

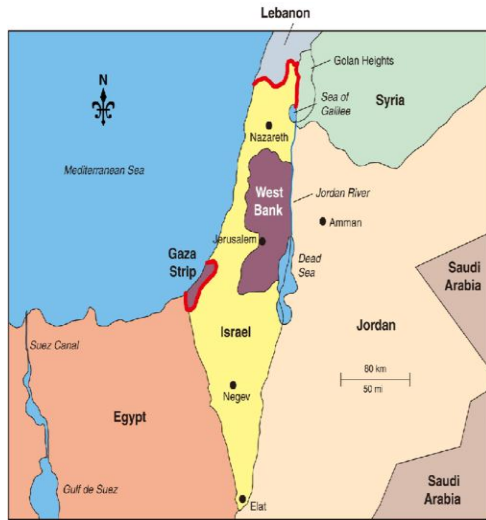


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09 October 2023 – Daily Current Affairs

### Israel 'at war' after Hamas attack



### 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 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**, Mediterranean on the west.
- Gaza strip is situated on the **northeast of the Sinai Peninsula**.

### The GST Council cleared several pending issues.

#### Slow & steady

Some of the decisions announced by the GST Council on Saturday

- Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) in liquor production kept outside GST
- States empowered to tax ENA
- Blended flour, with at least 70% millets, made tax-free when sold loose
- Levy on molasses slashed from 28% to 5% to lower cattle feed costs, help sugarcane farmers



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses the media after the GST Council meeting

### Context

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

### Decisions taken by 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



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	<p>Amendment Bill), paved the way for the implementation of GST.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The GST Council is a joint forum of the Centre and the states under <b>Article 279-A</b> of the constitution.</li><li>• Article 279-A. gives the President the authority to appoint a GST Council by executive order.</li><li>• The members of the Council include the <b>Union Finance Minister (chairperson), and the Union Minister of State (Finance) from various states.</b></li><li>• As per Article 279, it <b>makes recommendations to the Union and the states</b> on important issues related to GST.</li><li>• It also decides on various <b>rate slabs</b> of GST.</li></ul>
<p><b>ISRO plans Gaganyaan unmanned flight tests</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> The ISRO, which is planning to commence unmanned flight tests for the Gaganyaan mission, has started to make preparations for the <b>Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)</b>.</p> <p><b>Gaganyaan Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of <b>human spaceflight capability</b> by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission and bringing them back safely to earth.</li><li>• It is part of the <b>Indian Human Spaceflight Programme (IHSP)</b>, which was initiated (2007) by the ISRO to develop the technology needed to launch crewed orbital spacecraft into low earth orbit (LEO).</li><li>• Launch <b>Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3/GSLV Mk3)</b> rocket - the well proven and reliable heavy lift launcher of ISRO, is identified as the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission.</li><li>• <b>India's heaviest rocket</b> consists of solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage.</li></ul>
<p><b>Ganga-Ghagra basin canals pose a threat to dolphins: study</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> A recent study has revealed that 19 Gangetic river</p>



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dolphins had been 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
- 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,**



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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 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 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.



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