



## 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 <b>Israel-Hamas conflict</b>                |
| Operation Ganga           | 2022 | Ukraine           | Evacuation during the <b>Russia-Ukraine war</b>                   |
| Operation Devi Shakti     | 2021 | Afghanistan       | Evacuation after <b>Taliban</b> takeover                          |
| Operation Samudra Setu    | 2020 | Various (via sea) | Evacuation during <b>Covid-19</b> pandemic (Vande Bharat Mission) |
| Operation Raahat          | 2015 | Yemen             | Evacuation during civil conflict                                  |
| Operation Safe Homecoming | 2011 | Libya             | Evacuation during civil war in <b>Arab Spring</b>                 |

### 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)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/operation-sindhu-evacuation-from-iran>