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International Day of the Girl Child 2025: 11 October

- International Day of the Girl Child is observed every year on 11 October to recognize girls' rights.
- The theme of International Day of the Girl Child 2025 is " The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis'.
- On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.
- This day focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face.
- It also focuses attention on the need to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- National Girl Child Day is observed every year on January 24 in India.
- Today, 133 million girls do not attend school.
- Adolescent girls aged 15-19 are more likely than their male counterparts to be excluded from education, employment, or training.
- Nearly 4 in 10 adolescent girls and young women do not complete higher secondary school.
- Nearly 1 in 4 married or partnered adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.



**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD**

Maria Corina Machado – The Democratic Crusader of Venezuela

- **Maria Corina Machado**, born in 1967 in Venezuela, is recognized for her tireless work promoting democratic rights and her struggle for peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy.
- She has been a **leading figure in Venezuela’s pro-democracy movement**, challenging authoritarianism in her country.
- In **1992**, she founded the **Atenea Foundation**, which focuses on improving the lives of **street children in Caracas**.
- In **2002**, she co-founded **Súmate**, an organization promoting **free and fair elections**, and providing **training and election monitoring**.
- Elected to the **National Assembly in 2010**, she received a record number of votes but was **expelled from office in 2014** by the regime.



- She leads the **Vente Venezuela opposition party**, and in **2017** co-founded the **Soy Venezuela alliance**, uniting democratic forces across political lines.
- In **2023**, she announced her **candidacy for the 2024 presidential election**. Although barred from running, she supported **Edmundo González Urrutia**, the opposition’s alternative candidate.
- She is a **Nobel Peace Prize nominee**, honored for her **efforts to advance democracy** in Venezuela and her belief that **freedom and fair representation are the foundations of peace** both within and between nations.

Palau made history with the first live underwater interview

- The event aimed to raise awareness about protecting the ocean.
- President Surangel Whipps Jr represented Palau in the interview.
- He was joined by Merle Liivand, an Estonian Olympic swimmer and ocean advocate.
- They used a special device called the LiFi Talking Mask.
- This technology allows people to talk underwater by transmitting sound through light.
- Palau is a Pacific island nation with around 340 islands. It lies east of the Philippines. Its capital is Ngerulmud.
- The country is especially vulnerable to rising sea levels.
- President Whipps has warned that some atolls could be lost in the future.
- Similar actions have been taken by other island leaders in the past.
- In 2009, Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed held an underwater cabinet meeting.
- In 2019, Seychelles President Danny Faure gave a speech from a submersible in the Indian Ocean.



UPI Joins PayPal World: India Goes Global in Digital Payments Revolution

- The Unified Payments Interface will be integrated with PayPal World.
- On 7 October, a collaboration between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and PayPal was announced.
- Under this partnership, India's instant payments platform will be the first to launch on PayPal World, a global platform connecting payment systems and digital wallets around the world.
- The initiative was announced at the Global Fintech Fest, highlighting India's growing digital payments leadership.
- PayPal CEO Alex Chriss stated that the goal was to connect global payment systems seamlessly.
- It was said that UPI's interoperability with PayPal World will make global transactions smoother and more inclusive.
- The idea for an interoperable platform originated during a meeting between Dilip Asbe (NPCI) and Alex Chriss in Florence two years ago.
- The project aims to make payments simple, frictionless, and accessible for both merchants and consumers.
- Chriss mentioned that the future of money lies in domestic wallets that can interact globally through shared standards.
- India was identified as a key market for PayPal, with its second-largest employee base worldwide.
- Rather than competing with UPI, PayPal chose to connect India's digital payments system to global markets, enhancing cross-border integration.



National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 Launched to Strengthen India's Biodiversity

Conservation

- The National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 was launched by Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 at the Asia Pavilion.
- The initiative aims to develop a comprehensive framework for assessing and conserving India's biodiversity.
- The roadmap will guide India's biodiversity conservation strategy until 2030.
- The government is collaborating with IUCN, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), and Botanical Survey of India (BSI) to identify endangered species and prepare the National Red List.
- The Vision 2025–2030 document focuses on building a science-based, nationally coordinated system for assessing India's flora and fauna.
- India is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, home to four biodiversity hotspots the Himalayas, Western Ghats, Indo-Burma, and Sundaland.
- Although India covers only 2.4% of the world's land area, it holds around 8% of the world's flora and 7.5% of its fauna, with 28% of plants and 30% of animals being endemic.
- By 2030, India plans to publish National Red Data Books for flora and fauna, aligning with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming–Montreal Global Framework.



Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize for Literature

- On 9 October, the 2025 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Hungarian novelist and screenwriter László Krasznahorkai.
- The announcement was made by the Nobel Committee at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The award was given for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art.
- László Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition.
- Krasznahorkai is the second Hungarian to win the award, after Imre Kertész in 2002.
- A cash prize of 1.2 million US dollars will be presented to him.
- This year's Literature Prize followed the earlier Nobel announcements in Medicine, Physics, and Chemistry.
- Last year's Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to South Korean author Han Kang, who became the 18th woman and the first South Korean to receive the award.
- The first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature was Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf in 1909.
- Sully Prudhomme was the first person to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.



Third International Purple Festival Inaugurated in Panaji to Promote Inclusion and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

- Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Ramdas Athawale, inaugurated the Purple Festival in Panaji.
- The event is focused on inclusion and recognizing the contributions of Persons with Disabilities.
- Dr. Athawale said the government has supported the development of all communities over the last eleven years.
- This includes Divyangjan, senior citizens, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes.
- The third International Purple Festival began on 9 October in Panaji, Goa.
- It is India's first inclusive and international festival for Persons with Disabilities.
- The festival promotes equal opportunity, empowerment, and accessibility.
- It encourages full social participation for people with disabilities.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar praised the Goa government for organizing a high-quality, inclusive event.
- He emphasized the need to include Persons with Disabilities in the country's overall development.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches two new schemes for farmers

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched two new schemes for farmers on **October 11, 2025**, at the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** in New Delhi.
- The first scheme is named **Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Karsak Yojana**.
- Its main objective is to **eradicate hunger by improving agricultural productivity** in 100 districts.
- The scheme emphasizes **expanding cultivation area, water resource management, and rainwater harvesting**.
- The second scheme is called the **Pulses Food Security Mission**.
- The mission aims to **increase pulse production to 35 million metric tonnes by 2030–31**.
- The **cultivation area for pulses** will be expanded to **27.5 million hectares**.
- A total of **₹3,681 crore** has been allocated for the implementation of these two schemes.
- The launch coincided with the **Jayaprakash Narayan Jayanti**; he is remembered as **“Loknayak”** for his contribution to social reform.
- The **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** is also known as the **Pusa Institute** and played a major role in the **Green Revolution**.
- These schemes aim to **increase farmers’ income, strengthen food security, and promote technology-driven agricultural development**.



Sri Lankan Landmass Acts as a Natural Protective Shield for Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Coasts – INCOIS Study

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, revealed that Sri Lanka's landmass acts as a natural protective shield for the coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu from powerful "Swell Waves" generated in the Indian Ocean.
- The main objective of this study was to analyze whether the powerful waves generated by strong winds in the southern Indian Ocean reach the Indian coastline or not.
- Using the 'WAVEWATCH-3' model, scientists found that the Sri Lankan landmass reduces the impact of these Swell Waves by up to 96%.
- Due to Sri Lanka's geographical position, the intensity of waves reaching the Indian coastline significantly decreases. As a result, the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu face much less damage.
- The findings of this study were published in the *Journal of Earth System Science*, providing valuable information for meteorologists and ocean scientists.
- INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services) is a Hyderabad-based institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, specializing in ocean-related scientific research.
- Swell waves are one of the two main types of ocean waves. They originate far away in the ocean and travel long distances to reach coastal regions with great energy.
- Swell waves and cyclones gradually erode coastal land — a process known as *Coastal Erosion*, which can lead to the loss of land, forests, and infrastructure.
- The *WAVEWATCH-3* model is an advanced computer-based system used to accurately predict ocean wave movements based on atmospheric conditions and wind patterns.

Complete List of Winners – CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2025

- The 27th CEAT Cricket Rating Awards were organized in Mumbai on October 7, 2025, in which global cricket talents were honored. Rohit Sharma was presented with a special memento, and Joe Root was chosen as the Best Male International Cricketer of the Year.
- West Indies legend Brian Lara was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award and joined Indian spin legend Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, who received the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award.
- Sri Lankan left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya won the Men's Test Bowler of the Year award
- Complete list of CEAT Cricket Rating Awards Winners 2025
- Special Memento for Winning the Champions Trophy: Rohit Sharma
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Brian Lara
- Best International Cricketer of the Year: Joe Root
- Best T20I Batter of the Year: Sanju Samson
- Best T20I Bowler of the Year: Varun Chakravarthy
- CEAT Geostar Award: Shreyas Iyer
- Best Male ODI Batter of the Year: Kane Williamson
- Best Male ODI Bowler of the Year: Matt Henry
- CEAT Lifetime Achievement Award: B.S. Chandrasekhar
- Best Female Batter of the Year: Smriti Mandhana
- Best Female Bowler of the Year: Deepti Sharma
- Emerging Player of the Year: Angkrish Raghuvanshi



