



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

An Asian Century Demands India-China Cooperation

 **INDIAN EXPRESS**27 June 2026 · **IR** · **GS2**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com → **ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

 epicbharat@gmail.com



An Asian Century Demands India-China Cooperation

 **The Indian Express** 27 June 2026 **GS2**

Source: ujjyari.com — researched, fact-checked & UPSC-mapped



INTERVIEW ANGLE

"Can two civilisational rivals lead an Asian century together without one conceding to the other? Where is the line between engagement and appeasement?"

Source: [Original editorial](#)  [The Indian Express](#)

 **Every fact web-verified against primary sources** (<https://ujjyari.com/how-we-verify/>)

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Asia is the centre of gravity of the global economy, yet the continent's two civilisational anchors, India and China, remain locked in mistrust. After years of LAC tension following the 2020 clashes, both sides have moved toward measured re-engagement on trade and diplomacy. For an aspirant, the debate is not whether India and China should be friends, but whether a stable, interest-based relationship is the **precondition** (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/precondition/>) for any meaningful Asian century, and how India can pursue it without diluting its territorial integrity.

THE CRUX IN 60 WORDS

An Asian century requires India and China to move from open rivalry toward **pragmatic** (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/pragmatic/>), selective cooperation on trade, regional stability and global governance. But cooperation must be conditional and clear-eyed. India engages from strength, holds the boundary question as non-negotiable, and treats Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh as integral parts of India. Engagement is not appeasement.

THE ISSUE, DECODED

Ujijari Current Affairs - ujijari.com - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

CONCEPT	WHAT IT MEANS	WHY IT MATTERS
Asian Century	The projection that Asia will dominate the global economy and politics this century	Hinges on India and China not turning rivalry into a continental conflict
Managed Competition	Cooperating where interests align, competing where they do not, contesting coercion (http://ujijari.com/vocab/coercion/)	Avoids both naive friendship and permanent hostility
LAC Disengagement (https://ujijari.com/vocab/disengagement/)	Phased pullback of troops from friction points along the Line of Actual Control	Shows diplomacy can lower tension without conceding claims
Strategic Autonomy (https://ujijari.com/terms/strategic-autonomy/)	India's policy of partnering issue by issue without joining any bloc	Lets India engage China and the Quad simultaneously
Multipolarity (https://ujijari.com/terms/multipolarity/)	A world order with several power centres rather than one or two	Gives Asia collective weight only if its major powers cooperate

THE ANALYSIS

- ① **Asia's weight is real, its unity is not.** Asia produces the largest share of global growth, but that economic heft does not translate into political voice because intra-Asian rivalry, above all India-China friction, splits the continent's bargaining power in the UN, WTO and global financial bodies.
- ② **Convergence** (<https://ujijari.com/vocab/convergence/>) **exists on global governance.** India and China both seek WTO reform, larger Global South representation, climate finance from the developed world, and a payment system less dependent on a single reserve currency. These are arenas of genuine, low-risk cooperation.
- ③ **Trade is lopsided and must be rebalanced, not abandoned.** China remains a major source of intermediate goods and active pharmaceutical ingredients for Indian industry, yet the trade deficit is structural. The answer is value-addition, PLI-led import substitution and diversification, not a fantasy of decoupling (<https://ujijari.com/vocab/decoupling/>).
- ④ **The boundary is the red line.** India's official and consistent position is that Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh are integral parts of India. The disengagement process reduced friction without India surrendering any claim. Cooperation on trade or climate cannot be allowed to bleed into the **sovereignty** (<https://ujijari.com/vocab/sovereignty/>) **domain.**

- 5 **India can engage China and the Quad at once.** Strategic autonomy means India is not forced to choose. It deepens Quad and Indo-Pacific cooperation as a hedge while keeping diplomatic and military channels with China open to prevent miscalculation.

DATA AND INSTITUTIONS VAULT

CARRY THESE INTO THE EXAM HALL.

Galwan, June 2020: Twenty Indian soldiers were martyred; Chinese casualties remain officially unconfirmed by Beijing. India's stand on the boundary is unchanged.

LAC: The Line of Actual Control is the notional demarcation; it is not a settled, mutually agreed boundary, which is why incidents recur.

Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh: Both are integral parts of India per the Government of India's official position. India rejects any renaming or cartographic aggression.

Institutions of convergence: BRICS, SCO, WTO, G20, AIIB and the New Development Bank are forums where India-China interests can overlap.

Hedging architecture: Quad (India, US, Japan, Australia), and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

Bilateral (<https://ujiyari.com/vocab/bilateral/>) mechanisms: WMCC (<https://ujiyari.com/terms/wmcc-india-china-border/>) (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs) and Corps Commander-level talks manage the LAC.

THE DEBATE

For cooperation: Asia cannot lead globally while its two largest economies fragment supply chains and inflate defence budgets. Cooperation on climate, trade and governance multiplies Asia's voice and frees resources for development.

Against: China violated border agreements, runs a chronic trade surplus, shields Pakistan-based terror designations at the UN, and pursues encirclement through the String of Pearls. Cooperation risks rewarding coercion and breeding complacency.

Balanced verdict: The realistic path is managed competition. India should cooperate selectively on global public goods, compete on technology and influence, and contest any coercion at the LAC. The boundary question stays non-negotiable. Engagement from strength, never appeasement from weakness.

HOW TO THINK ABOUT THIS (TRANSFERABLE SKILL)

Ujjiyari Current Affairs - ujjiyari.com - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

In any rivalry question, do not give a single verdict of “friend” or “enemy.” Split the relationship into arenas, economic, multilateral (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/multilateral/>), security, territorial, and assign a posture to each: cooperate, compete or contest. This shows the examiner nuance and prevents the trap of arguing that India must either trust or reject China wholesale.

