

MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

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PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Durand line is an important international boundary line between-

- A. India and Pakistan
- B. Afghanistan and Iran
- C. India and Afghanistan
- D. Pakistan and Afghanistan

INDIA AND FRANCE



CONTEXT

- French President Emmanuel Macron served as the honored Chief Guest at the **75th celebration of Republic Day.**



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA AND FRANCE RELATIONS



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- France initiated a **Strategic Dialogue** with India **post-1998 nuclear tests**.
- France didn't impose bilateral sanctions on India, showing understanding of India's security needs.
- **First western country** to sign a strategic partnership with India.

- 2023: 25th anniversary of India-France Strategic Partnership.
- Roadmap adopted on Bastille Day includes three pillars: Security & Sovereignty, the Planet, and People

DEFENCE COOPERATION

- Annual Defence Dialogue and High Committee on Defence Cooperation review bilateral defense ties.
- P-75 Scorpene Deal 2005 for building six Scorpène submarines in India with French technology.

- Rafale jet procurement highlights strong defense ties.
- Regular joint military exercises: Air forces (Garuda), Armies (Shakti), Navies (Varuna)

SPACE COOPERATION

- Over 50 years of cooperation between ISRO and CNES.
- France is a key supplier for the Indian space program.

ENERGY COOPERATION

- Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project progress noted, albeit slow since 2008.
- Agreement on partnership for Small Modular Reactors (SMR) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMR).
- India and France jointly launched the International Solar Alliance.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

- Approximately 10,000 Indian students in France, with a goal to increase to 30,000 by 2030.
- Mutual recognition of degrees agreement signed in 2018.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

- Indian community in France estimated at 1,19,000, mainly from Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam, Mahe, Chandernagore, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Punjab

TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

- Pre-pandemic tourism: 2.5 lakh French to India; 7 lakh Indians to France.
- Rajasthan is a top destination for French tourists.
- France supports India for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

- France backed India's accession to MTCR, WA, and AG, and supports NSG bid.
- Joint efforts towards adopting CCIT at the UN.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Relationship poised for growth post-2023 state visit.
- Enhanced partnership for regional stability and global interests.
- Discussion topics: global conflicts, defense, security

BIR CHILARAI AWARD

Bir Chilarai Award to Chinmay Bora

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 27:
Chinmay Bora, senior
under officer, 1 Assam
Battalion, NCC Guwahati,
has been awarded the Bir
Chilarai Award 2023-24 by
the Directorate of Sports &
Youth Welfare, Govern-
ment of Assam in NCC
senior division boys'
category.

According to a press
statement, an undergradu-
ate student from the
Department of History,
Cotton University, he was
also the only member
selected from NCC
Directorate NER to the
NCC cadets delegation that
visited St. Petersburg,
Russia under Youth
Exchange Programme
2023-24. He is the son of
Dr Merry Baruah and Sunil
Kr Bora of Dispur.

CONTEXT

- Chinmay Bora, a distinguished NCC cadet from Assam, receives the prestigious **Bir Chilarai Award 2023-24** for exemplary **leadership** and **international participation**.

THE AWARD

- Since 2005, the government of Assam has been awarding the **Bir Chilarai Award**, the highest honor for bravery.
- International Recognition: Represented NCC Directorate NER in Russia under Youth Exchange Programme

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. What was the real name of Chilarai?

A. Shabradwaj

B. Mahashakti

C. Shukladwaj

D. Malladev

ROHAN BOPANNA

Bopanna wins maiden men's doubles Grand Slam title

MELEOURNE, Jan 27: Rohan Bopanna became only the third Indian to win a men's doubles Grand Slam title, taking the Australian Open crown with partner Matthew Ebden following a commanding win over Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori, here on Saturday.

In a high-quality game of tennis, second seeded Bopanna and Ebden won 7-6 (0), 7-5 against the Italian team in the final that lasted one hour and 39 minutes.

Only the iconic Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi have won Major titles for India in men's tennis while trailblazer Sania Mirza did it in women's tennis.

For Bopanna it is his second Grand Slam title, having won the French Open mixed doubles trophy with Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski in 2017.

At 43, Bopanna also became the oldest Grand Slam champion in men's tennis. He bettered the record of Jean-Julien Rojer who, at age of 40, had lifted the French Open men's doubles trophy in 2022 with Marcelo Arevola.

