

# 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  
Amit Pratap  
Singh  
| ForumIAS |



## Article - 1

Building the Middle -  
Power world order :  
Project Syndicate

## Article - 2

The Af-Pak war poses  
questions for Russia :  
Carnegie politika

## Article - 3

A West Asia security  
rethink amid America's  
role : The Hindu

# Article - 1: Building the Middle - Power world order



## Context

Canadian PM Mark Carney warns of international order 'rupture' amid US/Russia wars violating UN charter, urging middle powers to build a new system based on human rights, sustainability & equitable power sharing.

## Facts

■ The "Middle Power" definition: Experts identify approximately 53 countries as middle powers. Key "swing states" include Brazil, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa. India is highlighted by some diplomats as a 'super middle power'.

■ The Atlantic Charter Precedent: There is a parallel between today's chaos and 1941, when Roosevelt & Churchill began planning the UN during "darkest days" of WWII before the U.S. had even formally joined the war.

## Analytical Crux

The article argues that the existing global order is weakening because major powers are increasingly ignoring international rules. In this context, middle power countries that are not superpowers but still influential, can play a constructive role in shaping a new global system. This new order should focus on cooperation, fairness, sustainability and respect for sovereignty rather than power politics. However, the challenge lies in organizing these diverse countries and generating political will. While middle powers cannot fully replace great powers, they can act as stabilizers and reformers of global governance, especially during times of crisis.

## Verbatim Quotes

“The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence itself, but the impulse to follow yesterday's logic.”

“Middle powers often find themselves on the frontlines of the consequences of turbulence caused by climate disasters, geo-economic volatility and forced migration.”

# Article - 2: The Af-Pak war poses questions for Russia

COMMENTARY  CARNEGIE POLITIKA

## The Afghanistan–Pakistan War Poses Awkward Questions for Russia

Not only does the fighting jeopardize regional security, it undermines Russian attempts to promote alternatives to the Western-dominated world order.

English



By Ruslan Suleymanov  
Published on Apr 1, 2026

The latest fighting between Afghanistan and Pakistan may have been overshadowed by the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran, but for the Kremlin, the conflict poses a challenge. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan are important Russian partners, and each subsequent military escalation weakens regional security and undermines the concept of the Global South that has been heavily promoted by Moscow. Despite claims by Russian officials that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS group of developing nations could form the basis for a new world order, the practical help these groups can offer in conflict situations has been shown—yet again—to be limited.

The Afghanistan-Pakistan confrontation began on February 26, two days before the start of the war in the Middle East. While the fighting has received little attention, hundreds have been killed on both sides. After an eleven-day ceasefire for Eid al-Fitr, hostilities resumed on March 20, and further escalation is

**Context** The article argues that the war undermines Moscow's efforts to promote the 'Global South' as a cohesive, anti-western bloc, while highlighting the inability of Russian-led organizations like the SCO and BRICS to mediate regional disputes.

## Facts

■ Durand Line : A colonial - era border (1893) that bisects Pashtun lands, which Taliban refuses to recognize.

■ Russia was first to recognize Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate government in 2025.

■ Refugee Crisis : Since 2023, Pakistan has forcibly deported roughly 600,000 of 1.5 million undocumented Afghans.

■ Moscow's offer to mediate was rejected instead it was led by Qatar, Turkey & Saudi.

## Analytical Crux

The article argues that the Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict exposes a major contradiction in Russia's vision of a unified Global South. While Moscow promotes platforms like BRICS and SCO as alternatives to Western dominance, these groupings have shown little ability to manage real conflicts between member or partner states. Russia also lacks the political & economic leverage to mediate effectively between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This reveals that geopolitical realities & regional rivalries are stronger than ideological narratives about multipolarity. Ultimately, the conflict shows that emerging global institutions are still weak and cannot yet replace traditional power structures in maintaining peace & stability.

### Verbatim Quotes

"The Kremlin's ideological narratives about a new world order and standoff with the west are of little use."

"Each subsequent military escalation weakens regional security & undermines the concept of the Global South that has been heavily promoted by Moscow."

# Article - 3: A West Asia security rethink amid America's role

## A West Asia security rethink amid America's role

As the United States and Israel-led war against Iran enters its second month – with conflicting viewpoints from Washington DC, and Tel Aviv on what the aims of this conflict are and under what conditions they intend to seize their respective military operations – regional countries in West Asia are re-thinking their security future. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz along with Iran's 'scorched earth' policy of striking any targets across the Persian Gulf even remotely attached to American interests is leading to demands for a strategic reset.

U.S. President Donald Trump's view that he and his team were surprised that Gulf states were targeted by Tehran as a response to the U.S.-Israel military strikes has surprised many. For a long time, Iran has said that if it was targeted and the regime's collapse made a state aim, the conflict would become regional. However, regional security has always been a minefield as far as interests are concerned; some tough questions and issues will have to be navigated, the trailers of which are visible today.

**Pakistan's attempts to claw its way back in**  
Pakistan's attempt to insert itself as a mediator between Iran and the U.S. has, as expected, ruffled feathers in India. For Islamabad – or more accurately Rawalpindi, given self-anointed Field Marshal Asim Munir's central role in the country's political direction – the access it has built with Mr. Trump over the past year provides it an opportunity to further strengthen this relationship. However, more importantly, this is also an opportunity for Pakistan to reorient itself toward West Asia's Islamic identity, as it was often on the peripheries of this identity due to its long-standing economic troubles.

