

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 |



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The strange defeat of Nuclear Deterrence : Foreign Affairs

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The hidden history of the Thai - Bharat connection : The Hindu

PSIR OPTIONAL 2026

PROGRAMS COMMENCING IN JUNE

O-AWFG PRIME 2026 02 JUNE

O-AWFG 2026 02 JUNE

ATS 2026 07 JUNE

OGP ADVANCED 2026 14 JUNE

OGP ADVANCED+ 2026 14 JUNE

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PROGRAMS COMMENCING IN JUNE

O-AWFG PRIME 2027 08 JUNE
(COHORT 2)

O-AWFG 2027 08 JUNE
(COHORT 2)

ATS 2027 14 JUNE
(COHORT 2)

BUILD STRONG
FOUNDATIONS

MASTER CORE
PSIR CONCEPTS

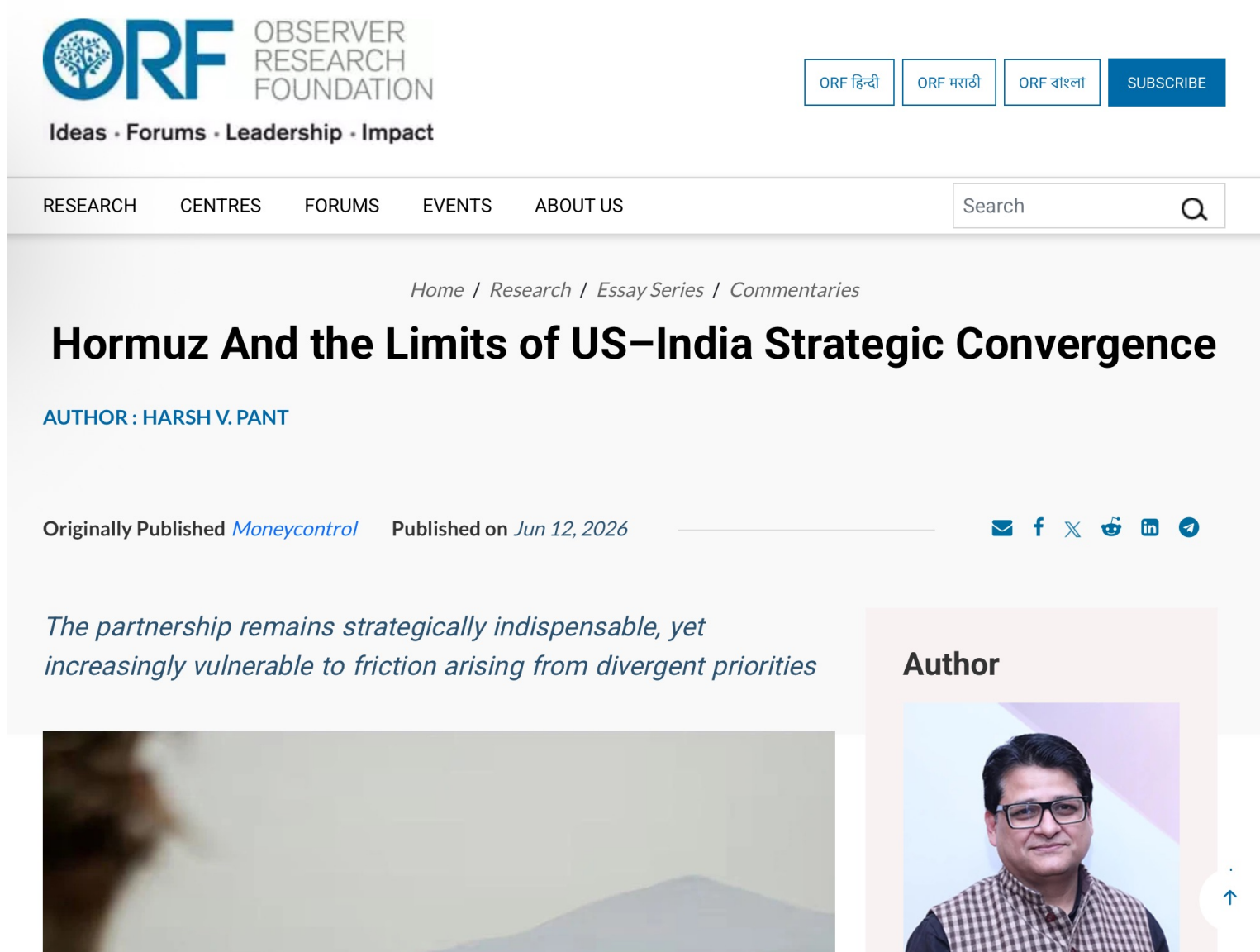
DEVELOP HIGH-QUALITY
ANSWER WRITING
SKILLS EARLY

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Article - 1 : Hormuz & limits of US-India strategic convergence



Context The death of three Indian sailors in a US strike becomes the example of how close strategic partners can pull in opposite directions in a specific region.

Facts

- U.S. conducted operations – against commercial vessels near the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman.
- “Trump 2.0 era” – more transactional, unilateral US foreign policy.

Analytical Crux

The lesson is that strategic convergence and policy convergence are two different things. Two countries can be "indispensable partners" against China and still collide in a theatre like the Gulf. The issue is the structural friction between Trump 2.0's transactional, coercive style and India's insistence on strategic autonomy. For India, West Asia is not "just another theatre" - energy, diaspora and trade make Gulf stability its core national interest. Strategic convergence, however significant, does not eliminate divergent interests. Hence, strategic partnerships are tested not by areas of agreement but by moments of disagreement.

Verbatim Quotes

"Once civilian deaths occur, legal arguments about sanctions enforcement quickly give way to political questions about accountability, proportionality and the obligations that strategic partners owe one another."

- Harsh V. Pant

Article - 2 : The strange defeat of Nuclear Deterrence



Context Amid Ukraine's drone raid on Russian bombers and a string of recent wars, nuclear weapons are quietly losing their power to deter conventional attacks.

Facts

Ukraine's "Operation Spider's Web" hid attack drones in cargo trucks near Russian air bases in 2025.

India and Pakistan fought most serious conflict since 1999 - nuclear bomb did not deter conventional war.

Analytical Crux

The nuclear weapons are losing their deterrent grip. States & even non-state actors are willing to hit nuclear powers with cheap, accurate conventional weapons and the nuclear side absorbs the blow rather than escalate. The strategic shift is from deterrence-by-punishment, toward deterrence-by-denial. The bomb buys neither security nor immunity from conventional war and proliferation multiplies the risks of accidents, theft and miscalculation. The deterrence still holds between the stable Cold War rivals, but in South Asia it has not prevented conventional conflict.

Verbatim Quotes

“Having the most powerful weapons on earth will not shield a large state from a smaller state determined to defend itself. Rather than bringing the certainty of security, the bomb may simply invite new & disconcerting forms of peril.”

—Rose Gottemoeller

Article - 3 : The hidden history of the Thai - Bharat connection

The hidden history of the Thai-Bharat connection

Today, June 15, marks the 84th anniversary of a historic meeting we have allowed ourselves to forget, which led to the birth of the Indian National Army (INA). I learned about it on a visit to the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok, discovering a remarkable, overlooked chapter of history that reveals Thailand's vital role as a neutral, strategic beacon for Indian revolutionaries seeking refuge from British colonial rule. From its humble beginnings as a hub for cultural and intellectual exchange, the organisation evolved into a cornerstone of the Indian independence movement, providing the essential infrastructure for the formation of the INA.

From culture to cause

The roots of this alliance were sown in 1927 during a historic visit to Siam, now Thailand, by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who met with King Prajadhipok (Rama VII). Their dialogue centred on the deep, enduring connections between India and Thailand – ancient ties rooted in religion, philosophy, and shared cultural narratives such as the Ramayana and the Thai Ramakien. Inspired by his vision, Prafulla Kumar Sen, a Bengali scholar who became known as Swami Satyananda Puri, arrived in Bangkok in 1932.

