

PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

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| ForumIAS |



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India's New Globalization Raj

May 7, 2026 | SHASHI THAROOR

India's deliberate, strategic shift from economic seclusion to global engagement is arguably one of the most consequential structural changes of the 21st century. Indian leaders now understand that self-reliance is achieved through integration, not autarky, and the results speak for themselves.

NEW DELHI—The Indian market's metamorphosis from a sequestered fortress into a vanguard of global trade is perhaps the most significant structural shift of the 21st-century world economy. The country has pivoted from a closed, defensive economic posture to an outward-looking, globally assertive stance. A hesitant participant in globalization has become an

Context India's shift from a protected, inward-looking economy to a globally engaged economy where self-reliance is achieved through trade, investment, technology and supply-chain integration.

Facts

India signed CEPA with UAE, Oman, Australia, UK and the EU.

India's major reform challenge: land, labour, logistics cost & regulatory predictability.

The China Plus One strategy - a major opportunity for India.

Analytical Crux

India's economic strategy is not old-style globalisation; it is strategic integration for national power. Economic openness can strengthen sovereignty, not weaken it. Trade deals, PLI, digital public infrastructure and supply-chain politics are tools of India's strategic autonomy. However, the high-level agreements will not deliver unless land, labour, logistics and regulatory reforms improve on the ground.

Verbatim Quotes

"True economic sovereignty in a digitized world lies not in isolation, but in integration."

-Shashi Tharoor

"India is no longer a bystander in the global order, but a primary architect of its future."

-Shashi Tharoor

Article - 2: The evolution of India's military doctrine & posture after operation sindoor



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The Evolution of India's Military Doctrine and Posture After Operation Sindoor

AUTHORS: KARTIK BOMMAKANTI | RAHUL RAWAT

Expert Speak Raising Debates

Published on May 07, 2026



Following Operation Sindoor, India has made notable progress on doctrine and acquisitions – but theatre commands and an integrated rocket force remain works in progress

Authors



This article is part of the essay series: [From Response to Reorientation: One Year of Operation Sindoor](#)

Context Operation Sindoor pushed India toward a faster, sharper & proactive military posture, but also exposed that reforms like theatre commands and an Integrated Rocket Force remain incomplete.

Facts

India's shift from Cold Start Doctrine to Cold Strike focusing on pre-emption and proactive combat power.

Indian army adopted "Kill-web" operational architecture linking sensors, shooters and decision-making.

Analytical Crux

India's military thinking is becoming proactive after Operation Sindoor. Cold Strike is a move from waiting and reacting to shaping the adversary's choices in advance. But the point is that tactical units & new weapons cannot substitute for institutional reform. India's challenge is to convert battlefield lessons into jointness, theatre commands and an Integrated Rocket Force.

Verbatim Quotes

"Until jointness & integration are meaningfully advanced, India's future warfighting readiness will remain incomplete."

- Kartik Bommakanti and Rahul Rawat

"Operation Sindoor has reasserted the primacy of the continental front, pushing the maritime theatre to secondary focus."

- Kartik Bommakanti and Rahul Rawat

Article - 3 : Openness, not isolation, is the bedrock of the West

Openness, not isolation, is the bedrock of the West

Recent statements from Washington show how global politics is being increasingly framed along civilisational terms. The U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has referred to the idea of a shared "Western civilisation," describing the U.S. and Europe as bound by common history, cultural heritage, and institutional traditions. At the same time, U.S. President Donald Trump has amplified comments about countries such as India, China, and Iran in the context of migration and geopolitical competition that reinforce a tendency to interpret global politics in civilisational terms. Taken together, these statements point to a broader shift: global affairs are being interpreted not only through the language of power and interest, but also through civilisational identities.

The appeal of such framing is understandable. It offers a sense of clarity in an era of rapid technological disruption, demographic change, and geopolitical uncertainty. But apparent clarity is not the same as analytical accuracy. Moreover, it is not an entirely new framing either. As early as the 1990s, political scientist Samuel Huntington had argued that global politics would evolve into a "clash of civilisations," where cultural and religious identities would become the principal fault lines of international relations.

Civilisational explanations can obscure more than they reveal, particularly when they imply that cultural cohesion, rather than institutional adaptability, is the primary source of national strength. A historical record of the modern West suggests otherwise.

