

Rare Earths, Real Power

From EV giants like Maruti and Tata to wind energy and defense electronics are facing critical raw material shortages

In the global race to decarbonize economies, electrify transport, and arm nations with next-generation technologies, one silent battlefield is shaping the future: the fight for rare earth minerals. These 17 obscure elements like neodymium, dysprosium, europium rarely make headlines, but they are the lifeblood of everything from electric vehicles to wind turbines, guided missiles to smartphones. And right now, China is using them as a strategic lever to remind the world who holds the keys.

For years, China has maintained a near-monopoly over rare earth supply chains not only mining them, but also controlling over 90% of global refining and 95% of rare earth magnet production. This dominance is no accident. It was a decades-long strategy, shaped by state subsidies, lax environmental norms, and an aggressive export policy designed to outcompete and outlast Western producers.

Now, Beijing is weaponizing that dominance. In April 2025, China enforced new export licensing rules on seven critical rare earth elements and magnet products, demanding detailed end-use declarations and client lists from foreign buyers. China is prepared to use minerals, not missiles, to project its power.

India, in the midst of a green and digital transformation, is among the hardest hit. Despite holding an estimated 6.9 million tonnes of rare earth reserves, India remains heavily dependent on Chinese imports for processed magnets and components. Domestic industries across the board—from EV giants like Maruti and Tata to wind energy and defense electronics—are facing critical raw material shortages. Over 50 Indian firms have applied for rare earth-related imports via Chinese vendors. None have received approvals. Production lines are slowing, and the anxiety across India's clean-tech and manufacturing sectors is palpable.

This rare earth squeeze comes at a time when India is pushing for ambitious self-reliance under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative and aiming to be a global hub for electric mobility. The irony is sharp: India has the resources but lacks the processing muscle, while China, with a strategic grip on the entire value chain, decides who gets to build the future.

But China's grip, while tight, is not unbreakable. Nations around the world are actively seeking alternatives and so must India.

Rare earth minerals

- ▶ 17 metals
- ▶ Key components in high-tech products
- ▶ China supplies at least 95% of world's rare earths

Examples of products containing rare earth elements:



Smartphones
scandium
yttrium
lanthanum
neodymium



Wind turbines
dysprosium
neodymium
praseodymium
terbium



Energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs
europium
terbium
yttrium



Hybrid vehicles
dysprosium
lanthanum
neodymium
praseodymium



Fibre optics
erbium
europium
terbium
yttrium

Australia, Vietnam, and the United States are emerging as potential suppliers of rare earth ores and oxides. Japan and South Korea are accelerating recycling programs and supporting magnet production at home. Lynas Rare Earths in Australia and MP Materials in the U.S. have ramped up production and are in talks with Indian companies.

India's recovery lies not in panic, but in bold, coordinated action. The government is now finalizing a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for rare earth magnet manufacturing. Efforts are underway to process monazite sands in Kerala and Odisha, with private partnerships being encouraged. Strategic talks are in motion to jointly invest in refining capacities with Quad allies like the U.S. and Japan.

Russia and North Korea Drone Deal Raises Doubts



Russia's plan to help North Korea build Iranian-designed Shahed drones is raising new concerns across the Asia-Pacific. These drones, which Russia has used heavily in its war against Ukraine, are now part of a technology-sharing deal involving Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

According to Ukraine's defense intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov, Russian and North Korean experts are working together to set up production lines for the drones in North Korea.

The Shahed-136, also called Geran-2 by Russia, is designed for long-range attacks on infrastructure. It can fly over 2,500 kilometers at speeds of up to 220 km/h and is difficult to detect by radar.

However, these drones have shown serious weaknesses in Ukraine. While Russia launched a record 270 Shaheds in a single strike in May, many were shot down by Ukrainian air defenses. Despite their large numbers, the drones have failed to make a decisive impact on the battlefield.

This raises important questions: if these drones couldn't succeed in Ukraine where Russia has more control over logistics how effective will they be for North Korea or in Asia? South Korea and Japan have far more advanced air defense systems than Ukraine, and the terrain and conditions are very different.

The growing military cooperation between Russia, Iran, and North Korea is troubling, but the weapon at the center the Shahed drone has a shaky combat record. As production expands in East Asia, many experts are skeptical that these drones will perform any better there than they did in Ukraine.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

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Taiwan's War Games Without Guns

Global NGOs Step In as Silent Guardians



Something unusual is unfolding in Taiwan not with missiles, not with troops, but with briefcases, simulations, and an influx of former generals and security experts. It isn't a formal alliance or treaty. It's quieter, subtler, and perhaps more telling. Across hotel conference rooms and closed-door strategy halls in Taipei, a growing number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are charting out what could become Taiwan's most critical defense plan one that doesn't come from its government, but from the outside world.

Last Tuesday, three Taiwan-based NGOs organized a military simulation that imagined how China might escalate military activity around Taiwan by 2030. It was not Taiwan's Ministry of Defense but rather academic and strategic groups the Taipei School of Economics and Political Science Foundation, the Center for Peace and Security, and the Council on Strategic and Wargaming Studies that brought the scenario to life. In the simulation, Chinese naval vessels crossed into Taiwan's territorial waters, provoking a tense and uncertain standoff. Taiwan responded by sending its navy and submarines, but held back from firing. No shots were fired in real life, that restraint was the point.

