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



TODAY'S ARTICLES (fill in)

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War has reached India's shores, strategic silence isn't an option



RAJAN KUMAR

THE US and Israel launched a joint military strike on Iran with the explicit aim of enabling regime change and taking control of hydrocarbon resources through a hand-picked ruler. The larger aim is to obtain a hegemonic influence in West Asia. Though the US has succeeded in eliminating Tehran's top political and military leadership, achieving its political objectives remains as elusive as ever. The regime endures and resistance persists. Apparently, the US is getting ensnared in a prolonged military conflict in West Asia. A hasty retreat will not serve its purpose, while a protracted engagement will entail high political and military costs.

America and Israel intervened because Iran appeared most vulnerable now. Internally, protests were brewing, while external networks were debilitated. Tehran's key security ally, Moscow, is helpless because of its war with Ukraine; Beijing will not sacrifice its commercial interests with Washington; Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis have been decimated; and for the Global South, Iran is not indispensable. In a world where the leading powers prefer neutrality and strategic silence, the hegemon is writing the new rules of the game.

Iran was the lone roadblock to a long-cherished American goal of controlling West Asia. Other states in the region are feeble, compromised, and have outsourced their security to the US. Washington believes that the fall of the Iranian regime would make it the region's sole arbiter. It can stop Russia and China from expanding their influence in the region, and control the flow of oil and gas to other countries. However, it is more likely that the collapse of the regime, though not imminent, will unleash forces beyond anyone's control. It will give rise to radical, extremist and secessionist forces, as witnessed in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The terrorist group Islamic State emerged due to political instability and chaos in Iraq. In Afghanistan, the US spent nearly \$2.3 trillion and remained engaged for 20 years, yet the Taliban came back to power. In Syria, Trump recognised a former terrorist leader as the legitimate ruler. The records of US interventions in the region are disappointing and that is the reason nearly 60 per cent of

American voters disapprove of Trump's military action in Iran.

The joint military attack was launched on the pretext of curbing Iran's nuclear capacity. But this was nothing but a deception. Iran was cooperating in the Nuclear Deal finalised during the Obama Administration in 2015. The Trump administration arbitrarily withdrew from it in 2018. Even at the recent Geneva negotiations of February 2026, Iran had agreed to halt uranium enrichment. The negotiating parties reported significant progress. But the US-Israel launched aerial strikes on Iran, killing the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and others.

In retaliation, Iran launched aerial strikes on American bases in as many as 12 countries. Its strategy is to widen the conflict to overstretch US resources and increase the economic and political costs for American allies. As an extension of this strategy, Tehran has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting oil and gas supplies. The Brent crude oil price has reached \$90 a barrel from the pre-war price of \$65, and the gas price has also risen considerably. Therefore, the war has an impact across the world. Inflation and slowdown of the global economy will impact everyone.

The war reached the Indian shore when an Iranian warship, IRIS Dena, was sunk by a US submarine near Sri Lanka's coast. The ship was returning after participation in an Indian naval exercise. Many strategic thinkers believe that the US disregarded India's concerns, and urged the government to lodge a diplomatic protest.

For New Delhi, the immediate concerns are ensuring the safe return of its people stuck in the region and securing an unhindered supply of oil, gas and fertiliser. However, as a long-term strategy, it should consider developing mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and cessation of conflict in collaboration with BRICS and other European countries. Strategic silence may not be an effective strategy for wars in the neighbourhood. India's policy of multi-alignment will acquire a new philosophy if it engages proactively in facilitating the resolution of multiple conflicts the world over.

The writer is professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

The war has an impact across the world. Inflation and slowdown of the global economy will impact everyone

Context A warning that the US-Israel war on Iran is spilling into India's security and economy, so "strategic silence" won't work and India needs active diplomacy.

Facts

■ Iran was cooperating in the Nuclear deal finalised during the Obama administration in 2015.

- The Trump administration arbitrarily withdrew from it in 2018.
- At the recent Geneva negotiations of February 2026, Iran had agreed to halt uranium enrichment.

Analytical Crux

➔ A prolonged military conflict in west Asia + high political and military costs; "strategic silence" lets the hegemon write the new rules of the game.

➔ Blocked the strait of Hormuz → disrupting oil and gas supplies; Inflation and slowdown of the global economy will impact everyone.

➔ War reached the Indian shore (IRIS Dena)

- Immediate actions: safe return of its people and uninterrupted supply of oil, gas and fertilizers.
- Long term actions: developing mechanisms to facilitate dialogue & cessation of conflict in collaboration with BRICS and other European countries.

