



ICC Investigations into Israel-Palestine War Crimes

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Why in News

International Criminal Court (ICC) has launched investigations into the war crimes in **Palestinian territories occupied by Israel** (West Bank and the Gaza Strip).

Key Points

- The decision for investigation is taken after a recent ruling that the court's jurisdiction extends to territories occupied by Israel since the **1967 Six-day Arab- Israeli war**.
In this war, Israeli forces seized the **Golan Heights** from Syria, the **West Bank & East Jerusalem** from Jordan and **Sinai Peninsula & Gaza strip** from Egypt.
- The investigation is also expected to cover the **2014 Gaza war, the 2018 Gaza border clashes** and **Israeli settlement-building in the West Bank**.
The inquiry will also look at whether rocket fire by **Hamas and other groups from Gaza** amounts to war crimes.
- **About ICC:**
 - Governed by an international treaty called '**The Rome Statute**', the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
 - Headquarters: **The Hague, Netherlands**.
 - It investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: **genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity** and the **crime of aggression**.
 - Through international criminal justice, ICC aims to hold those responsible for their crimes and to help prevent these crimes from happening again.
 - **India is not a party to Rome Statute** along with the USA and China.

Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau with an area of 1,800km² on the border between Israel and Syria in south-western Syria.

- It is a strategic location that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 war. Israel effectively annexed the territory in 1981.
- Recently, the USA has officially recognized Jerusalem and Golan Heights as a part of Israel.



Source: TH