

NEXT IAS

US IRAN CEASEFIRE

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IRAN WAR – CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCED



TWO-WEEK TRUCE

United States and Iran agree to a two-week ceasefire, announced just hours before a potential large-scale strike deadline set by President Donald Trump. The truce temporarily pauses fighting between U.S., Israeli, and Iranian forces.



STRAIT OF HORMUZ TO REOPEN

Iran agreed to allow safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes. The strait normally carries about 20% of global oil supply.



PAKISTAN MEDIATED THE DEAL

The ceasefire was facilitated through diplomatic mediation led by Pakistan, which helped bring Washington and Tehran to the negotiating table.



TALKS FOR LONG-TERM AGREEMENT

Negotiations are expected to continue in Islamabad, focusing on a broader settlement based on Iran's proposed framework for ending the war, aiming for a permanent peace agreement.



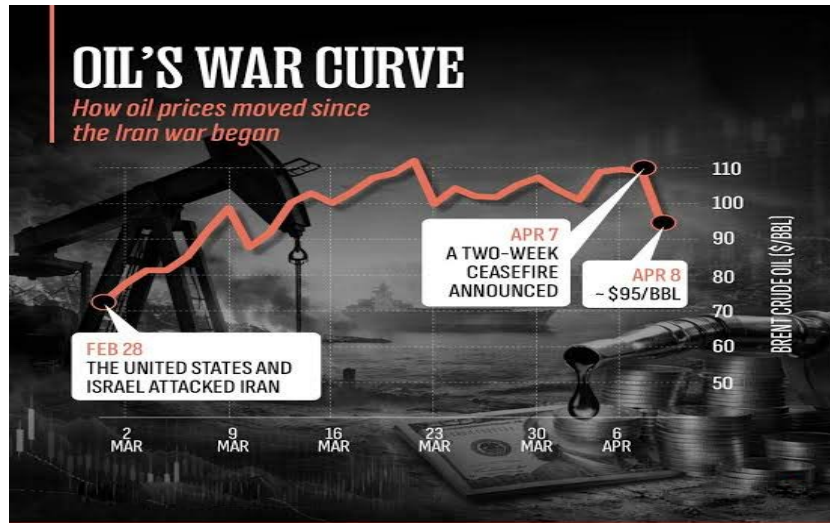
GLOBAL REACTION

International leaders welcomed the ceasefire as a crucial step toward de-escalation, while warning that the agreement remains fragile.

The ceasefire marks the first major pause in fighting since the war began on February 28.

Context:

- The **United States and Iran** have agreed to a **two-week ceasefire**, with talks to finalise a **peace deal** set to begin in Pakistan's Islamabad on **10 Apr 2026**.
- Iran's **Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi** said safe passage through the **strategic waterway** will be ensured for **two weeks** through coordination with the **country's armed forces**.



1. What is a ceasefire?

- A ceasefire is essentially a pause in fighting agreed upon by opposing sides.
- It does not mean the war has ended.
- Instead, it is a **break, sometimes brief, sometimes extended**, that allows **both sides to step back, reduce immediate damage and, in many cases, explore the possibility of negotiations.**
- Some ceasefires **hold and evolve into peace agreements**, while others collapse, sending both sides back into conflict.
- **A ceasefires can be:**
 - **Temporary**, like a cooling-off period
 - **Conditional**, depending on actions from both sides
 - **Permanent**, if they lead to a full peace deal
 - In simple terms, it is a break in war, not necessarily the end of it.

2. What is Iran's 10-point conditions for ceasefire and negotiations?

- **Tehran said on Wednesday (April 8, 2026)** that its **10-point plan** for securing an end to the war with the **United States** would require **Washington to accept Iran's uranium enrichment programme** and lift all sanctions.



3. What has the US agreed to?

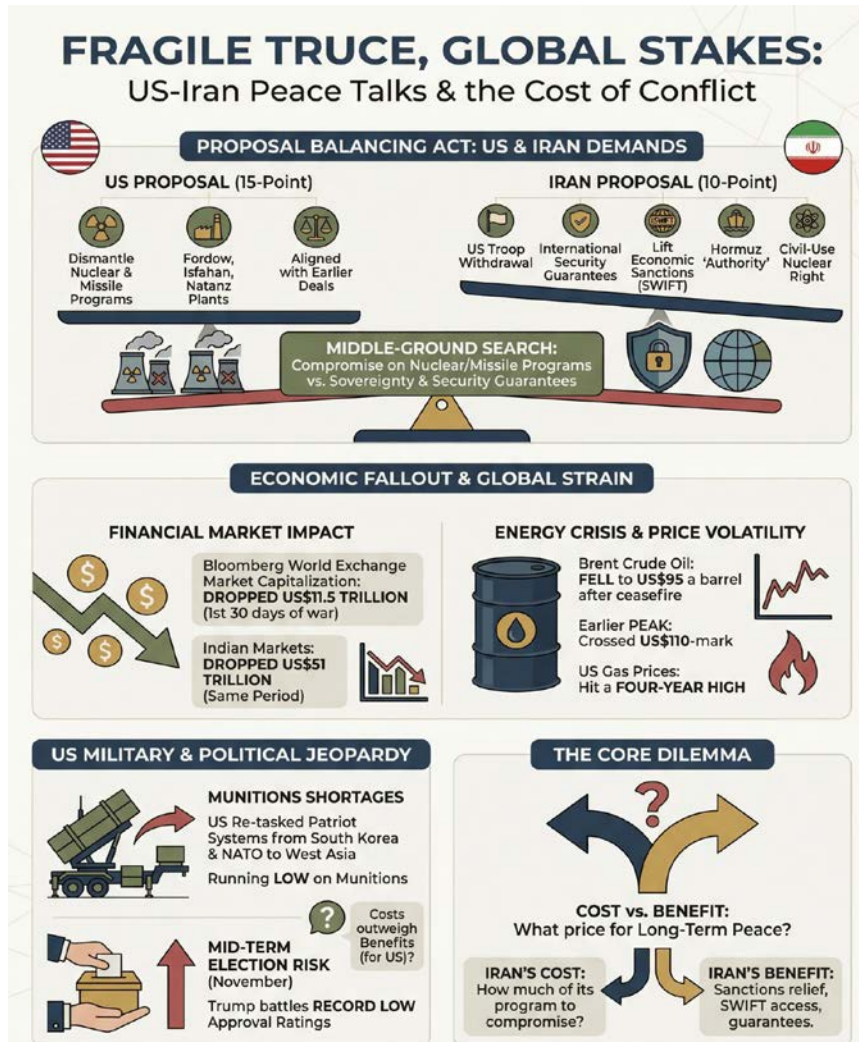
- Under the terms of the ceasefire, the **United States has agreed to halt its military strikes on Iran for an initial two-week period**, claiming all of Washington’s military objectives had been “met” and Iran had agreed to the “complete, immediate and safe opening” of the Strait of Hormuz.
- The strait is a **key passageway for one-fifth of the world’s oil and gas, which Tehran closed in retaliation** for the US-Israeli war launched on February 28.
- Moreover, Trump said the **US has received a 10-point proposal from Iran**, which he called a “workable basis on which to negotiate”.
- **President Trump** insisted in comments to the AFP news agency that **Iran’s nuclear stockpile** would be “taken care of” in any peace deal.
- Trump also told AFP that China had helped bring Iran to the negotiating table, while Turkiye and Egypt had also been mediating in recent days.

US-Israel two-week ceasefire with Iran

US President Donald Trump calls a 10-point peace plan from Iran a 'workable basis from which to negotiate' further. Talks are to begin on Friday in Islamabad.



- 1 Fundamental nonaggression commitment from the US
- 2 Controlled passage through the Strait of Hormuz in coordination with the Iranian armed forces, which in effect would mean that Iran retains its leverage over the waterway
- 3 An acceptance of Iran’s nuclear enrichment programme
- 4 The lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions and resolutions against Iran
- 5 End of all resolutions against Iran at the UN nuclear watchdog
- 6 End of all resolutions against Iran at the UN Security Council
- 7 The withdrawal of US combat forces from all bases in the region
- 8 Full compensation for damage suffered by Iran during the war to be secured through payments to Iran by ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz
- 9 The release of all Iranian assets and properties frozen abroad
- 10 The ratification of all these matters in a binding UNSC resolution



4. What has Iran agreed to?

- Iran has accepted the ceasefire on the condition that US and Israeli attacks stop, agreeing to pause its own retaliatory strikes during the two-week window.
- Later on Wednesday, pro-Iran armed factions in Iraq also declared a two-week cessation of their attacks on “enemy bases” in the region.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed Trump’s claims of providing safe passage to ships through the Strait of Hormuz for 14 days, adding that the resumption of activities along the strait will take place in coordination with Iranian armed forces.
- The ceasefire plan also allows for Iran and Oman to charge fees on ships transiting through the water passageway, the AP news agency reported, quoting an unnamed regional official.
- According to the official, the toll charged by Iran would be used for the reconstruction of the country.

5. What has Israel agreed to?

- While Israel endorsed the ceasefire with Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it would not extend to its fighting with the Lebanese-armed group Hezbollah, or Israel’s invasion of southern Lebanon.

- **Netanyahu's comments** seemed to **contradict Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's claims**, who said the ceasefire included a halt to Israel's attacks on Lebanon.
- On Wednesday morning, the **Israeli army continued its strikes in the country**, issuing a new forced evacuation threat for a building near the southern city of Tyre.
- **Lebanon was drawn into the US and Israel's war on Iran on March 2** after Tehran-aligned Hezbollah launched attacks on Israel.
- **Hezbollah said the attacks were in retaliation** for Israel's killing of Iran's Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** on the first day of the war, on **February 28**, as well as **Israel's near-daily violations of a ceasefire** it agreed to in Lebanon in November 2024.
- **At least 1,497 people have been killed since the war erupted**, including **57 health workers**, Lebanese authorities say.

6. How Pakistan became key mediator between US and Iran?

- **Pakistan's role as a key mediator** between the **United States and Iran** followed months of **cultivating ties with the Trump administration** and years of **building deep bonds with Iran**, **enabling it to place itself** at the center of efforts to resolve this conflict.
- In mediating between these two parties, **Pakistan pulled off one of its most resounding diplomatic victories in years.**
- **"For Pakistan, it really is a large feather in the cap,"** said Michael Kugelman, a senior fellow for South Asia at the Atlantic Council, a research institute.
- **Pakistani leaders** have been **relaying messages between the Trump administration and the Iranian government for weeks**, with Sharif and his foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, calling dozens of foreign leaders, while Munir has focused on US officials.
- According to **Michael Kugelman**, **Pakistan have compelling interest to do what it can to contribute to de-escalation efforts.**
- Pakistan is **highly dependent on imported oil**, much of it coming through the Strait of Hormuz.



- Pakistan's government increased the **price of petrol and diesel by around 20% at the start of March** and has already introduced measures including a **four-day working week for government employees** to try to save fuel.
 - **"If the war continues, the economic pressures in Pakistan will increase tremendously,"** says Farhan Siddiqi, Professor of Political Science at the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi.
- There's also a fear about what an **escalation could bring**.
 - In September last year, **Pakistan signed a defence pact with Saudi Arabia**, agreeing that **"any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both"**.
 - It's led to questions about what **Pakistan would do if Saudi Arabia joined the war and invoked the pact**.

7. Did Pakistan provide conflicting ceasefire terms to US and Iran?

- **April 8, 2026**, was a day of jubilation for Pakistan.
- After all, it **secured its biggest diplomatic win in years by mediating the US-Iran ceasefire**.
- However, within hours, the **ceasefire came under strain as Israel carried out its largest strike across Lebanon**, Iran's ally, **killing hundreds**.
- **Pakistan provided conflicting interpretations of the ceasefire terms**, particularly regarding whether the truce applied to **Lebanon**.
- While the **United States and Israel maintained that Lebanon was excluded from the deal**, **Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif explicitly stated that the ceasefire was effective "everywhere, including Lebanon."**



- The US and Israel said Lebanon, which Tel Aviv has pounded since March 2, was never part of the ceasefire deal.
- Sheikh emphasised that Lebanon was included in the ceasefire framework and the announcement by Sharif "could not have been more authentic" to what had been agreed between the parties. However, in a cautious note, he also added that **ceasefires in the region have historically been fragile**.
- However, **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** denied **Pakistan's** assertion that the ceasefire covered the **conflict in Lebanon**.
- Thus, within hours of the truce deal announcement, **Israel carried out a large wave of airstrikes, killing over 250 people and leaving over 1,000 injured**.
- In a sharply worded statement, **Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf** accused the **US and Israel of violating the ceasefire**.
- In retaliation, **Iran, which opened the Strait of Hormuz** briefly after the ceasefire, **closed it again and stopped the transit of oil tankers**, Iran's state-run Fars news agency said.

CEASEFIRE AT A GLANCE

Two weeks of peace – Will it last?



What is it?

- A two-week pause in US strikes on Iran
- Announced by Donald Trump
- Brokered by Pakistan
- Temporary, conditional – not a peace deal

US stance

- Pause linked to - Reopening Strait of Hormuz & complying with US demands
- Says military goals largely achieved
- Ready to resume strikes if talks fail

Iran's stance

- Ceasefire depends on reciprocity from the US.
- Proposed a 10-point framework, including:
 1. Sanctions relief
 2. Nuclear recognition
 3. Retention of control over the Strait of Hormuz

Ground reality

- Missile alerts continue across Gulf
- Israel still conducting operations in Lebanon, claiming it's not part of deal
- Ultimately- ceasefire fragile on ground

8. Did US write Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif's tweet to Trump on Iran ceasefire talks?

- A social media post by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif calling for restraint in the escalating Iran crisis has triggered speculation online, after users spotted what appeared to be an earlier "draft" version of the message.



- Observers were quick to highlight the unusual phrasing in the draft, noting that it referred to Sharif in the third person as "Pakistan's PM" - something many argued would be unlikely if authored directly by him or his immediate team.
- This led to speculation that the message may have been prepared externally, with some users even suggesting possible involvement of foreign stakeholders.
- The clerical error triggered a wave of social media speculation that the White House may have even drafted the message themselves.

