

International

Hurricane Oscar to add to Cuba's woes

Hurricane Oscar made landfall in the southwest Bahamas and was bearing down on Cuba, where it is expected to make a second landfall. The arrival of the hurricane will further complicate life for Cuba's 10 million residents, who have been dealing with a complete failure of its outdated power grid all weekend.

Floods devastate South Sudan

Devastating flooding caused by heavy rains in South Sudan has affected more than one million people. South Sudan is facing unprecedented flooding, with forecasts predicting above-average rainfall, river flows from Uganda, and potentially record-breaking floods. As per the UN reports, the country is one of 18 hunger hotspots globally where food security is deteriorating.

World Iodine Deficiency Day

World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is being observed across the globe on October 21. The day serves as a reminder of the progress made in preventing iodine deficiency disorders through national and global initiatives.

National

'Exercise Malabar' concludes

The Quad group of countries — India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. — participated in back-to-back naval war games, deepening interoperability and honing, in particular, their anti-submarine warfare skills. 'Exercise Malabar', comprising the four countries, concluded on October 18 off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Earlier, the four countries were part of the multilateral 'Exercise Kakadu' hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September.

Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' concludes

The Indian Coast Guard successfully conducted the coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' in October 2024, across Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman & Diu.

The exercise, coordinated by the Coast Guard Regional Headquarters in Gandhinagar, was the second edition of the year. It aimed to hone

maritime and coastal security preparedness while validating existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Police Commemoration Day.

On Police Commemoration Day, Home Minister Amit Shah laid a wreath at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi on October 21, and paid homage to Martyrs on Police Commemoration Day.

Odisha braces for severe cyclonic storm 'Dana'

Odisha is preparing to tackle possible disasters due to the severe cyclonic storm 'Dana' which is heading towards its coast and is likely to make landfall on Thursday morning. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that a low-pressure area will be formed over the east-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman Sea today.

Karva Chauth celebrated

Karva Chauth was celebrated in various parts of the country on October 20. On Karva Chauth day, married women fast from dawn to moonrise, abstaining from food and water, and break their fast only after seeing the moon at night. This ritual is believed to enhance the bond between husband and wife and promote the husband's longevity.

15th edition of the ITU Kaleidoscope Academic Conference

The 15th edition of the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) Kaleidoscope Academic Conference will begin on October 21 in New Delhi. The three-day event is being held as a part of the ongoing ITU-World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly. Themed Innovation and Digital Transformation for a Sustainable World, aims to bring together the brightest minds of academia, industry, and government to discuss cutting-edge developments in 5G, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, quantum communications, and other transformative technologies.

5th National Water Awards 2023

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the 5th National Water Awards 2023 in New Delhi on October 22. Union Jal Shakti Ministry has announced 38 winners in nine categories including

Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Water User Association and Best Civil Society. In the category of Best State, the first prize has been conferred upon Odisha, with Uttar Pradesh securing the second position, and Gujarat and Puducherry jointly securing the third position

Interactive Live Weekly Series on Digital India Initiatives Launched

The National e-Governance Division has launched the inaugural episode of its exclusive live series, Ask Our Experts. The initiative provides a platform for direct interaction with government officials and subject matter experts, offering citizens the opportunity to ask questions and resolve queries regarding various Digital India initiatives.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said that it is a unique weekly live program streamed on Digital India's YouTube channel, designed to encourage engagement with citizens.

Business/Economy

Maldives to introduce India's UPI

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has, on the recommendation of his cabinet, decided to introduce India's Unified Payment Interface in the Maldives. The move is expected to bring significant benefits to the Maldivian economy, including increased financial inclusion, improved efficiency in financial transactions, and enhanced digital infrastructure. Indian tourists will be able to make transactions in Indian rupees on UPI-enabled apps without going through the hassle of converting currency.

EPFO membership Surge

In August 2024, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has added 18 lakh 53 thousand net members. The Labour and

Employment Ministry said that around nine lakh 30 thousand new members have enrolled during the month. Out of the total new members, around 2.53 lakhs are female members.

Sports

New Zealand women win their maiden Women's T20 World Cup

In the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup, New Zealand won their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title after beating South Africa by 32 runs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on October 20.

National Para-Swimming Championship

Rajasthan's Lakhan Singh won a gold medal in the men's S4 100m freestyle event at the National Para-Swimming Championship in Panaji on October 20. Kamalkant from Odisha won a silver, and Haryana's Balraj won a bronze medal. Odisha's Narhari won gold in the S5 100m freestyle, beating Andhra Pradesh's Lakshmarao and Bihar's Shams Aalam, who claimed silver and bronze medals. Maharashtra's, Chaitanya Vishwas, won the S6 100m freestyle by winning gold. In the S7 and S8 categories, Tejas and Shridhar of Karnataka won gold. In The S9 and S10 categories Karnataka's Sahil Rajaram and Kapil Kumar from the Services won gold.

New Zealand registers its first Test win in India in 36 years

New Zealand defeated India by eight wickets in the first Test at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru today to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series to register its first Test win in India in 36 years.

India to host the 20th edition of the Asian Women's Handball

India will host the 20th edition of the Asian Women's Handball for the first time in New Delhi from December 1 to 10, 2024. The championship was originally set to take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan.