

# 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  
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| ForumIAS |



## Article - 1

BRICS in a Fractured  
Order : Observer Research  
Foundation (ORF)

## Article - 2

Continental Asia and the  
rise of Portfolio politics :  
Carnegie endowment

## Article - 3

Iran as Vietnam ,  
Ukraine as Korea :  
Foreign Affairs

# Article - 1 : BRICS in a Fractured Order - Observer Research Foundation

The screenshot shows the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) website. The header includes the ORF logo, navigation links for RESEARCH, CENTRES, FORUMS, EVENTS, and ABOUT US, and a search bar. The article title is "BRICS in a Fractured Order: What the Foreign Ministers' Meeting Revealed". The authors are Heena Makhiya and Sandra Thachirickal Prathap. The article is categorized as an "Expert Speak" under "Raisina Debates" and was published on May 20, 2026. A social media sharing bar is visible. The main text begins with a quote: "The BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting underscored the grouping's preference for pragmatic engagement, institutional reform, and issue-based cooperation, even when geopolitical fault lines prevent full consensus." Below the text is a photograph of a large, ornate dome, likely the Rajpath in New Delhi.

**Context** BRICS is trying to remain a useful forum for dialogue & global governance reform even when its members are divided by conflicts such as the West Asia crisis.

## Facts

- The BRICS foreign ministers' meeting was held on 14 and 15 May in New Delhi.
- The agenda had three sessions: global and regional developments; BRICS @20; and reform of global governance and the multilateral system.

## Analytical Crux

BRICS as an institution is not like NATO or any security alliance. Its value lies in keeping rival states inside one diplomatic room. The absence of a Joint Declaration shows its limits, but the continuation of dialogue shows its strength. At present emerging power platforms work through pragmatic consensus, not ideological unity. BRICS is becoming a forum for reforming global governance, even if it cannot resolve hard security conflicts.

## Verbatim Quotes

"BRICS was fundamentally conceived as a consensus-based platform for emerging economies. It was not designed as a collective security arrangement requiring absolute political alignment."

"Now broader in both scope & membership, the grouping appears to be navigating a shifting global order & growing internal complexities through issue-based cooperation and sustained diplomatic engagement."

— Heena Makhija and Sandra Thachirickal Pratap

# Article - 2 : Continental Asia and the rise of Portfolio politics



Source: Getty

ARTICLE

## Continental Asia and the Rise of Portfolio Politics

Central Asia as an analytical category is itself part of the problem. The term is a Soviet administrative inheritance, drawn along lines that served the convenience of Moscow. The Central Asian states the Soviets named no longer see themselves through this category alone and are not aligning across political blocs but are instead building external partnerships sector by sector, assigning different partners to different functions.



by Jennifer B. Murtazashvili

**Context** States across Continental Asia are not choosing one great-power camp but building different partnerships for different sectors like energy, security, trade, minerals and connectivity.

## Facts

It's moving beyond old "Central Asia" & "New Great Game" frames to portfolio politics.

Pakistan's IMF-CPEC-Washington example of constrained states practising portfolio politics.

Continental Asia - overland space from Turkey to China.

## Analytical Crux

Small and middle powers are not passive objects of great-power rivalry. Continental Asian states are using geography, sanctions & connectivity pressures to create room for choice. They do not want one camp; they want different partners for different needs. This is not old-style hedging but a more confident, sector-wise foreign policy. The "portfolio politics" is a strong notion for landlocked & transit dependent states.

## Verbatim Quotes

"Great game language overstates rivalry and swing-state language overstates alignment. "Multivectorism, a doctrine coined in the 1990s by Nursultan Nazarbayev, became an effective strategy for continental states."

"The states of Continental Asia are being creative and entrepreneurial. They are redefining geography of the region in the process. They are doing this out of confidence, not fear."

- Jennifer B. Murtazashvili

## Iran as Vietnam, Ukraine as Korea

*Similar Wars End in Similar Ways*

GIDEON ROSE

May 20, 2026



GIDEON ROSE is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of *How Wars End*.

[More by Gideon Rose →](#)

**Context** There is a historical comparison that the Iran conflict may end like Vietnam, through an unstable compromise, while the Ukraine war may end like Korea, through a frozen armistice.

### Facts

■ Nuclear brinkmanship appears in Korea, Vietnam, Ukraine & Iran.

■ All four wars involved disputes among allies, not only enemies.

## Analytical Crux

Wars do not end when one side wishes to exit; they end when battlefield structure, domestic pressure & alliance politics make a settlement unavoidable. Iran, like Vietnam, may produce a compromise that postpones the core question. Ukraine, like Korea, may freeze frontline and turn war into guarded peace. Nuclear threats may not lead to nuclear use, but they increase attraction of nuclear weapons for insecure states.

## Verbatim Quotes

“The US-Israeli war on Iran is likely to conclude like the Vietnam war did in 1973. Because structures constrain policymakers' choices and they started to negotiate to end the war on the basis of the status quo ante.”

— Gideon Rose

- 1. 2025 GS Paper II:** “The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs. Russo-Chinese alliance.” Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard.
- 2. 2024 GS Paper II:** “Critically analyse India’s evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics.”
- 3. 2024 PSIR Paper II:** “The expansionist tendencies of the current Russian regime indicate its intentions for the realisation of a Greater Russia on the lines of the Soviet era. Comment.”
- 4. 2023 GS Paper II:** “‘Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO.’ In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.”
- 5. 2023 PSIR Paper II:** “Discuss the various constraints on American hegemony today. Which of these are likely to become more prominent in the future?”

## PSIR & GS2 Daily Brief

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