



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT (UAPA)
2.	ISRAEL - PALESTINE CONFLICT

## UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT (UAPA)

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Delhi Police filed an FIR against **Prabir Purkayastha, founder of News Click**, and others, invoking the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**.
- The **Act assigns absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the **Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette**, declare it so.

### ABOUT UAPA

- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was **enacted in 1967** with the **aim of preventing unlawful activities and associations in India like combating terrorism**.
- It provides for the **designation of individuals and organizations as "terrorists"** and empowers authorities to take stringent actions against them.
- Under UAPA, **individuals can be arrested without a warrant**, and **their properties can be seized**.
- UAPA **prescribes severe penalties**, including the **death penalty** and **life imprisonment**.
- The UAPA **applies to both Indian and foreign nationals**, even if the crime is committed abroad.
- **Investigation Timeline**
  - ✓ Under UAPA, the investigating agency must **file a charge sheet within 180 days of arrests**.
  - ✓ Extensions can be granted after court notification.

### SUPREME COURT DECISION OVER UAPA:

- The Supreme Court of India has **upheld the constitutionality of UAPA** but stressed the **need for safeguards to prevent misuse**.
- It ruled that **an individual's right to a fair trial must be protected**, and **confessions made to police officers should not be admissible as evidence**.
- **Delhi High Court defines the contours of UAPA**
  - ✓ In June 2021, delivering a judgment **defining the contours of the otherwise "vague" Section 15** of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, (UAPA).
  - ✓ the Delhi High Court **laid down some important principles** upon the imposition of **Section 15, 17 & 18 of the Act**.
  - ✓ **"Terrorist Act" Should not be used** lightly so as to trivialise them.
  - ✓ Terrorist activity is that which **travels beyond the capacity of law enforcement agencies** to deal with under ordinary penal law (*Supreme Court's decision in the case of Hitendra Vishnu Thakur*).

### **SECTIONS 15, 17 AND 18 OF UAPA:**

**Section 15** engrafts the offence of **'terrorist act'**.

**Section 17** lays-down the **punishment for raising funds** for committing a terrorist act.

**Section 18** engrafts the offence of **'punishment for conspiracy** etc. to commit a terrorist act or anv act.

### AMENDMENT IN UAPA:

- **2004 Amendment:**
  - ✓ In 2004, the UAPA was amended to include "terrorist act" in the list of offenses, leading to the banning of several organizations involved in terrorist activities.
  - ✓ Before 2004, "unlawful" activities primarily related to **secession and cession of territory**.
- **2019 Amendment:**



- ✓ In August, the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019** was passed, allowing for the **designation of individuals as terrorists under specific grounds in the Act.**
- **NIA Empowerment:**
  - ✓ The Act empowers the **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to approve property seizure or **attachment in cases investigated by the NIA.**
- **Expanded Investigative Authority**
  - ✓ **UAPA authorizes NIA officers, ranked Inspector or above,** to investigate terrorism cases in addition to those **conducted by state-level officers.**

#### CRITICISM REGARDING UAPA IN INDIA:

- **Misuse:**
  - ✓ Critics argue that UAPA is often **misused by authorities to target human rights defenders, activists, and dissenters.**
  - ✓ It has been used to **suppress free speech and peaceful protests.**
- **Lack of Accountability:**
  - ✓ UAPA allows for the **designation of individuals or organizations as terrorist entities without proper avenues for challenge or appeal.**
  - ✓ This is seen as a **violation of principles of natural justice.**
- **Vagueness:**
  - ✓ Definitions of "**terrorist acts**" under UAPA are **broad and vague,** potentially infringing on freedom of speech and assembly.
  - ✓ The **vagueness can lead to misuse.**
- **Restrictions on Bail:**
  - ✓ UAPA includes provisions that make it **challenging for accused individuals to obtain bail.**
  - ✓ It shifts the burden of proof from the prosecution to the accused.
- **Excessive Punishment:**
  - ✓ UAPA prescribes harsh punishments, **including life imprisonment and the death penalty,** for terrorism-related offenses.
  - ✓ Critics argue that these **punishments are disproportionate and violate human rights.**

