# China in West Asia

## Why in news?

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Beijing hosted the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Israel, in consecutive weeks.

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## What happened during the meet?

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- China and Saudi Arabia announced an investment cooperation deal worth $65 billion that will boost partnerships in fields such as energy, finance and aerospace.
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- Chinese President and Israeli PM vowed to strengthen cooperation in the technology and agriculture sectors.
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- Mr. Xi said peaceful coexistence between Israel and Palestine would be good for both parties and the region.
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- The Chinese have also urged Saudi Arabia and Israel to work together to attain peace.
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- China has also shown interest in the region beyond the economic sphere.
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- It is one of the supporters of the Bashar al-Assad regime in civil war-stricken Syria.
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- In the UN Security Council, China has consistently vetoed U.S.-backed resolutions on Syria,.
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- At the same time it offered to broker peace between rival factions.
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- **China has also recognised Palestine as a state and offered support for the Palestinians**
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## What is the significance?

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- It signals the growing enthusiasm of China to deepen ties with the region.
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- China is interested because over the years China has built strong economic ties with countries in West Asia.
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- It is one of the top buyers of oil from Saudi Arabia and a key trading partner of Israel.
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- For Iran, Beijing remained a trusted ally even during the time of sanctions.
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- China’s economic ties with West Asia assumed greater significance after the induction of **One Belt, One Road** initiative.
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- West Asia plays a major role in this **Silk Road revival plan**.
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- These moves indicate China is ready to end its strategic reluctance in dealing with West Asia and to adopt a gradualist proactive policy that suits its profile as a fast-rising global power.
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### Source: The Hindu

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