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Current Affairs

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Javokhir Sindarov Crowned 2025 FIDE World Cup Champion



1. Javokhir Sindarov Crowned 2025 FIDE World Cup Champion

- **Historic Youngest Champion:** At just 19 years old, Uzbek Grandmaster Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest player in history to win the FIDE World Cup, highlighting the rise of young Asian talent.
- **Decisive Final Match:** Sindarov clinched the title and the \$120,000 top prize by defeating China's GM Wei Yi in a tense rapid-play tiebreak, with the overall score being 2.5–1.5.
- **Candidates Qualification:** As the winner and one of the top three finishers, Sindarov secured a coveted spot in the 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament, which determines the challenger for the World Championship.
- **Tournament Scale and Location:** The single-elimination knockout tournament was a month-long marathon event, featuring 206 players from 82 countries and was held in Goa, India.
- **Dramatic Tiebreak Win:** The final was decided after the two classical games ended in draws, with Sindarov winning the second rapid tiebreak game after his opponent, Wei Yi, succumbed to a decisive blunder in a severe time scramble.



2. India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise SURYAKIRAN-XIX

- **Dates and Venue:** The 19th edition of the annual India-Nepal joint military exercise officially commenced on November 25, 2025, and is scheduled to conclude on December 8, 2025, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, India.



- **Participating Regiments:** The exercise features a battalion-strength contingent of 334 personnel from each side, with the Indian Army represented by the Assam Regiment and the Nepal Army by the Devi Datta Regiment.
- **Primary Operational Focus:** Training is centered on conducting sub-conventional operations under the United Nations mandate, with specific drills designed for jungle warfare and counter-terrorism in mountainous terrain.
- **Technological Integration:** For the first time, this edition emphasizes the integration of niche technologies, including Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), drone-based reconnaissance, and AI-enabled decision-support tools for modern combat scenarios.
- **Humanitarian and Strategic Goals:** Beyond combat drills, the exercise aims to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations while reinforcing the deep-rooted bilateral defense ties between the two Himalayan neighbors.

3. Mini TM appointed as Executive Director at Indian Bank

- **New Leadership Role:** Mini T.M. has been appointed as the Executive Director of Indian Bank, one of India's leading public sector banks, reinforcing its top-tier management team.
- **Effective Date and Tenure:** She officially assumed charge of her new position on November 24, 2025, for a appointed tenure of three years.
- **Previous Strategic Position:** Prior to this elevation, she served as the Chief General Manager at Bank of Baroda, where she headed key verticals including Retail Liabilities and PSU Business.
- **Extensive Banking Experience:** A veteran banker with over 31 years of experience, she began her career as a Probationary Officer at Federal Bank in 1994 before moving to Vijaya Bank, which later merged with Bank of Baroda.



4. Rohit Sharma Named Tournament Ambassador for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- **Host and Dates:** Rohit Sharma has been named the Tournament Ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8, 2026.
- **Recent Champion:** His appointment follows his role as captain, leading the Indian team to victory in the preceding 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, ending an 11-year drought for a major ICC trophy.



- **Two-Time Winner:** Rohit is one of the few players to have been part of two T20 World Cup-winning campaigns for India, first in the inaugural 2007 edition and again in the 2024 tournament.
- **Role and Visibility:** In this capacity, the former India captain will promote the tournament through various campaigns and fan engagement initiatives to boost excitement, especially in the host nations.
- **T20I Legacy:** This honor recognizes his immense legacy in the format, having featured in every edition of the T20 World Cup since 2007 and retiring with over 4,200 T20I runs.

5. PUMA appoints Ramprasad Sridharan as New MD

- **New Role and Effective Date:** Ramprasad Sridharan has been appointed as the new Managing Director of PUMA India, a significant leadership role he will officially assume starting in December 2025.
- **Extensive Industry Experience:** Sridharan brings over 25 years of experience in brand building, retail leadership, and commercial strategy across the Asia Pacific region, specifically within the footwear and fashion industry.
- **Previous High-Profile Position:** Before joining PUMA, he served as the CEO and Managing Director of United Colors of Benetton India, where he led major large-scale transformation initiatives.
- **Strategic Mandate:** His appointment is intended to strengthen PUMA's market position, accelerate its digital and brand transformation efforts, and drive sustained growth in the rapidly expanding Indian market.
- **Succession:** Sridharan takes over the reins from Karthik Balagopalan, who stepped down from the MD role after nearly two decades with the company to pursue new interests outside the organisation.



6. CEC Gyanesh Kumar to Chair International IDEA in 2026

- **New Leadership Role:** Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is set to assume the Chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the entire year of 2026.
- **Date and Location of Takeover:** He will formally take over the position on December 3, 2025, during a meeting of the Council of Member States to be held in Stockholm, Sweden.



