



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Omorgus Khandesh: Keratin Beetle



A new beetle species named **Omorgus Khandesh** has been discovered in India. The beetle is **important for forensic science** as it helps detect the time of death of an animal or human.

It is **necrophagous** (eats dead or decaying animal flesh) and is, therefore, **also called a keratin beetle**. The new species **belongs to the Trogidae family**. With the addition of this new species, **now there are a total of 14 extant species of this family in India**.

The **beetles of this group are sometimes called hide beetles** as they tend to cover their body under the soil and hide. **They are not photogenic**; they are usually black or grey and encrusted in the dirt. Their **bumpy appearance is distinct**, with short, dense setae all over the body.

DHARA 2023

Recently, Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers (DHARA), **the annual meeting of the members of the River Cities Alliance (RCA)**, was organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

DHARA 2023 **will provide a platform to co-learn and discuss solutions for managing local water bodies**. DHARA 2024 **will take place in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.

Ghat Par Yoga session, a novel initiative **under Namami Gange Programme** was organised on Mulla Mutha River, Pune. This meeting had strong synergies with the **Urban20 (U20) initiative** under the ambit of India's G20 Presidency.

It was recommended that every city should have natural fillers as promoted under the **Catch the Rain campaign launched on the occasion of World Water Day 2021.**

Read More: [Namami Gange Programme, G20](#), [World Water Day](#), [National Mission for Clean Ganga](#)

Cyclone Gabrielle



New Zealand stepped up recovery efforts after **Cyclone Gabrielle** left at least five people dead and displaced 9,000.

Cyclones are **rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area**. The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere. **There are two types of cyclones:** Tropical cyclones and Extra-Tropical cyclones.

New Zealand **comprises two main islands—the North and the South Islands and a number of small islands**. The country **also has a unique array of vegetation and animal life**. It was the **first country to allow women to vote in 1893**. New Zealand's wetapunga, **one of the heaviest insects in the world, can weigh more than a sparrow**.

Read More: [India-New Zealand Relations](#), [Cyclone](#)

Agasthyarkoodam



Agasthyarkoodam peak located in the **Western Ghat** was once home to a forgotten and long-lost **19th-century observatory established by a Scottish meteorologist John Allan Broun.**

Magnetic observatories **continuously measure and record Earth's magnetic field at a number of locations.** The **first geomagnetic observatory of India was set up in Alibag and was named the Alibag Magnetic Observatory.** Established in 1904, **this observatory is one of its kind in the entire Asia.**

Agasthyarkoodam peak was named after the sage Agasthya; this popular pilgrim site **is one of the highest peaks in Kerala.** It has long been known as a bird watcher's paradise. It is **also known for its remarkable flora and fauna,** especially certain rare medicinal herbs.

Read More: [Western Ghats](#)

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