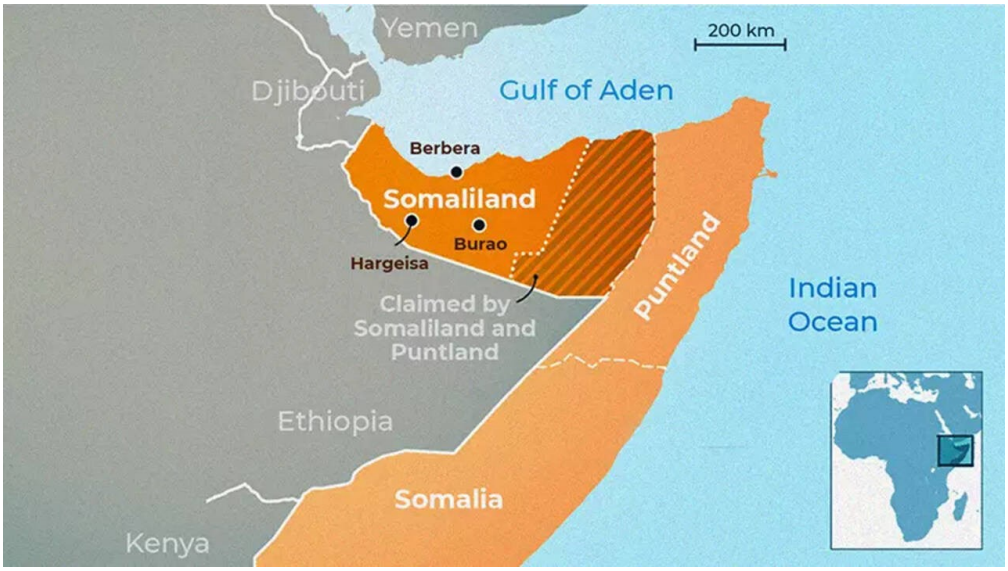
Republic of Somaliland

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | International relations*

Why in News?

Israel became the first United Nations (UN) member state to officially recognise the Republic of Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state.

- **Somaliland –** It is also known as the Republic of Somaliland, is a ***self-declared republic*** in the Horn of Africa, which is ***internationally recognised as part of Somalia.***
- **Capital –** Hargeisa (largest city).
- **Location –** Somaliland lies along the Gulf of Aden, a vital maritime trade route connecting the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean.
- **Borders –**
  - The Republic of Djibouti to the northwest,
  - Ethiopia to the south and west, and
  - The rest of Somalia (specifically the Puntland region) to the east, and
  - A significant coastline on the Gulf of Aden to the north.



- **Background –**
  - Somaliland gained independence from ***Britain*** on June 26, 1960.
  - Somaliland declared independence ***from Somalia*** in May 1991 following the Somali Civil War and has remained de facto independent ever since.
  - It has its own currency, passport, government, and military, but lacked

international recognition until now.

- **Timeline of Recognition**
  - **Taiwan** - Becomes the first to recognise Somaliland in 2020,
  - **Ethiopia** – In 2024, it signed an MoU to explore formal recognition in exchange for naval base access.
  - **Israel** – In 2025, it becomes the first UN member state to officially recognise Somaliland as independent.
  - **Several other countries** – including the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Denmark, and Kenya- have informal diplomatic relations with Somaliland.
- **Somalia's Position –** Somalia insists Somaliland is an inseparable part of its territory and condemned Israel's move as a "deliberate attack" on sovereignty.
- **India's Position –** India has officially ***not recognised*** Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state.

References

1. Indian Express | Israel 1st UN member to recognise Somaliland
2. The Mint | Israel recognizes Somaliland

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