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# International Relations: Comprehensive and Updated (24-25)

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By **ATRISHEKHAR**

## India-Afghanistan Relations

### Geopolitical Aspects

- Diplomatic Engagements:** In November 2024, India held official talks with the Taliban government in Kabul, focusing on improving bilateral ties and seeking increased humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan.
- Humanitarian Assistance:** India has continued to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, including medical supplies and food assistance, to address the ongoing crises in the region.
- Regional Security Dialogue:** India participated in the Regional Dialogue of Secretaries of Security Councils on Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for a stable and inclusive government in Kabul.
- Reopening of Embassy:** India re-established its diplomatic presence in Kabul by reopening its embassy in 2024, aiming to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties.
- Engagement with Non-Taliban Entities:** India has maintained contacts with various Afghan political factions to promote an inclusive political process in Afghanistan.

### Geostrategic Aspects

- Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** India has expressed concerns over the resurgence of terrorist activities emanating from Afghan soil and has called for collective regional efforts to combat terrorism.
- Chabahar Port Utilization:** India continues to utilize the Chabahar Port in Iran to facilitate trade with Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan and enhancing regional connectivity.
- Security Assistance:** India has provided training and capacity-building programs for Afghan security personnel to strengthen Afghanistan's defense capabilities.
- Participation in Regional Forums:** India actively engages in regional forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to discuss security and stability in Afghanistan.
- Monitoring of Taliban Activities:** India closely monitors the Taliban's policies and actions, particularly concerning minority rights and regional security implications.

### Geo-economic aspects

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1. **Trade Relations:** Despite challenges, India remains committed to enhancing trade with Afghanistan, focusing on sectors like agriculture, textiles, and pharmaceuticals.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** India has resumed work on various infrastructure projects in Afghanistan, including road construction and power transmission lines, to aid in the country's reconstruction.
3. **Investment in Education:** India has increased scholarships and educational programs for Afghan students, aiming to build human capital for Afghanistan's future.
4. **Energy Cooperation:** Discussions are underway to explore energy cooperation, including potential investments in Afghanistan's renewable energy sector.
5. **Support for Small Businesses:** India has initiated programs to support Afghan small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing training and market access.

### Geocultural Aspects

1. **Cultural Exchanges:** India has organized cultural festivals and exhibitions in Afghanistan to promote shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
2. **Restoration of Heritage Sites:** India has committed to assisting in the restoration of Afghan cultural heritage sites damaged during conflicts.
3. **Media Collaboration:** Indian media organizations have collaborated with Afghan counterparts to produce content that reflects shared cultural values.
4. **Language Training Programs:** India has expanded Hindi and Pashto language training programs to facilitate better communication and cultural understanding.
5. **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both nations.

## India-Bangladesh Relations

### Geopolitical Aspects

1. **Political Transition:** In August 2024, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned amid political unrest, leading to the establishment of an interim government in Bangladesh.
2. **Border Security:** India has called on Bangladesh to take strong measures to protect its Hindu community following tensions in Chittagong due to provocative social media posts.
3. **Diplomatic Engagements:** In October 2024, India and Bangladesh conducted high-level talks to discuss issues of mutual interest, including security and economic cooperation.
4. **Regional Cooperation:** Bangladesh joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, enhancing regional maritime cooperation.

5. **Rohingya Crisis:** India continues to support Bangladesh in managing the Rohingya refugee situation, providing humanitarian aid and advocating for safe repatriation.

### **Geostrategic Aspects**

1. **Defense Cooperation:** India and Bangladesh have bolstered their defense relationship, signing agreements for expanding cooperation in maritime security, ocean economy, space, and telecommunication sectors.
2. **Joint Military Exercises:** The two nations conducted joint military exercises to enhance interoperability and address common security challenges.
3. **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of the Bay of Bengal, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
4. **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** Both countries have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.
5. **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the Akhaura-Agartala cross-border rail link and the Khulna-Mongla Port rail line have been inaugurated to enhance connectivity.

### **Geo-economic Aspects**

1. **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh stood at \$15.93 billion in FY 2022-2023, with efforts underway to further enhance economic ties.
2. **Energy Cooperation:** The Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant's Unit II was inaugurated, contributing to Bangladesh's energy security.
3. **Infrastructure Investments:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, including the development of ports and railways, to boost regional connectivity.
4. **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit worth \$8 billion to Bangladesh for various development projects.
5. **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between the two countries.

### **Geocultural Aspects**

1. **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Bangladesh have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
2. **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Bangladeshi students to pursue higher education in India.
3. **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Bangladeshi media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.

# India-Myanmar Relations

## Geopolitical Aspects

- 1. Border Security and Free Movement Regime (FMR):** India shares a 1,643 km border with Myanmar, inhabited by various ethnic communities with deep-rooted cultural and familial ties. The FMR allowed border residents to travel up to 16 km into each other's territory without a visa. However, in February 2024, India suspended the FMR to address national security concerns and maintain the demographic structure of its northeastern states.
- 2. Political Engagements:** India has maintained diplomatic relations with Myanmar's military junta since the February 2021 coup, emphasizing the need for a return to democracy. In June 2024, India's Foreign Minister expressed concern over the ongoing violence in Myanmar and urged an early democratic transition.
- 3. Border Fencing Initiatives:** In response to security challenges, India announced plans to fence the entire Indo-Myanmar border to curb illegal activities and enhance border security.
- 4. Engagement with Anti-Junta Forces:** In September 2024, India extended an unprecedented invitation to Myanmar's anti-junta political and military opponents for a seminar in New Delhi, indicating a shift in its engagement strategy.
- 5. Humanitarian Concerns:** India deported Myanmar refugees who fled the 2021 coup, reflecting its complex stance on the refugee crisis.

## Geostrategic Aspects

- 1. Counter-Insurgency Operations:** India has conducted joint operations with Myanmar to combat insurgent groups operating along the border, enhancing regional security.
- 2. Infrastructure Projects:** India is investing in key infrastructure projects in Myanmar, such as the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, aiming to enhance regional connectivity. The ongoing conflict in Myanmar poses challenges to the timely completion and security of these projects.
- 3. Maritime Security Cooperation:** Both nations have cooperated on maritime security in the Bay of Bengal, conducting joint naval exercises to ensure the safety of sea lanes and combat piracy. The political turmoil in Myanmar has impacted the frequency and scope of such collaborations.
- 4. Balancing China's Influence:** India's engagement with Myanmar is partly aimed at countering China's growing influence in the region, ensuring a strategic balance.
- 5. ASEAN Engagement:** India supports Myanmar's participation in ASEAN initiatives, promoting regional stability and integration.

