



India, Neighbourhood & Contemporary World

Exploring India's strategic relationships with neighboring countries in the evolving global geopolitical landscape

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Agenda

01. India's Global Position

Understanding India's emergence as a key global player and its strategic significance

02. Neighborhood First Policy

Analysis of India's regional diplomacy and bilateral relationships

03. Major Power Dynamics

India's complex relationships with China, Pakistan, and other regional powers

04. Contemporary Challenges

Current geopolitical tensions, economic partnerships, and future prospects

Neighborhood First Policy Framework

Strategic Regional Diplomacy

India's proactive approach to strengthen ties with South Asian neighbors through bilateral cooperation, economic partnerships, and security collaboration



Economic Integration

Promoting trade corridors, infrastructure development, and energy partnerships



Security Cooperation

Joint counter-terrorism efforts, maritime security, and border management



Cultural Connectivity

People-to-people exchanges, educational partnerships, and cultural diplomacy

India-China Relations: Complex Dynamics



1954 Cooperation

Five-Point Policy established diplomatic framework for peaceful coexistence



1962 Conflict

Border war fundamentally altered bilateral relationship and trust



2020 Tensions

Galwan Valley clash marked lowest point in decades with military standoffs

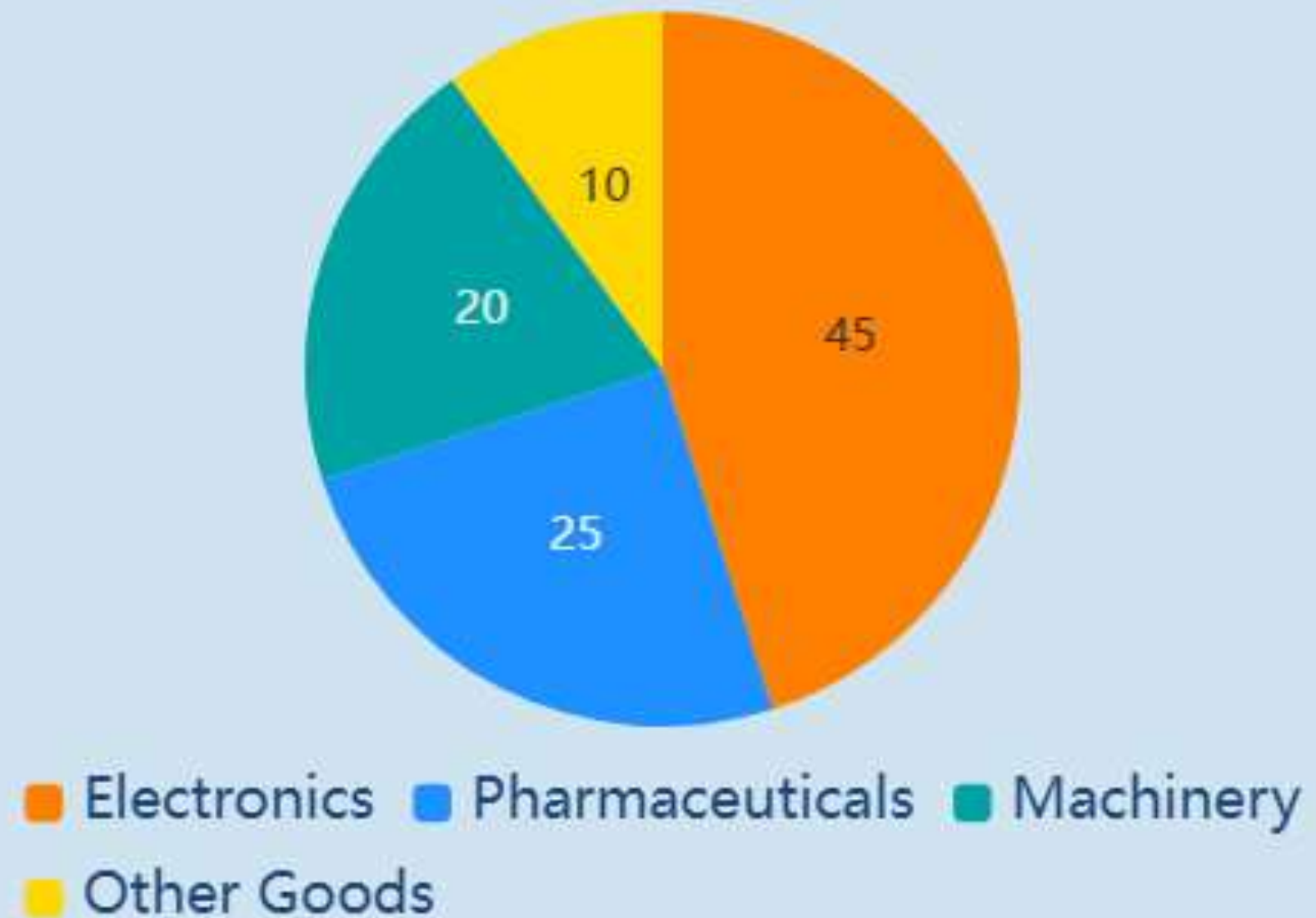
China-India Trade Dynamics

Economic Interdependence

Despite political tensions, China remains India's largest trading partner with significant trade deficit. Economic cooperation continues alongside strategic competition, creating a complex interdependence that shapes regional dynamics.

Trade volume reached \$136 billion in 2024, with India importing electronics and pharmaceuticals from China

Trade Composition 2024



India-Pakistan Relations: Historical Rivalry



Kashmir Dispute

- Core issue since 1947 partition and independence
- Three major wars fought over Kashmir territory
- Ongoing territorial claims and cross-border tensions



Water Security

- Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 governs water sharing
- Climate change impacts on water availability
- Emerging source of bilateral tensions

India-Pakistan Relations Analysis

Strengths

Shared cultural heritage, potential for trade, common regional interests

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Weaknesses

Deep mistrust, military conflicts, terrorism concerns, political instability

Threats

Nuclear escalation, cross-border terrorism, international intervention

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Opportunities

SAARC cooperation, trade normalization, people-to-people exchanges

India-Bangladesh Partnership



Historical Bonds

- India's crucial support in 1971 liberation war
- Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (1972)
- Shared cultural and linguistic heritage



Economic Cooperation

- Ganga Water Port Agreement (1996)
- Border security and electricity exports
- Major trade partner with \$10+ billion trade



