# PSIR & GS 1,2,3 & 4

## Daily Brief



**Amit Pratap Singh**
PSIR Optional · ForumIAS

**Issue 181 · 11 November 2026**

*Five readings from the day's newspapers, journals and think tanks, read in full and marked up: context, facts, the author's argument and the UPSC questions.*

1


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India must balance Starlink's benefits with national security and strategic autonomy

5


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← the sources we sweep every morning

1 **Abu Dhabi talks and India's stake** *The Indian Express* ▶ video today

2 **No buffer between detention and arrest** *The Indian Express*

3 **What the Collegium's own record shows** *Bar & Bench*

4 **Starlink and strategic autonomy** *The Hindu*

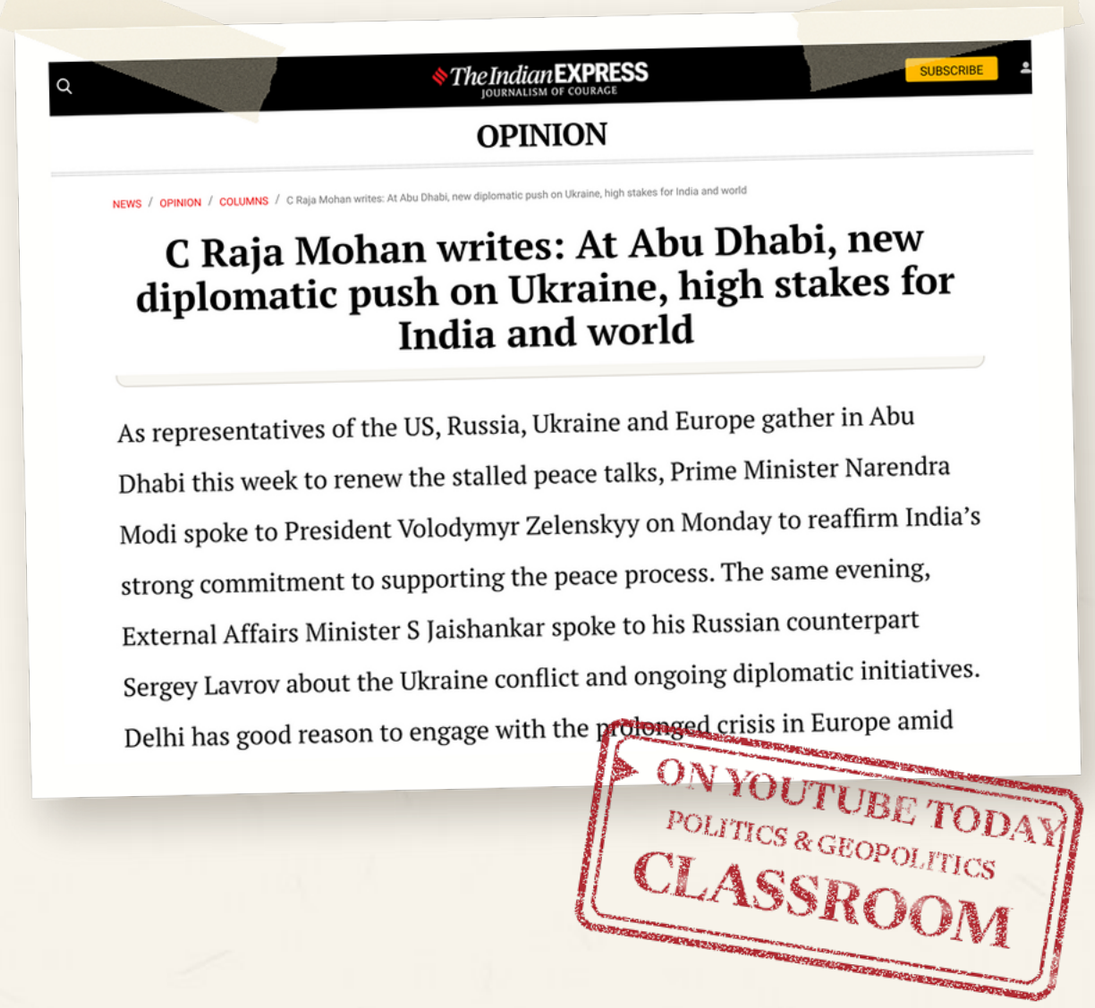
5 **China's AI diplomacy is working** *Foreign Affairs*

Article (1) of 5

# Abu Dhabi talks and India's stake

**The Indian Express** · *C. Raja Mohan*
*10 November 2026*

PSIR Paper II, Part B
India and the Global Centres of Power: USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia
GS Paper II


