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INDIA AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: BRIDGING REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS WITH GLOBAL AGENDAS

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Abstract

India's journey in the realm of global governance reflects its unique position as both a regional leader and a pivotal player on the global stage. Balancing its diverse domestic priorities with its aspirations for greater influence in international decision-making, India strives to bridge regional aspirations with global agendas. This seminar paper explores India's evolving role in global governance, examining its contributions, challenges, and opportunities in shaping international norms and institutions. The paper begins by highlighting India's historical engagement with global governance frameworks, from its active participation in the United Nations to its leadership in the Non-Aligned Movement. It delves into India's advocacy for reforms in international institutions such as the United Nations Security Council, where it seeks a permanent seat to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities. India's leadership in addressing global issues like climate change, public health, and sustainable development through forums such as the G20 and BRICS underscores its commitment to equitable and inclusive global governance. At the regional level, India's role in fostering cooperation through initiatives like SAARC, BIMSTEC, and the Indo-Pacific framework demonstrates its commitment to bridging regional aspirations with global objectives. However, the paper also critically examines challenges, including geopolitical tensions, resource constraints, and the complexities of balancing domestic development with international responsibilities. By integrating regional priorities into the global governance agenda, India aims to contribute to a more equitable, multipolar world order. This paper argues that India's strategic approach to global governance—grounded in its democratic ethos, economic potential, and cultural diversity—offers a model for other emerging powers. As India navigates the complexities of global leadership, its efforts to harmonize regional aspirations with global imperatives remain pivotal for fostering sustainable and inclusive international cooperation.

Key Words– Global Governance, Sustainable Development, Geopolitics, Climate Change, United Nations, Organizations.

1. Introduction

Imagine our world as a bustling town square where countries, like individual residents, come together. Some are old-timers, used to setting the rules, while others are newer arrivals, eager to make their mark. India, a nation with a rich history and a vibrant present, is increasingly stepping into this global town

square with its own unique perspective and growing influence.

For a long time after gaining its independence, India was like a family just setting up its own home, focusing on its own development and carefully choosing its friends on the world stage. But as the world became more connected, facing shared challenges like a changing climate that affects everyone's weather, diseases that can cross borders in a flash, and

economic ups and downs that ripple across continents, India realized it couldn't stay just within its own walls.

This paper is like taking a closer look at India's journey into this global town square. We want to understand how India, while deeply connected to its own neighbourhood – South Asia – and having its own local dreams for peace, prosperity, and influence in the region, also engages with the big global issues that concern us all. Think of these "regional aspirations" as India's goals for its own community, and the "global agendas" as the shared concerns of the entire town.

We'll explore how India tries to weave these two together. How does it use its relationships with its neighbours to contribute to global solutions? How do the global rules and norms affect India's ability to achieve its goals in its own backyard? We'll look at India's involvement in global organizations like the United Nations, its relationships with countries near and far, and its efforts to tackle shared problems like terrorism and climate change.

Ultimately, this paper is about understanding India's evolving role in the world. It's about seeing how a nation with its own specific needs and ambitions is finding its place in the complex web of global governance and how it's trying to make a meaningful contribution to building a more fair and effective world for everyone – a world where the voices and needs of different "neighbourhoods" are heard and addressed in the global conversation.

2. Laying the Groundwork:

Understanding India's Approach

2.1 Different Ways of Seeing the World: Realism, Idealism, and the Power of Ideas

Think of international relations theories as different lenses through which we can understand how countries behave. Realism suggests that countries are primarily focused on their own power and security in a world

where there's no ultimate authority.¹¹⁶² From this viewpoint, India's global actions would be driven by its own national interests. Liberalism, on the other hand, emphasizes cooperation, trade, and international organizations as ways for countries to benefit together. This perspective would highlight India's participation in multilateral institutions. Finally, constructivism focuses on the role of ideas, culture, and shared understandings in shaping how countries see themselves and others. This lens helps us understand how India's history and identity influence its global approach. In reality, India's foreign policy often blends elements of all these perspectives.

