



TRIBUNAL

WHERE OPINIONS
STAND TRIAL

Year's Last issue

TRIBUNAL

SIGNING OFF, 2025!



Feature – Political Turmoil In Bangladesh

We condemn Das' killing, reject anti-India narrative in Bangladesh: MEA



The remarks came in response to a number of questions on the recent spurt in violence against minority Hindu community of Bangladesh especially after the death of Islamist leader Sharif Osman Hadi on December 18, 2025. During the aftermath of Mr. Hadi's death several reports of arson attacks against the minority community, and the brutal lynching of Dipu Chandra Das in Mymensingh and Amrit Mandal in Rajbari area near Dhaka have been reported in the media.

Speaking at the weekly media briefing, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We condemn the recent killing of a Hindu youth in Mymensingh. More than 2,900 incidents of violence against minorities have been documented by sources during the tenure of the interim government".



GEOPOLITICS: INDIA AND THE WORLD

India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Vision or Vaporware?

Announced as a game-changing trade corridor linking India to Europe via the Middle East, IMEC promises faster connectivity. However, regional instability and unclear funding raise doubts over whether it will move beyond diplomatic intent.

BRICS Expansion: Challenge to the Dollar or Symbolic Flex?

With new members joining BRICS, the bloc projects itself as a counterweight to Western economic dominance. Yet internal economic asymmetries and limited currency coordination suggest the expansion may be more symbolic than transformational—for now.



This week in history

Shaheedi Hafta, also known as Martyrdom Week, is observed annually from 20 to 27 December to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of the family of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru, including his four sons (the Sahibzade) and his mother, Mata Gujri Ji.



Red Sea Crisis & Shipping Insurance: Why Everything Is Getting Costlier

Attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea have forced shipping companies to reroute via longer paths, sharply increasing insurance premiums and freight costs. The disruption highlights how regional conflicts directly impact global inflation and consumer prices.

India can lift exports to Russia from \$5 bn to \$35 bn!

India could boost exports to Russia seven-fold—from \$5 billion to \$35 billion by 2030—by expanding access in food, pharma, textiles, and machinery, says GTRI. The projection aligns with Moscow's \$100 billion trade goal amid President Putin's Delhi visit.

HOT TAKE

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Can a democracy truly claim equality before the law when activists working for a cause are swiftly arrested and denied bail, while the Unnao rape convict despite a life sentence receives bail or relief on procedural grounds, aided by political influence? Such contrasts raise serious concerns about judicial consistency, accountability, and justice in sensitive cases.

CURATED INTEL



WHAT TO WATCH

Judicial Accountability vs Judicial Independence

This highlights the tension between judicial independence and accountability within a democratic system.

WHAT TO READ

India post-Modi: How prepared is Indian politics for leadership transition?

Analysts say India is beginning to look beyond Modi, raising questions of succession and political stability.

THE Debate DOCK

Is India's foreign policy driven more by strategic autonomy or strategic silence?

KEYWORDS FOR CONTEXT:

Foreign policy, global politics, Neutrality, protecting national interest, Moral ambiguity, weakening global leadership

Send us your submission in [Instagram DM](#), specifying for or against. Get **FEATURED** in next newsletter!

“ Word of the FORTNIGHT ”

POPULIST FISCALISM

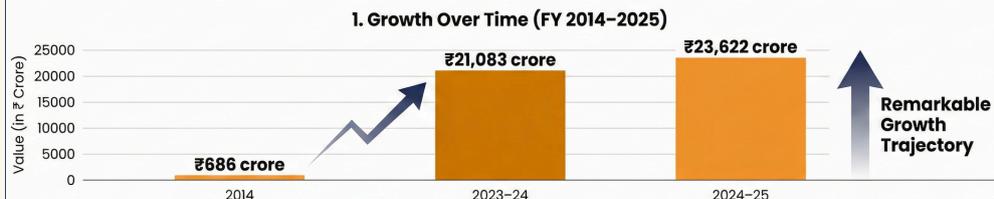
AN ECONOMIC APPROACH THAT PRIORITIZES SHORT-TERM GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND TAX CUTS TO WIN POPULAR SUPPORT, OFTEN DISREGARDING LONG-TERM FISCAL STABILITY AND BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS

EXAMPLE- “THE NEW ADMINISTRATION’S BUDGET REFLECTS POPULIST FISCALISM, PRIORITIZING GENEROUS SUBSIDIES AND TAX CUTS AIMED AT WINNING PUBLIC FAVOR DESPITE CONCERNS ABOUT LONG-TERM DEFICITS.”

