



SOCCER

WORLD CUP CHAMPION GEORGE COHEN PASSES AWAY

The English Football Association announced that George Cohen, a defender who was a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning squad, passed away at the age of 83. In the 1966 World Cup final at Wembley Stadium, England defeated West Germany 4-2 with Cohen serving as vice-captain. Geoff Hurst, an English striker, scored three goals in that game's extra period. The only surviving members of the England team from the championship are Hurst and Bobby Charlton. The FA announced that a memorial for Cohen will be held at Wembley in March during England's match against Ukraine.



HOCKEY WORLD CUP SQUAD

INDIA'S SUPER 18

An 18-person Indian team for the FIH men's World Cup, which will be held in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, Odisha, in January 2023, was named by Hockey India on Friday. After a two-day trial at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Bengaluru centre, the squad was chosen from 33 probables.

The Indian team will be captained by Harmanpreet Singh, and Amit Rohidas will serve as his backup for the major competition. India, which won the bronze medal at the Olympics in Tokyo, will try to snap a 47-year World Cup drought. It last took home the honour in 1975. India was eliminated from the 2018 World Cup in Odisha by the Netherlands in the quarterfinals Pool D includes England, Wales, Spain, and India as members. The Men in Blue will face Spain in their inaugural match on January 13 at Rourkela's brand-new Birsa Munda Stadium. The championship finale is scheduled for January 29.

INDIAN TEAM

GOALKEEPER

Krishan Bahadur Pathak
Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran

DEFENDER

Jarmanpreet Singh
Sunder Kumar Harmanpreet Singh (Captain)
Varun Kumar Amit Rohidas (Vice Captain)
Nilam Sanjeev Xess



MIDFIELDER

Manpreet Singh
Hardik Singh
Nilakanta Sharma
Shamsher Singh
Vivek Sagar
Prasad Akashdeep Singh

FORWARD

Mandeep Singh Lalit
Kumar Upadhyay
Abhishek Sukhjeet Singh

ALTERNATE PLAYERS

Rajkumar Pal
Jugraj Singh



SHUTTLE

PV SINDHU IS WORLD'S 12TH HIGHEST-PAID FEMALE ATHLETE: FORBES

Sindhu PV, the two-time Olympic medalist, made headlines as Forbes ranked her to be the world's 12th highest-paid female athlete in 2022. The American business magazine's ranking of the top 25 female athletes included the 27-year-old as the only shuttler and Indian. She outearns competitors including Olympic gold medalist Chen Yufei of China, current world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, and three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain, with a cumulative income of \$7.1 million (about Rs. 59 crore). Sindhu, the lone Indian to win the badminton world championship in 2019, is also ranked ahead of players like Megan Rapinoe of the United States football team, Leylah Fernandez of Canada, Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, and 2021 US Open semifinalist Leylah Fernandez of Canada.



TENNIS

ROHIT RAJPAL TO REMAIN INDIA'S DAVIS CUP CAPTAIN

Rohit Rajpal will continue to serve as the Davis Cup team's captain for the World Group play-off match against Denmark, which will take place on an indoor hard court at the Royal Stage, Hillerod in Denmark, on February 3 and 4. The 51-year-old, who serves as the AITA Treasurer, was most recently chosen to serve on the Indian Olympic Association's Executive Council (IOA). India defeated Denmark 4-0 in the final match on grass at the Delhi Gymkhana Club in March of this year. India had only lost once, in 1927, and had triumphed 3-2 in 1984.



SWIMMING

IN A FIRST, MEN TO COMPETE IN ARTISTIC SWIMMING AT PARIS 2024 GAMES

World Aquatics announced that men would be permitted to compete in artistic swimming at the Olympics beginning with the Paris 2024 Games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave its approval for 10 teams to compete in Paris, according to the sport's governing body, who stated that each team of eight can have a maximum of two men at the Games. Artistic swimming is a hybrid form of swimming, gymnastics, and dance. Swimmers perform a synchronised routine of complex and dynamic underwater movements accompanied by music. Since 1984, artistic swimming has been a component of the Olympics under the name synchronised. While from 2015, males have been able to participate in artistic swimming competitions at the World Aquatics Championships, but men were not allowed to take part at the Olympics.