This was not an isolated academic exercise. In attendance were former U.S. Admiral Michael Mullen, ex-Director of U.S. National Intelligence Dennis Blair, retired Japanese defense chiefs, and Taiwanese military leaders.

They were not just there to watch. They

played roles, argued strategy, and simulated real-time responses — dividing themselves into four camps: Taiwan, China, the U.S., and Japan.

And this is where the deeper story begins: Taiwan has always lived in the shadow of invasion. For decades, its people have balanced normal life with the ever-present hum of Chinese threats across the strait. But what's different now isn't just Beijing's aggression. It's the world's quiet, unofficial response not through embassies or armies, but through NGOs. Why? Because the battlefield is shifting. War is no longer just fought with missiles. It's fought with information, influence, economics, and preparation. And NGOs can go where diplomats and soldiers cannot.

These exercises, though unofficial, are not meaningless. They are the new playbook. And for Taiwan, they represent a lifeline.

In reality, Taiwan is fighting an invisible war. Every day, it absorbs cyberattacks, political pressure, disinformation campaigns, and military threats. But it cannot afford to lash out. It cannot escalate. Taiwan's strength lies in restraint in showing the world it is not the aggressor, even when provoked. That's what these simulations are about finding a way to survive, to respond smartly, to win without firing first.

But one has to wonder why are so many foreign voices involved in what seems like a domestic issue? Why are top-level U.S. and Japanese officials, even in retirement, showing up for these exercises? Why are these meetings held behind closed doors, with media asked not to quote anything said during the talks?

The answer may be simpler than we think or more complex.

This isn't a conspiracy, but it is a kind of silent coordination. Taiwan is being prepared, not just by its government but by a global network of thinkers, strategists, and former warriors who understand the stakes.

They know that if Taiwan falls, the world order tilts. The U.S.-led Pacific balance could collapse. China's control of global trade routes would tighten. Japan's security would be in immediate danger. And smaller nations everywhere would see a dangerous message: authoritarian power can swallow a democracy without consequence.

So what's cooking in Taiwan? Nothing overt, nothing loud. But the presence of these NGOs, these retired officials, this growing ecosystem of unofficial support it signals something real: Taiwan is not alone. Not in public alliances, perhaps. But in preparation, in planning, in the gathering of minds who are quietly mapping out how to respond when the unthinkable happens.

Poor Taiwan not in economy, not in spirit, but in the brutal simplicity of its reality. It stands as one of the world's most advanced democracies, yet under the constant threat of being erased. It cannot join the UN. It cannot sign defense pacts. It lives in a diplomatic grey zone, recognized by few, loved by many, defended only in theory. And so it survives the only way it can: by building alliances in the shadows, by preparing without provoking, and by opening its doors to anyone, even an NGO who offers a way to hold the line.

That is the real story. Taiwan isn't waiting for war. It's preparing for survival - one simulation, one conversation, and one quiet partnership at a time.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

The Watch That Sparked a Storm



The recent death of Iran's top military strategist, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, in a precision Israeli airstrike has ignited a wave of speculation across intelligence corridors and geopolitical circles. At the center of the storm is a private meeting held just weeks earlier, on May 27, 2025, between Bagheri and Pakistan's powerful Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir. Now, M16 intelligence reports allege that Munir gifted Bagheri a wristwatch embedded with an interceptor beacon: an innocuous token that may have become a deadly tracking device.

While no official confirmation has emerged from Islamabad, Tel Aviv, or Tehran, the timing of events is uncanny. Bagheri's location was reportedly pinpointed with unusual accuracy by Mossad agents shortly after the meeting, leading to a strike that decapitated a key node in Iran's military hierarchy. If the M16 account is accurate, this could mark one of the most daring and duplicitous espionage operations in recent Middle Eastern history.

Bagheri was born Mohamad Hossein Afshordi in the 1960s. In his current role, he oversaw both the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and the rest of the country's military, also ensuring

those different arms of the country's security apparatus.

He reportedly had a distinguished military career with the IRGC; however, little is known about him outside of his record of service, academic achievements and multiple sanctions imposed by various international bodies.

The implications are chilling. Has Pakistan publicly aligned with Iran under the banner of Islamic unity and quietly rotated toward a covert understanding with Israel? Strategically, it would not be unthinkable. With Pakistan's economy under pressure and regional dynamics shifting, aligning with Western intelligence networks could offer Islamabad new leverage especially as it navigates its tense balancing act between Saudi Arabia, China, and the United States.

Tehran, for its part, is unlikely to accept such betrayal passively. Iranian leadership has long prided itself on being the fulcrum of the "Axis of Resistance." Being blindsided by a supposed ally would not only embarrass Iran but destabilize its regional deterrence posture.

