

THE
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PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK



INSIGHT

FROM KYIV TO KASHMIR: HOW
CHINA'S PLAYBOOK COULD SHAPE
AN INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

BIG STORY

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK:
A DEFINING TEST FOR INDIA'S
STATECRAFT

COUNTERVIEW

EUROPE IN A TIGHT SPOT AS
US SKEPTICISM MOUNTS

TNJ'S POWER PANEL



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|| FOREWORD



BHARAT STRIKES BACK

In April 2025, 7 Pakistani army terrorists killed over two dozen tourists in Pahalgam (Kashmir), also known as little Switzerland, after identifying them as Hindus. Why would a semi-literate Army Chief provoke a conflict with his much more powerful neighbour and risk the annihilation of his country? Remember what Osama bin Laden did to America and destroyed his host country, Afghanistan?

Pakistan's equally stupid Defence Minister made a stunning acknowledgement on TV that for 30 years, his country had been doing terrorist acts on behalf of America and Britain - neither country will be pleased with this mea culpa.

Pakistan is horrified at the rapid revival of the economy of Kashmir, with hundreds of thousands of national and international tourists rushing there. Islamabad wants to prove to its masters in the Islamic Republic of China that it has brought back the India-Pakistan equation to the centre of international media attention that was focusing on the India-China balance.

2,400 years ago, Chanakya suggested dealing with adversaries through Sama (conciliation), Dana (economic matters), Bheda (dissension among adversaries), and Danda (punishment). Now is the time of Danda with all weapons, including military force. We have suspended the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty that was designed to protect Pakistan's British-inherited irrigation system.

Dozens of world leaders have expressed support for Bharat, and many of my international friends have urged us to root out terrorism as a moral imperative. Totally isolated, Pakistan is begging its few remaining friends to mediate, Iran being one such "brotherly" or "sisterly" country.

Shia Iran could not care less for its aggressive Sunni neighbour. Pakistan's existence is of no benefit to the world, its collapse would be no loss to the world either!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deepak Vohra'.

Ambassador Deepak Vohra, IFS (Retd.)
(Former Ambassador of India to Armenia, Sudan and Poland.
He was also a special Advisor to the Government of South Sudan.)

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EDITOR'S NOTE



TIME TO TEACH A NEW LESSON

The April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam is not just another incident—it is a chilling reminder that Pakistan's deep state continues to nurture and export

terrorism with impunity. Under the shadow of hollow international assurances, terror outfits find sanctuary and support, only to unleash brutality across the border.

This was not an isolated strike; it was a calculated attempt to destabilise Kashmir, to terrorise innocent civilians, and force the exit of tourism from the state, where the population is heavily dependent on tourism for their daily bread.

India's response is most likely going to be harsh as things stand now. This heinous incident demands accountability and severe cost from the masters of terror sitting in the safe environs of Rawalpindi. The cosmetic ceasefire agreements have yielded nothing but more bloodshed.

The world, too, must reckon with its selective outrage. When terrorism erupts in global capitals, it is called an existential threat; when it strikes Indian soil, it is too often reduced to a passing headline. This hypocrisy must end.

At The News Analytics Journal, we refuse to normalise terror in any form. We mourn the innocent lives lost and reject the narrative that seeks to cloak cross-border terrorism under political grievances. Pahalgam's wounds demand strong action, not apathy. The enemies of peace must know—they will neither be forgotten nor forgiven.

Jai Hind!

Sandhya Srivastava
Editor in Chief &
Business Director

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ARAB NATIONS SLAM PAKISTAN AFTER PAHALGAM BLOODSHED

IN FOCUS

In a horrific terrorist incident, the Pahalgam region in India's Jammu and Kashmir was subjected to an extremist attack, adding yet another chapter to India's ongoing battle against terrorism within its borders. The attack, which claimed the lives of several civilians, comes at a particularly sensitive time as cross-border terrorism continues to escalate. India, bolstered by its political and military strength, has reaffirmed its unwavering determination to combat this scourge at any cost.



NADIA HALLAK, BEIRUT, LEBANON
ARAB CORRESPONDENT, THE NEWS ANALYTICS JOURNAL

In a tragic incident, a terrorist group targeted a tourist hub in Pahalgam, resulting in the deaths and injuries of numerous civilians. The attack took place in one of India's most popular tourist destinations, aiming to spread fear among both citizens and visitors.

Despite the Indian authorities' commitment to bringing the perpetrators to justice, the attack once again highlighted the persistent threat posed by terror groups operating along the India-Pakistan border. These incidents are part of a longstanding tension in Kashmir, a region that has repeatedly witnessed cross-border terrorist activities.

The attack in Pahalgam was not merely an isolated terrorist act, it was a calculated message from extremist groups seeking to destabilise India and tarnish its international image. This

has prompted the Indian government to adopt even stronger and more proactive security measures.

THE ARAB POSITION

In immediate response to the attack, major Arab states voiced strong support for India, emphasising that terrorism knows no religion and that India faces a shared threat that requires global solidarity to confront.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia was among the first countries to condemn the attack, expressing full solidarity with the Indian government. In an official statement, the Kingdom stressed that "terrorism can never be justified under any circumstances," calling on the international community to unite in combating this menace. Saudi Arabia views supporting India as a vital step, not only to preserve



stability in South Asia but also to safeguard the broader regional security.

The United Arab Emirates: The United Arab Emirates also strongly condemned the attack and, in its official statement, emphasised the necessity of global unity in the fight against terrorism in all its forms. The UAE, which maintains strategic relations with India, reiterated its full support for India's efforts against extremist forces and called for enhanced cooperation in security fields to address these growing challenges.



Egypt: Similarly, Egypt issued an official statement expressing its strong condemnation of the attack, asserting that "terrorism can never be justified." The Egyptian Foreign Ministry suggested that "the attack targets India's stability and requires a unified stance against such criminal acts." Egypt, a key player in the Arab world, stressed the need for international action to curb the spread of terrorism.

Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan also expressed their full solidarity with India, affirming that such terrorist acts threaten both regional and international stability. These statements served as further confirmation of India's alignment with the Arab world in confronting shared security threats.

international forums, by calling for the designation of groups operating along the India-Pakistan border as global terrorist organizations.

The near future is expected to witness increased security coordination between India and the Arab nations. Given the growing threats posed by terrorism, India and Arab countries will need to deepen their collaboration in areas such as intelligence sharing, cybersecurity, and countering terrorist financing.

The firm Arab positions reflect a solid conviction among many Arab states about the importance of supporting India in this battle against terrorism, signaling a strategic shift in relations between the two sides.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN

The Pahalgam attack places Pakistan in a diplomatically precarious position, significantly affecting its image on the global stage. Believed to have been carried out by groups operating from within Pakistan or backed by Pakistani elements, the attack intensifies suspicions about Islamabad's control—or lack thereof—over militant groups within its territory.

Pakistan is expected to face mounting diplomatic pressure from the international community, including from Arab countries that have openly supported India. This pressure could lead to increased diplomatic isolation, especially if terrorist attacks on Indian soil persist.



Since the attack, major Arab nations have expressed unconditional support for India in its war against terrorism, signalling a significant shift in Arab-Indian relations.

REGIONAL IMPACT

Following the attack, India is expected to implement stricter security measures in Kashmir and intensify its efforts to eradicate terrorist groups operating in the region. New Delhi will likely strengthen its security strategy further through preemptive operations targeting militant strongholds that threaten stability.

India may also leverage Arab and broader international support to increase pressure on Pakistan, especially in

This accumulation of incidents could severely impact Pakistan's ability to maintain strong international relations, particularly with Western and Arab countries eager to bolster cooperation in security and counterterrorism efforts.

If the situation in Kashmir escalates and terrorist incidents continue, Pakistan could find itself even more isolated. The international community would likely intensify its demands for Pakistan to take concrete steps to eliminate doubts about

its alleged support for certain extremist groups—a longstanding and recurring issue.

may be forced to make difficult decisions regarding internal reforms or diplomatic concessions in exchange for international

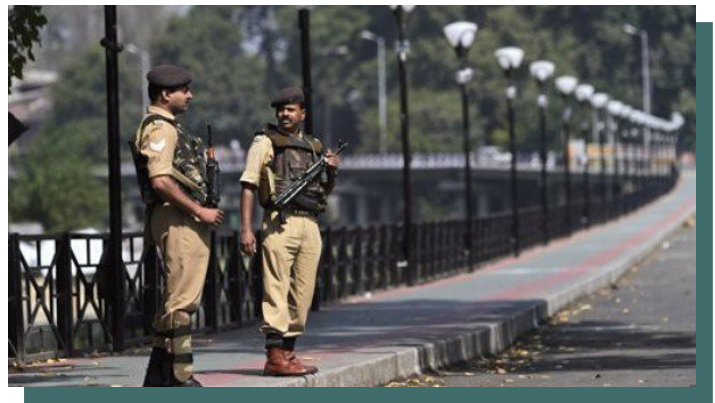
By standing firmly with India, the Arab world and the international community at large aim to strengthen regional unity against terrorism.



aid and support.

It is believed, the terrorist attack in Pahalgam was not merely an isolated incident but a pivotal moment in India's ongoing fight against terrorism. The strong Arab response in support of New Delhi demonstrated that combating terrorism has transcended national borders to become a global commitment.

While Pakistan faces increasing international pressure to reassess its policies regarding extremist groups, India continues to solidify its image as a strong and resilient nation capable of safeguarding its security and stability. With firm Arab backing, this phase opens new horizons for enhancing regional cooperation against terrorism, promising a future of greater safety and stability for the entire region.



ECONOMIC PRESSURES

In addition to political and diplomatic repercussions, Pakistan may also face mounting economic pressures. Already grappling with significant economic challenges, the deteriorating security situation could lead to reduced foreign investment and strained economic ties, particularly with major powers and Arab nations.

Economic relations with India and the Arab world are crucial for Pakistan's stability. If terrorist activities continue, Pakistan

(Nadia Hallak, senior correspondent and distinguished journalist from Beirut, Lebanon. She has extensively worked in the Arab region and covers major developments in the Arab world for TNJ. The views expressed by the author and any guest experts do not necessarily reflect the views of The News Analytics Journal.)

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- *Pahalgam attack highlights ongoing terror threats India faces from Pakistan-based groups.*
- *Arab nations offered unconditional support to India, signaling a strategic realignment.*
- *Arab support boosts India's image and pressures Pakistan over terrorism on world stage.*
- *Pakistan's alleged extremist ties deepen isolation, threatening global investment and international support.*
- *This move boosts India-Arab ties in intelligence, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism financing.*



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PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK: A DEFINING

BIG STORY

The terror attack in Pahalgam represents a defining moment for Indian statecraft. Beyond the immediate horror and grief, it exposes the continuing threat posed by Pakistan's terror apparatus. India's response must now be strategic, autonomous, and resilient—blending calibrated military action with sustained diplomatic and economic measures. This incident offers India an opportunity to reaffirm its resolve, re-establish deterrence, and reshape the security architecture of the region in its favour.



LT GEN RAJ SHULKA (RETD)
FOR NEWS ANALYTICS

The terror attack in Pahalgam has been cowardly, heart-wrenching, and given the visible religious targeting, a new low even by the lowly metrics of terror. As a product of the Pakistani terror apparatus, the visage of communal terror makes it particularly heinous; the timing of the attack is not only a gross misreading of the international system, but also perhaps, a grievous miscalculation. As is evident from the universal condemnation of the incident by the global community, far from turning the spotlight on Kashmir, it has turned the spotlight back on Pakistan, as a pariah, Terror State.

It also needs to be underlined that while the diplomatic space is largely favourable, any action that India takes will have to be autonomous. A favourable outcome will bring more friends to our side of the aisle.

A failing state, on a fissiparous roll, its domestic politics trapped in a time warp, a state steadily running out of any productive ideas and options, one where the sole arbiter of power is a malignant military, has pulled out a rusted arrow from the rotting quiver of its statecraft, to execute the abominable act.



TEST FOR INDIA'S STATECRAFT

A calibrated and sustained response is essential to dismantle Pakistan's terror networks while preserving India's economic, political, and societal momentum in Jammu & Kashmir.



RESPONDING STRATEGICALLY

The motivations apart, the reality is that the Pakistani terror regime has thrown down the gauntlet. The Balakote induced deterrence seems to have worn off, and a new challenge has been mounted – to the return of normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir, to its tourist flows, its economic revival, and to its secular ideals. The central idea of Bharat and 'Bharatiyata' has also been challenged.

Therefore, a well-thought-through, calibrated, potent military response is on its way. There is a bouquet of options, a variety of domains, diverse instruments, and numerous permutations and combinations along the escalator's ladder to re-establish deterrence. Precise kinetics, duly calibrated in terms of lethality and de-risking, will have to be at the forefront of the Indian response.

