

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Operation True Promise 4

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced the **78th wave of its ongoing military campaign, "Operation True Promise 4,"** marking a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The statement accompanying this announcement reflects a hardened stance by Iran, emphasizing that it "negotiates with enemies through impact-driven strikes," signaling a shift toward direct and forceful engagement rather than traditional diplomacy.
- **Background of the Operation**
- Operation "True Promise 4" began in response to what Iran describes as **aggressive actions by Israel and the United States**. The campaign represents a series of retaliatory strikes involving missiles and drones targeting military and strategic sites across the region.
- This operation is part of a broader conflict that escalated rapidly in early 2026, where Iran responded within hours to coordinated attacks by its adversaries.
- **Details of the 78th Wave**
- According to IRGC statements, the 78th wave involved **precision missile and drone strikes** on key locations, including:
 - The port city of Eilat
 - Areas near Dimona, associated with Israel's nuclear infrastructure
 - Northern parts of Tel Aviv
- Advanced missile systems such as **Emad and multi-warhead Qadr missiles** were reportedly used in the attacks.
- The IRGC described these strikes as part of a **"new phase" of intensified military action**, highlighting both technological capability and strategic intent.

- **“Impact-Driven Negotiation” Strategy**
- One of the most striking aspects of the announcement was the IRGC’s statement that it is:
 - “negotiating with enemies through impact-driven operations”
 - This phrase indicates a doctrine where **military pressure replaces conventional diplomatic negotiation**, suggesting that Iran aims to force outcomes on the battlefield rather than at the negotiating table.
- **Potential for Further Escalation**
 - The IRGC warned that the situation could escalate even further, stating that:
 - Many combat units are still not deployed
 - Millions of Basij volunteer forces remain available
 - Future responses could be **rapid and more severe**
 - This warning underscores the **possibility of a prolonged and intensifying conflict**, with broader regional consequences.
- **Regional Impact**
 - The conflict is already affecting neighboring countries. For example:
 - Air defence operations in the region have caused **collateral disruptions**, including damage to infrastructure such as power lines in nearby countries.
 - Previous waves of the operation have targeted not only Israeli locations but also **U.S. military bases across West Asia**, expanding the scope of the conflict.



CAPF Bill 2026 Sparks Opposition Protest in Rajya Sabha

- The introduction of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Bill, 2026** in the Rajya Sabha has triggered strong opposition protests, highlighting a major debate over reforms in India's paramilitary forces. The bill, presented by the government as a step toward administrative clarity and efficiency, has instead become a point of political and institutional conflict.
- **What is the CAPF Bill 2026?**
- The CAPF Bill aims to create an **"umbrella law"** governing recruitment, deputation, promotions, and service conditions of officers in forces like the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, and CISF.
- A key provision of the bill is to **formalize and expand the role of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers** in senior leadership positions:
 - Around **50% of Inspector General (IG)** posts for IPS officers
 - At least **67% of Additional Director General (ADG)** posts
 - **All Director General (DG)** and Special DG posts reserved for IPS officers
 - The government argues that this will improve **coordination between Centre and states** and enhance operational efficiency.
- **Why is the Opposition Protesting?**
- Opposition parties strongly protested the bill in the Rajya Sabha, raising several concerns:
 - **1. Violation of Supreme Court Directions**
 - Critics argue that the bill goes **against a 2025 Supreme Court judgment**, which had directed a reduction in IPS deputation in CAPFs to give more opportunities to cadre officers.
 - **2. Discrimination Against CAPF Cadre Officers**
 - Opposition leaders and former officers claim the bill:
 - Limits promotion opportunities for CAPF cadre officers
 - Strengthens the dominance of IPS officers
 - Creates inequality within the forces

- **3. Impact on Morale and Career Growth**

- CAPF officers often take **much longer to get promotions** compared to IPS officers. Critics warn that the bill may:

- Further delay promotions
- Increase dissatisfaction
- Lead to more resignations or voluntary retirements

- **Government's Stand**

- The government has defended the bill, stating that:
- There is currently **no unified legal framework**, leading to confusion and litigation
- The bill will bring **clarity, uniformity, and efficiency**
- IPS deputation ensures **better coordination in national security operations**
- It also emphasizes that CAPFs play a critical role in **internal security, border protection, and counter-insurgency**, making strong leadership essential.

