

Iran fires missiles at terror bases in Pak, day after hitting 'Mossad's Iraq HQ'

Iran launched attacks Tuesday in Pakistan, targeting what it described as bases for militant group Jaish al-Adl. The attack came a day after Tehran fired missiles in Iraq late Monday at what it claimed were Israeli "spy headquarters" near the US consulate in the northern city of Irbil, and at targets linked to extremist group Islamic State in northern Syria.

State-run IRNA agency said missiles and drones were used in the Pakistan attack, which was not immediately acknowledged by Islamabad. Confusion followed the announcements as some of the reports soon disappeared. Jaish al-Adl is a Sunni militant group that largely operates across the border. The strikes came at a time of heightened tensions in the re-



An Iranian missile hit a house in Irbil, Iraq, late on Monday

gion over the Gaza war.

In the Iraq attack, four civilians were killed and six injured after missiles hit an upscale area near the consulate. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said it had hit the headquarters of Mossad, Israeli intel agency, in Iraq. Iraq later recalled its envoy from Tehran for consultation. **INSIDE JACKET**

More incidents of skirmishes between Indian, Chinese troops come to light

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (PTI)

AT LEAST two previously unknown incidents of skirmishes between the Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have come to light with citations for gallantry awards conferred on Indian Army personnel mentioning them.

The citations, read out at an investiture ceremony by the Army's Western Command last week, provided brief details of how the Indian troops responded firmly to the aggressive behaviour by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers along the LAC. The Army's Western Command, which has its headquarters in Chandimandir, had uploaded

a video of the January 13 ceremony featuring the commentary on the gallantry award on its YouTube channel but deactivated it on Monday.

The incidents mentioned in the citations had taken place between September 2021 and November 2022.

There was no immediate comment on the matter by the Army. The Indian Army has been maintaining a very high level of combat readiness along the 3,488 km-long LAC following the clashes in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

There were multiple incidents of skirmishes along the LAC between the Indian and Chinese troops in the last three-and-a-half years following the eruption of the eastern Ladakh

border row in May 2020.

The Chinese troops attempted transgression in the Tawang sector of the LAC as well.

On December 9, 2022, PLA troops tried to transgress the LAC in the Yangtse area of Tawang Sector and unilaterally changed the status quo, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament four days after the incident.

Singh said the Chinese attempt was contested by the Indian troops in a firm and resolute manner. Sources said several Indian Army personnel who were part of the team that responded firmly to the attempted Chinese transgression were also conferred gallantry awards at the investiture ceremony.

Arévalo sworn in as Guatemala's President amid legal challenges

GUATEMALA City, Jan 16 (AP)

BERNARDO Arévalo was sworn in early on Monday as Guatemala's new President.

Many doubted they would ever see the day as powerful interests aligned against his anti-corruption campaign and authorities threw various legal challenges at him and his party.

Arévalo is now President, but those disputes will continue and with little support in Congress he will be hard-pressed to deliver the deep changes in Guatemalan Government and society that fuelled his support and a surprise electoral victory.



He's considered a political moderate with a background in conflict resolution, skills that should serve him well in Guatemala's current polarisation.

Arévalo is the 65-year-old son of former Guatemalan President Juan José Arévalo.

'India can be \$5 tn economy before 2028'

DAVOS, Jan 16 (PTI)

UNION Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday asserted that India can become a five trillion dollar economy much before 2028 and said the country's energy transition needs to be done in an

orderly manner to safeguard the interests of its large population.

Puri said India is aware of its commitments towards sustainability goals and will meet all the targets in time while meeting the requirements of a growing economy.

World needs pragmatism to deal with crises, challenges: Puri

■ By Barun Jha
DAVOS, Jan 16 (PTI)

CITING India's example in dealing with implications from the Ukraine-Russia war, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said the world needs to deal with challenges and crises pragmatically. Speaking at a ses-

sion on 'energy and rivalry' here at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Puri said India took a pragmatic approach in the very beginning after the Ukraine war signalled an energy crisis and the results are for everyone to see.



Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as Housing and Urban Affairs, said India has a large population to take care of and it's the Government's responsibility to feed millions of people three times a day. "But at the same time we

have not let our domestic compulsions come into the way of our global commitments towards a sustainable future," he asserted. Another panelist, European Commission's Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson said she agrees that pragmatism is necessary and Europe also recognises that.

LEADERSHIP

is combination of **DARING,**
SELF-CONFIDENCE: CDS



CDS General
Anil Chouhan

PUNE, Jan 16 (ANI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff, General Anil Chouhan on Tuesday said that the outcome of any combat is dependent on three big tangible elements that are technology, tactics and organisational structures.

General Anil Chouhan along with the chief of three defence forces- Army, Air and Navy addressed young cadets at the event to celebrate 75 years of the National Defence Academy.

“Leadership in the Armed Forces is generally exercised in combat or war, or as a run-up to it. The outcome of any combat, in fact, the smallest form of engagement to the largest campaign or battle, I believe is dependent on three big tangible elements. These are technology, tactics and organisational structures. However, there’s a common intangible thread of military leadership that runs across the entire spec-

trum of combat as a battle-winning factor. The leadership requirements are different as per the nature of combat,” General Anil Chouhan said.

He further added that at the very engagement level in the direct military leadership is the follow-me kind of leadership which emanates from the belief that an officer is born to lead.

“It’s a combination of daring and self-confidence which is important. At the level of battle where probably occupational art is exercised, say at the unit or brigade level is a mix of direct or indirect leadership. The leader will be present at the most critical battle, rest of the places, he places his trust on his subordinates,” he added.

The Chief of Defence Staff also asserted that the leaders must be agile thinkers.

“Subordinates must have faith in their leaders. Military leadership is complex. The most carefully laid out plans go airy after the first bullet is fired. Leaders, must therefore must be agile thinkers, capable of navigating complex situations with creativity and resilience. Military academies and their training generate similar ideas and ideals,” the CDS said.

“Cadets, I must say a job like the light brigade is to fight and not to question why. We must be prepared to go into battle with resolve and without a doubt,” he added.

Iran hits targets in Iraq, Syria as regional tensions escalate

IRBIL, Jan 16 (AP)

IRAN fired missiles late on Monday at what it claimed were Israeli "spy headquarters" near the US consulate in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, and at targets linked to the extremist group Islamic State in northern Syria.

Four civilians were killed and six injured after missiles hit an upscale area near the consulate in Irbil, the seat of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, according to the security council of the Kurdish regional government.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards

said in a statement that it had hit a headquarters of Mossad, the Israeli Intelligence agency, in the Kurdish region of Iraq. Another statement said it had fired a number of ballistic missiles at "terrorist operations," including Islamic State targets, in Syria and destroyed them.

Israel did not immediately acknowledge the attack in Irbil and its embassy in Washington did not return a request for comment on the Iranian allegation regarding the Mossad.

The strikes come at a time of heightened tensions in the region and fears of a wider spillover of the ongoing war in

Gaza. Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7, Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have launched near-daily drone attacks on bases housing US Forces in Iraq and Syria, which the groups have said was in retaliation for Washington's support of Israel, and in an attempt to force US troops to leave the region.

The United States strongly condemns "Iran's reckless missile strikes" in Irbil, said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

He said the attacks "undermine Iraq's stability."

A US defence official who

spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details that had not been made public said the US tracked the missiles, which hit in northern Iraq and northern Syria, and no US facilities were struck or damaged in the attacks. The official said initial indications were that the strikes were "reckless and imprecise."

However, the full extent of the damage from the strikes could not be independently assessed.

An Iraqi security official said Irbil was targeted with "several" ballistic missiles but did not give further details.