

UPSC Current Affairs - 20-Jan-25

1. Pink fire retardant
2. Israel-Hamas deal

Mediators in Doha, Qatar, have agreed on a phased ceasefire deal in Gaza on the following terms: During a 42-day first phase beginning Sunday, Hamas will release 33 hostages and Israel will release between 900 and 1,650 Palestinian detainees, including all of those detained since October 7, 2023. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will withdraw from central Gaza and the Netzarim Corridor — a 2-4-km-wide security clearing that it has created, cutting Gaza in half up to the Mediterranean — and

eventually from the Philadelphi Corridor, the buffer zone along the Gaza-Egypt border.

Negotiations for a second phase will begin on the 16th day after the ceasefire comes into effect, and is expected to produce almost a full Israeli withdrawal from the Strip, and the release of all remaining hostages by Hamas in return for a yet-to-be-decided number of Palestinian detainees.

In the third phase, border crossings will be reopened fully, and reconstruction will begin in Gaza.

Useful information for all competitive exams:

Israel:

Capital: Jerusalem

President: Isaac Herzog

Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

Currency: New shekel (₪) (ILS)

Hamas:

The Islamic Resistance Movement, abbreviated Hamas is a Palestinian nationalist Sunni Islamist political organisation with a military wing known as the Al-Qassam Brigades. It has governed the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip since 2007.

Headquarters: Gaza City, Gaza Strip

