



drishti

Israel-Palestine

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What is the Issue?

- ❑ Israel-Palestine issue is about who controls what part of the land which is currently under the sovereign authority of Israel.

Israel-Palestine Conflict Timeline

- ❑ Official support of Britain for a Jewish "national home" in Palestine under the Balfour Declaration (1917)
- ❑ Britain withdrew its forces from Palestine (1948)
- ❑ The UN Partition Plan to create independent Jewish and Arab states in Palestine
 - Most Jews in Palestine accepted the partition but most Arabs did not
- ❑ The Jewish declaration of Israel's independence prompted the surrounding Arab states to attack (1948)
- ❑ Formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964
- ❑ Six-day Arab- Israeli war (1967); Israeli forces seized:
 - The Golan Heights from Syria
 - The West Bank & East Jerusalem from Jordan
 - The Sinai Peninsula & Gaza strip from Egypt
- ❑ Recognition to Palestinians' right to self-determination and Observer status for PLO at UN (1975)
- ❑ Camp David Accords (1978)
- ❑ The founding of Hamas (1987)
- ❑ First Intifada (Palestinian Uprising) in 1987
- ❑ Jordan cedes to the PLO all the country's territorial claims in the West Bank and Eastern Jerusalem (1988)
- ❑ Oslo Accord (1993): The Palestinian Authority received limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank
- ❑ Israel-Palestine Blockade (2005)
- ❑ Hamas victory in Palestinian Authority elections (2006)
- ❑ Palestinian Movement Splits (2007)
- ❑ Upgradation of Palestinian representation to "non-member observer state" by UN (2012)
- ❑ Fatah and Hamas form a unity government, though distrust remains between the two factions (2014)

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The Territorial Puzzle

- ❑ **West Bank**
 - Sandwiched between Israel and Jordan
 - The de facto administrative capital of Palestine
 - Israel took control of it in the 1967 war
- ❑ **Gaza**
 - Located between Israel and Egypt
 - Israel unilaterally removed Jewish settlements from the territory (2005)
- ❑ **Golan Heights**
 - The strategic plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 war
 - Recently, the USA has officially recognized Jerusalem and Golan Heights as a part of Israel
- ❑ **Palestinian Authority**
 - Created by the 1993 Oslo Accords
 - The official governing body of the Palestinian people
 - Failed to become a stable negotiating partner
- ❑ **Fatah**
 - Founded by the late Yasir Arafat in the 1950s
 - The largest Palestinian political faction
 - The secular movement has nominally recognized Israel and has actively participated in the peace process
- ❑ **Hamas**
 - Regarded as a terrorist organization by the U.S. government
 - Won the Palestinian Authority's legislative elections (2006)

Two-State Solution

- ❑ Based on a UN resolution of 1947 which proposed two states for Jews and Palestinians

Why is the solution so difficult to achieve?

- ❑ **Borders**
 - No consensus about precisely where to draw the line
- ❑ **Jerusalem**
 - Both sides claim Jerusalem as their capital and a center of religious worship and cultural heritage
 - The US support to Israeli declaration of Jerusalem as its capital intensifying the situation (2017).
- ❑ **Refugees**
 - Major Palestinians lost homes and livelihoods
- ❑ **Divided Political Leadership on Both sides:**
 - Both Palestinian and Israeli leadership is divided on acceptance of the two-state solution

Global Stand

- ❑ 83% of world countries have officially recognized Israel as a sovereign state.
- ❑ Most of the countries are also sympathetic to Palestine.
- ❑ Official recognition of Jerusalem and Golan Heights a part of Israel by the USA.

What do both parties want?

- ❑ **Palestine:** Israeli to halt all expansionary activities and retreat to pre-1967 borders.
- ❑ **Israel:** It to be recognized as a Jewish state and the Palestine refugees to return only to Palestine, not to Israel.

India's Stand

- ❑ India was one of the few countries to oppose the UN's partition plan in November 1947
- ❑ India recognized Israel in 1950
- ❑ India is also the first non-Arab country to recognise the PLO
- ❑ India recognized Palestine in 1988
- ❑ India's full diplomatic relations begin with Israel in 1992
- ❑ India favored UNHRC's resolution to probe Israel's human rights violations in Gaza (2014)
- ❑ Despite supporting probe, India abstained from voting against Israel in UNHRC (2015)
- ❑ India de-hyphenated its relationship with Israel and Palestine (2018)
- ❑ India voted in favor of a decision introduced by Israel in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in June 2019

Way Forward

- ❑ Need for a peaceful solution
- ❑ India's balanced approach towards the Israel-Palestine issue favorable to maintain relations with Arab countries as well as Israel



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