



SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS PAPER 2: EFFECTS OF POLICIES AND POLITICS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS



International Relations

PROLOGUE

In an era defined by fluid geopolitical alignments, economic fragmentation, and swift technological shifts, the study of International Relations has moved far beyond classical diplomacy. Modern global power operates at the intersection of strategic autonomy, critical supply chains, digital sovereignty, and institutional reform. For aspirants preparing for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, mastering General Studies Paper 2 demands an analytical approach—one that connects grand theoretical paradigms to real-world policy shifts.

This material offers a structured, multi-dimensional roadmap designed specifically to meet that standard. Spanning seven dedicated core subjects—from the strategic architecture of the changing world order to the mechanics of major international bodies—it equips candidates with analytical matrices, 5-vector evaluation models, and integrated Previous Years' Questions (PYQs).

By bridging conceptual depth with exam-focused frameworks, this guide serves as a precise, comprehensive tool for deconstructing complex global events and articulating high-scoring, analytical answers for the Mains examination.

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Chapter 1

Theoretical & Strategic Foundations of the changing World Order

"International relations is not about permanent friendships or permanent enmities; it is about permanent interests pursued in a landscape of constant structural change."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

1. **Deconstruct Systemic Transitions:** Analyze how the global order shifted from post-WWII Bipolarity to post-Cold War Unipolarity, and finally to modern **Fragmented Multipolarity**.
2. **Apply Theoretical Paradigms:** Use Realism, Liberal Institutionalism, Constructivism, and Geo-economics to answer analytical GS Paper 2 questions.
3. **Understand Key Global Structural Drivers:** Decode concepts such as **sovereign nationalism, de-globalization, weaponized interdependence, and minilateralism**.
4. **Evaluate India's Foreign Policy Evolution:** Trace India's foreign policy shift from Cold War *Non-Alignment* to modern *Multi-Alignment* and *Strategic Autonomy*.
5. **Master the GS Answer Framework:** Apply a **5-Vector Analytical Matrix** to dissect any international event or policy for the UPSC Mains examination.

1.1 Evolution of the Modern Global Power Architecture

To understand modern international affairs, civil services aspirants must move beyond viewing global events as isolated news stories. International politics operates under the overarching condition of **global anarchy**—the absence of a supreme world government. In this system, sovereign states continuously evaluate power distributions, form strategic partnerships, and guard their national security.

Over the past eight decades, the global distribution of power has transitioned across three major structural epochs:



1. The Bipolar Order (1945–1991)

Following the destruction of World War II, power concentrated around two ideological poles: the capitalist United States and the communist Soviet Union. Security was

maintained through ideological blocs, proxy conflicts, and Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD).

2. The Unipolar Moment & High Globalization (1991–2008)

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 ushered in American hegemony. This era witnessed:

- **The Liberal International Order:** A rules-based order anchored by Western-led institutions like the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF, and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- **Hyper-Globalization:** An assumption that economic integration, borderless supply chains, and market opening would foster global peace.

3. The Era of Fragmented Multipolarity (2008–Present)

The 2008 Global Financial Crisis, China's economic and military rise, the resurgence of Russian geopolitical assertiveness, and the growth of middle powers (like India, Brazil, and Türkiye) ended the unipolar moment.

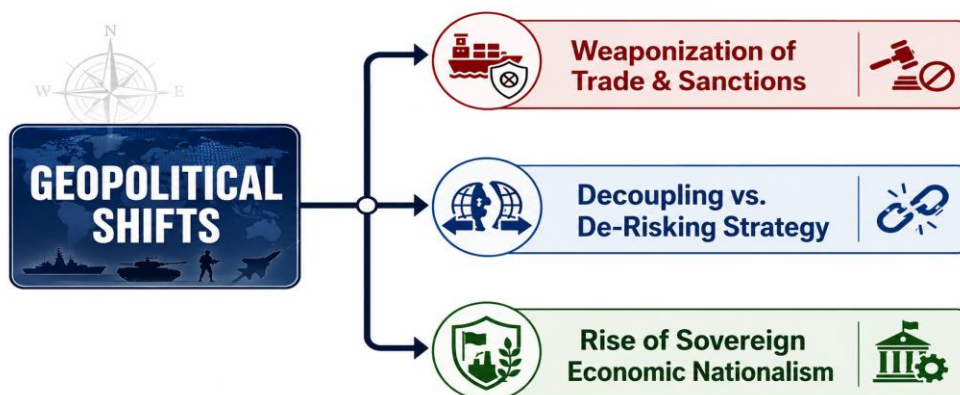
However, today's order is not a orderly 19th-century Concert of Europe. It is **fragmented, asynchronous, and transactional**:

- **Asynchronous Integration:** Nations may cooperate economically while remaining in active security competition.
- **Institutional Gridlock:** Global institutions (e.g., UNSC, WTO Dispute Settlement Body) face paralysis due to major-power vetoes and systemic rivalries.

- **Rise of Minilateralism:** Flexibly grouped, issue-based coalitions (e.g., Quad, I2U2, AUKUS, BRICS+) are increasingly replacing slow, consensus-based universal multilateral bodies.

1.2 Theoretical Lenses: How to Analyze International Relations

When writing answers in GS Paper 2, using theoretical lenses elevates an answer from descriptive journalism to analytical foreign policy evaluation.



A. Realism (Power & Survival)

- **Core Premise:** The international system is anarchic. States are rational actors pursuing national power and security above all else. Moral considerations are secondary to national interest.
- **Key Concepts:** *Balance of Power, Security Dilemma, Deterrence, Zero-Sum Game.*
- **UPSC Application:** Explaining border disputes, military modernization (e.g., India-China standoff), alliance building (AUKUS), and defense procurement.

B. Liberal Institutionalism (Rules & Interdependence)

- **Core Premise:** Cooperation is possible despite anarchy. International institutions, economic trade, and rules-based norms reduce conflict by creating shared benefits.
- **Key Concepts:** *Complex Interdependence, Multilateral Governance, Absolute Gains, Global Public Goods.*
- **UPSC Application:** Evaluating climate change negotiations (UNFCCC), global health security (WHO), trade rules (WTO), and maritime law (UNCLOS).

C. Constructivism (Ideas, Identity & Norms)

- **Core Premise:** State behavior is shaped by historical memory, cultural identity, strategic culture, and social norms rather than material power alone.
- **Key Concepts:** *Soft Power, Civilizational State, Norm Buildup, Strategic Culture.*
- **UPSC Application:** Analyzing India's *Act East* policy, civilizational linkages with Southeast Asia, Diaspora diplomacy, and leadership in the Global South.

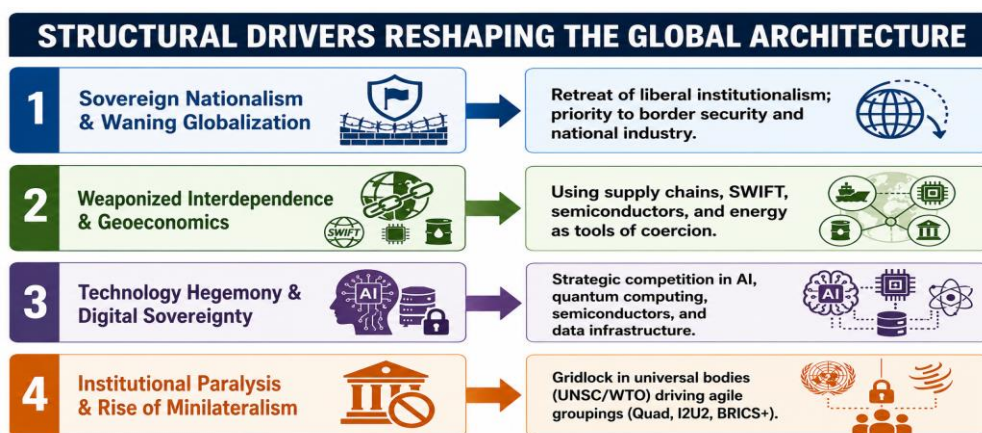
D. Geoeconomics (Economic Power as Strategic Leverage)

- **Core Premise:** Economic instruments (tariffs, supply chains, technology standards, financial clearing systems) are systematically deployed to achieve geopolitical outcomes.
- **Key Concepts:** *Weaponized Interdependence, Chokepoint Capitalism, De-risking, Sovereign Nationalism.*

- **UPSC Application:** Analyzing economic sanctions, the EU's Carbon Border Tax (CBAM), semiconductor technology bans, and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

1.3 Key Structural Drivers of the Changing World Order

Recent UPSC Mains papers have explicitly tested aspirants on the forces dismantling the post-Cold War consensus. Four structural trends define this shift:



Driver 1: Sovereign Nationalism and De-Globalization

The belief in frictionless, borderless trade has given way to **sovereign nationalism**. States are asserting control over borders, industrial capacity, and supply chains.

- **From Cost Efficiency to Resilience:** Corporations and governments are moving from "just-in-time" supply chains to "just-in-case" resilience.
- **Friend-Shoring & Near-Shoring:** Rerouting critical manufacturing to geopolitically trusted allies to reduce strategic vulnerability.

Driver 2: Weaponization of Interdependence

In an integrated world, nodes of infrastructure, finance, and technology can be turned into political chokepoints:

- **Financial Clearing Chokepoints:** Denying access to SWIFT financial messaging networks or freezing sovereign reserves.
- **Critical Mineral Control:** Restricting access to rare earth elements (REEs), lithium, and cobalt needed for green transitions and defense hardware.
- **Regulatory Protectionism:** Implementing non-tariff environmental measures (e.g., EU's CBAM or Deforestation Rules) that impact exports from developing nations.

Driver 3: Technology Hegemony & Critical Emerging Tech

Technology is now the central arena of major-power rivalry. Control over advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), 5G/6G telecom architecture, and biotech define state power.

- The US-China rivalry has moved from standard trade tariffs to targeted export controls on advanced chips and equipment (e.g., US CHIPS and Science Act).
- Strategic technology initiatives like the **US-India iCET** (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology) demonstrate how tech access is shaping modern strategic alliances.

Driver 4: Multilateral Paralysis vs. Flexible Minilateralism

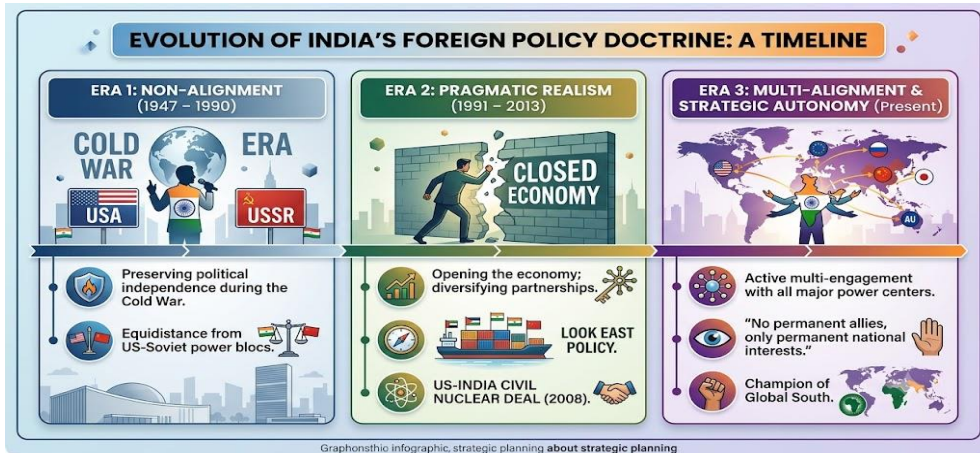
Universal multilateral bodies created post-1945 face structural stagnation:

- **UN Security Council:** Blocked by veto politics among Permanent Members (P5) during major international crises.
- **World Trade Organization (WTO):** Unable to resolve long-standing trade disagreements or enforce rules due to a crippled Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

Consequently, nations are turning to **Minilateralism**—small, functional, issue-driven forums that prioritize speed, shared values, and pragmatic execution over universal consensus.

1.4 Evolution of India's Strategic Doctrine

India's foreign policy has adapted continuously to systemic shifts in global power:



The Transition to Multi-Alignment

Unlike Cold War Non-Alignment—which often focused on maintaining distance from rival blocs—modern **multi-alignment** actively engages multiple global powers simultaneously on an issue-by-issue basis.



Pillars of Modern Indian Strategic Autonomy

1. **Strategic Hedging:** Avoiding absolute dependency on any single power center across defense, energy, or technology.
2. **Issue-Based Partnerships:** Partnering with the West (US, EU, Japan) for maritime security, high-tech, and supply chain diversification, while maintaining ties with Eurasian partners for energy security and continental stability.
3. **Leading the Global South:** Positioned as a bridge between developed nations and the developing world (*Vishwa Mitra*), advocating for equitable climate finance, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and multilateral reform.
4. **Domestic Industrial Foundation:** Recognizing that foreign policy autonomy depends on domestic economic and technological strength (e.g., *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, Production Linked Incentive schemes).

1.5 The Analytical for UPSC Mains Answer Writing

When responding to GS Paper 2 questions on international relations and global policy

changes, structure your analytical impact across **5 Vectors of National Interest**:



How to Use the Matrix in an Answer:

- Step 1:** Define the external event or policy change (e.g., Western sanctions, EU Carbon Tax, Middle East conflict).
- Step 2:** Evaluate how it impacts 2–3 specific vectors from the matrix above.
- Step 3:** Suggest India's strategic policy response (e.g., diplomatic hedging, supply chain diversification, domestic capacity building).

1.6 PYQ Integration Bank & Model Frameworks

To score high marks in GS Paper 2, theoretical concepts must directly inform answer structure. Below are real UPSC Mains questions mapped to chapter concepts:

MODEL QUESTION 1 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: "With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism." Elucidate. (UPSC Mains 2025)

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Define the shift from post-1991 hyper-globalization (driven by free markets and borderless trade) to the current era of **sovereign nationalism**, marked by security concerns, supply chain protectionism, and geo-economics competition.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Factors Driving the Retreat of Globalization**
 - Failure of hyper-globalization to address domestic economic disparities.
 - Supply chain vulnerabilities exposed by geopolitics and global shocks.
 - Weaponization of economic interdependence (tariffs, sanctions, export restrictions).
- **Body Paragraph 2: Manifestations of Sovereign Nationalism**
 - *Economic Protectionism:* Industrial subsidies (e.g., US CHIPS Act) and tariff barriers.
 - *Regulatory & Environmental Protectionism:* Carbon border adjustments (EU CBAM) and strict export restrictions.
 - *Border & Immigration Control:* Stricter visa policies and focus on territorial integrity.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Implications for India & Strategy Ahead**
 - Opportunities to position India as a global manufacturing hub (*China+1 strategy*, PLI scheme).
 - Challenges to Indian exports from non-tariff barriers and protectionist regulations.

- Strategic alignment through bilateral FTAs (India-UAE CEPA, India-UK FTA) and issue-based minilateralism.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize that while hyper-globalization has retreated, total isolation is impossible. The future belongs to "re-globalization" or "friend-shoring," where India must balance domestic industrial strength with flexible multi-alignment.

MODEL QUESTION 2 (10 Marks / 150 Words)

Question: *Analyse the reasons behind the growing preference for mini-laterals in global politics and discuss the advantages of mini-laterals compared to global bodies.* (UPSC Mains)

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Define minilaterals as targeted, issue-specific, flexible arrangements involving a small group of like-minded nations (e.g., Quad, I2U2, AUKUS), contrasting them with universal multilateral institutions like the UN or WTO.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Drivers Behind the Shift Toward Minilateralism**
 - *Institutional Gridlock:* Veto politics paralysis in universal bodies like the UNSC.
 - *Speed & Agility:* Small groupings reach consensus faster on pressing global issues.
 - *Shared Values & Strategic Alignment:* Focus on practical results among like-minded partners.
- **Body Paragraph 2: Key Advantages of Minilaterals**
 - Flexibility to address specific operational needs (e.g., maritime safety, HADR, tech supply chains).

- Lower transaction costs compared to large, bureaucracy-heavy international organizations.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Limitations & Concerns**
 - Risk of fragmenting global governance and undermining universal forums.
 - Exclusion of smaller developing states, potentially weakening global legitimacy.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude that minilaterals complement rather than replace multilateralism, giving nations like India agile platforms to advance national interest while continuing to push for reform in global institutions.

CHAPTER 2:

Impact of Policies & Politics of Developed Nations on India's Interests

"India's foreign policy in the 21st century must navigate a global environment where the domestic policies of developed states—from trade barriers and technology controls to military sanctions and climate mandates—frequently spill over into our national security, economic growth, and strategic maneuverability."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

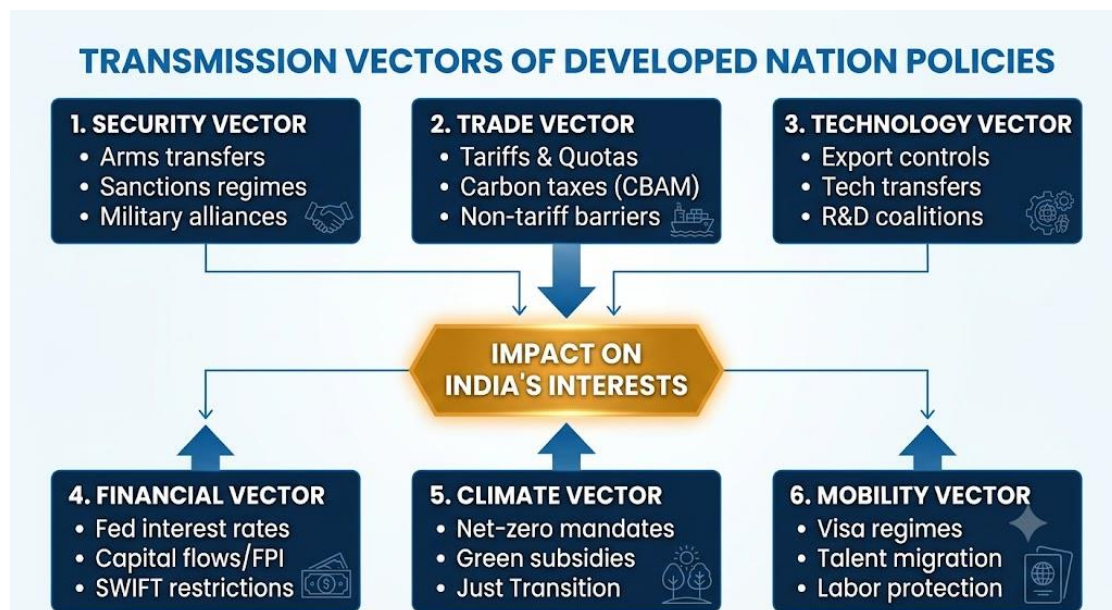
By completing this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

1. **Deconstruct Transmission Channels:** Understand how domestic legislation and geopolitical choices in the United States, European Union, Russia, Japan, and Western alliances impact India's national interests.
2. **Evaluate Strategic Convergences and Frictions:** Analyze bilateral relationships with developed nations through a dual lens of shared strategic alignment and structural friction.
3. **Decode "Regulatory Imperialism":** Master the mechanisms of non-tariff barriers, including the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and data protection regimes.

4. **Examine Strategic Autonomy Under Pressure:** Assess India's balancing act amidst Western sanctions on Russia, US-China technology wars, and Middle East volatility.
5. **Apply Analytical Answer Frameworks:** Utilize structured, multi-dimensional models to answer high-scoring GS Paper 2 Mains questions.

2.1 The Conceptual Architecture: Channels of External Impact

To analyze the impact of developed nations' policies on India, civil services aspirants must move beyond isolated news items. When a developed nation alters its tax laws, imposes an export restriction, raises interest rates, or enters a military standoff, the repercussions ripple globally. For India—a developing nation aspiring to become a \$10-trillion economy while preserving its strategic autonomy—these external policy shifts act as both **enablers of growth** and **structural constraints**.

