



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Omega Blocking

The recent devastating [floods in Libya](#) can be attributed to the occurrence of an Omega atmospheric blocking event.

- Omega blocking is a **meteorological phenomenon** that occurs when a **high-pressure system gets trapped between two low-pressure systems**, creating a pattern that resembles the **Greek letter omega (Ω)**.
 - It can cause extreme **weather events, such as [heat waves](#), [droughts](#), and [floods](#)**, depending on the location and season.
 - These events are **difficult to predict** and can cause significant damage and loss of life.
 - They have been linked to past extreme weather events, including the **Pakistan floods** in 2011, extreme **rainfall in northwestern Iran** in 2008, and **heatwaves in France and Germany** in 2019.

Read More: [Climate Change: A Roadblock to Economic Growth](#)

Indian Visa Service Suspended in Canada

As [diplomatic tensions between India and Canada](#) escalate, the **Indian government has suspended [visa services in Canada](#)**, affecting a range of travelers and sparking questions about the future of diplomatic relations.

- **Indian-origin Canadians** with valid [Overseas Citizen of India \(OCI\)](#) cards or valid long-term Indian visas are not affected by the visa service suspension.
 - OCI cardholders have **lifetime entry privileges into India**, allowing them to live and work in the country indefinitely.
- **Canadians who possess valid Indian visas will not be impacted** by the suspension. Their visas remain valid until further notice.
- Canada **has not yet imposed restrictions on Indian visa applicants** but may consider reciprocal measures in response to the current situation.

Read More: [India and Canada Ties at a Downturn](#), [The Khalistan Shadow on India-Canada Ties](#), [Overseas Citizen of India \(OCI\)](#)

SIMBEX 2023

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Indian Naval Ships **Ranvijay** and **Kavaratti** and submarine **INS Sindhukesari** arrived in Singapore to participate in the **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), 2023**.

- This exercise has been conducted **since 1994** and holds the distinction of being the longest naval exercise that the **Indian Navy** has conducted with another country.
- In addition to naval vessels, **the exercise also includes the participation of the Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I.**
- **Other Exercises between the two countries include** exercise **Bold Kurukshetra**, **Trilateral Maritime Exercise SIMTEX** (With Thailand) and **exercise Agni Warrior** (Army).

Read More: [Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise](#), [India-Singapore Relations](#)

Mobile Application and Web Portal for General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES)

Recently, the Mobile Application and the Web Portal for GCES, **developed by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** was launched.

- **The aim is to transform agricultural practices across the nation.**
- The portal and the app provide a comprehensive repository of yield estimation including **village wise GCES plan** and plot details where the crop cutting experiments are conducted.
- **Geo referencing is one of the key features of the mobile application, which enables the primary worker to draw the boundary of the experimental plot** and upload photos of the plot as well as of the crops through it.

Read More: [Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare](#), [Digital India](#)

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