

PSIR & GS-2

DAILY BRIEF

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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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ARTICLE

O1

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Firstpost

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O2

Chabahar port amid geopolitical flux : ORF

ARTICLE

O3

Strategic scan of India's neighbourhood : VIF
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India, China pursue pragmatic cooperation



In an uncertain world, there is a compelling logic for renewed focus on peace and development. Neither India nor China can afford permanent hostility, however serious their disputes

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Context Despite the post-Galwan freeze, India & China are edging back toward a calibrated, pragmatic cooperation because two populous civilisational neighbours cannot afford permanent hostility.

Facts

2025 marked 75th anniversary of India-China diplomatic ties : a Track 2 dialogue was held in Chengdu.

India's trade deficit with China : crossed \$100 billion in 2025.

Confidence building steps in 2025 : the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage resumed, visa rules eased on both sides, and direct flights resumed in October 2025.

Analytical Crux

The India-China relationship after Galwan is warming not out of trust but out of necessity. Neither India nor China can afford permanent hostility, however serious & numerous their differences. The supply chain interdependence kept trade climbing while politics froze, and neither a \$100 billion deficit nor the border dispute has changed that pull. The three irritants China names i.e. the boundary, China's supply-chain chokehold & Beijing's shielding of Pakistan linked terrorism remain live. This is "cooperation despite rivalry", not the end of rivalry. India's national vision is "Viksit Bharat" by 2047; China's is the "China Dream". Deng Xiaoping remarked that Asia's future depends on the simultaneous development of both nations.

Verbatim Quotes

"Beijing's tendency to view India merely as a destination for surplus Chinese goods and to frame the relationship through the lens of US-China rivalry is unhelpful."

Chabahar port amid geopolitical flux

Chabahar Port Amid Geopolitical Flux: Implications for Afghanistan and India

AUTHOR : MAIWAND SAFI

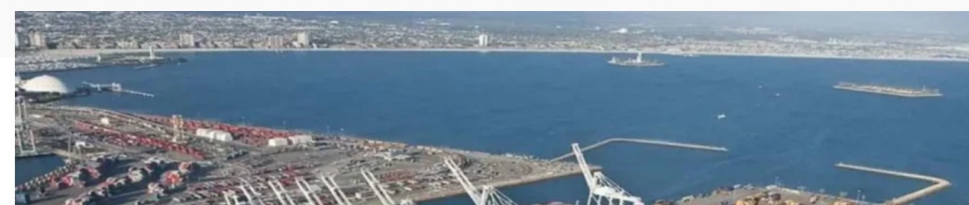
Expert Speak Young Voices

Published on Jul 27, 2026

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The war between the US and Iran has again exposed how much of Chabahar's future lies outside Afghan and Indian hands



Author



Context Chabahar port is being throttled by the 2026 US-Iran war, shifting sanctions, US tariffs and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Facts

■ The Chabahar port project: launched in 2016 by Afghanistan, India & Iran as a connectivity corridor bypassing Pakistan, tied to the INSTC.

■ Chabahar lies west of Iran's border with Pakistan, mirroring Gawadar to east - positioning it as a counterweight to China's BRI, particularly CPEC.

■ India reduced Chabahar development allocation to zero in the 2026 budget - a caution signal, not withdrawal.

Analytical Crux

Chabahar is a lesson in the limits of connectivity geopolitics. A port can be perfect on the map & still be hostage to third-party shocks. For the Taliban it is both an economic lifeline away from Pakistani transit and a tool of diplomatic relevance under non-recognition. For India it is the missing piece linking security, energy & Central-Asia access. India's Chabahar dilemma is the price of doing connectivity through a sanctioned, conflict-prone third country, and the real question is whether strategic value can survive when the legal & commercial ground keeps shifting.

Verbatim Quotes

"The war between the US & Iran has again exposed how much of Chabahar's future lies outside Afghan & Indian hands."

- Maiwand Safi

Strategic scan of India's neighbourhood



Home > 'Strategic Scan of India's Neighbourhood: Focus on Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives'



'Strategic Scan of India's Neighbourhood: Focus on Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives'

Author



Arvind Gupta,
Director, VIF

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India at the
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From Strategic
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Abstract The world
is experiencing a
structural geopoliti

Context

India's Neighbourhood

First policy scan shows that structural asymmetry breeds mistrust, and China is building parallel institutions to SAARC.

Facts

Neighbourhood First launched in 2014 on a basis of non-reciprocity - an echo of the Gujral Doctrine & rests on Samman (respect), Samvad (dialogue), Shanti (peace) & Samviddhi (prosperity).

Neighbourhood First 2.0 : moved from projects to delivery & from state-to-state ties to people, issues and trust.

The structural diagnosis : asymmetry in size breeds mistrust, India is "seen as interfering".

Analytical Crux

India's neighbourhood problem is structural, not episodic because India's help is seen as interference, and mistrust work against it. The pattern across Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan is the same "China Card". Each capital diversifies toward Beijing when it feels the limits. India is first responder in every crisis, financial safety net, has civilisational and people-to-people depth. Neighbourhood First 2.0 has to be about delivery, trust and cross-cutting issues like health, water, climate, migration, cyber rather than announcements.

Verbatim Quotes

"To manage asymmetry, out-deliver rather than out-spend China, and treat trust as the real currency of South Asian diplomacy."
- Anvind Gupta

PSIR 2025, Paper II: "Discuss the potential role India can play in initiating a possible phase of trilateral economic engagement among India, China and Nepal."

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

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PSIR 2024, Paper II: "Bhutan has historically been an ally of India, but the China-Bhutan border related issues have become a security issue for India. Discuss

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