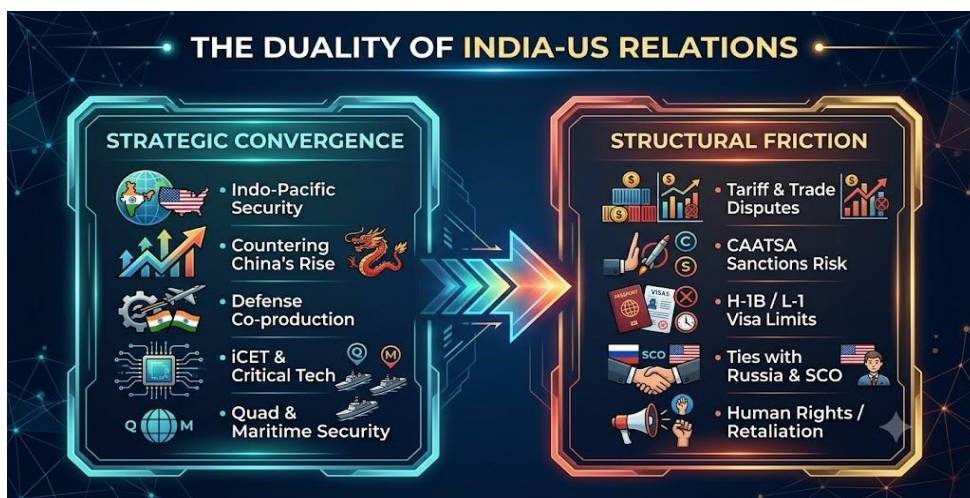


The Six Transmission Vectors

1. **Security & Geopolitical Vector:** Changes in Western alliance structures (e.g., NATO expansion, AUKUS, Quad) or unilateral interventions alter regional power balances in Asia, the Indian Ocean, and Eurasia.
2. **Trade & Economic Vector:** Protectionist domestic legislation, unilateral tariffs, subsidy regimes (e.g., US Inflation Reduction Act), and non-tariff standards directly hit Indian export competitiveness.
3. **Technology & Innovation Vector:** Multilateral export controls, semiconductor restrictions, and technology denial regimes dictate India's access to critical emerging technologies (AI, quantum computing, space, defense).
4. **Financial & Monetary Vector:** Decisions by the US Federal Reserve or European Central Bank regarding interest rates trigger capital flight (FPI outflows) from emerging markets like India, pressuring the Rupee and foreign exchange reserves.
5. **Climate & Energy Vector:** Unilateral green mandates, unilateral carbon taxes, and shifting stance on fossil fuel financing pressure India's energy transition and industrial development.
6. **Human Mobility & Diaspora Vector:** Changes in immigration laws (e.g., US H-1B/L-1 visas, European labor mobility codes) directly impact India's service exports, diaspora security, and annual remittance inflows.

2.2 The United States: Between Strategic Convergence and Economic Friction

The India-US relationship represents a **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**. However, US domestic politics and foreign policy shifts create a complex mix of high alignment and structural friction.



A. Areas of Strategic Convergence

1. **Indo-Pacific Alignment & Countering Revisionism:** US foreign policy recognizes India as the indispensable anchor of security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Initiatives like the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** promote a "Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific" to counter unilateral maritime coercion.
2. **Defense Industrial Cooperation:** The US has granted India **Major Defense Partner** status and designated it under Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1). Landmark frameworks—such as the **US-India COMPACT** (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) and defense industrial

roadmaps—enable co-production of jet engines (GE-F414 for Tejas Mk2), joint procurement of armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones, and co-development of armor systems.

3. **Critical & Emerging Technologies (iCET):** Launched to bypass bureaucratic drag, iCET fosters bilateral collaboration across semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, and commercial space exploration (NASA-ISRO NISAR mission). Joining the US-led *Pax Silica* coalition further embeds India into global high-tech supply chains.

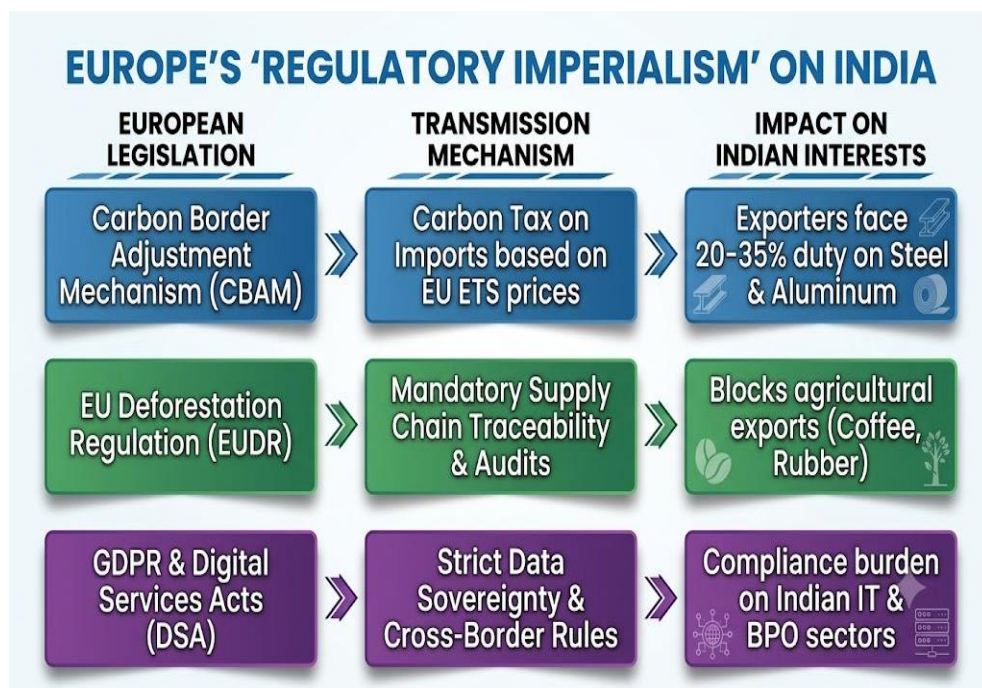
B. Areas of Structural Friction & Policy Volatility

1. **Trade Protectionism & Tariff Friction:** US domestic economic policy alternates between market access demands and aggressive domestic protectionism. Periodic tariff disputes, removal/restoration of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits, and unilateral trade measures create uncertainty for Indian exporters in sectors like steel, aluminum, and agriculture.
2. **CAATSA & Secondary Sanctions Threat:** The US **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** penalizes nations engaging in significant defense transactions with Russia. While India secured waivers for systems like the S-400 Triumf, the lingering threat of secondary sanctions complicates India's strategic autonomy and legacy defense spares procurement.
3. **Immigration & High-Skilled Labor Restrictions:** US domestic political pressure frequently targets non-immigrant work visas (H-1B, L-1). Fee hikes, wage floor increases, and processing delays directly disrupt India's \$240-billion IT services industry and create anxiety for the Indian diaspora.
4. **Third-Party Relations (Pakistan, Russia, and Middle East):** US tactical policy maneuvers—such as defense package sales to Pakistan, pressure on India's energy

imports from Russia, or unilateral actions in West Asia—frequently clash with India's immediate neighborhood priorities.

2.3 The European Union & UK: Regulatory Imperialism & Climate Policies

The European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) are pivotal trade partners, source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and technology collaborators for India. However, European domestic politics has given rise to "**Regulatory Imperialism**"—the use of market power to project domestic European environmental, social, and digital standards globally.



A. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

The EU's CBAM places a carbon price on carbon-intensive goods imported into the EU, aligning them with the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).

- **Impact on India:** Sectors like iron, steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers, and hydrogen face significant financial penalties unless Indian producers decarbonize or pay equivalent domestic carbon prices.
- **Indian Counter-Strategy:** India argues that CBAM violates the WTO principle of Non-Discrimination and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**. To mitigate revenue leakage, India is developing its own Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).

B. Non-Tariff Barriers & Supply Chain Due Diligence

1. **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR):** Prohibits imports of commodities linked to deforestation (e.g., coffee, leather, paper, rubber, soy). Small-scale Indian agricultural producers struggle to afford mandatory geolocation mapping and supply chain verification.
2. **Quality Control Orders (QCOs) and Standards:** Strict European sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards frequently result in rejection of Indian agro-exports (e.g., basmati rice, tea, spices).

C. Trade & Technology Platforms

- **India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** Negotiations balance EU demands for deep tariff cuts in automobiles/wines and stringent labor/environmental chapters

against India's demands for service mobility (Mode 4), data-secure status, and balanced market access.

- **India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC):** Focuses on green technology cooperation, quantum computing, ethical AI frameworks, and resilient semiconductor supply chains.
- **India-UK Enhanced Strategic Partnership:** Bilateral FTA negotiations aim to double trade, alongside mobility schemes like the Young Professionals Scheme.

2.4 Russia & Eurasia: Sanctions, Energy Security, and Strategic Balancing

India's relationship with Russia remains a vital pillar of its continental security, energy access, and Eurasian strategic balance. However, Western policies targeting Russia directly reshape India's foreign policy calculations.



A. Energy Security & Discounted Crude

Following Western sanctions and the G7 price cap on Russian sea-borne crude, India prioritized its national energy security by dramatically increasing imports of discounted Russian crude oil. This prevented domestic fuel price spikes and stabilized global oil markets. However, it drew diplomatic scrutiny from the US and EU, requiring careful backchannel negotiation and gradual import diversification.

B. Defense Supply Chains & De-risk Strategy

While India historically relied on Russia for over 60% of its military hardware, Western sanctions and Russia's domestic military demands caused supply chain delays for spare parts and critical weapon systems (e.g., additional S-400 squadrons, stealth frigates). This accelerated two Indian strategic imperatives:

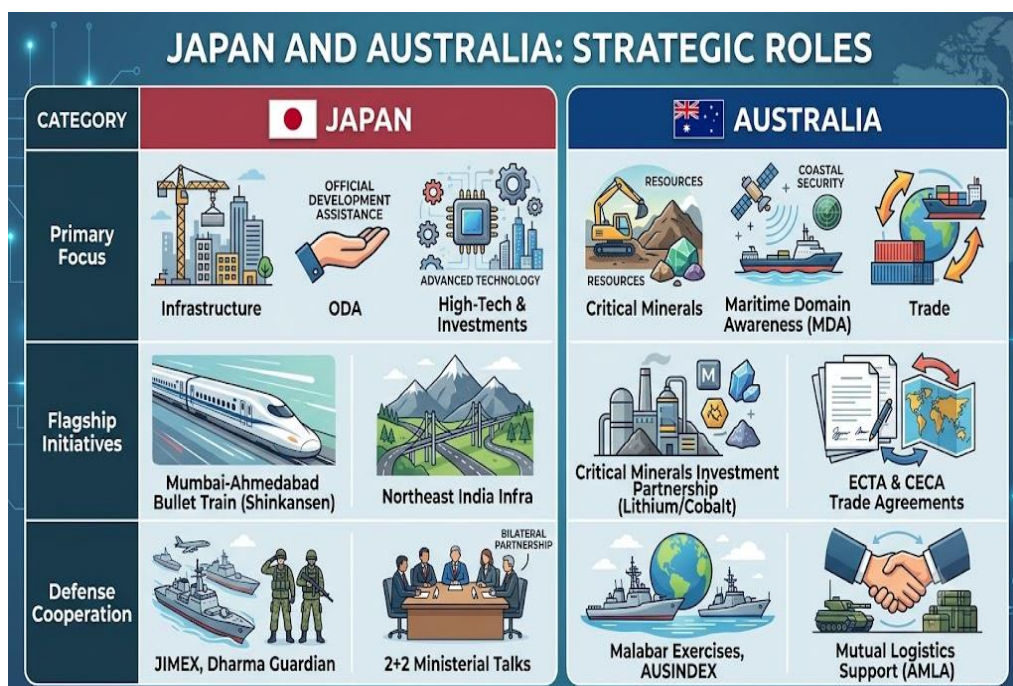
- **Indigenization (*Make in India in Defense*):** Expanding domestic manufacturing to substitute imported defense systems.
- **Defense Import Diversification:** Expanding procurements from France (Rafale jets, Scorpène submarines), Israel, and domestic production.

C. Preventing Russia's Over-dependence on China

A major strategic concern for India is that Western isolation pushes Russia into an asymmetrical dependence on China. An isolated Russia subservient to Beijing weakens India's continental security position in Eurasia. Consequently, India actively maintains bilateral dialogue, engages in Eurasian connectivity projects (e.g., International North-South Transport Corridor - INSTC, Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor), and participates in forums like SCO and BRICS to maintain strategic balance.

2.5 Japan, Australia, and Western Pacific Allies: The Indo-Pacific Pillars

Japan and Australia serve as critical anchors for India's Indo-Pacific strategy, offering alternatives to Western unilateralism and countering regional revisionism.



1. **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI):** Launched trilateral cooperation among India, Japan, and Australia to restructure global supply chains away from single-source dependencies.
2. **Infrastructure Counter-Weighting:** Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) finances high-impact infrastructure projects across India (e.g., Metro rail networks, Industrial corridors, Northeast road connectivity), providing a transparent alternative to predatory infrastructure lending.

3. **Critical Minerals Strategy:** Australia's rich reserves of lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements (REEs) support India's Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) in securing raw materials for electric vehicles and renewable energy manufacturing.

2.6 Cross-Cutting Policy Dimensions: Trade, Technology, Energy & Climate

CROSS-CUTTING POLICY IMPACT MATRIX		
DOMAIN	DEVELOPED COUNTRY POLICY	IMPACT ON INDIA'S INTEREST
 Industrial Policy	 US IRA & CHIPS Act; EU Green Deal Industrial Plan	Subsidies distort global investment flows away from EM 
 High Tech & AI	 US Semiconductor Export Bans; EU AI Act	Restricts access to advanced chips, GPUs, and models 
 Monetary Policy	 US Fed High Interest Rates; Dollar Strength	Triggers FPI capital flight; Rupee depreciation 
 Climate Governance	 Unilateral Net-Zero deadlines; Lack of \$100B Climate Finance	Shifts mitigation burden to developing nations (CBDR) 

Analyzing Global Policy Effects

A. Industrial Subsidies & Market Distortion

The US **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** and **CHIPS Act** inject hundreds of billions of dollars in direct domestic subsidies for clean energy, electric vehicles, and microchips. While designed to counter Chinese manufacturing dominance, these heavy Western subsidies alter global capital flows, making it harder for developing nations like India to attract foreign investment for their domestic manufacturing programs (e.g., Production Linked Incentive - PLI schemes).

B. Technology Standards & Data Governance

- **Semiconductor Supply Coalitions:** US-led export restrictions on advanced chip-making machinery (e.g., ASML lithography bans) restrict global tech flows. India must negotiate strategic access through bilateral agreements like iCET and join bodies like *Pax Silica*.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation:** The EU's risk-based AI Act sets strict compliance burdens for global software developers, requiring Indian AI firms to adapt to European regulatory regimes.

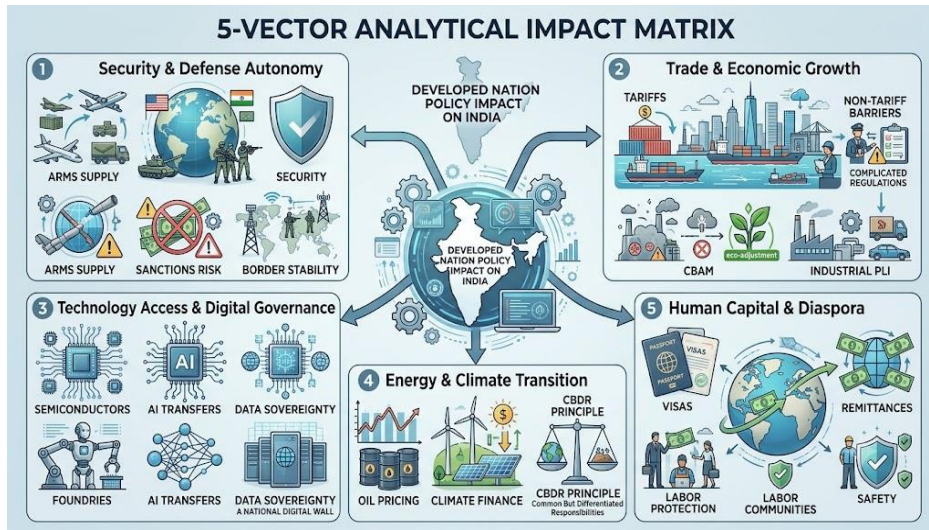
C. Financial Weaponization & FATF Norms

Developed nations hold significant influence over global financial governance bodies:

- **SWIFT and Clearing Systems:** Exclusion of targeted nations sets a precedent for how financial infrastructure can be weaponized.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** Developed nations use FATF gray/blacklists to police global money laundering and terror financing. India leverages FATF compliance to curb cross-border terror financing, but must guard against arbitrary politicization of international financial standards.

2.7 Analytical for UPSC Mains Answer Writing

To write high-scoring GS Paper 2 answers on this topic, structure your response around this **5-Vector Analytical Matrix**:



2.8 PYQ Integration Bank & Model Frameworks

QUESTION 1 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: "The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance." Explain this statement with examples. (UPSC Mains 2024)

Model Answer Framework:

- Introduction:** Contextualize the shift from post-Cold War hyper-globalization centered on China to a strategy of **de-risking, friend-shoring, and supply chain diversification** led by Western developed nations.
- Body Paragraph 1: Economic Dimension — Supply Chain Diversification**
 - *China+1 Strategy:* Western multinationals expanding manufacturing footprints in India (e.g., Apple iPhone manufacturing ecosystem, semiconductor assembly plants).

- *Institutional Coalitions*: Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) with Japan/Australia, US-India iCET, and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- **Body Paragraph 2: Strategic & Security Dimension — Maritime & Regional Balance**
 - *Indo-Pacific Security*: Western recognition of India as the anchor of Indian Ocean security. Quad maritime domain awareness initiatives and joint exercises (Malabar).
 - *Defense Tech Transfers*: Western willingness to share high-end military technology (GE-F414 engines, MQ-9B drones) to build Indian defense deterrence.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Challenges & Limits to this Alignment**
 - Western protectionism (tariffs, CBAM) hurting Indian industrial growth.
 - India's commitment to **Strategic Autonomy**—refusing formal military alliances and maintaining independent relations with Russia and the Global South.
- **Conclusion**: Conclude that while Western strategic alignment offers India technology and capital, India engages not as a proxy, but as an independent power center advancing its own national development and a balanced multipolar order.

QUESTION 2 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *"The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India." What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. (UPSC Mains 2023)*

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** State a balanced thesis: While a strong transatlantic partnership provides global stability and counters authoritarian revisionism, NATO's eastward expansion creates geopolitical friction that complicates India's Eurasian interests and defense supplies.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Arguments Supporting the Statement (Benefits for India)**
 - *Resource Realignment:* A secure Europe allows the US to focus strategic attention and naval assets on the Indo-Pacific (Quad support).
 - *Tech & Defense Access:* Deeper US-Europe synergy facilitates high-tech sharing and supply chain security that benefits partners like India (e.g., TTC, iCET).
- **Body Paragraph 2: Arguments Opposing the Statement (Challenges for India)**
 - *Pushing Russia toward China:* NATO expansion isolates Moscow, forcing a deeper Russia-China strategic axis that hurts India's continental security balance.
 - *Secondary Sanctions & Energy Pressures:* NATO-led Western sanctions pressure India's energy imports and legacy defense spare parts from Russia.
- **Body Paragraph 3: India's Strategic Position**
 - *Maintaining Multi-Alignment:* Strengthening ties with the US/EU for maritime security and technology while preserving bilateral ties with Russia for Eurasian stability.
- **Conclusion:** Synthesize that India benefits from a stable, prosperous West, but its interests are best served by a multipolar world order where Western power is balanced by strategic autonomy across regional powers.

