

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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2026 FIDE Freestyle World Champion

- World number one **Magnus Carlsen** has been crowned the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Champion, defeating Fabiano Caruana 2.5–1.5 in the final held in Weissenhaus. A draw in the fourth and final game was enough for Carlsen to seal the title.
- The victory marks his 21st world title across formats and his first official FIDE-recognized title in the Freestyle (Chess960) format.
- Freestyle Chess, also known as Chess960 or Fischer Random, is a format where the starting positions of pieces on the back rank are randomized.
- This reduces deep opening preparation and emphasizes creativity and over-the-board calculation.
- Carlsen had previously attempted to win the FIDE Fischer Random World Championship but had fallen short.



Brazil Creates History In Winter Olympics Medal

- Winter Olympics 2026, Lucas Pinheiro Braathen, Brazil first Winter Olympics medal, giant slalom gold 2026, **Milano Cortina Olympics, Marco Odermatt**, Norway medal tally 2026, India alpine skiing 2026 The Winter Olympics 2026 witnessed a historic breakthrough as Brazil secured its first-ever medal in Winter Games history.
- Brazilian skier Lucas Pinheiro Braathen clinched gold in the giant slalom event, marking a landmark achievement not only for Brazil but also for South America in winter sports.
- Giant slalom is a discipline of alpine skiing and snowboarding where athletes race down a course marked by widely spaced gates.
- Key features,
 - High-speed technical turns
 - Precision and control required
 - Two timed runs combined for final result
- As per the latest medal tally at Winter Olympics 2026,
- Norway – 20 medals (10 gold)
- Italy – 18 medals
- United States – 17 medals



Norway's Johannes Wins Stunning Relay Gold

- Johannes Klaebo won his record ninth Winter Olympic medal as Norway secured gold in the men's 4×7.5km relay at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics.
- The 29-year-old Norwegian star became the most decorated athlete in Winter Olympic history with this Norway relay gold. Norway finished ahead of France and Italy in a thrilling race in Tesero, Italy. Klaebo called the victory the "perfect way" to break the Olympic record and celebrate with his team.
- Johannes Klaebo created history at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics by winning his ninth Winter Olympic medal.
- This achievement came after Norway captured the men's 4×7.5km relay gold.
- With this Norway relay gold, Johannes Klaebo surpassed all previous records to become the most successful Winter Olympic athlete ever.
- He has already secured four gold medals at Milano Cortina 2026 alone, showing remarkable consistency in cross-country skiing.



Rashid Khan Creates History

- Afghanistan's star spinner Rashid Khan made T20 history during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup match against UAE in Delhi by becoming the first bowler ever to reach 700 T20 wickets. He achieved the milestone by dismissing UAE's Muhammad Arfan.

- Rashid had already surpassed Dwayne Bravo (631 wickets) in February 2025 to become the format's highest wicket-taker. Now, he has set a new global benchmark in T20 cricket.
- Rashid Khan 700 T20 wickets milestone places him alone at the top of world cricket.
- First bowler in history to reach 700 T20 wickets
- Achieved in 518 matches
- Surpassed Dwayne Bravo's previous record
- Became T20's leading wicket-taker in February 2025
- 432 different batters dismissed (most in T20 history)
- Rashid Khan 700 T20 wickets include strong international numbers.
- 191 T20I wickets – highest in T20I history
- 130 international victims among his 432 dismissals
- Closing in on 200 T20I wickets milestone
- 11 four-wicket hauls in T20Is (record)
- 22 overall four-wicket hauls in T20s (most ever)



Ol Chiki 100 Year Celebrations in Delhi

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi on February 16, 2026. The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture to mark 100 years of the Ol Chiki script, created in 1925 for the **Santhali language**.
- The President highlighted the importance of preserving the Santhali language and promoting the **Ol Chiki script** among younger generations.
- Ol Chiki script centenary celebrations were formally inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi.

- The programme, organised by the Ministry of Culture, marked 100 years since the creation of the Ol Chiki script in 1925.
- The President praised the Santal community for preserving its unique language, literature and culture.
- She said the Ol Chiki script is not just a writing system but a powerful symbol of identity and unity.
- **Ol Chiki Script**
- Invented in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu, a writer and teacher from Mayurbhanj State (now Odisha, India).
- Also called Ol Cemet', Ol Ciki, Ol, or Santali alphabet.
- Created to promote Santali culture and preserve the language.
- Structure: 30 letters, fully phonetic each letter represents a distinct sound in Santali.
- First publicized in 1939 at the Mayurbhanj State exhibition.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship?

- A) Fabiano Caruana
- B) Hikaru Nakamura
- C) Magnus Carlsen
- D) Ding Liren

Answer: C) Magnus Carlsen

2. Magnus Carlsen defeated whom in the final of the 2026 Freestyle Championship?

- A) Ian Nepomniachtchi
- B) Fabiano Caruana
- C) Alireza Firouzja
- D) Wesley So

Answer: B) Fabiano Caruana

3. Freestyle Chess is also known as:

- A) Rapid Chess
- B) Blitz Chess
- C) Chess960
- D) Armageddon Chess

Answer: C) Chess960

4. Which country won its first-ever Winter Olympics medal in 2026?

- A) India
- B) Brazil
- C) Argentina
- D) Chile

Answer: B) Brazil

5. Lucas Pinheiro Braathen won gold in which event at the 2026 Winter Olympics?

- A) Downhill
- B) Slalom
- C) Giant Slalom
- D) Super-G

Answer: C) Giant Slalom

6. Johannes Klaebo won his record ninth Winter Olympic medal in which event?

- A) Individual Sprint
- B) 50 km Classic
- C) Men's 4×7.5 km Relay
- D) Skiathlon

Answer: C) Men's 4×7.5 km Relay

7. Rashid Khan became the first bowler to achieve which milestone in T20 cricket?

- A) 500 wickets
- B) 600 wickets
- C) 650 wickets
- D) 700 wickets

Answer: D) 700 wickets

8. Rashid Khan surpassed which cricketer to become the leading T20 wicket-taker in 2025?

- A) Lasith Malinga
- B) Sunil Narine
- C) Dwayne Bravo
- D) Imran Tahir

Answer: C) Dwayne Bravo

9. The Ol Chiki script was invented in 1925 by:

- A) Birsa Munda
- B) Raghunath Murmu
- C) Rabindranath Tagore
- D) Jaipal Singh Munda

Answer: B) Raghunath Murmu

10. The centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script were inaugurated by:

- A) Prime Minister of India
- B) Chief Minister of Odisha
- C) President Droupadi Murmu
- D) Union Education Minister

Answer: C) President Droupadi Murmu