



Israel strikes Iran's nuke, missile sites

TOP MILITARY LEADERS, SCIENTISTS KILLED; IRAN RETALIATES WITH DRONES; TRUMP ASKS IRAN TO REACH A DEAL WITH US

AP
DUBAI

Israel launched a blistering attack on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military structure on Friday, deploying warplanes and drones smuggled into the country to target key facilities and kill top Generals and scientists — a barrage it said was necessary before its adversary got any closer to building an atomic weapon.

The operation raised the potential for all-out war between the countries and propelled the region, already on edge, into even greater upheaval. Iran quickly retaliated, sending a swarm of drones at Israel as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned of "severe punishment". Iran had been censured by the UN's atomic watchdog a day earlier for not complying with obligations meant to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon.

Israel had long threatened such a strike, and successive American administrations had sought to prevent it, fearing it would ignite a wider conflict across the Middle East and possibly be ineffective at destroying Iran's dispersed and hardened nuclear programme. But a confluence of developments triggered by Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack and the election of President Donald Trump created the conditions that allowed Israel to finally follow through on its threats. Israel had told the Trump administration that the large-scale attacks were coming, officials in the US and Israel said on condition of anonymity to describe private diplomatic discussions.

On Wednesday, the US pulled some American diplomats from Iraq's capital and offered voluntary evacuations for the families of US troops in the wider Middle East. On Friday, it began shifting military resources, including ships, in the region as Israel prepared for more retaliation, two US officials said. Countries in the region condemned Israel's attack, while leaders around the globe called for immediate deescalation from both sides.

Israel's military said about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets. Its Mossad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran ahead of time, and used them to target Iranian air defences and missile launchers near Tehran, according to two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not possible to independently confirm the officials' claims. Among the key sites Israel attacked was Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. Israel also said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran.

Israel military spokesman Brig Gen Effie Defrin said the Natanz facility was "significantly damaged" and that the operation was "still in the beginning". Among those killed were three of Iran's top military leaders: one who oversaw the entire armed forces, Gen Mohammad Bagheri; one who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen Hossein Salami; and the head of the Guard's ballistic missile programme, Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh. Iran confirmed all three deaths, significant blows to its governing theocracy that will complicate efforts to retaliate. Khamenei said other top military officials and scientists were also killed. In its first response, Iran fired more than 100 drones at Israel. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)



A firefighter calls out to his colleagues at the scene of an explosion in a residence compound in northern Tehran, Iran, on Friday. — Photo: AP

IRAN MUST MAKE A DEAL BEFORE THERE IS NOTHING LEFT, AND SAVE WHAT WAS ONCE KNOWN AS THE IRANIAN EMPIRE. NO MORE DEATH, NO MORE DESTRUCTION, JUST DO IT, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

— DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT

ISRAEL WILL FACE A SEVERE PUNISHMENT. IT OPENED ITS WICKED AND BLOOD-STAINED HAND TO A CRIME IN OUR BELOVED COUNTRY. WITH THIS CRIME, THE ZIONIST REGIME HAS SET ITSELF FOR A BITTER AND PAINFUL FATE AND IT WILL DEFINITELY RECEIVE IT

— AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI, IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER

ISRAEL HAD TO ACT PROMPTLY AGAINST THE EXISTENTIAL THREAT OF A NUCLEAR-ARMED IRAN. WE STRUCK AT THE HEART OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM... WE TARGETED IRAN'S LEADING NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS WORKING ON THE IRANIAN BOMB. WE ALSO STRUCK AT THE HEART OF IRAN'S BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM AND THE BATTLE WILL CONTINUE FOR AS MANY DAYS AS IT TAKES

— BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

‘Operation Rising Lion’

ISRAEL ATTACKED IRAN CAPITAL TEHRAN AND MILITARY SITES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA



- Bombed Natanz city, the main uranium enrichment facility
- Explosions reported near a nuclear research centre and two military bases in Tabriz
- Kermanshah, which has an underground facility storing ballistic missiles, was hit near the Iraqi border
- Isfahan, south of Tehran, hit
- Arak, southwest of Tehran, hit
- Israel's military says about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets

- Israel claims its air defenses shot down most of the drones
- Tells civilians threat not yet over and urges caution

- Israeli airspace closed; tens of thousands of soldiers called up to protect the country's borders

KILLED



Maj Gen Mohammad Bagheri, chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces

Gen Hossein Salami, Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps



Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh, head of Guard's ballistic missile programme

Mohammad Mehdi Tehrani, president of the Islamic Azad University of Iran

- Fereydoun Abbasi, former head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, also killed
- Ali Shamkhani, key adviser and confidant of Khamenei, reportedly killed

Concern over direct transfer of cosmetic charges to students' a/cs

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Sometimes, government decisions perfectly reflect the adage, putting the cart before the horse. A classic case is the Telangana government's recent announcement to deposit the cosmetic charges directly into the bank accounts of students in government-run residential schools. The scheme, which aims to benefit over 1.30 lakh students in about 130 residential institutions, is facing criticism over its practicality.

The most pressing concern is how many students have bank accounts. Even if a few do, accessing funds is not easy as banks are often located far from their residential schools. Moreover, to open an account, most banks require the presence of a parent or guardian.

(FULL REPORT PAGE 5)

Black box recovered from plane crash site

AHMEDABAD

Investigators on Friday recovered the black box of the London-bound Air India plane from the rooftop of a medical college hostel here a day after it crashed and rammed into the building, as they scoured through the debris for clues to the cause of the worst air tragedy in the country in three decades.

In a major breakthrough, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), without giving details, said the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly known as the Black box, was recovered from the "rooftop" at the crash site. The DFDR will help reconstruct the ill-fated flight's final moments and is crucial to determining how the disaster occurred.

All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner (AI-171) and another 24 persons, including five MBBS students on the



Relatives of a victim of the Air India plane crash mourn at a mortuary in Ahmedabad on Friday. — Photo: PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)

ground, were killed when the aircraft came down seconds after take-off before falling inside the campus of the State-run BJ Medical College campus in Meghanagar area and going up in flames.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the scene of the crash and met the injured at the Ahmedabad civil hospital. He spent around 20 minutes at the crash site. As aviation experts discussed the possible

causes of the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the 11-year-old aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential flap issue, Aviation watchdog DGCA ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet powered by GEnx engines. There are 26 Boeing 787-8s and 7 Boeing 787-9s in the Air India fleet. "The DFDR (Black box) has been recovered from the rooftop," AAIB said. PTI

Nagarjuna Sagar row escalates

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The conflict over operational control of the Nagarjuna Sagar dam has escalated yet again, with Andhra Pradesh seeking to take over the right canal head regulator. This move has intensified the ongoing water-sharing dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Andhra Pradesh has informed the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) of its intent to in-

dependently manage the right canal gates. It added to the concerns of Telangana.

The Andhra Pradesh Water Resources department has also written to the Andhra Pradesh Special Protection Force (APSPF), requesting deployment at the right canal head regulator once the CRPF withdraws by the end of June.

Historically, the Nagarjuna Sagar dam has been a flashpoint since the 2014 bifurcation, with an agreement granting operational

control of Nagarjuna Sagar to Telangana and Srisaillam to AP. However, tensions flared in October 2023, leading to CRPF surveillance at the dam. While CRPF withdrew its contingents from Telangana-end of the project in April 2025, it is now preparing to withdraw from Andhra Pradesh side of the dam by the end of June.

As AP is firm on replacing CRPF surveillance with APSPF personnel, Telangana has raised serious concerns. The Telangana state's

contention is that AP was already drawing more than its allocated share of Krishna river water. It is depriving Telangana's farmers of their due. The latest move by AP to assert control over the right canal gates has intensified fears that Telangana's water entitlement could be further compromised. This dispute is part of a broader water-sharing imbalance, with Telangana consistently receiving less than its entitled share of Krishna waters.

Man tries to save daughter from suicide, both die

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A 50-year-old man died while trying to save his daughter from a suicide attempt after both were hit by a speeding train at Sanjeevaiah Park railway station.

The tragedy occurred on June 8, when Mohammed (50) learned that his daughter, 30-year-old Aliya Begum, was upset over marital issues and intended to end her life. Rushing to the station in the evening, Mohammed attempted to stop

her from jumping in front of a moving locomotive.

According to the GRP in Secunderabad, Mohammed tried to pull his daughter away from the path of the train. "In an attempt to pull her aside from the speeding loco engine, he too was hit. Though he managed to reach her, both father and daughter suffered grievous injuries," a GRP official said. Aliya died on the spot, while Mohammed, critically injured, fell onto the tracks.

The police registered a case and are investigating.

Woman hangs self after husband's suicide bid

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A young woman died by suicide after allegedly being frightened when her husband attempted to end his life in front of her at Boduppal in Medipally on Thursday. The couple, V Santosh (21) and Deepika (19), residents of Amberpet, have a one-year-old son Devaansh.

According to the police, Santosh, who is jobless and addicted to alcohol, often quarrelled with Deepika and harassed her. Recently, eld-

ers from both families intervened and advised that Deepika stay at her parents' house in Amruthsai Nagar, Boduppal, for a few months.

But Santosh's behaviour reportedly remained unchanged. On Thursday, he went to his in-laws' house in an inebriated state and insisted that Deepika return with him. When she refused, Santosh took out a razor and inflicted injuries on himself. Deepika, terrified by the act, hanged herself from the ceiling fan using a scarf, in front of Santosh. (SEE PAGE 2)

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