International Relations · GS - II

“Foreign military assistance is both a strategic instrument and a tool of foreign policy.” Discuss the implications of the proposed change in US military assistance to Israel for bilateral relations, regional security and the defence industry.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Military financing; strategic partnership; arms trade; congressional oversight; regional security; defence industry; strategic autonomy; diplomatic balancing; West Asian stability

Model Answer

Introduction

US President Donald Trump has announced a proposed end to approximately $4 billion in annual military assistance to Israel while indicating that arms sales would continue. The announcement raises questions about the future structure of a longstanding strategic partnership.

Strategic and Economic Implications

Military grants help Israel finance defence procurement while supporting US strategic influence in West Asia. Replacing grants with commercial purchases could increase Israel’s direct financial burden and alter procurement arrangements. However, continued arms sales may preserve defence-industrial ties and interoperability.

Regional and Institutional Implications

Changes in assistance could influence regional security calculations and perceptions of US commitment. They may also affect American defence manufacturers. Implementation is not automatic: existing agreements, congressional appropriations and other legal obligations may constrain the timing and scope of the proposed change.

Way Forward

Both countries should clarify the proposed transition, honour applicable legal commitments and maintain transparent defence consultations. The US should strengthen legislative oversight, while regional diplomacy should prioritise de-escalation and civilian protection.

Conclusion

A shift from grants to commercial arms sales would represent a change in the financing of defence cooperation, not necessarily its termination. Its consequences will depend on implementation, regional developments and the future terms of the bilateral partnership.

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