




16 January 2025

National and International News

<p>Israel Palestine Conflict</p> <p>Israel's boundaries today Palestinian territories</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israel and Hamas have agreed to a ceasefire deal to pause the devastating war in the Gaza Strip. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About Gaza Strip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location: Located on a plateau in the Judean Mountains between the Mediterranean
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	<p>Sea and the 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.
<p>Commissioning of INS Nilgiri, Surat and Vaghsheer</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian Navy announced the commissioning of Nilgiri, Surat, and Vaghsheer, built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), on 15th January 2025, at Mumbai. ● Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the first tri-commissioning as a significant step towards achieving an Atmanirbhar Bharat and dedicated the naval platforms — two warships and a submarine — to the nation. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● INS Nilgiri: The lead ship of Project 17A, represents a major upgrade over the Shivalik-class frigates, featuring advanced stealth technology and state-of-the-art weapon systems to strengthen naval defense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A) were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019 to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates. ● INS Surat: The fourth and final destroyer under Project 15B, is an enhanced version of the Kolkata-class destroyers, equipped with long-range missiles and indigenous weapons systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project 15B is an initiative by the Indian Navy to design and construct four advanced guided-missile destroyers ● INS Vaghsheer: The sixth submarine in the Scorpene-class (Project 75), is one of the quietest diesel-electric submarines globally, capable of anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, and special operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project-75 (India) aims to build 18 conventional submarines and six nuclear-powered submarines for the Indian Navy. <p>What is Atmanirbhar Bharat?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atmanirbhar Bharat refers to a self-reliant India dealing with the world on its own terms. ● It is neither protectionist nor isolationist. ● The five pillars of Atma Nirbhar Bharat are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economy ○ Infrastructure ○ System ○ Vibrant Demography



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<p>Places in news: Nagarahole Tiger Reserve</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are 28 spotted deer per square kilometer in the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park, is a wildlife sanctuary and national park in Karnataka, India. It is a major tiger reserve in India and is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. ● It is located in the Kodagu and Mysore districts of Karnataka. ● Tiger density <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It has one of the highest tiger densities in India. In 1999, it was declared the 37th Tiger Reserve of India. ● Flora and fauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is home to a variety of flora and fauna, including tigers, Indian leopards, striped hyenas, chital, sam, gaur, wild boar, and sambar deer. ● Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The vegetation includes moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests, and freshwater swamp forests. ● Biosphere Reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which was established in 1986. ● History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and upgraded to a national park in 1988.
<p>Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TRAI has released the Draft Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order, 2025, focused on the "Rationalization of Broadband Tariffs for PDOs under the PM-WANI Scheme." <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme was launched in 2020 which aims to democratise broadband access via public Wi-Fi hotspots. ● Launch: Initiated by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). ● Objective: To provide affordable, high-speed internet connectivity, particularly in rural and remote areas, through a nationwide public Wi-Fi network. ● PM-WANI Ecosystem Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Data Office (PDO): Sets up Wi-Fi hotspots and provides internet access. No license is required from DoT. ○ Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): Offers



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	<p>authorization, accounting services, and user interfaces for purchasing data plans and monitoring usage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ App Provider: Develops applications to help users locate and connect to nearby PM-WANI hotspots, facilitating easy internet access. ○ Central Registry: Managed by the Centre for Development of Telematics, maintaining records of App Providers, PDOs, and PDOAs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessing PM-WANI Wi-Fi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Users download an app to find available PM-WANI hotspots. ○ They can select a network, pay for the service, and access the internet until their balance runs out.
<p>India – Singapore Relations</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India and Singapore celebrated 60 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Historical: Strong commercial, cultural, and people-to-people links dating back over a millennium. ● India recognized Singapore soon after its independence in 1965. ● Strategic: India-Singapore relations were elevated to Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Singapore in 2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR): Inaugural ISMR in 2022 focused on digital connectivity, Fintech, green economy, and other areas. ○ 2nd ISMR in 2024 added new pillars like Advanced Manufacturing and Connectivity. ● Trade and Economic Cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Singapore is India's largest trade partner in the ASEAN region. ○ It is also the leading source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), one of the largest contributors to External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), and a key source of Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI). ○ Bilateral Trade Growth: The bilateral trade between India and Singapore has grown significantly, increasing from USD 6.7 billion in FY 2004-05 to USD 35.6 billion in FY 2023-24. ○ India-Singapore Trade Ranking: Singapore ranks as India's 6th largest trade partner, accounting for 3.2% of India's total trade. ● Fintech: Initiatives include the UPI-PayNow linkage, RuPay card acceptance, and other cross-border Fintech developments.

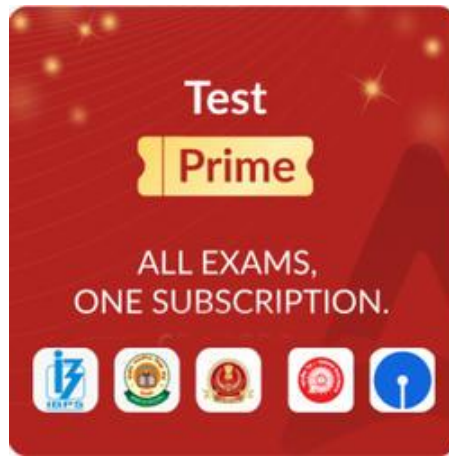


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral Cooperation: Singapore has joined international initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuel Alliance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Both countries are part of multilateral groups such as IORA, NAM, and the Commonwealth. • Indian Community: Indians make up about 9.1% of Singapore's resident population and 21% of foreign residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Significant Indian diaspora with high concentrations of IIT and IIM alumni.
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