

The UN-Backed Two-State Solution A Comprehensive Analysis

Two-State solution represents the United Nations' enduring framework for resolving long-standing conflicts between the Israel and Palestine by establishing two sovereign states respectively and living side by side peacefully. This diplomatic framework gained traction out of famine in Gaza caused by severe humanitarian crisis resulted from the Israel's increased offensive actions in recent times. Influx of demonstration supporting Gaza in the streets of every nations, this international momentum endorsed in UN General Assembly with 142 countries supporting the "New York Declaration" that outlines concrete steps toward implementation.

What is the Two-State Solution?

Two-State Solution envisioned creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as its capital, alongside coexisting with the state of Israel. It emphasizes the basic principles people have legitimate rights to self-determination and national sovereignty on the land of historic Palestine.

This concept was legally bounded by UN Resolution 181 (1947) which originally proposed partitioning British-controlled Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. However, it was never implemented due to the Arab Israeli war in 1948 and the subsequent UN resolutions particularly Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) have reinforced the principle of "land for peace" and the inadmissibility of acquiring territory through war.

The efforts are culminated in the September 2025 UN Conference on Implementation of the Two-State Solutions co-hosted by France and Saudi Arabia, produced New York Declaration drawing a clear, tangible and time-bound roadmap towards recognizing Palestine statehood.

Advantages for Israel

The negotiated two-state solution would provide concrete, enhanced security through multilateral framework, minimizing unilateral military action against terror in the region.



This includes robust border security, joint operations centers, monitoring forces and exceptional security zones near sensitive areas.

This solution would open pathways for regional integration and normalization with Arab states. Initiative like the Arab Peace Initiative rejuvenated by Saudi Arabi in 2025 that offers normalization of relations between Israel and Arab League nations in exchange for Palestine statehood. This would reduce the regional isolations and give access to Arab market for Israel.

This resolution will garner international legitimacy and support for Israel which is facing severe criticism due to humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. Israel facing increased pressure from its major allies by recognizing Palestine statehood, so that solution would restore Israel's international position and reduce pressure.

The peace would also boost economy by reducing defence budget, expanding trade relationship and increased foreign investment.

Advantages for Palestine

The most significant benefit is achieving full statehood with international recognition that

allowing them exercise sovereignty over their territory and natural resources. It includes the right to control borders, make foreign relations, and manage internal affairs without external influences.

The state would also gain access to international financial systems for the development of the state including preferential trade agreements and development assistance from other countries. The European Investment Bank has already proposed 400 million euros to support Palestinian economic resilience in anticipation of statehood. The economic independence would end the current dependency relationship with Israel.

The recognition would allow people who migrated into other countries, can come back to Palestine with resettlement options. This addresses the core grievances of Palestine national movement. The statehood will provide international protection from international legal institutions including International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court, offering legal aid for violations of sovereignty and human rights.

Challenges and Disadvantages

For Israel, it worries about security vulnerability given the experience with Gaza after 2005 withdrawal. It would likely face domestic political challenges as it must resettle hundreds of thousands of Israelis from West Bank. Some Israelis fear the dual citizenship of Palestine people and the return of refugee could alter the demography of Jewish settlement.

For Palestine, it would compromise 22% of historic Palestine form the entire territory. The proposed security arrangements including demilitarization clauses and Israeli oversight make Palestinians view it as compromising true sovereignty. Additionally, the split between Fatah-controlled West Bank and Hamas-governed Gaza complicates unified Palestinian governance and negotiation.

What for International Communities?

The two-state solution ensure regional stability and security by ending violence, terrorism, and destabilizing activities. It would open economic opportunities across the Middle East, envisions regional cooperation in trade, infrastructure, and energy projects that would benefit all states. Resolution will deeper strategic cooperation between western states and both Israel and Palestine. Arab states already indicated security guarantees and economic support for both if two-state framework taken place.

Resolution would reduce the Palestine refugee burden on host countries particularly nations like Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria that have receiving Palestine refugees for decades.

The UN-backed two-state solution represents the international commitment on resolving the long-standing Israel-Palestine conflict, offering substantial benefits to all parties and international communities. While significant obstacle remains including domestic political opposition and security concerns, the success will ultimately bring peace in the region, depend on political will from both parties, continuous international engagement, and creative solutions to address the legitimate concerns of both parties.

Author: LEA

Islamabad's Insult to Afghan Sovereignty

Pakistan has once again exposed itself as the principal spoiler of Afghan sovereignty. The two-day summit "Unity and Trust" hosted in Islamabad by the Women for Afghanistan and the South Asian Strategic Stability Institute and attended by more than 30 Afghan politicians, former ministers and civil society figures is less a neutral forum for dialogue than a brazen exercise in political engineering by Pakistan's establishment.

The meeting repeatedly postponed from June 25-26, July 25-26, and August 25-26 before being forced through on September 29-30, 2025 despite Taliban objections was formally sold as a platform to "build trust, enhance regional cooperation and emphasize women's participation." Holding Afghan political deliberations on Pakistani soil under Pakistani patronage is not facilitation; it is interference.

Former U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad called the gathering "unwise" and warned that Pakistan's visible sponsorship of anti-Taliban figures would be perceived as direct support a correct reading. Prominent Afghan activist Fawzia Kofi insisted Afghans must decide their future, but the optics of key opposition voices being given sanctuary and stage in Islamabad undercuts any claim of Afghan agency.

This is the playbook Pakistan has followed for decades: cloak strategic meddling in the language of mediation. From backing Mujahideen factions to nurturing Taliban networks and now hosting opposition elites, Islamabad has repeatedly pursued influence in Kabul by picking winners and creating parallel centers of legitimacy. The "Unity and Trust" summit is the latest installment - packaged as peacebuilding, but calibrated to weaken Kabul's authority and extend Pakistan's leverage.



Several features make this episode especially egregious:

- **Venue equals leverage.** Hosting Afghan deliberations in Islamabad puts Pakistan in the driver's seat of talks that should take place in Afghanistan or a genuinely neutral venue. Hosting converts influence into a performance of legitimacy.

