ODISHA CURRENT AFFAIRS

24 September 2024

Indian men's & women's teams win gold in the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad

Key Points:

- Indian Men's and Women's chess teams won gold medals in their respective events at the 45th edition of the FIDE Chess Olympiad, held in the Hungarian capital of Budapest from 10-23 September 2024.
- The next 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan 2026. The last time a country won gold both in the Open(men's) and women's section of the chess Olympiad was China in 2018.



- The Indian team retained the Gaprindashvili Cup, which is awarded to the best combined result in the Open and Women's sections.
- In the last 43rd edition of the Chess Olympiad, which was held in Chennai, Tami Nadu, in 2022, the Indian team won the Gaprindashvili Cup. India became the second country after Russia which successfully retained the Gaprindashvili Cup.

Indian Men's Team Win Hamilton-Russell Cup

- The Indian team consisting of **Arjun Erigasi, Rameshbabu Pragannandha, Dommaraju Gukesh, Vidit Gujrathi and Pentala Harikrishna** won the gold medal in the Open section. The Indian men's team was awarded the gold medal and the Hamilton Russell Cup. The Indian team topped the points table with 21 points, followed by the United States in second place and Uzbekistan in third place



Indian Women Wins Vera Menchik Cup

- The Indian women's team of **Vantika Agarwal, Divya Deshmukh, Harika Dranavali, Vaishali Rameshbabu and Tania Sachdev** won the gold medal and the Vera Menchik Cup. The Kazakhstan team was awarded the silver medal, while the USA team settled for the bronze medal.

Board Prizes for Best Individual Performance

- The Chess Olympiad is a team event, but board prizes are also awarded to honour the individual performances. The best Indian performances are as follows :

Open – Board 1: ▪ Gold: **Gukesh D, India** Silver: Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Uzbekistan Bronze: Magnus Carlsen, Norway	**Women – Board 3:** ▪ Gold: **Divya Deshmukh**, India Silver: Sabrina Vega Gutierrez, Spain Bronze:Elina Danielian, Armenia
Open – Board 2: ▪ Gold: **Arjun Erigaisi**, India Silver:Yu Yangyi, China Bronze:Le Tuan Minh, Vietnam	**Women – Board 4:** ▪ Gold: **Vantika Agrawal**, India Silver: Alice Lee, USA Bronze:Anna M. Sargsyan, Armenia

About Chess Olympiad

- The first Chess Olympiad, organised as the Tournament of Nations by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1927, was held in London, United Kingdom. Hungary won the inaugural edition.
- Since the 9th edition of 1950, the event has been held every two years.
- In 1952, the event's name was changed to the Chess Olympiad.
- The Women's Chess Olympiad was started in 1957 at Emmen, the Netherlands.
- Both events were held together in 1972, but they were separated again in 1974. However, both events have been held together since 1976.
- The Soviet Union/Russia is the most successful team in the Chess Olympiad, with a combined 24 titles.

BY PHYSICSWALLAH

International Chess Federation or FIDE

- The International Chess Federation, or French acronym FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs), is the world's chess governing body.
- It was established on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France. President of FIDE: Arkady Dvorkovich, Headquarters of FIDE: Lausanne, Switzerland

Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh appointed the 28th IAF Chief

- The government of India has appointed the current Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, as the next Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh will be the 28th Chief of the Indian Air Force. He will take over as the Chief of the Indian Air Force on 30 September 2024, when the current Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, retires on the same day.



About Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh graduated from the National Defence Academy and was commissioned into the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot in December 1984.
- During his nearly four decades of service, he has served in various command, staff, instructional and foreign appointments.
- Before being appointed Vice Chief of the Air Staff, he was the Air Officer Commandingin-Chief of Central Air Command, Prayagraj.
- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh commanded a MiG-27 squadron and, as a test pilot, led the MiG-29 Upgrade Project Management Team in Moscow, Russia.
- He strongly supports self-reliance in the Indian Air Force and has backed the development of the indigenous fighter plane Tejas. He was the Project Director (Flight Test) at the National Flight Test Centre and was tasked with flight testing of the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
- To prove the robustness and reliability of Tejas, he, along with the Vice Chiefs of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, flew the aircraft. He flew the lead Tejas aircraft, and the Army Vice Chief Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani and Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan flew in a twin-seater Tejas aircraft.

Chief of the Indian Air Force

- The British established the Indian Air Force on 8 October 1932 as the Royal Indian Air Force. After independence, it was renamed the Indian Air Force in January 1950.
- The first chief of the Indian Air Force after independence was a British Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst (15 Aug 1947-22 February 1950).
- Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee was the first Indian to be appointed as the Indian Air Force's Chief of the Air Staff (On 01 April 1954- 8 November 1960).
- The Subroto Cup International Football Tournament is held in memory of Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee. It is an interschool football tournament in which school teams from India and foreign teams participate.

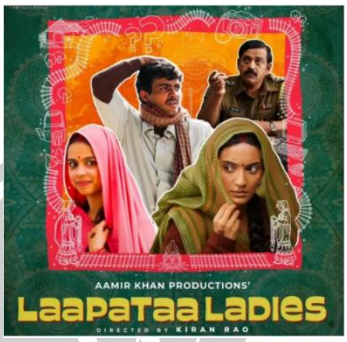
Command Structure of the Indian Air Force

- The Indian Air Force headquarters is in New Delhi, with the President of India being its chief.
- The Indian Air Force has five operational commands, one training command and one Maintenance command. An officer of the rank of Air Marshal heads these commands.

Indian Air Force Command's	Headquarters
Western Air Command	Delhi
South-Western Air Command	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
Central Air Command	Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh)
Eastern Air Command	Shillong (Meghalaya)
Southern Air Command	Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
Training Command	Bengaluru (Karnataka)
Maintenance Command	Nagpur (Maharashtra)

Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies film Indian nominee for 97th Oscar Awards

- The Hindi comedy film 'Laapataa Ladies', produced by Amir Khan and Kiran Rao and directed by Kiran Rao, has been chosen to be India's official entry for the International Feature Film Category at the 97th Academy Awards 2025 (popularly known as the Oscars).
- The international Feature film category is for the country-selected feature film. The 97th Academy Awards ceremony will be held on 2nd March 2025 in Los Angeles, United States of America. Last year, the superhit Malayalam film " 2018: Everyone's a Hero" was India's official entry for the 96th Oscar Award 2024.



Selection Committee of the Film Federation of India

- The Hindi film Laapataa Ladies was chosen by a 13-member jury of the Film Federation of India, headed by renowned Assamese Director Jahnu Barua.
- The committee reviewed 30 films nominated to represent India at the 97th Oscar Awards. Some of the films that were considered were Hanuman, Kalki 2898 AD, Aattam, All We Imagine As Light, Vaazhai, Thangalaan, Chandu Champion, Sam Bahadur, Swatantrya Veer Savarkar, Maidaan, and Joram.

About the film Laapataa Ladies

- The film is about two young brides who get switched to their husbands' homes during a train journey. The film is a satire on India's patriarchal system and focuses on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in rural India. The film stars Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Chhaya Kadam, and Ravi Kishan, among others, in key roles.

Indian films nominated for Oscar Award

- 57 Indian films including Laapataa Ladies, have been nominated for the 'International Feature Film Category at the Oscars.
- Mehboob Khan's directed film **Mother India** was the first Indian film to be nominated for an Oscar in 1957. Only three Indian films, **Mother India (1958), Salaam Bombay (1989), and Lagaaan (2001)**, have made the final list of Oscar nominees. None of the Indian films has won the Best International Feature Film category award at the Oscars.

Oscar Awards won by Indians

- To date, 10 Indians have won Oscar awards, with Bhanu Athaiya being the first to win the award in 1982 for best costume design category for the film Gandhi. A.R.Rahman has won the Oscar awards twice.

