# CHINMAYA ACADEMY FOR CIVIL SERVICES

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

## OCTOBER 10-13

## TAMILNADU

### 1.Tamil Nadu Medical Graduate Wins 2nd Prize at BRICS Young Innovator Competition (2025):

- **Sakthi Jaya Sundar Rajasekar**, a **medical graduate from Tamil Nadu**, won the **second prize** at the **BRICS Young Innovator Prize 2025** held in **Brazil**.
- He was part of the **Indian delegation of 11 young scientists and innovators** attending the **10th BRICS Young Scientist Forum** and the **8th BRICS Young Innovator Prize event**.
- His **AI-powered project** developed a **rapid diagnostic solution** to combat **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** using **single-bacterium nanomotion dynamics**.
- The innovation aims to provide **faster detection and response to drug-resistant infections**, improving healthcare outcomes.
- The **themes of the event** included:
  - *Climate change mitigation and adaptation*
  - *Science diplomacy*
  - *Artificial intelligence for societal solutions*
- The recognition highlights **India's growing contribution to global scientific innovation and research leadership** within the BRICS framework.
- The event promotes **youth-driven science collaboration** among BRICS nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — to address **shared global challenges**.

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## 2.Thirumalapuram Excavations Reveal Iron Age Culture Similar to Adichanallur (2025) :

- The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA)** conducted **excavations at Thirumalapuram** in **Tenkasi district**, uncovering an **Iron Age cultural site** near the Western Ghats.
- **Preliminary dating** suggests the site belongs to the **early to mid-third millennium BCE**, making it **contemporary with Adichanallur and Sivagalai**.
- Excavators unearthed a **rectangular stone slab chamber with urn burials**, a **first-of-its-kind discovery** in Tamil Nadu.
- **Ceramic finds** include **white-painted black-and-red ware, red ware, and black-slipped ware**, indicating a rich pottery tradition.
- A total of **78 antiquities** were recovered, including **bone, gold, bronze, and iron artefacts** such as **swords, daggers, spears, and gold rings**.
- The site's **urns feature unique symbols** (human figure, mountain, deer, tortoise), suggesting **ritual or cultural significance**.
- Findings confirm the **continuity of Iron Age culture** across **Adichanallur, Sivagalai, Thulukkarpatti, and Korkai**, with the **35-acre site** located between **two seasonal streams near Kulasegarapereri tank**.

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# 3.Vidiyal Payanam' Scheme Expanded for Persons with Disabilities in Hilly Areas (2025–26) :

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** expanded the **'Vidiyal Payanam' scheme**, a **zero-cost bus travel programme**, to include **persons with disabilities living in hilly regions** along with their **escorts**.

- The scheme benefits individuals with **40% or above benchmark disabilities** under **21 categories** recognised by the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**.

- The **expansion takes effect from FY 2025–26**, covering persons with disabilities in **ghat and unserved areas**.

- Around **1,100 beneficiaries and their escorts** are expected to benefit from this initiative.

- Free travel is permitted in **'white board' buses** (ordinary fare buses) operated by **State Transport Undertakings (STUs)**.

- **Coverage limit:** up to **35 km** in fully or partially ghat routes and **40 km** in unserved rural areas.

- The **Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons** sanctioned **₹88.65 lakh** as **subsidy to STUs** for implementing the scheme expansion.

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## INDIA

## 4.NeGD–NeSL MoU 2025 :

- The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** under **MeitY** signed an MoU with **National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL)** at the **Global Fintech Fest 2025**.
- The MoU aims to **integrate digital document management** between government and businesses.
- It links **NeGD's Entity Locker (DigiLocker extension)** with **NeSL's Digital Document Execution (DDE)** system.
- Enables **digital, paperless, and legally valid** execution of **e-Bank Guarantees (e-BGs)**.
- **Processing time** for guarantees reduced from **days to minutes** through a secure, tamper-proof system.
- The initiative enhances **Ease of Doing Business** and supports **MSMEs** with faster digital access.
- Strengthens **digital governance, transparency, and data security** in India's financial ecosystem.

