

Henry Kissinger Man Who Once Despised India

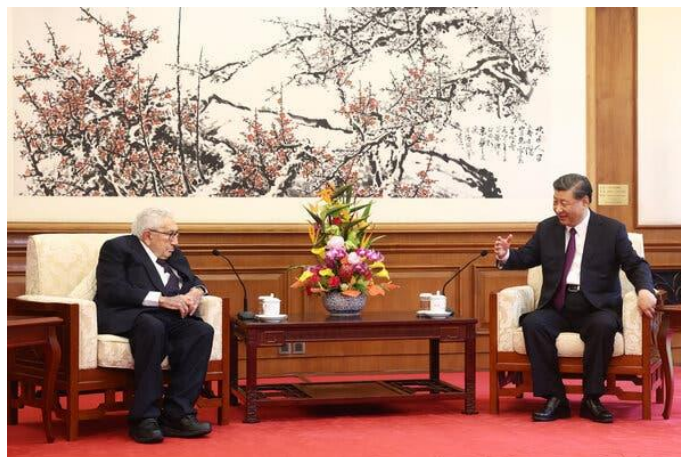
Why In News

- **Henry Kissinger**, described as the "**super Secretary of State**" who shaped global policy under US Presidents **Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford** between 1969 and 1977, dissed Indians and then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the Cold War.
- But he is said to have become an admirer of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Henry Kissinger

- A **German-born Jewish refugee**, Kissinger a controversial Nobel Prize winner, Kissinger served under two US presidents and left an indelible mark on the foreign policy of the United States.



- Although **many lauded Kissinger** for his intellect and extensive experience, several others also **labelled him as a war criminal** due to his support of anti-communist dictatorships.
- His Thought That The only way to survive in the world was to **never put yourself in a position where you did not have power**. It is this ruthlessness about power that marks the arc of his career.
- The list of crimes he explicitly or tacitly condoned is long: Kissinger "had long been concerned about and **supported the development of China-US relations**, visiting China more than a hundred times and making historic contributions to promote the normalization of China-US relations.



- "China was one of Kissinger's most lasting legacies. Hoping to **shake up the Cold War** fight against the Soviet Union, Kissinger secretly reached out to Beijing, culminating in a historic **1972 visit by president Richard Nixon** and later the US establishment of relations with the isolated country, which has soared to become the **world's second-largest economy** and a growing competitor with Washington.



- He was instrumental in **delaying the Peace Agreement in Vietnam** to help the Nixon campaign and the brutal **bombing of Cambodia** that continued till 1973 and paved the way for genocide.
- Against the judgement of diplomats on the ground, he ignored the impending **genocide in East Pakistan**.
- He gave the go-ahead for the **brutal invasion of East Timor**, the horrific **repression by the Argentine junta**, and the overthrow of Salvador Allende.

Henry Kissinger & India

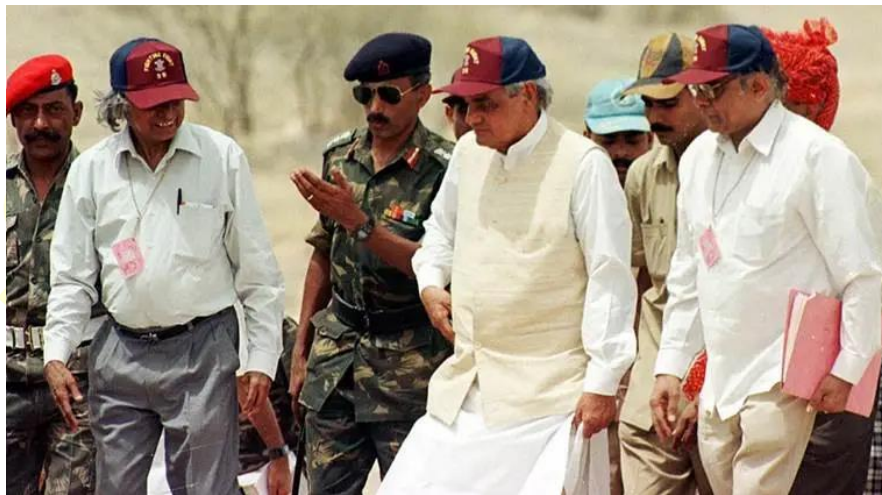
- Eighteen years ago, **some tapes were declassified**, in which he and then US President Richard Nixon could be heard using **derogatory remarks against Indira Gandhi** and also about India in 1971.
- Henry Kissinger, who was then the US Secretary of State, received a cold reception when he visited India in 1974, according to an article in The New York Times.



- Two factors were mentioned for this treatment of Kissinger, the first being the **\$10-billion American aid** to India, which was thought to be a source of humiliation for India, and the other being **US support for Pakistan** during the **1971 war**.
- Kissinger batted for the **permanent membership of India** and Japan at the Security Council as early as 1972 before tilting towards China, due to deteriorating relations with Indira Gandhi.



- TAfter the Cold War, Henry Kissinger’s views towards India changed, and he pushed to improve ties with India.
- Kissinger even opposed sanctions on India after the second **Pokhran nuclear test in 1998**.



- According to his piece '**Working with India**' in The Washington Post, he opposed the sanctions, suggesting that "India should be treated as a nuclear country whose progress in the nuclear field had become irreversible." In such a context, nuclear cooperation with India is appropriate.
- But it needs to make explicit an Indian commitment not to spread **nuclear materials to other countries**, such as the United States itself has undertaken.
- The scope of nuclear cooperation should avoid the rhetoric and the reality of a nuclear arms race in which China could be tempted to support nuclear programs in Iran and Pakistan as a counterweight," he stated in the article.

Kissinger Travelled To Listen To Pm Modi's Speech

- In June 2018, **Henry Kissinger made a rare appearance** in Washington to attend the first annual leadership summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). At the event, he said, "When I think about India, I admire their strategy."
- Kissinger had been advocating stronger **US-India ties** for the last decade (since 2014, when Modi became the Prime Minister), **under the leadership of PM Modi.**