- **Timing and persistence.** The repeated postponements followed by a determined push to hold the summit despite Kabul's objections demonstrate Pakistan's willingness to force outcomes on its timetable, not on a mutually agreed process.

- **Selective inclusivity.** The meeting touted "women's participation" and "regional cooperation," yet the composition and confidentiality of the talks suggest selective invitations and an intent to shape, not honestly broaden, the Afghan political spectrum.

- **Diplomatic double-speak.** While Islamabad publicly speaks of cooperation and a Joint Coordination Committee with Kabul, it simultaneously fuels distrust by providing a podium to factions opposed by the governing authority in Kabul. This is hypocrisy masquerading as statesmanship.

Pakistan's claim to be a neutral convener falls apart under basic scrutiny. True facilitation requires genuine neutrality: a level playing field, a venue beyond the host's strategic reach, and transparency that builds confidence in all parties. Islamabad has offered none of these. Instead it has offered logistics, protection and publicity to those who challenge the Taliban and in doing so, has signaled to regional players that it still expects to be the arbiter of Afghan politics.

This summit was marketed as unity and trust. In truth it was an act of hubris and a reminder that Pakistan's entrenched pattern of interference remains the single most corrosive external factor in Afghanistan's fragile politics.

For Afghanistan, the only remedy is to insist on genuine neutrality in any dialogue, to refuse Pakistan-led formats that precondition outcomes, and to make clear that Afghan sovereignty is not negotiable from Islamabad's conference rooms.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

US Eyes Bagram Again What It Means for India's National Security



One of the trillion-dollar blunder mistakes in the history of America is the chaotic withdrawal from the Bagram military base of Afghanistan in 2021 after 20-long years of military engagement against terrorism particularly Al-Qaeda and other terror factions. In the recent visit by U.S. President Donald Trump to UK, he reiterated the desire of getting back Bagram base for the American use, threatening severe consequences if it is not happening. However, Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan expressed to engage another 20 years of conflict for not submitting it to external forces and expecting mutual trust and understanding through diplomatic channels citing 2020 Doha agreement. Of course, with the America's advanced military arsenal leftover and the complex regional system could make Taliban fight for another century.

Although Bagram base was built by USSR Russia during 1950, it was modernized and rejuvenated by the U.S., poured trillion dollars to make it one of the finest military bases in the regions during its war against Taliban and terrorism in the region. So, what's so special about Bagram is its geography. The base is located near Kabul, but the potential extends beyond its borders, to the west Iran, to the east Pakistan and India, to the north Central Asian countries, to the northeast China's Xinjiang region, and the Russia is not too far from here. Therefore, whoever holds Bagram, holds a significant geopolitical pinpoint, bolstering their strategic footprint one step ahead of everyone in and around the region.

How Bagram Will Serves the America?

The growing trend of multipolar world pushed the United States to prove its status, making them look back to Bagram for the control over Eurasia's geopolitical paradigm. By re-establishing its presence, the U.S. can monitor and deter growing Chinese influence in the region including Central Asia and Pakistan.

The base sits very near to economic corridors connecting Europe and China, making it a significant for geopolitical agenda. More importantly, Xinjiang region of China where nuclear arsenal been procured, comes under American radar.

Additionally, the U.S. could leverage the persecution of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, before the international arena.

This base also makes American to gather intelligence on Iran's nuclear activity and political chaos. If situation arises, it could be used for air striking Iran as happened recently. Being the backbone to Israel, the strategic presence in the region boosts Israel's operational capability in region.

Sitting next to Pakistan, which is oscillate between America and China, U.S. can check Pakistan under control, curbing over influence of China in Pakistan. India being the growing big power in the world, America could monitor developments in India, particularly with Russia and China, may push narratives or false propaganda using proxies. Hence, Bagram base proved its significance especially for the United States amidst geopolitical uncertainties.

What Would Bagram Mean for India's National Security?

A renewed presence at Bagram air base would have profound repercussions creating both opportunities and dilemma in the India's national security and regional strategies. Being in the Quad security alliance and the return of U.S. could enhance India's regional intelligence capabilities, counterterrorism efforts in track and crack terror networks such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

The presence of American force near the China's western frontier and Xinjiang would force PLA to increase its military activities in west, divert military and intelligence resources, diminishing focus from India-China border, relieving a bit of pressure on India.

Despite these benefits, India could face complex trade-offs, reactivation of Bagram could complicate India's efforts to regional connectively where it is maintaining pragmatic engagement with Taliban regime. New tension between Beijing and Washington may force India to take sides where it is maintaining neutral act between major powers.

If new security architecture arises, connectivity and trade route to Central Asia would be influenced, putting India in a precarious situation where cloud goes either way.

Author: LEA

India Confronts US Sanctions Risk at Chabahar Port

India's ambitious plan to secure direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia through Iran's Chabahar Port has run into serious turbulence. On September 29, the United States ended the sanctions waiver that had shielded Indian operations at the strategic hub, exposing companies to potential American penalties and casting doubt over one of New Delhi's most significant regional ventures.

Since 2018, Chabahar has enjoyed protection under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act, allowing India Ports Global Limited to manage the Shahid Beheshti terminal without fear of U.S. reprisals. The port, situated on the Gulf of Oman, was more than a commercial outlet and it became a geopolitical artery, enabling over eight million tonnes of cargo movement and serving as a lifeline for humanitarian supplies into Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover.

The U.S. State Department's announcement was unequivocal. Aligning with Washington's broader strategy to tighten pressure on Tehran, officials declared that exemptions tied to Afghanistan's reconstruction no longer aligned with American interests. "Persons who operate the Chabahar Port or engage in other activities described in IFCA may expose themselves to sanctions," the statement warned.