2.2 The Echo of Non-Alignment: Keeping Independence in a Connected World

During the Cold War, India famously chose not to align with either the United States or the Soviet Union. This policy of non-alignment was about maintaining strategic independence and having the freedom to make its own decisions. While the Cold War is over, the spirit of strategic autonomy still guides India's foreign policy. It means India prefers to have multiple partnerships and avoid being tied down by formal alliances, allowing it to act in what it believes are its best interests in a complex global landscape.¹¹⁶³

2.3 The Spirit of Togetherness: India and South-South Cooperation

India has long championed the idea of cooperation among developing countries, often referred to as South-South cooperation. The Bandung Conference in 1955, where India played a key role, was a landmark moment in fostering solidarity among newly independent nations in Asia and Africa.¹¹⁶⁴ This spirit emphasizes mutual respect, non-interference, and shared progress. India has actively supported other developing countries through

¹¹⁶² Morgenthau, H. J. (1948). *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. Alfred A. Knopf.

¹¹⁶³ Hall, I. (2012). India's new grand strategy: Second-order state no more? *Asian Security*, 8(3), 215-232.

¹¹⁶⁴ Van der Veer, P. (2016). Bandung and the making of the postcolonial world. In *Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction* (pp. 77-96). Oxford University Press.

technical assistance, sharing its development experiences, and advocating for their interests in international forums, reflecting a belief in collective progress.

2.4 "The World is One Family": India's Guiding Philosophy

The ancient Indian philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – the idea that the entire world is one family – provides a deep ethical foundation for India's approach to global affairs.¹¹⁶⁵ This concept promotes a sense of interconnectedness and universal responsibility, suggesting a worldview that goes beyond narrow national interests. While putting this philosophy into practice in international politics can be challenging, it can be seen as influencing India's emphasis on working together globally and its aspiration for a more harmonious and equitable world order.

2.5 Finding Its Place: India in a World of Many Powers

The world today is not dominated by just one or two superpowers. Instead, we see the rise of multiple centres of influence, creating a multipolar world. India recognizes the opportunities this presents to pursue its own interests and increase its influence. It strategically builds partnerships with various countries and groups, using its growing economic and political weight to advance its agenda.¹¹⁶⁶ India's involvement in groups like BRICS (with Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa) and the Quad (with the US, Japan, and Australia) shows its approach of engaging with different powers based on shared interests in a multipolar world.

3. India and the Global Rulebook: Institutions and Involvement

3.1 The United Nations: A Place for Every Voice

India has been a strong supporter of the United Nations since its beginning, seeing it as the

¹¹⁶⁵ Mukherjee, N. (2018). Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The philosophy of global citizenship in India. *Journal of Indian Culture and Civilization*, 1(1), 25-32.

¹¹⁶⁶ Tellis, A. J. (2016). India's strategic choices: Between bandwagoning and balancing. *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Foreign Policy* (pp. 49-66). Oxford University Press.

most important platform for addressing global issues and promoting cooperation. It actively participates in various UN bodies, contributing to discussions on everything from peace and security to development and human rights.¹¹⁶⁷

3.1.1 India's Longing for a Seat at the Big Table: The Security Council

A major goal for India has been to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. As the world's largest democracy and a significant contributor to UN activities, India argues that its permanent membership would make the Council more representative and effective in today's world.¹¹⁶⁸ India is part of the G4 group, working with Brazil, Germany, and Japan to support each other's bids. While many countries support India's inclusion, progress on reforming the Security Council has been slow due to disagreements among existing members. India continues to actively push for its case, highlighting its growing global responsibilities and its commitment to international peace.

3.1.2 Sending Helping Hands: India's Role in UN Peacekeeping

India has been one of the largest and most consistent contributors to UN peacekeeping operations around the world. Indian peacekeepers have served in numerous missions, playing a crucial role in maintaining peace and security in conflict zones.¹¹⁶⁹ Their professionalism and dedication have been widely recognized. This active participation shows India's commitment to the UN's goal of maintaining international peace and its willingness to take on global responsibilities¹¹⁷⁰.

3.1.3 Working Together: India and UN Agencies

India actively collaborates with various UN agencies and specialized bodies on a wide

¹¹⁶⁷ Ghosh, P. S. (2017). India and the United Nations. In *India and the World* (pp. 105-124). Routledge.