QUESTION 3 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *In what ways would the ongoing controversy over Western economic sanctions against major energy producers affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation?* (Adapted from Mains PYQ)

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Highlight that unilateral or Western-led sanctions regimes (e.g., on Russia, Iran, Venezuela) trigger global market distortions, directly impacting India as a net energy importer.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Impact on India's National Interests**
 - *Macroeconomic Stability:* High oil prices inflate the current account deficit (CAD), depreciate the Rupee, and drive domestic inflation.
 - *Connectivity Projects:* Sanctions on Iran slow progress on the Chabahar Port and International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
 - *Financial Settlement Obstacles:* Exclusion from SWIFT blocks traditional trade settlement channels, requiring workaround mechanisms.
- **Body Paragraph 2: India's Strategic Response**
 - *Energy Sourcing Diversification:* Purchasing discounted energy based on national interest while expanding long-term contracts with US, Middle East, and Latin American producers.
 - *Alternative Payment Regimes:* Establishing local currency settlement systems (Rupee-Ruble, Rupee-Dirham) and special Vostro accounts.
 - *Diplomatic Communication:* Articulating India's stance on energy security clearly in international forums without adopting anti-Western rhetoric.

- **Conclusion:** Reiterate that energy security is foundational to India's domestic development. Principled pragmatism and strategic hedging allow India to protect its economy while maintaining strategic ties across global power centers.

CHAPTER 3:

Impact of Policies & Politics of Developing Nations & Regional Blocs on India's Interests

"For a rising India, foreign policy begins in the immediate neighborhood and expands across the Global South. Navigating the political volatility of developing states and regional blocs requires balancing strategic deterrence with economic partnership, ensuring regional stability while preserving strategic autonomy."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

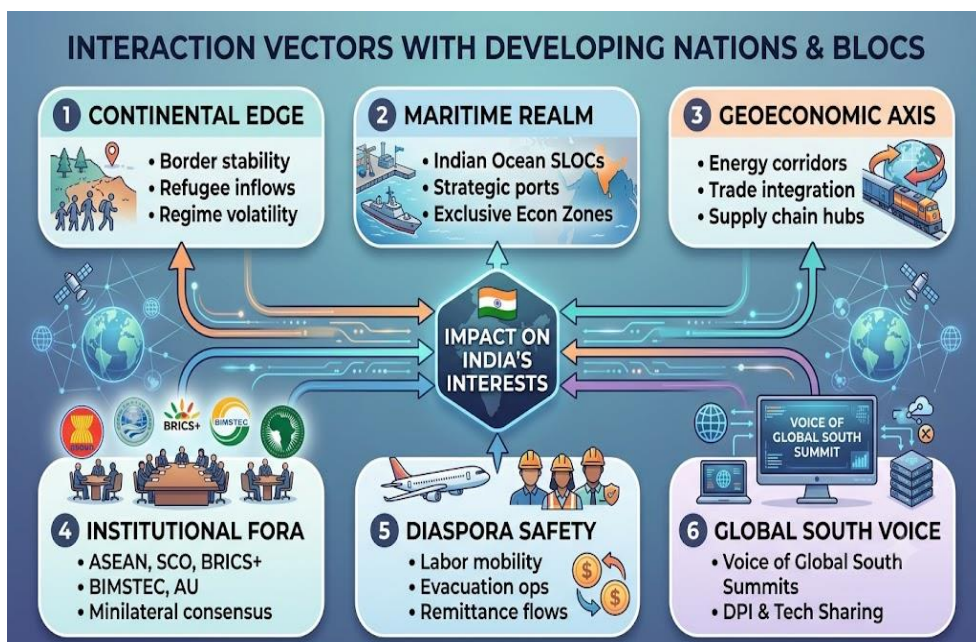
By completing this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

1. **Deconstruct Neighborhood Dynamics:** Analyze how internal political shifts, regime changes, and debt burdens in South Asian nations (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Myanmar) directly impact Indian security and economic interests.
2. **Evaluate China's Regional Footprint:** Assess the strategic friction caused by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), debt-trap diplomacy, and military expansionism across India's periphery.
3. **Examine West Asian Realignments:** Evaluate the impact of West Asian dynamics—including GCC economic diversification, the Abraham Accords, and regional conflicts—on India's energy security, trade corridors, and diaspora.

4. **Assess Regional Blocs & Institutional Frameworks:** Analyze the strategic utility and challenges within ASEAN, SCO, BRICS+, BIMSTEC, and the African Union for Indian foreign policy.
5. **Master the Global South Leadership Paradigm:** Position India's *Vishwa Mitra* (Global Friend) doctrine as a sustainable alternative to revisionist power projection.

3.1 The Conceptual Framework: The Matrix of Developing World Dynamics

While relations with developed major powers determine India's high-tech access and global security architecture, engagements with developing nations and regional blocs dictate India's **immediate security, maritime stability, and leadership credentials in the Global South.**



3.2 South Asian Neighborhood: Volatility, Debt, and External Leverage

India's **Neighborhood First** policy operates in an environment marked by political volatility, economic fragility, and external power projection.



A. Bangladesh: Strategic Continuity Amidst Regime Transitions

Bangladesh remains crucial for India's domestic security and the development of the North-Eastern Region (NER).

- **Security & Infrastructure:** Mutual cooperation has eliminated insurgent safe havens in the North-East, while transit protocols (such as the Akhaura-Agartala

rail link and usage of Chittagong/Mongla ports) significantly reduce logistical costs for India's landlocked states.

- **Political Dynamics:** Regime changes and social movements highlight the necessity for India to engage with a broad range of political actors, civil society, and youth leadership beyond traditional ruling establishments. Protecting minority rights and preventing cross-border illegal migration remain primary security priorities.

B. Sri Lanka: Economic Crises and Maritime Balance

Positioned along major Indian Ocean Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs), Sri Lanka is vital to India's maritime domain awareness.

- **Economic Assistance:** During Sri Lanka's severe financial crisis, India provided over \$4 billion in credit lines, currency swaps, and fuel support, demonstrating its role as a reliable first responder.
- **Strategic Friction:** China's long-term lease of Hambantota Port and the docking of dual-use research/tracking vessels raise maritime security concerns for New Delhi. India responds through renewable energy investments, connectivity agreements, and the **Colombo Security Conclave**.

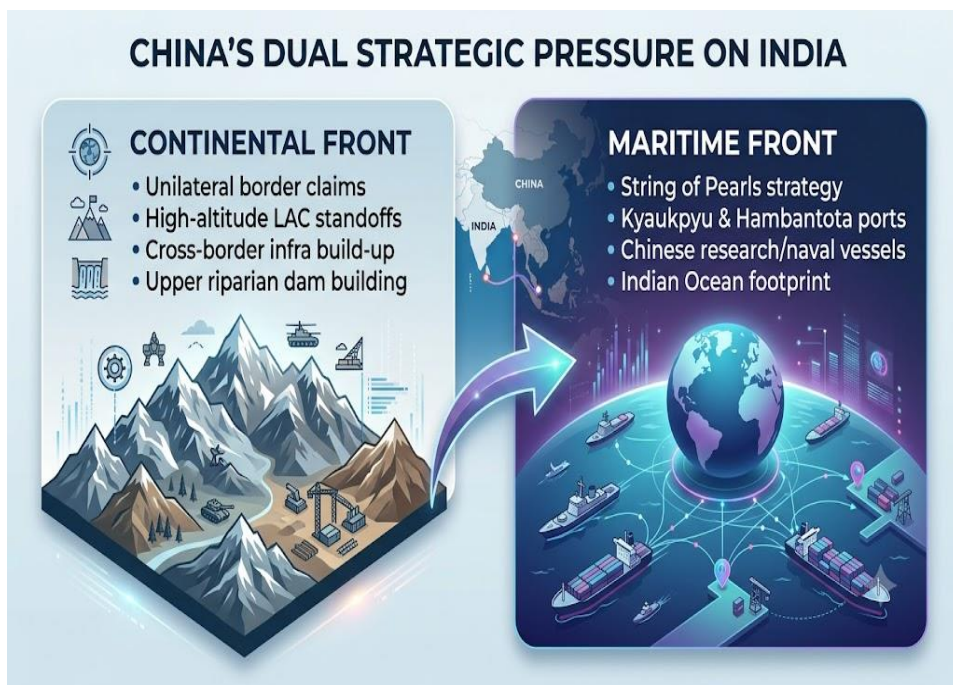
C. Maldives & Nepal: Balancing Sovereignty and Proximity

- **Maldives:** Sits at the intersection of critical Indian Ocean maritime routes. Domestic political shifts ("India Out" campaigns vs. pragmatic economic re-engagement) highlight the delicate balance between local nationalism and regional security cooperation.
- **Nepal:** Bound to India by open borders, economic links, and the Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1950). However, domestic political flux and Chinese infrastructure

expansion require India to focus on timely project delivery (rail linkages, integrated check posts, hydro-power trade) rather than traditional political leverage.

3.3 China's Expansionism and "Neighborhood Encirclement"

China's policies present a distinct challenge to India's regional interests, operating simultaneously along land borders and across maritime domains.



1. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) & Sovereignty Concerns

India consistently opposes China's BRI primarily due to the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which traverses Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), violating India's territorial integrity. Furthermore, predatory financing under BRI projects has created

economic vulnerabilities across South Asia and Africa, often leading to dual-use infrastructure concessions.

2. Counter-Strategies: Project Mausam and Regional Connectivity

India counters regional encirclement not by matching Beijing's state-led capital expenditure dollar-for-dollar, but through **sustainable, demand-driven, and transparent development partnerships**:

- **Line of Credits (LoCs):** Granting low-cost development assistance across Africa and South Asia.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Exporting the "India Stack" (UPI, Aadhaar, CoWIN) as an affordable digital public good.
- **Maritime Safety:** Establishing the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) for real-time maritime security awareness.

3.4 West Asia (Middle East): Energy, Connectivity, and Diaspora Security

West Asia is a critical pillar of India's foreign policy, supplying essential energy imports, hosting over 8.5 million Indian citizens, and serving as a major source of annual

remittance inflows.



A. The GCC Economic Diversification (Saudi Vision 2030, UAE CEPA)

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations are transitioning from oil-dependent economies to high-tech, logistics, and renewable energy hubs.

- **Trade Integration:** The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the UAE has significantly expanded non-oil bilateral trade.
- **Investment Capital:** Gulf Sovereign Wealth Funds actively invest in Indian infrastructure, renewable energy, and digital platforms.

B. Strategic Trade Corridors: IMEEC vs. INSTC

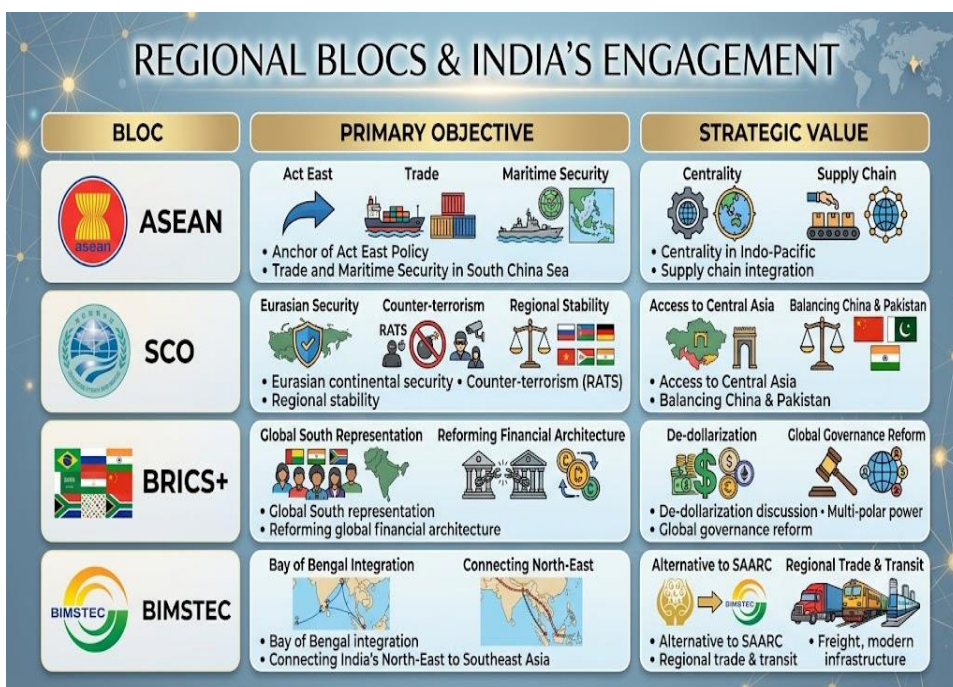
1. **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC):** Announced at the G20 Summit, IMEEC aims to connect India to Europe via ship-to-rail transit networks through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel. Although regional conflicts

create temporary implementation hurdles, IMEEC remains a viable strategic alternative to BRI.

2. **Chabahar Port & INSTC:** India's long-term management contract for Chabahar Port in Iran provides direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs), bypassing land transit obstacles.

3.5 Regional Blocs: ASEAN, SCO, BRICS+, and the African Union

India's multi-alignment foreign policy utilizes regional blocs to project global influence and protect trade corridors.



1. ASEAN: The Anchor of "Act East"

ASEAN centrality is foundational to India's Indo-Pacific strategy. The review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) seeks to eliminate trade asymmetries and secure supply chains in electronics, pharmaceuticals, and green energy.

2. SCO: Continental Engagement Amidst Friction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) allows India to maintain its strategic footprint across Eurasia. While internal rivalries create operational frictions, India uses the SCO platform to promote counter-terrorism coordination through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) and maintain ties with Central Asian Republics.

3. BRICS+: Rebalancing Global Governance

The expansion of BRICS to include major developing states (BRICS+) highlights growing demand across the Global South for reformed multilateralism. India ensures that BRICS remains an **"anti-Western" platform rather than a "non-Western" one**, preventing any single power from co-opting the bloc for revisionist goals.

4. African Union (AU) Integration in G20

During its G20 Presidency, India successfully championed the permanent membership of the African Union. This institutional milestone reinforced India's role as a primary bridge between the developing world and the G20 architecture.

3.7 PYQ Integration Bank & Model Frameworks

MODEL QUESTION 1 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *"Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics."* (UPSC Mains 2024)

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Highlight Central Asia as India's "extended neighborhood," serving as a bridge between Eurasia, South Asia, and West Asia, rich in energy resources and critical minerals.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Strategic & Security Significance**
 - Counter-terrorism cooperation and preventing regional instability stemming from Afghanistan.
 - Balancing continental power dynamics alongside Russia and China.
- **Body Paragraph 2: Economic & Energy Dimensions**
 - Access to uranium (Kazakhstan), gas (Turkmenistan), and critical minerals.
 - Overcoming transit barriers through Chabahar Port and the INSTC route.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Challenges to the Partnership**
 - Lack of direct overland geographical connectivity due to adversarial neighbors.
 - Deep commercial dominance of China's BRI in the region.
- **Conclusion:** Emphasize that sustained engagement through the India-Central Asia Summit framework and operationalizing Chabahar will secure India's strategic footprint across Eurasia.

MODEL QUESTION 2 (10 Marks / 150 Words)

Question: *"Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO." In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems. (UPSC Mains 2023)*

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Acknowledge that internal bilateral conflicts (e.g., India-China border standoffs, Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism, Central Asian border friction) create operational friction within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- **Body Paragraph 1: Key Drivers of the "Virus of Conflict"**
 - Divergent threat perceptions regarding cross-border terrorism.
 - Bilateral territorial standoffs eroding institutional trust.
- **Body Paragraph 2: India's Constructive Strategy & Mitigation Role**
 - Pushing for a zero-tolerance stance on terrorism through SCO-RATS.
 - Championing regional connectivity built on principles of sovereignty and transparency (INSTC, Chabahar).
 - Offering digital public infrastructure (DPI) and traditional medicine frameworks as non-controversial collaborative avenues.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude that India's presence prevents SCO from turning into a uni-dimensional bloc, ensuring it remains an open Eurasian forum focused on regional security and economic development.

CHAPTER 4:

Impact of Cross-Cutting Global Policy Themes (Trade, Tech, Climate, Energy)

"21st-century diplomacy is no longer confined to traditional territorial pacts or troop deployments. Today, national security, sovereignty, and global stature are defined at the intersection of critical supply chains, digital architectures, climate mandates, and energy transitions."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By completing this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

1. **Understand Geoeconomic Interconnectedness:** Analyze how trade, technology, climate, and energy policies overlap to create new forms of global power projection.
2. **Decode Trade & Green Protectionism:** Evaluate the geopolitical impact of non-tariff barriers, supply chain weaponization, and unilateral climate levies like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
3. **Analyze Technology Wars & Digital Sovereignty:** Master the dynamics of semiconductor diplomacy, AI governance, critical minerals, and the "Pax Silica" alliance structure.
4. **Examine Energy Geopolitics & Climate Diplomacy:** Assess the shift from hydrocarbon dependencies to green hydrogen, solar coalitions, and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).

5. **Apply a Mains Synthesis Matrix:** Use structured 4-Vector models to answer complex, cross-cutting questions in GS Paper 2.

4.1 The Conceptual Framework: The Nexus of Modern Global Power

Traditional foreign policy analysis treated trade, technology, climate, and energy as separate domain silos. In the modern era of **Fragmented Multipolarity**, these four themes have fused into a single **Cross-Cutting Power Nexus**.

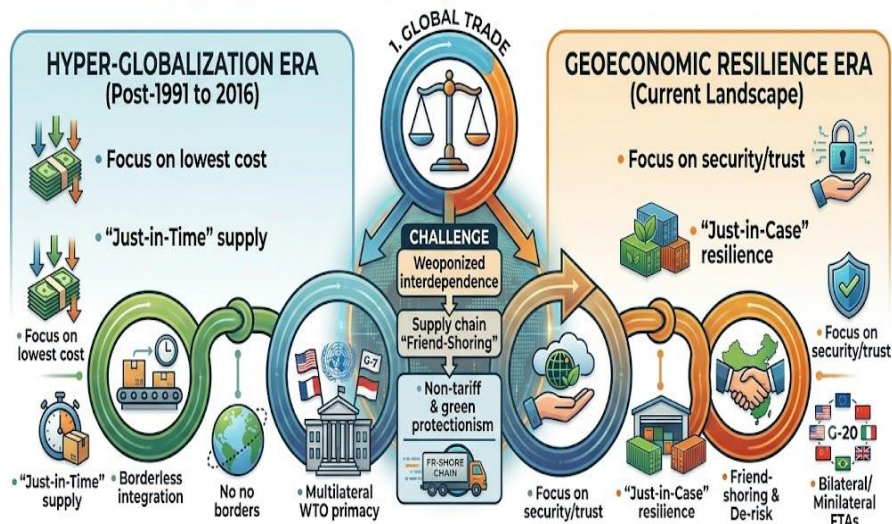
When a developed nation imposes an export restriction on advanced computer microchips or enacts a green industrial subsidy, it alters global trade routes, reshapes energy demand, impacts climate targets, and forces developing nations to adjust their economic strategies.

4.2 Global Trade: Weaponized Interdependence, Green Protectionism & Supply Chains

The post-Cold War consensus on hyper-globalization relied on borderless "just-in-time" supply chains designed strictly for cost efficiency. Today, global trade is defined by **geoeconomic fragmentation and security-driven resilience**.

EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL TRADE PARADIGMS

GS PAPER 2: A SHIFT IN GLOBAL COMMERCE PARADIGMS



A. Weaponized Interdependence and Chokepoint Capitalism

Nations that control central nodes of global trade—whether physical maritime chokepoints, financial clearing messaging networks (SWIFT), or specialized manufacturing machinery—frequently convert those nodes into tools of strategic leverage.

- Chokepoint Vulnerability:** Geopolitical conflicts across critical maritime transit corridors (such as the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb, and the Strait of Malacca) alter shipping routes, raise freight insurance costs, and trigger carbon emission spikes due to vessel rerouting.
- De-Risking vs. Decoupling:** Western economies are pursuing "de-risking"—reducing reliance on China for sensitive goods like pharmaceuticals, solar wafers, and rare earths—while maintaining standard commercial trade in non-sensitive sectors.

