



Israel advances on Gaza City

Israeli military expands assault as Gaza City braces for intensified fighting, mass displacement feared

Israel begins push to capture Gaza City

60,000 reservists approved for call-up

Humanitarian crisis fears grow

UN warns of horrific humanitarian impact

Ceasefire proposal still awaits Israeli response

AFP | Gaza City

Israel hammered Gaza City and its outskirts overnight, residents said yesterday, as the military announced it had taken initial steps in its push to capture Hamas's last major stronghold.

The newly approved plan authorises the call-up of roughly 60,000 reservists, deepening fears the campaign will worsen the already catastrophic humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

"We are not waiting. We have begun the preliminary actions, and already now, IDF (army) troops are holding the outskirts of Gaza City," said the Israeli military.

Israel's plans to expand the fighting and seize Gaza City have sparked international outcry as well as domestic opposition. The Red Cross became the latest voice to condemn the plan yesterday, calling it "intolerable".

Ahead of the offensive, the Israeli military said the call-up of the reservists would begin in early September, adding the second phase of operation "Gideon's Chariots" had begun.

Gaza City residents described relentless bombardments overnight.

"The house shakes with us all



A displaced Palestinian man gathers his belongings after an Israeli strike on a camp

night long -- the sound of explosions, artillery, warplanes, ambulances, and cries for help is killing us," one of them, Ahmad al-Shanti, told AFP.

"The sound is getting closer, but where would we go?"

Another resident, Amal Abdel-Aal, said she watched the heavy strikes on the area, a week after being displaced from her home in Gaza City's Al-Sabra neighbourhood.

"No one in Gaza has slept -- not last night, not for a week. The artillery and air strikes in the east never stop. The sky flashes all night long," she added.

Gaza civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said air strikes and artillery fire overnight targeted areas to the northwest and southeast of Gaza City.

'Nowhere safe to go'

Late yesterday, the Israeli military detailed a range of operations across the Gaza Strip in recent weeks.

It said the manoeuvres and strikes "created the conditions"

for the military to intensify pressure on Hamas and lay the groundwork for the next stages of the campaign.

The UN humanitarian agency has warned the Israeli plan to expand military operations in Gaza City would have "a horrific

humanitarian impact" on the already exhausted population.

"Forcing hundreds of thousands to move south is a recipe for further disaster and could amount to forcible transfer," OCHA said.

The UN Human Rights office in the Palestinian territories also voiced concern.

"Hundreds of families have been forced to flee, including

many children, persons with disabilities, and older people, with nowhere safe to go," it said.

Others reportedly "remain trapped, completely cut off from food, water and medicine supplies", it added.

The Israeli military said this week it had also begun informing medical personnel and aid groups in northern Gaza to start making evacuation plans and transferring their equipment to the south.

As Israel tightened its grip on Gaza City's outskirts, mediators continued to wait for an official Israeli reaction to their latest ceasefire proposal that Hamas accepted earlier this week.

'Ball' in Israel's court

Israel and Hamas have held a string of indirect negotiations throughout the nearly two-year conflict, paving the way for a pair of short ceasefires during which Israeli hostages were freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Of the 251 captives kidnapped during Hamas's October 2023 onslaught on southern Israel that triggered the war, 49 are still in Gaza, including 27 the Israeli military says are dead.

Sources from Hamas and its ally Islamic Jihad said this week that the latest ceasefire proposal calls for the release of 10 hostages and 18 bodies from Gaza.

Israeli military vehicles are positioned along the border with the Gaza Strip



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India's industrial real estate soars on manufacturing boom

TDT | Manama

India's industrial and logistics (I&L) real estate market is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by a renewed manufacturing push, supportive policy incentives, and a strategic shift towards asset-light models. Data from JLL India reveals a new benchmark set in the first half of 2025, with manufacturing space leasing surging to 9.0 million square feet, a 38 percent increase from the 6.5 million square feet recorded in the same period of 2024. This figure represents a nearly six-fold rise compared to pre-pandemic levels in H1 2019.

This momentum highlights a clear trend: manufacturing firms are increasingly opting for leased Grade A and build-to-suit spaces over capital-intensive land acquisition. This approach facilitates quicker operational rollouts and offers greater flexibility to



A general view shows the manufacturing of virgin plastic food containers at a factory in Howrah district near Kolkata

adapt to changing demand cycles. Grade

A facilities now constitute 55 percent of India's total 463.2 million square feet of I&L stock across the eight major cities.

Net absorption during the first

six months reached 24.6 million square feet, with Grade A spaces accounting for a commanding 81 percent.

Overall absorption for the full year is projected to reach between 55 and 57 million square

feet, marking a 12 to 15 percent increase from the 50 million square feet achieved in 2024. "India's industrial real estate market is experiencing a fundamental structural shift, evidenced by manufacturing leases comprising

24 percent of all transactions in H1 2025," stated Yogesh Shevade, Head (Industrial & Logistics), India, JLL. He added that the geographic concentration is pronounced, with Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi NCR, Chennai, and Mumbai collectively driving 90 percent of the nation's net demand, reinforcing their roles as key industrial and logistics hubs.

Sectoral drivers remain diverse, with 3PL/logistics firms contributing 28 percent of leasing transactions, closely followed by light manufacturing at 24 percent. Within manufacturing, the automotive, engineering, electronics, and white goods segments were the most active. Built-to-suit deals are also gaining traction, commanding a 20-25 percent rent premium due to tenant-specific improvements, particularly in Pune and Chennai, reflecting the sector's steady premiumisation.



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TWEETS

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The EU-US joint statement on trade provides predictability and stability to transatlantic economic bonds and to European companies. The EU must continue to deepen and expand its global trade partnerships.

@eucopresident

02



On this #VictimsOfTerrorism Day, we honour the survivors & victims, saluting their courage, acknowledging their pain & reaffirming our commitment to peace, justice & human rights. United by hope, we can build a future free from terrorism & fear, where all people live in dignity.

@antonioGuterres

03



Terrorism leaves scars that last a lifetime — and too often, across generations. On this International Day, we honor victims and survivors. Their voices, dignity, and rights will never be silenced. #VictimsOfTerrorism

@AminaJMohammed

04



Donald Trump's America: - Consumer Price Index has risen by 2.7% - Prices for takeout and restaurants has surged by 3.9% - Pre-owned cars / trucks price has increased by 4.8%. - Electric bills up 10%. - John Deere and others have announced layoffs. - Companies from Sony to PepsiCo have announced price increases. Great work.

@GavinNewsom

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