A brilliant intellectual who had taught at the University of Calcutta and Visva-Bharati University, the Swami immersed himself in the Thai language and culture, mastering it in six months and becoming an esteemed professor at Chulalongkorn University. In 1939, he established the Dharam Ashram, a sanctuary for spiritual and cultural exchange, which served as a focal point for the growing Indian diaspora in Bangkok.

In December 1940, this ashram was transformed into the TBCL. A defining moment in the organisation's history occurred shortly after, when the Indian Tricolour was hoisted at the Lodge – a bold, defiant gesture that signalled the arrival of the Indian independence movement in Thailand and drew strong protests from the British Ambassador. As the Second World War descended upon Southeast Asia, the TBCL shifted from a cultural institution to an active political base. By late 1941, as Japanese forces advanced, the Lodge became a nexus for Indian nationalists and independence activists.

One of the most instrumental figures in this era was Sardar Gani Pritam Singh, a Sikh missionary and Ghadar Party veteran who had been preaching revolutionary ideals among the Indian diaspora in Bangkok. Operating from gurdwaras and working closely with the TBCL, Pritam Singh established vital covert links with Major Iwaichi Fujiwara, the chief of the Japanese intelligence



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Fourth-term Member of Parliament, Congress party (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 29 books, including, most recently, 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru'

An enduring Thailand-India bond that played a pivotal role in India's independence movement

unit, F-Kikan. In December 1941, the Indian National Council (INC) was founded at the Silpakorn Theatre in Bangkok by a group of nationalists associated with the TBCL, with Swami Satyananda Puri as its president and Debnath Das as its secretary. This organisation played a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of the Indian independence movement, bridging the gap between civilian aspirations and the military mobilisation led by the Indian Independence League (IIL).

Toward organised resistance

The cooperation between these groups culminated in the historic Bangkok Conference, which took place between June 15 and June 23, 1942, at the Silpakorn Theatre. This gathering represented a turning point in the struggle, bringing together more than a hundred representatives of Indian communities and freedom fighters from across Southeast Asia, including Burma, Malaya, and Singapore.

The conference served three primary functions. It brought together diverse nationalist factions under a coherent political and military framework, effectively establishing the IIL as the central body for Indians residing outside of India. It adopted a comprehensive 34-point resolution, which provided the official blueprint for the INA, stipulating that it would be composed of volunteers and former prisoners of war and supervised by the IIL rather than the Japanese military. The delegates urged Japan to formally recognise India as an independent nation and acknowledge the IIL as its sole legitimate representative, reflecting a strategic effort to ensure that the independence movement maintained its own agency despite its reliance on Japanese support.

The struggle began with a tragedy that shook the movement to its core. In March 1942, a plane carrying the Swami and the Sardar, who were en route to a high-level meeting in Tokyo to secure further commitments for the movement, crashed, resulting in their deaths. Their loss was a devastating blow, yet their sacrifice served to deepen the resolve of those who remained and who conferred in June with the Japanese to set up the INA. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's arrival in 1943 provided the centralised, charismatic, and revolutionary military leadership needed. He took command of the IIL and the INA, shifting the focus from decentralised regional council discussions toward a unified, disciplined military and political front designed to launch an armed struggle for Indian independence.

While the TBCL's roots were in intellectual and cultural exchange, Netaji's arrival accelerated the transition to a mass-mobilisation effort, drawing in thousands of civilian volunteers and former

prisoners of war who were inspired by his call for "Total Mobilization". Under Bose, the collaboration with the Japanese military was elevated to a high-stakes diplomatic partnership aimed at securing full recognition for the Provisional Government of Free India.

Despite the shift toward a more militarised and centralised command under Netaji, the TBCL continued to serve as a vital institutional bridge. It provided the necessary civilian and cultural cover for many activities that supported the broader independence movement. As the war progressed, the TBCL remained a steadfast centre for the Indian diaspora, even as the focus of the struggle moved to the front lines of the INA's march toward the Indian border. The Lodge maintained its role as a sanctuary for those committed to the ideals of independence, preserving the vision that had been articulated during the early days of Swami Satyananda Puri's tenure – that India's freedom was inextricably linked to the broader cause of Asian liberation from colonial rule.

