

PSIR & GS-2

DAILY BRIEF

ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE

Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.



PSIR OPTIONAL BY
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SOURCES SCANNED TODAY



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India's Demographic Moment : Observer Research Foundation

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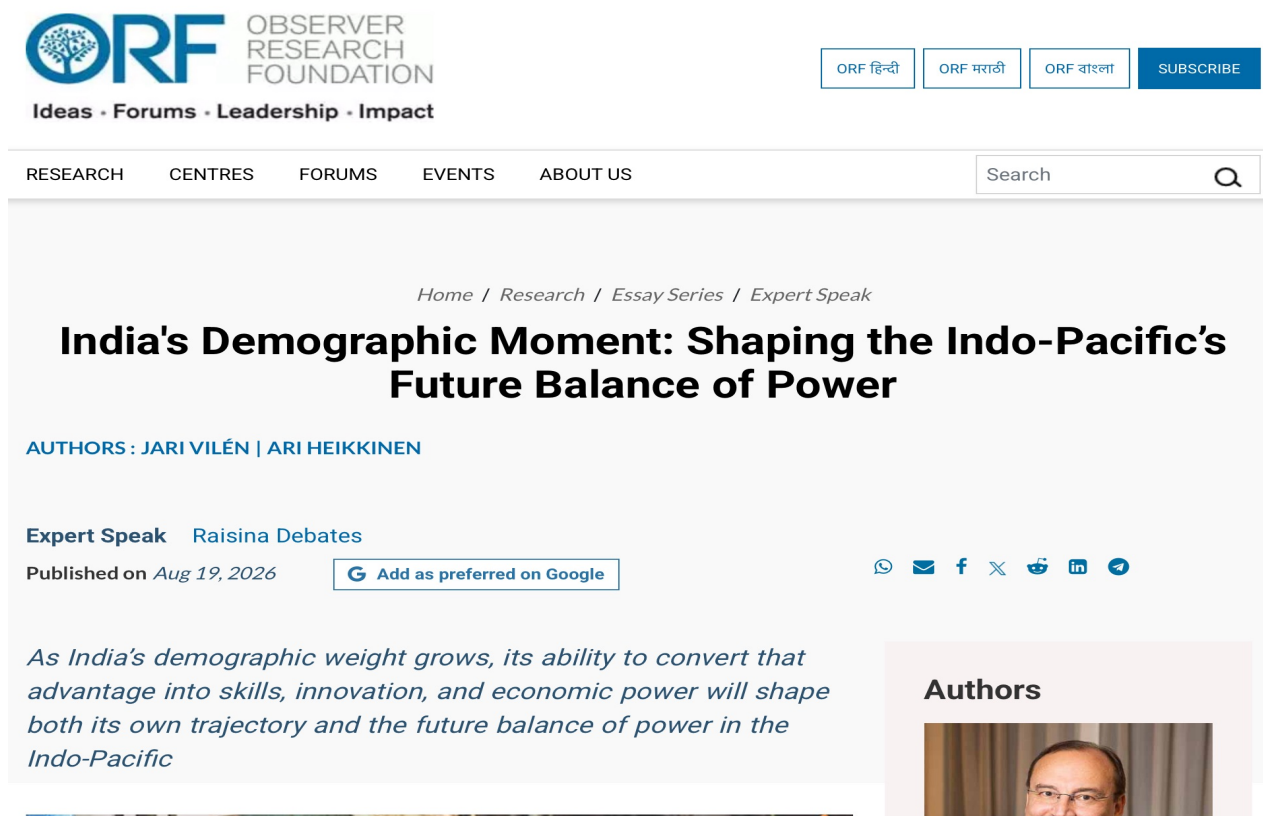
The mineral geopolitics of the Bay of Bengal : South Asia Monitor

ARTICLE

O3

Surveillance without statute : Bar and Bench

India's Demographic Moment



Context The gap between two age structures of India and China will shape Indo-Pacific balance of power over the next 20 years more than warships & defence budgets will.

Facts

■ Indo-Pacific contains two distinct demographic blocks: Ageing block is China, Japan, South Korea & Taiwan. Young bloc is India, Indonesia & Philippines.

■ Demography works on national power through : size of labour force, domestic markets, fiscal sustainability, innovation capacity and military recruitment.

■ UN Projections : India's working-age population expands to the late 2040s ; China's is already falling.

Analytical Crux

Demographic resilience may become as important as military capability in determining long-term strategic influence. The young population is treated as a raw input that decays if it is not converted, and the window shuts in the late 2040s.

