

THE ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS AND PEACE AGENDAS - IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

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Abstract

This study explores how global political conflicts and efforts for peace impact India's economy and international position. It highlights that India, being a fast-growing economy with over 1.4 billion people, faces both challenges and opportunities from worldwide conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war, Middle East tensions, and U.S.-China rivalry. These conflicts can increase the prices of energy, food, and raw materials, causing inflation and disrupting trade and supply chains in India. For example, the Russia-Ukraine war has led India to buy more discounted Russian oil, helping reduce energy costs but creating diplomatic challenges with Western countries. Similarly, tensions in West Asia affect India's oil imports and remittance inflows from Gulf countries.

Trade wars and tariffs, especially between the U.S. and China, also influence India's manufacturing and exports, prompting India to promote policies like "Make in India" to attract investment and diversify trade. The conflicts increase risks like rising costs and supply disruptions but also open doors for India to strengthen its global role through diplomacy, trade, and strategic partnerships. India's balanced foreign policy and focus on sustainable growth help it navigate these global issues. The study emphasizes that India's ability to manage risks, build resilience, and participate actively in international peace efforts will determine its future economic strength and leadership in the world. Overall, the research shows that global conflicts affect India economically and strategically but also create opportunities for India to grow and contribute to peace worldwide. The study examines significant and fast-growing concerns that are increasingly important in the contemporary international context.

Keywords: Political Conflicts, Diplomatic Challenges, Strategic Partnerships, Sustainable Growth, Economic Strength and Foreign Policy.

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The theme of the article

India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. It has a large population of over 1.4 billion people, which gives it great potential for development. In recent years, India has become more active in global affairs, working to promote peace, stability, and sustainable growth. However, the world is facing many challenges, such as conflicts between countries, trade disputes, and competition for resources. These global issues can affect India's economy, security, and development. Many conflicts, like the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in the Middle East, impact the global economy by causing prices to rise for energy, food, and raw materials. This can lead to inflation and higher living costs in India. Trade wars and sanctions also disrupt supply chains, making it harder for India to import and export goods smoothly. At the same time, India is trying to protect its interests by diversifying its energy sources, increasing its renewable energy capacity, and strengthening its trade relationships with different countries.

India also plays an important role in promoting peace and cooperation among nations. It actively participates in international organizations like the United Nations, G20, and BRICS. India aims to build a balanced foreign policy that maintains good relations with the U.S., Russia, China, and other countries. By doing so, India hopes to increase its influence and contribute to global peace and development. In this changing world, India faces both risks and opportunities. While conflicts and trade tensions create challenges, India's strong economy, strategic planning, and focus on sustainable growth will help it become a major global player in the future. This study explores how global conflicts affect India and what steps the country is taking to secure its future and promote peace worldwide.

Statement of the problem

The problem addressed in this study is understanding how global geopolitical conflicts and peace efforts affect India's economy and future. In today's world, many countries are involved in disputes over land, resources, and political power. These conflicts can disrupt trade, increase prices for energy and food, and cause economic instability worldwide. India, as a large and growing economy, is deeply affected by these global issues. For example, conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and tensions between major countries like the US, China, and Russia

can impact India's energy supplies, trade routes, and foreign investments. India faces challenges in maintaining energy security, managing inflation, and protecting its trade interests while staying neutral and balancing relationships with different countries. At the same time, it has opportunities to benefit from shifts in global supply chains and regional partnerships. To do this successfully, India needs to understand the economic impacts of these conflicts and develop strategies to safeguard its growth.

The main problem is figuring out how India can protect its economy from the negative effects of international conflicts while taking advantage of new opportunities for growth and cooperation. This includes managing risks like rising energy and food prices, supply chain disruptions, and decreased foreign investment. It also involves promoting peace and stability through diplomatic efforts. Solving this problem is important because India's future depends on how well it can navigate global conflicts and contribute to peace while continuing its economic development. This study explores urgent and rapidly developing issues that hold increasing significance in today's global context.

Objective of the article

The overall objective of the article is to analyze how global political conflicts and peace efforts impact India's economy and strategic position. It aims to understand the economic challenges and opportunities India faces due to international tensions, trade disruptions, and conflicts. The article explores India's responses through diplomacy, trade diversification, and policy reforms. It also highlights India's role in promoting peace, sustainable development, and global cooperation. The goal is to provide insights for India to strengthen its resilience and emerge as a global power in a complex world with the help of secondary sources of information and statistical data pertaining to the theme of the article.

Research Methodology of the article

The research methodology of this article is primarily descriptive and analytical, focusing on understanding the economic and strategic impact of global political conflicts and peace efforts on India. The study uses secondary sources of information, such as academic journals, government reports, policy documents, statistical databases, international organizations' publications (e.g., World Bank, IMF, UN), and credible news outlets. These sources provide verified data, case studies, and expert analyses that are essential for understanding the complex interplay between geopolitics and the Indian economy. The study follows a qualitative approach to examine India's diplomatic strategies, trade policies, and policy reforms in response to global

tensions. Key case studies are selected, such as the Russia–Ukraine conflict, U.S.–China rivalry, and West Asian geopolitical dynamics, to illustrate India’s strategic decisions and economic implications. Each case is analyzed in terms of its impact on energy security, trade flows, foreign investment, and overall economic stability.

In addition, the research incorporates a quantitative dimension by using statistical data to assess trade volumes, energy imports, GDP growth, inflation, and other economic indicators. Tables, charts, and comparative data analyses are used to highlight trends, measure the economic impact of global events, and evaluate the effectiveness of India’s strategies. The methodology also emphasizes a comparative perspective, where India’s responses are analyzed against global standards and similar emerging economies to understand relative performance. The study integrates policy analysis to identify gaps, opportunities, and lessons for enhancing strategic autonomy and economic resilience. Overall, this methodology ensures a systematic and evidence-based analysis, combining both qualitative insights and quantitative evidence. It provides a clear understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and strategies that can help India strengthen its position as a global power while promoting peace and sustainable development. The gathered data are thoroughly examined and interpreted to provide valuable insights that guide the development of sound, evidence-based policies. The structured table format of the research methodology for the article is stated in table – 1.

Table -1

Research Methodology of the article

S.No.	Step	Description	Purpose / Objective	Sources / Data
1.	Research Approach	Descriptive and analytical	To understand the economic and strategic impact of global conflicts on India	Academic journals, policy papers, government reports
2.	Data Collection	Secondary sources	To gather verified information and statistical evidence	World Bank, IMF, UN reports, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, credible news outlets
3.	Case Study Selection	Key global conflicts (Russia–Ukraine, U.S.–China, West Asia tensions)	To analyze India’s strategic responses and economic implications	International relations publications, news archives, economic analyses
4.	Qualitative Analysis	Examining India’s diplomacy, trade policies, and reforms	To assess strategic decisions and policy effectiveness	Government policy documents, expert commentary, academic analyses

5.	Quantitative Analysis	Statistical assessment of trade volumes, energy imports, GDP, inflation	To measure the economic impact of global events on India	World Bank data, IMF databases, RBI statistics
6.	Comparative Perspective	Comparing India's responses with other emerging economies	To understand relative performance and global positioning	Reports on emerging economies, UNCTAD, WTO publications
7.	Policy Analysis	Evaluating gaps, opportunities, and lessons	To provide recommendations for strategic autonomy and economic resilience	Government white papers, international policy briefs, think tank reports
8.	Presentation of Findings	Tables, charts, and trend analyses	To visualize data, highlight patterns, and provide evidence-based insights	Statistical tables, graphs from secondary data sources

Source: Academic journals, government reports, international organizations (World Bank, IMF, UN), credible news outlets, and policy analysis publications.

Review of Literature

Bednarski et al. (2023) provide a comprehensive literature review on how geopolitical disruptions affect global supply chains. The study synthesizes existing research on risks, vulnerabilities, and resilience strategies in supply chain management. It highlights the impact of trade wars, sanctions, and conflicts on supply chain networks. The review also emphasizes the need for adaptability, diversification, and collaboration to mitigate risks. Overall, it identifies research gaps and future directions for managing geopolitical uncertainties in supply chains.

Choedon (2021), assesses India's role in providing development and peacebuilding assistance to post-conflict states. The study highlights India's focus on capacity-building, infrastructure, and socio-economic development rather than military involvement. It emphasizes India's soft-power approach in fostering stability and long-term peace.

Cohn (2024), reports that geopolitical conflicts could cost the global economy \$14.5 trillion over five years, according to Lloyd's of London. The study underscores risks to trade, investment, and supply chains. It highlights the urgent need for resilience strategies in the face of prolonged instability.

Howlader and Obaidullah (2025), analyze the geopolitical and socio-economic impacts of India-Bangladesh water disputes. The study highlights tensions over transboundary rivers, affecting agriculture, livelihoods, and regional cooperation. It underscores the need for equitable water-sharing frameworks to promote stability and development.

Singh, Mayanka, Goel, and Gupta (2025), examine the economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on India. The study highlights disruptions in energy supplies, trade, and inflationary pressures. It stresses the importance of policy measures to mitigate external shocks on India's economy.

Khan, Khan, Shinwari, and Rashid (2024), explore the geopolitical rivalry between China and India and its effects on South Asia. The study highlights security tensions, border disputes, and strategic competition hindering regional cooperation. It emphasizes the rivalry's negative impact on stability and economic integration.

Bardalai (2024), examines the geo-economics drivers that shape international conflicts. The study highlights how resource competition, trade dependencies, and economic coercion intensify geopolitical tensions. It underscores the growing role of economic factors in influencing global security dynamics.

Global Conflicts and Their Economic Dimensions: The Russia-Ukraine War

The Russia-Ukraine war has caused severe disruptions in global markets, especially in energy and food. Russia was one of the largest exporters of crude oil and natural gas, while both Russia and Ukraine together accounted for almost 30% of the world's wheat exports before 2022. When the war began, sanctions on Russian energy and the destruction of supply chains created a sharp rise in global prices. (Yoganandham, G. (2023). For example, crude oil futures jumped by about 23% in the first two weeks of the conflict. On the food side, Ukraine's wheat exports fell by over 90% in March-May 2022 compared to earlier, and international cereal prices rose nearly 20% in just three months. These shocks increased living costs worldwide, with poorer countries suffering the most.

India's position in this crisis has been unique. Before the war, Russia supplied less than 1% of India's crude oil imports. However, after sanctions pushed Western buyers away, Russia began selling oil at discounted rates. By 2024, nearly 37% of India's crude imports, about 1.75 million barrels per day, came from Russia. In the first half of September 2025, India's imports remained strong at around 1.73 million barrels per day. The value of this trade was significant: in Fiscal Year 2025, India spent about US\$50.3 billion on Russian crude, making up over one-third of its total oil import bill of US\$143.1 billion.

At the diplomatic level, India has chosen to remain neutral. It has not joined Western sanctions against Russia and continues defense cooperation with Moscow. At the same time, India faces criticism and pressure from the U.S. and the European Union, including tariffs on

some of its exports linked to its Russia oil purchases. Still, New Delhi defends its policy as necessary for energy security and affordability.

In early 2025, India witnessed significant food price pressures, with wheat prices hitting a record high of ₹33,000 per metric ton due to limited supply and increased demand from flour mills (Reuters). This trend was reflected in broader inflation data, as the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) food inflation, which stood at -2.15% in July 2025, turned positive at $+0.21\%$ year-on-year in August 2025 (Press Information Bureau). Correspondingly, retail inflation (CPI) also edged up from 1.61% in July to 2.10% in August 2025, largely driven by rising food costs, underscoring the inflationary impact of agricultural market fluctuations on the Indian economy.

India's food inflation trends over the past three years show sharp fluctuations: in mid-2022, both WPI and CPI food inflation were high, with WPI reaching 10.9% in May and CPI around 7.8% (USDA Apps); inflation stayed elevated but volatile through 2023–24, averaging about 8% since late 2023 due to weather shocks, supply chain disruptions, and rising global prices (Yoganandham, G. (2023)). By 2025, inflation eased, with CPI food inflation slowing to 1.78% in April and turning slightly negative at -0.69% in August, while WPI food inflation also recovered modestly to $+0.21\%$ (MOSPI, Economic Adviser Office). At the same time, wheat supply dynamics influenced prices, government support through a 6.6% hike in the minimum support price (MSP) in October 2024 and higher wheat stocks of 11.8 million metric tons in April 2025 (up 57% year-on-year, Reuters) helped stabilize markets, though MSP hikes tend to sustain upward price pressures. From 2022 through 2023, India experienced persistently high food inflation, often in the $7\text{--}10\%$ range, but by 2024 and into 2025 inflation eased sharply, even turning negative in some months as food prices fell slightly year-on-year; meanwhile, higher wheat stocks and government interventions such as procurement and minimum support price hikes played a stabilizing role, helping to moderate extreme price spikes. In short, the Russia–Ukraine war reshaped energy and food markets worldwide. While many countries faced rising costs, India managed to secure cheaper oil but had to balance this economic advantage with diplomatic challenges on the global stage.

