

DAILY PT POINTERS

16 January, 2025



The Hindu-GS2(IR)Page1

Gaza ceasefire agreement ready, say U.S. and Hamas

Israeli PM Netanyahu says final details of the deal are still being ironed out; agreement promises release of hostages held by Hamas and Palestinians jailed in Israel during a six-week pause in war

Associated Press
DOHA

Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire deal to pause the devastating war in the Gaza Strip, multiple officials announced on Wednesday, raising the possibility of winding down the deadliest and most destructive fighting between the bitter enemies.

The deal, coming after weeks of painstaking negotiations in the Qatari capital, promises the release of dozens of hostages held by Hamas in phases, the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, and would allow hundreds of thousands of people displaced in Gaza to return to what remains of their homes. It also would flood



Hopes up: Supporters of Israelis kidnapped by Hamas react to the news reports on ceasefire deal in Tel Aviv on Wednesday. REUTERS

ian aid into a territory ravaged by 15 months of war.

Three officials from the U.S. and one from Hamas

been reached, while the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said final details were still

All three U.S. officials and the Hamas official requested anonymity to discuss the contours of the deal before the official announcement by mediators in Doha.

Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement that it hoped "details will be finalised tonight." Any agreement needs to be approved by Netanyahu's Cabinet.

Once official, the deal is expected to deliver an initial six-week halt to fighting that is to be accompanied by the opening of negotiations on ending the war altogether.

Over six weeks, 33 of the nearly 100 hostages are to be reunited with their loved ones after months in captivity.

CONTINUED ON

- Israel and Hamas have agreed to a ceasefire deal to temporarily pause the ongoing war in Gaza. The deal follows weeks of negotiations in Doha, Qatar.
- Key components of the agreement:
 - Phased release of hostages held by Hamas.
 - Release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli detention.
 - Allowance for displaced people in Gaza to return to their homes.
 - Delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

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BSF, BGB officials hold border coordination meet to 'strengthen ties'

High-level interaction highlights 'unwavering commitment of both forces towards ensuring the sanctity of the international border' amid disagreements over construction of border fences

Moyaric Som
KOLKATA

The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) held a border-coordination meeting on Wednesday at the Sector Commandment level at the Petrapole-Benapole border to discuss critical issues of mutual interest.

The issues included development projects in border areas, implementation of the single row fence (SRF), and effective measures to combat cross-border crime such as cattle smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal immigration, according to a statement released by the South Bengal Frontier of the BSF.

The high-level interaction also reportedly highlighted "the unwavering commitment of both the forces towards strengthening bilateral relations and ensuring the sanctity of the international border".



On alert: BSF personnel keep vigil at the India-Bangladesh border at Chhatrahati in Dakshin Dinajpur district, West Bengal. FILE PHOTO

der, with recent reports of disagreements over the construction of border fences in certain areas such as Sukdebpur in West Bengal's Malda.

The BSF delegation was led by Tami Kumar, Deputy Inspector General, Sector Headquarters BSF Kolkata, while the BGB delegation was led by Colonel Mebedi Hasan Chowdhury, Sector Commander,

commanders and staff officers from both forces.

"These high-level meetings are testimony to the unbreakable partnership between India and Bangladesh. Through open dialogue and cooperation, both forces have reaffirmed their commitment to maintain the sanctity of the international border while addressing shared concerns. The BSF is stead-

neighbours," the public relations officer of BSF South Bengal Frontier said.

The interaction follows a January 10 meeting between the two forces, in which Inspector-General of BSF's South Bengal Frontier Maninder P.S. Pawar was present along with BGB's Regional Commander of the South West Region Brigadier-General Mohammad Humayun Kabir. Subjects like mutual cooperation and maintaining peace along the border were discussed.

Infiltration bid foiled

The BSF's South Bengal Frontier had foiled multiple smuggling and infiltration attempts at the border on Tuesday in several districts such as North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, and Malda. According to a press statement, BSF personnel pushed back 13 illegal Bangladeshi intruders, seized 1,236 bottles of banned Phensedyl syrup,

The BSF and BGB held a border-coordination meeting at the Petrapole-Benapole border on Wednesday to discuss mutual interests.

Key Issues Discussed:

Development projects in border areas.

- Implementation of the single row fence (SRF).
- Combating cross-border crimes, including cattle smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal immigration.

Both forces expressed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and maintaining the integrity of the international border.

Tensions Along the Border: The meeting comes amid tensions, including disagreements over border fence construction in areas like Sukdebpur in West Bengal's Malda.

The Hindu-GS3(Defence)Page5

Submarine, 2 warships commissioned

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

In a first, three frontline platforms – *INS Nilgiri*, *INS Vaghsheer*, and *INS Surat* – were commissioned on the same day in the Navy on Wednesday.

Hailing the first tri-commissioning as a significant leap towards *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the naval platforms – two warships and a submarine – to the nation.

