

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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Singh
| ForumIAS |



Article - 1

The US and India have become regional rivals :
Project Syndicate

Article - 2

Reconfiguring ocean governance-Maritime corridors : ORF

Article - 3

After Maoism, the next battle is for adivasi trust :
The Hindu

Article - 1 : The US and India have become regional rivals



Context India and the US may remain global partners against China, but are increasingly becoming rivals in South Asia.

Facts

- US National Security strategy - global and regional balances of power.
- India to build regional influence - economic engagement, political sensitivity & public goods.

Analytical Crux

India-US ties are no longer about shared democratic values or China-balancing. Washington wants India to help contain China, but does not want India to become the natural leader of South Asia. India is viewed as useful globally, but inconvenient regionally. The US is seeking to prevent any single power from gaining influence in South Asia. For India the neighbourhood policy cannot be outsourced to its U.S. partnership. It must be built through trust, development & sensitive diplomacy.

Verbatim Quotes

“The U.S. has long viewed India as a critical democratic bulwark against Chinese dominance in the Indo-Pacific. It now views India less as a strategic partner to be nurtured than as a regional and economic rival to be contained.”

—Brahma Chellaney

Article - 2 : Reconfiguring ocean governance-Maritime corridors

Reconfiguring Ocean Governance: Maritime Corridors and Geoeconomics

AUTHOR : LUIS NÚÑEZ VERA

Expert Speak Raisina Debates

Published on Jun 03, 2026



Maritime corridors are evolving from trade arteries into strategic infrastructures where climate governance, geo-economics, and security increasingly intersect

Author



Context Maritime corridors are changing from simple trade routes into strategic spaces where climate policy, security and economic power meet.

Facts

■ Maritime corridors - backbone of globalisation & instruments of geo-economic strategy.

■ Strait of Hormuz & strait of Malacca - major share of global energy flows.

■ 80% of world merchandise trade is by sea.

Analytical Crux

The sea is no longer a route for trade; it has become a field of power, regulation & climate politics. Whoever controls ports, fuel systems, shipping rules and chokepoints gains influence over global value chains. Climate policy is becoming strategic, because carbon rules & green corridors can shift trade routes & port hierarchies. Green shipping corridors represent emerging polycentric governance arrangements involving multiple actors operating across institutional levels.

Verbatim Quotes

“The evolution of maritime corridors illustrates the interaction between climate governance, geo-economic competition and global value chain restructuring.”

- Luis Nunez Vera

Article - 3 : After Maoism, the next battle is for adivasi trust

After Maoism, the next battle is for Adivasi trust

On May 19, 2026, the Union Home Minister addressed a press conference in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, his first since March 31, 2026, when India was officially declared Maoist-free. The most encouraging aspect of the briefing was his assertion that "the fight against Maoism would remain incomplete until every resident of Bastar is integrated into the mainstream".

The road to 2031

Having accomplished the March 31 objective, the Union Home Minister mentioned that 2031 would be the next milestone for ensuring the overall welfare of Bastar's Adivasis. This is welcome, since insurgencies do not have an expiry date. According to the Home Minister, this objective is to be achieved through democratic values, cooperation and development. The government also intends to expand its outreach by delivering welfare schemes to the doorsteps of local communities through designated centres operated by the security forces.

One of the methodologies that the Home Minister emphasised for the empowerment of Adivasis was a commitment to the tiered system of governance, from the tehsil level upwards to the Centre. The constitutional vision of this system was to be based on two parallel channels. The first comprised the Panchayati Raj Institutions, with the Gram Sabha as the basic unit. The second consisted of government-appointed officials such as tehsildars, District Collectors and others. The distinction is that the former is elected by the people, while the latter is appointed by the government. These channels were not to converge or be overshadowed by the



Shashank Ranjan

An Indian Army veteran (Colonel) with substantial experience in counter-terrorism operations, currently teaching at the O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana

Constitutional guarantees hold the key to Bastar's lasting peace

government-appointed channel, which normally has been the case on the ground. The Home Minister outlined a blueprint for the government's future initiatives. However, sustained peace will require addressing deeper structural issues. Surprisingly, his press conference made no mention of the most crucial of these concerning grassroots governance as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Welfare schemes, the road laying, and the installation of mobile communication towers do contribute significantly to improving the ease of living. However, the larger issues relate to *jai*, jungle and *zameen* (water, forest, and land). These are the concerns that will ultimately determine the people's trust in the government.