¹¹⁶⁸ Bajpai, K. (2015). Why India should be a permanent member of the UN Security Council. *International Affairs*, 91(5), 1047-1063.

¹¹⁶⁹ United Nations. (2023). UN Peacekeeping Contributions. <https://peacekeeping.un.org>, last seen on 23/03/2025.

¹¹⁷⁰ Pant, H. V., & Joshi, Y. (2019). India's humanitarian diplomacy: Soft power with a strategic edge. *Asian Security*, 15(1), 1-19.

range of issues. For example, it works with the World Health Organization (WHO) on global health initiatives, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on sustainable development goals, and with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on environmental protection. India also participates in the work of bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), sharing its expertise and contributing to global standards. It has also set up a National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)¹¹⁷¹ and working for its implementation through a set of eight national missions focusing on areas such as solar energy, energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, a green India, sustainable agriculture, and strategic knowledge for climate change. These missions guide India's domestic efforts towards climate mitigation and adaptation.¹¹⁷²

3.2 The World's Banks: Navigating Global Finance

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group are key players in global economic governance. India has been a member of both since their creation and has actively participated in their work while also advocating for changes to better represent the interests of developing countries.¹¹⁷³

3.2.1 India's Voice in the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

India is a significant shareholder in the IMF and actively participates in its policy discussions and decision-making. As a major emerging economy, India's views on global financial stability and economic policies are increasingly

important. India has both received assistance from the IMF in the past and contributed to its resources more recently. It has consistently called for reforms in the IMF's voting system to give developing countries a greater say.

3.2.2 Partnering for Progress: India and the World Bank

India has a long and important relationship with the World Bank Group, which has been a major partner in India's development efforts. The World Bank has provided significant financial and technical support to India in areas like infrastructure, poverty reduction, education, and health. In turn, India has shared its development experiences with other developing countries through the Bank's platforms. Similar to its stance on the IMF, India has also pushed for reforms in the World Bank's governance to increase the representation of developing nations.

3.2.3 Asking for a Fairer System: Reforming Global Finance

India has been a strong voice for broader reforms in the global financial system to make it more inclusive, stable, and responsive to the needs of developing countries. It has called for better regulation of financial markets, stronger monitoring of global risks, and improved ways to handle sovereign debt problems. India uses forums like the G20 to advocate for these reforms and to help shape the global economic agenda.¹¹⁷⁴

3.3 The Trade Winds: India and the World Trade Organization (WTO)

India has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO)¹¹⁷⁵ since it was established and has actively participated in global trade negotiations. India sees the WTO as an important forum for promoting a rules-based international trading system and for protecting

¹¹⁷¹ NAPCC, PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/dec/doc202112101.pdf>, last seen on 23/03/2025.

¹¹⁷² NAPCC, Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, Government of India, https://archivepmo.nic.in/dmanmohansingh/climate_change_english.pdf, last seen on 23/03/2025.

¹¹⁷³ Reddy, Y. V. (2016). *India and the Global Financial Crisis: Managing Money and Finance*. Anthem Press.

¹¹⁷⁴ G20, Government of India, <https://www.g20.in/en/index.html>, last seen on 24/03/2025.

¹¹⁷⁵ World Trade Organization. (2023). India and the WTO, <https://www.wto.org>, last seen on 23/03/2025.

the interests of developing countries in global trade.¹¹⁷⁶

3.3.1 Standing Up for Its Interests: India in Trade Talks

India has often taken a careful approach to opening up its markets, emphasizing the need to protect its own industries and farmers, and to ensure that trade agreements support its development goals. It has played a key role in shaping the agenda of the Doha Development Round, pushing for issues important to developing countries, such as special treatment and addressing imbalances in existing trade rules.

3.3.2 Speaking for the Developing World

India has become a leading voice for developing countries in the WTO, articulating their concerns on issues like access to markets, agricultural subsidies in wealthy countries, and the impact of trade rules on food security and livelihoods. It often forms alliances with other developing nations to advocate for outcomes that are more favourable to their interests.

