

CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2025

IN 1. Indian Current Affairs (National Importance)

1. **India's G20 Presidency Legacy (2023–2025)** – India's role in shaping global South narrative and digital economy cooperation.
 2. **Chandrayaan-3 & Gaganyaan Mission** – India's space success and preparation for human spaceflight.
 3. **5G & 6G Technology Drive in India** – Indigenous telecom innovation and AI-driven digital transformation.
 4. **New Criminal Laws (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2025)** – Shift from colonial laws to citizen-centric justice.
 5. **Union Budget 2025–26 Highlights** – Focus on infrastructure, green energy, Make-in-India and youth skill missions.
 6. **India's Renewable Energy & Green Hydrogen Mission** – Targeting 500 GW clean energy capacity.
 7. **NEP 2020 Implementation Progress** – Holistic, skill-based and tech-enabled education.
 8. **Digital India & Cyber Security Expansion** – National Cyber Coordination Centre, AI safety regulation.
 9. **Ayushman Bharat & Health Infrastructure** – Expanding coverage to rural India.
 10. **Startup India & Unicorn Growth** – India's global position as innovation hub.
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2. World & Geopolitical Affairs

1. **India-US Strategic Tech Partnership (iCET Framework)** – Focus on AI, semiconductors, defence production.
2. **India-China Border Situation (LAC, Eastern Ladakh)** – Current stability and long-term strategic posture.
3. **India-Russia Energy & Defence Relations** – Balancing oil imports and indigenous production.
4. **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)** – India's counter to China's BRI.
5. **QUAD Cooperation (India, Japan, US, Australia)** – Maritime security and Indo-Pacific freedom of navigation.
6. **India's Role in BRICS+ Expansion** – Voice for Global South and trade in local currencies.
7. **Israel-Hamas Conflict & West Asia Stability** – India's balanced diplomacy and humanitarian stance.
8. **Ukraine-Russia Conflict Updates** – Strategic neutrality and defence technology impacts.
9. **China-Taiwan Tensions & Indo-Pacific Dynamics** – Implications for Indian Navy and regional security.

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10. **ASEAN & Indian Ocean Diplomacy** – India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
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3. Defence & Strategic Affairs

1. **Agniveer Scheme & Modernisation of Armed Forces** – Training, restructuring, and long-term career vision.
 2. **Indigenous Defence Manufacturing (Make in India Defence)** – Tejas Mk-2, INS Vikrant, K9 Vajra, Pinaka upgrades.
 3. **Defence Space Command & AI Integration in Warfare** – Role of new-age tech in future battlefields.
 4. **Joint Exercises 2025** – Garuda, Yudh Abhyas, Malabar, Milan etc.
 5. **India's Defence Exports & Atmanirbhar Push** – Exporting BrahMos, Akash, and drones.
 6. **Andaman & Nicobar – Tri-service Theatre Command** – Strategic hub in Indo-Pacific.
 7. **New Military Infrastructure at LAC & LOC** – Roads, tunnels, surveillance tech upgrades.
 8. **Maritime Security & Blue Economy** – Strengthening Indian Navy presence in Indo-Pacific.
 9. **Cyber & Information Warfare Challenges** – AI-driven defence preparedness.
 10. **India's Role in UN Peacekeeping & Global Security** – Leadership in humanitarian and stabilization missions.
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4. Global Conflicts & India's Response

1. **Russia–Ukraine War (2022–ongoing)** – India's strategic neutrality and humanitarian diplomacy.
 2. **Israel–Hamas War (2023–2025)** – Impact on West Asia peace and oil markets.
 3. **Sudan Civil War (2023–2025)** – India's evacuation ops and stability role in Africa.
 4. **South China Sea Tensions** – QUAD's balancing act and India's naval cooperation.
 5. **Taiwan–China Flashpoint** – India's strategic alignment with democracies.
 6. **Armenia–Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)** – End of separatist conflict and energy route implications.
 7. **Yemen Crisis** – Humanitarian situation and India's maritime evacuation operations.
 8. **Pakistan's Internal Political Instability** – Cross-border implications for India.
 9. **Afghanistan Post-Taliban Developments** – India's cautious engagement and humanitarian outreach.
 10. **Red Sea Piracy & Maritime Trade Threats** – India's anti-piracy naval patrols.
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5. Science, Tech & Environment

1. **AI Regulation Policy 2025** – Balancing innovation with safety.
 2. **Quantum Computing Initiatives** – India's National Quantum Mission.
 3. **ISRO's Aditya-L1 & Gaganyaan Mission Updates** – Solar research and human spaceflight.
 4. **Climate Change & COP-30 Preparations** – India's leadership in sustainable development.
 5. **Electric Vehicle Policy & Green Mobility Push** – Net zero targets and manufacturing shift.
 6. **Digital Public Infrastructure Exports (UPI, Aadhaar stack)** – India's digital diplomacy.
 7. **Water Security & Jal Jeevan Mission** – Rural coverage and sustainable use.
 8. **AI in Defence & Civil Administration** – Decision-support and surveillance systems.
 9. **Cyber Threats & Data Privacy** – National Digital Personal Data Protection Act.
 10. **India's Blue Economy Mission** – Deep ocean exploration & sustainable marine resource use.
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6. Social, Economic & Youth-Relevant Topics

1. **New Education & Skill Development Policies** – Focus on vocational education.
2. **Women in Armed Forces** – Permanent commission and combat roles.
3. **One Nation One Election Debate** – Administrative feasibility and constitutional reforms.
4. **Unemployment & Start-up Ecosystem** – Youth entrepreneurship drive.
5. **Sports Achievements (Olympics & Asian Games)** – India's global sports rise.
6. **Digital Literacy & Rural Connectivity** – Bridging urban-rural tech divide.
7. **Population Policy & Demographic Dividend** – Need for skill development.
8. **India's GDP Growth & Inflation Trends** – Balance between growth & fiscal control.
9. **Smart Cities & Urban Development** – Green infrastructure and digital governance.
10. **Disaster Management & NDMA Reforms** – Building resilient India.

2025 INDIAN Current Affairs

1. Exercise Trishul 2025

- Past: India's tri-service exercises historically had limited scope integrating land, sea and air forces.
- Present: Trishul 2025 is being held on the western border and adjacent maritime zones, testing joint Army-Navy-Air Force operations and multi-domain coordination. ([GKToday](#))

It is focusing on realistic threat scenarios, rapid deployment, and interoperability across services.

The exercise also sends a strong deterrence signal to regional adversaries.

- Future: The exercise will evolve into a recurring large-scale event institutionalising "one force" joint war-fighting doctrine.

2. Defence Procurement Manual 2025

- Past: India's procurement processes were lengthy with multiple layers of approval, slowing modernisation.
- Present: The DPM 2025, effective Nov 1 2025, simplifies acquisition, fast-tracks decision-making, and emphasises public-private collaboration. ([Drishti IAS](#))
It also aligns with the aim of reducing import-dependence and speeding up deployment of new systems.
The policy is intended to support indigenous technology development and exports.
- Future: It will enable India to rapidly build and field next-gen capabilities, becoming self-reliant and a global defence supplier.

