

USA and Israel



What are origins of U.S.-Israel ties?

- The U.S. had supported the idea of a Jewish homeland even before the state of Israel was declared within historical Palestine in 1948.
- On March 3, 1919, two years after the Balfour Declaration, in which the British government declared its support for the creation of a “Jewish homeland in Palestine”
- The U.S. was the first country that recognized Israel in 1948. The recognition came in 11 minutes after the proclamation
- the 1967 war, in which Israel defeated Jordan, Syria and Egypt, all in six days, and captured swathes of territories, brought in a paradigm shift in the way Washington looked at the Jewish state.
- The U.S. at that time was bogged down in Vietnam.
- Israel defeated the Arab countries without any major help from the U.S., and the war was wrapped up quickly.
- Also, two of the Arab countries Israel defeated Egypt and Syria were Soviet allies.
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- **What is the current status of the U.S.-Israel ties?**
- Today, Israel is an exceptional ally of Washington.
- The U.S. offers practically unconditional financial, military and

political support for Israel, which has been occupying Palestinian territories since 1967.

- Israel is an undeclared nuclear power but has never faced any global scrutiny or pushback, thanks to the protection offered by the U.S. Israel is also the largest recipient of America's aid it has received \$158 billion in aid from the U.S. since the end of the Second World War.
- Currently, Israel gets \$3.8 billion in military aid every year from the U.S., which accounts for about 16% of Israel's total military budget.
- The U.S. is also Israel's largest trading partner, with annual two way trade hovering around \$50 billion.
- Both Israel and the U.S. also have a deep defense partnership, which involves joint research and development and weapons production.
- From the 1973 Yom Kippur war onwards, the U.S. has also offered solid military support to Israel in its conflicts.
- After the first intifada, the U.S. supported the Oslo process and the two state solution, but without compromising its relationship with Israel.

- Now, the running theme in Washington is that it supports "Israel's right to defend".

Why does the U.S. always back Israel?

- One explanation is that Israel's strategic value in a volatile yet critical region makes it appealing for Washington.
- During the Cold War, the U.S. saw Israel as a powerful bulwark against possible Soviet expansion in the Arab world.
- After the Cold War, when the U.S. started becoming more and more involved in West Asia, it continued to see Israel as a force of stability, along with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.
- Strategic value explains a close partnership or alliance, like America's relationships with Japan, South Korea or Germany.
- A host of other factors, including America's public opinion, electoral politics and the powerful Israel lobby in the U.S., play a role in shaping the country's Israel policy.

The Hindu

Privilege committee

- Each House of Parliament and its Committees collectively and

members of each House individually enjoy certain rights, privileges and immunities without which they cannot perform their functions efficiently and effectively.

- The object of parliamentary privilege is to safeguard the freedom, the authority and the dignity of Parliament.
- They are enjoyed by individual members, because the House cannot perform its functions without unimpeded use of the services of its members and by each House collectively for the protection of its members and the vindication of its own authority and dignity.
- But they are available to individual members only insofar as they are necessary for the House to perform its functions freely without any let or hindrance.
- This Committee consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker.
- Its function is to examine every question involving breach of privilege of the House or of the members of any Committee thereof referred to it by the House or by the Speaker.
- It determines with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of privilege is involved and makes

suitable recommendations in its report.

- It also states the procedure to be followed by the House in giving effect to the recommendations made by it.

The Hindu

North Dakota

- It was, to put it mildly, a bad day on the earth when an asteroid smacked Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula 66 million years ago, causing a global calamity that erased three quarters of the world's species and ended the age of dinosaurs.
- The immediate effects included wildfires, quakes, a massive shockwave in the air, and huge standing waves in the seas.
- But the coup de grâce for many species may have been the climate catastrophe that unfolded in the following years as the skies were darkened by clouds of debris and temperatures plunged.
- Researchers on October 30 revealed the potent role that dust from pulverised rock ejected into the atmosphere from the impact site may have played in driving

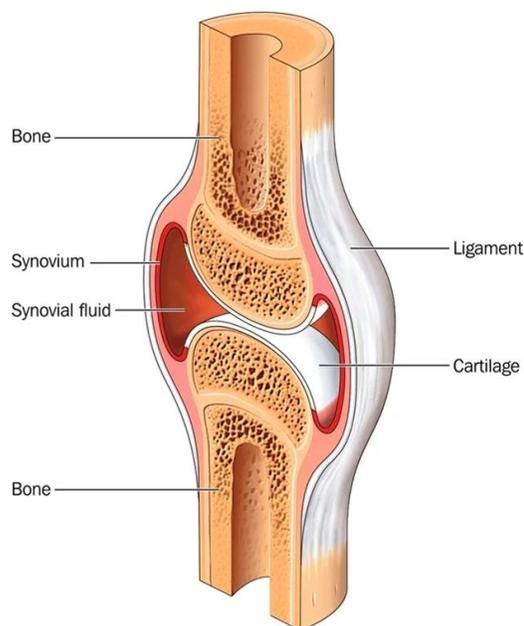
North Dakota

- Paleontology in North Dakota refers to paleontological research occurring within or conducted by people from the U.S. state of North Dakota.

