Sudan and Israel to Normalise Relations

Why in News

Recently, in a **deal brokered by the USA, Sudan and Israel** have agreed to **normalise relations** to end decades of hostility.

Note: Israel has diplomatic relations with more than 160 countries.
Sources: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WSJ and news reports

Key Points

- Sudan, which was **technically at war with Israel since its foundation** in **1948,** has now become the **third country to forge diplomatic relations** with it, in recent times.

    - Earlier, the USA brokered diplomatic pacts between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain **as well,** to normalise their relations.
- **Implications:**

    - The deal would **deepen Sudan's engagement with the West.**
    - The deal follows USA's conditional agreement to **remove Sudan from its blacklist of countries accused of sponsoring terrorism.**

        - Sudan was **added to the list in 1993** after it was accused of harbouring groups such as **Hezbollah** and **Palestinian militant outfits** which the USA deems as

terrorists.

- As a result, Sudan was **cut off from the global economy** and was **starved of foreign investment** which faced another blow in **2011** when **South Sudan was formed** taking away its major oil resources.
- With its name removed from the list, Sudan will no longer stay deprived of foreign investments.
- Under the deal, **Sudan has agreed to pay USD 335 million in compensation** to victims of the **Al-Qaeda bombings** of USA embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

○ It delivers a **foreign policy achievement for Trump** just days before the USA election.

○ It **boosts Israel's motive** which has made it a priority to **forge ties with formerly hostile countries in Africa and the Arab** world in the absence of any progress with the Palestinians.

- In the initial phase, there will be **no exchange of ambassadors or a mutual establishment of embassies.**
- After the **six-day war of 1967 war**, Arab powers met in **Khartoum** (Sudan's capital) to **pledge three "noes"** viz. **no peace** with Israel, **no recognition** of Israel, and **no negotiations** with Israel. Therefore, the deal holds a symbolic significance for Israel.
- Unlike the UAE and Bahrain, which have never fought with Israel, **Sudan sent forces to fight in the war around Israel's creation in 1948** and during the **war of 1967.** In the **1970s, Israel backed Sudanese insurgents** fighting the Khartoum government.
- With this agreement, **Israel will complete the creation of a safety cordon in the Red Sea,** which currently includes Egypt, Jordan, South Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

○ The deal is also **aimed at unifying Arab countries against their common adversary, Iran.**

- Though Sudan has been largely marginal to Middle Eastern politics in recent decades, the normalisation has significant symbolic value.

- **Global Reaction:**

○ **Allies of the USA,** including Germany, Egypt, the UAE, Bahrain, have **welcomed the deal** as a boost to stability in West Asia.

○ Meanwhile, **Palestinian leaders have strongly condemned** the deal, echoing their rejection of all of the Israel's normalisation accords.

Source: TH

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