The shift reflects a recalibration in U.S. thinking. When the waiver was granted, Chabahar was viewed as a tool to bolster Afghanistan's then-elected government. Today, with Kabul under Taliban control and India recently signing a 10-year pact to expand Chabahar as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor, Washington perceives the port less as a stabilising force and

more as a potential economic lifeline for Iran.

Adding to the pressure, the U.S. Treasury on September 28 sanctioned over a dozen Iranian-linked entities in Hong Kong and the UAE for financing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The move underscored America's determination to dismantle what it calls "shadow banking networks" that help Tehran bypass restrictions.

For New Delhi, the stakes are immense. Chabahar has been central to bypassing Pakistan for access to Afghan and Central Asian markets, while also embedding India in wider Eurasian supply chains. The project embodies years of investment, strategic patience, and delicate diplomacy.

India's Ministry of External Affairs has consistently defended Chabahar as a vital connectivity initiative, yet it now faces a stark dilemma: continue operations at the risk of American sanctions, or retreat from a project that anchors its regional vision. Either path carries heavy consequences testing India's balancing act between partnership with Washington and its need for strategic space with Tehran.

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The Ghazwa-e-Hind Menace

Assessing the Critical Threat from Bangladesh's Extremist Revival es in India

Once again, an anti-India rhetoric has emerged from Bangladesh with infamous Jamaat-e-Islami Deputy Amir Dr. Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher publicly threatening India, casting sinister slogan "Ghazwa-e-Hind" in front of assemblage of Bangladesh diaspora of America at New York in late September 2025. From his alarming claim that "50 lakh fighters are ready for Ghazwa-e-Hind" linking youth populace of Bangladesh who did overthrow the government by violent protests, indicating critical inflection point in India's neighbourhood security challenges, implying immediate strategic assessment of internal security.

What is Ghazwa-e-Hind concept?

Literally Ghazwa-e-Hind means "Holy War against India", allegedly derived from Islamic prophetic narrations (Hadith) which has been weaponized by extremists and terrorists to instigate and legitimize anti-India violence. While the authenticity and interpretations of these narrations by Islamic scholars throwing ambiguity, terror groups like Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) have systematically exploited this concept for their personal grudge, gain and most importantly justifying the acts.

Proliferation of this concept is a part of jihadist propaganda, presenting it as a divine mandate for the conquest of India through armed violence. Recent fatwas from prominent institutions in India like Darul Uloom Deoband endorsing the concepts, extremists and terrorists' groups are provided with theological interpretation enabling groups to recruit and radicalize followers under religious cover.

The September 2025 New York Declaration

Dr. Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher expressed a vile statement against India at the Bangladesh American Association gathering, underscoring the potential threat issued from Jamaat in the recent history. Key points presented in the gathering as follows:

- 5 million fighters for "Ghazwa-e-Hind" against India will be mobilized.

- The forces divide into two factions carrying out guerrilla warfare and area denial formations.

- This war would be used to 'erase the stigma of 1971', where Jamaat helped Pakistan to carryout attacks on Bengalis.

- Framing this anti-India violence as a fulfilment of prophetic mandates.

The timing of these statement raises suspicion of coordination at high levels of Bangladesh interim administration as Muhammad Yunus visited UN General Assembly, indicating potential state-level endorsement of anti-India extremism.

Intelligence assessments confirm unprecedented cooperation between Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) and Bangladesh's Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI). This intelligence nexus could facilitate security threats to India including arms and explosive trafficking, establishment of terror camps in Bangladesh, recruitment and radicalizing more Bangladeshis against India, and coordination with Pakistan's terror camp with the motive of causing unrest in the Indian region.

Historical role of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami
B-Jamaat's relationship with Pakistan traced back to 1971 Liberation War, during which it was collaborated with Pakistani forces against Bengali independence. Hindu minorities and Bengali nationalists were targeted, established a pattern of violence that continues to influence its core ideological framework.

Following Bangladesh's independence, Jamaat was banned in 1972 but regained legitimacy in 1978. Subsequently emerged as a key conduit for Pakistan's intelligence operations. During the coalition of BNP-Jamaat government (1991-96, 2001-06), Bangladesh became a hub of Pakistan sponsored terrorism

with groups like JeM and LeT.

Jamaat's economic fundamentalism and Parallel State Structure

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has developed economic fundamentalism, a parallel economic system generating substantial financial resources for political and militant activities. With reported annual income of Taka 28.97 crore in 2024, Jamaat is the wealthiest party in Bangladesh maintaining extensive networks spanning across banking, healthcare, education and media sectors.

Reports indicate 'economy within economy' that generates approx. \$250 million annually with financial institutions contributing 27% of net profits. These enormous income enables Jamaat to sustain its huge estimated 600'000 cadres while growing at 9% annually.

Turkey-Pakistan-Bangladesh Axis

Intelligence reports identified a troubling trilateral alliance between Turkish intelligence, Pakistan's ISI and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami operating in multiple frameworks including Turkish intelligence-linked funding from Jamaat infrastructure, pan-Islamic rhetoric attacking India's secularism, intelligence sharing, and establishing influence in the South Asian Muslim nations.

China though not directly involved in Ghazwa-e-Hind, it gets benefits from India's entanglement with western neighbours. Bangladesh's tilt toward Pakistan and China, which aligns Chinese objective of constraining India's strategic mobility and forcing multi-front security challenges. The potential for Chinese naval access through Bangladesh with a combined renewed presence in the Bay of Bengal, creates additional maritime security threats to India.

What are the strategic security implications for India?

The convergence of B-Jamaat's economic



power, political revival, and intelligence cooperation with Pakistan creates a threat ecosystem for India with adverse implications. The sustainable wealth ensures long enduring operations capabilities, electoral success if so, provides legal coverage for extremist activities, increasing ideological doctrine in educational and healthcare institutions, and the economic ties facilitate movement of funds, weapons and personnel.

The 4096-km India-Bangladesh border particularly Northeast states remain critically vulnerable to extremist infiltrations. Historical precedent during BNP-Jamat governance in 2001-06 demonstrate how Bangladesh can become a safe haven for insurgent groups including then ULFA and other Northeast separatist groups.