The new Canada-India economic alignment emerges

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney concluded a landmark visit to India a week ago (February 27 to March 2, 2026), one that began with direct dialogue with India's business leaders in the financial capital of Mumbai and then shifted to the policy corridors of New Delhi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit was not symbolic. It was commercial. It was forward-looking. It was anchored in the recognition that India's growth story is one of the defining economic realities of our time.

For too long, the Canada-India relationship was defined by episodic tensions and reactive diplomacy. With this visit, political will has been re-established at the highest levels and commercial doors have been opened. But opportunities, however promising, do not convert themselves into jobs, exports, or investment. That will require sustained engagement on both sides.

Big two-way opportunities exist for Canadian and Indian firms. One of the most consequential moments of this visit was the formal signing of the Terms of Reference, which officially relaunched Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. Both governments have committed to finalising this ambitious agreement by the end of the year and subsequently doubling bilateral trade to \$70 billion by 2030.

This matters for Indian business: a CEPA would reduce barriers for Indian exporters, create clearer rules for Indian investors in Canada, and expand access in sectors that range from technology to pharmaceuticals. It would also give Indian firms a stronger platform into North America through a predictable, rules-based economy. Nevertheless, signing the Terms of Reference is only the starting point, not the finish



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A reset in
Canada-India
ties is being
driven by
economic
opportunity
and ambition

line. Trade agreements create frameworks but do not automatically generate market share. This new political alignment has established ideal conditions for companies on both sides to form partnerships, invest capital and build joint ventures. Already, it is clear what is possible.

Energy, minerals synergy, other areas

The historic, Canadian \$2.6-billion, nine-year uranium supply agreement between the Government of India and Cameco demonstrates the level of trust that underpins strategic cooperation. Nuclear energy requires regulatory confidence and long-term commitment, demonstrating that when political leadership aligns with commercial readiness, transformative agreements follow.

Energy and critical minerals remain clear areas of complementarity. Canada is a ready supplier of responsibly produced oil and gas, uranium for clean baseload power, and critical minerals essential for electric vehicles and advanced manufacturing. India's scale and demand provide long-term market certainty.

At the same time, there is a significant opportunity for Indian companies to expand their footprint in Canada.

India's technology sector is globally competitive, with firms such as HCL Technologies recently announcing investments in Canada's innovation ecosystem. Canada offers North American market access, deep Artificial Intelligence (AI) research clusters, stable regulations, and clean energy, making it a natural partner.

In financial services, long-standing joint ventures, such as Sun Life-Aditya Birla, show that cross-border collaboration succeeds when both sides commit long-term. Agriculture presents

another opening. Canada's agri-food exporters can help complement India's food security and sustainability needs.

There is also an enormous opportunity for Canadian institutional investors and pension funds – which have now invested over Canadian \$100 billion in India's infrastructure and real estate development – to further explore venture and public equity offerings. Already, Fairfax India has committed to India's long-term development through significant investment in Bengaluru airport, and Brookfield from telecom towers to renewable energy projects. India's urbanisation, logistics corridors, renewable energy build-out, and industrial parks require consistent capital. Canada can provide it. Conversely, Indian infrastructure and technology firms will find opportunities in Canada's digital infrastructure sectors, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.

The next phase

Mr. Carney has also extended an invitation to Mr. Modi to visit Canada, an important signal that this renewed partnership is intended to be sustained and reciprocal. A new window of opportunity has opened. India has trade deals with trusted allies such as Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the European Union, and the United States. Canada continues to diversify its economic partnerships amid geopolitical uncertainty. Closer alignment with India is complementary and strategic in today's geopolitical environment.

This is a defining moment for Canada and India's joint economic futures. It is an opening shaped by a changing world and renewed political resolve. Companies have an opportunity to seize the momentum with action, ambition, and conviction.

Context Canada-India ties are being "reset" around a commercial push (CEPA + sector partnerships) after Mark Carney's India visit.

Facts

■ Signing of Terms of Reference – officially relaunched CEPA negotiations.

■ Committed to finalising this ambitious agreement by the end of the year & subsequently doubling bilateral trade to \$70 billion by 2030.

