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DAILY
Editorials &
Articles



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UPSC 360°

The Hindu Unwrapped - Daily Current Affairs Mastery for UPSC CSE (Clear that it's based on The Hindu editorials / news analyses - very aspirant-friendly)

Significance

The Israel-Lebanon conflict is significant as it reflects rising tensions in West Asia, driven by the Iran-Israel rivalry and proxy warfare through Hezbollah. It threatens regional stability, disrupts global energy routes, raises humanitarian concerns, and highlights challenges in international conflict resolution and security governance.

Why is Israel Attacking Lebanon?

The recent escalation between Israel and Lebanon, particularly targeting Hezbollah, reflects deep-rooted geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The conflict is not an isolated event but part of a broader regional power struggle involving Iran, non-state actors, and security concerns of Israel.

1. Background of the Conflict

- Israel has launched a **ground offensive in southern Lebanon** after prolonged cross-border tensions.
- The conflict intensified after the October 7 Hamas Attack, when Hezbollah began firing rockets in support of Hamas.
- Israel responded with **airstrikes and targeted killings**, escalating into a larger military confrontation.

2. Why is Israel Targeting Hezbollah?

(a) Security Threat

Head. Office: 201, Ansal Building No. A-12-13, Commercial Complex, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009.

Assam Center: House no. 12, 3rd Floor, Bylane -6 Hriday Ranjan Path, Guwahati 781003.

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- Hezbollah possesses **thousands of rockets and missiles** capable of striking deep into Israel.
- It is considered a major **non-state military threat** by Israel.

(b) Iran Factor

- Hezbollah is backed by Iran in terms of funding, training, and weapons.
- It acts as a **strategic proxy of Iran** against Israel.

(c) Border Stability

- Frequent rocket attacks from southern Lebanon have **destabilized northern Israel**, forcing evacuations.

3. Why Southern Lebanon?

- Hezbollah's **strongholds are concentrated in southern Lebanon**, especially near the border.
- The region provides:
 - Strategic high ground
 - Launch pads for rockets
 - Proximity to Israeli territory

Israel aims to **push Hezbollah away from the border** to create a security buffer zone.

4. Objectives of Israel

- **Dismantle Hezbollah's military infrastructure**
- **Create a buffer zone** in southern Lebanon
- **Prevent future cross-border attacks**
- **Disrupt Iran's regional influence**

5. Hezbollah's Position

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- Hezbollah claims it is **defending Lebanese sovereignty**.
- It has retaliated with:
 - Rocket and drone attacks
 - Guerrilla warfare tactics
- It remains a **powerful hybrid actor** (political + militant organization).

6. Role of Regional and Global Factors

(a) Syrian Conflict Link

- Hezbollah gained combat experience in the Syrian Civil War.
- The fall of Syrian stability weakened traditional state control.

(b) Iran-Israel Rivalry

- This conflict is part of a **larger shadow war** between Iran and Israel.

(c) Global Implications

- Risk of **regional war in West Asia**
- Impact on **global oil supply and trade routes**
- Humanitarian crisis in Lebanon

7. Challenges and Concerns

- **Civilian casualties and displacement**
- Weak Lebanese state capacity
- Risk of multi-front war (Gaza, Lebanon, Syria)
- Violation of international humanitarian norms

8. Way Forward

- **Diplomatic engagement through UN and global powers**

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- Strengthening **ceasefire mechanisms**
- Addressing **root causes of conflict (territorial, political, sectarian)**
- Limiting proxy warfare in the region

Conclusion

The Israel-Lebanon conflict is a manifestation of **security dilemmas, proxy warfare, and regional power politics**. While Israel seeks to neutralize threats from Hezbollah, the broader issue lies in the **Iran-Israel rivalry and instability in West Asia**. Sustainable peace requires **multilateral diplomacy and long-term conflict resolution mechanisms**.

UPSC CSE & State PCS Relevance

Prelims

- Key terms: Hezbollah, Axis of Resistance, Blue Line, UNSC Resolution 1701, Proxy Warfare
- Data: Hezbollah rocket arsenal (~150,000+), Israel-Lebanon border dynamics
- Related: Iran-Israel shadow war, West Asia geopolitics

GS-2 (IR)

- Israel's security doctrine & multi-front strategy
- India's multi-alignment in West Asia

GS-3 (Security)

- Non-state actors & hybrid warfare
- Internal security linkages with regional conflicts

GS-2 (International Organisations)

- Role of UN in conflict management (Resolution 1701)

Essay / Interview

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- “Proxy Wars and Regional Instability: The Israel-Hezbollah Conflict as a Case Study”
- “From Gaza to Lebanon: Israel’s Multi-Front Security Dilemma in West Asia”

MCQs

1. With reference to the Israel-Lebanon escalation in March 2026, consider the following statements:
2. Israel launched ground and air operations targeting Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon.
3. Hezbollah is backed by Iran and forms a key part of the “Axis of Resistance”.
4. The conflict is entirely unrelated to the October 2023 Hamas attack.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

2. The UNSC Resolution that called for disarmament of armed groups south of the Litani River in Lebanon is:

- (a) 1701
- (b) 242
- (c) 338
- (d) 1441

Answer: (a)

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3. Which of the following is NOT a stated objective of Israel's current operations in southern Lebanon?
- (a) Creating a security buffer zone
 - (b) Dismantling Hezbollah's rocket infrastructure
 - (c) Occupying Beirut
 - (d) Reducing Iran's regional influence

Answer: (c)

4. Hezbollah is primarily based among which community in Lebanon?
- (a) Sunni
 - (b) Christian
 - (c) Shia
 - (d) Druze

Answer: (c)

Mains Questions

1. "The Israel-Hezbollah conflict of 2026 is a classic example of proxy warfare and security dilemma in West Asia." Discuss the causes, objectives, and broader regional implications. (15 marks / 250 words)
2. Analyse why southern Lebanon remains a persistent flashpoint between Israel and Hezbollah. What role can multilateral diplomacy play in de-escalation? (10 marks / 150 words)
3. "Non-state actors like Hezbollah have fundamentally altered the nature of conflict in West Asia." Examine this statement with reference to the ongoing Israel-Lebanon escalation and its impact on India's strategic interests. (15 marks / 250 words)

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4. **Essay (250 marks)** "Proxy Wars, Power Projection, and Regional Instability: Understanding the Israel-Hezbollah Confrontation in the Larger West Asian Context."



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