Bangladesh-origin extremism influences communal dynamics in Indian border states. Communal incidents rose 40% in the border districts of West Bengal, exemplified by the Murshidabad violence of 2025 that forced displacement of 400 Hindu families.

Northeastern states like Assam facing increased infiltration and radical recruitment resembles the same.

What next?

India's response must be equally comprehensive, combining enhanced security measures, technological advancement, diplomatic pressures, economic leverage and strategic partner to counter this existential threat. But the window for preventive actions is narrowing down rapidly as evidenced by accelerating timeline from Hasina's ouster to explicit war threat within 15 months.

Failure to address this Ghazwa-e-Hind menace decisively risks transforming Bangladesh from friendly neighbour to hostile neighbour, sanctuary for anti-India extremism, fundamentally causing chaos in South Asia's security architecture.

Author: LEA

Synthetic Highs, Aerial Lows

The Twin Threat of Drugs and Drones in India

Drug menace isn't a novice for India as historically it sits between Golden Triangle (primarily Myanmar, Thailand, Laos) on the Southern East and Golden Crescent (Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan) on the Northern West. The proximity and political instability of these regions have been driving the illegal drug flow inside India for centuries. As technological advancement and scientific cognisance as spiked, India witnessing rapid trends in flow of synthetic drug within India and drug-drones at the cross-borders, bracing for a direct and sophisticated challenge with implications of its national security measures.

Synthetic Drug

Global nations witnessed the proliferation of synthetic drugs especially after the COVID-19 pandemic which imposed stricter airport screening and stopped almost the human movement across places. It became hard for traffickers to move plant-based drugs (opium, coca) amid severe restriction and eventually increased the drug synthesis which can be done in controlled area with the aid of easily available precursor chemicals. In 2024 alone, Indian authorities have seized narcotics including all types, worth approximately \$25,530 crore in total. By conservative valuation, value of synthetic drug lies between \$6,000-\$12,000 crore indicating a staggered shift in trend of using plant-based drugs to lap-produced stimulants and hallucinogens.

The Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, who determined to eliminate drug abuse in India in the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently unveiled the Narcotics Control Bureau Annual Report 2024-25 revealed the exponential growth in the seizure of synthetic drugs in last five years. In 2024, officers apprehended approximately 19,994 kg of synthetic drugs, a six times higher than 1,890 kg reported in 2019. These drugs include amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), MDMA, Methedrone, and methaqualone. Youths are more vulnerable among the users. There is a surge in using crystal meth by LGBTQ+ community particularly among bi-men and gay, to enhance sexual desire, arousal and pleasure, which could lead to psychosis, organ failure, and even irreversible brain damage. Dating apps like Grindr has been used for hook-up.

What drives the synthetic drugs in India?

India is sixth largest producer of precursor chemicals in the world and third in Asia. With a vast legal pharmaceutical and chemical

industries, and inadequate regulation and monitor, these sectors exploited by perpetrators. Comparing to conventional drugs which must be smuggled via hardened border security, synthetic drugs can be produced domestically cheaper without easily getting caught.

Synthetic drugs are more potent and compact than cannabis or heroin, creates demand in party drugs (MDMA, LSD, etc) attract urban youths and smugglers simultaneously. Recent bust in India's national capital involved the Mexican cartel CJNG, an international meth expertise who has been one among the factors for fentanyl proliferation in the United States, indicating alarming trend in the rise of synthetic drugs in India. In March 2024, U.S. intelligence report flagged China and India a key source of precursor chemicals and pill pressing equipment. Indian based manufacturing company also been charged in the federal court in Washington D.C. for illegally importing precursor chemicals. Very recently, the American President Donald Trump stated in the U.S. Parliament that India among the 21 countries identified as "major drug transit or major illicit drug producing" nations. The proximity of Death Triangle (Thailand, Myanmar, Laos) serves the primary supplier of synthetic drugs including methamphetamine

smuggled through majority India's eastern coasts like Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Kolkata.

Technological advancement also enhanced the trafficking methods. Darknet markets, cryptocurrency, encrypted apps like telegram, signal, and use of drones for smuggling drugs across border has been increased and make viable drug trafficking in India. Operation MELON by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) dismantled a prolific darknet drug vendor operating under the code name "Ketamelon", seized LSD, ketamine and cryptocurrency implies the use of darknet and cryptocurrencies in drug trafficking.

Drone-Drug Trafficking

On the other hand, drug trafficking across India's border especially with Pakistan, has soared alarmingly as 179 drone-drug case has been documented in 2024 with Punjab border shares 163 incidents, compared to just 3 incidents in 2021. Drones account for substantial share of cross-border drug traffic, often carrying opium, heroin, and synthetic drugs, packed and fly sub-radar, dropping payloads deep in the border, making detection and interception hard. Border security forces claimed drones akin to Chinese made are among most intercepted.

The recent NCB Annual report also indicated the sharp spike in spot and recovery of Pakistan based drug-laden drones. This could be linked with deep ties of Pakistan with countries like China and Turkey, both supplying key Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for defence purposes. However, it enables terrorists and non-state actors with drones to carry out illegal activities in India.

What are the implications?

It has always been proved that drug trafficking accompanied with narco-terrorism and transnational crime networks, posing a grave risk of India's economy, social solidarity and national security. Since it is profit driven for smugglers and non-state actors, it is positioning India as a production and transit hub, exploit youths, lands, maritime routes, dark web, social media, and crypto currencies, complexing law enforcement landscape. Groups like LeT, JeM, and Khalistan used these illicit drug networks for fuelling terrorism.

Drug money often used of organized crime and potentially terror networks, funding anti-national activities for their personal gain or ideology. One such example, the northeastern states of India borders Myanmar, the second largest opium production country in the world, fuelling insurgent groups with arms and drugs. The unstable, continuous community clashes in these states are proved what drug money or illegal drug flow can do. Moreover, drug money destabilizes India's legitimate economy, by means of profits laundered through hawala, shell companies, crypto currencies and real estate.