9. How President Trump is shifting positions on Iran war?

TRUMP'S EVER-SHIFTING POSITIONS ON WAR IN IRAN



ON DURATION OF WAR

MARCH 1 | Well, we intended four to five weeks *(To New York Times)*

MARCH 9 | I think the war is very complete, pretty much *(To CBS)*

MARCH 20 | We are getting very close to meeting our objectives *(Truth Social)*

MARCH 20 | I think we have won... I don't want to do a ceasefire *(To reporters at White House)*

MARCH 23 | If talks fail..., we'll just keep bombing our little hearts out *(To reporters in Florida)*

TRUMP'S EVER-SHIFTING POSITIONS ON WAR IN IRAN

ON WAR GOALS

FEB 28 | Goals are to eliminate Iran's ballistic missile capability, destroy their navy, ensure it never gets a nuclear weapon, and ensure Iranian proxy groups can no longer carry out attacks. He also encourages a popular uprising: 'Take over your government' *(Video message)*

MARCH 9 | We've already won in many ways *(To Congressional Republicans)*

MARCH 13 | When I feel it in my bones *(Response to Fox Radio on when the war will be over)*

MARCH 21 | If Iran doesn't FULLY OPEN, WITHOUT THREAT, the Strait of Hormuz, within 48 HOURS from this exact point in time, the United States of America will hit and obliterate their various POWER PLANTS *(Truth Social)*

MARCH 23 | I have instructed the department of war to postpone any and all military strikes against Iranian power plants



10. Highlight key events in Iran-US war?

Date	Event
Feb 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● War breaks out after US and Israel launch a massive, coordinated air campaign across Iran. ● A series of strikes were carried out within hours, targeting nuclear facilities, air defences, military bases, and key leadership sites. ● Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and several top officials were killed in the initial wave. ● Iran responded within hours by launching ballistic missiles and drone attacks on US bases, embassies, and allied targets across the Middle East, while also disrupting maritime traffic, especially around the Strait of Hormuz.

March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An Iranian drone strike targeted a US military operations centre at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait, killing six American soldiers, marking the first US fatalities of the war. ● At the same time, the Iran-backed Hezbollah launched rocket attacks from Lebanon towards Israel, signalling a widening regional escalation.
March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iran’s clerical leadership formally appointed Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the late Supreme Leader, as the country’s new leader.
March 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iran struck at least three ships in and around the Strait of Hormuz; Mojtaba Khamenei issued his first written statement and directed the military to continue choking off the strait; six US crew members died after a KC-135 military refuelling aircraft crashed in Iraq.
March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● US bombed Kharg Island, Iran’s main oil export hub.
March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Israel struck down two senior Iranian figures—Ali Larijani, head of the National Security Council, and Gholamreza Soleimani, chief of the Basij militia—marking a major blow to Iran’s leadership structure.
March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Israel struck Iran’s South Pars gas field. In response, Qatar reported that Iran hit its Ras Laffan Industrial City, the world’s largest LNG export facility.
March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trump announced that Washington and Tehran have initiated discussions aimed at ending the war.
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iran shot down a US Air Force F-15E fighter jet.
April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trump issued a stark warning that “a whole civilisation” could be destroyed if Iran failed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, setting a final deadline of 8:00 PM (ET). ● This followed multiple earlier ultimatums on March 21, 23, 26, and April 4, each extended subsequently.

11. How does the announcement of a ceasefire impact the global landscape?

- The announcement of a ceasefire has **multi-dimensional global impacts economic, political, humanitarian, and strategic**.
- Its effects are **often immediate but uneven**, and depend on whether the **ceasefire is temporary or durable**.

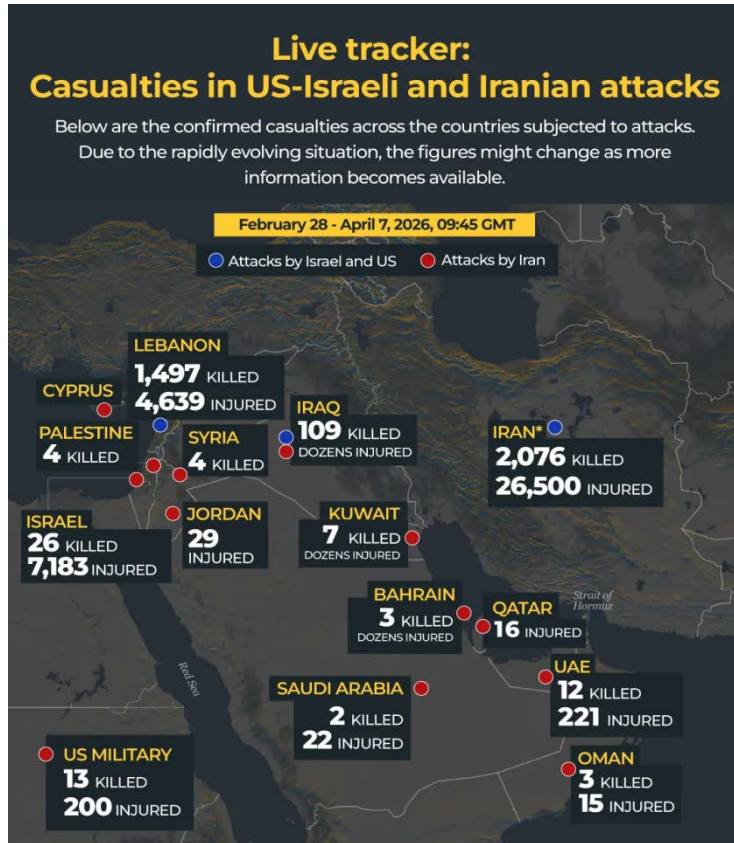
Impact	Description
<p>Economic & Financial Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ceasefires often trigger positive financial responses globally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oil prices dropped ~15% after the 2026 US–Iran ceasefire announcement. <div data-bbox="529 363 1357 1186" data-label="Image"> <p>OIL PRICES DROP FOLLOWING POTENTIAL CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>Global energy markets react sharply as diplomatic developments between the US and Iran signal a potential easing of regional tensions.</p> <p>Current Market Price</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brent Crude - \$94.57 per barrel. - Crude Oil (WTI) - \$71.77 per barrel. </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global stock markets surged (e.g., Japan +5.4%, Europe +3–5%). ● The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,775.73 points or 3.71 per cent to 77,392.31 in early trade. ● The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 815.2 points or 3.52 per cent to 23,938.85. <div data-bbox="615 1415 1271 1982" data-label="Image"> <p>Stock markets cheer US-Iran ceasefire; Sensex jumps nearly 4%</p> <p>Market data visible on the display: FEBFUTW4 +0.53% 0.62 S&P BSE SENSEX -3.0% 99557.83 -16/4 23</p> </div>

<p>Trade & Supply Chains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts disrupt trade routes eased after ceasefires announced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight rates had risen 3× during Red Sea disruptions. Ceasefire helps normalize shipping and reduce costs.
<p>Strait of Hormuz: Shipping traffic remains cautious</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iran is now attempting to formalise its control over the Strait as part of a broader geopolitical strategy following weeks of conflict. As part of its proposals linked to a potential long-term peace deal, Tehran wants the authority to charge transit fees for ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz. According to officials, these charges would not be fixed but could vary depending on the type of vessel, the nature of its cargo and prevailing conditions. Iran is also working on a framework that could require ships to obtain permits or licences before being allowed to pass, in coordination with regional mechanisms that may involve Oman, Reuters reported.
<p>Humanitarian Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The announcement of a ceasefire have enabled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of aid Evacuation of civilians Reduction in immediate violence
<p>Gold prices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gold tends to move in the opposite direction of confidence. When conflict intensifies, investors often move money into gold, treating it as a safe store of value. When tensions ease, some of that demand fades. The current ceasefire could therefore soften gold prices slightly. However, markets remain cautious. If there are doubts about how long the truce will last, gold may continue to stay elevated.

