



Rafah Crossing

Source: IE

Why in News?

The **Rafah border crossing in southern Gaza** has gained global attention as **Palestinians** are attempting to leave Gaza in anticipation of a possible Israeli attack as part of the ongoing **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.



What is Rafah Crossing?

▪ **About:**

- The Rafah crossing is the **southernmost exit point from the Gaza Strip**, and it shares a border with **Egypt's Sinai Peninsula**.
 - The crossing is controlled by Egypt.
- It is the **only exit that does not lead to Israeli territory**.
- There are only two other border crossings in and out of Gaza:
 - **Erez** is located in the north and is used by people in Israel.
 - **Kerem Shalom**, in the south, which is **exclusively for commercial goods**.
 - **Both Erez and Kerem Shalom controlled by Israel** are currently closed.

▪ **Importance:**

- The Rafah crossing gained heightened importance after **Hamas's assault on the Erez crossing**, resulting in over 1,300 casualties in southern Israel.
 - In response, Israel closed both Erez and Kerem Shalom indefinitely, leaving the **Rafah border as the sole means of entry and exit for Gaza's people and the only crossing for humanitarian aid**.

Egypt's Sinai Peninsula

- The Sinai Peninsula is a triangle-shaped peninsula in Egypt. It's located in the northeastern part of the country.
- The peninsula is bordered by the [Mediterranean Sea](#) to the north, the [Red Sea](#) to the south, and the **Gulf of Aqaba to the east**.
- The peninsula includes the **Suez Canal, which is a man-made waterway** that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.



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. The 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)

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)