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A photograph of Donald Trump and Xi Jinping shaking hands. Trump is on the left, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. Xi is on the right, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and maroon tie. They are standing in front of a background that is a composite of the American and Chinese flags. The image is framed by thin gold diagonal lines.

SYSTEMS UNDER STRAIN

GEOSTRATEGIC

THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF
MARITIME POWER FOR BHARAT 2047

BIG STORY

INDIA, IMEC AND THE NEW
GEOPOLITICS OF CONNECTIVITY

DIPLOMACY

INDIA'S MULTI-VECTOR
DIPLOMATIC HEDGING

*** ANNIVERSARY EDITION ***

THE POWER PANEL



DR. LAUREN DAGAN AMOS

Senior Fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, Israel.



AMBASSADOR DEEPAK VOHRA, IFS (R)

Former Ambassador to Armenia, Sudan and Poland. Former special Advisor to the Government of South Sudan.



VICE ADMIRAL AJENDRA BAHADUR SINGH (R)

Former C-in-C of the Eastern Naval Command and Western Naval Command. Deputy Chief (DOT) & (Ops) in HQ IDS.



JUSTUS NAM

Geopolitical analyst, former Foreign Service Officer and Research Fellow at the Lancaster University China Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. Covers Africa for The News Analytics Herald.



DR. VAISHALI RAGHUVANSHI

Assistant Professor, International Studies at Banaras Hindu University.



AMBASSADOR ANIL WADHWA, IFS (R)

Former Ambassador to Italy, Thailand, Oman and Poland. He has served as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.



M A HOSSAIN

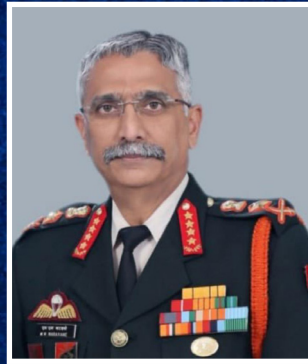
Senior journalist from Dhaka, Bangladesh. Specialises in the South-East Asian region. The News Analytics Herald South-East Asia Correspondent.



DR AMIT DUA

Associate Professor, Computer Science and Information Systems Department, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

|| FOREWORD



THE CHANGING CHARACTER OF POWER

For much of the post-Cold War era, the world operated on the belief that economic interdependence would moderate conflict, global institutions would preserve stability, and expanding connectivity would generate shared prosperity. Today, those assumptions are under increasing strain.

The international system is undergoing a profound transition. The rules-based order that shaped global affairs for decades is giving way to a more contested environment where power is increasingly determined by technological capabilities, critical infrastructure, supply chains, energy security, data networks, and strategic geography. Nations are no longer competing solely for territory or resources; they are competing for influence over the systems that sustain modern economies, militaries, and societies.

History teaches us that established structures rarely collapse overnight; rather, they gradually lose their ability to address emerging realities. Alliances are being recalibrated, technological rivalries are intensifying, and economic interdependence is increasingly viewed through the lens of national security.

For India, these developments carry profound implications. National security can no longer be defined solely by conventional military threats. Supply-chain resilience, energy security, cyber infrastructure, critical technologies, maritime connectivity, and space-based capabilities have become integral elements of national power. Strategic autonomy today requires resilience across these domains as much as military preparedness.

The current edition of *The News Analytics Herald* examines these evolving realities and the shifting foundations of global power. In an era where systems themselves have become arenas of competition, preparedness, adaptability, and national resilience may prove to be the decisive advantages.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM Naravane'.

General (Dr) MM Naravane (R)
PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, PhD
Former Chief of Army Staff

EDITOR'S NOTE



THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD

The July 2026 edition of The News Analytics Herald (TNH) is a special one. As we present this Anniversary Edition, it offers an opportunity to reflect on a meaningful journey and express our gratitude to the many individuals and institutions who have contributed to it.

TNH is driven by the conviction that India must contribute more prominently to global strategic thought. Guided by this vision, the publication

seeks to advance informed discourse on geopolitics, defence, global affairs, and emerging technologies while fostering analytical rigour, intellectual independence, and meaningful debate on issues of national and international significance.

The trust, goodwill, and credibility earned among readers and institutions alike have enabled TNH to steadily strengthen its presence across strategic, academic, diplomatic, and policy ecosystems. Supported by expanding accessibility and an increasingly diverse global readership, these developments are both an affirmation of our purpose and a reminder of the responsibility that accompanies it. They reinforce our commitment to delivering credible analysis, informed perspectives, and a deeper understanding of the forces shaping our world.

