

# Delayed, but delivered! What is Next?

## What is New?

- Israel, eliminated the leader of Hezbollah,
- Initiated a ground operation in Lebanon after air strikes,
- Iran delivered the delayed retaliation on October 1, 2024

## What does it mean?

- Achieved to saturate the Iron Dome, as it failed to handle incoming missiles, revealing its weaknesses,
- Claims of severe damage at the Nevatim Airbase, Mossad HQ, *if confirmed*, likely to have de-escalatory impact on Israel urging it to act in prudence,
- Iran rebuilt its prestige and ruined Israeli prestige which was founded upon invincible defense,
- The US strategic posturing in the Middle East fell short of deterring Iran from a retaliation, degrading the US strategic deterrence,
- Iran restored its weakening control over and regained the trust of its proxies, which was being questioned after the consecutive elimination of their leadership
- Has Iran restored its deterrence, or provoked a massive counter-retaliation (US and Israel combined) remains to be unknown, irrespective of the statements

## Reactions

- The US confirmed its firm stance and support to Israel,
- Iraqi Resistance Forces warned the US not to get involved, otherwise to target the US bases in Iraq,
- Iran warned countries in the region not to assist during the counter-retaliation phase and threatened to target them,
- Israel reacted to the retaliation as a “big mistake” and confirmed its dedication to counter-retaliation,
- Information warfare continues with conflicting narratives,

## What is Next?

- A strong counter-retaliation targeting non-military Iranian assets will likely prompt further escalation and more coordinated attacks of Iran and its proxies, including ground incursion into northern Israel, and the US bases in Iraq,
- If Iran succeeds in repelling a strong counter-retaliation, Iran will likely target critical infrastructure (Haifa Port) of Israel,
- If Arab States get involved in support of the Israeli retaliation, including the use of the US bases in the region, they will likely get targeted.