

23 JUNE 2025

Context: The Fordow nuclear facility in Iran has regained attention due to the rising tensions between Israel and Iran, with reports indicating that only the US GBU-57 bunker buster bomb has the capability to potentially obliterate the fortified site.



About Fordow Nuclear Facility

What is Fordow?

- Fordow is Iran’s most heavily fortified underground uranium enrichment facility, which is crucial to its potential nuclear weapons program.

Location: Located near Qom, southwest of Tehran, the facility is buried 80 meters deep within a mountain.

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Structural Features:

- A deep underground facility reinforced with soil, rock, and concrete.
- Encircled by multi-layered air defense systems, including missiles from Iran and Russia.
- Engineered to withstand standard military airstrikes.

Operational Since: 2009 (as confirmed by the IAEA).

Significance:

- Facilitates the enrichment of uranium up to 60%, alarmingly close to weapons-grade levels.
- Serves a pivotal role in Iran's potential to develop nuclear weapons.
- Represents Iran's defiance against Western nuclear oversight.