

# PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

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# Article - 1 : Appeasing Trump will never work-how global south can fight



## Appeasing Trump will never work: How the Global South can fight back

Appeasing Hitler did not work then, and appeasing Trump now will not work either.



Roger Marshall Last Updated : 14 June 2026, 01:02 IST

**Context** Global South's diplomatic silence in the face of Trump's aggressive foreign policy is appeasement but only coordinated economic and digital resistance can check American hegemony.

## Facts

- Countries actively resisted Trump - Cuba, Colombia, Spain and Mexico.
- Adolf Hitler annexed Austria in 1938 and occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939 - Britain and France acted after Poland was invaded in 1939.

## Analytical Crux

Trump's foreign policy is an expression of a structural reality, the US uses its technological, financial & military dominance to extract resources from weaker states. They respond with diplomatic silence disguised as "strategic hedging" but their strength lies in economic & digital front. Bilateral negotiations with Washington legitimise coercion and the only effective counter is collective action. The EU's recognition of Silicon Valley dependency shows that the window for asserting digital sovereignty is closing. India sitting between strategic autonomy as a principle and economic dependence on the US as a reality, faces the sharpest version of this dilemma.

## Verbatim Quotes

"The Neville Chamberlains of the 1930s are now found in the leadership of the EU and India, who prioritise protecting their countries' economic interests over their sovereignty."

- Roger Marshall

# Article - 2 : Technology drives India-France strategic convergence

## Technology drives India-France strategic convergence

It is a measure of the importance that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron attach to the India-France relationship that they are meeting again in France, on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Evian (June 15-17), barely months after Mr. Macron's visit to India for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi in February. During that visit, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the India-France Year of Innovation 2026.

In normal diplomacy, such announcements often take time to translate into action. It is therefore notable that Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron are already moving swiftly to advance bilateral technology cooperation. They jointly inaugurated the "Bharat Innovates" event in Nice (June 14-16), bringing together leading Indian start-ups and venture capital funds. Mr. Modi will then attend the VivaTech Summit in Paris on June 18, Europe's largest technology and start-up event, underscoring the growing India-France technology partnership.

### The new pillars of partnership

The India-French relationship is constantly evolving and is consequently being updated by the two leaders who are committed to the cause.

While the recently elevated Special Global Strategic Partnership has always included traditional areas such as defence, nuclear and space, it is the focus on tech and innovation that is now exciting for the relationship.

This focus will include cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence (AI), health care, sustainable development, creative economy, education and research. These are new facets of the evolving and dynamic relationship and will no doubt take



**Mohan Kumar**

Former Indian Ambassador to France and now Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University

Technology and innovation power the next phase of India-France ties

ties to greater heights. Tech and innovation has tremendous mutual advantages for both sides. France has some of the best state-of-the-art technology in aerospace, AI, robotics, biotech, health care, green tech and sustainable development, besides being a European hub for the digital economy.

It is not hard to see how India can not only benefit from access to technology in these areas but also bring its own added value in terms of frugal innovation, start-ups, digital public infrastructure and biotech, just to name a few. The possibilities are endless. It must be hoped that the two tech summits – "Bharat Innovates" and the "Vivatech" – will enable the private sector on both sides to come up with substantive collaborative arrangements.

### Defence, space and Africa

The two leaders are also expected to take stock of the special strategic partnership. There are a number of dossiers which can benefit from their political and strategic guidance. The first is certainly the idea of the co-designing and co-production of defence platforms which must be expedited. Progress is also desirable in emerging areas such as small modular reactors, joint satellite development and human flight programmes.

The potential for Franco-Indian cooperation in Africa has not been fully exploited and this must get the attention of both sides. This becomes even more important in light of the postponement of the India-Africa Forum Summit (May 2026) due to the Ebola crisis in Africa. The two leaders will doubtless exchange views on the ongoing conflicts: in Ukraine and in Iran, which have

adversely and disproportionately affected countries of the Global South.