## 5.India's Record Renewable Energy Growth – 2025

- India's **solar and wind energy** achieved record growth in the **first half of 2025**, cutting **24 million tonnes of emissions**.
- **Solar generation** increased by **17 TWh (25%)**, raising its share to **9.2%** of total power.
- **Wind power** rose by **11 TWh (29%)**, reaching **5.1%** of total electricity generation.
- **Nuclear and hydro power** also grew by **14%** and **17%**, strengthening the clean energy mix.
- **Coal-based power** declined by **22 TWh**, and **gas-based power** fell by **34%**.

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- Overall **electricity demand grew only 1.3%**, the slowest since COVID-19.
- India maintained strong **renewable momentum**, marking progress toward a **low-carbon power sector**.

## 6.PM VIKAS–IIT Palakkad Skilling Initiative for Minority Empowerment (2025)

- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** launched a **key skilling project under the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme** in **October 2025**, in partnership with **IIT Palakkad, Kerala**.
- The initiative aims to **empower minority youth** through **advanced technical training** in emerging technology fields such as **chip design, embedded software, and drone R&D**.
- A total of **400 candidates** will be trained — **150 as Junior Chip Designers**, **150 as Embedded Software Engineers**, and **100 as Junior Engineers in Drone Research & Development**.
- The **Ministry will fully fund** the programme, including **stipends** for all trainees, ensuring equal access and participation.
- **IIT Palakkad** will lead training, innovation, and **provide placement support** for both **employment and self-employment opportunities**.
- The project aligns with **national goals of inclusive growth, innovation, and future-ready skill development** for marginalized communities.
- It is expected to **reduce socio-economic disparities** and **enhance the participation of minorities** in India's **high-tech and digital economy sectors**.

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## 7.Revamped Sugamya Bharat App Launched – Promoting Digital Accessibility (2025) :

- The **Government of India** launched the **revamped Sugamya Bharat App** at the **Purple Fest in Goa**, under the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

- Originally part of the **Accessible India Campaign**, the upgraded app now serves as a **comprehensive digital hub** for persons with disabilities, offering **schemes, scholarships, jobs, and grievance redressal** in one platform.

- Designed with a **user-first and accessibility-first approach**, the app supports **screen readers, voice navigation, and multiple Indian languages**, ensuring inclusivity across Android and iOS platforms.

- Introduces a unique **accessibility mapping feature**, allowing users to **locate, rate, and review public spaces** based on accessibility standards, promoting community engagement and transparency.

- The app **integrates government welfare schemes, educational resources, and employment opportunities**, simplifying access to key services for persons with disabilities.

- A built-in **grievance redressal system** enables users to report inaccessible infrastructure directly, ensuring **faster response and accountability** from authorities.

- Developed through a **collaborative effort** involving **SBI Foundation, NAB Delhi, ISTEM, and Mission Accessibility**, showcasing a **public-private partnership for inclusive technology innovation**

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# INDIAN ECONOMY

## 8. Expansion of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) – 2025

- The **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** expanded its list of tradable commodities from **238 to 247** in 2025.
- **Nine new commodities** were added — Green Tea, Tea, Ashwagandha, Dry Roots, Mustard Oil, Lavender Oil, Mentha Oil, Virgin Olive Oil, and Broken Rice.
- The expansion aims to **enhance digital market integration** and ensure **fair, transparent pricing** for farmers and traders.
- **Tradable parameters** were developed by the **Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI)** with SFAC and experts to link **price directly with quality**.
- The initiative strengthens **farmers' bargaining power** and reduces **dependence on middlemen**.
- It supports the government's goal of **digitally empowering farmers** and promoting **quality-based agricultural trade**.
- The **new quality parameters** are available on the **e-NAM portal (enam.gov.in)** for **transparent and standardized online trading**.