INS Nilgiri is the lead ship of Project 17A frigates, *INS Vaghsheer* is the sixth and the final submarine of Project 75 Kalvari class, and *INS Surat* is the fourth and final ship of Project 15B destroyers.

“We are becoming a major maritime power by taking inspiration from our



Major boost: *INS Surat*, *INS Nilgiri*, and *INS Vaghsheer* being commissioned at an event in Mumbai on Wednesday. ANI

val empire of the Cholas. *INS Surat* is dedicated to West Asia through Gujarat. I was there for the commissioning of the first Kalvari submarine. I am blessed to commission the sixth one – *INS Vaghsheer*,” the Prime Minister said at the event held at the Naval dockyard on Wednesday morning.

di said, “India’s position is not expansionist, but development-oriented. We are recognised as a reliable and responsible partner globally, especially in the Global South.”

On the importance of *Atmanirbhar Bharat abhiyan* or indigenisation, he said the country’s dependence on other countries at the time of any tension

equipment, which our defence personnel will not buy from other countries.” Of the 40 platforms commissioned in the Navy in the last few years, 39 were made in India, he said.

‘Growing prowess’

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the “historic commissioning showcases India’s growing prowess in the Indian Ocean region”.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan, Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar were also present at the event.

- three frontline naval platforms — *INS Nilgiri*, *INS Vaghsheer*, and *INS Surat* — were commissioned into the Indian Navy on the same day, marking the first-ever tri-commissioning.
- *INS Nilgiri* is the lead ship of Project 17A frigates, *INS Vaghsheer* is the sixth and the final submarine of Project 75 Kalvari class, and *INS Surat* is the fourth and final ship of Project 15B destroyers.

The Hindu-GS2(Governance)Page10

Does 'blood money' have a legal standing?

What does blood money mean? How does it figure in Islamic Sharia law? Do different Islamic nations have different rules with respect to determining the amount of money to be paid to the victim's family by the accused? What does plea bargaining in India mean?

CAPTION

What is 'blood money'?
Blood money, or *diya*, finds footing in the Islamic Sharia law, and is followed in countries that incorporate these laws in their legislation. Under the code of *Qisas*, a certain quantity of valuable assets, primarily monetary, has to be paid by the perpetrator of the crime to the victim or the victim's family if the latter has died. The custom to seek bereaved families in cases involving intentional murder and culpable homicide. It is also invoked in murder cases wherein the victim's life does not end, or in cases through *qisas* or use of retribution under the Sharia. The *diya*, as the law says, is not to be a price tag on human life, but to divert the fight and suffering of the affected family and their perceptions of justice. However, it is not a case that even if the concerned parties reconcile through blood money, the criminality and the state will retain the right to impose a deterrent punishment, including penalties.

In its comparative applications, blood money is applied in several Islamic countries with factors such as gender, religion and nationality of the victim considered. *Qisas* scholar researcher Mohammed Haidari has analysed several cases in his book *Crime and Punishment in Islamic Law* after interviewing 15 Saudi judges. In essence, the judge regulations specifically mandate payment of blood money in cases of the victim who is a male adult. In addition, the perpetrator shall be liable to a prison term. The same regulations and the Sharia work hand in hand in such cases. While the judge determine the guilty parties, Sharia rules govern the amount of blood money to be paid. As for arbitrators or mediators, the rules are fixed by a special committee. In 2012, Saudi had a landmark case that fixed *diya* as an amount to be paid by the accused to the victim's family, irrespective of gender, religion or nationality. However, efforts towards this are yet to come to fruition.

In Iran too, a common view is that the practice is deeply religious. Blood money stands with respect to religion and gender. A woman's compensation is fixed at half of that of a man's. In 2010, the country's Supreme Court upheld a law that sought equalisation of blood money. However, the country is yet to see its full fledged implementation. India's neighbours Pakistan, too, practice a plea for blood and gold. Through the Criminal Law Ordinance Ordinance, 2016, these provisions were brought into legislative law. In essence, the country is in a quandary, the contours for compensation can be worked out by the parties, and there might be a judicial oversight over the fairness of the compensation.



THE GIST

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- The concept of 'blood money' (diya) originates from Islamic Sharia law and is practiced in various countries with Islamic legal frameworks. It requires the perpetrator of a crime, especially unintentional murder or culpable homicide, to compensate the victim or their family. This compensation can alleviate the victim's family's suffering and loss of income, and it may replace retribution (qisas) if the victim's family chooses not to pursue it. Despite its purpose, it does not eliminate the possibility of further state-imposed penalties. The amount of blood money can depend on factors like gender, religion, and nationality of the victim.
- Countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan incorporate blood money into their legal systems, though its application can be controversial, especially regarding gender inequality in compensation.
- In India, there are no provisions for blood money in the legal system. However, India has introduced plea bargaining, which allows for negotiated concessions, including compensation to victims. This process, though different from blood money, shares some similarities.