Bopanna was playing his third men's doubles final at Grand Slam events, having ended runner-up at US Open twice (2013, 2023).

"A couple of years ago I said in a video

message, I am going to call it a day because I was not winning matches. I went five months without winning a match. I thought that was the end of my journey but my perseverance, and (something) inside me kept me going," Bopanna said after his triumph.

"It really changed so many things. I got a wonderful partner to get me to all the laurels," he added.

Bopanna is already assured of becoming

the new number one on Monday when the ATP rankings will be updated. At 43, he will be the oldest player to be perched on top of the ranking pile.

Bopanna acknowledged the contribution of his Australian partner Ebden and his American coach Scott Davidoff in his success story.

"It was not possible, if I had not this fantastic Aussie partner by my side, so thanks to Matty. We had a fantastic season last year and for me to win my first men's Grand Slam men's doubles Grand Slam here at the Asia-Pacific is special.

"Tennis is such a great teacher and Scott has been a great teacher who has been with me for over a decade. It was

a tough, tough journey; this victory is as much yours as much it is mine," Bopanna said.

On a lighter note, he said, "I have my in-laws here. The last time they came I won my first mixed doubles. I don't know why they do not come more often."

Ebden, who had won men's doubles, too, praised the Indian.

"Age truly really is not even a number

for this guy. He is a champion, he is a warrior. I am forever grateful to you and your amazing team, thank you mate!," said Ebden.

It was such a hard-fought battle at the Rod Laver Arena that the contest featured only one break of serve when Vavassori dropped his serve at love in game 11 of the second set.

There were not many break points on offer either.

The second seeds had breakpoints in successive games in the beginning of the contest. However, the Italians saved both to stay on even terms.

In game two, off Bolelli's serve, Vavassori hit a volley at 30-30 but Bopanna hit a return long.

In game four, the Italians were again down a break point when at 30-30, a return from Bopanna jumped off the net chord to give the second seeds a free point. However, Vavassori served well to save that point as well.

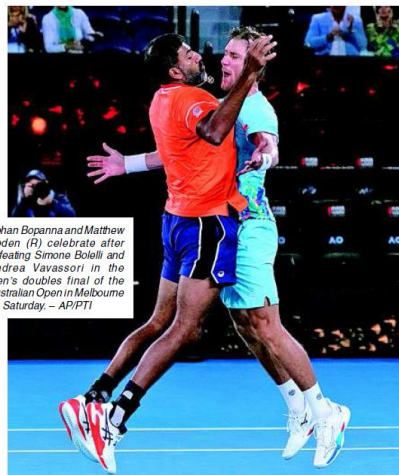
Serving 4-5, and 30-all, Bolelli was under pressure again but pulled off a powerful cross court forehand which was away from Bopanna's reach and then served huge to make it 5-all.

Ebden's serve came under pressure in game 11 in which he faced a break point, but, after playing deuce points, the Australian closed the game with an ace.

In the tie-breaker, Bolelli's serve was broken twice as the second seeds zoomed to a 5-0 lead without losing a point on their serve.

Vavassori too lost his serve to hand their rivals six set points. They converted the first, Ebden finding a forehand winner down the line.

The second set too was tight and there was no break of serve until Vavassori lost his serve at love under pressure. Ebden came serving for the championship and they closed the match with Bopanna executing a fierce overhead smash on a return from his rivals. - PTI



Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden (R) celebrate after defeating Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the men's doubles final of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Saturday. - AP/PTI

CONTEXT

- Rohan Bopanna Wins **Australian Open Men's Doubles Title**

- Rohan Bopanna became only the **third Indian** to win a men's doubles Grand Slam title, taking the Australian Open crown with partner **Matthew Ebden** following a commanding win over Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori
- Score: 7-6(0), 7-5.
- Record: At 43, Bopanna is now the **oldest** Grand Slam champion in men's tennis, surpassing Jean-Julien Rojer.

HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE



CONTEXT

- Astronomers, using the **Hubble Space Telescope**, find evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of exoplanet **GJ 9827d**.
- GJ 9827d is **the smallest exoplanet** where water has been detected, despite being twice as wide as Earth.
- Despite the presence of water vapour, GJ 9827d is described as extremely hot, comparable to the temperature of Venus

By the Officers,
For the Officers