



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### Crown Shyness



**Crown shyness** is a phenomenon common in [temperate deciduous forests](#), where the **tops of some trees do not touch each other**, creating gaps of sky between them.

- It is observed in many species of trees, such as **black mangrove, camphor, and Japanese larch.**
- Scientists have different hypotheses to explain why crown shyness happens, such as **reducing competition for light, preventing disease transmission, or avoiding physical damage from wind.**
- Crown shyness creates intricate patterns and enhances **light penetration in the forest.**

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### 21st Edition of India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA'

The **Phase II of Varuna-23**, the bilateral naval exercise between the **Indian and French Navies**, took place in the **Arabian Sea.**

- This exercise involved **guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft,** and integral helicopters from **both sides.**
- Varuna, which began in **1993 and was officially named in 2001**, has evolved over the years into a symbol of the strong strategic relationship between [India and France.](#)

**Read more:** [India France Relations](#)

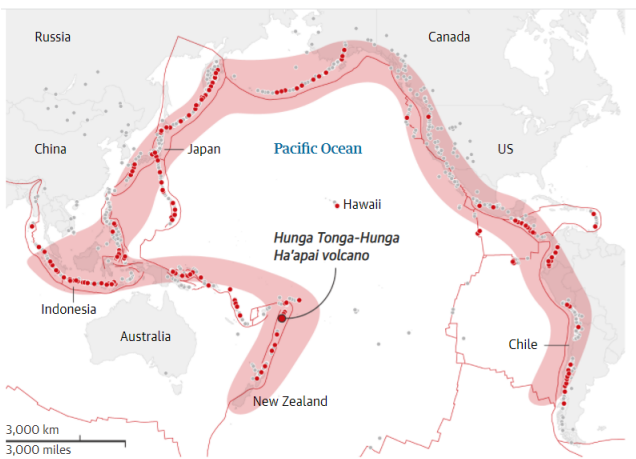
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**Ustad Ali Zaki Hader**



- Renowned Rudra Veena exponent, **Ustad Ali Zaki Hader**, a disciple of **Ustad Asad Ali Khan**, was the last exponent of the **Khandarbani style of the Jaipur Beenkar gharana of Dhrupad**.
  - The Khandarbani style of the Jaipur Beenkar gharana of Dhrupad is a **musical tradition that originated in the 18th century by Shahaji Saheb**.
- Rudra Veena is a **traditional stringed instrument that originates from North India**. Crafted from materials like teak wood, metal, pumpkin, and bamboo, it has a distinctive appearance with **two large gourd resonators placed beneath a tubular wooden body**.

## Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Volcano



- A recent study reveals that during the **Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption in January 2022**, ejected rock and ash rapidly collapsed into the ocean, **forming a high-speed and destructive underwater debris flow**.
- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano is a **submarine volcano** in the South Pacific Ocean. It's located 40 miles north of Tongatapu, **Tonga's** main island.
  - The volcano formed in 2015 when a moderate eruption fused two uninhabited islands into one.
  - The volcano is part of the **Kermadec-Tonga subduction zone**, where the Pacific Plate is pushed under the Indo-Australian Plate, forming a long chain of volcanoes and islands.

**Read more:** [Volcanic Eruption in Tonga](#)