While the truth remains buried beneath layers of plausible deniability, the shockwaves are real. If Iran suspects foul play, it may retaliate subtly through proxy disruptions, diplomatic isolation, or intelligence recalibration. For Pakistan, the perception of duplicity could complicate its delicate relations with neighbors and cast a shadow over its standing in the broader Islamic world. Whether Pakistan is playing a dangerous double game or simply caught in a wider intelligence war, the trust deficit in the Tehran-Islamabad equation has widened.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

Security Risks of Protest Movements at the G7 Summit

Assessing Threats from Khalistani Activism



India, upon being invited to the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Canada in 2025, the extended invitation becomes contentious as Sikh separatist groups, aka Khalistan supporters, expressed their disapproval in all means of way. Organizations like Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), World Sikh Organization (WSO) and Babbar Khalsa International (BKDI) started preparing to confront Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the delegates on the day of G7 summit. Although the invitation provoked the Khalistan community, they took it as an opportunity to aggravate the Khalistan issues at the global level summit to gain momentum.

48 hours: Ambush Modi's Politics

SFJ, a separatist group banned by India, has announced a "48 hours: Ambush Modi Politics from Landing to Takeoff" campaign during the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, on 16-17 June 2025. A video circulated by the leader of SFJ, Gurpatwant Singh Pannum, a designated terrorist by India, thanking the Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney for providing an opportunity to the Khalistanis to confront Narendra Modi in the global arena.

"I want to thank Mark Carney, more of a businessman than a Canadian PM, for giving pro-Khalistan Sikhs a historic opportunity to

ambush Modi's politics right in front of G7 nations," Pannum says in the video released by SFJ.

Further, he stated the SJF would seek G7 nations to hold India accountable for the killing of terrorist Nijjar and an alleged Murder-for-hire plot targeting Khalistan referendum organizers. He also accused India of attacking Pakistan mosques in the name of Operation Sindoor, which ideally an operation conducted by the Indian Army to demolish the terrorist outfit inside Pakistan, over the cruel Pahalgam terror attack.

Besides SFJ, other groups such as World Sikh Organization, Babbar Khalsa International, Sikh Federation Canada, British Columbia Gurdwaras Council and other factions are reportedly mobilizing to protest the arrival of Indian PM Narendra Modi on Parliament Hill, Ottawa on 14th June. These impetuous action indents to bring global attention to the alleged Indian involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh (Khalistan) activist and a designated Indian terrorist, assassinated in June 2023 in Surrey, British Columbia. India-Canada relation strained since the former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's public allegations in September 2023 of Indian Government involvement in Nijjar's Killing.

Social media Propaganda

Since the G7 invitation extended to India, the Khalistan activist groups ebullient over social media and the streets of Canada to confront Indian delegates particularly PM Modi. On 8th June, a truck with posters criticizing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating "48 hours Ambush Modi Politics" heading to Kananaskis, Alberta where the G7 summits take place, indicating the prudent preparation for confrontation.

On the next day SFJ claimed that it uncovered an unverified "Modi regime's new kill list" that is including Elected officials and Gurdwara Committee members. As they rambling always, no names, sources or list has not been published to corroborating the claims.

On the other hand, World Sikh Organization (WSO), started online call to action urging Sikh supporters to email Canadian officials including Mark Carney, the PM of Canada, and other ministers demanding the withdrawal of extended invitation to India to participate in G7 summit. Similarly, SFJ also initiated X (formerly twitter) polling questioned "Is PM Carney's declaration to highlight transnational repression and crimes going to ambush Modi's presence in G7 Summit", noted.

WSO also referenced the alleged involvement of Indian agents of surveilling former NDP

leader Jagmeet Singh, connecting Indian agents with Lawrence Bishnoi a known Canada based Sikhs gang leader.

Political dialogues

While Canada hosting the largest Sikhs diaspora around the world, numbering over 770,000, holds significant influence in the Canadian Politics. Hence, Sikhs people representing many political parties of Canada. Eventually, the few people support the Khalistan sentiments in the name freedom of speech, indeed for the political gain.

Jenny Kwan, MP from NDP has been vocal in opposing the invitation, raised question in the house of common over the extended invitation which hurts the feeling of certain community. She also issued a statement of support along with NDP foreign affair critic Heather McPherson, "The government must explain how justice and human rights are being upheld through this invitation".

Heather McPherson, condemned along with Jenny Kwan, calling the invitation as "Slap to Canadian Sikhs" noting the time of anniversary of 1984 Golden Temple operation.

Sukh Dhaliwal, Liberal MP said neither him nor many of his constituents supports invitation to Narendra Modi, citing the alleged involvement of India in Nijjar's killing.

Anita Anand, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, defended the invitation in the house of common when questioned by Jenny Kwan, saying that PM Carney and she spoken with Indian counterpart, agreeing to continued law enforcement dialogue. She affirmed that the forum is for "productive and frank discussion", she emphasized that the "rule of law will never be compromised".

Mark Carney, the PM of Canada, defended the invitation in front of the media stating India's role in global supply chains and energy security necessities its presences in G7. He also pointed out that "continues law enforcement dialogue" over Nijjar's case.

