World Science Day for Peace and Development – 10 November 2026

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News

World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed every year on 10 November. UNESCO proclaimed the day in 2001, and it was first celebrated on 10 November 2002 – so 2026 is its 25th observance. It highlights the role of science in society and seeks to involve the public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It grew out of the 1999 World Conference on Science held in Budapest, Hungary, by UNESCO and the International Council for Science (ICSU). The UN General Assembly has declared 2024–2033 the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (A/RES/77/326).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Date	10 November (every year)
Proclaimed by	UNESCO, 2001
First observed	10 Nov 2002; 2026 is the 25th
Origin	World Conference on Science, Budapest (26 June–1 July 1999)
Conference outputs	Declaration on Science + 'Science Agenda: Framework for Action'
UN Decade	2024–2033: Sciences for Sustainable Development

Point	Details
UNESCO science prize	Kalinga Prize (1951; Biju Patnaik's grant)

Background

- UNESCO: the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, founded in 1945, is headquartered in Paris. Its Constitution's preamble says that 'since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'. The day rests on the idea that scientific cooperation is a tool for peace.
- Budapest 1999: the World Conference on Science (26 June–1 July 1999), co-sponsored by UNESCO and ICSU, adopted two non-binding texts – the 'Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge' and the 'Science Agenda: Framework for Action' – calling for a 'new social contract' between science and society.
- Kalinga Prize: UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science was instituted in 1951 with a grant from Biju Patnaik of Odisha, founder of the Kalinga Foundation Trust; the first award went in 1952 to French physicist Louis de Broglie. It is funded by the Kalinga Foundation Trust, the Odisha Government and the Government of India.
- Constitution: Article 51A(h) makes 'developing the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform' a fundamental duty of every citizen (42nd Amendment, 1976). India's National Science Day is 28 February (Raman Effect, 1928).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Taramani, Chennai, was founded in 1962 by Alladi Ramakrishnan; it is funded by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Tamil Nadu Government and is known for theoretical physics, mathematics and computer science. IIT Madras, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam, the ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri, the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory and the Vainu Bappu Observatory at Kavalur are other major science centres in the State. Nobel laureates C.V. Raman (Tiruchirappalli) and S. Chandrasekhar are linked to Tamil Nadu.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which year did UNESCO proclaim 10 November as World Science Day for Peace and Development?

A) 1999

B) 2000

C) 2001

D) 2002

Answer: C – Explanation: Proclaimed in 2001 and first celebrated on 10 Nov 2002, so 2026 is its 25th observance.

2. The 1999 World Conference on Science by UNESCO and ICSU, which led to World Science Day, was held in which city?

A) Rio de Janeiro

B) Paris

C) Geneva

D) Budapest

Answer: D – Explanation: Budapest, Hungary (26 June–1 July 1999). Its Declaration called for a 'new social contract' between science and society.

3. UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science was instituted in 1951 with a grant from whom?

A) J.R.D. Tata

B) Biju Patnaik

C) Homi Bhabha

D) Jawaharlal Nehru

Answer: B – Explanation: Biju Patnaik of Odisha, founder of the Kalinga Foundation Trust. The first prize (1952) went to French physicist Louis de Broglie.

4. Who founded the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) at Taramani, Chennai, in 1962?

A) Alladi Ramakrishnan

B) C.R. Rao

C) Harish-Chandra

D) P.C. Mahalanobis

Answer: A – Explanation: Physicist Alladi Ramakrishnan. IMSc is funded by the Department of Atomic Energy and the TN Government. Mahalanobis founded ISI, Kolkata.

5. The UN General Assembly has declared 2024–2033 the International Decade of what?

A) Ocean Science

B) Sciences for Sustainable Development

C) Ecosystem Restoration

D) Family Farming

Answer: B – Explanation: International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024–2033 (UNGA resolution A/RES/77/326). The Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration decades are 2021–2030; Family Farming 2019–2028.

Sources: UN observances; US Congressional Research Service RS20291 (World Conference on Science, 1999); Odisha Review (Govt of Odisha), Jan 2012; IMSc. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.