Serial No	Award Winner	Category	Film	Year
1.	Mrs. Bhanu Athaiya	Costume Designing	Gandhi	1982
2	Satyajit Ray	Honourary Academy Award	-	1992
3	Resul Pookuty	Best Sound Mixing	Slumdog Millionaire	2008
4	A R Rahman	Best Original Score	Slumdog Millionaire	2008
5	•Gulzar (Lyricist), •A R Rahman (Music Composer) and	Best Original Song (Jai Ho song)	Slumdog Millionaire	2008
6	•M. M. Keeravani (Music) •Chandrabose (Lyrics)	Best Original Song (Nattu Nattu)	RRR	2023
7	•Kartiki Gonsalves and •Guneet Monga	Best Documentary (Short Subject)	Elephant Whispers	2023

Academy Award or Oscar Award

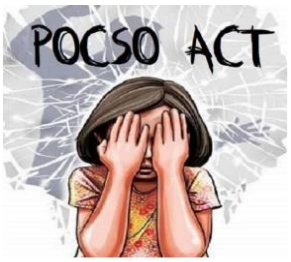
- The Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, was instituted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which is based in California, United States of America.
- The Oscar Award is considered the most prestigious award in the world of cinema.
- The first award was presented in 1929.

Storing and viewing child sexually exploitative abuse material an offense under POCSO: Supreme Court

- 'It is a groundbreaking judgment,' says CJI Chandrachud; the Bench bans the use of the term 'child pornography'.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation has set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and

Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit.

- It has been set up at its headquarter in New Delhi to counter the growing menace of child porn on the internet.
- The new specialized unit will collect intelligence on those who are allegedly creating and transmitting such material on the internet.



Deleting child porn after downloading also an offense

- The Supreme Court on Monday set aside a Madras High Court order that had said that downloading and watching child pornography is not an offence, ruling that viewing and storing such content is an offence under the Pocso Act.
- Madras High Court order which said that merely storing child pornographic material without any intention to transmit it would not constitute an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.
- On January 11, the Madras High Court had cancelled the criminal proceedings against a man named S Harish (28) from Chennai who was charged with downloading pornographic content involving children on his mobile phone.
- Section 15 deals with the offence of storage or possession of child pornographic material with an intention to transmit the same.
- The court suggested the Parliament amend the term “child pornography” with the term “child sexual exploitative and abusive material” and requested the Union to bring an Ordinance to bring about the amendment. The court has directed the courts to not use the term ‘child pornography’.

Section 67-B of the IT Act punishes the publishing, transmitting, or creating of material depicting children in sexually explicit acts in electronic form with five to seven years of imprisonment and a fine that can extend up to Rs 10 lakh.

- Section 14 of the POCSO Act prescribes punishment for using a child for pornographic purposes. Section 14(1) states that “Whoever uses a child or children for pornographic purposes shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years and shall also be liable to fine,
- "And in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years and also be liable to fine”.
- A two-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud said that deleting child pornography content after downloading, watching and storing is also punishable acts.
- A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, which went into the various aspects of the Act, said the High Court “committed an egregious error in passing the impugned judgment.”
- The judgement also called upon Parliament to “seriously consider to bring about an amendment to the Pocso for the purpose of substituting the term “child pornography” with “child sexual exploitative and abuse material” (CSEAM) to “reflect more accurately on the reality of such offences”. “The Union of India, in the meantime may consider to bring about the suggested amendment to the POCSO by way of an ordinance,” read the judgement.
- "Any act of viewing, distributing or displaying content related to child pornography by a person over the internet with or without actual or physical possession or storage of such material in any device or other manner is an offence under the Pocso Act.“
- "A person can be punished if it has been established that he/she had 'stored' or 'possessed' any child pornographic

material before the initiation of the case or the registration of an FIR."

- "We have already penalised the storage and sharing of child pornographic material for those who have an intent to get economic gain or benefit."
- Justice Pardiwala said that in this case, mens rea is to be gathered from actus rea - mens rea refers to the intent behind the crime and actus rea is the actual criminal act.



- "Implementing comprehensive sex education programmes that include information about the legal and ethical ramifications of child pornography can help deter potential offenders."
- "Viewing sex education as a Western concept that does not align with traditional Indian values has led to resistance from various state governments in implementing sex education programmes in schools."
- "Educators, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement officers should be imparted training to identify signs of problematic sexual behaviour (PSB)."
- "Raising awareness about the realities of child sexual exploitative material and its consequences through public campaigns can help reduce its prevalence.