#### **UAPA PROSECUTION SUCCESS STATISTICS:**

- ❖ UAPA has a notably **low prosecution success rate.**
- ❖ A **2022 PUCL report** revealed that **less than 3% of UAPA arrests from 2015 to 2020** resulted in convictions.
- ❖ **Out of 4,690 individuals detained under UAPA between 2018 and 2020, only 1,080 were granted bail.**
- ❖ **Unlike TADA and POTA, UAPA has not undergone constitutional review,** raising concerns about its repeated misuse in the Indian democratic framework.

#### BENEFIT OF UAPA IN INDIA

- **Legal Tools for Investigation:**
  - ✓ UAPA provides **legal tools for investigating and prosecuting individuals** and organizations involved in terrorist activities.
- **Special Courts and Stringent Punishments:**
  - ✓ It allows for **the establishment of special courts to conduct trials related to terrorism.**
  - ✓ Provides for **stringent punishment for terrorism-related offenses.**
  - ✓ Enables the government to designate individuals or organizations as terrorist entities and freeze their assets.
- **Maintaining Sovereignty and Integrity:**
  - ✓ **UAPA is aimed at countering various unlawful activities,** including organized crime, money laundering, and trafficking.

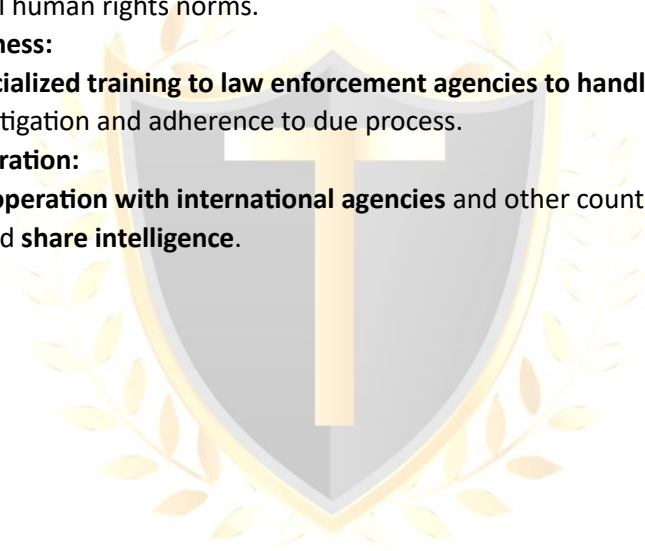


- ✓ It is considered **necessary to maintain the sovereignty and integrity** of the nation and **protect citizens'** lives and property.
- **Balancing National Security and Civil Liberties:**
- **Striking a balance between national security and civil liberties is crucial.**
- **UAPA can be effective in combating terrorism** when implemented fairly and not misused to suppress legitimate dissent or activism.

#### WAY FORWARD

##### Future Perspective for UAPA in India:

- **Stricter Safeguards:**
  - ✓ Implement stricter safeguards **to prevent misuse of UAPA provisions**, ensuring that it is used **exclusively for countering terrorism** and unlawful activities.
- **Oversight Mechanism:**
  - ✓ Establish an independent **oversight mechanism to review UAPA cases** and ensure **accountability in designating individuals or organizations as terrorist entities**.
- **Legal Reforms:**
  - ✓ Continuously review and **amend UAPA provisions to align** with evolving legal standards and international human rights norms.
- **Training and Awareness:**
  - ✓ Provide **specialized training to law enforcement agencies to handle UAPA cases effectively**, ensuring proper investigation and adherence to due process.
- **International Cooperation:**
  - ✓ **Enhance cooperation with international agencies** and other countries to combat transnational terrorism and **share intelligence**.





