



Resurgence: Turkey's defense industry grows and exports hit a record high

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Amid the tensions in Middle East and the coil crisis that has affected the world, there is a silent story that often gets less attention.

It is the growth of Turkey's defense industry, which has brought leverage to the country and is also playing an important role in the growing geopolitical power for the nation.

From an arms buyer to an arms seller, Turkey's journey has been sustained and it shows how the regional power is also growing in influence.

The geographical location of the country was always an asset and the tourism potential always existed.

Over the years, it has clearly focused on growth. The boom in defense sector is shaping a

a robust foreign policy, especially, in a region that has countries facing instability.

The defense exports have hit record high and this has brought overall growth.

Defense is a standout as exports hit over 10 billion dollars last year and rose in the first quarter of 2026, compared to last year's first quarter.

The Turkish drones, armored vehicles and naval platforms are being sought in other nations that wish to develop their armies without Western or United States' support.

Countries in Asia like Indonesia, Malaysia & Africa are the new buyers. and this has enhanced the status of Turkey in a changing world.

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Grok

World heaves a sigh of relief over US-Iran agreement

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Early to comment about the deal & how long it will last but it is a comforting news.

There was a visible feeling of relief across the world as the news about deal between Iran and the United States of America, started coming and the news agencies were sending inputs to newspapers and TV channels across the world that the agreement was almost ready.

After months of war, hostility and attacks that led to killings, destruction and large scale damage to the civic infra-structure in cities across Iran and other nations in the Middle East, this was the news that was needed and expected in a world that is more interconnected



than ever. The framework for de-escalation has been reached but the entire text about the deal is not known yet.

However, it is still comforting news for Middle East. The oil market needed it. Strait of Hormuz' closure has affected the supply and hit global economy.

Israel is not too happy with the turn of events but US president Donald Trump has put his foot down. Though it is too early to speculate about the events in future, right now it seems that the deal may bring temporary relief to both sides and also to Gulf nations.

Syud Hossain: Freedom fighter, diplomat, editor and an indefatigable activist

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

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A freedom fighter, a passionate journalist, an editor and later a diplomat, Syud Hossain was a man who remained devoted to his motherland and dedicated himself to the cause of freedom struggle but was quickly forgotten after his death.

Hossain, who was born in Kolkata, was a contemporary of Maulana Azad, and led an extraordinary life. However, there is lack of adequate information about him in public space.

Though born and brought up in an aristocratic household, the nationalistic fervor propelled Syud Hossain towards the freedom movement.

He quit his job. He later went to study law. Also, he wrote for major newspapers and was invited by Motilal Nehru to edit 'The Independent'.

Due to his passion and fiery journalism, it soon became the most important paper in North India. But these are just a few aspects of his life.

Asad Faisal Farooqui, who is based in Aligarh, has written a voluminous and much-needed book on the freedom fighter.

The book sheds light on Syud Hossain's life and struggle.

From his association with the Home Rule movement, Khilafat Movement and going to United States of America

on Gandhi's insistence to turn public opinion in favour of India's independence in America, Syud Hossain's life has many phases.

The book titled 'Syud Hossain: Hindustan Ka Ek Daanishwar Mujahid E Azadi' [Syud Hossain: India's intellectual freedom fighter] focuses on the different phases of his life, as well as his personality and his achievements.

Farooqui delves deep into documents, brings out his correspondence and also contacts his kin in Bangladesh and brings to fore the aspects of his life that have not got due attention.

It's indeed a tragedy that he is often remembered mostly for his relationship with Vijay Lakshmi Pandit and their companionship.

The couple was forced to separate at the instance of leading national leaders. Hossain deserves to be remembered and known for his writings as well as his role in independence movement.

In this book, Farooqui has tried to bring almost all the information about Syud Hossain's eventful life. There is information and there are anecdotes along with photographs and citations. Hossain had also published Urdu and English newspapers from USA. The fact is that Hossain was a man of exceptional qualities. Even



his articles were widely read and had impact on the leading personalities of the country.

Gandhi and Motilal Nehru regarded him and he was close to Sarojini Naidu as well as other prominent leaders of the era.

He was sent back from Gibraltar, when he was on way to Britain.

In America, he went from state to state, and gave speeches in support of India's cause for freedom.

After independence too, Syud Hossain remained an active person. He was appointed as India's envoy to Egypt. He didn't live longer.

His stint was remarkable as he endeared himself to people in the region and played an important role in furthering India's interests in the emerging Middle East that was also coming out of colonial rule.

After his death, he was buried in Egypt's capital city, Cairo. Unfortunately, leaders like Syud Hossain have been largely forgotten.

There is need to focus on leaders who gave sacrifices and had such a passion for India's freedom.

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The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.

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North Indian states record high rates of infant mortality: Chhattisgarh, MP & UP



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Central Indian state of Chhattisgarh has reported highest infant mortality rate (IMR) in the country followed by neighbours Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh that have jointly reported second highest IMR according to the recently released bulletin of Sample Registration System (SRS) for 2024.

IMR is the number of infants who die before attaining age of one year per thousand of live births. IMR is one of the key human development indicators that shows the public health and nutrition care status of a state.

According to SRS 2024 bulletin, Chhattisgarh reported IMR of 36 per 1000 while MP and UP were close behind with 35 deaths of infant per 1000.

The bulletin shows that overall, India's IMR has declined to 24 per 1,000 live births, but for some states, the rates are far higher than the national average.

report shows. It is to be noted that the IMR for smaller states and union territories is for a three year period of 2022-24, the SRS bulletin said. Jan Swasthya Abhiyan India (JSAI) – a national level platform working on health and health care issues - has expressed serious concern over the latest findings SRS bulletin, released by the Office of the Registrar General of India.

The report shows that despite improvements in national health indicators, major inequalities continue across states, especially in infant mortality and maternal-child health outcomes, the JSAI has stated. JSAI said that the figures reflect deep inequities in access to quality public healthcare, nutrition, maternal services, neonatal care, and social determinants of health. The continuing high IMR in poorer and underserved states highlights the urgent need for strengthening the public

health system and ensuring universal access to affordable healthcare.

JSAI noted that the Union Government has allocated around ₹39,390 crore for the National Health Mission (NHM) in 2026-27, while overall health allocation has crossed ₹1.06 lakh crore.

NHM remains the largest public health program focused on strengthening primary healthcare, maternal health, newborn care, child health services, immunization, nutrition support, and disease control programs across states.

The organisation further pointed out that a major component of NHM expenditure is directed towards reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services. Despite these allocations and years of public investment, many district hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres continue to suffer

from shortages of specialist doctors, nurses, blood banks, ICU facilities, SNCUs, medicines, diagnostics, ambulances and referral transport systems.

JSAI emphasized that weak referral systems in public hospitals remain one of the key reasons behind preventable maternal and infant deaths. Due to inadequate facilities at district hospitals and sub-district centres, pregnant women, newborns and critically ill children are frequently forced to travel long distances to tertiary hospitals and medical colleges.

Delays in referral, transport and treatment continue to cost lives, especially in rural, tribal and underserved regions.

No woman or child should die because of lack of oxygen, ICU care, blood availability, medicines, trained healthcare workers.



Trade, Tourism & Turkey's resurgence in the modern world, amid new global order

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The country invested in infrastructure and apart from defense and tourism. From airlines to media, it now has a resonance in different spheres that impacts the world.

Tourism is also another sector that plays an important role in its rise at the international stage.

Though the US-Israel war against Iran has affected the tourism, Turkey has emerged as a major tourist destination for people across the world, who like this transcontinental nation that has sites as well as history and cuisine.

The picture could appear mixed, rather than a straight 'rising power' or a clear resurgence story.

But the fact is that Turkey is slowly making its impact and has steadily emerged as a major world power in the last two decades.

This is not a minor story. The growth is steady, even if it is not spectacular.

The economy has expanded and the country is playing its role seriously in West Asia's politics. Defense, however, is the main sector and stands out when it comes to Turkish economy's real strength.

Erdogan is setting a target of dollar 11 billion in defense and aerospace exports by the year 2028. This is also a soft power toll as drones, armored vehicles and naval platforms are drawing focus of countries that want sellers other than USA and European countries.

The geopolitical influence has grown, especially, as space left by Russia and Syria has been captured. The relations with Israel have deteriorated but the geographic location is a huge advantage.

Turkey is gaining leverage in defense and energy transit. In Arab world, Europe and Asia, it is a major power due to its historic ties as well as influence due to NATO membership.