Closing remarks

The planned protests and social media propagation by SFJ, WSO, and other groups, driven by the deep-rooted desperation of Khalistan, and the killing of Nijjar are contentious between Indian and Canada. Since the participation of major economies draws the global media attention, the protesters will leverage this for their cause of Khalistan, whereas the Indian participation in the G7 Summit will go through the risk of escalating diplomatic and security challenges amid global presence. India may counter by highlighting Canada's alleged support for Khalistan in the name of freedom of speech, which potentially defines India's stand among the G7 nations.

Author: LEA

Author: LEA

India's Cyprus Outreach

Countering Turkey and Advancing Strategic Ambitions

India and Cyprus have enjoyed a strong, evolving partnership for over sixty years, rooted in shared values and mutual respect. As Prime Minister Modi prepares to visit Cyprus in June 2025, both countries seek to deepen ties, with significant potential impact on both bilateral relations and regional geopolitics.

Historical and Political Foundations

Since Cyprus's 1960 independence, India has consistently supported its sovereignty and territorial integrity, with high-level exchanges and visits from prominent figures. Cyprus has consistently backed India on key issues like Kashmir, terrorism, and its UN Security Council seat bid.

Economic and Defense Cooperation

Economic ties are central to India-Cyprus relations, with Cyprus being India's 10th largest investor, contributing about \$12 billion over last two decades. Bilateral trade is modest but rising, focused on pharmaceuticals, textiles, and machinery. Recent agreements—including a 2024 MoU between their chambers of commerce and the 2025 India-Greece-Cyprus (IGC) Business and Investment Council—aim to boost trade and investment. Cyprus's low corporate tax, business-friendly environment, and EU membership make it an attractive entry point for Indian firms into Europe. Key areas for collaboration include tourism, education, sports, technology transfer and innovation in IT, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals.

Defense cooperation has also gained prominence, highlighted by a December 2022 MoU on Defense and Military Cooperation and a Bilateral Defense Cooperation Program set for 2025. These agreements support joint training, technology exchange, and information sharing. Cyprus's participation in Aero India 2025 and discussions on acquiring Indian military equipment highlight a deepening security partnership. Trilateral cooperation with Greece further strengthens this engagement, serving as a counterweight to Turkish influence in the region.



Geopolitical Context and Strategic Messaging

PM Modi's visit is crucial in terms of timing and optics. Cyprus and Turkey have a complex relationship stemming from the 1974 partition and ongoing disputes over the northern region, recognized only by Turkey. As Turkey deepens political, military, and arms ties with Pakistan, India is adjusting its strategy by strengthening relations with Cyprus and potentially Greece—signaling to Ankara that India will align with Turkey's regional rivals if its interests are threatened.

Furthermore, Cyprus will hold the rotating EU Council presidency in the first half of 2026, making this visit timely for India to enhance its EU engagement through a reliable partner. Negotiations for an India-EU Free Trade Agreement are progressing, with Indian officials reportedly hopeful for a deal by late 2025, and Cyprus's support could be vital.

This partnership, however, is more than just strategic alignment: India has invested heavily in Cyprus, building a mutually beneficial relationship across economic, technological, and security sectors.

Broader implications for Both countries

Indian engagement in the Eastern Mediterranean will enhance its role, unlock economic and defense partnerships, and expand its global influence. Cyprus will gain a strong ally, boost investment, and deepen security cooperation. Additionally, the visit could support initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and strengthen the Greece-Cyprus-India triangle. As a key hub in IMEC, Cyprus offers a strategic alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative and promotes trade, investment, and infrastructure collaboration.

Conclusion

Prime Minister Modi's impending visit to Cyprus is a proactive step in India's foreign policy, designed to counterbalance Turkish influence, deepen economic and defense ties, and position both nations as pivotal players in the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond.

Author: LEA

Transnational Ties

Jaish's Calculated Alliance with ARSA

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) has emerged as a significant insurgent group in Myanmar's Rakhine State, with allegations of foreign support fueling concerns about regional security. Among the groups reportedly involved in training and funding ARSA is Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), a Pakistan-based jihadist organization with a history of militant activity across South Asia.

The Nature of the Connection

Reports and intelligence assessments suggest that links between Rohingya militants and extremist organizations like JeM have developed over several years. Notably, individuals such as "Chota Burmi", a Rohingya from Rakhine and a known JeM operative, have been identified in the past as active participants in both Kashmiri and Rohingya militant networks.

Indian security agencies have previously reported Rohingya involvement in terrorist activities in Kashmir, indicating a shared approach and personnel between these groups. Additionally, ARSA's leadership, including Ataullah Abu Ammar Jununi, has roots in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, highlighting the group's transnational support network.

How Training and Funding Occur

The training of ARSA members reportedly began as early as 2008, facilitated by networks such as Aqa Muul Mujahideen (AMM), with connections to JeM.

ARSA recruits have been reported to have



Unearthing of Pak spy network in India

Indian security agencies have recently launched a vigorous crackdown on espionage networks allegedly linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). These networks have been active across multiple Indian states, recruiting individuals from various walks of life to gather and transmit sensitive information. The intensified operations reflect India's heightened security concerns following recent cross-border tensions and terror attacks.