Implementing PESA in earnest

Now is an opportunity for the government to complete the unfinished agenda of implementing the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996. Across India's Fifth Schedule Area States, the record of PESA implementation has been dismal. Since implementation was left to the States, each interpreted and applied the Act differently, often undermining its spirit and intent.

Grassroots governance centred on the Gram Sabha forms the basis of the PESA Act. Its effective implementation in letter and spirit has the potential to deliver justice to the Adivasi. Today, the Adivasi is with the government, largely due to the security forces' tactical victory over the Maoists. However, as the security challenges recede, the government will be tested by the Adivasi on the parameters of justice delivery. The Adivasis are aware of the guarantees that the Constitutional Acts provide and are unlikely to

scale down their aspirations.

With decentralised governance at its core, the PESA Act elevates the Gram Sabha to the cornerstone of local self-governance. Under the Act, the Gram Sabha is granted decisive powers to safeguard Adivasi identity, manage community resources and resolve local disputes in accordance with customary laws. The consent of the Gram Sabha on matters affecting lives and livelihoods has the potential to bring about the structural change necessary for positive peace – one that goes far beyond the mere absence of violence. However, State governments have often attempted to circumvent the authority of the Gram Sabha in pursuit of other objectives. A case in point was the Chhattisgarh government's 2022 proposal to amend the Act by replacing "consent" with "consultation". This would have diluted the Gram Sabha's veto power and undermined the essence of the PESA Act. There have also been instances where Gram Sabha resolutions and consent records were allegedly forged or fabricated with *mala fide* intent.

The imperative of trust

The intent here is not to express scepticism about the sincerity of what the Home Minister said during his press briefing. However, for people to place their trust in the government, structural and historical issues must be addressed. Upholding and strengthening constitutional guarantees should be the primary concern of the government. This would help allay the lingering doubts in the minds of Adivasis, many of whom may still be ambivalent. Through genuinely participatory governance, the government should allow Adivasis to define the "mainstream" into which the Home Minister seeks to integrate them.

Context After the security victory over Maoism, the test for the state is to win Adivasi trust through justice, PESA & grassroots democracy.

Facts

India officially declared Maoist-free on March 31, 2026.

Welfare of Bastar's Adivasis program by 2031.

PESA 1996 - Gram Sabha at the centre of governance in Scheduled Areas.

Analytical Crux

The end of Maoist violence is not the same as the arrival of justice. Security operations may create order, but lasting peace will depend on constitutional trust, especially through PESA and Gram Sabha consent. The Adivasis should not be treated as beneficiaries of welfare, but as rights-bearing citizens with control over land, forest and local decisions. Through participatory governance the government should allow Adivasis to define the mainstream politics because constitutional guarantees hold the key to Bastar's lasting peace.

Verbatim Quotes

“The consent of the Gram Sabha on matters affecting lives and livelihoods has the potential to bring about the structural change necessary for positive peace - one that goes far beyond the mere absence of violence.”

- Shashank Ranjan

- **PSIR 2025:** “India continues to invoke its time-tested policy of strategic autonomy vis-à-vis both the United States of America and Russia by rejecting US’ offer of mediation on Kashmir issue and by refusing to criticize Russia in its ongoing war against Ukraine. Comment.”
- **GS Paper 3, 2025:** “Why is maritime security vital to protect India’s sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward.”
- **GS Paper 3, 2025:** “The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE?”
- **GS Paper 1, 2025:** “Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion.”
- **PSIR 2024:** “India and USA have become such strong strategic partners that they need not become formal allies. Comment.”

PSIR & GS2 Daily Brief

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Upcoming Batch : 20th April, 2026

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The series focuses on PYQ practice anchored in conceptual clarity and contemporary relevance.

Upcoming Batch: 22 June, 2026

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