

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 |

SOURCES SCANNED TODAY



ARTICLE

O1

**Civilizational statecraft-
India and the emerging
world order : VIF India**

ARTICLE

O2

**Indian ocean is Bharat's
strategic trump card
against China: Firstpost**

ARTICLE

O3

**US's hubris has yielded a
dramatically more
dangerous world : IE**

Civilizational statecraft-India and the emerging world order



Home > Civilizational Statecraft: India and the Emerging World Order



Civilizational Statecraft: India and the Emerging World Order

Prerna Gandhi, Associate Fellow, VIF

July 15, 2026 Views: 456 Comments: 0

Author



Prerna Gandhi,
Associate Fellow,
VIF

[DETAIL >](#)

Related Articles

Expanding
Cooperation
through
Agriculture:
India's Efforts t
The Afghan Minister
of Agriculture,
Irrigation and
Livestock, Att

Pramanan and

Context

The "civilisation" has become the new vocabulary of foreign policy, and how India, Russia, China & Turkey are using their civilisation identity to claim a bigger role in a world.

Facts

India's 2023 G20 theme: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam & "One Earth, One Family, One Future" as a bridge between the Global North and South.

Turkey in 2021 reconstituted Turkic Council into Organization of Turkic states: adopting Turkic World Vision.

Documents about civilisational turn: the US National Security Strategy 2025 (civilisational pride), Russia's 2023 Foreign policy (Russia as a country civilisation) & Xi Jinping's Global Civilizational Initiative (March 2023).

Analytical Crux

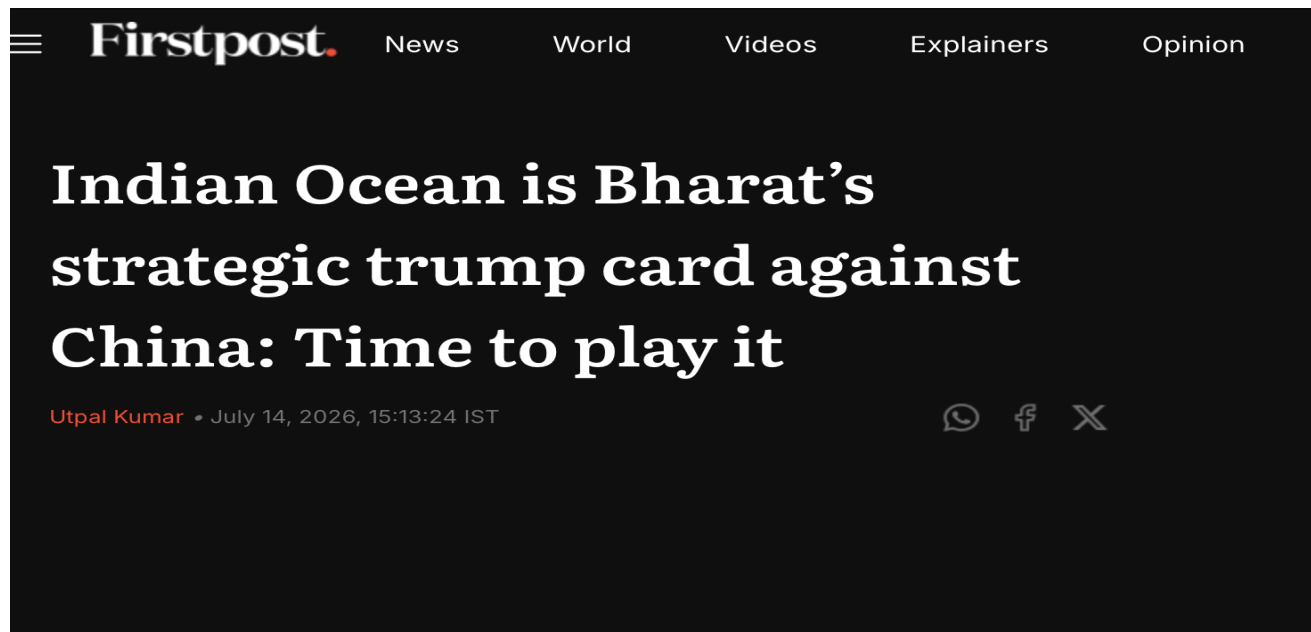
The world is drifting away from ideological camps toward a contest of civilisations. Rising powers are using civilisational identity as a fresh source of legitimacy to demand a larger seat at the global high table. For India, strategic autonomy & multi-alignment are the natural conduct of an old civilisation, so Arthashastra, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, yoga & Buddhism become instruments of statecraft and not merely heritage. The civilisational pride can raise a nation's confidence, but it cannot stand in for economic, technological & military power. Whether this turn steadies multipolarity or breaks the existing order is still an open question.

Verbatim Quotes

"A civilizational paradigm is an overarching historical-philosophical worldview through which a state understands its identity, legitimacy & role in the international system."

