PICT MUN'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE INQUISITOR

ISSUE 20

FEATURED ARTICLE

Rising Lion, Midnight Hammer, and Iran's Nuclear dreams

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Language & Identity: The Paradox of India's Linguistic Diversity

Ahan Mhadgut

"A language is far more than a means of communication; it is the very condition of our humanity.

The diversity of languages reflects the incontestable wealth of our imaginations and ways of life."

As rightly said in this quote by UNESCO, language does indeed play a vital role in defining cultures and people. A treasure so valuable that it should not, rather cannot be the personal property of a person or a community. However, the present situation says otherwise. Languages have now been used as a weapon, wielded at individual discretion and act as open avenues for 'linguistic violence'. The recent surge in such linguistic violence is not new and has, in fact, been a significant chapter in the history of our country.

In the nascent years of our independence, the leaders of our country sought to categorise the country into member states (provinces) for efficient administration. Subsequently, the JVP Committee and the States Reorganisation Committee (Ali Fazl Committee) were formed to look into the feasibility of linguistic division. Although the incumbent government was not keen on reorganising the states solely on a linguistic basis, which was reflected in the reports of the committees, it acquiesced to the strong public demands and passed the States Reorganisation Bill, 1956. Several conflicts erupted after the passing of this bill- notably, the Maharashtra-Gujarat riots, the Punjabi Suba Movement, and the Assam Language Movements. As time went by, the intensity of these conflicts reduced, but the animosity did not fade away.

Several provisions exist in our Constitution that were made to accommodate the diverse and multilingual nature of this country. Articles 19, 29, and 30 provide citizens with the right to preserve their language. The Eighth Schedule of our Constitution recognises 22 languages as official languages of this country. On the contrary, there have been several instances that seemingly suppress the importance of regional languages. The recognition of Hindi as the 'Official Language of the Union of India' has not been perceived well, especially in the southern belt of the country. On several occasions, southern states have openly opposed the imposition of Hindi throughout the country. Maharashtra has followed suit. For these states, the Three-Language Formula, a part of the National Education Policy, 2020, has been the nail in the coffin.

The formula directs all states to follow a three-language system, two of which must be Indian. Although it explicitly mentions that 'no language will be imposed on any State, and the choice of languages is left to states and students', the move has been viewed through a lens of suspicion. It has been seen as an attempt to force Hindi language in the non Hindi speaking provinces, and reignited the decades-long linguistic dispute.

Debates and protests are the hallmarks of a well-functioning democracy. But the conflict took an ugly turn when these debates turned into abuses and the protests into hate crimes. This trend of 'linguistic vigilantism' has spread across the country and damaged the social fabric of this nation. Politicians and local actors, acting out of personal interests, have exacerbated the situation. Such actions impact internal migration, and percolate into education, housing, as well as professional opportunities.

Indeed, language creates a strong sense of belonging and identity, but it must be framed as a common resource. Our linguistic diversity should not be the reason for division, but should be the cause for celebration. While passing the States Reorganisation Bill, Mr Nehru said, "Language should not be confused with the boundaries of a State. It may be that the boundaries may be linguistic… [But] we can never function in this country unless we cooperate with each other, unless the Tamil cooperates with the Telugu and the Kannada, the Malayalee and the Marathi and the Gujarati and the Bengali and so on". For a country vying to be a superpower, aspiring to be 'Viksit', these conflicts are nothing but setbacks. It will require equal contribution from both the government as well as the citizens in order to ensure that every language is heard and respected.

Being in the Know: Why Ignorance is Not Bliss

Gargi Mokashi

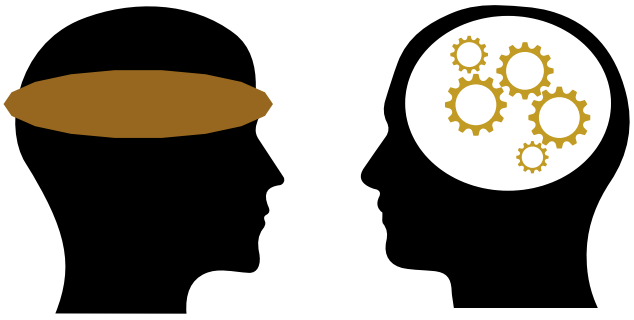
A very common viewpoint one witnesses when observing the public's attitude towards current affairs, geopolitics, or anything of that nature, is "why should I care?" or "how does this affect me?" While that is an understandable sentiment, it is an ignorant and narrow-minded perspective. All around us, from financial markets, employment uncertainty, disruptions in trade, etc, to the goods we consume, or the roads we use every day, is, in some or the other way, an outcome of politics. As the Ancient Greek Pericles rightly said, "Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."