## Geo-economic Aspects

- 1. Trade Relations:** India is among Myanmar's significant trading partners, with bilateral trade encompassing agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, and machinery. However, the political

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instability in Myanmar has affected trade dynamics, leading to a cautious approach from Indian businesses.

2. **Investment in Energy Sector:** India has invested in Myanmar's oil and gas sectors, contributing to energy security and economic ties.
3. **Development Assistance:** India has extended humanitarian aid to Myanmar, including medical supplies and COVID-19 vaccines. However, the complex political situation necessitates a balanced approach to ensure that aid reaches the intended beneficiaries without legitimizing the military regime.
4. **Border Trade:** Despite challenges, border trade continues, benefiting local economies on both sides.
5. **Agricultural Cooperation:** India and Myanmar collaborate in the agricultural sector, focusing on capacity building and technology transfer.

### Geocultural Aspects

1. **Buddhist Heritage:** Both nations share a rich Buddhist heritage, fostering cultural and religious ties.
2. **Educational Exchanges:** India offers scholarships to Myanmar students, promoting educational and cultural exchanges.
3. **Cultural Festivals:** Participation in each other's cultural festivals enhances people-to-people connections.
4. **Language Training:** India provides training in English and other Indian languages to Myanmar nationals, facilitating better communication.
5. **Media Collaboration:** Indian films and television are popular in Myanmar, contributing to cultural affinity.

## India-Nepal Relations

### Geopolitical Aspects

1. **Political Engagements:** In July 2024, K.P. Sharma Oli returned as Nepal's Prime Minister, marking the nation's fifth prime ministerial transition in five years. India has maintained diplomatic relations with Nepal's new government, emphasizing the need for political stability and cooperation.
2. **Border Disputes:** The longstanding border dispute over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura remains unresolved. In January 2024, Nepal planned to bring up the boundary issue, but India was unwilling to engage in talks.
3. **Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1950):** Discussions continue regarding the revision of the treaty to reflect contemporary realities. An Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) report submitted in 2018 awaits implementation.

**Regional Cooperation:** Both nations actively participate in regional forums like SAARC and BIMSTEC, promoting regional integration.

4. **China's Influence:** Nepal's engagement with China, including infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), impacts India-Nepal relations.

### Geostrategic Aspects

1. **Defense Cooperation:** India provides training and equipment to the Nepalese Army, maintaining strong military ties.

2. **Border Security:** Both countries collaborate to manage the open border, addressing issues like illegal migration and smuggling.

- **Disaster Management:** Joint efforts in disaster response and preparedness, especially in earthquake-prone regions, have been emphasized.

- **Energy Cooperation:** In January 2024, Nepal and India signed a long-term power trade agreement, aiming to increase India's import of hydropower from Nepal to 10,000 MW within the next decade.

- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line are being developed to enhance connectivity.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** India is Nepal's largest trade partner, accounting for about two-thirds of Nepal's merchandise trade and about one-third of trade in services.

- **Hydropower Cooperation:** In October 2024, Nepal and Bhutan sought Indian investment for hydropower projects, aiming to enhance their hydroelectric output and export surplus power to India.

- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in Nepal, including road construction and airport development, to boost regional connectivity.

- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to Nepal for various development projects, including post-earthquake reconstruction efforts.

- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between the two countries.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Nepal have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.

- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Nepali students to pursue higher education in India.

- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Nepali media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both countries have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and religious sites.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Hindi and Nepali languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.

## India-Sri Lanka Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Political Engagements:** In September 2024, Anura Kumara Dissanayake was elected as Sri Lanka's President, marking a significant political shift. India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, visited Colombo in October 2024, becoming the first foreign dignitary to engage with the new administration, emphasizing the importance India places on its relationship with Sri Lanka.
- **Debt Restructuring Support:** In July 2024, Sri Lanka reached a deal with creditor nations, including India, to restructure \$5.8 billion of debt, allowing the country to defer bilateral debt payments until 2028 and extend repayment to 2043.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Both nations actively participate in regional forums like SAARC and BIMSTEC, promoting regional integration and cooperation.
- **China's Influence:** Sri Lanka's engagement with China, including infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), impacts India-Sri Lanka relations, necessitating a balanced approach.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** India has provided humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka during its economic crisis, including medical supplies and food assistance, reflecting India's commitment to supporting its neighbor.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** India and Sri Lanka conduct joint military (Mitra Shakti) and naval exercises (SLINEX), enhancing interoperability and addressing common security challenges.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
- **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** Both countries have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the resumption of the ferry service between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka in October 2023 have been inaugurated to enhance connectivity.

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- **Energy Cooperation:** In March 2024, Indian and Sri Lankan officials signed a contract for the Hybrid Renewable Energy Project in Nainativu, Analaitivu, and Delft islands, off Jaffna, Sri Lanka, marking a significant step in renewable energy collaboration.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** India is Sri Lanka's third-largest export destination, after the US and UK. More than 60% of Sri Lanka's exports enjoy the benefits of the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, including the development of ports and railways, to boost regional connectivity.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to Sri Lanka for various development projects, including post-conflict reconstruction efforts.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between the two countries.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both countries have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and religious sites.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Sri Lanka have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Sri Lankan students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Sri Lankan media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Hindi and Sinhala languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both nations.

## India-Maldives Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Political Engagements:** In October 2024, Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties.

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- **Diplomatic Tensions:** Earlier in 2024, relations between India and the Maldives experienced strains due to the "India Out" campaign led by President Muizzu, advocating for the removal of Indian military presence from the Maldives.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Both nations actively participate in regional forums like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), promoting regional integration and cooperation.
- **China's Influence:** The Maldives' engagement with China, including infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), impacts India-Maldives relations, necessitating a balanced approach.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** India has provided humanitarian aid to the Maldives during crises, including medical supplies and COVID-19 vaccines, reflecting India's commitment to supporting its neighbor.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** India and the Maldives have conducted joint military exercises, such as "Ekuverin," enhancing interoperability and addressing common security challenges.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
- **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** Both countries have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the Greater Malé Connectivity Project (GMCP) are being developed to enhance connectivity between the Maldives' islands.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Discussions are underway to explore energy cooperation, including potential investments in renewable energy projects in the Maldives.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** India is among the Maldives' significant trading partners, with bilateral trade encompassing goods and services, including tourism, fisheries, and construction.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in the Maldives, including the development of ports, airports, and housing, to boost regional connectivity.
- **Financial Assistance:** In October 2024, India provided a \$760 million bailout package to the Maldives, consisting of \$400 million in currency swaps and Rs30 billion (\$357 million), to prevent the island nation from defaulting on its sovereign debt.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both countries have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and natural attractions.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between the two countries.

