



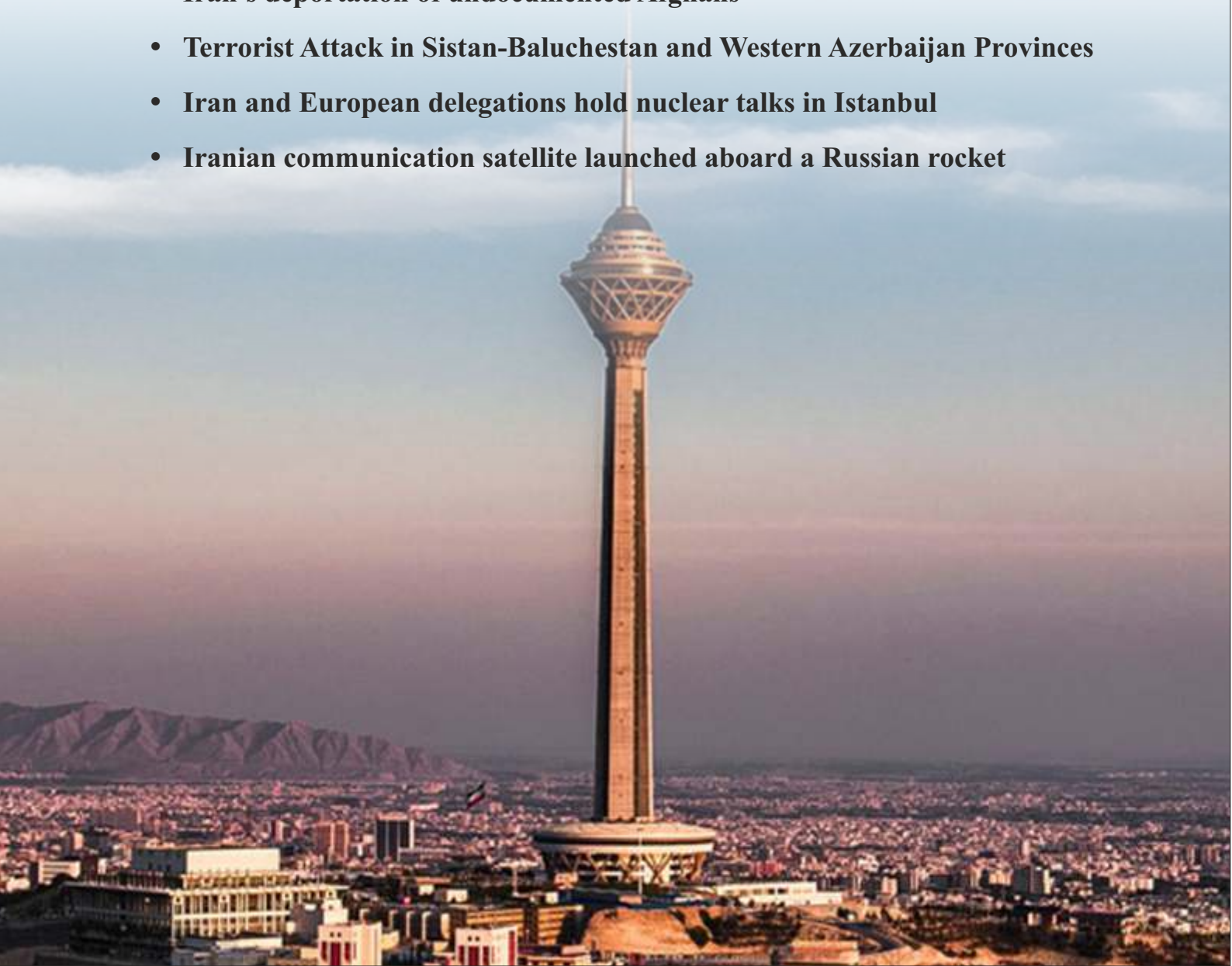
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

# Iran

## *Digest*

July 2025

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## Iranian Foreign Minister attends the SCO meeting in China

On 16 July 2025, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi attended the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tianjin, China. [Araghchi's address](#) noted that the depth of Israeli aggression against targeting of residential, public civilian infrastructure, assassination of military commanders, university professors and death and injuries suffered by more than 6,850 innocent people need to be fully understood and unequivocally condemned. He stated that joint Israeli and US attacks on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities operating under IAEA safeguards dealt a fatal blow to diplomacy, the rule of law, and the nuclear non-proliferation regime. He called on the SCO members to uphold its role as defenders of international law and multilateralism, and safeguard the fundamental principles of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of nations and the prohibition on the use of force. He requested forming a "Shanghai Regional Security Forum" with the participation of defence and intelligence institutions from member states to address shared threats such as terrorism, extremism, organised crime, and cyber threats. He also proposed "establishing a permanent mechanism to monitor, document, and coordinate responses to military aggression, acts of sabotage, state-sponsored terrorism, and violations of member states' national sovereignty." He also called for creating a "Center for Sanctions Studies and Countermeasures" tasked with developing operational strategies to combat unlawful unilateral sanctions, safeguard supply chains, protect banking systems, and secure trade exchanges among member states. Meeting his Chinese counterpart [Wang Yi](#) on the sidelines, Araghchi expressed gratitude for China's valuable support to Iran and said that