The defense sector should be seen in the light of the fact that five Turkish firms are now in the SIPRI's global top 100 and domestic localization exceeding 80%, up from 20% nearly two decades ago.

The drones have secured contracts in over 30 countries and captured about 65% of global UAV export market.

Baykar's Kizilelma combat drone is also ready for the delivery and KAAN fighter jet is moving to a serial production contract.

Notably, Altay tanks are entering service in meaningful numbers. The engineer brain drain has reversed, which is also a significant story.

There are other sectors too that need to be talked about. For example, automotive is Turkey's backbone.

The country has produced over 1.5 million vehicles in 2023 and it was world's 13th largest producer for the major European brands like Ford, Fiat and Renault, out of the Bursa cluster.

In fact, Turkey is the world's second largest producer of white goods after China, exporting roughly 75% of output, mostly to Europe, with Arcelik as the flagship.

The tourism revenue has hit over dollar 61 billion in 2024. Textiles, steel and chemicals also strengthen the diversified industrial base.

Boom is real in the defense sector. Clearly, it's a growth story by any means. The official growth narrative is not far from the ground reality. Certain gaps remain but there is certain a leap in the last two decades, when it comes to advancement, growth and development.

Turkey has an autonomous foreign policy, domestic defense production. Plus, a decisive role in regional stability and international affairs.

It controls maritime access to and from Black Sea via Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

It is a NATO member and engaged with West as well as Russia and Central Asia, other than Arab world.

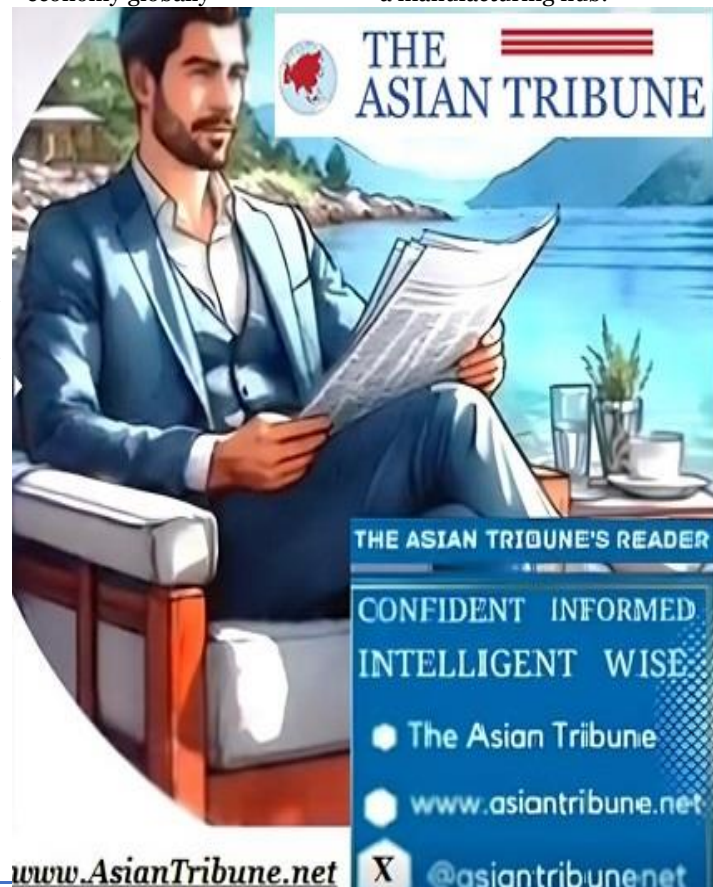
Now, it ranks as a leading arms exporter, has indigenous drone technology like Bayraktar TB2 to project influence in Middle East, North Africa and Caucasus.

It has a large, emerging free market economy, 17th largest nominal GDP and 11 largest economy globally

by purchasing power parity (PPP). Services make up majority of economy, it has a strong industrial and manufacturing base that serves as an integral supply chain extension for European and Eurasian markets.

Turkey's economic growth story is about remarkable leap from an agrarian society to an upper middle income industrial powerhouse.

Between 2002 and 2007, the economy grew at an astonishing annual rate of over 7%. The national income per capita soared, expanding the middle class and significantly cutting poverty rates. It transitioned from a agriculture-based model into a manufacturing hub.



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