A look at history

Much of the West's post-Cold War dynamism has rested not on homogeneity, but on openness – to talent, ideas, capital, and global competitive pressures. Its advantage has been institutional:



Milinda Moragoda
Former Sri Lankan Cabinet Minister, diplomat and the Founder of the Pathfinder Foundation, a strategic affairs think tank

The West's advantage lies not only in military alliances or economic scale, but in institutional resilience and its capacity to attract, integrate, and retain talent

the capacity to absorb diversity and convert it into innovation within rules-based systems.

Nowhere is this more evident than in today's innovation economy. AI, in particular, has become the defining frontier of global competition, shaped by deeply international talent flows and research ecosystems. Companies such as Microsoft, OpenAI, and NVIDIA exemplify systems in which breakthroughs depend on globally sourced expertise, cross-border collaboration, and the ability to attract the most capable minds regardless of origin.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored this complementary reality: innovation now operates through globally distributed production systems. Rapid vaccine development and distribution, by firms such as Moderna and AstraZeneca, depended on international research networks and global manufacturing ecosystems. In the case of AstraZeneca, large-scale production through partnerships such as that with the Serum Institute of India illustrated how innovation and industrial capacity now operate across borders.

This is not an argument against immigration control. Immigration must be governed effectively, and civic norms must be upheld. But managing diversity is fundamentally different from retreating from it.

In an era of intensifying geopolitical competition, openness remains a critical strategic asset. The West's advantage lies not only in military alliances or economic scale, but in institutional resilience and its capacity to attract, integrate, and retain talent. Civilisational framing, by contrast, risks misdiagnosing this advantage – privileging identity over capability and boundaries over performance. Demographic realities reinforce this point. Many advanced economies face ageing populations. In this context, immigration is not simply a cultural or political issue, but an economic necessity.

Without sustained inflows of skilled labour and human capital, growth slows, fiscal pressures increase, and innovation ecosystems weaken.

Openness as an advantage

The defining challenges of the 21st century – including AI governance and climate change – further highlight the limits of civilisational thinking. These are problems that cannot be addressed within cultural silos. Against this backdrop, framing global politics in terms of civilisational hierarchy carries risks. It encourages a narrowing of identity at precisely the moment when cooperation and adaptability are essential.

The question, therefore, is not whether identity matters. It clearly does. Societies require shared norms, institutional trust, and continuity. The more important question is whether democracies can manage change without losing confidence in the openness that has sustained their development. The strength of the West has historically rested on its ability to combine stability with adaptation – to absorb new influences while preserving core principles such as the rule of law, individual liberty, and accountable governance.

Therefore, the policy challenge ahead is not to retreat into notions of cultural purity, but to govern openness with clarity and purpose. This requires strengthening integration frameworks and reinforcing institutional trust. It also requires recognising that engagement with other civilisational spaces is not a concession, but a necessity in a globally interconnected world.

In a world of intensifying geopolitical rivalry, it may be tempting to define strength in narrower terms. But doing so risks undermining one of the West's most important strategic assets. Openness – disciplined, governed, and anchored in strong institutions – is not a vulnerability. It is a source of sustained advantage.

Context West's strength comes not from civilisational purity or isolation, but from openness, strong institutions and the ability to absorb talent, ideas and global cooperation.

Facts

West's dynamism after the Cold War – openness to talent, ideas, capital and global competition.

Microsoft, Open AI & NVIDIA – globally sourced talent and cross-border collaboration.

Analytical Crux

Power today comes from institutions that can manage diversity, not from closing borders in the name of identity. The examples of AI, vaccines and ageing societies show that openness is not moral idealism; it is hard strategic need. Identity matters, but it must be governed through civic norms & strong institutions.

Verbatim Quotes

“West advantage has been institutional: the capacity to absorb diversity and convert it into innovation within rules-based systems.”
- Milinda Moragoda

“Openness - disciplined, governed and anchored in strong institutions is not a vulnerability. It is a source of sustained advantage.”
- Milinda Moragoda

UPSC LINK

- **2025, GS III:** “What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met?”
- **2025, GS II:** “With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism. Elucidate.”
- **2025, PSIR Paper II:** “Global South-sensitive model of globalization would prevent the danger emanating from overcentralized globalization. Discuss.”
- **2024, GS II:** “The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China’s supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China’s political and economic dominance. Explain this statement with examples.”
- **2023, PSIR Paper II:** “Critically examine the impact of Globalisation on the developing countries of the world.”

PSIR & GS2 Daily Brief

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