Iran is more steadfast than ever in its resolve to develop relations with China. Wang Yi noted that as a comprehensive strategic partner, China will continue to support Iran in safeguarding its state sovereignty and national dignity, resisting power politics and bullying acts, defending its legitimate rights and interests through political negotiations, and adhering to the principle of good-neighbourliness and friendship to continuously improve and develop relations with its neighbouring countries.

## Iran's deportation of undocumented Afghans

On 27 July, Araghchi had a telephone conversation with the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, discussing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and bilateral relations including, Iran's rightful share of water and Afghan refugees being deported by Iran. From 21 March to 27 June, a total of 717,658 Afghan nationals have returned to Afghanistan. On 18 July, Iranian interior Minister [Eskandar Momeni](#) said the country is not planning to deport documented and authorised refugees. "We are only deporting the two million Afghans who are illegally residing in Iran," he said. The head of the National Organization for Migration, Nader Yar-Ahmadi noted that global experience has shown that migrants at most can account for three percent of the population of any country. With Iran's population estimated to reach around 90 million next year, the figure will amount to three million migrants. Currently, there are more than 6.1 million nationals living in the country, which should gradually decrease, Yar-Ahmadi added. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei noted in his weekly press briefing that Iran's [water rights](#) from the Helmand River is one of Iran's top diplomatic priorities in its engagement with Kabul.

## Terrorist Attack in Sistan-Baluchestan and Western Azerbaijan Provinces

On 26 July a statement from the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said that 6 people were martyred and 22 others were wounded when terrorists attacked a courthouse in [Zahedan](#) in Sistan and Baluchestan province. Jaish al-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. 3 terrorists were also killed in clashes with security forces. Brigadier General Alireza Daliri, the deputy commander of the Police in Sistan and Baluchestan Province called the terrorists were affiliated with [Israel](#). A day before Zahedan attack, an IRGC Basij member was killed and another injured in a separate terrorist assault on an [IRGC outpost in Sardasht](#), in the north-western West Azerbaijan Province.

## Iran and European delegations hold nuclear talks in Istanbul

On 25 July, delegations from Iran, the European Union and France, Britain and Germany, held talks at the Iranian consulate in Istanbul amid warnings that the three European powers could trigger "[snapback](#)" sanctions outlined under the 2015 nuclear agreement. The UNSC resolution 2231 governing that deal expires on 18 October, when all UN sanctions on Iran will be lifted unless a "snapback" mechanism is triggered at least 30 days before, automatically re-imposing those sanctions. The European diplomats have given Iran a deadline of the end of August to revive diplomacy and to make "[clear gestures](#)" regarding uranium enrichment and the resumption of cooperation with the IAEA. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi and senior Iranian diplomat Majid Takht-Ravanchi who led the Iranian delegation said that the parties held a "serious, frank and detailed" discussion about sanctions relief and the nuclear issue. "While seriously

criticising their stances regarding the recent war of aggression against our people, we explained our principled positions, including on the so-called snapback mechanism," Gharibabadi said. "It was agreed that consultations on this matter will continue." Earlier, Foreign Ministry spokesperson [Esameil Bahaei](#) had noted that Tehran considers talks of extending the Security Council Resolution 2231 to be doubly "meaningless and baseless".

## Iranian communication satellite launched aboard a Russian rocket

On 25 July, Iran's domestically-built telecommunications satellite, [Nahid-2](#), was successfully launched into orbit aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in eastern Russia. The launch is seen as a milestone in Iran's long-term strategy to expand its presence in space, particularly in satellite communications and Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellations. According to Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Nahid-2 is "a key step toward developing national satellite communications networks, forming domestic LEO constellations, and preparing for future high Earth orbit (GEO) missions." ISA chief Hassan Salarieh stated earlier this year that Iran plans multiple satellite launches in 2025, including Zafar-1, Payam, and Nahid-2. He also noted that the next generation of Nahid satellites is already under design and will be launched using domestically-built Iranian launch vehicles in the future. On 15 July, [Ehsan Chitsaz](#), Deputy Minister of Communications had spoken about Iran's vulnerabilities from depending on the GPS, particularly in light of the experience during Israel-Iran war. "Sometimes, disruptions are caused by internal systems on the GPS network, and this very issue has pushed us toward alternative options such as BeiDou, the Chinese navigation system", Chitsaz stated.