We remain deeply grateful to our well-informed readers, global correspondents, distinguished diplomats, senior Armed Forces veterans, academic scholars, and strategic thinkers whose contributions continue to enrich our pages. Our sincere thanks also go to our esteemed Editorial Board for its guidance and wisdom, and to the TNH team whose dedication, professionalism, and perseverance continue to strengthen the publication every day.

We are equally thankful to our sponsors, partners, and parent organisation, Geostrat Media Ventures, for their unwavering support and belief in our vision.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unchanged to build The News Analytics Herald into a globally respected institution of strategic thought from India.

The journey continues. The responsibility grows. So does our resolve.

Jai Hind!

Sandhya Srivastava
Editor-in-Chief &
Publisher

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THANK YOU FOR



H.E. INDRA MANI PANDEY, HONOURABLE SECRETARY GENERAL, BIMSTEC

On the happy occasion of The News Analytics Herald (TNH) celebrating its 4th Anniversary, I extend my warm congratulations to TNH Team. TNH has been a keen partner in promoting BIMSTEC's initiatives and creating awareness about the growing cooperation under BIMSTEC. I commend commitment of TNH to better communication and outreach and wish it continued success in its effort towards advancing regional cooperation. I reaffirm the BIMSTEC Secretariat's readiness to work with TNH and other media platforms as well as academia, think tanks and research institutions to realise our shared goals of promoting regional cooperation.



AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ARUP RAHA (R) PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC | FORMER CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, INDIAN AIR FORCE

I am glad to learn that "The News Analytics Herald" is publishing a Special Anniversary Edition to celebrate its evolution into a successful strategic affairs platform. It has enhanced institutional presence across multiple domains like defence, academic and policy ecosystems, shaping perspectives on global & national issues. I convey my congratulations to team TNH & wish great success in their future endeavours.



GENERAL M. M. NARAVANE (R) PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM | FORMER CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF, INDIAN ARMY

My compliments to The News Analytics Herald on its Anniversary. Through its growing institutional presence, commitment to analytical excellence and wide readership, TNH has earned recognition as a respected voice in the strategic affairs domain. As we witness long drawn out as well as sporadic conflicts in various parts of the globe and experience its global impact, contributions of TNH to advancing informed, incisive and balanced discussion on geopolitics, defence and global issues is both timely and commendable. I convey my best wishes to the editorial team for continued success in strengthening strategic understanding and public discourse in the years ahead.



ADMIRAL R HARI KUMAR (R) PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC | FORMER CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF, INDIAN NAVY

My compliments to The News Analytics Herald on its Anniversary. Through its growing institutional presence, commitment to analytical excellence and wide readership, TNH has earned recognition as a respected voice in the strategic affairs domain. As we witness long drawn out as well as sporadic conflicts in various parts of the globe and experience its global impact, contributions of TNH to advancing informed, incisive and balanced discussion on geopolitics, defence and global issues is both timely and commendable. I convey my best wishes to the editorial team for continued success in strengthening strategic understanding and public discourse in the years ahead.



AMBASSADOR GITESH SARMA, IFS (R) | FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER/ AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, UZBEKISTAN, FIJI & THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

I take immense pleasure in conveying my warmest congratulations to 'The News Analytics Herald' on its Anniversary in July 2026. Within a short period, TNH has established itself as a highly respected platform for strategic affairs by adhering to rigorous intellectual standards. This is commendable and is of great service to everyone looking to understand international developments. I wish the entire TNH team great success on this milestone and in their onward journey.



AMBASSADOR JEITENDRA KUMAR TRIPATHI, IFS (R) | FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ZIMBABWE

I am delighted to note that "The News Analytic Herald" has completed another year of professional journalism. Within this short span of time, the publication has carved its own niche in the world of news and professional analysis of happenings of global importance. Though the last one year, was full of diplomatic, strategic, economic and military turbulence at various flashpoints world over, the TNH has successfully faced the challenge of unbiased analysis. I wish TNH all the success for the future.