But the retaliation must be encased in a broader set of measures, those that run deep and are sustained. Some steps have already been taken – freezing the Indus Water Treaty, changes in the visa regime, downsizing of diplomatic missions, closure of border crossings, et al – this is a very good beginning. In the days to come, however, we must enlarge the swathe further - focus on isolating the ISI, the Pakistani Army and General Asim Munir, the architect-in-chief, of the ghastly crime. His speech of 16 April set out the agenda for a renewed campaign of ghastly terror – he therefore carries primary responsibility. Liability, in terms of a determined campaign to dismantle the Pakistani terror apparatus and its notorious ringmasters, must follow.

The notion of using terror as a tool of statecraft must be exterminated from the Pakistani state of mind, once and for all. It may be useful to recall that one of the abiding regrets

of our late and beloved Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, was not to have cleared a strike on Pakistan, post the Dec 2001/May 2002 attacks on the Parliament and the Kaluchak Military Station.

STRATEGIC RESILIENCE

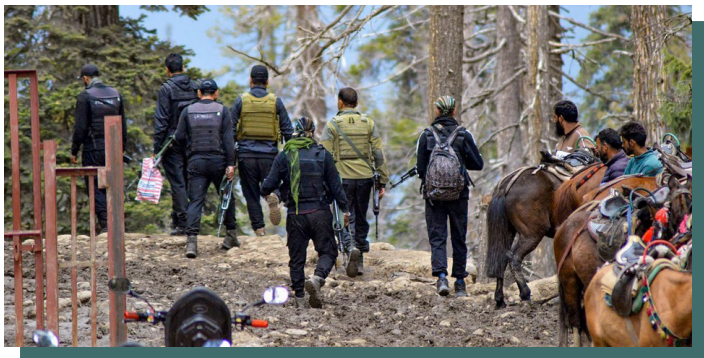
We must be prepared for the long haul. Deterrence restoration is a grueling, hard grind; it may also turn out to be a bloody business. So, the larger Indian State and the people will have to brace up for the challenge and prepare themselves for a period of extended sacrifice, resilience and resolve. Pursuant to a further tightening of the counter-infiltration and counter-terror grids, we must continue to sustain the political activity, economic momentum, tourist footfalls, religious, business and commercial activity in Jammu & Kashmir. The nation's economic engines, the supply chain framework and the military-industrial complex will also have to step up their game. The larger story of India's rise, its growing influence, weight and power, must be able to take the horror of Pahalgam in its stride.

We must also be careful not to let the needle of the narrative move towards needless distractions - the nuclear bogey, for instance, which is an old schoolboy bluff. Yes, any conflict between two nuclear states must be responsibly cognizant of the red lines; such red lines, however, must be carefully assessed by India – there is enough space below the nuclear threshold for calibrated, conventional strikes. In any case,



the rationale for nuclear power hood cannot be one where, under nuclear cover, the State embarks on a terror rampage.

Pahalgam demands that Indian statecraft balance immediate kinetic retaliation with long-term strategic resilience, ensuring regional stability and fortifying India's rise as a global power.



therein are a cause for additional worry.

So, a muscular Indian foreign policy must be complemented by a well-resourced and lethal instrument of force, one that is in the highest state of lethality and readiness.

We also need to recalibrate the balance in our deterrence and war-fighting matrix. The more we spend and invest in deterrence, the better we de-risk deterrence breakdowns, the lesser the prospect of war fighting, the brighter the chances for peace and prosperity. Our economic statecraft will need to realign with such a paradigm.

The pain and anguish of Pahalgam must not dissipate in anger, but be channelised into new pathways – those that tighten the military noose around a decaying Pakistani enterprise of vile terror while concurrently expanding an Indian torrent of productivity, power and purpose.



A tightrope walk, but one that an agile, fleet-footed, Indian State must execute with requisite strategic-military poise.

*(Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd), former Army Commander and currently a Member of UPSC. The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of **The News Analytics Journal**.)*

MOMENT FOR INDIA

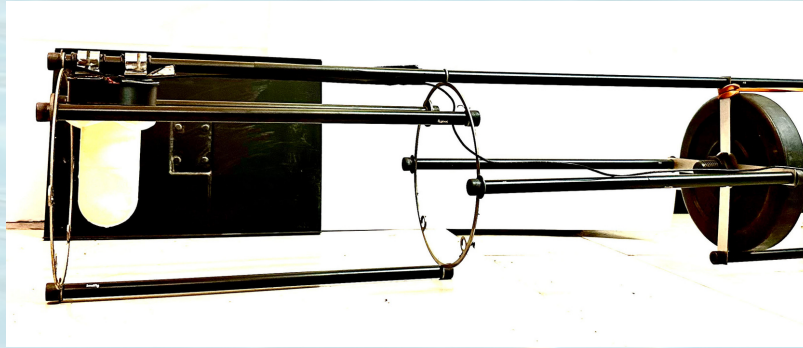
This is also a seminal moment for Indian statecraft – Pahalgam is a ghastly, but only momentary, reverse. More significantly, it is an opportunity for Indian statecraft to demonstrate its wisdom and its fire, its resilience and resolve. Hit the principal actors of the Pahalgam conspiracy in the face while exterminating the wider terror machine with a renewed sense of purpose.

This is also an opportune time to wake up to another reality - recognise the rather grim challenges that dot our strategic environment. A strong response must be in lockstep with a longer view of our strategic-military challenges.

Not only the military component of the power differential along the northern borders, the challenges in the IOR, but also the contours of what appears to be a new national security reality emerging to our East. Bangladesh, where a new strategic design, with collusion between China, the ISI and the Islamists at its core, seems to be unfolding. The proposed airbase in Lalmonirhat, Mohamed Yunus's rant on the land-locked status of the North-East, naval bases & oceanic access for China, the Sinicization of the Bangladeshi military inventory, etc., are all issues of great concern. In a similar vein, instabilities in Myanmar and a growing Chinese footprint

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- *India should act autonomously, using global support to advance national strategic interests.*
- *Calibrated military-diplomatic response vital to restore deterrence, dismantle Pakistan's terror infrastructure.*
- *India must maintain stability in Jammu & Kashmir through political, economic, societal engagement.*
- *India must stay vigilant to new threats from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and IOR.*
- *Investing in military strength and economic strategy will secure India's future peace and prosperity.*



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IN CONVERSATION



H.E. Mariano Agustín Caucino - Ambassador of Argentina in India



Sandhya Srivastava
Editor in Chief

On the eve of Argentine Revolution Day on 25th May and completing 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Argentina, the Editor in Chief of The News Analytics Journal, Ms. Sandhya Srivastava, interacted exclusively with His Excellency Mariano Agustín Caucino, Honourable Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Republic of India. Excerpts from the conversation.

Q: Your Excellency, how do you interpret the evolution of Argentina-India relations since 1949 as both countries completed 75 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties?

Argentina and India have enjoyed friendly relations since 1949, when my country recognized independent India and established diplomatic ties with it, and especially since 1950, when an Embassy was established in Delhi. It

should also be borne in mind that Argentina had established a General Consulate in the then city of Calcutta even before that, in the 1920s.

Argentina and India are both democracies -and federal democracies at that- and despite the cultural differences, we share values regarding respect for human dignity and freedom. In recent years, the link between the two countries has evolved to an extent that today, India is

one of the six main trade partners of Argentina. But I am convinced the best is yet to come because our economies are very complementary, our people have sympathy for each other, and we will be able to explore additional avenues for cooperation.

Q: In 2019, both countries elevated their bilateral cooperation to a Strategic Partnership during the state visit of then President H.E. Mr. Mauricio Macri to India. Could you elaborate on the key areas that have benefited from this enhanced collaboration?

Argentina is today India's largest provider in terms of soyabean oil and we are number three regarding sunflower oil. I would say that despite geographical distance and cultural differences, we have developed a robust relationship, particularly in the economic sector. Our friendship is based on a common interest in common values; on a steady relationship of many, many years and on a mutually beneficial situation for the two countries.

Two areas that were specifically touched upon by President Macri and Prime Minister Modi on that occasion, and which represent important issues in the bilateral relationship, are nuclear energy and space research cooperation. Both India and Argentina are examples of Global South countries which have attained a very high degree of development in the nuclear and space arenas, and it was taking that into account as well as the maturity of our relations that in 2019 both leaders signed MoUs related to those matters, which we strive to develop even more.

Q: The 7th India-Argentina Joint Commission Meeting was held in October 2024. What were the significant outcomes of this meeting, and how do they shape the future trajectory of our partnership?

We have complementary economic situations, and although we are very far away and we belong to different cultures, we are able to develop a very strong relationship, as we are doing. We had two visits of Horacio Marin, CEO and Chairman of YPF, Argentina's largest oil and gas company, and MoUs were signed with Indian companies to establish Argentina as a key energy supplier to India. These were important steps in order to make Argentina a provider of energy supply to India, one of the largest economies in the world. It is now in the fifth, as I've said. It will soon become number three. It has a demand for energy and in that case, Argentina can provide energy.

Argentina is already a great food security provider for India and can become an energy security provider too.

As far as lithium is concerned, recent years represented significant milestones for Indian mining companies, and we should add that the northern Argentine province (State, in Indian terms) of Catamarca is now hosting Indian firms that are not only exploring lithium but also showing interest in exploiting copper and gold. These investments are particularly important as India advances its electric vehicle (EV) development, aiming to secure a resilient and diversified supply chain for critical minerals essential for various industries in India. During February, we had the visit of Governor (equivalent of a Chief Minister in Argentina) Mr Raúl Jalil, of Catamarca province, who had very fruitful meetings with Secretary Kantha Rao along with MECL, KABIL, COAL India, among other important companies.

Q: Defence cooperation has been identified as a key area of mutual interest. Could you highlight recent developments in this sector and any future plans for joint initiatives?

The two countries are working very closely in terms of exchange of military experiences and exercises, for example, in the Aconcagua and the Himalayas. At the same time, the Indian decision to deploy a Military Attaché in the Indian Embassy in Argentina is a very positive development.

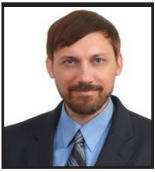
Q: How do Argentina and India collaborate on global security issues and what platforms facilitate this cooperation?

Argentina and India are two democracies and we are both G20 members. And although we belong to distant regions of the world we share values we believe in. Such as democracy, freedom, and respect for human life. Therefore, both countries are united in the fight against and condemnation of terrorism and extremism. It should also be reminded that in 2019, the then Argentine President and Mr Modi issued a joint communiqué regarding the condemnation of terrorist activity, a condemnation that also forms part of the bedrock of our current President, Javier Milei's foreign policy. Tragically, both Argentina and India have been victims of terrorist activities in recent times. The joint combat against that hideous phenomenon also contributes to the strengthening of our bilateral relationship.

FROM KYIV TO KASHMIR: HOW CHINA'S PLAYBOOK COULD SHAPE AN INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

INSIGHT

The recent horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which killed 26 innocent tourists, has further strained already tense ties between India and Pakistan. If this incident escalates into a major conflict between the two nuclear powers, China will likely play a critical role as Pakistan's largest ally. Accurately predicting Beijing's response requires a comprehensive analysis of its multifaceted strategic objectives in South Asia, its intricate and often contrasting relationships with India and Pakistan.



KEONI EVERINGTON, TAIPEI, TAIWAN

TAIWAN & CHINA CORRESPONDENT, THE NEWS ANALYTICS JOURNAL

During a press conference on April 23, a member of the media pointed out that US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and other leaders had condemned the Pahalgam assault and asked whether China had any comment on the incident. China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Beijing has received relevant reports and “strongly condemns this attack.”

Guo said that China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism. He added, “We mourn for the lives lost and express sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured.”

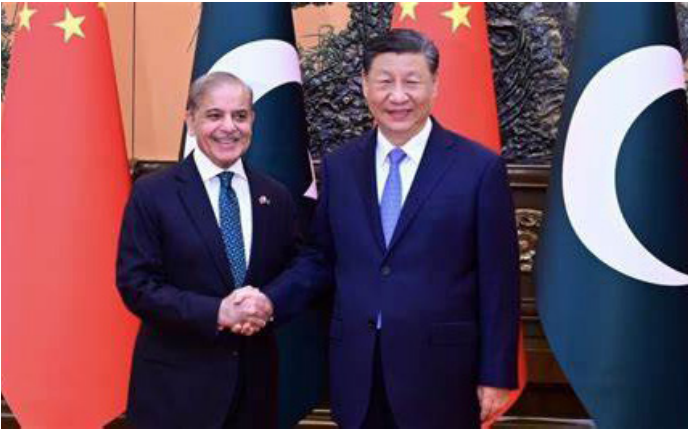
China’s ambitions in South Asia are tied to its economic and

strategic goals. Central to this is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at its heart. Beijing plans to use CPEC to connect China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with Pakistan's deep-sea ports of Gwadar and Karachi through a network of infrastructure projects. Regional instability, especially involving Pakistan, would threaten this vital project and Beijing’s larger Eurasian connectivity plans.

China also sees South Asia as a key arena in its rivalry with India. By bolstering Pakistan, Beijing aims to contain India’s growing influence, especially as New Delhi strengthens ties with the U.S. and the Indo-Pacific alliance known as the Quad.



Tensions along the Sino-Indian border deepen China's interest in the region's power balance, with Beijing naturally wanting to tip the scale in Pakistan's favor to facilitate its designs.



THE "ALL-WEATHER" ALLIANCE

China and Pakistan have had a long history of diplomatic ties since 1951. Similar to China and Russia's "no limits" strategic partnership, declared in 2022, Beijing and Islamabad reached a new level of cooperation with an "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" declared in 2015.

Based on a shared rivalry with India, their relationship has expanded through extensive Chinese military and economic assistance to Pakistan. This includes joint defense projects like the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet and the rapid transfer of advanced PL-15 long-range, air-to-air missiles, altering the regional military balance.

Diplomatically, China has consistently supported Pakistan, particularly on Kashmir. While it has historically called for bilateral solutions, Beijing's tone has shifted toward openly backing Islamabad, especially after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

The 1963 Sino-Pakistani border agreement, ceding the Shaksgam Valley to China, further complicates the territorial disputes in the region. This is because it has created a trilateral dimension to the Kashmir issue, granting China a strategic foothold in the region claimed by India.

Despite its strong support for Pakistan, China maintains significant, albeit strained, relations with India. Trade between the two nations has grown substantially, though it heavily favors China's exports. Both countries are members of multilateral groups such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), creating platforms for engagement.

However, tensions persist due to the unresolved border dispute, China's strong strategic ties with Pakistan, and India's deepening partnership with the U.S. and its allies. China regards India's rising assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific with caution and remains alert to any moves that could undermine its regional influence.

PARALLELS FROM UKRAINE WAR

To predict China's behavior in a potential India-Pakistan conflict, some strong clues can be drawn from its approach to Russia's war in Ukraine. China has outwardly maintained neutrality, calling for peace while continuing economic and diplomatic support for Russia, a stance the West has accused Beijing of being biased.

Key actions China has taken to support Russia during its invasion of Ukraine include an economic lifeline, diplomatic shield, non-lethal military support, selective sovereignty stances, and protecting investments. China has helped Russia cushion Western sanctions by ramping up energy imports and supplying goods. A similar, though potentially smaller, economic safety net could be extended to Pakistan in a conflict.

China has shielded Russia from harsh UN condemnation, proposing peace initiatives that avoid directly criticizing Moscow. In South Asia, Beijing would likely diplomatically defend Pakistan, urging dialogue without blaming Islamabad.

Although China has not been proven to send lethal weapons to Russia, it has supplied dual-use goods, such as semiconductors, drone components, and vehicles. In a South Asian conflict, Beijing might speed up delivery of existing military deals and offer intelligence and logistical help to Pakistan, such as PL-15 missiles.

While stressing sovereignty and territorial integrity for Ukraine, China's stance on Kashmir favors Pakistan. This selective approach demonstrates China's tendency to prioritise strategic interests over the consistent application of international norms.



Any conflict endangering Chinese personnel or infrastructure in Pakistan could prompt a strong response from Beijing, possibly involving demands for greater security or even unilateral protective actions.

CHINA'S LIKELY ACTIONS

Based on China's role in the Russia-Ukraine war, combined with its strategic interests and ties with India and Pakistan, Beijing's involvement in a potential conflict would likely include strong diplomatic, economic, logistical support for Pakistan. China would attempt to maintain a façade of neutrality, engage in limited military signaling to India, protect CPEC and Chinese citizens, and leverage international forums.



Following its approach with Russia, China would probably extend strong diplomatic support to Pakistan in international forums. It would likely oppose efforts to condemn Pakistan at the UN Security Council and reaffirm its traditional stance on Kashmir, potentially casting India as the aggressor or the catalyst for the conflict.

Following its Russian model, China could offer vital economic assistance and logistical backing to Pakistan. This support might take the form of financial aid, fuel shipments, and the fast-tracking of military equipment and spare parts deliveries.

Although the direct deployment of Chinese troops remains highly unlikely, the supply of advanced weaponry, highlights China's readiness to strengthen Pakistan's military capabilities. Such actions would significantly impact the regional balance and signal Beijing's commitment to its strategic partner.

As with its position on Ukraine, China would likely urge de-escalation and dialogue between India and Pakistan. Yet its rhetoric and actions would probably reveal a clear bias toward Pakistan, highlighting Islamabad's concerns, particularly over Kashmir, while subtly criticising India's military moves.

To prevent India from concentrating all its military resources on its western border, China might engage in limited military posturing along the Sino-Indian border. This could include ramped-up military exercises or troop deployments, signaling concern and compelling India to divert attention and resources to its northern frontier, similar to China's strategy

of tying down Western resources in its support for Russia.

The protection of CPEC and the thousands of Chinese nationals in Pakistan would be a top priority for Beijing. As demonstrated by its recent deployment of private security forces in response to growing terror threats, China would likely press Islamabad for stricter security measures and may take unilateral actions if it deems Pakistan's efforts inadequate.

China would likely leverage platforms such as the SCO and collaborate with like-minded nations to advance its narrative and push for a resolution that aligns with its strategic interests, including a stable and secure Pakistan. This approach mirrors its attempts to present peace proposals in the Ukraine conflict, reflecting its broader diplomatic strategy.

KEY DIFFERENCES

While parallels can be drawn, crucial distinctions exist between the Russia-Ukraine war and a potential India-Pakistan conflict that would shape China's role. Notable differences include nuclear risk, direct border disputes, the U.S. factor, and historical hostilities.

The existence of nuclear weapons on both sides of the India-Pakistan border greatly heightens the potential for escalation. This may cause China to exercise even greater caution in taking actions that could be seen as directly escalating the situation.

Unlike its situation with Ukraine, China has a direct and unresolved border dispute with India. Any conflict involving India could potentially escalate or introduce new dynamics along the Sino-Indian border, a factor that Beijing would need to carefully assess.

Under Trump's second term, the US has a strengthening strategic partnership with India, unlike its rocky relationship with Ukraine. While the Biden administration offered substantial military and financial aid to Ukraine, Washington's ties with India are more firmly based on mutual concerns



about China's rise as it pivots to Asia, which could result in a stronger US response in support of India, potentially affecting Beijing's calculus.



The long-standing conflict and mistrust between India and Pakistan, along with China's steady support for Pakistan, create a distinct dynamics compared to the more recent and evolving relationship between China and Russia regarding Ukraine. This difference further shapes China's approach to the potential India-Pakistan conflict.

A CALIBRATED APPROACH

In the event of a conflict between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, China could play a significant yet measured role. Drawing from its experience with the Russia-Ukraine war, Beijing will likely provide strong diplomatic and economic support to Pakistan while maintaining a publicly neutral stance and calling for dialogue.

China would likely undertake limited military signaling along its border with India to deter a full Indian focus on its western front, while simultaneously prioritising the robust protection of its significant economic investments in Pakistan, most notably CPEC. This two-pronged approach would aim

to both strategically constrain India and safeguard China's crucial regional economic and connectivity projects.

However, the distinct dynamics of South Asia, including the nuclear factor and the direct Sino-Indian border dispute, will require China to adopt a more cautious approach than its actions in Ukraine. Though direct military involvement is highly improbable, China's multifaceted backing of Pakistan will play a crucial role in shaping the conflict's direction, with the international community closely watching Beijing's response to avoid exacerbating tensions in an already volatile, nuclear-armed region.

*(Keoni Everington is an American senior journalist based in Taipei, Taiwan with 15 years of experience covering news about Taiwan and China. Everington specialises in subjects such as cross-strait relations, US-Taiwan ties and international geopolitics. The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of **The News Analytics Journal**.)*



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- China's priorities of protecting CPEC and countering India's rise may prompt support for Pakistan.
- China will likely provide Pakistan diplomatic, economic, and non-lethal military aid.
- China may escalate border tensions with India to divert India's military focus, aiding Pakistan.
- China's priority is safeguarding its economic interests and citizens in Pakistan, seeking tighter security.
- Due to nuclear weapons and border tensions, China would approach conflict more cautiously.

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EUROPE IN A TIGHT SPOT AS US SKEPTICISM MOUNTS

DIPLOMACY

As the long-drawn-out conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues, Diplomacy and international relations have, of late, witnessed a perceptible shift in dynamics and change in direction. The US took the early initiative to push for a ceasefire. European leaders were found wanting, lacking a cohesive response, seemingly overwhelmed by the speed with which the US took over the peace process. For neutral observers, it would appear as a case of 'missed opportunity' for Europe.



**AMBASSADOR SRIKUMAR MENON, IFS(RETD)
FOR NEWS ANALYTICS**

What has stood out in the past four months is the sidelining of Europe, and its waning influence and role in the Ukraine peace process. Despite being an important stakeholder, with legitimate security concerns and interests that are deeply interlinked to the Ukraine conflict, Europe sadly found itself left on the margins - ignored and excluded, from the initial process of negotiations.

More so, after the assumption of office by the new Trump administration in January, as the United States positions itself into a more dominant role, proactively driving the peace narrative and negotiations for a ceasefire in the conflict. During this early phase of his peace push, Trump made no bones about depicting himself as the 'dealmaker-in-chief'.

There has been significant friction and growing tensions between the US and Europe in their strategic approaches to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Much to the dismay and growing concern of many Europeans, the early moves by the new US administration marked a visible shift in US policy. In February, US and Russian diplomats met in Saudi Arabia, while deciding to re-engage and seek a reset in their relationship and bilaterally negotiate on the war without Ukraine and Europe. The US also pitched for a continuation of US investments and assistance in Ukraine by seeking in return a share in the latter's rare earth metal industry.



European concerns escalated when it appeared that the two sides could be negotiating a peace deal that would potentially allow Russia to retain some of the captured territories and block Ukraine's entry into NATO. This notwithstanding, the fact is that the US has limited influence over EU membership decisions.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aptly summed up European concerns when he pointed out, "At stake is not just the future of Ukraine. It is an existential question for Europe as a whole."



President Zelenskyy of Ukraine has all along expressed his frustration and concerns at being excluded from the peace parleys, pointing out that Ukraine's right to self-determination was being completely disregarded. Russian President Putin has been seeking an end to the war on Russia's terms, while seizing the opportunity to redraw the map of Europe to Russia's advantage.

Since the early days of the conflict, when it all began in February 2022, there have been sharp differences among EU member states on the strategy and approach to stop hostilities. Being unable to take the lead and play a pre-eminent, unified, coherent and meaningful role in diplomatic negotiations, Europe has gradually and effectively ceded that mantle to the US.

This dilution and drift in European authority is due to a lack of strategic focus and disunity among members of the Union - a situation that is symptomatic of the EU's hesitancy to take decisive action. As it is, the EU has been bogged down by its collective inability to project a clear, viable and mutually consensual plan for ending the war in Ukraine.

While the US has always desired a robust role for itself in geopolitical matters, the tardy and seemingly limp response from Europe in the early days of the push by the new Trump administration, only reinforced the US resolve to go it alone, and pitch its diplomatic might in a more assertive manner, behind the Ukraine-Russia negotiations to secure an early resolution of the conflict.

On the other hand, the European tendency to prioritise

domestic issues and conflicting national interests among member states has only complicated the scene, preventing any collective action.

European leaders have been complicit in their inability to forge a consensus in formulating a European role in post-war Ukraine, besides failing to present a unified stand on troop deployments, defence spending and contributions. Such divergent views are exemplified by stances taken by Germany and Poland opposing troop deployments (advocated by the UK, Sweden, and Denmark).

The UK hosted a summit in London to reinforce European backing for Ukraine in the war against Russia. The subsequent emergency summit in Paris drew criticism over the exclusion of Hungary and the three Baltic states from the consultations. The summit failed as it could not reach a consensus on European involvement.

CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPE

Amidst the growing perception of its inability to secure its strategic interests, Europe faces a further erosion of its relevance, influence and diplomatic leverage in the global and geopolitical sphere. There is also the possibility of Europe becoming increasingly dependent on US support to secure its military, security, diplomatic and economic needs. It may well be a revert, in some form, to the days of the Marshall Plan of the late 1940s and 1950s, when US aid provided much-needed capital and materials to support European allies to rebuild the continent's economy in the aftermath of destruction caused by WW-II.

The sidelining of Europe in the Ukraine negotiations also has implications for Ukraine itself, having banked on European support for securing membership of the EU and NATO.



US CRITICISM OF EUROPE

The US has urged Europe to take more financial responsibility in supporting Ukraine. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth termed current funding arrangements as 'imbalanced', while

US Vice President JD Vance called on Europe to give an 'overwhelming' share of funds to Ukraine.

Vance criticised EU leaders for what he called 'backsliding on democracy and freedom of speech', and for prioritising internal threats over external threats from Russia or China.



Around the same time, Elon Musk criticised European politics, leaders and the European Commission, while choosing to openly support far-right parties, just weeks before the German federal elections. Musk also publicly made personal accusations against the British Prime Minister, claims that many found misleading and inflammatory. Musk has courted controversy in his unconventional role as an unelected member of the Trump administration, and continues to be a diplomatic dilemma (though not a liability for President Trump, yet)

These, and a series of other US statements raked up controversy and unrest among European politicians, even prompting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to say - '...that is why we will not accept outsiders interfering in our democracy, our elections, and in the democratic formation of opinions...that is not appropriate – especially among friends and allies, and we firmly reject this.'

As if Europe's cup of woes was not full enough, the controversial Greenland issue has soured its relations with the US. European leaders have reacted sharply to the US's plan to buy Greenland, expressing concerns about its implications for European security and sovereignty. Both Denmark and Greenland have opposed the move, warning that the use of military force would be tantamount to an attack on a NATO ally.

SEEKING THE ENDGAME

Negotiations to end the Ukraine-Russia war are still at a critical juncture, holding significant challenges for geopolitics and diplomacy. The prospects for a peace deal are indeed complex and uncertain.

A continuation of the conflict and a reduced European role in the peace process will only delay and undermine Ukraine's efforts to salvage what it can after 3 years of bloody war. It

could also contribute to a more emboldened Russian role in Ukrainian affairs, which will be a serious blow to Ukraine's sovereignty and stability, especially given Russia's stated aim to secure territorial gains and regime change in Kiev. Moreover, it could result in Europe losing an important source of partners for its critical mineral trade.

A reversal of Trump's previous friendly stance toward Putin cannot be ruled out, given the US's growing frustration with Russia following the latter's recent military actions, including the drone strike on the Ukrainian Port city of Odesa, and Russian resistance to a ceasefire and peace deal. These developments have provoked Trump to threaten to impose secondary tariffs on Russian oil and other products.

Without a strong representation of its respective concerns and expectations, there is a risk that the outcome of negotiations could be inimical to the interests of both Ukraine and Europe.

THE WAY AHEAD

What is noteworthy and positive is that the peace parleys and exchanges have continued, despite the fiery exchanges of the first White House meeting between President Trump and President Zelensky in February. A coalition of European leaders, led by the UK and France, has proposed a three-pronged approach to ensure Ukraine's security, but the plan's objectives are currently out of reach.

Addressing European concerns, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently assured that Ukrainians and Europeans



would eventually participate in "real" negotiations (though such formal talks are yet to start).

Europe, therefore, has its task cut out - finding itself on the crossroads, as it attempts to play a more assertive part in shaping Ukraine's future, while also seeking to recover lost ground and restore its credibility and standing on the global stage. On the other hand, the Trump-led US is keen to prove to the world its ability to deliver on its pledge to end the Ukraine war quickly.



As hectic diplomatic moves continue, the entire world awaits with a bated sense of optimism, hoping that the willingness shown by all parties to compromise will help secure a peaceful and lasting resolution of the conflict.

*(Ambassador Srikumar Menon, IFS (Retd.), former Ambassador of India to South Sudan, Angola and Sao Tome & Principe. The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of **The News Analytics Journal**.)*

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- *Though impacted by the Ukraine conflict, Europe has been sidelined in peace talks.*
- *The US has engaged directly with Russia, sparking fears of compromised Ukrainian sovereignty and exclusion from NATO.*
- *Europe's strategic drift arises from internal EU disagreements, weakening its collective influence.*
- *US leaders have criticised Europe's financial, democratic, and security practices, hitting transatlantic ties.*
- *With limited European involvement, there's concern a peace deal may harm long-term interests.*

COMMENT OF THE MONTH



Michal Anderson commenting on-
\$67 million US warplane falls off Aircraft Carrier into sea.

|| No big deal the United States has a huge under righting source, the United States Tax payer. China or any other doesn't need to go fishing it out of the deep blue sea they already have the blueprints.

GLOBAL INFLUENCER

KAJA KALLAS — THE DIPLOMAT

NEWS ANALYTICS | Special Coverage

In the rapidly evolving landscape of global politics, few figures have emerged with as much influence and determination as Kaja Kallas. As the Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kallas has been instrumental in steering the European Union's foreign policy during a period marked by significant geopolitical challenges. Her leadership in early 2025 has been characterised by proactive diplomacy, a firm stance on international conflicts, and efforts to strengthen global partnerships.

RISE TO PROMINENCE

Born in Estonia, Kaja Kallas has a rich political lineage. She is the daughter of Siim Kallas, a former Prime Minister of Estonia and European Commissioner. She pursued law and later transitioned into politics, becoming the first female Prime Minister of Estonia in 2021. Her tenure was noted for its emphasis on digital innovation and strong support for Ukraine amidst Russian aggression. In late 2024, she assumed her current role in the European Commission, bringing her experience and resolute approach to the broader European stage.

Kallas has been vocal in addressing international conflicts, particularly the ongoing war in Ukraine. In February 2025, she welcomed a significant step towards holding Russia accountable for its aggression, emphasising the EU's commitment to justice and international law. Her remarks underscored the importance of maintaining pressure on Russia to ensure accountability and support for Ukraine's sovereignty.

In March 2025, during discussions on the EU's foreign, defence, and security policies, Kallas played a pivotal role in shaping the bloc's strategic objectives. Her leadership was evident as the European Parliament deliberated on common foreign policy goals, with Kallas advocating for a cohesive and assertive EU stance in global affairs.



NAVIGATING TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

As Kaja Kallas continues her stride on the global stage, her role in redefining transatlantic dynamics is becoming more pronounced and strategic. In early March 2025, Kallas quietly hosted an informal “EU-U.S. Futures Dialogue” in Tallinn, gathering second-tier diplomats and think-tank strategists from both sides of the Atlantic. While the event flew under the radar, it signalled her push to foster long-term continuity in Europe-U.S. cooperation beyond political cycles.

Another striking development came during her visit to Ottawa, where she initiated trilateral discussions between the EU, Canada, and the U.S. on AI regulation and energy partnerships. By positioning the EU as a bridge between American innovation and European regulation, Kallas subtly advanced the bloc's influence in shaping global tech governance—a field increasingly seen as the new battleground of geopolitical power.

Her tact also emerged in media diplomacy. A March 2025 op-ed in *Foreign Policy*—co-authored with former U.S. ambassador Marie Yovanovitch—called for a “values-based multilateralism” that resists autocratic encroachments without reverting to Cold War binaries. The piece, shared widely among Washington and Brussels insiders, reframed transatlantic ties not as dependent or transactional, but as co-authored chapters in democratic resilience.

OF THE MONTH

REDEFINING EUROPE'S GLOBAL STANCE

ENGAGEMENT WITH MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS

Away from the press-heavy corridors of Brussels, Kallas has been quietly but persistently elevating the EU's posture in Middle Eastern diplomacy. In February 2025, she appointed a special Middle East Envoy—a move not widely publicised but significant. The envoy's mandate? To create pathways for soft-power influence through cultural diplomacy, youth exchanges, and green energy collaboration with Jordan, the UAE, and Morocco. She also initiated a lesser-known but impactful "Civic Futures" dialogue, held in Amman, focusing on digital rights and press freedom in MENA nations. Kallas's belief: Europe's engagement in the Middle East must move beyond conflict narratives and into civic transformation. Her framing of the region as a space for "co-creating 21st-century governance models" is gaining traction among younger Arab policymakers.

Kallas has additionally stepped into economic diplomacy. She recently advocated for expanding the EU's Global Gateway infrastructure program to include critical water infrastructure projects in Lebanon and Palestine—areas often overlooked in traditional aid frameworks. By integrating economic resilience with geopolitical stabilisation, she is pushing for an EU approach that's as empathetic as it is strategic.



STRENGTHENING EU-INDIA RELATIONS

Recognizing the strategic importance of India, Kallas has advocated for a deeper EU-India partnership. In February 2025, discussions emphasised the need to upgrade relations, focusing on trade, de-risking supply chains, and addressing shared geopolitical challenges. Both parties acknowledged the mutual benefits of enhanced cooperation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The 10th round of EU-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations took place in March 2025 in Brussels, aiming to resolve outstanding issues and pave the way for a comprehensive agreement. Kallas's support for these talks underscores her commitment to expanding the EU's global partnerships and economic ties.

Kaja Kallas's leadership in early 2025 has been marked by decisive action and a clear vision for the European Union's role on the world stage. Her firm positions on international conflicts, efforts to strengthen transatlantic and Indo-Pacific relations, and commitment to upholding democratic values have solidified her status as a key global influencer. As the EU navigates an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, Kallas's influence will undoubtedly continue to shape its foreign policy and international engagements.

MYANMAR'S CRISIS TESTS INDIAN STRATEGY

COUNTerview

India's evolving Myanmar policy demands pragmatism, strategic foresight and regional necessity. With Myanmar facing political turmoil post-2021 coup, India balances diplomatic restraint, border security and economic interests while navigating regional instability influenced by China and Bangladesh. As insurgencies grow and humanitarian crises spill across borders, India's engagement blends soft power, defense cooperation and connectivity projects to secure its Northeast, counter China's influence and bolster its Act East vision.



BY LT GEN A B SHIVANE (RETD)
FOR TNJ

India and Myanmar share a geographical, cultural, and economic relationship based on their shared history and Buddhist affinity. Both nations were closely intertwined under British rule. Post-independence, the relationship had its ups and downs due to differing models of government and military coups in Myanmar. However, the 2021 coup, the junta's weakening control and the surge of resistance movements have rendered much of Myanmar's periphery unstable. While the Western democracies condemned and imposed sanctions, India chose a path of restraint and diplomacy

rooted in geography, internal security, hedging China and its Act East policy. Thus, India's Myanmar policy is not about choosing between ideals and interests but managing contradictions to further its national interests.

The relationship between India and Myanmar faced challenges with India recalibrating its border management strategy and border fencing post-Manipur ethnic conflicts, refugee influx and the threat of Chinese support to ethnic insurgent groups. The military junta's brutal operations have forced thousands



of refugees to flee and triggered a humanitarian disaster. Integrated in this matrix is Bangladesh, with the Rohingya crisis spilling both Bangladesh and India. Thus, it needs a trilateral approach to refugee repatriation, border management and regional development.



STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF MYANMAR TO INDIA

India shares a long land border of 1643 km with Myanmar, as well as a 725 km maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. India's land border with Myanmar is shared among four Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. It is the only ASEAN country adjoining India and, therefore, is a gateway to South East Asia. It acts as a land and maritime bridge between South and Southeast Asia. Thus, Myanmar remains central to India's 'Act East and 'Neighbourhood First' Policies. India also plays up its soft power with shared spiritual, historical, linguistic and ethnic ties with Myanmar.

Myanmar's strategic location allows it to counterbalance Chinese regional influence by developing a secondary maritime route to avoid the Malacca Strait. India thus pushes for defence cooperation, joint military exercises and maritime ties under its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.

Though not commensurate to its potential, India currently ranks as the fifth-largest trading partner of Myanmar. It pursues its trade interests through joint development projects such as the Sittwe Port and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project. Bilateral trade ties are pursued under the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme. Another area of interest is Myanmar's energy sector and offshore gas potential. India's investments in the Shwe Gas pipeline project demonstrate the bilateral economic partnership.

On the internal security front, India's NE region faces persistent threats which originate from Myanmar. ULFA-I, NSCN-K and NDFB-S use of Myanmar's territory as bases to launch operations against the Indian forces from across the border. Drug trafficking throughout the Golden Triangle region has become more active in recent months. Arms and narcotics supply from Myanmar to Manipur contributed to the May 2023 ethnic violence, which created security risks that became evident through the April 2024 seizure of contraband drugs, estimated to be worth \$4,18,000.00. India's strategic interest desires a stable and friendly Myanmar, while both the Rohingya crisis and the recent deterioration of relations with Bangladesh remain challenges.

REALPOLITIK AND RECONCILIATION

India's Myanmar policy has been one of "pragmatic engagement", balancing democracy and diplomacy, shaped by the lens of security, economic, and geopolitical imperatives. From fostering economic ties to building trust in defence, Indo-Myanmar relations epitomise the interplay of soft and hard power in diplomacy. India's policy remains deft, adaptive, and regionally integrated, particularly as Myanmar's conflict spills over into neighbouring Bangladesh, whose regime change has added new dimensions and complicated the regional geopolitical calculus.

India's policy is also driven by the "China Factor" and the need for hedging. China's investment from defence to ports to SEZ has captured immense space in Myanmar. The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor gives Beijing direct access to the Bay of Bengal. Thus, India is driven by competition, not confrontation, in this strategy to contain Chinese influence. It is here that Indian projects like the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, together with the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, play critical roles in India's "Act East" policy to enhance trade and enhance its influence. India has allotted a grant of \$250,000 for fast-impact projects for the social-economic



India must secure key connectivity projects like the Kaladan and Trilateral Highway that traverse insurgent-controlled zones while reinforcing border management against arms and refugee inflows.

development of Myanmar, including agriculture, education and disaster management. However, the biggest challenge to India's projects, particularly the connectivity, lies in their security as they pass through insurgent-controlled, volatile areas. Thus, last year at the ASEAN-India Summit, the Indian PM emphasised ASEAN's "five-point consensus" which includes an immediate end to violence in the country; dialogue among all parties; the appointment of a special envoy; humanitarian assistance by ASEAN; and the special envoy's visit to Myanmar to meet with all parties.