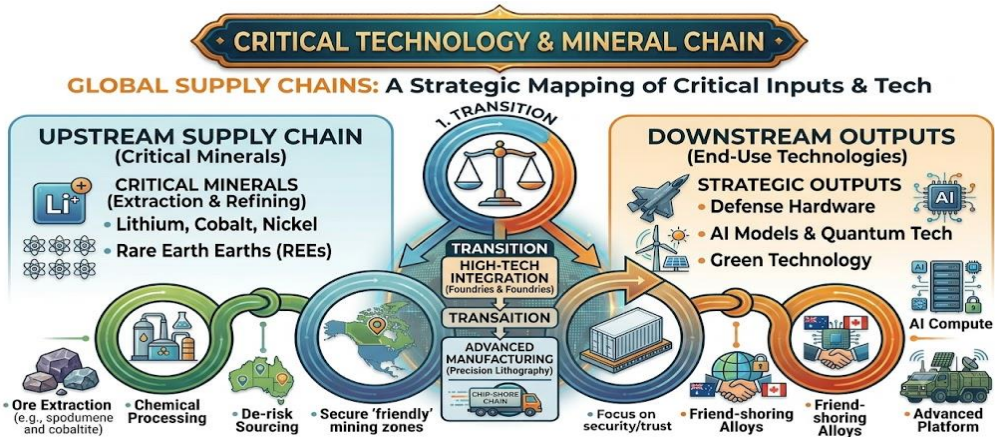
B. "Green Protectionism" and Non-Tariff Barriers

Unilateral environmental policies introduced by developed markets often function as non-tariff trade barriers against developing market exports:

1. **EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):** Places a carbon import levy on energy-intensive goods (steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers) entering the EU. India argues that CBAM violates WTO non-discrimination principles and shifts the financial burden of climate mitigation onto developing states.
2. **Deforestation and Quality Mandates:** Stringent supply-chain traceability rules make it difficult for smallholder agricultural exporters in the Global South to access premium Western markets.

4.3 Technology Geopolitics: Chips, Critical Minerals, and Digital Sovereignty

Technological mastery has replaced physical territory as the primary metric of state power. Control over critical emerging technologies—specifically semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and critical minerals—defines global hierarchy.



A. The Semiconductor Wars and "Pax Silica"

Semiconductors form the foundational core of computing, telecommunications, and military hardware.

- **Export Denial Regimes:** Unilateral restrictions on exporting high-end chips and lithography equipment (such as US rules targeting advanced foundries) aim to freeze adversaries' technical development.
- **India's Strategic Positioning:** India aims to build domestic fabrication and assembly capacity through the **Semicon India Programme** and strategic tech partnerships like the **US-India iCET** (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology).

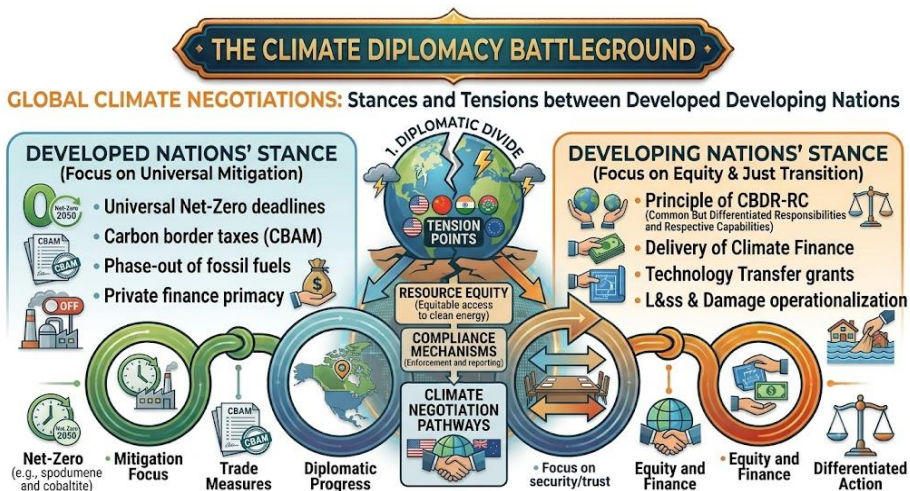
B. The Geopolitics of Critical Minerals

The transition to clean energy and digital infrastructure relies on critical minerals—such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements (REEs).

- **Supply Concentration:** Processing capacity for critical minerals is heavily concentrated in China, creating a potential strategic chokepoint for global green supply chains.
- **India's Counter-Strategy:** Through **KABIL** (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.), India secures overseas mineral assets (e.g., lithium blocks in Argentina and Australia) while establishing domestic processing incentives.

4.4 Climate Diplomacy: CBDR, Just Transitions, and Climate Finance

Climate change diplomacy is no longer purely an environmental discussion; it is a central arena of geopolitical negotiation over economic equity, technology transfer, and developmental space.



A. Defensive Caution to Proactive Climate Leadership

India's climate stance has evolved from defensive resistance at early summits to constructive global leadership:

- **Evolution of Stance:** Earlier negotiations emphasized historical emissions by industrialized nations under **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**. While maintaining CBDR principles, India now proactively drives international climate solutions.
- **Global Coalitions:** India co-founded the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- **Panchamrit Commitments:** Announced targets include reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, raising non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030, and reducing emissions intensity by 45%.

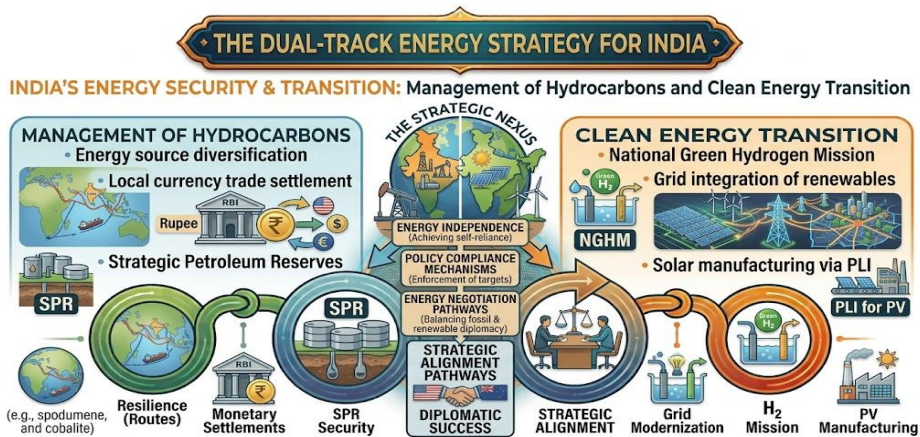
B. Climate Finance and the "Just Transition" Deficit

Developing nations require substantial, low-cost capital to transition from fossil fuels to renewables without undermining energy access or poverty alleviation. The failure of developed nations to consistently deliver agreed-upon climate finance targets (\$100B+ annually) remains a major friction point in international negotiations.

4.5 Energy Security: Hydrocarbon Shocks to Green Hydrogen Coalitions

Energy security is the foundation of economic growth and national stability. Global energy dynamics are undergoing a dual transformation: navigating hydrocarbon supply

disruptions while building green energy infrastructure.



A. Hydrocarbon Geopolitics and Strategic Autonomy

As a nation importing over 85% of its crude oil needs, global energy shocks impact India's current account deficit, currency stability, and domestic inflation. India's decision to maintain energy purchases based on national development needs—despite external diplomatic pressure—demonstrates **principled pragmatism and strategic autonomy**.

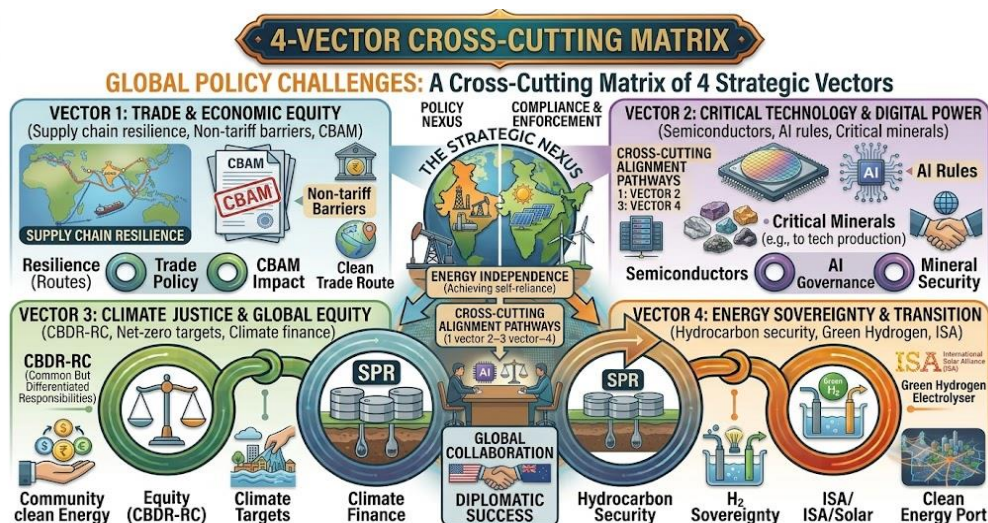
B. The Frontier of Green Hydrogen and Clean Energy Alliances

Green hydrogen—produced by splitting water using renewable electricity—offers a path to decarbonize heavy industries (steel, refining, fertilizers).

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Aims to establish India as a global hub for the production, usage, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- **Global Green Alliances:** Energy diplomacy focuses on securing clean tech partnerships with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, European nations, and Australia to anchor renewable supply chains.

4.6 Analysis for UPSC Mains Answer Writing

When responding to GS Paper 2 questions on cross-cutting themes, organize your analysis using this **4-Vector Interconnected Matrix**:



4.7 PYQ Integration Bank & Model Frameworks

MODEL QUESTION 1 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: "Clean energy is the order of the day." Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics. (UPSC Mains 2022)

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Briefly define the global shift toward clean energy and frame India's stance as evolving from a defensive negotiator to a proactive global climate leader.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Evolution of India's Stance**

- *Early Phase (Defensive)*: Focus on historical emissions, equity, and Kyoto/Rio protocols under the principle of **CBDR**.
- *Modern Phase (Proactive Leadership)*: Submission of ambitious NDCs at Paris (2015), announcement of **Panchamrit** targets at Glasgow (COP26), and net-zero by 2070 target.
- **Body Paragraph 2: Institutionalization of Climate Leadership**
 - Founding global initiatives: **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **CDRI**.
 - Championing the **LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) movement to align individual habits with sustainability goals.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Geopolitics of Clean Energy & Strategic Challenges**
 - Friction over unilateral green trade measures like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
 - Countering critical mineral supply chain concentration through PLI schemes and mineral partnerships.
- **Conclusion**: Summarize that India's climate diplomacy successfully balances domestic development needs with global environmental stewardship, serving as a reliable voice for the Global South.

MODEL QUESTION 2 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *"Technology has emerged as the new arena of major-power rivalry." Evaluate how critical emerging technologies and mineral supply chains are reshaping global trade and India's strategic foreign policy options.*

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Define the transition from traditional trade disputes to competition over high-tech assets, semiconductors, AI, and critical minerals.

- **Body Paragraph 1: Mechanisms of Technology-Driven Rivalry**
 - Multilateral export controls, chip denial policies, and semiconductor subsidies.
 - Supply chain concentration of critical minerals (Lithium, Rare Earths) creating strategic dependencies.
- **Body Paragraph 2: Impact on Global Trade Architecture**
 - Fragmenting global technology standards; movement from open trade to curated "trust-based" networks (*Pax Silica*).
- **Body Paragraph 3: India's Strategic Policy Options**
 - *Domestic Industrial Base*: Pushing domestic manufacturing through the Semicon India Programme and mineral exploration (KABIL).
 - *Strategic Bilateral Partnerships*: Deepening tech collaboration via iCET with the US, India-EU TTC, and Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) with Japan/Australia.
- **Conclusion**: Conclude that by integrating domestic manufacturing incentives with issue-based tech alliances, India secures both digital sovereignty and strategic autonomy in an era of technological competition.

CHAPTER 5:

Indian Diaspora: Global Geopolitics, Policies, & Domestic Impact

"The Indian diaspora is not merely a reflection of our historic emigration; it is a living bridge, an engine of soft power, a vital foreign policy asset, and a critical partner in India's domestic development story."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By completing this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

1. **Understand Diaspora Demographics:** Distinguish between the historic Girmitiya (indentured) labor diaspora, the Gulf blue-collar workforce, and the high-skilled STEM professionals across the West.
2. **Analyze Political and Strategic Influence:** Evaluate how the diaspora shapes domestic politics in host nations, acts as a political lobbying force, and elevates India's soft power.
3. **Assess Foreign Policy Challenges:** Examine how changing immigration laws, labor nativization schemes (e.g., Nitaqat), geopolitical conflicts, and radicalization impact diaspora security.
4. **Examine Domestic Economic & Cultural Contributions:** Quantify the impact of remittances (\$120B+ threshold), technology transfers, philanthropy, and "brain circulation."

5. **Evaluate Government Frameworks:** Institutionalize understanding of OCI schemes, the MADAD portal, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and emergency evacuation operations (e.g., Operations Ganga, Kaveri, Ajay).

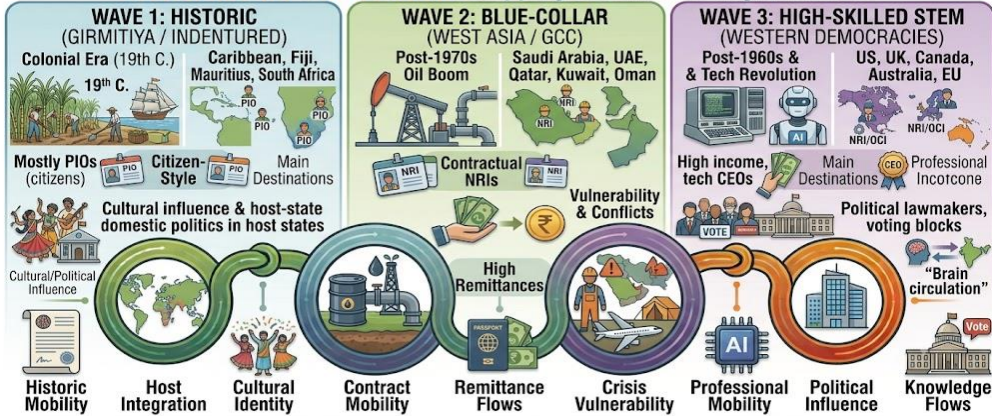
5.1 The Strategic Typology: Mapping the Global Indian Diaspora

The global Indian diaspora—numbering over **32 to 35 million people** (comprising Non-Resident Indians/NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin/PIOs)—is the largest diaspora population in the world. However, treating this community as a homogenous entity leads to analytical errors in GS Paper 2 answer writing.

To understand their geopolitical leverage and vulnerabilities, the diaspora must be categorized into three distinct waves:

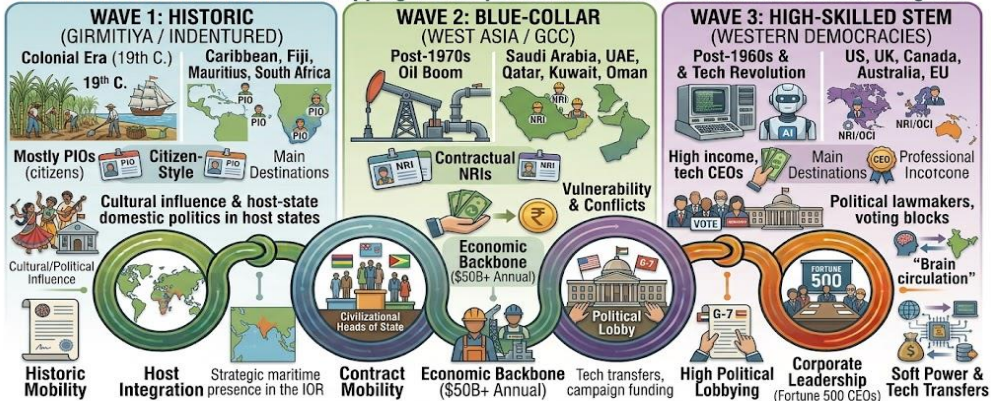
• TYPOLOGY OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA •

GLOBAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Mapping 3 Distinctive Migrant Waves



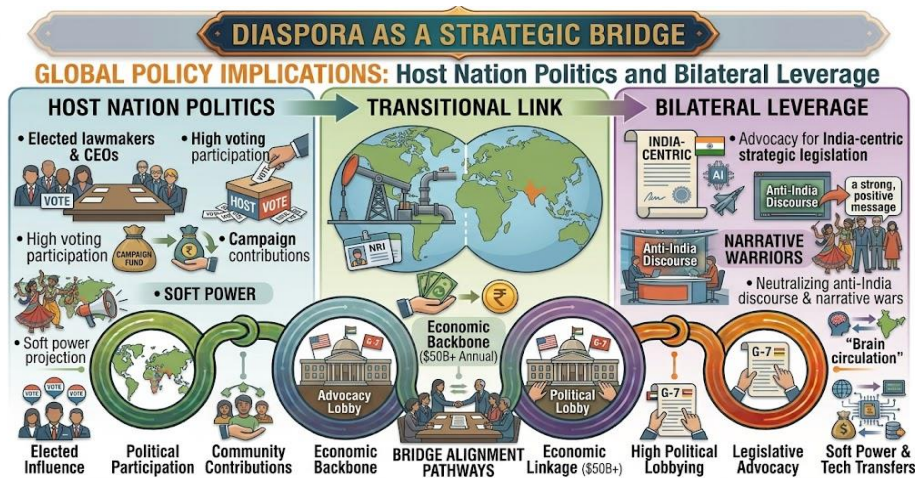
• INDIAN DIASPORA - GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION & GEOPOLITICAL ROLES •

GLOBAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS: Mapping the Geopolitical and Economic Influence of Indian Migrants



5.2 Political and Strategic Leverage in Host Nations

The Indian diaspora has transitioned from a passive immigrant community to an active force shaping domestic politics in host countries and strengthening bilateral relations with India.



A. The "Silicon Valley to Capitol Hill" Synergy

In Western democracies, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom, the diaspora exhibits exceptional socio-economic mobility:

- **Political Integration:** The rise of Indian-origin lawmakers, ministers, and heads of state (e.g., in the UK, US, Ireland, Portugal, and Guyana) elevates the community's political visibility.
- **Corporate Leadership:** Indian-origin executives lead major global technology, financial, and consulting firms, reinforcing India's reputation as a primary source of high-caliber human capital.
- **Strategic Advocacy:** Groups like US-India political action committees played a pivotal role in building Congressional consensus for landmark agreements, including the **US-India Civil Nuclear Deal (2008)** and the **iCET framework**.

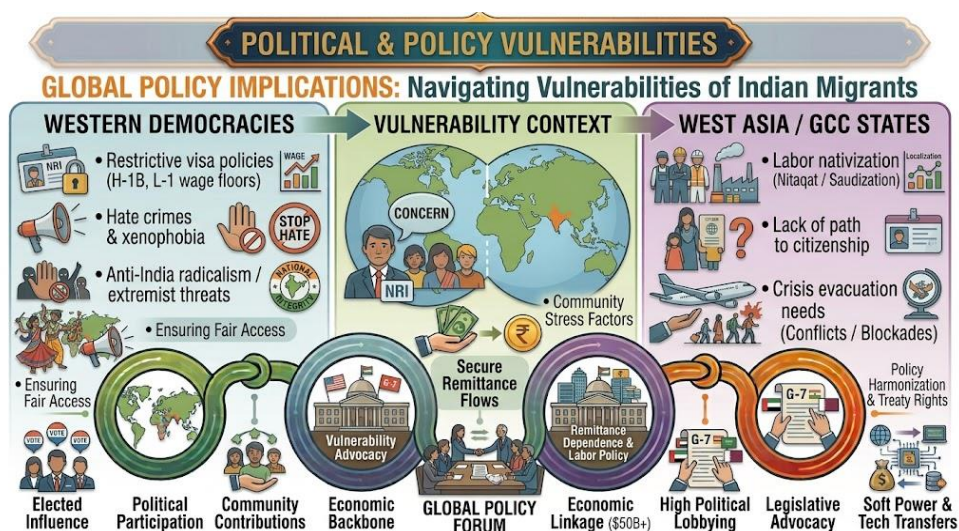
B. Civilizational & Electoral Weight in Island Nations

In countries like Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname, people of Indian origin constitute significant voting blocs or demographic majorities. This

civilizational connection enhances India's maritime diplomacy, particularly through initiatives like **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** and development projects across the Indian Ocean.

