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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)

#	Headline / Topic	Source
1	Grey waves: India confronts China's hybrid maritime strategy - ORF	
2	Tryst with the Constitution :Artcles 32 and 226 - Bar & Bench	
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Article - 1



Context China is using grey-zone maritime tactics in the Indian Ocean through civilian and dual-use platforms and related India's challenges.

Facts

- A possible Chinese naval base in Myanmar's Coco Islands is seen as a threat to India's nuclear-powered submarine base at Rambilli, AP.
- October 2025, Myanmar denied any Chinese naval presence in Coco Islands, but refused India's request to allow an Indian Navy visit.
- By late 2025, Chinese vessels Shi Yan-6, Shen Hai Yi Hao and Lan Hai were actively mapping the Indian Ocean's undersea terrain.
- Around 80% of the 64 Chinese research & survey vessels active in the IOR are presumed to have links with the PLA.

Theoretical lens + Verbatim Quotes

- “India, despite being the resident naval power in the IOR, lacks a commensurate response to these incursions.” Sweekriti Pathak
- “India's primary gap therefore lies not in intent but in technological depth & insitutional integration.” Sweekriti Pathak

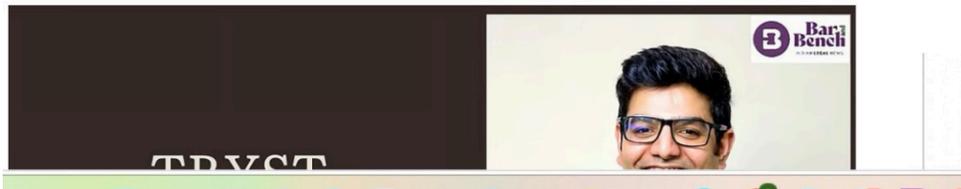
Analytical Crux

- ➔ China is challenging India in the Indian Ocean not through open war, but through grey-zone methods such as survey ships, dual-use ports, drones and silent data gathering.
- ➔ India's weakness is a strategic mismatch: China is playing an information-led game, while India is still relying too much on visible deterrence and conventional signalling.
- ➔ Therefore real need is to strengthen ISR, satellites, UAVs, underwater monitoring, data fusion & faster decision making. India must move from spectacle to subtlety.

Article - 2

Tryst with the Constitution: The Constitution envisages Articles 32 and 226 as concurrent, not sequential

The Supreme Court recently deprecated the practice of petitioners directly approaching it under Article 32 without first approaching the High Courts under Article 226.



Context Constitution intended Articles 32 & 226 to operate as concurrent remedies for enforcing fundamental rights, so the SC should not treat Article 32 as remedy that can be used only after first approaching High Court under Article 226.

Facts

- SC bench presided over by CJI Surya Kant declined to entertain an Article 32 petition against Assam's CM over alleged hate speech & sent the petitioners to Guwahati High Court.

- B N Rau has proposed that writ jurisdiction for FRs should lie with the High Courts, while Supreme Court should exercise only appellate jurisdiction.

- Immediate constitutional issue is whether Art 32 & 226 are concurrent or sequential remedies.

- Rau preferred a sequential model: first the high court, then the Supreme Court on appeal if needed.

Theoretical lens + Verbatim Quotes

by Supreme Court in Ramesh Thappar v. State of Madras

- “Article 32 provides a ‘guaranteed’ remedy for the enforcement of those rights and this remedial right is itself made a fundamental right by being included in Part III.”
- “This Court is thus constituted the protector & guarantor of fundamental rights, and it cannot, consistently with the responsibility so laid upon it, refuse to entertain applications seeking protection against infringements of such rights.”

Analytical Crux

➡ The framers consciously considered and rejected a model in which citizens would have to go to the High Court first, and instead preserved a system where both the SC & High Courts could be directly approached for enforcement of FRs.

➡ Romesh Thappar gave this design a binding doctrinal form by treating Article 32 as a guaranteed remedy & not a second-stage option. Therefore, later smaller benches cannot dilute that guarantee merely by preferring a High Court-first route.

➡ If this constitutional position is to be changed, the article argues that it must be done only by a Constitution Bench under Article 145(3).

The opportunity in Cameroon to rebalance the WTO

Today, trade is no longer just about economics. It is increasingly used as a geopolitical tool. Tariffs are imposed as pressure tactics, and economic dependence is sometimes used strategically. In this context, the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Ministerial Conference (MC14), to be held in Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa (March 26-29, 2026), comes at an important moment. The real issue is not whether the WTO needs reform, but whether it can adapt fast enough to stay relevant in a world moving toward more transactional and power-based trade relations.

WTO in turmoil

The WTO is facing its biggest crisis since its founding in 1995. Its dispute settlement system is still effectively paralysed because the Appellate Body appointments have been stalled for years. This weakens trust in the system, since rules matter only when they can be enforced. At the same time, WTO negotiations have struggled to keep pace with major shifts in global trade. Digital commerce is growing rapidly and now forms a large part of cross-border economic activity. Yet, WTO rules have not evolved at the same pace.