THE CHINA FACTOR

China is the most influential power in Myanmar. China's growing strategic footprints in Myanmar reflect Beijing's willingness to create economic dependency and secure strategic depth in the Indian Ocean. China was among the few countries post the 2021 Myanmar coup and was one of the first to recognise the military regime. Yet while it engages with the junta, its stance towards the proposed 2025 elections has been ambiguous, fearing a political reset.

The Chinese government maintains a strategic presence in Myanmar through which it safeguards BRI infrastructure, particularly Kyaukphyu port, yet refrains from excessive involvement in Myanmar's fragile political landscape. The deterioration of border security, exacerbated by the Operation 1027 offensive launched by the Three Brotherhood Alliance, has, however, impeded trade and threatened Chinese interests.

Diplomatically, China continues to engage the junta but remains cautious. It has not backed the National Unity Government (NUG) but maintains backchannel communications with resistance forces. Beijing's approach reflects a preference for preserving leverage over all actors rather than backing any one side. Stability, not loyalty, remains China's strategy to safeguard its long-term influence.

China's military assistance, especially the sale of jet trainers, UAS, and spare parts, has continued unabated since the coup, despite a surfeit of evidence that these military materials are used to intentionally target civilians. Nonetheless, even as China bolsters the regime's military capabilities while

curbing the opposition's drone warfare, these measures are unlikely to turn the tide of the conflict.

A NEW VECTOR OF INSTABILITY

India's strategic calculus must integrate the growing tensions that exist between Myanmar and Bangladesh due to the ongoing Rohingya crisis, impacting both India and Bangladesh, leading to regional instability. The Myanmar instability post-coup and political changes in Dhaka following Sheikh Hasina's ouster in 2024 have created new uncertainties and challenges to these relationships.

India needs stable relations with both Myanmar and Bangladesh. India's Act East policy requires Myanmar as a land connection to Southeast Asia, while Bangladesh enables India access to the Bay of Bengal through their role in the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC) and the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) multimodal corridor programs.

China's dual engagement with Myanmar's junta and resistance forces, coupled with growing influence in Bangladesh, complicates India's regional calculus and demands a calibrated strategic counterbalance.

PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

India must now broaden its strategic aperture. The triangulated dynamics between Myanmar, Bangladesh, and China are reshaping regional geopolitics. Insurgencies, refugee flows, narcotics, and proxy conflicts are converging at India's doorstep, which requires it to recalibrate its border management and upscale its vigilance.

MYANMAR-CHINA PIPELINES



China's deepening footprint in Bangladesh through the BRI and its hedged engagement with both the junta and resistance groups in Myanmar are forcing India to recalibrate. The risk of being strategically challenged via ports, roads, and political influence is a reality. India must expedite



the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Project while ensuring their safety in insurgent-controlled, volatile areas. Simultaneously, India needs to counter China's influence through targeted investments, capacity-building, and strategic messaging.

India's Myanmar policy must be one of proactive strategic engagement and strategic influence, keeping dialogue open with the junta while supporting calls for democratic transition. In the interest of its Southeast Asia and Act East policy, it has a stake in ensuring that Myanmar is less repressive of its

ethnic communities and more open to political compromise. Myanmar may be in crisis, but India's response must reflect strategic clarity, not strategic haste, with a long-term perspective for furtherance of its national interest.

(Lt Gen A B Shivane (Retd), Former DG Mechanised Forces Indian Army. TEDx Speaker, Strategic Defence Consultant, Analyst & Corporate Mentor. The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News Analytics Journal.)

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Myanmar is crucial to India's Act East and Neighbourhood First policies, especially NE connectivity.
- Insurgency, refugee crises, and drug trafficking from Myanmar jeopardising India's security.
- India faces growing competition from China's economic and military entrenchment in Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- India's Myanmar strategy walks a tightrope between democratic ideals, regional stability, and realpolitik.
- India should involve stakeholders, fast-track regional projects, and align humanitarian goals with interests.



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News Analytics is a platform to identify and analyse challenges surrounding global developments having a clear impact on geostrategic interests of India.



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BANGLADESH'S BEIJING PIVOT RAISES NEW RISKS IN THE REGION

NEIGHBOURHOOD

Bangladesh's shifting foreign policy, marked by deepening ties with China, has prompted India to reassess its regional strategy. Once a reliable ally under Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is now charting a new course under interim leadership. Strengthening economic and military cooperation with China, combined with rising anti-India sentiments, signals a strategic recalibration. For India, these changes not only impact bilateral relations but also threaten to reshape the broader South Asian geopolitical landscape.



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The post Hasina Bangladesh and its foreign policy shifts have raised concerns for India and for the region. India had backed the independence movement in Bangladesh in 1971 to bring peace to the eastern sector by breaking up Pakistan. Sheikh Hasina reciprocated by maintaining healthy relations with India. The latest developments, however, have ruined the cordial relations. Both the anti-Hasina groups and the interim government under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus have marginalised India and are building stronger

relations with China. The recent visits by Mr. Yunus to China and Chinese visits to Bangladesh have raised concerns for India, given the strategic implications for the region.

Bangladesh and China recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their bilateral relations with Muhammad Yunus visiting China and signing several bilateral agreements and bringing back investments in major infrastructure projects like the refurbishing of Mongla port and establishing exclusive



economic zones for China.

Bangladesh's overtures to China are not new and are following in the footsteps of Sheikh Hasina. Mrs. Hasina had visited China a month before her ouster to increase investments in Bangladesh. China had reciprocated by announcing that the relations with Bangladesh had evolved into a strategic cooperative partnership without going into the details. However, India was not very concerned at this stage as Bangladesh's economy needed a boost. The recent visits by Yunus come at a crucial time when the anti-India sentiment in Bangladesh has reached its peak, and India's reaction to the internal disturbances and the treatment of minorities has strained the relations between the two countries.



ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Ever since Bangladesh joined China's Belt and Road initiative, the economic relations between the two countries have risen significantly. China is now the largest trading partner for Bangladesh in trade, investments and military equipment provider. China's engagement with Bangladesh is primarily characterised by its massive economic investment and infrastructure development through the BRI in projects like the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project and Karnaphuli River tunnel, airports, highways, bridges, ports and other road projects.

Although India was wary about this BRI partnership, the current anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh have made matters more tense. The interim government has instituted a committee to review the power purchase agreement with the Adani group over corruption charges, which is raising questions about India's investments in Bangladesh. Chinese interest in investing in the Teesta River project is also a big concern for India. India worries about the potential for China to become Bangladesh's dominant partner, which could negatively impact India's trade and investment interests in the region. The possibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Bangladesh and China also raises concerns about the circumvention of Chinese goods into the Indian market.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This dragon's embrace of Bangladesh is prompting India, the traditional regional power, to reassess its long-standing strategic approach towards its eastern neighbour, mainly due to the potential strategic implications for its regional security and influence. From a security perspective, the growing defence cooperation between Bangladesh and China, with China being the primary arms supplier, could potentially alter the regional military balance to India's disadvantage.

Bangladesh uses Chinese fighter planes, missiles, and Ming-class submarines. They have also received the first batch of the Hongdu training jets from China. Armed forces of both countries have mutual access to training facilities in each other's military schools. India is concerned about potential threats to this crucial connectivity link arising from Chinese-funded projects in close proximity, such as the Teesta River project and the potential revival of the Lalmonirhat airfield.

As a part of the "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership", Muhammad Yunus' visit to China in March 2025 resulted in agreements on economic and technological cooperation and significant commitments for investments, loans, and grants. China has also expressed its support for Bangladesh in international forums and has offered to mediate in the Rohingya refugee crisis. Another key concern revolves around the potential for strategic encirclement, with China gaining influence in India's immediate neighbourhood. The Siliguri corridor that connects the northeastern states to the mainland of India is of main strategic concern for India.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

The current trend of de-Indianization in Bangladesh has worsened political and diplomatic tensions between the two countries. Muhammad Yunus is yet to visit India to repair the damages after the student revolution and the rising anti-India sentiments. India's hesitance in extraditing Sheikh Hasina has not helped the situation either. India's comments on the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh have added fuel to the already burning fire. Domestic political factors and public sentiment towards India also play a significant role in shaping Bangladesh's foreign policy choices.



Bangladesh's engagement with China, especially through BRI investments and defence deals, risks tilting regional power dynamics and marginalising India's long-standing influence in Dhaka.

A key aspect of Bangladesh's foreign policy has been its commitment to maintaining strategic autonomy by avoiding over-dependence on any single power and pursuing a balanced relationship with both India and China. However, in the last few days, that balanced approach seems to have been abandoned in response to the domestic sentiments. Bangladesh is strategically leveraging the rivalry between India and China

cooperation with Bangladesh and other South Asian nations, potentially as a counterweight to China's growing influence through the BRI.

Economic measures and a focus on connectivity remain central to India's strategy. While continuing to invest in various economic cooperation and infrastructure development projects, India's decision to withdraw the transshipment facility for Bangladesh in April 2025 can be interpreted as a signal of its displeasure with Dhaka's growing alignment with Beijing. Recognising the evolving security landscape, India has also been strengthening its security posture in the eastern border regions through heightened border security measures and the deployment of advanced military assets in the Northeast. Additionally, India appears to be adopting a more inclusive approach by reaching out to opposition parties and diverse stakeholders in Bangladesh, moving beyond its traditional focus on the Awami League, to ensure long-term stability in bilateral ties.

Bangladesh's foreign policy changes have several regional implications. India's Neighbourhood First policy and its Indo-Pacific strategy have raised concerns for Bangladesh, as it feels that India's regional cooperation attempts have been to demonstrate itself as the regional leader. India's overtures in regional cooperation are also seen as hegemonic in nature. Bangladesh, strategically located at the juncture of South



to secure better deals and enhance its bargaining power in the region. It has also improved the strained relations with Pakistan after a visit by the Pakistani foreign minister to Bangladesh in February 2025. They have resumed bilateral dialogues, eased visa restrictions and are holding talks on improving maritime connectivity.

India's cautious response includes regional outreach through BIMSTEC, stricter border security, and efforts to diversify ties beyond the Awami League to rebuild trust.

INDIA'S REACTION AND REGIONAL RECALIBRATION

In response to Bangladesh's growing ties with China, India has adopted a cautious yet multifaceted approach to reassess its regional strategy. Initially, New Delhi maintained a "wait and watch" stance towards the new government in Bangladesh, reflecting uncertainty about the future direction of bilateral relations. Simultaneously, India has been actively leveraging existing regional frameworks like BIMSTEC to foster

and Southeast Asia and bordering India on three sides, is becoming an increasingly important player in this evolving geopolitical landscape. Its growing engagement with China carries significant implications for India, compelling New Delhi to undertake a critical reassessment of its regional strategy to safeguard its interests and maintain stability in its neighbourhood.

A balanced approach that combines proactive diplomatic engagement, mutually beneficial economic cooperation, and





a nuanced understanding of Bangladesh's strategic priorities will be crucial for India to effectively navigate the evolving trilateral dynamics and maintain its influence in the region. The ability of India to adapt and compete with China's economic prowess while leveraging its unique historical and cultural connections will determine the future trajectory of its relationship with Bangladesh and its overall standing in South Asia.

While Bangladesh and China see a win-win situation in the renewed partnership, India needs to recalibrate its regional strategy to cater to the diversification of relations with its neighbours. India needs to accept that Chinese influence cannot be wished away while it becomes closer to the United States. Trump's tariff game might help solidify China's presence in the region, as China also needs alternative trade

arrangements.

Bangladesh, which had balanced its relations between the US and China, is also threatened by Trump's 37% tariffs on its garment industry. In this new and fast-changing world order, it is pragmatic for India to look beyond historic ties, take a hard look at the neighbourhood to make course corrections to make its good relations in the region become more vibrant, gain strength and grow further.

(Dr. Madhumati Deshpande, is an Associate Professor, The Department of International Studies Christ University (Deemed to be University). The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News Analytics Journal.)

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Bangladesh is embracing China through strategic partnerships and defence cooperation.
- Anti-India sentiments and policy shifts in Dhaka have marginalised Indian interests.
- China's growing economic footprint in Bangladesh through BRI projects.
- China's military support to Bangladesh heightens India's worries over regional security.
- India must combine economic and strategic engagements to retain its influence in South Asia.

URBAN AIR MOBILITY IS RESHAPING THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

INDUSTRY WATCH

VJAITRA and IIM Lucknow Incubation Propel India's First Hydrogen-Powered VTOL Airtaxi for Pioneering Zero-Carbon Regional Air Connectivity. The V600x, powered by hydrogen fuel cells, offers zero emissions and silent flight—ideal for urban areas. It's the world's safest VTOL air taxi, featuring advanced safety systems. VJAITRA also secured two Indian patents for its full VTOL architecture and design, marking a breakthrough in national aerospace innovation.

RATANDEEP TRIPATHI

Urban Air Mobility (UAM) is reshaping the future of transportation worldwide, and India stands at the threshold of this new era. VJAITRA Air Mobility, a leading innovator in the electric and hydrogen VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) sector, is spearheading the movement toward sustainable, regional air connectivity with its groundbreaking hydrogen-powered VTOL air taxis.