5.3 Policy Vulnerabilities & Foreign Policy Challenges

Despite its strengths, the diaspora faces distinct geopolitical and regulatory vulnerabilities depending on their host regions.



1. Labor Nativization in the Gulf (Nitaqat & Saudization)

In the GCC, foreign workers operate on contractual visas without long-term residency or citizenship options. To address local youth unemployment, Gulf governments enforce domestic labor quotas (e.g., Saudi Arabia's *Nitaqat* policy). This forces low- and semi-skilled Indian workers to return, placing pressure on state economies in India (particularly Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana) to absorb returning migrants.

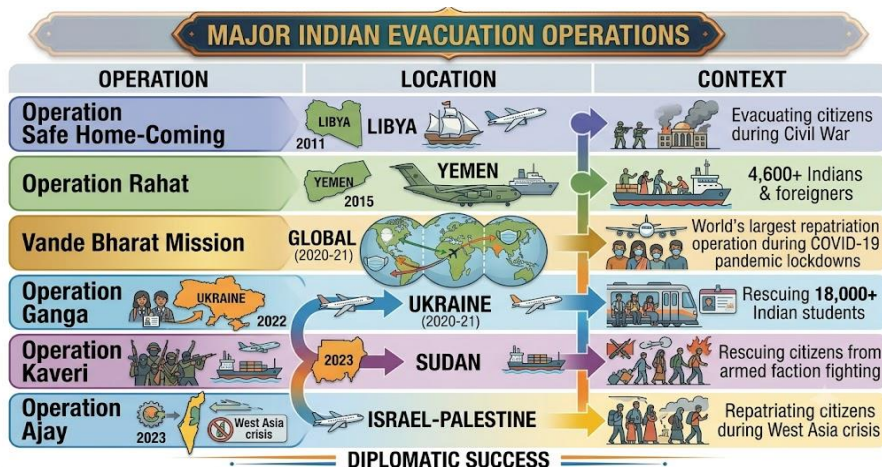
2. Changing Visa & Immigration Policies in the West

Western domestic political debates over immigration frequently result in stricter work visa rules:

- **US Visa Constraints:** H-1B lottery limits, spouse work authorization uncertainty (H-4 visas), and multi-decade green card backlogs create professional and personal instability for Indian tech workers.
- **Student Mobility Barriers:** Tightening post-study work visas in the UK, Canada, and Australia impacts the thousands of Indian students studying abroad annually.

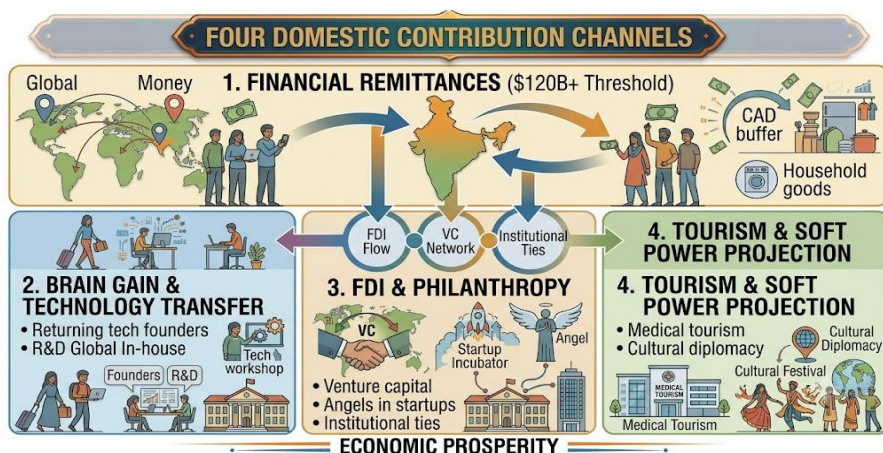
3. Safety During Geopolitical Conflicts & Emergency Evacuations

With millions of citizens living in volatile regions, India frequently undertakes large-scale evacuation operations during conflict or crisis:



5.4 Domestic Impact: Remittances, "Brain Gain," and Economic Capital

The diaspora contributes directly to India's domestic socio-economic development across four main channels:



A. Macroeconomic Balance and Remittances

India is the world's leading recipient of foreign remittances, surpassing **\$120 billion** annually.

- **Macroeconomic Stability:** Remittances cushion India's Current Account Deficit (CAD), bolster foreign exchange reserves, and help stabilize the Rupee during capital flight episodes.
- **Micro-Level Poverty Reduction:** In states like Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar, remittance inflows directly fund household consumption, education, health, and local infrastructure.

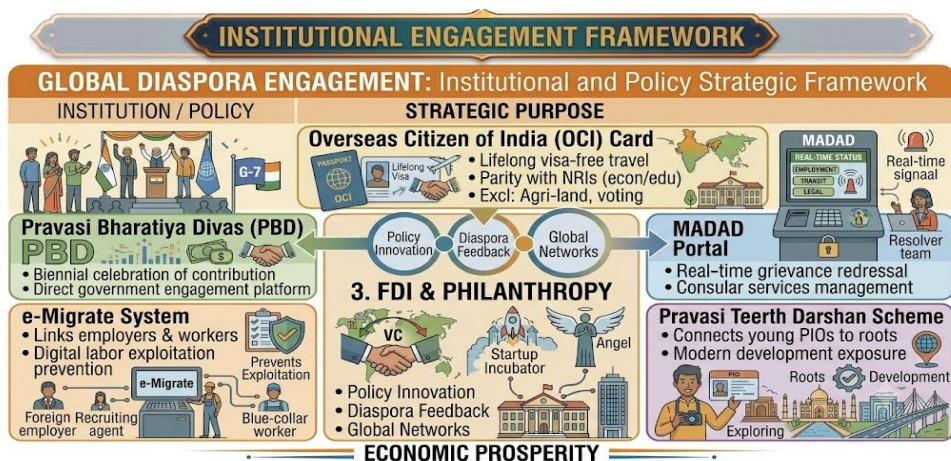
B. Transitioning from "Brain Drain" to "Brain Gain"

During the 1970s and 1980s, the emigration of elite STEM graduates was criticized as a "brain drain." Today, this phenomenon has transformed into **brain circulation**:

- **Global Innovation Hubs:** Diaspora tech leaders facilitate the establishment of Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and R&D facilities across major Indian tech hubs.
- **Startup Ecosystem Acceleration:** Returning diaspora entrepreneurs bring global experience, capital, and risk appetite, directly driving India's domestic startup ecosystem.

5.5 Institutional and Policy Architecture of the Indian Government

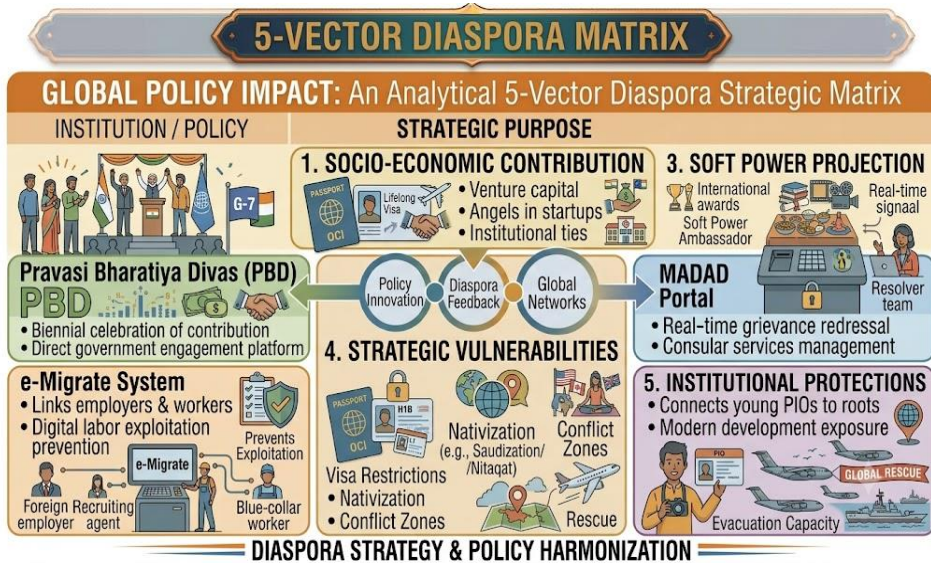
To engage the diaspora systematically, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) employs a multi-tiered institutional architecture:



5.6 Analytical for UPSC Mains Answer Writing

When writing GS Paper 2 answers on the Indian diaspora, structure your analysis using

this **5-Vector Analytical Matrix**:



5.7 PYQ Integration Bank & Model Frameworks

MODEL QUESTION 1 (10 Marks / 150 Words)

Question: Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (UPSC Mains 2023)

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Highlight that the Indian diaspora in Western democracies (US, UK, EU, Canada, Australia) represents one of the most affluent, educated, and politically integrated immigrant communities globally.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Political & Strategic Benefits**

- *Bilateral Advocacy*: Lobbying for India-centric legislation (e.g., US-India Nuclear Deal, Quad support, defense tech transfers).
- *High Political Office*: Representation in parliaments and cabinets fosters institutional goodwill toward India.
- **Body Paragraph 2: Economic & Technological Benefits**
 - *Capital & FDI*: Brain circulation bringing venture capital, seed funding, and R&D centers to India.
 - *Corporate Synergy*: Diaspora CEOs facilitating integration of Indian IT and engineering firms into global value chains.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Soft Power Projection**
 - Enhancing India's cultural footprint, elevating academic partnerships, and shaping balanced global media coverage.
- **Conclusion**: Summarize that the diaspora in the West acts as a strategic bridge, converting human capital overseas into economic and diplomatic leverage for India's development.

MODEL QUESTION 2 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *"Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries." Comment with examples. (UPSC Mains 2020)*

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction**: Provide demographic context: Over 4.5 million Indians in the US and over 1.5 million in the UK make up crucial socio-economic demographics in both host nations.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Decisive Role in Politics**

- *Electoral Influence:* High voter turnout and strategic presence in key electoral districts.
 - *Leadership Positions:* Examples of Indian-origin heads of state, cabinet ministers, and lawmakers driving public policy.
 - *Policy Advocacy:* Shaping bipartisan congressional caucuses on India.
 - **Body Paragraph 2: Decisive Role in the Economy**
 - *Corporate & Tech Leadership:* Executive leadership across Fortune 500 tech companies driving innovation and global employment.
 - *High Net-Worth & Tax Contributions:* Ranking among the highest median household income demographics in the US and UK.
 - *Healthcare & STEM Services:* Key contributions to medical infrastructure (e.g., NHS in the UK) and academic research.
 - **Body Paragraph 3: Strategic Impact on India's Interests**
 - Facilitating high-tech partnerships (e.g., US-India iCET) and countering anti-India narrative campaigns.
 - **Conclusion:** Conclude that the Indian diaspora has evolved from immigrant communities into influential stakeholders, shaping host country policies while advancing India's global stature.
-

CHAPTER 6:

Important International Institutions, Agencies, & Fora

"International institutions are the rules-based scaffolding of world order. They embody humanity's collective effort to replace the law of the jungle with the rule of law. However, as global power shifts from the post-1945 Atlantic hegemony to a multipolar world, these institutions face a profound crisis of legitimacy, equity, and operational efficacy."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By completing this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

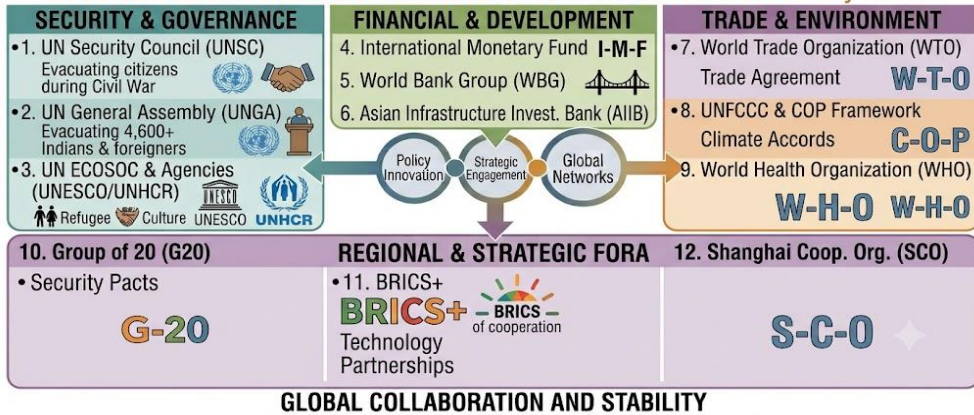
1. **Analyze Institutional Architectures:** Deconstruct the mandate, organizational structure, decision-making mechanics, and funding models of the 12 frontline international organizations.
2. **Evaluate Performance & Crisis Points:** Critically assess the historical achievements, structural paralysis, and contemporary relevance of these bodies in an era of geoeconomic fragmentation.
3. **Examine India's Strategic Stakes:** Master India's evolving position from a passive recipient of global rules to an active demandeur of institutional reform (*Reformed Multilateralism*).
4. **Apply UPSC Mains Frameworks:** Deploy structured, comparative matrices and model answer frameworks designed directly for high scores in GS Paper 2.

6.1 The Institutional Spectrum: Classification Matrix

To analyze international bodies effectively for the Civil Services Mains examination, aspirants must group them by their primary operational domain:

CLASSIFICATION OF FRONTLINE INSTITUTIONS

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS: A Structured Matrix of Primary Bodies

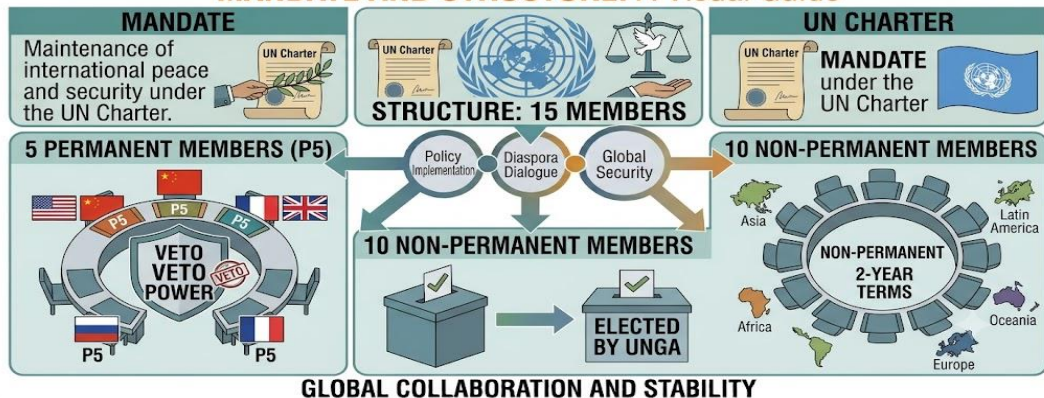


6.2 Deep Dive into the 12 Frontline Institutions

INSTITUTION 1:

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

MANDATE AND STRUCTURE: A Visual Guide



1. Structure & Decision-Making

- P5 Veto Power:** Any substantive resolution requires 9 affirmative votes and is blocked if any of the P5 members (US, UK, France, Russia, China) casts a negative vote (Article 27).

- **Binding Authority:** Chapter VII resolutions permit enforcement measures, ranging from economic sanctions to military intervention.

2. Key Achievements & Strategic Significance

- Prevented direct military escalation between nuclear superpowers during the Cold War.
- Deployed over 70 peacekeeping missions worldwide (with India being one of the historically highest troop-contributing nations).

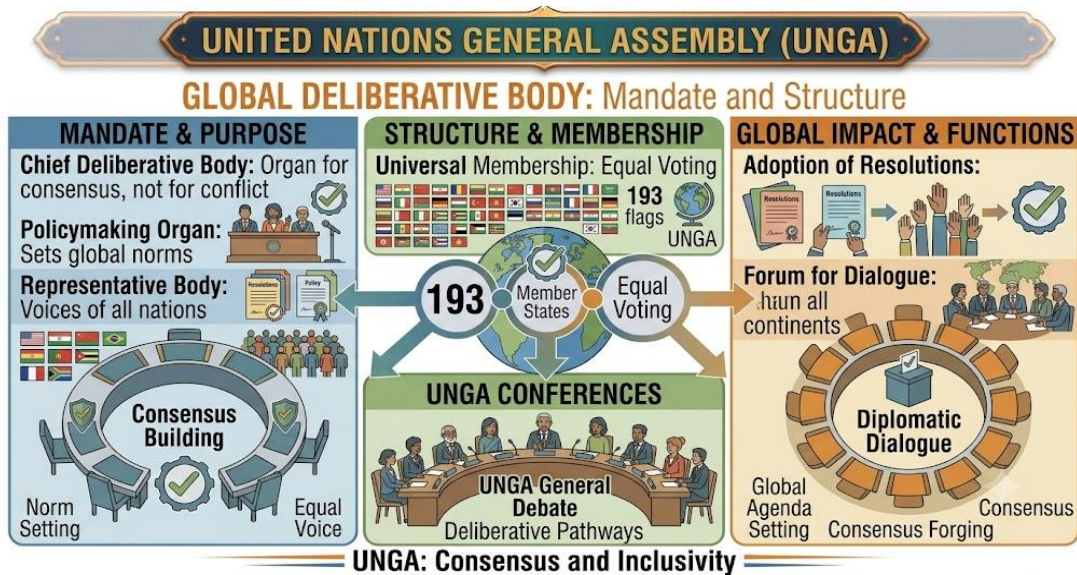
3. Structural Paralysis & Crisis Points

- **Veto Abuse & Geopolitical Gridlock:** The UNSC has been repeatedly paralyzed during major conflicts (e.g., Ukraine, West Asia) due to opposing P5 vetoes.
- **Anachronistic Representation:** Reflects the power distribution of 1945, completely excluding India, Africa, Latin America, and key regional contributors from permanent representation.

4. India's Position & Strategic Imperative

- **Reformed Multilateralism:** India demands permanent membership through the **G4 coalition** (India, Brazil, Japan, Germany) and the **L.69 Group**.
- **Key Arguments for India:** Represents 1.4 billion people, 5th largest global economy, historic contribution to UN Peacekeeping, and a proven commitment to global stability.

INSTITUTION 2:



1. Structure & Decision-Making

- **One State, One Vote:** Operates on strict sovereign equality. Important decisions (peace/security, budget) require a two-thirds majority; standard resolutions pass by simple majority.
- **Non-Binding Resolutions:** Declarations carry moral and normative weight but lack direct legal enforcement authority.

2. Achievements & Significance

- Set foundational norms for human rights (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and sustainable development (SDGs 2030).
- Serves as the primary global forum where developing nations hold equal voting weight with major powers.
- Adopted the **Pact for the Future** at the Summit of the Future, providing a roadmap for multilateral governance reform.

Welcome to the United Nations

3. Challenges & Reforms

- **Lack of Enforceability:** Resolutions are often ignored by major powers when national interests clash.

- **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) Drag:** Deliberations on UNSC expansion remain bogged down in procedural debates due to opposing blocs (e.g., Uniting for Consensus / Coffee Club).

