Title defence in Geneva: Gukesh vs Sindarov, first game on 24 November



Original symbolic illustration: pcsmantra.com | Map: Based on OCHA

News reference: 20 November 2026 | Published: 20 November 2026 Prelims: sports, FIDE World Chess Championship

What is ahead -

India's D. Gukesh defends his world title against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in the 2026 World Chess Championship at the Fondation Martin Bodmer in Cologny, near Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 November to 12 December; the first game is on 24 November.

Key facts -

- Up to 14 classical games; the first to 7.5 points is champion
- A 7-7 tie leads to rapid tiebreaks on 12 December
- Time control: 120 minutes for the first 40 moves, then 30 minutes for the rest, with a 30-second increment from move 41
- Prize fund: USD 2.5 million
- Both players are 20: the youngest world title match in history
- Gukesh won the title in Singapore in December 2024, beating Ding Liren 7.5-6.5, becoming the youngest undisputed world champion at 18
- Sindarov won the 2026 Candidates Tournament in Cyprus unbeaten (10/14), after becoming the youngest FIDE World Cup winner in Goa

Prelims practice question

With reference to the 2026 World Chess Championship, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: D. Gukesh will defend his title against Javokhir Sindarov

Statement 2: The match will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, with the first game on 24 November 2026

Statement 3: The winner will be the player who wins the most games out of 14

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer and explanation

Correct answer: (a)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Statement 3 is incorrect: the winner is the first to 7.5 points; not all 14 games need be played.

FAQ

Q: When and how did Gukesh win the world title? A: In December 2024 in Singapore, beating Ding Liren 7.5-6.5 by winning the 14th and final classical game; he became the youngest undisputed world champion at 18.

Q: Where can the match be watched? A: Live on FIDE's official YouTube channel with commentary by top grandmasters.

Sources:

- https://www.fide.com/gukesh-and-sindarov-set-for-world-championship-showdown/
- https://www.fide.com/salesforce-fide-world-championship-match-2026-schedule-format-and-prize-fund-confirmed/

PCS MANTRA