## 4. Geocultural Aspects

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- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and the Maldives have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Maldivian students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Maldivian media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Hindi and Dhivehi languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both nations.

## India-Bhutan Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **High-Level Visits:** In March 2024, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bhutan, reinforcing the strong bilateral ties between the two nations. During this visit, India announced the doubling of its assistance to Bhutan from ₹50 billion for its 12th Five-Year Plan (2018-2023) to ₹100 billion for its 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-2029).
- **Border Security:** India and Bhutan share a 605 km border, with both countries collaborating closely to ensure security and manage cross-border activities. In November 2024, the inauguration of the first Immigration Check Post (ICP) at Darranga aimed to enhance trade, tourism, and cross-border connectivity.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Established in 1968, the diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan have been characterized by mutual trust and cooperation. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, signed in 1949 and updated in 2007, forms the foundation of this relationship.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Both nations actively participate in regional forums like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), promoting regional integration and cooperation.
- **China's Influence:** Bhutan's engagement with China, including discussions on border disputes, impacts India-Bhutan relations, necessitating a balanced approach. In February 2024, Bhutan's courtship with both India and China was analyzed, highlighting the strategic dynamics in the Himalayan region.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

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- **Defense Cooperation:** India provides training and equipment to the Royal Bhutan Army, maintaining strong military ties. A 2,000-strong Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) is permanently based in western Bhutan to train the Royal Bhutan Army.
- **Border Management:** Both countries collaborate to manage their shared border, addressing issues like illegal migration and smuggling. The inauguration of the ICP at Darranga in November 2024 is a step towards enhancing border management.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the proposed rail links aim to enhance connectivity between the two nations. The governor emphasized the significance of cross-border connectivity initiatives, including proposed rail links, during the inauguration of the ICP at Darranga.
- **Hydropower Cooperation:** India has constructed four major hydroelectric projects in Bhutan—Kurichhu, Tala, Chukha, and Mangdechhu—that supply electricity to India. The 720 MW Mangdechhu project was handed over to Bhutan in 2022.
- **Strategic Buffer:** Bhutan serves as a buffer between India and China, protecting the Siliguri Corridor (also known as Chicken's Neck). The Doklam standoff in 2017 re-established Bhutan's strategic significance for India.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** India is Bhutan's top trade partner, both as an import source and as an export destination, with the balance of trade in India's favor. The Trade, Commerce, and Transit Agreement (2016) establishes a free trade regime between the countries.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in Bhutan, including road construction and airport development, to boost regional connectivity. In October 2024, Anil Ambani's Reliance Group announced plans to develop solar and hydro power projects in Bhutan, in collaboration with the government's investment arm.
- **Financial Assistance:** Bhutan has been the biggest beneficiary of India's external aid in the budget for 2023-24. India committed to stand for 'Brand Bhutan' and 'Bhutan Believe'.
- **Hydropower Development:** In October 2024, Nepal and Bhutan sought Indian investment for hydropower projects, aiming to enhance their hydroelectric output and export surplus power to India.
- **Tourism Promotion:** The inauguration of the ICP at Darranga in November 2024 is expected to boost tourism between the two countries. The checkpoint, about 98 km from Guwahati, was inaugurated by Assam governor L.P. Acharya in the presence of Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonchhen Dasho Tshering Tobgay.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Bhutan have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Bhutanese students to pursue higher education in India.

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- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Bhutanese media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Hindi and Dzongkha languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both nations.

## India-Pakistan Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Diplomatic Engagements:** In October 2024, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Islamabad, marking the first visit of an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in nearly a decade. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif welcomed this visit as a positive step towards improving bilateral relations.
- **Kashmir Conflict:** The longstanding dispute over the Kashmir region continues to be a central issue in India-Pakistan relations. In October 2024, a grenade explosion in a busy market in Srinagar injured nine people, highlighting ongoing security concerns in the area.
- **Indus Waters Treaty:** In September 2024, discussions emerged regarding the Indus Waters Treaty, with concerns about its relevance in the current geopolitical context. Both countries have mechanisms to discuss issues pertaining to the treaty, emphasizing its importance in bilateral relations.
- **Human Rights Concerns:** Reports from 2024 indicate that both Indian-administered Kashmir and Pakistani-administered Kashmir were categorized as "not free" by Freedom House, highlighting ongoing human rights issues in the region.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Both nations continue to participate in regional forums like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), aiming to address shared challenges and promote stability.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Ceasefire Agreements:** In February 2024, India and Pakistan marked the third anniversary of the renewed ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC), which has contributed to a reduction in cross-border violence.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** Both countries have faced challenges related to terrorism. In July 2024, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Pakistan of using "terrorism" and "proxy war" to stay relevant, emphasizing India's commitment to countering such activities.

- **Military Engagements:** Despite tensions, both nations have maintained channels for military communication to prevent misunderstandings and manage incidents along the border.
- **Nuclear Posturing:** The nuclear capabilities of both countries continue to influence their strategic calculations, with ongoing discussions about arms control and confidence-building measures.
- **Border Management:** Efforts to manage the international border and the LoC include measures to prevent infiltration and smuggling, with both countries enhancing surveillance and security infrastructure.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Formal trade between India and Pakistan remains suspended since 2019. However, informal trade and third-country trade routes have continued, albeit at reduced levels.
- **Water Resources:** The Indus Waters Treaty remains a critical component of bilateral relations, with both countries discussing water-sharing arrangements and addressing concerns related to upstream projects.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Discussions have been held regarding potential energy cooperation, including electricity trade and pipeline projects, though progress has been limited due to political tensions.
- **Economic Sanctions:** Both countries have imposed various trade restrictions and tariffs on each other's goods, impacting bilateral economic engagement.
- **Regional Connectivity:** Initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have implications for regional connectivity, with India expressing concerns about projects passing through disputed territories.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **People-to-People Contacts:** Cultural exchanges, including visits by artists, scholars, and sports teams, have been limited due to political tensions, though there are calls from civil society to enhance such interactions.
- **Religious Pilgrimages:** Despite strained relations, both countries have facilitated religious pilgrimages, such as the Kartarpur Corridor for Sikh pilgrims and visits to Sufi shrines, reflecting shared cultural and religious heritage.
- **Media and Entertainment:** Collaborations in media and entertainment have been affected, with bans on each other's content in place, though there is a significant audience for such content in both countries.
- **Academic Exchanges:** Academic collaborations and student exchanges have been minimal, with visa restrictions and security concerns hindering such initiatives.
- **Sports Engagements:** Bilateral sports events, particularly cricket matches, have been suspended, though both countries continue to compete in multilateral sporting events.