SECTORS TO BENEFIT & SUFFER
From US-Iran Ceasefire

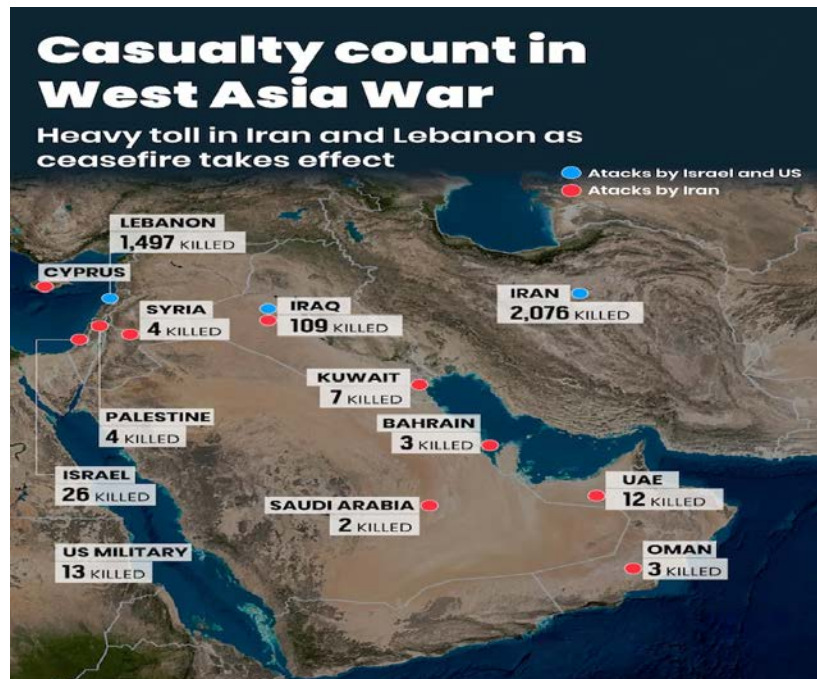
Benefit	Suffer
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">REFINERIES</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">OIL PRODUCERS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">TRAVEL & HOSPITALITY</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">IT</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>
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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">SHIPPING & LOGISTICS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>	

12. What is the status of casualties in 40-day US–Iran war?



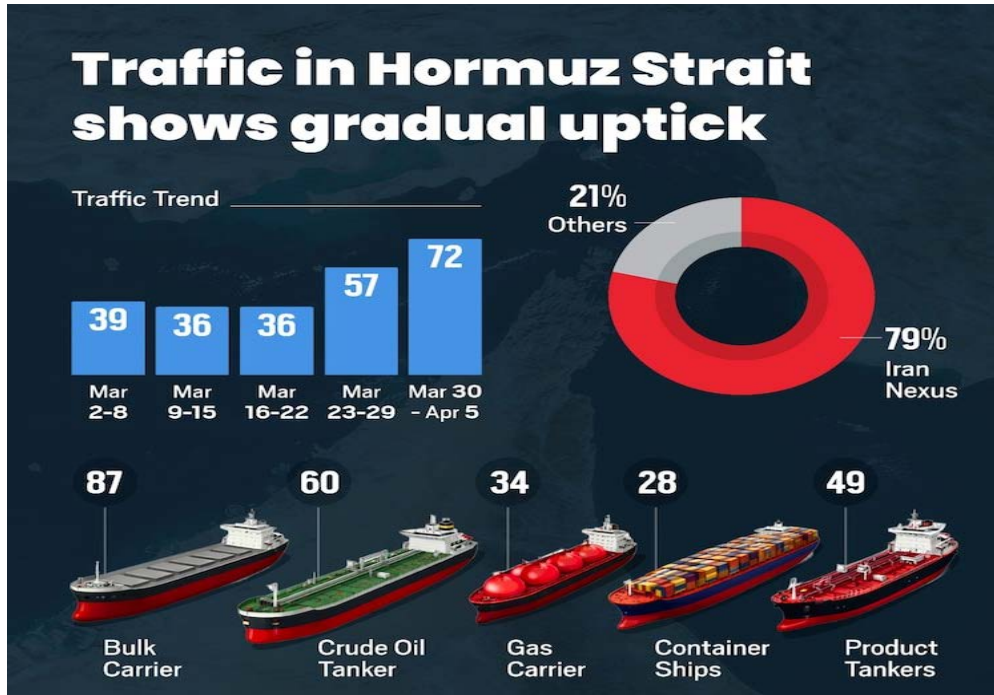
13. What are the global impacts of the 40-day US–Iran war?

- After **40 days of intense attacks across West Asia**, a pause has been announced. But no clear end to the war is in sight. The data on **human lives and strikes shows the scale of the conflict**.
- According to the **Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, or ACLED**, between February 28 and April 6, **US-Israeli forces carried out 3,007 attacks on Iran**, while Iranian retaliatory strikes stood at **1,511**.



Energy infra under fire

- Both sides have hit energy infrastructure across multiple countries. The UAE faced the widest impact, where eight sites, including the Ruwais refinery, Habshan gas facility, Shah gas field, Das Island LNG, Al Taweelah industrial plant, and key ports like Fujairah, Jebel Ali, and Khor Fakkan, were affected.
- Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait each saw four sites targeted. These included major refineries like Ras Tanura and Samref in Saudi Arabia, Bapco in Bahrain, and Mina Al-Ahmadi in Kuwait.



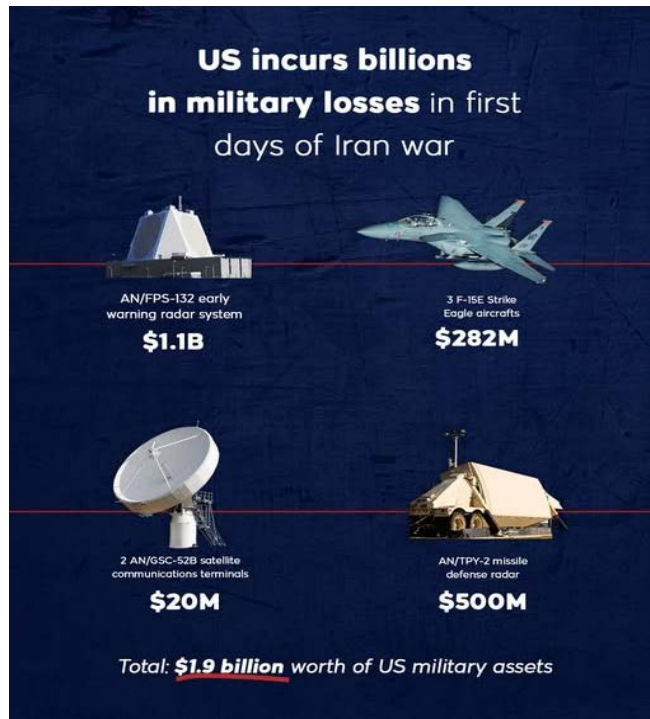


14. What were the key losses suffered by the United States in the US–Iran war?

- The 40-day US–Iran war (2026) led to several significant losses for the United States across military, economic, strategic, and geopolitical domains.
- These losses, though smaller than Iran’s in absolute terms, had high strategic and global implications.

