



09 October 2023

National and International News

Israel 'at war' after Hamas attack



Legend for the map: Israel (yellow), Gaza and West Bank (purple), Egypt (orange), Lebanon (light blue), Syria (green), Jordan (tan), Saudi Arabia (grey), Water (blue). Red line indicates national borders with tunnel activity.

Context

Palestinian Islamist group Hamas launched the biggest surprise attack on Israel.

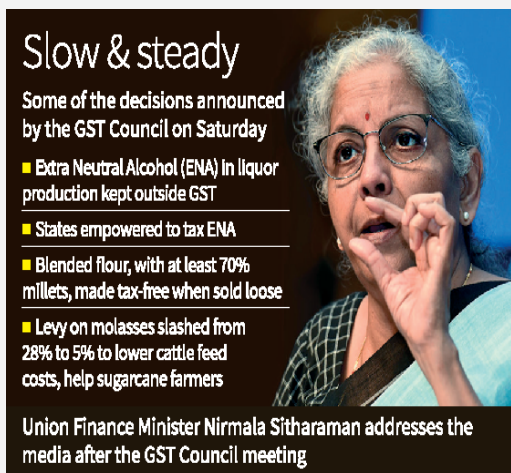
About Hamas

- Hamas is a **Palestinian Islamist political organization** and militant group that has waged war on Israel since the group's **1987 founding**.
- It **seeks to replace Israel** with a Palestinian state.
- It also **governs Gaza** independently of the Palestinian Authority.

Gaza Strip

- It is a **part of the Palestinian Authority** along with the **West Bank**.
- It is governed by **Hamas**, a militant, fundamentalist Islamic organization
- It borders **Egypt on the southwest, Israel on the east and north**, the Mediterranean on the west.
- The Gaza Strip is situated on the **northeast of the Sinai Peninsula**.

The GST Council cleared several pending issues.



Context

The GST council has cleared several pending issues in a recent meeting.

Decisions taken by the GST council

- **lowered the tax rates** on certain **millet-based** products.
- Make an amendment in the **age-related norms for members of the GST Appellate Tribunals**
- **Ceded the taxation rights** on extra-neutral alcohol to the **States**.

GST Council

- The **101st Amendment Act of 2016** (122nd Amendment Bill), paved the way for the implementation of GST.
- The GST Council is a joint forum of the Centre and the states under **Article 279-A** of the constitution.
- Article 279-A. gives the President the authority to appoint a



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GST Council by executive order.

- The members of the Council include the **Union Finance Minister (chairperson), and the Union Minister of State (Finance) from various states.**
- Article 279, **makes recommendations to the Union and the states** on important issues related to GST.
- It also decides on various **rate slabs** of GST.

ISRO plans Gaganyaan unmanned flight tests



Context

The ISRO, which is planning to commence unmanned flight tests for the Gaganyaan mission, has started to make preparations for the **Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1).**

Gaganyaan Mission

- Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of **human spaceflight capability** by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to earth.
- It is part of the **Indian Human Spaceflight Programme (IHSP)**, which was initiated (2007) by the ISRO to develop the technology needed to launch crewed orbital spacecraft into low earth orbit (LEO).
- Launch **Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3/GSLV Mk3)** rocket - the well-proven and reliable heavy lift launcher of ISRO, is identified as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.
- **India's heaviest rocket** consists of a solid stage, liquid stage, and cryogenic stage.

Ganga-Ghagra Basin Canals Pose a Threat to Dolphins: study



Context

A recent study has revealed that 19 Gangetic river **dolphins were rescued from the irrigation canals of the Ganga-Ghagra basin** in Uttar Pradesh between 2013 and 2020.

Key facts

According to Shailendra Singh of the **Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India**, one of the lead authors of the paper, the paper gives data for eight years but from 2013 to 2023, 28 dolphins had been rescued.

Gangetic Dolphin:

- Though the **species is not known to be gregarious i.e** they do not prefer to form a group but they may prefer to live and/or hunt in the pod
- IUCN: Endangered



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- Wildlife (Protection) Act: Schedule-I
- CITES: Appendix I

Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India

- It is a non-profit organization
- established in 2016
- It works primarily in the domain of Energy & Environment.

LiDAR Technology

- LiDAR stands for **Light Detection and Ranging**
- It is a remote sensing method that **uses light in the form of a pulsed laser** to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.
- These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system — generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- There are three primary components of a LiDAR instrument — **the scanner, laser, and GPS receiver.**
- Airplanes and helicopters are the most commonly used platforms for acquiring lidar data over broad areas.

