

# Israel begins ground raids in Lebanon targeting Hezbollah

IDF says its air force and artillery supported ground troops engaged in 'limited, localised, and targeted' ground attacks against Hezbollah; the militant group says it fired rockets into Israel

Reuters  
BEIRUT

Israel said its troops had launched raids inside Lebanon on Tuesday, starting its widely expected ground operations after two weeks of devastating air strikes against Hezbollah's command structure and weapons sites.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said the operations in Lebanon began on Monday night and involved paratroops and commandos from the elite 98th division, which was deployed to the northern front two weeks ago from Gaza where they had been fighting for months.



**Smoke rises:** Destruction at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike on the Laylaki neighbourhood in southern Beirut on Tuesday. AFP

It said its air force and artillery supported ground troops engaged in "limited, localised, and targeted ground raids" against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon villages that posed "an

immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel". A Lebanese security source said that Israeli units had crossed into Lebanon overnight for reconnaissance and probing op-

erations. Lebanese troops also pulled back from positions along the border, the source added. A Lebanese Army spokesperson did not confirm or deny the movement.

Lebanon's Army has historically stayed on the sidelines of major conflicts with Israel. Local residents in the Lebanese border town of Aita al-Shaab reported heavy shelling and the sound of helicopters and drones overhead.

Hezbollah said on Tuesday it had targeted Israeli troops across the border in Metula twice with artillery and rocket fire but made no mention of Israel's launch of ground operations into Lebanon.

# New Japan PM Ishiba forms Cabinet with emphasis on defence

Associated Press

TOKYO

Japan's Parliament elected Shigeru Ishiba as the new Prime Minister on Tuesday, tasked with addressing public outrage over his governing party's corruption scandals ahead of a parliamentary election later this month, while trying to boost the economy and tackle security challenges from China and North Korea.

Mr. Ishiba replaces Fumio Kishida, who stepped down earlier on Tuesday to pave the way for a fresh leader after Mr. Kishida's government was dogged by scandals.

Mr. Ishiba entered the Prime Minister's Office and formed his Cabinet, which includes several security



Shigeru Ishiba

and defence experts, as he has called for a stronger regional military alliance and a more equal Japan-United States security partnership.

Mr. Ishiba will hold a news conference later on Tuesday to announce his Cabinet and some of his policy priorities.

Mr. Ishiba said he plans to call a parliamentary election for October 27.

# Situation along China border stable but not normal, trust biggest casualty: Army chief

**Dinakar Peri**

NEW DELHI

The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China is “stable” but “not normal”, said Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday, adding that trust has been the “biggest” casualty.

He also cautioned against Chinese “grey zone” warfare tactics.

He was speaking at the curtain-raiser to the Chanakya defence dialogue to be organised jointly by the Army and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies on October 24 and 25.

“The situation on the ground today is stable but it is not normal and it is sensitive. We want the situation that existed pre-April 2020 to be restored, whether it be the ground occupation or situation, the buffer zones that have been created or the patrolling that has



General Upendra Dwivedi

been planned. Till the time that is not restored, as far as we are concerned, the situation will remain sensitive and we are operationally prepared to face any contingency... and in the entire gamut, we see that trust has been the biggest casualty,” General Dwivedi said.

“With China, you have to compete, cooperate, coexist, confront, and contest,” the Army chief said.

On any possible movement in disengagement from the two remaining friction points, the Army Chief said whatever the “low hanging fruits” were, those had already been resolved. He spoke of finding a win-win situation on other difficult aspects. “So some kind of indication has been given from both the diplomatic sides. Now the military side will sit together and see how this can be translated on ground. What is on the table? Everything we can think of is on the table along the northern front, and it also includes Depsang and Demchok,” Gen. Dwivedi said.

On the situation in Manipur, the Army Chief observed that a rumour led to major violence.

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**JAISHANKAR'S CHARGES**

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# Iran fires missiles at Israel, warns against retaliation

Explosions reported in Jerusalem, Jordan River Valley hours after Israel launched ground operations in Lebanon; strikes were a response to campaign against Hezbollah leadership

Reuters  
Agence France-Presse  
JERUSALEM/BEIRUT

Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israel's campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon.

Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River Valley after Israelis piled into bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts.

Reuters journalists saw missiles intercepted in the airspace of neighbouring Jordan. Israeli military said Iran fired around 180 missiles. "IDF (Israeli Army) systems have identified approximately 180 missiles fired towards Israeli territory from Iran," it said.



**Under fire:** A picture taken from the West Bank's Hebron shows projectiles above the Israeli city of Ashdod on Tuesday night. AFP

Earlier, the military had announced that any ballistic missile strike from Iran was expected to be widespread and told the public to shelter in safe rooms in the event of an attack.

