

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Date:** 1 December 2023

## GOLAN HEIGHTS

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Golan Heights". This topic has relevance in the Geography section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### GS 1: Geography

#### Why in the news?

India has cast its vote in support of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution expressing profound concern about Israel's failure to withdraw from the Syrian Golan Heights.

#### Geography:

- Located in southwestern Syria, Golan Heights is a rocky plateau about 60km southwest of Damascus.
- Bounded by the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Mount Hermon, Wadi Al-Ruqqād River, and the Yarmūk River.
- Boat-shaped, covering approximately 1,150 square kilometers with dimensions of 44 miles north to south and 27 miles east to west.



**History:**

- Seized by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War from Syria.
- Majority of Syrian Arab inhabitants displaced during the conflict.
- Establishment of an armistice line and Israeli military control.
- Settlement activities initiated by Israel, leading to a contested demographic landscape.
- Unsuccessful Syrian attempt to reclaim the region in the 1973 Middle East conflict.
- 1974 armistice signed with the deployment of a UN observer force along the ceasefire line.
- Unilateral Israeli annexation in 1981 solidified geopolitical tensions.

**Current Situation:**

- Over 30 Israeli settlements in the Golan, considered illegal under international law.
- Population includes approximately 20,000 Syrians and 20,000 Israelis, fostering a complex social fabric.
- Ongoing tension between Israel and the international community regarding settlements.

**Strategic Significance:**

- Elevated vantage points provide a clear view of the Syrian capital, Damascus, enhancing military and surveillance capabilities.
- Golan serves as a watershed, contributing to the Jordan River's water supply.
- One-third of Israel's water supply is believed to come from the Golan.
- Fertile land in the region supports agriculture, adding to its strategic importance.

**Source:**

**India votes in favour of UNGA resolution that expresses deep concern over Israel not withdrawing from Syrian Golan (msn.com)**

**Q.1 Regarding the Golan Heights recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

1. It lies on the Syria-Jordan border.
2. It lies west of the Sea of Galilee.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: A****Q.2 In the context of evolving global dynamics, discuss the changing perspectives of India on the Israel-Palestine conflict****Rishabh**