Israel and its crimes of apartheid

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Why in news?

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UN report has proclaimed that Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid in the West Bank, Gaza and also within its own boundaries and against the Palestinian refugees.

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What did the report say?

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- It acknowledged that Israel is an apartheid state and it is tantamount to **war crime** (1977 Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions) and to **crime against humanity** (1973 Apartheid Convention and the 1998 Rome Statute of the ICC).
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- It argues that Israel is a racial regime because its institutions are premised on maintaining a Jewish nation by **techniques of suppression and expulsion.**
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- All Palestinians suffer the consequences of Israeli apartheid.
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- Palestinians who have Israeli citizenship do not have the right to nationality, which means that they can only access inferior social services, face restrictive zoning laws.
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- The latest Muezzin Bill even imposes limits on the Muslim call to prayer in Israel and East Jerusalem.
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- Palestinians are treated as second-class citizens, their voting rights are reduced to merely an affirmation of their subordination.

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What are the major recommendations of the report?

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- International Criminal Court (ICC) is asked to investigate the situation in Israel.
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- The report asks that member states to allow **criminal prosecutions of Israeli officials** demonstrably connected with the practices of apartheid against the Palestinian people.
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Source: The Hindu

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