### Prelims Specific

#### **Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA):**

- **Overview:**
  - ✓ Enacted in 1985, TADA was an anti-terrorism law in India that remained in force until 1995.
  - ✓ It aimed to address terrorist activities in the country.
- **Provisions:**
  - ✓ TADA allowed the detention of suspects without trial for up to 180 days.
  - ✓ Special courts were established for terrorism-related trials, and confessions made to police officers were admissible as evidence.
  - ✓ It criminalized activities like illegal arms trade, financing terrorism, and disrupting India's sovereignty.
- **Repeal:**
  - ✓ TADA lapsed in 1995 due to concerns about its compatibility with the Indian Constitution, democratic principles, and the rule of law.
  - ✓ It was replaced by the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in 2002.

#### **Prevention of Terrorism Act 2004 (POTA):**

- **Objective:**
  - ✓ POTA aimed to provide legal tools to combat terrorism and punish those involved in terrorist activities
- **Key Provisions:**
  - ✓ It granted extensive powers to investigate and prosecute individuals suspected of terrorism-related activities.
  - ✓ Detention without charge for up to 180 days was permitted, and confessions made to police officers could be used as evidence in court.
- **Repealed:**
  - ✓ In 2004, the United Progressive Alliance government repealed POTA due to concerns about its misuse and the potential for human rights abuses.
- **Replacement:**
  - ✓ Some provisions of POTA were incorporated into the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), which is still in force in India today.
  - ✓

#### ***UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)***

Q. Analyze the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors to the internal security of India. Also discuss the measures required to be taken to combat these threats. **(2021)**

Q. Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorist laws by amending UAPA 1967 and NIA act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing scope and the reasons for opposing UAPA by human rights organizations. **(2019)**





## ISRAEL - PALESTINE CONFLICT

Source: [THE HINDU](#), [IE](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

Israel battered Gaza on Sunday after suffering its bloodiest attack in decades, when Hamas fighters rampaged through Israeli towns killing 600 and abducting dozens more, as the spiraling violence threatened a major new war in West Asia.

### RECENT CONFLICT:

- **Devastating attack in Israel**, one of the **deadliest in decades**, sparks a severe response.
- **Hamas fighters infiltrate Israeli towns**, resulting in **600 deaths and numerous abductions**, intensifying tensions in West Asia.
- Conflict raises **concerns of spreading beyond Gaza**, as Israel engages in artillery and rocket exchanges with Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- Israeli troops engage in **street battles with Hamas fighters in southern Israel** and launch retaliatory strikes destroying buildings in Gaza.
- Northern Israel experiences a brief exchange of **strikes with Lebanon's Hezbollah**, heightening concerns of a wider conflict.
- Captives, including **women, children, and the elderly**, could be used in future negotiations involving Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

**ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT: DIVISIONS RUN DEEPER**  
Israel has launched hundreds of air strikes in recent days to inflict as much damage as possible on Hamas militants in Gaza, with the latest conflict threatening to evolve into a full-blown war.

**LATEST FLASHPOINT**  
The latest outbreak of violence began in east Jerusalem last month, when Palestinian protests broke out in response to Israeli police tactics during Ramadan and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers.  
A focal point of clashes was the Al-Azka Mosque, which is revered by both Muslims and Jews. Hamas fired rockets toward Jerusalem last week, triggering the Israeli assault on Gaza.

**DEATHS MOUNT**  
**188** Palestinians killed in Gaza, including 35 children and 33 women, with 1,230 wounded.  
**8** People killed in Israel, including a seven-year-old boy and a soldier.

**CEASEFIRE EFFORTS**  
A US diplomat is in the region to try to de-escalate tensions, but experts say targeting of Hamas leaders could hinder negotiations. The UN Security Council also met on Sunday to discuss the issue.

