
PRAYAAS EDUCATION

International Relations

MPSC Summary Notes

PRAYAAS

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1.Principles of Indian Foreign Policy

Evolution of Policy

- **Anti-colonial moralism (1947-1954)** → Foreign policy rooted in decolonisation → Example: Support to Indonesian independence (1947).
- **Non-Alignment phase (1954-1962)** → Strategic autonomy amid Cold War blocs → Example: Non-Aligned Movement leadership at Bandung Conference (1955).
- **Idealism to realism shift (1962)** → Security concerns override moralism → Example: Sino-Indian War leading to defence modernisation.
- **Strategic realism (1960s-1970s)** → Power-based alliances for national interest → Example: Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation during Bangladesh Liberation War.
- **Regional primacy focus (1980s)** → Stability in neighbourhood → Example: Indian Peace Keeping Force deployment.
- **Economic diplomacy turn (1991)** → Foreign policy aligned with liberalisation → Example: Look East Policy engaging ASEAN economies.
- **Multi-alignment strategy (2000s)** → Issue-based partnerships without alliances → Example: Strategic ties with USA alongside Russia defence cooperation.
- **Assertive nationalism (2014 onwards)** → Proactive global role with hard power → Example: Surgical strikes post-Uri attack (2016).
- **Global South leadership (2020s)** → Voice of developing world → Example: G20 New Delhi Summit (2023) theme of inclusive growth.

2. Core Doctrines

1.Panchsheel Doctrine

<p>What (Five Principles)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual respect for sovereignty & territorial integrity → Borders inviolable → Example: India-Myanmar boundary settlement (1967). • Mutual non-aggression → No use of force → Example: India’s restraint after Doklam standoff (2017). • Mutual non-interference → Domestic autonomy → Example: India’s neutral stance during Sri Lanka crisis (2022). • Equality & mutual benefit → Symmetrical cooperation → Example: India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation. • Peaceful coexistence → Stability despite differences → Example: Panchsheel Agreement. 	<p>Present Relevance – Utility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normative framework → Moral legitimacy → Example: India’s Global South leadership at G20 (2023). • Conflict management tool → Dialogue over escalation → Example: India-China military talks post-Galwan. • Strategic autonomy → Independent choices → Example: Balanced position on Ukraine war. • Neighbourhood stability → Cooperative engagement → Example: India-Bangladesh land boundary settlement. • Soft power enhancement → Peace-oriented image → Example: India’s mediation outreach to developing states.
<p>Present Relevance – Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of reciprocity → Unilateral adherence → Example: Chinese PLA transgressions in Eastern Ladakh. • No enforcement mechanism → Norm violation unchecked → Example: Russia-Ukraine conflict. • State-centric doctrine → Non-state threats ignored → Example: Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. 	<p>Way Ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics + deterrence → Peace through strength → Example: Infrastructure buildup along LAC. • Doctrinal modernisation → Cyber & space inclusion → Example: India’s digital sovereignty push. • Multilateralisation → Rules-based order → Example: Advocacy at United Nations.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power asymmetry → Norms overridden → Example: Coercive diplomacy by China in South Asia. • Outdated scope → Cyber & space excluded → Example: Cyber espionage incidents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional engagement → Cooperation with safeguards → Example: Strategic screening of investments.
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Non-Alignment Doctrine

<p>What</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic independence from power blocs → No formal military alliance → Non-Aligned Movement formation (1961). • Equidistance from rival camps → Autonomous decision-making → Example: India not joining NATO or Warsaw Pact. • Peace-oriented global posture → De-escalation over confrontation → Example: India's mediation efforts during Korean War (1950s). 	<p>Present Relevance - Utility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves strategic autonomy → Independent foreign policy → Example: India's refusal to impose blanket sanctions on Russia. • Flexible diplomacy → Issue-based partnerships → Example: Defence ties with Russia alongside QUAD engagement. • Global South leadership → Collective bargaining power → Example: India's leadership role in NAM summits. • Avoids entanglement wars → Cost-free security → Example: Non-participation in US-led Middle East wars. • Enhances diplomatic space → Multiple leverage points → Example: Simultaneous engagement with Iran and Israel.
<p>Present Relevance - Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced relevance of NAM → Post-Cold War dilution → Example: Declining influence of NAM summits. • Security challenges require alignment → Neutrality insufficient → Example: China threat post-Galwan. • Perception of ambiguity → Trust deficit with partners → Example: Western criticism on India's Russia stance. • Economic interdependence → Limits autonomy → Example: Dependence on Russian defence imports. • Consensus paralysis in NAM → Inaction on crises → Example: Weak NAM response to Ukraine war. 	<p>Way Ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift from non-alignment to multi-alignment → Interest-based ties → Example: QUAD participation without alliance. • Reform NAM agenda → Development & climate focus → Example: South-South cooperation initiatives. • Balance autonomy with partnerships → Selective alignment → Example: Defence logistics pacts with USA. • Issue-based leadership → Norm shaping role → Example: Vaccine Maitri diplomacy during COVID-19.

2.Gujral Doctrine

<p>What</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unilateral goodwill to neighbours → Non-reciprocal concessions → Example: India granting trade access to Nepal. 	<p>Present Relevance - Utility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood stability → Reduced hostility → Example: Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh (2015).
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-interference in internal affairs → Respect for sovereignty → Example: India's restraint in Bangladesh domestic politics. ● Peaceful bilateralism → Dialogue over coercion → Example: India-Sri Lanka talks post IPKF withdrawal. ● Trust-building in neighbourhood → Stability first approach → Example: Improved ties with Bangladesh in late 1990s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soft power projection → Benign regional image → Example: India's humanitarian aid to Maldives. ● Asymmetry management → Trust of smaller states → Example: Power trade concessions to Bhutan. ● Conflict prevention → Diplomacy over force → Example: Political engagement with Nepal during crises. ● Regional integration → Economic interdependence → Example: BBIN motor vehicle agreement.
<p>Present Relevance - Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-reciprocity misuse → Free-rider problem → Example: Pakistan's continued hostility despite concessions. ● Security blind spots → Hard threats ignored → Example: Cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. ● Domestic political backlash → Perceived appeasement → Example: Opposition to Indus water concessions. ● China factor → External power entry → Example: China's BRI projects in Nepal. ● Weak enforcement → Trust deficit persists → Example: SAARC stagnation. 	<p>Way Ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conditional neighbourhood engagement → Goodwill with safeguards → Example: Linking aid to security cooperation. ● Blend Gujral with hard power → Deterrence + diplomacy → Example: Surgical strikes (2016). ● Sub-regionalism focus → Flexible cooperation → Example: BIMSTEC over SAARC. ● People-centric diplomacy → Societal linkages → Example: Cross-border energy trade with Nepal.

3.Nuclear Doctrine (2003)

<p>What</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credible Minimum Deterrence → Sufficient not excessive arsenal → Example: Agni-V ballistic missile capability. ● No First Use (NFU) → Retaliatory use only → Example: Official doctrine declared in 2003. ● Massive retaliation → Deterrence through certainty → Example: Retaliatory posture against nuclear attack. ● Civilian political control → Political oversight of nukes → Example: Nuclear Command Authority structure. ● Non-use against non-nuclear states → Negative security assurance → Example: Assurance to NNWS in UN forums. 	<p>Present Relevance - Utility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic stability → Reduces first-strike incentives → Example: Deterrence balance with China. ● Crisis management → Escalation control → Example: Nuclear restraint post-Balakot (2019). ● Moral high ground → Responsible nuclear power image → Example: India's NSG membership advocacy. ● Cost-effective security → Avoids arms race → Example: Limited warhead posture vs US-Russia. ● Civilian supremacy → Democratic control → Example: PM-led decision structure.
<p>Present Relevance - Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credibility of massive retaliation → Proportionality doubts → Example: Tactical nuclear weapons by Pakistan. 	<p>Way Ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen second-strike capability → Assured retaliation → Example: INS Arihant SSBN deployment.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NFU ambiguity debates → Deterrence uncertainty → Example: Statements by Indian officials questioning NFU. ● Two-front nuclear challenge → China + Pakistan → Example: PLA Rocket Force modernisation. ● Technological gaps → Second-strike risks → Example: Limited SSBN patrol experience. ● Emerging domains ignored → Cyber-nuclear linkage → Example: Cyber threats to command systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify doctrinal signaling → Remove ambiguity → Example: Official reaffirmation of NFU. ● Integrate tech resilience → Cyber-secure C2 → Example: Hardened nuclear command networks. ● Arms control leadership → Norm shaping role → Example: Advocacy for universal NFU at UN.
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3. Key Strategic Shifts in Recent Time

1. Look East (1992) → Act East (2014)

- **Economic orientation** → **Trade-led engagement** → Example: India-ASEAN FTA (2010).
- **Strategic expansion** → **Security & defence focus** → Example: India-Vietnam defence cooperation.
- **Passive outreach** → **Proactive diplomacy** → Example: PM visits to ASEAN summits post-2014.
- **Connectivity push** → **Physical & maritime links** → Example: Kaladan Multimodal Project.
- **Indo-Pacific integration** → **Rules-based order** → Example: QUAD cooperation.

2. Strategic Autonomy

- **Independent decision-making** → **No formal alliances** → Example: India not joining NATO.
- **Multi-alignment approach** → **Parallel partnerships** → Example: Defence ties with Russia + QUAD engagement.
- **Issue-based diplomacy** → **Flexibility over ideology** → Example: Energy trade with Iran despite US sanctions.
- **Crisis independence** → **National interest first** → Example: Neutral stance on Ukraine war.
- **Defence indigenisation** → **Reduced dependence** → Example: Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

3. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

- **Global humanism** → **World as one family** → Example: G20 New Delhi Summit theme (2023).
- **Global South focus** → **Inclusive growth** → Example: Voice of Global South Summits.
- **Humanitarian diplomacy** → **People-centric aid** → Example: Vaccine Maitri initiative.
- **Climate equity** → **Common but differentiated responsibility** → Example: India's climate finance stance.
- **Multilateral cooperation** → **Shared global solutions** → Example: International Solar Alliance.

2. India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

Overview

<p>Strategic Context of Neighbourhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geographical centrality → India as regional pivot → Example: India surrounded by 7 land + 2 maritime neighbours. ● Security-development overlap → Internal security linked to neighbours → Example: Insurgency linkages with Bangladesh/Myanmar. ● Extra-regional penetration → Strategic competition zone → Example: China's BRI in South Asia. 	
<p>Determinants of India-Neighbourhood Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Political factors → Regime change sensitivity → Example: Nepal political transitions. ● Security factors → Terrorism, borders, maritime → Example: Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. ● Economic factors → Trade, aid, connectivity → Example: Lines of Credit to Sri Lanka. 	<p>Instruments of Indian Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diplomatic tools → Summits, dialogues → Example: SAARC / BIMSTEC. ● Economic tools → Aid, trade, investments → Example: Duty-free access to LDC neighbours. ● Security tools → Defence cooperation → Example: Coastal radar network. ● Humanitarian tools → Disaster & health diplomacy → Example: Vaccine Maitri.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-cultural factors → Ethnic & people ties → Example: Open border with Nepal. • External powers factor → China, USA influence → Example: Hambantota Port lease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity tools → Physical & digital links → Example: Kaladan project.
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India–China Relations

Historical Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomatic recognition (1950) → Post-colonial solidarity → Example: India among first non-communist states to recognise PRC. • Panchsheel phase (1954) → Norm-based engagement → Example: Panchsheel Agreement on peaceful coexistence. • Strategic rupture (1962) → Trust collapse → Example: Sino-Indian War. • Managed competition era → Engagement + rivalry → Example: Border talks alongside BRICS cooperation. 	
Areas of Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral coordination → South-South platforms → Example: BRICS financial cooperation. • Global governance reforms → Shared developing world voice → Example: Joint push for IMF–World Bank reforms. • Climate negotiations → CBDR alignment → Example: BASIC coordination at UNFCCC. • Trade linkages → Economic interdependence → Example: China as India’s largest import partner. • People-to-people ties → Civilisational contacts → Example: Buddhist and academic exchanges. 	Recent Developments (2024–2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75th anniversary diplomacy → Dialogue revival → Example: Foreign Secretaries’ meeting (Jan 2025). • Religious diplomacy → Limited thaw → Example: Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathu La (2025). • Hydrological cooperation → Crisis management → Example: Resumption of Brahmaputra flood data sharing. • Connectivity restoration → Economic engagement → Example: Direct commercial flights resuming mid-2025. • Partial disengagement → Stability without resolution → Example: Depsang–Demchok patrolling agreement (2024).
Core Areas of Tension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unresolved LAC → Territorial ambiguity → Example: Aksai Chin & Arunachal Pradesh disputes. • Military confrontations → Persistent volatility → Example: Galwan clash (2020), Tawang standoff (2022). • China–Pakistan nexus → Sovereignty challenge → Example: CPEC through PoK. • Economic asymmetry → Strategic dependency → Example: Trade deficit USD 99.2 bn (2024–25). • Regional assertiveness → Maritime pressure → Example: BRI presence in Sri Lanka & Maldives. • Security spillovers → Indirect hostility → Example: Chinese J-10C jets used by Pakistan (2025). 	Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border stabilisation → Predictability over resolution → Example: Regular WMCC & military talks. • Economic de-risking → Supply chain diversification → Example: PLI for electronics & APIs. • Multilateral engagement → Compete + cooperate → Example: BRICS & SCO dialogue channels. • Regional balancing → Strategic autonomy → Example: Act East + QUAD + SAGAR synergy. • Soft diplomacy leverage → Trust rebuilding → Example: Cultural & academic exchanges during 75th year.

India–Pakistan Relations

Historical Context

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partition & first war (1947-48) → Kashmir dispute institutionalised → Example: UN-brokered ceasefire creating CFL. • Indus Waters Treaty (1960) → Structured water-sharing → Example: IWT survived wars till 2025 abeyance. • Conventional wars (1965, 1971) → Territorial & political reset → Example: Simla Agreement (1972) converting CFL to LoC. • Kargil conflict (1999) → LoC sanctity tested → Example: Pakistani intrusions across LoC. • Nuclearisation (1998) → Nuclear overhang → Example: Pokhran-II & Chagai tests. 	
<p>Areas of Cooperation (Minimal / Structural)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian protocols → Risk reduction → Example: Annual nuclear installations exchange. • Civilian issues → Limited trust channels → Example: Exchange of fishermen & prisoners. • Religious diplomacy → People-centric access → Example: Kartarpur Corridor (2019). • Water technicalism → Data-based engagement → Example: Permanent Indus Commission meetings (suspended mid-2025). • Multilateral coexistence → Low-intensity engagement → Example: Joint presence in SCO. 	<p>Recent Developments (2024-2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pahalgam terror attack (Apr 2025) → Escalation trigger → Example: 26 tourists killed; blame on TRF. • Operation Sindoor (May 2025) → Precision retaliation → Example: BrahMos & SCALP strikes on terror camps. • IWT placed in abeyance (2025) → Treaty shock → Example: Cited fundamental change of circumstances. • Diplomatic downgrade → Formal disengagement → Example: Recall of High Commissioners; Attari-Wagah closure. • New ceasefire (10 May 2025) → Temporary calm → Example: Halt to artillery & drone duels.
<p>Core Areas of Tension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-sponsored terrorism → Proxy war doctrine → Example: LeT, JeM operations against India. • Jammu & Kashmir → Narrative clash → Example: Post-Article 370 (2019) international lobbying by Pakistan. • Water weaponisation → Hydro-politics → Example: Objections to Kishanganga, Ratle projects. • CPEC through PoK → Sovereignty violation → Example: BRI corridor in Indian-claimed territory. • Narco-terrorism → Internal security threat → Example: Drone-based drug & arms drops in Punjab. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed deterrence → Pre-emptive CT posture → Example: Continuity after Operation Sindoor. • Conditional dialogue → Terror-first principle → Example: Demand for credible, verifiable, irreversible action. • Backchannel stabilisation → Escalation control → Example: Quiet military-to-military communication. • Non-political entry points → Risk reduction cooperation → Example: Joint focus on floods & glacier melt.

India-Bangladesh Relations

<p>Historical Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberation War (1971) → Shared sacrifice & legitimacy → Example: Indian military support leading to Bangladesh independence. • Foundational treaty (1972) → Strategic friendship → Example: Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace. • Golden Chapter (2009-2024) → Stability & trust reset → Example: Crackdown on anti-India insurgents by Dhaka. • Territorial resolution (2015) → Boundary normalisation → Example: Land Boundary Agreement.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political rupture (Aug 2024) → Regime transition shock → Example: Ousting of PM Sheikh Hasina; interim govt under Muhammad Yunus. 	
<p>Areas of Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy interdependence → Fuel security → Example: India–Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from Numaligarh to Parbatipur. • Power trade → Grid-based integration → Example: 1,160+ MW electricity imports; Nepal hydropower via Indian grid. • Development assistance → Infrastructure push → Example: USD ~8 bn Lines of Credit for ports, railways, roads. • Regional frameworks → Sub-regionalism → Example: BIMSTEC and BBIN Motor Vehicles initiative. • People-to-people ties → Human capital links → Example: Bangladeshi medical tourists and Indian scholarships. 	<p>Recent Developments (2025–2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic cooling (2025) → Diplomatic friction → Example: Dhaka protests India’s sheltering of Sheikh Hasina. • Trade strains → Logistics leverage → Example: Withdrawal of transshipment facility (Apr 2025). • Market access curbs → Protectionist signals → Example: Restrictions on garments & carbonated drinks (mid-2025). • Sports diplomacy crisis (Jan 2026) → Symbolic rupture → Example: IPL player release issue; Bangladesh exits 2026 T20 WC in India. • Water treaty uncertainty → Resource risk → Example: Ganga Water Treaty (1996) expiring Dec 2026; talks pending.
<p>Core Areas of Tension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority rights concerns → Rights & security → Example: Attacks on Hindu community post-2024 flagged by India. • Border management → Human security → Example: BSF–BGB frictions; infiltration spikes in 2025. • China–Pakistan outreach → Strategic red lines → Example: Beijing/Islamabad engagement with Dhaka; NE access proposals. • Extradition dilemma → Diplomatic hurdle → Example: Dhaka’s request for Sheikh Hasina’s extradition. • Domestic instability spillover → Policy unpredictability → Example: Interim government constraints on long-term deals. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pragmatic recalibration → People-centric diplomacy → Example: Non-partisan engagement ahead of elections. • Technical water diplomacy → Trust before deadlines → Example: Early expert talks on Ganga & Teesta basins. • Economic de-escalation → Trade normalization → Example: Explore CEPA to address NTBs and deficits. • Non-lethal border management → Civilian protection → Example: Tech surveillance + joint BSF–BGB patrols.

India–Afghanistan–Maldives

Parameter	India–Afghanistan	India–Maldives
Historical & Strategic Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart of Asia → Civilisational depth → Example: 2011 Strategic Partnership. • Post-2021 shift → Engage people, not regime → Example: Technical Mission approach with Taliban. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Ocean toll-gate → SLOC control → Example: Strategic location astride major sea lanes. • Strategic Reset (2025) → Post “India Out” phase → Example: Normalisation after 2024 diplomatic row.
Areas of Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian aid → People-centric outreach → Example: 50,000 tonnes wheat + 327 tonnes medicines (2024–25). • Health infrastructure → Capacity building → Example: 30-bed Bagrami 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic support → Fiscal stabilisation → Example: USD 565 mn LoC + 40% debt relief (July 2025).

	<p>hospital; Oncology Centre, Kabul (Oct 2025).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural diplomacy → Soft power → Example: Afghan cricketers trained in India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity → Physical integration → Example: Greater Malé Connectivity Project, Addu Roads. • Digital & cultural → Tourism & trade → Example: UPI–RuPay launch (2025); 60th-anniversary stamp.
Security & Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter-terrorism focus → Soil denial → Example: Assurance against LeT/JeM via Moscow Format. • Regional security dialogue → Multilateral engagement → Example: SCO discussions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision SAGAR → Maritime security → Example: 72 vehicles + patrol vessel (refit 2025). • Interoperability → Joint preparedness → Example: Ekuverin, Dosti; Colombo Security Conclave.
Recent Developments (2025–26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level engagement → Pragmatic diplomacy → Example: FS–Taliban FM meeting (Dubai, 2025). • Trade facilitation → Pakistan bypass → Example: Air Freight Corridor revived (Oct 2025). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political reset → Trust rebuilding → Example: PM Modi as Guest of Honour, Maldives’ 60th Independence Day (July 2025). • Economic deepening → Market access → Example: Launch of India–Maldives FTA talks.
Key Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition dilemma → Norms vs engagement → Example: Women’s rights restrictions. • China–Pakistan nexus → Strategic squeeze → Example: Eurasian connectivity leverage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China’s debt diplomacy → Strategic leverage → Example: High Maldivian debt exposure to Chinese banks. • Domestic politics → Anti-India narratives → Example: “Sovereignty” rhetoric by opposition.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People-centric diplomacy → Long-term goodwill → Example: HICDPs across provinces. • Connectivity leverage → Strategic access → Example: Use of Chabahar Port to reach Kabul. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive partnership → Economic stability → Example: Finalising BIT. • Climate diplomacy → Existential security → Example: Cooperation on sea-level rise for low-lying atolls.

India–Sri Lanka–Myanmar

Parameter	India–Sri Lanka	India–Myanmar
Historical & Strategic Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civilisational links → 2,500+ years of ties → Example: Shared Buddhist heritage. • SAGAR pillar → Maritime security focus → Example: Indian Ocean cooperation framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land bridge to ASEAN → Gateway role → Example: 1,643 km land border. • Act East enabler → NE stability → Example: Cross-border connectivity importance.
Areas of Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster relief → Humanitarian leadership → Example: Operation Sagar Bandhu, USD 450 mn aid post Cyclone Ditwah (Dec 2025). • Energy & infrastructure → Economic revival → Example: Trincomalee energy hub; Nagapattinam–Kankesanthurai ferry. • Digital integration → Governance support → Example: UPI launch; UID support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity projects → Regional integration → Example: Sittwe Port (Kaladan); IMT Trilateral Highway. • Institution building → Capacity creation → Example: MIIT; ACARE. • Humanitarian aid → People-first stance → Example: Vaccines & food aid post-2021 coup.

Cultural Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft power diplomacy → Reconciliation → Example: Ramayana Trail; Jaffna Cultural Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist kinship → Civilisational bonds → Example: ASI restoration of Ananda Temple, Bagan; border tribal ties.
Security & Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic convergence → Defence institutionalisation → Example: 5-year Defence MoU (Apr 2025). • Joint exercises → Interoperability → Example: Mitra Shakti, SLINEX. • Maritime safety → SAR coordination → Example: MRCC commissioning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border hardening → Internal security → Example: Scrapping of FMR (2024-25). • Counter-insurgency → Infiltration control → Example: Border fencing vs ULFA, NSCN-K; drug routes.
Key Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishermen issue → Livelihood-security clash → Example: Bottom trawling in Palk Bay. • China presence → Strategic pressure → Example: Hambantota Port. • Ethnic reconciliation → Political sensitivity → Example: Implementation of 13th Amendment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability → Engagement dilemma → Example: Military Junta rule. • Refugee influx → State-level stress → Example: Rohingya & anti-Junta inflow into Manipur, Mizoram. • Transnational crime → Security risk → Example: Drug trade from Golden Triangle.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt-to-wealth transition → Sustainable recovery → Example: CEPA + renewable energy cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pragmatic neutrality → Security + engagement → Example: Border control alongside dialogue for democratic restoration & project completion.