Another serious concern is the addiction could lead reduction of youth productivity in workforce, increase health care cost and have long term socio-psychological impact. Crime rate and social unrest also likely increase. Additionally, narco-economics like nightlife and local business distort local pricing and corrupts local police, prison officials, customs, and politicians.

Policies and Initiatives for Prevention and Deterrence

In recent years, India has been advocating various measures to curb drug menace. Under "Zero Tolerance" policy, NCB and MHA actively involved in coordinated actions, setting records in confiscations. It scaled up technical solutions including enhanced drone detection systems in borders, digital forensics and financial

investigations. Union Home Minister demanded every state to build forensic laboratory in all districts to speed up the narcotic cases.

India also increased its drone surveillance along the India-Pakistan border for monitor and deterring cross-border drug and arms trafficking. "Drone-Detect, Deter, and Destroy (D4D)", an indigenously developed anti-drone systems by DRDO, been deployed with border security. Punjab established advanced anti-drone units, a first in Indian state equipped for real-time tracking, automated alerts and offensive capabilities at the high incident border areas.

Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) has been initiated for enhanced and rapid intelligence sharing across states and central agencies. National Integrated Database on Seizures of Narcotics & Psychotropic Substances (NIDAAN), an online database of drug offenders available for enforcement agencies. MANAS-National Narcotics Helpline has been introduced to promote awareness and report tip anonymously about drugs. "Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan" (NMBA) program introduced to raise awareness and strengthening rehabilitation. Mobile Application for Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan also developed for ease of access, by MHA/NCB in partnership with NIC.

Despite these countermeasures, India still in the crisis shaped by drugs proliferation with rapid technical adoption. Most of the time, drones are achieved its mission at least in part before got neutralized. Smugglers adopting to new technology like low-flying swarms, encrypted control, and Chinese or Turkish drone models.

Riverine and monsoon-affected border stretches remain vulnerable due to limited surveillance coverage and fencing. Inside India, drug abuse rapidly growing not only limited to metropolitan cities but extends to semi-urban and rural areas. External infiltration and internal production & consumption of synthetic undermine national security indicating the constant need of more stringent policies, prevention & detention activities, innovation and tighter inter-agency coordination.

Author: LEA



Trapped in Strategy? Quiet base of U.S. in Bangladesh

Decoding Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement



The talk of the Arab & Islamic town is Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) signed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the only nuclear-powered Islamic nation Pakistan. This agreement outlines any aggression against one country is against both countries. While many anti-Indians believe it bolsters Pakistan's leverage against India or it weakens the India-Saudi Arabia relations, let me clearly draw the picture about this defence agreement.

Both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have been engaging in strategic security and economic partnership for decades, the long-standing development ended up in official mutual agreement. But wonders why now? A week before this consensus, Israel conducted a strike in Doha, capital of Qatar, targeting leaders of Hamas in the region and reaffirmed it will not hesitate to strike again anywhere Hamas presents. Soon after the incident, Arab and Islamic nations gathered in Doha, showing solidarity with Qatar, condemning Israel's aggression in the region, expressed the need confronted Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's national

all this in mind, Kingdom made a pragmatic move making the defence tie official.

But why? Among Arab and Islamic nations, Saudi considered to be a soft power who safeguarding two holy cities Mecca and Medina. It does not own a powerful army or having a strategic military framework or planning (now vision 2030) and heavily partnered with America for security. There are few nations like Yemen being concerned as Houthis often carry out attacks in Saudi Arabia often targeting oil reserves or refineries. So, report suggests that Saudi often helps indirectly Israel to carry out attack on Houthis. The whole world knows Houthis are backed by Iran in terms of finance and weapon supplies. Iran, on the verge of making nuclear weapons and diligently working towards it. A few years before Saudi stated that if Iran gets nuclear power so do we.

Pakistan came to the picture at very right time being the only nuclear-powered Islamic nation. Deal happened. If Israel, or Iran attacks or threatens Saudi Arabia which comes under Pakistan nuclear umbrella, can leverage this defence agreement. Pakistan on the other hand, very happy for Kingdom investing \$10 billion into Islamabad for economic and infrastructure development, without realising the complexities.

Let's assume Houthis conduct attacks on Saudi Arabia, which drags Pakistan into conflict against not only Yemen but also against Iran. The impact will be reflected in Iran-Pakistan border security. If Saudi wanted nuclear weapons to be used, then Pakistan will likely turn to America for its approval in which America will not definitely agree, strengthening America's security guarantee by helping the Saudi Arabia itself, leaving Pakistan trapped into distrust dilemma.

Should India worry on SMDA? In April 2025, India and Saudi Arabia signed a Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) worth of \$100 billion covering energy, infrastructure, defence, technology and culture. The main crux of the SPC is both countries pledged to oppose act of terrorism in all form. Pakistan will never directly involve any act against India, instead using proxies like terrorism. If India conducts strike on terror camps or continues operation "Sindoor" which is against terrorism, Saudi Arabia will not interfere as per SPC. In the end, SMDA can be seen as a Kingdom's need of nuclear weapon in the volatile nature of Middle East and the Pakistan's desperation for the economic rejuvenation.

Author: LEA



The United States has moved quickly to expand its military presence in Bangladesh. By September 2025, around 120 U.S. Army and Air Force personnel will operate from a Bangladesh base, conducting joint exercises with the Bangladesh Army. This deployment marks the most direct American footprint in the country to date.

Washington presents these moves as humanitarian and disaster-preparedness efforts. The Pacific Angel 25-3 exercise at Zahurul Haq Air Force Base was officially framed as a relief mission. It included medical camps and emergency training, but the scale revealed more. Ninety-two U.S. airmen, ninety Bangladesh personnel, and additional members from Sri Lanka, Qatar, and Thailand took part. C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, normally based in Japan, landed at Chattogram's Shah Amanat International Airport. This was a test of regional logistics and coalition readiness, not simply a disaster drill.