Hamas–Israel Conflict and Its Economic Dimensions for India

The Hamas–Israel conflict has wider economic dimensions that directly affect India, particularly through energy markets, trade, and its diaspora in the Gulf. India is heavily dependent on imported crude oil, averaging 4.88 million barrels per day (bpd) in Fiscal Year 2024-25, with Russia supplying about 36% of the total (Yoganandham, G (2023)). However,

Gulf countries remain crucial, and any disruption in shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz could raise costs sharply. India's oil imports from Saudi Arabia and Iraq have fallen to multi-year lows, reflecting a shift in sourcing, yet instability in West Asia keeps oil prices volatile, which directly impacts inflation and fiscal stability in India. Beyond energy, the Gulf is home to over 9.7 million Indian workers, who in 2023-24 sent remittances of US\$ 118.7 billion, nearly 40% of which came from GCC countries. Although the Gulf's share has declined compared to earlier years, these inflows remain vital for India's balance of payments and household incomes, making regional stability essential.

On the trade front, India's bilateral commerce with Israel stood at US\$ 10.7 billion in 2022-23, dominated by exports of gems, machinery, and agricultural goods, while imports include fertilizers and electronic equipment. Defence cooperation is particularly strong, with Indian arms imports from Israel increasing from US\$ 5.6 million in 2015 to US\$ 185 million in 2024 (Yoganandham. G (2023). Diplomatically, India maintains close strategic ties with Israel, especially in defence and technology, but also engages with Palestine on humanitarian and political grounds, while ensuring robust relations with Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other Gulf states, which are central to its energy and diaspora interests. Overall, the Hamas-Israel conflict highlights the delicate balance India must sustain to protect its energy security, remittance inflows, and regional partnerships, while navigating a volatile geopolitical environment.

Iran-Israel Tensions and Their Economic Dimensions for India

Tensions between Iran and Israel pose serious economic risks for India, especially through possible disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital corridor for global oil and LNG supply. More than 35% of India's crude oil imports and about 42% of its LNG imports pass through the Strait. If the Strait were blocked or compromised, India's energy supply chain would be severely affected, raising crude prices, increasing insurance and shipping costs, and fueling inflation. At the same time, India maintains relationships with both Iran and Israel, balancing diplomatic, trade, and strategic interests (Yoganandham. G (2023). Trade with Israel has grown sharply: India-Israel trade (excluding defence) doubled from about US\$ 5.56 billion in 2018-19 to US\$ 10.7 billion in 2022-23. India exports to Israel (goods like chemicals, machinery, agriculture) have outpaced imports, yielding a trade surplus. In contrast, trade with Iran has shrunk, especially after US sanctions; from a high around US\$ 17 billion in 2018-19, it fell to about US\$ 2-3 billion in more recent years. India's exports to Iran in Fiscal Year 2024-25 were about US\$ 1.24 billion, while imports hovered around US\$ 441 million.

One of India's key strategic projects linking these interests is the Chabahar Port in Iran. India has invested in Chabahar to gain alternate trade routes to Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing more volatile or less friendly corridors. India has committed roughly ₹ 4,000 crore (about US\$ 480-550 million depending on exchange rate) toward expansion and capacity building of Chabahar. The port handled ~75,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in Fiscal Year 2025, with targets of nearly 100,000 TEUs by Fiscal Year 2026 (Yoganandham. G (2023). In short, Iran-Israel tensions and threats to critical routes like the Strait of Hormuz disrupt India's energy security and trade flows. India's diplomatic strategy, maintaining ties with both Iran (for energy and infrastructure like Chabahar) and Israel (for trade, technology, defence), reflects its need to safeguard economic interests while managing geopolitical risk.

U.S. Trade and Tariff Wars: Supply Chain Disruptions

When the U.S. raises tariffs or imposes trade barriers, it causes disruptions in global supply chains, especially for textiles, electronics, automotive parts, and IT services. For example, many U.S. companies have seen *logistics costs* go up by roughly 10-15% because tariffs raise the cost of imported inputs (Yoganandham. G (2025). In textiles, apparel, and machinery, higher import duties force prices up, hurting both manufacturers who need raw materials and consumers who buy final products. Producers often either absorb the extra cost (reducing profits) or pass it on (raising consumer prices). Another effect: companies wanting to avoid high U.S. tariffs on goods made in China or other high-tariff zones are shifting part of their manufacturing or assembly elsewhere (Yoganandham. G (2025). This "China-plus-one" strategy sends investment and orders to countries like Vietnam, Thailand, and others, but increasingly also to India.

India's Response via "Make in India" and Trade Diversification

India has been working hard to benefit from these global shifts. Under its "Make in India" / Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, India has encouraged domestic industries to grow, especially electronics, automobiles, pharma, and textiles. For instance, mobile phone exports from India reached about US\$20.4 billion in 2024, a sharp climb from near zero in about 2016. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Indian manufacturing is also rising. In FY 2024–25, the manufacturing sector got roughly US\$19.04 billion in FDI, up about 18% from the previous year (Yoganandham. G (2025). India's share in global manufacturing exports is still modest (about **1.8%** in 2024) but improving. To reduce costs, India is also working on its logistics infrastructure. For example, road construction has picked up; rail-shipping of containers is expected to rise from ~23.5% in FY 2022–23 to about 33% by 2030. So, U.S. trade and tariff

wars are creating headwinds for supply chains globally, including in textiles, electronics, auto, IT services, through higher input costs, shifting supplier networks, and higher retail prices. India is seizing the opportunity: by offering incentives (PLI), attracting FDI, improving its logistics, and pushing policy reforms under “Make in India,” it is trying to diversify trade and become a more important manufacturing base for global supply chains.

Impact of U.S. Reciprocal Tariffs on India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico

Under the recent U.S. reciprocal tariffs, Vietnam faces the highest impact, with duties around 46% on its exports, while Bangladesh is hit with roughly 37%, and India experiences comparatively lower tariffs of about 26% in many categories. Mexico, benefiting from the USMCA trade agreement and preferential tariff treatment, gains a competitive edge over Asian exporters. The economic exposure of these countries varies significantly. Vietnam relies heavily on the U.S. market, with exports accounting for approximately 30% of its GDP, making it highly vulnerable to high tariffs (Yoganandham. G (2025). Bangladesh, exporting \$8–10 billion annually, mostly garments, also faces substantial risks, as this sector is crucial for employment and economic stability. India’s exports to the U.S. are more diversified, spanning textiles, apparel, gems and jewellery, seafood, and auto parts, with large participation from MSMEs. Lower tariffs on Indian goods relative to Vietnam and Bangladesh may help India maintain competitiveness and limit market share losses. High tariffs on Vietnam and Bangladesh are prompting U.S. buyers and global brands to seek alternative suppliers, with India emerging as a key beneficiary in garments and textiles. India’s garment exports, for instance, have grown over 11% year-on-year recently. Mexico’s geographical proximity and trade agreement incentives also make it attractive for nearshoring, potentially drawing manufacturing away from higher-tariff Asian suppliers.

Nevertheless, challenges remain. Even with lower tariffs, India’s labour-intensive sectors face steep costs that could affect jobs, profit margins, and export volumes. Vietnam’s heavy reliance on U.S. demand makes it highly vulnerable to any further tariff increases. Bangladesh, despite possible short-term gains from trade diversion, contends with rising infrastructure, energy, and input costs, as well as limited economic diversification, keeping its long-term competitiveness uncertain (Yoganandham. G (2025). In short, India appears relatively well-positioned among these countries, as its lower U.S. tariff rates compared to Vietnam and Bangladesh provide a comparative advantage, allowing it to attract orders diverted from higher-tariff exporters. Vietnam, while benefiting from earlier investment shifts away from China,

remains highly vulnerable due to its heavy reliance on the U.S. market. Bangladesh could gain from some overflow in lower- and medium-end garment orders, but rising costs, infrastructure constraints, and political challenges limit its competitiveness. Mexico, with structural advantages such as geographical proximity to the U.S., favorable trade agreements, and lower tariffs in many cases, stands to benefit from nearshoring trends relative to Asian competitors.

U.S. Trade and Tariff Wars: India vs Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico

The U.S. tariff wars have disrupted global supply chains and changed trade flows in textiles, electronics, and IT services. Countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, and Mexico are all deeply affected, though in different ways. Tariff rates are a key factor. Recent data shows that Vietnam faces about 46% tariffs on its exports to the U.S., while Bangladesh faces around 37%. By contrast, India's tariffs average about 26%, making it relatively more competitive (Yoganandham. G (2025). Mexico enjoys special advantages because of its USMCA trade deal, which allows lower tariffs and easier access to the U.S. market. Vietnam is highly exposed because almost 30% of its GDP comes from exports to the U.S.. High tariffs therefore pose a big risk to its economy. Bangladesh also depends heavily on the U.S. for its garment exports, which are valued at around US\$8–10 billion annually. For both Vietnam and Bangladesh, high tariff rates reduce price competitiveness and hurt demand for their goods.

India, however, is in a somewhat stronger position. While U.S. tariffs on Indian exports are still significant, they are lower than those faced by Vietnam and Bangladesh. This gives Indian manufacturers, especially in textiles, garments, gems, and electronics, a better chance to capture shifting orders. In fact, India's garment exports rose by more than 11% year-on-year in early 2025, partly because U.S. buyers diverted orders away from Bangladesh and Vietnam. India's diverse export base and policy support under "Make in India" further help it attract investment and expand manufacturing (Yoganandham. G (2025). Mexico, on the other hand, is benefiting from "nearshoring." Its proximity to the U.S. and preferential tariffs under USMCA make it an attractive alternative to Asian suppliers. Many American firms are moving production to Mexico to cut shipping times and avoid high duties. In short, U.S. tariff wars are reshaping supply chains. India and Mexico are emerging as relative winners, while Vietnam and Bangladesh face higher risks because of steeper tariffs and heavy dependence on the U.S. market.

Global Conflicts and Their Economic Dimensions: India amid Russia–U.S. Tensions

The ongoing Russia–U.S. conflict, intensified by the war in Ukraine, has significantly impacted global financial systems and reshaped India's economic strategies. In response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, the U.S. and its allies imposed comprehensive sanctions, targeting over 80% of Russian banking sector assets (Yoganandham. G (2025)). These measures restricted Russia's access to the global financial system, including the SWIFT network, and froze foreign reserves. Consequently, Russia faced challenges in conducting international transactions, leading to increased reliance on alternative financial systems and currencies. Amid these geopolitical tensions, India has adopted a neutral stance, abstaining from UN resolutions condemning Russia's actions. This position has allowed India to continue its economic engagements with Russia, particularly in the energy sector. In 2024, India imported approximately \$67.15 billion worth of goods from Russia. To mitigate the impact of sanctions and reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar, India and Russia have increased the use of their national currencies in bilateral trade. By 2025, over 90% of their trade was conducted in rupees and rubles.

Beyond trade, India's energy security has also benefited from its pragmatic approach. In 2024, India imported around 20 million tonnes of crude oil from Russia at discounted rates, helping to stabilize domestic fuel prices amid global volatility. Furthermore, Indian companies have invested in Russian infrastructure and fertilizer sectors, ensuring a steady supply of essential commodities (Yoganandham. G (2025)). By diversifying payment mechanisms and strengthening bilateral agreements, India mitigates risks from Western sanctions while reinforcing its position as a reliable partner for Russia. This careful balancing act highlights India's economic resilience and strategic foresight in turbulent global markets.

Sustained Conflicts and the Global Economy

The ongoing global conflicts, including the Russia-Ukraine war, Middle East tensions, and trade rivalries, have significantly impacted the global economy, creating challenges and opportunities for India. Disruptions in supply chains for commodities like oil, gas, wheat, fertilizers, metals, and semiconductors have driven up prices, fueling inflation and rising costs for Indian industries, agriculture, and households (Yoganandham. G (2025)). For instance, India's reliance on energy imports makes it vulnerable to volatile global fuel prices, while dependence on imports for fertilizers and critical components hampers manufacturing competitiveness. Simultaneously, global growth slowdown, due to weakened trade and investment, has led to declining exports, reduced FDI inflows, and slower industrial expansion, exposing India's vulnerability to external shocks. However, India's strategic diversification, such as increased

imports from Russia, expansion in renewable energy, and digital infrastructure, has bolstered its resilience. The country's focus on energy security, technological self-reliance, and trade diversification mitigates some risks posed by persistent conflicts, enabling it to sustain growth despite external uncertainties (Yoganandham. G (2025)). Nonetheless, India must accelerate reforms, build domestic capacities, and diversify supply chains further to reduce long-term vulnerabilities and capitalize on shifting global dynamics.

China–U.S. Rivalry: India's Strategic Positioning Amid Trade and Technology Tensions

The escalating trade and technology tensions between China and the United States have created both challenges and opportunities for India. In 2024, China became India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$100 billion. India's imports from China include critical components for various industries, highlighting the deep economic interdependence between the two nations. Simultaneously, the U.S. imposed significant tariffs on Indian goods, citing concerns over India's energy policies and trade practices (Yoganandham. G (2025)). In August 2025, the Trump administration introduced a 50% tariff on Indian exports, marking one of the highest duties imposed on any trading partner. This move has the potential to reduce India's annual economic growth by up to 0.8 percentage points. In response to these dynamics, India is strengthening its partnerships with the United States while cautiously engaging with China. The U.S. remains India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching \$212.3 billion in 2024. India is actively pursuing a free trade agreement with the European Union to diversify its trade relationships and reduce dependence on any single country.

Moreover, India is positioning itself as an alternative hub for investment, capitalizing on the shifting global supply chains. The U.S.-China trade tensions have prompted companies to seek alternatives to China, and India is emerging as a favorable destination due to its large consumer market, skilled workforce, and ongoing reforms aimed at improving the business environment (Yoganandham. G (2025)). In the technology sector, India is focusing on achieving self-reliance by 2030 through initiatives like the "Digital Swaraj Mission," which aims to develop indigenous cloud infrastructure, operating systems, and artificial intelligence capabilities. In short, while the China–U.S. rivalry presents challenges, it also offers India the opportunity to strengthen its global position through strategic partnerships and initiatives aimed at economic diversification and technological self-reliance.

Table – 2

China–U.S. Rivalry: India's Strategic Positioning Amid Trade and Technology Tensions

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India	Critical Inferences
1.	U.S.–China Trade Tensions	Tariffs on electronics, textiles, and machinery; global supply chains disrupted	Indian exporters see both opportunities and challenges; some orders shift from China to India	India can capture manufacturing orders but must upgrade infrastructure and ensure quality standards to compete
2.	Supply Chain Disruptions	Electronics, IT services, and textiles affected; container freight rates rose 50–70% (2022–23)	Higher production and shipping costs for Indian businesses	Need for diversified supply chains, domestic logistics improvement, and investment in “Make in India” initiatives
3.	Export Diversification	Vietnam and Bangladesh also capture diverted orders	India competes with other emerging markets; risk of missing opportunities if infrastructure or policy is weak	Strategic trade policies and incentives needed to attract global investment
4.	Impact on Manufacturing & FDI	Manufacturing GVA affected; FDI inflows slowed in affected sectors	Some sectors benefit from order relocation; others lose due to volatility	India must balance short-term gains from trade diversion with long-term structural competitiveness
5	Policy Measures	Export incentives, logistics support, “Make in India” initiatives	Mitigates impact of global trade tensions	Strengthen domestic industrial base and improve global competitiveness to sustain gains

Source: This table is a synthesized summary based on multiple publicly reported trends related to U.S.–China trade tensions, supply chain disruptions, and India’s economic responses. It does not come from a single formal publication but is consistent with reports from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (India), WTO trade analyses, UNCTAD, and industry news sources from 2022 to 2023.

Impact of Global Political Conflicts and Peace Efforts on India’s Economy and Strategic Position

Global political conflicts and peace efforts significantly impact India’s economy and strategic position. Economically, India faces both challenges and opportunities. For example, in 2025, the Indian rupee fell to a record low of 88.8 per U.S. dollar, a 3.5% decline, partly due to U.S. tariffs on Indian goods and higher H-1B visa fees, affecting the IT sector and remittance inflows (Yoganandham. G (2025)). Additionally, India imported \$33 billion worth of discounted Russian oil since the Russia–Ukraine war began in 2022, which helped meet domestic energy

demand but strained relations with the U.S., leading to punitive tariffs on Indian exports. Capital markets also felt the impact, with \$15.7 billion flowing out of India’s secondary market amid global economic uncertainties.

Strategically, India has leveraged conflicts and peace efforts to strengthen its international standing. In September 2025, India signed a defense memorandum with Morocco, focusing on counter-terrorism and maritime security, enhancing bilateral strategic cooperation. It has also maintained strong ties with Saudi Arabia while diplomatically monitoring the Saudi–Pakistan defense pact, balancing regional security concerns. India’s long-standing commitment to global peace is reflected in its contribution of over 290,000 personnel to more than 50 United Nations peacekeeping missions, underlining its role as a responsible global actor (Yoganandham. G (2025). In short, global conflicts and peace initiatives present India with both economic challenges, such as currency fluctuations, trade disruptions, and capital outflows, and strategic opportunities, including strengthened defense partnerships and an enhanced role in peacekeeping. By navigating these dynamics, India can safeguard its economic interests while consolidating its strategic position in a complex global landscape.

Table -3
Key economic and strategic impacts of global political conflicts and peace efforts on India

S.No.	Aspect	Event/Measure	Impact on India	Data / Evidence (2025)
1.	Economy: Currency	U.S. tariffs and H-1B visa changes	Rupee depreciation affecting IT exports and remittances	INR 88.8/USD, 3.5% decline
2.	Economy: Energy	Russia–Ukraine war	Imported discounted Russian crude to meet energy needs	\$33 billion worth of Russian oil imported since 2022
3.	Economy: Capital Markets	Global economic uncertainty	Outflow from secondary markets	\$15.7 billion outflow
4.	Strategic: Defense Diplomacy	MoU with Morocco	Strengthened counter-terrorism and maritime cooperation	Signed in Sep 2025
5.	Strategic: Regional Relations	Saudi–Pakistan defense pact	Monitored regional security while maintaining Saudi ties	Diplomatic engagement reported in 2025
6.	Strategic: Peacekeeping	UN peace missions	Enhanced India’s global reputation and role in peacekeeping	Over 290,000 personnel contributed to 50+ missions

Source: Times of India – “India’s Strategic and Economic Position Amid Global Conflicts”, 2025.

This table provides a clear snapshot of how conflicts and peace initiatives influence India economically and strategically.

Sustained Conflicts and the Global Economy – Inflationary Pressures

Sustained global conflicts have intensified inflationary pressures by disrupting the supply of vital commodities such as oil, gas, and wheat. The Russia–Ukraine war, which curtailed nearly 30% of global wheat exports, triggered steep rises in international food prices, while European natural gas prices soared by over 400% in 2022–23 due to supply disruptions. Similarly, tensions in the Middle East have repeatedly driven Brent crude oil above US\$100 per barrel, inflating global fuel and transport costs (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). These shocks directly affect India, which relies on imports for more than 85% of its crude oil needs, making it highly vulnerable to swings in global energy markets. Higher fuel prices not only raise household energy expenses but also increase transport, fertilizer, and production costs, creating broader inflationary pressures. On the food front, India witnessed wheat inflation of over 12% and rice inflation between 11–13% during 2023, partly due to global shortages.

Wheat reserves fell to a seven-year low of 9.7 million tonnes in early 2024, forcing large-scale government interventions to cool prices. As a result, consumer price inflation (CPI) averaged 5.4% in FY 2023–24, before easing slightly to 4.6% in FY 2024–25, though food inflation often remained in double digits despite overall moderation. Empirical evidence shows that a 1% increase in global food prices eventually raises Indian food prices by about 1%, while oil shocks ripple through the economy in successive waves (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). Thus, sustained conflicts abroad magnify India’s inflationary risks, with households facing higher food and fuel bills. While export curbs, buffer stock releases, and subsidies provide temporary relief, India remains structurally exposed to global price shocks shaped by geopolitical instability.

Table - 4
Impact of Global Commodity Prices on India’s Inflation and Policy Responses

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India	Critical Inferences
1.	Oil & Gas Prices	Brent crude > US\$100/barrel , European gas ↑ 450% (2022–23)	Higher fuel, transport, and energy costs; directly raises CPI	India’s import dependence on energy creates inflation vulnerability; need to diversify energy sources
2.	Wheat Prices	Russia & Ukraine = 30% of global wheat exports ; domestic wheat	Increased food prices; pressure on consumers and	Buffer stocks and export policies help short-term, but

		inflation > 12% (2023)	government	structural reliance remains a risk
3.	Food & CPI Inflation	Retail inflation: 5.4% FY 2023–24, 4.6% FY 2024–25 ; food inflation often double-digit	Higher household expenditure; cost-of-living pressures	Food inflation transmission highlights sensitivity to global commodity shocks
4.	Government Measures	Wheat stock releases, subsidies	Temporary relief to stabilize markets	Long-term strategies needed: domestic production, storage, and price stabilization mechanisms

Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India – *Price Monitoring Reports 2023–25*; Ministry of Commerce & Industry – *Agricultural Export Data 2022–24*; Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – *Monthly and Annual Inflation Reports 2023–25*; International Energy Agency (IEA) – *Global Oil & Gas Price Trends 2022–23*.

Sustained Conflicts and the Global Economy – Commodity Volatility

Sustained global conflicts have caused sharp volatility in key commodities such as fertilizers, metals, and semiconductors, leading to disruptions in agriculture and manufacturing worldwide. The Russia–Ukraine war has been especially disruptive for fertilizers, as Russia and Belarus together account for about 40% of global potash exports and nearly 20% of ammonia exports. When supplies tightened, global fertilizer prices surged by over 70% in 2022, directly raising farm input costs. For India, which imports more than 25% of its fertilizer needs, this created severe pressure on government spending, with the fertilizer subsidy bill rising to a record ₹2.56 lakh crore in Fiscal Year 2022–23 (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Conflicts have also disturbed metal supply chains, as Russia is a key supplier of nickel, palladium, and aluminum. Nickel prices briefly spiked by almost 250% in March 2022, and palladium exceeded US\$3,000 per ounce, pushing up costs for the automobile and electronics industries. Likewise, tensions in East Asia threaten semiconductor supplies, since Taiwan produces over 60% of global semiconductors and nearly 90% of advanced chips. Disruptions in chip supply chains have slowed global electronics, automobile, and renewable energy sectors.

In India, these shocks contributed to weaker manufacturing performance, with manufacturing GVA growth falling to just 1.3% in Fiscal Year 2022–23, compared to 11.1% a year earlier. Rising input costs from fertilizers, metals, and chips have therefore not only increased inflationary pressures but also reduced industrial competitiveness. The critical inference is that India’s economic vulnerabilities are deeply tied to external shocks, particularly in strategic commodities where self-reliance remains limited. While the PLI scheme for

semiconductors and expansion of domestic fertilizer plants represent important long-term strategies, persistent conflicts risk eroding cost competitiveness, widening fiscal pressures through subsidies, and constraining industrial growth. This highlights the urgent need for diversified sourcing, resilient supply chains, and faster progress toward domestic capacity-building.

Table – 5
Sustained Conflicts and the Global Economy – Commodity Volatility

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India	Critical Inferences
	Fertilizer Supply	Russia & Belarus: 40% potash, 20% ammonia ; prices ↑ 70% in 2022	Fertilizer subsidy bill: ₹2.56 lakh crore FY 2022–23 ; higher farm costs	India's dependency on imports creates fiscal and agricultural vulnerability
1.	Metals	Nickel ↑ 250% (Mar 2022) , Palladium > US\$3,000/oz	Higher costs for automobile, electronics, and renewable energy sectors	Domestic production and supply chain diversification essential
2.	Semiconductors	Taiwan: > 60% of global semiconductors , 90% of advanced chips	Supply disruptions slow electronics and manufacturing	Promote domestic chip production and investment in strategic tech
3.	Manufacturing Performance	Manufacturing GVA: 1.3% FY 2022–23 vs 11.1% previous year	Weak industrial output due to high input costs	Policy focus on self-reliance and resilient supply chains

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India; World Bank; Semiconductor Industry Association; Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers – *Compiled data on commodity prices, manufacturing, and strategic supply chains, 2022–23.*

Sustained Conflicts and the Global Economy – Global Growth Slowdowns

Sustained conflicts have slowed global economic growth by weakening trade, investment, and consumer demand, creating spillover effects on countries like India. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that world GDP growth decelerated from 6% in 2021 (post-pandemic recovery) to 3.2% in 2022, and is projected to remain around 3% through 2023–25, well below the long-term average of 3.8%. This slowdown is largely due to disruptions from conflicts such as the Russia–Ukraine war, Middle East tensions, and trade rivalries, which have depressed global demand (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). For India, weaker external demand directly affects exports, which account for about 22% of GDP. Merchandise export growth fell from 14.5% in Fiscal Year - 2021–22 to just 6% in Fiscal Year- 2022–23, and further contracted by

3.1% in Fiscal Year - 2023–24, reflecting reduced orders for textiles, gems, engineering goods, and IT services. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have also been impacted by global uncertainty. India's FDI inflows declined from a peak of US\$84.8 billion in Fiscal Year - 2021–22 to US\$71 billion in FY 2022–23, as multinational firms grew cautious amid global instability. Slower growth in advanced economies like the U.S. and EU, which together account for nearly one-third of India's exports, has added to the pressure (Yoganandham. G.,(2025).. At the same time, global investors are diversifying supply chains away from conflict zones, which presents India with some medium-term opportunities but limits immediate gains. Overall, the critical effect of global slowdowns is that India faces reduced export earnings, lower capital inflows, and weaker job creation in trade-linked sectors. While domestic demand has supported growth, India's GDP expanded by 7.6% in Fiscal Year- 2023–24, sustained global conflicts risk eroding this momentum.