Now, looking at the portion of the Indian population that feels the need to be aware of the happenings of the world, there is much to be said. Especially in recent times, we have seen that there are very few trustworthy sources for the masses to turn to. Traditional sources like newspapers and television channels no longer hold the relevance that they did. The presence of well-informed and fearless journalists is needed now more than ever. Having an interpreter between complex policies and the citizens that they affect could make a world of difference.

This issue of misinformation or the lack of any information at all is almost certainly catalysed by the rise of social media, which, for better or for worse, has permanently changed how we process information. The algorithms are devised to help us create our very own echo chamber, an environment where we are repeatedly fed content that aligns with our pre-existing views. This may lead some to extremism and the strong belief that their opinions are absolute.

Because this algorithmic polarisation discourages questioning and nuance, the population's capacity for critical thinking and independent thought has never been more necessary as a defence mechanism. Without these qualities, one becomes extremely susceptible to various forms of propaganda or the distorted narratives that are spread. To build immunity against these sorts of things, it is imperative for us, as a population, to form our own opinions and avoid becoming passive consumers of this possibly skewed information.

In our education system, including subjects that facilitate these skills, may give the new generation a huge advantage and consequently equip them to become independent thinkers, capable of critically analysing information instead of following a certain ideology blindly. Also, developing proficiency and making our youth comfortable in the environments of open discussions, debate, and research will help them achieve an understanding of the real world.



In conclusion, while ignorance sounds like the easy way out, it is essential that every individual makes an effort to understand the world around them, and the role they themselves play in it. We, as a society, need to value truth over convenience and become resilient against anyone who says otherwise.

Rising Lion, Midnight Hammer and Iran's Nuclear Dreams

Pratik Chavan

The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is defined by enduring rivalries. However, only a few are as complex and fraught with danger as the decades-long conflict between Iran and Israel. Let's unravel the intriguing history of this conflict, which led to lions rising and midnight hammering.

Part 1: Brief History of the Conflict

The conflict between Iran and Israel is not completely based on fighting wars in the classical sense but on conflicting ideologies and regional interests. Israel, founded in 1948 as a homeland for Jews, aligned with democratic principles and Western powers, most notably the United States. Iran, meanwhile, experienced a dramatic shift in 1979, when the Islamic Revolution overthrew the pro-Western Shah of Iran and established Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Republic. The new leadership rejected Western influence and openly opposed Israel's legitimacy as a state. Since then, Iran has strengthened ties with groups (such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza) that challenge Israel militarily and politically. These partnerships have strengthened distrust and hostility between the two countries.

Part 2: Iran's Nuclear Approach

Iran argues that its nuclear ambition is for peaceful purposes. It emphasises the production of energy, medical research, and scientific advancement as the main objectives of its nuclear endeavours. As a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Tehran claims it has a right under international law to seek civilian nuclear technology. But most nations are not convinced. They state that Iran's progress may create the ability to make nuclear weapons, even though it has not openly stated such a purpose. This mistrust forms the core of the world's negotiations and sanctions against Iran.

Ironically, Iran's nuclear journey began with U.S. support. In the 1950s, during Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's reign, Washington provided Tehran with its first nuclear reactor under President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program. At the time, Iran was viewed as a stable American ally in the Middle East, and nuclear cooperation was seen as part of strengthening ties.

