

Indian Aid to Palestinian Refugees

Source: BS

Recently, India has released the first tranche of **USD 2.5 million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East as part of its **annual contribution of USD 5 million** for the year 2024-25.

- UNRWA has been carrying out direct relief and work programmes for registered Palestinian refugees since 1950 and is making efforts to continue functioning amidst the <u>Israel-Hamas war</u> in Gaza.
- India has provided financial support of USD 35 million till 2023-24 for UNRWA's core programmes and services, including education, healthcare, relief, and social services for Palestinian refugees.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA):

- It was established in 1949 by the UN General Assembly after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.
- Its mandate is to provide aid and protection to Palestinian refugees who were displaced following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as their descendants.
- It operates in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.
- It is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN member states.
- India's support to UNRWA includes financial assistance as well as providing medicines based on the agency's specific request.

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