International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the role of the United Nations General Assembly in addressing unilateral economic sanctions, with reference to the US embargo against Cuba.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP

Answer Hint

UNGA resolutions; unilateral economic sanctions; sovereignty and non-intervention; humanitarian consequences; multilateral diplomacy; limits of UN enforcement

Model Answer

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) provides a platform for countries to express collective views on international disputes and economic policies. The long-running US embargo against Cuba illustrates the debate over unilateral sanctions and their humanitarian consequences.

Role of the UN General Assembly

- **International opinion:** The UNGA can adopt resolutions calling for the reconsideration or termination of policies viewed by member states as inconsistent with international cooperation.
- **Sovereign equality:** Article 2(1) of the UN Charter recognises the sovereign equality of states, while Article 2(3) emphasises peaceful settlement of disputes.

- **Humanitarian concerns:** Trade and financial restrictions may affect access to essential goods, energy, medicines and economic opportunities. Their actual effects depend on the scope of restrictions and available alternatives.
- **Diplomatic engagement:** UN debates can sustain dialogue, encourage negotiations and draw attention to the concerns of affected populations.

Limitations and Way Forward

Most UNGA resolutions are recommendatory rather than directly enforceable. Effective progress therefore requires sustained diplomacy, humanitarian safeguards, dialogue between the parties and compliance with applicable international law.

Conclusion

The UNGA can mobilise international opinion and promote multilateral solutions, but resolving the Cuba embargo requires political negotiations alongside attention to humanitarian needs.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP