

# 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.

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Singh  
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# 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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AMIT PRATAP SINGH  
PSIR FACULTY

# PSIR OPTIONAL 2027

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)

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# Article - 1 : In time of distrust, constitution's promise of fraternity matters

## In time of distrust, Constitution's promise of fraternity matters more than ever



S Y QURAISHI

EVERY SCHOOLCHILD can recite the Preamble to the Constitution: Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The first three have generated debate in courts, politics and academia. The fourth, however, has passed almost unnoticed. Yet fraternity may be the most consequential of all the constitutional values because it is the one value that law alone cannot create.

The neglect is curious because the Constitution does not treat fraternity as an afterthought. It appears in the same sentence as the other three, carrying equal constitutional weight. The framers placed it there deliberately. The question is why we have spent 75 years largely ignoring it, and what that neglect has cost us.

The answer begins with a distinction that was explicit during the Constituent Assembly debates but has since faded from constitutional discourse. Liberty and equality define the relationship between the citizen and the state. Fraternity defines the relationship between citizens themselves. That distinction makes all the difference. If the state violates liberty or equality, courts can intervene. But what recourse exists when citizens cease to regard one another as fellow citizens? When disagreement hardens into hostility and difference into suspicion, fraternity begins to disappear. B R Ambedkar understood this with unusual clarity. In his final address to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, he warned, "Without fraternity, equality and liberty will be no deeper than coats of paint." His warning stemmed from a frank assessment of Indian society. "How can people divided into several thousands of castes be a nation?" he asked. He was reminding us that nationhood is not a given but an achievement, and fraternity both its condition and proof. The Constitution's concern with fraternity did not end with the Preamble. Article 14(a) makes it a Fundamental Duty of every citizen to pro-

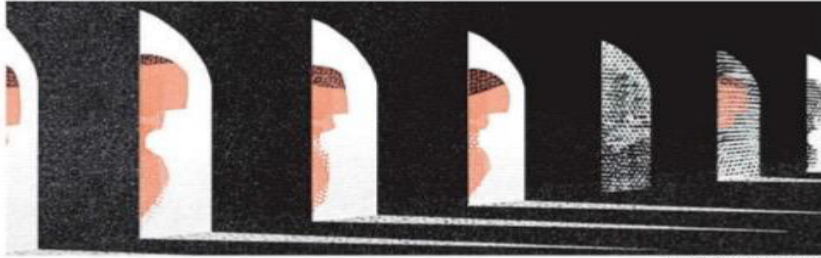


ILLUSTRATION © R SAKSHI/ANAD

mote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood across religious, linguistic and regional differences.

Seventy-five years later, the original anxieties have not diminished. Though we have never been more connected technologically, we have rarely been more estranged socially. Public debate has grown louder, sharper and more vicious, while mutual understanding has become thinner. The greatest damage caused by hate-filled discourse — whether political, religious or digital — is not that it offends. Democracies have always survived offence. Its deeper damage lies in the erosion of trust.

Trust is the invisible infrastructure of a functioning society — the assumption that strangers can deal with one another in good faith. When that assumption erodes, no law can fully restore it. The economy depends upon it. Democracy depends upon it.

Liberty and equality are justiciable, enforceable and actionable before a judge. Fraternity belongs to a different category. If liberty and equality are the fundamental rights of citizens, fraternity, for me, is the fundamental right of the nation. No court can manufacture mutual respect. No statute can create a sense of common belonging. No government programme can legislate trust. Yet it would be wrong to conclude that fraternity lies entirely beyond the reach of law and the government and the courts are helpless spectators.

**No court can manufacture mutual respect. No statute can create a sense of common belonging. Yet it would be wrong to conclude that fraternity lies entirely beyond the reach of law**

confidence play in such choices?

History suggests that prolonged social conflict leaves economic scars that persist long after the headlines disappear. India has already learned this lesson. Punjab was once the most prosperous state in the country, with the highest per-capita income as recently as the mid-1980s. The decade-long militancy and communal discord that followed devastated the investment climate. Punjab slipped from first place in per-capita income rankings and, between 2014-15 and 2022-23, it ranked 18th in economic growth among 21 major states. The damage was not merely economic; poisoned atmospheres take generations to clear.

