International Relations · GS - II

“India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.”
Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic partnership; defence cooperation; agricultural technology; innovation; counterterrorism; trade and investment; West Asian diplomacy; Palestinian question

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992. Since then, cooperation has expanded across defence, agriculture, science, technology and security, giving the relationship substantial strategic depth.

Factors Strengthening Relations

1. **Defence cooperation:** Israel has supplied defence equipment and collaborated with India on surveillance, missile systems and modernisation.
2. **Agriculture:** Cooperation in micro-irrigation, water management and agricultural technology supports productivity.
3. **Science and innovation:** Partnerships in cybersecurity, research, startups and advanced technologies create mutual benefits.
4. **Counterterrorism:** Both countries cooperate on security-related concerns and counterterrorism capacity.

5. **Economic ties:** Trade, investment and technology partnerships have diversified beyond traditional areas.
6. **People-to-people links:** Tourism, academic exchange and business contacts strengthen bilateral engagement.

Constraints and Diplomatic Balance

The relationship is not immune to regional instability, defence supply risks or differences over West Asian developments. India also maintains longstanding ties with Palestine and other Arab countries, alongside its energy and diaspora interests.

Conclusion

India–Israel relations have become broad-based and strategically significant, making a return to earlier limited engagement unlikely. Their sustainability depends on pragmatic cooperation and a balanced, independent West Asia policy.

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