

PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

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Optional by
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Article - 1

Is the Global Financial system making the Hormuz shock worse? : Syndicate

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Advancing India-South Korea defence innovation ties : The Hindu

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The India-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership : VIF India

Article - 1 : Is the Global Financial system making the Hormuz shock worse?



Context The Strait of Hormuz shock has hurt vulnerable economies and the global financial system made the crisis worse instead of cushioning it.

Facts

- IMF's Rapid Credit Facility higher access limits, introduced during COVID-19, to be phased out.

- The G20 MDB capital adequacy reforms can lend \$300-400 billion over the next decade.

- The cost of Brent crude and urea increased by 41% and 50% respectively.

Analytical Crux

The issue is shift from "shock happened" to "system amplified the shock". The present financial architecture was built for temporary crises, while today's world faces repeated and overlapping disruptions. 29 African currencies have depreciated during the shock. The resilience to prevent the shock must be built prior through rules and not improvised after every shock.

Verbatim Quotes

"Procyclicality is no longer a minor flaw; it is a binding constraint on growth and stability."

- Hanan Morsy

"Resilience cannot be improvised; it must be engineered into the system itself. There is need to rechannel Special Drawing Rights to MDBs as hybrid capital."

- Hanan Morsy

Article - 2 : Advancing India-South Korea defence innovation ties

Advancing India-South Korea defence innovation ties

Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1973, India and South Korea have maintained defence ties. Their first formal agreement, the 2005 MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics, promoted cooperation in production, research and development, and procurement. Subsequently, they signed separate five-year memoranda of understanding on defence cooperation and defence research and development (R&D) in 2010.

The first enabled exchanges of expertise, training, visits and joint exercises, while the second focused on emerging technologies such as marine, electronics, and intelligent systems through links between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the South Korean defence industry. In 2015, the partnership was elevated to a Special Strategic Partnership.

Furthermore, the 2020 Roadmap for Defence Industries Cooperation expanded engagements into key areas, such as land, naval, aero, and guided weapon systems, along with investments and technology transfer in India's defence industrial corridors. A notable outcome of this partnership is the K9 Vajra-T self-propelled artillery system, manufactured in India by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Hanwha Aerospace, South Korea under the 'Make in India' initiative, whose success led to a follow-on production contract.

The new platform

On April 20, 2026, at the India-South Korea Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Lee Jae Myung, a new defence innovation platform called the Korea-India Defence Accelerator (KIND-X) was announced.

As part of the Joint Strategic Vision, KIND-X aims to connect businesses, incubators, investors, defence start-ups, and universities from both sides. KIND-X is not a new model of cooperation for India.

It mirrors similar defence industrial innovation bridges with the United States under INDUS-X (India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem) and with France under FRIND-X (France-India Defence Startup Excellence). There have also



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been suggestions to create an INDUS-X-like model with South Korea. Drawing on these existing models, KIND-X is expected to be led by South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) and India's Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO). Both countries run defence innovation programmes to strengthen their defence ecosystem, such as South Korea's specialised innovation enterprise system and India's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).

According to India's Ministry of External Affairs special briefing on April 20, 2024, KIND-X is expected to align with the 2020 Roadmap for Defence Industries Cooperation.

What can be unlocked

What can KIND-X unlock? KIND-X can emerge as the "defence innovation bridge", expanding defence R&D, innovation, co-development and co-production, involving startups, investors, universities, academia, and think tanks, essentially creating a joint defence innovation and industrial ecosystem from both countries. This may involve release of joint challenges and grants by DAPA and DIO for their respective startups to innovate defence technologies in the areas envisaged under the 2020 road map.

It may facilitate access to testing facilities through universities and laboratories in both countries, promote joint certification and standardisation processes, and support accelerator and incubator programmes connecting investors and innovators from both sides. It may also include workshops to help stakeholders navigate each other's markets and production systems. These workshops can address export control regimes, funding models for defence production, and intellectual property and licensing requirements related to technology transfer for co-production and co-development.

An annual summit, similar to the INDUS-X summit, could convene high-level representatives from defence ministries, industry, universities, think tanks, and academia in Seoul, New Delhi, and other industrial hubs. The KIND-X summit could also convene Track 1.5 dialogues to

emphasise the strategic rationale for bilateral defence cooperation, foster networking, and periodically assess progress on deliverables under the initiative.

The success of KIND-X will depend on leveraging existing co-production ventures such as the K9 Vajra-T howitzers by L&T and Hanwha Aerospace to create templates for future defence projects. It will connect South Korea's innovation clusters in Changwon, Daejeon, and Gumi with India's defence corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, and with aerospace hubs in Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad. Involving major firms such as Hyundai, L&T, Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Mahindra, Bharat Forge, Hanwha, LIG, and Kangnam, alongside start-ups and R&D ecosystems, can further expand linkages.

As an innovation bridge

The launch of KIND-X as a defence innovation bridge signals both governments' keenness to unlock their respective deep-tech innovation ecosystems to develop dual-use technologies. With deepening ties across other strategic sectors such as shipbuilding, artificial intelligence, space, critical minerals, and semiconductors, KIND-X can complement and draw on convergences in these sectors for defence.

