

France Recognises Palestine: Global Shift and Gaza War Implications

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Recognition of Palestine Latest News

- At the UN General Assembly, France joined the UK, Canada, Australia, and several European nations in recognising Palestine statehood.
- Israel strongly criticised the move, calling it a reward for terrorism.

Impact of Palestine Recognition on Gaza War

- Palestine enjoys wide international recognition, has diplomatic missions, and competes in global events.
- Yet, it lacks agreed borders, a capital, and full sovereignty due to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.
- Recognition is thus **symbolic, signaling moral and political support rather than immediate change on the ground.**

- The growing recognition of Palestinian statehood **adds diplomatic pressure** but has little effect on the Gaza war.
- Israel continues its offensive, with Netanyahu declaring the war will persist regardless of hostage releases.
- While some European states are restricting military exports, the US maintains unconditional support, recently approving \$6.4 billion in arms sales.
 - Germany also remains a key supplier, alongside Washington, together accounting for over 90% of Israel's defence imports.
- Thus, despite international momentum, recognition alone has minimal impact on halting the conflict.

The Question of Palestinian Statehood

- Under the **1933 Montevideo Convention**, statehood requires defined territory, a permanent population, a government, and capacity for international relations.
- For Palestine, these pillars remain contested under Israeli occupation.

Territory

- Palestinian lands — West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza — are effectively under Israel's control.
- Settlement expansion and annexation efforts further erode prospects of territorial sovereignty.

Permanent Population

- The Gaza war has devastated the population, with over 65,000 deaths estimated and widespread famine.
- Such conditions threaten the very survival of Palestinians as a people.

Government

- The Palestinian Authority (PA) governs limited West Bank areas, while Hamas controls Gaza under blockade.
- Calls for PA reform and Hamas' disarmament highlight governance challenges, leaving sovereignty curtailed.

International Recognition

- Global recognition strengthens Palestine's ability to engage diplomatically, even as effective control of land, population, and governance remains compromised.
- Recognition thus primarily boosts Palestine's lobbying capacity on the world stage.

Israel's Response to Growing Recognition of Palestine

- Israel has reacted to increasing global recognition of Palestine by intensifying military action and deepening its occupation.
- After the UK's recognition, Prime Minister Netanyahu vowed that a Palestinian state "will never be established" and claimed credit for blocking it despite international pressure.
- Similar defiance followed the UNGA's vote for a two-state solution.

- Each escalation on the ground in Gaza and the West Bank strengthens Israel's control, further diminishing the feasibility of a Palestinian state.

India's Stand on Palestine

- India has long supported the Palestinian cause as part of its foreign policy.
- In 1974, India became the first non-Arab state to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
- In 1988, India was among the first to recognize the State of Palestine.
- In 1996, India opened its Representative Office in Gaza, later moved to Ramallah in 2003.

Support at Multilateral Fora

- India has actively supported Palestine at global platforms.
- Backed UN resolutions affirming Palestinians' right to self-determination and urging Israeli compliance with international law.
- Supported Palestine's status as a UN non-member state and, in 2011, voted for its full membership in UNESCO.

Policy Approach

- India advocates a negotiated **Two-State solution**, seeking a sovereign, independent, and viable Palestinian state coexisting peacefully with Israel.
 - The Two-State solution refers to establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on pre-1967 borders.
- It emphasizes diplomacy, dialogue, de-escalation, and early resumption of peace talks.

Source: IE | BBC

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