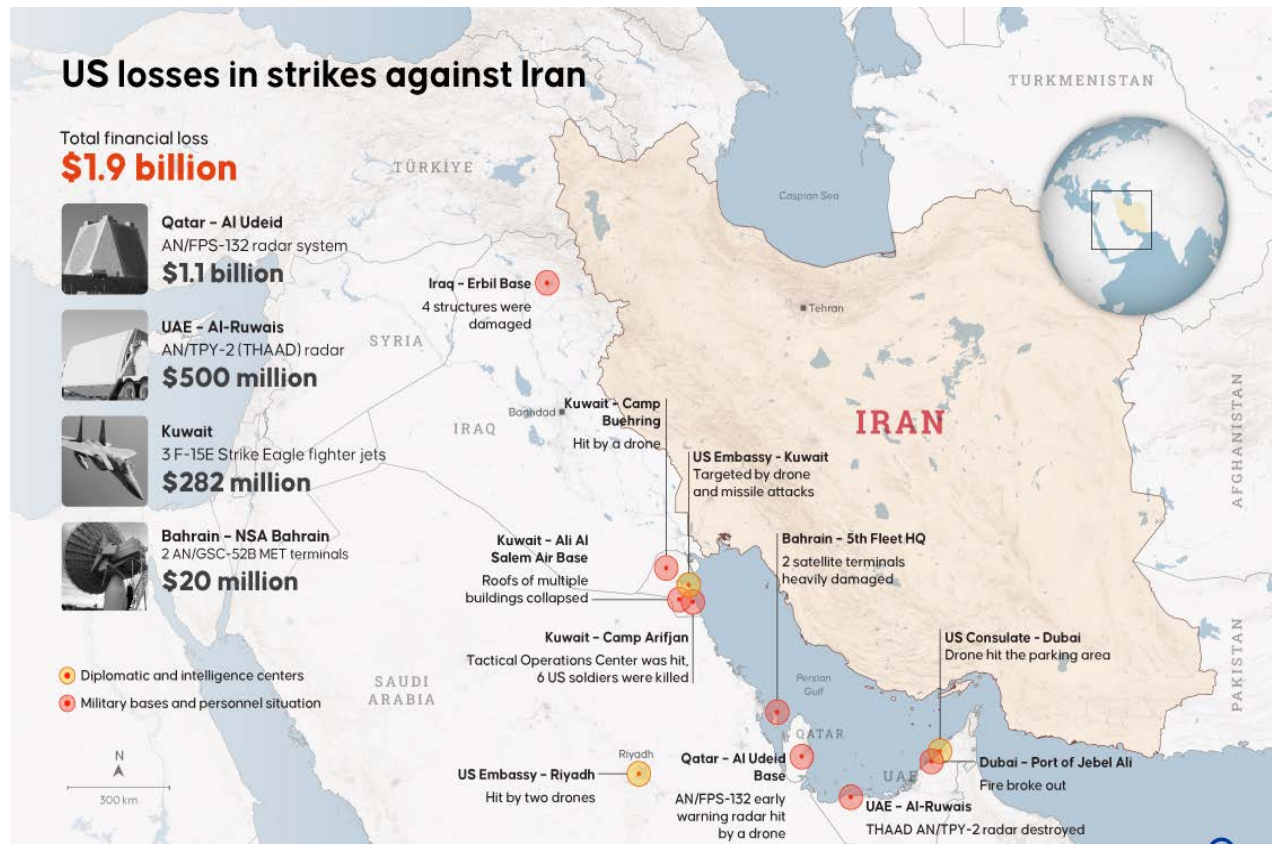


Losses	Description									
Human Losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some reports indicate 15 U.S. service members killed and 538 wounded by early April 2026. <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>									
Military Losses	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3 style="color: red;">Operation Epic Fury 2026 (28 Feb - 03 April)</h3> <h2 style="color: red;">U.S. Military Aircraft Losses</h2> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$110 million F-35 Lightning II 1 fighter jet hit and damaged by Iranian SAM </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$90 million F-15E Strike Eagle 3 fighter jet shot down over Kuwait 1 shot down over Iran </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$18.8 million A-10 Thunderbolt II 1 attack aircraft shot down by Iranian SAM </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$270 million (1998) Estimated now at \$700 million E-3 Sentry AWACS 1 Destroyed at F5AB </td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$40 million KC-135 Tanker At least 2 Destroyed/5 Damaged </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$20 million 1 HH-60M Helicopter in Iraq 2 HH-60W Damaged over Iran </td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Unit Cost: \$30 million 17 MQ-9 Reaper UCAV destroyed </td> </tr> </table>	Unit Cost: \$110 million F-35 Lightning II 1 fighter jet hit and damaged by Iranian SAM	Unit Cost: \$90 million F-15E Strike Eagle 3 fighter jet shot down over Kuwait 1 shot down over Iran	Unit Cost: \$18.8 million A-10 Thunderbolt II 1 attack aircraft shot down by Iranian SAM	Unit Cost: \$270 million (1998) Estimated now at \$700 million E-3 Sentry AWACS 1 Destroyed at F5AB	Unit Cost: \$40 million KC-135 Tanker At least 2 Destroyed/5 Damaged		Unit Cost: \$20 million 1 HH-60M Helicopter in Iraq 2 HH-60W Damaged over Iran	Unit Cost: \$30 million 17 MQ-9 Reaper UCAV destroyed	
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Unit Cost: \$20 million 1 HH-60M Helicopter in Iraq 2 HH-60W Damaged over Iran	Unit Cost: \$30 million 17 MQ-9 Reaper UCAV destroyed									
Economic & Financial Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United States has lost nearly \$2 billion worth of military equipment since February 28 amid its joint attacks with Israel on Iran, according to estimates and data compiled by Anadolu Agency. Additionally, US forces spent an estimated \$779 million, roughly 0.1% of the 2026 defence budget, in the first 24 hours of the offensive alone. 									



Strategic & Geopolitical Losses

- **Loss of Strategic Control**
 - Iran asserted control over the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil chokepoint.
 - Disruption in global shipping and energy flows.



Iran war: US military aircraft damage and losses

Multiple US aircraft have been damaged or destroyed in the ongoing war with Iran, including fighter jets, drones, refueling tankers and helicopters



15. How has the US–Iran war led to a global oil crisis?

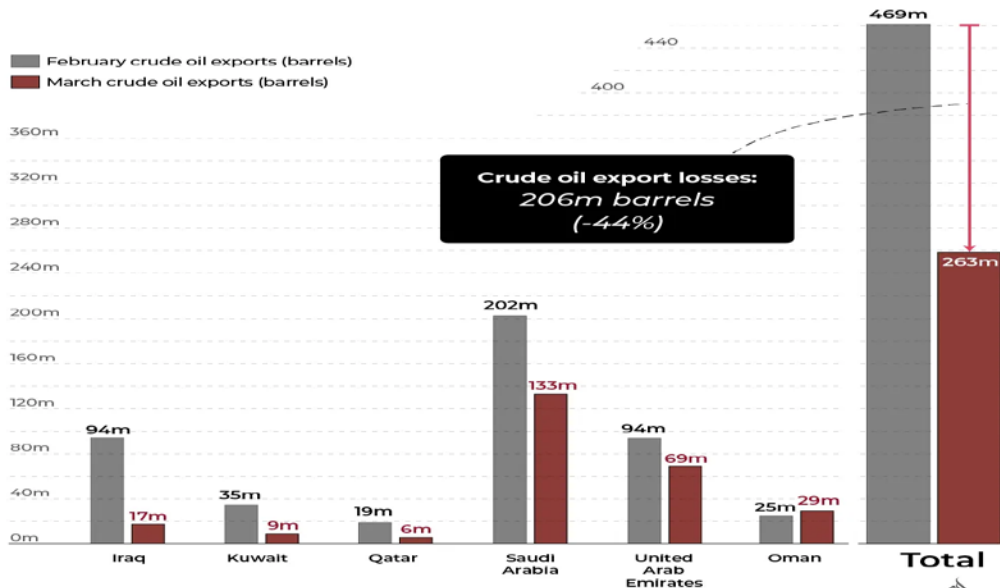
- Economists and agricultural experts warn that the true impact on grocery bills will likely persist throughout 2026 and into 2027.
- Additionally, it will take years for the Gulf energy industry to repair facilities damaged or destroyed during the war.

