



## Iran-Israel Conflict

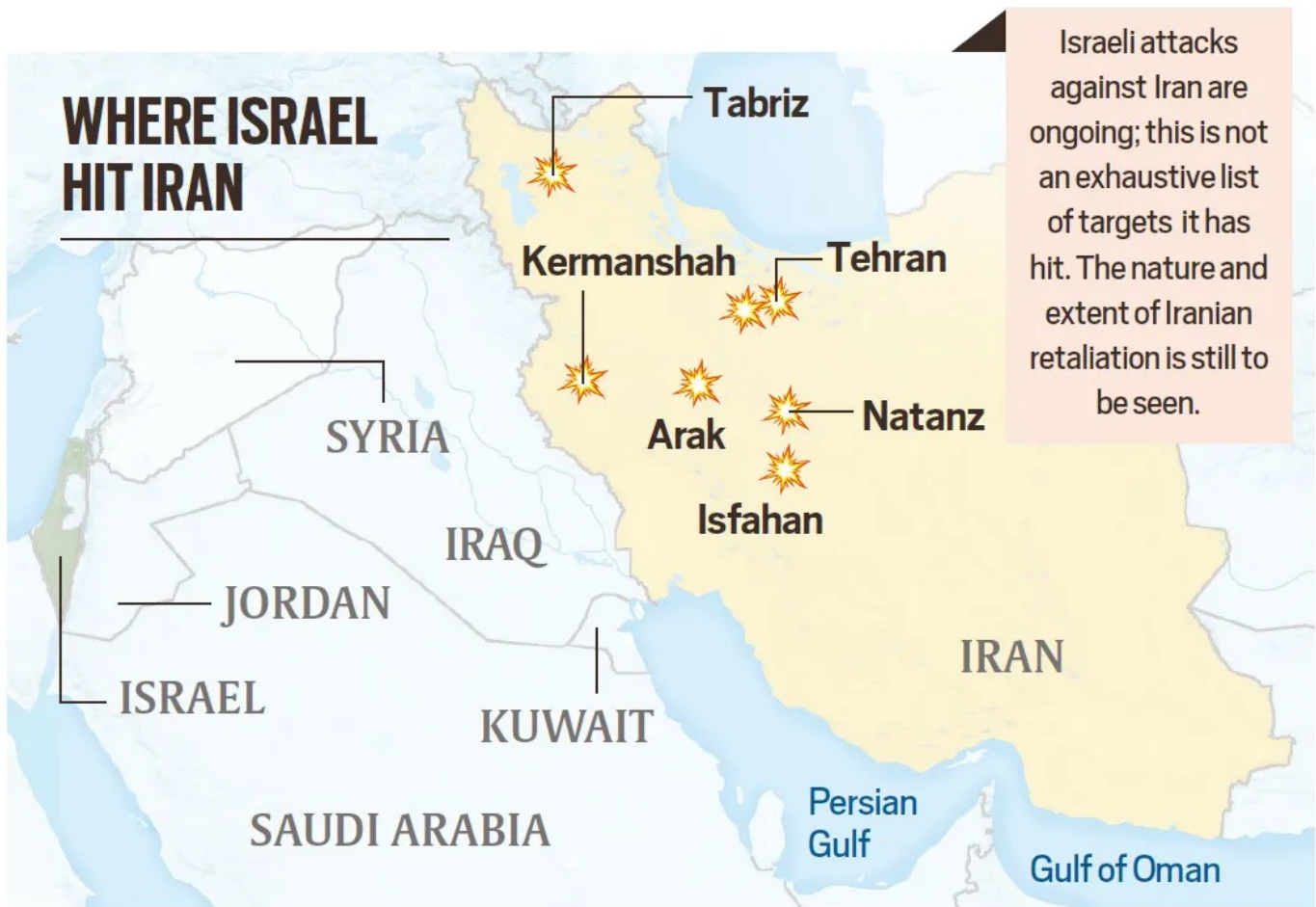
**For Prelims:** [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#), [Strait of Hormuz](#), [India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor \(IMEC\)](#), [Red Sea](#), [Two-state Solution](#), [European Union](#), [United Nations](#), [Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\)](#).

**For Mains:** Historical background for reasons of conflict between Iran and Israel, Impact of Iran- Israel conflict on India and suggested measures to de-escalate tensions.

**Source:** [IE](#)

**Israel**, under **“Operation Rising Lion”**, launched airstrikes and drone attacks on Iran’s nuclear and military sites — including **Tehran**, the **Natanz uranium enrichment facility**, a **nuclear research centre**, **two military bases in Tabriz**, and an **underground missile storage site in Kermanshah** — to prevent Iran from advancing towards building an atomic weapon.

- In retaliation, **Iran launched waves of ballistic missiles** at Israel under **“Operation True Promise 3”**, causing **explosions over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv**.



