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## India Abstains from Latest Resolution Against Israel

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### Why in News

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Recently, **Palestine blamed India for suppressing its human rights of all people** as India abstained from the latest resolution on the Palestinian issue.

- **India abstained from voting on a resolution** at the **United Nations Human Rights Council** (UNHRC) that came up in the backdrop of the latest round of **conflict between Israel and Gaza strip**, the coastal part of the Palestinian territories.
- UNHRC is an **inter-governmental body** within the **United Nations** (UN) system responsible for **strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights** around the world.



## Key Points

- **The Resolution:**
  - It called on the UNHRC to set up a **permanent commission to probe human rights violations in Gaza, West Bank and Palestine.**
  - It was **adopted with the vote of 24 members.** Nine voted against, and 14, including India, abstained.
    - Among the **countries that abstained** on the vote, along with India, were France, Italy, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, Poland, and South Korea.
    - China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Russia were **among those who voted in favour**; Germany, the UK, and Austria **voted against the resolution.**
  - As it was passed, an **independent commission of inquiry** was formed to investigate **violations of international law by Israel.**

- **Palestine's Stand:**

- The **resolution** is not an aberration to the Human Rights Council. It is the **by-product of extensive multilateral consultations**.
- It is the **consolidation of years and thorough investigations into and reporting on Israel's grave violations** by States, UN's experts, Human Rights Treaty bodies, and international organisations.
  - The Palestinian people were **deprived of applicability of international human rights law**.
  - The **root causes of the injustice** against the Palestinian people was **dispossession, displacement, colonisation by Israel**.
- Therefore, **India's abstention stifles the important work of Human Rights Council** at advancing human rights for all peoples, including those of the Palestinian people.

India **missed an opportunity to join the international community** at this turning point, both crucial and long overdue, on the path to accountability, justice and peace.

- **Till Date India's Position on Israel-Palestine Issue:**

- India **recognised Israel in 1950** but it is also the **first non-Arab country to recognise Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** as the sole representative of the Palestinian.
  - India is also **one of the first countries to recognise the statehood of Palestine in 1988**.
- In **2014**, India **avored UNHRC's resolution to probe Israel's human rights violations in Gaza**. Despite supporting the probe, **India abstained from voting against Israel in UNHRC in 2015**.
- As a part of Link West Policy, **India has de-hyphenated its relationship with Israel and Palestine in 2018** to treat both the countries mutually independent and exclusive.
- In June 2019, India **voted in favor of a decision introduced by Israel in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian non-governmental organization.
- In March 2021, **International Criminal Court (ICC)** launched investigations into the war crimes in **Palestinian territories occupied by Israel (West Bank and the Gaza Strip)**.
  - Israel **wanted India to take a stand against it**, however it did not happen.
- So far, India has **tried to maintain the image of its historical moral supporter for Palestinian self-determination**, and at the same time to **engage in the military, economic, and other strategic relations with Israel**.

## Way Forward

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- India's policy on the longest running conflict in the world has **gone from being unequivocally pro-Palestine** for the first four decades, to a **tense balancing act with its three-decade-old friendly ties with Israel**.

In today's multipolar world, **India needs to have a balanced approach**.

- The **world at large needs to come together for a peaceful solution** but the reluctance of the Israeli government and other involved parties have aggravated the issue more. Thus a **balanced approach would help to maintain favorable relations with Arab countries as well as Israel**.
- The recent **normalization agreements between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, known as the Abraham Accords**, are the steps in the right direction. All regional powers should envisage peace between the two countries on line of Abraham Accords.

**Source:TH**