

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **balancing act** (noun) – an activity that calls for a delicate balance between different conditions/circumstances.
2. **stand** (noun) – position, attitude, stance, approach, standpoint.
3. **indiscriminate** (adjective) – thoughtless, unthinking, unconsidered, careless, casual.
4. **disproportionate** (adjective) – inordinate, excessive, uncalled for, unreasonable, unfair.
5. **Gaza** (noun) – a Palestinian city in the Gaza Strip. Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Israel and Egypt.
6. **UN Security Council (UNSC)** (noun) – it is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with ensuring international peace and security.
7. **delicate** (adjective) – careful, considerate, sensitive, diplomatic.
8. **reaffirm** (verb) – assert, state, assure again strongly.
9. **Jerusalem** (proper noun) – a city in Western Asia; Jerusalem is home to major religious sites sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. It is the religious and historical epicenter of the world. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, either claim is not widely recognized internationally. The United States has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
10. **eviction** (noun) – expulsion, banishment, ousting/removal.
11. **Sheikh Jarrah** (noun) – a tiny neighbourhood of East Jerusalem.
12. **neighbourhood** (noun) – (surrounding) area/region.
13. **unilaterally** (adverb) – used to indicate something done by a person/country without approval/agreement from other people/countries involved in the situation.
14. **status quo** (noun) – a Latin phrase meaning the existing state of affairs, particularly with respect to social or political issues; the present situation, the current state.
15. **reiterate** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate.
16. **just** (adjective) – fair, equitable, even-handed, impartial, unbiased.
17. **unwavering** (adjective) – steady, firm, resolute; steadfast, persistent, unflinching.
18. **two-state solution** (noun) – The two-state solution refers to a political deal in which Israel and a Palestinian state exist separately.

19. single-state solution (noun) – The single-state solution refers to a political deal in which Israel and a Palestinian state exist together.
20. sensitivities (noun) – feelings, emotions, finer feelings, sensibilities.
21. condemnation (noun) – censure, criticism, castigation, stricture.
22. reference (noun) – mention of, comment on, remark about.
23. carry out (phrasal verb) – conduct, perform, execute.
24. impoverished (adjective) – weakened, exhausted, drained, diminished, depleted; poor, poverty-stricken, penniless, destitute, needy.
25. in line with (phrase) – in accordance with.
26. sovereign (adjective) – independent, self-governing, autonomous, self-determining.
27. alongside (preposition) – together with.
28. balance (noun) – fairness, justice, impartiality, egalitarianism, equal opportunity.
29. go down (phrasal verb) – be successful, achieve success, make an impression, have an impact.
30. rapprochement (noun) – affinity, link/bond, close/special relationship, mutual understanding.
31. stand with (phrasal verb) – stand by someone, support someone; remain loyal to someone.
32. ties (noun) – association, relationship, bond, connection.
33. footing (noun) – basis, base, foundation, underpinning, support.
34. realist (adjective) – idealist, pragmatist, rationalist.
35. go through (phrasal verb) – undergo, experience, suffer, live through, endure, tolerate.
36. cold war (noun) – a state of political and military tension between two countries, especially superpowers.
37. the Cold War (noun) – The Cold War was a state of political and military tension after World War II between powers in the Western Bloc (the United States and a group of countries) and powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and a group of countries).
38. occupation (noun) – invasion, seizure, takeover, annexation.
39. norms (noun) – standard, convention, guidelines, criterion.
40. diplomatic (adjective) – (delicate & sensitive) consular, foreign-policy.
41. context (noun) – circumstances, conditions, situation.
42. The Madrid Conference, 1991 (noun) – It was a peace conference, held from 30 October to 1 November 1991 in Madrid, hosted by Spain and co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. It was an attempt by the international community to revive the Israeli-

Palestinian peace process through negotiations, involving Israel and the Palestinians as well as Arab countries, including Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

43. world/international/global order (noun) – the arrangement of power and authority that provides the system for the conduct of diplomacy and world politics in relation to the entire world.
44. disintegration (noun) – breakdown, fragmentation, collapse.
45. underpinning (noun) – solid base, support, foundation.
46. alienate (verb) – set apart, drive apart, isolate, detach, distance.
47. voice (noun) – expression, opinion, view, comment.
48. isolate (verb) – separate, set apart, alienate, distance.
49. drive (verb) – propel, urge, prompt; push, force.
50. emphatic (adjective) – clear, definite, firm, decisive.

Balancing act: On India's stand in Israel-Palestine conflict

MAY 21, 2021 00:02 IST

India should oppose indiscriminate attacks on Israel and disproportionate bombing on Gaza

At the open UN Security Council session on Sunday on the Gaza conflict, India, a non-permanent member, attempted a delicate balancing act by reaffirming its traditional support for the Palestine cause without abandoning its new friend Israel. T.S. Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative at the UN, expressed concern over the violence in Jerusalem and the "possible eviction process" of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah and warned against "attempts to unilaterally change the *status quo*" in Jerusalem. He also reiterated India's "strong support for the just Palestinian cause and its unwavering commitment to the two-state solution". But India was careful not to upset Israel's sensitivities. There is a direct condemnation of the rocket attacks from Gaza but no direct reference to the disproportionate bombing Israel has been carrying out on the impoverished Gaza Strip since May 10. India also did not make any reference to the status of Jerusalem or the future borders of the two states, in line with a recent change in its policy. Until 2017, the Indian position was that it supported the

creation of an independent, sovereign Palestine state based on the 1967 border and with East Jerusalem as its capital that lives alongside Israel. The balancing did not appear to have gone down well with the Israeli side. When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has a good rapport with Narendra Modi, thanked 25 countries that he said stood with Israel, there was no reference to India.

For India, which voted against the [creation of Israel in historic Palestine in 1947](#) in the UN General Assembly, ties with Israel have transformed since the early 1990s. In 2017, [Mr. Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Israel](#) and [Mr. Netanyahu travelled to India in 2018](#). While Israel ties are on a strong footing, India cannot ignore the Palestinians for historic, moral, legal and realist reasons. Historically, India, which went through the horrors of 1947, opposed the partition of Palestine. Throughout the Cold War, it remained a strong supporter of Palestinian freedom, taking a moral and legal position against the Israeli occupation, in line with international laws and norms. It established full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992, in the context of improving Israel-Palestine ties after the Madrid Conference and the changes in the global order following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, but never abandoned the Palestinians. India's Palestine policy had realist underpinnings too. India has been energy dependent on the Arab world. It cannot alienate the Arab voices or be isolated in the General Assembly, where most member-countries oppose the occupation. These factors should have driven India to take a more emphatic position against both the indiscriminate rocket attacks into Israel, in which 12 people were killed, and the disproportionate bombing of Gaza, which has claimed at least 230 lives, including over 60 children.