How much oil has been lost due to the Iran war?

- Shipping data from Kpler, a data and analytics firm show that combined exports from Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates fell from 469 million barrels in February to 263 million barrels in March – a decline of 206 million barrels, or 44 percent.

More than 200 million barrels of oil wiped out

Crude oil exports from six Arab states fell from 469 million barrels in February to 263 million in March, a drop of 206 million barrels, or 44 percent.



How much is 206 million barrels of crude oil worth?

Crude oil exports from six Arab states fell from 469 million barrels in February to 263 million in March, a drop of 206 million barrels, collectively worth billions.



A barrel of crude oil
159 litres | 42 gallons

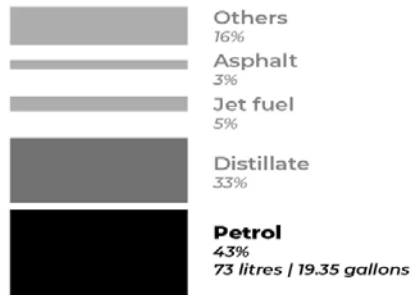
How much petrol does one barrel of crude oil produce?

A barrel of crude oil, which is 159 litres (42 US gallons), typically produces about 73 litres (19.36 gallons) of petrol on refining.

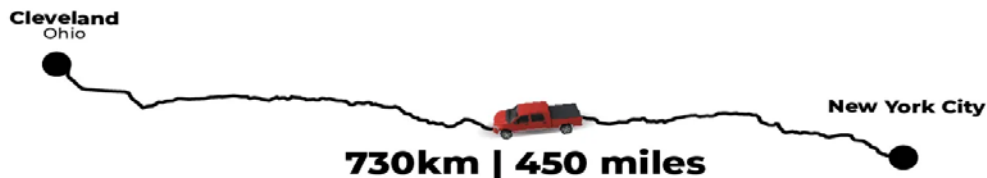
A barrel of crude oil
159 litres | 42 gallons



Once refined



A pick-up truck that averages 24 miles per gallon (or 10km per litre) can travel about 730km (450 miles) from one barrel of oil, or about the distance from New York City to Cleveland, Ohio.

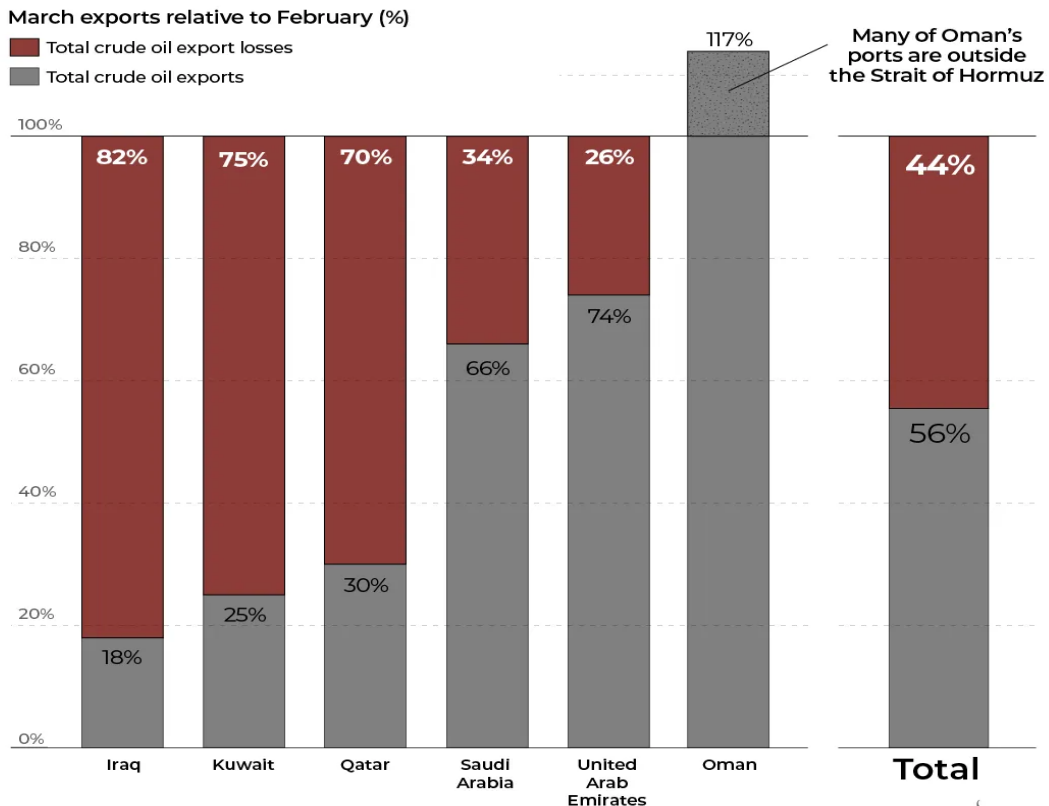


16. Which oil producers have been hit hardest?

Country	Impact
Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraq’s crude exports have been hit the hardest, falling 82 percent from 94m barrels in February to 17m in March.
Kuwait and Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuwait and Qatar each lost roughly three-quarters of their crude shipments, with 75 and 70 percent declines, respectively.
Saudi Arabia and UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saudi Arabia and the UAE managed a smaller proportional decline of 34 and 26 percent respectively, partly offset by floating storage and pipelines that avoid the Strait of Hormuz.
Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oman was the sole outlier, with many of its ports outside the Strait. Its exports rose by 16 percent, from 25 to 29 million barrels, helping only slightly to make up the overall shortfall.

Which oil producers have been hit hardest?

Between February and March, overall oil exports from six Arab states fell by 44 percent. Iraq’s crude exports were hardest hit, falling 82 percent, followed by Kuwait (75 percent), Qatar (70 percent), Saudi Arabia (34 percent) and the UAE (26 percent).



17. How much have US led wars in the Middle East cost?

UNITED STATES

The human cost of US-led wars

US-led wars since 2001 have directly killed an estimated 940,000 people, with civilians making up the largest share.

