

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

**When geography strikes -
Maritime chokepoints and
global power : ORF**

ARTICLE

O2

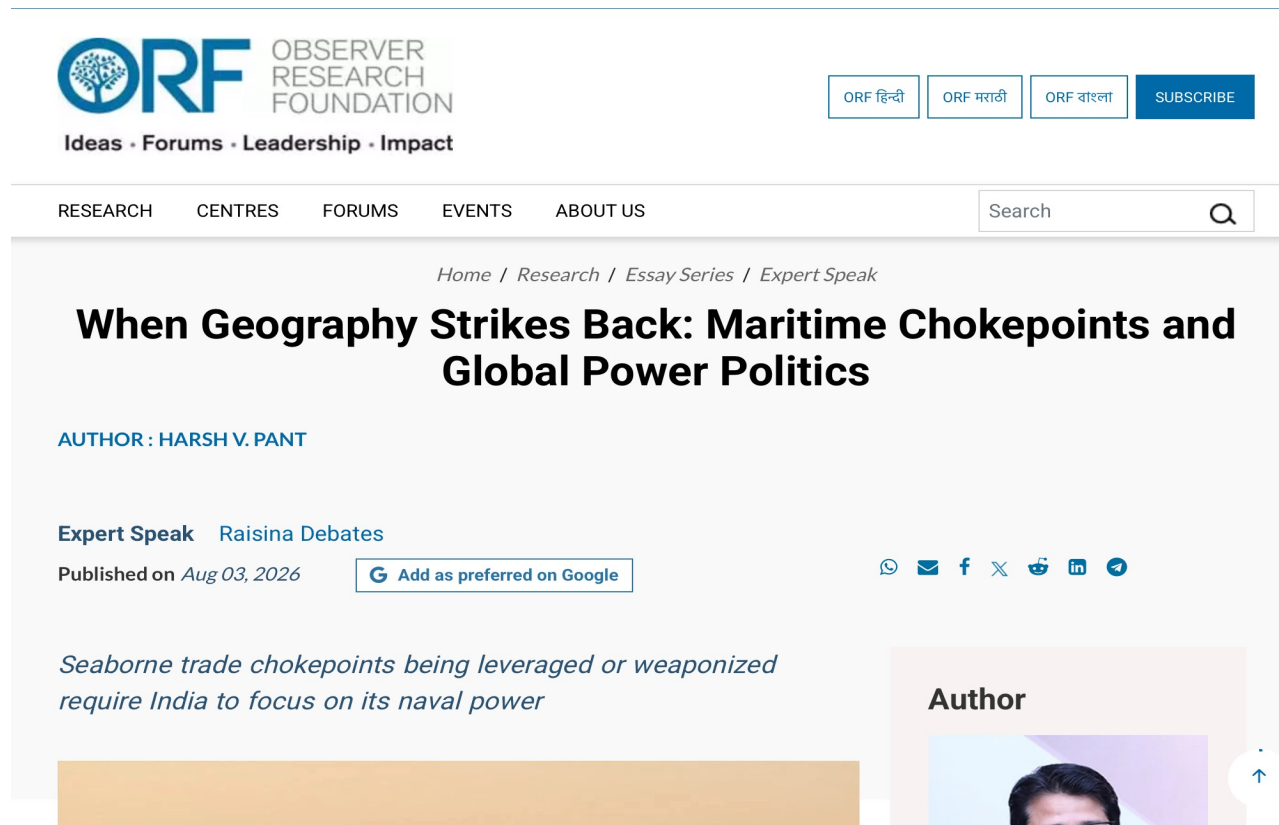
**The grammar of Indian
democracy may be
changing : SAM**

ARTICLE

O3

**Proxy village governance -
the pradhan pati problem
in India : SAM**

When geography strikes - Maritime chokepoints and global power



Context Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, together with pressure on Strait of Hormuz, show that narrow sea passages still decide the security of world trade and energy.

Facts

■ Six chokepoints as backbone of global trade: Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, Malacca, Taiwan Strait, Suez & Panama.

■ Bab el-Mandeb: a 10th of global maritime trade & a southern gateway to Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

■ The North Sea route: limited by seasonal ice, Russian regulatory control.

■ Cape of Good Hope: alternative to the Red Sea but raises costs, fuel use & emissions.

Analytical Crux

Geography has come back as a lever of power. A few narrow straits decide whether world trade moves cheaply or seizes up, and a non-state actor with cheap drones can hold that geography to ransom. The freight rates, insurance and transit times climb across the whole system, and supply chains built for efficiency turn out to be brittle. The trouble in the Red Sea directly impacts India's own freight and energy bills. India should focus on building naval strength & maritime domain awareness as a net security provider in the Indian ocean and cutting single route dependence through corridors like IMEC and INSTC.

Verbatim Quotes

"The era of globalization defined by efficiency is giving way to one in which resilience, redundancy & maritime security shape the global order."

— Haresh V. Pant

The grammar of Indian democracy may be changing



Context India's youngest citizens are rewriting a basic rule of democracy that voters hold power only on election day.

Facts

- Comparative convention : Britain, Japan, Sri Lanka has seen ministers apologise & resign under pressure.
- Earlier movements : JP's resistance to authoritarianism, the Mandal reservation protests, Anna Hazare's anti-corruption campaign, the CAA protests over citizenship.
- By the 2029 general election : Gen Z will be the country's largest voting bloc.

Analytical Crux

The resignation is the surface and the real claim is a shift in when democratic power is exercised. Gen Z treats accountability as a daily demand, not a 5-yearly one. The moment carries no grand ideology and is post-ideological & pragmatic. The method is the message, since smartphones, livestreams & the very platforms that built a leader's image now host the challenge to it. The grammar of Indian democracy may therefore be changing. Governments must answer not only to voters every 5 years but to citizens every single day.

Verbatim Quotes

"An insult became a symbol of resilience. Ridicule became resistance and humour became political strategy."

— E D. Mathew

Proxy village governance - the pradhan pati problem in India



Context The “pradhan pati” practice shows that reserving a seat for women guarantees their presence in power but not exercise of it.

Facts

1.4 million women hold elected positions in panchayats : most expansive gender-based political reservations anywhere in world.

Article 330A (106th amendment) reserves $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of Lok Sabha seats for women, with $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of that share for SC/ST women.

Article 332 A (106th Amendment 2023) : reserves $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of state legislative assembly seats for women, with one-third of that share for SC/ST women.

Analytical Crux

There is a gap between office & authority as the law is precise about who holds a seat and silent about ensuring that the seat's power is exercised by that person. Reservation solves representation as presence, but the pradhan pati practice shows it cannot, on its own, deliver representation as control. Montesquieu argues that power drifts unless it is checked, and a right without an enforceable remedy slowly thins into a formality. The 106th amendment focuses on it because a reservation deferred to census & delimitation is a guarantee that exists on paper before it exists in fact. Therefore, a reserved seat secures a woman's presence, but only enforcement secures her power, or the authority relocates to a male relative.

Verbatim Quotes

"The recognises one figure as the office-holder; governance, in practice, often proceeds through another."

PSIR PAPER I, 2025: "Enunciate the impediments to women's participation in local governance in the process of political decentralisation."

PSIR PAPER I, 2025: "The world currently has been in the throes of a twin process of 'democratic backsliding' and 'democratic backlash'. How would you explain this paradox?"

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

GS PAPER II, 2024: "Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition?"

PSIR PAPER I, 2024: "Gram Sabha in the Panchayati Raj system is a forum which gives expression to the collective wisdom, aspirations and the will of the people. Comment."

PSIR PAPER I, 2023: "Discuss the major provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. Do you think that the Act remains an 'unfulfilled dream'? Argue your case."



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Amit Pratap Singh
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