



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Karman Line

Boundaries in science, particularly the [Karman Line](#), are gaining attention for their role in defining and distinguishing elements that could otherwise merge.

- The Karman Line is an imaginary boundary located at **100 km above sea level that separates Earth's atmosphere from space.**
 - Although not all scientists and spacefarers accept it, a majority of countries and space organizations recognize it as a boundary.
- It was established in the **1960s by Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)**, a record-keeping body. Any individual who crosses this line qualifies as an **astronaut.**
- The Karman Line was established to **regulate airspace and marks the altitude beyond which a traditional aircraft can't fly.**
 - Any aircraft flying beyond it needs a propulsion system to pull away from the earth's tug.
- It also acts as a legal reference that separates airspace that a country can claim to own from space itself, which is governed like international waters.

Pink Bollworm

The [Pink Bollworm](#) (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) infestation in [cotton](#) fields across northern India has become a severe crisis for farmers, causing widespread **damage and financial losses.**

- The infestation of the Pink Bollworm (PBW) has hit cotton fields in northern Rajasthan, Haryana, and southwestern Punjab since 2021.
- The **PBW is a destructive pest that primarily affects cotton crops.** It is native to Asia and was first reported in India in 1842.
 - PBW larvae burrow into the developing cotton bolls, affecting both the weight and quality of the harvested cotton lint.
- Genetically modified [Bt cotton seeds](#), initially effective against certain pests, have **lost their efficacy in combating PBW** due to the insect's resistance.

Read more: [Cotton Production in India](#), [Emergency Measures to Tackle Pink Bollworm](#)

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri

India observed the birth anniversary of [Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri](#) on **2nd October**, honoring his **significant contributions and legacy.**

- He served as India's second Prime Minister from **1964 to 1966**, faced significant challenges during his tenure, including the **aftermath of the 1962 war with China, drought, food crises, and the 1965 war with Pakistan.**
 - His famous slogan "**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**" symbolized India's determination to tackle these issues.
- Unfortunately, his prime ministership ended abruptly on **January 10, 1966, when he passed away in Tashkent, USSR (now Uzbekistan)**, while negotiating the Tashkent Agreement with Pakistan's President, Muhammad Ayub Khan.

- He was posthumously awarded the [Bharat Ratna](#) in 1966.

Read more: [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#)

IAF Boosts Indigenous Missile Arsenal with Astra-MK1

The [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#) has placed two contracts with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the indigenous [Astra Beyond Visual Range \(BVR\) Air to Air Missile](#) and the first batch is expected to be inducted by the end of **2023**.

- Astra is fully integrated on the **SU-30MKI** and in August, 2023 it was successfully test-fired from the [Light Combat Aircraft \(LCA\) Tejas](#) off the coast of Goa.
- Development is also underway for the **more advanced Astra-MK2**, which boasts longer-range capabilities.

Read more: [Astra](#)

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