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**DAILY EDITORIAL
ANALYSIS**

TOPIC

**US & ISRAEL'S STRIKES ON IRAN:
STRATEGIC, HUMANITARIAN AND
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS**

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US & ISRAEL'S STRIKES ON IRAN: STRATEGIC, HUMANITARIAN AND GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS

Context

- **Israeli pre-emptive strikes in Iran**, with US support, have raised concerns about possible escalation into a **wider West Asian conflict**, impacting global energy security and geopolitics.
- Israel declared a **state of emergency**, anticipating retaliation by Iran, while the **US reportedly supported the strike**, describing it as a **pre-emptive action to prevent future threats**.

About Pre-emptive Strike Doctrine

- It refers to a strategy in which a country **launches a military attack against another state when an enemy attack is considered imminent**, in order to prevent or weaken the anticipated threat.
 - ♦ It is often justified as a form of **anticipatory self-defence** in international security debates.
- **Key Features:**
 - ♦ Action taken **before the enemy launches an attack**;
 - ♦ Based on intelligence indicating an **imminent threat**;
 - ♦ Often justified under **self-defence arguments**;
- **UN Charter (Article 51):** Self-defence is permitted only if an **armed attack occurs**, so the legality of pre-emptive strikes remains controversial among international law scholars.
- **Key Examples:**
 - ♦ **Israel's Six-Day War (1967):** pre-emptive strike against Arab forces;
 - ♦ **Afghanistan (2001):** US-led invasion; Taliban returned to power in 2021;
 - ♦ **US invasion of Iraq (2003):** justified under the Bush Doctrine;
 - ♦ **Israeli strikes on nuclear facilities in Iraq (1981) and Syria (2007);**
 - These examples highlight that **military action often produces long-term instability rather than resolution**.

Strategic Implications

- **Regional escalation risk:** Iran may retaliate through **missiles, drones, or proxy groups like Hezbollah**, potentially triggering a **multi-front war in West Asia**.
- **Nuclear proliferation concerns:** Strikes intended to halt Iran's nuclear programme could instead **accelerate nuclear ambitions and strengthen hardline factions**.
 - ♦ However, this raises a critical debate in international relations:
 - Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons.
 - The United States has the world's largest nuclear arsenal.
 - Iran officially does not possess nuclear weapons.
- **US–Iran confrontation:** With **U.S. backing for Israel**, tensions may escalate into a broader **US–Iran military confrontation**.

Humanitarian Implications

- **Civilian casualties and infrastructure damage** due to airstrikes and missile exchanges.
- **Mass displacement and humanitarian crises** if the conflict spreads across Lebanon, Syria, or Iraq.
- **Pressure on healthcare and essential services**, worsening conditions for civilians in conflict zones.

Global Economic and Geopolitical Implications

- **Energy security risks:** Iran controls territory along the **Strait of Hormuz**, through which **about 20% of global oil trade supply passes**, making it a critical chokepoint for global energy trade.
- **Oil price volatility:** Any disruption could cause **sharp increases in global oil prices**, contributing to **inflation and economic instability worldwide**.

- **Impact on global trade:** Higher energy costs affect **transport, food supply chains, and manufacturing**, potentially slowing global economic growth.

Implications / Concerns For India

- **Energy Security:** India imports a large share of crude oil from the region.
- **Indian Diaspora:** Millions of Indians live and work in Gulf countries.
- **Economic Impact:** Oil price spikes could increase inflation and slow economic growth.
- **Remittances:** Conflict could affect employment opportunities for Indian workers abroad.

India's Strategic Approach

- India traditionally follows a policy of **Strategic Autonomy** and supports a **rules-based international order**.
- Therefore, India's approach typically emphasizes **diplomacy and dialogue; international verification mechanisms; and multilateral negotiations**.
- India tends to advocate **conflict de-escalation and political solutions**, rather than supporting **unilateral military interventions**.

Conclusion

- Military strikes justified as preventive measures carry **significant humanitarian, strategic, and economic risks**.
 - ◆ Historical evidence shows that bombing campaigns often **fail to produce durable stability** and may instead intensify conflicts.
- For countries like India, the priority lies in **regional stability, uninterrupted energy flows, and protection of diaspora interests**.
 - ◆ Hence, diplomacy and multilateral engagement remain the most viable paths toward addressing nuclear proliferation and regional tensions.

Source: IE

Daily Mains Practice Question

[Q] Discuss the strategic, humanitarian, and global implications of Israel's strike on Iran. Analyse its possible impact on regional stability and India's interests in West Asia.

