

UNDERSTAND UPSC

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PRE-CONTEXT

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

News: "Will Riyadh summit impact the Gaza war?"**Ancient to Ottoman Period:**

- **Historical Claims:**
- Both Jews and Arabs have historical ties to the land known variously as Palestine, Israel, or the Holy Land.
 - **Jews claim:** to trace their heritage to the ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah:
 - **Palestinian Arabs claim:** they have lived in the region for centuries.
- **Since the early 16th century until the end of World War I, the region was part of the Ottoman Empire**, predominantly inhabited by Arab Muslims with Jewish and Christian minorities.

Late 19th century:

- European Jews began advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- Concurrently, Arab nationalism was rising.

British Mandate and Increasing Tensions (1917-1947):

- **Balfour Declaration (1917):** British support for establishing a national home for Jews in Palestine.
- **After World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire**, the **League of Nations granted Britain the mandate** to govern Palestine.
 - Jewish immigration to Palestine increased.
 - Led to tensions with the Arab population and resulted in **Arab Revolts (1936-1939)**.
- **Peel Commission (1937) and White Papers:** proposed plans to partition Palestine or limit Jewish immigration, which were rejected by both Jews and Arabs.

United Nations Partition and the Creation of Israel (1947-1948):

- **UN proposal:**
 - Partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration.
 - Jewish leaders accepted the plan, while Arab leaders and surrounding Arab states **rejected it**.
- **In 1948, Declaration of the State of Israel:**
 - Following declaration, **neighbouring Arab countries** (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq) **invaded**, leading to the first Arab-Israeli war.
 - **Israel emerged victorious**, expanding its territory beyond the UN partition plan.
- **Post-1948 Conflicts and Developments:**
 - **1956 Suez Crisis:** Israel, along with the UK and France, invaded Egypt following Egypt's **nationalization of the Suez Canal**. **International pressure**, particularly from the USA and USSR, forced Israel to withdraw.
 - **Yom Kippur War 1973:** Egypt and Syria launched a coordinated **surprise attack on Israel** during the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. This **resulted in the Camp David Accords**.

Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism and Organizations:

- **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) 1964:** to create an independent State of Palestine and promote Palestinian national interests.
- **Hamas 1987:** an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. **Ideology:** Combines Palestinian nationalism with Islamic fundamentalism, aiming to establish an Islamic state in historic Palestine.

P.T.O

Peace efforts and Continuing Conflict

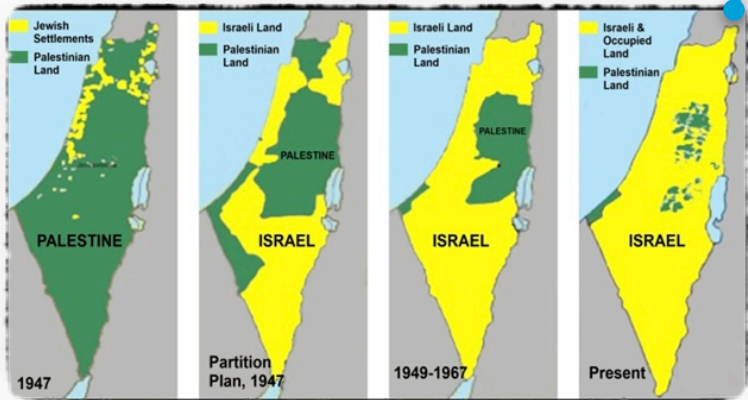
- **Camp David Accords (1978): Israel and Egypt.**
 - **Facilitated by:** USA.
 - **Key provisions:**
 - **Sinai Peninsula:** Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, which it had occupied since the 1967 Six-Day War.
 - **Normalisation of Relations:** Established diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries.
- **Madrid Conference (1991):**
 - **Facilitated by:** USA and Soviet Union.
 - **Parties Involved:** Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), etc.
 - **Key provisions:**
 - **Multilateral Negotiations:** Provided a platform for direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.
- **Oslo Accords (1993 and 1995): Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).**
 - **Key provisions:**
 - **Mutual Recognition:** Israel and the PLO recognized each other and agreed to negotiate a **two-state solution**.
 - **Autonomy for Palestinians:** with limited self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- **Wye River Memorandum (1998): Israel and the Palestinian Authority.**
 - **Key Provisions:**
 - **Implementation of Oslo Accords:** Detailed steps for implementing previous agreements, particularly regarding security and Palestinian autonomy.
- **Abraham Accords (2020):**
 - **Parties Involved:** Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco.
 - **Key Provisions:**
 - **Normalization of Relations:** Established diplomatic relations, including exchange of ambassadors and opening of embassies.
 - **Regional Stability:** Aim to enhance cooperation against common threats and promote peace in the Middle East.
 - **Palestinians exclusion from accords:** they felt excluded, seeing accords as a betrayal of the Arab consensus to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Core issues persisting today:

- **Borders and Territories disputes between Israel and a potential Palestinian state:** especially concerning the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- **Jerusalem:** Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital, with significant religious sites located there.
- **The right of return for Palestinian refugees** displaced since 1948 remains a contentious issue.
- **Israel's security concerns**, including the prevention of terrorism and control over territories, conflict with Palestinian aspirations for sovereignty.
- **Continued expansion of Israeli settlements** in the West Bank is a major obstacle to peace.
- **Israel-Syria Relations:** No formal peace treaty exists. Issues such as the Golan Heights remain contentious.

17 Nov 2024

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ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

HORNBILL

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 19.

News: "Hornbill haven".

About Hornbill:

- Tropical bird.
- **Omnivores**, feed on fruit and small animals.
- **Habitat**: forests, savannas, shrublands, rocky and high-altitude areas.
- **Hornbills are monogamous** (only one partner).
 - A Male hornbill will often bring food to its mate.
- Referred to as **'forest engineers' or 'farmers of the forest'** for their key role in dispersing seeds of tropical trees.
- **Hornbills in India**:
 - **Great Indian Hornbill** (VU, WLPA Schedule 1, CITES Appendix I).
 - **Oriental pied hornbill**: found in the Himalayan foothills, the northeast and eastern parts.

17 Nov 2024



EXAMPLES FROM TODAY'S NEWS PAPER

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

News: "What has SC ruled on bulldozing property?"

Context: Supreme Court questions the legality of recent house demolitions of accused portrayed as action against Anti-Social Elements in UP, MP, HR, and Delhi.

SC held:

- Such actions **contradict fundamental right the Art. 19(1)(e)**: Right to shelter of the accused family.
- Justice to be dispensed according to **law and by due-process**. But not using Bulldozer.
- Destroying family homes, leaving entire families homeless, was **nothing short of "anarchy"**.
- **The Principle of 'separation of powers'** gave the courts the power to decide if someone was guilty or not, not the State.

Note: SC invoked **extraordinary powers under Article 142** to issue directions related to the case.

17 Nov 2024