



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

International Day of the Girl 2023

Recently, a 21 year old woman from Chennai got the chance to **live a day in the shoes of a diplomat** after winning a competition held by the British High Commission to commemorate the [International Day of the Girl](#) 2023.

- International Day of the Girl Child, observed annually on **11th October** was first celebrated in **2012**.
- The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995**, proposed an action plan to advance the rights of girls.
- In 2011, the [United Nations General Assembly](#) adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare **11th October as the International Day of the Girl Child**.
 - The day aims to focus on the **importance of girls' education, their rights, and promoting gender equality**.
 - It urges the global community to move beyond reaffirming commitments and invest boldly in the action needed to make changes that could empower girls.
- **Theme of International Day of the Girl 2023:** "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being."

Read more: [International Girl Child Day](#)

Tele MANAS Seva

On World Mental Health Day, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare highlighted the success of [Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States \(Tele MANAS\) Seva](#).

- Tele-MANAS Seva is a mental health counseling service launched on [World Mental Health Day 2022](#).
- The aim of Tele-MANAS is to provide universal access to equitable, accessible, **affordable and quality mental health care through 24X7 tele-mental health services** as a digital component of the **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)** across all Indian States and UTs with assured linkages.
- The Tele MANAS helpline offers toll-free access with **audio calling and an auto-call back system**. Trained counselors **provide care, referring to specialists when needed, including audio and video options**.
 - For urgent in-person care, referrals to health centers are arranged via [eSanjeevani](#), from Health and Wellness Centers to tertiary care centers.
- Tele-MANAS has counseled more than **3,50,000 people till 11th October 2023** and more than **1,000 calls are being received on this helpline every day**.

Read more: [World Mental Health Day 2022, National Telemedicine Service of India: eSanjeevani](#)

The Optical Phenomenon of Rainbows

[Rainbows](#), a meteorological marvel gracing the sky with their **radiant hues post-rainfall**, owe their

existence to the **intricacies of light refraction and reflection**. After a substantial downpour, these optical phenomena can extend across the horizon, appearing as though **they touch the Earth's surface**.

- The underlying cause can be attributed to the **bending and separation of sunlight's rays as they interact with raindrops**.
 - Each raindrop essentially acts as a **miniature prism**, refracting and dispersing light into its constituent colors.
 - The angles at which these colors reach an observer's eye remain constant.
- The rainbow's location in the sky is determined by the sun's height.
 - **Raindrops**, oriented opposite to the sun at specific angles, can create a full circle, but from ground level, we see an arc due to the horizon.
 - But, under special conditions like a setting sun, **observers from high vantage points, such as mountain tops or hot-air balloons**, can experience the full circular display of this optical marvel.

Read more: [Rainbows](#)

National Waterways 44(Ichamati River)

The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** has initiated a significant **dredging project on National Waterways 44**, which includes the **Ichamati River in West Bengal**. This project aims to **increase the navigational depth of the Ichamati River**, ultimately boosting its capacity to manage tidal influences.

- The Ichamati River, serving as a **boundary between India and Bangladesh**, flows through both countries and has three distinct sections. Additionally, in the North 24-Parganas district in West Bengal, **it forms an oxbow lake complex**.
 - However, the river faces challenges such as **silt accumulation leading to reduced flow in dry seasons and flooding during the rainy season**.
- **National Waterways** like Ichamati are essential for transportation, with **India boasting 111 such inland waterways spanning a total of 14,500 kilometers**.
 - The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** oversees their development and regulation, facilitating the movement of around **55 million tonnes of cargo annually through Inland Water Transport (IWT)**.

Read more: [Inland Waterways Authority of India](#)

Earthquake Strikes Northwestern Afghanistan

Areas in Afghanistan affected by earthquake

Scale of shaking experienced:

Very strong Strong Moderate

6.3 magnitude 06:41 GMT 7 Oct



Recently, an [earthquake](#) with a magnitude of **6.3 hit northwestern Afghanistan**, causing widespread devastation.

- This devastating earthquake has left residents in a state of desperation, struggling to recover and rebuild their lives in the face of ongoing adversity.
- An earthquake is a **sudden and violent shaking of the ground**. These movements can result in the release of energy in the form of [seismic waves](#), which propagate through the Earth, causing the ground to shake.
 - The point on the Earth's surface directly above where the earthquake originates is called the **epicenter**, and the location within the Earth where the earthquake's energy is released is known as the **hypocenter or focus**.

Read more: [Earthquake](#)

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