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## 9. Draft National Labour and Employment Policy 2025 – *Shram Shakti Niti*

- The **Government of India released the draft "Shram Shakti Niti, 2025"**, aiming to build a **universal and portable social security system** for all workers across sectors.
- Proposes a **single universal account** integrating **EPFO, ESIC, PM-JAY, e-SHRAM, and State Welfare Boards** for seamless access and portability of benefits.
- Focuses on **Occupational Safety and Health reforms** through **risk-based inspections**, **gender-sensitive safety standards**, and **AI-enabled monitoring** to reduce workplace fatalities.
- Aims to **increase female labour-force participation to 35% by 2030** and reduce informal employment via **digital compliance and MSME single-window systems**.
- Promotes **skills development and employment facilitation** through **district-level job cells, career guidance**, and **skill-credit systems** to support youth and entrepreneurs.
- Prioritises creation of **green and decent jobs**, ensuring a **just transition** for workers impacted by the shift toward **sustainable and climate-aligned industries**.
- Implementation planned in **three phases (2025–2030)** with **real-time dashboards**, **AI-driven data architecture**, and an annual **Labour & Employment Policy Evaluation Index** for continuous monitoring.

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## 10.PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana & Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses – 2025

- The **Government of India launched two major agricultural schemes in 2025** — the **PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** and the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**, with a **combined investment of ₹35,000 crore** targeting **100 districts**.

- **PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** integrates **36 government schemes** to promote **crop diversification, sustainable farming, irrigation, storage, and rural credit access**.

- The **Dalhan (Pulses) Aatmanirbharata Mission** focuses on **increasing pulse production**, improving **procurement and processing**, and ensuring **nutritional security** for nearly **two crore pulse farmers**.

- Both schemes align with the **Aspirational Districts Programme**, prioritising development in **100 previously backward districts** through convergence, collaboration, and competition.

- India's agricultural output has significantly grown since 2014 — **foodgrain production up by 90 million tonnes**, with the country now **leading globally in milk** and **ranking second in fish production**.

- Over **10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** and initiatives like **'Lakhpati Didis'** empower women farmers through **natural farming, drone use, and eco-friendly practices**.

- **Infrastructure worth ₹5,450 crore** launched in **animal husbandry, fisheries, food processing, and cold chains**, alongside **GST reforms** lowering costs of tractors, irrigation tools, and bio-fertilisers to boost farmer income and exports.

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# 11.India Declares Three Major Ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs – 2025 :

- The **Government of India** designated **Deendayal Port (Gujarat)**, **V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tamil Nadu)**, and **Paradip Port (Odisha)** as official **Green Hydrogen Hubs** under its **net-zero by 2070 strategy**.

- The announcement was made by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**, highlighting the **strategic role of ports** in India's **energy transition**.

- **Green hydrogen**, produced from **renewable energy sources like solar and wind**, is crucial for **decarbonising industries, transport, and power sectors**.

- Ports act as **strategic nodes** for **hydrogen production, storage, and distribution**, leveraging their existing **infrastructure and connectivity**.

- The initiative adopts a **cluster-based development model** to enable **shared infrastructure**, reduce costs, and enhance collaboration across hydrogen projects.

- The establishment of **Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters (HVICs)** will promote **technology development, investment, and large-scale hydrogen adoption**.

- The recognition of these ports as hydrogen hubs is expected to **attract new investments**, **generate green jobs**, and **boost sustainable industrial growth** in coastal regions.

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# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## 12.Discovery of New Giant Fungus Species – *Bridgeoporus kanadii* (Arunachal Pradesh, 2025)

- **Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** discovered a new giant fungus species named ***Bridgeoporus kanadii*** in the forests of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The fungus was found during a **monsoon mushroom survey** and grows in clusters on **old fir trees**.
- It was **named in honour of Indian mycologist Kanad Das** for his contributions to macrofungi research.
- The species is notable for its **exceptionally large fruiting bodies**, with the **largest measuring over three metres in radius**, capable of **supporting human weight**.
- **DNA sequencing** confirmed it as a **new species** within the *Bridgeoporus* genus, previously known only from **North America and China**.
- *B. kanadii* plays a vital **ecological role in decomposing dead wood**, aiding **nutrient recycling and forest regeneration**.
- The discovery highlights the **ecological importance of fungi** in maintaining **forest ecosystem balance** and calls for **greater research beyond economic uses**.

## 13.India's Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 – Rising Threats and National Response

- **Cyber incidents in India surged sharply** from **10.29 lakh in 2022** to **22.68 lakh in 2024**, as **internet connectivity reached over 86% of households** by 2025.

- **Fraud patterns have evolved** with the rise of **AI-driven deepfakes, phishing, spoofing, and UPI-related scams**, while **online betting apps** caused frauds exceeding **₹400 crore**.

- India's cybersecurity framework is anchored in key laws — the **Information Technology Act (2000)**, **IT Rules (2021)**, **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023)**, and the **Online Gaming Bill (2025)**.

- **CERT-In, NCIIPC, and I4C** lead cyber defence through real-time monitoring, training, and response — including **109 cybersecurity drills in 2025** and blocking of thousands of fraudulent SIMs and accounts.

- The **Union Budget 2025** allocated **₹782 crore** for cybersecurity projects, supporting initiatives like the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal**, **CCPWC**, and the **Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP)**.

- Advanced tools such as the **Samanvaya Platform** (crime-link analytics) and **Sahyog Portal** (unlawful content removal) enhance digital safety; the **Bharat Cybersecurity Exercise 2025** tested national readiness.

- Awareness drives under the **National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)** and **India Mobile Congress 2025** stress public education, AI security, and **6G–IoT cyber resilience** for a safer digital India.

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## 14. Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas) Upgraded to 'Least Concern' – IUCN Red List 2025

- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** upgraded the **Green Sea Turtle's Red List status** from **'Endangered' to 'Least Concern'** in **2025**, marking a major conservation success.
- The global **green turtle population has increased by about 28%** since the 1970s due to sustained international protection measures.
- **Green sea turtles are keystone species**, maintaining **coral reefs and seagrass meadows**, which are vital for marine biodiversity and ecosystem balance.
- **Conservation efforts** such as **nest protection**, **community-led anti-harvesting programmes**, and **Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)** in fisheries have significantly reduced mortality.
- Successful recovery projects in **Ascension Island, Brazil, Mexico, and Hawai'i** have helped subpopulations rebound close to pre-exploitation levels.
- Ongoing threats include **illegal harvesting, fisheries bycatch, and habitat loss** due to **coastal development and climate change**.
- **Rising temperatures** on nesting beaches, especially in **Raine Island (Australia)**, threaten hatchling survival, highlighting the need for **climate-resilient marine conservation strategies**.

## 15.Tele MANAS 2025 – Upgraded National Tele Mental Health Programme

- On **World Mental Health Day 2025**, the **Government of India** launched **new features for the National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS)** to enhance accessibility and inclusivity in mental healthcare.
- The **Tele MANAS app** now supports **10 additional regional languages** (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil,

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Telugu, Odia, Punjabi) alongside **English and Hindi**, improving outreach across linguistic groups.

- A **chatbot named 'Asmi'** was introduced to provide **instant guidance and mental health information**, along with a **new emergency response module** for **real-time crisis assistance**.

- **Actor Deepika Padukone** was appointed as **Mental Health Ambassador**, tasked with promoting awareness, reducing stigma, and encouraging the use of official mental health services.

- Since inception, **Tele MANAS has handled over 2.8 million calls** in **20+ languages**, with **around 4,000 daily users**, reflecting rising national mental health awareness and service utilisation.

- Developed by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** with technical support from **NIMHANS and IIT Bangalore**, the platform ensures **data privacy, scalability, and digital inclusivity** for all users.

- The initiative aligns with India's goal of **universal health coverage**, complementing efforts under **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** and the **District Mental Health Programme** to bridge the mental health treatment gap nationwide.

## 16. ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund – Boosting Private Sector Innovation (2025)

- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** approved the creation of a **Special Purpose Fund (SPF)** to operationalise the **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Fund**.

- The **Union Cabinet approved the RDI Fund on 1 July 2025**, with the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** as the **nodal ministry** for implementation.

- The Fund aims to **accelerate innovation in sunrise sectors** such as **AI, semiconductors, clean energy, and biotechnology**, promoting **private sector-led R&D**.

- It follows a **two-tier structure** — ANRF holds the corpus in an SPF and channels funds to **second-level fund managers** like **AIFs, DFIs, and NBFCs** for deployment into startups and innovation ventures.

- **Investment committees** comprising experts from **finance, business, and technology** will make **independent, market-driven decisions**, ensuring professional fund management.

- The **governance framework and financial rules**, framed by **DST with the Ministry of Finance**, ensure **transparency, accountability, and efficient fund utilisation**.

