

Israel Retakes Gaza Border Areas As 3,000 Die, Syria Exchanges Fire

Why In The News?

- **Israel Said It Recaptured Gaza Border** Areas From The Hamas Group As The Fierce Fighting Entered Day 5, Leaving Thousands Killed On Both Sides.
- There Was Also An Exchange Of Fire Between Israel And Forces In Syria Last Evening.

What Do We Know?

- The Death Count In Israel Has Surged **Above 1,000** From The Worst Attack In The Country's History, While **Gaza Officials Have Reported 765 People Killed** So Far. Israel Army Also Said It Had Recovered The Bodies Of Around 1,500 Hamas Militants Inside Israel.
- Hamas Has Threatened To Execute One Hostage Every Time Israel Drops A Bomb, Without Warning, On A Palestinian Home In The Gaza Strip. **The Group Has 150 Hostages.**
- The Threat Came After Israel Imposed A **Total Siege On The Gaza Strip**, Cutting Off The Water Supply. The Move Has Sparked Fears That An Already Dire Humanitarian Situation Will Further Deteriorate.
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Has Warned Israel's Military Operation - Following Saturday's Mass Breach By The Palestinian Group - Is Only The Start Of **A Sustained War To Destroy Hamas** And "Change The Middle East".



- He Compared The Large-scale Slaughter Of Israeli Civilians To The **Atrocities Committed By ISIS** When They Controlled Vast Swathes Of Syria And Iraq. Key Ally The **US** Stressed Its Full Support For Israel, As Did The **UK, France, Germany And Italy**.
- Besides The US, Several Countries Have Reported Their Citizens Killed, Abducted Or Missing - Including **Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand And Ukraine**. Many Of The Missing Foreigners Were At A Music Festival When Hamas Attacked Israel.
- The Israel Army Yesterday Said There Had Been "**A Number Of Launches From Syria Into Israeli Territory**". "Soldiers Are Responding With Artillery And Mortar Shells Toward The Origin Of The Launching In Syria," An Israeli Army Statement Said.