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OPINION

NEWS / OPINION / COLUMNS / C Raja Mohan writes: At Abu Dhabi, new diplomatic push on Ukraine, high stakes for India and world

**C Raja Mohan writes: At Abu Dhabi, new diplomatic push on Ukraine, high stakes for India and world**

As representatives of the US, Russia, Ukraine and Europe gather in Abu Dhabi this week to renew the stalled peace talks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday to reaffirm India's strong commitment to supporting the peace process. The same evening, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov about the Ukraine conflict and ongoing diplomatic initiatives. Delhi has good reason to engage with the prolonged crisis in Europe amid

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## Context

Delegations of the United States, Russia and Ukraine met in Abu Dhabi on 10 and 11 November, their first trilateral round since February. European officials were present, but not at the table.

On the eve of the talks, Prime Minister Modi spoke to President Zelenskyy and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar spoke to Russia's Sergey Lavrov. C. Raja Mohan explains Washington's bet on a wider European security framework, and why a settlement would help India.

## Fact

1. US aims for a European security framework (Jared Kushner): permanent security consultations, reliable crisis communications, greater military transparency, reciprocal measures to reduce escalation risks, long-term stability.

Article (1) of 5

# Abu Dhabi talks and India's stake

## Analytical crux

Washington has chosen to widen the framework, embedding peace in Ukraine within a broader European security architecture. Trump is betting that Russian energy, European markets, Ukrainian transit routes and American capital can create a shared interest in ending the war. The challenge is to accommodate Moscow's concerns without sacrificing the legitimate security interests of Ukraine and Europe. Even a limited relaxation of tensions between Russia and the West would expand India's diplomatic space.

## Worth quoting

> *"When negotiations reach a deadlock, diplomacy can either break the problem into smaller parts or widen the framework to create room for compromise."*
>
> — C. Raja Mohan

## Asked in UPSC

**PSIR Paper II, 2025:** India continues to invoke its time-tested policy of strategic autonomy vis-à-vis both the United States of America and Russia by rejecting US' offer of mediation on Kashmir issue and by refusing to criticize Russia in its ongoing war against Ukraine. Comment.

