

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

**Indo-Pacific's future
runa through the Indian
ocean : Firstpost**

ARTICLE

O2

**Is the SCO performance
art or meaningful collab :
Carnegie Endowment**

ARTICLE

O3

**BRICS+ is India's
opportunity to shape a
multipolar world : Firstpost**

Indo-Pacific's future runs through the Indian Ocean

Firstpost.



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Indo-Pacific's future runs through the Indian Ocean

India must leverage its pivotal position to shape the Indo-Pacific's emerging security architecture



Context

As US dials down its Indo-Pacific commitment and China thicken its presence across Indian Ocean, India's position is to shape Indo-Pacific's emerging security architecture.

Facts

UNCTAD, 2025 : Maritime transport moves over 80% of goods traded worldwide.

June 2026 : US Indo-Pacific Command was renamed to US Pacific Command, created in 1947.

Indian Ocean routes connect India to Northern Sea Route (Arctic) and, via Chennai - Vladivostok Maritime Corridor, to Russia.

Analytical Crux

The centre of gravity of the Indo-Pacific is drifting west into the Indian Ocean. Washington's renaming of its command is not an exit from the theatre but a lowering of its Indian Ocean ambition, & space that opens is being occupied by Chinese port access from Gwadar to Hambantota. India's response is layered rather than singular i.e. SAGAR and MAHASAGAR as doctrine, Quad as plurilateral frame & thickened bilaterals with Japan, Australia, Indonesia & New Zealand as insurance against any one partner's drift. Indian ocean opens on the Arctic through the Chennai - Vladivostok corridor. Therefore, India's maritime and continental policies stop being separate files.

Verbatim Quotes

"Indian ocean helps India shape its maritime as well as continental policy. Geopolitics and geoeconomics can operate within an 'equilibrium framework'.

- Nalin Kumar Mohapatra

Is the SCO performance art or meaningful collab



Context

Whether SCO produces any real economic integration, or whether the binding constraint in continental Asia lies elsewhere entirely.

Facts

■ SCO is Chinese, not Russian vehicle : grew out of Shanghai Five, composed of China and bordering states, which sought border stability and settlements.

■ Chinese activity moved beyond oil, gas and mining into renewable energy (Uzbekistan) and digital space ; and from importing Chinese labour (Tajikistan) to upskilling local labour.

Analytical Crux

The question everyone asks about SCO i.e. is China displacing Russia is wrong, because China arrived 20 years ago and its footprint is being remade, not built. The Chinese engagement is away from extraction and imported labour, towards renewables, digital infrastructure and local skilling, which makes it far more responsive to what local governments actually want. The deals are bilateral and the organisation itself has produced ceremony rather than integration. The constraint that actually binds is unglamorous i.e. customs posts, water-sharing, electricity, irrigation and it goes unfixed because members who are strategic rivals cannot write complementary policies. The issue for a landlocked region is that the country's most in need of one another find that dependence hardest to accept.

BRICS+ is India's opportunity to shape a multipolar world

Firstpost.



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BRICS+ is India's opportunity to shape a multipolar world

India's chairship attempts to prove that diversity need not mean division



Context

BRICS+ has grown from a 4 country economic label into a full-spectrum governance platform, and India's chairship is an attempt to prove a group this diverse can act as one.

Facts

- Theme of India's chairship 2026: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", driven by "Humanity First" and a "people-centric" approach.
- Four pillars: Resilience; Innovation; Cooperation and Sustainability.
- BRICS+ represents half of humanity and over 40% of global GDP, energy and critical minerals.

Analytical Crux

BRICS has changed category i.e. from a 4 country investment label into a governance platform with 35 ministerial tracks & 100 working groups. India's chairship is a test of one proposition i.e. a grouping holding Russia and China alongside India, Iran, Brazil and the Gulf can still produce collective outcomes. The consensus held everywhere except the Foreign Ministers' vertical on geopolitics. The working formula is to route around geopolitics i.e. build in health, digital public infrastructure, currencies & supply chains, where interests converge & let the political disagreements sit unresolved. BRICS is non-western rather than anti-western because it lets India argue for reform of the global order while staying inside it.

Verbatim Quotes

"Geopolitics should not undermine larger geoeconomic interests of BRICS+."

— Anil Trigunayat

UPSC LINK

- **GS 2026, Paper II:** "IPMDA (Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness) bridges the gap between India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision and the Quad's collective Indo-Pacific strategy." Make a critical assessment of the statement focusing on IPMDA.
- **PSIR 2026, Paper II:** Accelerating of Chinese influence across South Asia is fundamentally reshaping the region's geopolitical landscape. This is a big foreign policy challenge for India. Analyse.
- **GS 2026, Paper II:** "BRICS acts as a powerful counterweight in global governance, actively amplifying the voice and influence of the Global South." Explain the role of BRICS in projecting itself as an alternative to other groupings.
- **PSIR 2025, Paper II:** India maintains strong ties with countries that will assure a free and open Indo-Pacific and guarantee greater connectivity with rest of the world. Analyse.
- **GS 2024, Paper II:** Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics.
- **PSIR 2024, Paper II:** Discuss the potential role that India could play as the leader of the Global South in realising the goal of establishing a new international economic order in the 21st century.

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