The espionage networks reportedly span several states, including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and West Bengal. These networks have utilized social media influencers, students, businessmen, security personnel, and even Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel to collect and pass on classified information.

A prominent example is Haryana-based YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who was arrested for allegedly leaking sensitive military details and maintaining contact with Pakistani intelligence officer Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish, expelled from India for espionage. Similarly, Punjab YouTuber Jasbir Singh, with multiple visits to Pakistan and extensive contacts there, was arrested for transmitting information and cooperating with Pakistani handlers.

Other arrests include Shahzad, a businessman from Uttar Pradesh involved in smuggling goods across the border as a front for espionage, and Moti Ram Jat, a CRPF personnel from Delhi, accused of sharing classified data with Pakistan since 2023. These cases illustrate the diverse profiles exploited by ISI to infiltrate Indian society.

Since May 2025, Indian agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Special Task Force (STF), and local police have conducted coordinated raids and arrests. Over a dozen suspects have been detained in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and West Bengal, with seizures of electronic devices, financial documents, and other incriminating evidence.

The NIA's operations across 15 locations in eight states targeted individuals acting as financial conduits and information channels for Pakistan-based handlers. The investigations revealed that espionage was facilitated through social media, messaging apps, monetary incentives, and personal visits to Pakistan. The crackdown also followed the expulsion of Pakistani diplomat Ehsan-ur-Rahim for his role in espionage activities.

Recent arrests and raids highlight the sophisticated nature of espionage by Pakistan-backed networks within India, exploiting social media, citizens, and security personnel. Indian agencies have responded with multi-state operations, emphasizing the need for constant vigilance and robust counter-intelligence efforts against persistent cross-border espionage threats.

Author: LEA

Author: LEA

Sinking Ambitions in the South China Sea

China’s artificial island strategy in the South China Sea is crumbling under structural flaws



China’s ambition to cement its dominance in the South China Sea through the construction of militarized artificial islands is showing unmistakable signs of deterioration—both structurally and strategically. What was once showcased as a triumph of Chinese engineering and maritime assertiveness is fast devolving into a cautionary tale of geopolitical overreach.

Since 2013, Beijing has dredged reefs and most notably Subi Reef, Mischief Reef, and Fiery Cross Reef into fortified platforms equipped with airstrips, missile batteries, radar arrays, and surveillance installations. These man-made outposts were designed to underpin China’s expansive Nine-Dash Line claims and deter any foreign challenge to its presence in these contested waters. Yet, beneath the polished satellite imagery lies a brittle foundation, both literally and strategically.

The South China Sea is not merely a contested waterway it is a geopolitical artery. Over \$5 trillion in trade transits its lanes annually. It houses vast untapped reserves of oil and natural gas and supports a significant portion of global fisheries.

Securing this region would theoretically grant China considerable influence over global energy flows and maritime commerce. But China’s island-building gamble appears increasingly pyrrhic.

The structural fragility of the artificial islands is now well-documented. Runways are cracking under the weight of military aircraft. Foundations are shifting due to poorly stabilized reclamation. Fighter jets reportedly face unsafe landing conditions, an operational embarrassment for a military seeking global stature.

Environmental forces add another layer of unpredictability. Typhoons, saline corrosion, and rising sea levels threaten the survivability of these low-lying outposts. These installations were not built to withstand nature’s full force and certainly not over the decades-long timescale China envisions for regional dominance.

Strategically, the fallout is equally stark. Rather than establishing uncontested control, China’s actions have hardened regional alignments.

The U.S., Japan, Australia, and ASEAN states have increased coordinated naval patrols. Freedom of navigation operations have become routine. Legal resistance exemplified by the 2016 arbitral ruling has delegitimized China’s maritime posture. Far from deterring rivals, the artificial islands have galvanized them.

Beijing’s maritime expansion, once viewed as a long-term critical move, now resembles an overbuilt sandcastle impressive from afar, but vulnerable at its core.

The artificial island project has drained resources, triggered diplomatic backlash, and invited operational headaches.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

ICE US Riots

June 2025 Immigration Unrest

In June 2025, the United States experienced widespread protests and riots in response to a series of aggressive immigration raids conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The unrest began in Los Angeles on June 6, when ICE agents, supported by other federal agencies, conducted multiple high-profile raids, arresting dozens of individuals suspected of immigration violations. The raids sparked immediate demonstrations, which escalated into clashes with law enforcement, property damage, and a heavy federal and military response.

Key Events and Locations

- Los Angeles
 - Protests erupted after ICE raids in the Fashion District, Westlake, and other areas.
 - Clashes between protesters and law enforcement included the use of tear gas, pepper spray, and less-lethal munitions.
 - National Guard and Marines were deployed, with curfews imposed in downtown LA due to vandalism and looting.
 - High-profile arrests included union leaders and activists.
 - Several stores were looted, and federal buildings vandalized with anti-ICE graffiti.
- Spread to Other Cities:
 - Protests quickly spread nationwide, with significant unrest reported in New York, Dallas,



San Francisco, Santa Ana, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle, and San Antonio.

