



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

World's First Bamboo Crash Barrier



Recently, **the world's first 200-metre-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a Vani-Warora Highway** connecting Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra.

Named 'Bahu Balli', the bamboo crash barrier underwent rigorous testing at various government-run institutions and was rated as Class 1 during the Fire Rating Test and it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress (IRC). This crash barrier offers a perfect alternative to steel and addresses environmental concerns.

IRC is the **Apex Body of Highway Engineers in the country**. The IRC was set up in 1934 on the **recommendations of the Indian Road Development Committee best known as Jayakar Committee (1927)** set up by the Government **with the objective of Road Development in India.**

Bal Mitra Diwas

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) **is conducting weeklong celebrations across the nation on the occasion of 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas**. One of the day's events of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) **were dedicated to children which was celebrated as 'Bal Mitra Diwas'.**

The aim of celebrating these events is **to increase engagement of general public including women, senior citizens, students and children so that benefits of the Pariyojana may reach each and every corner of the country.**

PMBJP is a **campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008 under the name Jan Aushadhi Campaign**. The campaign was **revamped as PMBJP in 2015-16.**

Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

The BPPI **works under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers**. BPPI has also developed the **Janaushadhi Sugam Application.**

Read More: [Janaushadhi Diwas](#)

INS Trikand



INS Trikand is **participating in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23)** being held in the Gulf region from 26 Feb to 16 Mar 2023. Exercises will be **held with participants from over 50 nations and international maritime agencies** with the common aim of **enhancing maritime security and keeping sea lanes in the region safe for maritime commerce.**

IMX/CE-23 is **one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world. While this is the Indian Navy's maiden IMX participation,** it also **marks the second occasion where an Indian Naval ship is participating in an exercise** conducted by the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**. In November 22, INS Trikand had participated in the **CMF-led Operation Sea Sword 2 in the Northwest Arabian Sea.**

Read More: [Indian Navy](#)

Frog Species Rediscovered After 89 Years

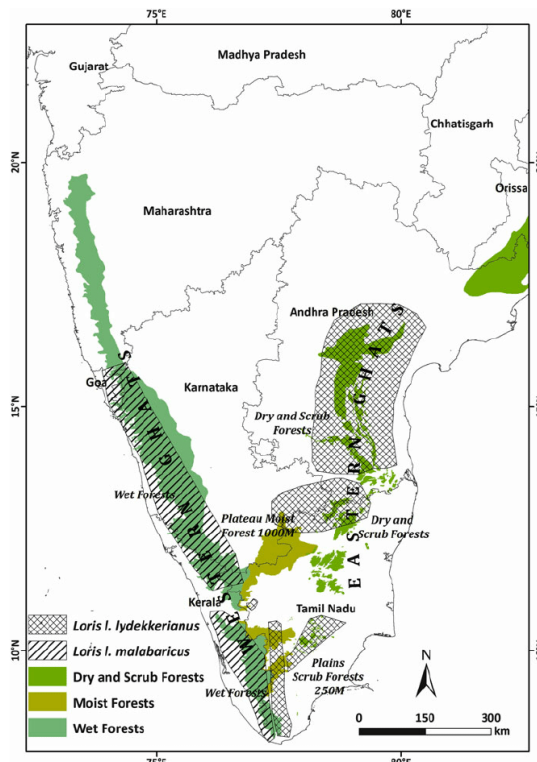


Jerdon's narrow-mouthed frog (*Uperodon montanus*) **was once seen in the Western Ghats' shallow streams. But since it was last studied in 1934, the species faded away permanently.** In 2022, **a group of zoologists photographed 40 tadpoles of the species in the biodiverse Western Ghats, at the same stage of development as when they were last recorded 89 years ago.**

A majority of the amphibians have two different stages: **Water-independent adult stage** (feeding and breeding) and the **aquatic larval stage** (feeding) **known as tadpoles**. These tadpoles / larvae have **completely different morphological appearance**, feeding, habitat and ecology which is totally different from adults.

The frogs **have a longish snout, which gives it its name**, and shiny brown skin with darker brown, red and golden spots on the back and head. **They are found in rock pools or tree holes filled with rainwater**. Its tadpoles **are free-swimming and exotrophic** (they feed on other species). Change in the tadpole body **colouration was observed during the day (comparatively darker) and night (slightly transparent)**. This frog is considered a **montane species and is restricted to higher altitude ranges**. They are **distributed from near Wayanad south across the Palghat and the Shencottah gaps to the Agasthyamalai hills**.

It is **classified as 'Near Threatened'** in the [International Union for Conservation \(IUCN\)](#) of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.



Read More: [Western Ghats](#)

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