



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Iran's Cluster Munitions: How They Work & Why They Penetrate Israeli Defences

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## What are cluster munitions?

Cluster munitions are weapons that break open in the air and release many small bombs (submunitions).

Instead of hitting one target, they spread damage over a wide area.

## How Iran is using them

Iran is firing ballistic missiles carrying cluster warheads at Israel.

Each missile can release 20–80 small bombs mid-air.

Many recent attacks include these types of weapons.

## Why they are hard to stop

Israeli systems like Iron Dome must destroy the missile before it opens.

Once it breaks mid-air, dozens of small bombs spread out, making interception almost impossible.

This is why some attacks bypass advanced air defences.

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### **What makes them dangerous**

They cover a large area, increasing chances of civilian damage.

Some bomblets may not explode immediately, creating long-term danger.

### **Why Iran is using them (strategy)**

To overwhelm Israel's defence systems by increasing the number of targets.

To cause wider impact rather than precise strikes

To increase pressure on civilians and defence resources

### **Legal and global concerns**

Cluster munitions are banned by many countries due to their indiscriminate nature.

However, Iran and Israel are not part of the ban treaty.

### **Final Understanding:**

Iran's cluster munitions are effective because they split into many small bombs mid-air, making them very difficult to intercept and allowing them to penetrate even advanced defence systems like Iron Dome.