

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Anu Garg to Become Odisha's First Woman Chief Secretary

- Odisha is set to create history as senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Anu Garg assumes charge as the state's first woman Chief Secretary from January 1, 2026.
- Her appointment marks a significant milestone in the administrative history of Odisha, reflecting growing representation of women in the country's top bureaucratic positions. She will succeed Manoj Ahuja, who is due to retire on December 31, 2025.
- Anu Garg has significant experience in central government roles. Her most prominent assignment was as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from November 2012 to April 2015.
- She also served as Joint Secretary in the Ministries of Textiles and Health and Family Welfare before returning to the Odisha cadre in 2017.



RRU to Host World Police & Fire Games 2029

- India is set to host a major international sporting event for uniformed services. Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gujarat will host eight disciplines of the World Police and Fire Games (WPFNG) 2029. This will be India's debut as a host nation for this prestigious global event.

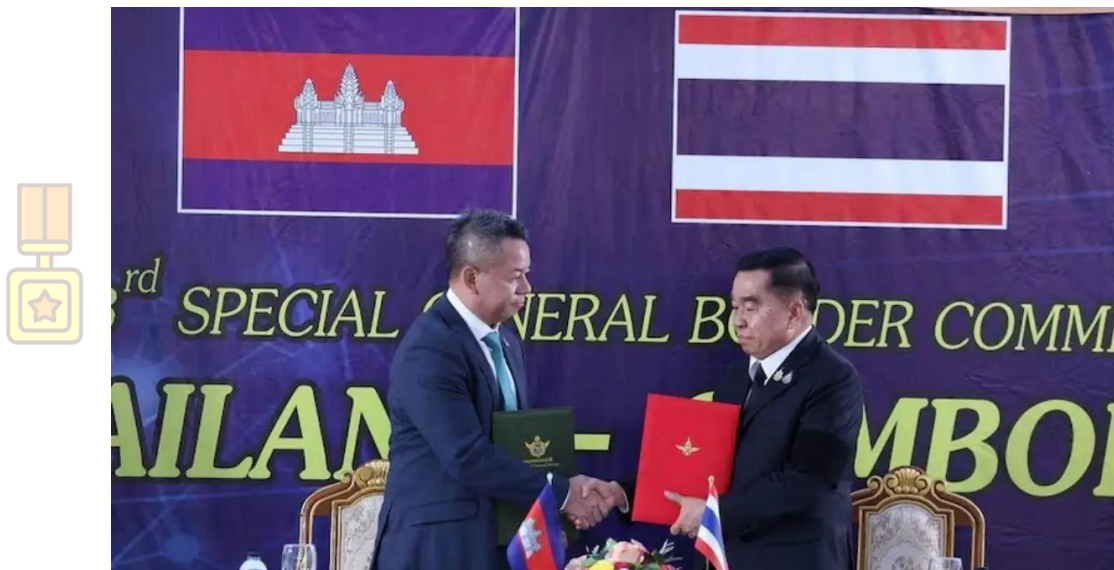
- It is exclusively for police, fire service, and law enforcement personnel from across the world.
- The Games feature 60+ sports disciplines and attract thousands of participants.
- In the 2025 USA edition, over 9,000 athletes participated, and India won more than 600 medals, reflecting its strong performance.
- These include,
- Wrist Wrestling, Bench Press
- Bodybuilding, Cross Country (10 km)
- Push–Pull Lifting, Muster
- Indoor Rowing
- Darts
- The theme of IORC 2026 is **“Building a Sustainable Olympic Ecosystem through Education, Governance and Research.”**



Thailand and Cambodia Agree to Ceasefire

- Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to halt weeks of fierce border clashes marking a significant step towards de-escalation in one of the most serious confrontations between the two Southeast Asian neighbors in recent years.
- The truce comes after nearly three weeks of intense fighting involving artillery barrages, rocket fire, and fighter jet sorties which resulted in heavy casualties and large-scale displacement on both sides of the border.

- According to a joint statement issued by both defence ministries,
- The ceasefire took effect at noon
- Both sides agreed to maintain current troop deployments.
- No additional reinforcements or forward movement of forces will be undertaken.
- The recent clashes erupted in early December following the collapse of an earlier ceasefire that had been brokered in July.
- Longstanding territorial disputes along the Thailand–Cambodia border have periodically flared into violence, but the latest confrontation marked the most intense fighting in years.