Keeping history alive

Following the conclusion of the war in 1945, the TBCL was banned by Allied forces and its leaders imprisoned. Even after the conclusion of the war and the dissolution of the INA, the legacy of this era persisted. Thanks to the tireless efforts of figures such as Pandit Raghunath Sharma, the Lodge was successfully re-established in 1946. The Lodge's survival serves as a testament to the fact that the political and military efforts of the Bose era were supported by the deep-rooted cultural and social networks fostered in the years prior. These networks allowed the movement to survive the vacuum of leadership following the war and continue to inform the historic relationship between India and Thailand.

Today, the TBCL remains the only surviving institution from this era, functioning as a living archive, housing a precious collection of rare texts, historical photographs, and documents that provide an intimate window into the lives of the Indian families who contributed to the fight for freedom.

During my visit I was treated to a passionate tour of the premises by Pandeyji, a descendant of Indian rajpurohiths who had migrated to Thailand three centuries ago. As he evoked the stories behind each grainy photograph and historic document, it became clear that the TBCL stands not just as a library or a museum, but as a monument to the enduring friendship between the people of Thailand and the Indian diaspora – a symbol of the shared courage and determination that defined one of the most critical, yet often forgotten, chapters of the global anti-colonial movement.

Context

Thailand's role as a safe base for Indian revolutionaries and the cultural network that fed into the birth of the Indian National Army.

Facts

■ June 15 – 84th anniversary of the meeting led to the birth of the Indian National Army.

■ Bangkok conference 1942 – adopted a 34 point resolution as blueprint for the INA.

■ Thai - Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in December 1940 – the hoisting of the Indian Tricolour.

Analytical Crux

The INA was not born only on a battlefield, it grew out of a civilian, cultural and intellectual network abroad, with Thailand acting as a neutral, sympathetic base for Indian revolutionaries. Soft "cultural" institutions like the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge supplied the people, contacts and cover. India's freedom struggle was one strand of a wider Asian anti-colonial awakening, in which civilisational ties (Tagore, the Ramayana and the Thai Ramakien) and political solidarity reinforced each other.

1.PSIR PAPER II, 2025: India's reluctance to perceive any 'existential threat' inevitably made the multilateral path to nuclear security a 'default option' until it decided to cross the nuclear Rubicon in 1998. Identify and analyze some of the major reasons behind this shift in India's position on the nuclear question.

2.PSIR PAPER II,2024: Discuss the rationale behind replacing the “Asia-Pacific” strategy with the new term “Indo-Pacific” strategy.

3.PSIR PAPER II, 2024: Critically examine India's persistent refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) despite being recognized as a de facto nuclear power.

4.PSIR PAPER II, 2023: What diplomatic steps has India taken to articulate the interests of the Global South in International Politics?

5.PSIR, PAPER II, 2023: Discuss the various constraints on American hegemony today. Which of these are likely to become more prominent in the future?

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FOR UPSC CSE 2026 ASPIRANTS

O-AWFG Prime 2026

📅 Started · 2 June 2026

● ONGOING

O-AWFG 2026

📅 Started · 2 June 2026

● ONGOING

ATS 2026

📅 Started · 7 June 2026

● ONGOING

OGP Advanced 2026

📅 Starts · 14 June 2026

○ UPCOMING

OGP Advanced+ 2026

📅 Starts · 14 June 2026

○ UPCOMING

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Enrolment & Mentorship Queries

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Programs Starting This Month

FOR UPSC CSE 2027 ASPIRANTS

O-AWFG Prime 2027 COHORT 2

📅 Started · 8 June 2026

● ONGOING

O-AWFG 2027 COHORT 2

📅 Started · 8 June 2026

● ONGOING

ATS 2027 COHORT 2

📅 Starts · 14 June 2026

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