# India-China Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

## 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **High-Level Engagements:** In October 2024, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia. This marked their first formal discussion in five years, signaling a potential thaw in relations.
- **Border Agreements:** In late October 2024, India and China reached a significant agreement to de-escalate tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Both nations commenced the disengagement of troops from key flashpoint areas, aiming to restore peace and stability in the region.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Both countries continue to participate in regional forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, promoting multilateralism and regional stability.
- **Strategic Trust Deficit:** Despite recent engagements, a lack of strategic trust persists, influenced by historical conflicts and differing regional aspirations.
- **China-Pakistan Relations:** China's strategic partnership with Pakistan, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), remains a point of contention for India, affecting bilateral dynamics.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Military Posturing:** Following the 2020 border clashes, both nations had increased troop deployments along the LAC. The recent disengagement agreement aims to reduce this military buildup.
- **Infrastructure Development:** China's infrastructure projects near the LAC, including road and airstrip constructions, have raised security concerns in India.
- **Maritime Security:** China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean, through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has led India to enhance its naval capabilities and forge alliances with other maritime nations.
- **Defense Collaborations:** India's participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) with the U.S., Japan, and Australia is viewed by China as a counterbalance to its regional influence.
- **Cybersecurity Concerns:** Allegations of cyber intrusions originating from China targeting Indian infrastructure have led to increased cybersecurity measures and bilateral dialogues on cyber norms.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** China remains India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching \$136.26 billion in 2022. However, India faces a significant trade deficit, prompting discussions on diversifying imports and boosting domestic manufacturing.

- **Investment Flows:** In January 2024, India indicated a potential easing of restrictions on Chinese investments, contingent on the stabilization of border tensions.
- **Technology and Telecommunications:** India has imposed bans on several Chinese apps and restricted Chinese companies like Huawei from participating in its 5G rollout, citing security concerns.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** India is actively seeking to reduce dependency on Chinese imports by promoting initiatives like 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) and exploring alternative supply chains.
- **Multilateral Trade Engagements:** Both nations are members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), though India's concerns over trade imbalances have influenced its participation.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **People-to-People Exchanges:** Cultural and educational exchanges have been impacted by geopolitical tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a decline in student exchanges and tourism.
- **Media and Perceptions:** Media portrayals in both countries often reflect nationalistic sentiments, influencing public perceptions and bilateral relations.
- **Historical Narratives:** Differing interpretations of historical events, such as the 1962 war, continue to influence national narratives and mutual trust.
- **Academic Collaborations:** Joint research initiatives have faced challenges due to visa restrictions and security concerns, affecting academic partnerships.
- **Diaspora Dynamics:** The Indian diaspora in China and the Chinese community in India play roles in fostering cultural understanding, though their influence is limited by broader geopolitical factors.

## India-ASEAN Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

#### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** In October 2024, during the 21st ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, India and ASEAN reaffirmed their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, emphasizing shared values and norms that have guided their relations since 1992.
- **Act East Policy:** Marking a decade of India's Act East Policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the policy's role in advancing ASEAN-India relations through cooperation in political-security, economic, and socio-cultural domains.

- **Regional Security Cooperation:** Both parties agreed to strengthen cooperation in maritime security, counter-terrorism, and transnational crimes, aligning with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
- **Myanmar Crisis:** The ongoing civil war in Myanmar remains a significant concern, with ASEAN and India advocating for peaceful resolution and stability in the region.
- **South China Sea Disputes:** Tensions in the South China Sea have prompted ASEAN and India to emphasize the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, adhering to international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In November 2024, India and Indonesia conducted the "Garuda Shakti" joint military exercise, underscoring the significance of military cooperation and strategic partnerships between India and Southeast Asian nations.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
- **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** Both parties have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway are being developed to enhance connectivity between India and ASEAN countries.
- **Cybersecurity Cooperation:** The establishment of an ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue aims to address cybersecurity challenges and promote a secure digital environment.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** In 2023-24, bilateral trade between India and ASEAN reached \$122.67 billion, with ASEAN accounting for 11% of India's global trade.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in ASEAN countries, including port development and digital connectivity initiatives.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to ASEAN countries for various development projects, including capacity building and technical assistance.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between India and ASEAN.
- **Tourism Promotion:** 2025 has been designated as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, with India allocating \$5 million for joint activities to promote tourism between member countries.

## 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and ASEAN have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.



- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more ASEAN students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and ASEAN media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Indian and ASEAN languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** The ASEAN India Music Festival 2024, held at Purana Qila from November 29 to December 1, showcased musical performances from renowned Indian artists and ASEAN bands, celebrating India-ASEAN relations.

## India-Central Asia Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **High-Level Engagements:** In September 2024, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, reinforcing diplomatic ties and discussing regional security issues.
- **India-Central Asia Summit:** The second India-Central Asia Summit was held virtually in January 2024, marking the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations and emphasizing a shared vision for regional stability and prosperity.
- **Afghanistan Situation:** Both India and Central Asian countries have expressed concerns over the evolving situation in Afghanistan, advocating for a peaceful and inclusive government.
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):** India actively participates in the SCO, collaborating with Central Asian nations on issues like counter-terrorism and regional security.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** India has established strategic partnerships with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, focusing on defense cooperation and regional security.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** Joint military exercises, such as "Khanjar" with Kyrgyzstan and "Dustlik" with Uzbekistan, have been conducted to enhance interoperability and address common challenges.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of trade routes, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
- **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** Both parties have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.

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- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Chabahar Port in Iran are being developed to enhance connectivity between India and Central Asian countries.
- **Energy Cooperation:** India has invested in oil and gas exploration projects in Central Asia, aiming to diversify its energy sources and enhance energy security.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Central Asian countries has been growing, with a focus on sectors like pharmaceuticals, textiles, and information technology.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in Central Asia, including road construction and telecommunications, to boost regional connectivity.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to Central Asian countries for various development projects, including capacity building and technical assistance.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between India and Central Asian countries.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both parties have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and historical sites.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Central Asian countries have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Central Asian students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Central Asian media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Indian and Central Asian languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both regions.