3. Mission Sudarshan Chakra

- Past: India's air defence systems were primarily legacy platforms, not fully integrated with cyber/space domains.
- Present: Announced August 2025, Mission Sudarshan Chakra is meant to be an indigenous multi-layer air defence system modelled on "Iron Dome", integrating AI, quantum, UAS counter-measures. ([The Economic Times](#))
It will protect critical infrastructure (military, civilian, religious) from aerial and cyber threats.
It emphasises "defend-and-punish" doctrine rather than purely reactive defence.
- Future: By 2035, it aims to be fully operational and be a benchmark for regional air/domain-defence architecture.

4. DRDO-led Indigenous Defence Exports Surge

- Past: India was mostly a large arms-importer, with limited export reach or indigenous manufacturing scale.
- Present: After Operation Sindoora, Indian defence industry has gained global recognition, exporting systems like Akash, BrahMos, D4 anti-drone systems. ([SSBCrack](#))

The export push supports Atmanirbhar Bharat and strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and Africa.

Public-private partnerships and defence industrial corridors are fuelling the transformation.

- Future: India aims to become a top 5 global defence exporting nation by the end of the decade.

5. Year of Reforms 2025 by Ministry of Defence

- Past: Many reform initiatives existed, but jointness, speed and technology assimilation remained weak.
- Present: The MoD has declared 2025 as the Year of Reforms, with focus on joint operational command, new domains (cyber, space), simplified acquisitions and technology transfer. ([kgs.live](#))
It emphasises breaking silos between services and involving the private sector heavily.
Veteran welfare, cultural pride and defence exports are also priority focus areas.
- Future: The reform agenda will reshape India's military into a technologically agile force ready for tomorrow's threats.

6. Satellite Protection Project / Space-Asset Defence

- Past: India's space assets were increasingly vulnerable to near-misses and foreign adversary manoeuvres.
- Present: India is fast-tracking defence of its satellites including "bodyguard" satellites, invest in space-situational awareness, surveillance networks. ([Wikipedia](#))
The project forms part of India's broader push in space-domain security and multi-domain operations.
It links defence, ISRO, and research institutions to protect national strategic infrastructure.
- Future: India will build a layered space-asset defence architecture and become a key player in secure space operations.

7. Vayu Samanvay-II Drone & Counter-Drone Exercise

- Past: Unmanned systems were used mostly for surveillance; counter-UAS readiness was limited.
- Present: Indian Army's Southern Command held Vayu Samanvay-II (Oct 2025) – large-scale drone and counter-drone drill in desert sector, testing multi-domain integration and electronic warfare. ([Testbook](#))
It reflects the shift to drone warfare and the need for specialised doctrines and systems.
The exercise is aligned with future-war-scenarios involving low-signature drones and swarms.
- Future: Drone technology and counter-UAS will become integral to Indian defence, and India will develop a regional counter-drone hub.

8. Indian Navy Fleet Modernisation & Indo-Pacific Strategy

- Past: Indian Navy relied partly on foreign war-ships and was primarily focused on coastal defence.
- Present: The Navy has 54 ships under construction (as of Sept 2025), signed deals for 26 Dassault Rafale M aircraft, and is expanding island air-bases and maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific. ([Wikipedia](#))
Recent strategy is emphasising blue-water capability, submarine fleet expansion, and anti-submarine warfare.
The strategic competition in the Indian Ocean with China is driving the naval build-up.
- Future: By 2035, the Navy aims to have over 200 warships and a dominant maritime presence in the region.

9. Indian Army-Academia Collaboration for Defence Innovation

- Past: Academic institutions and military R&D operated largely in silos, with limited integration.
- Present: The Army signed an MoU with Delhi Technological University (DTU) in Oct 2025 to collaborate on AI, robotics, cyber, geoinformatics training for military personnel. ([The Times of India](#))
The initiative connects academic innovation with real battlefield requirements and strengthens the tech-skilled workforce.
It supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat agenda in defence tech and human capability.
- Future: Such partnerships will become standard, enabling rapid prototyping, tech assimilation and smarter armed forces.

10. Ministry of Home Affairs's Nationwide Civil Defence Drill (Operation Abhyas 2025)

- Past: Civil defence drills were sporadic and limited to small regions.
- Present: On 7 May 2025, MHA coordinated a mock drill across 244 districts (Operation Abhyas) to test evacuation, blackout simulations and readiness against hostile threats. ([Wikipedia](#))
It reflects growing focus on internal security, hybrid threats and civil-military coordination.
The exercise broadens security awareness among civilians and strengthens disaster management readiness.
- Future: India will institutionalise regular multi-domain civil defence drills integrating cybersecurity, drones and mass-response systems.

SET -2

Semiconductors & India's Chip Ecosystem

Past: India relied heavily on imported chips and had minimal fabrication capacity.

Present: The government has launched a major initiative to build a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem, with large incentives for fabs and packaging units. [Vision IAS+2Drishti IAS+2](#)
The focus is on critical minerals, design-capability, and reducing dependence on foreign supply chains.

The move aligns with global chip-shortage lessons and India's goal to become a manufacturing hub.

Future: India aims to host major global chip-fabrication plants and become a key node in the global semiconductor supply chain.

India's Industrial Growth Slowdown in September 2025

Past: India's industrial output had been growing steadily with double-digit spurts post-pandemic.

Present: Industrial growth dipped to around 4% in September 2025, marking a three-month low and raising concerns about the manufacturing sector. [GKToday+1](#)

The slowdown is attributed to weak demand, supply-chain disruptions, and global headwinds. Policymakers are monitoring closely and considering stimulus/support measures for key industries.

Future: Efforts will focus on policy reforms, manufacturing push and revival of industrial output to re-accelerate growth.

8. Nationwide Civil Defence Mock Drill (Operation Abhyas)

Past: India's large-scale civil defence drills were rare and mostly regional.

Present: On 7 May 2025, the Operation Abhyas 2025 was conducted across 244 districts, involving mock blackouts, evacuations and war-type simulations to enhance civil readiness.

[Indiatimes](#)

This marks a shift towards integrating civilian preparedness with national security and disaster-response frameworks.

The exercise also involved coordination between military, civil agencies and local volunteers.

Future: Such drills will become routine, institutionalised and extended to include future-domain threats like cyber and drones.

9. India–Pakistan 2025 Crisis & Post-Conflict Adjustments

Past: India and Pakistan have had several conflicts and cease-fires since 1947.

Present: In 2025 tensions escalated, operations (like Operation Sindoora) triggered cross-border strikes, international diplomacy and heightened alertness along the border. [Wikipedia+1](#)

These developments have implications for military readiness, civilian security and regional

alliances.

Both countries are reviewing their defence posture, command-structures and alliances accordingly.

Future: The bilateral relationship will remain volatile; India will further strengthen its borders, surveillance and deterrence strategy.

Karnataka Startup Policy & Emerging Tech Push

Past: Indian states had startup schemes but tech-deep startup focus was less structured.

Present: The Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–2030 was approved with ₹518 crore outlay to create 25,000 new startups including 10,000 outside Bengaluru, focusing on AI, blockchain, quantum tech. [The Times of India](#)

This emphasises India's intention to become a global innovation hub, decentralise startup growth, and link technology with economic and defence growth.

Integration with defence/dual-use tech and export-oriented innovation is visible.

Future: Karnataka will emerge as a national deep-tech centre and serve as a model for other states.

India's Electronics Export Boom

Past: Electronics manufacturing & exports in India were relatively modest and dominated by imported components.

Present: India's electronics export figures have surged driven by PLI schemes, global supply-chain shifts and policy support; the electronics sector is now a major growth frontier. [PMF IAS+1](#)

This growth is essential for economic self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and has implications for defence-electronics, consumer tech and employment.

Export diversification from traditional sectors is increasing.

Future: India will become one of the top electronics exporting countries and integrate with global value-chains effectively.

India's Indo-Pacific & African Naval Engagement

Past: India's maritime role was largely regional and limited to Indian Ocean.

Present: India has initiated its largest-ever joint naval exercises with African countries and expanded its Indo-Pacific strategy to counterbalance other powers. [Financial Times+1](#)

This reflects the shift in maritime diplomacy, naval diplomacy and multi-region security cooperation.

India is leveraging its navy as an instrument of strategic influence beyond immediate neighbourhood.

Future: India will have a sustained blue water presence and become a key security partner in the Indo-Pacific and African maritime region.

Private Sector Role in Defence Manufacturing

Past: Defence manufacturing in India was primarily state-dominated (e.g., Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) with limited private participation.

Present: A defence panel has recommended far greater private-sector involvement to boost fighter-jet production and fill capability gaps. [Reuters](#)

This marks a turning point in the defence-industrial ecosystem and signals reform in procurement/manufacturing.

Private firms will get bigger roles, faster delivery timelines and better integration with R&D.

Future: India's defence industry will be a combined public-private ecosystem with rapid production and exports.

India's Doctrine for Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)

Past: Indian military operations were mainly template of land & air, with limited integration across domains.

Present: India is actively developing joint doctrines, capability road-maps and testing operations across land, sea, air, cyber and space domains. [GKToday+1](#)

Multi-domain readiness is becoming the cornerstone of future defence planning.

Training, exercises and procurement are aligning with this doctrine.

Future: The doctrine will be fully operationalised and every service will train to fight jointly across all domains.

India's Economy: Strong Q1 Growth & Headwinds

Past: India had moderate growth, recovering from pandemic impact.

Present: India's GDP showed a strong 7.8% year-on-year growth in April-June 2025, indicating robust economic momentum. [딜로이트](#)

At the same time industrial output slowdown and global inflation pose challenges.

Policy makers are balancing growth stimulus with fiscal discipline.

Future: India will aim to maintain high growth, strengthen manufacturing, and address structural challenges like employment & exports.

SET-3

Exercise TROPEX (Indian Navy)

Past: India's naval exercises were mostly separate war-games for fleet readiness.

Present: TROPEX 2025 is a large theatre-level operational exercise involving Navy, Army & Air Force with submarines, ships and cyber/electronic warfare integration. [Wikipedia+1](#)
It spans broad maritime zones and tests India's maritime strategy in the Indo-Pacific.
The exercise enhances inter-service coordination and maritime domain awareness.

Future: Such joint maritime drills will become a regular feature and expand to include allied navies and multi-domain warfare.

Mission Sudarshan Chakra (Air/Space & Multi-Layer Defence)

Past: India's air and space defence relied on legacy systems and limited integration.

Present: Mission Sudarshan Chakra is being rolled out to build an indigenous multi-layer defence network for air, cyber and space threats. [Wikipedia](#)
It signals a proactive "defend-and-punish" doctrine and deepens defence R&D.
Indigenous manufacture is emphasised under the self-reliant defence push.

Future: The project will mature into a full-fledged defensive architecture safeguarding critical infrastructure and space assets.

Private Sector in Defence Manufacturing

Past: State-owned PSUs dominated India's defence production with minimal private participation.

Present: A recent defence panel has recommended greater private-sector involvement to boost fighter production and address capability gaps. [Reuters](#)
Reforms are underway to open up the aerospace/defence sector and integrate private firms.
This shift aligns with the "Make in India / Make for World" strategy.

Future: The defence industry will evolve into a hybrid civil-military-private ecosystem with faster output and global reach.

India-Israel Defence & Technology Cooperation

Past: India and Israel have long had strategic ties in defence technology and intelligence sharing.

Present: The 17th India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on defence met in Nov 2025, focusing on AI, cyber security, R&D and industrial cooperation. [AffairsCloud](#)
The partnership expands co-development of dual-use technologies and strengthening joint training.
It reflects India's strategic outreach and diversification of defence ties.

Future: The collaboration will deepen further and form part of India's multi-vector foreign policy and defence innovation network.

Space Asset Protection & Military-Space Domain

Past: India's space assets were mostly civilian and surveillance-focused with relatively less threat perception.

Present: The "Satellite Protection Project" and space-asset defence initiatives are gaining traction to protect India's growing space infrastructure. [Wikipedia](#)

India is focusing on space-situational awareness, body-guard satellites and layered geo-space defences.

This shift recognises space as a contested domain and integrates with multi-domain operations.

Future: India will build a comprehensive space-defence architecture and become a key player in space security regionally.

Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor Investment

Past: India's defence production was concentrated in a few states and lacked regional industrial corridors.

Present: Tamil Nadu aims to attract ₹75,000 crore investment via its defence industrial corridor by 2032; several hubs are being developed. [The Times of India](#)

The corridor is envisaged to become a key node for aerospace, ship-building and defence electronics.

It aligns regional economic growth with defence readiness and export potential.

Future: This regional corridor model will be replicated across other states, creating a network of defence manufacturing hubs.

India's Defence Budget & Manufacturing Surge

Past: India's defence budget and domestic production were relatively modest compared to current levels.

Present: The defence budget for 2025-26 has increased substantially; indigenous production surged (e.g., from ₹46,429 crore in 2014-15 to much higher). [Press Information Bureau+1](#)

Focus is on self-reliance, public-private partnership and export growth in defence.

This strengthens India's military capability, industrial base and strategic autonomy.

Future: India will leverage defence manufacturing for economic growth and become a top global exporter of defence equipment.

India's Maritime Strategy in the Indo-Pacific

Past: Maritime focus was largely regional with limited projection beyond the Indian Ocean.

Present: India is expanding its blue-water capabilities, engaging with Indo-Pacific partners, and reinforcing strategic naval presence. [Wikipedia](#)

Investment in shipbuilding, submarines and island infrastructure is underway.

The naval doctrine is shifting to control sea-lanes, deter adversaries and secure maritime interests.

Future: India will emerge as a major maritime security provider in the Indo-Pacific region and build a fleet of 150-200 warships.

Industrial Growth & Challenges (Manufacturing Output)

Past: Industrial output in India had periods of strong growth post-liberalisation but faced structural issues.

Present: Industrial growth slowed to around 4% in September 2025, raising concerns about manufacturing momentum and employment. (Based on earlier list)

Policymakers are evaluating stimulus, PLI schemes and supply-chain reforms.

The slowdown poses risks to export targets and manufacturing competitiveness.

Future: Reviving manufacturing growth will be central to India's "Make in India" strategy and job creation agenda.

Digital Data Centres & Energy Demand in India

Past: Data centres and digital infrastructure were smaller in scale and energy consumption was moderate.

Present: AI/data-centre growth is driving surging electricity demand; India is exploring innovative power solutions and SMRs (Small Modular Reactors). [Next IAS](#)

Demand for GPUs and high-compute racks is increasing electricity and cooling loads significantly. Digital infrastructure is becoming critical for defence, economy and governance.

Future: India will build a robust data-centre ecosystem integrated with defence, civilian and digital service capabilities, with clean-energy solutions.

SET – 4

Missile Test-Bench Facility by Axiscades Aerospace & Technologies & MBDA

Past: India depended heavily on imported missile test infrastructure and limited indigenous test-bench capability.

Present: Axiscades has inaugurated a state-of-the-art missile test-bench facility at Devanahalli in partnership with MBDA, supporting localisation of missile & launcher platforms. [The Times of India](#)

The facility will also host an “Atmanirbhar Cluster” for missile systems and an integration centre, boosting India’s missile production ecosystem. [The Times of India](#)

This is a strategic effort to reduce import dependence and develop export-capability in missile technology.

Future: India will become a regional export hub for missile test benches and missile systems, strengthening defence manufacturing.

Advanced Night-Sight Procurement for Indian Army

Past: Infantry night-combat capability was limited and often reliant on foreign tech.

Present: The Ministry of Defence approved a ₹659.47 crore contract for image-intensifier night-sights (SIG 716 rifles) with >51% indigenous content, enhancing low-light target engagement up to 500 m. [The Economic Times](#)

This procurement supports MSMEs and domestic defence production under the self-reliance agenda. [The Economic Times](#)

It reflects India’s focus on equipping troops for 24/7 operations across varied terrains.

Future: The army’s standard infantry equipment will be fully modernised, with indigenous night-vision gear becoming standard issue.

Underwater Object Identification Tech: Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) & Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) Collaboration

Past: Maritime surveillance focused primarily on traditional platforms; deep-sea AI tech was underdeveloped.

Present: IIIT-A and NSTL are developing AI/deep-learning-based tech for identifying underwater objects, marine life and structures, enhancing submarine detection and maritime intelligence. [The Times of India](#)

The system uses continuous learning models to classify underwater entities, supporting naval operations and marine research. [The Times of India](#)

It positions India to lead in Indian-Ocean deep-sea surveillance and maritime domain awareness.

Future: India will deploy a network of AI-enabled underwater sensors and systems, boosting blue-water capabilities and deep-sea intelligence reach.

17th India–Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation

Past: India-Israel defence collaboration existed but was narrower in scope.

Present: In November 2025, the 17th JWG convened in Tel Aviv; a new MoU focuses on AI, cyber-security, R&D and industrial cooperation in defence. [AffairsCloud](#)

The agreement strengthens co-development/co-production and strategic training between the two countries. [AffairsCloud](#)

The partnership reflects India's push to diversify defence ties and incorporate high-tech joint innovation.

Future: India and Israel will become co-developers of next-gen defence systems, with India gaining advanced capabilities and export potential.

Submarine Deal: Project-75(I) (India) Advanced Submarine Acquisition

Past: India's submarine fleet was ageing and based largely on older-gen foreign designs.

Present: Negotiations are underway for 6 German-origin advanced submarines under Project-75(I), with heavy emphasis on AIP-systems, indigenisation and design transfer. [Wikipedia](#)

Discussions include a follow-on option for 3 additional submarines, and mission-critical torpedoes & systems being integrated. [Wikipedia](#)

The deal aims at boosting stealth naval deterrence and deep-sea strategic capability.

Future: India will build a world-class submarine fleet with advanced stealth, indigenised systems and combat-ready capabilities by 2030s.

Drone & Counter-Drone Exercise (Largest-ever) – “Cold Start”

Past: Unmanned aerial systems were primarily surveillance tools with limited counter-drone effort.

Present: India plans its biggest drone versus counter-drone exercise in October 2025, following large-scale UAS usage in May operations; the exercise will test new drones, counter-UAS tech and multi-domain integration. [Reuters](#)

This marks a strategic pivot to unmanned systems in air defence and offence. [Reuters](#)
It signals India is addressing the emerging drone-arms race in the region.

Future: India will institutionalise drone exercise regimes and build a layered UAS/anti-UAS architecture for future warfare.

Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025

Past: Procurement processes were slow, opaque and limited the private-sector role.

Present: The DPM 2025, effective 1 November 2025, streamlines acquisition, facilitates approx ₹1 lakh crore deals, opens MSMEs/start-ups, and aligns with self-reliance goals.

[Testbook+1](#)

It simplifies categories, reduces layers and speeds up approval pipelines.

It represents a major shift in defence acquisition culture.

Future: The manual will accelerate modernisation, boost private participation and drive export-oriented defence industry growth.

Rare Earths & Critical Minerals Strategy for Defence

Past: India relied heavily on foreign sources for rare earths and critical defence metals.

Present: India is developing policies and supply-chains for rare-earth extraction, refining and use in defence applications (e.g., missiles, radar, electronics) amid global supply-chain shifts.

This supports both defence manufacturing and secure supply-lines.

It mitigates risks posed by choke-point dependencies and geopolitical leverage.

Future: India will become self-sufficient in critical-minerals for defence and create value-chains for export and strategic independence.

Indian Electronics & Computing Export Surge

Past: Electronics manufacturing in India was predominantly assembly-based with heavy import dependence.

Present: Under PLI schemes and global supply-chain shifts, India's electronics exports have surged; this has dual-use importance for defence electronics, communication and IoT systems.

Defence-electronics manufacturing now overlaps civilian sector growth.

This shift enhances India's role in value-chains and strategic technology resilience.

Future: India will emerge as a key global hub for electronics and defence-electronics export, supporting armed-forces modernisation and economy alike.

Maritime Domain Awareness & Indo-Pacific Naval Strategy

Past: India's naval strategy was mostly coastal defence-oriented with limited deep-sea projection.

Present: India is expanding maritime influence in the Indo-Pacific & African littorals, upgrading island-air-bases, enhancing submarine & surface fleet, and strengthening partnerships with regional navies. [Indian Defence News+1](#)

Maritime domain awareness (MDA) and sea-lane security have become strategic pillars. The drive counters Chinese naval presence and secures Indian Ocean trade routes.

Future: India will command a blue-water navy, maintain persistent presence across the Indo-Pacific and safeguard regional maritime commons.

Civil Defence & Multi-Hazard Readiness Exercises

Past: Civil-defence drills were episodic and limited to regional levels.

Present: National-scale mock-drills integrate civil & military agencies including evacuation, blackout simulation, cyber/disaster readiness and homeland safety frameworks.

These drills build resilience against hybrid threats and domestic emergencies.

They reflect expanding scope of national security beyond traditional war-zones.

Future: Civil-military preparedness will become institutionalised; hybrid-threat readiness will be integral to national security doctrine.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model in Defence Manufacturing

Past: Defence manufacturing largely state-owned with limited private investment.

Present: Private sector firms are partnering with global majors, building missile test-benches, defence clusters and integration centres under “Make in India”. [The Times of India](#)

This enhances competitiveness, innovation and export-oriented capability.

The shift is restructuring the defence industry landscape.

