



18 January 2025

National and International News

Israel Conflict

Israel's boundaries today
Palestinian territories

Why in news?

- Israel's security Cabinet recommended approving a **ceasefire deal after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** confirmed that an agreement had been reached.
- The deal would temporarily halt the **15-month war with Hamas in Gaza** and facilitate the release of dozens of hostages held by militants.

Key Points:

- The Israel-Palestine conflict arises from **interconnected historical assertions, nationalist aspirations, and religious significance in the Middle East**, centered on territory and identity struggles.
- Started with the **rise of Zionism in the late 19th century and mirrored by the rise of Arab nationalism**, the conflict escalated in the 20th century, especially after Israel's establishment in 1948.
 - **Zionism** is the national endeavor of the Jewish people, **supporting and advocating for the restoration of a Jewish homeland, traditionally identified with the area of Palestine or the Biblical land of Israel.**
- **Conflict Regions:**
 - **About Gaza Strip:**
 - - **Location:** The Gaza Strip is a coastal Palestinian region along the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Israel and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Together with the West Bank, it forms the State of Palestine, with Israel situated between the two territories.
 - - **Governance:** Hamas, a politico-military entity, has administered the Gaza Strip since its electoral victory in 2006.
 - - **Control:** While Israel maintains authority over Gaza's airspace and coastline, it has also implemented limitations on goods entering the territory. Additionally, Egypt manages its border with Gaza.
 - **West Bank:**
 - - **Location:** This territory is landlocked and is bordered by Israel and Jordan, with the Dead Sea marking part of its boundary.
 - - **Administration:** A section of Jerusalem is within the West Bank. The region is governed by Fatah, previously recognised as the Palestinian National Liberation Movement.
 - **Jerusalem:**
 - - **Location:** Located on a plateau in the Judean Mountains between the Mediterranean Sea and the



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		<p>Dead Sea. It's roughly in the center of Israel and is bordered by several Palestinian territories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ - Administration: Jerusalem is divided into several districts: Jewish-majority West Jerusalem and the predominantly Palestinian East Jerusalem, which includes the Old City.
Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)	Why in news?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shri Pralhad Joshi, the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy, announced a major revision to the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)] Policy for 2024-25. ● The revised policy aims to strengthen food security and streamline the distribution of rice to various stakeholders. ● Key updates under the new policy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reserve Price for Rice: The reserve price for rice has been set at ₹2,250 per quintal (across India) for sale to State Governments, State Government Corporations, and Community Kitchens, eliminating the need for participation in e-auctions. ○ Support for Ethanol Production: The reserve price of rice for sale to ethanol distilleries, for ethanol production, has also been fixed at ₹2,250 per quintal.
Third Launch Pad (TLP)	Why in news?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Cabinet of India, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the establishment of the Third Launch Pad (TLP) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a state-of-the-art launch infrastructure to support Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLV's) and as a standby for the Second Launch Pad (SLP). ● Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support launches of NGLVs, LVM3 vehicles, and human spaceflight missions like Gaganyaan. ○ Enhance India's space exploration capabilities for the next 25-30 years. ● First Launch Pad (FLP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary Purpose: Designed for Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and supports Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) ○ Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Foundation of India's space transportation. ■ Played a key role in India's initial satellite launches. ● Second Launch Pad (SLP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary Purpose: Dedicated to Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and LVM3 ○ Notable Contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supported Chandrayaan-3 and other national and



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		commercial missions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preparing for human-rated launches for Gaganyaan
Places in news: Gulf of Aden & Red Sea	Why in news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Threats in the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, and waters surrounding East African countries could rise, prompting the Indian Navy to enhance its presence and ensure the safety of sea routes, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About Gulf of Aden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is an extension of the Indian Ocean, located between the Arabian Peninsula and the African continent. ○ It connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea and ultimately the Indian Ocean. ○ The gulf is named after “Aden,” a port city on Yemen’s coast. ○ It is approximately 900 km long and 500 km wide and covers roughly 410,000 square kilometers. ○ It is bounded to the south by Somalia and the Socotra Islands (part of Yemen), north by Yemen, east by the Arabian Sea, and west by Djibouti. ○ The gulf is connected to the Somali Sea to the south by the Guardafui Channel, and to the Red Sea on the west by the Strait of Bab el Mandeb. ○ Major Ports: Aden in Yemen, and Berbera and Bosaso in Somalia. ○ It is also a critical part of the Suez Canal shipping route, which connects the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. ● About Red Sea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Red Sea is a semi-enclosed, inlet (or extension) of the Indian Ocean between the continents of Africa and Asia. ○ It is the world’s northernmost tropical sea and is also one of the most heavily traveled waterways. ○ It is connected to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the south through the Gulf of Aden and the narrow strait of Bab el Mandeb. ○ Bordering Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Yemen and Saudi Arabia border the Red Sea to the east. ■ It is bordered by Egypt to the north and west and by Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti to the west. ■ Islands: Some well-known islands include Tiran Island, which is located near the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, and Shadwan Island, which is located at the entrance of the Gulf of Suez. 	
Places in news: Siachen Glacier	Why in news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reliance Jio announced the extension of its 4G and 5G services to 	



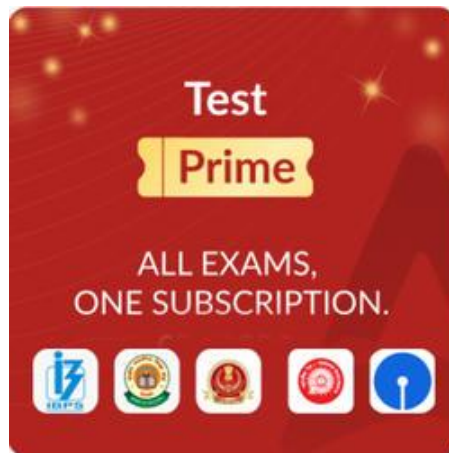
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the **Siachen Glacier**, the world's highest battlefield, just a day before Army Day on January 15.

Key Points:

- It is located in the **eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas Mountains, just northeast of the point NJ9842**, where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- It forms **part of the Union Territory of Ladakh**.
- The glacier lies between the **Saltoro Ridge** (a subrange of the Karakorams) to the west and the main Karakoram Range to the east.
- It is the **second longest nonpolar glacier in the world**, following the **Fedchenko Glacier in Tajikistan**.
- The glacier originates at the base of the Indira Col West, a low point on the Indira Ridge.
- Strategically located, it dominates the **Shaksgam Valley (ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963)** to the north, controls the routes coming from Gilgit Baltistan to Leh from the west, and also dominates the ancient Karakoram Pass to the east.
- It is the **major source of the Nubra River, which is 80 km long and a key tributary of the Shyok River**.
- Known as the **world's highest battleground**, the glacier was taken under Indian control from Pakistan in 1984 during Operation Meghadoot.





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