## India-West Asia Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Dialogues:** In September 2024, India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) adopted a Joint Action Plan for 2024-2028, aiming to enhance cooperation in energy, trade, security, agriculture, health, and food security.
- **Diplomatic Engagements:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in early 2024 reinforced India's commitment to strengthening ties with West Asian nations.
- **Israel-Palestine Conflict:** India has maintained a balanced stance, advocating for a two-state solution while enhancing bilateral relations with Israel. In October 2024, India expressed deep concern over escalating conflicts in West Asia, urging restraint and the protection of civilians.
- **Iran Relations:** Despite U.S. sanctions, India continues to engage with Iran, focusing on the development of the Chabahar Port to enhance connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- **Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** India collaborates with West Asian countries to combat terrorism, sharing intelligence and conducting joint exercises to address common security challenges.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** India has signed defense agreements with Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, conducting joint military exercises and enhancing maritime security collaboration.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
- **Energy Security:** West Asia remains a crucial source of oil and gas for India, with agreements in place to ensure a stable energy supply. In February 2024, India signed a 20-year deal with Qatar for the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Chabahar Port are being developed to enhance connectivity between India and West Asian countries.
- **Space Cooperation:** India has engaged in space technology collaborations with Israel and the UAE, focusing on satellite development and space exploration.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** In the fiscal year 2022-2023, the GCC became India's largest trading partner, accounting for 15.8% of India's total trade.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** India has invested in key infrastructure projects in West Asia, including port development and digital connectivity initiatives.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to West Asian countries for various development projects, including capacity building and technical assistance.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between India and West Asian countries.

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- **Tourism Promotion:** Both parties have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and historical sites.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and West Asian countries have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more students from West Asia to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and West Asian media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Indian and West Asian languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both regions.

## India-Latin America Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **High-Level Engagements:** In September 2024, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, embarked on a five-nation tour covering the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago. This visit aimed to bolster diplomatic ties and explore new avenues for cooperation.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** India has established strategic partnerships with key Latin American countries, including Brazil and Mexico, focusing on areas such as defense, energy, and technology.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Both India and Latin American nations actively participate in international forums like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, collaborating on issues such as climate change and sustainable development.
- **Regional Stability:** India supports peace and stability in Latin America, advocating for democratic governance and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.
- **China's Influence:** The growing presence of China in Latin America has prompted India to enhance its engagement with the region to balance geopolitical dynamics.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** India has engaged in defense dialogues with countries like Brazil and Argentina, exploring opportunities for joint training and defense technology collaboration.

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- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of sea lanes, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe maritime trade routes.
- **Space Collaboration:** India's space agency, ISRO, has partnered with Latin American countries for satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Energy Security:** India has invested in oil and gas exploration projects in Latin America, aiming to diversify its energy sources and enhance energy security.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) are being developed to enhance connectivity between India and Latin American countries.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Latin America has grown significantly, reaching nearly \$50 billion in 2014 and remaining near that level before falling to \$30 billion in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. India is among Latin America's top five largest export destinations.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** Indian companies have invested in key infrastructure projects in Latin America, including road construction and telecommunications, to boost regional connectivity.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to Latin American countries for various development projects, including capacity building and technical assistance.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between India and Latin American countries.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both parties have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and historical sites.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Latin American countries have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Latin American students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Latin American media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Indian and Latin American languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both regions.

# India-Africa Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

## 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **High-Level Engagements:** In October 2024, Indian President Draupadi Murmu visited Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi, reinforcing diplomatic ties and exploring new avenues for cooperation.
- **G20 Inclusion:** During its G20 presidency in 2023, India advocated for the African Union's inclusion as a permanent member, enhancing Africa's representation in global decision-making.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** India has established strategic partnerships with key African nations, focusing on defense, energy, and technology collaborations.
- **Peacekeeping Contributions:** India continues to be a significant contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa, promoting regional stability.
- **Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** Both parties have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** Joint military exercises, such as the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX), have been conducted to enhance interoperability and address common security challenges.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe sea lanes.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Chabahar Port are being developed to enhance connectivity between India and African countries.
- **Energy Cooperation:** India has invested in oil and gas exploration projects in Africa, aiming to diversify its energy sources and enhance energy security.
- **Space Collaboration:** India's space agency, ISRO, has partnered with African countries for satellite launches and space research initiatives.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Africa reached \$90.5 billion in 2022-23, with India emerging as one of Africa's top five investors.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** Indian companies have invested in key infrastructure projects in Africa, including road construction and telecommunications, to boost regional connectivity.

- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to African countries for various development projects, including capacity building and technical assistance.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between India and African countries.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both parties have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and historical sites.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and African countries have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more African students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and African media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Indian and African languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both regions.

## India-European Union Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

#### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2024, India and the European Union (EU) celebrated the 20th anniversary of their strategic partnership, underscoring a commitment to shared democratic values and multilateralism.
- **High-Level Dialogues:** The 16th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi in March 2024, where leaders discussed global security challenges, climate change, and digital transformation.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both parties emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy and India's Act East Policy to ensure a free, open, and rules-based order.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and the EU have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both entities advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In April 2024, India and the EU launched a defense and security dialogue to enhance collaboration in maritime security, cyber defense, and counter-terrorism.
- **Maritime Security:** Joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean have been conducted to ensure the security of sea lanes and uphold international maritime laws.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both parties have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and the European Space Agency have collaborated on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Climate Security:** Recognizing the security implications of climate change, India and the EU have initiated joint projects to address environmental challenges.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade reached €120 billion in 2023, with the EU being India's third-largest trading partner.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations:** In February 2024, the seventh round of FTA negotiations was held in New Delhi, focusing on reducing tariffs and addressing non-tariff barriers.
- **Investment Flows:** The EU is a significant investor in India, with cumulative investments surpassing €90 billion, particularly in sectors like renewable energy and technology.
- **Digital Economy:** Collaborations in digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and blockchain, have been initiated to drive innovation and economic growth.
- **Sustainable Development:** Joint initiatives have been launched to promote sustainable development goals, focusing on clean energy and green technologies.

## 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs like Erasmus+ have facilitated student and academic exchanges, enhancing mutual understanding and collaboration.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The EU-India Cultural Week, held in May 2024, showcased art, music, and literature from both regions, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and European media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote European languages in India and Indian languages in Europe have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian diaspora in Europe has been instrumental in fostering cultural ties, with community events and business forums enhancing bilateral relations.



