



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### WHO's Gujarat Declaration

[The World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has released the outcome document of the [first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023](#) in the form of the “**Gujarat Declaration**”.

- India hosted the **first WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Gujarat**.
- The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards **indigenous knowledge, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine**.
- The Gujarat Declaration aims to advance **evidence-based traditional medicine interventions** for universal health coverage and health-related [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
  - It calls for standardized documentation and data collection on traditional medicine.
- The summit explored the role of digital health technologies, including AI, in traditional medicine.

**Read more:** [Global Centre for Traditional Medicine: Gujrat](#)

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### Uncertainty of Andhra Pradesh students' Local Quota

Andhra Pradesh students' '**local quota**' in educational institutions, protected by Article **371 D**, faces uncertainty as the [Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014](#) expires in **May 2024**.

- Article 371 of the Constitution provides “special provisions” for 11 states, including six states of the Northeast (excluding Tripura and Meghalaya).
- Article 371 D was incorporated as the **32<sup>nd</sup> amendment to the Constitution in 1973**.
  - It particularly applies to the **regions of Andhra Pradesh, addressing agitations in the early 1970s**.
  - Article 371 D was introduced to **safeguard the rights of local students in education and employment**.
- Under Article 371 D, **85% of seats in educational institutions are reserved for local students**.
  - The provision has played a crucial role in **ensuring access to education for students in specific regions**.

**Read more:** [Stalemate Between Telangana and AP](#)

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### Electricity's Surge in Indian Irrigation: MIC 6th Edition Report

The recently published [sixth edition of the Minor Irrigation Census \(MIC\) report](#) offers significant insights into the power sources employed in Indian irrigation.

- The MIC highlights a noteworthy transformation in the primary power source for irrigation in India, **where electricity has taken center stage**.
  - In 2011, electricity was the predominant power source for **56% of irrigation**, a figure that surged to **70% by 2017**.
- However, these findings are specific to the 2017-18 period and do not provide an accurate representation of the present state of irrigation practices.

Read more: [India's 6th Minor Irrigation Census](#)

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## IAF's Trishul Exercise Tests Western Air Command's Readiness

The [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#) has launched its annual mega training exercise, **Trishul**, with the activation of all combat assets under the **Western Air Command (WAC)**.

- This internal exercise encompasses a wide range of frontline assets, including fighter jets, transport aircraft, and helicopters, deployed from **Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan**.
- Trishul serves as a **crucial test of the command's operational preparedness**, requiring a high level of coordination and readiness due to its scale and complexity.

Read more: [Need to Modernise Indian Air Force](#)

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## Israeli PM Proposes Fiber Optic Link from Asia and the Middle East to Europe

Israel's Prime Minister has put forward the idea of a **fibre optic cable project, to connect Asia and the Arabian Peninsula with Europe through Israel and Cyprus**.

- It highlights that the [fibre optic connection](#) serves as a **cost-effective and secure route for international communication**.
- This proposal extends Israel's collaboration with Cyprus and Greece on energy projects, such as the **EurAsia Interconnector, a 2,000-megawatt undersea electricity cable**.
- Additionally, there are plans for energy diversification, including gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas processing plants, to strengthen the East Mediterranean basin's link to Europe.

Read more: [Optical Fibre](#)

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