Recognition of Palestine State

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, at the UN General Assembly, France became the latest global power to recognize Palestine statehood, a day after the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia did so.

- **New recognitions –** F rance, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, and Andorra all announced their recognition of Palestine.
- **Growing international support –** This wave of recognition increased the total number of UN member states that recognize Palestine to **157,** or approximately 81% of all members.

India recognized Palestine as a state in November 1988, making it one of the first countries to do so.

- **U.S. position –** The U.S. government remains opposed to unilateral recognition and has historically vetoed resolutions for Palestine's full UN membership, stating that a Palestinian state must be achieved through direct negotiation with Israel.
- **New York Declaration –** The latest moves at the UN followed the General Assembly's approval of the New York Declaration in mid– September 2025.
- **Strong support –** The resolution, which calls for a two– state solution, was endorsed by 142 countries.
- **Key provisions –** It included some of the UN's strongest language against Hamas while also condemning Israel's actions in Gaza. The declaration also outlines a roadmap for a two– state solution.
- **U.S. and Israeli opposition –** Both Israel and the U.S. boycotted the summit where the declaration was finalized.

Recognition of Palestinian statehood

- As per **International Law Criteria** to be classified as a state, an entity must have *defined territory, permanent population, government, capacity to enter relations with other states.*
- More countries recognising Palestine practically strengthens one of these.
- **Territorial control** – Israel controls 100% of Palestinian territories through occupation of West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

- Settlement construction and annexation proposals threaten Palestinian territorial claims.
- **Population and humanitarian crisis** – Estimates of casualties in Gaza indicate that around 10% of the population is either killed or injured, with total deaths exceeding 65,000.
- Over a million people in Gaza face famine amid ongoing bombardment.
- **Palestinian Authority (PA)** – PA acts as have the legal (de jure) recognition to govern certain areas in parts of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, but Israel maintains actual (de facto) control.
- **Hamas' role in Gaza** – Governs Gaza under Israeli blockade since 2007, complicating statehood and governance prospects.
- **Calls for reform** – There are demands for reform from the PA and disarmament of Hamas, though the latter remains rejected.
- **Implications for Palestinian statehood** – Increased recognition helps the PA in international lobbying efforts, but sovereignty remains limited due to Israel's military control.
- Despite greater recognition of statehood, immediate changes to the conflict dynamics in Gaza are limited.

Reference

The Indian express| Developments in Recognition of Palestine

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