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### A Beginning of Normalisation of Relationship

*One of the most protracted and bloody dispute of the post WW II Era, based on the claims of two religious communities over one land. The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the major concerns in the field of security and stability in the Middle East.*

- **Cause of the Dispute.**

*The root cause of all these disputes is associated with the city of **Jerusalem**. Both Israel and Palestine claims Jerusalem as their Eternal Capital. Although we should know about Jerusalem that it is the most sacred place in Judaism and is also considered as the third holiest site in Islam.*

- **Bleak outcome of Disputes.**

*Since the independence of Israel in 1948, the Arab-Israeli conflict consisted of a series of conventional wars.*

- ***Some of them are:***

- (i) *The **First Arab-Israeli war** of 1948-49*
- (ii) *The **Six Day War** of 1967*
- (iii) *The **Yom Kippur War** of 1973(AKA October war of 1973)*

*Surprisingly, In all these wars the State of Israel defeated the rest of the Arab world. But the 1973 Yom Kippur war brought realism into the Israeli position and demonstrated the **need for diplomacy** to address the conflict.*

- **Pacification.**

*On 26 March 1979, after a series of events under the leadership of **US secretary of State Henry Kissinger**, Egypt became the first Arab country to establish peace and restore diplomatic ties with Israel.*

*This all happened due to the spectacular diplomacy of the then Egyptian President **Anwar Sadat**.*

*Another breakthrough was achieved in this peace process on 26 October 1994 when Jordan, following the path of Egypt, signed a peace deal with Israel.*

*But after 1994, no such significant success had been achieved. Before 13 August 2020, it had been 26 years since the establishment of peace between any Arab country and Israel.*

- **What happened on 13 August 2020 ?**

*On 13 August 2020, the US President **Donald Trump** announced that Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to establish full diplomatic ties. This deal is also little bit more important than the previous ones because UAE became the first **Gulf-Arab State** to do so.*

*Under this deal, Israel would suspend its plan to annex the whole **West Bank**(which it has captured in the six day war) and in return UAE will establish full diplomatic ties with the state of Israel.*

*Domestically, The two States describe the deal differently to assure their citizens. The United Arab Emirates underscored that this deal will prevent Israel's plan to annex the larger part of West Bank and the Israelis used this breakthrough to shift attention away from its economic and political problems.*

*However this announcement has a significant regional implications. Both Turkey and Iran condemned this act. The President of Turkey **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** even went as far as to break the diplomatic relations with the UAE.*

*On the international level there are varied responses between support and criticism. Almost every European nation have appreciated the move.*

*The agreement between the UAE and Israel, **both US allies**, could also be interpreted as a counter to July 2020 **Iran-China deal** which was based on the vision of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and promise to change the middle east's strategic calculus.*

- **Another Breakthrough.**

*In latest, **The Kingdom of Bahrain** joined the UAE in agreeing to normalise relations with Israel. On September 11, the US President Donald Trump said that Bahrain is all set to establish a full diplomatic relation with Israel. The Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** hailed the agreement as marking a "**New Era of Peace**".*

*This is certainly nothing short of a victory for Israel and hopefully the rest of Arab countries will be considering it as well.*

- **Sanket Kumar Singh**