IPL AUCTION

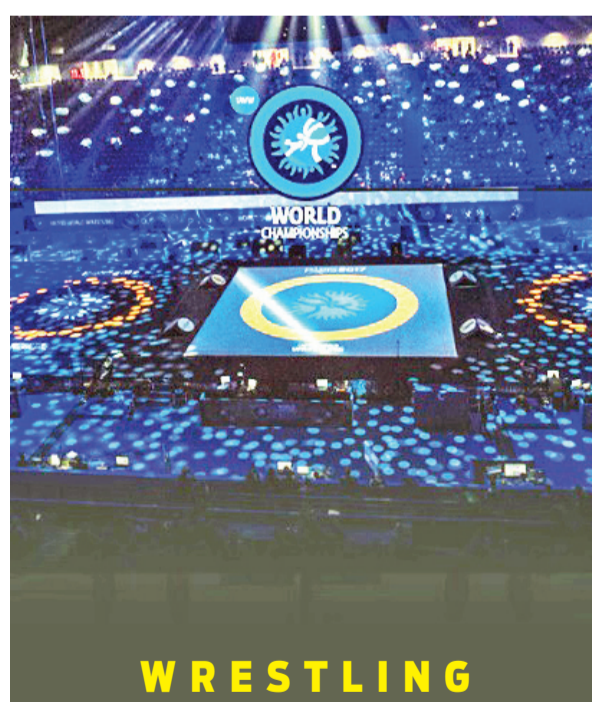
CAMERON GREEN BECOMES THE SECOND HIGHEST PAID PLAYER IN IPL HISTORY

Australia's Cameron Green, who joined Sam Curran in the second spot of the most expensive buy in the history of the IPL. Green was bought at a whopping price of Rs 17.5 Cr by the most decorated franchise, Mumbai Indians. Heading into this World Cup, Green was one of the most talked about players. Starting at a base price of Rs 2 Cr, the hard-hitting Aussie attracted bids from Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore. Mumbai Indians remained determined with Green and bought the talented all-rounder at a record Rs 17.5 Cr. He became Mumbai's most expensive player going past Ishan Kishan. Overall, Green became the second most expensive player in the history of the IPL. Green made his debut for Australia in T20Is in April 2022. He has two 50+ scores in just eight matches at a staggering strike rate of 173.75.

RETIREMENT

KARIM BENZEMA TO RETIRE FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Karim Benzema has announced his retirement from international football after failing to return to the French squad at the recently concluded World Cup. The 2022 Ballon d'Or winner mentioned this in a tweet stating "I made the efforts and the mistakes it took to get to where I am today and I'm proud of that! I have written my own story and our story is ending." There have been numerous reports that the French striker is unhappy with Germany's coach Didier Deschamps' decision not to include him in the World Cup squad, even though he is in shape again. Apparently Benzema also turned down an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to play in the 2022 World Cup final.



WRESTLING

India to host 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships

United World Wrestling (UWW) has announced that the 2023 Senior Asian Championships will be held in New Delhi from 28 March to 2 April. It will be the first time in three years that the Asian Cup will be held in New Delhi. The Indian capital hosted the tournament in February 2020. A 2kg weight allowance was approved by the UWW office on Monday when they met to finalize the 2023 calendar. A two-kilogram weight tolerance was also submitted to the Bureau and was quickly accepted. The move encourages wrestlers to compete in future ranked events in their preferred division rather than in the senior division," reads the UWW website.

SAM CURRAN BECOMES THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLAYER IN IPL HISTORY

Friday saw Sam Curran become the most expensive player in IPL history after Punjab Kings agreed to pay Rs 18.5 Cr for his services. This year, Curran played a key role in England's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign. He won player of the tournament honours after taking 13 wickets, including a run of three for twelve against Pakistan in the championship match. The all-rounder sparked a bidding war on a day of high spending at the IPL auction in Kerala, with teams vying for his services including Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals. Punjab came out on top, agreeing to a fee that exceeds the £1.6m Rajasthan paid for the South African all-rounder Chris Morris in 2021.