- **Organisation's Mandate:** International IDEA is a key intergovernmental organisation established in 1995, dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions and processes across its 35 member countries worldwide.
- **Global Recognition for India:** This appointment signifies the global recognition of the Election Commission of India (ECI) as one of the world's most credible and innovative Election Management Bodies (EMBs).
- **Focus of Chairship:** As Chair, Kumar will leverage India's vast experience in conducting the world's largest elections to shape IDEA's global agenda, promoting evidence-based electoral reforms and knowledge-sharing among EMBs.

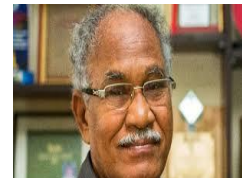
7. Nemmadi recognised as the Global Titan Company of the Year 2025

- **Award and Grantor:** Nemmadi was honored with the prestigious Global Titan Company of the Year 2025 award, presented by Corporate Connect Magazine as part of its Indian Business Excellence Awards program.
- **Core Industry Focus:** Nemmadi is a pioneering inspection and quality assurance company that operates within the real estate sector, primarily focusing on home and property inspections.
- **Service Mission:** The company's core mission is to enhance transparency and trust in real estate by delivering reliable home inspections that give buyers clarity and confidence in their property investment.
- **Key Leadership:** The company is led by Uday Simha Prakash, its CEO and Co-Founder, whose vision drives its commitment to service excellence and innovation in the field.
- **Methods and Impact:** Nemmadi utilizes a blend of advanced technology (like thermographic imagers and laser measures) and rigorous processes to detect defects, helping over 10,000 individual customers achieve "peace of mind."



8. Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail won Kuvempu National Award for 2025

- **Recipient and Language:** Renowned author Mahabaleshwar Sail, who writes primarily in the Konkani language, has been unanimously selected to receive the prestigious Kuvempu National Award for 2025.
- **Award Significance:** The Kuvempu National Award is instituted by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishthana to honour writers who have immensely contributed to Indian literature across any language.



- **Prize Details:** The award is a major recognition that includes a substantial cash prize of ₹5 lakh (or ₹15 lakh according to one source) and a decorative silver medal for his literary contributions.
- **Literary Background:** Sail is a distinguished author who has previously been honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award (1993) and the Saraswati Samman (2016) for his Konkani novel, Hawthian.
- **Presentation Ceremony:** The award will be formally presented to him on December 29, 2025, at Kuppali, coinciding with the birth anniversary of the late poet laureate Kuvempu, which is observed as Vishwamanava Day.

9. MSJE and MoRD Signs MoU to Empower DNTs

- **Ministries and Target Group:** The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to empower the De-Notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), a historically marginalized community.
- **Integration of SHGs:** The core objective is the integration of over 5,000 DNT Self-Help Groups (SHGs), formed under MoSJE's Development and Welfare Board for DNTs (DWBDNC), into the DAY-NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) framework.
- **Key Benefits:** This partnership will provide DNT SHGs with credit linkages, capacity building, access to institutional support, and diversified livelihood opportunities to help them move out of poverty.
- **Dedicated Support Cadre:** A unique feature is the introduction of a new community-based cadre called DNT Sakhi, drawn from the community itself, with each Sakhi supporting about 30 families organized into three SHGs.
- **Long-Term Commitment:** DWBDNC will nurture the DNT SHGs for the initial year, and MoRD's DAY-NRLM is committed to providing long-term handholding for the next 3 to 5 years to ensure sustainable development and self-reliance.



10. German Actor Udo Kier passed away

- **Date and Age:** The renowned German actor Udo Kier passed away at the age of 81, in a hospital in Palm Springs, California.
- **Unique Screen Presence:** Known for his piercing eyes, chilling gaze, and eccentric presence, Kier was celebrated for his unforgettable portrayals of villains, eccentrics, and anti-heroes.

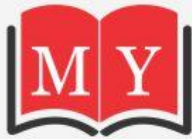


- **Extensive Filmography:** His career spanned nearly six decades and included over 200 film and television credits, appearing in both European arthouse cinema and major Hollywood productions.
- **Key Collaborations:** He was a frequent muse and collaborator for major directors, most notably Lars von Trier (appearing in nine of his films, like *Melancholia*), Andy Warhol (starring in *Flesh for Frankenstein*), and Gus Van Sant (*My Own Private Idaho*).
- **Iconic Roles:** Kier gained cult status for his roles in films such as *Blood for Dracula*, the vampire elder Gitano Dragonetti in *Blade*, and the comedic villain in *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*.

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