The ageing East Asia and young South Asia are becoming complements rather than rivals and India's real gain may come from supplying talent and market depth to Japan, Korea and Taiwan rather than from replacing China. Japan and South Korea both are shrinking but still central, because they invested in technology instead of counting heads. Therefore, balance of power depending less on today's military balances than on converting demographic resources into economic and technological power.

Verbatim Quotes

"Asia shaped by interdependence between ageing and youthful economies rather than by demographic competition.

— Vilen and Heikkinen

The mineral geopolitics of the Bay of Bengal

SOUTH ASIA MONITOR
A STRATEGIC AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

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/ The Mineral Geopolitics of the Bay of Bengal: To Win the Subterranean War, India's Maritime Strategy Needs a Paradigm Shift

The Mineral Geopolitics of the Bay of Bengal: To Win the Subterranean War, India's Maritime Strategy Needs a Paradigm Shift

The vulnerability for India lies in the asymmetry of technological readiness and the aggressive sub-surface mapping being conducted by external actors, most notably China. Beijing has been able to resource its scientific research vessels, oceanographic mapping devices, and supposed civilian ocean surveys to map the bathymetry and mineral content of the Indian Ocean Region systematically.



By Hridbina Chatterjee | Aug 17, 2026

CHINA

Context

India has been guarding the surface of the Bay of Bengal including chokepoints, ports, submarines, sea lanes while China have been mapping what lies beneath it i.e. rare earths and mineral.

Facts

- The Bay of Bengal : a semi-enclosed basin unlike open abyssal plains of the Central Indian Ocean Basin, where India's deep-sea exploration has been concentrated.
- The littoral dilemma: debt-stressed smaller neighbours grant seabed rights to extra-regional powers under commercial blue-economy cover, creating permanent foreign technical footprints on India's eastern flank.

Analytical Crux

Indian maritime thinking inherited a Mahanian habit of counting ships and controlling passages and the habit now guards the wrong layer of the ocean. The Bay's value has changed because the world's industrial inputs have changed. What the delta deposited over centuries as sediment is what an electric vehicle and a precision weapon now need. India's own blue economy is organised around ports and fisheries, so seabed minerals fall between ministries and never acquire an owner. It is a failure of institutional design and not of naval capacity. Therefore, there should be a shift from passive naval patrols to active underwater domain awareness, joint scientific marine ventures with friendly neighbours and a comprehensive legal doctrine.

Verbatim Quotes

"The true battleground of the century shifting toward critical submarine resources. The cooperative marine spaces turning into forward listening posts & resource extraction beachheads."

Surveillance without statute

Bar and Bench

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Surveillance without statute: The constitutional void in India's facial recognition policy

If Europe believes that watching its own citizens in real time poses a threat to the free society, then India should not become the place where these rights are ignored based on discretion.



Context The problem is not that technology has outpaced law but no law exists at all & fails the very first requirement the Supreme Court laid down for any invasion of privacy.

Facts

- K.S. Puttaswamy v. UoI (2017): privacy an essential part of Articles 14, 19 and 21 & four-prong test includes legality, legitimate aim, proportionality, procedural safeguards.
- Section 17(2)(a), DPDP Act, 2023 – blanket exemption for any instrumentality of the state, by executive notification, with no named agency & no sunset clause.
- Four remedies included: a dedicated statute; tightening Section 17(2)(a); Algorithmic Impact Assessment and sunset clause.

Analytical Crux

The main argument is not accuracy because the programme has no legal authority to exist in the first place. That is a legality failure and under Puttaswamy legality is the gate i.e. if you cannot get through it, the court never has to weigh proportionality at all. Rebranding a camera as "passenger safety" moves it out of the rights column and into the convenience column, where it becomes almost impossible to litigate. The comparison with the EU is useful but the real contrast is not that Europe is virtuous but Europe has a statute and India has a notification. Therefore, in a constitutional democracy, the absence of law is not a neutral gap that technology may fill; it is itself the violation.

Verbatim Quotes

"The question is not whether the State should use facial recognition, but whether it should without legislative approval & real protections."
—AKshat Singh

- **PSIR 2025, Paper I:** "The decision to conduct Population Census-2027 has reopened the debate on delimitation in India. Discuss its various aspects."
- **PSIR 2024, Paper II, Q5(d), 10 marks** — "Discuss the rationale behind replacing the 'Asia-Pacific' strategy with the new term 'Indo-Pacific' strategy."
- **PSIR 2023, Paper I, Q2(a), 20 marks** — "Success of contemporary democracies lies in the State limiting its own power. Explain."
- **GS 2023, Paper II:** "The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy."
- **GS 2023, Paper II:** "Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment."
- **GS 2023, Paper II:** "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.

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