India - Nepal - Bhutan

Parameter	India-Nepal	India-Bhutan
Historical & Strategic Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1950 Treaty of Peace & Friendship → Open border (1,751 km) → Example: <i>Roti-Beti</i> ties. • Strategic buffer → China factor → Example: Nepal as buffer between India & Tibetan plateau. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 Friendship Treaty → Sovereign equality → Example: Update of 1949 treaty. • All-weather ally → Chicken's Neck security → Example: Bhutan's role near Siliguri Corridor.
Areas of Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydropower → Energy integration → Example: Target 10,000 MW exports by 2034; 40 MW to Bangladesh via India (2024-25). • Energy security → New fuels → Example: IOCL LNG export to Nepal (2025). • Financial integration → Trade stability → Example: RBI 2025 INR-lending reforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydropower → Economic backbone → Example: Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW) inaugurated Aug 2025. • Connectivity → Physical integration → Example: Kokrajhar-Gelephu & Banarhat-Samtse rail links (₹4,033 cr). • Digital integration → Seamless payments → Example: UPI & BHIM-QR rollout.
Cultural Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft power diplomacy → Youth focus → Example: 1,500+ scholarships annually. • Pilgrimage circuits → Civilisational links → Example: Lumbini-Pashupatinath-Varanasi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist heritage → Sacred diplomacy → Example: Joint prayers at Piprahwa relics (2025). • Cultural institutions → Symbolic trust → Example: Land for Bhutanese temple in Varanasi.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic dialogue → New generation ties → Example: First India-Nepal Strategic Dialogue (June 2025). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River-culture links → Shared heritage → Example: <i>Ganga-Brahmaputra</i> exchanges.
Security & Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorkha connect → Military continuity → Example: Surya Kiran exercise. • Policy friction → Recruitment issue → Example: Agnipath concerns. • Border vigilance → Spillover control → Example: Alerts during 2025 unrest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMTRAT presence → Embedded security → Example: Permanent Indian Military Training Team. • Infrastructure security → Border stabilisation → Example: Project DANTAK near Doklam tri-junction.
Key Recent Developments (2025-26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political churn → Democratic stress → Example: Gen Z protests (Sept 2025); PM Oli resignation. • Interim transition → Electoral reset → Example: Sushila Karki as Interim PM. • Elections ahead → Political uncertainty → Example: Polls scheduled March 5, 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gelephu Mindfulness City → Economic transformation → Example: 2,500 sq km zero-carbon hub with India as partner. • Royal outreach → Symbolic diplomacy → Example: King's visit to Maha Kumbh & Jogighopa IWT (2025).
Key Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability → Policy discontinuity → Example: 14 governments in 15 years. • Boundary disputes → Diplomatic friction → Example: Kalapani, Lipulekh, Susta; 2025 currency note row. • China factor → Strategic competition → Example: Rising Chinese FDI in infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan-China talks → Strategic anxiety → Example: 25 rounds of border negotiations near Doklam. • Youth migration → Economic pressure → Example: ~9% population outflow.
Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bridge, not barrier" → Facilitation-first approach → Example: ICP strengthening; Motihari-Amlekhgunj pipeline extension. • Political neutrality → Democratic stability → Example: Non-partisan stance in 2026 elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable diversification → Beyond hydropower → Example: ₹10,000 cr support under 13th FYP. • Future sectors → High-tech cooperation → Example: India-Bhutan SAT, AI, Green Hydrogen.

3. Extended Neighbourhood

Introduction

- **Beyond immediate borders** → Wider strategic sphere → Example: ASEAN, West Asia, Africa, Central Asia, IOR.
- **Policy complementarity** → Extends Neighbourhood First → Example: Act East, SAGAR, Connect Central Asia.
- **Global outreach tool** → Middle power projection → Example: Indo-Pacific engagement.

Strategic Importance of Extended Neighbourhood

- **Geostrategic leverage** → Control of sea routes & chokepoints → Example: Presence near Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Malacca.
- **Energy security** → Stable hydrocarbon access → Example: 60%+ crude imports from West Asia; TAPI pipeline.
- **Trade diversification** → Reduced China dependence → Example: FTAs/CEPAs with ASEAN, GCC.
- **China counterbalance** → Strategic autonomy → Example: IORA & Indo-Pacific cooperation vs BRI.
- **Diaspora diplomacy** → Soft power & remittances → Example: Indian workforce in UAE, Saudi Arabia.
- **Maritime security (SAGAR)** → Secure IOR commons → Example: Anti-piracy patrols near Gulf of Aden.
- **Connectivity corridors** → Regional integration → Example: Chabahar Port, INSTC, IMT Highway.

International Relations

- **Food security** → Import stability → Example: Pulses from East Africa; edible oils from Africa.
- **Military access & logistics** → Forward presence → Example: Duqm Port (Oman), Agalega (Mauritius).

Africa Outreach Initiatives

Core Focus

- **Development partnership** → Infra + capacity building → Example: LoCs for railways in Mozambique.
- **Human capital diplomacy** → Skill transfer → Example: ITEC scholarships for African officials.
- **Health cooperation** → Affordable care → Example: COVID vaccines to African states.
- **Trade expansion** → South-South growth → Example: India-Africa trade ~USD 90 bn.
- **Multilateral solidarity** → Global South voice → Example: India backing AU's G20 permanent membership (2023).

Challenges

- **Project delays** → Credibility risk → Example: Slow execution of LoC-funded projects.
- **China competition** → Scale disadvantage → Example: BRI dominance in African infra.
- **Political instability** → Investment risk → Example: Coups in Sahel region.

Way Forward

- **Execution focus** → Faster delivery → Example: Project monitoring via EXIM Bank reforms.
- **Triangular cooperation** → Scale up impact → Example: India-Africa-Japan projects.
- **Private sector push** → Sustainable presence → Example: Indian MSME investments in Africa.

SAGAR Initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region)

Core Focus

- **Maritime security** → Safe sea lanes → Example: Anti-piracy patrols in Gulf of Aden.
- **Capacity building** → Littoral empowerment → Example: Patrol vessels to Mauritius, Maldives.
- **HADR leadership** → First responder → Example: Operation Vanilla (Mozambique).
- **Strategic access** → Forward presence → Example: Duqm Port access in Oman.
- **Regional cooperation** → Trust building → Example: Colombo Security Conclave.

Challenges

- **Resource constraints** → Wide IOR stretch → Example: Limited naval assets vs commitments.
- **China's naval footprint** → Strategic contest → Example: PLA Navy presence in IOR.
- **Institutional gaps** → Coordination issues → Example: Overlapping IOR mechanisms.

Way Forward

- **Maritime partnerships** → Burden sharing → Example: Quad maritime cooperation.
- **IOR institutions** → Norm setting → Example: Strengthening IORA.
- **Blue economy focus** → Economic buy-in → Example: Coastal infrastructure support to IOR states.

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

Core Focus

- **Multimodal connectivity** → Eurasian trade route → Example: Mumbai-Chabahar-Caspian corridor.
- **Time-cost efficiency** → Trade competitiveness → Example: 30-40% faster than Suez route.
- **Strategic bypass** → Pakistan avoided → Example: Access to Central Asia & Russia.
- **Supply chain resilience** → Energy & fertilisers → Example: Russian fertiliser imports.
- **Geopolitical balancing** → Eurasian outreach → Example: India-Iran-Russia cooperation.



Challenges

- **Geopolitical instability** → Route uncertainty → Example: Iran sanctions impact.
- **Infrastructure gaps** → Operational delays → Example: Port & rail bottlenecks.
- **Low commercial usage** → Viability issue → Example: Limited private logistics uptake.

Way Forward

- **Operationalisation drive** → Commercial scale → Example: Dedicated INSTC freight corridors.
- **Sanctions navigation** → Diplomatic balancing → Example: Rupee-rial trade mechanisms.
- **Private logistics role** → Market confidence → Example: Indian shipping firms on INSTC routes.

India-Iran Relations

Background

- **Civilisational ties** → Ancient cultural exchange + modern diplomacy → Example: Treaty of Friendship (1950).
- **Geo-connectivity pivot** → Gateway to Central Asia & Eurasia → Example: Chabahar Port + International North-South Transport Corridor.

Areas of Cooperation

- **Connectivity & transit** → Strategic bypass of Pakistan → Example: Chabahar enabling India-Afghanistan trade.
- **Energy security** → Diversified oil sourcing → Example: Iran once among India's top 3 crude suppliers (pre-sanctions).
- **Trade linkages** → Essential goods exchange → Example: Indian rice, pharma exports to Iran.
- **Regional stability dialogue** → Shared interest in Afghanistan → Example: Consultations on post-US withdrawal.
- **Multilateral engagement** → Eurasian platforms → Example: Cooperation within SCO framework.

Key Challenges

- **US sanctions regime** → Trade & banking constraints → Example: Suspension of oil imports since 2019.
- **Payment bottlenecks** → Financial channel disruption → Example: Rupee-rial settlement hurdles.

Way Forward

- **Operationalise corridors** → Trade at scale → Example: Regular cargo movement via Chabahar-INSTC route.
- **Sanctions-proof mechanisms** → Trade continuity → Example: Local currency settlement models.

International Relations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geopolitical balancing → Iran-China proximity → Example: 25-year Iran-China strategic pact. • Project delays → Connectivity credibility risk → Example: Slow operationalisation of Chabahar phases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify cooperation → Beyond hydrocarbons → Example: Pharma, food security collaboration. • Multilateral leverage → Strategic insulation → Example: Using SCO platforms for regional coordination
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India-UAE Relations

<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civilisational & commercial ties → Indian Ocean trade + large Indian diaspora → trust-based relationship. • Strategic elevation (2017) → From transactional energy ties → comprehensive strategic partnership. <p>Areas of Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy security → Stable crude supply → long-term energy reliability → insulation from market volatility. • Economic & trade partnership → CEPA (2022) → tariff reduction → supply-chain integration beyond oil. • Investment & finance → Sovereign wealth funds (ADIA, Mubadala) → infrastructure + startups → capital inflow stability. • Defence & security → Counter-terror alignment → intelligence sharing → convergence on extremism threats. • Digital & fintech → UPI linkage → low-cost remittances → diaspora financial inclusion. • Diaspora engagement → Labour reforms + welfare mechanisms → human security → people-centric diplomacy. 	
<p>Key Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Asia instability → Spillover risks → energy & diaspora vulnerability. • Workforce localisation → Emiratisation → employment pressure on Indian migrants. • Strategic hedging by UAE → Deep ties with China & Russia → limits exclusivity of India partnership. • Energy transition uncertainty → Long-term oil demand risk → need for diversification. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen CEPA utilisation → Services + MSME integration → resilient trade growth. • Energy transition cooperation → Green hydrogen + renewables → future-proof partnership. • Security institutionalisation → Maritime + cyber domains → stability in Indo-Pacific & Gulf. • Diaspora-first diplomacy → Skill upgradation + social security → sustained people-to-people trust.

India-Saudi Arabia Relations

<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy-led relationship → Oil-diaspora centric ties → gradual strategic expansion beyond hydrocarbons. • Strategic recalibration (2019) → PM-level engagement → elevation to Strategic Partnership Council framework. <p>Areas of Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy security → Long-term crude supply → price stability → buffering external shocks. • Investment partnership → Vision 2030 convergence → Saudi capital for Indian infra, logistics, renewables. • Trade & economy → Non-oil trade expansion → diversification of bilateral basket. • Defence & security → Counter-terror cooperation → intelligence sharing → convergence on extremism. • Diaspora relations → Labour reforms → skill recognition → welfare improvement for Indian workers. • Food security → India as reliable supplier → Saudi diversification of food imports. 	
<p>Key Challenges</p>	<p>Way Forward</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Asia geopolitical volatility → Regional conflicts → energy & remittance risks. • Economic competition → Saudi labour nationalisation (Saudisation) → pressure on Indian workforce. • Strategic balancing → Saudi ties with China & Pakistan → limits depth of exclusivity. • Energy transition → Declining fossil-fuel dominance → long-term relevance challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy transition alignment → Green hydrogen & clean fuels → future-proof partnership. • Investment facilitation → Fast-track Saudi PIF projects → manufacturing & logistics hubs. • Security institutionalisation → Maritime & cyber domains → sustained strategic trust. • Diaspora upskilling → High-end skills → protection from localisation policies.
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4. Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

India-USA Relations

Background

- **From estrangement to convergence** → Non-alignment + Cold War frictions → reset after **2008 Civil Nuclear Deal**.
- **China-centric alignment** → Shared Indo-Pacific vision → Quad + 2+2 Dialogue institutionalise partnership.

Areas of Cooperation (India-USA)

- **Defence & Security** → Foundational pacts (LEMOA-COMCASA-BECA) → interoperability + logistics access → co-production shift → **GE-HAL F-414 + MQ-9B drones** → Indo-Pacific maritime stability via **Quad**.
- **Critical & Emerging Technologies** → **TRUST (2025)** replaces iCET → AI, quantum, semiconductors → tech decoupling from China → supply assurance via **Minerals Security Partnership**.
- **Space & Science** → Civil-strategic convergence → dual-use technologies → **NISAR** climate satellite → norm-setting & lunar governance via **Artemis Accords**.
- **Economic & Trade** → Strategic commerce push → **COMPACT framework** → trade target **USD 500 bn by 2030** → China+1 supply-chain realignment → semiconductors & APIs to India.
- **Diaspora & Soft Power** → **4.8 million-strong Indian diaspora** → political influence + innovation linkages → ~**USD 25 bn remittances/year** → cultural legitimacy via **Yoga, Ayurveda & antiquities repatriation agreement (2025)**.

