




28 February 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 has refused to withdraw from the strategic corridor in the Gaza Strip, as called for by the ceasefire. This decision could lead to tensions with Hamas and Egypt, a key mediator in the fragile truce. <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 Sea and the Dead Sea. It's roughly in the center of Israel and is bordered by several Palestinian territories. - Administration: Jerusalem is divided into several
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	districts: Jewish-majority West Jerusalem and the predominantly Palestinian East Jerusalem, which includes the Old City.
Person in news: Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Why in news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government appointed Finance and Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the principal regulator of the securities market in India. SEBI established as and functioned as a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To act as the watchdog of the Indian capital market To protect the interests of investors in securities, and To promote and regulate the securities market. Organizational Structure of SEBI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India follows a corporate structure with a well-defined hierarchy. The Board of Directors sits at the top of the hierarchy and is responsible for the overall direction and management of the operations. Its Board of Directors comprises 9 members, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Chairperson nominated by the Government of India. 2 members from the Union Ministry dealing with finance & administration of the Companies Act, 2013 (usually, the Union Ministry of Finance). 1 member from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). 5 other members appointed by the Government of India.
Species in news: Olive Ridley turtle	Why in news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 16-year study on turtle populations in India indicates that the Olive Ridley species shows a "steady or growing" population. However, rising sand temperatures due to climate change are causing a higher proportion of these turtles to be females, which raises concerns about the long-term viability of the population. Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. It gets its name from the olive green colouration of its carapace (shell). Scientific Name: <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> They are best known for their unique mass nesting, called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs. Distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are mainly found in the warm waters of the Pacific,



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	<p>Atlantic, and Indian oceans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (a colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN Red List: Vulnerable ○ Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1 ○ CITES: Appendix I
<p>National Geospatial Policy, 2022</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Geospatial Policy, 2022, notified by the Government of India on December 28, 2022, is a transformative policy aimed at positioning India as a global leader in the geospatial sector. ● With a long-term vision extending to 2035, the policy seeks to liberalize and democratize access to geospatial data, fostering innovation and enabling its widespread use across governance, businesses, and academia. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a citizen-centric policy that seeks to strengthen the Geospatial sector to support national development, economic prosperity and a thriving information economy. ● Vision and goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To make India a World Leader in Global Geospatial space with the best in the class ecosystem for innovation. ○ To develop a coherent national framework in the country and leverage it to move towards a digital economy and improve services to citizens. ○ To develop Geospatial infrastructures, Geospatial skill and knowledge, standards, Geospatial businesses. ○ To promote innovation and strengthen the national and sub-national arrangements for generation and management of Geospatial information. ● National Digital Twins of India's major cities and towns by 2035: The digital twin is a virtual replica of a physical asset, process or service that lies at the core of the new digital revolution. <p>What is Geospatial Technology?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geospatial Technology is an emerging field of study that includes Geographic Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS), and Global Positioning System (GPS).
<p>Animal Welfare Board of India</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The "Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award Ceremony" was held by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory body under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AWBI is a statutory advisory body under the Union Ministry of



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	<p>Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It derives its legal structure from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. • It was established in 1962 • It was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian. • Headquarters: Chennai • Mandate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It frames rules on how animals ought to be humanely treated everywhere. ○ It has also frequently litigated to have stricter laws to ensure animals were not unduly harassed or tortured. • Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several government organisations, along with animal rights activists and parliamentarians, are represented on the Board. ○ The Board consists of 28 Members. ○ The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years.
<p>Waqf Amendment Bill 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Cabinet has approved 14 amendments to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, proposed by the Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024, proposes significant changes to the governance and management of Waqf properties in India. • This legislation seeks to amend the Waqf Act of 1995, aiming to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the administration of Waqf properties while addressing long-standing issues within the system. • What is a Waqf Property? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Waqf is a property donated by Muslims for a specific religious, charitable, or private purpose. Ownership of the property is considered to belong to God, while its benefits are directed to the specified purposes. ○ Establishment: A Waqf can be established through a written deed, legal instrument, or orally. ○ Use and Permanence: A property may be recognized as Waqf if it has been used for religious or charitable purposes over an extended period. Once declared Waqf, the property's status is permanent and irreversible. • Key Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Waqf Amendment (Bill) 2024 proposes changing the name of the parent Act from the Waqf Act of 1995 to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act of 1995. ○ Government Property: Government properties identified as



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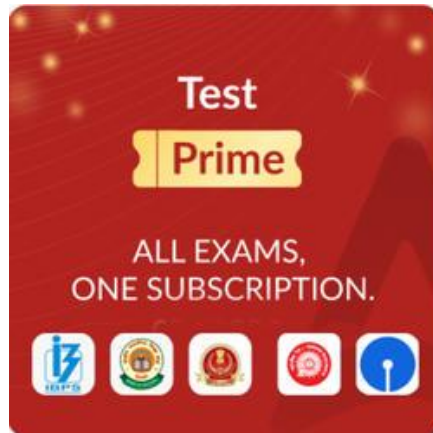
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	<p>waqf will revert to state ownership. The District Collector will determine ownership in disputed cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waqf Property Determination: The Waqf Board's power to determine waqf properties is removed. ○ Waqf Survey: Collectors will conduct waqf surveys under state revenue laws. ○ Tribunal Composition: Muslim law experts are removed. Tribunals will include a District Court judge and a state officer of joint secretary rank. ○ Appeals: Tribunal decisions can be appealed to the High Court within 90 days. ○ Central Government Powers: The central government can set rules on registration, waqf accounts, and Board proceedings. Audits can be conducted by the CAG. ○ Separate Waqf Boards: Separate Waqf Boards are allowed for Bohra and Agakhani sects.
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