



Operation Sindhu for Evacuation from Iran

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

India announced launching '**Operation Sindhu**' to evacuate **Indian nationals** from **Iran** through **Armenia** as fears of an all-out **Israeli-American military strikes** on **Iran** increased.

- It highlighted **Armenia's crucial role** as a **strategic and viable evacuation route**, thanks to its **geographic position** and **strong diplomatic ties** with **India**.
- **Iran** borders **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan**, and **Turkmenistan** to the **north**. It shares borders with **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** to the **east**, **Iraq** to the **west**, **Turkey** to the **northwest**, and has a southern coastline along the **Persian Gulf** and **Gulf of Oman**.



What Makes Armenia Strategically Important for Operation Sindhu?

- **Geostrategic Location:** Armenia's 44-km border with Iran and the **Nurduz-Agarak crossing**, linked to **Tehran** by a **730 km highway**, provide the most practical and safe land route for swift Indian evacuation.
- **Limited Alternatives:** Other borders pose challenges:
 - **Pakistan:** Geopolitical tensions (post-[Operation Sindoor](#)) made the **Iran-Pakistan border inaccessible**.
 - **Turkey & Azerbaijan:** Both support **Pakistan**, making their **borders with Iran unfavorable for India**.
 - **Afghanistan:** No diplomatic ties with **Taliban-ruled Afghanistan**.
 - **Iraq & Turkmenistan:** **Iraq** is an **active conflict zone** with **airports closed**, while **Turkmenistan's border** is **remote** and **underdeveloped**.
- **Strong Diplomatic Relations:** Armenia's support for India at international fora (e.g. **Kashmir issue**, [UNSC seat](#)).
 - In 2022, **India surpassed Russia** as **Armenia's top military supplier** with a **USD 250 million deal** for [PINAKA rocket launchers](#), [Akash-1S air defense](#), and other weapons.
- **Regional Connectivity:** Armenia is integral to the [International North-South Transport Corridor](#), aligning with India's broader strategy to secure trade and evacuation routes through the **Caucasus region**.

What are Other Key Indian Evacuation Operations?

Operation	Year	Location	Context
Operation Kaveri	2023	Sudan	Evacuation during violent military clashes
Operation Ajay	2023	Israel	Evacuation during the Israel-Hamas conflict
Operation Ganga	2022	Ukraine	Evacuation during the Russia-Ukraine war
Operation Devi Shakti	2021	Afghanistan	Evacuation after Taliban takeover
Operation Samudra Setu	2020	Various (via sea)	Evacuation during Covid-19 pandemic (Vande Bharat Mission)
Operation Raahat	2015	Yemen	Evacuation during civil conflict
Operation Safe Homecoming	2011	Libya	Evacuation during civil war in Arab Spring

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. 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)

Q. 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)

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