Quad meet launches maritime and health initiatives

Sriram Lakshman
WILMINGTON (DELAWARE)

Leaders of the Quad group of countries – Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida – met at their ninth summit-level meeting at Archmere Academy, Mr. Biden's former school in Claymont, Delaware, to announce a broad range of outcomes. These included the launch of a new coast guard exercise, a logistics network, expansion of maritime surveillance, and a project to combat cervical cancer.

In terms of positions, the Quad strongly condemned aggression in the East and South China Sea and expressed alarm over the war in Ukraine, noting that all four leaders had visited the country.

The "Quad Cancer Moonshot" will involve contributions from all four countries to combat cervical cancer. India will commit $60 million towards screening for the disease. Vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India and Gavi will provide up to 40 million vaccines for the region, "subject to approvals".

The countries announced the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission in 2025 to improve interoperability and maritime safety. Future coast guard missions are planned for after 2025. A logistics network pilot project was also launched, which will involve Quad countries sharing airlift capacity to support disaster response.

A Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) to train Quad partners "to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behaviour" was also announced. India will host the first MAITRI workshop in 2025.

A maritime legal dialogue has been launched to support actions to uphold the rules-based order, the statement said.

Quad members condemned maritime aggression, with pointed references to situations involving China, which is currently embroiled in tensions with the Philippines, most recently over the latter's coast guard presence on the Sabina shoal, 150 km off its west coast.

"We are seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Sea," they said, as they expressed concern about the militarisation of disputed features and intimidation in the South China Sea.

The statement condemns the dangerous use of coast guard and maritime militia vessels and opposes the disruption of other countries' offshore resource exploitation activities.

War in Ukraine

While there was no direct mention of Russia, presumably out of consideration for India, which shares a close relationship with Moscow, the joint statement had references that have been associated with a condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, such as Quad countries offering their "unwavering" support for the United Nations Charter. The countries expressed their "deepest concern" for the war in Ukraine and its consequences.

"Each of us has visited Ukraine since the war began and seen this first hand; we reiterate the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement says. It also notes the impact the war has had on food and energy security, especially for developing countries.

The Quad fellowship, to promote STEM education, has been expanded to include 50 scholarships worth $100,000 for students from the region to study at government-funded technical institutions in India.

- **Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo elected President of NRAI**
- Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo has been elected as the new president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) in a tightly contested election, winning 36-21 over V.K. Dhall. His victory marks a pivotal moment in Indian shooting, as it brings an end to Raninder Singh's 12- year tenure, which concluded due to National Sports Code restrictions. Kalikesh will serve as president until the next NRAI general body meeting in 2025. During his interim leadership, India made a significant breakthrough at the Paris Olympics, securing three bronze medals and ending a dry spell from Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.



About National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)

- Founded- 1951
- Headquarters- New Delhi
- President- Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo (replace Raninder Singh)

Nikhat Zareen, India's star boxer, joins Telangana Police as DSP

- Renowned boxer Nikhat Zareen joined the Telangana Police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Special Police).
- The two-time world boxing champion submitted her joining report to the Director General of Police, Jitender. Competing in the women's 50 kg category, she lost to China's Wu Yu in the pre-quarterfinals.
- Zareen, who contested as an unseeded boxer, acknowledged that this was the hardest loss she has faced.



- A native of Nizamabad district, Nikhat Zareen has an illustrious career in boxing, having won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and a bronze medal at the Asian Games.

She also represented India at the recently concluded Olympics in Paris.

IAEA General Conference Elects Korean Ambassador as Conference President

- The Republic of Korea's Permanent Representative has been elected as the President of the IAEA's 68th General Conference.
- The General Conference elects a President at the beginning of each annual session, following consultations among Member States before the conference.
- They hold office for the duration of the conference. Last year the position was held by Thailand's Vilawan Mangklatanakul.



