

Current Affairs

Test-1

Q1 Critically evaluate how Israel launched terror on Gaza has become a classic example of war crimes. How do you see the decision of ICI and response of US government to it? How it would impact its relation with Arab world?

Ans

(A) Introduction

The historical Israel-Palestine conflict reached its highest point, and turned to be the most deadly middle-eastern conflict, in October 2023, when Hamas ~~was~~ launched a surprised attack on Israel.

However, the response

launched by Israeli defense forces (IDF) was ~~surprised~~ and

unproportional. Many international

agencies including WHO, OCHA, UN

UNGA, UNSC, and other human

rights agencies criticise Israeli

response. It was declared as

an act of war crime by

ICI. But, it ~~is~~ there was not

single solid step taken to

stop Israel from genocidal

attempts. Most importantly, the US, who tried to unite the world against Russia on the issue of humanitarian rights and act of aggression, remained silent; or talked insignificantly.

As a result, the war seems continued. And there are chances that it will move across the borders, and indulge the entire region into conflict.

② Evidences of war crimes committed by Israel:

(a) Unproportional Response:

The ~~inter~~ international community has a common understanding when it comes to security and sovereignty. They all believe that the response against any act of aggression should be measured, targeted and proportionate.

But Israel used its heavy air defense, fighter jets, even carpet bombing on a narrow strip of Gaza, when the supposed militants would have only blastic missiles and machine guns. So the excessive use of force fell into the category of act of war crime.

(b) Mass Killing: During any war, a due care is taken when it comes to unarmed population. Till now, 45,000 people, including children, women, and aged people have been killed in carpet bombing and IDF operations using heavy machinery. Schools, hospitals, and refugee camps have been consciously targeted to spread terror and fear in the territory. It can not be justified by any angle of security and right to exist.

(c) Refusing Access to humanitarian Aid:

The most heinous act was when Israel denied access to WHO, UNHCR, and other international agencies who were there to help helpless children, women and injured people waiting for food, water and medicines. This act forced UN Secretary General to publically request Israel to allow humanitarian aid.

This act shows that there was a clear intension of genocide.

③ ICJ Decision

South Africa, a non-muslim state launched a case against Israel in ICJ. On July 30th,

2024, it gave her decision. ICJ gave a historical ruling by declaring Israeli occupation of West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem is illegal. The Court mandated Israel to end its occupation, dismantle its settlements, provide full repatriation of victims and facilitate return of displaced people. It also supported the just cause of Palestine against a foreign occupant.

(4) The US Response:

Despite being a important player that can end this conflict, the US took side of Israel. It gave her billions of military aid, and provided latest weapons to kill innocent people. Joe Biden publicly proclaimed that America will go to any extend to defend Israel. This shows the duality of the USA on human rights issues. When it comes to Ukraine, the Russian aggression is against humanity, but when it comes to Palestine, Israel has right to exist.

and self-defence. This duality has dented US role in the Middle-East as super-power. Her one sided role will keep regional countries to reduce dependence on the USA.

More importantly, the upcoming US administration led by Donald Trump is even more aggressive on the issue. Trump in his recent statement said that ^{he} it would support Israel by all means to get back imprisoned Israeli soldiers in Hamas detention camps.

⑤ Response From Arab world

The Arab world, the ordinary people remain ~~suspected~~ suspected of ~~not~~ international institution and the US role. There is a rising hate against the USA and the west. over few months period, massive protests were launched in Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan and many other countries.

A joint summit of OIC and Arab league was organized in Riyadh in November 2024 holds an extra ordinary significance. This shows that the Arab states are facing internal ~~pressure~~ pressure

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to ensure peace in Palestine.
Also, it is a signal - that -
international bodies including ICJ,
UNO GA, and Security Council
failed to bring peace.

⑥ Conclusion

In conclusion, if - the
war continues, it will change
- the future dynamics of
middle eastern politics. Israel
will act - unstoppable across
- the region, undermining regional
powers like Iran, Saudi Arabia
and the UK.

Moreover, the Arab population
will turn violent against - states
if they fail to stop Israel.
There is a clear risk of rise
of extremism and militancy if
the situation continues.

Q No. 2

Critically evaluate the chances of continuation and expansion of Hamas-Israel war across the region.

① Introduction

The current Hamas-Israel war is suspected as to be turned into a regional war. The regime change in Syria, multi-front Israeli engagement with proxies and Iran's beef indicate that region will face a prolong disturbance and militancy.

There are many factors that indicate that the war may get expanded across the region.

② Political Reasons that may lead to expansion of war.

(a) Syria Factor :- Syria falls into hands of a militant group after removal of Assad's government. There is a weak government, many militias control different territories. There are chances that Syria may be as a new battle ground between Israel, Hezbollah and Hamas.

(b) Iran Factor:-

After death of leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah, the power of axis of Iran is weakening every day. Iran fears that

if Israel wins the war, it will act as regional hegemon. Thus, it may attack Israel pre-emptively. Or, Israel may launch a massive strike against Iranian nuclear systems leading the situation towards a full-fledge war.

③ Proxies - that matter:

① Houthis:- With the weakening power of Hamas, Houthis have increased their activities to influence Israel. Yemen is very distant from Israel, but it can impact because of its geopolitical location. Houthis have tendency to block Bab-el-Mandeb in response to what is going on in Gaza. Many times they blocked the western ships too.

Resultantly, the area may be a new battle ground, pushing western forces and Israel to enter Yemen to neutralize Houthis in order to secure trade routes.

② Hezbollah

Hezbollah is Iranian-backed proxy which controls some parts of Lebanon. It is well trained and well equipped. In response of Gaza situation, Hezbollah launched many attacks on Israel. This pushed

to enter Lebanon too. Lebanon government showed anger against Israel's intrusion into its territories. Hence, - there chances that Lebanon and Israel may ~~engage~~ engage in exchange of fire.

④ Public

Common people in the region have a lot of sympathy for Palestinians. They hate Israeli aggression. Rising Israeli attacks, so give rise to hate in public mind.

Public may force their governments to act against Israel.

If the war continues, the public anger would rise. Resultantly, there would be higher recruitment of Jihadis in bordering countries like Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon. Hence, more multiple fronts will be opened against Israel.

⑤ What- If the War stops through a peaceful negotiation?

Negotiations is the only option to stop this war. If negotiations are successful, Israel would withdraw from Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon. This would ease the tension.

Also the international community be involved to normalize the situation & let Israel to be back to the border.

⑥ conclusion.

In short, the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas may have a significant potential to have regional spillover. The ongoing instability in Syria or the Houthis' attacks on western ships, may create new war fronts, leading the region to be indulged everlasting wars. To avoid regional spillovers, negotiation process should start involving regional and international powers.