The irony is difficult to miss. We have spoken of India becoming the world's third-largest economy and a fully developed Viskit Bharat by 2047. Yet public institutions have often appeared insufficiently concerned about an atmosphere of anxiety and periodic lawlessness that seems to corrode such ambitions. Lynchings, targeted demolitions and the normalisation of communal hostility are not merely law-and-order failures. They are fraternity failures. When such acts go unpunished, they send a signal — not just to minorities, but to every entrepreneur, investor and family weighing its future.

Polarisation may have delivered electoral dividends to those who have practised it. But a nation cannot continuously inflame its divisions for short-term political advantage and expect to contain its economic consequences.

Fraternity is not a pious wish inscribed in a preamble and ceremonially quoted on national occasions. It is the social oxygen without which neither liberty nor equality can survive, and without which no economy, however ambitious its targets, can truly flourish. Ambedkar warned that without fraternity, liberty and equality would be no deeper than coats of paint. For three-quarters of a century, we barely noticed the paint peeling. We are beginning to see the cracks now.

The framers placed all four values together for a reason. It may be time we did the same.

*Quraishi is former chief election commissioner of India and author of An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election*

**Context** Fraternity is the

one constitutional ideal that law cannot create and that its erosion is showing up as social distrust & economic cost.

## Facts

Article 51 A (e) - Fundamental Duty to promote harmony & common brotherhood.

The legal architecture for social harmony: Articles 14, 15 and 25.

Punjab had the highest per-capita income in mid-1980s: after a decade of militancy, now, 18th in growth among 21 major states.

## Analytical Crux

Fraternity is the one Preamble value courts cannot enforce, because it lives between citizens rather than between citizen and state. Once civic trust thins, no judgment can stitch it back. There is a link between communal polarisation and capital flight. The Punjab story is its example because of 2 lakh annual citizenship surrenders. A society that keeps inflaming its divisions cannot expect to bank its economic gains. The nationhood is an achievement, not an inheritance and fraternity is the proof it has happened. Fraternity is the bridge between political democracy and social democracy and without it, rights are "coats of paint".

## Verbatim Quotes

"It is the social oxygen without which neither liberty nor equality can survive and without which no economy, however ambitious its targets, can truly flourish."

— S. Y. Qureshi

# Article - 2 : Britain after Brexit, divided, uncertain and stagnant

## Britain after Brexit, divided, uncertain and stagnant

Some anniversaries are merely observed. Ten years after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU), on June 23, 2016, and as it prepares for yet another change of Prime Minister, it is clear that whatever the benefits or drawbacks of Britain's divorce from the EU, Brexit has left it bitterly divided. "Take Back Control" the Leave campaign had urged. Instead, Britain is floundering in a morass of indecision, low economic growth and a crisis of politics and governability that will likely produce a seventh Prime Minister in the decade since it voted by the narrowest of margins (52 to 48%) to separate itself from its continent and largest trading partner.

### An imperial illusion

Brexit was always a trade-off in a quest by some to acquire more control over trade, regulation and immigration, tinged undoubtedly by nostalgia for Britain's imperial past. The idea that Britain could successfully swap access to the €18 trillion European economy for trade deals based on the ties of Empire – and thrive – was always for the birds, but nostalgia is powerful and illogical. Brexit began as a civil war within the Conservative Party amongst those resisting the EU's project of 'ever closer union' and railing against a perceived overbearing and over-reaching Commission that set rules for others to follow. The rules, however, were the conditions under which Britain gained access to the trading partner that, even after Brexit, accounts for 41% of its exports and 50% of its imports.