INSTITUTION 3:



1. UNESCO & Human Capital Governance

- **Mandate:** Promotes world peace and security through international cooperation in Education, Sciences, Culture, and Communication.
- **Key Issues:** Politicization of cultural heritage designations and funding volatility due to geopolitical withdrawals (e.g., US withdrawals and reinstatements).

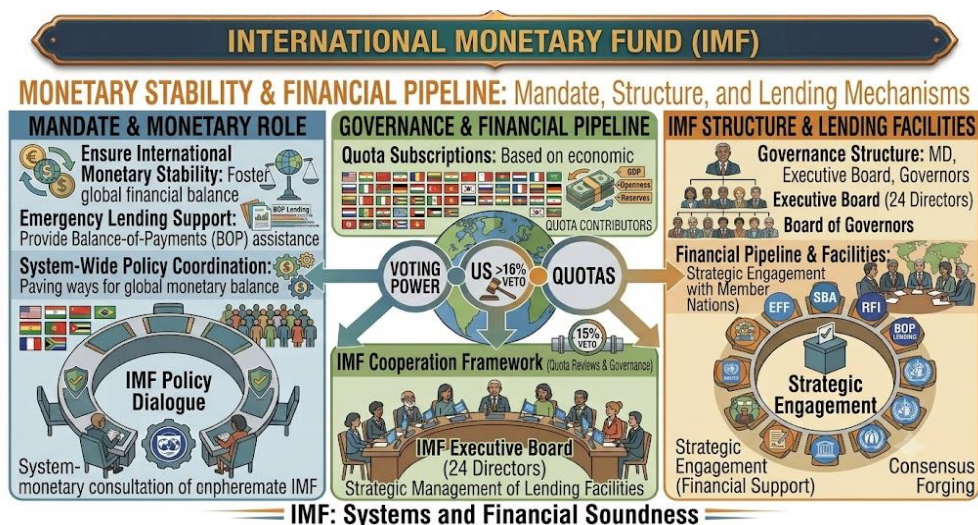
2. UNHCR & Global Displacement

- **Mandate:** Protects refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people.
- **Contemporary Challenge:** Over 110 million forcibly displaced individuals worldwide stretch UNHCR resources, while host states increasingly enforce restrictive border policies.

3. Significance for India

- India uses ECOSOC platforms to highlight its **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** as an affordable model for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

INSTITUTION 4:



1. Structure & Quota System

- Quota Formula:** Determines a member's financial commitment, voting power, and maximum access to financing.
- Veto Power:** Major structural decisions require an 85% supermajority, giving the US (holding ~16.5% voting power) an effective single-nation veto.

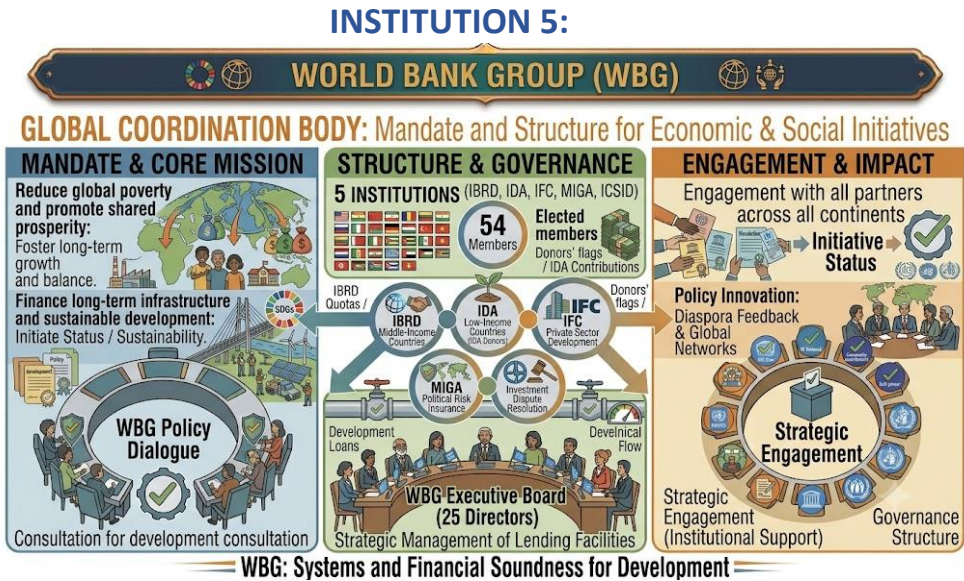
2. Key Achievements & Criticisms

- Rescued multiple emerging economies during balance-of-payments crises (e.g., India in 1991, Sri Lanka in 2023).
- Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) Criticism:** Historically criticized for imposing harsh austerity measures, deregulation, and spending cuts on developing borrower nations.

3. Reform Imperative & India's Interest

- **Quota Reforms (16th General Review):** While the IMF Board of Governors approved a 50% quota increase under the 16th GRQ, it was done on a proportional basis without altering individual quota shares, delaying real voice representation for dynamic emerging markets like India.

IMF library - International Monetary Fund



1. Five Arms of the World Bank Group

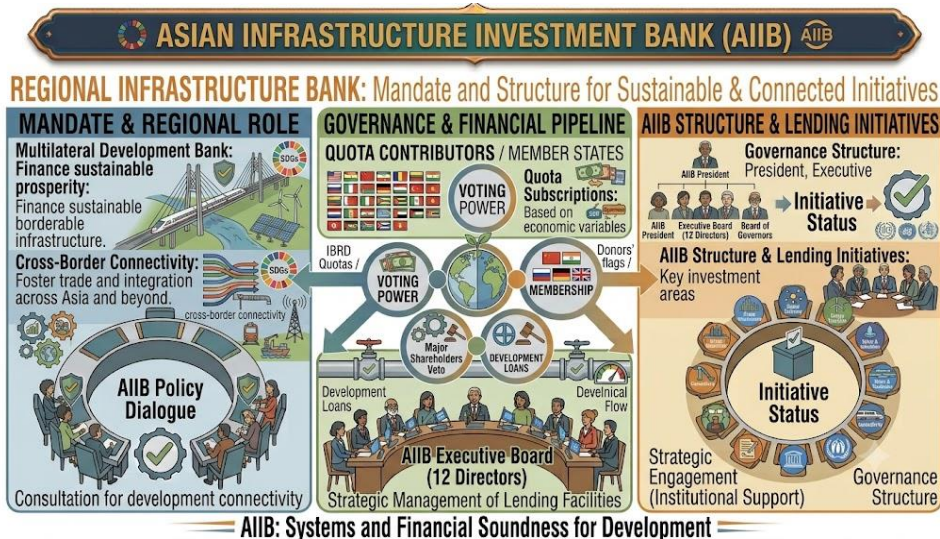
1. **IBRD:** Lends to creditworthy middle-income developing countries.
2. **IDA:** Provides concessional loans/grants to the world's poorest nations.
3. **IFC:** Private sector investment arm financing commercial enterprises in developing states.
4. **MIGA:** Guarantees political risk insurance to foreign investors.
5. **ICSID:** Settles international investment disputes (India is **not** a signatory to ICSID, citing concerns over unfair arbitral awards).

2. Evolution & Strategic Evolution

- Transitioning from traditional brick-and-mortar infrastructure financing toward **Climate Finance, Green Transition, and Pandemic Preparedness**.

- **Significance for India:** The World Bank remains a key source of long-term development capital for urban infrastructure, clean energy corridors, and human capital initiatives across Indian states.

INSTITUTION 6:



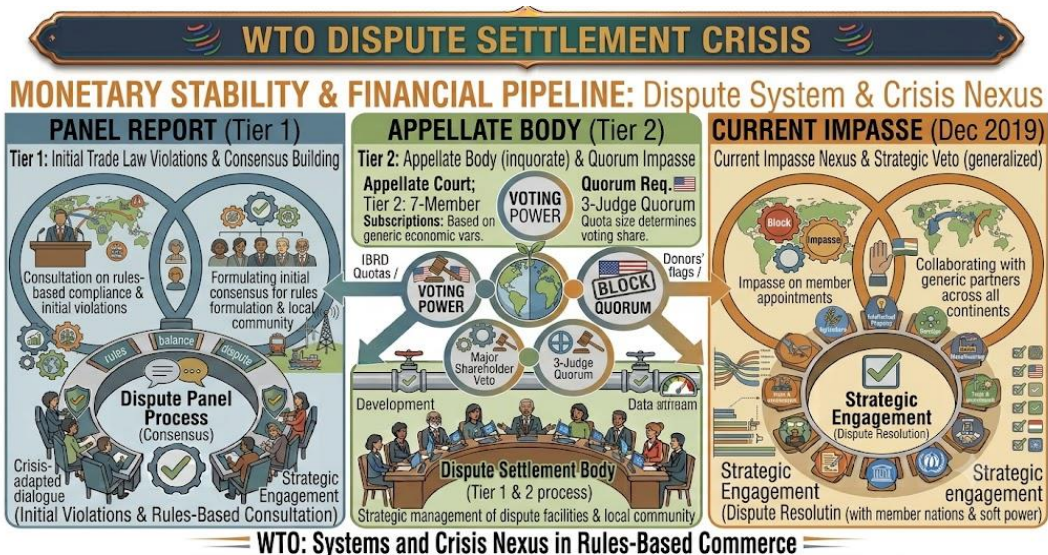
1. Structure & Shareholding

- Voting power is based on capital subscriptions, reflecting member states' economic size.
- **China** is the largest shareholder (~26.5% voting power), followed by **India** as the second-largest shareholder (~7.6% voting power).

2. Strategic Significance for India

- **Largest Beneficiary:** India is the largest cumulative borrower from the AIIB, securing low-cost financing for metro rail projects, renewable energy grids, and rural roads.
- **Pragmatic Engagement:** Demonstrates that India can collaborate productively with China within multilateral financial institutions while maintaining firm boundaries on bilateral security issues.

INSTITUTION 7:



1. Achievements & Core Principles

- Established predictability in global trade through Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) status, National Treatment, and binding tariff caps.

2. Structural Crisis: Appellate Body Impasse

- The US has blocked new appointments to the 7-member Appellate Body since late 2019 over allegations of judicial overreach.

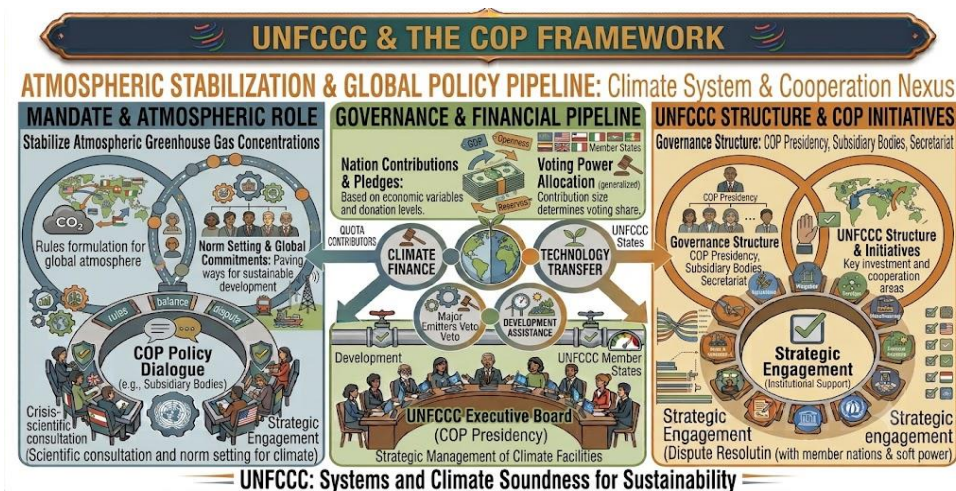
Cambridge University Press & Assessment

- Impact:** Losing litigants can appeal a Panel report "into the void," rendering the dispute settlement mechanism unenforceable unless parties use interim arrangements like the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA).

3. Core Friction Points for India

- Public Stockholding (PSH) for Food Security:** India demands a permanent, unconstrained solution for purchasing food grains at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to protect food security without triggering WTO subsidy limits.
- E-Commerce Customs Duty Moratorium:** India and developing nations challenge the extension of duty-free digital transmissions, citing loss of customs revenue.
- Fisheries Subsidies:** Balancing marine conservation with protecting the livelihoods of traditional, small-scale fisherfolk.

INSTITUTION 8:



1. Key Agreements & Evolution

- **Rio Earth Summit (1992):** Established the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**.
- **Kyoto Protocol (1997):** Binding emission reduction targets for developed nations.
- **Paris Agreement (2015):** Bottom-up framework relying on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to well below 2°C (ideally 1.5°C).

2. Key Challenges & India's Leadership

- **Climate Finance Deficit:** Industrialized nations have consistently fallen short of providing predictable, low-cost climate finance (\$100B+ annually) and technology transfers to the Global South.
- **India's Role:** Champions equity and energy access, operationalized through the **Panchamrit targets** (Net-Zero by 2070) and co-founding global platforms like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **CDRI**.

INSTITUTION 9:



1. Functioning & Achievements

- Successfully led global eradication campaigns against smallpox and rinderpest, while near-eradicating polio.
- Establishes global pharmaceutical and biological product standards.

2. Pandemic Weaknesses & Structural Reforms

- **Funding Constraints:** Heavily reliant on earmarked voluntary contributions, limiting its operational independence during health emergencies.
- **Pandemic Treaty Negotiations:** Deliberations over a legally binding **Pandemic Agreement** aim to ensure equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics for developing nations during future health crises.
- **India's Stance:** Advocated for universal access to affordable vaccines, recognition of traditional medicine (WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar), and reform of International Health Regulations (IHR).

INSTITUTION 10:

Group of 20 (G20)



1. Strategic Significance & Legacy

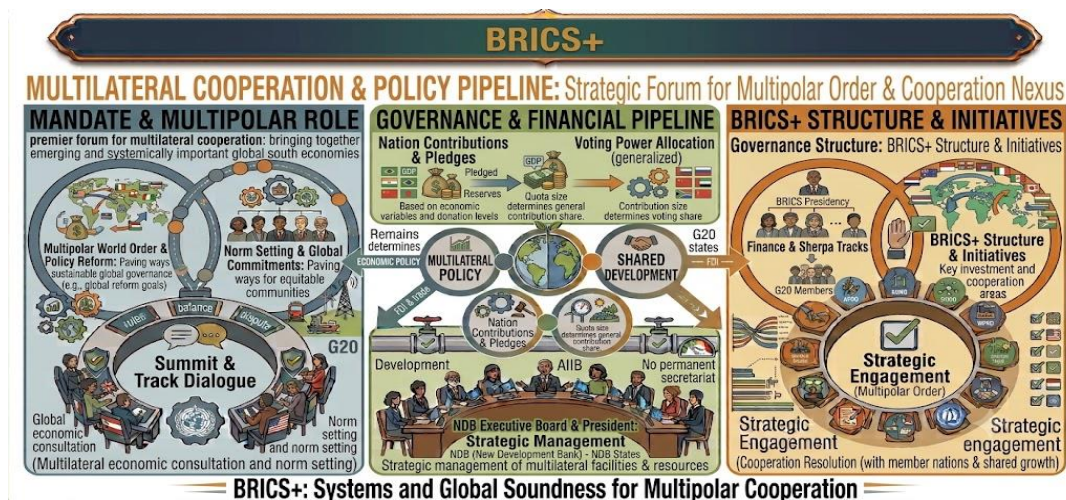
- Accounts for ~85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world's population.
- Effectively coordinated fiscal stimulus responses during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.

2. India's G20 Presidency Legacy

- Permanent Membership of the African Union (AU):** Institutionalized Global South representation in global economic governance.

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Blueprint:** Positioned financial inclusion platforms (e.g., India Stack) as global public goods.
- **Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Reforms:** Pushed for capital adequacy frameworks to increase MDB lending capacity for climate and developmental needs.

INSTITUTION 11:



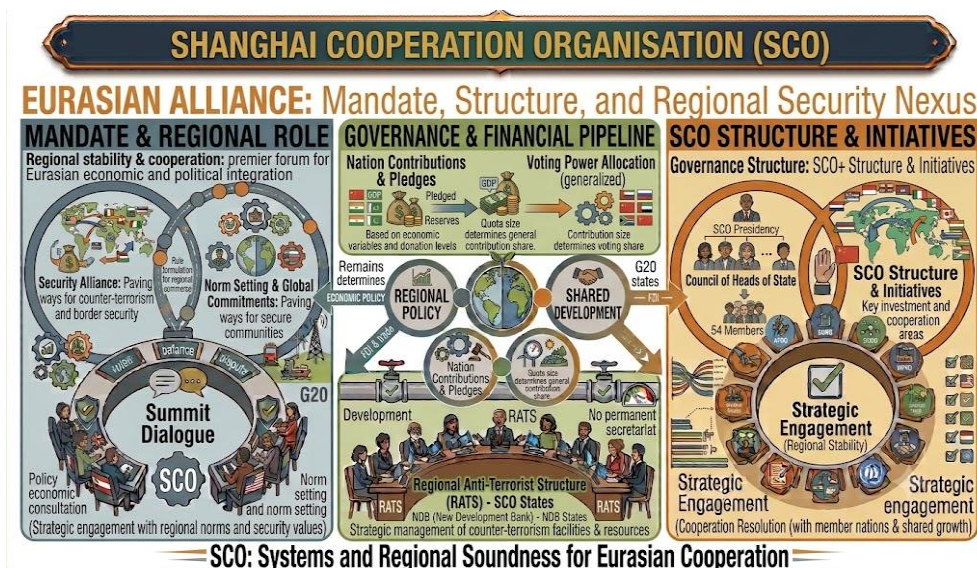
1. Institutional Evolution & Expansion (BRICS+)

- Expanded its footprint to include major emerging states across West Asia, Africa, and Latin America, reinforcing its role as a key forum for the Global South.
- **New Development Bank (NDB):** Headquartered in Shanghai, provides equal-share voting rights without individual veto power, financing infrastructure across developing states.

2. Strategic Balancing for India

- **Anti-Western vs. Non-Western:** India works to keep BRICS a **non-Western** platform for multipolar cooperation, preventing it from turning into an anti-Western geopolitical bloc led by Beijing or Moscow.
- **Local Currency Trade:** Supports local currency trade settlement to reduce transaction costs, while remaining cautious about artificial reserve currency proposals that could bypass market mechanics.

INSTITUTION 12:



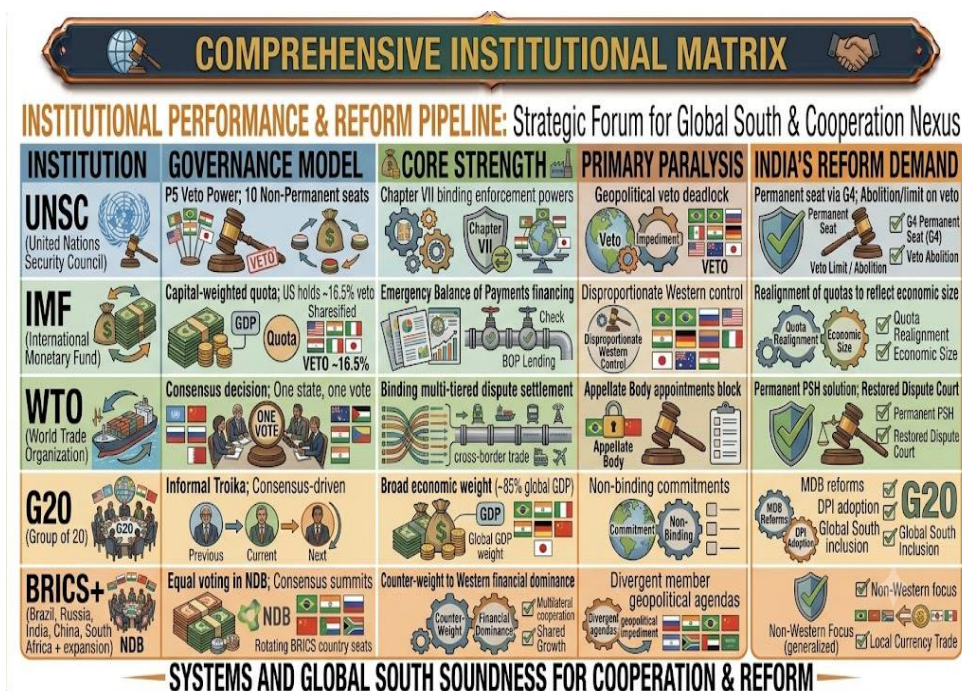
1. Core Functions & RATS

- Provides a Eurasian security platform covering over 60% of the Eurasian landmass.
- **SCO-RATS:** Facilitates intelligence sharing, joint counter-terrorism drills, and monitoring of extremist networks across Central Asia.