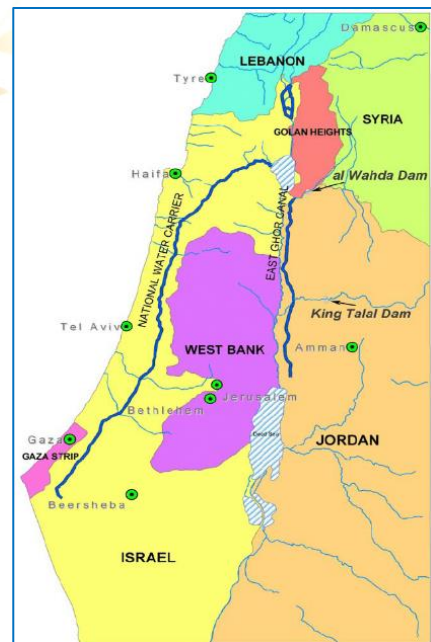
**THE PROMISED LAND**  
At the core of the conflict is Jerusalem, which contains sites sacred to Judaism, Islam and Christianity.  
Israel sees all of Jerusalem as its eternal and indivisible capital, while the Palestinians want East Jerusalem captured by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war—as the capital of a future state.

**RELENTLESS VIOLENCE**  
As fighting entered its 7th day, Hamas and other militants in Palestine have fired some 7,000 rockets into Israel, with 630 falling short or missing, and at least 1,192 intercepted by Israel's superior military powers.  
Israel, on the other side, unleashed hundreds of air strikes across impoverished Gaza, which is home to more than 2 million Palestinians and has been under a blockade since 2007.  
Israel also leveled a number of Gaza City's tallest office and residential buildings, including a 12-story structure that housed media offices.

**'It is still not over and this operation will continue as long as necessary.'**  
—BENJAMIN NETANAHU, ISRAELI PM

### ABOUT ISRAEL-PALESTINE AND GAZA STRIP:

- Ongoing conflict between **Israel and Palestine over territorial disputes**.
- **Location**
  - ✓ The **Israel-Palestine region** is located in the **eastern Mediterranean**, comprising the modern State of Israel, the **West Bank**, and the **Gaza Strip**.
  - ✓ The **Gaza Strip** is a **narrow coastal enclave** along the Mediterranean Sea.
  - ✓ Gaza Strip, **densely populated and under Israeli blockade since 2007**, governed by Hamas.
- **Territorial Division**
  - ✓ Following the 1949 armistice, the **region was divided into three parts**: the State of Israel, the West Bank (Jordan's control), and the Gaza Strip (Egypt's control).
  - ✓ **Israel captured East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, the Peninsula**, and the Golan Heights in the 1967 Six-Day War.



Sinai



### ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT:

#### ➤ Historical Context:

- ✓ The Israel-Palestine conflict traces back to the late 19th century when Jewish immigrants began settling in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire.
- ✓ UN's 1947 Partition Plan led to the creation of Israel in 1948.
- ✓ Israel's occupation of territories like the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza displaced Palestinians.
- ✓ Construction of Israeli settlements in these areas is considered illegal under international law.



#### ➤ Occupation and Settlements

- ✓ Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem has been a contentious issue.
- ✓ Over the years, Israel has built settlements in these areas where more than 600,000 Jews now reside.
- ✓ Settlements are considered illegal under international law.

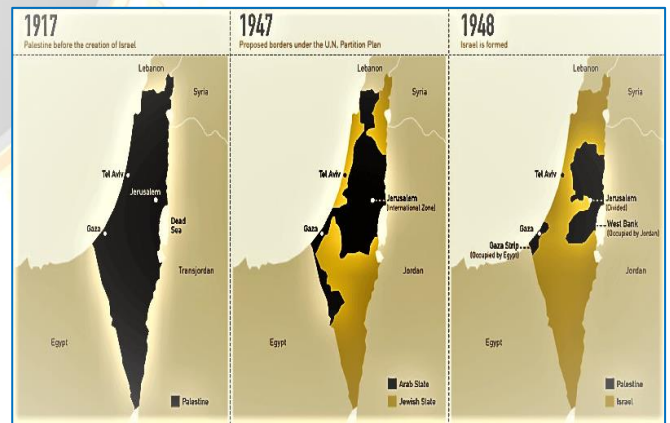
#### ➤ Jerusalem

- ✓ The status of Jerusalem has been a central issue.
- ✓ Israel considers the entire city as its capital, while Palestinians insist on East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

