

India supported the two-state solution for Palestine at the United Nations

21.09.2025

Question: India's support for the "New York Declaration" (2025), passed in the United Nations General Assembly, reflects which aspect of its foreign policy? Discuss.

Why in News?



THE HINDU

HOME / NEWS / INDIA

India votes in favour of UNGA resolution on Palestine endorsing two-state solution

The resolution, introduced by France, was adopted with an overwhelming 142 nations voting in favour, 10 against and 12 abstentions

Updated - September 13, 2025 10:36 am IST - United Nations



Key Points:

- The resolution, presented by France in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), was adopted on 12 September 2025 with overwhelming support from 142 countries.
- Only 10 countries opposed it, while 12 abstained.
- By voting in favor, India made its position clear that it firmly supports a peaceful resolution of the Palestine question and the two-state solution.
- The resolution was titled: *"New York Declaration on the Peaceful Resolution of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution."*

India's Balanced Stance

India has historically always supported Palestine's independence and right to self-determination.

- In 1974, India was among the first countries to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
 - In 1988, India recognized the State of Palestine.
- At the same time, since the 1990s, India has expanded its strategic and defense cooperation with Israel. In this context, voting in favor of this resolution reflects India's balanced and "dual engagement" foreign policy.



New York Declaration: Background and Message

The declaration was introduced at a high-level international conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in July 2025.

- **Co-chairs:** France and Saudi Arabia
- **Objective:** To end the Gaza war and establish a global roadmap toward lasting peace.

The declaration made it clear that the Israel–Palestine conflict can only be resolved through the two-state solution, where:

1. A sovereign, viable, and independent Palestinian state comes into existence.
2. Israel continues to exist peacefully within secure borders.



Strong Message to Israel

In the resolution and declaration, Israel was directly addressed with the following points:

- Settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian territories (especially East Jerusalem) must be stopped immediately.
- Land grabbing and any attempts at annexation must be abandoned.
- Violence against Palestinians, incitement, and violent activities by settlers must be ended.
- A clear and public commitment to the two-state solution must be made.

Humanitarian Crisis and Global Concern

The resolution also stated that the recent conflict has pushed the Middle East into a severe humanitarian catastrophe:

- Thousands of civilians have been killed in Gaza, and millions displaced.
- Medical, food, and energy crises have pushed the local population into a survival crisis.
- This war has not only endangered regional stability but has also affected global peace and security.

Gaza: An Integral Part of the Palestinian State

The declaration made it clear that:

1. Gaza is an inseparable part of the Palestinian state.
 2. It must be integrated with the West Bank.
 3. Occupation, blockade, territorial reduction, or forced displacement there will not be acceptable.
- This message is directed not only at Israel but also at those countries seeking to impose control over Gaza in the name of humanitarian intervention or resettlement plans.



Implications for India

India's vote carries three important messages:

1. India's role is strengthened in the leadership of the Global South, as most developing countries stand with Palestine.
2. India continues its balanced foreign policy—maintaining defense-technology cooperation with Israel while supporting Palestine's right to self-determination.
3. India's ties with the Muslim world and Arab countries (especially in the context of energy and its diaspora) will grow stronger.

Future Challenges

However, despite the resolution, challenges remain:

- The opposition of countries like Israel and the U.S. shows weak political will on the ground.
- The political situation in Gaza and the West Bank (Hamas vs. Fatah) also raises questions about Palestinian internal unity.
- If concrete guarantees and a time-bound plan for the two-state solution are not made, the conflict is likely to deepen further.



