



# Marathon

## Why in News?

Kenya's **Eliud Kipchoge**, who is regarded as the **world's greatest marathon runner**, broke his own world record by 30 seconds at the Berlin Marathon.

- It was a major improvement **over his 2:01:39 set four years ago in Berlin.**
- The Berlin marathon course is considered the fastest in the world because of the flat smooth roads.

## What is a Marathon?

- **Origin:**
  - The word marathon comes from a **Greek legend that tells the story of Pheidippides**, who ran from the Plains of Marathon all the way to Athens in 490 BCE **to spread the news of the Greeks' victory over the Persian army.**
  - The running race based on the story was **first introduced at the [Olympic Games in 1896.](#)**
- **About:**
  - It is a race in which **people run on roads over a distance of 42 kilometres or about 26 miles.**
  - It is an activity that takes a long time to complete and needs a lot of energy and determination.
- **Another Important Athlete:**
  - One of the greatest marathon runners of all time was **Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia.**
    - He became the **first black African to win Olympic gold** by winning the marathon in a world record time at the **1960 Rome Games.**
  - Four years later he became the first man in history to successfully defend the title.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of the Laureus World Sports Award which was instituted in the year 2000:**

1. American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award.
2. The award was received mostly by 'Formula One' players so far.
3. Roger Federer received this award maximum number of times compared to others.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**

**Exp:**

- The Laureus World Sports Awards is the premier global sporting awards. First held in 2000, the annual event honours the greatest and most inspirational sporting triumphs of the year and showcases the work of Laureus Sport for Good.
- American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The award has been received mostly by Men's Football Team (6 times) players so far. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Roger Federer (5 times) has received this award, the maximum number of times compared to others followed by Usain Bolt (4 times) and Novak Djokovic (4 times). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

**Q2. Consider the following statements in respect of the 32nd Summer Olympics:**

1. The official motto for this Olympics is 'A New World'.
2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this Olympics.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only  
 (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2  
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

**Exp:**

- The Games of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Summer Olympiad (Tokyo 2020) were held from 23 July to 8 August 2021. The Olympics have been held every four years since 1948. However, Tokyo Olympic 2020 was not held after four years as it was postponed for 2021, because of Covid pandemic.
- The official motto for Olympics 2020 was **"United by Emotion"**. The motto emphasised the power of sport to bring together people from diverse backgrounds of every kind and allow them to connect and celebrate in a way that reaches beyond their differences. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- A total of 46 Olympic Sports were contested at the Tokyo 2020 Games including Rugby, **Sport Climbing, Fencing, Football, Skateboarding, Handball, Surfing, Karate, Baseball**, among others. **Hence, statement 2 is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Q3. Consider the following statements in respect of the ICC World Test Championship:**

1. The finalists were decided by the number of matches they won.
2. New Zealand was ranked ahead of England because it won more matches than England.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only  
 (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2  
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans : (d)**

**Exp:**

- The 2021-2023 ICC World Test Championship is the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship. It started on 4 August 2021 and is scheduled to finish on 31 March 2023.
- Revamped Point System
  - **The ICC announced in 2020, that the finalists would be decided by percentage of points earned.** The amount of points available per Test has been made uniform. This

system allows the relative performance of teams to be compared at any point in time, meaning the cancellation of any matches or series for any reason does not directly impact the points table. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- New Zealand was the first team to qualify for the inaugural final. It was ahead of England due to its ratings, i.e., points (126) after playing 22 matches. On the other hand, England after playing 35 matches has got a 107 rating. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

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