Israel-Palestine Peace Plan

Why in News?

The Israel-Palestine peace plan or the West Asia peace plan is the proposal unveiled by U.S. President Donald Trump.

What is Mr. Trump trying to do?

- This plan seeks to address most of the contentious issues in the conflict.
- The solutions, Mr. Trump has proposed to almost all of these issues, favour the Israeli positions.
- He seeks to give to the Israelis, Jerusalem and part of the West Bank.
- With his plan, he is actually pushing to revive the stalled two-state talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but on his own terms.

What is the plan?

- The Palestinian refugees, who were forced out from their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that followed the declaration of the state of Israel in the historic Palestine, would not be allowed to return.
- Jerusalem would be the undivided capital of Israel, with the Palestine gaining its capital in the east of the city.
- In return, Israel would freeze further settlement activities on the West Bank for 4 years (the time for negotiations).
- During this period, the Palestinian Authority should dismiss its current complaints at the International Criminal Court against Israel and refrain itself from taking further actions.
- It should crack down on certain terrorist groups like the Hamas.

What are the proposed land swaps?

- The plan proposes some land swap for the Israeli annexation of the Jewish settlements of the West Bank as well as the Jordan Valley.
- It seeks to enlarge Gaza and connect the strip with the West Bank through a tunnel.
- The Arab towns in the southeast of Israel, which are close to Gaza, could become part of a future Palestinian state.

What the Palestine may get?
Mr. Trump has also proposed $50 billion in investment over 10 years should Palestine accept the proposals. In the final settlement, Palestine would get control over more land than what it currently controls. (According to the Oslo Accords, the West Bank was divided into 3 areas and only one of them is under the direct control of the Palestinian Authority).

What does Palestine want?

- They want an independent, sovereign Palestinian state to be formed which will include the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
- This Palestine position is backed by most of the world powers.
- Issues like the right of return of the Palestinian refugees are to be settled in final negotiations.
- But Mr. Trump has effectively rejected the Palestinian claims outright and asked them to make more compromises.
- He has denied the right of return of the Palestinian refugees, all for truncated sovereignty for the Palestinians in a state that would be practically surrounded by Israel.

What was the Palestine’s reaction?

- Unsurprisingly, the Palestinians had rejected the proposal as they say the Trump administration cannot be an impartial mediator for peace.
- This is because as the Trump administration recognised the disputed Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and supported the annexation of the settlements on the West Bank.
- The Trump plan seems to be underscoring this argument.
- It is virtually impossible for any Palestinian leader to sell these proposals to a people who have been resisting Israel’s occupation for decades.

Source: The Hindu