## What are the Reasons for the Iran-Israel Conflict?

- **Historical Roots:** The relationship between **Iran and Israel** has been marked by deep hostility since the **1979 Iranian Revolution**, which transformed Iran from a close ally of Israel under the Shah to an **Islamic Republic openly antagonistic towards the Jewish state**.
- **Religious and Ideological Divide:** Iran, governed by **Shia Islamic principles**, and Israel, a **predominantly Jewish state**, are divided by stark **religious and ideological differences**.
  - These fundamental disparities have fueled **mutual distrust and animosity** over the decades.
- **Iran's Support for Anti-Israel Groups:** Iran has been a **staunch backer of Palestinian causes**, including providing support to **Hamas and Hezbollah**, both of which are labeled as **terrorist organisations by Israel**.
  - The rivalry plays out through **proxy conflicts**, with Iran supporting forces such as **Hezbollah in Lebanon** and **Shia militias in Iraq**, all seen by Israel as direct threats to its security.
  - Iran's vocal calls for **Israel's destruction** have further **intensified tensions**.
- **Geopolitical Rivalry:** Iran and Israel are locked in a **struggle for regional dominance**, with opposing interests in conflicts such as the **Syrian civil war** and the **Yemen crisis**.
  - Iran backed the **Assad regime in Syria** and the **Houthi rebels in Yemen**, while Israel works to **counter Iranian influence** in these areas.
- **Iran's Nuclear Ambitions:** Israel views Iran's **nuclear programme** as a serious threat, fearing the development of **nuclear weapons** that could endanger its existence.
  - Israel has been a **fierce critic of the Iran nuclear deal (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action)** and has undertaken both **overt and covert actions** to disrupt Iran's nuclear progress.

## What are the Implications of the Iran-Israel Conflict on India?

- **Hampering India's Energy Security:** For India, which imports nearly **2 million barrels of oil daily** through the crucial [Strait of Hormuz](#), any instability would mean **supply shortages, spiraling energy costs, rising inflation, and constraints on economic growth**.
  - India is highly vulnerable to **global oil price volatility**; a sustained surge from **regional conflict** could trigger **higher inflation**, strain the **fiscal balance**, slow **economic growth**, and shift **investor sentiment** towards **bonds and gold**, as reflected in weaker **Sensex and Nifty** openings.
- **Impact on Indian Diaspora:** Over **66% of India's 1.34 crore NRIs** live in the **Middle East**, mainly in the **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain**. The large **Indian diaspora in West Asia**, especially the **Persian Gulf**, could face risks from regional tensions, making their **safety a key priority for New Delhi**.
  - India has a history of conducting **mass evacuations** — notably during the **Kuwait crisis (1990-91 Gulf War)**, and more recently from **Libya and Ukraine**.
- **Disruption to Strategic Connectivity:** India's key **connectivity projects** like the **Chabahar port in Iran**, which links it to **Afghanistan and Central Asia**, could be affected by regional turmoil.
  - The [India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor \(IMEC\)](#) faces risks from the conflict, threatening its progress and impacting **bilateral trade and regional economic dynamics**.
  - Furthermore, **shipping disruptions** in the [Red Sea](#) and surrounding waters could cause **delays, higher shipping costs**, and lead to **instability in global trade routes**.
- **Diplomatic Tightrope for India:** India has built **robust relations with Israel**, especially in areas like **defence, technology, and innovation**. However, as tensions escalate, India could find itself in a **challenging position**, facing pressure to **take sides** — an outcome it would prefer to avoid.
  - A **worsening Israel-Iran conflict** risks **disrupting India's delicate diplomatic balance**, which it has effectively maintained over the past decade with **Israel, Iran, and the Gulf Arab nations**.

## What Could be the Possible Solutions to De-escalate the Iran - Israel Conflict?

- **Two-State Solution:** Israel should move towards a **sustainable ceasefire in Gaza**, facilitate the **flow of international humanitarian aid**, and honour **UN resolutions** aimed at resolving the decades-old crisis through a [two-state solution](#).
  - This remains the **most viable path** for ensuring lasting **security, peace, and stability** in the region.
    - A **two-state solution** envisions an **independent Palestinian state alongside Israel**, helping Israel **safeguard its security** and **preserve its Jewish demographic majority**, while granting **statehood to the Palestinian people**.
- **Dialogue and Diplomacy:** Direct engagement between **Iran and Israel**, with the support of **neutral international mediators** like the [European Union](#) or the [United Nations](#), could pave the way for **trust-building** and meaningful negotiations to identify **common ground**.
- **Tackling Nuclear Proliferation:** Iran could recommit to the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, allowing **international inspections** to verify its compliance.
  - In turn, Israel could **acknowledge Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy** and provide assurances against **military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities**.
- **Strengthening Regional Cooperation:** Encouraging **collaboration between Iran and Israel** within regional forums — such as the **Arab League** or [Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\)](#) — could help address **shared security challenges** and promote **regional stability**.
- **Steps Towards Normalisation:** Iran and Israel could work towards **normalising relations** by **exchanging ambassadors, reopening embassies**, and fostering **people-to-people connections**, following the model of peace initiatives like those between **Israel and the UAE or Bahrain**.

## Conclusion

The **Iran-Israel conflict**, rooted in **historical, ideological, and geopolitical tensions**,

threatens **regional stability** and **global security**. For **India**, it poses risks to **energy security, diaspora safety, and economic stability**. **Diplomatic solutions, nuclear non-proliferation, and regional cooperation** are essential to **de-escalate hostilities** and ensure **long-term peace** in **West Asia**.

**Drishti Mains Question:**

Analyze the impact of the Iran-Israel conflict on India's strategic interests in West Asia, including connectivity projects like Chabahar Port and IMEC.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Prelims**

**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)**

**Mains**

**Q. “India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. (2018)**