- In San Francisco, protests near ICE offices led to over 150 arrests and injuries to officers.
- In Santa Ana and Atlanta, confrontations escalated, with protesters throwing fireworks and rocks at police, prompting the use of tear gas.

City	Key Events & Response
Los Angeles	Raids, mass protests, clashes, military deployment, curfews, looting 7 2 4
San Francisco	Protests near ICE, arrests, injuries to officers 1
Santa Ana	Violent protests, tear gas used 1
New York	Large demonstrations 2 10
Dallas	Protests, some unrest 1 2
Philadelphia	Arrests after traffic obstruction 1
Atlanta	Fireworks, tear gas, arrests 1
Chicago	Large, mostly peaceful marches 1
Seattle, San Antonio	Protests, some confrontations 2

- Philadelphia and Chicago saw large, mostly peaceful demonstrations, though some arrests occurred.
- Government Response
 - President Trump federalized the California National Guard and deployed thousands of troops and Marines to Los Angeles, a move criticized by state officials as excessive and politically motivated.
 - Local and federal authorities declared states of emergency and imposed curfews in affected areas.
 - Law enforcement made mass arrests and used force to disperse crowds, with ongoing investigations into the conduct of both officers and demonstrators.
- Nature of the Unrest
 - While many protests remained peaceful, several cities experienced violent confrontations, property damage, and looting.
- Ongoing Situation
 - Protests and unrest were ongoing as of mid-June 2025, with further demonstrations planned, especially around national events like the US Army’s 250th anniversary parade.
 - Legal challenges to the military deployment and federal response were underway, with a federal court hearing scheduled to address the legality of troop involvement in immigration enforcement.

The June 2025 ICE riots represent one of the most significant waves of immigration -related civil unrest in recent US history, marked by a rapid escalation from targeted enforcement actions to nationwide protests and confrontations with law enforcement and military forces.

Author: LEA

Unprecedented Strikes, Uncertain Future

The Israel-Iran Conflict Unfolds

The latest June 2025 escalation between Israel and Iran has marked a turning point in their decades-long rivalry. Israel’s unprecedented airstrikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites, followed by Iran’s large-scale missile and drone retaliation, have raised fears of a wider regional conflict and global repercussions.

Details of Israel’s attack on Iran

Operation Rising Lion, launched on June 13, 2025, was notable for its scale and precision. Israel deployed around 200 fighter jets, including F-35s, F-15s, and F-16s, which flew over Jordan, Syria, and Iraq to enter Iranian airspace. They targeted over 100 sites, focusing on nuclear facilities, missile silos, military bases, and the residences of key Iranian commanders and scientists.

preemptive measure to degrade Iran’s nuclear program before it could cross the nuclear threshold. However, the timing also coincides with Netanyahu’s own political struggles at home,in Israel, raising questions about whether the operation was partly motivated by a need to bolster his leadership amid domestic turmoil.

Iran’s Retaliatory Strike

Iran responded on the evening of June 13 with Operation True Promise III, launching over 150 ballistic missiles and more than 100 drones at Israeli targets. The barrage targeted military sites, airbases, and urban centers, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. While Israeli air defenses intercepted many projectiles, several missiles struck buildings in central Israel, resulting in at least two deaths and over 60 injuries. The



Major targets included cities of Tehran, Natanz, Isfahan, Tabriz, Kermanshah, and Arak. Nuclear sites at Khondab and Khorramabad were also targeted. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Hossein Salami, Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri, and nuclear scientists Fereydoon Abbasi and Mohammad Mehdi Tehranchi were killed in the attacks, according to Iranian state media.

ISRAEL KILLS TOP IRANIAN OFFICERS



The operation involved the dropping of over 350 bombs and reportedly resulted in no Israeli casualties, courtesy the Mossad’s extensive ground preparations for the attack. Mossad established a drone base near Tehran to launch kamikaze drones at missile launchers, smuggled weapons to disrupt Iranian air defenses, and positioned precision missiles near anti-aircraft sites, allowing Israeli jets to operate with minimal resistance.

Triggers for the attack

The immediate catalyst for Israel’s attack reportedly was intelligence indicating Iran was nearing the capability to rapidly produce nuclear weapons. Israeli officials, citing a recent International Atomic Energy Agency report, argued that Iran’s accelerated uranium enrichment posed an existential threat. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the situation as a “clear and present danger to Israel’s survival,” framing the attack as a

attacks continued into June 14, with further missile waves causing additional injuries and property damage.

Implications for Israel, Iran, and Global Geopolitics

Israel’s military actions exposed significant flaws in Iran’s defense systems, resulting in heavy casualties among its military and scientific leaders, including high-ranking officials and nuclear experts. This attack marked the most severe setback for Iran since the Iran-Iraq War, weakening its leadership and prompting a need for a strong response to maintain regime credibility and deter further aggression. The loss of military command limits Iran’s immediate retaliation options, but analysts warn that Tehran, feeling humiliated, may accelerate its nuclear ambitions or consider withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, escalating the crisis further.