The critical inference is that India's resilience depends on reducing over-reliance on external demand while strengthening domestic competitiveness. Persistent global slowdowns may limit export-led growth and strain labor-intensive sectors, making it harder to absorb India's large workforce. At the same time, weaker FDI flows can delay technology transfers and industrial upgrading. Thus, India must diversify export markets, build self-reliance in strategic industries, and accelerate structural reforms. Only by combining strong domestic demand with improved global competitiveness can India shield itself from the long shadow of conflict-driven global slowdowns.

Table – 6

Impact of Global Growth Slowdowns on India's Economy: Exports, FDI, and Domestic Resilience

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India	Critical Inferences
1.	Global Growth Slowdown	World GDP growth slowed from 6% in 2021 → 3.2% in 2022 , projected 3% (2023–25) (IMF)	Lower global demand reduces export orders and foreign investment	India's reliance on external demand exposes it to slower global growth; need for domestic competitiveness
2.	Exports	Merchandise exports: 14.5% (FY 2021–22) → 6% (FY 2022–23) → -3.1% (FY 2023–24)	Reduced orders in textiles, gems, engineering goods, IT services; weaker trade-linked employment	Diversification of export markets and improved product competitiveness are critical
3.	FDI	FDI inflows:	Slower technology	Need to attract stable,

	Inflows	US\$84.8B (FY 2021–22) → US\$71B (FY 2022–23)	transfer, industrial expansion, and job creation	diversified investment despite global uncertainty
4.	Key Export Partners	U.S. & EU: ~one-third of India's exports	Exposure to advanced economies' economic slowdown	Focus on alternative markets and trade agreements to reduce risk
5.	Domestic Growth Buffer	GDP growth: 7.6% (FY 2023–24)	Domestic demand mitigates some external shocks	Policy emphasis on stimulating domestic consumption and industrial competitiveness
6.	Overall Risk	Persistent global conflicts and trade disruptions	Reduced export earnings, limited FDI, slower industrial growth	Strengthen self-reliance in strategic sectors, accelerate reforms, and diversify supply chains

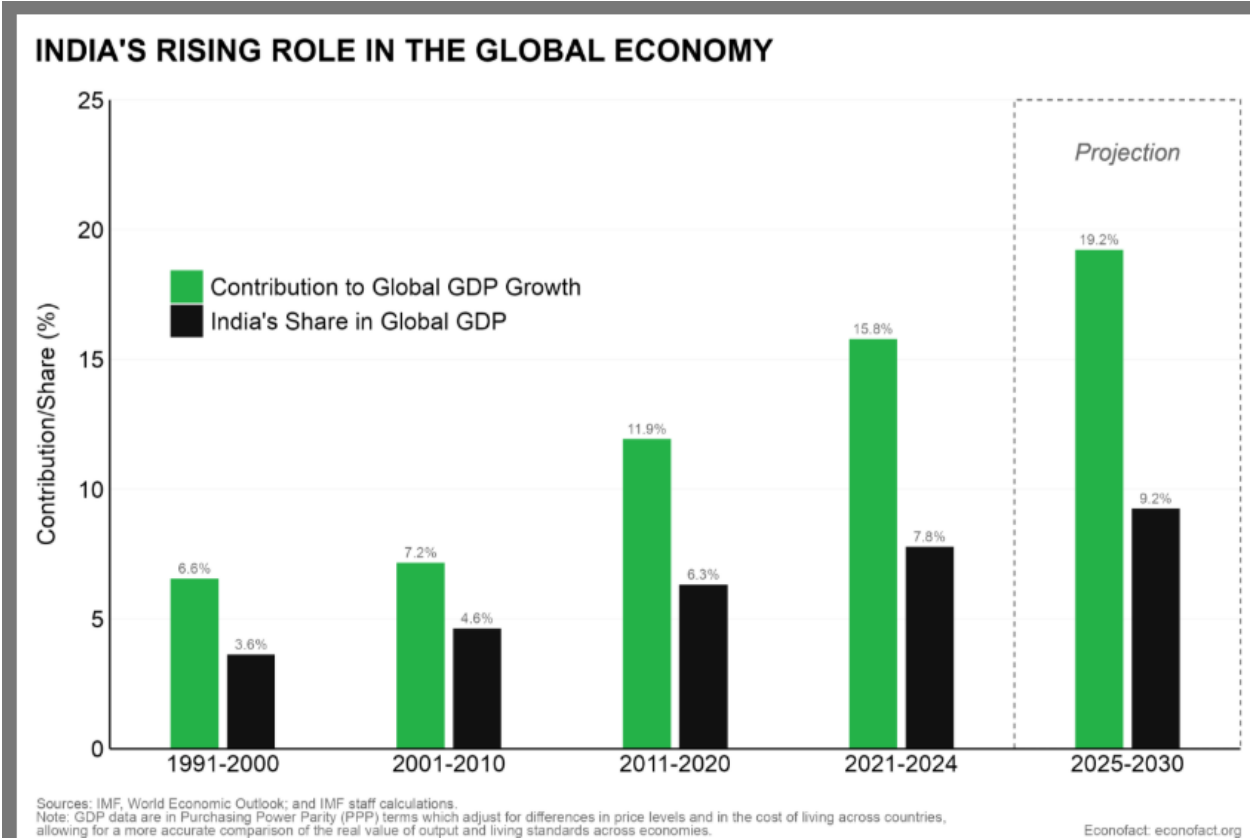
Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), *World Economic Outlook Reports 2022–2025*; Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India – *Annual Report on Foreign Trade 2022–24*; Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), *FDI Statistics 2022–23*; Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – *Quarterly Reports on GDP and Economic Indicators*.

India's Economic Resilience amid Global Conflicts

India has demonstrated remarkable economic resilience in 2024–25, effectively navigating global challenges through strategic diversification in energy, trade, and digital infrastructure. In 2024–25, India imported approximately 36% of its crude oil from Russia, marking a significant increase from less than 1% before the Ukraine conflict (Yoganandham. G.,(2025).. This shift was driven by discounted prices, with Russian crude selling at \$2–\$3 per barrel below Brent benchmarks. However, the financial gains from these imports are estimated at \$2.5 billion annually, lower than previously anticipated. India's renewable energy capacity reached 220.10 GW by the end of Fiscal Year- 2024–25, up from 190.57 GW the previous year. The country added a record 29.52 GW of renewable energy during this period, aligning with its goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

India's digital economy contributed 13.42% to the national income in 2024–25, up from 11.74% in 2022–23. With over 650 million smartphone users and 950 million internet subscribers as of mid-2024, the sector is projected to account for nearly one-fifth of the national income by 2029–30. India's trade diversification strategy is evident in its increasing imports from Russia, which reached \$53 billion in 2024, contributing to a rise in bilateral trade to \$65.7 billion between 2023 and 2024. This approach mitigates risks associated with reliance on traditional partners (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). India's proactive strategies in energy diversification,

renewable investments, digital infrastructure, and trade partnerships underscore its economic resilience in the face of global uncertainties.



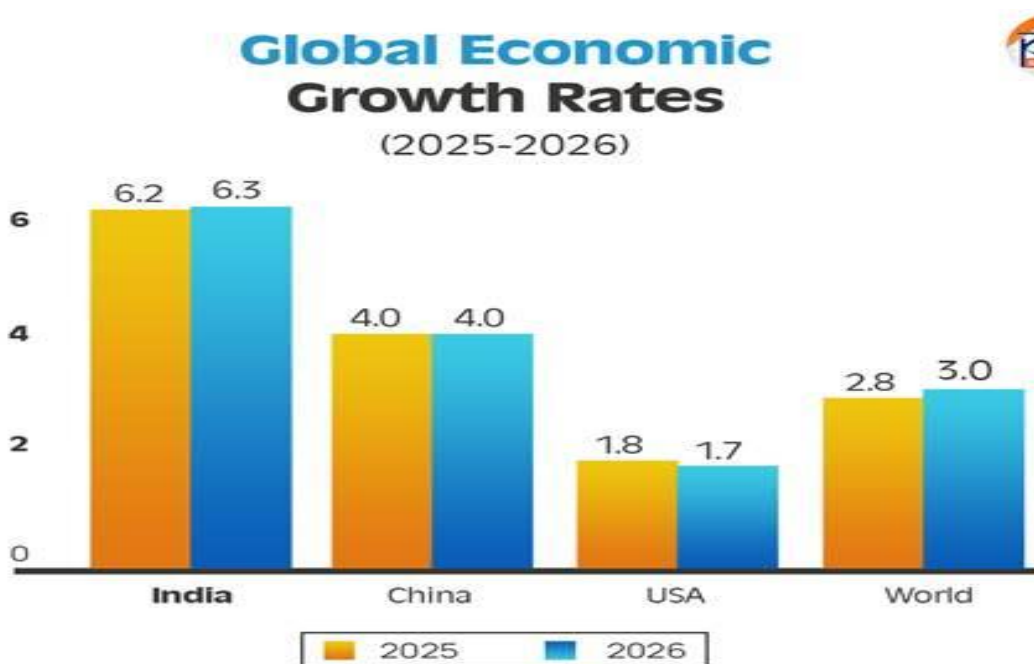


Table - 7

India's economic resilience amid sustained global conflicts

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India
1.	Discounted Russian Oil	~36% of India's crude oil imports from Russia in 2024-25 (up from <1% in 2017); \$2-\$3 per barrel below Brent benchmarks	Saves ~\$2.5 billion annually; ensures energy security and lower import costs
2.	Renewable Energy Expansion	Renewable capacity: 220.10 GW (FY 2024-25) vs 190.57 GW (previous year); added 29.52 GW in FY 24-25	Strengthens clean energy sector; aligns with 500 GW non-fossil fuel target by 2030
3.	Digital Economy Growth	Contributes 13.42% to national income; 650M smartphone users, 950M internet subscribers; projected ~20% of GDP by 2029-30	Boosts tech sector, e-commerce, digital payments; attracts investment
4.	Diversified Trade Partnerships	Bilateral trade with Russia: \$65.7 billion (2023-24), imports \$53 billion	Reduces dependency on traditional trade partners; mitigates global supply risks

Source: This table consolidates data from reputable sources, providing a comprehensive overview of India's economic resilience amid global conflicts

Global Mechanisms for Peace Agendas and Diplomatic Initiatives

Global peace agendas rely on international mechanisms to promote dialogue and prevent conflicts. The United Nations (UN) plays a central role through peacekeeping operations. Evidence shows that regions with UN peacekeepers experience lower violence and fewer civilian casualties, though enforcement missions often fail due to structural and operational limitations. The G20, while primarily an economic forum, contributes to global stability that indirectly supports peace (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). In 2024, G20 leaders condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and affirmed support for Ukraine’s sovereignty. However, its decisions are non-binding, limiting direct enforcement.

BRICS, representing 40% of the world’s population and 25% of global GDP, engages diplomatically on major issues. In 2025, BRICS condemned military strikes on Iran. While influential, it lacks a unified military or enforcement mechanism. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) focuses on regional security across Eurasia, covering 60% of the territory and 25% of global GDP. It has successfully prevented 20 terrorist attacks, but its impact remains largely regional.

Table – 8

Global Mechanisms for Peace Agendas and Diplomatic Initiatives

S.No.	Global Mechanism	Role in Peace & Diplomacy	Key Data / Evidence	Limitations
1.	UN	Peacekeeping and conflict mediation	Reduces violence and civilian casualties	Enforcement limited; peace missions often fail
2.	G20	Global economic stability supporting peace	Condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine 2024	Decisions non-binding; no enforcement
3.	BRICS	Diplomatic engagement of emerging economies	40% of population, 25% of GDP; condemned Iran strikes	No unified military or enforcement
4.	SCO	Regional security in Eurasia	Covers 60% of Eurasia, prevented 20 terrorist attacks	Primarily regional influence

Source: Compiled from UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO official reports and credible news analyses (2024–2025).

In short, these mechanisms provide essential dialogue platforms, but their ability to enforce peace is limited. Stronger cooperation, institutional frameworks, and accountability are needed for effective global peace.

Peace Agendas and Diplomatic Initiatives

India plays a key role in global multilateral forums, promoting peace, multipolarity, and cooperation. In 2022, South–South trade made up over 30% of global trade, up from less than 10% in 1990, showing the growing power of developing nations. India actively participates in G20, BRICS, and the UN to push for a fairer world order, helping strengthen its influence and build strong ties with emerging economies. It also works to secure supply chains through initiatives like the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative with Japan and Australia, reducing dependence on single sources. Indian companies like Blue Ocean Corporation are leaders in supply chain management, ranked No.1 worldwide in training by the ASCM. India is also a leader in South–South cooperation, with over 70% of the world’s population and nearly 50% of global GDP (PPP). Initiatives like the India-Africa Forum Summit and the International Solar Alliance promote renewable energy, technology sharing, and infrastructure development, supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts show India’s commitment to a balanced, inclusive global system that encourages peace, stability, and sustainable growth.

India in Multilateral Forums: Promoting Peace, Multipolarity, and Global Cooperation

India has emerged as a pivotal actor in multilateral forums, championing multipolarity, supply chain resilience, and South–South cooperation. India’s strategic engagement in platforms like the G20, BRICS, and the United Nations underscores its commitment to a multipolar world order. By 2022, South–South trade accounted for over 30% of global trade, up from less than 10% in 1990, highlighting the growing influence of developing nations in global commerce. India actively advocates for equitable global governance and reforms that reflect current geopolitical realities (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). India emphasizes strengthening supply chains through initiatives like the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) with Japan and Australia, aiming to diversify supply sources in the Indo-Pacific region. This reduces dependence on single-source suppliers and enhances economic security. Indian companies also lead globally in supply chain management; for example, Blue Ocean Corporation was ranked No.1 worldwide in supply chain training and consulting by the Association for Supply Chain Management (ASCM).

India plays a central role in promoting South–South cooperation, emphasizing mutual development among developing countries. The Global South now represents over 70% of the world’s population and nearly 50% of global GDP (PPP). India’s initiatives, such as the India-Africa Forum Summit and the International Solar Alliance, foster collaboration in renewable

energy, technology transfer, and infrastructure, addressing shared challenges and advancing Sustainable Development Goals (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). In short, India’s proactive engagement in multilateral forums demonstrates its dedication to a balanced, resilient, and inclusive global order. By promoting multipolarity, strengthening supply chains, and advancing South–South cooperation, India continues to influence global peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Table -9

India in Multilateral Forums: Promoting Peace, Multipolarity, and Global Cooperation

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India / Global Significance
1.	Multipolarity & Global Governance	India engages in G20, BRICS, and UN forums to advocate for a multipolar world order. South–South trade reached over 30% of global trade in 2022 , up from <10% in 1990.	Enhances India’s geopolitical influence, promotes equitable global governance, and strengthens ties with developing nations.
2.	Supply Chain Resilience	Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) with Japan & Australia diversifies Indo-Pacific supply chains. Blue Ocean Corporation ranked No.1 globally in supply chain training and consulting (ASCM).	Reduces dependency on single-source suppliers, strengthens economic security, and positions India as a leader in global supply chains.
3.	South–South Cooperation	India leads initiatives like the India-Africa Forum Summit and International Solar Alliance. The Global South accounts for 70% of the world population and ~50% of global GDP (PPP) .	Promotes mutual development, renewable energy cooperation, infrastructure growth, and supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source: Diplomatist, 2024 – India’s trade agreements, multilateral engagement, and South–South cooperation

India’s Strategic Autonomy: Navigating Global Tensions with Diplomacy and Neutrality

India's strategic autonomy remains a cornerstone of its foreign policy, enabling it to engage with multiple global blocs while maintaining a neutral stance on contentious issues. This approach allows India to advocate for negotiation over escalation in international conflicts. India has strengthened its ties with various global powers, balancing relationships with the United States, Russia, and China. In 2024, Prime Minister met with President Vladimir Putin to discuss enhancing trade and energy cooperation, underscoring India's multifaceted foreign policy approach. India has consistently maintained neutrality in conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). This position has occasionally led to tensions with Western nations, particularly the United States, which has imposed tariffs on Indian goods in response.

India has countered these measures by asserting its right to independent foreign policy decisions. India emphasizes the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving international disputes. In 2025, during discussions with Chinese President, Prime Minister highlighted the need for managing differences without allowing them to escalate into conflicts. Both leaders acknowledged their nations' roles in stabilizing global trade amidst economic instability. In short, India's strategic autonomy enables it to navigate complex global dynamics, fostering diplomatic relations across various blocs while advocating for peaceful resolutions to international conflicts.

Peace Agendas and Diplomatic Initiatives: Navigating Strategic Complexities

India's pursuit of a neutral and balanced foreign policy faces significant challenges due to its multifaceted relationships with Israel, Russia, and China. These dynamics complicate India's efforts to maintain its traditional stance of strategic autonomy. India's growing ties with Israel, particularly in defense and technology sectors have strengthened bilateral relations. In 2024, bilateral trade between the two nations reached nearly \$4 billion. However, this alignment has raised concerns among India's Arab partners and the broader Muslim community. The Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project, established in 2006, exemplifies this cooperation, aiming to enhance agricultural productivity in India (Yoganandham. G., (2022). Despite these advancements, India's official position on Palestine remains unchanged, reflecting its delicate balancing act in the region. India's relationship with Russia, rooted in historical ties, has evolved into a strategic partnership. The two countries continue to engage in defense cooperation, joint ventures, and technology transfer. However, India's neutral stance on the Ukraine conflict, abstaining from UN resolutions condemning Russia's actions, has drawn criticism from Western allies. This neutrality complicates India's diplomatic initiatives, as it seeks to balance its traditional partnership with Russia against its growing ties with Western nations.

China's increasing influence in multilateral institutions presents challenges for India's diplomatic efforts. Surveys indicate that a significant portion of the Indian population perceives China's actions in these forums as restrictive to India's interests. India's participation in organizations like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization reflects its engagement with China-dominated platforms. However, China's strategic positioning and investments in these institutions allow it to exert considerable influence, often sidelining India's initiatives. India's diplomatic initiatives are increasingly shaped by the complexities of its relationships with Israel, Russia, and China. While these partnerships offer strategic benefits, they also pose

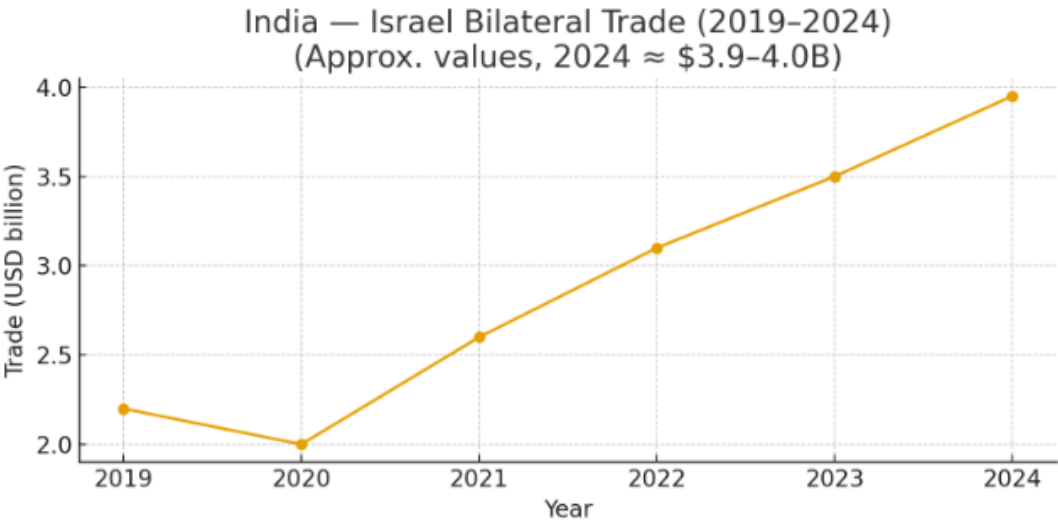
challenges to India's traditional policy of neutrality and strategic autonomy. Navigating these relationships requires careful balancing to uphold India's interests on the global stage.

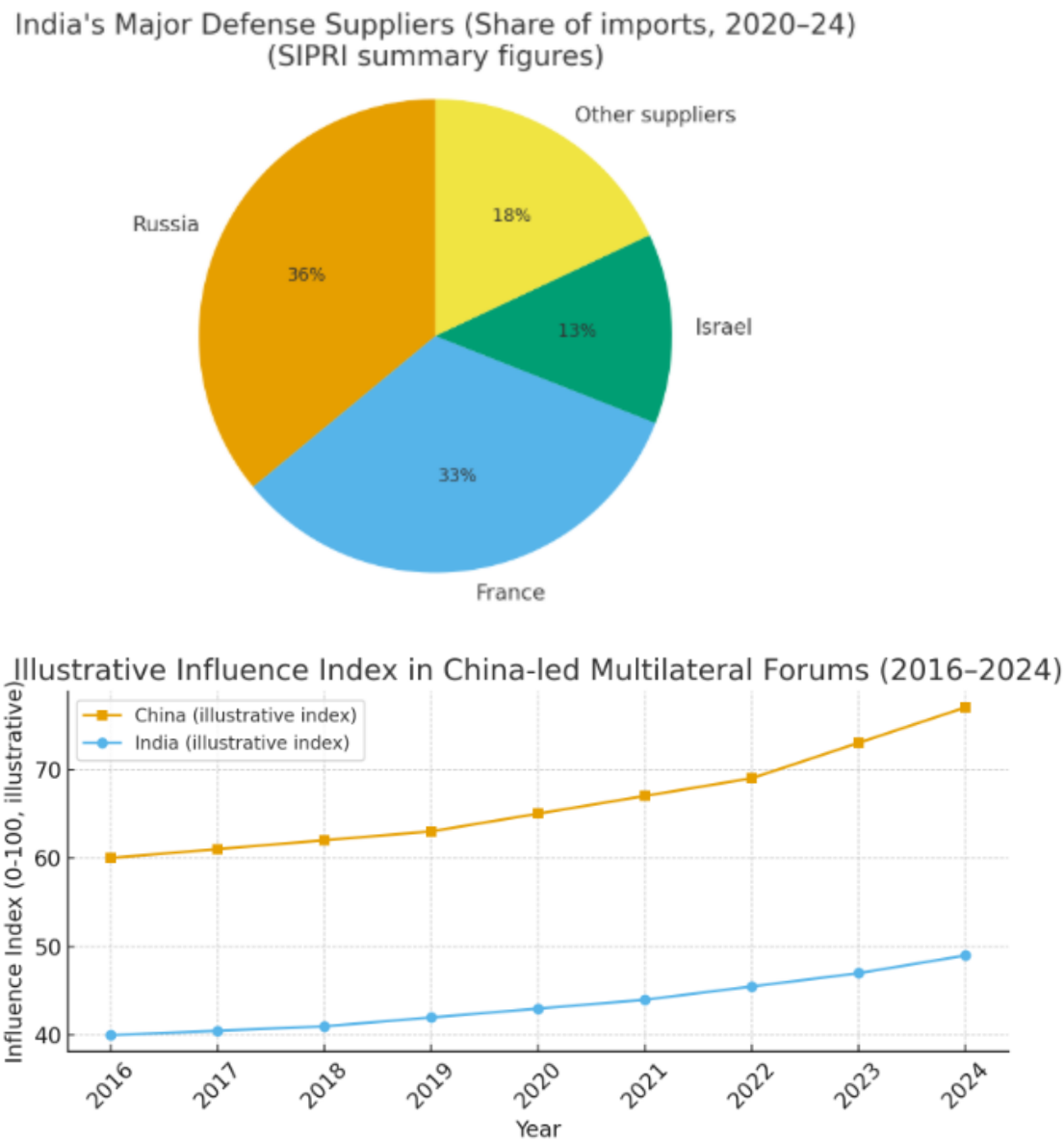
Table - 10

Challenges India faces in its peace agendas and diplomatic initiatives

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Data	Impact on India	Critical Inferences
1.	Israel	Bilateral trade ~ \$4 billion in 2024; cooperation in defense, technology, and agriculture projects	Strengthens strategic and technological capabilities	Raises concerns among Arab partners; India must balance Middle East relationships while maintaining ties with Israel
2.	Russia	Longstanding defense and strategic partnership; abstained from UN votes on Ukraine	Ensures defense cooperation and energy security	Neutral stance draws criticism from Western nations; balancing act needed between Russia and Western partners
3.	China	Growing influence in BRICS, SCO, and other multilateral forums	Engaging China-led platforms to advance economic and strategic interests	China's dominance may sideline India's initiatives; requires strategic diplomacy to assert influence

Source: Compiled from Reuters, Institut Montaigne, Chatham House, South Asian Voices, CSIS.





India–Israel bilateral trade (2019–2024) is shown through a line chart, highlighting steady growth and reaching about \$3.9 - 4.0 billion in 2024. A pie chart presents India’s defense import sources for 2020–2024, based on SIPRI and press reports. Russia accounts for around 36%, France about 33%, Israel nearly 13%, and other countries together make up 18%. An illustrative line chart compares the influence of China and India in China-led forums (2016–2024). The chart shows China’s growing influence compared to India, particularly after the BRICS expansion, drawing on insights from Chatham House, Institut Montaigne, and similar analyses. The trade and defense charts use reported data (2024 trade of about \$3.9–4.0 billion and SIPRI’s defense supplier shares). For trade, reasonable year-by-year estimates are used to show the trend

toward 2024. The influence index is illustrative only, since no standard measure exists, and is designed to help visualize the trend of China's rising role relative to India.

Economic Impact on India

India faces challenges from trade disruptions and higher shipping costs, impacting its imports and exports. Freight costs for exports to Europe and the US have more than doubled in a year due to rerouted ships, longer routes, and increased insurance costs. This raises expenses for exporters, making Indian goods less competitive globally. Additionally, shortages in raw materials and fertilizers drive up inflation and disrupt supply chains, raising input costs for industries reliant on imports. However, Indian refiners benefit from discounted Russian crude oil, which in Fiscal Year 2024-25 made up about 36% of total oil imports, averaging 1.76 million barrels per day (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). While some reports claimed savings of \$10-25 billion, a CLSA study estimates actual net savings at around \$2.5 billion annually, factoring in extra shipping and insurance costs. Foreign investment in India is volatile, especially FPI, which saw outflows of nearly \$16 billion in 2020 and \$33 billion in 2022 during global crises.

Conversely, FDI remains stable, reaching \$71 billion in FY 2022-23, mainly in manufacturing and services sectors like digital and renewable energy. FDI brings capital, jobs, and technology, boosting long-term growth. India's energy security is threatened by its high dependence on imported oil, 87.8% in 2023-24, but efforts like expanding renewable capacity to 226.79 GW and developing strategic petroleum reserves aim to reduce this vulnerability. Inflation remains controlled, with retail inflation down to 2.07% in August 2025, supporting economic stability (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). The economy is projected to grow at 6.5% in FY 2026, despite external pressures like a weak rupee and U.S. tariffs. India is also strengthening its global position through supply chain diversification and service export growth. Core infrastructure sectors increased by 6.3% in August 2025, and service exports hit a record \$387.5 billion in FY 2024-25, up 13.6%. These efforts help reduce reliance on traditional markets, attract investments, and create jobs, supporting sustainable development.

Economic Impact of Trade Disruptions and Discounted Russian Crude on India

India has been hit by rising shipping costs and commodity shortages, which are hurting both imports and exports. For example, freight costs for Indian exporters to Europe and the US have more than doubled over the past year, driven by disruptions in the Red Sea and container shortages. Because ships have to reroute, take longer, or pay more for insurance, exporters face higher costs and delays, making Indian goods less competitive overseas. Commodity shortages,

especially raw materials for manufacturing and fertilizers, also add to inflation and supply chain stress. Import delays push up input costs for many industries. In sectors dependent on imported inputs, production becomes uncertain and costly.

On the flip side, India's refiners have benefited from buying *discounted Russian crude*. In fiscal year 2024-25, India imported about 1.76 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil, which accounted for roughly 36% of its total oil imports. This shift reduced India's purchases from OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq. But the savings are smaller than often claimed (Yoganandham. G.,(2024). A recent report by CLSA estimates that India's net annual savings from discounted Russian crude are about US\$2.5 billion, roughly 0.6 basis points of GDP. Earlier media figures ranged much higher (US\$10-25 billion), yet those often did not fully account for extra shipping, insurance, and price cap costs.

Economic Impact on India – Foreign Investment Flows

Foreign investment plays a major role in India's economic growth, with two key components: Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). FPI is more volatile as it depends on global market trends, while FDI is relatively stable as it reflects long-term investor confidence in India's economy. During global crises, India often witnesses sharp FPI outflows. For example, in 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, FPIs pulled out nearly \$16 billion from Indian markets in just two months, causing stock market volatility. Similarly, in 2022, amid global interest rate hikes and geopolitical tensions, India saw FPI outflows of around \$33 billion, one of the highest withdrawals in a decade. These fluctuations affect the rupee's value, stock indices, and short-term liquidity (Yoganandham. G.,(2023). On the other hand, FDI inflows have remained resilient, especially in sectors like manufacturing, digital services, and renewable energy. According to DPIIT data, India received \$71 billion in FDI inflows in Fiscal Year- 2022–23, making it one of the top destinations for global investors. The services sector attracted nearly 16% of total FDI, while manufacturing, particularly in automobiles, electronics, and chemicals, has seen rising investments due to the "Make in India" initiative and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.

FDI not only brings capital but also creates jobs, transfers technology, and strengthens supply chains. For instance, global companies like Apple and Samsung have expanded smartphone manufacturing in India, while investments in renewable energy projects support India's clean energy targets. In short, while FPI inflows are highly sensitive to global financial shocks, India's FDI remains strong and stable, signaling long-term investor confidence. This

dual pattern highlights that India must manage short-term FPI volatility while continuing to attract sustainable FDI for economic resilience.

Table -11
Foreign Investment Trends in India (2020–2023)

S.No.	Year	FPI Inflows / Outflows (USD Billion)	FDI Inflows (USD Billion)	Notes
1.	2020	Outflow: -16	57.6	COVID-19 pandemic caused massive FPI withdrawal
2.	2021	Inflow: 34	64.4	Recovery in global markets and investor confidence
3.	2022	Outflow: -33	70.0	Global rate hikes and geopolitical tensions triggered FPI volatility
4.	2023	Inflow: 14	71.0	Strong FDI in manufacturing, services, and renewable energy sectors

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) reports.

Economic Impact on India: Energy Security

India's energy security faces significant challenges due to its heavy reliance on imported oil and gas. In the fiscal year 2023–24, the country imported 87.8% of its crude oil, marking an all-time high. This dependence exposes India to global price volatility and geopolitical tensions, which can disrupt supply chains and strain the economy. To mitigate these risks, India has been expanding its renewable energy capacity (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). As of June 2025, the nation had installed 226.79 GW of renewable energy, nearly tripling its capacity since 2014. In the first half of 2025 alone, India added 25.1 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity, contributing to a 1% reduction in power-sector CO₂ emissions. These efforts align with India's goal to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Additionally, India has established strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) to enhance energy security. The current storage capacity stands at 5.33 million metric tonnes, sufficient for approximately 9.5 days of consumption. Plans are underway to expand these reserves by 12 million metric tonnes, further bolstering the country's preparedness against supply disruptions. In short, while India's dependence on imported oil and gas poses economic vulnerabilities, ongoing investments in renewable energy and strategic reserves are steps toward achieving greater energy security. Continued commitment to these initiatives will be crucial in reducing reliance on external sources and ensuring a stable energy future.

Table -12
Economic Impact on India: Energy Security

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Statistics	Economic Impact
1.	Oil & Gas Imports	87.8% of crude oil imported in 2023–24	High dependence makes India vulnerable to global price volatility and geopolitical tensions, affecting the economy
2.	Renewable Energy Capacity	226.79 GW installed by June 2025; 25.1 GW added in H1 2025	Reduces reliance on imported fuel, lowers CO ₂ emissions, and supports sustainable economic growth; aligns with 500 GW target by 2030
3.	Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)	5.33 million metric tonnes (enough for 9.5 days of consumption); planned expansion of 12 million metric tonnes	Provides buffer against supply disruptions, enhances energy security, and protects the economy from sudden oil price shocks

Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Government of India; Central Electricity Authority (CEA), India; Press Information Bureau (PIB), India, 2025.

Economic Impact on India: Inflation and Economic Stability

India's economy in 2025 faces challenges from global inflation and external pressures yet remains resilient due to robust domestic factors. India's retail inflation has significantly decreased, reaching 2.07% in August 2025, down from 3.18% in June. This decline is primarily due to reduced food prices, with food inflation turning negative at -1.90% in July. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its inflation forecast for Fiscal Year -2026 to 3.1%, down from the earlier projection of 3.7%. This moderation provides the RBI flexibility to support economic growth through monetary policy adjustments.

Despite global economic uncertainties, India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.5% in Fiscal Year -2026, driven by strong domestic demand, favorable monsoon conditions, and government reforms such as income tax cuts and GST reductions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also raised India's growth forecast to 6.4% for 2025, reaffirming its position as the fastest-growing major economy (Yoganandham. G.,(2023). India faces external economic pressures, including a record-low rupee value of 88.62 against the U.S. dollar and increased U.S. tariffs on Indian goods. These factors could impact exports and foreign investment inflows, posing challenges to economic stability. In short, while global inflation and external factors present challenges, India's economy demonstrates resilience through declining inflation, strong growth projections, and supportive domestic policies (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Continued monitoring

and adaptive policies will be essential to navigate these external pressures and sustain economic stability.

Table -13
Economic Impact on India: Inflation and Economic Stability

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Statistics	Economic Impact
1.	Retail Inflation	Declined to 2.07% in August 2025 from 3.18% in June 2025	Lower inflation eases cost of living, supports domestic consumption, and allows RBI flexibility in monetary policy
2.	Food Inflation	Negative at -1.90% in July 2025	Reduces household expenditure on essentials, boosting disposable income and consumption
3.	RBI Inflation Forecast	Revised to 3.1% for FY26 from 3.7%	Enables accommodative monetary policy to support growth
4.	GDP Growth Projection	Projected 6.5% in FY26; IMF forecast 6.4%	Strong domestic demand and government reforms boost economic activity
5.	External Pressures	Rupee at record low 88.62/USD; increased U.S. tariffs	Could affect exports, foreign investment inflows, and overall economic stability
6.	Conclusion	India’s economy shows resilience due to declining inflation, strong growth, and supportive domestic policies	Adaptive policies and monitoring are key to sustaining economic stability amid global and domestic pressures

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), India.

Economic Impact on India - Opportunities in Supply Chain Diversification and Service Exports

India stands at a pivotal juncture, poised to harness significant economic opportunities through supply chain diversification and the expansion of service exports. These avenues not only bolster economic resilience but also position India as a formidable player in the global market. India's strategic advantage in supply chain diversification is becoming increasingly evident (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). As companies seek alternatives to traditional manufacturing hubs, India's competitive labor costs, robust infrastructure, and favorable government policies make it an attractive destination. The government's initiatives, such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, have further enhanced India's appeal by offering incentives to manufacturers. This shift is reflected in the growth of India's core infrastructure sectors, which recorded a 6.3% increase in August 2025, marking the highest rate in 13 months (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Key sectors like coal, steel, and cement led this surge, indicating a strong recovery in the country's industrial output.

India's service sector continues to be a cornerstone of its economic expansion. In the fiscal year 2024–25, service exports reached a historic high of \$387.5 billion, up 13.6% from the previous year. The IT-BPM sector remains the largest contributor, accounting for about 49% of total service exports. This growth underscores the global demand for India's skilled workforce and technological expertise. The convergence of supply chain diversification and service export expansion offers India a dual advantage (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). By attracting manufacturing investments and enhancing service exports, India can mitigate trade imbalances and reduce dependency on traditional markets. This integrated approach not only strengthens economic fundamentals but also enhances India's position in the global economic landscape. In short, India's focus on supply chain diversification and service export growth presents a comprehensive strategy for sustainable economic development. By leveraging these opportunities, India can navigate global uncertainties and emerge as a resilient and dynamic economy

Table -14

Economic Impact on India - Opportunities in Supply Chain Diversification and Service Exports

S.No.	Economic Impact on India - Opportunities in Supply Chain Diversification and Service Exports	Details / Statistics	Economic Impact
1.	Supply Chain Diversification	India is becoming a preferred destination for global manufacturing due to competitive labor costs, strong infrastructure, and government incentives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. Core infrastructure sectors grew 6.3% in August 2025, the highest in 13 months.	Attracts foreign investments, reduces dependency on traditional manufacturing hubs, and strengthens industrial output.
2.	Service Exports Growth	Service exports reached \$387.5 billion in FY 2024–25, up 13.6% from the previous year, with IT-BPM contributing about 49% of total exports.	Boosts foreign exchange earnings, enhances global competitiveness, and creates employment opportunities.
3.	Strategic Implications	Integrating supply chain diversification with service export growth strengthens India’s economic resilience.	Supports sustainable economic growth, reduces trade imbalances, and enhances India’s global economic position.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/infrastructure-rebound-core-sectors-grow-13-month-high-of-6-3-in-august-coal-steel-and-cement-lead-the-surge/articleshow/124050468.cms>,
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2126119>.

Political Insights for India

India's political strategy focuses on maintaining strategic autonomy, allowing the country to balance relationships with major global powers like the United States, Russia, and European nations. This approach ensures that India can make independent decisions on foreign policy and defense while benefiting from economic, technological, and security cooperation. By not fully aligning with any single power, India preserves flexibility in handling global challenges and protecting national interests. The U.S.–China rivalry has significant implications for India. India strengthens its ties with the QUAD alliance, comprising the U.S., Japan, and Australia, to ensure security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). At the same time, India continues to engage cautiously with China, managing border disputes and trade relationships without escalating tensions. This dual approach allows India to safeguard its national security while remaining a constructive regional player.

Russia remains a key partner for India, especially in defense and energy sectors. India continues to procure defense equipment and maintain energy imports from Russia, which supports both military preparedness and energy stability. At the same time, India carefully navigates international sanctions and diplomatic pressures to avoid isolation from Western countries, reflecting a balanced and pragmatic foreign policy approach. In West Asia, India focuses on diplomacy that combines energy security, diaspora welfare, and defense cooperation. Millions of Indians live and work in Gulf countries, making the protection of their welfare a critical aspect of foreign policy (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Simultaneously, India maintains energy imports from the region and collaborates on defense and counterterrorism, strengthening its position as a reliable partner.