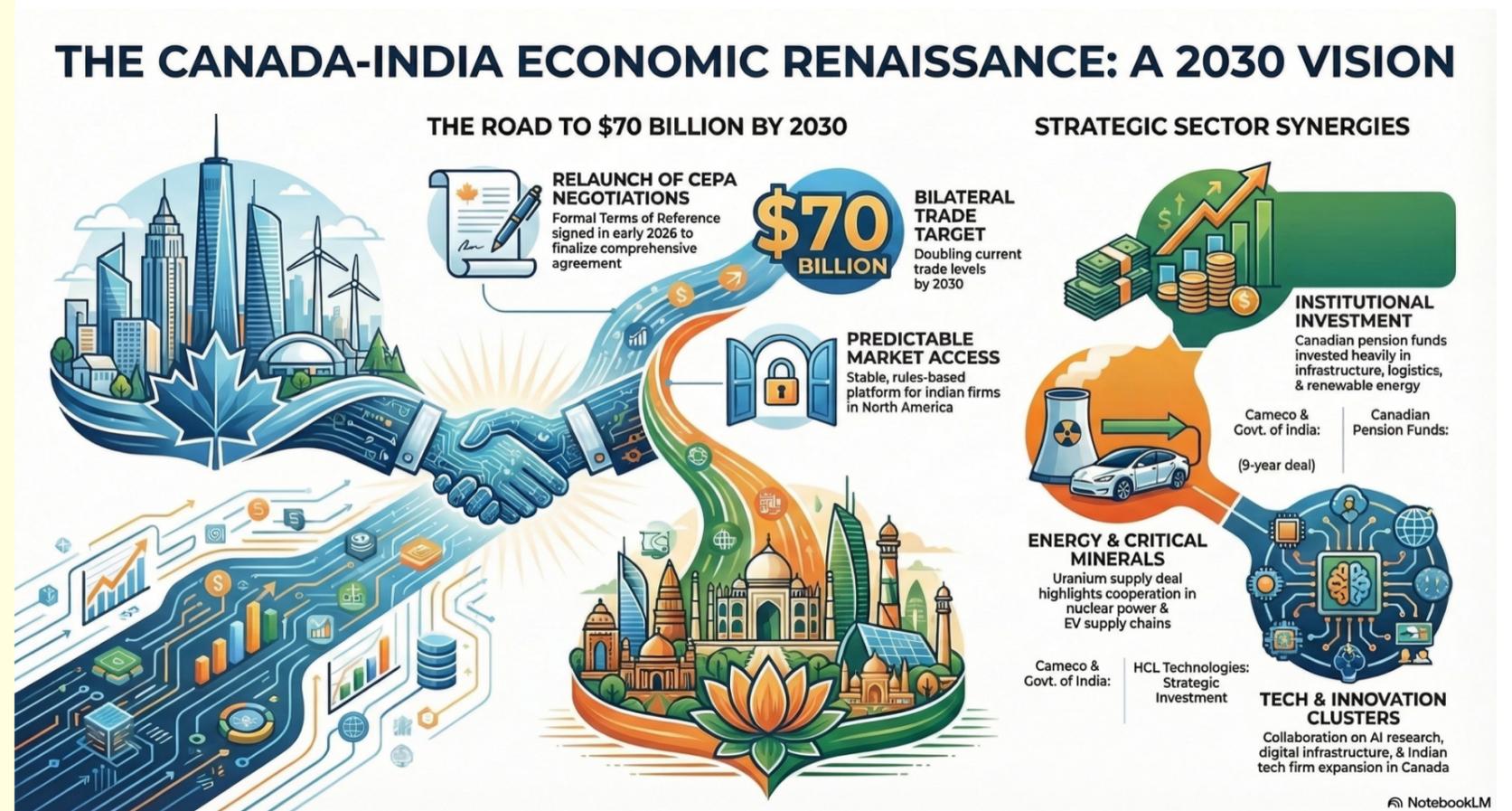
■ Canadian \$2.6 billion, nine-year uranium supply agreement between GOI and Cameco.

Analytical Crux

➔ Trade agreements create frameworks but *do not automatically generate market share*; sustained engagement on both sides.

➔ CEPA reduce barriers, create clearer rules, expand access and a predictable, rules based economy.

➔ Complementarities + capital cycle: Energy and critical minerals + technology + institutional investors & pension funds + a new window of opportunity has opened.



Article - 3

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Mission Sudarshan Chakra and the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership

March 06, 2026 | Issue Brief



Summary

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Context

Mission Sudarshan Chakra (India's Shield & Sword to 2035) is being built as an integrated AD/BMD + offensive "Kavach" and the upgraded India-Israel strategic partnership is positioned as a Key tech-and-production accelerator.

Facts

- 15 August 2025, PM Modi announced Mission Sudarshan Chakra.
- India-Israel bilateral relationship being elevated to a 'Special Strategic Partnership'.
- The US's Golden Dome initiative is expected to cost US \$ 175 billion.