The conflict has destabilized the Middle East, raising alert levels among neighboring nations and prompting international calls for restraint. It has led to rising oil prices and disrupted air travel, with fears that escalation could affect global energy markets and reignite a nuclear arms race if Iran advances its program. Geopolitical tensions have also increased, with China and Russia monitoring the situation due to their strategic interests, while regional governments push for diplomatic solutions to prevent a larger conflict.

Conclusion

The present Israel-Iran conflict has shattered the regional status quo. With unprecedented airstrikes and missile barrages, both nations have entered uncharted territory, risking broader war and global instability. The world now faces the urgent task of de-escalation and renewed diplomatic efforts to prevent a catastrophic outcome.

Author: LEA

Small Nations Eyeing BrahMos A Strategic Shopping List



Several small and mid-sized nations across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa are actively exploring or negotiating the purchase of India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. This surge in interest follows the missile's demonstrated effectiveness during recent Indian military operations, notably Operation Sindoor, which showcased its precision, speed, and versatility.

Key Nations in the BrahMos Shopping List

Below is a summary of countries that have either signed deals, are in advanced negotiations, or have expressed clear interest in acquiring the BrahMos missile system:

Philippines

Status: First international buyer.

Deal: \$375 million for three coastal defense batteries.

Deliveries: First batch arrived April 2024; second batch in April 2025.

Purpose: Modernization of defense capabilities, particularly in coastal and maritime security.

Vietnam

Status: Close to finalizing a deal.

Deal: \$700 million for army and navy missile supplies.

Purpose: Strengthening maritime and aerial defense amid South China Sea tensions.

Indonesia

Status: Advanced negotiations.

Deal: \$200–\$450 million (discussions ongoing; some reports mention local currency arrangements).

Purpose: Enhancing coastal and naval defense.

Malaysia

Status: Expressed interest.

Purpose: Integration with Sukhoi Su-30MKM fighter jets and possibly Kedah-class warships.

Thailand, Singapore, Brunei

Status: Various stages of talks.

Purpose: Coastal and naval defense variants.

Middle East (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman)

Status: Engaged in discussions; some negotiations in advanced stages.

Purpose: Coastal and naval defense systems.

Latin America (Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela)

Status: Exploring procurement options.

Purpose: Bolstering maritime security.

Africa and Europe (South Africa, Bulgaria)

Status: Early-stage negotiations.

Purpose: Potential procurement for defense modernization.

Strategic Motivations

Force Multiplier: BrahMos offers small nations a cost-effective way to significantly enhance their deterrence and strike capabilities, especially against larger adversaries.

Versatility: The missile can be launched from land, sea, air, and submarine platforms, making it adaptable to various operational needs.

Precision and Speed: With a speed of Mach 2.8–3.0 and pinpoint accuracy (CEP under 1 meter), BrahMos can strike high-value targets with minimal collateral damage.

Strategic Partnerships: Acquiring BrahMos also fosters deeper defense ties with India, including training, maintenance, and technical support.

Geopolitical Impact

Countering China: For Southeast Asian nations, BrahMos is seen as a key tool to counterbalance China's growing maritime assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Regional Power Dynamics: The proliferation of BrahMos in the region complicates the strategic calculations of major powers, particularly China, and could contribute to a regional arms race.

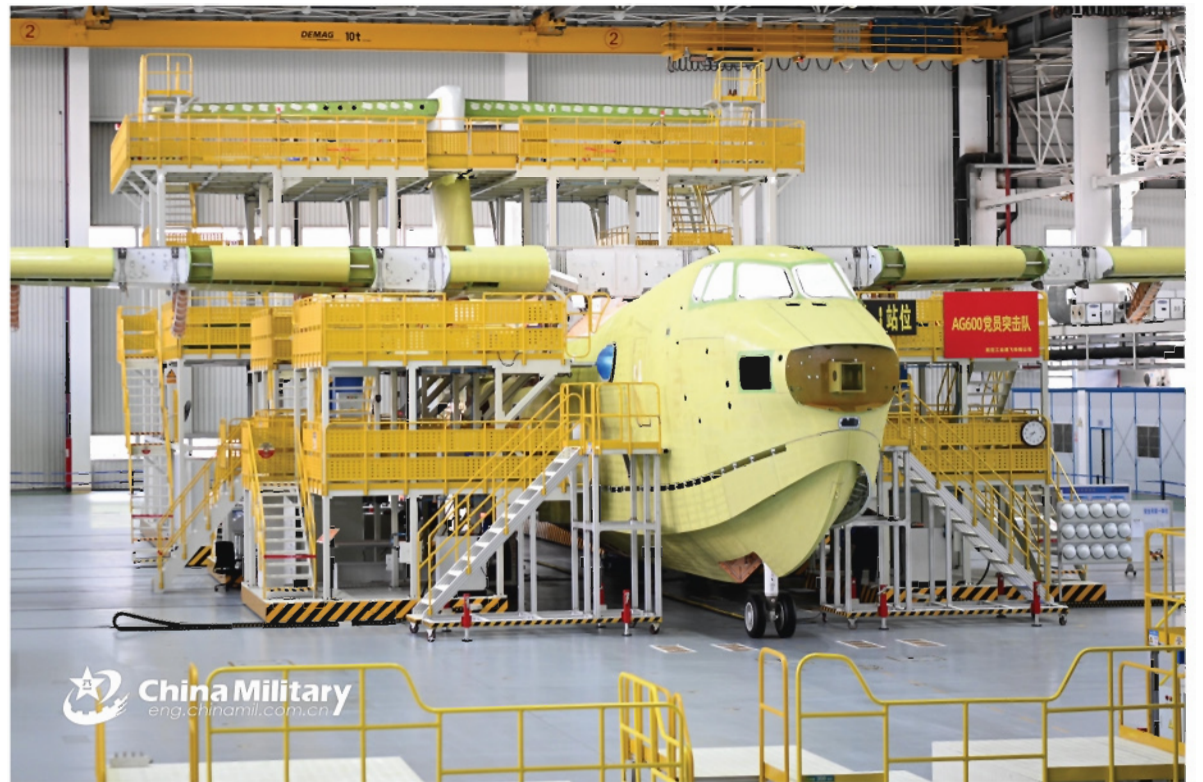
Economic Benefits: Defense deals like these can stimulate local economies through infrastructure development, job creation, and technology transfer.

