

Israel-Hamas war

# **Description**

#### Theme:

• Israel is currently in the midst of a conflict with Hamas, a Palestinian militant group that controls the Gaza Strip. The conflict began on 7th October 2023, when Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, firing five thousand rockets into southern and central Israel. The conflict has been intensifying ever since.

### What really happened?

- On 7th October 2023, <u>Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel</u>, breaching Israeli borders via various means, including gliders and tunnels, and catching Israeli forces off guard.
- The attack <u>resulted in many deaths and several others were injured and caused significant</u> damage in Israel.
- The attack coincided with a significant Israeli annual festival, taking advantage of a perceived vulnerable moment.
- <u>Israel responded with airstrikes and ground operations</u> to neutralise threats and protect its citizens, leading to a cycle of violence.
- Israel has declared war, and currently, Israel is doing military operations in the Gaza Strip in Palestine to target Hamas terrorists with a mission to eradicate them all together.

### How did Israel's intelligence fail?

- Despite the esteemed reputation of Israeli intelligence, it appears there was a <u>crucial</u> <u>oversight in accurately assessing the capabilities of Hamas</u>, leading to a lack of adequate preparation and response.
- Due to the possible misinterpretation of the threat, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) were also not prepared for the attacks by Hamas.
- <u>The Israeli military</u>, while highly capable against conventional adversaries, struggles to effectively combat asymmetric warfare

. <u>Hamas and similar groups, being unconventional</u> and highly motivated, presented a significant challenge to the conventional Israeli military, as they <u>operate within civilian</u> populations and employ guerrilla tactics.

#### The root of the Israel-Palestine conflict:

- In 1917, the Balfour Declaration was issued by the British government, expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.
- After World War II, because of the impact of Hitler's regime, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased, and Zionist aspirations for a Jewish homeland gained more momentum.
- The UN partition plan of 1947 proposed the division of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city.
- The Jewish leadership accepted the plan, but the Arab leadership rejected it, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
- The conflict is because <u>Palestine holds profound religious significance for the Abrahamic religions</u>, encompassing the "Promised Land" in Judaism, key events in Christianity such as Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, and revered Islamic sites like Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.
- Ever since Israel has been in a constant state of war against the Arab countries, including in the Gaza Strip, where it has been in conflict with Hamas since 2008.

### Impact of this War:

- This war will result in the <u>displacement of many Palestinians and a refugee crisis</u> in neighbouring countries.
- This war could potentially lead to more future conflicts between Israel and Arab countries.
- The US was in talks with Israel and Saudi Arabia to discuss an agreement normalising their relationship. However, due to this war, <u>Saudi Arabia has suspended talks</u>, which is <u>detrimental to peace efforts in the region</u>.
- This conflict may also <u>impact the plans of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)</u>,
  which passes through Saudi Arabia and Israel. <u>Implementation may not be possible if relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel do not normalise</u>, raising concerns about IMEC security.
- If this war is prolonged and Israel gets stuck in this war just like Russia is in Ukraine right now, the IMEC will no longer remain viable. This would be a significant setback to India's interests.

#### **Conclusion:**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict persists, with Israel asserting its commitment to ensuring the safety of its citizens and the complete eradication of Hamas terrorists. Bringing about a resolution in this situation is undoubtedly challenging, but if attainable, it demands intensified diplomatic efforts facilitated by international mediation, encouraging dialogue, and fostering empathy from all parties involved. In a world where conflicts are simultaneously rampant, finding a lasting solution becomes even more important, emphasising the need for concerted global efforts towards peace

and stability.

## Your Turn...

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