Decision-making has also become slow and difficult. With 166 members at very different levels of development, consensus is hard to reach and cumbersome. As a result, many negotiations produce limited outcomes and long-pending issues remain unresolved.

Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions and the growing use of tariffs as political tools have distorted markets. However, these problems should not be mistaken for irrelevance. Most global trade still operates under WTO rules. If enforceable multilateral rules weaken, global trade would become unpredictable and unstable. Smaller and poorer countries would suffer the most, because they rely on common rules to protect themselves from pressure by stronger economies.

The WTO's challenges are also part of a wider shift in the global order. The Munich Security



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The World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference must ensure that trade is governed by rules rather than coercion

Report 2026 describes this as a move toward "wrecking-ball politics", where countries prefer disruption and short-term deals instead of gradual institutional reform. In trade, this is visible in the rise of unilateral tariffs, economic coercion and bilateral deals that bypass multilateral commitments. If this continues, rule-based trade could be replaced by ad hoc arrangements shaped mainly by power rather than shared principles.

Global production has changed

Against this backdrop, the MCH offers a chance not just to fix technical problems but to also restore balance between predictability and fairness. The original balance of rights and obligations in the WTO no longer reflects today's reality. Emerging economies now export advanced and technology-intensive products, climate-related trade measures are expanding, and digital networks are reshaping how global production works.

Rules designed for a late 20th century trading system cannot fully govern a 21st century one.

Reform must start with restoring credibility to enforcement. Without a functioning dispute settlement system, commitments lose their value. Members need to rebuild a binding, trusted mechanism rather than relying mainly on temporary alternatives that lack universal acceptance. A robust dispute-resolution system helps remove politics from conflicts and keeps confidence in multilateral rules.

At the same time, predictability must go hand in hand with fairness. Long-standing disputes over agricultural subsidies, market distortions and unequal openness need transparent solutions. Many developing countries argue that while WTO rules ensure the rule of law, they do not always deliver the rule of justice. In other words, rules may be legally correct but still produce outcomes that feel unequal or developmentally unfair.

Reform should, therefore, improve transparency on subsidies, create credible

responses to distortive practices, and revisit special and differential treatment so that it remains meaningful in today's economic conditions.

Institutional adaptability is also important. The WTO's structures were designed for a smaller and less complex membership, which contributes to today's deadlock. Some countries are moving ahead in smaller groups on issues such as e-commerce, investment facilitation, and services. These efforts can help progress, but they must remain transparent, inclusive and connected to the wider WTO framework. Flexibility should help the system move forward, not divide it. If such initiatives remain open to all members and eventually become part of common WTO rules, they can support reform instead of fragmentation.

Ultimately, WTO reform is not only technical but also normative. The Munich Security Report warns that a world shaped mainly by transactional deals would favour the powerful and leave weaker countries vulnerable.

The choice is clear

The WTO's value lies in preventing exactly this outcome by ensuring that trade is governed by rules rather than coercion. In an era of strategic competition, rules do not weaken sovereignty; they protect countries from economic domination.

The choice before the MCH is crystal clear. Members can undertake serious reform, preserving the WTO's stabilising core while updating its rules, procedures and developmental balance, or allow the system to drift further into fragmentation. Achieving reform will require political will and shared responsibility.

Rebalancing the WTO is ultimately about securing a workable framework for cooperation in a world where economic interdependence is still unavoidable. If the MC14 seizes this opportunity, it can show that meaningful reform remains the most credible path to sustaining global trade governance.

Context WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon, is a crucial chance to revive a fair, enforceable and updated rule-based trade order.

Facts

- WTO's MC14 is scheduled in Cameroon from March 26-29, 2026.
- WTO is facing its biggest crisis since its founding in 1995.
- WTO's dispute settlement is paralysed due to stalled appointments for years.
- The WTO currently has 166 members, making consensus-based decision making slow & cumbersome.

Theoretical lens + Verbatim Quotes

by Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy & Anushka Padmanabh Antrolika

“Many developing countries argue that while WTO rules ensure the rule of law, they do not always deliver the rule of justice.”

“In an era of strategic competition, rules do not weaken sovereignty; they protect countries from economic domination.”

“Rules designed for a late 20th century trading system cannot fully govern a 21st century one.”

Analytical Crux

➡ MC14 is a test of whether multilateral trade can survive in an age of tariffs, coercion & strategic rivalry. Rules without enforcement are ineffective and once enforcement weakens, smaller countries lose their main protection against stronger economies. Therefore WTO reform must do three things together:

- 1> restore dispute settlement
- 2> make the system fairer for developing countries
- 3> update trade rules for digital and climate-era realities.

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