

# 2025 YEAR OF DEFENCE REFORMS

■ Delhi Bureau & Agencies  
NEW DELHI, Jan 1

**I**NDIA on Wednesday declared 2025 as the year of defence reforms and that the focus will be to roll out integrated theatre commands to boost tri-services synergy and ensure simpler and time-sensitive military procurement with a broader aim to transform the military into a technologically-advanced force.

The overall aim of the nine-point reforms planned by the Defence Ministry would be to ensure deeper collaboration among key stakeholders, break silos, eliminate inefficiencies and optimise utilisation of resources.

The reforms would lay the foundation for "unprecedented" advancements in defence preparedness and ensure India's security and sovereignty amidst challenges of 21st century, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said.

The Defence Ministry's aim on



**Simpler procurement, theaterisation are priorities as MoD lists nine-point reforms to transform military into a technologically-advanced combat-ready force.**

theatre commands assumes significance as it virtually indicated a resolve to unveil the ambitious reform measure in 2025.

Under the theaterisation model, the Government seeks to integrate the capabilities of the Army,

the Air Force and the Navy and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations.

As per the theaterisation plan, each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of

them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory.

At present, the Army, Navy and the Air Force have separate commands.

The decision on observing 2025 as year of reforms and the broad objectives under it were finalised at a high-level meeting chaired by Singh. It was attended by all the Secretaries of the Defence Ministry.

One of the nine points listed by the Ministry following the deliberations was to take initiative to instil a "sense of pride" in Indian culture and ideas, fostering confidence in achieving global standards through indigenous capabilities, while imbibing best practices from modern militaries that suit the nation's conditions.

"(The) 'year of reforms' will be a momentous step in modernisation journey of the armed forces," Singh said.

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**Navy to commission on Jan 15**

# 2 warships, 1 sub



Guided-missile destroyer Surat



Stealth frigate Nilgiri



Submarine Vagsheer

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (PTI)

**THE** Indian Navy will commission two indigenously constructed frontline warships and a diesel-electric submarine on January 15 that is expected to significantly enhance the force's overall combat prowess.

All the three platforms -- guided-missile destroyer Surat, stealth frigate Nilgiri and submarine Vagsheer -- are equipped with the latest weapons and sensors, officials said on Wednesday.

The warships and submarine will be commissioned at a ceremony at the naval dockyard in Mumbai. The two warships also include specific accommodations to support a sizeable complement of women officers and sailors, aligning with the Indian Navy's steps toward gender inclusion in frontline combat roles.

"This historic event will provide a significant boost to the

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# Pak begins its two-year tenure as non-permanent member of UNSC

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1 (PTI)

PAKISTAN began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on January 1, with Ambassador Munir Akram saying that the Pakistani delegation will play an "active and constructive" role in addressing key challenges facing the world.

"Our presence will be felt in the Security Council," Ambassador Akram, Pakistan's top diplomat at the UN, told State-run APP (Associated Press of Pakistan) news agency.

From Wednesday, Pakistan will sit in the Security Council for the 2025-26 term as a non-permanent member - the eighth time that the country has had a seat on the 15-member body's horse-shoe table.

In June, Pakistan was elected to the Council with a massive majority as a non-permanent member, polling 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly - far more than the required 124 votes representing a two-thirds majority.

"We enter the Council at a time of great geopolitical turbulence, intense competition between the

two largest powers, raging wars in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere and a sharply escalating and multi-dimensional arms race," Akram said.

"As a responsible State - the fifth largest by population - Pakistan will play an active and constructive role, in accordance with the UN Charter, to halt wars, promote the pacific settlement of disputes and contain the negative impacts of great power rivalries, the arms race, new weapons and domains of conflict as well as the spreading scourge of terrorism," he said.

# Air Marshal Mishra is chief of IAF's Western Command

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (PTI)

**AIR** Marshal Jeetendra Mishra on Wednesday took charge as the chief of Indian Air Force's Western Air Command that looks after the security of the air space in the sensitive Ladakh sector as well as



some other parts of north India.

Air Marshal Mishra, a fighter combat leader and an experimental test pilot, has more than 3,000 hours of flying experience, according to the IAF.

He succeeds Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha, who superannuated after putting in more than 39 years of distinguished service. Air Marshal Mishra was commissioned into the Indian Air Force (IAF) as a fighter pilot on December 6, 1986.