Mr. Modi's Europe visit (June 13-18, 2026) also includes a state visit to Slovakia, the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

### Watching the 'D10 debate'

France, as the current chair of the G-7, will host the G-7 summit in Evian from June 15 to 17, 2026. It is difficult to imagine a G-7 summit without India being invited, and Mr. Modi's participation is particularly important given the geopolitical turbulence of the present moment. United States President Donald Trump is also expected to attend it. While attention will naturally focus on the possibility of a Modi-Trump meeting, any interaction may not be a substantive one, given the G-7 atmospherics.

More important is the evolving role of the G-7 itself in global geopolitics. With the G-20 having lost some of its momentum in recent years, discussions have resurfaced about expanding the G-7 into a D10 – a grouping of 10 major democracies. Whether, and how soon, such a transformation materialises remains uncertain, but it is a development India will need to watch closely.

At the end of the day, two middle powers – India and France – which set great store by strategic autonomy, have a fundamental role to play in contributing to geopolitical stability and ensuring a smooth transition to a multipolar world. In that sense, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron shoulder a significant responsibility.

*The views expressed are personal*

## Context India-France

bilateral relationship centred on defence, nuclear cooperation and space. Technology and innovation have become the defining pillars of a partnership.

## Facts

India - France relationship elevated to a Special Global Strategic Partnership.

India's contribution: frugal innovation, start-ups, digital public infra (DPI) & biotech.

New technology include: cyberspace, AI, healthcare, sustainable development, education and research.

## Analytical Crux

The India-France partnership is undergoing a structural shift, from a defence-and-nuclear axis to a technology-and-innovation axis. It reflects a broader global reality where power is defined by digital infra, AI and start-up ecosystems rather than missile counts. France's strength in aerospace, green tech and AI combined with India's DPI, frugal innovation and human capital is a complementary partnership. In that sense India and France shared a great responsibility with endless possibilities.

## Verbatim Quotes

“At the end of the day, two middle powers - India and France - which set great store by strategic autonomy, have a fundamental role to play in contributing to geopolitical stability and ensuring a smooth transition to a multipolar world.”

- Mohan Kumar

## In West Asia pause, questions for India, especially about its place at the table

WRITE this from Srinagar on the eve of Muharram. Black flags wave in the summer wind through neighbourhoods in parts of the city. On the boulevard that overlooks the Dal Lake there towers a billboard-sized portrait of Iranian leaders staring down upon us. It is an unsettling backdrop against which to meditate upon the American-Iranian blueprint for peace being stitched. A deal that troubles rather than reassures.

US President Donald Trump can claim victory, as he has already done. And he deserves to: Purely on the basis of this day alone. The guns may fall silent. Markets will stabilise. Oil shipments through the Gulf will no longer navigate minefields. That is laudable. But the foundational faultlines that set up this crisis — Iran's ambitions and proxies in the region, Israel's vulnerabilities and security obsessions, the Gulf's volatility and Trump's hubris — remain exactly as they were yesterday. What has been bought by this breathing space is time, masquerading as victory.

While this deal breaks a war, it doesn't settle the numerous questions that led to it. Lebanon remains on a wire. Hezbollah's future is still up for grabs. Israel has said it needs the freedom to operate. And the nuclear issue isn't solved, it's been kicked under the table — a 60-day delay where there should have been a resolution. A ceasefire suspends all these concerns. It doesn't answer any of them. And it can't prevent other nations from

drawing their own conclusions about deterrence and nuclear weapons and their utility.

We, in India, should feel deeply concerned. For more than two decades, New Delhi has invested in Washington — emotionally, politically and strategically — on the belief that when push came to shove America would remember just how significant that equity was and what it said about India's stake at the highest table. Today it did not. Indian sailors lay vulnerable. Indian lives were risked and lost as the fight expanded. Indian commerce was throttled at a time when our economy depends more than most upon its engines running; the livelihoods of millions of Indians we cherish in the Gulf teetered on a knife's edge. None of that registered in the fevered pitch of Trump's social-media worldview when it sat down to negotiate a pause. Instead, America dialled Islamabad. The very same deep state that has managed four decades of terror at India's border was delivered centrality in American decision-making without the slightest pause for how that upgrade would be perceived in New Delhi. Adversaries are blind. America is India's friend. But a friend who doesn't notice you are in the room anymore will hurt far worse than an adversary eventually. Because weakness invites aggression. Indifference allows it to flourish, free from question.