Key Challenges

- **Tariff escalation (2025)** → 50% US tariffs → trade trust deficit.
- **Russia divergence** → Ukraine stance + Rupee-Rouble trade → CAATSA pressure.
- **Visa regime tightening** → H-1B/L-1 scrutiny → IT services vulnerability.
- **Data & IPR frictions** → Localisation laws → Priority Watch List issues.
- **Alliance expectations gap** → US alignment push vs India's autonomy.

Way Forward

- **Trade stabilisation** → Limited Trade Package → tariff rollback + GSP restoration.
- **COMPACT operationalisation** → Defence-commerce-tech integration → scale partnership.
- **Supply-chain de-risking** → Semiconductors & APIs → China dependence reduction.
- **Energy transition cooperation** → Green hydrogen + SMRs → climate goals alignment.
- **Managed strategic autonomy** → Balance China via US → hedge West via Russia/BRICS.

India-Russia Relations

Background

- **Cold War foundation** → Strategic trust cemented → **1971 Treaty** → Bangladesh Liberation War support.
- **Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership (2010)** → Annual Summits + **2+2 Dialogue** → 23rd Summit (Dec 2025).

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

International Relations

- **Energy Security** → Sanctions-driven realignment → Russia as **top crude supplier (35%+)** → discounted oil → macroeconomic cushioning → trade target **USD 100 bn by 2030**.
- **Defence & Make in India** → Buyer-seller to co-production → **BrahMos, AK-203 (Amethi)** → localisation of Su-30 & T-90 spares → delivery completion of **S-400 (5 regiments)** → strategic deterrence.
- **Nuclear & Space** → Strategic trust domain → **Kudankulam (Units 3-6)** → long-term clean baseload → **Gaganyaan support** → astronaut training + cryogenic inputs.
- **Connectivity & Eurasian Integration** → Reduced transit time → **INSTC + Chennai-Vladivostok Corridor** → ~40% logistics efficiency gain → Central Asia & Arctic access.
- **Cultural & People Ties** → Civilisational glue → **Ganga-Volga dialogue** → Yoga, cinema, cultural centres → resilience beyond geopolitics.

Key Challenges (2025-26)

- **Trade imbalance** → Imports ~\$63 bn vs exports ~\$5 bn → **"Rupee trap"** in Russian banks.
- **China-Russia proximity** → Moscow's Beijing dependence → erosion of India's strategic comfort.
- **Ukraine war spillovers** → Sanctions → defence spares + payment delays → Indian nationals in Russian army issue.
- **Defence diversification** → India's pivot to France/US/Israel → dilution of Russia's primacy.

Way Forward

- **Rupee recycling** → Channel trapped rupees → Indian infra + manufacturing → boost pharma, IT, agri exports.
- **Arctic & Far East push** → Observer role leverage → mining, manpower, energy cooperation.
- **Eurasian FTA** → India-EAEU agreement → access to 180-million market → trade balance correction.
- **Multipolar coordination** → Platforms like **BRICS & Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** → strategic autonomy preservation.

India-France Relations

Background

- **Shared strategic autonomy** → Independent foreign policy tradition → non-bloc security cooperation → natural strategic partners.
- **Horizon 2047 Roadmap (2023)** → 25-year vision → guides ties till India@100 & 50 years of strategic partnership.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Defence (Backbone)** → Trust-based defence partner → platform-centric cooperation → **Rafale-M for INS Vikrant** → carrier capability boost → **Scorpene submarines (60% indigenous)** → underwater deterrence → **Safran-DRDO AMCA engine** → aero-engine self-reliance.
- **Civil Nuclear & Clean Energy** → Long-term baseload power → **Jaitapur (9,900 MW)** → strategic energy security → **SMR/AMR MoU (2025)** → flexible clean energy → climate leadership via **International Solar Alliance**.
- **Space & High Technology** → Civil-strategic convergence → **TRISHNA satellite** → climate & thermal mapping → **Year of Innovation 2026** → AI, quantum, green hydrogen ecosystems.
- **Maritime & Indo-Pacific** → Like-minded Indo-Pacific vision → joint naval presence → **India-France-UAE trilateral** → third-country development & maritime stability.
- **Digital, Culture & People** → Technology meets soft power → **UPI adoption in France** → tourism & fintech visibility → growing education & cultural exchanges.

Key Challenges (2025-26)

- **Jaitapur stalemate** → Cost + liability + EPR concerns → nuclear cooperation delay.
- **Limited trade depth** → ~\$15 bn trade → below strategic potential → EU-India FTA lag.
- **Geopolitical divergence** → France's NATO position vs India's multi-alignment → Ukraine-related friction.
- **Technology transfer ceiling** → Critical gaps in engines & under-sea tech.

Way Forward

- **Indo-Pacific "Third Way"** → Scale India-France-UAE trilateral → security + development without bloc politics.
- **Make in India 2.0** → Deep ToT in aero-engines & submarines → strategic manufacturing autonomy.

International Relations

- **Unlock nuclear cooperation** → Innovative financing & liability resolution → Jaitapur breakthrough.
- **People-centric partnership** → Education & mobility push → **30,000 Indian students in France by 2030.**

India-UK Relations

Background

- **Colonial legacy to modern partnership** → Donor-recipient past → relationship of equals → anchored by **1.6 million-strong Indian diaspora ("Living Bridge")**.
- **Roadmap 2030 (2021)** → Structured 10-year vision → people, trade, defence, climate, health pillars.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Trade & Economy (FTA Core)** → **India-UK FTA (signed 2025)** → tariff liberalisation → UK exports (Scotch whisky, cars) gain access → **99% Indian exports duty-free** → trade target **USD 112 bn by 2030.**
- **Defence & Strategic Technology** → Buyer-seller to tech partner → **Technology Security Initiative (TSI, 2025)** → AI, telecom, critical minerals → naval & missile cooperation → **LMM missiles + electric naval propulsion.**
- **Education & Mobility** → Knowledge partnership → UK universities' campuses in India → talent retention → **Migration & Mobility Partnership** → Young Professionals Scheme (3,000 visas/year).
- **Climate & Energy** → Green transition alignment → renewables + grids → **One Sun One World One Grid** → green finance via **Green Growth Equity Fund.**
- **Culture & Soft Power** → Civilisational exchange → British Council partnerships → **India-UK Year of Culture legacy** → arts, heritage, people connect.

Key Challenges (2025-26)

- **Extradition deadlock** → Economic offenders sheltered → trust deficit.
- **Pro-Khalistan extremism** → Security & sovereignty concerns → repeated diplomatic protests.
- **Mobility constraints** → High visa fees + residency barriers → professional friction.
- **Carbon trade barriers** → UK **CBAM (from 2027)** → risk to Indian steel & aluminium exports.

Way Forward

- **Fast-track FTA ratification** → Parliamentary clearance → early trade dividends.
- **Make in India (Defence)** → Joint design & manufacturing → jet engines + maritime tech.
- **Climate co-leadership** → Scale green grids & renewables → investment-led transition.
- **Indo-Pacific convergence** → Align UK's Indo-Pacific Tilt → maritime security & rule-based order.

India-Japan Relations

Background

- **Ancient civilisational connect** → Buddhism (6th century) → modern diplomatic reset via **1952 Peace Treaty.**
- **Strategic convergence** → From *Confluence of Two Seas (2007)* → **Joint Vision for the Next Decade (Aug 2025)** → Free & Open Indo-Pacific.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Economy & Investment** → **10 trillion yen vision (2030)** → long-term capital commitment → flagship infra → **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train (MT-5 tunnel, 2026)** → logistics upgrade via **DFC + DMIC townships.**
- **Technology & Critical Minerals** → Semiconductor ecosystem → **Tokyo Electron-Tata (Dholera)** → supply-chain resilience → AI Cooperation Initiative (2025) → LLMs + smart railways → **Rare Earths JV (Toyota Tsusho, Andhra Pradesh)** → China-risk de-linking.
- **Defence & Security** → Interoperability focus → **Dharma Guardian, JIMEX, Veer Guardian** → maritime domain awareness → **UNITE initiative (2025)** → data sharing via **IFC-IOR** → Indo-Pacific stability.
- **Connectivity & Northeast** → Act East execution → Japan-funded infra → Bay of Bengal access → **Matarbari port linkage** → NE as regional growth bridge.
- **Culture & Education** → Human capital diplomacy → **5,000 scholarships (2026)** → talent circulation → soft power deepening via language, anime & pop culture.

Key Challenges (2025-26)

- **Russia policy divergence** → Japan's G7 alignment vs India's autonomy → Quad friction during Ukraine crisis.
- **Trade imbalance** → Low Indian exports → CEPA (2011) under Next-Gen review.
- **Execution bottlenecks** → Land & regulatory delays → stress on marquee projects (bullet train).
- **Demographic constraints (Japan)** → Labour shortages → urgency for mobility frameworks.

International Relations

Way Forward

- **Next-Gen Mobility Partnership** → **NGMP (2025)** → EVs + batteries → global manufacturing base in India.
- **Northeast pivot** → Act East Forum leverage → industrial corridors + port connectivity via Bangladesh.
- **Human capital scale-up** → **Action Plan 500,000** → students, researchers, skilled workers by 2030.
- **Indo-Pacific co-leadership** → Rules-based order → resilient supply chains + maritime security.

India–Africa Relations

Background

- **Anti-colonial solidarity** → Shared struggle against colonialism & apartheid → moral–political foundation of ties.
- **South–South cooperation shift** → Ideology to pragmatism → demand-driven, partnership-based development model.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** → Export of **India Stack** → financial inclusion + governance leapfrogging → UPI, Aadhaar-like IDs, DigiLocker adoption → **Bharat-Africa Setu (2026)** → MSME-to-MSME virtual trade corridors.
- **Economic & Trade** → Trade volume **USD 100 bn+ (FY 2024–25)** → Africa as growth frontier → alignment with **AfCFTA** → access to unified **USD 3 trillion** market.
- **Energy & Critical Minerals** → EV & energy transition needs → **expertise-for-minerals** model → Lithium & Cobalt sourcing (DRC, Zambia) → fertiliser & refinery capacity building → **Energy Week 2026** focus.
- **Development Partnership** → Lines of Credit + capacity building → railways, power, irrigation → demand-led African priorities.
- **Health, Culture & Education (Soft Power)** → **ITEC & ICCR** scholarships (5,000+ annually) → skill transfer → affordable healthcare diplomacy → **“Pharmacy of the South”** supplying low-cost ARVs.

Key Challenges (2025–26)

- **IAFS vacuum** → No India-Africa Forum Summit since 2015 → strategic drift.
- **China competition** → Infra-heavy + fast finance → visibility gap for India’s model.
- **Political instability** → Coups in Sahel + Red Sea piracy → investment risk.
- **Execution deficit** → Delays in LoC projects → credibility & delivery concerns.

Way Forward

- **Revive IAFS-IV** → Restore political momentum → single strategic anchor.
- **Differentiate India’s model** → Capacity + local employment → sustainable goodwill.
- **Fast-track project delivery** → LoC reforms + on-ground monitoring.
- **Minerals & energy focus** → Secure EV supply chains → long-term strategic interdependence.
- **Digital-led engagement** → DPI + MSMEs → scalable, low-cost Africa partnership.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Historical & Institutional Background

- **Regional institutionalisation (1985)** → Dhaka Charter → 7 founders (+ Afghanistan 2007) → Secretariat at Kathmandu.
- **Charter-based constraints** → Sovereign equality + non-interference → **bilateral/contentious issues excluded** → built-in political limitation.

Areas of Cooperation (Functional Layer – arrow-stacked)

- **Education & Knowledge** → Regional human capital → **South Asian University** → common degrees + academic mobility.
- **Development Finance** → Project-based cooperation → **SAARC Development Fund** → social + economic + infra projects → cross-border health initiatives (2025).
- **Standards & Trade Facilitation** → Technical harmonisation → **South Asian Regional Standards Organization** → reduced non-tariff barriers.
- **Economic Integration** → Tariff reduction via **SAFTA (2006)** → ambition of zero duties → outcome gap → intra-regional trade ~5% (vs ASEAN ~25%).
- **Cultural & Social Cooperation** → Shared South Asian identity → **SAARC Cultural Centre (Colombo)** → 2026 Cultural Agenda.