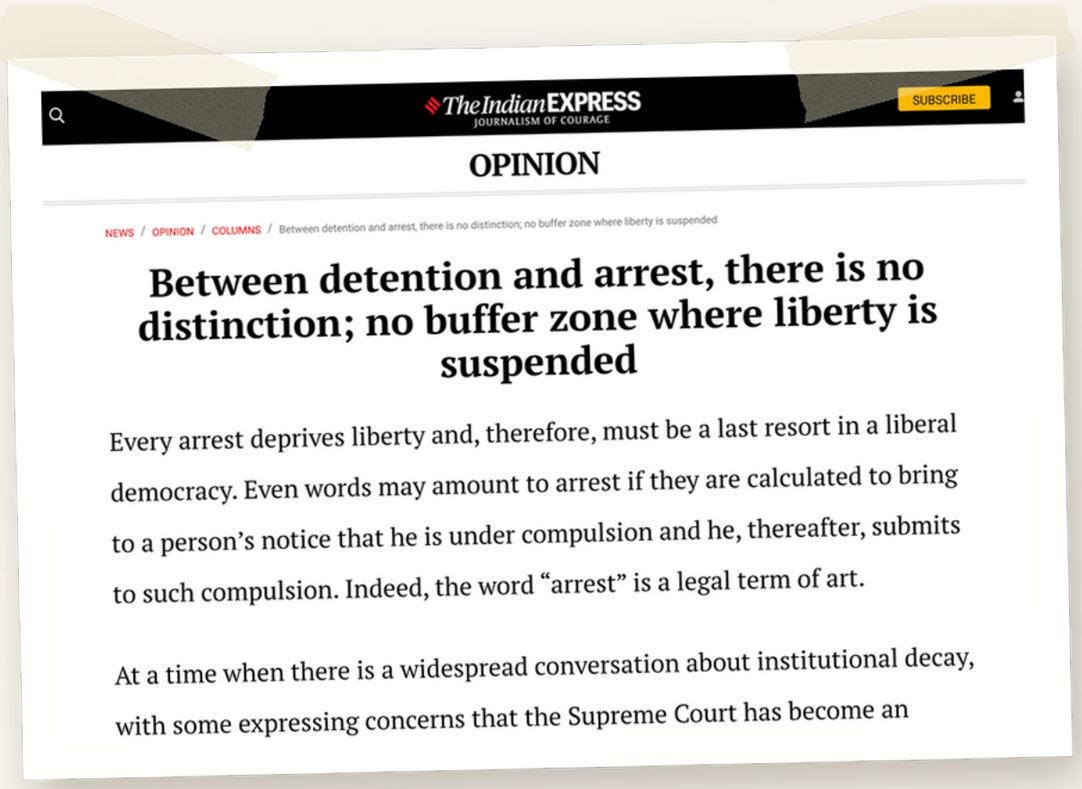
— APS

Article (2) of 5

# No buffer between detention and arrest

**The Indian Express** · *Faizan Mustafa*
*10 November 2026*

PSIR Paper I, Part B
Salient Features of the Indian Constitution: Fundamental Rights and Duties
GS Paper II


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OPINION

NEWS / OPINION / COLUMNS / Between detention and arrest, there is no distinction; no buffer zone where liberty is suspended

**Between detention and arrest, there is no distinction; no buffer zone where liberty is suspended**

Every arrest deprives liberty and, therefore, must be a last resort in a liberal democracy. Even words may amount to arrest if they are calculated to bring to a person's notice that he is under compulsion and he, thereafter, submits to such compulsion. Indeed, the word "arrest" is a legal term of art.

At a time when there is a widespread conversation about institutional decay, with some expressing concerns that the Supreme Court has become an

## Context

Article 22(2) of the Constitution requires that every person arrested be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours. In practice, police often hold suspects for hours before they record a formal arrest.

A Supreme Court bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and A.S. Chandurkar has now held that the 24 hours begin at detention, and overruled High Court decisions that separated the two. Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, reads the ruling against the growing use of criminal law.

## Facts

1. National Crime Records Bureau, 2024: 58,85,867 cognisable crimes recorded; about 72.6 per cent of India's prisoners are undertrials.
2. Constitution (44th Amendment) Act, 1978: its change to preventive detention under Article 22(4) has not been notified in 48 years.

Article (2) of 5

# No buffer between detention and arrest

## Analytical crux

Article 22(2) uses the expressions “arrested” and “detained” in conjunction. So, arrest and detention cannot be artificially separated: no buffer zone can be created where the liberty of an individual is curtailed for investigating purposes prior to formal arrest. Today, we are making excessive use of criminal law, and rights are not a gift from the state. A person arrested by the police should not ideally be produced before a fellow police officer.

## Worth quoting

> *“Every arrest deprives liberty and, therefore, must be a last resort in a liberal democracy.”*
>
> — Faizan Mustafa

## Asked in UPSC

**GS Paper II, 2023:** "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.

**PSIR Paper I, 2024:** Legal remedies in Part III of the Constitution of India

— APS

Article (3) of 5

# What the Collegium's own record shows

**Bar & Bench** · *Shashank Shekhar*
*10 November 2026*

PSIR Paper I, Part B
Principal Organs of the Union Government: Supreme Court
GS Paper II


Bar and Bench

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Columns

**Five days for some, five years for others: What the Collegium's own record says**

*Until the Collegium keeps a proper record of its own work, a retired judge's memoir will remain the closest thing to one that the public gets.*

Shashank Shekhar

Published on: 10 Nov 2026, 5:06 pm

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul's memoir, entitled *Without Fear or Favour*, has started a debate. The former judge said that ex-Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud was too deferential to the government on appointments. He recalled a Collegium meeting where, he says, the Chief Justice took him aside and wondered whether to phone the government to check its view on a name.

Chandrachud has responded that he has not read the book. He says the meetings were respectful, that Kaul never recorded a dissent and that the government has a legitimate role in appointments.

## Context

In his memoir, Without Fear or Favour, former Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul says former Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was too deferential to the government on judicial appointments. Chandrachud replies that the meetings were respectful and that Kaul recorded no dissent.

Under the collegium system, senior judges recommend names and the government notifies the appointments. Shashank Shekhar, who teaches law, tests the dispute against the dates of every Supreme Court recommendation and notification since 2017.

## Facts

1. Supreme Court appointments, October 2017 to October 2026: 63 judges recommended in 24 rounds; of the 28 recommended since January 2023, none waited more than 10 days.
2. Second Judges Case (1993) gave the judiciary the final word on appointments; in 2015 the Supreme Court struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission.