We have insulated ourselves comfortably to Pakistan being a



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failing state — failing, bankrupt, falling behind us as we steam past. The Iran crisis explodes that delusion of Pakistani irrelevance. For a nation that has bet its survival on fostering chaos is becoming today the interlocutor every foreign ministry is desperate to cultivate. This is not a momentary embarrassment for India. It is a serious long-term threat that demands our attention.

Which is why the hard questions will be the ones India will have to ask about itself. India has often prided itself on the ability to have multiple friendships across every spectrum: To talk to Tehran and Tel Aviv, to Riyadh and Washington, all at the same time, without apology or conditionality. "Strategic autonomy" was never a slogan. It was the art of keeping your options open when the world rarely favours India's preferences. Somewhere along the line, we started to mistake friendship with one group of countries as increasing our leverage with others. If anything, the Iran crisis should teach us the exact opposite: Proximity is not leverage,

Proximity is not leverage, access is not influence and the visibility that you or others have does not translate into strength if the country that needs to heed that visibility is not also willing to use it

access is not influence, and the visibility that you or others have does not translate into strength if the country that needs to heed that visibility is not also willing to use it.

And should we misjudge this moment, the price we will pay for it only increases. West Asia was where we bought our oil from not too long ago. It hosts one of the largest Indian diaspora popula-

tions on Earth. It represents a large source of our external remittances. Our strategic gateway to energy. The route through which the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will realise its potential. When turbulence hits West Asia, it doesn't rock the ship we sail upon. It impacts our balance of payments, our diaspora in the Gulf, our fuel prices and our influence in an Asian century that is being transformed as we speak.

And that is what makes Muharram far more poignant than the mourning on display. Hussain lost at Karbala. He was surrounded. He was denied water. He died a brutal death on that field. Yazid won. But history remembers the lesson Karbala taught us: Hussain dared to fight and live a defeat so righteous that its memory outlasted every Caliph who came after him. Iran, over 14 centuries now, has internalised that lesson and passed it down to generations since: He who holds advantage today may not win the battle of tomorrow.

Celebrated victories have a tendency to turn bitter over time. The bigger history of this crisis has thus still to be written. Let us hope the more valuable gift the Iran-US deal leaves India is the questions it forces us to ask ourselves about our illusions, about our place at the table and about a world that will give us no thing that we haven't already secured for ourselves.

The writer is dean SIS, JNU and former member NSAB

**Context** India's strategic autonomy has become an illusion and the elevation of Pakistan as America's regional interlocutor during the Iran crisis is a long-term strategic warning for India.

## Facts

West Asia - India's strategic gateway to energy and the route of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

West Asia hosts one of the largest Indian diaspora populations on Earth and major source of India's external remittances.

## Analytical Crux

India's strategic autonomy has been exposed by the Iran crisis as a posture that generates visibility but not influence. India's Gulf equity, diaspora vulnerability & IMEEC ambitions did not noticed by the Washington. This danger is structural because Pakistan being a failing state has found relevance by great powers in moments of crisis. The US-Iran deal may be a ceasefire, but it is not a settlement. Lebanon, Hezbollah and the nuclear question remains relevant and West Asia will continue to be a theatre where India's interests are at stake but India lacks a seat at the table.

## Verbatim Quotes

"Proximity is not leverage, access is not influence and the visibility that you or others have does not translate into strength if the country that needs to heed the visibility is not also willing to use it."

- Amrita Bhatt

- **PSIR PAPER II, 2025:** For India, a multipolar world order would also mean a multipolar Asia. Comment.
- **PSIR PAPER II, 2024:** Discuss the potential role that India could play as the leader of the Global South in realising the goal of establishing a new international economic order in the 21st century.
- **PSIR PAPER II, 2024:** "India and USA have become such strong strategic partners that they need not become formal allies." Comment.
- **PSIR PAPER II, 2023:** What diplomatic steps has India taken to articulate the interests of the Global South in International Politics?
- **PSIR PAPER II, 2023:** What are the challenges and limitations in India - Iran relations?
- **PSIR PAPER II, 2023:** Discuss the significance of "West Asia Quad" in the light of India's Look West' policy.

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