The Hindu-GS3(Environment)

28 spotted deer dot every sq. km of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Wildlife spotting at any reserve is a matter of time, luck, and patience. But those visiting the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka will most likely catch a glimpse of the spotted deer. Officials of the reserve say their population has seen a steady increase in recent years. At present, there are 28 spotted deer for every sq. km of the reserve.

The Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is located in the districts of Mysuru and Kodagu. It has an area of 847.981 sq. km, including a core area of 643.392 sq. km and a buffer area of 204.589 sq. km. The re-



Spotted deer at the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. K.C. DEEPIKA

the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala to the south and Bandipur Tiger Reserve to the southeast.

According to the reserve, these forests in the Western Ghats play host to many carnivores and herbivores, including tiger, le-

sloth bear, Asiatic elephant, gaur, sambar, chital, four-horned antelope, and South-western langur, among others.

Seema. P.A., Deputy Conservator of Forests and Director of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, told *The Hindu*

population is a sign of healthy prey-predator numbers. "Deer population is good in Nagarahole compared to other tiger reserves. It has been increasing for a few years. Prey and predator - both are balanced," she said. She also said the reserve had 142 tigers as of the 2023 census, the third-highest population in India.

Another official from the reserve said among the factors contributing to the population is the availability of grass and food, which is good for prey density and predator base. The official also said the terrain in the reserve is not entirely hilly and has a variety of forest types, from scrub to evergreen, which helps

- Wildlife spotting at any reserve is a matter of time, luck, and patience. But those visiting the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka will most likely catch a glimpse of the spotted deer. Officials of the reserve say their population has seen a steady increase in recent years. At present, there are 28 spotted deer for every sq. km of the reserve.
- The Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is located in the districts of Mysuru and Kodagu. It has an area of 847.981 sq. km, including a core area of 643.392 sq. km and a buffer area of 204.589 sq. km. The reserve is contiguous with the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala to the south and Bandipur Tiger Reserve to the southeast.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB –GS1(History)

Prime Minister's Office



On Thiruvalluvar Day, we remember one of our land's greatest philosophers, poets, and thinkers, the great Thiruvalluvar:PM

His verses reflect the essence of Tamil culture and our philosophical heritage:PM

His teachings emphasize righteousness, compassion, and justice: PM

Posted On: 15 JAN 2025 12:37PM by PIB Delhi

TIRUVALLUVAR DAY CELEBRATED IN TAMIL NADU,

Thiruvalluvar was a great saint, poet and philosopher of Tamil culture. His famous work 'Thirukkural' is considered to be the book of ethics of Tamil literature. It contains 1330 couplets (Kural), which provide deep knowledge on topics like ethics, politics, love and justice.

It is worth noting that Thiruvalluvar Day is celebrated every year on the day after Makar Sankranti. This day is dedicated to honoring his teachings and contribution to Tamil culture. Thiruvalluvar is worshiped as a saint and philosopher in Tamil Nadu. His teachings and life values reinforce the principles of righteousness, compassion and harmony in society.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB –GS1(Culture)

Ministry of Education



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches Registration Portal for Kashi Tamil Sangamam Phase 3

KTS 3.0 to be held from 15th February 2025 - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Theme of KTS 3.0 will be Sage Agasthyar - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

1st time the participants of KTS 3.0 to experience Mahakumbh and visit Ram Mandir at Ayodhya

Posted On: 15 JAN 2025 4:01PM by PIB Delhi

- Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the registration portal for the 3rd edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS).
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam is being organized by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India in collaboration with other ministries including Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, I&B etc. and the Govt. of UP. The programme aims to provide an opportunity for scholars, students, philosophers, traders, artisans, artists and people from other walks of life from the two regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each other's experience. It also aims to make the youth aware and experience cultural oneness. The endeavour is in sync with NEP 2020's emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge. IIT Madras and BHU are the two implementing agencies for the programme.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-GS2(IR)

SC Orders For Separate Toilet Facilities In Court Premises Across The Country



- The Supreme Court today ordered the construction and availability of separate toilet facilities for males, females, PwD, and transgender persons in all court premises and tribunals across the country. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan said that toilets are not merely a matter of convenience, but a basic necessity which is a facet of human rights.
- Access to proper sanitation is recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. This right inherently includes ensuring a safe and hygienic environment for all individuals.
- The Apex Court said, there is a discernible duty on every State and UT under Part IV of the Constitution to ensure a healthy environment and to continuously strive to improve public health, added Justice Pardiwala-led Bench. The apex court was hearing a writ petition in nature of a public interest litigation.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Society(GSI)

Tharu Community Displays Its Culture, Craft & Cuisine During Weeklong Maghi Festival



- The Tharu community celebrated their major festival, Maghi, with a weeklong display of their culture, craft, and cuisine. Maghi is observed on the first day of the Nepali month Magh.
- The Tharu, an indigenous tribe living in the Terai region of India and Nepal, have a population of around 1.7 million in Nepal and are mainly found in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar in India.