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## Chasing **truce**: On the U.S. And talks between Israel and Hamas

President Joe Biden's remark that there is real progress in talks between Israel and Hamas on a **ceasefire** and hostage deal offers a rare ray of hope in ending the 15-month-long war. Mr. Biden said he was confident that his administration, which has only some more days left in office, could secure a deal. However, experience suggests that there is no deal unless an actual deal is reached, irrespective of the progress in talks. Even now, there are conflicting narratives on the remaining **bottlenecks**. Mr. Biden says Hamas is an obstacle, while Qatari and Egyptian officials, who were involved in the talks, say Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's refusal to agree to anything more than a temporary ceasefire is the main hurdle. Mr. Netanyahu does not want to bring the war to an end as his far-right government could collapse. But he is ready to accept a temporary halt in fighting in return for hostages. Hamas, fearing that Israel would resume fighting once the hostages are released, demand a permanent ceasefire. While talks drag on, the **plight** of over two million people in Gaza is nearly forgotten. Israeli strikes have already killed 46,000 Palestinians. Most of Gaza's population lives in tent cities without enough food, drinking water, medicines and electricity.

When Israel launched the war, after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, it had three objectives — destroy Hamas, secure the release of hostages and **bolster** the Jewish state's long-term security. Fifteen months later, while Israel has destroyed much of Hamas's military infrastructure and killed its top leadership, the group has survived and transformed itself as an **insurgency**. Israel has managed to release very few hostages and its long-term security risks remain. While a ceasefire with Hezbollah brought relative calm to the northern border, the Houthis of Yemen are now firing missiles and drones to Israel. The country is also facing international isolation. The International Court of Justice is hearing a **genocide** case against Israel, and the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants against Mr. Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. Rights organisations, from Amnesty International to HRW, are accusing Israel of genocide. Mr. Netanyahu seems **unperturbed**, thanks to the military, political and diplomatic support that Israel still enjoys from the Biden administration. But its inability to meet its objectives even in the tiny Gaza Strip, its disregard for international law and norms and the **barbarity** with which it is attacking the Palestinians should shock anyone interested in the country's physical and moral well-being. It is already too late. Israel's leaders and their backers in the West should not **prolong** this aimless war. Mr. Netanyahu should leave Gaza in return for the release of all hostages.

## **Summary -**

**U.S. President Joe Biden expressed hope for progress in ceasefire and hostage negotiations between Israel and Hamas after 15 months of war. While Biden blames Hamas for delays, others point to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's unwillingness to agree to a permanent ceasefire as the main obstacle. The war, which began after Hamas's October 2023 attack, has devastated Gaza, killing 46,000 Palestinians and displacing millions. Despite achieving some military goals, Israel has failed to eliminate Hamas, secure hostages, or ensure long-term security. With international isolation and accusations of genocide mounting, there are calls for an end to the conflict and a hostage deal.**

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# **Vocabulary –**

## **1. Truce (noun) युद्धविराम**

**Meaning=** a pause in fighting, especially one agreed upon by all parties involved.

**Synonym:** Ceasefire, Armistice

**Antonym:** Conflict, Hostilities

**Example:** The two countries finally agreed to a truce after several months of intense negotiations.

## **2. Bottlenecks (noun) अवरोध**

**Meaning=** a point of congestion or blockage, typically in a production system.

**Synonym:** Blockage, Obstruction

**Antonym:** Facilitator, Enabler

**Example:** The construction work created bottlenecks on the main highway, causing significant delays.

## **3. Genocide (noun) नरसंहार**

**Meaning=** the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.

**Synonym:** Massacre, Extermination

**Antonym:** Preservation, Protection

**Sentence:** The international court convicted him of genocide during the civil war.

#### 4. Unperturbed (adjective) अचलित

Meaning= not perturbed or concerned.

Synonym: Unflustered, Calm

Antonym: Disturbed, Agitated

Example: She remained unperturbed despite the chaos unfolding around her.

#### 5. Barbarity (noun) बर्बरता

Meaning= extreme cruelty or brutality.

Synonym: Brutality, Savagery

Antonym: Humanity, Kindness

Example: The barbarity of the regime was condemned by human rights organizations worldwide.

#### 6. Prolong (verb) लम्बा करना

Meaning= extend the duration of; cause to last longer.

Synonym: Extend, Lengthen

Antonym: Shorten, Reduce

Example: The negotiations were deliberately prolonged by the opposition to gain more concessions.

#### 7. Plight (Noun) दुर्दशा, कठिनाई

A difficult, dangerous, or unfortunate situation. It is often used to describe hardships or struggles faced by someone or something.

Synonyms – Predicament, Hardship, Ordeal, Crisis.

Antonyms – Fortune, Blessing, Prosperity, Comfort

Example – The plight of homeless people during winter is heartbreaking.

### 8. Insurgency (Noun) विद्रोह, बगावत

**Meaning** - An organized movement by a group of people to rebel against an established government, authority, or system, often using force or armed resistance. It typically involves efforts to overthrow or disrupt the status quo.

**Synonyms** – Revolt, Uprising, Mutiny, Insurrection, Coup.

**Antonyms** – Peace, Order, Loyalty, Obedience, Submission.

**Example** - The government deployed additional troops to suppress the insurgency in the northern provinces.

### 9. Bolster (Verb) मजबूती देना, समर्थन करना

**Meaning** - To support, strengthen, or reinforce something

**Synonyms** – Strengthen, Reinforce, Boost, Fortify.

**Antonyms** – Weaken, Undermine, Diminish, Discourage

**Example** – The government announced new policies to bolster the economy.

### 10. Ceasefire (Noun) युद्धविराम

**Meaning** - A temporary suspension of fighting or hostilities between two parties, often agreed upon as part of negotiations or peace talks.

**Synonyms** – Truce, Armistice

**Antonyms** – Conflict, War, Hostilities, Fighting, Combat

**Example** – The two nations agreed to a ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid to reach the affected areas.