- The initiative is expected to **catalyse private investment**, strengthen India's **innovation ecosystem**, and support the vision of making India a **global R&D and innovation hub**.

## 17.Diethylene Glycol (DEG) Poisoning in Cough Syrups – Renewed Safety Concerns (2025)

- **At least 14 children died in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh (2025)** after consuming **DEG-contaminated cough syrup**, reigniting global alarm over **toxic pharmaceutical adulteration**.

- **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** is a **colourless industrial chemical** used in **antifreeze, brake fluids, and solvents**, **not fit for human consumption** due to its **severe toxicity**.

- **DEG damages the kidneys, liver, and nervous system**, causing **acute renal failure**, with early symptoms like **vomiting, abdominal pain, and lethargy** leading to death without quick treatment.

- In pharmaceutical syrups, **safe solvents** such as **glycerine or propylene glycol** are normally used, but **cost-cutting or negligence** can lead to **substitution or contamination** with DEG.

- **Global DEG poisoning incidents** have caused over **300 child deaths since 2022**, including **70 deaths in The Gambia (2022)**, **57 in Nigeria (2008–09)**, and **105 in the U.S. (1937)**.

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- The tragedy exposes **regulatory lapses** in **drug quality control and solvent verification**, especially in **unregulated or low-cost manufacturing environments**.
- **WHO and national regulators** now urge **stricter solvent testing, supplier audits, and pharmaceutical-grade raw material use** to prevent future DEG-related deaths.

## 18. Exercise Konkan 2025 – Strengthening India–UK Naval Partnership

- **Exercise Konkan 2025** marked a historic milestone as **India's INS Vikrant** and the **UK's HMS Prince of Wales** carrier strike groups **operated together for the first time** in a complex maritime environment.
- The **biennial naval exercise**, held along India's **Konkan coast**, aimed to enhance **interoperability, maritime security, and air-sea coordination** between the two Blue Water navies.
- The exercise featured **joint carrier operations**, **air defence and anti-submarine warfare drills**, and **coordinated maritime patrols**, showcasing seamless tactical integration.
- It was conducted under the **UK's Operation Highmast Indo-Pacific deployment**, reflecting Britain's renewed focus on the **Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic security linkages**.
- A **combined formation of both aircraft carriers and escort ships** symbolised the deepening **India–UK strategic maritime partnership**.
- The drill reinforced shared values of a **rules-based international order**, **freedom of navigation**, and a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.
- The success of **Konkan 2025** paves the way for **future multidomain cooperation**, including **tri-service exercises** and greater coordination in emerging security domains.

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## 19. First Record of Orb-Weaving Spider *Araneus nox* in India – Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, 2025

- The **2025 monsoon biodiversity survey** at **Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala)** recorded the **first-ever presence of the orb-weaving spider *Araneus nox*** in India, previously known only from **Southeast Asia**.

- *Araneus nox* was originally **described in 1877 from the Philippines**; the Idukki finding included **both male and female specimens**, marking a **new geographical record** for the species.

- The survey was conducted by the **Centre for Arachnology Research, Bharata Mata College**, in **August–September 2025**, identifying **82 spider species across 20 families**.

- Three **Western Ghats endemic spiders**—*Bowie cochinensis*, *Prosoponoides idukkiense*, and *Mimetus parvulus*—were also recorded, highlighting the **region's ecological uniqueness and vulnerability**.

- The findings reaffirm the **Western Ghats as a global biodiversity hotspot**, with high levels of **endemism and habitat-specific diversity**.

- The study underscores the importance of **long-term taxonomic and ecological surveys** in detecting hidden species and guiding **wildlife conservation planning**.

- The **Idukki Sanctuary authorities plan continued multi-species surveys** (including amphibians and fish) to **monitor ecosystem health** and strengthen biodiversity conservation strategies.

