

NASC Fellowship 2025-26 | Thematic Questions

Economy

1. What should India's policy framework on decision-making vis-à-vis inflow of Chinese investments look like?
2. Analyse the evolution of China's "modern industrial system", and assess its impact on total factor productivity.
3. How are China's local governments balancing the implementation of expanding central mandates with overall lowering of revenues under Xi Jinping?
4. Chinese overcapacity: A threat or an opportunity for India's development?
5. Analyse the nature and progress of *Hukou*-related reforms under Xi Jinping. What has been the impact of the changes on labour and social mobility?

Politics

1. Discuss through a scenario-based lens if the future of Chinese politics is stable, and what the nature of politics may look like during the leadership succession period after Xi Jinping.
2. What has been the impact of Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign on civil-military relations in China?
3. Detail the Chinese party-state's toolkit on erosion of minority rights in the country, especially covering Tibet and Xinjiang.
4. How effective has China been in shaping international narratives and gaining global acceptance for its position on the succession of the Dalai Lama?

Law and Legislation

1. How has Xi Jinping leveraged the Rule of Law to strengthen Party control over society?
2. How has the mandate and functioning of the National People's Congress (NPC) evolved under Xi Jinping's leadership compared to the pre-Xi era?

Technology

1. What lessons can be drawn from the evolution and functioning of China's National Innovation Demonstration Zones (NIDZs) and other pilot innovation zones, and how might these insights inform approaches in India?
2. How effective is the structure and implementation of China's National Key R&D and Laboratory programmes in supporting basic research in areas like AI, cybersecurity, and quantum technologies?
3. Examine the strategies adopted by the Chinese Party-state to mitigate the pressures on employment owing to digitisation and external shocks?
4. Which areas of climate change and green technology cooperation with China would offer the greatest strategic and environmental benefit for India, and how should such engagement be structured to balance collaboration with national interests?

Military

1. Is the PLA's investment in combat preparedness through specific military exercises as well as large-scale drills amounting to battle-hardening?
2. What key indicators should analysts monitor to assess China's military and strategic preparedness for a potential conflict over Taiwan?
3. What are the likely trajectories of China's naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region over the next 5, 10, and 15 years, particularly in terms of base development, fleet deployment, and maritime logistics? How can India adapt its counter-strategies to effectively address these evolving dynamics?
4. What are the key components of radar, signals intelligence, and broader intelligence-sharing cooperation between China and Pakistan, and how do these capabilities enhance their joint strategic posture in the region?