• The Hindu

Hb and chondrocyte

- Haemoglobin is found in the red blood cells (RBCs), that it makes blood red, carries oxygen, and is essential for our survival.
- A new and serendipitous discovery has revealed that Haemoglobin isn't used by RBCs alone.
- In a study published in Nature, scientists from China have reported that chondrocytes cells that make cartilage, the connecting tissue between bones also make Haemoglobin and seem to depend on it for their survival.
- In a developing growth plate, where oxygen is limited due to a lack of blood supply to the region, the chondrocytes still manage to thrive.
- Based on the scientists' findings, it's the Haemoglobin molecules that manage to bring them the oxygen they need to survive.



The Hindu

SC and foetus rights

- On October 16, in X vs Union of India, the Supreme Court of India declined permission to a woman who was seeking to terminate a 26 weeklong pregnancy.
- A Bench presided over by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), D.Y. Chandrachud, held that the woman's

case fell outside the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

- The Court said the statute permitted the termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks only in cases where the fetus exhibited substantial abnormality, or where the woman's life was under direct threat.
- Here, since doctors would have to terminate a "viable fetus", the Court rejected the plea to exercise its extraordinary powers is the judgment's implicit assertion that fetuses have constitutional rights.
- Our jurisprudence on abortion has been built on a converse premise.
- The guarantees of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution the rights to equal protection and life are conferred on persons, and the Constitution decidedly does not award personhood to a fetus. As it happens, even the MTP Act makes no such assertion.

AI regulation

- The Executive Order in the United States, issued by the Biden administration on October 30, on 'Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI)', illustrates the changing attitude of global leaders towards AI regulation.

- Implementation and the use of AI without the necessary safeguards can have enormous implications for the future of humanity, and the changes in regulatory approaches are a welcome development

- Ownership and enforcement One of the many areas wherein AI has raised tough questions is ownership and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights.

- For example, while generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Midjourney allow people with minimal creative skills to produce reasonably beautiful outputs with the help of a couple of text prompts, their use has raised a number of copy right related questions.

- After reviewing the relevant statutory provisions, case laws, and theoretical justifications for copyright protection, the US District court concluded that human creativity was essential to copyright protection.

- Fundamentally, the term 'author,' used in both the Constitution and the Copyright Act, excludes nonhumans".

- The office also clarified that copyright applicants had a duty to disclose the inclusion of AI generated content in any application, followed by detailed

guidelines on doing so in registration forms

- While India has not effected any legislative changes in the Copyright Act 1957, the Copyright Office ignored the human authorship requirement in Indian copyright law when granting registration with an AI system as a coauthor.
- When the matter became controversial, the office sent a notice to the human coauthor in the application declaring its intent to withdraw the registration.
- But the data from the Indian Copyright Office website suggests that the work concerned continues to remain registered
- Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce entitled 'Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India' (July 2021).
- The report had suggested reviewing the Copyright Act 1957 and the Patent Act 1970 to "incorporate the emerging technologies of AI and AI-related inventions in thir ambit".
- A careful reading of the report suggests some of its recommendations aim to relax the standards for securing copyright and patents.

- But these recommendations do not appear to be informed by any study of IP related challenges and needs of the AI innovation ecosystem in India.
- The committee did not consider the potential adverse implications of such an approach for the startup ecosystem in India.
- The Hindu

SC on electoral bonds

- The Supreme Court that the electoral bonds scheme only offered "selective confidentiality", which does not prevent the ruling party from unearthing the identities of donors to Opposition parties and then hounding them through its investigative agencies.
- "There are ways and means for the ruling party to get information about contributions to the Opposition.

What Are Electoral Bonds?

- Interest-free financial instruments for making donations to political parties.
- Can be purchased only using cheque or digital modes of payments, no cash.
- Currently, can only be issued by the State Bank of India at specified branches for a fixed period of time.
- There have been 9 bond sales so far with 10,494 bonds issued.
- Work like a bearer bonds—the issuing bank will remain in custody of the bond till a political party redeems them into their bank accounts.
- Parties can redeem electoral bonds only within 15 days of the bond being issued.
- Identity of the donor is not disclosed.

Bloomberg | Quint

How An Electoral Bond Works

- 01 Notified banks are chosen
- 02 The notified bank issues electoral bonds
- 03 The donor buys an electoral bond using a cheque/digital payment
- 04 The donor gives the party of his/her choice the bond within the specified timeframe
- 05 The party deposits the bond in an account, the details of which are with the Electoral Commission

Benefits of Electoral Bonds



WILL BRING substantial transparency in political donations against the present system of contributions in the election funding mechanism

NON DISCLOSURE of recipients will ensure people are free to donate to any political party of their choice

WILL REINFORCE the idea of moving away from a cash system towards clean money which cheque system could not achieve

New guidelines for DGP appointment

- Only police officers with at least six months of service left before retirement will be considered for appointment as the Director General of Police (DGP) of a State, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said in amended guidelines issued last month.
- In another change, the Empanelment Committee constituted by the UPSC will not assess Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on Central deputation for a State DGP's post if the Union

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) says that "it will not be possible to relieve the officers".

- A government source said the guidelines were revised to discourage States from appointing "favorite officers" about to retire, in a bid to extend their tenure.
- The number of shortlisted officers cannot exceed three, but may consist of less than three officers in "exceptional circumstances".
- Officers will not be included in the panel unless they themselves are willing, the guidelines added.
- The amended UPSC guidelines come in the wake of several States, including BJP ruled States, choosing to appoint acting DGPs instead of regular DGPs, bypassing the requirement to go through the UPSC selected panel of eligible officers

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