic sports development programme. Star Sports, India's leading sports broadcaster has come in as broadcast partner.

- The anthem is conceptualized by Ogilvy, composed by Louis Bank and the film has been produced by Nirvana Films.

Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk creates history at Australian Open

- Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk became the youngest tennis star to book her place in the third round of a grand slam in over two decades.
- Kostyuk in January, 2018 thrashed local wildcard Olivia Rogowska in straight sets in the women's singles event of the Australian Open.
- Kostyuk, 15, who entered the tournament ranked No. 521, made 11 victories in a row when she defeated Australia's Rogowska 6-3, 7-5 in the second round that lasted an hour and 30 minutes on Margaret Court Arena.
- With the win, Kostyuk became the youngest to reach that stage at a Slam since Mirjana Lucic-Baroni in the 1997 US Open, the WTA reported.

Virat Kohli named ICC cricketer of the year

- Indian Captain Virat Kohli was named the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year at the ICC annual awards, which were announced in Dubai on 18 January 2018.
- The award is courtesy the 29-year-old's splendid form during the qualification period, which was from September 2016 till the end of 2017, when he knocked up a total of 2203 runs including 8 centuries in tests, 1818 runs with 7 centuries in ODIs and 299 runs in T20 Internationals.
- Besides this, Kohli also won the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year award. This is the first instance since 2013 that the award has been won by a non-South African. While Quinton de Kock received the award in 2016, AB de Villiers won it in 2014 and 2015.
- Kohli was also named the captain of the ICC Test and ODI teams of the year.

FIFA rankings: India surges 3 places to occupy 102nd spot

- The Indian men's football team have climbed three spots to be placed 102nd in the latest Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rankings.
- India, which are ranked 14th among Asian countries, have earned 13 points over the past month for a total of 333 points.
- Coached by Englishman Stephen Constantine, the Sunil Chhetri-led side are currently standing just above 103rd-placed Qatar.

Brazil legend Ronaldinho bids adieu to football

- Brazilian football superstar Ronaldinho, who was part of the triumphant Brazil 2002 World Cup squad, has bid adieu to his illustrious career at the age of 37.
- Confirming the news, Ronaldinho's brother and agent Roberto Assis said that the Brazilian World Cup winner's career as a professional footballer is over.
- However, he hopes to schedule some farewell matches for Ronaldinho after the World Cup in Russia, which ends July 15

ICC rankings: Kohli becomes 2nd Indian batsman to reach 900-point mark

- Indian skipper Virat Kohli has become the second player of the country, after Sunil Gavaskar, to reach the 900-point mark in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Player Rankings for Test Batsmen, which were released following the conclusion of the Centurion Test.
- Gavaskar, one of the ICC Cricket Hall of Famers, had achieved the milestone in his 50th Test when he scored 13 and 221 at The Oval in 1979 to jump from 887 points to 916 points, which remained his career-best.

- Kohli, who recorded his 21st century at Centurion, got to the rare feat in his 65th Test after vaulting from 880 points to 900 points.

India beat Pakistan by two wickets to retain Blind Cricket World Cup title

- Sunil Ramesh slammed a superb 93 as India defeated arch rivals Pakistan by two wickets in a thrilling summit clash to retain the Blind Cricket World Cup title in January, 2018.
- Batting first, Pakistan amassed 308 runs, courtesy some useful contribution by Badar Munir (57), Riasat Khan (48) and captain Nisar Ali (47).
- Ramesh then led the run chase as India overhauled the target with eight balls to spare to retain the trophy that they had won in 2014 after beating the same opponents at Cape Town, South Africa.

India's Manav Thakkar becomes World No 2 in latest International TT rankings

- India's Manav Thakkar climbed to World Number 2 spot in the boys' under-18 category while Diya Chitale rose to Number 5 in the girls' under-15 category in the International Table Tennis Federation rankings.
- Thakkar's jump has been particularly phenomenal as he moved from 18th to his current position. According to an official release by the ITTF, the top place is within striking distance of Thakkar, which will become India's moment of crowning glory.

Akash Gill becomes first Canada batsman to hit ton

- Canada and Zimbabwe progressed to the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Plate semi-finals, with convincing victories over Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Namibia, respectively in Christchurch in January, 2018.
- All-rounder Akash Gill slammed the first century by a Canada batsman in an ICC U19 Cricket World Cup match as the North American side defeated PNG by 80 runs, while Wessely Madevere took two for 11 and then scored 47 as Zimbabwe beat Namibia by seven wickets.

Sharath Kamal lifts National Men's singles title for the eighth time

- Sharath Kamal on January 30, 2018 lifted the National men's singles title for the eighth time, equalling the feat of Kamlesh Mehta.
- In the finals at the Senior Table Tennis Nationals in Ranchi, Kamal defeated top-seed Anthony Amalraj 4-1. The winner received two lakh rupees as prize money.

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