Part 3: Breakdown of US-Iran Relations

The close US-Iranian relationship broke down after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The fall of Shah established a theocratic state, and the crisis of the US Embassy hostages gave rise to suspicion. Iran has since regarded the US as an adversarial power. The new Iranian leadership denounced America as the "Great Satan", portraying it as the symbol of corruption and foreign interference. This became a defining feature of Iran's revolutionary identity, and it still continues to shape its foreign policy. Operation Midnight Hammer was a further extension and a crucial moment in this chain of events, where Iranian nuclear sites of Fordow, Isfahan, and Natanz were heavily bombed by the United States' B2 stealth bombers in June 2025.

Part 4: Israel's Perspective

To Israel, Iran's nuclear aspirations are an existential danger. Iranian leaders have continually challenged the existence of Israel and questioned their survival. In addition to Iran's backing of adversarial proxy forces like Hamas, Houthis, and Hezbollah, its potential for obtaining nuclear weapons is regarded as a direct threat. These were the reasons Israel used to justify Operation Rising Lion, under which Israel attacked Iran's nuclear infrastructure, missile production sites, and senior military leadership. To Israel, stopping Iran from reaching the nuclear threshold isn't just strategic, it is a matter of survival and regional security.

The Demographic Divide: Youth vs. Ageing in World Politics

Tanvi Ghatage

Global governance today hinges on a profound demographic divide. Ageing nations face dwindling workforces and soaring healthcare obligations, while youth-dominated regions grapple with unemployment crises despite immense human potential.

Societies worldwide are evolving unevenly. In wealthy nations, baby busts and longer lifespans skew populations older, while developing regions continue to birth and sustain youth cohorts. These shifts revise economic productivity, social stability, and geopolitical influence.

In 2024, Japan registered roughly 900,000 more deaths than births, marking its steepest population drop since modern records began. This includes just 687,689 births, a historic low, and around 1.6 million deaths. Roughly 30% of its citizens are now 65 or older, while working-age adults constitute only 59%, about six percentage points below global norms. The OECD projects a 31% decrease in Japan's working-age population by 2060.

Europe is also greying rapidly. Across the EU, the ratio of retirees to working adults is expected to double by 2050, dramatically increasing support burdens. In Japan, the support ratio plunges from 2.6 workers per retiree in 2010 to a projected 1.3 by 2050.

In contrast, youth unemployment remains a critical concern in South Africa. By 2025, 62.4% of those aged 15-24 were jobless, the highest level since 2022. Meanwhile, overall youth unemployment in 2024 hovered around 60.9%.

Across Africa, over 60 per cent of the population is under 25, yet each year about 10-12 million young workers join the labour market while only about 3 million are able to find formal jobs, fuelling instability.

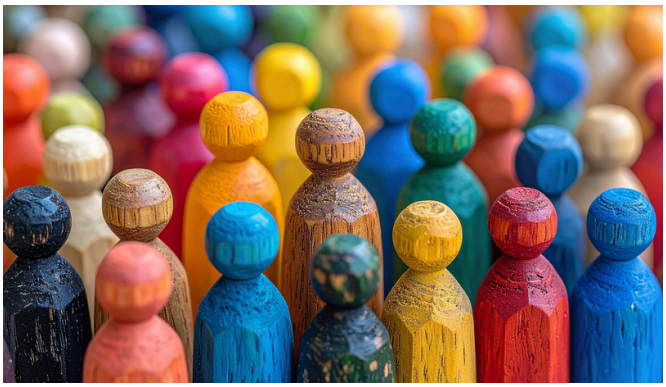
Protests and growing political activism reflect the rising frustration, with youth leaders demanding real roles in governance. However, this young population also holds vast promise; digital innovation, entrepreneurial ventures, and climate-smart solutions are well underway, especially when given support.

India, though not as deeply detailed in current sources here, similarly contends with vast youth cohorts alongside uneven job creation, making it a pivotal locus of both challenge and promise globally.

- Education & Skills: South African scholars and economists emphasise aligning the curriculum with market needs and investing in vocational training as a means of shifting from theory to employable skills. In Africa, global actors urge scaled investment in youth across health, education, and entrepreneurship, comparable to efforts like the Global Fund but aimed at demography rather than disease.
- Migration: Japan has increased its number of foreign residents, surpassing 3.76 million by December 2024 (i.e., 3% of the population). The working foreign workforce also rose dramatically to 2.3 million foreign workers by October 2024, a historic high. These migrants are increasingly vital to sustaining labour supply and contributing to social systems like pensions.

