

PSIR & GS-2

DAILY BRIEF

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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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| ForumIAS |

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Managing competition or narrowing it? India-China's border talks



Context After the 25th round of Special Representatives talks, India & China have agreed on new hotlines and whether such machinery will shrink the boundary dispute or make competition easier to live with.

Facts

- Special Representatives (SR) negotiations set up under a 2003 agreement : Two new hotlines and two new commander level meeting points for the Eastern and Middle sectors.
- '8 points of outcomes & consensus', carrying the phrase 'early and substantial harvest' on delimitation.
- The FDI opening : 60-day decision window, 10% beneficial ownership under the automatic route, Dixon-Vivo at 51% Indian control.

Analytical Crux

India & China are building machinery to keep border quiet rather than machinery to settle it, and every new hotline & commander-level meeting lowers the cost of disagreeing. The two capitals still view the relationship differently i.e. Delhi treats border peace as the condition for everything else. Beijing wants the boundary kept in proportion to larger relationship it wants normalised faster. The FDI relaxations show India conceding sequence but not substance, since majority control stays Indian and the opening is sector by sector. The yardstick is therefore not how many mechanisms were announced but whether 'early harvest' turns into one agreed stretch of boundary. At present this is stabilisation and not settlement.

Verbatim Quotes

"For Beijing, an early & substantial harvest on the boundary issue could help create the political conditions needed to accelerate economic re-engagement."
- Kalpit A. Mankikar

Belgium & India- building a strategic partnership

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Belgium and India: Building a Strategic Partnership Beyond Economics and Trade

Belgium views India as an opportunity to reduce its economic dependence on China and limit vulnerability to developments in the United States. India offers scale, growth, industrial capacity and ambition, while Belgium offers technology, specialised expertise, logistics and access to the European market.



By Nawab Khan | Sep 07, 2026



Context

The first visit by Belgian PM to India in 20 years is about a small, specialised European economy trying to convert technology into a strategic partnership.

Facts

- Agreements signed: on green energy, international crime-fighting, defence, diplomacy, emerging technologies, education and military exchanges.
- Bilateral trade in goods: is € 9.4 billion annually & two sides intend to double it over 5 years.
- India: Belgium's 3rd largest breakbulk trade partner and 7th largest container trade partner.

Analytical Crux

Belgium cannot compete on scale, so it focuses on technology, specialised industry, ports and a seat at the address where the EU actually works. The visit is important in three aspects i.e. trade agreement that changes the arithmetic, a port that turns Belgium from an export destination into a transit platform, and defence procurement that converts political goodwill into signed contracts. For India the value is not Belgium in itself but Europe through Belgium, at a moment when both sides are trying to reduce their exposure to a single supplier & a single market. The Belgian government's objective is therefore not simply to increase military-to-military contact, but to convert political trust into concrete industrial partnerships, technology cooperation and contracts.

Verbatim Quotes

"India offers scale, growth, industrial capacity & ambition, while Belgium offers technology, specialised expertise, logistics & access to the European market."
- Nawab Khan

The Band-aid city; circular urbanism- beyond capacity expansion



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The Band-Aid City; Circular Urbanism: Beyond Capacity Expansion

Dr Amiya Chandra, Visiting Fellow, VIF

September 5, 2026 Views: 324 Comments: 0

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Context The central challenge facing high-density cities is no longer how to build more, but how to make better use of what already exists.

Facts

- Population density : exceeds 35,000 people per square Km across Central and East Delhi.
- Urban Productivity : ability of city to generate greater social, economic, environmental & civic value from every unit of land, infrastructure, public investment, natural resource.
- Circular Urbanism works through 3 mechanisms: Vertical unlocking (the z-axis), Temporal unlocking (the fourth dimension) and Resource Decongestion.

Analytical Crux

Once land, money and water are all short at the same time, adding capacity stops paying. The widened road refills, concrete drain sends rain away and new suburb moves the congestion further out. The question is from how much a city builds to how hard each square metre works. The same piece of land is asked to carry a primary function, a utility and a public benefit together. Delhi's difficulty is coordination rather than knowledge as the same road is dug three times by three agencies. Therefore, the three demonstrators proposed are JEEVAN (Joint Ecological and Environmental Vital assets for Neighborhood) the Life Support Tower (LST) and MARG (Multi-level Aerial Transport Network). MPD-2041 determines where activities may take place. Circular urbanism determines how those places can perform more productively.

Verbatim Quotes

"Urban failures rarely occur instantaneously. Instead, they come in form of actions taken to resolve one problem."

PSIR 2026, Paper II: "Accelerating of Chinese influence across South Asia is fundamentally reshaping the region's geopolitical landscape. This is a big foreign policy challenge for India. Analyse."

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