The Iran conflict has provided Pakistan's



**Kabir Taneja**  
Executive Director  
of the Observer  
Research Foundation  
Middle East

The urgency for  
a new regional  
security  
architecture  
grows amid  
the West  
Asian crisis

leaders the rare opportunity to break through some of these shackles; its position as the only Muslim-majority country with a nuclear weapon, is one in demand as of today. The fact that Pakistan hosted the Foreign Ministers of Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, last week, as a consortium, and attempted to leverage its access to Tehran as a neighbouring state highlights its exploration of new security arrangements that are more rooted in regional and Islamic cooperation.

### Stirrings within the Gulf

Countries such as Kuwait, which has also been on the receiving end of Iranian aggression, have gone ahead and even criticised constructs such as the Arab League. Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in an address to other Arab Foreign Ministers, has said that the League has struggled to address the fast-moving challenges being faced.

The leaders of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Qatar have also met to commit to deepened security cooperation. Until a few years ago, Saudi Arabia and Qatar were fundamentally at odds, with Riyadh imposing an economic blockade on Qatar over regional geopolitical differences. Today, everyone in the Arab construct, from the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to Kuwait and Bahrain, is looking to side-step their own intra-Gulf differences, of which there are many, to manage these immediate challenges. Many of these Gulf states had built insurance ecosystems with Iran, either through economic cooperation, or in Saudi Arabia's case, a very public détente brokered by China in 2023, bringing the Shia and Sunni seats of power to a level of normalisation for the first time since 2016.

But these "new" regional security ideations will continue to have fundamental problems. For

example, while Iran's actions are shaping responses today, Israel's display of unfettered dominance of air power from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf will also create anxieties. Israel's strike against Hamas in Doha, Qatar, in 2025, was a testament to this thinking. In addition, the Arab state's relationship with the U.S. will also come under the spotlight. While security cooperation is expected to increase, the Gulf states may have to be operationally more agile and unilaterally active instead of exclusively banking on the U.S.

### The U.S. has fallen short

From the 2019 drone attack on Saudi oil facilities by the Houthis to the current conflict, direct American involvement in protecting the Gulf states has clearly not been sufficient. Recent comments by the White House that the Trump administration could ask its Gulf partners to commit finances to help cover the cost of the conflict with Iran raise further questions about what the U.S. role in regional security will be. A high level of American energy self-sufficiency means that Mr. Trump has actionable leverage. However, more than the supply of oil and gas, it is the management of international pricing that remains hugely volatile.

After this war, the West Asian security architecture will face hard questions. Beyond the role of the U.S., can a fool-proof system be created without Iran's buy-in? Will hedging security demands to Asian countries, including India – the main buyers of oil and gas – in the coming decades, be a successful tactic in matters of security? Can the Gulf act unanimously to pursue a common security aim despite internal fractures?

Hard questions await in the aftermath of a war reshaping West Asia as we have known it since the Second World War.

**Context** US-Israel war on Iran triggers West Asian security reset amid Hormuz closure & Iran's "scorched earth" strikes on Gulf targets tied to U.S. interests. Regional states rethink alignments as Pakistan eyes

mediation, Gulf nations deepen cooperation beyond Arab league frailties and US reliability faces scrutiny.

## Facts

■ Pakistan leverages Trump ties and nuclear Muslim status to host Türkiye / Saudi / Egypt ministers, positioning as mediator with Iran.

■ Kuwait critiques ineffective Arab league; Saudi / Jordan / Qatar commit deeper security ties despite past rifts like 2017 Saudi blockade.

## Analytical Crux

The article suggests that the 'old' West Asian security order, established after WWII and predicated on American dominance, has collapsed. The "Trump factor" characterized by a high degree of American energy self-sufficiency and a transactional approach to allies - has left Gulf states "operationally exposed." Consequently, these states are looking to side-step intra-Gulf differences and potentially hedge their security demands toward major Asian energy buyers like India. However, there is a fundamental paradox: no "fool-proof system" can be created without Iran's buy-in, yet Israel's "unfettered dominance of air power" continues to create deep anxieties among Arab states.

## Verbatim Quotes

"Hard questions await in the aftermath of a war reshaping West Asia as we have known it since Second World War."

"Regional security has always been minefield if interests are concerned."

**The Programme in Political Science and International Relations emphasizes advanced research, critical thinking, and enhances interdisciplinary understanding. It provides comprehensive coverage in structured way for strategic advantage in upsc.**

### PSIR OPTIONAL FOUNDATION

The program focuses on Comprehensive coverage of the topic mentioned in PSIR Syllabus supplemented with regular handouts.

Upcoming Batch: 6th July, 2026

### PSIR DYNAMICS

The program focuses on Current-Relevant dedicated classes covering, and international developments, integrated with PSIR syllabus.

Upcoming Batch: 22nd June, 2026

### PSIR DYNAMICS

The program focuses on Current-Relevant dedicated converting with It syllabus.

Upcoming Batch: 22nd June, 2026

### O-AWFG (ANSWER WRITING FOCUS GROUP)

The answer writing program creates discipline and enhances shares skills. It helps students develop develoure, articulation, coherence, and approach.

Upcoming Batch: 20th April, 2026

### OGP (OPTIONAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM)

Focus will be on conceptual clarity and building the ability candidates to interlink the static portion with current developments.

Upcoming Batch: 9th June, 2026

### OGP (OPTIONAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM)

Focus will be on conceptual clarity and building of the candidates to interlink the current developments.

Upcoming Batch: 9th June, 2026

### ATS (AUGMENTED TEST SERIES)

ATS sharpens structure, presentation, and depth converting effort into higher score.

Upcoming Batch: 26th April, 2026

### O-AWFG PRIME

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

### Contact for Mentorship - 9311740432

Telegram: @ | Website: <https://academy.forumias.com/>

Note: Edit program names/offerings as per the latest ForumIAS schedule.