Bangladesh's location explains the attention. Its Bay of Bengal coastline links to critical sea lanes. To the east lies Myanmar's unstable Rakhine State, while India's sensitive northeast borders the country to the north and west. From a U.S. perspective, Bangladesh offers a surveillance post, a logistics hub, and a launch point for rapid deployments.

Reactions inside Bangladesh are divided. The Communist Party condemned the deployment as "American imperialism," accusing the interim government under Nobel laureate Muhammad

Yunoor of exceeding its mandate.

The accidental death of a Bangladeshi officer during recent exercises intensified concerns. Critics warn that foreign deployments begin with training missions but rarely remain limited.

India and Myanmar are unsettled. New Delhi worries that American troops so close to its northeast may complicate its security planning, even as U.S. presence could help counter China. Naypyidaw views the deployments as an added layer of U.S. pressure on its western flank.

For Dhaka, the situation is precarious. China has poured billions into infrastructure under the Belt and Road Initiative, and Washington is now offering military cooperation and training. Aligning too closely with one risk alienating the other. Each new landing of American aircraft in Chattogram makes neutrality harder to maintain.

Washington normalized its presence through repeated exercises, build interoperability, and established Bangladesh as a node in the Indo-Pacific security network. The Bay of Bengal is becoming contested ground, and Bangladesh is no longer a peripheral state.

U.S. troops and aircraft are now visible in Chattogram. Their presence signals doesn't look temporary relief efforts but the early stages of a deeper security role. Bangladesh has moved from the sidelines into the Indo-Pacific competition, whether its leaders acknowledge it or not.

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China's Ban Nvidia

Who Controls the Chips Controls the Future

China's decision to bar its largest technology firms from buying Nvidia's most advanced AI chips is more than a procurement restriction. It is a strategic move in the escalating technology cold war with the United States, one that could reshape the global race for artificial intelligence dominance.

The immediate trigger lies in Washington's tightening of export controls. In August, U.S. regulators forced Nvidia and AMD to share a portion of their revenues from sales in China as a condition for export licenses. For Beijing, this was a stark reminder that its most ambitious technology projects remained exposed to American pressure. The ban on Nvidia's RTX Pro 6000D and H20 chips is retaliation, but also a calculated step toward technological independence.

China's deeper motives are clear. Advanced semiconductors are no longer just commercial tools; they are instruments of national power.

Chips drive everything from consumer applications like video platforms and e-commerce algorithms to high-stakes fields such as cybersecurity, surveillance, and defense. By blocking Nvidia at the corporate level, Beijing is forcing its technology champions like ByteDance, Alibaba, and Tencent among them to accelerate reliance on homegrown suppliers.

Domestic companies have already begun to respond. Innosilicon Technology, for instance, has introduced the Fenghua No.3 GPU, built to support massive AI models and designed with compatibility for widely used platforms. While Chinese chips still trail Nvidia in efficiency and ecosystem maturity, the state's ability to channel capital and direct procurement ensures they will be rapidly scaled. What they cannot yet match in performance, they may offset with volume, subsidies, and political will.

For Nvidia, the consequences are significant. China accounts for a large share of global demand for AI hardware. Even partial exclusion from this market threatens its growth trajectory, weakens economies of scale, and invites competition from rising challengers.



Nvidia's leadership in AI chips remains unchallenged for now, but the long-term risk is that Chinese firms, under pressure, close the gap faster than anticipated.

The broader question is how this rivalry will affect the rest of the world. Nations dependent on foreign chips will find themselves caught between competing supply chains. For India, the challenge is particularly sharp. While the country has ambitions to emerge as a global hub for semiconductor design and assembly, its reliance on imports for high-end AI hardware remains overwhelming. If the U.S. and China continue to weaponize technology, India risks being squeezed between two giants.

China's ban on Nvidia is more than a defensive act, it is an offensive gambit to turn pressure into opportunity. By shutting the door on America's most prized chips, Beijing is

forcing its tech giants to bet on homegrown innovation, no matter the short-term pain. If that gamble pays off, the world could witness a new semiconductor bloc led by China, challenging decades of U.S. dominance. For India and other rising economies, the warning is unmistakable: who controls the silicon will control the future.

India's must use strategic partnerships and domestic capacity. Collaborating with allied firms could ensure access to cutting-edge chips, but New Delhi also needs to expand initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission, attract global fabs, and foster startups that build indigenous alternatives. Otherwise, as AI systems become central to economic and national security, India could find itself dangerously dependent on the decisions of others.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

Northern Europe on Alert

NATO Ramps Up Defenses Amid Drone Incursions

Northern Europe has faced an unusual and unsettling wave of drone incursions over the past week, prompting NATO to escalate its presence in the Baltic Sea region. On Saturday, the alliance announced the deployment of an air-defense frigate, backed by intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms, as part of an effort to secure critical infrastructure in Denmark and its neighbors.

The first alerts came from Denmark, where unidentified drones were spotted near key military installations late Saturday night. By Monday, Copenhagen Airport, the busiest in the Nordic region, was forced to close temporarily after multiple large drones appeared in its airspace. In the following days, five smaller Danish airports, both civilian and military, also faced temporary shutdowns. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen described the events as "the most serious attack on Danish critical infrastructure to date," framing the drone activity as a form of hybrid attack designed to test the nation's defenses.

Norway reported similar concerns. Police in central Norway began investigating drone sightings near Ørland Air Force Base, the home of the country's F-35 jets. Base personnel observed at least two drones in restricted airspace for roughly an hour before they disappeared. Brynjar Stordal, a senior official at the Norwegian armed forces, confirmed that while the objects were likely drones, investigations are ongoing to determine their origin and intent.

The threat extended into Germany. On Friday, Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt revealed that a drone "swarm" had been spotted over Schleswig-Holstein, the northern state bordering Denmark. In response, German authorities are considering revisions to air safety laws, potentially granting the armed forces the authority to neutralize drones that pose a risk to critical infrastructure.

