



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Sarus Crane

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Recently, **Sarus Crane**, Uttar Pradesh's state bird, was recently rescued and transported to Raebareli's **Samaspur Bird Sanctuary**. A day after the bird was taken to the sanctuary, it was claimed that the bird was missing.

The scientific name of Sarus Crane is **Grus Antigone**. It is the **tallest flying bird in the world**, standing 152-156 cm tall with a wingspan of 240cm. The Sarus crane has predominantly **grey plumage with a naked red head and upper neck and pale red legs**. It is known to mate for life with a single partner, and its breeding season coincides with heavy rains during the monsoon season.

The sarus crane is listed in **Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** and as **vulnerable on the IUCN Red List**, and it is predominantly found in **India, Southeast Asia, and Australia**.

Read more: [Sarus Crane](#)

Ram Manohar Lohia



The Prime Minister paid tribute to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia on his birthday (March 23, 1910 – October 12, 1967).

Ram Manohar Lohia was a prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement towards Indian independence. He was a committed supporter of **Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent struggle against British rule and participated in the [Quit India movement in 1942](#).**

Lohia's early political career began with the **Congress Party**, where he held the position of secretary of the Foreign Department of the **All-India Congress Committee (A.I.C.C.)**, the Congress Party's highest body.

In 1963 Lohia became a **member of the Lok Sabha** after a by-election in **Farrukhabad (Lok Sabha constituency)**. He also **won the Lok Sabha general election of 1967 from Kannauj (Lok Sabha constituency)** but died a few months later.

Read more: [Ram Manohar Lohia](#)

Lingayats, Vokkaligas' Share in Reservation

The Karnataka High Court removed a stay imposed on the state government's order to create new subgroups of **[Other Backward Classes \(OBC\)](#)** reservation for the dominant **Lingayat and Vokkaliga castes in the state**. The removal of the stay was allowed by a division bench headed by **Chief Justice P B Varale**. At present, the reservation of Lingayat **and Vokkaliga castes stands in Category III (B) with 5% reservation and in Category III (A) with 4% reservation respectively**.

The **Panchamasalis**, which is the largest sub-sect within the Lingayats have been demanding their inclusion under the **OBC 2A Category to avail of the 15% quota** in government jobs and educational institutions.

As per the proposed recommendations, the dominant Vokkaligas and the Lingayats will be identified under the new **OBC categories (2C and 2D)** and by allotting to them **6% of the 10% [Economically Weaker Sections \(EWS\)](#) quota** created by the Centre.

Read more: [Vokkaligas, Lingayats share in Reservation](#).

Exercise Konkan 2023

The Annual Bilateral Maritime Exercise Konkan 2023 was a **joint maritime exercise conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain**. The annual military drill was held from **20 to 22 March-2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea**.

The Konkan exercise series began in 2004. The exercise exhibited op-readiness, enhanced interoperability, and conducted joint operations. Participating ships included **INS Trishul (Indian Navy), HMS Lancaster (Royal Navy) and Type 23 guided missile frigate**.

The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface and sub-surface, and included gunnery shoots on surface **inflatable target 'Killer Tomato'**, helicopter operations, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres and exchange of personnel.

Other military exercises of India and the UK include - **Konkan Shakti 2021** (first-ever tri-services joint exercise), **Exercise Indradhanush** (joint air force exercise), **Exercise Ajeya Warrior** (joint military exercise between India's & UK's soldiers)

Read more: [India - UK Relations](#)

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