Given the scale of these demographic forces, concerted global cooperation is essential. Wealthier nations must support education, digital access, and entrepreneurship in youth-rich countries. Shared migration frameworks could ease ageing-nation labour shortages, while technology transfer in healthcare and eldercare can improve resilience.

In the near future, i.e, by 2050, Japan's population may drop below 100 million people, heightening care and fiscal stress even if migration blunts the decline. In contrast, Africa's youth could represent half the world's young population, becoming a demographic dividend or disaster, depending on policy and international solidarity.



In conclusion, demographic forces are the central shapers of 21st-century global governance, not merely passive backdrops. A profound demographic divide separates the world: ageing nations, exemplified by Japan's record low birth rate and rapidly greying Europe, are strained by dwindling workforces and soaring healthcare burdens.

To maintain national strength, these states must aggressively pursue migration to sustain labour, incentivise innovation in eldercare technology, and enact difficult pension and healthcare reforms. Conversely, youth-laden nations, like those in Africa and regions facing crises such as South Africa's high youth unemployment, possess immense human potential but risk instability if they fail to deliver.

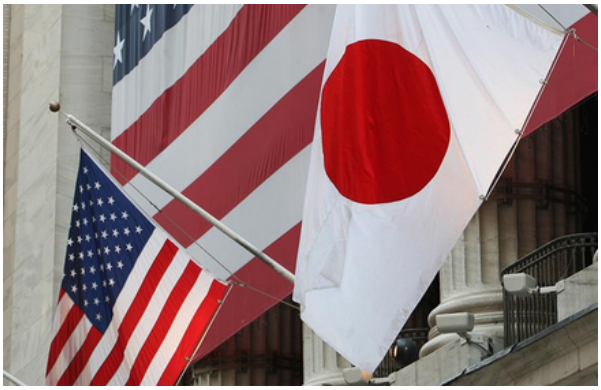
Their strength hinges on massive investments in education aligned with market needs, the creation of formal jobs, and genuine political inclusion for young people. The ultimate measure of policy foresight lies in global cooperation. By fostering shared migration frameworks and channelling investment from wealthier nations into education and entrepreneurship in youth-rich regions, the world can successfully bridge this divide, ensuring that Africa's burgeoning youth population becomes a demographic dividend rather than a disaster, thus defining a century of shared stability.

The Economic Miracle, the Lost Decades, and India's Crossroads

Vedant Dhamane

The Economic Miracle

By the end of WW2, the Japanese economy was in shambles, urban infrastructure in ruins and most of its industrial capacity destroyed. And this is what makes the Japanese recovery nothing short of a miracle. One of the major roles in this revival was played by the U.S.A. In the early years of its occupation (1945-1947), the US focused more on political reforms like democratisation, breaking up zaibatsu conglomerates and land reforms rather than economic stabilisation. But the end of WW2 was also marked by the beginning of the Cold War, and by 1948-49, US policymakers realised that a weak Japan could easily fall under communist influence, especially when China turned communist in 1949. This marked a shift in US strategy because now, instead of punishing Japan, it wanted a strong, capitalist Japan to serve as a safeguard against communism in Asia.



And thus the efforts to rebuild the Japanese economy began. The Dodge Plan (1949), financial assistance through loans and grants, market access, trade support, and technology transfers were only some of the methods the US adopted to help bring about this economic miracle.

And the result of this, combined with solid domestic policies focusing on exports, innovation, and industrial modernisation, turned Japan into the world's 2nd largest economy by 1968.

The Lost Decade

By the 80s, Japan was seen as unstoppable. But the US saw Japan as a threat to its global economic dominance. Many analysts at the time predicted that Japan would overtake the US in the 90s in terms of nominal GDP. Even though the US-Japan alliance was strong in security, their economic rivalry was intense. Japan had huge trade surpluses with the US, especially in cars and electronics. Washington faced major political pressure to act as American industries were suffering. Then, in 1985, came the Plaza Accords. Major economies (U.S., Japan, Germany, France, UK) agreed to depreciate the U.S. dollar and appreciate the yen.