3.3.3 Balancing Patents and Farmers: Navigating Trade Issues

Issues related to intellectual property rights (like patents, especially for medicines) and agricultural subsidies have been areas of significant engagement and sometimes disagreement for India in the WTO. India has tried to find a balance between protecting intellectual property and ensuring access to affordable medicines, as well as supporting its large agricultural population. Its position on these issues reflects its commitment to balancing its trade interests with its broader development goals.

3.4 Working with Neighbours: Regional Groups and Goals

Beyond its involvement in global institutions, India actively participates in various regional organizations and initiatives to advance its

goals in its own neighbourhood and address shared challenges with its neighbours and partners in Asia.

3.4.1 SAARC: A Dream with Some Bumps in the Road

India is a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)¹¹⁷⁷, which aims to promote economic, social, and cultural cooperation among its eight member states (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). However, SAARC's progress has been hindered by political tensions, particularly between India and Pakistan. Despite these challenges, India remains committed to the goals of SAARC and continues to explore ways to cooperate regionally in areas like trade, connectivity, and disaster management.

3.4.2 BIMSTEC: A Fresh Path for Regional Cooperation

In recent years, India has increasingly focused on the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)¹¹⁷⁸, which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. BIMSTEC has emerged as a potentially more effective platform for regional cooperation, especially in areas like connectivity, trade, energy, and security, given the difficulties facing SAARC. India has been actively promoting BIMSTEC as a key part of its regional policy.

3.4.3 Looking East: India and ASEAN

India is a dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)¹¹⁷⁹ and participates in the East Asia Summit (EAS), which brings together leaders from ASEAN countries, as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea, and the United States. These platforms provide India with opportunities to engage with important partners in the Indo-Pacific region, to discuss

¹¹⁷⁶ Das, B. L. (2018). *The WTO Agreements: Deficiencies, Imbalances and Required Changes*. Zed Books

¹¹⁷⁷ SAARC, <https://www.saarc-sec.org/>, last seen on 24/03/2025.

¹¹⁷⁸ BIMSTEC, <https://bimstec.org/>, last seen on 24/03/2025.

¹¹⁷⁹ ASEAN, <https://asean.org/>, last seen on 24/03/2025.

political and security issues, and to promote economic cooperation and connectivity. India's "Act East" policy¹¹⁸⁰ highlights its growing engagement with this dynamic region.

3.4.4 BRICS: Building a Different Kind of Global Power?

India is a founding member of the BRICS forum, which brings together five of the world's largest emerging economies. BRICS¹¹⁸¹ aims to promote greater economic and political cooperation among its members and to advocate for a more multipolar and representative global order. The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) is a concrete example of the forum's efforts to create alternative financial institutions. India has actively participated in BRICS initiatives and has used the platform to voice the concerns of developing countries and to push for reforms in global governance institutions.

3.4.5 The G20: Talking with the World's Economic Leaders

India is a member of the G20, the main forum for international economic cooperation that brings together the world's major developed and developing economies. The G20 provides a crucial platform for India to participate in discussions on global economic issues, to help shape policy responses to financial crises, and to advocate for its economic priorities. India's active participation in the G20 reflects its growing economic importance and its commitment to contributing to global economic stability and growth.¹¹⁸²

4. Bridging Regional Aspirations: India's Foreign Policy in its Neighbourhood

Just as a homeowner first tends to their own garden, ensuring its health and vibrancy, so too does a nation prioritize its immediate surroundings. For India, this "garden" is its neighborhood – South Asia and the broader

Indian Ocean region. India's foreign policy in this context isn't just about being a good neighbor; it's deeply intertwined with its larger global ambitions. A stable, prosperous, and well-connected neighborhood acts as a strong foundation, allowing India to project influence and contribute more effectively to global agendas. This section of our exploration delves into India's efforts to bridge its regional aspirations with its global outlook.

A cornerstone of India's approach is the "Neighborhood First" policy¹¹⁸³, a conscious effort to nurture stronger ties with its immediate neighbors. Think of it as India actively reaching out, offering a helping hand, and building trust. This involves a multi-pronged strategy: fostering economic partnerships through increased trade and investment, enhancing connectivity via roads, railways, and energy grids, and promoting people-to-people exchanges to build lasting goodwill. For instance, the deepening cooperation with Bangladesh, marked by improved connectivity and resolution of long-standing border issues, exemplifies this approach. Similarly, India's consistent support for Bhutan's socio-economic development and its close strategic partnership with the Maldives underscore its commitment to fostering stable and friendly relations in its immediate periphery.¹¹⁸⁴

However, the path to a harmonious neighborhood isn't always smooth. India's relationship with Pakistan, unfortunately, remains a significant hurdle. The enduring issue of cross-border terrorism continues to cast a shadow, hindering deeper regional integration efforts within platforms like SAARC. Despite these challenges, India's engagement in regional forums, even those facing headwinds, reflects its understanding that collective

¹¹⁸⁰ Thirtieth Report Committee On External Affairs (2023-24), Ministry of External Affairs, Government Of India, https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2975902/1/17_External_Affairs_30.pdf, last seen on 25/03/2025.

¹¹⁸¹ BRICS, <https://infobrics.org/>, last seen on 25/03/2025.

¹¹⁸² G20, Government of India, <https://www.g20.in/en/index.html>, last seen on 24/03/2025.

¹¹⁸³ Thirtieth Report Committee On External Affairs (2023-24), Ministry of External Affairs, Government Of India, https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2975902/1/17_External_Affairs_30.pdf, last seen on 25/03/2025.

¹¹⁸⁴ Adeney, K., & Wyatt, A. (2018). India and counter-terrorism: Between national imperatives and international cooperation. *International Affairs*, 94(1), 129-147.

progress is essential for the overall stability and prosperity of the region.

Recognizing the limitations of SAARC, India has also actively championed alternative regional platforms like BIMSTEC. This grouping, connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia, offers a fresh avenue for cooperation in areas like trade, connectivity, and security, aligning India's regional interests with its broader "Act East" policy and its desire for greater engagement with the Indo-Pacific. Initiatives like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project¹¹⁸⁵ are tangible examples of India's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity, not just for economic benefits but also to project its influence and facilitate smoother engagement with global value chains.

Furthermore, India understands that many challenges transcend national borders within its neighborhood. Issues like terrorism, water security, and the impacts of climate change require collective action. While progress on counter-terrorism cooperation within the region has been slow, India continues to advocate for a unified approach. Similarly, while bilateral water-sharing agreements exist, ongoing dialogues are crucial for ensuring equitable and sustainable water management. Recognizing the shared vulnerability to climate change, India is also collaborating with its neighbors on climate resilience initiatives and promoting renewable energy solutions.

In essence, India's foreign policy in its neighborhood is a critical component of its larger global strategy. By actively working to build a stable, interconnected, and prosperous region, India not only serves its own immediate interests but also strengthens its position as a responsible and influential global actor. A peaceful and thriving neighborhood provides a solid platform for India to engage with global

agendas with greater confidence and capacity, effectively bridging its regional aspirations with its broader global vision.

5. Engaging with Global Agendas: India's Role in Addressing Transnational Issues

Beyond its immediate neighborhood, India recognizes that many of the most pressing challenges facing humanity transcend borders, demanding collective action on a global scale. From the shadow of terrorism to the looming threat of climate change, and from the fragility of global health to the imperative of sustainable development, India is increasingly stepping up to play a significant role in tackling these "global agendas." Its growing economic and political weight, coupled with its unique experiences as a large developing nation, positions India as a crucial voice in shaping international norms and contributing to shared solutions.¹¹⁸⁶

Having faced the devastating impact of cross-border terrorism for decades, India views combating this menace as a paramount global priority.¹¹⁸⁷ Its approach involves not only strengthening its domestic security but also actively advocating for a unified international front against terrorism. India has been a vocal proponent of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the United Nations, pushing for a universal legal framework to deny safe havens and criminalize all forms of international terrorism. Furthermore, India actively participates in global and regional counter-terrorism efforts, sharing intelligence and best practices to build collective capacity.