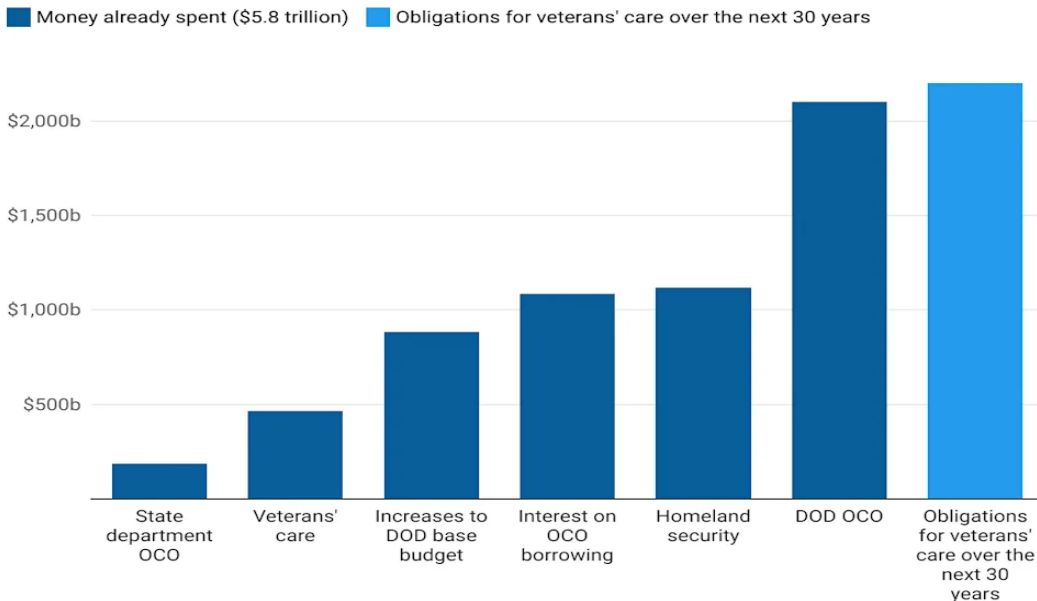
- US military and contractors
- Other allied troops
- National military and police
- Opposition fighters
- Journalists and humanitarian workers
- Civilians



This chart tallies reported deaths caused by direct war violence. It does not include indirect deaths, namely those caused by loss of access to food, healthcare, war-related disease, etc.

The economic cost of US-led wars

The United States has spent an estimated \$5.8 trillion on two decades of war, with an additional \$2.2 trillion reserved for veterans' care in the coming decades - bringing the total cost to at least \$8 trillion.



OCO - Overseas contingency operations, DOD - Department of Defense

18. How did the world reacted to ceasefire deal?



Countries	Reactions
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● China says it welcomes the ceasefire, underlining its role in encouraging a deal between the US and Iran to pause hostilities.
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Russia says the approach of a “one-track, aggressive, unprovoked attack” against Iran suffered a “crushing defeat” after Trump announced the two-week ceasefire. ● “All the statements that were made about ... being more aggressive, being more offensive, writing more on social media and ‘victory’ – it’s just around the corner. ● Once again, this position has suffered a crushing defeat. So has the approach of such a one-track, aggressive, unprovoked attack,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova
Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on X that he supports Trump’s decision to suspend strikes on Iran, and the “US effort to ensure that Iran no longer poses a nuclear, missile and terror threat to America, Israel, Iran’s Arab neighbours and the world”. ● Netanyahu said that the ceasefire does “not include Lebanon”, where Israeli forces have launched a ground invasion and are fighting with the Iran-aligned Hezbollah.
United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on all parties to abide by the terms of the ceasefire “in order to pave the way toward a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region”, according to his spokesperson.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guterres underscored “that an end to hostilities is urgently needed to protect civilian lives and alleviate human suffering”, and thanked Pakistan and other nations involved in facilitating the truce.
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said: “I welcome the two-week ceasefire the US and Iran agreed last night. It brings much needed de-escalation.” ● European Council President Antonio Costa added that he urged “all parties to uphold its terms in order to achieve sustainable peace in the region”.
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said “the Spanish government will not applaud those who set the world on fire just because they turn up with a bucket.” ● Sanchez said ceasefires were always welcome news, but added that “momentary relief must not make us forget the chaos, the destruction and the lives lost” while calling for “diplomacy, international law and PEACE” to prevail.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India’s Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement welcoming the ceasefire that “the conflict has already caused immense suffering to people and disrupted global energy supply and trade networks.”“We expect that unimpeded freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce would prevail through the Strait of Hormuz”

19. What will be the impact of ceasefire on India?

Iran ceasefire lifts India's Sensex about 3000 points higher on Wednesday



Last close: 74,616.58
Source: Exchange data

Key Impacts	Description
Energy Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A US-Iran ceasefire significantly strengthens India's energy security by cooling surging oil prices, with Brent crude dropping to around \$90 per barrel and reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz for tanker traffic. ● The deal allows for the resumption of Iranian crude oil imports, helping India diversify supply, reduce import costs, and ease domestic fuel inflation.
Curb imported inflation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ceasefire significantly reduced global oil prices, which had surged near per barrel due to the conflict, thereby reducing the threat of imported inflation on the Indian economy.
Secure Shipping Lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deal ensures safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, easing constraints on the movement of oil, LNG, and LPG tankers, allowing India to resume importing from West Asia efficiently.
Supply Chain Stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The US-Iran ceasefire contributes to supply chain stabilization in India by easing concerns over damage to critical energy infrastructure in the Middle East and improving the security of key maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. ● During the conflict, attacks on oil facilities, pipelines, and shipping routes disrupted production and transportation, creating uncertainty in global energy supply chains on which India is heavily dependent. ● The ceasefire reduces the risk of further damage, allowing repair and restoration activities to begin, while also enabling the gradual resumption of shipping and clearance of stalled cargo.
Indian stock market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A US-Iran ceasefire significantly boosts the Indian stock market by lowering oil prices and easing inflation fears, driving a sharp rally. ● Nifty and Sensex surged over 3% (about 3000 points) following the news, with major gains in aviation, banking, and auto sectors as foreign investor confidence improves and the rupee strengthens.
Safety of Indian citizens in the Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The US-Iran ceasefire significantly improves the safety of Indian citizens in the Gulf region, thereby reducing anxiety among workers and their families back home. ● During the conflict, the risk of missile strikes, disruptions in essential services, and potential evacuations created uncertainty for the nearly 9

million Indians living and working in West Asia.