International Relations

- **Human development focus** → Nutrition + child protection → regional push against child marriage (2025).

Key Challenges (Paralysis Layer)

- **India-Pakistan deadlock** → 19th Summit cancelled (2016) → no summits for a decade → leadership vacuum.
- **Structural asymmetry** → India ~70% of region's GDP & area → "big brother" perception.
- **Security trust deficit** → Terrorism + Afghanistan instability → collective action failure.
- **Institutional bypassing** → Shift to **BIMSTEC / BBIN** → SAARC relevance erosion.

Way Forward (2026 Strategy)

- **Low-politics prioritisation** → Climate, disaster management, public health → functional revival without sovereignty disputes.
- **Digital regionalism** → India's **DPI** → South Asian digital commons (payments, education).
- **Flexible sub-regionalism** → **SAARC-minus-one/two** logic → connectivity via BBIN-type models.
- **Institutional maintenance** → Keep technical bodies active → preserve SAARC as a platform of last resort.

BIMSTEC

Historical & Institutional Foundation (ONLY 2 points)

- **Sub-regional pivot (1997)** → Bangkok Declaration → Bay of Bengal bridge between **South Asia & Southeast Asia** → alternative to SAARC paralysis.
- **Legal consolidation (2024)** → **BIMSTEC Charter in force** → legal personality → treaty-making capacity + global engagement (UN, ADB).

6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 2025) & Bangkok Vision 2030

- **Strategic reset** → 6th Summit (Thailand) → **Bangkok Vision 2030** → **PRO framework** (*Prosperous, Resilient, Open*).
- **Pillar rationalisation** → 7 sectors → 3 pillars → economic growth + security resilience + people-centric openness.
- **Operational breakthroughs** → Maritime Transport Agreement → lower shipping costs → coastal trade boost.
- **Macroeconomic coordination** → Expert Group on Fiscal & Monetary Policy → regional financial stability.

Sectoral Cooperation Model (Lead Country Logic)

- **Security (India)** → Counter-terrorism + transnational crime → disaster management + energy security.
- **Connectivity (Thailand)** → Master Plan → **141 flagship projects** across roads, rail, ports.
- **Trade & Development (Bangladesh)** → Blue economy → BIMSTEC FTA push.
- **Environment & Climate (Bhutan)** → Mountain economy → climate resilience.
- **People-to-People (Nepal)** → Culture, tourism → think-tanks & media forums.
- **Agriculture & Food (Myanmar)** → Fisheries, livestock → regional food value chains.
- **Science & Technology (Sri Lanka)** → Health, innovation → HRD cooperation.

Key Connectivity Projects

- **BIMSTEC Transport Master Plan (2018-28)** → USD **125 bn** → roads, rail, ports integration.
- **IMT Trilateral Highway (1,360 km)** → Bay of Bengal land bridge → delayed by Myanmar crisis.
- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Project** → Kolkata-Sittwe-Mizoram → Northeast connectivity.

Challenges & Constraints

- **Myanmar civil war** → Connectivity paralysis → security spillovers.
- **Trade underperformance** → Intra-BIMSTEC trade ~7% → FTA negotiations incomplete.
- **Institutional weakness** → Secretariat under-resourced → ambition-capacity gap.
- **Project delays** → Terrain + instability → credibility concerns.

Way Forward (2026 Outlook)

- **Connectivity first approach** → Prioritise IMT & Kaladan → Northeast-Bay of Bengal integration.
- **Fast-track BIMSTEC FTA** → Trade in Goods + services → intra-regional value chains.
- **Strengthen Secretariat** → Funding + staffing → delivery capability.
- **Digital-led cooperation** → DPI + fintech → low-politics integration.
- **Security convergence** → HADR + counter-terrorism → trust-building anchor.

India–ASEAN Relations

Background

- **Evolution to depth** → Sectoral Partner (1992) → Strategic (2012) → **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2022)**.
- **ASEAN centrality principle** → ASEAN as core of Indo-Pacific order → prevents domination by any single power (China).

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Political & Security** → ASEAN-centric multilateralism → **EAS + ARF** strengthening → counter-terrorism & anti-piracy coordination.
- **Maritime Cooperation** → Indo-Pacific stability → **ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation (2026)** → naval drills + maritime domain awareness → blue economy projects.
- **Economic Integration** → Trade **USD 130 bn+ (2025)** → **AITIGA review (2026)** → address NTBs + Rules of Origin → services & agri market access → supply-chain resilience (China+1).
- **Digital Public Infrastructure & Tech** → **Digital Work Plan 2026** → export of **India Stack (UPI, Aadhaar-like ID, DigiLocker)** → fintech interoperability (PayNow, DuitNow) → AI & quantum collaboration → support to **CLMV** via Digital Future Fund.
- **Connectivity** → Act East execution → **IMT Trilateral Highway** (bridge completion focus) → **Kaladan Project** (Sittwe Port operational) → constrained by Myanmar instability.
- **Culture & Education** → Civilisational diplomacy → Buddhist Circuit + **Rāmāyaṇa diplomacy** → **1,000 PhD fellowships** + ASEAN–India Network of Universities.

Key Challenges

- **Myanmar civil war** → Land connectivity disruption → Act East bottleneck.
- **South China Sea tensions** → Norm contestation → UNCLOS-based order advocacy.
- **China’s economic gravity** → RCEP dominance → limited Indian trade leverage.
- **Trade asymmetry** → ASEAN surplus → slow AITIGA utilisation.
- **Connectivity delays** → Security + terrain issues → project slippages.

Way Forward (2026 Perspective)

- **Implement Plan of Action (2026–30)** → Deliverables-based partnership.
- **Upgrade AITIGA** → Services + digital trade → correct trade imbalance.
- **Maritime security scale-up** → Expand **ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise (AIME)** → regular multi-nation drills.
- **Digital-first engagement** → DPI + AI governance → low-cost regional integration.
- **Support Timor-Leste** → Smooth integration of 11th ASEAN member.
- **Strategic balancing** → ASEAN centrality + Quad complementarity → autonomy with alignment.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Background

- **Eurasian security bloc** → From *Shanghai Five (1996)* → formalised as **SCO (2001)** → focus on stability in Central Asia.
- **India’s integration** → Observer (2005) → **Full Member (2017)** → platform to engage Eurasia while preserving strategic autonomy.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Security & Counter-Terrorism** → **RATS (Tashkent)** → “Three Evils” framework → India-led push on radicalisation & terror financing → joint anti-terror exercises (2026).
- **Connectivity & Trade** → India’s Eurasian outreach → **INSTC + Chabahar** → sovereignty-compliant alternative to BRI → Central Asia & Russia access.
- **Economic Innovation** → Startup diplomacy → **SCO Startup Forum** + Innovation Working Group → export of **India Stack** governance ideas.
- **Energy Cooperation** → Central Asia & Russia as energy hinterland → **SCO Energy Roadmap 2030** → transit security + green transition.
- **Health & Traditional Medicine** → Soft power leadership → India-led **Ayush Expert Group** → regional health standards.

International Relations

Key Challenges for India

- **China-Pakistan alignment** → Blocking India's CT proposals → dilution of RATS outcomes.
- **BRI sovereignty issue** → India's non-endorsement → exclusion from some economic communiqués.
- **Perception gap** → SCO's Eurasian tilt vs India's Indo-Pacific role → narrative balancing.
- **Weak economic footprint** → India-Central Asia trade < **USD 2 bn** → low commercial leverage.

Way Forward

- **SECURE framework** → Security + Economic cooperation + Connectivity + Unity + Respect for sovereignty + Environment.
- **Digital diplomacy** → DPI, UPI, e-governance → transparent alternative to opaque connectivity models.
- **CARs mini-laterals** → Deeper ties with **Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan** → bypass China-Pakistan gridlock.
- **Norm-based engagement** → Use SCO for counter-terror legitimacy → avoid alliance entrapment.

BRICS

Background

- **Emerging economies platform** → Coined as BRIC (2001) → institutionalised (2006) → first summit **Yekaterinburg (2009)**.
- **Expanded Global South forum** → BRICS → BRICS+ → **11 members by 2026** → broader political & economic weight.

India's 2026 Chairship: "Building for Resilience"

- **Theme articulation (2026)** → *Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, Sustainability* → India positions BRICS as a problem-solving platform.
- **Chairship intent** → From symbolism to delivery → institutional strengthening + Global South leadership.

Four Priority Pillars

- **Resilience** → Shock-proofing supply chains, food, health & energy.
- **Innovation** → **DPI + startups + MSMEs** as development equalisers.
- **Cooperation** → Trade facilitation + **global governance reforms** (UNSC, IMF).
- **Sustainability** → Climate action + energy transition → emphasis on **climate equity**.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Financial Integration** → De-dollarisation debate → practical focus on **local currency trade** → Cross-Border Payments Initiative → RBI push for **BRICS CBDC linkage**.
- **Development Finance** → **New Development Bank** → \$35 bn+ loans → **Multilateral Guarantee Mechanism (2025)** → crowd-in private infrastructure capital.
- **Technology & Innovation** → Global South AI voice → India-led **BRICS Startup Forum** → **Startup Knowledge Hub (2025)** → DPI-driven growth models.
- **Energy Security** → Inclusion of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran → **~44% global crude production** → leverage over supply chains + energy stability.

Key Challenges (2025-26)

- **Internal divergence** → Iran vs US-aligned members → consensus strain.
- **China dominance** → ~70% of BRICS GDP → fear of China-centric drift.
- **External pressure** → US tariff threats (100%) → currency narrative risk.
- **Institutional thinness** → No permanent secretariat → execution depends on Chair.

Way Forward (India's Strategy)

- **Reformed multilateralism** → UNSC reform push → Global South legitimacy (Rio Declaration support).
- **Institutional consolidation** → Permanent BRICS Secretariat → proposal for security coordination mechanism.
- **Digital leadership** → Export **India Stack** → transparent, non-Western digital ecosystem.
- **Balance of power diplomacy** → Prevent BRICS from becoming anti-West or China-led → preserve autonomy.

G20

Background

- **Crisis-born forum** → Formed (1999) post-Asian Financial Crisis → elevated to Leaders' Summit (2008) during Global Financial Crisis.

International Relations

- **Economic steering role** → Represents **85% global GDP + 75% trade + 2/3 population** → consensus-based, no permanent secretariat → **Troika system** for continuity.

Areas of Cooperation / Core Workstreams (arrow-stacked)

- **Global Macroeconomic Coordination** → Finance Track → growth, inflation, debt sustainability → crisis response coordination.
- **Financial Regulation & Tax** → BEPS framework → global minimum corporate tax → curbing tax evasion.
- **Development & Inclusion** → MDB reform roadmap → climate finance + development lending scale-up.
- **Digital Economy** → DPI institutionalisation → digital payments + inclusion → cross-border scalability.
- **Energy & Sustainability** → Biofuels + energy security → transition pathways for developing economies.
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement** → B20, C20, T20 → policy inputs beyond governments.

India's G20 Presidency Legacy

- **Global South mainstreaming** → Permanent inclusion of **African Union** → representational correction.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure** → India Stack → global model for inclusion.
- **Energy transition leadership** → **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** → Secretariat in New Delhi → production target by 2030.
- **MDB reform push** → 21st-century mandates → climate + development finance alignment.
- **Normative framing** → *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* → development-first multilateralism.

Key Challenges for India

- **Multilateral fragility** → US unilateralism → consensus erosion.
- **Geopolitical polarisation** → Ukraine & West Asia conflicts → diluted joint communiqués.
- **Climate finance gap** → \$100 bn/year promise unmet → Global South trust deficit.
- **Agenda dilution risk** → Development issues sidelined under finance-heavy focus.

Way Forward

- **Protect Global South agenda** → Ensure continuity of development-first priorities.
- **Operationalise GBA** → Biofuel scaling → energy security + climate equity.
- **Revive IMEC** → Connectivity + supply-chain resilience → geopolitical diversification.
- **Bridge-builder diplomacy** → Balance finance priorities with sustainability & inclusion.