Future: A robust PPP ecosystem will drive defence manufacturing, reduce imports and make India a major exporter.

Space-Asset Defence & Satellite Protection Initiatives

Past: Space systems were mostly civilian; military-space defence was in early stages.

Present: India is accelerating space-asset protection, developing situational awareness, body-guard satellites and layered defence for strategic space infrastructure. [Wikipedia](#)
Space is now recognised as a war-fighting domain with dual civilian-military significance.
The move safeguards key infrastructure and supports multi-domain operations.

Future: India will build a fully integrated space-defence architecture, becoming a key player in secure space operations and deterrence.

Two-Front Threat Preparedness & Force Restructuring

Past: Indian military planning often emphasised the western front; eastern and multi-domain fronts were less prioritised.

Present: India is restructuring forces, raising new commands, enhancing logistics, and modernising doctrine to address simultaneous threats from north (China) and west (Pakistan) – including hybrid and cyber threats. [Drishti IAS](#)

The focus includes rapid reaction forces, integrated commands and domain-agnostic readiness.

It reflects modern warfare realities where borders blur and threats come from multiple domains.

Future: India will achieve seamless force posture for two-front + multi-domain operations, enabling flexible global deployment.

Defence Export Diversification & Strategic Alliances

Past: India was a major defence importer with minimal exports and limited strategic partnerships in manufacturing.

Present: India is exporting defence systems to 90+ countries, forging strategic alliances in defence production, co-development and technology transfer. [Indian Defence News+1](#)
Export-friendly policies, clusters and start-ups are gaining momentum under self-reliance agenda.

These exports enhance diplomatic leverage, economic growth and strategic depth.

Future: India will become a top-10 defence exporter, and defence diplomacy will become a key pillar of foreign policy.

GEO Politics of 2025

1. India–Pakistan 2025 Crisis / Operation Sindoor

- **Past:** India–Pakistan relations have repeatedly seen flare-ups and punitive cross-border strikes since 1947.
 - **Present:** Operation Sindoor (May 2025) involved precision strikes and aerial engagements; it showed India's willingness to use calibrated military force against terrorist infrastructure while avoiding wider escalation.
The crisis triggered airspace closures, heightened border vigilance and diplomatic counter-moves.
Lessons emphasise jointness, intelligence fusion and rapid politico-military decision making.
 - **Future:** India will retain a calibrated deterrent posture but invest further in counter-terror strike capabilities and crisis management. ([Press Information Bureau](#))
-

2. India–China Border Dynamics & Normalisation Steps

- **Past:** After the 2020 Galwan clashes, long-drawn disengagement, patrol faceoffs and infrastructure races shaped the border.
 - **Present:** While tensions persist (infrastructure build-up on both sides), diplomatic & military channels have seen episodic thaw (resumption of some flights, talks on stabilisation).
China's continued LAC infrastructure build-up and PLA force posture remain strategic concerns for India's northern readiness.
The situation forces India to balance deterrence, diplomacy and logistics investments.
 - **Future:** India will strengthen border infrastructure, surveillance and force posture while pursuing calibrated diplomacy. ([ORF Online](#))
-

3. Indo-Pacific Strategy & India's Maritime Diplomacy

- **Past:** India's maritime strategy was historically regional and littoral-focused.
 - **Present:** India is rapidly expanding Indo-Pacific engagement — naval diplomacy with ASEAN, African partners, and multilateral forums; maritime exercises and domain awareness are growing priorities.
India's Indo-Pacific push aims to secure sea-lanes, counterbalance extra-regional powers, and deepen defence & economic ties.
Strategic ports, island bases and partner exercises reflect a proactive maritime posture.
 - **Future:** India will consolidate as a key maritime security provider in the Indo-Pacific. ([Drishti IAS](#))
-

4. India–US Strategic & Defence Partnership (10-year Framework)

- **Past:** Post-2000s, India-US ties shifted from estrangement to a strategic partnership including defence sales and exercises.

- **Present:** In late 2025 India and the US signed a long-term defence framework (10-year) to deepen cooperation in technology, joint exercises, logistics and defence trade. The pact increases interoperability and access to advanced systems while preserving India's strategic autonomy. It also accelerates tech transfers and joint R&D in dual-use fields.
 - **Future:** The relationship will deepen structurally, boosting Indian defence modernisation but requiring diplomatic balancing. (vifindia.org)
-

5. Quad, Minilateralism & Strategic Alignments

- **Past:** Quad (US, India, Japan, Australia) re-emerged as forum for Indo-Pacific cooperation post-2017.
 - **Present:** Quad and like-minded minilateral frameworks focus on infrastructure, maritime security, semiconductor supply chains, and resilience against coercion. India uses such platforms for capability building while avoiding formal alliances — maintaining multi-alignment. These forums also deliver capacity-building to smaller Indian Ocean states.
 - **Future:** Minilateral coalitions will continue shaping regional security architecture with India as a central partner.
-

6. Critical Minerals / Supply-Chain Geoeconomics

- **Past:** India relied on foreign sources for rare earths, semiconductors inputs and critical metals.
 - **Present:** Geopolitics now pivots on critical minerals and chip supply chains — India is building policy incentives and partnerships to secure these supplies and domestic value-chains. This has defence and industrial implications (radars, missiles, semiconductors). Competition for access to ores and processing is intensifying globally.
 - **Future:** India will prioritise diversified sourcing and domestic processing of critical minerals for strategic autonomy.
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7. China's Global Reach & BRI / Geo-economic Competition

- **Past:** China's Belt & Road Initiative and investments expanded Beijing's connectivity leverage across Asia, Africa and beyond.
- **Present:** China continues large infrastructure projects, ports and bases (economic/diplomatic influence), prompting India to offer alternatives (Connect initiatives, partnerships). Beijing's overseas military-economic footprint shapes regional alignment and competition. India counters with diplomacy, investment and maritime engagement.
- **Future:** Geo-economic competition will intensify; India will strengthen soft-power and alternative infrastructure offers.

8. Russia–India Defence & Energy Nexus (Post-Ukraine Era)

- **Past:** India has long relied on Russian defence supplies and energy cooperation.
 - **Present:** Despite geopolitical shifts, India maintains defence ties with Russia while also diversifying suppliers; energy and spares cooperation continue amid global pressures. New dynamics require India to balance relations with Western partners and Russia for supplies & strategic needs.
This balancing is a core test of India's strategic autonomy.
 - **Future:** India will sustain practical cooperation with Russia while accelerating diversification to Western and domestic suppliers.
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9. West Asia (Iran, Gulf) — Strategic Chokepoints & Energy Security

- **Past:** West Asia has long been central to energy supplies and diaspora linkages for India.
 - **Present:** India manages ties with Saudi, UAE, Iran; Chabahar, maritime security and energy diplomacy remain priorities as regional tensions (proxy wars, Iran-Israel tensions) persist. The geopolitics of the Gulf affects fuel prices, migrant flows and naval deployments. India practices pragmatic balancing and economic engagement.
 - **Future:** India will deepen security-economic ties in West Asia while hedging risks from regional instability.
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10. Pakistan's Internal Politics & Strategic Posture

- **Past:** Pakistan's civil-military mix and use of proxy actors have long complicated South Asian security.
 - **Present:** Political instability, security dilemmas and economic stress shape Pakistan's posture; events since 2025 crisis altered its diplomatic and internal security calculus. Pakistan's domestic fragility amplifies border tensions and complicates bilateral confidence building.
Regional diplomacy and multilateral pressure influence de-escalation pathways.
 - **Future:** Pakistan's internal dynamics will continue to be a key variable for India's regional strategy.
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11. Afghanistan & Central Asia — Strategic Vacuum & Corridor Politics

- **Past:** Afghanistan was a theatre of great-power contest and regional instability after 2001.
- **Present:** Post-2021 Taliban control, Central Asia's strategic importance (connectivity, security, counter-terrorism) has changed — India pursues non-military engagement, humanitarian assistance and connectivity via Central Asian partners.
Competing influences (China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan) shape outcomes.
Security and refugee concerns remain watchpoints.