2. Strategic Dilemmas for India

- **Bilateral Friction:** Managing security dynamics within the forum alongside China and Pakistan.
- **Connectivity Principles:** India supports Eurasian trade connectivity but firmly opposes infrastructure initiatives that violate territorial integrity (e.g., CPEC passing through Indian territory in PoK).

6.3 Comprehensive Comparative Synthesis



7.4 PYQ Integration Bank & Model Frameworks

MODEL QUESTION 1 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: "The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reflects the geopolitical realities of a bygone era." In light of this statement, critically examine the structural impediments to UNSC reforms and evaluate India's case for permanent membership.

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Contextualize the UNSC's establishment in 1945 and state the central thesis: The composition of the Security Council fails to reflect 21st-century economic and political realities, leading to institutional gridlock.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Structural Impediments to UNSC Reforms**
 - *Veto Power Protectionism:* P5 states resist diluting their exclusive veto privileges.
 - *Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) Procedural Delays:* Lack of a single consolidated negotiating text prolongs procedural debate.
 - *Competing Regional Blocs:* Opposing regional groupings (e.g., Uniting for Consensus / Coffee Club opposing G4 bids) fragment consensus.
- **Body Paragraph 2: India's Case for Permanent Membership**
 - *Demographic & Economic Weight:* Home to 1.4 billion people and the world's 5th largest economy.
 - *Peacekeeping Contributions:* Historically one of the largest troop contributors to UN missions.
 - *Global South Leadership:* Championing equitable development, climate justice, and multilateral reforms.
- **Conclusion:** Conclude that a UNSC without India lacks geopolitical legitimacy. Reforming the council is necessary if the UN is to remain relevant in a multipolar world order.

MODEL QUESTION 2 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *"The dispute settlement mechanism is the crown jewel of the WTO, but its paralysis threatens the future of rules-based global trade." Discuss the causes of this crisis and suggest measures to restore functionality.*

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Define the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) as a multi-tiered legal framework designed to enforce trade rules and prevent trade wars.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Causes of the Crisis**
 - *Appellate Body Blockade:* US blocking of judicial appointments has left the 7-member bench without the required 3-judge quorum since December 2019.
 - *Allegations of Judicial Overreach:* Concerns over the Appellate Body exceeding its mandate and altering treaty obligations.

- *Unenforceable Panel Rulings*: Litigants can appeal panel decisions "into the void," neutralizing binding enforcement.
- **Body Paragraph 2: Impact on Developing Countries & India**
 - Weakens the ability of smaller economies to legally challenge unilateral trade sanctions or protectionist subsidies imposed by major economies.
- **Body Paragraph 3: Measures to Restore Functionality**
 - Unblocking Appellate Body selections through formal voting mechanisms if consensus fails.
 - Setting strict limits on judicial timelines to address overreach concerns.
 - Expanding interim operational arrangements like the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA).
- **Conclusion**: Emphasize that restoring a fully functioning, two-tiered dispute settlement system is vital for protecting developing economies and ensuring a predictable, rules-based global trading system.

CHAPTER SUMMARY & REVISION CHEAT-SHEET

Institution	Primary Function	Primary Structural Issue	India's Priority Strategy
UNSC	Global peace & security	P5 Veto deadlock	Permanent seat via G4 / L.69 coalition
IMF	Financial system stability	Quota representation lag	Realignment of quota formula to economic size
WTO	Rules-based trade	Appellate Body paralysis	Restore Appellate Body; Secure permanent PSH
G20	Economic cooperation	Non-binding mandates	MDB capital reform; AU integration; DPI rollout
BRICS+	Global South platform	Internal member rivalries	Maintain non-Western orientation; NDB expansion
AIIB	Infrastructure financing	Chinese shareholding dominance	Maximize infrastructure capital borrowing

Chapter 7

"International institutions do not operate in a political vacuum. They reflect the systemic tension between national sovereignty and global governance. As unilateralism clashes with collective security, understanding the structural issues, funding shocks, and reform mandates of key institutions is essential for analyzing India's foreign policy."

CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

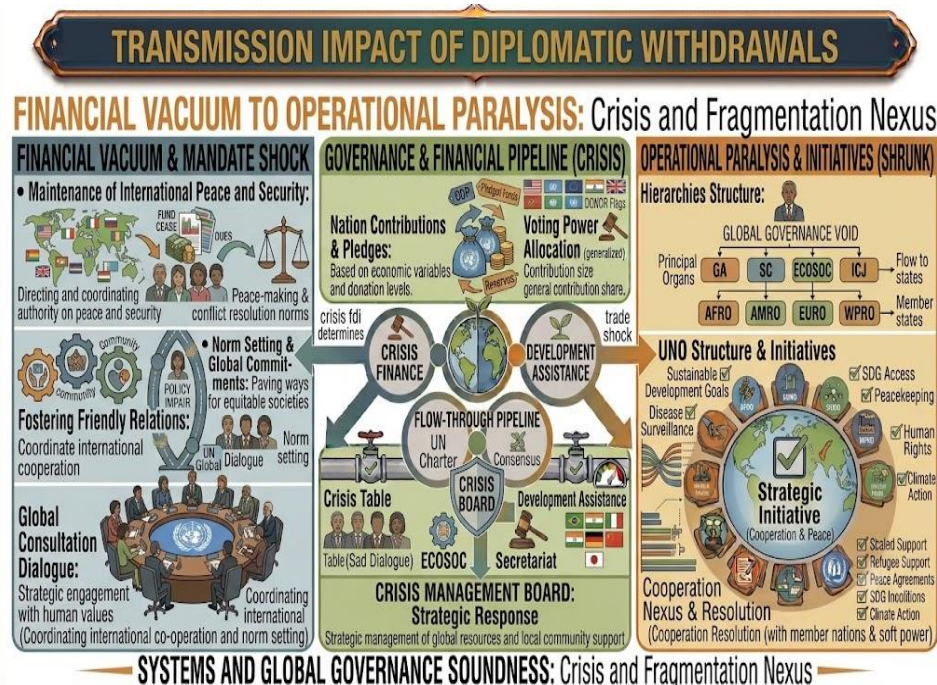
By completing this chapter, an aspirant will be able to:

1. **Analyze the United Nations (U.N.O):** Assess the structural and financial impact of major diplomatic withdrawals (e.g., US disengagement), funding crises, and India's role in filling the leadership vacuum.
2. **Deconstruct the World Trade Organization (WTO):** Evaluate trade wars, Appellate Body paralysis, developed vs. developing country divides, and India's firm stance on public stockholding (PSH) and agricultural subsidies.
3. **Examine the International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Master the mechanics of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), concessional assistance to low-income countries (PRGT), climate finance integration (Resilience and Sustainability Trust), and India's push for quota realignment.
4. **Evaluate the World Bank Group (WBG):** Deconstruct its role in the global financial architecture, multilateral development bank (MDB) evolution, climate transition financing, and India's strategic relationship as both a borrower and a reformer.



A. The Crisis of Multilateralism: US Withdrawals & Financial Disengagement

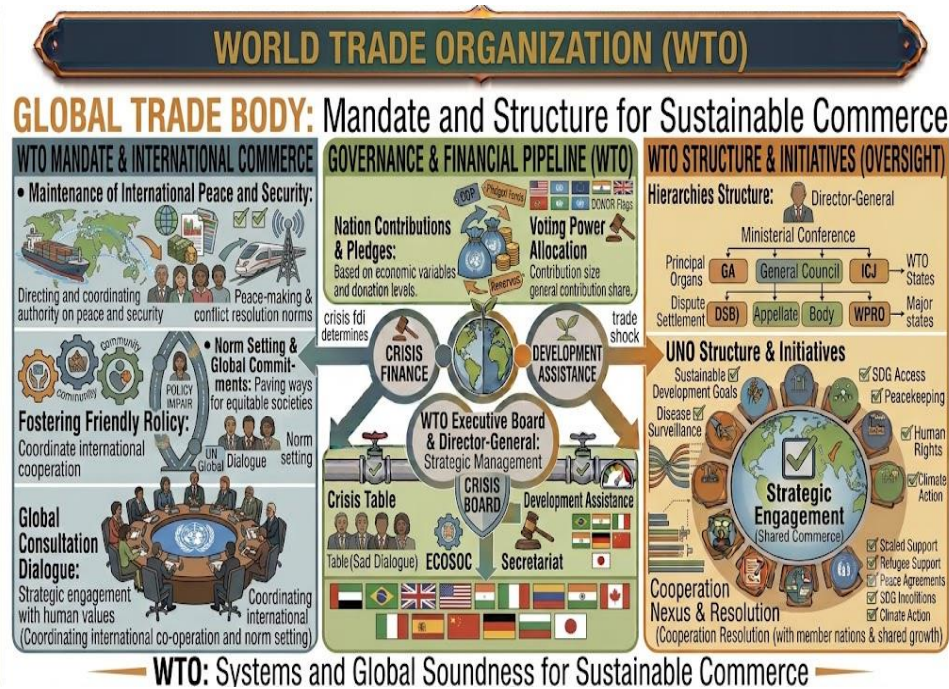
The United Nations system faces a profound existential challenge driven by unilateralism and a retreat from multilateral commitments. The decision by major global powers—most notably the United States—to withdraw from or freeze funding for scores of international agreements, UN entities, and specialized bodies has strained the administrative and operational fabric of the UN.



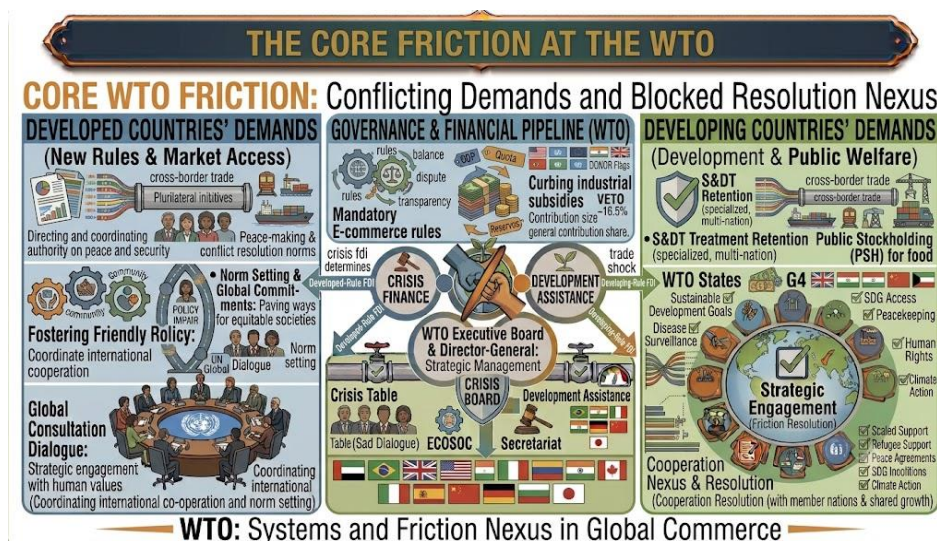
1. **Financial Paralysis & Assessed Dues:** The UN Charter mandates that member states pay assessed contributions (Article 19). Unilateral freezes on regular budget and peacekeeping funds force the UN Secretariat to enforce hiring freezes, scale down field missions, and restrict global health and humanitarian relief initiatives.
2. **Exits from Normative Frameworks:** Withdrawing from bodies like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and specialized health/development agencies weakens the global normative architecture. It exposes vulnerable states to unmitigated climate shocks and humanitarian gaps.
3. **Institutional Fragmentation:** Unilateral retreats shift international policymaking away from universal multilateral bodies toward selective, transactional minilaterals, fragmenting international law.

B. India's Role & Position

- **Stabilizing the System:** India maintains that unilateralism cannot solve transnational problems. India advocates for "**Reformed Multilateralism**"—arguing that institutions fail not because multilateralism is obsolete, but because institutional structures are outdated.
- **UN Peacekeeping & Financial Commitment:** As historically one of the largest troop-contributing nations to UN Peacekeeping, India continues to meet its financial obligations fully and promptly, advocating for predictable peacekeeping budgets.
- **Bridging the Leadership Gap:** India leverages its position as a representative of the Global South to champion climate justice, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and humanitarian assistance, ensuring developing nations are not abandoned amidst major-power disengagement.



A. Core Issues: Developed vs. Developing Countries & Trade Wars



1. **Trade Wars & Tariff Arbitrage:** The escalation of unilateral tariff increases, retaliatory trade measures, and weaponized industrial subsidies (e.g., green tech subsidies) undermines the WTO's foundational principles—Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) status and Bound Tariff limits.
2. **Paralysis of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism:** The 2-tiered Dispute Settlement System is severely impaired because the 7-member Appellate Body remains inquorate due to persistent blocking of judicial appointments. Losing parties can appeal panel decisions "into the void," rendering the rules unenforced.
3. **Dilution of Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT):** Developed nations argue that self-declared "developing country" status allows emerging economic powerhouses to unfairly access trade flexibilities. Developing nations argue that S&DT is essential for poverty alleviation and industrial capacity building.
4. **New Issues vs. Unresolved Mandates:** Developed states push for negotiations on e-commerce, investment facilitation, and environmental standards (e.g., carbon border taxes). Developing nations insist on resolving long-standing mandates from the Doha Development Round—specifically agricultural subsidies and food security—before expanding the WTO agenda.

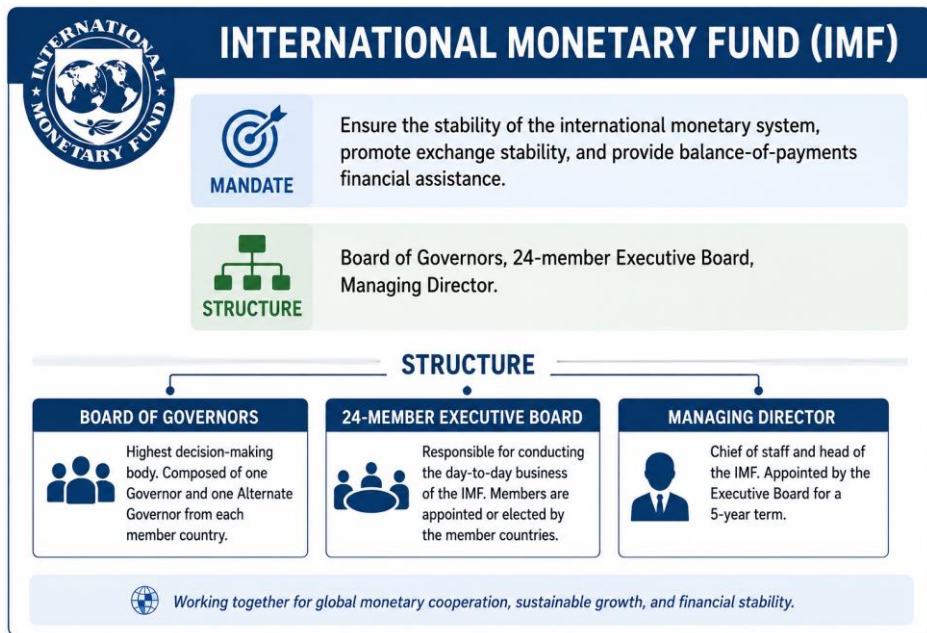
B. India's Position & Stance at the WTO

- **Permanent Solution for Public Stockholding (PSH):** India firmly defends its Minimum Support Price (MSP) and public food distribution programs (PM Garib

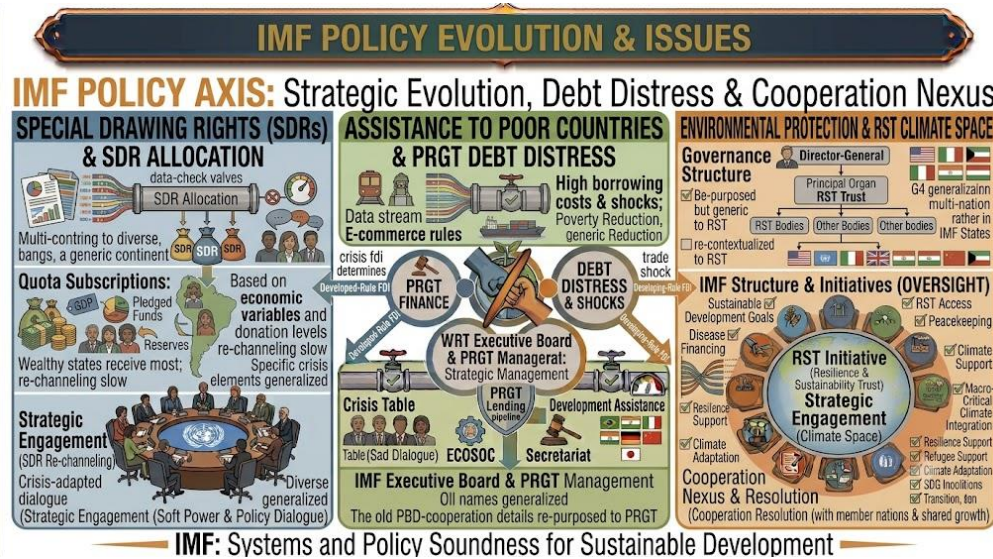
Kalyan Anna Yojana). India demands an unconstrained, permanent solution for PSH that protects its procurement from being challenged under the 10% de minimis subsidy cap.

- **Defending Agriculture & Fisherfolk:** India opposes premature reductions in domestic agricultural support and defends S&DT provisions for traditional, low-income fisherfolk in fisheries subsidy negotiations.
- **Resisting Plurilateral Pacts:** India opposes turning plurilateral agreements (negotiated by a subset of members) into formal WTO multilateral rules without explicit consensus from all 164 member states, preserving the inclusive nature of the body.
- **Restoration of the Appellate Body:** India advocates for unblocking the Appellate Body to restore a binding, two-tier dispute resolution mechanism for world trade.

4. International Monetary Fund (IMF)



A.Core Issues: SDRs, Assistance to Poor Countries, and Environmental Protection



1. **Special Drawing Rights (SDR) Allocation & Re-channeling:** SDRs are international reserve assets created by the IMF to supplement member countries' official reserves. However, because SDRs are allocated strictly in proportion to a country's IMF quota share, wealthy developed nations receive the vast majority of new SDRs. Developing nations demand systematic, low-cost re-channeling of unused SDRs from rich states to low-income countries.
2. **Concessional Assistance & Debt Relief (PRGT):** Low-income countries facing compounding economic shocks, high interest rates, and food/energy price surges are entering severe debt distress. The IMF's main concessional facility—the **Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)**—requires structural recapitalization to meet the surging demand for interest-free loans.
3. **Environmental Protection & Climate Financing:** Recognizing that climate events pose macro-economic risks, the IMF established the **Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST)**. However, developing nations criticize the conditionality attached to RST loans and argue that standard IMF structural adjustment programs do not provide sufficient fiscal space for long-term green infrastructure transition.