Article (3) of 5

# What the Collegium's own record shows

## Analytical crux

From January 2023, every Supreme Court name has been cleared within about a week. The data alone cannot settle this, but if the Court now takes the government's view before it decides, it has won primacy in the courtroom and given it up in the meeting room. The record shows a system that is quick at the top and slow below, and open about others while closed about itself.

## Worth quoting

> *"Judges speak freely only after they leave."*
>
> — Shashank Shekhar

## Asked in UPSC

**GS Paper II, 2025:** Discuss the evolution of collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and that of the USA.

**PSIR Paper I, 2014:** Examine the debates on the appointment procedure of judges to the higher judiciary in India.

— APS

Article (4) of 5

# Starlink and strategic autonomy

**The Hindu** · *Ashwin Prasad*
*11 November 2026*

PSIR Paper II, Part A
Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power
GS Paper III


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**Strategic autonomy must guide India's Starlink policy**
India must balance Starlink's benefits with national security and strategic autonomy
Updated - November 11, 2026 01:22 am IST
Recently, Elon Musk unleashed a volley of social media posts, accusing Indian "oligarchs" of impeding Starlink's entry into India. The government rejected the accusation and clarified that all satellite operators must go through the same regulatory process. The ensuing public debate has centred on Mr. Musk, Mukesh Ambani, protectionism and telecom competition. All this obscures important questions of how much control India will have

## Context

Starlink, the satellite internet service of Elon Musk's SpaceX, is seeking to operate in India. Musk recently accused Indian business rivals of blocking its entry; the government replied that every satellite operator goes through the same process.

Indian rules require that Indian user traffic pass through gateways in India, that security agencies get monitoring facilities, and that service be restricted on lawful orders. Ashwin Prasad of the Takshashila Institution argues that the real question is how much control India will have once Starlink operates here.

## Facts

1. Parliamentary review: only 30 per cent of gram panchayats had a functional BharatNet connection as of February 2026.
2. ITU Radio Regulations Board, October 2026: unauthorised Starlink transmissions in Iran were continuing; the Board said it lacked authority to suspend the frequency assignments.

Article (4) of 5

# Starlink and strategic autonomy

## Analytical crux

India can licence and penalise Starlink, but SpaceX retains direct control over its satellites, software and terminal access, and SpaceX depends on American regulatory approvals and government contracts, giving Washington considerable leverage. The network could remain usable where Indian authorities have ordered it switched off, or be disabled when India needs it most. Keeping Starlink out entirely would sacrifice valuable connectivity; a more effective way to reduce the dependency risks is to have alternatives.

## Worth quoting

> *"India needs enough alternatives to keep essential communications working even when Starlink is unwilling or unable to."*
>
> — Ashwin Prasad

## Asked in UPSC

**PSIR Paper II, 2014:** Critically assess the changing nature of the concept of national security.

— APS

Article (5) of 5

# China's AI diplomacy is working


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China's AI Diplomacy Is Working

*And America Should Be Taking Notes*

DANIEL REMLER

*November 10, 2026*

**Foreign Affairs** · *Daniel Remler*
*10 November 2026*

PSIR Paper II, Part A
Key concepts in International Relations: National interest, Security and power
GS Papers II and III

## Context

Artificial intelligence is now a field of US-China rivalry. Washington restricts the export of advanced chips to China; Beijing offers developing countries open-weight AI models, training and a say in writing global rules. The two governments also hold talks on AI risk, and the next round is due this month.

Daniel Remler, a former State Department AI policy official now at the Center for a New American Security, argues that Beijing uses every forum to cast US controls as the obstacle, and that its message is winning support.

## Facts

1. UN General Assembly, March 2024: adopted a US-led resolution on safe, secure and trustworthy AI; China supported it.
2. World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO): proposed by Chinese Premier Li Qiang in July 2025; it has 37 members.

Article (5) of 5

# China's AI diplomacy is working

## Analytical crux

Much of Washington has treated talks with Beijing as a place to manage the shared risks of AI apart from the competition. China has always treated them as an arena of the larger rivalry. It has cast itself as the champion of the developing world, promising a Chinese-led AI ecosystem without technological or financial barriers. The pitch is working: countries that run their data centers on Chinese technology will come to depend on it.

## Worth quoting

> *"Any dialogue on AI risk takes place within the broader strategic competition between the United States and China."*
>
> — Daniel Remler

## Asked in UPSC

**PSIR Paper II, 2026:** Does power transition theory reflect the dynamics of US-China relations?

**PSIR Paper II, 2022:** Critically examine the rise of People's Republic of China (PRC) as a great power and its implications on Asian Political order.

— APS

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