- **Future:** India will engage regionally through diplomacy, development projects and intelligence cooperation to safeguard interests.
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12. Africa Engagement & Defence Diplomacy

- **Past:** India's historical links with Africa were political and cultural but limited in strategic depth.
 - **Present:** India is scaling defence diplomacy, capacity-building, and infrastructure projects across Africa to counter other extra-regional influences and build partnerships for maritime security and trade.
Defence exports, training and soft-power investments are central to India's Africa policy.
This strengthens India's strategic footprint and global partnerships.
 - **Future:** Africa will be a major partner in India's global diplomacy and defence export strategy.
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13. Europe & Indo-EU Relations (Trade & Tech)

- **Past:** India-EU ties have been trade-centric with cooperation in education and development.
 - **Present:** With global supply chain re-shaping, Europe seeks deeper ties with India on a trade, green tech and semiconductor front; strategic dialogues on security and tech governance are rising.
EU's value-based diplomacy offers partnership space for India's reforms.
New trade negotiations and tech partnerships are in focus.
 - **Future:** India-EU ties will expand into a strategic economic-tech partnership.
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14. Climate Diplomacy & India's COP Leadership Aspirations

- **Past:** India has been vocal for equity in climate negotiations and a developmental path for the Global South.
 - **Present:** India's active role in climate forums, renewable expansions and COP diplomacy (and potential COP hosting ambitions) positions it as a Global South leader on just energy transition.
Energy transition impacts geopolitical ties (fossil markets, technology transfer).
Climate finance, adaptation and mitigation are major diplomatic issues.
 - **Future:** India aims to lead climate diplomacy for equitable transition frameworks and resilience financing.
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15. Global Supply Chains, De-risking & Semiconductor Diplomacy

- **Past:** Global supply chains concentrated manufacturing in a few hubs (East Asia).
- **Present:** Post-pandemic and geopolitical shocks have accelerated supply-chain diversification; India's semiconductor incentives and manufacturing push are geopolitically

significant (alliances, investments).

Major partnerships aim to bring fabs, packaging and design to India.

This has defence and economic security implications.

- **Future:** India will become a key node in diversified global supply chains, especially semiconductors and critical electronics.
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16. Cybersecurity, AI & Tech Governance as Geopolitical Arenas

- **Past:** Cyber threats were often viewed as technical issues; governance evolved slowly.
 - **Present:** Cyber and AI are now central to national security and diplomacy — India is strengthening cyber norms, defence cyber commands and bilateral tech cooperation while facing information and disinformation challenges.
Tech governance debates (data, AI ethics) shape alliances and trade.
Defence cyber readiness is a national priority.
 - **Future:** Tech governance and cyber deterrence will be core pillars of India's strategic posture.
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17. Arctic & Great Power Competition in New Domains

- **Past:** Arctic was of niche interest to a few polar states.
 - **Present:** Arctic access, shipping routes, and resource competition have become arenas for great-power rivalry; India monitors these shifts as part of global strategic outlook and energy/resource diplomacy.
Non-Arctic states pursue partnerships and scientific collaboration.
Climate change accelerates geopolitical access considerations.
 - **Future:** India will use scientific diplomacy and partnerships to secure interests in new-domain geopolitics.
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18. Climate-Driven Migration & Human Security in South Asia

- **Past:** South Asia historically faced seasonal and localized migration flows.
 - **Present:** Increasing extreme weather, sea-level rise and agrarian distress are driving cross-border displacement and internal migration, creating security and humanitarian challenges. This affects domestic stability, resource competition and regional cooperation needs.
Preparedness, adaptation and disaster diplomacy are crucial.
 - **Future:** India will prioritise climate resilience, disaster response capacity and regional cooperation to manage human security risks.
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19. Nuclear & Missile Stability in South Asia

- **Past:** South Asia's nuclearisation introduced doctrines of deterrence with limited crisis stability.

- **Present:** Continued missile developments, tactical weapons and doctrinal shifts raise risks of miscalculation — confidence-building measures and crisis hotlines are critical but fragile. Arms modernisation in the region complicates deterrence dynamics. Strategic dialogue and verification mechanisms remain weak.
 - **Future:** India will pursue secure deterrence while promoting crisis-management mechanisms to reduce escalation risk.
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20. Global Governance — Reform of Multilateral Institutions (UN, IMF, WTO)

- **Past:** Post-WWII institutions reflected the power balance of an earlier era.
- **Present:** Demands for reform (representation, development finance, trade rules) have grown — India advocates for greater Global South voice in international financial and security institutions. Reform debates affect development finance, trade access and rules for tech & climate. India engages multilaterally to shape norms favourable to emerging economies.
- **Future:** India will push for institutional changes that better reflect contemporary geopolitical realities and Global South interests.

Regional conflicts

1. 2025 India–Pakistan Crisis

- **Past:** Longstanding rivalry since partition (1947) over Kashmir; multiple wars in 1947-48, 1965, 1971, 1999; the border has remained volatile. [Wikipedia+1](#)
Both sides built up large conventional forces and nuclear capabilities, making even small clashes risky.
Cross-border terrorism and cease-fire violations have been recurring features.
 - **Present:** The April 2025 Pahalgam attack triggered a missile strike by India (Operation Sindoor) into Pakistani territory. [Wikipedia](#) Pakistan responded with artillery/fire across the LoC; a cease-fire was announced after 10 May 2025.
Diplomacy, hotlines and external mediation were activated rapidly; the risk of escalation remains high.
 - **Future:** India will continue to prioritize deterrence while improving border infrastructure and visibility; Pakistan's internal instability will influence its strategic calculations.
Both countries may engage more in crisis-management mechanisms, possibly improving early-warning and communication systems.
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2. Kashmir Conflict (India-Pakistan / India-China)

- **Past:** The princely state of Jammu & Kashmir acceded to India in 1947, triggering first Indo-Pak war; the region remains disputed among India, Pakistan and China. [Wikipedia+1](#)
Insurgency erupted in late 1980s; Pakistan-backed militant outfits challenged Indian rule; militarisation increased.
China's occupation of Aksai Chin added a third front to the dispute.
 - **Present:** The region remains heavily militarised; civilian unrest and militant activities persist; infrastructure build-up along LAC and LoC continues.
The 2025 standoff and strikes revived global focus on Kashmir's insecurity and escalation potential. [Le Monde.fr](#) Diplomatic engagement, human rights issues and water treaty stress are added dimensions.
 - **Future:** Stabilising Kashmir will require inclusive governance, economic development and confidence-building; India may emphasise infrastructure & connectivity to reduce local alienation.
Regional cooperation on water-sharing and demilitarisation could emerge as critical to long-term peace.
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3. Sistan and Baluchestan Insurgency (Iran / Pakistan Border)

- **Past:** The Baluch insurgency has roots in ethnic, religious and economic grievances in Iran's Sistan-and-Baluchestan province; cross-border sanctuaries between Iran and Pakistan have long existed. [Wikipedia](#)
Militants like Jaish al-Adl, BLA have operated from Pakistan-border zones; Iran has struggled with low-intensity conflict since early 2000s.
The region's under-development, tribal behaviour and weak governance added to instability.

