

India beat Australia for record fourth U-19 World Cup title

- India in February lifted a record fourth U-19 World Cup trophy after an eight-wicket rout of Australia in the final, underlining their dominant run in the tournament and giving Rahul Dravid the biggest success of his coaching career.
- As it has been the case through out the tournament, India had all their bases covered with bowlers bouncing back to dismiss Australia for 216 from 183 for four at one stage.
- The highly-rated batting, barring a minor blip, completed the job with conviction as India chased down the modest target in 38.5 overs.

Mary Kom clinches gold medal at India Open Boxing tournament

- The five-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medallist, Mary Kom on February 2, 2018 claimed the gold medal in the India Open International Boxing tournament at Thyagraj Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- Kom defeated Josie Gabuco from the Philippines in a split 4-1 decision to grab the gold in the women's 48kg weight category. The 12th seeded boxer had earlier booked her place in the finals after defeating Mongolian Altansetseg Lutsaikhan in the semi-final clash.
- In the 64 kg category, the former world and Asian bronze medallist Pwilao Basumatary was the first among the women to fetch gold by claiming a 3-2 win over Thailand's Sudaporn Seesondee. Pinki Rani also fetched gold for India after defeating Mongolia's Jargalan Ochirbat in the final of fly (48-51 kg) category.

India's Deepa, Durga Devi promoted to FIH Umpiring Promising List

- Hockey India in February congratulated Deepa and Durga Devi on being promoted to the FIH Umpires Promising List for Outdoor Hockey by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- International Umpire Javed Shaikh too was promoted to FIH World Panel of Outdoor Hockey.
- 41-year-old Shaikh from Mumbai is presently officiating as Umpire Manager at the Khelo India School Games along with Deepa and Durga Devi as part of the 28-member Technical Officials team delegated by Hockey India in smooth execution of the Games.

Australia cricketer Doug Bollinger retires

- Former Australia left-arm quick Doug Bollinger in February announced his retirement from all forms of cricket with immediate effect.
- Bollinger, 36, made his Test debut for Australia in 2009 against South Africa and went on to play 12 Tests, picking up 50 wickets at an average of 25.92, with best figures of 5 for 28, which came against New Zealand in Wellington in March 2010.

London to host inaugural athletics World Cup

- A new World Cup event, featuring eight nations, will be hosted by London this summer.
- The British Athletics announced the news on its official Twitter handle, saying, "We told you something MASSIVE was coming and here it is!"
- The inaugural World Cup event is scheduled from July 14 to 15 at the London Stadium, reports the Telegraph.
- Britain, the United States, Poland, China, Germany, France, Jamaica and South Africa will be part of the event.

Jhulan Goswami becomes the first female cricketer to take 200 ODI wickets

- Another Indian woman cricketer has created a new record. India's veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami is now the first female cricketer to take 200 ODI wickets. Goswami achieved the feat during the second ODI between India and South Africa.

- The 35-year-old, playing her 166th ODI, dismissed opener Laura Wolvaardt for her 200th scalp. She dismissed the South Africa women opener for nine runs in the final ball of her third over as India clinched a massive 178-run victory in the second ODI to take an unassailable 2-0 lead at Kimberley.
- Interestingly, the first male cricketer to pick 200 ODI wickets was also an Indian -- Kapil Dev.

Shikhar Dhawan becomes first Indian batsman to score century in 100th ODI

- In a landmark moment, Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan became the first Indian batsman to score a century in his 100th One-day International on February 10, 2018.
- Dhawan reached the historic mark during the fourth ODI of India's six-match series against South Africa at the Wanderers. This was the batsman's first century in South Africa. His score total included two sixes and 10 fours.
- Internationally, Dhawan became the ninth batsman to score a century in his 100th ODI.

Rohan More becomes first Asian to swim across Ocean Seven

- Pune-based Indian long-distance swimmer, Rohan More, has become the first Asian and the youngest to swim across the Cook Strait between North and South Islands of New Zealand.
- More managed to get a chance to swim across the Cook Strait on February 9, 2018, after a long wait due to bad weather conditions. Despite a sudden drop in water temperature, he covered the distance in eight hours and 37 minutes.

Pyeongchang Winter Olympics hit by cyber attack

- The Olympic officials in South Korea on February 11, 2018 said that a cyber attack was responsible for an internet and wifi shutdown during the Pyeongchang Winter Games opening ceremony.
- South Korea's defence ministry and cybersecurity experts are included in the task force investigating the attack, but the possible culprit is being kept under wraps.
- The internal systems crashed just before the much-awaited opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics 2018 but fortunately, it didn't disrupt the high-tech gala, which saw in attendance VIPs from various nations including the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US Vice-President Mike Pence.

Steve Smith wins second Allan Border medal; Ellyse Perry bags Belinda Clark Medal

- Steve Smith and Ellyse Perry stole the show at the Australian cricket's Allan Border Medal night. While Smith claimed his second Allan Border Medal and was voted as the Test Player of the Year at the annual awards night, Perry was conferred with the Belinda Clark Medal.
- Incidentally, Smith had also won the coveted medal in 2015 and thus became only the fifth player to win it on more than one occasion. Along with Smith, teammate David Warner was voted as one-day player of the year while Aaron Finch was named as T20 International Player of the Year. Meanwhile, young Jhye Richardson was announced as the Bradman young cricketer of the Year.

Pune adventurer Shital Mahajan sets new record; skydives in saree

- Pune adventurer Shital Rane-Mahajan set a new record in February as she became the first Indian to skydive donning a traditional Maharashtrian Nauvari Saree.
- Draped in a pretty pink and purple nine-yard saree, the 35-year-old achieved the feat by skydiving from a height of 13,000 feet at Pataya, Thailand's Thai Skydiving Centre.

India scripts history by clinching first ever series in South Africa

- Indian team led by an inspirational Virat Kohli in February scripted history by winning its first ever series across formats on the South African soil as they crushed South Africa by 73 runs thereby taking an unassailable 4-1 lead in the six-match ODI series.

- No Indian men's side since its first tour in South Africa back in 1992, has ever won a series across any format. They did win a one-off T20 match in 2006 -- their first ever shortest format but it was a single match event.

Chennai Open ATP Challenger: Yuki Bhambri becomes the first Indian to reach quarters

- Yuki Bhambri has become the first Indian tennis player to reach the quarter-finals of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament.
- Second-seeded Bhambri, made it to the last-8 after defeating fellow national Sidharth Rawat in straight sets of 6-2, 6-3.
- For a place in the semi-finals, Bhambri will meet Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan.

Commonwealth Games 2018: Wrong date printed on opening ceremony tickets

- The tickets for the opening ceremony of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games have been sent out with the wrong day on them.
- Over 14,000 tickets were printed for the ceremony with Thursday, April 4 written on them, when actually, April 4- the day of the ceremony - is a Wednesday.
- Other reports stated that tickets to certain games including weightlifting, table tennis and triathlon were also sent out with the wrong timings on them.
- The 2018 event will be held in Australia's Gold Coast from April 4th to 15th.

Odisha becomes first state government to sponsor India hockey teams for 5 years

- India hockey teams have got a new sponsor. Both the men's and women's hockey team will be sponsored by state government of Odisha.
- The announcement was made by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in New Delhi in February as the state government has decided to support the team for a period of five years.
- India men's and women's hockey teams were present at the function in Delhi. Other at the function were International Hockey Federation (FIH) and IOA President Narinder Batra, IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta among other dignitaries.
- Though no details of the deal were revealed, Odisha government unveiled a logo that will be on the jerseys donned by players of both teams. The new logo is a summation of Odisha — the Konark Wheel, the state's famed coastline, endangered Olive Ridley turtles, Odissi dance form and hockey.

Roger Federer surpasses Agassi to become oldest World No. 1 in tennis history

- Twenty-time Grand Slam winner, Roger Federer became the oldest world number one after he defeated his Dutch opponent Robin Haase in Rotterdam at the ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament on February 16, 2018.
- The Swiss champion once again claimed the top spot after dispatching Haase 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals in Rotterdam. In the semi-finals, he would be playing against the winner from the Andreas Seppi and Daniil Medvedev quarterfinal match.
- This is the fourth time that Roger Federer has topped the ATP Rankings. The previous occasions included February 2, 2004, July 6, 2009 and July 9, 2012.
- With this feat, Federer has broken multiple records.
- Firstly at 36 years and 195 days, he surpassed the record of eight-time Grand Slam winner Andre Agassi of being the oldest world number 1. Agassi held the record at 33 years since September 2003.
- Secondly, Federer reclaimed his number one position after a gap of over five years, which is the longest gap between stints as World No 1.
- During this period, Federer won three Grand Slams (two Australian Opens in 2017 and recently in January and Wimbledon last year) and was forced into skipping Grand Slams in 2016 due to injury for the first time since 1999.

Norway's Bjoergen becomes most successful Winter Olympian

- Norway's Marit Bjoergen on February 21, 2018 became the most successful athlete in Winter Olympics history by clinching the bronze medal in cross country skiing's women's team sprint free.
- Kikkan Randall and Jessica Diggins won the gold and the first Olympic cross country title for the United States.
- Bjoergen's bronze with Maiken Caspersen Falla took her total tally to 14 Olympic medals, surpassing fellow Norwegian Ole Einar Bjoerndalen who has 13 in biathlon.

Woman cricketer Harmanpreet to join Punjab police on March 1

- India's Twenty20 women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur is set to join Punjab police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) on March 1, 2018.
- This became possible after Indian Railways relieved Harmanpreet following her request to join Punjab police.
- She had resigned from the Railways last year. Her medical test for the post of DSP had already been completed but she could not join as Indian Railway did not relieve her.

ICC Rankings: Virat Kohli crosses 900 points in Tests, ODIs

- India captain Virat Kohli became only the second batsman after South Africa's AB de Villiers, in the history of the game to cross the 900-point mark in Tests and ODIs, as per latest ICC ODI player rankings.
- Pacer Jasprit Bumrah grabbed the joint-top position among bowlers.
- Kohli consolidated his top position with 558 runs in the 5-1 series win over South Africa, during which he slammed three centuries.

Gymnast Aruna Reddy makes history, becomes first Indian to win World Cup medal

- Aruna Budda Reddy in February created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup as she clinched a bronze in the women's vault event here.
- The 22-year-old Reddy, who hails from Hyderabad, scored 13.649 average points to win the bronze at the Hisense Arena. Tjasa Kysilef of Slovenia won the gold with a score of 13.800 while Emily Whitehead of Australia took the silver with 13.699.
- Another Indian in the final round, Pranati Nayak finished sixth with a score of 13.416.
- The sport of gymnastics has a series of World Cup events in a year and they are second in importance after the World Championships.

Karnataka Beat Saurashtra To Win Vijay Hazare Trophy

- Mayank Agarwal (90) starred with the bat as Karnataka defeated Saurashtra by 41 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final in February.
- Following the win, Karnataka pacer Sreenath Arvind also announced his retirement from first-class and list A cricket.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics mascots unveiled

- The organising committee of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games announced on February 28, 2018 that two futuristic figures, inspired by anime, have been chosen as mascots following voting by thousands of Japanese children.
- The voting to choose the mascot was conducted across thousands of schools in Japan. The mascots are aimed at boosting children's participation in the Games.