- **The Core Issue: CAPF vs IPS Debate**

- At the heart of the controversy is a long-standing conflict:
- **CAPF Cadre Officers:** Direct recruits within forces, seeking better promotion opportunities
- **IPS Officers:** Deputed officers who often occupy top leadership roles
- This has created tension over **power, promotions, and representation**, which the new bill has intensified.



Tehran Accord: How India Secured Energy Lifeline Amid West Asia

- In the midst of escalating tensions in West Asia, India has managed to secure a crucial breakthrough often referred to as the **“Tehran Accord.”** This development ensured the safe passage of Indian gas carriers through the highly volatile Strait of Hormuz, offering much-needed relief to the country’s energy supply chain.
- **Background: Crisis in the Strait of Hormuz**
- The ongoing conflict involving Iran and Western powers has severely disrupted global energy routes. The **Strait of Hormuz**, a key maritime chokepoint through which a significant portion of the world’s oil and gas passes, witnessed:
 - Threats to commercial shipping
 - Suspension of tanker movements
 - Hundreds of vessels stranded in the Gulf
- For India, this created a major challenge, as a large share of its **liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)** imports depends on this route.
- **The Role of Indian Gas Carriers**
- Two Indian-flagged LPG carriers played a crucial role:
 - **Jag Vasant** (loaded from Kuwait)
 - **Pine Gas** (loaded from UAE)

- These vessels were carrying massive quantities of LPG—enough to meet **several days of India’s consumption**.
- Initially stranded due to security risks, these ships eventually managed to cross the Strait safely.
- **What is the “Tehran Accord”?**
- The so-called “Tehran Accord” refers to a **backchannel diplomatic understanding between India and Iran** that allowed Indian ships to pass through the Strait under controlled conditions.
- Key features of this arrangement included:
 - **Case-by-case clearance by Iranian authorities (IRGC)**
 - Use of a **designated safe maritime corridor**
 - Strict navigation protocols, including sailing close to the Iranian coastline
 - Identification of vessels as **Indian-owned** to avoid targeting
 - This agreement highlights India’s use of **quiet diplomacy** rather than confrontation to protect its strategic interests.
- **Strategic Importance for India**
- The successful passage of these ships had major implications:
 - **1. Relief from LPG Crisis**
 - India was facing a **severe cooking gas shortage**, affecting households and businesses. The arrival of these carriers helped stabilize supply.
 - **2. Energy Security**
 - India imports a significant portion of its energy. Ensuring uninterrupted supply during geopolitical crises is critical for:
 - Economic stability
 - Daily life (especially cooking fuel)
 - Industrial operations
 - **3. Diplomatic Success**
 - Despite global pressure and conflict, India:

- Maintained communication with Iran
- Avoided direct confrontation
- Secured national interest through **strategic autonomy**
- **Wider Geopolitical Context**
- The agreement comes at a time when:
- The **US-Iran conflict** has intensified
- Shipping traffic through Hormuz has drastically reduced
- Global oil supply has been disrupted
- Even in such conditions, selected vessels—including Indian tankers—have been allowed passage under strict monitoring.
- **Conclusion**
- The “Tehran Accord” represents a **major diplomatic and strategic achievement for India**. By ensuring the safe transit of LPG carriers like Jag Vasant and Pine Gas, India has demonstrated its ability to safeguard national interests even in highly volatile geopolitical conditions.
- This episode underlines the importance of:
- Strong foreign policy
- Energy diversification
- Crisis-time diplomacy
- As global tensions continue, India’s approach may serve as a model for balancing **national security, economic needs, and international relations**.



