

Gautam Gambhir Retires From All Forms of Cricket

- Indian batsman **Gautam Gambhir** has announced his retirement from cricket. In December, 2018 (December 4). The Ranji Trophy game between Delhi and Andhra starting Thursday at the Feroz Shah Kotla will be his last game.
- Gambhir, 37, has played 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20Is for India scoring more than 10000 runs combined. He made his debut in 2003 and last played for India in a Test against England in Rajkot in 2016. He retires with nine Test centuries and 11 ODI centuries to his name.

Croatian Captain Luka Modric bags 2018 Ballon d'Or

- Croatian Captain and midfielder **Luka Modric**, who had led Croatia to its maiden Cup final before they lost to France in the summit clash, has won the 2018 Ballon d'Or.
- **Mbappe**, however, won the best young player of the year award at the Ballon d'Or ceremony.

PV Sindhu claims maiden BWF World Tour Finals Title

- Olympic silver medallist **PV Sindhu** made history on December 16, 2018 by becoming the first Indian to win the BWF World Tour Finals.
- Sindhu claimed the coveted gold medal with a win over 2017 world champion Nozomi Okuhara in straight sets of 21-19, 21-17.

Belgium crowned 2018 Hockey World Champions

- In Hockey, Belgium has claimed their first ever World Cup title. They defeated Netherlands 3-2 in a dramatic shoot-out in the final of the Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar yesterday. Both the teams, goalless at full time, were at level 2-2 after five penalties.
- Belgium has won the trophy after sixteen years.

CA Kuttappa takes over as India's new chief boxing coach

- **CA Kuttappa**, a Dhronacharya awardee, took over as India's new chief boxing coach during the beginning of the ongoing national camp, on December 10, 2018. He succeeds veteran boxing coach SR Singh, who has now retired.
- The 39-year-old, who was an assistant coach earlier, is credited with shaping some of the country's most successful boxers such as Vijender Singh, M Suranjoy Singh and Shiva Thapa. The Army man said his elevation was High-Performance Director Santiago Nieva's idea.

Kohli surpasses Dravid for most overseas runs in calendar year

- Skipper **Virat Kohli** on December 27, 2018 bettered **Rahul Dravid's long-standing record of most runs scored by an Indian in a calendar year overseas**, adding another feather to his illustrious cap.
- With 82 runs at the MCG on the second day of the third Test against Australia, Kohli now has 1138 runs to his name. Dravid held the record for scoring 1137 runs in Tests away from home in 2002.

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- Former Australia captain **Ricky Ponting** was formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame on December 26, 2018.

- Ponting was named in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame along with former India captain **Rahul Dravid** and England woman wicketkeeper-batter **Claire Taylor** during the ICC Annual Conference in Dublin in July.

Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year

- India's left-handed opener **Smriti Mandhana** has won the **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year**. Mandhana was also adjudged as the **ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year**. The announcement was made by the International Cricket Council on December 31, 2018.
- The 22-year-old, who has also been named in the **ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year** and the **ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year**, scored 669 runs at an average of 66.90 in 12 ODIs and 622 runs at a strike-rate of 130.67 in 25 T20Is during the voting period, which ran from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

Saurabh Chaudhary sweeps men's air pistol national trials

- **Asian Games and Youth Olympic Games champion Saurabh Chaudhary** swept the **10m air pistol trials at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range** by winning the second National trial competitions in both the men's and junior boy's categories on December 31, 2018.
- **Saurabh had won the first trial in both events on December 29** as well and in one final shooting event way above the existing world record score.

Sports Ministry earmarks Rs 100 Cr for funding athletes under TOPS: DGSAI

- The **Director General of Sports Authority of India, Neelam Kapur** said that the sports ministry has **earmarked Rs 100 crore for funding the athletes under the (TOPS) Target Olympic Podium Scheme** ahead of 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.
- The scheme was launched in September 2014 to provide financial assistance to potential Olympic medal winners.
- Under the scheme, **the athletes were also given financial assistance to prepare for Commonwealth Games and Asian Games**.

TTFI revokes suspension of Soumyajit Ghosh

- The **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** meeting in Sonapat on December 30, 2018 revoked suspension of **former national champion Soumyajit Ghosh**.
- The suspension was handed out to him in March 2018 following allegations of rape against him by an ex-girlfriend.