

Short News – 01.11.2025

1. Iberian Lynx

The world's first white Iberian lynx was spotted in Spain. Its white color is due to leucism (a partial loss of pigmentation), not albinism, as its eyes have normal color. The Iberian lynx is a wild cat native to the Iberian Peninsula (Spain & Portugal). It is smaller than the Eurasian lynx and has a spotted coat, black ear tufts, and a facial 'beard'. Its IUCN conservation status is Vulnerable (but recovering) and it is listed in CITES Appendix I. It is an apex predator that controls rabbit populations. Leucism is rare in the wild because it reduces camouflage, making it harder for animals to hunt or hide.

2. States and UTs Formation Day (November 1)

President Droupadi Murmu greeted several states and UTs celebrating their Formation Day on November 1.

Andhra Pradesh – Formed in 1953 as the first linguistic state (for Telugu speakers).

Chhattisgarh – Created in 2000 after separating from Madhya Pradesh.

Karnataka – Reorganized in 1956 (as Mysore State) to include Kannada-speaking regions; renamed in 1973.

Lakshadweep – Became a Union Territory in 1956.

Madhya Pradesh – Reconstituted in 1956.

Punjab – Reorganized in 1966, leading to the formation of Haryana.

Haryana – Formed in 1966 after being bifurcated from Punjab.

Puducherry – Became a UT in 1954 (formally integrated by 1962) after French rule ended.

Kerala – Formed in 1956 by merging Malayalam-speaking regions.

Kerala Piravi (Birth of Kerala) celebrates this 1956 formation and the state's linguistic unity.

3. New Anti-Venom against African Snakes

Danish researchers developed a new broad-spectrum antivenom. It is a single "cocktail" made of eight selected nanobodies (antibody fragments). It is effective against the venom of 17 African snake species, including cobras. It was created using the Phage Display Method, which allows for rapid selection of nanobodies. This technology allows for low-cost, large-scale production without using animal antibodies. It has limitations and is only partially effective against some species, like the black mamba. Human clinical trials are necessary before it can be widely used.

4. Nauradehi Sanctuary

Nauradehi Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh will become the state's third habitat for cheetahs. The other two cheetah habitats in MP are Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary. Nauradehi is Madhya Pradesh's largest wildlife sanctuary and is located across four districts (Sagar, Damoh, etc.). It has Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests (teak, tendu, bamboo). It serves as a vital wildlife corridor between Panna Tiger Reserve and Satpura Tiger Reserve. Project Cheetah began in 2022 to reintroduce African cheetahs to India, as the Asiatic cheetah went extinct in the country in 1952.

5. Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

India set three Guinness World Records under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (Healthy Woman, Empowered Family Campaign). The campaign, led by the Union Health Ministry, focused on women's health awareness and preventive screening. It involved massive community participation from Panchayati Raj members, students, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

The Three Records –

1. **Largest Health Platform Registration** – 3.21+ crore individuals registered in one month.
2. **Most Online Breast Cancer Screenings** – 9.94 lakh women signed up in one week.
3. **Highest Online Vital Signs Screenings** – 1.25 lakh people participated at the state level in one week.

The campaign highlights India's use of digital health and community engagement for a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India)