



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर परिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

# Iran

## *Digest*

April 2024

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## Iran's retaliatory strikes against Israel

On 13 April, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Corps (IRGC) in an operation dubbed 'True Promise', launched an aerial attack, including over 300 drones, cruise and ballistic missiles, into Israel. Israel and its Western allies including the United States, the UK and France and neighbouring Jordan mounted a coordinated defence using fighter Jets, warships, anti-missile and air defence systems intercepting the vast majority of the projectiles. At least nine ballistic missiles evaded Israeli defences causing minor damages to [Nevatim Air Base](#) in Southern Israel, where Israel's F-35 fighter jets are based. Iran's Supreme National Security Council issued a statement that Iran had carried out a '[minimum necessary punitive action](#)' within the framework of the 'legitimate right of self-defence' as outlined in Article 51 of the UN Charter. On April 1, Israeli air strikes had targeted Iran's consulate in Damascus killing seven IRGC officers including Quds Force senior most commander for Syria and Lebanon Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi. On the occasion of Iran Army Day on 21 April, [Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei](#) stressed that the number of missiles launched or hitting their targets, which has been a focus of the enemy, is secondary. The primary issue was demonstrating the emergence of the willpower of the Iranian people and the Armed Forces on the global stage and this is what has upset the other side. On 18 April, an air defence base in Isfahan came under attack. Though Israel did not claim responsibility, the US officials confirmed that it was an [Israeli response](#) to the April 13 retaliatory action by Iran.

## President Raisi visits Pakistan and Sri Lanka

On 24 April, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi concluded a three-day official visit to Pakistan, during which he visited Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore. According to the Joint Statement signed at the end of the visit, both sides acknowledged "that the Pakistan-Iran common border should be the '[border of peace and friendship](#)', and reiterated the importance of forging regular cooperation and exchange of views between political, military and security officials of the two countries to combat threats such as terrorism, narcotics smuggling, human trafficking, hostage-taking, money-laundering and abduction. The two sides agreed to further expand trade and economic cooperation and affirmed their commitment to transform their common border from 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity' through joint development-oriented economic projects, including setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings. They also reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and IP Gas Pipeline Project and expand their bilateral trade to USD \$10 billion. Earlier, in May 2023, Raisi and his Pakistani counterpart Shahbaz Sharif had met at the zero point of their shared border to inaugurate 7 border markets and Polan-Gabad electricity transmission supplying 100MW electricity daily to Gwadar. Raisi also met Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan [Syed Asim Munir](#) Ahmed Shah to discuss issues of mutual interest, especially regional peace, stability and border security Munir emphasised the need to improve coordination along the frontier to prevent terrorists from

jeopardizing the long-standing and fraternal relations between the two Muslim neighbours. From Pakistan, Raisi arrived in Sri Lanka where he inaugurated [Uma Oya hydropower](#) and irrigation project, which was constructed with Iranian technical assistance and partial funding. Raisi hailed the project as a “testimony to the friendship shared between Iran and Sri Lanka,” as he pledged support development projects in Sri Lanka by providing technical and engineering services. Raisi and Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe witnessed the signing of [five memoranda of understanding](#) covering areas including tourism, science, technical media, films and sports.

### **Iran supports preliminary border agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan**

The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry voiced Tehran's support for the [peaceful resolution of border conflicts](#) after Armenia agreed to return four border villages to Azerbaijan at the 8th meeting of the State Commissions on the delimitation of their shared border. The preliminary agreement will determine the border along Azerbaijan's Gazakh province in line with the border that existed when the Soviet Union collapsed. Earlier in March 2024, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had said that the country will face a war with Azerbaijan if it does not compromise and return four Azerbaijani villages it has held since the early 1990s. Baku had been demanding the return of the villages as a condition for a formal peace agreement with Armenia. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson also called on both countries to continue efforts to resolve the border disputes through peaceful methods within the framework of mutual respect for each

other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Earlier, on 12 April, reacting to [Pashniyan's trilateral summit](#) with the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, [Ali Akbar Velayati](#), Iran's Supreme Leader's Advisor for Foreign Affairs, said that “while ostensibly promoting peace, the West is looking for a pretext for military presence.” He further noted that “the South Caucasus is an important part of Iran's security zone, which will always protect the security, independence and territorial integrity of all countries in this region, and the latest decision of the European Union, NATO and the US in Brussels will not be implemented under any circumstances.

### **Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group attacks in Sistan-Baluchestan**

On 3 April, Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group made a [coordinated attacks](#) targeting five places including IRGC headquarters in Rask and Chabahar in the southeastern border province of Sistan-Baluchestan. A total of [16 security personnel](#) including 12 IRGC members and 18 terrorists and armed criminals were killed in the clashes. According to the IRGC Ground Forces' Southeast Security Headquarters, the perpetrators who attempted to seize control of the military and security headquarters, were affiliated with foreign intelligence agencies. Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi stated that “this incident was a failed attempt by terrorists under external control.” Vahidi also said that warnings had been communicated to Pakistan regarding border control measures. On 9 April, Jaish ul-Adl [attacked two police vehicles](#) on the road between Soran and Mehrestan Districts in Sistan-Baluchestan, killing 5 policemen.