- **Present:** Insurgent attacks continue on Iranian security forces; Iran-Pakistan cooperation is increasing to counter these cross-border threats.
The conflict has implications for regional security, maritime security (Gulf of Oman) and India's interests in the Indian Ocean.
 - **Future:** The focus will likely shift to stronger Iran-Pakistan security collaboration and infrastructure investment in the region; India could monitor the maritime spill-over and ensure its western flank is secure.
Stability here will support wider Gulf-Indian Ocean security and counter-terror cooperation.
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4. Insurgency in Balochistan (Pakistan)

- **Past:** Baloch rebellion in Pakistan's Balochistan province has persisted since 2000s, with demands for autonomy, resource control and Pakistani state neglect. [Wikipedia](#)
Multiple insurgent groups (BLA, BLF) have engaged in attacks on security forces and infrastructure; Pakistan's military has responded with operations and development initiatives.
Low-intensity but prolonged warfare has drained resources and hindered development.
 - **Present:** Recent hijackings, bombings and security operations show that the insurgency remains active; control over links to Afghanistan and Iran adds complexity.
Chinese interests (CPEC) and Gwadar port make the region strategically significant; Pakistan is increasing military & paramilitary presence.
 - **Future:** Pakistan will seek to combine military operations with development, but long-term stability will depend on political inclusion and economic upliftment; for India, monitoring spill-overs and Chinese connectivity influence is important.
Cooperative regional stability here may improve trade and connectivity across South and Central Asia.
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5. Brahmaputra Water Dispute (China / India / Bangladesh)

- **Past:** The Brahmaputra basin has been a site of hydrological tension among China (upper riparian), India and Bangladesh with dams, diversion plans and limited cooperation. [arXiv](#)
Historically, big-dam projects and lack of data-sharing fuelled mistrust; climate change adds to variability in flow and flood risk.
India and Bangladesh signed some agreements but trust deficits remain.
- **Present:** China's upstream infrastructure (dams) and data opacity have raised concerns in India and Bangladesh; India is seeking greater cooperation, building its own storage, early-warning systems and cross-border diplomacy.
Water stress, flood risk and climate migration are becoming security issues in the region.
- **Future:** Enhanced multilateral water governance mechanisms can reduce conflict risk; India will prioritise basin-wide diplomacy, early-warning networks and joint resource management as strategic tasks.
Stability in trans-Himalayan waters will influence India's northeast connectivity and Bangladesh alliance.

1. 2025 Indian strikes in Myanmar (Cross-border strikes against insurgent camps)

- **Past:** India faced longstanding insurgency in its North-East with militants operating from camps across the Indo-Myanmar border. [Wikipedia](#)
 - **Present:** On 13 July 2025, Indian forces carried out drone strikes on insurgent camps of groups like ULFA-I in Myanmar, signalling India's increasing willingness to act beyond its borders. [Wikipedia](#)
 - **Future:** India will likely deepen cross-border cooperation and surveillance, develop doctrine for extraterritorial anti-insurgency operations, and better integrate border states and agencies.
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2. Conflict in Rakhine State (Myanmar – Arakan Army insurgency)

- **Past:** The region has experienced ethnic insurgency by the Arakan Army since 2016 against the Myanmar junta over autonomy and resource control. [Wikipedia](#)
 - **Present:** In early 2025 the Arakan Army captured multiple bases in Rakhine, Magwe and Ayeyarwady regions; there were reports of heavy clashes, civilian casualties and strategic movement of insurgents. [Wikipedia](#)
 - **Future:** This conflict could draw regional spill-over effects (refugees, security threats) and India may need to monitor its eastern border & Indian-Ocean access while enhancing cooperation with Myanmar.
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3. 2025 Bijapur Clash (Naxalite-Maoist insurgency escalation in Chhattisgarh, India)

- **Past:** India's internal-security challenge from the Communist Party of India (Maoist) insurgency has been active for decades in central/east Indian forests. [Wikipedia](#)
- **Present:** On 9 February 2025 a major encounter in Indravati National Park, Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, resulted in 31 Maoist cadres killed and 2 security personnel dead—one of the largest in recent years. [Wikipedia](#)
- **Future:** The government will likely increase operations, integrate intelligence & technology (drones, satellite imagery) and push development in insurgency-regions; as a future officer you must link internal-security readiness to external defence posture.

MAJOR WORLD CONFLICTS

1. Sudan Civil War

- **Past:** Sudan's decades of instability culminated in a 2023 power-struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), rooted in Darfur conflicts and military coups. ([Drishti IAS](#))
Ethnic rivalries, resource competition and fractured governance undercut peace processes. The 2021 coup dissolved the transitional government and revived large-scale violence across Khartoum, Darfur and Kordofan.
- **Present:** The war has triggered one of the worst humanitarian crises: famine, mass displacement (over 13 million), and widespread atrocity reports. ([ABC](#))
Despite truce proposals, hostilities remain intense and control over key areas like El Fasher and Port Sudan has shifted. ([Al Jazeera](#))
The conflict's impact extends to Red Sea trade routes, refugee flows and regional spill-over in the Horn of Africa.
- **Future:** A durable resolution would require inclusive governance, ethnic reconciliation and reconstruction of basic infrastructure.
For India, stabilising Sudan means securing maritime routes, contributing to peace-keeping/humanitarian missions, and protecting diaspora interests.
- **India's Contribution:** India has evacuated its citizens during the crisis (Operation Kaveri) and provided humanitarian aid; it also supports UN efforts for peace and stability.
- **Aspirant Officer View:** As a future officer I recognise the importance of civil-military cooperation in humanitarian relief operations and building strategic partnerships in Africa to safeguard Indian interests.

2. Horn of Africa – Ethiopia & Neighbouring Tensions

- **Past:** The region has suffered from protracted conflicts such as the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) war in Ethiopia (2020-22), Eritrea–Ethiopia border wars and political fragmentation. ([The Soufan Center](#))
Regional rivalries over water (Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam), sea-access and external interventions have layered complexity.
External powers and non-state actors have exploited instability for influence and resources.
- **Present:** Renewed clashes along Afar/Tigray border, rising sentiment of “war resumption” despite the 2022 peace deal. ([The Soufan Center](#))
Egypt is expanding its military, diplomatic footprint in the Horn amid the Nile and sea-access disputes, increasing strategic competition. ([Clingendael](#))
The region is pivotal for maritime routes, Red Sea security, and India's Indian Ocean interests.
- **Future:** Peace will depend on inclusive politics, regional cooperation over resources (water, ports) and external mediation.