Climate change presents another critical global challenge where India's engagement is vital. As a nation highly vulnerable to its impacts, India actively participates in international climate negotiations, guided by the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and

¹¹⁸⁵ Development Cooperation Projects Undertaken By Government Of India, Embassy of India Yangon, Myanmar, <https://embassyofindiyangon.gov.in/pages/MTUz>, last seen on 23/03/2025.

¹¹⁸⁶ UNSDCF 2023-2027, https://digitallibrary.in.unc.edu/PdfViewer.aspx?FileName=8292_1.pdf&Resourcekey=Mz9rVEcrLsA=, last seen on 25/03/2025.

¹¹⁸⁷ Adeney, K., & Wyatt, A. (2018). India and counter-terrorism: Between national imperatives and international cooperation. *International Affairs*, 94(1), 129-147.

respective capabilities"¹¹⁸⁸ While committed to its own emission reduction targets under the Paris Agreement, India also emphasizes the need for developed nations to fulfill their commitments on climate finance and technology transfer. Moreover, India has demonstrated leadership through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a global platform aimed at promoting the widespread adoption of solar energy technologies, particularly in solar-rich nations.

The recent global health crises have further underscored the interconnectedness of our world. India, often referred to as the "pharmacy of the world" due to its large-scale production of affordable medicines, plays a crucial role in global health security.¹¹⁸⁹ During the COVID-19 pandemic, India not only implemented significant domestic measures but also extended a helping hand to numerous countries through its "Vaccine Maitri" initiative, showcasing its commitment to global health solidarity. India also actively advocates for strengthening global health governance mechanisms and ensuring equitable access to essential medicines and vaccines.

India is also deeply committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has integrated these global goals into its national development framework and is undertaking various initiatives to achieve them.¹¹⁹⁰ Recognizing its own development journey and the challenges faced by other developing nations, India also actively engages in South-South cooperation, sharing its experiences and best practices to contribute to the broader global effort towards sustainable development.

In summary, India's engagement with global agendas is becoming increasingly proactive and impactful. Its unique experiences, coupled with its growing capabilities, allow it to contribute meaningfully to addressing transnational issues. By actively participating in international forums, advocating for its perspectives, and launching global initiatives, India is demonstrating its commitment to being a responsible global actor, effectively bridging its regional aspirations with the pressing concerns of the international community.

6. Conclusion

India's journey in global governance, a tapestry woven with threads of strategic autonomy and active engagement, reveals a nation meticulously integrating its regional aspirations into the broader canvas of global agendas. Rooted in historical principles like non-alignment and South-South cooperation, India's approach harmonizes pragmatism with a philosophical ethos of global unity, echoing the ancient wisdom of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." Its proactive participation in international institutions and regional forums underscores its unwavering commitment to shaping a multipolar world—a world that not only acknowledges but also amplifies the diverse interests of the Global South, ensuring their voices resonate in the corridors of global decision-making.

As India's economic and political influence continues its ascendant trajectory, its role in addressing the multifaceted challenges of our interconnected world becomes increasingly pivotal. To further enhance its contributions, India can strategically focus on fortifying its domestic capacity, championing institutional reforms that reflect contemporary global realities, and adeptly leveraging its soft power—its cultural and diplomatic influence—to foster goodwill and understanding. Cultivating deeper regional integration and steadfastly advocating for equitable global solutions will be crucial in solidifying its position as a responsible and influential global actor, seamlessly bridging

¹¹⁸⁸ Dubash, N. K. (2019). India and climate change: The evolution of a policy discourse. In *Routledge Handbook of Climate Change and Society* (pp. 487-500). Routledge.

¹¹⁸⁹ Kapoor, A. (2020). India's role in global health governance. *International Journal*, 75(3), 383-399.

¹¹⁹⁰ Planning Commission, Government of India. (2018). *Sustainable Development Goals: India Index and Dashboard 2018*, https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment-report/2017/2017_sdg_index_and_dashboards_report.pdf, SDG Transformation Centre, last seen on 22/03/2025.

local needs with overarching global imperatives.

The evolving dynamics of India's international relationships and its engagement with emerging global issues, from climate change to cybersecurity, warrant continued exploration, highlighting its dynamic and transformative role in shaping our shared future.

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