International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic significance of US military assistance to Israel. How could a reduction in such assistance affect bilateral relations and security dynamics in West Asia?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic partnership; military financing; regional deterrence; defence industry; US domestic politics; Israeli strategic autonomy; West Asian security; diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

The United States and Israel share a longstanding strategic partnership supported by military assistance, intelligence cooperation and defence technology collaboration. The current assistance framework provides approximately $3.8 billion annually under a memorandum of understanding covering 2019–2028.

Strategic Significance

Defence Capabilities: US assistance supports Israel's acquisition of military equipment and contributes to its missile defence capabilities.

Regional Deterrence: Military cooperation strengthens Israel's capacity to deter potential adversaries and influences the wider West Asian security balance.

Bilateral Relations: Assistance reinforces political and strategic ties, although its continuation is increasingly debated in US domestic politics.

Potential Implications of Reduction

A reduction could encourage Israel to expand domestic defence production and diversify procurement. However, it may create short-term financing pressures, affect defence planning and generate diplomatic friction. Regional actors could also reassess their security calculations.

Importantly, ending a particular assistance arrangement would not automatically terminate intelligence sharing, arms sales or other defence cooperation. Trump's announcement also leaves questions about implementation, given that the existing agreement runs through 2028.

Way Forward

Both countries should clarify the proposed transition, protect essential defence cooperation and strengthen joint research and industrial collaboration. Diplomatic engagement should accompany any changes to prevent regional miscalculation.

Conclusion

A sustainable US–Israel partnership requires balancing domestic political priorities, Israel's defence autonomy and regional stability through predictable cooperation and strategic dialogue.

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