The incidents have sparked concern across the European Union. Defense ministers from around ten member states announced plans to accelerate the construction of a "drone wall," a coordinated network of detection and interception systems along key points of Europe's borders. The initiative reflects growing awareness that conventional air defenses are



insufficient against small, agile drones capable of disrupting civilian and military operations alike.

Russia quickly responded, warning that such measures could escalate "military and political tensions on our continent." The Russian Foreign Ministry described the EU's approach as being driven by "personal ambitions and political games of the ruling elites," underscoring the geopolitical sensitivities surrounding Europe's increased drone defenses.

For NATO, the deployments in the Baltic Sea serve both practical and symbolic purposes. The air-defense frigate, coupled with ISR assets, will provide real-time monitoring of northern European airspace, improve situational awareness, and act as a rapid-response force should further incursions occur. Analysts emphasize that these events highlight Europe's vulnerability to asymmetric threats and the urgent need for integrated drone defense capabilities.

The incidents also test NATO's readiness. The rapid succession of drone sightings, combined with the growing sophistication of unmanned platforms, underscores the need for shared intelligence, joint operational planning, and investment in cutting-edge counter-drone technologies. At the same time, European governments face the delicate task of balancing civil liberties, aviation safety, and national security as these measures are implemented.

As Northern Europe braces for potential new incursions, the unfolding situation illustrates how modern conflict is increasingly shaped by low-cost, high-impact technologies. Drones, once the domain of hobbyists, have become instruments capable of strategic disruption, forcing nations and alliances to rethink defense planning in real time.

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China Deploys HQ17A Air Defense Less Than 100 km From Indian Positions



China has deployed its advanced HQ 17A short-range air defense system near Pangong Tso, placing highly mobile missile units under 100 km from Indian forward positions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The move enhances the PLA's low-altitude air-defense coverage in a sensitive sector long contested between the two countries.

The HQ 17A is a wheeled evolution of the HQ 17, itself derived from the Russian Tor-M1 after Moscow declined co-production. It integrates vertical-launch missiles, advanced radar, and a digital fire-control suite on a 6x6 chassis. Each launcher carries 16 missiles capable of engaging aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, cruise missiles, and precision-guided munitions up to 15 km away and at altitudes up to 10 km. Dual radars allow multiple-target tracking and simultaneous engagement, while the wheeled design provides rapid redeployment across high-altitude terrain.

Pangong Tso, a glacial lake in the disputed Tibet-Ladakh region, has seen heightened military activity since the 2020 clashes. China has fortified the northern bank with permanent bases, trenches, shelters, and weapons pits. The HQ 17A batteries now extend PLA air coverage over these forward positions, supply routes, and new infrastructure, creating a protective umbrella for troops and installations.

Recent PLA exercises, and open-source imagery indicate that HQ 17A units are actively integrated into high-altitude operations. Tested at elevations above 4,500 meters, the system maintains radar and missile performance despite the cold, thin-air conditions of the plateau. It is designed to provide rapid-response point defense for mechanized units and critical

assets, though its limited missile capacity and light armour mean it relies on mobility and integration with longer-range systems for sustained operations.

For India, the deployment narrows the airspace available for reconnaissance, strike missions, and UAV operations in the region.

While India has bolstered its frontier air-defense with man-portable and mobile missile systems, it currently lacks a mobile SHORAD layer comparable to the HQ 17A, giving the PLA a tactical edge in controlling low-altitude airspace. Analysts stress that India must now rely on higher-tier surveillance, rapid redeployment, and integrated defense planning to offset this new threat.

The HQ 17A's presence underscores Beijing's strategy of layered, integrated air-defense along the frontier, signaling readiness to protect forward bases, infrastructure, and supply lines. Defense planners in New Delhi will monitor whether these deployments are permanent and how they fit into the broader PLA air-defense network, as they could significantly influence future border dynamics.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

Tata Advanced Systems Maroc A Landmark in India-Morocco Defence Diplomacy and Strategic Partnership



In the latest bilateral partnership, India has inaugurated its first overseas defence manufacturing plant in Morocco, the fifth largest economy of African continent, marking a significant milestone in India-Morocco relations, and boon to India's 'make for the world' policy under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India). The plant is a jointly chaired by TATA motors and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India, established to manufacture Wheeled Armoured Platform (WHAP) 8x8 combat vehicles featuring ballistics and mine protection, all-terrain mobility, and advanced power packs.

For Morocco, the most significant, fast-growing economies in Africa, having strategic influence over the continent, this facility reduce the dependency on import and nurture indigenous defence production that are well align with its broader vision of economic diversification, strengthening national security and technological sovereignty. Furthermore, the plant could generate skilled employment, and elevate technological expertise within Morocco's industrial base, espousing Morocco's role in the regional security within Sahel and Mediterranean.

For India, it is a landmark achievement in its ambitious 'self-reliant India' policy, transforming India into global defence exporter, increasing its geopolitical importance in the region and entry to the global arena. Morocco's stable governance, strategic geography connecting Europe, and robust economic ties to other African nations, serves as an ideal gateway

for Indian defence exports and collaboration. By producing 100 armour vehicles per year, India is not just a defence supplier but also a security partner in the regional security initiatives. It could enrich bilateral diplomatic ties amidst rising competitions from other global powers.

Tata Advanced Systems Maroc epitomize not just industrial collaboration, but the concurrent MoI's focused on defence exchanged, training, and joint ventures highlights the intent of building enduring relationship, underscores the comprehensive strategic partnership that melts defence diplomacy with economic and security cooperation.

By bolstering Morocco's autonomous regional power, India can leverage ties, boosting its geopolitical outreach, secure critical strategic partnership and security architecture in Africa and adjoining regions. This cooperation also positions both countries to collectively address emerging transnational threats like terrorism, organized crime and cyber threats. Furthermore, amidst competing powers like China that exploits the region with debts and other means, Tata Advanced Systems Maroc becomes a tangible instrument of soft power and strategic outreach.

