

# Gaza strip

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**In news**— Recently, Israel has carried out strikes in the Gaza Strip after a rocket was fired from the Palestinian enclave into Israel.

## About Gaza strip-

- The Gaza Strip is a **Palestinian enclave** situated on a relatively flat coastal plain on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- It **borders Egypt** on the southwest for 11 kilometres and **Israel** on the east and north along a 51 km border.
- The Gaza Strip and the West Bank are claimed by the *de jure* sovereign State of Palestine.
- The **territories of Gaza and the West Bank are separated from each other by Israeli territory**.
- Both fell under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, but the Strip has, since the Battle of Gaza in June 2007, been governed by Hamas, a militant, Palestinian, fundamentalist Islamic organization, which came to power in the last-held elections in 2006.
- It has been placed under an Israeli and US-led international economic and political boycott from that time onwards.
- The territory is 41 kilometres long, from 6 to 12 kilometres wide, and has a total area of 365 square kilometres.

## History of the territory-

- **After rule by the Ottoman Empire ended there in World War I (1914–18), the Gaza area became part of the League of Nations** mandate of Palestine under British rule.
- Before this mandate ended, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in November 1947 accepted a plan for the **Arab-Jewish partition of Palestine** under which the

town of Gaza and an area of surrounding territory were to be allotted to the Arabs.

- The **British mandate ended on May 15, 1948**, and on that same day the first Arab-Israeli war began.
- Egyptian forces soon entered the town of Gaza, which became the headquarters of the Egyptian expeditionary force in Palestine.
- As a result of heavy fighting in autumn 1948, the area around the town under Arab occupation was reduced to a strip of territory 25 miles (40 km) long and 4–5 miles (6–8 km) wide.
- This area became known as the Gaza Strip and its boundaries were demarcated in the Egyptian-Israeli armistice agreement of February 24, 1949.
- **It was under Egyptian military rule from 1949 to 1956 and again from 1957 to 1967.**



- In the Six-Day War of June 1967, the Gaza Strip was again taken by Israel, which occupied the region for the next quarter century.
- In December 1987 rioting and violent street clashes between Gaza's Palestinians and occupying Israeli troops marked the birth of an uprising that came to be known as the intifada ( "shaking off").

- **In 1994, Israel began a phased transfer of governmental authority in the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority (PA) under the terms of the Oslo Accords** that were signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
- Beginning in late 2000, a breakdown in negotiations between the PA and Israel was followed by a further, more extreme outbreak of violence, termed the second, or Aqṣā, intifada.
- In an effort to end the fighting, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced in late 2003 a plan that centred on withdrawing Israeli soldiers and settlers from the Gaza Strip.
- In September 2005 Israel completed the pullout from the territory, and control of the Gaza Strip was transferred to the PA, although Israel continued to patrol its borders and airspace.