With the launch of the V600x, India's first hydrogen-powered VTOL air taxi offering an extended range of up to 600 kilometers, VJAITRA is set to connect key regional hubs with zero carbon emissions and zero noise pollution. Supported by IIM Lucknow's Cohort 3.0 Program, VJAITRA is

firmly positioned as a first mover in India's next-generation mobility revolution.

Regional Connectivity Vision: Seamless, Sustainable, and Safe VJAITRA's V600x hydrogen VTOL will play a crucial role in bridging major city pairs:

- Southern India: Connecting Bangalore to Chennai swiftly and sustainably.
- Northern India: Linking



Ratandeep Tripathi

CEO and Managing Director
of Vjaitra Air Mobility





Delhi to Punjab, Chandigarh and Lucknow, offering a new dimension to business and leisure travel.

- Western India: Enhancing regional access between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

By drastically cutting travel time and eliminating the carbon footprint, VJAITRA's air taxis offer a future-ready solution for India's fast-growing transportation needs.

THE VJAITRA ADVANTAGE: SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS

- Zero Carbon, Zero Noise: Powered by hydrogen fuel cells, the V600x is designed for environmental stewardship and quiet operation, making it ideal for urban and semi-urban environments.
- World's Safest VTOL Air Taxi: Designed with rigorous safety standards, multi-redundant systems, and precision engineering.
- India's First Patented Full VTOL Design: VJAITRA has successfully secured two patents—one for full VTOL architecture and another for the innovative utility and design—marking a major milestone in Indian aerospace innovation.

Fast, sustainable travel from Bangalore to Chennai. New links between Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh, and Lucknow for business and leisure. Improved regional connectivity between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.



STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

VJAITRA is advancing through robust collaborations to ensure a global standard in engineering and operations:

- Technology Partnerships: In process with Dassault Systèmes, Thales India, and Bosch Engineering to enhance design, avionics, and propulsion technologies.
- Air Charter Collaborations: Partnering with leading air charter companies, including UtripsO, Mewar Helicopter Services, BookMyJet, with discussions ongoing with Star Air and Air Kerala for operational integration.

These alliances strengthen VJAITRA's capability to not only develop cutting-edge aircraft but also build an ecosystem for operational deployment at scale.



Collaboration with Dassault Systems, Thales India and Bosch Engineering has aided advance design, avionics, and propulsion systems.

LEADING INDIA'S UAM FUTURE

With VJAITRA's leadership in hydrogen-powered VTOLs, supported by prestigious platforms like IIM Lucknow's incubation program, India has an opportunity to leapfrog into sustainable regional air mobility ahead of the world. VJAITRA's solutions address critical national priorities: reducing carbon emissions, decongesting highways, boosting regional economic ties, and democratizing air travel.

VJAITRA Air Mobility is not just building aircraft; it is building the future of flight in India — safe, green, and accessible for all.

(Ratandeep Tripathi, CEO/MD Vjaitra Air Mobility Country Head- Advanced Air Mobility Institute, USA Member – Sky Alliance of Autonomous Air Mobility Ambassador Entrepreneur – Innov8, USA)

BRAZIL'S EASTWARD DIPLOMACY: A BOOST FOR INDIA'S ACT EAST AMBITIONS

ANALYSIS

As trade tensions and power rivalries reshape Asia, Brazil and India are recalibrating their strategies — deepening ties, diversifying partners, and redefining Global South leadership. This piece explores how Lula's East Asia tour and India's 'Act East' policy converge in a shifting Indo-Pacific landscape.



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As geopolitical tensions reshape global trade and diplomacy, Brazil and India are taking decisive steps to deepen their ties across Asia, signalling a more assertive role within the Global South. President Lula's recent visits to Japan (March 24-27) and Vietnam (March 27-29) highlight Brasília's strategy of diversification — both economically and diplomatically — at a time when U.S.-China competition and shifting trade policies are redefining regional alignments.

In Vietnam, Lula championed deals that boost Brazil's flagship sectors: aviation, defence (notably Embraer), and agribusiness (led by giants like JBS). But the picture has since become

more complex. Donald Trump's renewed tariff offensive has disrupted Vietnam's trade trajectory, forcing Hanoi to recalibrate. While this may complicate Brazilian export ambitions, it has opened new space for China to renegotiate and reinforce its influence, potentially softening its stance on the South China Sea in return for closer trade coordination.

In this changing landscape, India is also a pivotal actor. Its "Act East" policy has implications not just for Southeast Asia - creating new pathways for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific - but for partners like Brazil that share a multipolar, development-focused worldview.



JAPAN ACTION PLAN

The main purpose of President Lula da Silva's visit to Japan was to celebrate 130 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Brazil has a deep historical connection with Japan, having received a significant wave of Japanese migrants in the early 20th century. Today, Japanese descendants make up 1% of Brazil's 213 million population, and a portion of them have since migrated back to Japan. Currently, around 200,000 Brazilians live in the Land of the Rising Sun. The challenges faced by Brazilian Sansei and Yonsei workers



in Japan, often treated as second-class workers, were also raised in meetings with the Japanese Prime Minister and union leaders.

As part of the celebrations, Japanese Emperor Naruhito extended a rare honour to the Brazilian delegation, receiving them at the Imperial Palace for a formal meeting followed by a banquet. In a highly symbolic gesture, the emperor also paid a private visit to Lula at his hotel on the President's final day in Japan—an uncommon mark of respect.

Japan has not hosted a state visit since the COVID-19 pandemic, making this a notable diplomatic event. The last official state visit to Japan was six years ago, by then-U.S. President Donald Trump.

A key outcome of the visit was the signing of the Action Plan for the Strategic and Global Partnership until 2030, which outlines ten major agreements and 80 commitments, mostly in the form of cooperation memoranda covering climate action, industry, transportation, education, science and technology, and agriculture. Most of these agreements were signed with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. It was also agreed that high-level Brazil-Japan meetings will now take place every two years.

Lula is keen to accelerate negotiations for a Mercosur-Japan free trade agreement, similar to the one established with the European Union, particularly in response to the protectionist policies under Donald Trump's second term.

In addition, several deals between Brazilian and Japanese public and private entities were finalised during the visit. One major highlight was an order placed by All Nippon Airways (ANA) for 15 Embraer E190-E2 aircraft, with options for an additional five units, totalling up to 20 aircraft.

ANA plans to deploy these aircraft on domestic routes to bridge the capacity gap between their larger Boeing 737s, which seat about 166 passengers, and smaller De Havilland Canada Dash 8s, accommodating around 74 passengers. The Embraer model seats between 97 to 114 passengers. Deliveries of the E190-E2S are scheduled to commence in 2028. This acquisition marks ANA as the first Japanese operator of Embraer's E2 family of aircraft.

It was also set that Japan will resume imports of Brazilian beef once its sanitary mission confirms that foot-and-mouth disease has been eradicated in Brazil—a status the country has already been certified for.

Lula positioned Brazil as a safe and attractive destination for Japanese investment and invited Japan to strengthen its partnership with Mercosur. He also co-chaired the Brazil-Japan Economic Forum, which brought together 500 business leaders from both countries.

The Japanese media widely covered Lula's visit, with Brazil being referred to as a "Southern power" and a "representative of the Global South." In a period of geopolitical turbulence, Japan's renewed engagement with Brazil was largely seen as a positive and strategic move.

EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

Vietnam, now an associate member of BRICS, is positioning itself as a future full member of the bloc. As the fastest-growing economy in the world, the Southeast Asian nation is also Brazil's fifth-largest importer of agribusiness products, with bilateral trade reaching \$7.7 billion. Both countries aim to increase this figure to \$15 billion by 2030, with Brazilian beef and aircraft once again taking centre stage in negotiations.



President Lula's visits to Japan and Vietnam signal Brazil's pivot toward Asia, aiming to strengthen ties amid rising global uncertainties and evolving trade dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.

During President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's state visit to Vietnam from March 27 to 29, 2025, he met with President Luong Cuong, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and the Communist Party Secretary Tô Lâm. The Brazilian leader also paid tribute to Vietnam's national hero, Ho Chi Minh, at his mausoleum.



On 29TH March an economic forum in Hanoi brought together over 100 key business leaders, ministers, and union representatives from both nations to explore new trade and investment opportunities.

One major announcement came from a Brazilian meat processing company, JBS, which plans to invest \$100 million in Vietnam to establish a local meat processing facility. This move strengthens Vietnam's role as a growing consumer of Brazilian agricultural products, particularly beef.

Meanwhile, Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh welcomed Brazil's formal recognition of Vietnam as a market economy, emphasising the countries' similar development levels, rich cultural heritage, and shared focus on the Global South.

Aviation emerged as a key area of collaboration, with President Lula revealing that Vietnam is considering the purchase of up to 50 Embraer aircraft. Embraer has been in advanced talks with Vietnam Airlines over the potential sale of 10 E190-E2 jets. In addition to aircraft sales, Embraer is exploring long-term investment in Vietnam's aviation sector, including the establishment of a training and maintenance centre.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has invited Embraer to partner with Vietnamese firms in manufacturing aviation equipment, offering technology transfer, workforce training, and technical support. To facilitate the deal, the Brazilian public development bank, BNDES, will finance part of the aircraft sales, reinforcing Brazil's commitment to expanding its footprint in Vietnam's aviation sector.

Beyond commercial aviation, Brazil is positioning itself as an alternative to Russia in supplying military aircraft to Vietnam. Discussions also included closer cooperation in defence intelligence, a strategic move as Vietnam seeks to diversify its partnerships.

With investments in meat processing, aviation, and defence, Brazil is expanding its presence in Vietnam, not just as a supplier but as a long-term strategic partner. The potential for Embraer to establish a regional presence, supported by BNDES financing, marks a significant step forward in bilateral cooperation.

As Vietnam continues its economic rise, also heavily targeted by Trump's first tariff salvo, Brazil is seizing the opportunity to strengthen trade, industrial partnerships, and defence ties, further cementing its role in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region, counter-balancing the instabilities caused by Donald Trump. A Plan of Action was established to enhance this strategic partnership.

VIETNAM SHIFTS GEARS

Vietnam, once seen as a safe haven for Western manufacturers looking to diversify away from China, now finds itself in Washington's crosshairs. Targeted with a steep 90% tariff rate, then reduced to 10%, second only to Cambodia, Vietnam is facing a forced recalibration of its global trade strategy. This shift comes as the U.S. voices long-standing concerns over trade imbalances, transshipment practices, and intellectual property enforcement.

In response, Hanoi is moving swiftly: requesting tariff delay, pledging increased purchases of U.S. defence and commercial goods, and offering to review key issues such as monetary policy and origin rules. The stakes are high—Vietnam's \$123 billion trade surplus with the U.S. is its lifeline, and its stock index has already plunged 14% since the tariffs were announced. In this context, Brazilian aircraft deals, including possible military sales, may no longer hold.

Yet Vietnam is also repositioning itself geopolitically. As an associate BRICS member and close partner of China, India, and Brazil, it could pivot further toward South–South alliances. Brazil, however, may face fallout, as U.S. pressure threatens its growing civil and military aerospace exports to Vietnam.



As trade tensions and power rivalries reshape Asia, Brazil and India are recalibrating their strategies — deepening ties, diversifying partners, and redefining Global South leadership.



INDIA'S "ACT EAST" POLICY

India's "Act East" policy, launched under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, has evolved into a cornerstone of New Delhi's foreign engagement, reinforcing ties with Indo-Pacific neighbours and asserting India's role as a regional counterweight to China. Its deepening partnerships with Mauritius, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and BIMSTEC members demonstrate a clear commitment to multilateralism, connectivity, and economic integration.

This regional engagement complements India's global multilateral ambitions, as seen in its assertive roles within BRICS, the G20, and the Global South. Brazil, a strategic partner in these forums, shares India's vision for a multipolar world, democratic governance, and inclusive development.

Coordinating India and Brazil's efforts—particularly in South-South cooperation, trade reform advocacy at the

WTO, technology and climate diplomacy—could amplify their voice in reshaping global governance. With Vietnam's growing closeness to BRICS members, including India and Brazil, there is an emerging opportunity to align regional outreach with broader multilateral goals.

In an increasingly polarised world, India's "Act East" is no longer just a regional policy — it's a pillar of a wider, pragmatic, and values-driven foreign policy strategy.

(Ricardo Martins. PhD in Sociology, specialising in international relations, geopolitics, and Latin American politics. He recently completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Utrecht University in the Netherlands and covers major developments in Latin America for TNJ. The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News Analytics Journal.)

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Brazil is strengthening ties with Japan, Vietnam, and India amid global power shifts.
- Embraer strengthens Brazil's aerospace influence in Asia with key deals in Japan and Vietnam.
- Brazil and India are key South-South cooperation advocates, promoting multipolarity.
- U.S. tariffs prompt Vietnam to reassess trade, fostering stronger ties with Brazil and BRICS.
- India's "Act East" aligns with Brazil's Asia strategy, shaping assertive Global South leadership.

