

14th December 2024

Youngest-Ever World Chess Champion

Indian chess prodigy Gukesh D has etched his name in history by becoming the youngest-ever World Chess Champion



Key point

- ❖ At just **18 years old**, Gukesh achieved this remarkable feat on 12 December
- ❖ **Defeating China's Ding Liren** in the final game of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Championship, 2024.
- ❖ With scores tied at 6.5-6.5 heading into the decisive game, Gukesh delivered a stellar performance under immense pressure, clinching victory with a final score of 7.5-6.5.
- ❖ This triumph makes him the **18th chess world champion** and a beacon of inspiration for millions around the globe.
- ❖ Gukesh's path to the world title has been exceptional. Earlier this year, he made history by winning the FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament 2024, becoming the youngest-ever challenger to the world title.

World Malaria Report 2024

India and Indonesia accounted for about 88% of malaria deaths in the region. This is according to



the WHO's latest World Malaria Report (2024) released on 11 December 2024.

Key Point

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) South East Asia Region contributes about 1.5% of the burden of malaria cases globally and India accounted for about half of all estimated cases in 2023.
- ❖ Malaria cases reached an estimated 263 million in 2023 across 83 countries, up from 252 million in 2022 and 226 million in 2015.
- ❖ Malaria deaths climbed to 597,000 in 2023, up from 578,000 in 2015.

About Malaria

- ❖ Malaria is an infectious disease transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes and caused by plasmodium protozoa.
- ❖ It poses a life-threatening risk, primarily affecting tropical and subtropical regions in Africa, South America, and Asia.
- ❖ This disease is caused by plasmodium parasites, which spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

QS Quacquarelli Symonds has released the third edition of the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025'.



Key Points

- ❖ The rankings have been compiled using a methodology of indicators designed to measure an institution's ability to tackle the world's greatest environmental social and governance (ESG) challenges.
- ❖ In the ranking, **University of Toronto** is the top university for sustainability in the world this year, ranking ahead of **ETH Zurich** in second place.
- ❖ **University of California, Berkeley (UCB)** is the top university in the US for sustainability, sharing third place globally with **Lund University** in Sweden.
- ❖ A total of 78 Indian universities have featured in the 2025 QS Sustainability Rankings, with nine of the top 10 institutions in the country improving their ranking this year and 21 new institutions making an entry.
- ❖ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** is the top university from India to rank in the QS World University Rankings, Sustainability 2025. The institute has an overall score of 80.6 and ranks 171 globally, jumping 255 places.

- ❖ The second rank is occupied by the **Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)** with an overall score of 78.6 and global rank of 202.
- ❖ **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB)** ranks at the third place with an overall score of 76.1 and a global rank of 234.
- ❖ **IIT Kanpur** ranks at the fourth place (Ranked 245) and **IIT Madras** (ranked 277) is at the fifth place. **University of Delhi** and **Indian Institute of Science** rank at the sixth and seventh place respectively.

10th Asia Pacific Deaf Games 2024

The event took place in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**, from December 1 to 8, 2024.



Key point

- ❖ The India delegation of 69 athletes, 15 coaches and support staff participated in the games across seven disciplines: Athletics, Badminton, Chess, Judo, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Wrestling.
- ❖ India in total bagged 55 medals (8 Gold, 18 Silver and 29 Bronze) from the Games.
- ❖ India finished fifth overall in the 21-team tournament.

Global Sustainability Film award

The Kumbaya Story emerged the winner of the Transforming Society Short Film



category at the recently held 13th Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA).

Key Point

- ❖ It was conducted in the center of the British movie industry BAFTA in London.
- ❖ It celebrates stories that make a difference by showcasing the potential solutions for the future of our planet.
- ❖ The kumbaya story is produced by Kumbaya Producer Co.Ltd.
- ❖ The film goes round the lives of strong women and how they are changing their lives through the act of weaving.
- ❖ It also shows how the Kumbaya Producer Company was developed.
- ❖ The "Young Filmmakers" competition saw a short-film titled "GOBUK – Harmony in the Highlands" produced by Greenhub India select sustainable tourism as the theme of their video.
- ❖ 'Laapataa Ladies' has been nominated on behalf of India for the Oscar 2025 in the Best International Feature Film and has been shortlisted in the Founder's Award.

Short News

- ❖ Joakim Alexandersson from Sweden has been appointed as the chief coach for India's U20 and U17 women's national football teams by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of the Indian Army' on Nepal's Army Chief, General Ashok Raj Sigdel, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Rahul Narwekar, a member of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, was re-elected as the 15th Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ Rabindra Nath Mahato of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) was unanimously re-elected as the Speaker of the 6th Jharkhand Legislative Assembly on December 10, 2024.
- ❖ The Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare, Shri Vishwas Kailash Sarang launched the Fit India Week 2024 and Fit India Awareness Programme on 10 December at the Central Training Centre (CRC) Bhopal of Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- ❖ Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri L. Krishnamurthy was conferred with Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award by Sanctuary Natural Foundation, a national level organization.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Who was honored with the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award by the national level institution Sanctuary Natural Foundation?

- (a) Dr. L. Subramanian
- (b) Shri L. Krishnamurti
- (c) Shri R. Rajagopalan
- (d) Dr. M. Singh

Answer -B

2. Who among the following became the world chess champion of 2024.

- (a) Gukesh D
- (b) Ding Liren
- (c) Praggnanandhaa
- (d) Ian Nepomniachtchi

Answer -A