

TRUMP'S DECLARATION OF JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL

THE NEWS

- US President Donald Trump has delivered a landmark speech recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel after more than a year of fears, discussions, promises, and assessments.

IMPORTANCE OF JERUSALEM

- The city Jerusalem (The Noble, Sacred Place) is the only city in the world that is considered historically and spiritually significant to Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike.
- JEWS- They believe that the foundation that created the world is situated here.
- MUSLIM- The Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest site in Islam.
- CHRISTIAN- The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus had been crucified is also situated here.

HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE-

- 1948- After first Arab-Israel War, Jerusalem was partitioned into West and East under Israeli and Palestinian control respectively.
- 1967- Israel snatched East Jerusalem from Jordanian forces. Israel Parliament declared 'Jerusalem reunited'.
- This marginalized the Palestinian under the 'two-state solution'.

US POLICY WITH JERUSALEM

- 1995- During the time when Bill Clinton was the President, US Congress passed Jerusalem Embassy Act, recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- Afterwards, Every president has signed a legal waiver to delay the moving of US embassy by six months.

REACTIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD-

- EGYPT- It said that the decision can undermine the chances of peace in the Middle East.
- JORDAN- In a statement, Jordan has rejected Trump's decision citing it as legally invalid.
- TURKEY- The country has threatened to cut its ties with Israel.
- IRAN- It declared that the Palestinian nation will achieve victory soon.

- CHINA- It said that such decisions can sharpen the religious conflict.
- INDIA- India is a friend to both countries and did not make any related comment on the issue.
- US President's speech was met with mixed reactions in the US Congress and by the Jewish community in the U.S.

WAY AHEAD

- US President also instructed the relevant teams to begin planning the relocation of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the announcement, while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas aggressively declared that the US can no longer act as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians.

Source: xaam.in