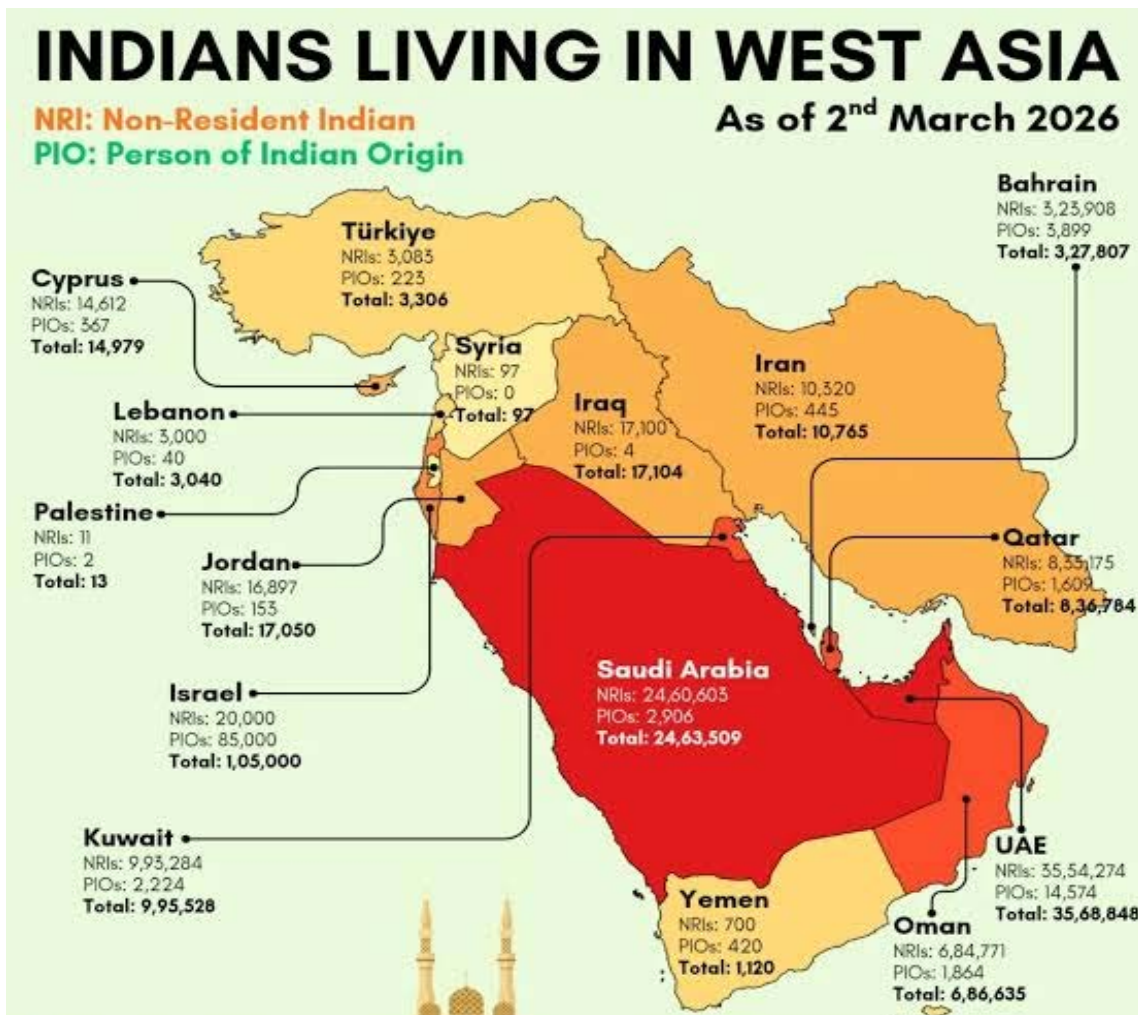
- The **ceasefire** lowers the immediate threat of escalation, ensuring a relatively safer environment and **continuity of employment and daily life**.

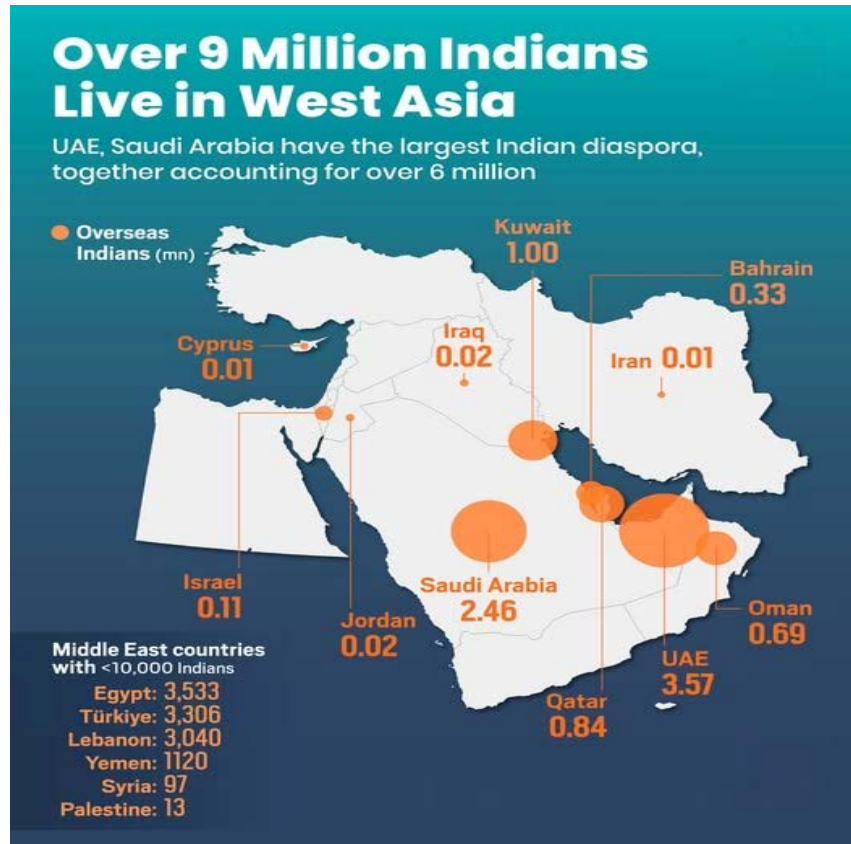
20. What is the strength of Indian diaspora in West Asia?

• Indians in the warzone

Country	NRI	PIO	Total
Bahrain	3.23 lakh	3,899	3.27 lakh
Saudi Arabia	24.60 lakh	2,906	24.63 lakh
Qatar	8.35 lakh	1,609	8.36 lakh
UAE	35.54 lakh	14,574	35.68 lakh
Kuwait	9.93 lakh	2,244	9.95 lakh
Oman	6.84 lakh	1,864	6.86 lakh
Iran	10,320	445	10,765
Israel	20,000	85,000	1.05 lakh

SOURCE: POPULATION OF OVERSEAS INDIANS, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS





21. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Strait of Hormuz, India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Red Sea, Two-state Solution, European Union, United Nations, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- **For Mains:** Historical background for reasons of conflict between Iran and Israel, Impact of Iran-Israel conflict on India and suggested measures to de-escalate tensions.

Some previous years prelims questions.

Q.1 The term “two-state solution” is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of **(2018)**

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

Ans: (b)

Q.2 Which of the following is not a member of ‘Gulf Cooperation Council’? (2016)

- (a) Iran
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Oman
- (d) Kuwait

Ans: (a)

Some previous years mains questions.

Q1. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (2018)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sheel Vardhan sir (2025):

- What is happening in and around Iran?
- Do you expect a war or will diplomacy prevail?
- What is the name of the Strait that Iran might choke and hamper the global oil supply?
- Is US vs Iran war in the interest of China? Who will it support?
- Does Israel have Nuclear weapons?

Board Suman Sharma mam (2025):

- What is Iran doing?
- What will happen if Gulf of Hormuz is blocked?
- What is the land dispute between Iran and UAE? Do you know?
- Do you think a war will happen between Iran and USA

Board Sujata Chaturvedi mam (2025):

- What is the strategic importance of Iran?
- Where is Iran located?
- What is currently happening in Iran?
- What makes Iran different from other countries in West Asia?
- Are external actors also playing role in Iran?

Board Sanjay Verma sir (2024):

- Give an overview of the Israel Iran conflict. Its implications?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following Countries:

1. Iraq
2. Pakistan
3. Armenia
4. Ajerbaijan
5. Turkmenistan
6. Afghanistan

How many of the above countries share borders with Iran?

- (a) Only three
- (b) Only four
- (c) Only five
- (d) All six

Ans: (d)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think the US–Iran ceasefire will lead to long-term peace in West Asia?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Is the current ceasefire between the US and Iran sustainable beyond the initial two-week period?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q3. Will the ceasefire help stabilize global oil prices?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q4. Do you believe the ceasefire reduces the risk of a wider regional war?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q5. Is the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz the biggest benefit of the ceasefire?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q6. Do you think both the US and Iran have equally benefited from the ceasefire?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q7. Will this ceasefire improve diplomatic relations between the US and Iran?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q8. Is the ceasefire just a temporary pause rather than a real step toward peace?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

