



Gaza Strip

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The recent escalation of conflict between **Israel and Hamas militants** has thrust the [Gaza Strip](#) into the global spotlight.

- Amidst this turmoil, Israel's defense minister, declared a "**complete siege**" of the **Gaza Strip**, cutting off essential resources. This move has highlighted the long-standing and contentious issue of the **Gaza blockade**, which has been in place **since 2007**.



What are the Significant Aspects Regarding the Gaza Strip?

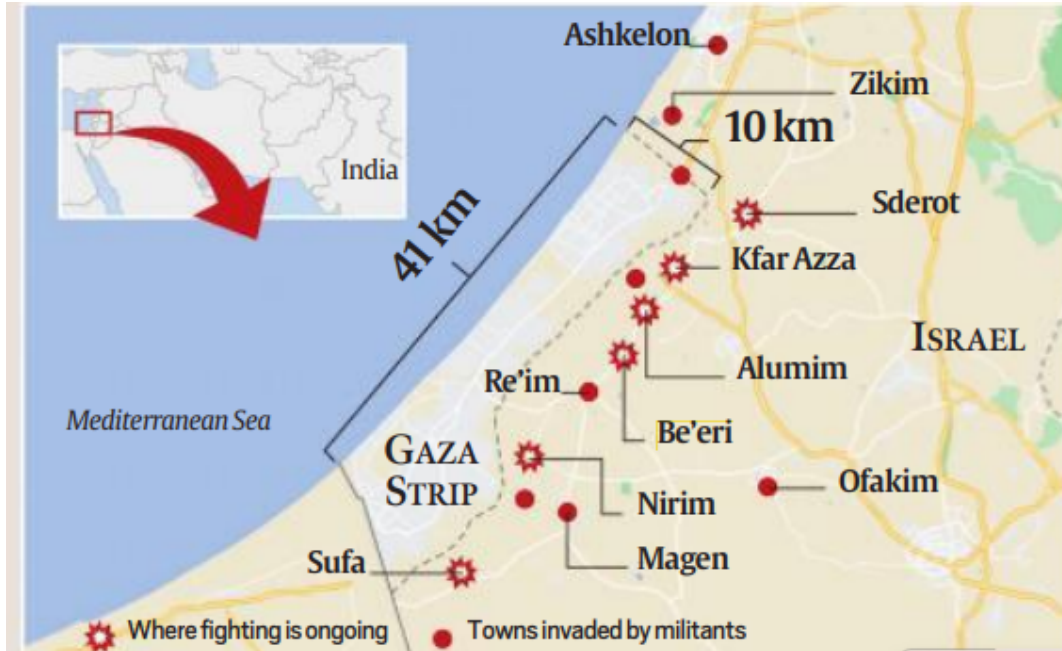
- **About:** The **Gaza Strip** is situated in the **eastern Mediterranean basin**, sharing borders with **Egypt in the southwest** and Israel to the north and east. To the west, it is bounded by the [Mediterranean Sea](#).
 - It is one of the **most densely populated areas globally**, with over 2 million residents living in a tiny area.
 - The term "**open air prison**" has been widely used by academics, activists, and journalists to characterize the conditions in Gaza.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - The [Six-Day War of 1967](#) resulted in **Israel capturing Gaza from Egypt** and initiating its military occupation of the region.
 - Israel withdrew its settlements from Gaza in 2005, but this period also saw **intermittent blockades on the movement of people and goods**.
 - In 2007, after **Hamas assumed power in Gaza**, **Israel and Egypt** enforced a permanent blockade, justifying it as necessary for security.

- The [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#) reported that the blockade has severely impacted Gaza's economy, resulting in high unemployment, food insecurity, and aid dependency.

▪ **Related Border Areas:**

- **Gaza is encircled by walls on three sides**, and its western border is controlled by Israel, restricting access by sea.
- Three functional border crossings exist - **Karem Abu Salem Crossing** and **Erez Crossing controlled by Israel**, and **Rafah Crossing controlled by Egypt**.
- These crossings have been sealed in response to recent hostilities.

▪ **Associated Places in Spotlight:**



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. Yom Kippur War was fought between which sides/ countries? (2008)

- (a) Turkey and Greece
- (b) Serbs and Croats
- (c) Israel, and Arab countries led by Egypt and Syria
- (d) Iran and Iraq

Ans: (c)

Q2. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries? (2017)

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Iraq
- 3. Lebanon
- 4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans: (c)

- The following countries have a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea:
- Northern shore (from west to east): Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey.
- Eastern shore (from north to south): Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt.
- **Hence, 3 and 4 are correct.**
- Southern shore (from west to east): Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt.
- Island nations: Malta, Cyprus.
- **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q3. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea? (2015)

- (a)** Syria
- (b)** Jordan
- (c)** Lebanon
- (d)** Israel

Ans: (b)

Q4. The area known as 'Golan Heights' sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to (2015)

- (a)** Central Asia
- (b)** Middle East
- (c)** South-East Asia
- (d)** Central Africa

Ans: (b)

Q5. The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of (2018)

- (a)** China
- (b)** Israel
- (c)** Iraq
- (d)** Yemen

Ans: (b)