### ISRAEL'S CHANGES IN ITS OCCUPATION OF PALESTINIAN LAND OVER THE YEARS:

#### ➤ Historical Chronology

- ✓ Following the war, Israel acquired more territories than outlined in the UN plan, resulting in the displacement of around 700,000 Palestinians.
- ✓ Israel maintains control over the West Bank, and even though it withdrew from Gaza, the UN still designates it as occupied territory.
- ✓ Jerusalem presents a major point of contention, with Israel asserting its claim over the entire city as its capital, while Palestinians envision East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.



#### ➤ Recent Developments

- ✓ In 2021, Israeli forces clashed with Palestinians in Jerusalem, leading to attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Haram-esh-Sharif and an escalation of tensions in Sheikh Jarrah.
- ✓ These events sparked widespread violence and unrest.



**INDIA - ISRAEL RELATION:**

➤ **Political Relations**

- ✓ India recognized Israel on **September 17, 1950**.
- ✓ Full diplomatic relations with **embassies were established in 1992**.
- ✓ **2022 marked 30 years of upgraded bilateral ties**.
- ✓ High-level visits between the two countries are regular.
- ✓ India and Israel are **strategic partners**.



➤ **Economic and Commercial Relations**

- ✓ Negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement** are ongoing.
- ✓ Bilateral merchandise trade **increased from US\$ 200 million** in 1992 to **US\$ 7.86 billion (excluding defence) in 2021-2022**, with a trade **surplus for India**.
- ✓ India is Israel's **third-largest trade partner in Asia** and **ninth globally**.
- ✓ Recent trade includes electronic machinery, high-tech products, communication systems, and medical equipment.
- ✓ India is a focus country **for Israel's trade efforts**.

➤ **Agriculture**

- ✓ Bilateral agriculture **cooperation started in 2006**.
- ✓ Projects implemented through **organizations like MASHAV and CINADCO**.
- ✓ Formalized through three-year action plans.
- ✓ **India has 29 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 states**, focusing on advanced **agriculture and water technologies**.

➤ **Defence & Security**

- ✓ India is the largest consumer of Israeli military equipment (**46% of Israel's arms exports**).
- ✓ Israel is **India's second-largest supplier** of military equipment.
- ✓ **Joint ventures and technology sharing in missiles, electronic warfare systems, radar systems, navigation systems, and weapon control systems**.
- ✓ Co-production of arms systems like **Barak 8 missiles, Skystriker drones, and Travor Assault Rifles**.
- ✓ Participation in **multilateral Airforce exercise BlueFlag-2021**.
- ✓ The MoU was signed between CSIR and Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), Israel's Ministry of Defence.

➤ **Innovation:**

- ✓ Start-Up Nation Central and India's **International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCREATE)** signed a bilateral program for innovation and tech cooperation in 2020.
- ✓ The **"I2U2" Group**, including **India, Israel, the UAE, and the USA**, plays a significant role in various sectors.
- ✓ India and Israel are more than **bilateral partners**; they address **global challenges through joint investments and initiatives**.
- ✓ Science and technology are **integral to Indian culture and contribute to growth and development, especially in the competitive economy**.

➤ **People-to-people relations**

- ✓ Civilizational relations date back over two millennia.
- ✓ **Cultural Exchange Programme signed for 2020-23** to facilitate cultural exchanges and youth exchanges.
- ✓ Around **900 Indian students, primarily at doctoral and post-doctoral levels**, study in Israel.
- ✓ **Approximately 85,000 Jews of Indian-origin** in Israel.
- ✓ Around 900 Indian students, mainly at higher education levels, study in Israel.