Analytical Crux

➡ Time bound completion is critical + mission logic : *unified strategy to counter futuristic, complex, massed and mixed aerial threats via an integrated "Kavach"?*

➡ Core implementation challenge framed as the challenge of the C3 - Complexity, Continuity and Cost ; mission is not an end state by 2035, but rather a *continuous process of enhancements.*

➡ Partnership value proposition : *co-development and co-production + high level technology - intensive partnership and roadmap, with Israel's battle-tested IAMD + C2/AI - enabled integration complementing 'Make in India' projects, imports and IDDM programmes.*



PRAHAR – thunderbolt strike on Terrorism – zero tolerance in Action

Dr Ramanand Garge ^[2]

Dr Ramanand Garge March 6, 2026

In a significant decision with a major implication for India's overall approach to national security the Ministry of Home Affairs, strengthened its 'zero tolerance policy' against terrorism by unveiling 'PRAHAAR' (Policy for Response Against Hostile Activities and Radicalism). It is India's first comprehensive national counter terrorism policy and strategy envisioning a 'whole – of government' approach to dismantle terror ecosystem. Prahaar literally means a thunderbolt strike against terrorism. It is the first policy document released by the largest democracy on the planet in its 77 years of existence and evolving continuous battle against the menace of terrorism in all its manifestations.^[1] The strategy reflects the mature evolved policy orientation emphasizing on targeting technological threats like misuse of drones, crypto wallets, dark web and encrypted message for terror funding and recruitment. It further prioritises security of critical infrastructure and comes heavily on disruption of terror networks by

Context MHA has unveiled "PRAHAAR" as a first, comprehensive "zero tolerance" counter-terror strategy built around "whole-of government" dismantling of the terror ecosystem.

Facts

- Core 7 pillars : "P-Prevention" ; "R-Response" ;
 "A-Aggregating Internal Capacities" ; "H-Human Rights" ;
 "A-Attenuating Conditions" ; "A-Aligning Global Efforts" ;
 "R-Recovery and Resilience".
- Joint working groups with 26 countries + Mutual legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) with 50 countries.

Analytical Crux

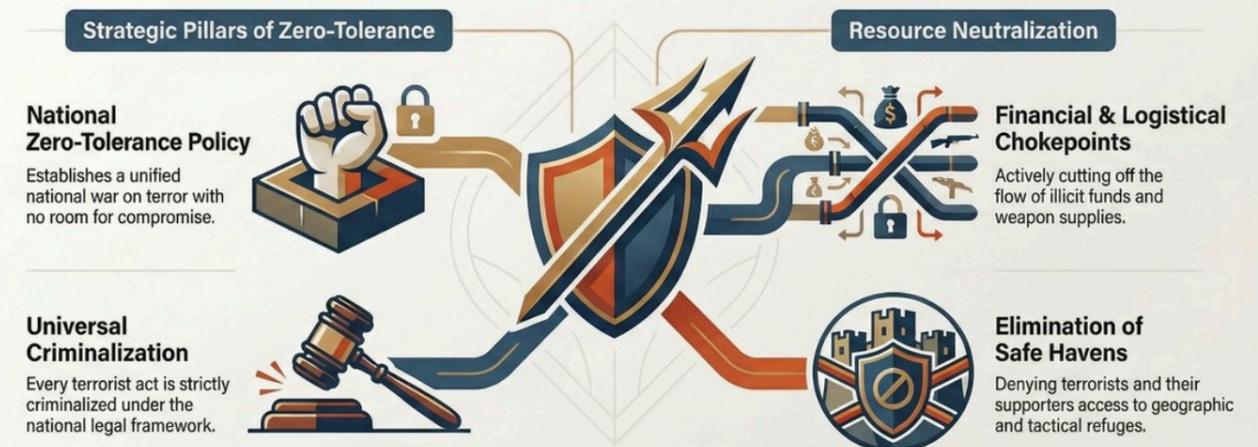
Post Op Sindoor doctrinal change established the principle that any future terror attack will be treated as an act of war.

Shift to "modern hybrid threats" and "technological threats" (drones, crypto wallet funding, dark web, encrypted message) with predictive intelligence through technology integration.

Global posture + doctrine :
lead the global war on terror ; not differentiating between sponsors of terrorists and terrorists.

Prahaar: India's Zero-Tolerance Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Core Pillars of the National Strategy to Eliminate Terrorism through Criminalization and Resource Denial



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PSIR OPTIONAL FOUNDATION

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OGP (OPTIONAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM)

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The program focuses on Current-Relevant dedicated classes covering national and international developments, integrated with PSIR syllabus.
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O-AWFG (ANSWER WRITING FOCUS GROUP)

The answer writing program creates discipline and enhances skills. It helps students develop structure, articulation, coherence, and approach.
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The test series program enhances speed, flow and dynamic understanding of the subject.
Upcoming Batch : 20th April, 2026

PYQ Mastery Series

The series focuses on PYQ practice anchored in conceptual clarity and contemporary relevance.
Upcoming Batch: 22 June, 2026

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