LOVE & WISHES



AMBASSADOR ANIL WADHWA, IFS (R) | FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, THAILAND, OMAN, POLAND AND FORMER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Heartiest congratulations to The News Analytic Herald on its remarkable journey of growth and influence. Over the years, it has evolved into a respected strategic affairs publication with an expanding institutional presence across defence, academic and policy ecosystems. Its deepening engagement with policymakers, diplomats, scholars, defence professionals and strategic thinkers worldwide has enriched informed discourse and strengthened its role as a credible forum for analysis and this Anniversary edition celebrates these achievements. May The News Analytics Herald enjoy continued success and greater impact in the years ahead.



AMBASSADOR SUSHIL KUMAR SINGHAL, IFS (R) | FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA

My warm congratulations to The News Analytical Herald on the occasion of its anniversary in July 2026. It is heartening to see TNH grow into a impactful platform for policymakers, diplomats, academics, defence professionals and strategic thinkers around the world. At a time when informed analysis and balanced perspectives are more important than ever, TNH's contribution to serious public discourse is truly valuable. I wish the editorial team continued success in its efforts to encourage thoughtful debate and deeper understanding of national and global issues.



AMBASSADOR SRIKUMAR MENON, IFS (R) | FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH SUDAN, ANGOLA, SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

Heartfelt congratulations to "The News Analytics Herald" on this milestone anniversary. TNH's impactful journey during the past years is a testament to its diligence and steadfast adherence to clarity, credibility, and purpose. It has now evolved into a trusted platform for strategic analyses, setting a benchmark for informed discourse on global affairs and international relations. Its contribution to strengthening India's strategic discourse is commendable. I wish TNH continued success in its endeavors, while inspiring policymakers, scholars and readers alike, across the domains of defence, diplomacy, and academia. Wishing the TNH team continued growth, influence, and excellence in the years ahead.



MR. SUNIL TARNEJA | AGM, IRCTC

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on this significant milestone. In an era where informed perspectives are essential for sound decision-making, TNH has distinguished itself as a platform that bridges strategic thought, policy discourse, and industry insights. Its growing contribution to knowledge-sharing across defence, diplomacy, academia, and business is truly commendable. I extend my best wishes to the entire TNH team for continued growth, greater influence, and enduring success in the years ahead.



ANIL JOSHI | FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BHEL

As The News Analytics Herald marks its Anniversary, I feel honoured to be associated with a publication that reflects the spirit of a confident and rising India. Through meaningful strategic discourse, informed national security perspectives, and global outreach, TNH has emerged as a beacon of intellectual strength and patriotic commitment. At a time when the world seeks balanced leadership and vision, TNH is contributing to India's strategic voice with dignity and purpose. My heartfelt congratulations to the entire team, with wishes for greater global impact and continued excellence.



NADIA HALLAK BEIRUT, LEBANON | THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD ARAB CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of The News Analytics Herald's anniversary, I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the entire team for its remarkable achievements and contributions to strategic analysis and specialized media. The publication has become a distinguished platform for intellectual dialogue and the exchange of ideas among experts and decision-makers. I wish TNH continued success, growth, and excellence in advancing knowledge and fostering understanding and cooperation at both regional and international levels.

THANK YOU FOR



**MA HOSSAIN, DHAKA, BANGLADESH |
THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD SOUTH-EAST ASIA CORRESPONDENT**

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on its Anniversary and the remarkable milestones achieved along its journey. As a Senior Correspondent covering South Asia and the ASEAN region, I have witnessed TNH's steady emergence as a respected platform for strategic thought, policy dialogue, and informed analysis. May TNH continue to foster intellectual exchange, strengthen regional understanding, and contribute meaningfully to the global strategic discourse in the years ahead.



**ROVENA CERKA, TIRANA, ALBANIA |
THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD EUROPE CORRESPONDENT**

On the occasion of the anniversary of The News Analytics Herald, I extend my sincere congratulations for its valuable contribution to fostering international dialogue. The publication has played an important role in bringing together policymakers, academics, and security professionals, strengthening partnerships and inspiring ideas. I wish TNH continued success as a reference point for strategic thinking and global cooperation.



**RICARDO MARTINS | CURITIBA, BRAZIL
THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT**

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on its Anniversary! It's inspiring to witness the remarkable milestones achieved along this journey. TNH has become a trusted and welcoming space for thoughtful discussion, bringing together policymakers, diplomats, defense professionals, and scholars in genuine, meaningful engagement. Its growing recognition is a testament to the passion and dedication behind every insight shared. May the legacy of TNH flourish for many more years. I am proud to be part of this history. All my best wishes to TNH.