India-European Union (EU)

Background

- **Values-based partnership** → Shared commitment to democracy, rule of law, multilateralism → Strategic Partnership since **2004**.
- **2030 Agenda reset** → Endorsed at **16th India-EU Summit (Jan 2026)** → five pillars: Prosperity, Technology, Security, Connectivity, Global Governance.

Areas of Cooperation (compressed, arrow-stacked)

- **Trade & Economy (FTA 2026)** → Preferential access for **99% Indian exports** → tariff elimination in textiles, leather, gems → EU access to Indian market → autos (110% → 10% under quota), machinery, chemicals → deep **services liberalisation (144 subsectors)** → IT + professional services + AYUSH centres.
- **Security & Defence** → Shift from buyer-seller → **co-development framework** → access to EU **SAFE Fund (€150 bn)** → cyber + maritime surveillance → joint naval patrols in **Red Sea & Gulf of Guinea**.
- **Technology & Innovation** → **Innovation Hubs (2026)** → AI, quantum, semiconductors → India's integration with **Horizon Europe (€95 bn)** → research & talent mobility.
- **Digital Cooperation (DPI)** → Data-secure convergence → trusted digital frameworks → **EU Legal Gateway Office in India** → professional mobility facilitation.
- **Connectivity & Supply Chains** → Strategic diversification → **IMEC** reaffirmed → green + digital corridor → China-risk de-linking.

Key Challenges (2025-26)

- **CBAM pressure** → Carbon tax impact on steel & aluminium → competitiveness risk.
- **Russia-Ukraine divergence** → EU threat perception vs India's strategic autonomy → diplomatic friction.
- **Non-tariff barriers** → Stringent EU standards → pesticides, labour, **EUDR** constraints.
- **Implementation lag risk** → Legal ratification complexity → delayed economic gains.

Way Forward

- **Fast-track FTA implementation** → Legal scrubbing + ratification → operational by **early 2027**.
- **CBAM mitigation** → Technical Working Group → recognition of Indian carbon pricing + **\$500 mn decarbonisation support**.
- **Green hydrogen partnership** → Joint production → India manufacturing + EU demand.
- **Trilateral Global South outreach** → India-EU projects in **Africa & Caribbean** → solar, digital inclusion, women-centric development.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold War arms control push → Nuclear test explosions as escalation drivers → CTBT adopted 1996 (UNGA). • Incomplete entry into force → Requires ratification by 44 Annex-2 nuclear-capable states → key holdouts block universality. 	<p>Core Provisions (What CTBT Does)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ban → Prohibits all nuclear test explosions → surface, underground, atmospheric. • Verification regime → IMS network (seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound, radionuclide) → global detection. • On-Site Inspections (OSI) → Triggered post-entry-into-force → compliance enforcement. • CTBTO PrepCom → Operational readiness → monitoring + data sharing.
<p>Status & Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in force → 8 Annex-2 states missing → India, Pakistan, China, USA, Israel, Iran, DPRK, Egypt. • De facto norm → Most states observe moratorium → credibility without legality. 	<p>India's Position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principled opposition → Discriminatory framework → freezes nuclear hierarchy without disarmament. • Link to disarmament → Seeks time-bound, universal nuclear disarmament → CTBT insufficient alone. • Strategic autonomy → 1998 tests → voluntary moratorium maintained → no legal constraints.
<p>Key Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great power ambivalence → US/China non-ratification → weak leadership signal. • Verification politics → OSI activation pending → enforcement deficit. • Regional security dynamics → South Asia deterrence equations → trust deficit. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phased disarmament pathway → CTBT + FMCT sequencing → credibility via stockpile caps. • Universalization push → Annex-2 diplomacy → reciprocity-based ratification. • Strengthen norms → Expand IMS utility → transparency & confidence-building. • India's calibrated engagement → Support testing moratorium norms → retain sovereign decision space.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold War arms control instrument → Opened for signature 1968, entered into force 1970 → aimed at preventing nuclear spread. • Discriminatory structure → Recognises 5 Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) (pre-1967) → creates permanent nuclear hierarchy. 	<p>Core Pillars (What NPT Seeks to Do)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Proliferation → NNWS commit not to acquire nuclear weapons → safeguards under IAEA. • Disarmament (Article VI) → NWS to pursue good-faith negotiations → gradual nuclear reduction. • Peaceful Use → Access to civilian nuclear technology → cooperation under safeguards.
<p>Features</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional & Operational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IAEA safeguards → Monitoring civilian nuclear facilities → diversion prevention. ○ Review Conferences → Every 5 years → assess compliance & progress. ○ Universality claim → 191 parties → one of the most adhered treaties globally. • India's Position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-signatory stance → Rejects nuclear apartheid → unequal rights & obligations. ○ Security logic → Regional threats (China-Pakistan) → deterrence necessity. ○ Disarmament emphasis → Supports universal, time-bound nuclear disarmament → not selective restraint. ○ Responsible nuclear conduct → No first use + test moratorium + export controls. 	
<p>Key Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disarmament deficit → NWS modernising arsenals → Article VI credibility erosion. • Selective enforcement → Geopolitical bias → trust deficit among NNWS. • Withdrawal risks → Example: DPRK exit → regime fragility. • Non-universality → India, Pakistan, Israel outside → incomplete global coverage. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebalance pillars → Equal emphasis on disarmament → restore legitimacy. • Incremental disarmament → Risk-reduction + transparency → confidence building. • Inclusive frameworks → Bridge NPT-non-NPT divide → reality-based arms control. • India's constructive role → Norm shaping without accession → advocate equitable order.

5. Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora

Developed nations (USA, EU, Japan) often use "Regulative Diplomacy" and "Protectionism" which directly challenge India's economic growth and strategic autonomy.

1. Effect of Protectionist Trade Policies on India's Interests (The "Tariff War")

<p>Background & Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic-first turn in developed world → "Reciprocal tariffs" + strategic coercion → 50% US tariffs on Indian goods (late 2025) → pressure on strategic autonomy. • Russia-energy linkage → Trade weaponisation → US law enabling up to 500% tariffs on Russian energy buyers → loyalty test for partners like India. 	
<p>Macroeconomic Impact on India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth pressure → Export headwinds → US absorbs ~18% of India's exports → downside risks despite 7.4% GDP projection (ES 2025-26). • Currency volatility → Global risk-off + FII outflows → ₹92/USD (Jan 2026) → imported inflation. • Trade deficit stress → Costlier oil + electronics → deficit >\$25 bn (Dec 2025) → external balance strain. 	<p>Sector-Specific Vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textiles & apparel → Tariffs ~60% → loss of price competitiveness → Bangladesh/Vietnam advantage. • Gems & jewellery → US market dependence → order cancellations → liquidity crunch in Surat MSMEs. • Oil-linked sectors → Secondary sanction risk → refiners under pressure → diversification toward Brazil & West Asia.
<p>India's Strategic Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market diversification → Overdependence correction → India-EU FTA (Jan 2026) → zero-duty access to 450 mn consumers. • MSME shock-absorption → Credit + liquidity push → interest subvention + trade finance + e-commerce export support. 	<p>Way Forward (Analytical Framing for UPSC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term → Export relief + MSME survival → prevent employment shock. • Medium-term → FTAs (EU, UK) → diversify demand geography.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Swadeshi → Reciprocity breakdown → PLI + import substitution → domestic resilience building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term → Strategic indispensability → embed India in semiconductor, green-tech, critical supply chains.
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2.Environmental & Climate Policies: Green Protectionism

<p>Background & Conceptual Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green protectionism shift → Environmental standards replace tariffs → carbon intensity + deforestation rules act as non-tariff barriers. • CBDR conflict → Unilateral climate measures by developed countries → transition costs exported to developing economies → violation of equity principle 	
<p>Key Global Instruments Affecting India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Definitive phase (Jan 2026) → Mandatory carbon certificates for imports → linked to EU ETS (~€88/tonne). ○ Industrial impact → Steel & aluminium face 20-35% cost escalation → loss of price competitiveness. ○ Coal dependence trap → ~70% coal-based power → high embedded carbon → highest CBAM slabs. ○ Policy rigidity → No carve-out despite India-EU FTA → WTO-compatibility cited by European Union. • Other Global Green Barriers (2025-26) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) → Geo-tagging + traceability → compliance cost > product value for MSMEs. ○ UK Carbon Border Tax → CBAM imitation → added pressure on engineering exports. ○ US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) → ~\$370 bn domestic subsidies → de-facto market exclusion for Indian clean-tech. 	
<p>Direct Effects on India’s Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of cost advantage → Low-cost manufacturing neutralised → export competitiveness loss. • Technological dependency risk → Forced adoption of patented Western green tech → “green technological colonialism”. • FDI diversion threat → Firms prefer greener grids (Vietnam, Brazil) → India loses manufacturing investment. 	<p>India’s Strategic Counter-Measures (Way Forward)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional buffer → €500 mn support package under India-EU FTA → MSME green upgradation. • National Carbon Market → Domestic carbon pricing → retain transition capital within India. • Multilateral pushback → WTO dispute with BASIC partners → challenge unilateralism at World Trade Organization. • Green industrial pivot → National Green Hydrogen Mission → green steel & fertilisers → long-term CBAM immunity.

3.Immigration & Labour Norms

<p>Background & Global Context (The Shift)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value-based migration → Developed economies filter for high-skill/high-wage entrants → labour access tied to productivity, not volume. • Nationalisation of labour markets → GCC + others tighten skill verification → end of low-skill migration era. 	<p>Key Global Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US visa premiumisation → H-1B fees up to \$100,000 → de-facto high-salary gatekeeping → cost shock for Indian IT. • European skill pull → European Union mobility pivot → India-EU Mobility Pact (Jan 2026) → uncapped students + fast-track researchers → aging workforce solution. • GCC labour tightening → Unified GCC Labour Law (2026) → mandatory skill tests for blue-collar migrants → quality over quantity.
<p>Impact on India’s Interests</p>	<p>India’s Strategic Response</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT sector restructuring → US visa costs add ~\$2 bn/year → onshoring abroad becomes expensive → work re-centres in India via Global Capability Centres (GCCs). • Remittance composition shift → Record \$136 bn (FY25) → >50% from high-income economies → sensitivity to Western visa politics rises. • Brain circulation → Short-term barriers → return of experienced talent → deep-tech & AI startup creation → net intellectual capital gain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted mobility deals → Migration & Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs) → dedicated quotas + multi-year visas → 27 EU nations onboard. • Digital labour diplomacy → e-Migrate 2.0 integration with GCC portals → pre-certification + middlemen elimination. • Global skill mapping → Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2026) → train to demand corridors (healthcare Germany; construction Israel). • Diaspora fintech backbone → Export of India Stack (UPI, digital ID) → frictionless remittances despite visa curbs
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4.Regional Instability

<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia-Ukraine: Grinding Stalemate → War of attrition (2022–26) → minimal territorial change → post-Alaska Summit (Aug 2025) freeze without peace → Russia under sanctions → deeper China embrace. • Israel-Palestine: Fragile Gaza Pause → Ceasefire (Jan 2025) → unstable calm → proposal for NCAG (technocratic Gaza authority) → Two-State Solution remains stalled due to domestic hardliners. • West Asia: Israel-Iran Shadow War → Shift from proxies to direct strikes (mid-2025) → deterrence-heavy equilibrium → Axis of Resistance threatens Red Sea & Bab el-Mandeb. 	
<p>Impacts on India's National Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Security & Inflation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Russian oil dependence → ~40% crude imports (Jan 2026) → inflation control vs secondary sanction risk. ○ Price volatility → West Asia flare-ups → Brent \$95–100 → fiscal deficit + essential goods inflation. • Trade & Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red Sea disruption → Houthi attacks → Cape route diversion → +10–14 days shipping → +20–25% freight cost. ○ Connectivity setback → IMEC stalled → Levant insecurity → alternative to BRI delayed. • Diaspora & Remittances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diaspora vulnerability → ~9 million Indians in Gulf → repeated evacuations → Ops Ajay + Lebanon/Syria (Dec 2024). ○ FX stability risk → \$136 bn remittances (~3% GDP) → exposure to conflict escalation. 	<p>Way Forward: India's Strategic Blueprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Autonomy 2.0 → From passive neutrality → interest-driven activism → parallel engagement with Russia-EU & Israel-Iran. • Route diversification → Fast-track INSTC → hedge against Suez/Red Sea chokepoints. • Multilateral diplomacy → Use BRICS 2026 + Voice of Global South → push conflict de-escalation & reformed multilateralism. • Energy shock buffers → Expand Strategic Petroleum Reserves (90-day cover) → insulation from West Asia crises. • DPI-led interdependence → India Stack diplomacy with Gulf partners → deepen economic stakes in India's stability.

