

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Ambassador for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

- In a move that celebrates cricketing excellence and legacy, Rohit Sharma has been named the official tournament ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The prestigious event will be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka from 7 February to 8 March 2026.
- Two-time T20 World Cup winner – part of India's victorious campaigns in 2007 and 2024.
- Captaincy legacy – led India to the T20 World Cup title in 2024.
- T20I career record – 4,231 runs, average of 32.01, strike rate of 140.89.
- Influential presence – widely respected for his calm leadership and match-winning capabilities.
- Rohit will promote the T20 World Cup 2026 through various campaigns and fan engagement initiatives. His presence will,
- Boost public excitement in host nations
- Serve as a role model for aspiring cricketers
- Highlight India's leadership role in global cricket



ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol 2025

- The ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol 2025 was held from 6 to 18 November 2025 in Cairo, the capital of Egypt. Organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), this major international event saw the participation of 720 shooters from 70 National Olympic Committees (NOCs).
- Competitions were held in both individual and team rifle and pistol events, attracting top marksmen and women from across the world.
- India put up a commendable performance, finishing third in the overall medal tally with a total of 13 medals — 3 gold, 6 silver, and 4 bronze. This marked a significant rise in India's stature in global shooting competitions.
- The gold medals for India came from Samrat Rana in the Men's 10m Air Pistol, Ravinder Singh in the Men's 50m Standard Pistol, and the Men's 10m Air Pistol Team.
- Bronze medals for India were earned by Esha Singh again in her individual 10m air pistol event, Elavenil Valarivan in the 10m Air Rifle, Varun Tomar in the 10m Air Pistol, and the Women's 10m Air Rifle Team.
- Among the silver medalists, Anish Bhanwala stood out for his performance in the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol, where he scored 28 hits in the final and became the first Indian individual pistol shooter to win a medal in an Olympic event at the ISSF World Championships.

- China topped the medal table with 21 medals, including 12 golds, followed by South Korea with 14 medals, of which 7 were gold, and India stood third with 13. Notably, Switzerland and Norway followed close behind, finishing fourth and fifth respectively.



Gavi, UNICEF Secure Affordable Malaria Vaccine Deal

- On November 24, 2025, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and UNICEF announced a breakthrough pricing agreement for the R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine, aimed at drastically expanding access and affordability.
- With malaria still claiming nearly half a million child deaths each year, this initiative is set to protect 7 million additional children by the end of the decade.
- The deal is made possible through Gavi's advance financing, backed by the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), which allows long-term donor pledges to be converted into immediate funding.
- The new pricing agreement will,
 - Lower the future price per vaccine dose to US\$ 2.99
 - Generate up to US\$ 90 million in savings
 - Enable procurement of 30 million more doses
 - Support full vaccination of 7 million children
- Help Gavi move toward its target of vaccinating 50 million children by 2030

- UNICEF, the world's largest vaccine buyer, plays a crucial role in ensuring strategic procurement and manufacturer partnerships. In collaboration with Gavi, it supports fair pricing and a secure supply chain of life-saving vaccines. UNICEF delivers around three billion doses annually, reaching nearly half of the world's children.
- Gavi, on the other hand, supports over 24 African countries, which account for 70% of the world's malaria burden, and has already helped deliver 40 million doses of malaria vaccines through national immunization programs.



5th Khelo India University Games

- The 5th edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) was inaugurated with grandeur at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on November 24, 2025. The ceremony marked a vibrant celebration of India's youth sporting talent and Rajasthan's rich cultural heritage.
- Dates: November 24 – December 5, 2025
- Host State: Rajasthan
- Host Cities: Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, Bharatpur
- Participants: Around 7,000 total, including nearly 5,000 athletes from over 230 universities
- Disciplines: 23 competitive sports with Kho-Kho showcased as a demonstration event



World's Strongest Woman 2025

- The 2025 Worlds Strongest Woman competition held in Arlington Texas became the centre of a major global controversy after American athlete Jammie Booker was declared the winner.
- Andrea Thompson's coach Laurence Shahlaei supported her performance, saying she was the most dominant athlete during key events such as the deadlift and log lift. He emphasized that sports categories exist to ensure competitive fairness and that those boundaries should not be changed without athlete consent or public clarity.



India Clinches Women's Kabaddi World Cup Title

- India's women's kabaddi team delivered another historic performance by winning the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025, defeating Chinese Taipei 35–28 in the final held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. With this triumph, India successfully defended its title and cemented its status as a global kabaddi powerhouse.
- Captain Ritu Negi and Vice-Captain Pushpa Rana led the team with poise and clarity.
- Pushpa's swift raids and strong defence balanced India's gameplay.
- Key support came from Champa Thakur, Bhawna Thakur, and Sakshi Sharma with impactful all-round performances.
- Sanju Devi, a 23-year-old raider from Chhattisgarh, emerged as the breakout performer of the final and was celebrated as the tournament's standout player.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 2025 World's Strongest Woman competition, which became the centre of global controversy, was held in:

- A. Chicago, USA
- B. Arlington, Texas
- C. Houston, Texas
- D. Miami, Florida

Answer: B. Arlington, Texas

2. Who was declared the winner of the 2025 World's Strongest Woman competition?

- A. Sarah Hall
- B. Emily Watson
- C. Jammie Booker
- D. Lucia Brown

Answer: C. Jammie Booker

3. The 5th Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025 were inaugurated at which venue?

- A. Babu Banarasi Das Stadium, Lucknow
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi
- C. Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur
- D. Birsa Munda Stadium, Rourkela

Answer: C. Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur

4. The inauguration date of the 5th Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025 was:

- A. 20 November 2025
- B. 22 November 2025
- C. 23 November 2025
- D. 24 November 2025

Answer: D. 24 November 2025

5. The breakthrough pricing agreement for the R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine was announced by Gavi and UNICEF on:

- A. 20 November 2025
- B. 24 November 2025
- C. 25 November 2025
- D. 26 November 2025

Answer: B. 24 November 2025

6. The new malaria vaccine agreement aims to protect how many additional children by the end of the decade?

- A. 2 million
- B. 5 million
- C. 7 million
- D. 10 million

Answer: C. 7 million

7. Rohit Sharma has been appointed tournament ambassador for which major cricket event?

- A. ICC Champions Trophy 2025
- B. ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026
- C. ICC ODI World Cup 2027
- D. ICC Test Championship 2026

Answer: B. ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

8. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 will be jointly hosted by:

- A. India and Pakistan
- B. India and Bangladesh
- C. India and Sri Lanka
- D. Sri Lanka and UAE

Answer: C. India and Sri Lanka

9. Where was the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol 2025 held?

- A. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- B. Cairo, Egypt
- C. Ankara, Turkey
- D. Dubai, UAE

Answer: B. Cairo, Egypt

10. India's women's kabaddi team won the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 by defeating which nation in the final?

- A. Iran
- B. South Korea
- C. Chinese Taipei
- D. Japan

Answer: C. Chinese Taipei