- Sang Wook Ham was appointed as the Republic of Korea's (ROK) Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna in 2022 after an extensive service with the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dhruvi Patel from US wins Miss India Worldwide 2024

- Dhruvi Patel, a Computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.
- Dhruvi aspires to be a Bollywood actor and UNICEF Ambassador. Lisa Abdoelhak from Suriname was declared the first runner-up, while Malvika Sharma from the Netherlands was adjudged the second runner-up in the same race.



- In the Mrs category, SuAnn Mouttet from Trinidad and Tobago was the winner, with Sneha Nambiar the first and Pawandip Kaur from the United Kingdom the second-runner up.
- In the Teen category, Sierra Suret from Guadeloupe was crowned Miss Teen India Worldwide. Shreya Singh from the Netherlands and Shradha Tedjoe from Suriname were declared the first and second runners-up.
- The beauty pageant is organised by New Yorkbased India Festival Committee and is headed by Indian-Americans Neelam and Dharmatma Saran.

Jaipur to host 25th edition of IIFA Awards

- The 25th International Indian Film Academy Awards will be held in Jaipur from March 7 to March 9, 2025.
- The announcement comes in the run-up of the 2024 edition of the awards, set to begin in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, for the third consecutive year from September 27. An MoU was signed between Rajasthan Tourism Department and the IIFA for the silver jubilee celebrations of the IIFA Awards, to be held in the state capital next year.



- IIFA 2025 will promote tourism in Rajasthan, it is for the second time that the event is taking place in India. First such event was held in Mumbai in 2019. The

2025 ceremony will also host the inaugural IIFA Digital Awards that would honour the best performances in digital entertainment, films and OTT content.

Magnus Carlsen, Judit Polgar felicitated at FIDE 100 Awards

- Magnus Carlsen and Judit Polgar were felicitated with the best male and female player awards, respectively at the FIDE 100 Awards ceremony in Hungary. Carlsen, ranked world number one, is a part of the Norway team in the ongoing Chess Olympiad 2024.
- Carlsen has held the No. 1 position in the FIDE world chess rankings since July 1, 2011, trailing only Kasparov in time spent as the highest-rated player in the world. Polgar, on the other hand, announced retirement from competitive chess in 2014.



ADB approves Rs 530 Crore to boost drinking water supply in 12 cities of Tripura

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide financial assistance of Rs 530 crore to the Tripura government to upgrade the drinking water supply in the state's 12 cities benefiting around four lakh people.
- 12 cities, where the ADB-funded ambitious scheme would be implemented include, Udaipur, Amarpur, Belonia, Melaghar, Bishramganj, Khowai, Ranir Bazar, Mohanpur, Dharmanagar, Kailashhar, Kumarghat and Ambassa. Of the 12 cities, seven are district headquarters — Udaipur, Belonia, Bishramganj, Khowai, Dharmanagar, Kailashahar and Ambassa.



- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha laid the foundation of the 'Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prakalp' (Chief Minister's urban development scheme) at a function in southern Tripura's Gomati district headquarters Udaipur.
- Under the scheme, a 305 km water pipeline would be laid, 25 deep tubewells, 18 Iron Removal Plant, four water treatment plants and 19 water reservoirs would be constructed. After the completion of the ambitious plan within three years, a major drinking water problem of over 75,000 families in 12 cities in the state would be resolved.

Indigenous Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joins Western Naval Fleet

- The country's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joined the western naval fleet, in a significant enhancement to maritime power in the Arabian Sea.
- With this, the Indian Navy has two aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya on its western front. INS Vikrant has been built with state-of-theart automation features and is the largest ship ever built in maritime history of India.



Indigenous Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joins Western Naval Fleet

- The 262.5 m long and 61.6 m wide Vikrant displaces approximately 43,000 T, having a maximum designed speed of 28 Knots with endurance of 7,500 Nautical Miles.

- The ship has around 2,200 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1,600 including women officers and sailors.
- The carrier is designed with a very high degree of automation for machinery operations, ship navigation and survivability.
- The carrier is equipped with the latest state of the art equipment and systems.
- The ship is capable of operating air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising of MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured
- Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy). Using a novel aircraft-operation mode known as Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR), INS Vikrant is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of 'arrester wires' for their recovery onboard.

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