



Somaliland Recognition by Israel

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Context: In late December 2025, Israel became the first UN member state to formally recognize the **Republic of Somaliland** as a sovereign nation.

- **Background:** Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991. While it has functioned as a stable democracy with its own currency and military, it lacked international recognition (considered a "de facto" state).
- **Geopolitical Significance:**
- **Strategic Location:** Somaliland sits on the **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**, a critical chokepoint for global trade and the Red Sea.
- **Security Interests:** For Israel, this provides a foothold to monitor Houthi activities and Iranian influence in the Gulf of Aden.
- **Abraham Accords:** This is seen as an extension of the "normalization" logic, where Israel builds alliances with Muslim-majority entities in exchange for security and technology.
- **Challenges:** Somalia and the **African Union (AU)** have condemned the move, fearing it sets a precedent for secessionism across the continent.
- **Subject Reference:**
- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Effect of policies of developed countries on India's interests).
- **Prelims:** Mapping (Horn of Africa, Gulf of Aden, Bab-el-Mandeb).