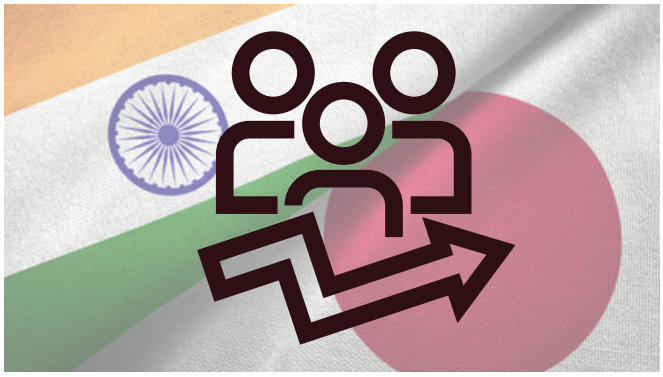
The value of the yen (Japanese currency) doubled from 1985 to 1987, which made Japanese exports more expensive, and the exporters lost their competitiveness. To counter this slowdown, the Bank of Japan slashed the interest rates, and credit became very cheap.

Asset prices skyrocketed, and there was a giant asset bubble. Fearing overheating, the Bank of Japan had raised interest rates sharply, and the bubble was popped. By 1992, the Nikkei index had lost almost half of its value and real estate prices began a long, painful decline. Companies and households found themselves with massive debt and devalued assets. And since the 90s, Japan has battled decades of stagnation, deflation, and demographic decline and despite multiple reform attempts, its growth never returned to the miracle years.

Drawing parallels with India

Like Japan was in the 70s, India is now the world's fastest growing major economy, with the service industry at the forefront and a gradual manufacturing tilt following many government policies encouraging local manufacturing. While Japan's growth was more export driven, India's growth is fuelled more by increasing domestic demand. Not unlike Japan, the US is India's strategic partner with growing disputes in trade imbalances.

While Japan had a shrinking/ageing population, India's population is young and growing, but if it fails to meet enough job requirements to fulfil its needs, even these favourable demographics for India could be troubling. The RBI also has relatively more flexibility with the rupee valuation, but still vulnerable to capital flows. Unlike the Cold War era, India now faces a multipolar world, giving more space to diversify partnerships (BRICS, ASEAN, Global South, etc). But fatalities like the Plaza Accord could still be harmful to India in the form of Potential pressure on trade, carbon emissions, IP laws, data regulations and tariffs.



So, in conclusion, India shares Japan's vulnerability, which is a mix of external pressure and domestic fragilities that could potentially result in the derailment of growth. But unlike Japan, India is earlier in its development path, has a younger population, stronger domestic demand, and a more flexible currency, which may help avoid a repeat of Japan's stagnation, given that the policy choices are wise.