When David Cameron offered the U.K. an 'in/out referendum' to settle the war within his party, Brexit morphed into a protest vote. It stopped being about Britain's relationship with Europe and transformed into Westminster's relationship with the rest of the country, especially those parts that felt left behind. Brexit unearthed a raft of problems that had little to do with the EU's rules (which London helped shape



Priyanjali Malik  
Writes on security and politics

as a member state), or the free movement of people (a precondition of the single market), even if the 2004 expansion brought a surge of Eastern Europeans settling in Britain for work. Britain's problems were structural. After the 2008 financial crisis, the standard of living for the vast majority stagnated or declined, hit by the years of austerity subsequently imposed on the country to balance its books. While the bankers and banks who precipitated the crisis came through unscathed, life became tougher for ordinary people left to contend with the increasingly underfunded public services they relied on – health care, education and local government.

The resentment this bred provided fertile ground for populism to thrive, and Brexit's focus on immigration provided just that. Immigrants, the siren song went, were taking their jobs, occupying their schools, clogging up their National Health Service (NHS) and pushing them to the margins in their own country: once Britain controlled its borders, life would improve.

### Economic reality bites

Things have not improved. While estimates of Brexit's economic costs vary, most economists agree that the loss of unfettered access to Britain's largest trading partner and the end of free movement have acted as a drag on trade and investment, curtailed productivity, and significantly diminished the market for financial and other services. The beneficiaries of Brexit are largely those who facilitate the now voluminous customs paperwork and the additional civil service hires managing Brexit's complexity. And, ironically, those immigrating to Britain are from outside the EU.

For all the rhetoric about controlling immigration, this decade has seen a sharp rise in immigration, largely from outside the EU. Though the number of EU nationals residing in Britain declined gradually from 2016, the number of non-EU immigrants rose sharply from just under 100,000 to peak in 2022-23 at over a million

before falling to about 400,000 now. After COVID-19, the NHS, unable to find qualified workers at home, recruited aggressively from abroad. With Europeans feeling unwelcome, doctors and nurses from India, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan and the Philippines came instead. Before Brexit, there were 10,000 nurses from India. Today, there are 40,000. Ironically, visibly non-white people were flocking to Britain and the immigration statistics continued to rise while the cost of living was battered by Brexit, COVID-19 and geopolitics.

### An uneasy nation

The topic of immigration has become toxic. Hijacked by the far Right, it now represents all the broken promises of the social contract. Because Brexit split the country down the middle into solidifying tribal loyalties of Leavers and Remainers, no matter the unfulfilled promises of leaving, politicians across the spectrum remain afraid of honestly evaluating Brexit. Worse, electorally threatened by the populists (not known for their honesty) mainstream politicians across the political spectrum have focused on the bogeyman of immigration in search of populist votes. A former Home Secretary (of Indian extraction) spoke of the 'invasion of our southern shores' while in office. Out of office, her colleague publicly counted white faces in a Birmingham neighbourhood. And the current Prime Minister voiced concern about Britain becoming an 'island of strangers'. These are not words to unite a multicultural country, forge a middle ground and seek honest answers for Britain's economic problems. Ten years on, Britain is deeply divided about who it is and what it stands for. The centre ground lies vacant as politicians chase populist extremes, making politics a game of survival. The statistics speak for themselves: since Brexit, the U.K. has seen 10 Home Secretaries, nine Foreign Secretaries, eight Chancellors of the Exchequer and six Prime Ministers, with a seventh likely incoming. This is not a country at ease with itself or its place in the world.

Ten years after Brexit, Britain still searches for direction

## Context

Ten years after the 2016 referendum, Brexit delivered neither "control" nor prosperity. It has left Britain economically stagnant & politically unstable.

## Facts

The EU takes 41% of UK exports and 50% of imports; "the divorce that couldn't really divorce."

Non EU immigration peaked above one million in 2022-23 despite the 'control immigration' promise.

Referendum : 23 June 2016 , 52% voted to leave.

## Analytical Crux

Brexit was never really about Europe ; it began as a Conservative civil war and became a protest vote by the "left behind" against Westminster. The promised control never arrived because non-EU immigration rose, the economy stagnated and the real drivers of the anger had little to do with Brussels. The referendum froze identity into tribe i.e. Leaver versus Remainer and this is exactly why no mainstream politician will audit Brexit honestly. The centre ground lies vacant as politicians chase populist extremes, making politics a game of survival. It is not at ease with itself or its place in the world.