India must deepen defence/diplomatic ties with East African states, monitor strategic routes and strengthen regional early-warning.

- **India's Contribution:** India engages via capacity building, naval diplomacy in the Indian Ocean, supports East African partners in maritime infrastructure and security.
 - **Aspirant Officer View:** I would emphasise the need for naval readiness, intelligence cooperation and humanitarian outreach in the Horn to secure India's maritime flank and build regional goodwill.
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3. South China Sea / Taiwan Strait Tensions

- **Past:** The South China Sea (SCS) and Taiwan Strait disputes have their roots in post-WWII territorial claims and Cold-War era standoffs; China's "nine-dash line" and reclamation efforts escalated tensions.
US freedom-of-navigation operations and ASEAN disputes added to friction.
Taiwan's governance and strategic position has been a perennial flashpoint.
 - **Present:** China continues air/sea operations around Taiwan, rapid build-up of outposts; frequent incursions into contested areas.
US, Japan, Australia and India (via Quad) increase patrols and joint exercises; major naval modernization underway.
Tech race (drones, submarines, hypersonics) and alliance reconfigurations dominate the theatre.
 - **Future:** Risk of miscalculation remains significant; deterrence will shift toward layered alliances and forward presence in the Indo-Pacific.
India will deepen its Indo-Pacific doctrine, expand naval assets and engage in strategic deterrence while preserving autonomy.
 - **India's Contribution:** India's participation in Malabar/Quad exercises, naval deployments in Indo-Pacific and strategic maritime collaborations underscore its role.
 - **Aspirant Officer View:** I believe an officer today must combine maritime awareness, tech fluency (unmanned systems) and alliance cooperation to secure India's Indo-Pacific interests.
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4. West Asia – Israel-Gaza & Regional Spill-over

- **Past:** The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates to pre-1948; Gaza has faced multiple wars (2008, 2014) and humanitarian blockades; proxy wars in the region involve Iran, Syria, Lebanon. Peace efforts (Oslo, Camp David) failed to resolve final status issues; the region remains volatile.
Strategic competition (US, Iran, Gulf states) intensified local conflicts.
- **Present:** Recent large scale escalation between Israel and Hamas, heavy civilian casualties, regional actors mobilising; Gulf states normalising ties with Israel while balancing Palestinian sentiment.
Drone and missile inter-changes, humanitarian crises and international diplomacy dominate. The conflict has implications for energy markets, migrant flows and global security dynamics.

- **Future:** Durable peace remains elusive; reconstruction, governance of Palestine, refugee resolution and regional normalisation will be long-term issues.
India will deepen defence, energy and diaspora links in West Asia, while increasing its mediation and humanitarian capacity.
 - **India's Contribution:** India has provided humanitarian support to Gaza, maintained strong ties with Israel and Gulf states, and participated in UN initiatives.
 - **Aspirant Officer View:** As a future officer I recognise that future wars will involve urban centres, humanitarian tasks and hybrid threats — so training must include all-domain preparedness and civil-military coordination.
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5. Ukraine–Russia War

- **Past:** Russia's annexation of Crimea (2014) and the 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine marked one of the largest conventional wars in Europe since WWII; NATO's east-ward expansion and Russia's security concerns shaped the context.
Back-channel diplomacy and Minsk agreements failed to prevent renewed conflict.
The war disrupted global energy, grain, and defence supply-chains.
- **Present:** Ukraine resists with Western help; Russia continues offensives and uses drones, missiles and cyber-attacks; global sanctions and arms flows persist.
The war has become a proxy theatre with major power involvement; humanitarian cost is huge and Europe's defence posture is shifting permanently.
Supply-chain shocks undermine emerging economies; India monitors impact on energy and trade.
- **Future:** A protracted stalemate or frozen conflict seems likely; Ukraine may gradually integrate with Western alliances.
India will emphasise supply-chain resilience, defence manufacturing and balanced diplomacy in this evolving global order.
- **India's Contribution:** India has delivered humanitarian aid, provided grain and energy supplies, and maintained balanced diplomacy between East & West.
- **Aspirant Officer View:** I believe Indian armed forces must internalise lessons of large-scale mechanised war, hybrid threats and supply-chain vulnerabilities to strengthen India's own readiness.

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo–Rwanda conflict (Eastern DRC)

- **Past (3 lines):** The eastern DRC has been a hotspot since the 1990s, following the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the influx of armed groups into Kivu provinces. Over decades many rebel groups including the M23 and FDLR have fought, often with alleged external backing. Large territorial control battles, mineral-rich zones and repeated failures of peace agreements characterised the region. [Crisis Group](#)[+3 Wikipedia](#)[+3 Wikipedia](#)[+3](#)
- **Present (3 lines):** In early 2025 the M23 rebel group (with alleged Rwandan support) captured major centres like Goma and Bukavu, displacing hundreds of thousands. Diplomatic relations between DRC and Rwanda were severed, U.S. sanctions targeted Rwandan actors,

and UN investigations flagged war crimes and child recruitment in the conflict.

[Wikipedia+2](#)[Wikipedia+2](#)

- **Future (2 lines):** A comprehensive resolution will require regional cooperation, mineral governance and stronger UN-mechanisms; if left unchecked the conflict could expand into a wider regional war.
 - **India's Contribution:** India has humanitarian and diplomatic interests in Africa; it participates in UN peace-keeping missions and invests in African infrastructure, so stability in eastern DRC supports its strategic footprint.
 - **Aspirant Officer Opinion:** As a future officer I believe India must support regional peace-keeping frameworks and link defence diplomacy with resource-security planning; enhancing bilateral ties with African states should be a key strategy.
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2. Iran–Israel proxy conflict

- **Past (3 lines):** Iran and Israel have long been adversaries since Iran's 1979 revolution; Israel's security doctrine treats Iran's nuclear programme and regional proxies (Hezbollah, Hamas) as existential threats. The two have engaged through indirect means—proxy wars in Lebanon, Syria, and via regional militia networks. Regional alliances (Gulf states, U.S., Russia) further complicated the dynamic. [Wikipedia+2](#)[Council on Foreign Relations+2](#)
- **Present (3 lines):** In 2025 the conflict escalated significantly—Israeli air/sea strikes targeted Iranian military & nuclear sites, while Iran launched missile/drone retaliations; Yemen's Houthi militia joined hostilities, expanding the theatre. The U.S. is more directly involved, heightening risk of broader regional war. [Wikipedia+2](#)[New Lines Institute+2](#)
- **Future (2 lines):** Unless managed, the conflict could trigger large-scale regional escalation across the Middle East involving multiple states and non-state actors; arms races (missiles, drones, cyber) will intensify.
- **India's Contribution:** India maintains strong diplomatic ties with Israel, Iran and Gulf states; it supplies defence/technology cooperation, ensures energy security and promotes peace initiatives in the region.
- **Aspirant Officer Opinion:** As a future officer I would prioritise building intelligence-fusion networks, strengthen multi-domain readiness (air, missile, cyber) and advocate for humanitarian coordination amid regional crises.