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EU PREPARES TO LAUNCH AI ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONTINENT

ECOSYSTEM

The European Union (EU) aims to become a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI) through the AI Continent Action Plan, which was launched on April 9, 2025, as a complete plan to use European industrial capabilities, skilled personnel, and ethical standards to advance AI development. The complete comprehension of this plan requires studying its historical development alongside its individual elements and global AI competition assessment while analysing innovation ethics and sovereignty interactions.



**DR. AMIT DUA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCINECE, PILANI
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THE GENESIS OF THE EU'S AI STRATEGY

The EU started its path to AI leadership by understanding AI as a transformative technology that produces significant economic, social, and geopolitical effects. The European Commission released the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence in 2018 as a fundamental document that united the Commission with EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland for maximising European AI capabilities.

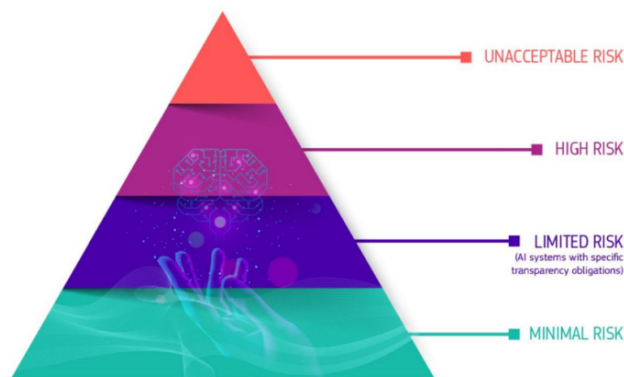
The plan accelerated investment while implementing national AI strategies to prevent EU policy fragmentation. The initiative established funding mechanisms and implementation steps to promote AI adoption throughout different sectors while prompting member states to create their strategic plans. The EU updated its plan in 2021 to match its digital and green priorities while strengthening its dedication to trustworthy AI systems that respect human rights and follow ethical standards.





The 2018 plan established the foundation for future initiatives such as the White Paper on AI (2020), which recommended dual objectives of excellence (innovation and competitiveness) and trust (safety and rights). The EU established this dual approach as its fundamental strategy, which differentiates it from the U.S. market-oriented model and China's state-directed system.

The AI Act emerged from the White Paper when it was proposed in April 2021 before becoming the first global standard for AI regulation in 2024. The AI Act established a risk-based regulatory framework that grouped AI systems into four categories, ranging from unacceptable to high-risk and transparency to minimal/no risk to maintain innovation alongside safety and rights.



The Pyramid of Criticality for AI Systems

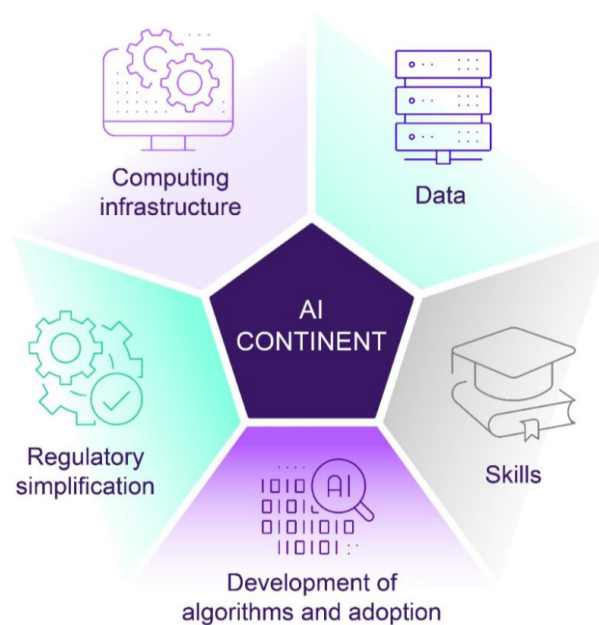
The EU supported AI development through its research and innovation programs, which included Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme. The annual funding for Horizon Europe exceeds €1 billion to support AI research, while the Digital Europe Programme directs its resources toward infrastructure development and skill-building and deployment initiatives. The European Innovation Council (EIC) supports startups and SMEs through funding to develop an AI innovation ecosystem. The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) received €10 billion in funding from 2021 to 2027 to develop the computational foundation for AI through its high-performance computing advancement program.

The ethical aspects received priority attention since the beginning of the initiative. The High-Level Expert Group on AI (HLEG) received its appointment in 2018 before releasing the Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI in 2019. The seven principles outlined in these guidelines include human agency alongside robustness, privacy, transparency, diversity, societal well-being, and accountability. The AI Act received its direction from these guidelines, which guide the EU's human-centric AI vision.

THE AI CONTINENT ACTION PLAN: A BOLD LEAP FORWARD

The AI Continent Action Plan, which was launched in 2025, represents the culmination of these efforts to establish Europe as a leading AI continent. The EU faces a global AI competition deficit because it trails behind both the United States and China in terms of investment and adoption rates. The 2023 McKinsey survey revealed that European businesses trail North American companies by 30% in generative AI adoption rates.

The plan tackles this deficit through a €200 billion investment initiative, which includes the InvestAI Facility providing €20 billion for AI infrastructure development that von der Leyen announced in February 2025. The plan consists of five main pillars, which include infrastructure development, data access, AI adoption, skills development and regulatory simplification. Let us discuss them one by one.



1. Building Large-Scale AI Data and Computing Infrastructure

The EU acknowledges that advanced AI models need vast computational resources to operate. The AI Factories, which utilise world-class supercomputers from the EuroHPC JU,

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen introduced this initiative at the AI Action Summit in Paris in February 2025 through a series of earlier policies and investments starting from 2018.

serve as the core foundation of this pillar. The AI Factories expansion includes 13 operational facilities in 2025, with plans to reach 15 facilities by 2026, backed by €10 billion investments. The factories enable startups, SMEs, researchers and industries to access computing power, data and talent resources, which drive innovation across healthcare manufacturing and climate sectors.

The plan establishes AI Gigafactories as large-scale facilities that will contain about 100,000 state-of-the-art AI chips that represent four times the capacity of current AI Factories. The Gigafactories will train complex frontier AI models to boost EU strategic autonomy in vital sectors. Through its partnership with the European Investment Bank, the InvestAI Facility will deploy €20 billion to create up to five Gigafactories through public-private funding initiatives. The April 2025 announcement brought forth a consortium call to create these facilities.

The proposed Cloud and AI Development Act will establish support for infrastructure by targeting a threefold increase in EU data center capacity during a five to seven-year period while emphasising sustainable, energy-efficient facilities. The proposal resolves Europe's dependence on foreign cloud infrastructure, which policymakers have identified as a critical concern.

2. Increasing Access to High-Quality Data

AI depends on high-quality data as its fundamental source of survival. The plan establishes Data Labs inside AI Factories to collect extensive, diverse datasets that expand on the Data Act and Data Governance Act. The Data Union Strategy will be launched in 2025 to establish a unified European data market that allows data sharing across borders while maintaining privacy and security standards. The current fragmentation of data throughout member states creates a major bottleneck that prevents AI from scaling up.

AI Factories bring unique strengths and specialised focus areas, playing a pivotal role in advancing AI applications across strategic sectors as follows:

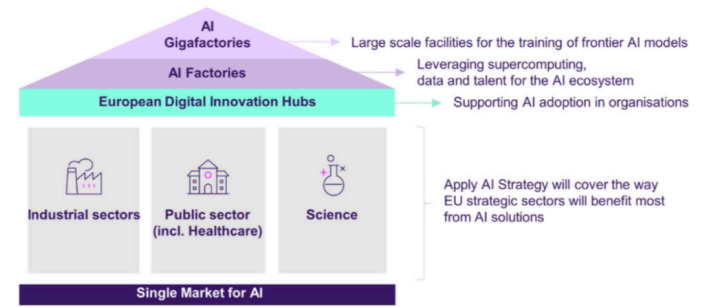
Key Sectors	AT	BG	DE	EL	ES	FI	FR	IT	LU	PL	SE	SI
Health & Life Sciences	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Technology & Digital		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Environment & Sustainability			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Education & Culture	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•
Manufacturing & Engineering	•	•				•		•				•
Finance & Business	•		•		•		•	•	•		•	
Agriculture & Food	•				•		•	•			•	•
Cybersecurity & Dual use							•	•	•			
Space & Aerospace		•					•		•		•	
Public Sector	•		•		•					•		

AT: Austria; BG: Bulgaria, DE: Germany, EL: Greece, ES: Spain, FI: Finland, FR: France, IT: Italy, LU: Luxembourg, PL: Poland, SE: Sweden, SI: Slovenia

3. Developing Algorithms and Fostering AI Adoption

The potential of AI remains unfulfilled because only 13.5% of EU companies currently use AI, yet adoption rates in the U.S. are higher. The upcoming Apply AI Strategy will be launched to increase AI adoption in strategic sectors, including

healthcare, transport and public administration. The European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and AI Factories will offer technical support, testing facilities, and financial guidance to help this initiative. Through public procurement, the strategy will establish a market demand for innovative AI solutions.



4. Strengthening AI Skills and Talent

The EU faces a talent shortage in AI. The AI Skills Academy will be launched in 2025 to provide education and training in AI with a focus on generative AI for students and professionals. The talent pool, together with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action's 'MSCA Choose Europe' and AI fellowships, will help recruit international talent while bringing European experts back to the continent. The plan includes public awareness campaigns and educational programs to promote AI literacy.

5. Regulatory Simplification

Since August 2024, the AI Act has been in effect, and it provides a robust framework but poses compliance challenges, especially for SMEs. The AI Act Service Desk will assist businesses, while regulatory sandboxes will allow testing of high-risk AI systems. The European AI Office, created in 2024, is responsible for overseeing the implementation, enforcing rules for general-purpose AI, and promoting innovation. A Code of Practice for general-purpose AI, to be finalised in 2025, will guide providers in meeting AI Act obligations.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Multiple obstacles need to be addressed for the AI Continent Action Plan to succeed. The EU must speed up its AI investment and adoption efforts because its current lower generative AI uptake rates trail behind North America. The €200 billion investment stands as a major commitment, but the United States and China have maintained heavy investments in AI for multiple years while OpenAI and Google establish worldwide industry benchmarks.

The EU faces infrastructure risks because it depends on American-made AI chips, while U.S. export restrictions similar to Trump-era policies might be implemented. The proposed Chips Act 2.0 and domestic chip fabrication investments work to reduce the risk, but manufacturing expansion requires multiple years to achieve. The relationship between the AI Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) generates compliance difficulties for developers.



The AI Act establishes regulations for high-risk systems, but GDPR controls data usage, and developers face confusion because these regulations do not integrate seamlessly, particularly among startup companies. The Action Plan depends on advisory support to achieve simplified compliance, but lacks direct funding or legal assistance, which might not be enough.

The high energy requirements of AI infrastructure, specifically in Gigafactories, create sustainability issues. The plan establishes green computing as a priority, but it fails to provide specific timing for implementing energy-efficient solutions. Small Modular Reactors and AI Energy Council proposals show potential to solve the issue, although their implementation will occur in the distant future.

Chinese state-based control systems. The EU supports open-source AI development and European Networks of Excellence in AI (NoEs) to create equal opportunities for smaller actors in the market.

The plan strengthens EU technological independence through reduced dependence on foreign infrastructure. Users on the X platform show positive expectations about this transformation by praising the plan's sovereignty, ethical and infrastructure focus as a realignment instead of catch-up. The European Council on Foreign Relations expresses skepticism about the plan because it needs to resolve resource constraints and support open-source models for effective competition.

The EU's AI Action Plan faces hurdles in investment, infrastructure, regulation, and sustainability, requiring faster adoption, clearer compliance, and long-term energy-efficient strategies.

GLOBAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

The AI Continent Action Plan establishes the EU as an individual global AI competitor through its commitment to trustworthy AI instead of commercial or state-driven models. The OECD AI Policy Observatory observes that EU regulatory methods differ from US minimal oversight and

*(Dr Amit Dua is an Associate Professor at BITS, Pilani and Founder of YET Pvt. Ltd. He is a TEDx speaker and the author of books on Machine Learning and Machine Learning for Education. The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of **The News Analytics Journal**.)*

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- *The AI Continent Action Plan aims to establish the EU as a leader in the global AI domain.*
- *The strategy connects EU policies from the 2018 Coordinated Plan up to the 2024 AI Act.*
- *The plan's five pillars need careful execution to tackle investment gaps, chip dependency, and energy issues.*
- *EU will need to manage its ethical obligations against the practical requirements.*
- *The EU's success will determine its economic growth and global discussions about AI development.*

POST-EB-5: WHY INDIAN INVESTORS ARE CHOOSING EUROPEAN RESIDENCY

SPECIAL FEATURE

The U.S. EB-5 program, once favored by Indian investors for Green Card access, now faces major delays. April 2025's visa bulletin retrogressed Indian EB-5 Unreserved cases by over two years, disrupting thousands of plans. With rising uncertainty and children aging out, many are exploring faster options—especially amid talk of a new \$5 million 'gold card' program challenging EB-5's future.

