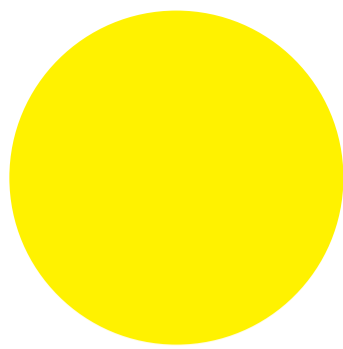


Data: Free zone foreign investment value soars 531%, realized investment up 268%

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IRGC batters 100 Israeli sites in fresh strikes; Tel Aviv left in blackout

Navy targets occupying regime's naval fleet, forces US warship to retreat

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Iran's trump card in war

By Edris Khosravi
Expert on international relations

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In simple terms, geopolitics refers to the influence of a country's geography on its policymaking. This concept goes beyond political geography — it also encompasses human, economic, cultural, natural resource, and technological factors.

However, geopolitical advantages are not necessarily permanent. Technological developments, such as navigation, missile and nuclear weapons, the rise or decline of trade routes, fluctuations in the use of certain natural resources, and the formation or collapse of alliances, all influence a country's geopolitical position. Therefore, while the geography of regions remains largely constant, geopolitical advantages and challenges evolve through the interaction of geography, government decisions, and technological progress.

Although Iran enjoys strong geopolitical advantages, it faces serious threats for two main reasons:

1. The Iranian government's neglect of the steadily declining importance of geopolitical and ideological factors in favor of the growing significance of geo-economic ones.

2. A lack of pragmatism and flexibility needed to adapt to the shifts shaping the regional and global geopolitical order.

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Martyred security chief, Basij commander, sailors glide over shoulders to eternal abode



The coffin of Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani is seen during a funeral ceremony held in Tehran, Iran, on March 18, 2026. IRNA

National Desk

A funeral ceremony was held on Wednesday for Iran's top security official, commander of Basij force as well as scores of Iranian sailors martyred in the ongoing aggression by the US and the Israeli regime against Iran. Thousands of Iranians from all walks of life gathered in Tehran's iconic Enqelab Square to bid farewell to the victims of the crimes committed by the US and Israel against Iran.

The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani along with his son

were killed in an Israeli airstrike in Tehran on March 17. The Commander of the Basij Force, Major General Gholam Reza Soleimani, was also killed in separate airstrike by the Israeli regime in Tehran.

The funeral was also held for 84 crew members of Iran's Dena destroyer which was targeted by a US submarine on March 4 while returning from the MILAN 2026 Naval Exercise in India.

The attack on the destroyer claimed the lives of 104 crew members. The bodies of 84 sailors have been returned to

the country while 20 others still remain missing.

The strike, which was carried out hundreds of miles away from the war zone, also injured 32 others who were transferred to a hospital in Sri Lanka for medical treatment.

Messages of condolences

Messages of condolences from Iranian officials were poured in following the martyrdom of Ali Larijani.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a message on Wednesday extended his condolences over the martyrdom of

Larijani and expressed his deep sorrow over his martyrdom.

Pezeshkian vowed "severe revenge" for the "terrorist criminals" who committed the crimes against the Iranian people.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said future generations will remember Ali Larijani as a man who spent all his life defending the Islamic Revolution and Iran.

"Certainly, the struggles and bravery of this steadfast soldier of the Leader of the Revolution and the great Iranian nation will always remain in our collective memory," Qalibaf said in

a message on Wednesday.

Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei also expressed condolences over the martyrdom of Larijani, describing him as a dedicated servant of the Islamic Revolution.

The chief commander of the Iranian Army Major General Amir Hatami also vowed a decisive response to the killing of Larijani.

He said the assassination of Larijani will never undermine the will of the "great Iranian nation in safeguarding the independence, freedom and Iran's territorial integrity".