This venture epitomizes how a defence industrial collaboration could serve as a catalyst for deeper diplomatic, economic, and security ties, transforming bilateral relations into comprehensive, long-term strategic partnership.

Author: LEA

India Accelerates AI Integration in National Security Operations

When every nation pacing the integration of AI into critical sectors, India also embarked on an unprecedented technological transformation of its national security infrastructure with artificial intelligence and machine learning systems now being deployed across police forces, border security operations and defence establishments to enhance surveillance capabilities, predictive analysis, and real-time threat detection and deterrence.

Border Security Gets AI Upgrade

In the late September, Border Security Force (BSF) has unveiled an advanced AI and GIS-powered Decision Support System (DSS) to strengthen surveillance along the Bangladesh and Pakistan borders. This will enable the force to do predictive analysis of smuggling hotspots and infiltration routes using ML algorithms applied to historical data and current intelligence. This is a significant leap in border technology especially for operational planning given the threats emerging from hostile neighbours.

Delhi Police Deploys Next-Generation Surveillance

The Delhi Police has employed the upgraded Network Traffic Analysis-NETRA, AI-powered surveillance system developed by DRDO to monitor internet traffic, social media activities and encrypted communications in real-time.

Simultaneously, Delhi has activated 'Safe City' initiative, commencing over 3500 AI-enabled cameras from October 1 that are quipped with AI Video Analysis (AIVA) capable of detecting gun shots, crime against women, vehicle theft, and abandoned objects.

Maharashtra's MARVEL project – A Ground breaking AI Initiative

Maharashtra Research and Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement (MARVEL) is India's first state-level AI entity for law enforcement launched in 2023. Predictive analytics on crime pattern, hotspots, providing tailor made AI tools for different departmental requirements including missing persons identification, vehicle theft, organized crime and cyber frauds. It also expanded beyond law enforcement to wildlife conservation, deploying 3150 AI enabled cameras along tiger reserves borders to create virtual walls that detect and deter wildlife from entering nearby villages.

Army Develops AI Roadmap for Combat Operations

Indian Army has fast-tracked the integration of AI, developing roadmap for deploying AI, ML and big data analytics by 2025-2027. North and South Kashmir has been deployed with AI empowered surveillance system featuring real-time video analysis, automated target tracking, and vehicle recognition capabilities.

Collaboration with premier institutions like IIT Madras for the cybersecurity initiatives implies the government's step to unite academia, industry and government expertise to develop cutting-edge solutions for digital battlefields.

CCTNS and NATGRID Integration Advances

Implementation of The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) has culminated across India, employed with 17,171 police stations enables predictive policing, crime mapping, and real-time intelligence sharing between state and central law enforcement agencies.

The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has integrating over 21 critical databases including immigration, telecom, banking and transport sectors to eliminate intelligence silos.

Expanding AI Applications Across Defence

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has unveiled over 75 AI products ranging from autonomous robots to cyber-defence systems. The defence tech ecosystem bolstered by over 1000 defence-startups in India developed successful prototype which spanning across CAISR, with approximately 140 smart surveillance systems deployed in borders.

The technological transformation represents India's strategic responsibility to deter evolving security challenges. This modernization efforts positions India among the global leaders in defence-AI adoption with the integration cutting-edge technologies promising to enhance security while balancing privacy rights in democratic governments.

Author: LEA



Agni-Prime on Rails India Enters Elite Club of Rail-Mobile Missile Powers

India once again elevated into an elite club of countries that produced and owning rail-based mobile missile launcher, signalling potential leap forward in national defence capabilities. Equipped with advanced technologies like ring laser gyro-based inertial navigation and satellite-assisted targeting, India launched Agni-Prime missile from a rail-based mobile launcher, first of its kind ranging up to 2000 km, demonstrating innovation and determination bolstering its security strategy and sending a strong message to adversaries.

With 70,000 km of extensive railway network in India, this launcher does not need any special infrastructural modifications, could blend in effortlessly with civilian rail traffic and can hide in tunnels or natural cover, offering unprece-

dent mobility and stealth to the defence. This widespread access means missiles can be deployed closer to the potential targets near border with minimal warning, it led adversaries think twice about risk of first striking. The missile's 2000-km range covers entire Pakistan and potential regions of China including Xinjiang where nuclear arsenal produced, signalling India's readiness to respond decisively to any threat.

The stealth and mobility diminished the critical vulnerability in fixed-missile systems like exposure to pre-emptive strikes. By constantly moving along the massive rail network, it complicates enemy's surveillance and targeting, costing them excessive spends on intelligence, India reinforcing second-strike

nuclear capability. In the game of nuclear deterrence, it enables a powerful strike against aggression even if the first strike is critical. In addition, this model is cost effective compared to submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Indian railway has multiple railway lines potentially reaching Pakistan close to the western borders states such as Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Jammu & Kashmir. Even some stations like Atari and Munabao near the border connect Pakistan's rail network. Against China, India planning to expand about 500 km of new railway lines near the northeastern border areas adjoining China. With Agni-Prime missile's range, stationed anywhere along these routes, theoretically strike targets across the borders, including entire Pakistan, large swaths of western and southern China especially in the border provinces. Depending on launcher location, parts of northeastern China and bordering Southeast Asia can be locked.

However, it comes with few operational vulnerabilities as it depends on railway infrastructure which may falls for rail lines sabotage. Precision targeting can be marginally less exact compared to silo launchers. Yet, it is worth a strategic value added.

Other countries who achieved similar capability before are Russia, the United States, North Korea and China. Historically, the Soviet Union employed it first during the Cold War as means of countering first-strike vulnerabilities. The U.S. also followed the same but abandoned later. The deployment of rail-mobile DF-41 missiles further confirms the strategic value of such systems in the region and for the power projection.

Juxtaposing unpredictability, survivability, and rapid response into its nuclear forces, India not only secures its borders but also sends a clear message to the world amidst rapidly changing geopolitics. India's defence strategy remains robust, adaptive, and just be ready.

Author: LEA