## Verbatim Quotes

"The idea that Britain could successfully swap access to the £10 trillion European economy for trade deals based on the ties of Empire and thrive was always for the birds, but nostalgia is powerful and illogical."

- Priyanjali Malik

# Article - 3 : Putin's Beijing visit and the state of Russia - China ties

## Putin's Beijing Visit and the State of Russia-China Ties

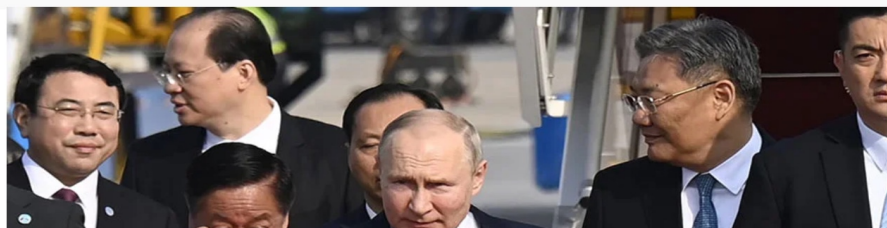
AUTHOR : RAJOLI SIDDHARTH JAYAPRAKASH

Expert Speak Raisina Debates

Published on Jun 20, 2026



*Putin's Beijing visit underscored growing Sino-Russian strategic convergence against the West, even as the limits of the partnership remain visible*



### Author

Rajoli Siddharth Jayaprakash

Rajoli Siddharth Jayaprakash is a Junior Fellow with the ORF Strategic Studies programme, focusing on Russia's foreign policy and economy, and India-

**Context** Putin's May 2026 Beijing visit as symbolism over substance, a united front against the West that is real but bounded and described as "more than an alliance, less than no-limits."

## Facts

■ 25th anniversary of Russia & China : Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship & Cooperation.

■ China is Russia's largest trading partner : US \$ 200 billion for the third consecutive year.

■ The 2001 treaty : legal framework for the comprehensive strategic partnership & resolve Cold war-era USSR - China tensions.

■ Russia - China - North Korea trilateral : China's access to the sea of Japan via the 17 Km Tumanaya River stretch.

## Analytical Crux

The visit was symbolism over substance to signal a common front against the West. The relationship is read not as a formal alliance but as a synergy of interests. There was extend of the 2001 treaty, coordinate militarily and push multipolarity. However, China refused to back the Ukraine war or recognise Russia's annexations because EU matters more to Beijing than Moscow does. It is more than an alliance, less than no-limit i.e. a partnership of convergence, not a bloc. Both leaders called for engendering multipolarity, expressing concerns about the violation of rules based order.

## Verbatim Quotes

"The partnership is 'more than an alliance', implying a departure from traditional military alliances to a synergy of interests within the international system."

- Russian experts, cited by Rajoli Siddharth Jayaprakash

**PSIR, PAPER II 2025:** The tariff threats have pushed India and the European Union closer. Evaluate the India-EU partnership.

**PSIR, PAPER II 2025:** For India, a multipolar world order would also mean a multipolar Asia. Comment.

**PSIR, PAPER I 2024:** Write approximately 150 words on Objective Resolution of the Constituent Assembly

**PSIR, PAPER II 2024:** Do you agree with the view that the EU has thus far proved to be the most successful experiment in the regional integration processes? Account for its successes and also some of the recent challenges that it is faced with.

**PSIR, PAPER I 2023:** The main goal of the Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution is to generate civic responsibility among the citizens. Explain

**PSIR, PAPER II, 2023:** Account for the rise of European Union as a highly influential regional organisation.

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Programs Starting This Month

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

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## OGP Advanced+ 2026

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Programs Starting This Month

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COHORT 2

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● ONGOING

## O-AWFG 2027

COHORT 2

📅 Started · 8 June 2026

● ONGOING

## ATS 2027

COHORT 2

📅 Starts · 14 June 2026

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