



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Third Intifada



The recent escalation in the **Hamas-Israel conflict** has raised **concerns about a Third Intifada** .

- Hamas is a **militant Palestinian nationalist group** that has controlled **Gaza** since 2006.
- Intifada means **'shake off' in Arabic** and was used to describe the Palestinian **uprising against Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza** .
- The **First Intifada** lasted from 1987 to 1993, and the **Second Intifada** from 2000-2005.
 - The uprisings were spearheaded by Palestinian youth who were fed up with the treatment they faced from Israeli settlers.
 - Tensions between **Israel and Palestine** have not subsided since the end of the Second Intifada.

Read more: [Israel-Palestine](#)

Universe's Earliest Galaxies

A recent study published in **Astrophysical Journal Letters** offered insights into the early universe's star formation and brightness.

- The **James Webb Space Telescope** , operational since 2022, has provided a remarkable glimpse into the universe's early history, revealing a collection of galaxies from cosmic dawn.
- Researchers' findings indicated that **star formation in these galaxies** occurred in **bursts rather than steadily** , distinguishing them from modern, larger galaxies like the **Milky Way** .
 - In these early galaxies, star formation bursts caused significant variations in brightness, making them **appear larger and more massive** than they may have actually been. **Astronomers usually gauge a galaxy's size based on its brightness, but this phenomenon challenges that assumption** .

- The study suggests that the bursts of star formation led to intense **flashes of light**, making these early galaxies appear brighter.
- In smaller galaxies, bursty star formation may occur **due to the formation and rapid explosion of very large stars**, which eject gas into space, fueling subsequent bursts of star formation.
 - Larger galaxies, with stronger gravitational effects, tend to have more stable, continuous star formation.

Read more: [James Webb Space Telescope](#)

Operation Kachchhap

In a recent operation named "**Kachchhap**," the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** has successfully **rescued nearly a thousand live baby Gangetic turtles**, shedding light on the ongoing battle against illegal wildlife trade and the protection of these unique creatures.

- The **Ganga river system** in India is home to 13 species of turtles, they face various threats from habitat loss, overexploitation, and pollution.
- The operation resulted in the recovery of live baby turtles of different species, such as the **Indian Tent Turtle**, **Indian Flapshell Turtle**, **Black Spotted/Pond Turtle**, and **Brown Roofed Turtle**., some of which are considered **vulnerable or near-threatened species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List** and are protected under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- DRI serves as India's premier **anti-smuggling agency**, operating under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs**, Ministry of Finance. It is responsible for detecting and preventing various forms of smuggling, including illicit wildlife trade.

Read more: [Indian Tent Turtle](#) , [Indian Flapshell Turtle](#)

Automatic 'Status Holder' Certificates Boost Indian Exports

Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry has unveiled an initiative involving the **issuance of automatic 'Status Holder' certificates** under the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**.

- This system **eliminates the need for exporters to apply for a Status Certificate manually**, relying instead on an IT system's assessment based on available merchandise export data and risk parameters from the **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)**.
 - This shift reduces compliance burdens and fosters ease of doing business.
- This initiative, recognizing about **20,000 exporters as Status Holders**, is poised to significantly boost the **export ecosystem** and help achieve India's export target of **USD 2 Trillion by 2030**.

Read more: [Foreign Trade Policy \(FTP\) 2023](#)

Annual Joint HADR Exercise 2023 (Chakravat 2023)

The 2023 edition of the **Annual Joint HADR Exercise (AJHE)** is being hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa from **09th October 2023 to 11th Oct 2023**.

- Initiated in **2015** , this exercise marks a significant step towards enhancing collective response mechanisms to **humanitarian crises and natural disasters in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- With climate change intensifying the region's vulnerability, India's inclusive vision for the oceans, known as **SAGAR**, underscores the importance of **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**.

Read more: [Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief](#), [Indian Ocean Region](#).