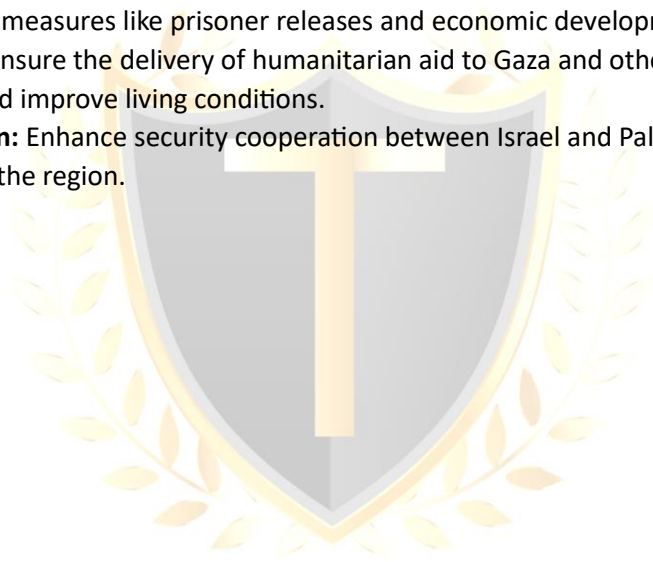


#### INDIA & UNSC STAND OVER ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT:

- **UNSC Meeting:**
  - ✓ UN Security Council convened an **emergency meeting in** response to the violence.
  - ✓ Requested by **several nations, including UAE, China, France, Ireland, and Norway.**
- **India's Stand:**
  - ✓ India follows a **dehyphenation policy**, maintaining **ties with both Israel and Palestine.**
  - ✓ Recent visits by India's Prime Minister **reflect this nuanced approach.**
  - ✓ India's stance on the conflict has evolved over time.

#### WAY FORWARD WITH RESPECT TO INDIA

- India should continue **diplomatic efforts to promote peace.**
- **Renewed Diplomacy:** International actors, including the United Nations and major powers, should facilitate renewed diplomatic negotiations between Israel and Palestine.
- **Two-State Solution:** Support for a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security should be reaffirmed. Negotiations should address borders, refugees, and Jerusalem.
- **Ceasefire and Confidence-Building Measures:** Immediate ceasefires should be enforced to stop violence. Confidence-building measures like prisoner releases and economic development projects should be promoted.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and other vulnerable areas to address immediate needs and improve living conditions.
- **Security Cooperation:** Enhance security cooperation between Israel and Palestine to combat extremism and maintain stability in the region.





## **Prelims Specific**

### **Golan Heights**

- The Golan Heights is a **rocky plateau spanning 1,800km<sup>2</sup>**, located on the **border between Israel and Syria** in south-western Syria.
- **Dispute:**
  - ✓ In the **1967 Six-Day War**, Israel occupied the **Golan Heights**, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.
  - ✓ The region came under Israeli military control, and an armistice line was established.
  - ✓ **Syria attempted to retake the Golan Heights during the 1973 Middle East war** but was unsuccessful.
  - ✓ **Both countries signed a 1974 armistice**, and a **UN observer force** has monitored the ceasefire line since then.
  - ✓ **In 1981, Israel officially annexed the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem**, actions not recognized by most nations.



### **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

#### **Prelims:**

Q. The term “two-state solution” is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of (2018)

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

Ans: (b)

“Two-State Solution” is related to Israel-Palestine conflict. It aims at the resolution of this conflict via creation of two independent states – Israel and Palestine. It gained traction post Oslo Accord 1993, and is seen by many as the only viable solution to this impending crisis.

The framework of the solution is set out in the UN resolution on the “Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine”, going back to 1974.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

#### **Mains:**

Q. “India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss (2018)