Indian Army Scales Up Indigenous Pinaka Rocket System to Boost Firepower

- The Indian Army is rapidly expanding its **indigenous Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system**, marking a major step toward strengthening its artillery capabilities and achieving self-reliance in defence. This expansion comes amid rising security challenges along India's borders and reflects a broader push under the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative.
- **What is the Pinaka System?**
- The **Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL)** is an indigenously developed artillery system designed by India's defence ecosystem. It is capable of:
 - Firing multiple rockets in quick succession
 - Delivering **high-volume, area-targeted strikes**
 - Neutralising enemy positions over large areas within seconds
 - Earlier versions had a range of around **37–45 km**, while newer guided and extended-range variants can strike targets at much greater distances.
- **Rapid Expansion of Pinaka Regiments**
- The Indian Army has significantly increased its deployment of Pinaka systems:
 - Currently, **7 Pinaka regiments are operational**
 - One more regiment is expected to be added soon
 - Long-term plans aim to expand up to **22 regiments**

- This expansion is part of a strategy to replace older systems like the **BM-21 Grad** and enhance long-range strike capabilities.
- Recent developments also show that:
- A **7th regiment has been inducted** to strengthen border readiness
- Additional regiments are planned within the year
- **Advanced Variants and Capabilities**
- India is continuously upgrading the Pinaka system:
- **Extended-range rockets** (around 45 km or more) have successfully completed trials
- **Guided Pinaka rockets** can hit targets with higher precision and longer ranges
- Future variants may reach **up to 120 km**, enabling deep-strike operations
- A recent successful trial of the extended-range Pinaka rockets confirmed:
- High accuracy and reliability
- Readiness for operational deployment
- **Strategic Importance**
- **1. Strengthening Border Security**
- Pinaka regiments are being deployed along:
- Western border (Pakistan)
- Northern border (China)
- This ensures **quick response capability** in case of conflict.
- **2. Boost to Indigenous Defence**
- The system is fully developed in India, reducing dependence on foreign weapons and supporting domestic industries.
- **3. Replacement of Legacy Systems**
- Older rocket systems are gradually being phased out and replaced with Pinaka, improving:
- Range

- Accuracy
- Firepower
- **4. Export Potential**
- India is also exporting Pinaka systems to friendly countries, showcasing its growing role in the global defence market.
- **Future Outlook**
- The Indian Army's plan to induct up to **22 Pinaka regiments** highlights its long-term vision of building a **modern, self-reliant artillery force**. Continuous upgrades, private sector participation, and large-scale production will further strengthen India's military capabilities.



BrahMos-A's 800 km Leap

- India is moving toward a major upgrade in its strike capability with the development of the **800 km range BrahMos-A missile**, a step that could significantly transform the operational strategy of the Indian Air Force. This advancement is being seen as a “game-changer” because it allows fighter jets to strike deep into enemy territory while staying safely within Indian borders.
- **What is BrahMos-A?**
- The **BrahMos missile** is a supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by India and Russia. The **BrahMos-A** is its **air-launched version**, primarily integrated with the Su-30MKI fighter aircraft.
- Speed: Around Mach 2.8–3
- High precision targeting

- Capable of low-altitude flight to avoid radar detection
- The current operational range is about 450 km, but the new upgrade aims to extend it to **800 km or more**.
- **The 800 km Breakthrough**
- The new extended-range BrahMos-A is expected to:
 - Begin **flight trials by late 2026**
 - Be inducted into service around **2028–29**
 - This upgrade nearly **doubles the strike range**, representing a major technological leap in India’s missile capabilities.
- **“Border-Safe” Strike Capability**
- The most important advantage of this upgrade is what experts call **“stand-off strike capability.”**
- With a range of 800 km:
 - Fighter jets like Su-30MKI can **launch missiles without crossing enemy borders**
 - Pilots remain **safe from enemy air defence systems**
 - Missions become **less risky and more effective**
 - In fact, the missile can allow aircraft to strike targets **deep inside enemy territory while flying within Indian airspace**, turning them into long-range “safe killers.”
- **Strategic Advantages**
- **1. Increased Safety for Pilots**
- Aircraft no longer need to enter heavily defended enemy zones, reducing:
 - Risk of being shot down
 - Exposure to radar and missile systems
- **2. Deep Strike Capability**
- The IAF can now:
 - Hit **high-value targets** far inside hostile territory
 - Respond quickly during conflicts
- **3. Strong Deterrence**
- A longer-range missile sends a strong message to adversaries:
 - India can strike from a distance
 - Retaliation can be swift and precise
- **4. Hard-to-Intercept Weapon**
- Because BrahMos travels at **supersonic speed** and follows complex trajectories:
 - Enemy defence systems get **very little reaction time**