Carbon Dating

- Carbon dating is a widely-used method to establish **the age of organic materials**, things that were once living.
- Living things have carbon in them in various forms.
- The dating method is based on the fact that **Carbon-14 (C-14) is radioactive, and decays at a well-known rate.**
- The ratio of C-12 to C-14 in the atmosphere is almost static and is known.
- The Carbon Dating method cannot be used to determine the age of non-living things like rocks.
- Also, the age of things that are more than 40,000-50,000 years old cannot be arrived at through carbon dating.

ISRO performs trajectory correction for Aditya-L1

Context

ISRO has performed a trajectory correction maneuver on the Aditya-L1 spacecraft which is headed to the Lagrangian-1 (L1) point between the sun and Earth.

Aditya-L1

- It is the first space-based Indian mission to study the sun from the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system which is



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roughly **1.5 million kilometers** from Earth.

- The project was initially proposed as Aditya-1, a 400 kg class satellite carrying a single payload, the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)**.
- It was however renamed 'Aditya-L1 mission' since the satellite was positioned in the hallowed orbit of the Sun-Earth system's **Lagrangian point 1 (L1)**.
- The mission will capture near-simultaneous photos of the many layers of the Sun's atmosphere, revealing how energy is routed and transported from one layer to the next.

Kerala Regional News

Discovery of New Dragonfly Species



Context

- Kerala forest dept personnel found **Three New Dragonfly species**.
- Location - **Silent Valley Park in Kerala**

Key facts

- While surveying **species of dragonflies and damselflies**, the team **discovered 3 previously undiscovered species of dragonflies**.
- After the discovery, the park's dragonfly count has now reached a **total of 103 species**

The species are named as-

1. **The Giant Clubtail** (Peruvalan kaduva)
2. **Wayanad Bambootail** (Wayanadan Mullavalan)
3. **Malabar Bambootail** (Vadakkan Mullavalan).

Silent Valley National Park

About Silent Valley Park

- It is the **core part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**
- **It was formed in the year of 1984.**
- Silent Valley falls within the districts of Palakkad and Malappuram of Kerala.
- **The river Kunthi and its tributaries traverse** the entire length of the valley and National Park.
- The **climate is tropical.**



Types of Forest

1. West-coast tropical evergreen forest
2. Southern subtropical broad-leaved hill forest
3. Southern montane wet temperate forest
4. Grassland.

Fauna- Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Fishing Cat, Common Palm Civet, Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Otter, Flying Squirrel, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Indian Pangolin, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Gaur and Elephant.

Flora-

1. 1000 species of flowering plants
2. 107 species of orchids
3. 100 ferns and fern allies
4. 75 lichens and about 200 algae.

Person in news: Sreekumaran Thampi



Context

Sreekumaran Thampi has been chosen for the 47th Vayalar Award.

Key facts

- It is The most prestigious literary award in Malayalam.
- It carries a cash of Rs 1 lakh, a citation and a **sculpture designed by noted sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman**
- The award will be **presented on October 27, the death anniversary of Vayalar Ramavarma** in a function in **Thiruvananthapuram.**

About Sreekumaran Thampi

- Noted lyricist, screenwriter, and filmmaker
- He was chosen for this **Award for his autobiography 'Jeevitham Oru Pendulum'** (Life, a Pendulum).
- He hails from Kerala.

First public sector park in Kerala

Context

The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) decided to **develop the caravan park and camp shelter at Bekal Fort** which has also been **selected by the Tourism Department to be developed under cinema tourism.**

Key facts

- The caravan park at Bekal will be the **first park in the public sector in the State.**
- A sum of ₹1.53 crore has been sanctioned for the project.



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- **Bekal Fort** is a well-protected fort on a hillock overlooking the Arabian Sea that boasts stunning architecture and a lush green environment.

About Bekal Fort

- Bekal Fort is a medieval fort **built by Shivappa Nayaka of Keladi in 1650 AD, at Bekal.**
- It is the **largest fort in Kerala**, spreading over 40 acres.
- The **maritime importance of Bekal Fort increased under the Kolathiris** and Malabar became an important port town.
- **It was an important military station for Tipu Sultan** when he led a military expedition to capture Malabar.
- The coins and artifacts found in archaeological excavations at Bekal Fort indicate the strong presence of Mysore Sultans.

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