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Current Affairs

Q. Analyze the impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2024 on regional stability and global geopolitics. Discuss the role of major powers like the United States, Iran and Russia in this conflict. Evaluate the implications for Middle Eastern diplomacy, energy market and humanitarian crisis.

Introduction:

The Israel-Hamas conflict that escalated in 2024 is part of a long-standing struggle between Israel and the Palestinian group in Hamas which control the Gaza Strip. This latest round of fighting began after increased tensions over disputed territories and religious sites in Jerusalem.

This conflict quickly turned into intense fighting, causing severe damage and many casualties on both sides.

Historically, this conflict has roots in the decades-old disputes over land, borders and the rights of Palestinians.

Each flare-up not only impacts the lives of those directly involved but also affects the stability of the entire Middle East. The 2024 escalation is significant because it threatens present conflict peace effort in the region and brings global attention to the unresolved issues between Israel and Palestine.

"The most serious and intractable international conflict of our time"

(U.S. President
Jimmy Carter)

I. Impact on Regional Stability:

1. Escalating of Tensions in the Middle East:

The 2024 Israel-Hamas conflict has intensified tensions across the Middle East, as heavy fighting in Gaza sparked fears of a broader regional conflict.

Neighbouring countries like Lebanon and Syria witnessed increased border skirmishes with Hezbollah's involvement raising concerns of a wider war. Egypt, traditionally a mediator faced internal pressures to respond, further destabilizing regional security and straining diplomatic relations among Arab nations.

"The first month of fighting over 5,000 rockets were fired from Gaza, prompting Israel to launch extensive airstrikes." (United Nations)

2. Security Implications for Gulf States:

The 2024 Israel-Hamas Conflict has raised security concerns for Gulf States like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar fearing spillover effects. In response, these nations have increased military readiness and tightened alliances.

Saudi Arabia also emphasized that a unified Arab stance is crucial to prevent further chaos in the region.

"Regional security is interconnected; instability in one part affects all"
(UAE Foreign Minister)

II. Global Geopolitical Consequences:

i- United States' Involvement:

The United States has actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to broker a ceasefire while maintaining its support for Israel, supplying defense aid and intercepting rocket attacks. However, this has strained US relations with Arab states, as countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar expressed concerns over civilian casualties in Gaza.

ii- Iran's Strategic Moves :

Iran has intensified its support for Hamas and other proxy groups, providing military and financial aid to counter Israel operations. This involvement risks heightening tensions not only with Israel but also with Saudi Arabia which has been normalizing ties with Israel.

"Iran's backing of terrorist groups like Hamas aims to destabilize the region"

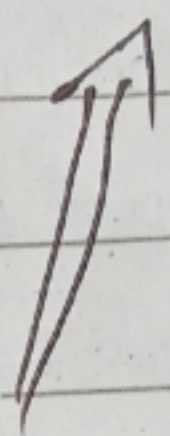
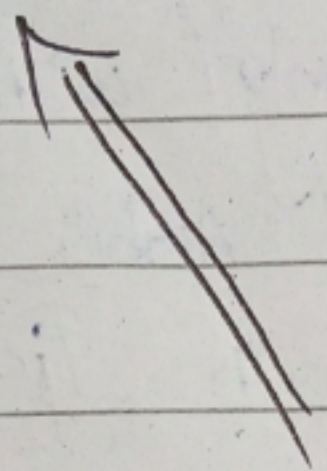
(Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu)

iii- Russia Stance :

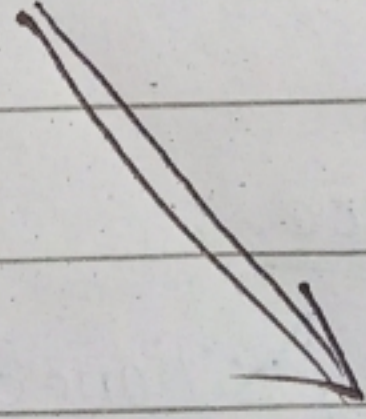
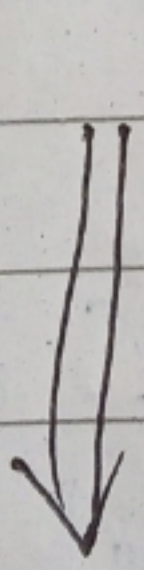
Russia has positioned itself as a mediator calling for a ceasefire while reducing the conflict to expand its influence in the Middle East. **Moscow** has balanced relations with Iran by supporting its stance against Israel while engaging with Arab states.

Strain on Regional
Diplomatic Efforts

Disruption of
Global Energy Markets



III. Implications for Diplomacy,
Energy Markets and Humanitarian
Crisis



Humanitarian Crisis
in Gaza

Increased Security
Risks for Neighbouring
Countries

Conclusion:

The 2024 Israel-Hamas Conflict has far-reaching consequences for regional stability and global geopolitics. It has strained diplomatic efforts, disrupted energy markets and worsened the humanitarian crisis. With key global players involved, the situation exposes the need for urgent peace efforts to prevent further instability and suffering. The conflict emphasizes the importance of finding lasting solutions for peace in the Middle East.

"The need for peace has never been more urgent" (Antony Blinken)

"The time for diplomacy is now, or we risk more lives and more destruction" (Antonio Guterres)