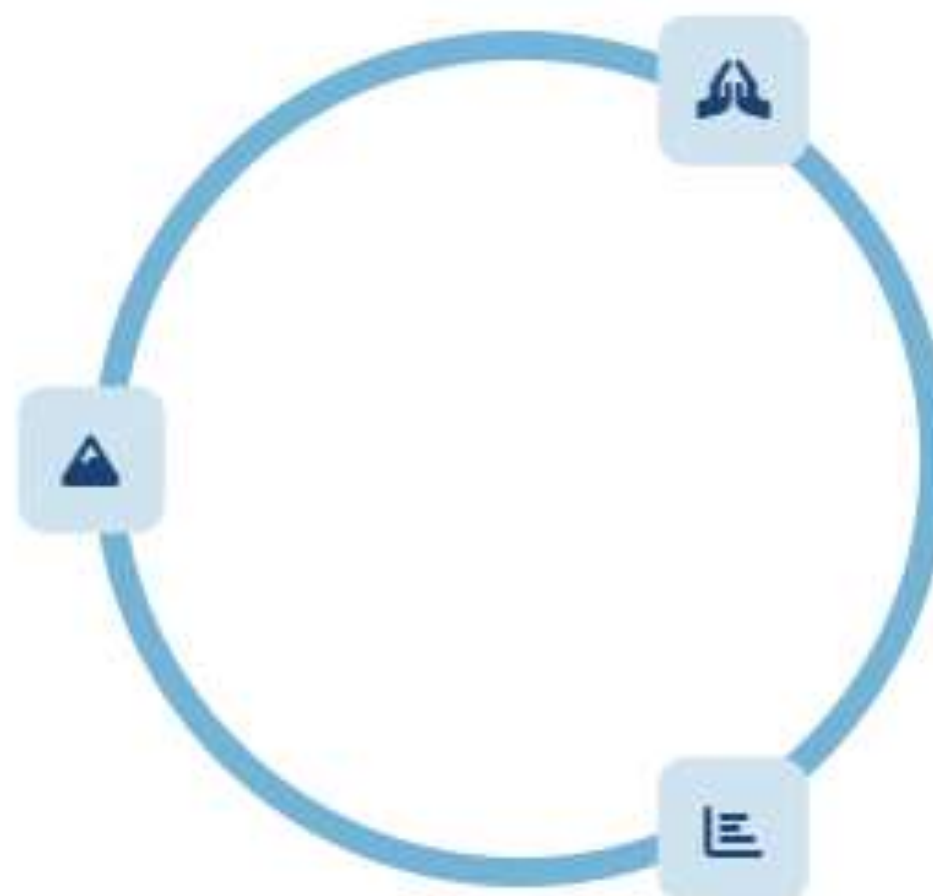
People Connectivity

- Open border facilitating movement
- Cultural exchanges and festivals
- Educational and medical tourism

India-Nepal Relations: Deep Historical Ties

Geographical Connection

Open border spanning 1,770 km, facilitating movement of people, goods, and cultural exchange between the two nations



Cultural Bonds

Shared Hindu-Buddhist heritage, religious pilgrimage sites, and centuries-old people-to-people relationships

Economic Integration

Nepal's largest trading partner, hydropower cooperation, and infrastructure development projects

India-Sri Lanka Relations Evolution

Historical Ties

Ancient cultural connections, Buddhist links, and Tamil community relationships spanning millennia



Civil War Impact

India's peacekeeping intervention in 1980s and complex Tamil Nadu factor in bilateral relations



Contemporary Cooperation

Maritime security, economic partnerships, and strategic Indian Ocean cooperation



Modern Partnership

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and defense cooperation agreements

India-Bhutan Special Relationship

Unique Partnership

India's closest and most trusted relationship based on 1949 Friendship Treaty, with Bhutan's security and foreign policy guided by Indian interests

Hydropower Cooperation

- Major hydroelectric projects generating revenue
- Clean energy export to India
- Economic lifeline for Bhutan

Infrastructure Development

- Road connectivity projects
- Digital infrastructure support
- Educational and health cooperation

Security Partnership

Military training and strategic cooperation

Economic Support

Currency peg to Indian Rupee and trade preferences

India's Multilateral Diplomacy

BRICS

Emerging economies alliance
for global economic
governance reform

IORA

Indian Ocean Rim Association
for maritime security and blue
economy



G-20

Premier forum for international
economic cooperation and
policy coordination

SAARC

Regional cooperation platform
for South Asian economic
integration

BIMSTEC

Bay of Bengal initiative for
technical and economic
cooperation

Contemporary Challenges & Opportunities



Global Realignment

India's strategic autonomy in multi-polar world, balancing relations with US, Russia, China, and emerging powers while maintaining neighborhood focus



Climate Cooperation

Regional climate initiatives, disaster management cooperation, and sustainable development partnerships with neighboring countries



Digital Diplomacy

Technology partnerships, digital infrastructure projects, and cyber security cooperation extending India's soft power in the region

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India's neighborhood policy is not just about geography, but about shared destiny and collective prosperity in an interconnected world

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi

This vision encapsulates India's transformation from a regional power to a global leader, recognizing that national security and prosperity are intrinsically linked to neighborhood stability and cooperation. The contemporary world demands collaborative approaches to address common challenges while respecting sovereignty and promoting mutual development.

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