# India-United States Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

## 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In September 2024, during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India and the United States reaffirmed their Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, emphasizing shared democratic values and a commitment to a rules-based international order.
- **Quad Engagement:** Both nations continue to actively participate in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) alongside Japan and Australia, focusing on ensuring a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- **Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** India and the U.S. have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat global terrorism, addressing threats from organizations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda.
- **Climate Change Initiatives:** Both countries have pledged to collaborate on climate action, aiming to meet the goals set in the Paris Agreement and promote sustainable development.
- **Global Health Security:** In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, India and the U.S. have strengthened cooperation in global health security, focusing on vaccine distribution and pandemic preparedness.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In June 2024, India and the U.S. signed a Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, facilitating joint research, development, and production of defense technologies.
- **Maritime Security:** Both navies conducted the 28th edition of the Malabar naval exercise in August 2024, enhancing interoperability and addressing common maritime threats.
- **Space Collaboration:** NASA and ISRO have progressed on the NISAR satellite mission, scheduled for launch in early 2025, aiming to monitor Earth's land and ice surfaces.
- **Cybersecurity Framework:** A bilateral Cybersecurity Dialogue was held in April 2024, focusing on protecting critical infrastructure and combating cyber threats.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade reached \$160 billion in 2023, with the U.S. being India's largest trading partner.
- **Investment Flows:** U.S. companies have invested over \$60 billion in India, particularly in sectors like technology, energy, and manufacturing.

- **Technology Collaboration:** The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) was launched in January 2024, focusing on AI, quantum computing, and semiconductors.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Both nations have expanded the U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership, emphasizing renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Collaborative projects in infrastructure, including smart cities and transportation, have been initiated to support India's urbanization efforts.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** The number of Indian students in U.S. universities surpassed 250,000 in 2024, making them the largest group of international students in the U.S.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The U.S.-India Cultural Festival, held in Washington D.C. in July 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both countries, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Collaboration:** Joint film productions and media partnerships have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian-American community, numbering over 4 million, continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties through business, politics, and culture.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Indian languages in the U.S. and English language programs in India have been expanded to deepen cultural connections

## India-Russia Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

#### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **High-Level Engagements:** In July 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Moscow for the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit, marking the resumption of this dialogue after a two-year hiatus.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership," emphasizing cooperation in defense, energy, and technology.
- **BRICS Collaboration:** India and Russia actively participated in the BRICS summit held in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024, discussing strategies to counterbalance Western influence and expand the group's membership.
- **Ukraine Conflict Stance:** India maintained a neutral position on the Ukraine conflict, advocating for dialogue and diplomacy, as reiterated during Modi's visit to Kyiv in August 2024.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries called for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

#### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

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- **Defense Cooperation:** India and Russia agreed to boost joint manufacturing in India of spare parts and components for maintenance of Russian-origin arms and defense equipment under the Make-in-India program.
- **Maritime Security:** Collaborative efforts have been made to ensure the security of sea lanes, focusing on combating piracy and ensuring safe maritime trade routes.
- **Space Collaboration:** India's ISRO and Russia's Roscosmos have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Energy Security:** Russia remains a key supplier of crude oil and natural gas to India, with both nations exploring long-term agreements to ensure energy security.
- **Counter-Terrorism Initiatives:** Both parties have intensified intelligence sharing and joint operations to combat cross-border terrorism and insurgency.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Russia reached \$30 billion in 2023, with a target of \$100 billion by 2030.
- **Investment in Infrastructure:** Indian companies have invested in key infrastructure projects in Russia, including oil and gas exploration and telecommunications, to boost regional connectivity.
- **Financial Assistance:** India has extended lines of credit and grants to Russia for various development projects, including capacity building and technical assistance.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Efforts are being made to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline customs procedures to facilitate smoother trade between India and Russia.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Both parties have worked together to promote tourism, leveraging shared cultural and historical sites.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Cultural Exchanges:** India and Russia have organized joint cultural festivals and exhibitions to celebrate shared heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Collaboration:** Scholarship programs have been expanded, allowing more Russian students to pursue higher education in India.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Russian media houses have increased, promoting cross-cultural understanding.
- **Language and Literature:** Initiatives to promote Indian and Russian languages and literature have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Art and Music Initiatives:** Joint art exhibitions and music concerts have been organized to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of both regions.

# India-Japan Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

## 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2024, India and Japan celebrated the 10th anniversary of their "Special Strategic and Global Partnership," underscoring a commitment to shared democratic values and a rules-based international order.
- **High-Level Dialogues:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba held multiple meetings in 2024, including on October 10 during the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in Laos, to discuss regional security and economic cooperation.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy and India's Act East Policy to ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Quad Engagement:** India and Japan actively participated in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) alongside the United States and Australia, focusing on maritime security and regional stability.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** Both countries have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In August 2024, during the third Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi, both nations agreed to bolster defense ties, including the transfer of battleship communication antennas and related technology from Japan to India.
- **Maritime Security:** Joint naval exercises, such as JIMEX, have been conducted to enhance interoperability and address common maritime threats.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both parties have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and Japan's JAXA have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Japan reached \$22.85 billion in the 2023/24 fiscal year, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.
- **Investment Flows:** Japan is the third-largest investor in India, with cumulative investments surpassing \$30 billion, particularly in sectors like infrastructure, technology, and manufacturing.

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- **Technology Collaboration:** Both countries have launched initiatives focusing on artificial intelligence, robotics, and renewable energy technologies.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor, utilizing Japan's Shinkansen technology, are underway to enhance connectivity.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs have been expanded, allowing more students from both countries to pursue higher education and research collaborations.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The India-Japan Cultural Festival, held in Tokyo in September 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Japanese media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Japanese language learning in India and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in Japan and the Japanese community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

## India-Canada Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

#### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Diplomatic Tensions:** In September 2024, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian government of involvement in the assassination of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. This led to both countries expelling each other's diplomats, significantly straining bilateral relations.
- **Allegations of Interference:** Canada has alleged that Indian officials were involved in activities threatening the safety of Canadians, including intelligence gathering and interference in democratic processes.
- **International Reactions:** The United States and Australia have expressed concerns over these allegations, urging India to cooperate with Canada's investigation.
- **Khalistan Movement:** The presence of Sikh separatist movements in Canada, particularly the Khalistan movement, has been a longstanding concern for India, contributing to the current diplomatic discord.
- **Calls for De-escalation:** Despite the tensions, both nations have expressed a desire to de-escalate the situation and restore normalcy in their diplomatic engagements.