**KEONI EVERINGTON, TAIPEI, TAIWAN |
THE NEWS ANALYTICS HERALD TAIWAN & CHINA CORRESPONDENT**

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on its anniversary and its growing list of impressive milestones. It has been an honor to contribute to this publication and be a member of an elite team of experts. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to add some insight into Taiwan's point of view on the tectonic geopolitical changes documented in this publication. In the process, I have gained new perspectives and knowledge about the South Asia region. Best wishes on the continued success and expansion of TNH.



**DR. LAUREN DAGAN AMOS | RESEARCHER AND LECTURER,
BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY, ISRAEL**

Namaste from Israel

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on this important milestone. At a time of profound global change, fostering informed dialogue and strengthening intellectual bridges between India and Israel has never been more important. I wish TNH continued success in advancing thoughtful analysis, meaningful partnerships, and the enduring spirit of India-Israel friendship in the years ahead. It has been a privilege to contribute to a platform that values diverse perspectives and encourages cross-border understanding and collaboration.



**NOEL ADALIA DIMASACAT, MANILA, PHILIPPINES |
SPEAKER AND TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY LEADER AWARDEE**

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on this inspiring milestone. Your journey is a reminder that dedication, courage, and a clear purpose can create a lasting impact. May TNH continue to bring people together, share meaningful ideas, and inspire future generations. Your commitment to truth, learning, and positive change is truly admirable. Wishing your team continued strength, passion, wisdom, and success as you begin another chapter of growth and service.

LOVE & WISHES



**JUSTUS NAM, NAIROBI, KENYA
FORMER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER AND EXPERT ON AFRICA**

Congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on reaching another anniversary. As a contributor, it has been especially encouraging to see the publication grow from a promising initiative into a recognised platform for strategic and policy discourse. In a world increasingly shaped by complexity and competing narratives, spaces that foster thoughtful analysis are more important than ever. I wish the TNH team continued success in the years ahead and look forward to engaging with its work for many years to come.



**PROF. ASHOK SANGAPPA ALUR | VICE CHANCELLOR,
KODAGU UNIVERSITY, GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

Heartfelt congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on this significant anniversary. TNH's thoughtful analyses, institutional partnerships, and growing presence across defence, academia, and policy circles have enriched India's strategic discourse. Your recognitions reflect journalistic rigour and commitment to informed debate. May TNH continue to illuminate complex issues, foster dialogue, and inspire policymakers and citizens alike in the years ahead. With Best Wishes.



**AIR MARSHAL ANIL KHOSLA (R), PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC |
FORMER VICE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF**

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate The News Analytics Herald on its milestone anniversary. From ISSN listing to integration within Indian Armed Forces digital platforms and the National Digital Library of India, TNH has earned its place as a serious voice in India's strategic discourse. Its growing reach across defence, academic, and policy communities reflects both editorial rigour and genuine relevance. I wish the team continued success in the years ahead.



LT GEN RAH SHUKLA (R) PVSM, YSM, SM, ADC | FORMER GOC-IN-C ARTRAC

TNH has acquired a formidable presence in the strategic-military space in a short period of time. My best wishes for its continued growth- may it scale the dizzying heights of professional success.



**VICE ADM MA HAMPIHOLI (R) PVSM, AVSM, NM |
FORMER FOC-IN-C, SOUTHERN NAVAL COMMAND**

As a premier news magazine, The News Analytics Herald has continued to delight readers interested in contemporary Geopolitics, Global security insights and technologies. Besides the contributions from adept experts, the Editor-in- Chief and the fellow editors deserve the readers' sincere appreciation. The design of the magazine stands out, too. The many milestones achieved in the past year, such as ISSN registration, membership of AIM, NDLI etc is indeed a recognition of the high standards of journalism. Best wishes on the publication's anniversary and its continued endeavour to excel.



**DR. AFTAB ALAM | DEAN, FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY**

Heartiest congratulations to The News Analytics Herald on its Anniversary. It has been a privilege to witness and contribute to its remarkable journey as a publication for informed analysis and thoughtful debate on defence, security, foreign policy, and strategic affairs. TNH's commitment to intellectual rigour and excellence has earned it well-deserved recognition. I wish the publication continued success in advancing strategic discourse and fostering informed public engagement.

