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Article For Reading –

Third Front: On the expanding nature of the conflict in West Asia.

The missile attack on Sunday (September 15, 2024) on Israel by Yemen's Houthi rebels marked the second **breach** of Israel's highly **fortified** skies by Houthi weapons in two months, pointing to the expanding nature of the conflict in West Asia. In July, an Iranian-made drone launched by the Houthis from Yemen, roughly 2,000 km south of Israel, had killed one person and wounded 10 others in Tel Aviv. In **retaliation**, Israel launched an air strike on Hodeida, a Houthi-controlled Red Sea port in Yemen. But that has done little in **detering** the Houthis. Israeli authorities have provided conflicting accounts about the attack on Sunday (September 15, 2024). They first said the missile had landed in central Israel and caused a fire but added later that it had "fragmented mid-air". Another official said it was **intercepted**, breaking it into parts but not destroying it. Whatever the facts, it should remain a security concern for Israel, which has been fighting a disastrous war in Gaza for over 11 months, and a slow-burning war with Lebanon's Hezbollah in Israel's north, that the Houthis are penetrating its air space. Israel might launch retaliatory strikes on Yemen again, but the question is whether this would deter the Houthis.

The Houthis, who control parts of Yemen, have survived multiple air strikes by foreign powers ever since they captured Sana'a, Yemen's capital, in 2014. A Saudi-led coalition, which backed a rival government in Yemen, declared war against the Houthis in 2015, months after Salman ascended the throne and Mohammed bin Salman became the Defence Minister. But Saudi bombing failed to **dislodge** the Houthis, which eventually led to a fragile ceasefire between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed government in Yemen. When Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023 and Israel launched its retaliatory invasion, the Houthis “declared war” against Israel, primarily targeting tankers in the Red Sea. In response, a U.S.-led coalition declared an air strike campaign against the Houthis. But months of air strikes led by the U.S. and the U.K. have done little in diminishing Houthi fire power. Israel faces the same dilemma when it comes to tackling the Houthi problem. The Houthis, who have direct Iranian support, are **entrenched** in Yemen. By taking up the Palestine cause, they are both serving Iran's strategic purpose and **consolidating** power at home. And the drone and missile attacks on Israel are an indication of what is to come in Israel's unending wars. If Israel went to Gaza to crush Hamas 11 months ago, the Jewish state is now fighting three enemy militias at the same time — Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis — with no military solution in the offing. This means that unless there is an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the security situation in West Asia will deteriorate on multiple fronts.

Summary – The passage discusses the growing conflict in West Asia, where Israel is now battling three militias: Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen. The Houthis, who receive support from Iran, recently launched missile attacks on Israel, marking the second such incident in two months. Despite retaliatory strikes from Israel and a U.S.-led coalition, the Houthis remain resilient. The expanding conflict, with no military solution in sight, highlights the urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza to prevent further regional instability.

Vocabularies-

1. Fortified (Verb) सुरक्षित/किलेबंद –

Meaning- Strengthened with defensive work or to protest against.

Synonyms – strengthened, bolstered, resilient, robust, sturdy

Antonyms – vulnerable, susceptible, prone, exposed

2. Retaliation(Noun) प्रतिशोध –

Meaning -The action of returning an attack or injury in kind.

Synonyms – revenge, retribution, vengeance

Antonyms – forgiveness, pardon, mercy

3. Deter(Verb) रोकना –

Meaning – To discourage someone from doing something.

Synonyms – obstruct, stymie, throttle, hinder.

Antonyms – encourage, incite, promote.

4. Entrenched(Adj.) मजबूत/बसा हुआ होना –

Meaning – Firmly established & difficult to change.

Synonyms – established, rooted, ingrained.

Antonyms – Unstable, transient, ephemeral, temporary, weak.

5. Dislodge (Verb) निकाल देना –

Meaning – To remove from a position or power or authority.

Forcefully remove from a place.

Synonyms – Expel, uproot, oust, eject.

Antonyms – install, place, settle.

6. Deteriorate (Verb) बिगड़ना –

Meaning – To become progressively weak.

Antonyms – decline, degrade, worsen.

Antonyms – improve, enhance, better.

7. Consolidate(Verb) मजबूत/समेकित करना।

Meaning – Combine or bring together into single or stronger.

Synonyms – merge, amalgamate, fortify, integrate.

Antonyms – dismantle, fragment, scatter, separate.

8. Breach (Noun) भंग, उल्लंघन, अतिक्रमण –

Meaning – Act of breaking or violating a law, agreement or standard.

Synonyms – rupture, transgression, infraction.

Antonyms – compliance, accord, adherence, closing.