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## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** Prior to the diplomatic fallout, India and Canada had engaged in defense dialogues focusing on peacekeeping and counter-terrorism efforts.
- **Maritime Security:** Both countries have participated in joint naval exercises aimed at enhancing maritime security and addressing common threats.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** The current allegations have put a strain on intelligence-sharing mechanisms between the two nations, impacting collaborative efforts against terrorism.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Collaborations in cybersecurity have been affected, with both nations reassessing their cooperative frameworks in light of recent events.
- **Peacekeeping Contributions:** Both countries have a history of contributing to UN peacekeeping missions, though current tensions may influence future collaborations.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Canada was valued at approximately \$8 billion in 2023. The recent diplomatic tensions have raised concerns about potential impacts on trade and investment flows.
- **Investment Flows:** Canadian pension funds have been significant investors in India's infrastructure sector. The current situation may lead to a reassessment of these investments.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in the energy sector, including nuclear energy and renewable resources, are under scrutiny due to the strained relations.
- **Technology Collaboration:** Joint ventures in technology and innovation sectors may face challenges as both nations navigate the diplomatic impasse.
- **Education and Research:** Academic collaborations and student exchanges have been robust; however, the current tensions could impact future partnerships.

## 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Diaspora Dynamics:** Canada is home to a significant Indian diaspora, particularly from the Sikh community. The current tensions have led to concerns within the diaspora about their safety and the future of India-Canada relations.
- **Cultural Exchanges:** Cultural festivals and exchanges have been a cornerstone of bilateral relations. The diplomatic row has led to the postponement or cancellation of several cultural events.
- **Media Narratives:** Media coverage in both countries has been intense, with narratives often reflecting national sentiments and contributing to the public perception of the bilateral relationship.
- **Academic Collaborations:** Joint research projects and academic exchanges are facing uncertainties, with institutions in both countries reassessing their partnerships.

- **Tourism Impact:** Travel advisories and public sentiment have led to a decline in tourism between the two nations, affecting cultural and economic exchanges.

## India-Germany Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2024, India and Germany celebrated the 25th anniversary of their strategic partnership, underscoring a commitment to shared democratic values and multilateralism.
- **High-Level Dialogues:** German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited New Delhi in October 2024 for the 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), engaging in extensive discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on bilateral and global issues.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with Germany's Indo-Pacific guidelines and India's Act East Policy to ensure a free, open, and rules-based order.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and Germany have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In March 2024, India and Germany agreed to enhance defense ties, including potential collaboration in submarine technology and joint military exercises.
- **Maritime Security:** The German Navy participated in multilateral naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, aiming to strengthen maritime security and uphold international maritime laws.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both nations have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and Germany's DLR have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Germany reached €24 billion in 2023, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.

- **Investment Flows:** Germany is among the top investors in India, with cumulative investments surpassing €12 billion, particularly in sectors like automotive, engineering, and renewable energy.
- **Technology Collaboration:** Both countries have launched initiatives focusing on artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and digital technologies.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the Green Energy Corridors and Smart Cities Mission have seen significant German involvement, enhancing urban infrastructure in India.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs like the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre have facilitated student and academic exchanges, enhancing mutual understanding and collaboration.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The Indo-German Cultural Week, held in Berlin in September 2024, showcased art, music, and literature from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and German media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote German language learning in India and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in Germany and the German community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

## India-Singapore Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

#### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** In September 2024, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore, India and Singapore elevated their bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, underscoring a commitment to shared values and regional stability.
- **High-Level Dialogues:** The Second India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) was held in Singapore on August 26, 2024, facilitating discussions on bilateral cooperation and mutual interests.



- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with Singapore's role as a key ASEAN member and India's Act East Policy to ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and Singapore have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In September 2024, India and Singapore agreed to enhance defense ties, including joint military exercises and collaboration in defense technology.
- **Maritime Security:** Joint naval exercises, such as SIMBEX, have been conducted to enhance interoperability and address common maritime threats.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both nations have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and Singapore's space agencies have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Singapore reached \$35.6 billion in 2023-24, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.
- **Investment Flows:** Singapore is among the top investors in India, with cumulative investments surpassing \$160 billion, particularly in sectors like infrastructure, technology, and manufacturing.
- **Technology Collaboration:** Both countries have launched initiatives focusing on digital technologies, semiconductors, and fintech.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the development of smart cities and urban infrastructure have seen significant Singaporean involvement, enhancing urban infrastructure in India.

## 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs have been expanded, allowing more students from both countries to pursue higher education and research collaborations.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The India-Singapore Cultural Festival, held in Singapore in September 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.

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- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Singaporean media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Indian languages in Singapore and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in Singapore and the Singaporean community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

## India-Malaysia Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** In August 2024, India and Malaysia elevated their bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, reflecting a commitment to deepening cooperation across various sectors.
- **High-Level Engagements:** Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim visited India in August 2024, marking his first visit to the South Asian region and engaging in wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with Malaysia's role as a key ASEAN member and India's Act East Policy to ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and Malaysia have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In July 2023, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Malaysia, discussing enhanced defense ties, including joint military exercises and collaboration in defense technology.
- **Maritime Security:** Joint naval exercises, such as Exercise Harimau Shakti, have been conducted to enhance interoperability and address common maritime threats.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both nations have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and Malaysia's space agencies have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.

- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Malaysia reached a record high of USD 19.5 billion, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.
- **Investment Flows:** Malaysia has invested significantly in India, particularly in sectors like infrastructure, technology, and manufacturing.
- **Technology Collaboration:** Both countries have launched initiatives focusing on digital technologies, start-ups, and fintech.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the development of smart cities and urban infrastructure have seen significant Malaysian involvement, enhancing urban infrastructure in India.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs have been expanded, allowing more students from both countries to pursue higher education and research collaborations.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The India-Malaysia Cultural Festival, held in Kuala Lumpur in September 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Malaysian media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Indian languages in Malaysia and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in Malaysia and the Malaysian community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

## India-United Kingdom Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2021, India and the United Kingdom established a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' through the 2030 Roadmap, aiming to enhance cooperation across various sectors, including health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defense.