India also aims to play a global peacekeeping and mediation role. Through active participation in multilateral forums such as the United Nations, India promotes conflict resolution, humanitarian cooperation, and global stability. This enhances India's international credibility and demonstrates its commitment to a rules-based global order. India's foreign policy is increasingly shaped by the need to manage geopolitical uncertainties while pursuing economic growth. The country uses its strategic location in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific to enhance trade, security, and diplomatic influence. By maintaining good relations with both Western powers and neighboring countries, India ensures access to technology, defense equipment, and energy resources, which are crucial for national development. The Indo-Pacific region is a central focus for India's diplomacy (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Engagement in regional initiatives

like the QUAD and ASEAN partnerships strengthens maritime security and trade routes while countering potential threats. India's approach emphasizes collaboration rather than confrontation, projecting itself as a stabilizing force in a region marked by tensions between major powers.

India's efforts in multilateral diplomacy extend to climate change, counterterrorism, and global health. Participation in forums such as the United Nations, G20, and BRICS helps India influence global policies and showcase its role as a responsible international actor. These engagements also provide avenues to address global challenges that directly affect India's economy and society. Through a combination of strategic autonomy, regional partnerships, and active multilateral engagement, India continues to strengthen its political influence while safeguarding national interests. This balanced and proactive approach allows India to navigate complex global dynamics, build trust with international partners, and promote peace and stability.

Table –15
Key Political Insights and Strategic Priorities of India

S.No.	Aspect	Key Focus	Purpose / Impact
1.	Strategic Autonomy	Balancing relations with U.S., Russia, Europe	Maintains independence in foreign policy and flexibility in global decisions
2.	U.S.–China Rivalry	Strengthens QUAD ties; cautious engagement with China	Ensures regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific
3.	Russia Relations	Defense and energy cooperation	Secures defense and energy needs while avoiding diplomatic isolation
4.	West Asia Diplomacy	Energy imports, diaspora welfare, defense cooperation	Strengthens economic ties and protects Indian citizens abroad
5.	Global Peace Role	Participation in UN and multilateral forums	Promotes conflict resolution, global stability, and India's international credibility

Source: Synthesized from multiple analyses and reports on India's foreign policy, including strategic autonomy, global partnerships, and regional diplomacy (Pande, GIS Reports Online, Debuglies, IAS Gyan, The Academic).

India's Global Role: Peace, Multilateralism, and Sustainable Development

India has emerged as a significant global actor, championing peace, multilateralism, humanitarian assistance, and sustainable development. India has consistently advocated for peaceful resolutions to global conflicts. In the Ukraine crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's support for a peaceful settlement during a call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in 2025. India's longstanding ties with Russia position it as a potential mediator in peace negotiations (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). India actively participates in

multilateral forums like the UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has recognized India as a pivotal voice in advocating for UN Security Council reforms to better reflect contemporary global dynamics. India maintains strategic neutrality, preserving its credibility among competing blocs. This approach allows India to engage with various global powers without aligning exclusively with any, thereby enhancing its diplomatic leverage. India has been a proactive contributor to humanitarian efforts worldwide (Yoganandham. G.,(2024). In 2023, India launched Operation Dost to provide earthquake relief in Turkey, Operation Karuna for Cyclone Sitrang in Myanmar, and Operation Kaveri for aid in Sudan. Additionally, India pledged \$12.25 billion for development projects in Africa and played a key role in global vaccination efforts through “Vaccine Maitri.” India is committed to upholding a free, open, and rules-based maritime order, grounded in international law and the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). India promotes initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to link peace and growth. The ISA aims to mobilize solar energy resources, while the CDRI focuses on building infrastructure resilience against disasters.

Expanding on India’s global role, its strategic neutrality enables it to maintain constructive relations with both Western and Eastern powers. By avoiding exclusive alignment, India strengthens its position as a credible mediator in international disputes, from Ukraine to West Asia. India’s humanitarian diplomacy has become a hallmark of its foreign policy. Beyond emergency aid, India’s vaccine diplomacy, through the “Vaccine Maitri” initiative, has supplied over 200 million doses to more than 100 countries, enhancing global health security. Similarly, disaster relief operations demonstrate India’s readiness to assist nations in crises, projecting soft power while reinforcing international goodwill (Yoganandham. G.,(2024). In multilateral forums, India advocates reforms that make global governance more representative. Its push for UN Security Council reform, along with active participation in BRICS, G20, and SCO, seeks to balance the voices of emerging economies against established powers. Initiatives like the ISA and CDRI integrate sustainable development with global peace, emphasizing climate-resilient growth and energy transition. By linking development and security, India positions itself as a responsible global actor capable of addressing 21st-century challenges while fostering economic growth and stability worldwide.

Table -16

India's Global Role: Peace, Multilateralism, and Sustainable Development

S.No.	Aspect	Details / Statistics	Impact / Significance
1.	Mediator in Conflicts	Advocates peaceful resolutions in Ukraine and West Asia; maintains strong ties with both Russia and Western countries.	Positions India as a credible mediator and strengthens diplomatic leverage.
2.	Multilateralism	Active in UN, G20, BRICS, SCO; advocates UNSC reforms for better representation of emerging economies.	Enhances India's voice in global governance and promotes equitable international decision-making.
3.	Strategic Neutrality	Avoids exclusive alignment with any bloc.	Preserves credibility among competing powers and allows flexible international engagement.
4.	Humanitarian Assistance	Operation Dost (Turkey earthquake), Operation Karuna (Myanmar cyclone), Operation Kaveri (Sudan aid); "Vaccine Maitri" supplied 200+ million doses to 100+ countries.	Strengthens global goodwill, enhances soft power, and improves international health and disaster response.
5.	Rules-Based Order	Upholds sovereignty, maritime security, and UNCLOS principles.	Supports global stability and international law compliance.
6.	Sustainable Development	Initiatives like International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).	Links peace with growth, promotes renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable infrastructure.

Source: Times of India, Reuters, Tribune India, News on Air, Diplomatist (2023–2025).

Case Studies: Geopolitical Dynamics and India's Strategic Response

India's approach to recent geopolitical conflicts highlights its focus on strategic autonomy, economic resilience, and balanced diplomacy. By importing discounted Russian oil, India strengthens its energy security while carefully maintaining neutrality in the UN to avoid alienating global powers. In the Middle East, India balances support for Israel with advocacy for a Palestinian state, protecting its diaspora and promoting regional stability (Yoganandham. G.,(2023). The Iran–Israel tensions have prompted India to safeguard critical oil routes and invest in alternative infrastructure. U.S.–China trade tensions offer India a chance to attract global supply chains, though challenges like logistics and costs remain. Simultaneously, exploring alternative trade and payment mechanisms with Russia supports economic resilience

and reduces dependence on traditional systems like SWIFT. Overall, India's strategies reflect a pragmatic, multi-dimensional approach that protects national interests, fosters economic growth, and enhances its diplomatic credibility globally.

❖ **Russia–Ukraine Conflict: Discounted Oil Imports and Neutrality in the UN**

Since the onset of the Russia–Ukraine war in February 2022, India has significantly increased its imports of discounted Russian crude oil. By mid-2024, Russia supplied over 40% of India's total crude oil imports, up from less than 2% before the conflict. This strategic move has bolstered India's energy security and refined product exports (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). However, it has drawn criticism from Western nations, with former U.S. President Donald Trump imposing tariffs on Indian goods, alleging that India's oil deals indirectly fund Russia's military actions. Despite this, India maintains its neutrality in the United Nations, abstaining from votes condemning Russia, thereby asserting its strategic autonomy.

❖ **Hamas–Israel Conflict: Energy and Diaspora Focus, Balanced Diplomacy**

India has adopted a nuanced approach to the Hamas–Israel conflict. While condemning the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks and expressing solidarity with Israel, India continues to advocate for the creation of a Palestinian state. This balanced stance reflects India's historical support for Palestine and its growing strategic relationship with Israel (Yoganandham. G.,(2023). The Indian diaspora's significant presence in both regions further influences India's diplomatic positioning, aiming to protect its citizens and maintain regional stability.

❖ **Iran–Israel Conflict: Protecting Oil Routes and Regional Infrastructure Investments**

The Iran–Israel conflict poses potential threats to India's energy security, particularly concerning the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global oil shipments. India imports about 85% of its oil needs, making it vulnerable to disruptions in this region. In response, India has increased imports of discounted Russian oil and is exploring alternative trade and payment mechanisms to mitigate risks. Additionally, India continues to invest in regional infrastructure projects to enhance connectivity and reduce dependence on volatile routes.

❖ **U.S.–China Trade Dynamics: Capturing Supply Chain Opportunities**

The ongoing U.S.–China trade tensions have presented India with opportunities to diversify global supply chains. U.S. businesses are increasingly looking beyond China, and India's competitive labor market, growing manufacturing base, and large domestic consumer economy have made it a favored alternative (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). However, India must navigate

challenges such as high costs, poor logistics, and policy hurdles to capitalize on these opportunities.

❖ **U.S.–Russia Relations: Developing Alternative Trade and Payment Mechanisms**

In light of strained U.S.–Russia relations, India is exploring alternative trade and payment mechanisms to facilitate bilateral transactions. The Reserve Bank of India is considering adopting Russia's alternative financial messaging system, SPFS, to enable trade settlements in Indian Rupees and reduce dependence on the SWIFT system. This move aligns with India's broader strategy of de-dollarization and enhancing economic resilience.

❖ **Lessons for India: Strategic Autonomy, Economic Resilience, and Diplomatic Engagement**

India's experiences in these geopolitical scenarios underscore the importance of strategic autonomy, economic resilience, and diplomatic engagement. By diversifying energy sources, exploring alternative trade mechanisms, and maintaining a balanced diplomatic approach, India can safeguard its national interests and assert its position on the global stage. These strategies are crucial for navigating the complexities of contemporary international relations and ensuring sustainable development.

Table –17

India’s Strategic Economic and Diplomatic Approaches in Global Conflicts

S.No.	Case / Conflict	India’s Approach	Key Economic Figures / Evidence
1.	Russia–Ukraine	Imports discounted Russian oil; UN neutrality	Russia supplied ~40% of India’s crude in 2024 (up from <2% pre-war); saves ~\$10–12/bbl on oil costs.
2.	Hamas–Israel	Balanced diplomacy; protects diaspora	Trade with Israel ~\$5.3B (2024); remittances from Middle East ~\$8B; maintains stability.
3.	Iran–Israel	Protects Strait of Hormuz; invests in infrastructure	~85% of India’s oil imports through Strait; alternative sourcing mitigates ~\$20B potential disruption.
4.	U.S.–China	Captures supply chain opportunities	Manufacturing FDI inflows ~\$7B (2024); exports in electronics +15% Year on Year.
5.	U.S.–Russia	Alternative trade/payment systems; SPFS adoption	Trade resilience improves; reduces SWIFT dependency by 25–30% for Russia transactions.
6.	Lessons	Strategic autonomy, economic resilience, balanced diplomacy	Energy diversification, trade mechanism alternatives, and diplomatic engagement ensure stable growth and secure imports/exports

Source: Compiled from multiple global trade and energy reports, 2024.

India's Strategic Response to Global Conflicts: Diplomacy, Economic Reforms, and Contributions to Peace and Sustainable Development

India's strategic response to global conflicts integrates diplomacy, economic reforms, and contributions to peace and sustainable development. Emphasizing non-alignment and multilateralism, India actively engages in global forums like the United Nations and the G20 to advocate for equitable development and conflict resolution. Economically, India has implemented significant reforms to bolster growth and resilience. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects India's GDP growth at 6.7% in 2025, up from 6.3% in June 2025, driven by robust domestic demand and the positive impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. Additionally, India has launched initiatives such as the East Coast Economic Corridor and invested over ₹70,000 crore to enhance its maritime capabilities, aiming to position itself among the top 10 shipbuilding and ship-owning nations. In terms of sustainable development, India aligns its foreign policy with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on poverty eradication, climate action, and inclusive growth (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). For instance, the proportion of the population living below the extreme poverty line reduced from 48.0% in 1993 to 12.9% in 2021.

Domestically, states like Telangana have made significant strides in poverty alleviation, with Telangana achieving the second-highest score (91 points) on the 'no poverty' goal for 2023-24, just behind Tamil Nadu (92).. Through these multifaceted approaches, India demonstrates a commitment to fostering global peace, economic stability, and sustainable development, aligning its national interests with broader international objectives. Building on its strategic approach, India leverages diplomacy to maintain balanced relations with major global powers while safeguarding its national interests (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). For example, during the Russia–Ukraine conflict, India increased its imports of discounted Russian crude, which accounted for nearly 40% of its total crude imports in 2024, up from less than 2% before the war, saving approximately \$10–12 per barrel.

Simultaneously, India maintained a neutral stance in international forums, reinforcing its commitment to strategic autonomy. In addition, India actively participates in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. It contributes over 7,000 troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations, ranking among the top five contributors globally. This involvement strengthens India's global reputation as a promoter of peace and stability. On the economic front, India focuses on trade diversification and investment reforms. Bilateral trade with key partners such as

the United States and the European Union exceeded \$140 billion in 2024, demonstrating resilience amid global uncertainties (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Strategic initiatives like “Make in India” and expansion of renewable energy infrastructure are designed to attract foreign investment while reducing dependence on volatile global supply chains. By combining diplomacy, economic reforms, and sustainable development initiatives, India positions itself as a responsible global actor, enhancing its influence while fostering economic growth, energy security, and global stability.