Iran has vowed to retaliate following attacks that killed the top leadership of its Hezbollah allies in Leba-

non. The firing of missiles came after Israel said its troops had launched ground raids into Lebanon, though it described the forays as limited.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards threatened to carry out "crushing attacks" against Israel if it retaliated for the missile attack.

"If the Zionist regime reacts to Iranian operations, it will face crushing attacks," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement carried by the Fars news agency.

The IRGC said the attack was "in accordance with the United Nations Charter".

It said it came "after a period of restraint" following an "attack on the sovereignty" of Iran – a reference to the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in late July.

After the attack, Iran suspended flights at Tehran international airport, Iranian media reported late Tuesday.

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# IAF capable of giving befitting reply to enemies: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (PTI)

THE IAF is capable of giving a "befitting reply" to the country's enemies by striking them deep in their territory, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday. He asserted that the Government is committed to equipping the force with the most advanced platforms in line with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision.

In his address at an event at the National War Memorial here, he said the best of the talents in the country should join the Armed Forces to lead a life with a sense of glory,

pride and service to the nation. The event was held as part of the celebrations in the run-up to the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF).



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh during the send-off ceremony of the IAF 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally in New Delhi, on Tuesday. (PTI)

# India trusted partner in Jamaica's devpt journey: PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness prior to their meeting at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (PTI)

INDIA has been a “trusted partner” in Jamaica’s development journey and it is ready to share expertise in a range of areas, including digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation and health with the Caribbean nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

In his media statement, Modi said he and Holness also discussed regional and global issues and agreed that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through talks and that both sides will continue to work towards ensuring global peace and security. India and Jamaica are unanimous that reform of all global institutions, including the UN Security Council, is necessary, he said. Modi said India has been a “trusted and committed” development partner in Jamaica’s growth journey and it will remain so. “We are ready to share our experience with Jamaica in areas of digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation, health, education and agriculture,” he said.

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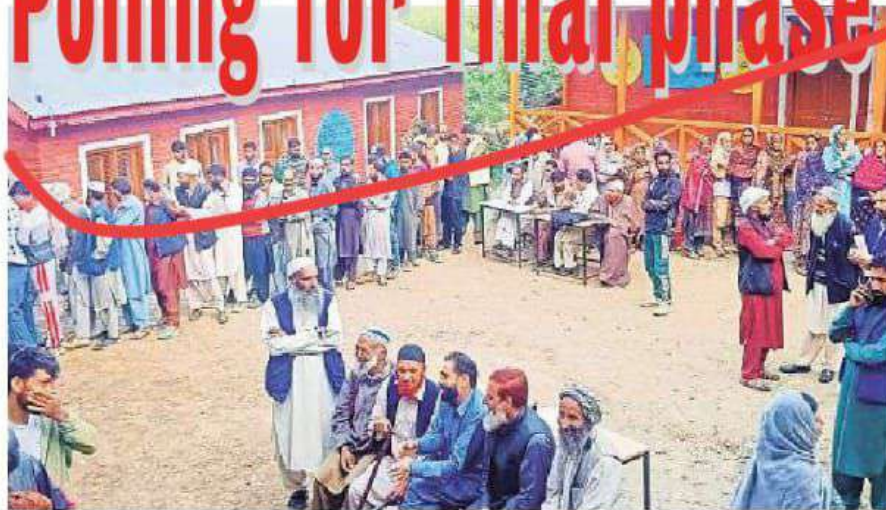
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (PTI)

**THE** third and final phase of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls on Tuesday saw a voter turnout of 68.72 per cent, surpassing the Lok Sabha poll figure in the corresponding seven districts, with the traditional boycott bastions of Sopore and Baramulla recording the highest turnout in an election in the last three decades.

According to Election Commission (EC) data, the overall polling percentage in the three phases was 63.45 per cent.

Officials said the polling went off peacefully in all segments

## Polling for final phase in J&K



People wait in queues to cast their votes during the third and final phase of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, at Sonawari in Bandipora district, J&K, on Tuesday.

(PTI)

including special polling stations along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC) with no untoward incident reported from anywhere.

In the recently held parliamentary polls, the turnout in the seven districts that went to polls in the final phase on Tuesday was recorded at 66.78 per cent.

The turnout in Phases 1 and 2 was also higher than in the Lok Sabha elections.

While seven districts in Phase 1 recorded 61.38 per cent turnout, the figure was 60 per cent in the general elections. Similarly, six districts that went

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