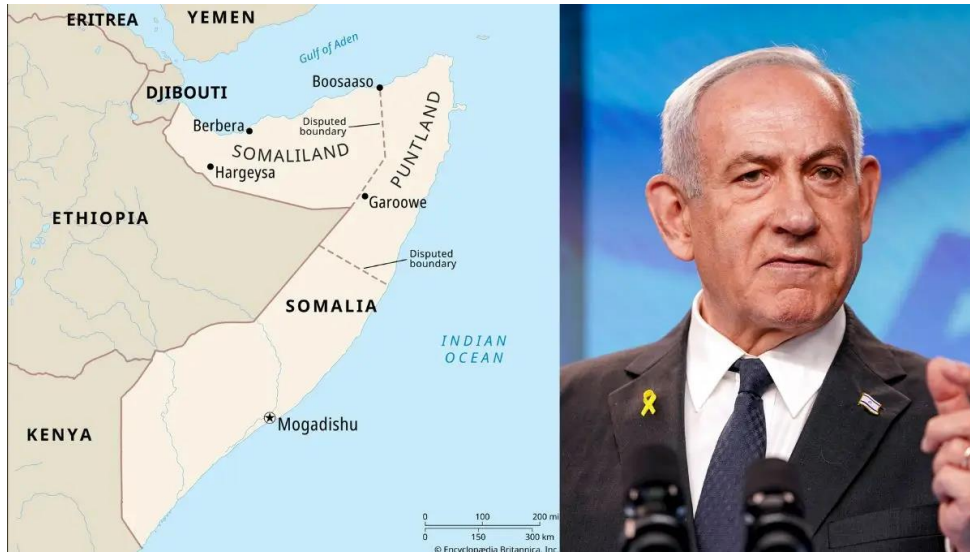
World Rapid Chess Championship

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated **Arjun Erigaisi**, for winning the Bronze medal in the open section at the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship in Doha. "His grit is noteworthy. Wishing him the very best for his future endeavours".
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Koneru Humpy, who finished strongly at the 2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship in Doha, securing the Bronze medal in the women's section. "Her dedication towards the game is commendable. Best wishes for the endeavours ahead".



Israel Recognizes Somaliland as an Independent State

- Israel has officially recognized Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state. This makes Israel the first country in the world to do so. The decision has major implications for Horn of Africa politics, regional stability, and international law.
- Israel formally recognized the self-declared Republic of Somaliland.
- The recognition was announced after a joint declaration signed by Israeli leaders and Somaliland's president.
- Somaliland has functioned independently since 1991 but had not been recognised by any country until now.
- Somaliland was a former British protectorate.
- It declared independence in 1991, after Somalia descended into civil war.
- Since then, Somaliland has maintained relative peace, stability, and its own institutions, including elections and security forces.
- However, the international community has continued to recognise Somaliland as part of Somalia, respecting Somalia's territorial integrity.
- Somalia strongly condemned Israel's decision.
- The Somali government called it an "unlawful step" and a violation of its sovereignty.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Thailand and Cambodia recently agreed to halt clashes related to which issue?

- A. Trade dispute
- B. Border conflict
- C. Water sharing
- D. Migration issue

Answer: B. Border conflict

2. The halt in clashes between Thailand and Cambodia is seen as a step towards:

- A. Military escalation
- B. Economic sanctions
- C. De-escalation
- D. Alliance formation

Answer: C. De-escalation

3. India is set to host a major international sporting event for which group?

- A. School students
- B. Senior citizens

- C. Uniformed services
- D. University athletes

Answer: C. Uniformed services

4. Which institution will host eight disciplines of the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) 2029?

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru University
- C. Rashtriya Raksha University
- D. Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy

Answer: C. Rashtriya Raksha University

5. Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) is located in which Indian state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C. Gujarat

6. What is the theme of IORC 2026?

- A. Sports for Peace and Unity
- B. Innovation in Global Sports
- C. Building a Sustainable Olympic Ecosystem through Education, Governance and Research
- D. Olympic Values and Youth Development

Answer: C. Building a Sustainable Olympic Ecosystem through Education, Governance and Research

7. Which country has officially recognized Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state?

- A. United States
- B. United Kingdom

- C. Israel
- D. France

Answer: C. Israel

8. Israel became the world's _____ country to recognize Somaliland.

- A. Second
- B. Third
- C. First
- D. Fourth

Answer: C. First

9. Who won the Bronze medal in the women's section at the 2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship in Doha?

- A. Harika Dronavalli
- B. Koneru Humpy
- C. Ju Wenjun
- D. Hou Yifan

Answer: B. Koneru Humpy

10. Arjun Erigaisi won which medal at the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship 2025 in Doha?

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. Bronze
- D. No medal

Answer: C. Bronze