GLOBAL INFLUENCER

PRIME MINISTER GIORGIA MELONI: EUROPE'S

POWER PROFILE

In international affairs, influence is measured not merely by economic or military power, but by the ability to shape strategic debates during periods of uncertainty. In 2026, few European leaders have exercised such influence more effectively than Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy.

Europe today confronts one of its most complex strategic environments since the end of the Cold War. The continent faces continuing tensions with Russia, slowing economic growth, rising defence obligations, migration pressures across the Mediterranean, energy security concerns, and intensifying competition from both the United States and China. Amid these overlapping challenges, Giorgia Meloni has emerged as one of the most consequential voices shaping Europe's response.

When she assumed office in October 2022, many questioned whether her leadership would create friction within the European Union and

NATO. Instead, she has pursued a pragmatic approach that has steadily enhanced Italy's standing within both institutions. While retaining her political identity, PM Meloni has positioned Italy as a dependable contributor to European security, a supporter of transatlantic cooperation, and an increasingly influential actor in Mediterranean geopolitics.

What makes PM Meloni particularly relevant today is her ability to bridge multiple strategic fault lines simultaneously. She has maintained support for NATO and Ukraine while advocating greater European resilience. She has defended national interests while remaining engaged within European institutions. She has strengthened ties with Washington while pursuing a more active Mediterranean and African policy designed to enhance Italy's regional influence. These balancing acts have elevated her stature far beyond Rome.

One of PM Meloni's most significant contributions has been recognising that the Mediterranean is once again becoming a central theatre of global geopolitics. For decades, Europe's strategic focus remained largely continental. Today, instability across North Africa, migration flows, maritime security challenges, energy corridors, and growing competition among external powers have restored the Mediterranean's geopolitical significance.

Italy's geography places it at the centre of these developments. Under PM Meloni's leadership, Rome has sought not merely to participate in regional affairs but to shape them. Her government's outreach to Africa, support for infrastructure partnerships, and efforts to strengthen Italy's position as a regional energy hub reflect a broader strategic vision extending beyond traditional European politics.

This approach is particularly relevant as Europe searches for new sources of economic resilience and strategic influence in an increasingly fragmented international system.



OF THE MONTH

STRATEGIC REALIST

PM Meloni's prominence also reflects a wider transformation occurring across Europe. The era in which European governments could rely primarily on economic integration while outsourcing hard-security concerns is fading rapidly. Defence spending is rising, while military readiness, industrial capacity, technological competitiveness, and energy security have once again become central elements of statecraft.

In such an environment, leaders capable of combining political pragmatism with strategic clarity naturally gain influence. PM Meloni's willingness to engage with these realities has positioned Italy as an important voice in discussions surrounding NATO's future, European defence capabilities, and broader geopolitical strategy.

Her significance extends beyond Europe. For India, PM Meloni embodies a broader shift in global politics, where influential powers are increasingly shaping regional balances, pursuing strategic autonomy, and contributing to the evolving architecture of a multipolar order.

India and Italy differ in geography and capabilities, yet both increasingly emphasise strategic autonomy, economic resilience, secure supply chains, technological innovation, and maritime security. Both recognise that connectivity, infrastructure, and industrial competitiveness are becoming essential instruments of national power. Both are navigating a world in which geopolitical competition increasingly intersects with economics, technology, and critical infrastructure.

The growing partnership between New Delhi and Rome reflects these converging interests. Cooperation across defence, technology, energy, manufacturing, space, and maritime domains has



expanded steadily in recent years. As Europe seeks stronger engagement with the Indo-Pacific and India deepens ties with key European stakeholders, Italy's strategic relevance continues to grow.

For Indian policymakers, PM Meloni's leadership offers a useful case study in strategic adaptation. Faced with fiscal constraints, external pressures, and a rapidly evolving geopolitical environment, Italy has sought to leverage geography, diplomacy, partnerships, and institutional influence to enhance its relevance. It demonstrates that influence in contemporary geopolitics is not determined solely by material power, but also by strategic positioning and policy consistency.

That is ultimately why Giorgia Meloni merits recognition as TNH's Global Influencer of the Month. As the world enters a period marked by strategic competition, technological disruption, and shifting power balances, leaders capable of navigating complexity while safeguarding national interests become increasingly significant. PM Giorgia Meloni has emerged as one such leader.

In a year defined by geopolitical uncertainty and strategic recalibration, her rise reflects a broader reality: influence in the twenty-first century belongs not merely to those who possess power, but to those who can translate it into strategic direction.

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