SPECIAL SECTION

Make in India, Aim for the World: Arming for Autonomy

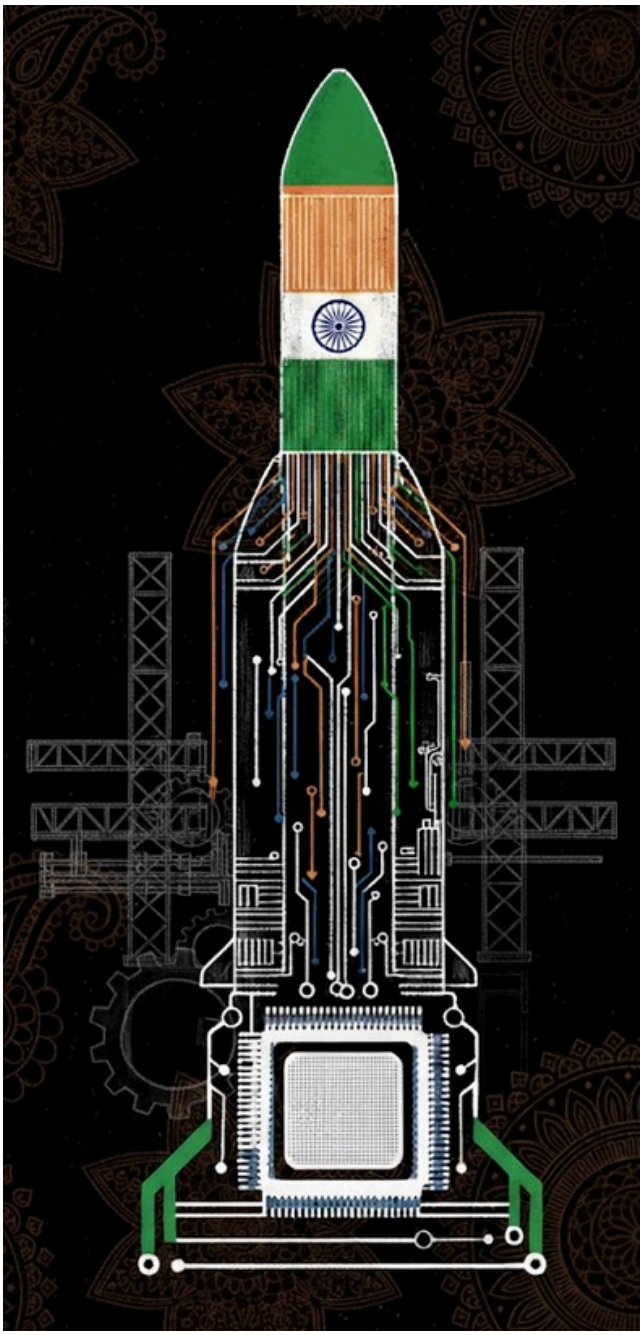
Dhruv Joshi, Vedant Panse, Namita Aragade

1. Introduction

What does it take for a nation to stand on its own feet truly? India's clarion call - "Make in India, Aim for the World: Arming for Autonomy" is more than a slogan; it is a mission to transform ambition into capability. Picture a future where our defence industries are not just self-reliant, but global benchmarks for quality and resilience. This journey demands the full firepower of the private sector, with industry leaders collaborating to create cutting-edge technologies. It calls for an agile supply chain ecosystem that can withstand global shocks while delivering at world-class standards. And it insists on sweeping bureaucratic reforms that replace red tape with red carpets for innovation and production. The question isn't how longer can India compete globally, it is how soon can we lead? This is the moment to blend entrepreneurial energy with policy vision. But this vision didn't emerge overnight; it is rooted in decades of policy shifts and technological breakthroughs. To grasp the full scale of what lies ahead, we must look back at how India's industrial landscape evolved, how global dynamics shaped our priorities, and how the seeds of autonomy were sown long before the slogan was coined.

2. Background

India's path toward self-reliance in defence and strategic production has been shaped by both ambition and limitation. Since independence, the country leaned heavily on public sector undertakings (PSUs) to drive defence manufacturing, with organisations like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited forming the backbone of indigenous production. While these institutions laid the foundation, the outcomes often fell short of expectations. According to data from the Ministry of Defence, India has consistently ranked among the world's top three arms importers, accounting for nearly 11 per cent of global arms imports between 2018 and 2022, as reported by Reuters. This reliance underscored a gap between intent and execution.Technological self-sufficiency has been another struggle. Despite significant investments, India's share in global R&D spending remains under 1.5 percent of GDP, far lower than the global average of 2.63 per cent, according to UNESCO.



Projects such as the Light Combat Aircraft "Tejas" illustrate both the promise of indigenous innovation and the persistent challenges of delays and cost overruns. Recent reports have highlighted how such setbacks not only increase dependence on foreign suppliers but also weaken strategic autonomy.

Bureaucratic inertia has compounded the problem. Complex procurement procedures and layers of approvals often stretched timelines, discouraging efficiency and private participation. As a result, India's defence ecosystem has struggled to fully modernise at the pace required by evolving security needs.

Yet, this narrative is changing. Recognizing the limitations of a state-dominated model, India has begun opening doors wider to private industry and startups, marking the next chapter in its pursuit of autonomy.

