

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.



PSIR OPTIONAL BY
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ARTICLE

O1

**India's Tango with China,
with abundant caution :
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ARTICLE

O2

**The end of American
sanctuary: Foreign
Affairs**

ARTICLE

O3

**Re- engineering India's
grassroots
administration : SAM**

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India's Tango with China, with abundant caution

Lt Gen (Dr) Rakesh Sharma (Retd.), Distinguished Fellow, VIF

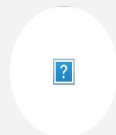
September 2, 2026

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During the 25th Special Representatives (SR) Meeting in August 2026, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, emphasised the strategic direction set by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at their meetings in Kazan in 2024 and Tianjin in 2025. He called for a "strategic and long-term perspective" to become friendly neighbours and partners who help each other succeed, and to

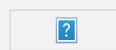
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The Fault Lines
within the
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American foreign
policy debates keep
returning to similar

Context The 25th round of Special Representatives talks in August 2026 produced an 8 point outcome document on India-China boundary, and why India's long standing position has shifted.

Facts

- Xi Jinping used the phrase "dragon-elephant tango" in April 2025, marking 75 years of India-China diplomatic ties.
- India's move from a package deal to an early harvest change in India's negotiating position. It added two new military meeting points in the Central & Eastern Sectors, two additional border hotlines, reopening of three border trading points and renewed engagement on trans-border rivers.

Analytical Crux

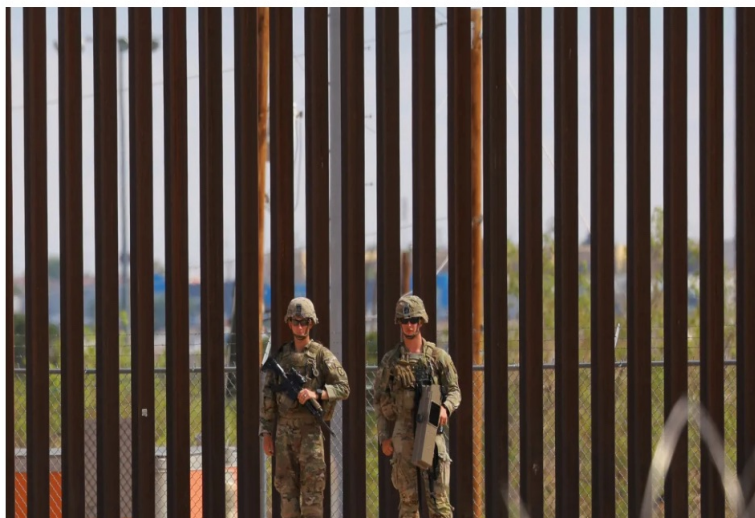
For decades India held that the boundary must be settled whole or not at all, because a sector-by-sector settlement lets China bank the easy gains and keep hard ones open. By accepting an early harvest India has traded that bargaining position for movement, and the calculation behind the trade is economic as much as strategic. Manufacturing push cannot be built while shutting out supply chains that feed it. Eight points promise an understanding of the LAC, not a settled line, and an understanding is precisely what 1993 & 1996 agreements already promised and never delivered. Everything therefore rests on trust, and Chinese Ambassador himself conceded that the deficit is serious, which is why in the foreseeable future, it would be prudent to be patient.

The End of American Sanctuary

New Threats Demand a New Homeland Defense

SETH G. JONES

September 3, 2026



SETH G. JONES is President of the Defense and Security Department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the author of *The American Edge: The Military Tech Nexus and the Sources of Great Power Dominance*.

[More by Seth G. Jones →](#)

Context Two oceans & nuclear arsenal which kept American homeland safe for 80 years no longer do so, because missiles, cheap drones, offensive cyber operations & counter space weapons reach past both, and US defences have not kept pace.

Facts

- THAAD stocks down by as much as 80% & Patriot by as much as 50% after Iran war.
- Chicago Council on global affairs poll of 2024: 19% of those surveyed expressed concern about foreign threats. China, Russia & North Korea all possess intercontinental missile capable of striking the US household.

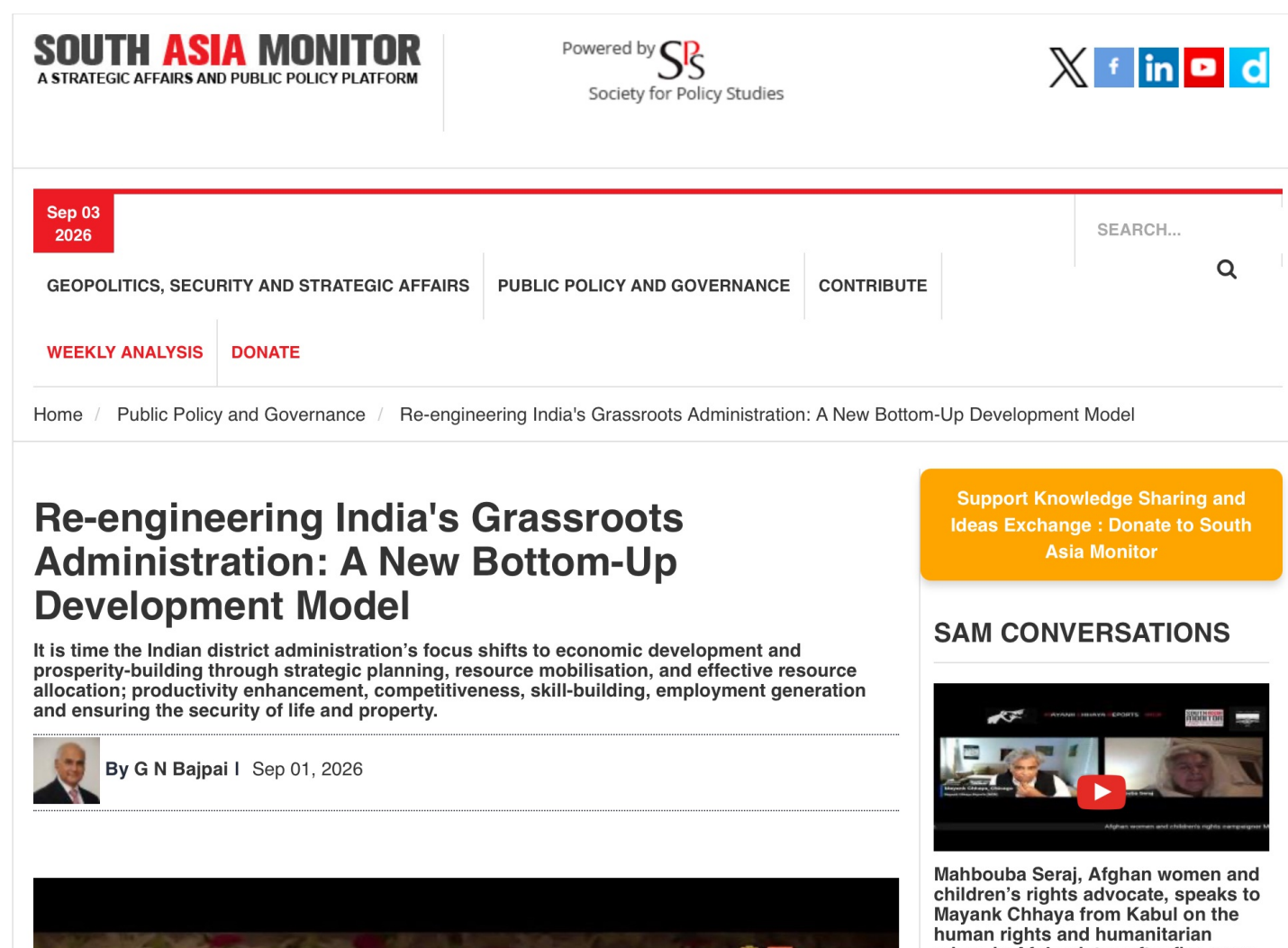
Analytical Crux

The cheapest weapons have caught up with the most expensive defences. A nuclear arsenal deters a nuclear attack and nothing else, so a state that cannot be invaded can still be hit by a drone launched from a lorry inside its own borders. The architecture built after 2001 was designed to catch plots by non-state actors, and threat has since moved to states that are already inside the infrastructure rather than outside the border. The constraint is industrial, not technical as interceptors run out in months while adversaries build drones by the million. India should view this as a warning rather than as US news, because the same asymmetry applies to any state that has built deterrence around a nuclear threshold and left the space below it defended.

Verbatim Quotes

"The US homeland has never been as vulnerable to attack as it is today."
— Seth G. Jones

Re-engineering India's grassroots administration



Context Measurement is useless without an executing agency and proposes rebuilding the district administration itself around economic development.

Facts

■ District administration traditionally focused on law & order, revenue collection, implementation of welfare schemes, disaster management & the coordination of government departments.

■ At NITI Aayog governing council meeting PM called district-level GDP estimates, to move economic measurement from top-down national aggregates to grassroots assessments.

Analytical Crux

District GDP tells us where the economy is weak, but the officer who receives number was trained to keep order, collect revenue and run schemes, and no part of the district's reporting holds him answerable for whether people had to leave to find work. The proposal is therefore to change the office rather than data, & its sharpest move is the council, which places elected representatives and citizens inside decision-making structure. The panchayat & municipality barely appear, which sits awkwardly with the 11th & 12th schedules and view as deconcentration within the bureaucracy rather than devolution to elected local government. The re-engineered district administration should be facilitator, coordinator, catalyst & problem solver.

Verbatim Quotes

"The governing philosophy must be to create and manage the environment."
- GN Bajpai

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