



## ATP RANKINGS: NADAL OUT OF TOP 10 FOR 1ST TIME IN 18 YEARS



As per the latest ATP Rankings released on March 20, 2023, Rafael Nadal was dropped out of top 10 in for the first time since his entry in April 2005. The 22-time Grand Slam winner, who has been out of action since he sustained a hip injury during his second-round loss at this year's Australian Open, lost 600 points gained last year with his runner-up finish in Indian Wells and dropped four places to 13th spot.

Spanish teenager and Nadal's compatriot Carlos Alcaraz reclaimed the top spot in men's rankings with his victory of Russia's Daniil Medvedev in this year's Indian Wells final. Alcaraz became World No. 1 after winning the 2022 US Open but missed this year's Australian Open due to an injury and lost his World No. 1 ranking after Novak Djokovic won the title in Melbourne. However, with the Serbian unable to enter the US due to him not being vaccinated against COVID-19, Alcaraz needed to win the title to return to the top spot and he did just that.

Medvedev, whose 19-match winning streak ended with the loss in Indian Wells final, jumped one spot to fifth. Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime, who lost to Alcaraz in the quarterfinals, moved up four spots to match his career-high ranking of World No. 6. Last year's champion Taylor Fritz suffered defeat against Italy's Janik Sinner in the quarterfinals and slipped five places to 10th while Sinner moved up two spots to 11th. Despite exiting in the third round, Poland's Hubert Hurkacz re-entered the top 10 and is now World No. 9 after climbing up two spots.



### INDIA'S FIRST ALL-FEMALE CS:GO TEAM MAKES IT TO WORLD ESPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Scripting history, team Top-G emerged as champions of the inaugural all-female CS:GO qualifiers with a stunning 2-1 victory against team Purr-ple at the ongoing National Esports Championships (NESCC) 2023 organized by the Esports Federation of India (ESFI). Following this monumental result, Top-G has become the first Indian female CS:GO team to qualify for the global finals of the World Esports Championships (WEC). With ace CS:GO athletes such as captain Swayambika Sachar (Sway), Shagufta Iqbal (xyaa), Nidhi Salekar (Stormyyy), Dilraj Kaur Matharu (COCO), Aastha Nangia (CrackShot) and Priyanka Choudhary (ALEXAA) as Substitute in their squad, Top-G proved their mettle against team Purr-ple in the closely-contested finals.



### 'SAUDIA ARABIA OPEN TO HOST 2 FORMULA ONE RACES A YEAR'

According to reports, Saudi Arabia is open to the idea of hosting two Formula One races each year. The third grand prix to be held in the kingdom will take place on March 26 (Sunday) on the Jeddah Corniche Street Circuit. A new track is slated for the 'Entertainment City' of Qiddiya near Riyadh and could be completed by 2027. Given when Ramadan comes on the calendar, Saudi Arabia is more probable than Bahrain to host the first race the following year. The nation debuted in December 2021 alongside Abu Dhabi before last year switching to a late March time slot on consecutive weekends with Bahrain.



### AFI RELEASES A GUIDELINE FOR REPORTING DRUGS AND AGE FRAUD IN ATHLETICS

The track and field sport in India will now have a whistleblower policy against doping and age fraud, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) stated on Friday. The AFI stated that during its Executive Committee meeting held a few days ago in Kaziranga, Assam, it decided to enhance "its war against doping and age fraud" to safeguard the integrity of the sport. AFI Planning Committee chairman LalitBhanotemphasised on making track and field sport accessible to all.



### OLYMPIC CHAMPION ESTER LEDECKA SET TO MAKE A COMEBACK

Ester Ledecka, a three-time Olympic Champion, made an emotional and fashionable comeback from injury on Wednesday by placing second in the snowboarding parallel giant slalom World Cup race at Rogla. Ledecka won super-G skiing gold at the 2018 Olympics. A week later, she won the snowboard parallel giant slalom there, and then again at the 2022 Summer Olympics in Beijing. The Czech 'amphibian' in skiing and snowboarding, however, was forced to take a vacation this season after breaking her collarbone skateboarding this summer and needing two surgeries. Ledecka will now go for Berchtesgaden, Germany, where the last parallel slalom competition of the snowboarding World Cup will take place on Saturday.

### BOXER NEERAJ GOYAT TO TAKE ON JOSÉ ZEPEDA IN MEXICO

Neeraj Goyat returns to professional boxing against Jose Zepeda of Mexico in a USD 120,000 worth bout on March 25 in Mexico. Goyat, a three-time WBC Asia champion, made his professional debut in 2013 and has since competed in 22 fights, going 17-3 with 7 knockouts (17-3-2 draws). He is the first boxer from India to reach the WBC global rankings and was named WBC Asia's "Honorary Boxer of the Year" in 2017. Zepeda, a Mexican fighter, is one of the legendary figures in the sport of professional boxing. Out of his 40 fights, 35 of them ended in knockouts. Goyat's most recent fight took place in Bangkok, where he defeated Rachata Khaophimai via knockout.



### HARDIK, SAVITA GET HOCKEY INDIA'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

At a spectacular ceremony, midfielder Hardik Singh and goalie Savita Punia received the men's and women's Indian 'Hockey Player of the Year' awards respectively. At the fifth Hockey India Annual Awards, the 24-year-old Hardik Singh defeated his illustrious senior colleagues, including Manpreet Singh and Harmanpreet Singh, to win the prized award for 2022 named after hockey icon Balbir Singh senior. In order to secure a spot in the FIH Women's Pro League, Savita had guided India to victory in the FIH Women's Nation's Cup in December last year. Together with a trophy, Hardik and Savita received Rs 25 lakh a piece. Around Rs 2.7 crore was awarded in prizes overall.



### USA SWIMMING PROMISES \$100,000 FOR OLYMPIC RELAY SWEEP

If the Americans win every relay at both the 2024 Paris Olympics and the world championships this summer, USA Swimming will financially compensate its athletes. The men's and women's 4x100-meter medley relays, 4x100 freestyle relays, 4x200 free relays, and mixed 4x100 medley relay are all part of the schedule that the sport's national governing body revealed on Tuesday. All members of the U.S. pool and open water world teams will divide \$500,000 if the Americans win all seven of these relays at the world championship in Fukuoka, Japan, this summer. The Americans will split \$150,000 if they place first, second, or third overall in all of the relays.



### WORLD GOLF RANKING: SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER RECLAIMS TOP SPOT

Scottie Scheffler reclaimed the top spot in the Official World Golf Ranking. After winning by five strokes at TPC Sawgrass and earning \$4.5 million, Scheffler, 26, replaced Spain's Jon Rahm as the world's top player. After displacing Scheffler from the top rank on February 19 after winning the Genesis Invitational, Rahm had kept that position. Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland remained in third place despite missing the cut at The Players Tournament, while Rahm fell to No. 2 in the rankings. Aussie Cameron Smith and Patrick Cantlay were placed fourth and five, respectively.