

# 2025: India's Security Challenges

Impressions from Delhi Forum for Strategic Studies Seminar: 18 Jan 2025

By Col Jasbir Dahiya



The Delhi Forum For Strategic Studies (DFSS) conducted its annual seminar on 18 January 2025 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. It was attended by many senior Veterans, former diplomats, members of the academia, media and defence analysts. The theme selected for this year's discussions was 2025: India's Security Challenges.

Readers of VAYU may recall that the DFSS was promoted by the renowned Air Power historian, the late Pushpinder Singh Chopra and the founder DG Defence Intelligence Agency, Lt Gen Kamal Davar around 12 years back. Each year it conducts very well attended and high powered discussions on strategic matters impacting India.

Opening the Seminar, Lt Gen Kamal Davar, President of the DFSS recounted that post the COVID 19 era, many serious kinetic conflicts, global and regional disruptions had shaken the world and the region. He stated that these unjustified wars that were creating geopolitical disturbances in the world specially in the Middle East, Africa and Europe making life difficult for the vast impoverished populations as well as consuming huge resources which could otherwise be utilised for social upliftment of the people. Security challenges created by these wars also had unexpectedly adverse outcomes in areas far from the war zones due to interlinked economies, trade, and security arrangements. The short and long term impact of these instability producing conflicts on India needed to be thoroughly analysed to derive useful lessons for India, as an emerging global power and one of the leading powers in the Asian region, India had a vital role to play both in ensuring political stability and economic well-being in the region. Gen Davar stated that India's role and leadership will be keenly observed by the comity of nations in the foreseeable future.

The discussion on Geo-strategic shifts in the Pakistan-Afghanistan was initiated by Lt Gen Bhopinder Singh (retd), former Lt Governor of the Andamans and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry: Gen Bhopinder Singh opined that

Afghanistan was trying to adjust to new realities after the sudden US exit in 2021 and trying to find its feet in the comity of nations. He stated that the anti-Pak terror outfit, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) presence in Afghanistan and the border skirmishes on the Durand line



Delhi Forum For Strategic Studies

## 2025: INDIA'S SECURITY CHALLENGES

18th January, 2025

### DETAILED PROGRAMME

TIME	EVENT	PANEL/SPEAKER
9.30 am – 09.55 am	Registration and Tea	Pergola Terrace
10.00 am - 10.15 am	Introductory Remarks	Lt. General Kamal Davar - President, DFSS
10.15 am - 10.55 am	Geo-strategic Shifts in Af-Pak Region	Lt Gen Bhopinder Singh (Retd) - Former Lt Gov Andamans and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; Amb Ajay Biseria, Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan & Amb Dr TCA Raghavan, Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan
10.55 am - 11.35 am	Transformational Trends in Aerospace Force Applications	Air Vice Marshal Kapil Kak (Retd), Defence Analyst; Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd), DG CAPS; and Cmde Anil Jai Singh (Retd), Vice President, Indian Maritime Foundation
11.35 am - 11.55 am	Tea	Pergola Terrace
11.55 am - 12.45 pm	Act East Through North East and Harmonizing Relations with Bangladesh and Myanmar	Lt Gen AK Singh (Retd), Former Lt Gov Andamans and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; Lt Gen KJ Singh (Retd), Former Army Commander; and Ms Rami Desai, India Foundation
12.45 pm - 13.00 pm	Closing Session and Vote of Thanks	Lt Gen Kamal Davar – President DFSS
13.00 pm	Lunch	Pergola Terrace