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Force Test Pilots School, Bangalore, Air Command and Staff College, the US, and Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK.

# India, Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (PTI)

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INDIA and Pakistan on Wednesday exchanged a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral pact that prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities, in continuing an over-three-decade practice.

The exchange of the list took place under the provisions of an agreement on the prohibition of attacks against nuclear installations and facilities, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.

It was done simultaneously through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

"India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels, simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installation and facilities," the MEA said.

# Taiwan President to boost island's defence budget to counter China

TAIPEI, Jan 1 (AP)

**TAIWANESE** President Lai Ching-te pledged to strengthen the island's defences in the face of escalating Chinese threats, saying in a New Year's address on Wednesday that Taiwan was a crucial part of the "line of defence of democracy" globally.

China claims Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy, is part of its territory and has vowed to annex the island by force if necessary.

"Authoritarian countries such as China, Russia, North Korea and Iran are still collaborating to threaten the international order that is based on rules. This has severely influenced the Indo-

Pacific region and the world's peace and stability," Lai said in his address.

Beijing has used a variety of tactics in recent years to increase pressure on Taiwan, from sending warships and fighter jets toward the island on a near-daily basis to pressuring Taiwan's diplomatic allies to switch their recognition to China.

In response, Taiwan has been reforming its military and buying weapons from the United States, its biggest unofficial ally.

"Taiwan must be prepared for danger in times of peace. It must keep increasing the national defence budget to strengthen its defence capabilities in order to

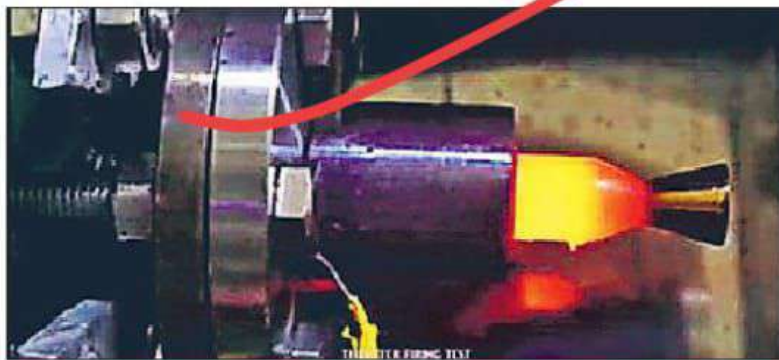
show the determination to defend the country. Every single person has the duty to protect Taiwan's democracy and security," Lai said.

Lai also issued a warning about the need to uphold democracy domestically, addressing recent political controversies in Taiwan.

The Kuomintang-led Opposition passed three Bills last month after legislators got into a physical tussle over them. The Bills are designed to make recall votes for politicians more difficult and change the budget allocation for the central government. Critics said another of the bills would paralyse the Constitutional Court.

# 1st green propulsion system tested in space

Mumbai-based start-up Manastu successfully test-fired its home-built green propulsion system thruster – Vyom 2U onboard the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-4 (POEM)



NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (PTI)

**MUMBAI-BASED** space start-up Manastu Space on Wednesday said it had successfully test-fired its home-built thruster – Vyom 2U – onboard the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-4 (POEM), tilting the platform by 24 degrees

and imparting angular velocity before the onboard systems regained control.

The POEM-4 platform, comprising the fourth stage of the PSLV-C60 rocket that launched the SpaDeX satellite on Monday, has been placed in an orbit at an altitude of 350 kms where sev-

eral ISRO labs, start-ups and educational institutions will carry out in-orbit experiments.

“We test-fired our green propulsion system, first ever in India, Vyom-2U onboard the POEM-4 on the New Year’s eve,” Manastu Space founder and CEO Tushar Jadhav told PTI.

He said the 30-second firing of the thruster tilted the PSLV POEM-4 platform by 24 degrees, imparting an angular velocity of 0.5 deg per second before onboard systems seamlessly regained control.

“Over the coming days, PSLV will perform multiple critical manoeuvres, culminating in 500+ seconds of cumulative in-space firing time, cementing the success of this In-Orbit Demonstration (IOD) of Manastu Space’s Green Propulsion system VYOM 2U based on MS289 green propellant,” the start-up said in a LinkedIn post.

The thrusters use MS289 propellant, which is a blend of hydrogen peroxide and replaces the  
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