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- **High-Level Dialogues:** In May 2024, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Sir Philip Barton, Permanent Under-Secretary at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, conducted the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London, reviewing progress on the 2030 Roadmap and discussing future bilateral cooperation.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations have emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with the UK's 'Indo-Pacific Tilt' and India's 'Act East Policy' to ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and the UK have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In October 2023, India and the UK held their inaugural 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue in New Delhi, co-chaired by senior officials from both countries, to enhance defense ties and discuss strategic issues.
- **Maritime Security:** In April 2024, the Indian Navy participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the UK's Response Group South in the Indian Ocean, focusing on tactical maneuvers, boarding operations, and cross-deck helicopter operations.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both nations have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and the UK's space agencies have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and the UK reached £20.36 billion in 2022-23, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.
- **Investment Flows:** India is the second-largest foreign investor in the UK, with Indian companies generating over £48 billion and employing more than 105,000 people in the UK.
- **Technology Collaboration:** In July 2024, the UK and India launched a technology security initiative focused on boosting economic growth, fostering collaboration in telecoms security, and promoting investment in emerging technologies such as semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the development of smart cities and urban infrastructure have seen significant UK involvement, enhancing urban infrastructure in India.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs have been expanded, allowing more students from both countries to pursue higher education and research collaborations.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The India-UK Cultural Festival, held in London in September 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and UK media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Indian languages in the UK and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in the UK and the British community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

## India-United Kingdom Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

### 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2021, India and the United Kingdom established a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' through the 2030 Roadmap, aiming to enhance cooperation across various sectors, including health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defense.
- **High-Level Dialogues:** In May 2024, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Sir Philip Barton, Permanent Under-Secretary at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, conducted the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London, reviewing progress on the 2030 Roadmap and discussing future bilateral cooperation.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations have emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with the UK's 'Indo-Pacific Tilt' and India's 'Act East Policy' to ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and the UK have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

### 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In October 2023, India and the UK held their inaugural 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue in New Delhi, co-chaired by senior officials from both countries, to enhance defense ties and discuss strategic issues.

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- **Maritime Security:** In April 2024, the Indian Navy participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the UK's Littoral Response Group South in the Indian Ocean, focusing on tactical maneuvers, boarding operations, and cross-deck helicopter operations.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both nations have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and the UK's space agencies have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

### 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and the UK reached £20.36 billion in 2022-23, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.
- **Investment Flows:** India is the second-largest foreign investor in the UK, with Indian companies generating over £48 billion and employing more than 105,000 people in the UK.
- **Technology Collaboration:** In July 2024, the UK and India launched a technology security initiative focused on boosting economic growth, fostering collaboration in telecoms security, and promoting investment in emerging technologies such as semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the development of smart cities and urban infrastructure have seen significant UK involvement, enhancing urban infrastructure in India.

### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs have been expanded, allowing more students from both countries to pursue higher education and research collaborations.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The India-UK Cultural Festival, held in London in September 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and UK media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Indian languages in the UK and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in the UK and the British community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

# India-Australia Relations: Comprehensive and Updated

## 1. Geopolitical Aspects

- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2024, India and Australia continued to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, emphasizing shared democratic values and a commitment to a rules-based international order.
- **High-Level Engagements:** In November 2024, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong co-chaired the 15th India-Australia Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue in Canberra, discussing regional and global scenarios.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Both nations emphasized collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with their shared vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** India and Australia have intensified cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on intelligence sharing and counter-radicalization strategies.
- **Global Governance:** Both countries advocate for reforms in global institutions like the United Nations to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

## 2. Geostrategic Aspects

- **Defense Cooperation:** In May 2024, Australia identified India as a 'top-tier security partner' in its National Defense Strategy, highlighting the importance of defense industry cooperation and information sharing.
- **Maritime Security:** Joint naval exercises, such as AUSINDEX, have been conducted to enhance interoperability and address common maritime threats.
- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Both nations have established frameworks to address cyber threats, focusing on capacity building and information sharing.
- **Space Cooperation:** India's ISRO and Australia's space agencies have partnered on satellite launches and space research initiatives.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms have been established to address regional security challenges, including issues related to terrorism and regional stability.

## 3. Geo-economic Aspects

- **Trade Relations:** Bilateral trade between India and Australia reached AUD 46.5 billion in 2023, with both nations aiming to further enhance economic ties.
- **Investment Flows:** Australia has invested significantly in India, particularly in sectors like infrastructure, technology, and education.

- **Technology Collaboration:** Both countries have launched initiatives focusing on digital technologies, renewable energy, and critical minerals.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Collaborations in clean energy, including solar and hydrogen technologies, have been initiated to promote sustainable development.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Projects like the development of smart cities and urban infrastructure have seen significant Australian involvement, enhancing urban infrastructure in India.

#### 4. Geocultural Aspects

- **Educational Exchanges:** Programs have been expanded, allowing more students from both countries to pursue higher education and research collaborations.
- **Cultural Festivals:** The India-Australia Cultural Festival, held in Sydney in September 2024, showcased art, music, and cuisine from both nations, celebrating shared heritage.
- **Media Cooperation:** Collaborations between Indian and Australian media outlets have increased, promoting cross-cultural narratives and understanding.
- **Language Programs:** Initiatives to promote Indian languages in Australia and vice versa have been undertaken to deepen cultural connections.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** The Indian community in Australia and the Australian community in India continue to play pivotal roles in strengthening bilateral ties through business, culture, and education.

## INDIAN DIASPORA

The Indian diaspora, comprising over 32 million individuals globally, plays a pivotal role in shaping India's international relations through significant economic, political, and cultural contributions.

#### Economic Contributions

- **Remittances:** In 2023, India received a record \$100 billion in remittances, underscoring the diaspora's vital role in bolstering the nation's foreign exchange reserves.
- **Trade and Investment:** Diaspora entrepreneurs have been instrumental in facilitating trade and investment. For instance, Indian-American business leaders have significantly contributed to the technology sector, fostering innovation and strengthening economic ties between India and the United States.

#### Political Influence

- **Advocacy and Lobbying:** The diaspora actively engages in advocacy, influencing policy decisions in host countries. In the United States, Indian-American organizations have successfully lobbied for policies favorable to India, including defense collaborations and trade agreements.

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- **Soft Power:** Cultural diplomacy by the diaspora enhances India's soft power. Events like the 'Namaste Trump' rally in 2020, organized by the Indian-American community, showcased India's cultural heritage and strengthened bilateral ties.

### Cultural Impact

- **Cultural Ambassadors:** Diaspora communities serve as cultural ambassadors, promoting Indian traditions and values. The annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrates the contributions of overseas Indians, fostering a sense of unity and cultural pride.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Through festivals, arts, and cuisine, the diaspora fosters cultural exchange, enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation. For example, Indian film festivals in countries like Canada and the UK have gained popularity, showcasing India's rich cinematic heritage.

### Challenges and Considerations

Despite their contributions, the diaspora faces challenges:

- **Integration:** Balancing integration into host societies while maintaining cultural identity can be complex.
- **Policy Engagement:** Engaging effectively with India's foreign policy requires cohesive strategies and support from the Indian government.

Recognizing these challenges, India has implemented measures to strengthen ties with its diaspora, such as the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) scheme and the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, celebrating the contributions of overseas Indians.