International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of India's support for United Nations resolutions concerning Palestine. How can India balance its historical commitment to Palestinian self-determination with its expanding strategic relations with Israel?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

India's traditional support for Palestine, two-state solution, UN resolutions, international law, India-Israel strategic partnership, West Asian stability, energy security, strategic autonomy, balanced diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's support for UN resolutions concerning Palestinian self-determination, refugees and Israeli settlements reflects its longstanding commitment to international law and a negotiated two-state solution.

Significance of India's Position

- **Historical commitment:** India has consistently supported Palestinian statehood and the right to self-determination.
- **International law:** Its position reinforces the principles of territorial integrity, non-acquisition of territory by force and the applicability of international humanitarian law.

- **Humanitarian concerns:** Support for UNRWA highlights the importance of education, healthcare and relief services for Palestinian refugees.
- **Multilateral diplomacy:** Voting in favour of these resolutions demonstrates India's engagement with the UN framework and the concerns of the Global South.

Balancing Relations with Israel

India's relationship with Israel has expanded in defence, agriculture, cybersecurity, water management and advanced technology. At the same time, Palestine remains important to India's diplomatic engagement in West Asia.

India can maintain this balance through:

1. **Strategic autonomy:** Pursuing independent foreign policy decisions without allowing bilateral partnerships to dictate its position on international law.
2. **Two-state solution:** Supporting a sovereign and viable Palestine alongside Israel within mutually agreed and internationally recognised arrangements.
3. **Humanitarian assistance:** Continuing development and relief support for the Palestinian population.
4. **Regional diplomacy:** Engaging with Arab countries, Israel and other stakeholders to promote dialogue and stability.

Conclusion

India's approach need not be a choice between Palestine and Israel. A consistent commitment to international law, humanitarian principles and constructive engagement can preserve its strategic interests while supporting a peaceful and negotiated settlement.