



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

India's 75th Army Day

The Indian Army commemorated 75th Army Day on **15th January** at the Parade Grounds in Hyderabad.

On this day in 1949, Field Marshal **K.M. Cariappa took over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief** of the Indian Army, replacing his British predecessor (**General Sir Francis Butcher**). General Cariappa was **second of the only two Army officers to have held the five-star rank** of Field Marshal (**first being Sam Manekshaw**).

The day honours the soldiers of the country, who have set the greatest example of selfless service and brotherhood and more than anything the love for the country.

Note - Army Day is different from the [Veterans Army Day](#) celebrated on 14 Jan which marks the formal retirement of Field Marshal KM Cariappa from the Services.

Read More - [Indian Army Day](#)

Avalanches



The recent days have witnessed **increased stances of avalanches** in the region of Kashmir where the **Zojila tunnel project** is being implemented. The authorities have **issued an avalanche warning with 'low-danger level'** for 11 districts.

Avalanches are **masses of snow, ice, and rocks** that fall rapidly down a mountainside. **Avalanches of rocks or soil are often called [landslides](#). Snowslides are the most common** kind of avalanche. **Humans trigger 90% of avalanche disasters**; most of them being skiers, climbers and snowmobilers.

Avalanches strike suddenly and can be deadly.

Read More - [Zojila Tunnel Project](#)

Business Confidence Index

The latest CII Business Confidence Index (for Oct-Dec 2022 quarter) **rebounded to its highest reading in almost 2 years of 67.6 (from 62.2 in the previous quarter)**, reflecting optimism around **India being in a safe spot despite the rising global economic uncertainties.**

As per [OECD](#), a Business Confidence Index **provides information on future developments**, based upon opinion surveys on developments in production, orders and stocks **of finished goods in the industry sector.**

The CII (**Confederation of Indian Industries**) is a **non-governmental, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization.** It was founded in 1895 and is headquartered in **New Delhi.**

Read More - [Confederation of Indian Industries](#)

Invasive Tree Species

Delhi's State EIA Authority has asked the State Forest Department to **take steps to contain and exterminate** 3 rapidly growing **invasive tree species** - **Vilayati Kikar** (Prosopis Juliflora), **Subabul** (River tamarind) and **Eucalyptus** as they are adversely affecting the local ecology.

Vilayati Kikar - the **Mexican invasive species introduced by the British** in 1930s, **is the most harmful.** It is the **only form of vegetation visibly thriving on the Delhi Ridge.**

Eucalyptus, which came from **Australia**, is **not invasive in nature, but uses a lot of water** as it is a fast-growing tree. It also shows **allelopathic effects** (releases compounds which **make it difficult for other native species to grow** nearby).

Subabul also comes from **Mexico** and was introduced by the forest department **for fuel and fodder. All three species are depleting the [groundwater table.](#)**

Read More - [Environment Impact Assessment \(EIA\)](#), [Invasive Species](#)

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