



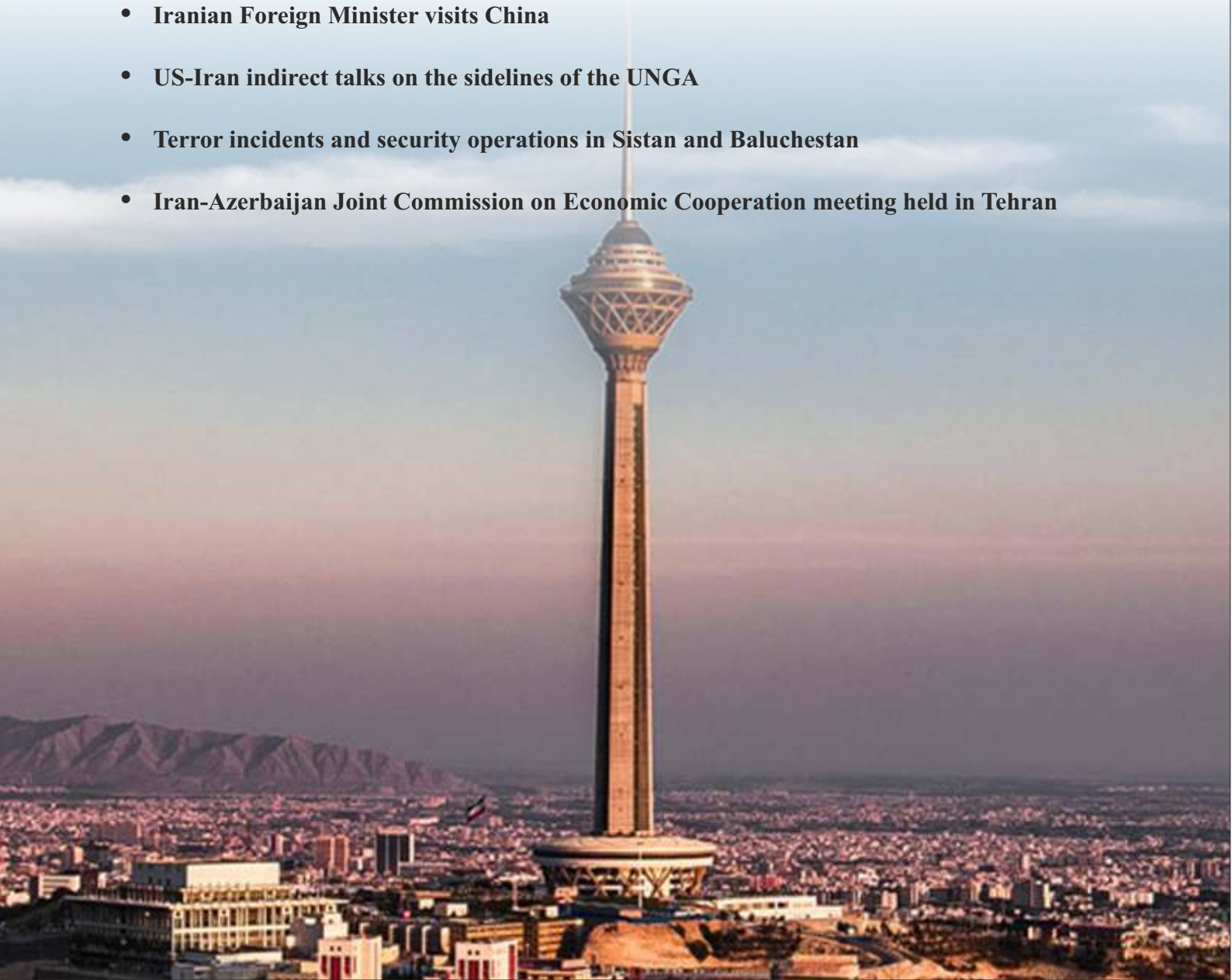
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Digest

September 2026

- **Iranian President attends BRICS summit in New Delhi**
- **Iranian Foreign Minister visits China**
- **US-Iran indirect talks on the sidelines of the UNGA**
- **Terror incidents and security operations in Sistan and Baluchestan**
- **Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation meeting held in Tehran**