Conclusion

The BrahMos missile has become a "strategic shopping list" item for small nations seeking to modernize their defense arsenals, deter regional threats, and assert their sovereignty, especially in contested maritime zones. Its proven performance, combined with India's willingness to export and support the system, has positioned BrahMos as a game-changer in global defense markets.

Author: LEA

Strategic Utility From Firefighting to Island Logistics



While publicly framed as a civilian aircraft for forest firefighting and maritime rescue, the AG600 has clear dual-use potential. Its ability to scoop and drop 12 tonnes of water in 20 seconds makes it a formidable asset in disaster response, but its 1,500 km operational radius and 50-person capacity also provide strong utility for:

• **South China Sea patrols and island supply missions.**

• **Rapid troop insertion or evacuation in contested maritime zones.**

• **Strategic logistics to artificial islands and remote outposts.**

With the AG600's modular design, AVIC confirms it can be reconfigured for missions such as maritime surveillance, search and rescue (SAR), island resupply, or even electronic reconnaissance. Its ability to operate from open water without a runway is especially significant in the Indo-Pacific, where airstrip availability is constrained.

Industrial Milestone and Geopolitical Signal

The AG600 is not an aircraft only it represents China's first full-scale success in developing and certifying a large amphibious platform domestically. It reflects the "small core, large collaboration" model, involving hundreds of supporting entities and thousands of componenta proof point of China's maturing aerospace ecosystem.

Strategically, the timing is noteworthy. As tensions rise in the South and East China Seas, the AG600 enhances China's soft power and logistical reach across maritime theaters. Its presence could shift regional dynamics in crisis response, humanitarian operations, and sovereignty assertions on disputed reefs.

Author: Shruti Kaushik



Author: LEA

Ukraine's FPV Drone Tactics Are Turning the Tide Against Russia

Cheap, precise, and deadly : how innovation is outpacing invasion

In a war defined by artillery duels and attritional battles, Ukraine has unleashed a powerful new weapon that's rewriting frontline dynamics: the First Person View (FPV) drone. With unmatched agility and low cost, these manually piloted explosive drones have become a cornerstone of Ukraine's strategy to push back against Russian forces.

Originally designed for recreational use, FPV drones have been rapidly repurposed by Ukrainian engineers and volunteers into guided kamikaze weapons. Pilots wearing video goggles fly these drones in real time, weaving through bunkers, trenches, and even open tank hatches to deliver deadly payloads with pinpoint accuracy.

The transformation is not just technological, it's structural. Ukraine has created a decentralized, agile drone ecosystem. Thousands of FPVs are now built every month by a combination of army units, civilian workshops, and grassroots initiatives, using



commercial parts, 3D printers, and open-source flight software.

"It's a war of innovation now," says a drone operator from the 92nd Mechanized Brigade near Bakhmut. "We don't wait for billion-dollar systems. We build something for a few hundred dollars that can destroy a tank."

And they are delivering results. Across the eastern front, FPV drone strikes have disabled Russian tanks, artillery, and key logistics hubs. In the hard-fought Avdiivka sector, Ukrainian FPVs helped stall a major Russian offensive, hitting supply convoys and communication posts deep behind enemy lines.

The psychological impact is equally profound. Russian troops now face a constant aerial threat from buzzing drones that can appear without warning and strike with precision. Reports from Russian military channels speak of "FPV panic" among frontline units.

Ukraine's adaptation has not gone unnoticed

by its allies. Western nations are now stepping up support, providing anti-jamming tech and advanced drone components as part of broader military aid packages.

Analysis: A Lesson in Modern Warfare

Ukraine's drone doctrine offers a clear message: innovation and speed can outmaneuver size and firepower. For countries like India, this is a critical lesson. Investing in low-cost, modular drone warfare powered by civilian tech and military integration may be the key to countering superior adversaries in the future.

As Ukraine is proving, the battlefield is no longer about who has more but who adapts faster.

Author: Shruti Kaushik