Aligning with India's Defence Forces Vision 2047 and South Korea's Defence Innovation 4.0 strategy, and co-investing in emerging and future technologies will be key to making this initiative forward-looking. Potential areas under KIND-X include Artificial Intelligence platforms for military applications, autonomous weapon systems and robotics, joint development of satellites for space-based intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), Space Situational Awareness (SSA), communication and navigation, critical mineral supply chains, and defence semiconductor fabs. Given both countries' growing defence exports, KIND-X can emerge as an important facilitator.

The onus is now upon both defence ministries to curate tangible deliverables under KIND-X, clarifying its steering template, funding mechanisms and areas of joint innovation.

Context India and South Korea to deepen their defence partnership through KIND-X, a new platform to connect defence start-ups, industries, universities, investors & research bodies for joint innovation & co-production.

Facts

India - South Korea diplomatic relations began in 1973 and became a Special Strategic Partnership in 2015.

The K9 Vajra-T project : example of India-South Korea defence co-production under Make in India.

First formal defence agreement - 2005 MoU on defence industry and logistics.

Analytical Crux

India - South Korea defence ties are moving from ordinary cooperation to innovation-led partnership. KIND-X shows India's multi-alignment : India is not depending on one partner, but building different technology bridges with the U.S., France and South Korea. The K9 Vajra-T case becomes a model for future co-production, but KIND-X will succeed if it produces clear deliverables like funding, testing, IP rules and joint innovation projects.

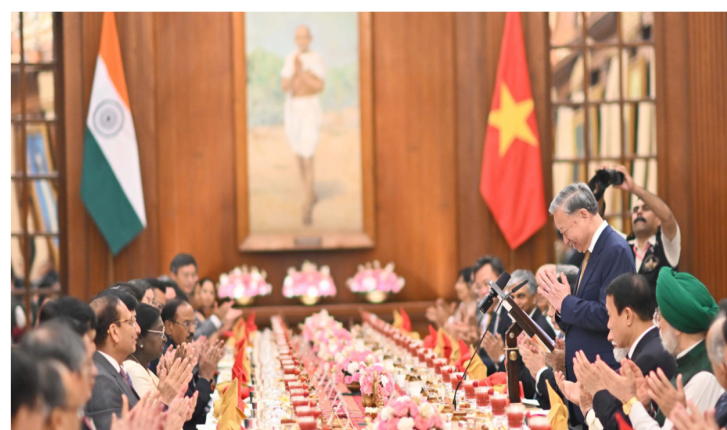
Verbatim Quotes

"KIND-X mirrors similar defence industrial innovation bridges with the U.S. under INDUS-X (India-U.S. defence Acceleration Ecosystem) and with France under FRIND-X (France-India Defence Startup Excellence)."

"Aligning with India's Defence Forces Vision 2047 & South Korea's Defence Innovation 4.0 strategy, and co-investing in emerging & future technologies will be key to making this initiative forward-looking."
-Tejas Bharadwaj & Mudha Satpute

Article - 3 : The India-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership

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The India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Amb Gurjit Singh

May 8, 2026

Views: 468

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The visit of Vietnamese President To Lam, who is also the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, has added momentum to the India-Vietnam partnership. Therefore, the conversion of the 2016 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) to the level of an Enhanced CSP (ECSP) is notable. [1]

Context

India - Vietnam relations have been upgraded to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and defence, Indo-Pacific security, trade, tourism and cultural links must move from promise to delivery.

Facts

Vietnam is India's fifth largest trading partner within ASEAN.

India-Vietnam trade's target - from \$17 billion to \$25 billion by 2030.

India - Vietnam ties, from 2016 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Analytical Crux

India - Vietnam ECSP is not a diplomatic upgrade; it is a test of whether India can make its Act East Policy work. There is a significant gap between strategic comfort and actual delivery, especially in defence. Vietnam wants India as an Indo-Pacific partner, but China's shadow over the South China Sea still shapes its choices. The solution for India is to combine defence, UNCLOS-based maritime cooperation, supply chains, tourism, Buddhism and investment for strengthening the ties.

Verbatim Quotes

"Vietnam, like other ASEAN countries, seeks reiteration of UNCLOS as their code language to restrain Chinese ambitions in the South China Sea." - Amb Gajjit Singh

"On the economic side, the relationship is certainly underwhelming for a country which has rapidly developed & whose per capita GDP is double India's per capita GDP."

- 1. PSIR 2025: “For India, a multipolar world order would also mean a multipolar Asia. Comment.”**
- 2. PSIR 2025: “India maintains strong ties with countries that will assure a free and open Indo-Pacific and guarantee greater connectivity with rest of the world. Analyze.”**
- 3. 2025 GS-III: “Why is maritime security vital to protect India’s sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward.”**
- 4. PSIR 2024: “‘India has of late, chosen to debunk non-alignment in its pursuit of multi-alignment.’ Comment.”**
- 5. PSIR 2024: “Discuss the rationale behind replacing the ‘Asia-Pacific’ strategy with the new term ‘Indo-Pacific’ strategy.”**
- 6. GS-II 2023: “‘Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos’ Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security.”**

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