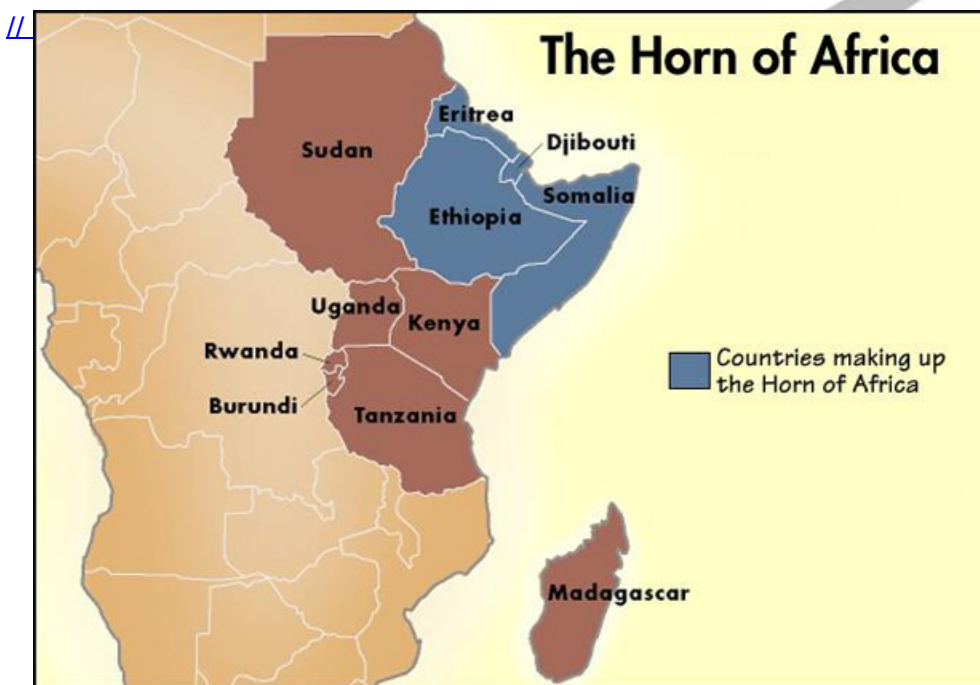




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Flash Floods in the Horn of Africa

Reports from organizations like the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(UN-OCHA\)](#) and the [Kenya Red Cross](#) show dire cases of flash floods in Kenya, Tanzania, and parts of Horn of Africa. The Horn of Africa is a **peninsula in Northeast Africa** that includes countries like **Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti**. The floods come at a time when the countries in the Horn of Africa are struggling with a **sharp surge in [climate-linked disease outbreaks](#), including diarrhoea, cholera, and measles.**



Flash floods are **sudden and intense floods** that occur when **heavy rainfall exceeds the capacity of the soil and drainage systems to absorb it**. Flash floods can cause widespread damage to infrastructure, crops, livestock, and human lives. These events have a high peak and typically occur within six hours of the rainfall. The intensity and distribution of rainfall, **land use, topography, vegetation, soil type, and water content all affect the speed and location of flash flooding**. To mitigate the impact of flash floods, it is essential to **avoid living in valleys** and instead **live in areas on slopes with firm ground**.

Read more: [Landslide and Flash Floods](#)

Underground Ammunition Storage Facility

The **Centre of Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)** an Indian defence laboratory of the [Defence Research and Development Organisation](#) has designed an **Underground Ammunition Storage**

Facility, which **reduces the blast effect** on surrounding utilities during an explosion. The Design Validation Trial of this facility was successfully conducted recently, where 5,000 kgs of [TNT \(trinitrotoluene\)](#) was detonated in one of the chambers of the underground facility.

The unique design of the Underground Ammunition Storage Facility **reduces the required safety distances by up to 50%**, and the safety distance has been established up to 120 Metric Ton ammunition storage per chamber. The design ensures **higher safety of ammunition stored from any kind of aerial attack or sabotage**. This facility can be extensively used by the **Armed Forces for storage of all types of ammunition**, reducing the land footprint requirements, and providing enhanced safety of ammunition.

Successful Trial of Air Droppable Container

The [Indian Navy](#) and the [Defence Research and Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#) have **successfully tested an air droppable container** with a payload capacity of 150 kg, the container was dropped from an [IL 38SD aircraft](#). The trial aimed to improve the **naval operational logistics** capabilities by providing a quick response to meet the **critical engineering stores' requirements for ships deployed more than 2,000 kilometers from the coast**. It also aims to **reduce the need for ships to come closer to the coast to collect spares and stores**.

The container's development was a collaborative effort of three DRDO laboratories, including the [Naval Science and Technological Laboratory \(NSTL\)](#) in Visakhapatnam, the [Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment \(ADRDE\)](#) in Agra, and the [Aeronautical Development Establishment \(ADE\)](#) in Bengaluru. The successful test of the air droppable container will **enhance the Indian Navy's operational capabilities**, making it **easier and faster to provide critical supplies to ships** deployed far from the coast.

India's First Undersea Tunnels

India's first undersea twin tunnels are set to open in Mumbai, after more than two years of work on the **Mumbai Coastal Road Project** by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The tunnels are part of the **10.58-kilometer-long Coastal Road project that connects Marine Drive to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link**. The **2.07-kilometer-long tunnels** are **located 17-20 meters below sea level**, with a nearly 1-kilometer stretch running under the sea. The project **aims to reduce travel times** during peak hours from 45 minutes to just 10 minutes. **Six cross passages** will be provided in the tunnels, **four for pedestrians and two for motorists**, with each tunnel having three lanes. The tunnels were created with the help of the largest **tunnel-boring machine (TBM)**.

THE TWIN TUNNELS



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