-Preena Gandhi

Indian ocean is Bharat's strategic trump card against China



China's enduring vulnerability is geography, which is Bharat's enduring advantage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent three-nation tour signals that Delhi increasingly understands this reality, and is prepared to exploit it in the strategic contest with Beijing



Context

Geography is China's biggest weakness and India's biggest strength, and India is waking up to its command over the Indian Ocean to check Beijing.

Facts

■ Beijing "Malacca Dilemma": 80% of China's energy imports & trade through South China sea & the strait of Malacca.

■ India's unsinkable aircraft carrier: commands sea lanes connecting East Asia to Europe, Africa & West Asia.

■ India's maritime footprint: Port Victoria (Seychelles), Sabang (Indonesia), Duqm (Oman), Changi (Singapore).

Analytical Crux

China's moves, from Tibet and CPEC to Taiwan & the String of Pearls are attempts to escape a body that is boxed in on land & dependent on the Malacca chokepoint it does not control. India sits astride the Indian Ocean and commands the sea lanes China use. This is why Beijing prefers to keep the LAC unsettled & India busy in the Himalayas. China's real aim is not to defeat India in battle but to stop India from cashing in its maritime advantage. Therefore, India does not have to match China ship for ship; it has to play the ocean that carries its name.

US's hubris has yielded a dramatically more dangerous world

America's hubris has yielded a dramatically more dangerous world

THE RESUMPTION of the Iran war, with a dramatic escalation of tit-for-tat military operations, has laid bare the realities of modern warfare. In hindsight, perhaps the US was itching to show the world that the MoU that inaugurated the truce was not the strategic disaster it was widely perceived to be. After all, the invading coalition launched "Epic Fury", premised on overwhelming force and decisive transformation, but the military campaign was regarded as an Epic Failure — a textbook example of how muddled objectives, fundamental misreading of adversaries, and alienation of international partners caused the offensive to boomerang on its orchestrators.

Rather than executing the regime change that was rashly announced as the principal objective, the war paradoxically fortified the targeted nation, expanded its geopolitical prestige, and left the international coalition pausing the conflict on significantly worse terms than when it began. The volatile 60-day negotiation framework that officially commenced on June 15, when US Vice President JD Vance and Iranian Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf signed a 14-point MoU, has collapsed, though peace talks are being attempted in Oman. Still, the war underscored the severe limitations of coercive military power in an era where asymmetric capabilities can disrupt global superpower superiority.

The primary turning point that shattered the coalition's military calculus was the sudden and highly effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. For all the technological prowess brought to bear by Western forces, naval and military planners quickly discovered that in an era dominated by low-cost drone warfare, re-establishing total control over a critical maritime chokepoint is a challenging endeavour once an adversary has

laid mines offshore and prepared its defences. By leveraging a simple yet far-reaching deterrent, the defending nation successfully held the global economy hostage, forcing a desperate rush toward diplomacy.

The resulting MoU, in exchange for merely returning to the status quo ante and allowing shipping lanes to reopen temporarily, granted sweeping concessions, including massive phased sanctions relief, Iranian export of over 40 million barrels of oil, the unfreezing of tens of billions of dollars in foreign assets, and the establishment of a historic multinational reconstruction fund, while details of the nuclear deal remain unclear. All this could have been achieved at the negotiating table without resort to war and without devastating the world economy. A core demand of the invasion, the eradication of Iran's ballistic-missile capacity, was omitted from the MoU, leaving the invaders to crow about reopening a waterway that was not even closed before their war began.

The humiliating MoU starkly contrasts with Barack Obama's JCPOA, scrapped by Donald Trump in 2018, which restricted Iran's nuclear capacity without a single bomb being dropped. By replacing nuanced diplomacy and international verification with reckless bombardment, the US removed the primary mechanisms of international oversight. Renewed bombing gives Iran a compelling incentive to rapidly accelerate toward full nuclear weapon status. After all, developing nuclear capacity attracted attacks; but North Korea actually has nukes, and is handled with kid gloves. Lesson: Get the bomb!

The collapse of diplomatic negotiations is due to the continuing Hormuz dispute. Flushed with its regional leverage, Iran attempted to institute a unilateral security



SHASHI THAROOR

mechanism to extract mandatory shipping transit fees from commercial vessels. This move has been firmly rejected by most of the world, who cite international freedom of navigation to block such extortionate demands over a natural waterway. (The Panama and Suez Canals are man-made and charge for services; straits like Hormuz or Malacca require no human intervention and are recognised in international law as global commons.) Iranian attacks on vessels attempting to evade the tolls provoked the latest US attacks, and now the renewed US blockade. The US charging tolls — a threat that Trump has now backed away from — is as unwelcome as the Iranians doing so.

The US retaliatory attacks have targeted coastal surveillance, air defence networks, drone and missile storage infrastructure, and logistics hubs (including tactical railway corridors and bridges) along Iran's southern coast to blunt its capability to obstruct maritime traffic. Iran immediately responded with a coordinated wave of drone and ballistic missile attacks against US bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan.

The strategic failure has also exposed the fallacy of leadership decapitation. While initial strikes successfully targeted and eliminated high-ranking political and military figures, the entrenched institutional structure of the Iranian state proved remarkably resilient. Rather than inducing moderation or domestic collapse, the systematic assassination of the ruling elite simply cleared the path for a new, younger generation of leaders who are demonstrably more radical, fiercely angry, more sophisticated, and committed to regional dominance.

The economic ripple effects of this miscalculation extend far beyond the immediate combat zones, inflicting a ruinous toll on

the Global South. Iran estimates that the conflict has set back its economy by roughly \$200 billion, but energy-dependent nations like India have been hit almost as severely. As the conflict choked off regional trade, skyrocketing oil prices and rampant inflation severely strained fiscal balances, driving up import costs and weakening the rupee, compromising the economic security of millions who had nothing to do with the war.

The international community's endorsement of an integrated ceasefire across multiple fronts (and the MoU's failure to end regional proxy funding) had effectively formalised Iran's right to intervene politically and militarily in neighbouring states to protect proxies like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis. This is another reality the resumed attacks seek to undo.

Washington realises the conflict has severely diminished the geopolitical authority and credibility of the superpower that initiated it. Hence Trump's threat that 1,000 US missiles remain "locked and loaded" for immediate unleashing. Domestically, the architects of the war face intense public backlash for failing to deliver on promises of rapid peacemaking and minimal inflation, while internationally, global actors increasingly view the US not as a stable anchor but as an unpredictable risk to the global equilibrium. The disastrous current situation serves as a stark historical warning that military hubris, when detached from coherent objectives and historical reality, inevitably yields a fractured international order, severely compromised allies, and a dramatically more dangerous world.

The writer is a fourth-term Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs

Context

The US-led war on Iran backfired and it shows the limits of raw military power in an age of drones, chokepoints & asymmetric warfare.

Facts

■ Reopened Hormuz: Iranian export of over 40 million barrels of oil, the unfreezing of tens of billions of dollars in assets, and a multinational reconstruction fund.

■ Global commons in international law: Straits like Hormuz and Malacca are open to free navigation, unlike the man-made Panama and Suez Canals which charge for services.

Analytical Crux

A war meant to force regime change strengthened the target, humiliated the attacker and reopened a strait that was never closed before the fighting began, which proves how a weaker state can now paralyse the global economy at a chokepoint. The killing of regime's top leaders makes room for a younger and angrier generation, and the gentle treatment of a nuclear North Korea against a non-nuclear Iran teaches every ambitious state to build the bomb. For the Global South, and for an energy-dependent India, the cost of such wars is exported to bystanders through oil shocks, inflation and a weaker currency. Therefore, the war underscored the severe limitations of coercive military power in an era where asymmetric capabilities can disrupt global superpower superiority.

Verbatim Quotes

"Military hubris, when detached from coherent objectives & historical reality, inevitably yields a fractured international order & a dramatically more dangerous world." -S. Tharoor

PSIR PAPER II, 2025: Critically analyse the different phases of India's foreign policy since independence. How justified is S. Jaishankar's classification of the current phase as 'energetic diplomacy'?

PSIR PAPER II, 2025: India maintains strong ties with countries that will assure a free and open Indo-Pacific and guarantee greater connectivity with the rest of the world. Analyse.

PSIR PAPER II, 2024: Does the idea of the 21st century as the 'Asian century' remain feasible given the growing friction between India and China?

PSIR PAPER II, 2024: Do you agree that the USA uses NATO as a traditional tool of strategy to perpetuate its hegemony in the world?

GS PAPER II, 2024: The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance. Explain this statement with examples.

PSIR OPTIONAL · FOR MAINS 2026

ATS 2026

AUGMENTED TEST SERIES

BATCH 3 **05 JULY**

BATCH 4 **19 JULY**

BATCH 5 **26 JULY**

TEST SERIES INCLUDES

- ◆ Sectional + Full-Length Tests + Simulators
- ◆ In-depth discussion with Model Answers
- ◆ One-to-one expert evaluation & mentorship

TO ENROL OR FOR GUIDANCE, CALL

93117 40432

AMIT PRATAP SINGH

PSIR FACULTY · FORUMIAS

PSIR OPTIONAL · FOR MAINS 2027

OCP 2027

OPTIONAL GUIDANCE PROGRAMME

COMMENCES

6 JULY 2026

BATCH 1 · ONLINE & OFFLINE

PROGRAMME INCLUDES

- ◆ 35 live classes – entire PSIR syllabus
- ◆ 35 Daily Answer-Writing Tests
- ◆ Full-Length Tests with Model Answers
- ◆ One-to-one evaluation & mentorship

TO ENROL OR FOR GUIDANCE, CALL

93117 40432

AMIT PRATAP SINGH

PSIR FACULTY · FORUMIAS