

## **The War in Gaza**

On 16th October 2024, the Symbiosis School of International Studies organized a guest lecture on "The War in Gaza," featuring Ambassador (Retd) Talmiz Ahmad, Dr. Alvite Ningthoujam, and Dr. Shafat Yousuf as speakers. The lecture, held from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, focused on the Israel-Gaza War that occurred on 7th October 2023 and explored its underlying causes and potential impacts.

Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad described the war as a significant setback for Israel, highlighting that despite its advanced military capabilities, Hamas managed to bypass the Iron Dome defense system and launch effective attacks. He referred to the conflict as a "ladder of escalation," stressing that Israel's operations in Lebanon introduced a new dimension of uncertainty to the situation.

Key themes of the discussion included the significance of the 7th October attacks and whether they marked a game-changing moment or a continuation of long-standing issues between Israel and Palestine. Ambassador Ahmad pointed out unique elements of this war, including the involvement of non-state actors like Hamas and the increasing role of international bodies such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The speakers also examined the potential link between the conflict and Benjamin Netanyahu's political agenda, referencing the historical suffering of Jews during the Holocaust as a factor in the ongoing narrative. In the final segment, the discussion turned to the broader geopolitical dynamics. The Gulf States were seen to be sending mixed signals, while China was emerging as a long-term player challenging American hegemony in the region. The role of the United States in establishing initiatives like IMEC and I2U2 was also analyzed. The session concluded with a Q&A, where students engaged actively with the speakers.

Overall, the lecture provided insightful and expert perspectives, enriching the students' understanding of the complex and evolving situation in Gaza.