Iranian President attends BRICS summit in New Delhi

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the BRICS summit in New Delhi. In his [address](#), he urged BRICS countries to build economic resilience by expanding trade in national currencies and strengthening the New Development Bank (NDB). He called on BRICS to create independent mechanisms for trade, investment, and financial cooperation. "Resilience cannot exist without cooperation, cooperation cannot be sustainable without justice, and sustainable development is impossible without peace and security," Pezeshkian said. He added that Iran's geopolitical position, energy resources and transit potential could open additional opportunities for BRICS to strengthen trade and energy ties between member countries. The President of the Islamic Republic specifically highlighted the Chabahar Port in south-eastern Iran as a major transit hub capable of connecting the north and south with the east and west. He also welcomed increased Indian investment and the development of joint ventures in Chabahar, viewing the port as part of broader bilateral economic cooperation. Pezeshkian met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, and had several [bilateral meetings](#), including with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, and Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

Iranian Foreign Minister visits China

On 16 September, Iran's Seyyed Abbas Araghchi visited China and met with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, for consultations. Their discussion focused on

US-Iran tensions, the Strait of Hormuz, developments in Yemen and the Red Sea region, Iran's relations with Gulf States and security architecture in the Middle East. According to the Chinese [readout](#) of the talks, Wang Yi said that, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China is ready to play a constructive role in resolving international disputes. China and Iran are comprehensive strategic partners, and China is also ready to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Iran to safeguard Iran's legitimate rights and interests. Further, Wang Yi noted that China supports Iran and the United States to stay rational and restrained and return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. We support Iran in conducting dialogue with Gulf countries, respecting each other's territorial sovereignty and national security, and upholding the region's common interests. He also stressed that China does not want to see regional tensions further spill over toward Yemen and the Red Sea and called on all parties to stop further complicating the situation and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation. Araghchi welcomed President Xi Jinping's four-point initiative for promoting common regional security, noting that Iran is willing to strengthen cooperation with China within this framework, and expects China to play a greater role in regional peace and stability. Soon after Xi announced the four-point proposal in Cairo, [Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf](#), Iran's parliament speaker and special representative for China affairs, stated: "China's emphasis on fostering common security reflects a principle Iran has long championed." Araghchi also held a meeting with the country's consul general in [Guangzhou](#), where. He stressed expanding economic and trade relations with China.

US-Iran indirect talks on the sidelines of the UNGA

On 22 September, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held indirect talks with Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. During the [Qatar-mediated](#) meeting, Iran proposed to the US a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days. Araghchi told the media that the timetable could begin as soon as Washington accepted the proposal, which includes many of the conditions from the MoU that Iran and the US agreed to in June 2026. Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei stated in an interview with Al Jazeera that "Our conditions are an end to the war on all fronts, the release of our frozen funds and an end to the naval blockade." After US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Araghchi told a media outlet in an interview that Iran is prepared to continue diplomatic efforts but intends to stand against any further US aggression even if the conflict escalates into a "doomsday war." Indicating Iran's military preparedness, Rezaei said Iran's [military planning](#) has shifted since two earlier rounds of conflict and now focuses on US naval assets, stretching from the Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. He noted that Iran had recently test-fired a multi-warhead anti-ship missile near a US vessel or aircraft carrier, with the warheads potentially subject to further development.

Terror incidents and security operations in Sistan and Baluchestan

On 24 September, Brigadier General [Hossein Zarifi](#), commander of the IRGC's Shahid Sajjad Operational Base in Saravan, Sistan and Baluchestan, near the Pakistan border, was killed while taking part in an

operation against armed groups. In recent weeks, Iran's southeastern and western border regions have witnessed a series of terrorist attacks targeting security forces and civilians alike, necessitating intensified security operations. On 18 September, two armed members of Jaish al-Adl, a Jihadist Baloch militant group, were killed, and another was wounded and arrested during an armed confrontation with security forces in [Zahedan](#). On 12 September, during a [joint operation in Saravan](#) carried out by forces from the IRGC, the Intelligence Ministry and the Law Enforcement Command in Sistan and Baluchestan, three Iranian intelligence forces and four terrorists were killed. Iranian authorities noted that weapons, ammunition and explosives were discovered in the team's hideout.

Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation meeting held in Tehran

On 29 September, Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev visited for a meeting of the co-chairs of the [Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation](#) between the two countries. He also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Pezeshkian emphasised that the common border should be viewed as an opportunity for greater interaction rather than an obstacle to closer relations. He described [transportation and communications](#) networks as key instruments for bringing the two countries and their peoples closer together, calling for the expansion and integration of land, air and rail links. Pezeshkian also welcomed the understandings reached during Mustafayev's meetings with Iran's ministers of roads and urban development and energy, calling for their swift implementation.