



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Water Hyacinth Invasion in Sankhya Sagar

Sankhya Sagar - an artificial lake in Madhya Pradesh has virtually disappeared under a thick layer of **Water Hyacinth - an invasive aquatic plant**. **Sankhya Sagar was declared a Ramsar site** in July 2022, and helps maintain the ecological balance of the [Madhav National Park](#).

The lake is **home to 19 indigenous fish species** and in turn **piscivorous birds** along with [Marsh crocodile \(WPA 1972: Schedule I\)](#).

Water Hyacinth, though, **native to South Africa**, has naturalised itself in many other parts of the world. However, it **can't be outrightly placed in a harmful or useful category** - on one hand, it **acts as a water purifier by removing heavy metals** present in small quantities while on the other, once it covers the entire surface of a water body, it **does not allow sunlight to penetrate the water** and also **starts depleting oxygen**.

The water hyacinth in Sankhya Sagar is leading to the death of native species; its presence also **indicates high nitrogen levels in the lake**.

Read More - [Water Hyacinth](#), [Ramsar Sites](#)

Ops Alert Exercise

In view of the upcoming **Republic Day celebrations**, the **Border Security Force (BSF) has started an "Ops Alert" exercise (21-28 Jan 2023)** to enhance security along the India-Pakistan border from **Sir Creek (marshy area) to Kutch (Gujarat) and Barmer (Rajasthan)** with the objective of **"thwarting any ill designs of anti-national elements"**.

To enhance its security, **"permanent vertical bunkers"** of concrete are **being constructed for the first time to station BSF troops** right at the strategically significant Sir Creek and 'Harami Nalla' marshy area.

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned a **Rs. 50-crore fund** for the construction of 8 multi-storey bunkers cum observation posts in this area in view of the **"constant infiltration of Pakistani fishermen and fishing boats in the area"**.

Read More - [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#)

TROPEX 2023

The 2023 edition of **Indian Navy's major maritime exercise TROPEX**, was conducted in the Indian Ocean Region. The **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) is conducted biennially** and witnesses participation from **all Indian Navy units** and also **Indian Army, Indian Air Force and [Indian Coast Guard](#)**.

TROPEX 23 is being conducted over a duration of three months from Jan - Mar 23. As part of the exercise, **all surface combatants of the Indian Navy** including **Destroyers, Frigates, Corvettes as well as**

submarines and aircraft are put through complex maritime operational deployments to validate and **refine the Navy's Concept of Operations** including operational logistics and interoperability with other Services.

Read More - [TROPEX](#), [Indian Navy](#)

National Girl Child Day

On **January 24**, India celebrates **National Girl Child Day** with the objective of **highlighting the prejudice and injustice that girl children face**. This day also encourages awareness of **women's rights** in our country. The day was **established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

The government of India has taken many initiatives for the betterment of the girls. '**Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao (BBBP)**' is one such initiative. **BBBP was recently revised**.

Read More - [National Girl Child Day. Revised Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme](#)

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