



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

APEDA Organises Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet with UAE



As a part of promoting the **export of millets**, the **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** organised a **Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet** to harness export opportunities in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.

APEDA has also planned to organise **millet promotional activities** in **South Africa, Japan, S Korea, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Germany, the UK and the US**.

India's major millet exporting countries are **UAE, Nepal, Saudi, Libya, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, UK and USA** with major varieties being - **Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jawar, and Buckwheat**.

Read More - [APEDA](#), [India's Millet Revolution](#), [India-UAE Relations](#)

Deep Ocean Mission

The [Union Budget 2023-24](#) has allocated **Rs 600 crore to the Deep Ocean Mission** to explore marine biodiversity for the sustainable use of resources.

Under this mission, [a manned submersible will be developed to carry three people to a depth of 6,000 metres](#) to facilitate mineral exploration in the central Indian ocean.

In 2016, **India was awarded a 15-year contract** to explore an area of 75,000 km² for mining polymetallic nodules from the **Central Indian Ocean Basin** at depths of 5,000-6,000 metres.

Read More - [Deep Ocean Mission](#), [Samudrayaan Mission](#)

MISHTI Initiative for Mangroves

The **Union Budget 2023-24** announced a new initiative for mangrove plantations along the coastline and on salt pan lands - **MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)**. Earlier, India joined the **Mangrove Alliance for Climate** launched during the [UNFCCC COP27](#).

Although **Mangroves cover only about 0.1% of the planet's surface**, they can potentially **store up to 10x more carbon per hectare** (ha) than terrestrial forests. They protect coastal communities by acting as a **natural barrier against storm surges**.

According to [India State of Forest Report \(ISFR\) 2021](#), India's total mangrove cover is 4,992 km² (**0.15% of total geographical area**). India **lost 40% of its mangrove cover** during the last century with **Kerala losing 95% of its mangroves** in the last 3 decades.

Read More - [Mangrove Forests](#), [Mangrove Alliance for Climate](#)

Exercise Trishakti Prahar



The Indian military recently concluded **exercise Trishakti Prahar** — a joint training exercise in North Bengal (close to the strategic '[Siliguri' corridor](#)). The aim of the exercise was to **practise battle preparedness of the security forces**, using latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, **involving the Army, the IAF and CAPFs**.

The exercise concluded with an **Integrated Fire Power Exercise** at the **Teesta Field Firing Ranges**, aimed at synergising the firepower assets of the Indian Armed Forces and CAPFs to orchestrate an integrated battle.

The Siliguri corridor or **Chicken's neck** (West Bengal) is a stretch of **land bordering Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal**, measuring approximately 170x60 km; **at the narrowest it is about 20-22 km**.