3. Role of the Private Sector and Startups

The Make in India initiative has redefined the country's defence manufacturing landscape by actively involving the private sector, MSMEs, and defence startups in what was once a public-sector stronghold. In FY 2024–25, the private sector contributed approximately 23% of India's record ₹1.5 lakh crore defence production, up from 21% the previous year. Though the increase may appear small, it reflects a clear upward trend in their participation. By easing licensing norms, creating defence industrial corridors, and promoting indigenous procurement, the government has opened opportunities for smaller enterprises and innovators to contribute directly to national security. MSMEs now supply critical subsystems, components, and niche technologies, while defence-focused startups are developing drones, AI-powered surveillance tools, and rapid prototyping solutions.

A strong innovation ecosystem is central to this transformation. Greater investment in R&D, across both public and private sectors, is essential to reduce import dependence and keep pace with evolving threats. Collaboration between industry, academia, and the armed forces has helped accelerate technology development while minimising project delays. Focus areas already include artificial intelligence, autonomous weapon systems, cybersecurity solutions, space-based surveillance, and advanced materials for armour and aerospace.

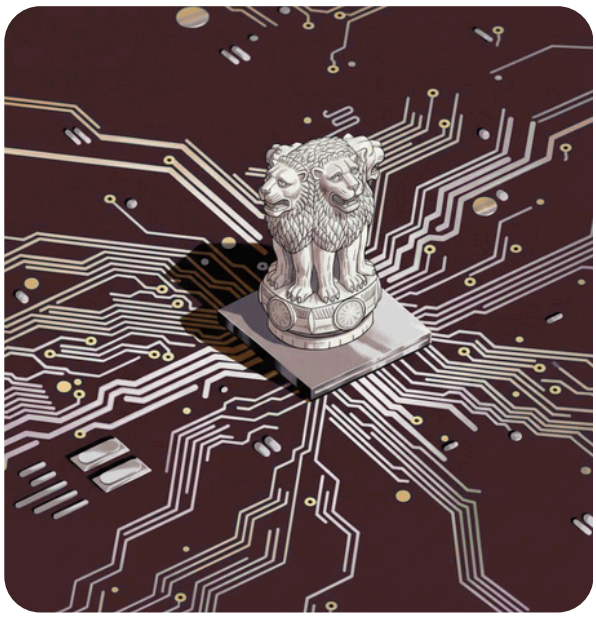
By supporting talent, offering funding incentives, and streamlining procurement procedures, India can consolidate its position as a global defence hub. The combined strength of large private firms, agile MSMEs, and disruptive startups, when paired with sustained R&D backing, creates not only self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat but also the scope for exports of high-value defence technologies.

4. Innovation Ecosystem: R&D and Advanced Technologies

At the heart of India's defence transformation lies the need to innovate quickly in response to emerging global threats. While the Make in India programme has added momentum to domestic production, the innovation ecosystem, powered by research and advanced technologies, is what will determine real self-sufficiency.

India's gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) remains at about 0.7% of GDP, significantly lower than countries such as Israel at 5% or the United States at 3.4%. This gap clearly underlines the scale of investment challenges that remain.

For decades, defence R&D was concentrated in public bodies such as DRDO and HAL. Recent reforms, however, have encouraged an active role for private companies, universities, and startups. Schemes such as Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) are channeling support to startups developing AI-driven drones, autonomous combat platforms, electronic warfare systems, and directed-energy weapons. Hypersonic technologies, next-generation armour materials, and cyber and space security systems are also being prioritised. Joint projects between academia and industry are increasing knowledge-sharing and reducing time to deployment.



The central challenge is not always ambition but time. Weapon system delays often result from slow research cycles, limited prototyping facilities, and lengthened administrative clearances. Shifting to more agile development models, securing earlier field testing with the armed forces, and creating funding frameworks that reward high-risk projects could cut down delays considerably. As India explores quantum technologies, hypersonics, and future domains like 6G-enabled battle systems, success will depend on whether it focuses on speed and execution rather than just intent.

5. Defence Production and Supply Chain Ecosystem

A resilient supply chain forms the backbone of defence manufacturing. Despite progress, India remains dependent on imports for semiconductors, propulsion systems, high-end avionics, and key raw materials. This dependence leaves the sector vulnerable to global disruptions. The Russia–Ukraine war and tensions between the United States and China, for example, have highlighted the fragility of international supply networks, directly affecting availability of parts and costs in India.