Israel-Palestine Conflict

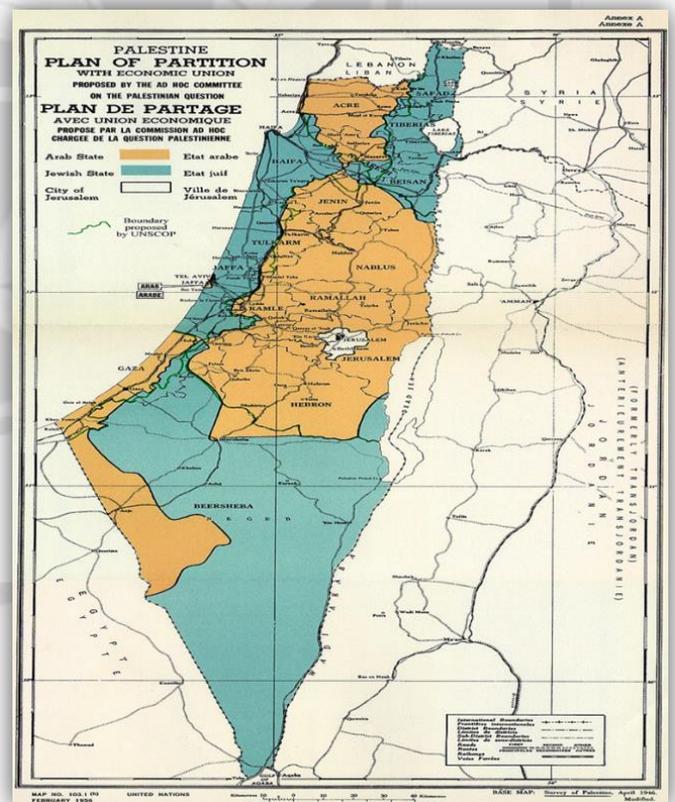
Historical Background

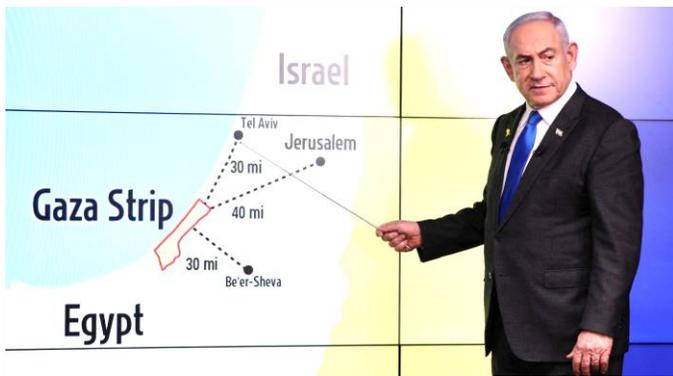
- **Since ancient times** – The region of Palestine has been sacred for Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike.
- **Ottoman Empire (1517–1917)** – The region remained under the control of the Ottoman Turks.
- **British Mandate (1917–1947)** – After World War I, Britain took control of the region. During this period, Jewish migration from Europe to Palestine increased.
- **United Nations Partition Plan (1947)** – The UN proposed to divide the region into two parts:
 - 55% for Jews (Israel)
 - 45% for Arabs (Palestinians)
 - Jerusalem was to be placed under international administration.
 The Jews accepted the proposal, but Arab countries rejected it.



Major Wars and Events

- **1948 – Establishment of Israel** → Arab countries attacked → Israel won → nearly 700,000 Palestinians became refugees.
- **1967 Six-Day War** – Israel captured the Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Golan Heights.
- **1973 Yom Kippur War** – Arab states attacked Israel, but failed to achieve success.
- **Oslo Accords (1993)** – For the first time, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) signed a peace agreement. Limited Palestinian self-rule was allowed in the West Bank and Gaza.





- **After 2000** – Intifadas (Palestinian uprisings), terrorist attacks, and intensified Israeli military operations in Gaza.
- **Hamas vs. Fatah** – Internal political division among Palestinians: Gaza under Hamas' control, West Bank under Fatah/Palestinian Authority.



Key Issues in the Conflict

- **Status of Jerusalem** – Both sides claim it as their capital.
- **Right of Return of Refugees** – Millions of Palestinians displaced since 1948, along with their descendants, claim the right to return.
- **Border Demarcation** – The future of the West Bank, Gaza, and settlements remains unresolved.
- **Security** – Israel seeks protection from terrorism and attacks, while Palestinians demand sovereignty and freedom.
- **Jewish Settlements** – Israel continues to expand settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law.



Current Situation (as of 2025)

- Ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel in the Gaza Strip.
- A humanitarian crisis persists in Gaza.
- Expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and intensified Palestinian protests.
- The US, European Union, United Nations, and Arab states advocate a “two-state solution,” but ground realities make it increasingly difficult.
- Recently (September 2025), India also voted in favor of a UN resolution supporting the two-state solution.

Conclusion

- The resolution passed in the United Nations General Assembly is not just a paper declaration, but a symbol of global consensus.
- India’s support shows that it stands for a solution based on peace, justice, and balance.
- However, the real challenge lies in turning this declaration into practical policy and concrete steps on the ground.

Question: Recently, the “New York Declaration” adopted in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is related to:

- (a) Climate change and the Net-Zero roadmap
- (b) The Palestine question and the two-state solution
- (c) The new treaty of the Arctic Council
- (d) Marine plastic pollution