- Interception becomes extremely difficult
- **Technology Behind the Upgrade**
- The increase in range is achieved through:
 - **Improved fuel efficiency**
 - Lightweight composite materials
 - Advanced guidance systems (INS + satellite navigation)
- Despite the longer range, the missile **retains the same size and weight**, allowing seamless integration with existing aircraft.
- **Future Outlook**
 - The 800 km BrahMos-A is part of a broader roadmap that includes:
 - BrahMos-NG (Next Generation)
 - Hypersonic BrahMos-II
 - India is steadily building a **layered, high-precision strike capability** across land, sea, and air platforms.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. “Operation True Promise 4” is associated with which country?

- A. Israel
- B. Iran
- C. USA
- D. Russia

Answer: B. Iran

2. The 78th wave of Operation True Promise 4 mainly involved:

- A. Naval warfare
- B. Cyber attacks
- C. Missile and drone strikes
- D. Ground invasion

Answer: C. Missile and drone strikes

3. The term “impact-driven negotiation” refers to:

- A. Peace talks
- B. Economic sanctions
- C. Military pressure as negotiation
- D. Trade agreements

Answer: C. Military pressure as negotiation

4. The CAPF Bill 2026 is related to:

- A. Education reforms
- B. Police and paramilitary forces
- C. Agriculture policy
- D. Banking system

Answer: B. Police and paramilitary forces

5. CAPF stands for:

- A. Central Armed Police Forces
- B. Civil Armed Protection Force
- C. Central Army Protection Force
- D. Combined Armed Police Federation

Answer: A. Central Armed Police Forces

6. The CAPF Bill proposes reservation of top posts mainly for:

- A. Army officers
- B. IAS officers
- C. IPS officers
- D. State police

Answer: C. IPS officers

7. The opposition to the CAPF Bill is mainly due to:

- A. High cost
- B. Foreign involvement
- C. Reduced promotion opportunities for cadre officers
- D. Tax increase

Answer: C. Reduced promotion opportunities for cadre officers

8. The “Tehran Accord” is related to:

- A. Nuclear deal
- B. Trade agreement
- C. Safe passage of Indian ships
- D. Military alliance

Answer: C. Safe passage of Indian ships

9. The Strait of Hormuz is important because it:

- A. Connects India and China
- B. Is a major oil and gas route
- C. Is a tourist destination
- D. Is a military base

Answer: B. Is a major oil and gas route

10. Jag Vasant and Pine Gas are:

- A. Fighter jets
- B. Warships
- C. LPG carriers
- D. Submarines

Answer: C. LPG carriers

11. The Pinaka system is:

- A. Tank
- B. Fighter jet
- C. Rocket launcher system

D. Radar system

Answer: C. Rocket launcher system

12. Pinaka is developed by:

A. USA

B. Russia

C. India

D. France

Answer: C. India

13. The Pinaka system is mainly used for:

A. Air defence

B. Area saturation attacks

C. Naval warfare

D. Cyber defence

Answer: B. Area saturation attacks

14. India plans to expand Pinaka regiments up to approximately:

A. 10

B. 15

C. 22

D. 30

Answer: C. 22

15. BrahMos-A is launched from:

A. Land

B. Submarine

C. Aircraft

D. Ship

Answer: C. Aircraft

16. The upgraded BrahMos-A will have a range of about:

A. 450 km

B. 600 km

C. 800 km

D. 1000 km

Answer: C. 800 km

17. BrahMos missile is known for its:

- A. Slow speed
- B. Supersonic speed
- C. Underground launch
- D. Nuclear-only use

Answer: B. Supersonic speed

18. The main advantage of extended-range BrahMos-A is:

- A. Low cost
- B. Border-safe strike capability
- C. Smaller size
- D. Civilian use

Answer: B. Border-safe strike capability

19. The IRGC belongs to which nation?

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. Turkey
- D. Syria

Answer: B. Iran

20. India's approach in the Tehran Accord reflects:

- A. Military aggression
- B. Isolation policy
- C. Strategic diplomacy
- D. Trade sanctions

Answer: C. Strategic diplomacy