Domestically, scaling production has its own limitations. Supplier networks are shallow, semiconductor fabrication facilities are scarce, and rare-earth imports remain essential.

These structural weaknesses create bottlenecks that slow projects and add to overall costs. Building semiconductor hubs, supporting electronics clusters, and encouraging investment across Tier 2 and Tier 3 suppliers must become long-term commitments if India is to address these shortfalls.Regulation is another major factor in efficiency. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) and the introduction of "positive indigenisation lists" are steps forward, as they curtail imports and push for local procurement. However, processes still become mired in approvals and clearances. Coordination gaps between state and central stakeholders and inconsistencies in timelines create uncertainty for investors and manufacturers. Simplification, strict adherence to deadlines, and clear compliance rules are urgently needed.

Exports present another dimension of progress. India's defence exports touched a record ₹21,000 crore in FY 2024–25, which is a significant gain from earlier years. But arms exports carry risks that other industries do not. India must remain aligned with arms-control regimes, honour end-user checks, and avoid scenarios that compromise credibility in international diplomacy. Growth in defence exports should therefore balance economic benefits with global responsibility.

Overall, India's defence ecosystem must integrate supply chain integrity, regulatory clarity, and responsible export policies with the larger push for self-reliance.

Without these, technological advances will struggle to scale and India will continue to face vulnerabilities.

6. Project Implementation Challenges: Delays and Cost Overruns

Project implementation under Make in India continues to face a range of operational, regulatory, and infrastructure-related bottlenecks. Delays in land acquisition, fragmented approval structures, and weak logistics networks have slowed down factory setups. Gaps in skilled labour and uneven access to advanced technology make execution even harder. While measures like single-window clearances are aimed at improving business conditions, bureaucratic hurdles and inconsistent state-level rules often discourage investors.

The entry of foreign players into India's defence manufacturing market has created further concerns. Small and medium-sized local entrepreneurs sometimes find it difficult to keep up with the competition, and in extreme cases, may be pushed out entirely. There is also the question of land that shifts away from agricultural use towards industrial development, creating risks for farming communities and rural economies.

More striking are the long delays plaguing critical indigenous defence projects. The Kaveri Jet Engine, the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT), the Nag anti-tank guided missile, and the NAMICA launcher have each faced setbacks that stretch well over a decade, with issues ranging from weight and mobility limitations to overly long testing phases. As a result, several systems were already outdated by the time of induction, as seen with the Arjun MBT. Likewise, India continues to rely on imports for jet engines, advanced sensors, and naval propulsion systems. The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), initially planned for 2025, now looks set for induction only in the early 2030s. This delay stems from staggered funding, complex technology requirements, and dependence on imported GE F414 turbofan engines, with indigenous replacements unlikely to be ready in the short term.

When the Make in India initiative began, one of its targets was to increase manufacturing's share of GDP to 25% by 2025, up from 15–16% at the time. Instead, the sector now contributes only 13–14%, reflecting not only a missed target but a drop in relative importance.

There are wider environmental and social considerations too. Industrial expansion can bring jobs and stimulate local economies, but without sustainability safeguards it risks pollution, resource pressure, and deforestation. Large projects may also displace communities or widen rural–urban gaps unless planned inclusively.

7. Conclusion

India today stands at a defining moment in its journey toward true autonomy. The road has not been without setbacks, but every delay, every shortfall has carried a lesson that now fuels a stronger resolve. The transformation of our defence sector from a state-led model to one that embraces private enterprise and startups reflects a shift in mindset as much as in policy. By creating opportunities and encouraging a culture of self-belief, the nation has built momentum that is steadily reshaping its future. What once seemed out of reach is now within grasp.

Indian companies are designing drones, building advanced weapon systems and exporting defence equipment across continents. Our engineers and scientists are no longer just dreamers of projects but builders of solutions. There is pride in knowing that the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat is not just a slogan but a living, growing reality.

The journey ahead is demanding, but it is also full of promise. If India sustains its focus on innovation, strengthens its supply chains, and continues to empower its entrepreneurs, then not only self-reliance but a global leadership will be achieved. Make in India, Aim for the World: Arming for Autonomy is not just a vision, it is India's destiny in the making.

THINK.
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THE INQUISITOR