

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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World Standards Day 2025

- Every year on 14 October, the world celebrates World Standards Day to recognize the invaluable contributions of experts and organizations who develop international standards.
- World Standards Day honors the thousands of technical experts, engineers, and policy specialists who collaborate under international standard bodies to draft voluntary technical agreements.
- This year's theme, **"A Shared Vision for a Better World,"** emphasizes the role of standards in driving inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global development.



Forest Rangers Honored with 2025 International Ranger Awards

- Forest rangers—often the first and last line of defense for global biodiversity—were honored at the 2025 International Ranger Awards, recognizing their

unmatched courage and unwavering service to wildlife protection and forest conservation.

- The awards, presented by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), highlighted the often-overlooked sacrifices rangers make in safeguarding the world's most fragile ecosystems.
- The International Ranger Awards were created to recognize outstanding work in protected and conserved areas around the world. These awards are not only a tribute to bravery but also a call to action for greater support to the conservation community.



Israel to Award Trump Top Civilian Honor for Gaza Ceasefire

- In a high-profile diplomatic gesture, Israel has announced it will award its highest civilian honor — the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor — to former US President Donald Trump.
- The decision recognizes Trump's "instrumental role" in facilitating a recent Gaza ceasefire and aiding the release of Israeli hostages, highlighting his continued influence on Middle East geopolitics even after leaving office.
- Israeli President Isaac Herzog will present the medal to Trump, commending his tireless efforts in bringing hostages back and working toward stability in the region.

- The announcement follows the release of the first group of seven Israeli captives to the International Committee of the Red Cross, a critical outcome of the ceasefire negotiations.
- The Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor is the country's highest civilian decoration, awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the State of Israel or to humanity at large.
- Established in 2012, it reflects both national and international achievements.
- Previous recipients include Barack Obama (2013), Nobel laureates, and key global statesmen.
- The award recognizes acts of courage, diplomacy, and commitment to peace and justice.



Kaziranga Director Sonali Ghosh Wins Global Sustainability Award

- Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious Kenton R. Miller Award for innovation in sustainable protected area management.
- The honor was conferred by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), at a ceremony held in Abu Dhabi on October 10, 2025.

- She shares the award with Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea of Ecuador, recognizing their transformative efforts in conservation rooted in community engagement and ecological integration.
- The Kenton R. Miller Award celebrates exceptional leadership and innovation in the management of protected areas such as national parks, wildlife reserves, and biodiversity hotspots.



Palau Hosts World's First Live Underwater Interview

- In a historic first, Palau's President, Surangel Whipps Jr., conducted a live underwater interview beneath the Pacific Ocean.
- This novel broadcast employed Li-Fi technology—which transmits data via light rather than traditional radio waves—to spotlight ocean conservation, climate threats, and the existential risks that small island nations like Palau face.
- The interview was conducted underwater, with the President and marine activist Merle Liivand exchanging remarks in real time.
- The technology used, Li-Fi, allows data transmission via light, which is better suited for underwater communication where radio waves struggle.
- Palau is an island nation in the western Pacific Ocean
- It comprises an archipelago of ~300 islands, with total land area about 458 sq km
- The country lies in both the Northern and Eastern hemispheres
- It shares maritime borders with Micronesia (east), Indonesia (south), Philippines (west), and open international waters to the north



India Unveils \$77 Billion Hydro Plan Amid China's Dam Push

- India has unveiled an ambitious ₹6.4 trillion (\$77 billion) plan to harness more than 76 gigawatts (GW) of hydroelectric power from the Brahmaputra River basin by 2047, amid growing concerns over China's dam-building upstream.
- The announcement, made by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on October 13, 2025, comes at a critical moment as India seeks to meet rising electricity demands while reducing fossil fuel dependence.
- The plan aims to build the transmission infrastructure required to carry hydroelectric power from 208 large hydro projects across 12 sub-basins in India's northeastern region
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Assam
 - Sikkim
 - Mizoram
 - Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland
 - West Bengal



Vaishnaw Endorses Mappls as India's Answer to Google Maps

- In a major push toward digital self-reliance, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw endorsed Mappls, an Indian-made navigation app developed by MapmyIndia, as a viable alternative to Google Maps.
- His public demonstration of the app triggered a surge in its popularity, aligning with India's broader "Atmanirbhar Bharat" goals and marking another step in promoting indigenous technology solutions.
- Mappls became the #2 navigation app on the Apple App Store, just behind Google Maps.
- On Google Play, Mappls crossed 1 crore (10 million) downloads.
- The app saw a tenfold rise in daily downloads within two weeks.
- Indian Railways is preparing to sign an MoU with Mappls to integrate its mapping services.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian-made navigation app as an alternative to Google Maps?

- A. Bharat Map
- B. Mappls
- C. DesiNav
- D. Swadeshi Maps

ANSWER: B

2. The endorsement of Mappls aligns with which national initiative?

- A. Digital India Mission
- B. Make in India
- C. Atmanirbhar Bharat
- D. Startup India

ANSWER: C

3. How much investment has India planned to harness hydroelectric power from the Brahmaputra River basin by 2047?

- A. ₹4.8 trillion
- B. ₹6.4 trillion
- C. ₹5.2 trillion
- D. ₹7.6 trillion

ANSWER: B

4. What is the target hydroelectric capacity India aims to generate from the Brahmaputra basin by 2047?

- A. 56 GW
- B. 64 GW
- C. 76 GW
- D. 86 GW

ANSWER: C

5. Who conducted the world's first live underwater interview beneath the Pacific Ocean?

- A. Elon Musk
- B. António Guterres
- C. Surangel Whipps Jr.
- D. Emmanuel Macron

ANSWER: C

6. Which technology was used for Palau's underwater interview broadcast?

- A. Wi-Fi
- B. Li-Fi
- C. Bluetooth
- D. Infrared

ANSWER: B

7. Sonali Ghosh, who received the Kenton R. Miller Award, is the Director of which national park?

- A. Jim Corbett National Park
- B. Kaziranga National Park
- C. Gir National Park
- D. Ranthambore National Park

ANSWER: B

8. Which organization conferred the Kenton R. Miller Award on Sonali Ghosh?

- A. UNESCO
- B. UNEP
- C. IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas
- D. WWF

ANSWER: C

9. Who will receive the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor as announced by Israel?

- A. Joe Biden
- B. Vladimir Putin
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Rishi Sunak

ANSWER: C

10. What is the theme for World Standards Day 2025?

- A. "Standards for a Sustainable Tomorrow"
- B. "Innovation for All"
- C. "A Shared Vision for a Better World"
- D. "Global Unity through Standards"

ANSWER: C