DIAGRAM-IN-WORDS

Asian Century goal -> needs stable India-China ties -> managed competition framework -> cooperate (trade, climate, governance) + compete (tech, influence) + contest (LAC coercion) -> boundary question held non-negotiable -> Asia speaks with collective weight

THE WAY FORWARD

- ① **Institutionalise dialogue.** Keep WMCC, Corps Commander and Special Representative channels active to prevent the next Galwan through verifiable confidence-building measures.
- ② **Rebalance trade.** Use PLI, quality control orders and supply-chain diversification to cut the deficit and reduce dependence on Chinese intermediates, especially APIs and electronics.
- ③ **Cooperate on global public goods.** Coordinate on climate finance, Global South debt relief and WTO reform where interests genuinely converge.
- ④ **Hedge openly.** Deepen Quad, Indo-Pacific and minilateral partnerships as insurance without seeking containment for its own sake.
- ⑤ **Hold the line.** Treat Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh as integral parts of India in every forum; reject cartographic aggression firmly and consistently.

THE TAKEAWAY BOX

Ujjiyari Current Affairs - ujjiyari.com - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

Argue that an Asian century is conditional on a stable India-China equilibrium, and that India must pursue managed competition, cooperating on global governance while keeping sovereignty non-negotiable.

“Engagement from a position of strength is statecraft; concession (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/concession/>) from a position of fear is surrender, and India must never confuse the two.”

WMCC; LAC versus settled boundary; Quad members; BRICS and SCO; New Development Bank; String of Pearls; Special Representatives mechanism.

When does pragmatic engagement with an adversary become a compromise of principle? How does a nation balance economic interdependence against strategic distrust?

“With respect to the South China Sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security. Discuss.” (GS2). Also questions on India’s neighbourhood and the changing Indo-Pacific dynamic.

Quad and Indo-Pacific, India’s neighbourhood-first policy, WTO reform, strategic autonomy, supply-chain resilience (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/resilience/>).

Sources: *Indian Express* (<https://indianexpress.com>), *Ministry of External Affairs* (<https://mea.gov.in>), *PIB* (<https://pib.gov.in>)

Source: An Asian Century Demands India-China Cooperation — Ujjiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Editorial Analysis

KEY ARGUMENTS AT A GLANCE

 Ujjayari Current Affairs · ujjayari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

An authentic Asian century depends on India and China managing rivalry and building selective cooperation on trade, regional stability and global governance, while India never trades away its core interests, including the boundary question.


SUPPORTING

- Asia now accounts for the largest share of global growth, but intra-Asian conflict, especially India-China friction, undercuts the continent's collective bargaining weight in a multipolar order.
- India and China share overlapping interests in WTO reform, climate finance, debt relief for the Global South and a less dollar-dependent payment architecture, where cooperation yields real gains.
- Disengagement at friction points along the LAC since the 2020-2024 process shows that calibrated diplomacy can lower temperature without India diluting its sovereignty claims.


COUNTER

Critics argue that cooperation rewards a power that violated agreements at the LAC, runs a structural trade surplus against India, and shields Pakistan-based terror actors at the UN, so trust is misplaced.


WAY FORWARD

Pursue a managed-competition framework: restore military and diplomatic dialogue channels, rebalance trade through value-addition and PLI, deepen Quad and BRICS engagement simultaneously, and keep the boundary question non-negotiable while expanding cooperation where interests genuinely align.


MAINS ANSWER FRAMEWORK

 Ujjyari Current Affairs - ujjyari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

QUESTION

An Asian century is not possible without a stable India-China relationship, yet such stability cannot come at the cost of India's territorial integrity. Critically examine. (250 words)

INTRODUCTION

The twenty-first century is widely projected as Asia's century, but the projection rests on an unstated assumption: that Asia's two largest nations, India and China, can keep their rivalry from becoming a continental fault line.

BODY

The case for cooperation is structural. Asia drives global growth, yet sustained India-China friction fragments supply chains, inflates defence spending and weakens Asia's voice in reforming the UN, WTO and global financial institutions.

Convergence exists on climate finance, Global South debt and a multipolar order less dependent on a single reserve currency. The 2020 to 2024 LAC disengagement demonstrates that quiet, verifiable diplomacy can reduce tension.

However, cooperation must be clear-eyed. China's trade surplus with India, its strategic backing of Pakistan, and the memory of Galwan, where twenty Indian soldiers were martyred, mean trust must be earned, not assumed.

India's official position is firm and unambiguous: Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh are integral parts of India, and engagement does not concede one inch of the boundary question. The correct frame is managed competition: cooperate on trade rebalancing and global governance, compete on technology and influence, and contest any attempt to alter the status quo by force.

CONCLUSION

An Asian century needs an India that engages China from a position of strength and self-respect, separating the arenas of cooperation from the red lines of sovereignty, so that pragmatism never slides into appeasement.


RELATED DAILY ARTICLES

27 Jun [Current Affairs Today, June 27, 2026](#)

27 Jun [India and New Zealand Advance a Free Trade Agreement](#)

26 Jun [BRICS Energy Ministers Meet at Gurugram Under India...](#)

25 Jun **Jaishankar at Jeju Forum: India and Korea from Ships to...**

Ujjayanti Current Affairs · ujjayanti.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

Ujiyari Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · **Free Daily** Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/editorials/2026/06/ie-asian-century-india-china-cooperation-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com