

## Capture of Mosul from Islamic State

### Why in news?

\n\n

The capture of the Grand al-Nuri Mosque in Mosul by Iraqi forces, from where Islamic State (IS) proclaimed the caliphate nearly three years ago, marks the end of the 'caliphate' in Iraq.

\n\n

### Where did IS come from?

\n\n

\n

- It started out as the Jamaat al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, established by the Jordanian Al-Zarqawi in 1999.

\n

- In 2004, al-Zarqawi took an oath of loyalty to Osama bin Laden, and his organisation became the **al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)**.

\n

- Al-Zarqawi was killed in 2006, but AQI continued to hold significant territory in Iraq.

\n

- It began to call itself 'Islamic State in Iraq' and, after taking parts of Syria in 2013, the **'Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham'**, or ISIS.

\n

- Since al-Sham, the area around the eastern Mediterranean Sea (including Syria) is translated in English as "the Levant", ISIS became **'Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant'**, or ISIL.

\n

- ISIL gained prominence in early 2014 when it drove Iraqi government forces out of key cities, followed by its capture of Mosul.

\n

- In June 2014 it announced the formation of the global Islamic "Caliphate".

\n

- ISIS/ISIL thus dropped the geographical connotations to its name, and became just the **'Islamic State'**, or IS.

\n

\n\n

## What is their ideology?

\n\n

- \n
- ISIL is a theocracy, proto-state and a Salafi or Wahhabi group.
- \n
- It follows an **extremist interpretation of Islam**, promotes religious violence, and regards Muslims who do not agree with its interpretations as infidels or apostates.
- \n
- It represents the **restoration of the caliphate of early Islam**, with all the political, religious and eschatological ramifications that this would imply.
- \n
- A caliphate is an area containing an Islamic Leader known as a 'Caliph' a person considered a religious successor to the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, and a leader of the entire Muslim community.
- \n
- When the caliphate was proclaimed, all who do not believe in the group's interpretation of the Quran will be killed.
- \n

\n\n

## What is their source of revenue?

\n\n

- \n
- Proceeds from the occupation of territory - including control of banks, oil and gas reservoirs, taxation, extortion, and robbery.
- \n
- Kidnapping for ransom.
- \n
- Donations from Saudi Arabia and Gulf states, often disguised as meant for humanitarian charity.
- \n
- Material support provided by foreign fighters.
- \n
- Fundraising through modern communication networks.
- \n

\n\n

## Why were they successful?

\n\n

- \n
- Unlike al Qaeda, ISIS has proven to be more brutal and more effective at controlling territory it has seized.
- \n
- In spite of their medieval ideology, **they run a modern and an effective administration.**
- \n
- ISIL is headed and run by **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**. Advising him is a **cabinet of senior leaders**, while its operations in Iraq and Syria are controlled by **local governors**.
- \n
- Beneath the leaders are councils on finance, leadership, military matters, legal matters - including decisions on executions.
- \n
- From the cabinet and the governors to the financial and legislative bodies, ISIS' bureaucratic hierarchy looks a lot like those of some of the Western countries.
- \n

\n\n

### **What are some of the important events?**

\n\n

- \n
- 2004: Abu Musab al Zarqawi establishes al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI).
- \n
- April 2010: Abu Bakr al Baghdadi becomes the leader of ISI.
- \n
- July 2012 - July 2013: ISI launches its **“Breaking the Walls” campaign**. It carries out 24 bombings and eight prison breaks, freeing jihadists who had participated in AQI attacks.
- \n
- March 2013: **Raqqa falls** to the Syrian opposition, and the IS started operating in Raqqa.
- \n
- December 2013: ISIS militants in Iraq take control of Fallujah and parts of Ramadi.
- \n
- **June 10: ISIS takes over Mosul, launching its largest offensive to date.**
- \n
- May 2015: ISIS take overs Ramadi, Iraq and seizes the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra.
- \n

- **June 2017:** Iraqi government troops captured the ruined mosque at the heart of the IS's de facto capital Mosul, and the Iraq PM has declared the end of caliphate.

\n

\n\n

### **What is the significance of Mosul recapture?**

\n\n

\n

- Iraqi PM has managed to **stitch together a difficult alliance** to fight the jihadists.
- Despite conflicting interests the joint front they (between Iraq, Iran & US) forged against the IS could be a **replicable model elsewhere**, especially in Syria where the IS still controls territories.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n