DRAGANA ANDREYEV, NTL TRUST

According to 2024 data, over 35 million Indians are living overseas, making them one of the world's largest expat populations. For decades, Indian high-net-worth individuals have pursued global mobility through destinations like the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada — countries that have traditionally promised opportunity, lifestyle, and long-term gains, but as immigration policies shift and geopolitical dynamics evolve, a quiet reorientation is taking place. Increasingly, Indian investors are pivoting to Europe, with Greece emerging as a preferred destination for residency by investment.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EB-5 BACKLOG

The U.S. EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program has long been

popular among Indian investors seeking a U.S. Green Card through capital investment. However, the program is now grappling with significant delays and uncertainty.

In its April 2025 Visa Bulletin, the U.S. Department of State announced a retrogression of over two years for Indian applicants in the EB-5 Unreserved category — a development that has disrupted plans for thousands of investors.

“The prolonged waiting periods and unpredictability of the EB-5 program have led investors to explore more efficient pathways to residency,” says Nick Stevens, CEO of NTL Trust, investment migration leader with over 30 years of industry experience.

For investors, this delay doesn't just mean waiting. It creates



risk around children aging out of dependent status, education timelines, and investment strategy reassessments. While “reserved” EB-5 categories have helped reduce backlogs temporarily, new demand is already pushing those categories toward congestion.

To compound the situation, a new U.S. ‘gold card’ proposal, announced in February 2025, calls for a straightforward \$5 million investment, raising questions about the long-term future of the EB-5 program itself.

EUROPE IS THE STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVE IN 2025 AND BEYOND

As cracks appear in traditional destinations, Indian investors are re-evaluating their options. In the last few years, Portugal tightened its Golden Visa, Italy’s appeal fluctuated, and Spain closed its program altogether in April of 2025. The UK is losing appeal to its own HNWIs after Brexit and tax changes.

The Greece Golden Visa program remains open, affordable, and efficient. “Greece presents an attractive combination of affordability, lifestyle, and strategic access to the European market, plus the application process is smooth and quick,” says Nick Stevens.

With a minimum real estate investment of just €250,000, Greece’s Golden Visa is one of the most accessible programs in Europe. Starting from €250,000, investors can purchase commercial spaces converted into residential units in sought-after areas like Athens, Piraeus, and Zakynthos, known as tourism and commercial hubs, abundant with a cosmopolitan feel, rising rental yields, and vibrant cultural life.

WHY IS GREECE GOLDEN VISA AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION?

• Cost of Living Advantage

Greece offers a significantly lower cost of living than other European countries — up to 30% cheaper on average. In Athens, a budget of just €2,000/month covers rent and everyday expenses, making it ideal for both families and remote professionals.

• Fast and Flexible Residency

Applicants receive a five-year renewable residency permit, with no physical stay requirement. It allows visa-free travel across the Schengen Zone and can be a gateway to long-term EU residence or even citizenship.

• Geopolitical Neutrality

In the wake of China+1 strategies, which have shifted investment and manufacturing focus away from China to other parts of Asia, including India, the Balkans have become a neutral, stable base. Greece, as an EU member and Mediterranean hub, offers strategic proximity to

Asia, Africa, and Europe without the geopolitical entanglements.

• Favorable Tax Regime

Greece’s Non-Dom Tax Regime is particularly appealing to Indian investors. Benefits include:

- A flat tax rate on foreign income
- Up to 50% tax reductions for professionals relocating to Greece
- Pensioners benefit from favorable tax treatment on global income



The EB-5 backlog was just the spark of bigger changes to come. Same goes for China+1, Brexit, Gold Card and tax increases. The geopolitical positioning of current world leaders and millionaire havens is fleeting and in five years, new hubs might emerge. Until then, Greece’s status provides a stable and strategic base for operations, especially for those looking to navigate the complexities of current global economic trends. This pivot is more than just a search for easier visas. It reflects a deeper reevaluation of where global Indians want to live, invest, and raise families in a world marked by economic shifts, political instability, and changing immigration norms.

(NTL Trust is a global leader in investment migration, with three decades of experience helping families and investors secure second citizenship and residency in jurisdictions including the Caribbean and Europe. For tailored guidance on how to secure citizenship, residency or diversify your global presence, visit www.ntltrust.com.)

ASIA-PACIFIC AT THE CENTRE OF AI CYBERSECURITY INNOVATION

DEEP-TECH

In a world increasingly shaped by digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming how we defend against cyber threats. The Asia-Pacific region is emerging as a global leader in AI-powered cybersecurity, thanks to its rapid technological growth, large online population, and proactive innovation. While AI poses new risks, it also offers powerful tools to protect digital infrastructures. The Asia Pacific region is leveraging AI to combat evolving cyber threats.



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Artificial Intelligence, often called AI, is the science of teaching machines to think and solve problems in ways that are similar to humans. These machines can learn from data, improve their abilities, and make decisions automatically. AI is now one of the most powerful tools in the world of cybersecurity, which protects computers, networks, and sensitive data from being stolen or harmed. With the help of AI, cybersecurity is becoming smarter, faster, and more effective. It can identify potential risks and stop digital attacks before they succeed. However, the same technology can also be used by criminals to create smarter and more dangerous threats.

Among all the regions across the globe, the Asia-Pacific region stands out as a leader in adopting AI for cybersecurity. This region is home to several growing economies and advanced digital infrastructure, making it a hub for technological innovation. But along with the benefits of rapid development, the region faces serious risks. These risks have led governments, businesses, and researchers to focus heavily on creating strong defences against cyberattacks. As a result, Asia-Pacific has emerged as a global centre for innovation and defense in AI-powered cybersecurity.



IMPACT OF AI ON CYBER THREATS

AI is changing how cyberattacks are carried out, making them smarter, more targeted, and harder to detect. In traditional cyberattacks, criminals often follow the same set of patterns, which makes it easier for cybersecurity systems to stop them. But with AI, criminals now have the ability to create attacks that can change their methods and adapt to defenses. This makes the task of protecting against cyber threats much more challenging.

For example, hackers are using AI to create phishing emails. These are fake emails designed to trick people into sharing sensitive information like bank details, passwords, or personal data. What makes AI-powered phishing emails so dangerous is their level of detail—they look and sound extremely real, which increases the chances of someone falling for them.

Another alarming trend is the use of deepfake technology. Criminals use AI to create fake video and audio recordings that are very convincing. These deepfakes can be used for harmful purposes, like spreading false information, damaging reputations, or committing fraud. Adaptive viruses, another tool enabled by AI, are computer programs that can change their behavior to avoid detection by traditional antivirus software.

among the leaders in online populations, offering hackers a wide range of potential victims. A large and active digital community means there are more opportunities for cybercriminals to carry out their attacks.

Another reason is the rapid growth of the digital economy in Asia-Pacific. People in this region are increasingly relying on online shopping, mobile payment systems, and other digital platforms. While this growth is a sign of progress, it also opens the door to new kinds of cyber threats. Hackers often target these platforms because they handle large amounts of personal and financial data.

Geopolitical tensions in the Asia-Pacific also play a role in increasing cyber risks. In some cases, cyberattacks are used as tools in international conflicts, targeting governments and critical infrastructure. Furthermore, many individuals and small businesses in the region lack awareness of basic cybersecurity practices. Without the knowledge to protect themselves online, they become easy targets for hackers.



A large number of internet users and rapid growth of the digital economy in the Asia Pacific region enable more opportunities for cybercriminals to carry out attacks.



Criminals are also using AI to identify weaknesses in computer systems more quickly. Once they find these vulnerabilities, they exploit them to gain access to valuable data or disrupt services. Ransomware attacks, in which hackers lock important files and demand payment to release them, have also become more advanced with the help of AI. These attacks are now carefully targeted, often focusing on organisations or individuals who are more likely to pay.

ASIA-PACIFIC AT GREATER RISKS

There are several reasons why the Asia-Pacific region is particularly vulnerable to cyber threats driven by AI. One major factor is the large number of internet users in the region. Countries like China, India, and Indonesia are

ADVANCES IN CYBERSECURITY

Despite the challenges, the Asia-Pacific region has shown remarkable progress in combating cyber threats. Many countries in this region are embracing AI as a tool to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses. Real-time threat detection is one of the most important advancements. Systems in countries like Singapore and Japan can monitor online activity continuously, identifying and stopping threats before they cause harm.

Predictive AI tools are another key area of innovation. These tools study past cyberattacks to understand patterns and predict where future threats might arise. With this information, organisations can take proactive measures to prevent attacks. Blockchain technology is also being used in the region to enhance online security. By creating secure digital ledgers, blockchain helps protect sensitive transactions and prevent unauthorised access.

The Internet of Things, or IoT, is becoming increasingly common in Asia-Pacific. IoT devices include smart appliances, wearable devices, and connected vehicles. While these devices offer convenience, they are also vulnerable to cyberattacks. AI is being used to develop stronger security measures for these devices, ensuring they can be safely integrated into daily life.

Looking ahead, researchers in Asia-Pacific are exploring quantum cryptography as a future solution to cybersecurity challenges. Quantum cryptography is a new type of encryption that is expected to be much harder for hackers to break. If successful, it could provide a powerful defense against even the most advanced cyber threats.

STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY LEADERSHIP

To fully establish itself as a global leader in AI cybersecurity, the Asia-Pacific region must take further steps. Governments and organisations need to continue investing in advanced AI-powered tools that can monitor and respond to threats effectively. Educating communities is equally important. Public campaigns can help people understand how to recognise fake emails, secure their online accounts, and avoid common scams.

Collaboration between countries in the region is critical. Groups like ASEAN can play a key role in creating shared cybersecurity strategies and pooling resources to combat cybercrime. Strong regulations are also necessary to ensure that businesses adopt effective cybersecurity measures and protect sensitive data.

The region needs more professionals who are skilled in AI and cybersecurity. Training programs and educational initiatives can help create a workforce capable of leading these efforts. Encouraging innovation is another crucial step. Governments can support research into new technologies, such as advanced AI security tools and quantum encryption, to stay ahead of evolving threats.

Regular system tests can help identify weaknesses before they are exploited by hackers. Emergency response teams should be ready to act quickly in case of an attack, minimising damage and restoring systems efficiently.

LEARNING FROM SUCCESS

The Asia-Pacific has already seen several successful initiatives that highlight its leadership in cybersecurity.

For example, Singapore's Safer Cyberspace Masterplan focuses on strengthening defenses and protecting critical systems. Japan has introduced advanced data laws and predictive tools to improve online security. India is also making progress by integrating AI into its digital payment systems, ensuring safer transactions for millions of users. Cyber threats are not limited to one region—they are a global challenge. Global cooperation is essential to making the digital world safer for everyone.

To strengthen its leadership, Asia-Pacific must collaborate globally. Sharing knowledge, creating international standards, and coordinating efforts can help build a united front against cybercrime

EMBRACING INNOVATION

The rise of AI-driven cyber threats is a challenge that demands urgent attention. The Asia-Pacific region, with its innovation and forward-thinking approach, is uniquely positioned to lead the fight against these threats. By investing in advanced technologies, fostering collaboration, and educating communities, the region can protect its businesses, governments, and individuals from harm. At the same time, these efforts can inspire other parts of the world to follow its example.

The Asia-Pacific's journey is not just about defence—it is about turning challenges into opportunities. By embracing innovation, the region has the potential to become the world's leading hub for AI-powered cybersecurity. This vision of a safer digital future is not just for the region but for everyone in the global community.

(Noel Adalia Dimasacat, is a Defence Analyst & East Asia scholar specialising in technology. He is also the Chief Technology Officer at GWT Philippines. He is the Awardee of World CIO 200-2024 & 2023 – Transformative Technology Leader. The views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News Analytics Journal.)

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- AI is revolutionising cybersecurity by enabling faster, smarter, and more adaptive threat detection and response.
- Cybercriminals are also using AI to craft sophisticated attacks like phishing, deepfakes, and adaptive viruses.
- Asia-Pacific's growing digital user base, rapid online growth, and geopolitical tensions increase cyber risks.
- Regional innovation drives progress with real-time monitoring, predictive tools, and quantum cryptography.
- Strong leadership, and collaboration are key to achieving cybersecurity dominance and global safety.



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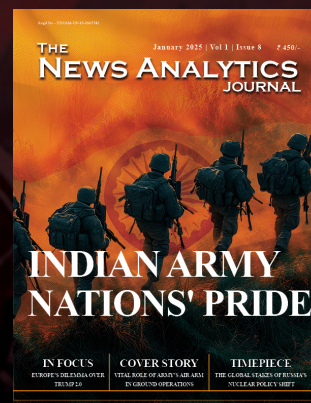
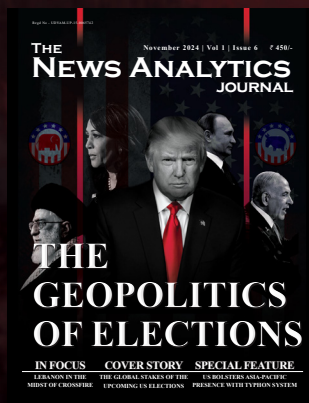
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