

Editorial Analysis

3 March 2022



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Balancing act: On India's stand in Israel-Palestine conflict

The article highlights India's intention to offer traditional support for Palestine's cause without hurting Israel's sentiments. India's permanent representative at the UN spoke about how to go about the eviction of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah.

He condemned rocket attacks from Gaza but asserted on supporting the Palestinian cause. However, the attempt to balance the Israel side wasn't successful as PM Netanyahu, while thanking 25 countries for their support, did not mention India even once.

Talking of India's sentiments and opposition to the partition of Palestine, they have been there for a long time now. Throughout the cold war, India took a strong stand in favor of Palestinian freedom.

However, the diplomatic relations with Israel became better in 1992 after the Madrid conference without showing a back to the Palestinians. The reason was evident as it largely depends on the Arab nations for oil and energy.

This time India should have made a more strategic move and condemn both: rocket attack on Israel and the disproportionate bombing of Gaza.

Words to look out for

Emphatic:

- **Synonyms:** forceful, assertive, insistent
- **Antonyms:** ambiguous, forceless, faint
- **Word usage:** Martha was very emphatic about what she saw.

Alienate:

- **Synonyms:** estrange, alien, divide
- **Antonyms:** unite, cojoin, endear
- **Word usage:** The executive could not alienate any part of our territory.

Impoverished:

- **Synonyms:** poor, destitute, penniless
- **Antonyms:** rich, prosperous, affluent
- **Word usage:** The impoverished nation lacks medical resources for its citizens.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/balancing-act-the-hindu-editorial-on-indias-stand-in-israel-palestine-conflict/article34608788.ece>

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Stomach criticism: End the sedition law, it silences legitimate dissent and democratic activism

The article talks about the sedition case filed by Andhra Pradesh police against MP and 2 news channels. Now they have moved to the court appealing contempt proceedings against the AP government who were involved in coercive actions torture in police custody for revealing pitfalls of the government in official Covid responses.

However, this petitioner journalist has been jailed in Manipur for another misuse of the law. Though the sedition law states that those who bring or attempt to bring or excite "hatred or contempt ... or disaffection towards the Government, would be punished.

Despite the relaxation in the sedition law, the police officers seem to be following the law in its literal sense. The SC needs to work on alternate provisions in IPC such that police cannot take undue advantage of it.

It is rightly said that governance goes at stake when the faults are not highlighted. The sedition cases have been on the rise since 2015, but the conviction rate has been much low. Thus, SC needs to rework on subsiding the complex legal processes.

Words to look out for

Byzantine:

- **Synonyms:** Involved, intricate, complicated
- **Antonyms:** simple, bald, facile
- **Word usage:** There are also several well-preserved Byzantine frescoes.

Draconian:

- **Synonyms:** harsh, severe, oppressive
- **Antonyms:** bendable, malleable
- **Word usage:** He criticized the draconian measures taken by the police in controlling the demonstrators.

Muzzling:

- **Synonyms:** censor, silence, stifle
- **Antonyms:** accept, accelerate
- **Word usage:** He made himself useful in muzzling the Saxon states and was successively chief receiver of taxes and minister for the interior in 1731.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/stomach-criticism-end-the-sedition-law-it-silences-legitimate-dissent-and-democratic-activism/>

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