- Award for Outstanding Leadership: Temba Bavuma
- Best Male Test Bowler of the Year: Prabath Jayasuriya
- Best Male Test Cricketer of the Year: Harry Brook
- Best CEAT Domestic Cricketer of the Year: Harsh Dubey

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Phase III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme approved by the Union Cabinet



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Phase III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP).
- The programme will be implemented between 2025–26 and 2030–31, with a six-year extension until 2037–38.
- The programme has been launched in partnership between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Wellcome Trust (UK) and the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance.
- A total outlay of ₹1,500 crore has been sanctioned, with ₹1,000 crore from DBT and ₹500 crore from the Wellcome Trust (UK).
- The BRCP, launched in 2008–09 and expanded in 2018–19, has strengthened India's position in biomedical sciences globally.
- Phase III aims to nurture top-tier scientific talent and promote interdisciplinary research for translational innovation.

- The programme will introduce Early Career Fellowships, Intermediate Fellowships, and Collaborative Grants to boost research capacity.
- Around 2,000 students and postdoctoral fellows will be trained, with special efforts to increase women's participation by 10–15%.
- Nearly 25–30% of collaborative programmes are expected to reach technology readiness level (TRL) 4 and above.
- The initiative will also expand into Tier-2 and Tier-3 institutions, promoting equitable scientific growth across regions.
- By investing in skills, research, and collaboration, Phase III seeks to build a world-class biomedical research environment in India.

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RBI Launches Retail Sandbox for Digital Rupee to Boost Fintech Innovation and Tokenised Transactions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a retail sandbox for its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), enabling fintech companies to develop and test digital currency-based solutions as part of the ongoing pilot.
- The retail e-rupee pilot — India's version of the CBDC — was first launched on December 1, 2022, and currently has around 7 million users participating in the project.
- The RBI plans to use the wholesale segment of the CBDC as the foundational layer for this exercise, collaborating with select banks to ensure smoother integration and scalability.
- The initiative leverages digital tokenisation, which makes transactions faster, cheaper, and more secure, by converting traditional bank deposits into digital tokens that can be easily transferred or settled across systems.



Sherry Singh Makes History as First Indian to Win Mrs Universe 2025

- **Sherry Singh** made history by becoming the **first Indian to win Mrs Universe 2025**, at the 48th edition held in Okada, Manila, Philippines, with 120 international delegates competing.
- She represented India after being crowned Mrs India 2025 by UMB Pageants, impressing judges with her poise, eloquence, and advocacy for women's empowerment and mental health awareness.
- The final results were: Winner – India (Sherry Singh), 1st Runner-up – Saint Petersburg, 2nd Runner-up – Philippines.

Recent Awards

- **Hombale Samhita Harinikumar Krishi Media Award 2025** – Mysuru Journalist Amshi Prasannakumar (for his contribution to agricultural reporting)
- **Tourism Wins Global Tourism Award 2025** – Andhra Pradesh (for Visionary Initiatives and Investment Milestones)
- **Saraswati Samman 2024** – Sanskrit Scholar Mahamahopadhyay Bhadreshdas Swami (for Swaminarayan Siddhant Sudha)
- **Living Bridge' honour** – UK PM Keir Starmer



Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan Death Anniversary

- Born: 11 October 1902, Sitab Diara, Saran district, Bihar
- Died: 8 October 1979

Key Contributions:

- Joined Indian National Congress (1929); active in Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movements.
- Co-founded the Congress Socialist Party — promoted socialist and leftist ideas within Congress.
- Organized “Azaad Dasta” (armed guerrilla group) in Nepal during the freedom struggle.
- Supported Bhoodan–Gramdan Movement (Vinoba Bhave) urged land redistribution for the landless.
- Led the Total Revolution (Sampoorna Kranti) against the Emergency (1975–77) symbol of resistance to corruption and authoritarian rule.
- Biography: “The Dream of Revolution: A Biography of Jayaprakash Narayan” by Bimal Prasad and Sujata Prasad.