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## AWARDS / PRIZES

## 20.Kalaimamani Awards 2021–2023 – Celebration of Tamil Arts and Culture

- The **Kalaimamani Awards (2021–2023)** were presented by the **Tamil Nadu Government** to honour excellence in **Tamil literature, music, and theatre**.
- The awards highlight **art as the guardian of Tamil language and identity**, stressing that **language, art, and culture are deeply interconnected**.
- Artists were encouraged to **spread Tamil art and culture globally** and preserve the **spirit of Tamil identity**.
- **M.S. Subbulakshmi Award** was conferred on **K.J. Yesudas**, noted vocalist and playback singer.
- **Bharathiyar Award** was presented to **N. Murugesapandian** for his **literary contributions**, and **Balasaraswathi Award** to **Muthukannamal**, a **renowned dancer**.
- The awards aim to **revive ancient art forms** and **support artists' livelihoods** through financial and institutional backing by the **Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram**.
- The initiative promotes **Tamil arts at national and international levels**, enhancing **cultural exchange and global recognition** of Tamil heritage.

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## 21.Nobel Prize in Literature 2025 – László Krasznahorkai (Hungary)

- **Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai** won the **2025 Nobel Prize in Literature**, announced on **9 October 2025** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.
- He was honoured **"for a compelling and visionary body of work exploring apocalyptic terror while affirming the enduring power of art."**
- **Born in 1954** near the **Romanian border**, Krasznahorkai is known for his **dense prose, philosophical themes, and depiction of human despair and beauty**.
- His **major works** include *"Sátántangó" (1985), "Herscht 07769" (2025),* and *"Seiobo There Below" (2008)* — exploring spirituality, chaos, and artistic creation.
- The Nobel Committee lauded his **fusion of apocalyptic vision and artistic transcendence**, highlighting literature's role in confronting existential chaos.
- The prize carries a **cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (≈ ₹1.03 crore)** and will be presented on **10 December 2025**, **Alfred Nobel's death anniversary**.
- The award continues the **Nobel tradition of recognising profound contributions to global culture and human understanding** through literature.

## 22.Venezuelan Leader Maria Corina Machado Wins 2025 Nobel Peace Prize

- **Maria Corina Machado** of **Venezuela** won the **2025 Nobel Peace Prize** for her **efforts in promoting democratic rights** and **leading Venezuela's transition to democracy**.
- Known as the **"Iron Lady of Venezuela"**, she was honoured for her **courageous civilian leadership** and commitment to democratic values.

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- She was featured in **Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2025**, recognising her global impact.
- Her movement is regarded as one of the **most significant examples of civilian courage in Latin America** in recent decades.
- The **Nobel Peace Prize** carries a **cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (≈ USD 1.2 million)**.
- The **award ceremony** will be held in **Oslo on December 10, 2025**, the **death anniversary of Alfred Nobel**.
- Machado's recognition highlights the **global importance of democratic resilience and human rights advocacy** in conflict-prone regions.

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# IMPORTANT DAYS

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## 23. International Day of the Girl Child – 11 October 2025

- **Observed on:** 11 October every year to **recognize and promote girls' rights** and address gender-based challenges.
- **2025 Theme:** *"The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis."*
- **Adopted by the UN General Assembly** on **19 December 2011**, giving global recognition to the day.
- The day focuses on **empowerment, education, health, and protection of girls**, ensuring **equal human rights and opportunities**.
- **National Girl Child Day in India** is observed annually on **24 January** to promote awareness about gender equality.
- **Key statistics:**
  - 133 million girls globally do not attend school.

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- o 4 in 10 adolescent girls (15–19) do not complete higher secondary education.
- o 1 in 4 girls experience **intimate partner violence**.
- The observance calls for **policy action and community participation** to remove barriers in education, employment, and safety for girls worldwide.

## 24.World Mental Health Day – 10 October 2025

- **Purpose:** Observed globally to **raise awareness about mental health issues** and advocate for **accessible mental healthcare**.
- **Initiation:** Started by the **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)** in **1992**.
- **Theme 2025:** *"Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies"* — focuses on **psychological support for populations affected by conflicts, disasters, and crises**.
- **India's Mental Health Status:** Reports a **high burden of 2443 DALYs per 100,000** and an **age-adjusted suicide rate of 21.1 per 100,000**.
- The country faces **severe treatment gaps (70–92%)** due to **stigma, cost, and lack of mental health professionals**.
- **Deepika Padukone** was appointed as **India's first-ever Mental Health Ambassador** by the **Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** on **10 October 2025**.
- The observance reinforces **mental health as a global public health priority**, linking awareness, early intervention, and destigmatisation.

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