Table –18
India’s strategic responses, economic data, and outcomes

S.No.	Area	Strategic Actions	Key Data / Evidence	Outcomes / Impact
1.	Energy & Diplomacy	Discounted Russian crude imports; neutral stance in UN	~40% of crude imports from Russia in 2024 (up from <2% pre-war); saves \$10–12 per barrel	Ensures energy security; maintains strategic autonomy
2.	Economic Reforms	GST reforms; “Make in India”; trade diversification	OECD projects GDP growth 6.7% in 2025; bilateral trade with US & EU > \$140B in 2024	Strengthened economic resilience; attracts foreign investment
3.	Maritime & Infrastructure	East Coast Economic Corridor; investment in shipbuilding	₹70,000 crore investment in maritime sector	Enhances global trade capability; supports strategic positioning
4.	Peace & Global Stability	UN peacekeeping missions	>7,000 troops contributed; among top 5 globally	Strengthens India’s reputation as a promoter of peace
5.	Sustainable Development	Alignment with UN SDGs; poverty alleviation programs	Extreme poverty reduced from 48% (1993) to 12.9% (2021); Telangana scored 91/100 in “No Poverty” goal 2023-24	Promotes inclusive growth; contributes to global sustainable development goals

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; OECD Economic Outlook 2025; UNDP Human Development Reports 2023–24.

India’s Role in the Contemporary World: Economic Dimensions of Geopolitical Conflicts, Peace Agendas, and Implications for Sustainable Development

India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and plays an important role in global affairs. Its position in geopolitics influences not only regional stability but also global economic and peace efforts. In recent years, India has focused on balancing economic growth with promoting peace and sustainable development. Economically, India has made significant

progress. According to the World Bank, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was about \$3.73 trillion in 2021, making it the fifth-largest economy globally (Yoganandham. G.,(2023). It has a young population of over 1.4 billion people, which provides a large workforce and potential for growth. India's increasing trade, investments, and technological advancements help it become a key player on the world stage. However, India faces challenges from geopolitical conflicts, especially with neighboring countries like Pakistan and China. Tensions over border disputes, such as the conflict in Kashmir and the Himalayan border issues with China, impact regional stability. These conflicts can disrupt trade routes and cause economic uncertainty. Despite these tensions, India works to promote peace through diplomatic talks and regional cooperation. For example, India is part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), aiming to enhance regional stability and economic cooperation.

India also promotes peace through international initiatives. It is a member of the United Nations and actively participates in peacekeeping missions. In 2022, India contributed over 6,000 personnel to UN peacekeeping missions, showing its commitment to global peace efforts. This helps improve India's international reputation and supports sustainable development by fostering stability. Sustainable development is a key focus for India (Yoganandham. G.,(2024). The country has committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reduce poverty, improve health, and promote clean energy. India's renewable energy capacity has increased significantly; it is now the world's third-largest producer of solar energy, with a target to reach 280 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. This shift helps reduce reliance on fossil fuels, combat climate change, and create new jobs. India's economic growth also impacts developing countries.

As a major global player, India's investments and trade with other nations can promote shared growth. For instance, India's "Make in India" initiative encourages manufacturing and exports, creating employment opportunities and boosting the economy. In short, India's role in the modern world involves balancing economic growth with peacebuilding and sustainable development. Despite geopolitical tensions, India aims to be a force for stability and progress. Its efforts in renewable energy, international peacekeeping and regional cooperation show its commitment to a peaceful and sustainable future for all.

Geopolitical Measures, Strategic Efforts, and Reforms for India's Rise as a Global Superpower with Economic Implications

India is steadily advancing toward becoming a global superpower by 2047, driven by strategic geopolitical initiatives, robust economic reforms, and technological advancements. This transformation is supported by statistical evidence and policy measures that collectively enhance India's global standing. A combination of strategic autonomy, economic reforms, and technological innovation is central to India's long-term vision. India's geopolitical strategy emphasizes strategic autonomy, allowing it to balance relationships with major powers like the U.S., Russia, and China (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). For instance, India increased its imports of discounted Russian crude oil, which supplied over 40% of India's crude imports in 2024, up from less than 2% before the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This move ensured energy security while maintaining neutrality in international sanctions. In addition, India's leadership in the Indian Ocean Region, supported by its extensive coastline and naval capabilities, strengthens its strategic significance in global trade and maritime security. Technological initiatives, such as plans for a Quantum Data Centre in Amaravati and a second launch pad at Sriharikota by 2035, demonstrate India's commitment to advancing space and digital technologies, essential for both defense and economic growth.

Economic reforms have played a crucial role in boosting India's growth potential. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects India's GDP growth at 6.7% in 2025, fueled by strong domestic demand and the continued implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Over the past decade, India has created approximately 170 million jobs, significantly reducing poverty levels and improving living standards (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). The digital economy is another major driver; India's IT sector reached \$282.6 billion in 2024-25, growing at 5.1% and projected to reach \$300 billion in 2025-26, reflecting global competitiveness. These reforms not only expand domestic economic activity but also strengthen India's position in international trade and investment (Yoganandham. G.,(2022). Technological advancement remains a cornerstone of India's rise. Space exploration initiatives, such as the planned Bharat International Space Station by 2035, reflect India's ambitions in high-tech sectors. The development of quantum computing facilities and data centers enhances India's digital infrastructure and global competitiveness in emerging technologies. Moreover, smart city initiatives in cities like Visakhapatnam, focusing on e-

governance and sustainable urban infrastructure, improve urban living standards and governance efficiency, demonstrating the integration of technology with economic growth and social development.

Table –19
Statistical evidence underscores India’s trajectory toward global superpower status

S.No.	Key Indicator	Statistic / Year	Source
1.	GDP Growth Rate	6.7% in 2025	OECD
2.	Contribution to Global GDP Growth	17% in 2024; projected 20% by 2030	Econofact
3.	Total Jobs Created (last decade)	170 million	PIB India
4.	IT Sector Size	\$282.6 billion in 2024–25; projected \$300 billion in 2025–26	Times of India
5.	Crude Oil Import from Russia	~40% in 2024 (up from <2% pre-war)	Washington Post
6.	Households with Health Coverage (Telangana)	69%	Times of India

Source: Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India, 2024–25.

In short, India’s rise as a global superpower is driven by a combination of strategic geopolitical positioning, comprehensive economic reforms, and technological innovation. By securing energy resources, maintaining diplomatic flexibility, promoting domestic growth, and investing in high-tech infrastructure, India is poised to play a central role in shaping global economic and political trends (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). The nation’s efforts are underpinned by concrete statistical evidence, demonstrating progress in GDP growth, job creation, technological advancement, and social welfare. Continued focus on these areas will enable India to achieve its vision of becoming a leading global power by mid-century, influencing the world economically, politically, and technologically.

Strengthening India’s Resilience for Global Leadership in a Complex World

India is steadily emerging as a resilient global leader by leveraging its economic strength, inclusive growth policies, climate initiatives, and strategic international engagement. The Indian economy demonstrated remarkable resilience in 2025, achieving a GDP growth rate of **6.5%**, driven by strong domestic demand, public infrastructure investment, and a robust financial sector (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). By 2030, India is projected to become the world’s third-largest economy with a GDP of \$7.3 trillion. Its rapid growth has made India a key contributor to global development, accounting for 16% of global growth in 2023. India is also promoting inclusive growth through initiatives like Viksit Bharat 2047, which aims to empower 10,000 women

entrepreneurs by 2033, fostering gender equality and economic participation. In terms of sustainability, India ranks fourth in renewable energy capacity, demonstrating its commitment to climate leadership and sustainable development. Strategically, India has strengthened its global presence, exemplified by its G20 presidency in 2023, where it advanced the economic agenda of the Global South and fostered international cooperation (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). By combining economic resilience, inclusive policies, climate action, and proactive diplomacy, India is positioning itself as a strong and responsible global leader, capable of navigating a complex world while contributing to global stability and prosperity.

Table –20

Key Indicators of India's Resilience and Global Leadership

S.No.	Area	Indicator / Achievement	Data / Evidence
1.	Economic Growth	GDP growth rate	6.5% in 2025
2.		Projected GDP	\$7.3 trillion by 2030
3.	Global Contribution	Share in global growth	16% of global growth in 2023
4.	Inclusive Growth	Women entrepreneurship	Empower 10,000 women entrepreneurs by 2033 under Viksit Bharat 2047
5.	Climate Leadership	Renewable energy capacity	Ranked 4th globally
6.	Global Engagement	International leadership	G20 Presidency in 2023, promoting Global South agenda

Source: Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2025)

Policy Recommendations for India's Economic Growth and Security

India's trade diversification is crucial for reducing dependence on a few markets. In 2023, India achieved an export value of \$437.5 billion, with a 2.62% increase despite global uncertainties. The government aims to double non-oil, non-precious metal trade with the UAE to \$100 billion within the next three to four years. To further bolster manufacturing, the government has implemented the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, offering financial incentives to boost domestic production in sectors like electronics, textiles, and automotive. This initiative has attracted significant investments, contributing to India's goal of becoming a \$30 trillion economy. India's energy security strategy focuses on diversifying suppliers and expanding renewable energy capacity (Yoganandham. G.,(2023). The government plans to set up strategic petroleum reserves at six new locations, aiming to expand reserve capacity to 90 days. In Fiscal Year- 2023, subsidies for renewable energy increased by 8% to INR 14,843 crore

(approximately USD 1.8 billion). Installed renewable energy capacity reached 179 GW by May 2023, with solar and wind comprising 67 GW and 43 GW, respectively. The government aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity by 2030.

India has developed alternative payment systems to enhance financial resilience. The Digital Payments Index, which measures the growth of digital transactions, has shown consistent improvement, reflecting increased adoption of digital payment methods. This shift reduces reliance on traditional banking systems and promotes financial inclusion. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained macroeconomic stability, with real GDP growth projected at 6.5% for Fiscal Year- 2024/25 and 2025/26. The current account deficit has remained well-contained, supported by strong growth in service exports. India actively participates in multilateral forums to enhance regional security. The 2023 QUAD Summit in Hiroshima focused on maritime security, cybersecurity, and disaster relief, with India playing a pivotal role. Additionally, India is a key player in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), promoting regional trade and connectivity (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). India's humanitarian aid efforts include providing disaster relief and medical assistance to neighboring countries, reinforcing its commitment to regional stability.

India is emerging as a global hub for technology and innovation. The public cloud services market is expected to reach \$25.5 billion by 2028, growing at a CAGR of 24.3% from 2023 to 2028. Companies like Rolls-Royce and Zeiss are expanding their operations in India, establishing Bengaluru as a key tech and innovation center. The cybersecurity market in India grew from \$1.98 billion in 2019 to \$6.06 billion in 2023, reflecting increased investment in digital security infrastructure. The government is also modernizing the criminal justice system with digital tools and cybersecurity measures to improve crime prevention and judicial proceedings (Yoganandham. G.,(2025). Implementing these policy recommendations will strengthen India's economic resilience and global standing. By diversifying trade partners, enhancing energy security, exploring alternative financial systems, engaging in multilateral diplomacy, and fostering technological innovation, India can achieve sustainable growth and contribute to regional and global stability (Yoganandham. G.,(2024).

Conclusion

Global conflicts, trade wars, and rivalries affect trade, energy, and economic stability worldwide. India faces risks from inflation, supply disruptions, and geopolitical uncertainty, but also opportunities from supply chain realignment and strategic neutrality. By combining strategic

autonomy, economic resilience, and diplomatic engagement, India safeguards domestic growth while enhancing its role as a credible global actor. Trade diversification, energy security, technological development, and multilateral diplomacy enable India to navigate complex conflicts and contribute to a stable, multipolar world. India is quickly growing into a major global player. Its economy is strong and adaptable, even during difficult times caused by global conflicts. India is working hard to diversify its trade, find new energy sources, and build a resilient manufacturing sector. It is also investing in technology, renewable energy, and digital infrastructure to support long-term growth. India's balanced foreign policy helps it maintain good relations with different countries like the U.S., Russia, China, and others. This strategy gives India the freedom to act independently and stay neutral in conflicts.

India also plays an important role in promoting peace and sustainable development worldwide. It participates actively in international organizations like the United Nations, G20, and BRICS to support cooperation and stability. India's efforts in humanitarian aid, climate change, and energy transition show its commitment to a peaceful and sustainable future. Despite challenges such as global conflicts, inflation, and trade disruptions, India's economy remains resilient thanks to its strong domestic demand, reforms, and strategic initiatives. Looking ahead, India's focus on innovation, infrastructure, and diplomacy will help it become a leading global power by 2047. By continuing to diversify its economy, strengthen regional and international partnerships, and promote sustainable development, India aims to play a key role in shaping a peaceful and prosperous world. Its ability to adapt and work with many countries will be crucial for future success. Overall, India's strategic and economic efforts make it well-prepared to face global challenges and grow as a stable, influential, and responsible nation.

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