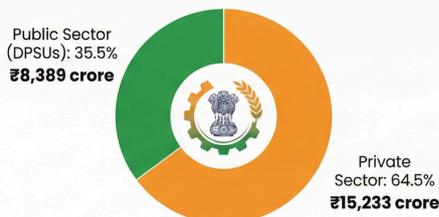
Arms-affair: DemoSpot

India's strategic rise in defense exports

India's Defence Export Boom (FY 2014-2025)



2. Sectoral Contribution (FY 2023-24)



3. Global Reach



ISSUES' FOCUS :
DEMOSPOT

MADE IN INDIA, DEPLOYED WORLDWIDE: An Overview

India's defence exports have grown

OVER 30×

SINCE 2014

Why This Matters

Defence exports are now a strategic economic sector for India. Arms trade growth often correlates with regional instability and rising defence demand. Governments benefit through: Revenue generation, Leverage, Defence industrial growth

Source: SIPRI + Government of India defence export

Official Data

₹23,622 crore worth of defence exports recorded in FY 2024–25 — the highest ever for India.

Source: Ministry of Defence, Government of India

Indian defence equipment is now exported to about 80 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Source: Ministry of Defence statements, PIB

Who Buys Arms Globally?

The top global arms exporters remain: United States, Russia, France, China, Germany

This piece is written to help the readers develop a worldview, independent of this article, to view Indian relationships in the international community. One thing you would notice in the title is a contradiction, "Friends" in "Realpolitik". But isn't realpolitik about not having friends and being totally transactional to ensure a nation's interests? How is India supposed to have friends while it indulges in openly transactional foreign policy? I will try my level best to explain my analytical logic for this which might help others do the same.

When I say friends of India, I think all of the readers have only one name in their minds and that is Russia (and formerly USSR). This is a very commonly explored topic so much so that people not really interested in geopolitics and international relations are also aware of this close bound friendship. That is why I will explore two other "friendships" later, before that let me resolve some commonly held doubts about our relationship with Russia.

First and foremost, a doubt exists in people's minds that why did Russia not support India during Op Sindoor? Why did Russia ask India to cease hostilities and return to the negotiating table when India had clearly expressed that we had no intention of doing so. Is this how a friend acts? The answer lies in the fact that what a nation says is not exactly what it wants. Remember, India has been one of the leading voices asking for cessation of the conflict in Ukraine. Why is that? Ukraine has been a leading arms supplier to Pakistan, it is not in India's interest to have Ukraine keep up this military partnership with Pakistan then why is it that India asks for the violence to stop. The answer is pretenses, a nation is supposed to keep up pretenses because you can't show your motives out in the open. I could refer you all to Augustus Caesar and how he became the "First Citizen". He concealed his ambition, the very thing that got his predecessor Julius assassinated, and always maintained a façade of a republican. In the end, it was the Roman Republic itself that granted him his goal of becoming Emperor (The First Citizen rather).

Remember, no one reason is good enough a parameter to define such a multi-modal system, so pretenses are one of the reasons but not the only one. Now why does India do this and what it has to gain(/has gained) from this conflict is entirely a different matter and thus, not really relevant to this piece.

Now, let us get into the reveal of the two "friends" mentioned earlier. Remember, this is so easily decrypted that any student of international relations already knows the two names I am going to take. They are France and Israel. Let us keep aside the military relationships for now because they are quite obvious, what I want the readers to understand is how these nations have found this niche of transactional relations which is win-win for both them and us.

I assume this article is already quite lengthy for our publication, so I shall reserve the reasons for naming these two countries for our next publication. Thank you for your time and see you around.

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