5.Neighborhood Instability

<p>Context: Neighborhood Instability (Jan 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh: Interim Paradox → Post-2024 regime change → Yunus-led interim govt → Feb 12, 2026 elections → Awami League barred + Jamaat resurgence → minority attacks + mob violence. • Nepal: Gen Z Reset → Sept 2025 street protests → Oli resignation → interim rule till March 2026 polls → nationalist rhetoric + elite backlash.

- **Pakistan: Permanent Deadlock** → Political paralysis + economic crisis → Balochistan/KP unrest → **Operation Sindoor (May 2025)** aftermath → ceasefire fragile → IWT suspended.
- **Myanmar: Structural Collapse** → Civil war escalation → junta controls <50% territory → **FMR suspended** → IMT & Kaladan stalled.

Impacts on India's National Interests

- **Security & Border Management**
 - **Refugee pressure** → Bangladesh & Myanmar instability → inflow into WB, Mizoram, Manipur → demographic + resource strain.
 - **Terror resurgence** → Governance vacuums → revival of Kashmir launchpads → May 2025 escalation.
- **Economic & Infrastructure Disruptions**
 - **Connectivity breakdown** → IMT Highway + Bangladesh rail links stalled → Act East setback.
 - **Trade volatility** → Petrapole-Benapole closures + Nepal disruptions → losses in agri & textiles.
- **Strategic Encirclement**
 - **China leverage** → Political flux exploitation → debt-relief + infra loans → deeper **BRI footprints** in Nepal & Maldives.

Way Forward

- **Proactive pragmatism** → Beyond govt-to-govt → engage opposition, youth, civil society → narrative correction.
- **People-centric aid** → Shift LoCs → **High-Impact Community Development Projects** → grassroots goodwill.
- **Digital interdependence** → Expand **India Stack** integration → target **5 new neighbours by 2026** → regime-resilient ties.
- **Border hardening** → Smart fencing + surveillance → Myanmar-Bangladesh frontiers → curb narcotics & insurgency.
- **Security of choice** → Reduce neighbour-dependence → deepen **Bhutan-Nepal power market** → hydropower treaties beyond politics.

Challenges Before a Unipolar World

- **Erosion of unipolar dominance** → US remains strongest power → lacks ability to enforce global order → emergence of **G-Zero world**.
- **Return of great-power rivalry** → Russia (Eurasia) + China (Indo-Pacific) → direct contestation of US-led status quo.
- **Strategic autonomy of Global South** → India, Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa reject bloc politics → non-alignment 2.0.
- **From unipolarity to multiplexity** → Power dispersed across regions → regional leaders manage local orders → no single stabilizer.
- **End of globalization consensus** → Free trade replaced by **economic nationalism** → subsidies, tariffs, industrial policy (e.g. clean-tech).
- **Weaponization of trade** → Sanctions, export controls, tariff threats → weakening of WTO-based rules.
- **Dollar dominance under strain** → Local-currency trade + debt stress → gradual challenge to US financial primacy.
- **Multilateral paralysis** → UNSC, G20 consensus failures → leadership vacuum in global governance.
- **Technology fragmentation** → AI treated as sovereign asset → digital blocs + data localization.
- **Critical mineral geopolitics** → Lithium, cobalt, rare earth races → mineral alliances → supply shocks.
- **Legitimacy crisis** → Unipolar order seen as Western-centric → reduced acceptance by Global South.
- **Security overstretch** → US commitments across Europe, West Asia, Indo-Pacific → sustainability challenge.

Impact of Disintegration of the USSR on World Affairs

- **End of bipolar world** → US-USSR rivalry collapsed → emergence of **US-led unipolar order**.
- **US strategic dominance** → NATO expansion + global interventions → reduced checks on US power.
- **Birth of new states** → 15 republics emerged → border disputes + fragile nation-building (Ukraine, Caucasus).
- **Power vacuum in Eurasia** → Weak central control → ethnic conflicts (Chechnya, Nagorno-Karabakh).

International Relations

- **Shift in global security architecture** → NATO relevance increased → Russia–West mistrust deepened.
- **Decline of communism** → Ideological defeat → liberal democracy & market economy projected as universal models.
- **Acceleration of globalization** → Former socialist economies integrated into global capitalism → IMF–World Bank influence.
- **Economic instability in post-Soviet space** → Shock therapy reforms → inequality + rise of oligarchs.
- **Energy geopolitics** → Russia emerged as major oil–gas supplier → energy leverage over Europe.
- **UN power dynamics changed** → Fewer veto confrontations → Western agenda-setting dominance.
- **Weakening of socialist movements globally** → Left parties lost ideological anchor.
- **Rise of nationalism & identity politics** → Ideology replaced by ethnic & civilizational assertions.
- **Seeds of future conflicts** → NATO expansion + Russian resentment → groundwork for Ukraine crisis.
- **Move towards multipolarity** → China’s rise + Russia’s resurgence → erosion of unipolar moment.

Indian Diaspora

<p>Status & Categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRIs → Indian citizens abroad → Indian passport → work/education (e.g., Gulf engineers). • PIOs → Foreign citizens of Indian ancestry → merged into OCI (2015). • OCIs → Registered under Citizenship Act, 1955 → lifelong visa + property rights (no voting). 	<p>Current Status (Jan 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total diaspora → 35.42 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NRIs → 15.85 million ○ OCIs/PIOs → 19.57 million • Major host regions → USA, UK, Canada, Australia → Gulf (UAE, Saudi) → SE Asia → Caribbean.
<p>Significance of Indian Diaspora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remittances → \$125 bn (2023) → CAD stability → Kerala, Punjab, UP lifeline. ○ Investment channel → Startups + real estate → NRI bonds + FDI inflows. ○ Skill & tech transfer → Silicon Valley/Gulf professionals → VAIBHAV, VAJRA, PRABHASS. • Strategic & Diplomatic Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soft power projection → Indian-origin leaders (e.g., UK, US) → image & influence. ○ Bilateral bridge → Trade, education, defence cooperation via diaspora networks. ○ Political advocacy → Indo-American lobby → strategic convergence. • Socio-Cultural Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultural ambassadors → Yoga, festivals, language → International Day of Yoga. ○ Narrative management → Counters anti-India misinformation abroad. ○ Diaspora philanthropy → COVID relief + education + rural development. • Multilateral & Global South Leverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South–South cooperation → Africa & SE Asia diaspora → development partnerships. ○ National goals support → UNSC seat advocacy + G20 + climate diplomacy. 	
<p>Major Government Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana → ₹10 lakh accident cover. • Know India Programme → Diaspora youth exposure (21–35 yrs). • Science & Tech Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VAJRA → Visiting global faculty ○ PRABHASS → Overseas–India research links ○ VAIBHAV → Global Indian scientists summit • Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Jan 9) → Diaspora recognition. • Indian Community Welfare Fund → Embassy-level crisis support. 	
<p>Key Issues & Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting rights constraint → Physical presence needed → low diaspora participation. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote voting → ETPBS for NRIs → democratic inclusion. • Prisoner transfer reform → Simplified treaties + active diplomacy.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisoner repatriation delays → Procedural bottlenecks despite treaties. • Employment exploitation → Job fraud + bonded labour → SE Asia cyber rackets. • Returnee reintegration gap → 5.95 lakh returnees (2019–24) → no national policy. • Student vulnerability → 403 deaths since 2018 → welfare & safety gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment fraud control → Recruiter certification + verified portals. • National returnee policy → Kerala model → skilling + credit + jobs. • Student welfare framework → Registry + helplines + legal aid. • Emigration Bill 2024 → Replace 1983 Act → student mobility + digital labour.
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6.Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

United Nations (UN)

<p>Background / Origin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-WWII global order → Founded 24 Oct 1945 → replace League of Nations → prevent future wars. • Charter-based system → UN Charter as founding treaty → 193 member states bound by its principles. 	
<p>Mandate / Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace & security → Diplomacy + sanctions + peacekeeping → collective security. • Human rights → UDHR → civil, political, economic, social rights. • Sustainable development → SDGs (Agenda 2030) → poverty, climate, inclusion. • Humanitarian action → Conflict & disaster response → UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF. • International law → Norm-setting + dispute settlement → ICJ. • Global cooperation → Climate, pandemics, terrorism, cyber threats. • Decolonisation legacy → Self-determination → Trusteeship system. 	<p>Structure / Principal Organs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNGA → 193 members → one-state-one-vote → policy & budget (non-binding). • UNSC → 15 members → P5 veto + 10 elected → binding peace decisions. • ECOSOC → Economic, social & environmental coordination. • ICJ → Judicial organ → state disputes → The Hague. • Secretariat → Administrative body → SG António Guterres. • Trusteeship Council → Inactive since 1994.
<p>India and the UN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding member → Commitment to multilateralism. • Peacekeeping leader → Major troop contributor. • UNSC role → Multiple non-permanent terms → 2021–22 latest. • Global South voice → Equity, development, climate justice. • SDG engagement → National implementation & reporting. • Reform Proposals & India’s Stand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNSC reform → Expansion of permanent & non-permanent seats → G4 push. ○ Equitable representation → Africa & Asia inclusion. ○ Veto restraint → Especially in humanitarian crises. ○ Efficiency reforms → Streamlined mandates + faster decision-making. 	
<p>UN Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding treaty → Signed 26 June 1945 (San Francisco) → In force 24 Oct 1945. • Constitution of UN → Supreme legal basis → binds all 193 UN members. • Preamble vision → “Save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” • Core purposes (Article 1) → Peace & security → friendly relations → cooperation → human rights. • Key principles (Article 2) → Sovereign equality → non-use of force → peaceful settlement → non-intervention. • Collective security → UNSC authority under Chapter VII → binding enforcement. • Peaceful dispute resolution → Negotiation, mediation, arbitration, ICJ. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights framework → Basis for UDHR and international human rights law. • Membership rules → Admission, suspension, expulsion procedures. • Amendment process → 2/3 UNGA + ratification by 2/3 members including all P5. • Supremacy clause (Article 103) → UN obligations override other treaties. 	
<p>Key Challenges / Criticisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNSC legitimacy deficit → Outdated power structure. • Veto paralysis → Syria, Ukraine, Gaza → inaction. • Bureaucratic inertia → Overlaps, slow delivery. • Human rights politicisation → Selective scrutiny. • Funding dependence → Donor influence. • Weak enforcement → Limited coercive capacity. • Peacekeeping gaps → Resources + mandate ambiguity. • Coordination failures → Agency silos. • North-South divide → Agenda imbalance. • Emerging tech vacuum → AI, cyber norms weak. • Conflict resolution fatigue → Prolonged crises. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNSC restructuring → Reflect multipolar realities → permanent Africa & India. • Veto accountability → Voluntary restraint code → humanitarian situations. • Development-first multilateralism → SDGs + climate finance prioritisation. • Financial sustainability → Predictable funding → reduced donor leverage. • Peacekeeping reform → Clear mandates + modern capabilities. • Digital & cyber norms → UN-led frameworks on AI & cyber warfare. • Global South empowerment → Agenda-setting parity → trust restoration.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

<p>Structure (What it is)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-member body → 5 Permanent (P5) + 10 Non-Permanent (E10) → concentrated decision-making. • Veto power → US, UK, France, Russia, China → any single veto blocks action. • E10 members → Elected by UNGA → 2-year term → regional rotation. • Voting rule → 9 affirmative votes + no P5 veto → adoption of substantive decisions. • Rotating presidency → Monthly rotation → agenda-setting & procedural control. 	
<p>Mandate / Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary responsibility → Maintain international peace and security. • Conflict prevention & response → Address threats, breaches of peace, aggression. • Collective security → Enforce UN Charter obligations. • Legal authority → Binding decisions under Chapter VII. 	<p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peacekeeping mandates → Authorise missions → define scope & rules of engagement. • Sanctions regimes → Economic, arms, travel bans → compliance pressure. • Use of force → Military authorisation when diplomacy fails. • Conflict management → Ceasefires, mediation, political missions. • Counter-terrorism → Terror listings + monitoring committees. • Judicial referrals → Limited referrals to ICC. • Post-conflict governance → Transitional administrations.
<p>Criticism / Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veto paralysis → P5 rivalry → Syria, Ukraine, Gaza stalemates. • Outdated composition → Reflects 1945 geopolitics, not multipolar reality. • Global South exclusion → No permanent Africa / India / Latin America seat. • Selective enforcement → Power politics over principles. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural reform → Expand permanent & non-permanent seats → Africa + India inclusion. • Veto restraint → Voluntary code of conduct → no veto in mass-atrocity situations. • E10 empowerment → Greater role in agenda-setting & pen-holding. • Transparency upgrade → Open consultations + improved accountability.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legitimacy erosion → States bypass UNSC → coalitions & regional groupings. • Slow crisis response → Political deadlock during humanitarian emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peacekeeping reform → Clear mandates + rapid deployment capabilities. • Regional integration → Formal cooperation with AU, EU, ASEAN for crisis response.
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UNESCO

Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized UN agency → 1945 → 194 Member States. • Governing bodies → General Conference (policy, budget) → Executive Board (programme oversight). • Secretariat → Headed by Director-General → HQ: Paris. 	
Mandate / Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote peace through education, science & culture → “building peace in the minds of people.” • Protect cultural & natural heritage → shared global legacy. • Advance freedom of expression → independent media + information access. • Foster scientific cooperation → sustainability & ethics. 	Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Convention (1972) → Inscription & protection of sites. • Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) → Safeguarding living traditions. • Education norms → Education for All, Global Citizenship Education. • Science programmes → MAB (biosphere reserves), ocean sciences. • Media & information literacy → Journalist safety, press freedom indices.
Criticism / Limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politicisation → Heritage listings & resolutions influenced by geopolitics. • Funding constraints → Dependence on voluntary contributions. • Implementation gap → Protection without enforcement powers. • Eurocentric bias claims → Representation imbalance in heritage lists 	Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depoliticise decision-making → Technical criteria primacy. • Sustainable heritage management → Tourism + conservation balance. • Digital heritage protection → Archives, languages, knowledge systems. • Global South inclusion → Capacity-building & equitable listings.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN agency (1950) → Mandate renewed periodically → HQ: Geneva. • Leadership → High Commissioner → supported by regional & country offices. • Funding → Largely voluntary contributions from states & donors. 	
Mandate / Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect refugees & asylum-seekers → Ensure safety, rights, dignity. • Durable solutions → Voluntary repatriation, local integration, resettlement. • Statelessness reduction → Prevention, identification, nationality solutions. 	Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response → Shelter, food, health, protection in crises. • Legal protection → Refugee status determination, non-refoulement advocacy. • Camp management & services → Education, livelihoods, documentation. • Global coordination → Leads refugee response with states & NGOs. • Data & policy → Global Trends reports, displacement monitoring.
Criticism / Limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding volatility → Donor dependence → programme uncertainty. • Access constraints → Host-state restrictions in conflict zones. 	Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictable financing → Multi-year funding commitments. • Equitable responsibility-sharing → Expanded resettlement & support to hosts.

International Relations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burden-sharing gaps → Disproportionate load on developing countries. • Protracted displacement → Limited political solutions to conflicts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development-humanitarian nexus → Jobs, education, inclusion. • Conflict prevention diplomacy → Address root causes alongside relief.
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UNICEF

Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN agency (1946) → Permanent mandate for children's welfare. • Governing body → Executive Board (36 members) → policy & budget oversight. • Secretariat → Executive Director → HQ: New York. • Funding → Entirely voluntary contributions (governments, donors). 	
Mandate / Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child survival & development → Health, nutrition, water, sanitation. • Child protection → Safeguard from violence, exploitation, child labour. • Education & equity → Universal access, especially for girls. • Child rights advocacy → Based on UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). 	Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & nutrition → Immunisation, maternal care, malnutrition control. • Education support → School access in emergencies & fragile states. • WASH → Clean water, sanitation, hygiene programmes. • Emergency response → Children-focused humanitarian aid. • Data & policy → Child indicators, MICS surveys, advocacy.
Criticism / Limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding dependence → Voluntary nature → programme uncertainty. • Access constraints → Conflict zones & state restrictions. • Implementation gaps → Outcomes vary across regions. • Overstretch → Expanding mandate vs limited resources. 	Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictable financing → Multi-year donor commitments. • Local capacity building → Community-led child services. • Digital delivery → Ed-tech, tele-health for children. • Stronger child rights enforcement → State accountability under CRC.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal judicial organ of UN → Established 1945 under UN Charter. • Bench → 15 judges → elected by UNGA + UNSC → 9-year terms. • Representation rule → No two judges from same country → major legal systems represented. • Seat → The Hague, Netherlands. • Ad hoc judges → Allowed when a party lacks a national judge on bench. 	
Mandate / Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial settlement of disputes → Between sovereign states only. • Advisory opinions → Legal guidance to UN organs & specialized agencies. • Rule of international law → Interpretation of treaties, customs, legal principles. 	Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contentious jurisdiction → Boundary disputes, sovereignty, treaty violations. • Advisory jurisdiction → Non-binding opinions → UNSC, UNGA, WHO, etc. • Provisional measures → Interim orders → prevent irreparable harm. • Interpretation & revision → Clarifies judgments upon request. • Peaceful dispute resolution → Legal alternative to force.
Criticism / Limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent-based jurisdiction → States must accept jurisdiction → limits reach. 	Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider jurisdiction acceptance → Encourage compulsory jurisdiction declarations.

International Relations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-binding enforcement → Relies on state compliance → weak coercion. • UNSC dependence → Enforcement via UNSC → veto politics dilute impact. • Slow adjudication → Lengthy proceedings → delayed justice. • Limited access → Individuals & NGOs excluded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster procedures → Streamlined timelines for urgent disputes. • Compliance incentives → Diplomatic & reputational pressure mechanisms. • Legal capacity building → Support Global South litigation expertise. • Synergy with ITLOS & arbitration → Coherent global dispute settlement.
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World Trade Organization (WTO)

Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established 1995 → Successor to GATT (1947) → 164 members. • Ministerial Conference → Apex body → meets biennially. • General Council → Day-to-day functioning → also acts as DSB & TPRB. • Councils → Trade in Goods, Trade in Services (GATS), TRIPS. • Secretariat → Technical support → HQ: Geneva. 	
Mandate / Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule-based global trade → Predictability & non-discrimination. • Trade liberalisation → Reduce tariffs & non-tariff barriers. • Dispute settlement → Peaceful resolution of trade conflicts. • Development focus → Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT) for developing countries. 	Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers trade agreements → GATT, GATS, TRIPS. • Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) → Panels + Appellate review. • Trade monitoring → Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM). • Negotiation forum → Doha Development Agenda, fisheries subsidies. • Technical assistance → Capacity-building for LDCs.
Criticism / Limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appellate Body paralysis → US blockage since 2019 → DSM credibility crisis. • Doha deadlock → Development agenda stalled. • Developed-developing divide → Agriculture subsidies & market access. • Rule obsolescence → E-commerce, digital trade gaps. • Unequal benefits → Marginal gains for LDCs. 	Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSM revival → Appellate Body reform + consensus. • Development re-centering → Agriculture, food security, S&DT. • Rule modernisation → Digital trade, climate-trade interface. • Plurilateral flexibility → Open agreements without fragmentation. • India's role → Defender of food security & policy space.

INTERPOL

Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established 1923 → World's largest police cooperation body → 196 member countries. • General Assembly → Supreme decision-making body → one country, one vote. • Executive Committee → Policy supervision → President + regional delegates. • General Secretariat → Operational hub → HQ: Lyon, France. • NCBs (National Central Bureaus) → One in each member state → India's NCB under CBI. 	
Mandate / Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate international police cooperation → Against transnational crime. 	Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice system → Red Notice (wanted persons), Blue, Yellow, etc.

International Relations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support national law enforcement → Respect sovereignty & domestic laws. • Crime prevention & suppression → Non-political, non-military focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal databases → Fingerprints, DNA, stolen vehicles, passports. • Operational support → Counter-terrorism, cybercrime, human trafficking. • Capacity building → Training & best-practice sharing. • Crisis response → Disaster victim identification, emergency coordination.
<p>Criticism / Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misuse of Red Notices → Political targeting allegations. • No arrest powers → Relies on member states for enforcement. • Authoritarian abuse risk → Dissidents labelled as criminals. • Data protection concerns → Privacy & oversight challenges. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger oversight → Safeguards against political misuse. • Digital crime focus → Cybercrime, crypto-assets, online fraud. • Transparency reforms → Fair review of notices. • Global South capacity-building → Technical & investigative support.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

<p>Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded 1919 → Became first UN specialized agency (1946). • Tripartite structure → Governments + Employers + Workers → unique governance model. • Key organs → International Labour Conference (ILC), Governing Body, International Labour Office. • HQ → Geneva, Switzerland. 	
<p>Mandate / Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote decent work → Employment, rights, social protection. • Labour standards setting → International Conventions & Recommendations. • Social justice → Core principle for lasting peace. • Inclusive growth → Fair globalization & labour equity. 	<p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard-setting → Core labour conventions (child labour, forced labour, discrimination). • Supervision & monitoring → Compliance reporting & expert review. • Technical cooperation → Employment, skilling, OSH, social security. • Data & research → Global Employment Trends, World of Work reports. • Social dialogue → Consensus-building among tripartite actors.
<p>Criticism / Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak enforcement → Moral pressure, no sanctions. • Low ratification → Key conventions unratified by major economies. • Informal sector gap → Limited reach in developing countries. • Globalisation pressures → Race-to-the-bottom labour standards. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger compliance mechanisms → Incentives for ratification. • Informal sector inclusion → Platform & gig worker protections. • Future of work agenda → AI, automation, green jobs. • South-South cooperation → Capacity-building for developing economies.

World Health Organization (WHO)

<p>Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded 1948 → UN specialized agency for global health → 194 Member States. • Governing bodies → World Health Assembly (WHA), Executive Board, Secretariat. • Regional offices → 6 regions (incl. SEARO - New Delhi). • HQ → Geneva, Switzerland.

<p>Mandate / Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attainment of highest possible health → Fundamental human right. • Global health leadership → Norms, standards, coordination. • Disease prevention & control → Communicable & non-communicable. • Health system strengthening → Universal Health Coverage (UHC). • Emergency preparedness → Pandemics, outbreaks, health crises. 	<p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norm-setting → International Health Regulations (IHR), essential medicines list. • Disease surveillance → Global monitoring & early warning. • Technical guidance → Vaccines, treatment protocols, public health policies. • Emergency response → Health cluster leadership in crises. • Research & data → Global health statistics, evidence synthesis.
<p>Criticism / Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding dependence → Voluntary earmarked contributions → donor influence. • Political pressure → Pandemic response controversies (COVID-19). • Limited enforcement → IHR compliance largely voluntary. • Bureaucratic delays → Slow crisis response perception. • Equity gaps → Vaccine access & Global South concerns. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable financing → Higher assessed contributions. • Pandemic treaty → Binding preparedness & data-sharing norms. • IHR strengthening → Compliance + accountability mechanisms. • Equitable access → Vaccines, diagnostics, medicines. • Tech integration → Digital surveillance & AI-enabled early warning.

World Bank

<p>Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded 1944 (Bretton Woods) → Development arm of post-war economic order. • World Bank Group → IBRD + IDA (core) → with IFC, MIGA, ICSID. • Governance → Board of Governors + Executive Directors → weighted voting. • HQ → Washington D.C., USA. 	
<p>Mandate / Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty reduction → Extreme poverty elimination. • Shared prosperity → Income growth for bottom 40%. • Development financing → Infrastructure, health, education, climate. • Knowledge leadership → Data, policy advice, best practices. 	<p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lending → Concessional loans (IDA) + market-based loans (IBRD). • Grants & guarantees → Fragile & low-income states. • Policy support → Structural reforms, governance, capacity building. • Crisis response → Pandemic, climate, debt relief. • Research & data → World Development Reports.
<p>Criticism / Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditionalities → Policy intrusion → sovereignty concerns. • Voting imbalance → Developed country dominance. • Debt burden → Long-term repayment stress. • Project delays → Procedural complexity. • One-size-fits-all reforms → Local context neglect. 	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance reform → Greater Global South voice. • Flexible financing → Climate & disaster-responsive lending. • Debt sustainability → Relief & restructuring frameworks. • Results-based lending → Local ownership. • South-led development → Align with national priorities.