B. India's Position & Reform Demands

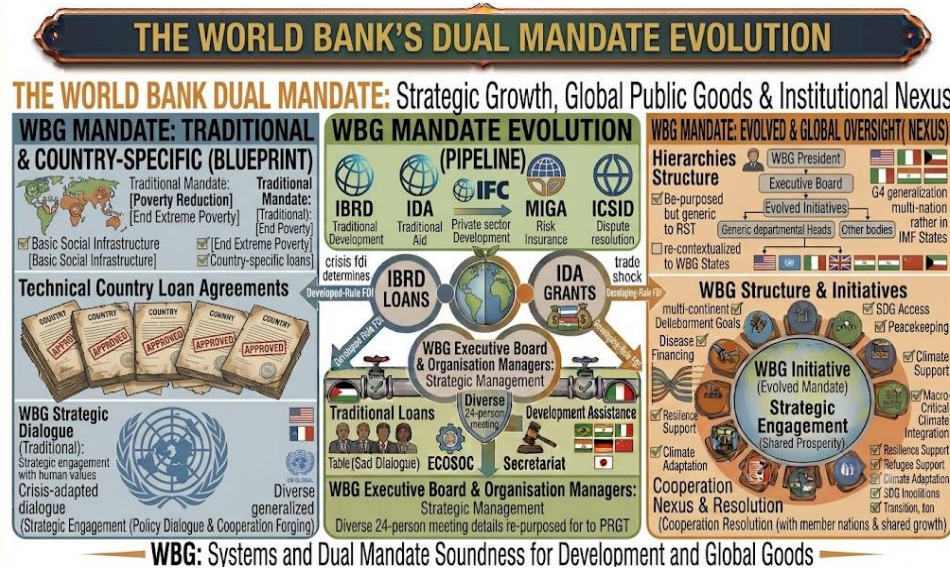
- **Quota Realignment (Voice Reform):** India demands an immediate formula-driven realignment of IMF quotas. India argues that calculating quotas using outdated metrics undervalues emerging market economies, leaving the US with a single-nation veto (>16.5% vote) over structural decisions.

- **Debt Restructuring & Sovereign Debt Relief:** As a co-chair of the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) alongside the World Bank and IMF, India advocates for rapid, predictable debt restructuring frameworks for distressed states (such as Sri Lanka, Zambia, and Ghana) without predatory conditionality.
- **SDR Re-channeling to Multilateral Development Banks:** India supports enabling MDBs to hold SDRs as hybrid capital, multiplying the financial leverage of every re-channelled SDR dollar to finance green transitions across low- and middle-income countries.

4. World Bank Group (WBG)



A. Role in the World Economic & Financial Order



- Evolution to Fight Global Public Goods (GPGs):** The World Bank is updating its core mission to focus on ending poverty on a livable planet. It is expanding its traditional country-specific poverty alleviation focus to address global cross-border challenges—including climate change, pandemic prevention, fragile states, and energy transitions.
- Capital Adequacy & Balance Sheet Optimization:** MDBs face pressure to optimize their balance sheets using recommendations from the G20 Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF). By adjusting equity-to-loan ratios and introducing callable capital guarantees, the Bank aims to unlock hundreds of billions of dollars in additional lending without requiring immediate direct taxpayer contributions from member states.
- Private Capital Mobilization:** Recognizing that public capital alone cannot bridge the \$4-trillion annual SDG investment gap, the World Bank is using risk-mitigation guarantees through MIGA and equity co-investments through the IFC to crowd in private capital.

B. India's Position & Strategic Engagement

- Preserving Development Priority:** India emphasizes that while climate change and GPGs are important, the World Bank must not divert concessional funding away from core poverty reduction, health, education, and basic rural infrastructure in developing states.
- Capital Expansion over Strict Conditionality:** India urges the World Bank to increase its lending capacity through actual capital increases rather than relying

solely on balance-sheet optimization. India supports simplifying project approval processes and reducing onerous non-economic compliance conditions.

- **A Win-Win Partnership:** India is historically one of the IBRD's largest borrowers, using long-term development capital for urban transit, clean energy grids, and water infrastructure. Simultaneously, India contributes to the International Development Association (IDA) as a donor, sharing its domestic success in **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** as an affordable model for global development.

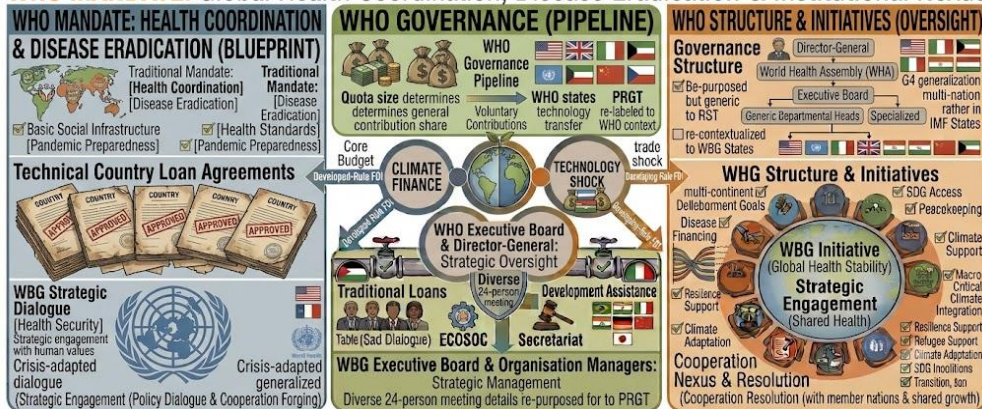
CHAPTER SUMMARY & REVISION CHEAT-SHEET

Institution	Key Recent Issue	Major Obstacle	India's Primary Stance
U.N.O	US withdrawals & funding freezes	Assessed dues arrears & UN Charter non-compliance	Demand "Reformed Multilateralism" & prompt peacekeeping funding
WTO	Developed vs. developing trade friction	Appellate Body paralysis & CBAM taxes	Permanent PSH solution; Defend S&DT & MFN rules
IMF	Concessional debt relief & SDR distribution	Outdated quota formulas giving rich states vetoes	Formula realignment; Debt restructuring; SDR re-channeling
World Bank	Evolution to fund climate & global public goods	SDG financing deficit & conditionality	Optimize balance sheets (CAF); Keep core poverty mandate

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & MANDATE

WHO MANDATE: Global Health Coordination, Disease Eradication & Institutional Nexus



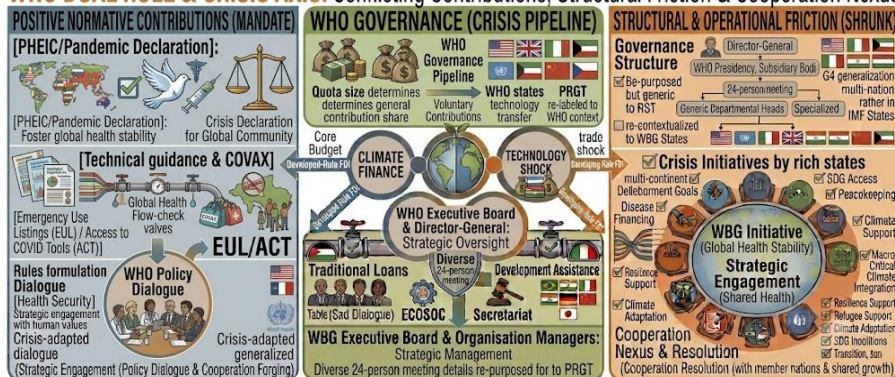
WHO: Systems and Global Soundness for Health & Sustainability

A. Role in Countering the Menace of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic served as the most severe test of the WHO's operational capacity since its establishment in 1948.

WHO'S DUAL ROLE & CRISIS POINTS

WHO DUAL ROLE & CRISIS AXIS: Conflicting Contributions, Structural Friction & Cooperation Nexus



WHO: Systems and Global Soundness for Health & Sustainability

- Normative & Technical Leadership:** The WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in January 2020, provided clinical management protocols, and granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) to candidate vaccines.

2. **The COVAX Facility:** Co-led by the WHO, Gavi, and CEPI, COVAX aimed to prevent vaccine hoarding by pooling purchasing power to deliver equitable doses to low- and middle-income countries.
3. **Exposed Vulnerabilities:** The crisis highlighted structural limits: the WHO lacks independent investigative powers to verify disease outbreaks without host-state consent, and over 80% of its budget relies on targeted voluntary contributions from a few donors, constraining its operational independence.

B. India's Role and Associated Relations

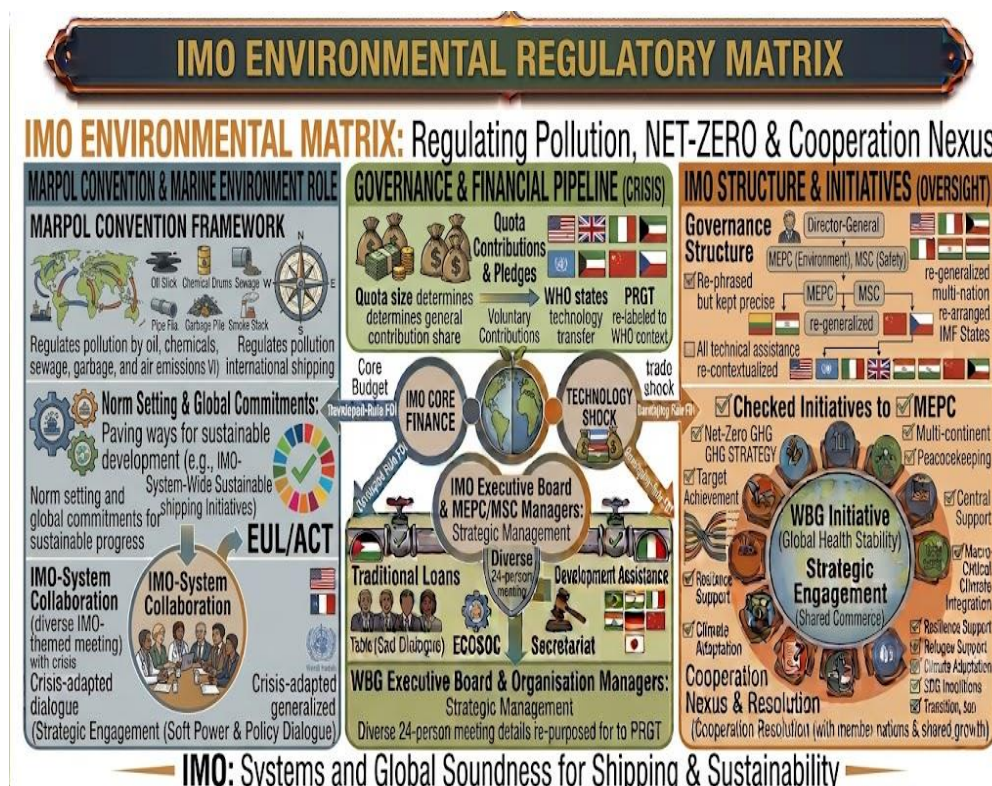
- **The "Pharmacy of the World" & Vaccine Maitri:** India proved indispensable to global public health by supplying affordable generics, test kits, and millions of vaccine doses to over 90 countries via bilateral assistance and the COVAX framework.
- **Championing Vaccine Equity & TRIPS Waiver:** Alongside South Africa, India spearheaded the demand at the WTO and WHO for a temporary TRIPS intellectual property waiver on COVID-19 medical products to boost global manufacturing capacity.
- **Institutional Governance & Traditional Medicine:** India served as the Chair of the WHO Executive Board during a critical pandemic phase. India also established the **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** in Jamnagar, Gujarat, integrating evidence-based traditional medicine into primary healthcare.

3. International Maritime Organization (IMO)



A. Role in Environmental Protection

Over 80% of global trade travels by sea. The IMO plays a central role in mitigating the environmental impact of international shipping.



1. **IMO GHG Strategy:** The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) mandates energy efficiency frameworks—such as the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) and operational Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) ratings—to reduce shipping's carbon footprint.
2. **MARPOL & Emissions Control Areas (ECAs):** MARPOL Annex VI enforces strict sulfur caps on marine fuel (0.50% global limit) and designates Emission Control Areas to protect coastal ecosystems from nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter.
3. **Ballast Water & Marine Plastic Management:** Enforces the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species, alongside measures to curb marine plastic litter lost from ships.

B. India's Role and Cooperation

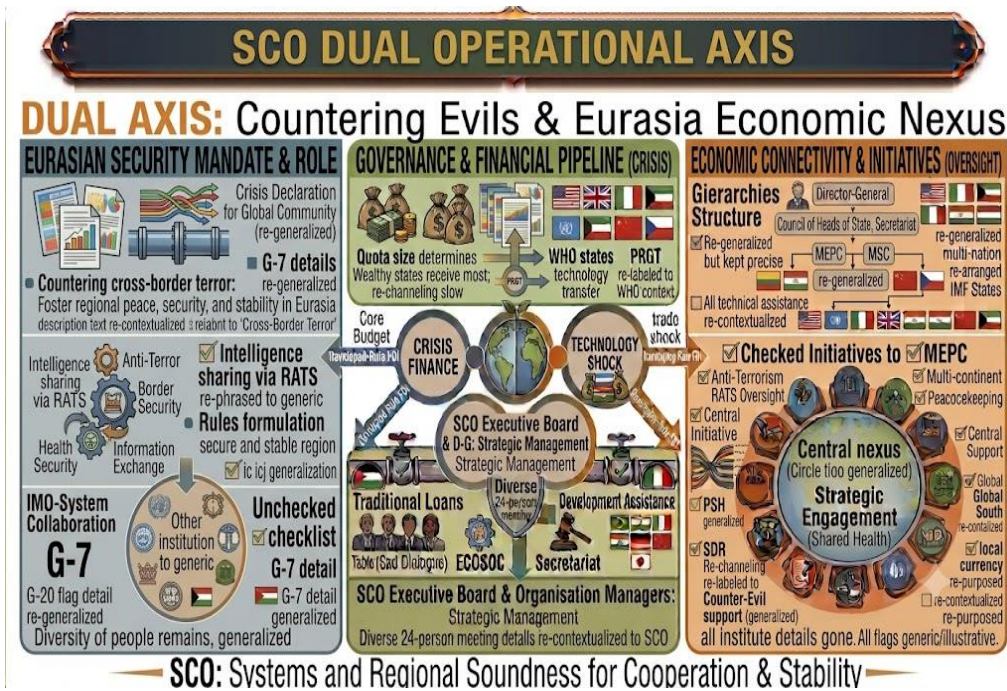
- **Category 'B' Council Membership:** India maintains a continuous elected presence in Category 'B' of the IMO Council (states with the largest interest in international seaborne trade).
- **Green Shipping & Decarbonization:** India launched the **Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)** and is developing major ports into hydrogen/ammonia bunkering hubs, directly supporting the IMO's zero-emission shipping goals.
- **Hong Kong International Convention on Ship Recycling:** India ratified the HKC and upgraded its domestic recycling infrastructure at Alang, Gujarat, establishing itself as a global hub for environmentally safe ship recycling.

4. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



A. Role in Dealing with Global Tensions and Peaceful Cooperation

The SCO covers over 60% of the Eurasian landmass and a quarter of global GDP, making it a pivotal venue for regional consensus-building.



- Counter-Terrorism Architecture (RATS):** SCO-RATS provides a platform for intelligence sharing, maintaining database registries of terrorist outfits, and conducting joint anti-terror exercises (e.g., *Pabbi-Antiterror*).
- Preventing Regional Escalation:** Provides an informal venue for bilateral diplomacy between major Asian powers during periods of geopolitical friction.
- Eurasian Energy & Logistics Integration:** Coordinates cross-border energy grids, transit highways, and trade corridors across Central Asian states.

B. India's Role and Strategic Balancing

- Principled Counter-Terrorism:** India insists that SCO cannot achieve true peaceful cooperation without an uncompromising stance against state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. India leverages SCO-RATS to push for clear definitions of terror financing.
- Connectivity & Territorial Integrity:** India advocates for Eurasian connectivity via the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and Chabahar Port. India firmly opposes infrastructure projects that violate national sovereignty (such as CPEC passing through PoK).
- Cultural & Digital Bridges:** During its Presidency, India introduced new engagement pillars—including Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Start-up

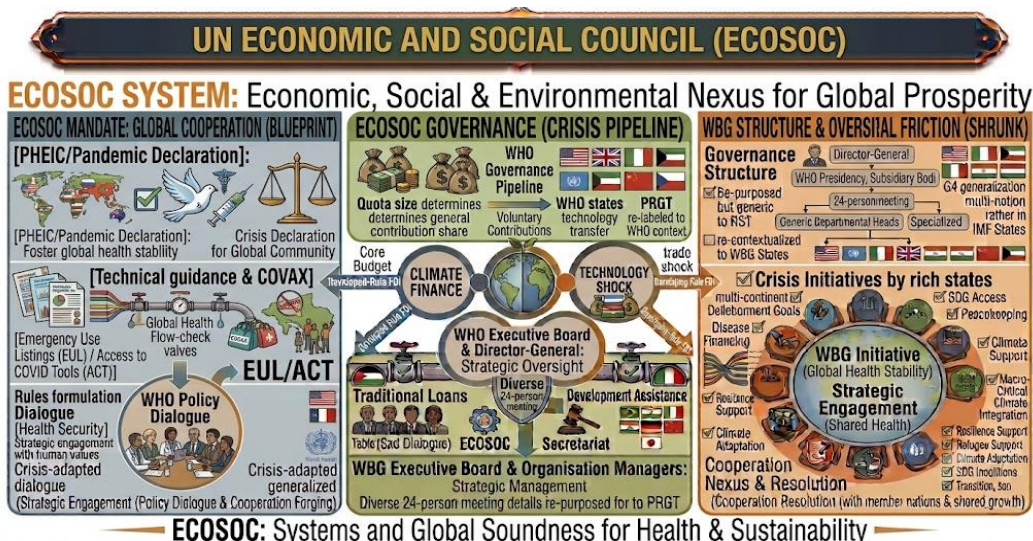
Incubators, Traditional Medicine, and designating Varanasi as the first SCO Cultural and Tourism Capital.

4. UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)



A. Role of Functional Commissions in Tackling Structural Corruption & Governance

While ECOSOC does not "institute corruption," its **Functional Commissions** act as the global normative engine to prevent systemic governance failures, organized crime, and institutional corruption.

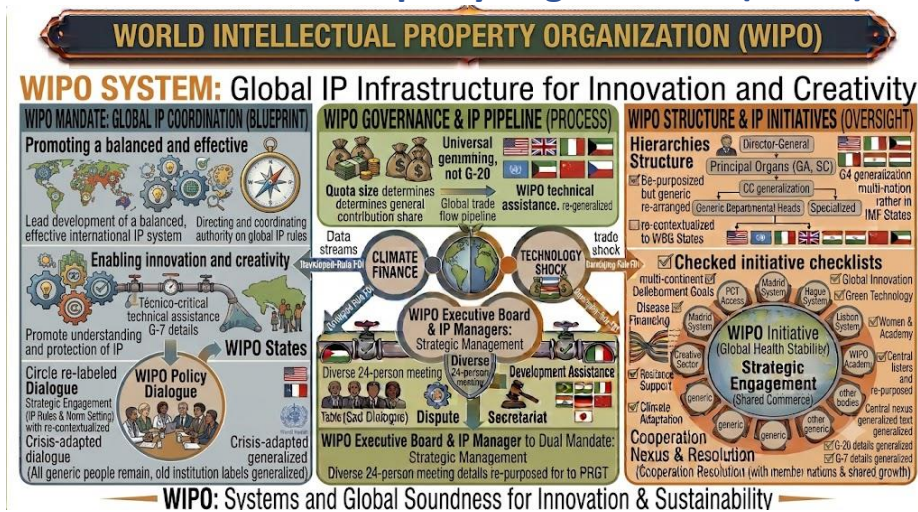


1. **CCPCJ & Asset Recovery:** The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice serves as the principal policymaking body of the UN in crime prevention, assisting states in enforcing the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
2. **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF):** Operating under ECOSOC, the HLPF monitors progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—notably **SDG 16** (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

B. India's Position and Active Engagement

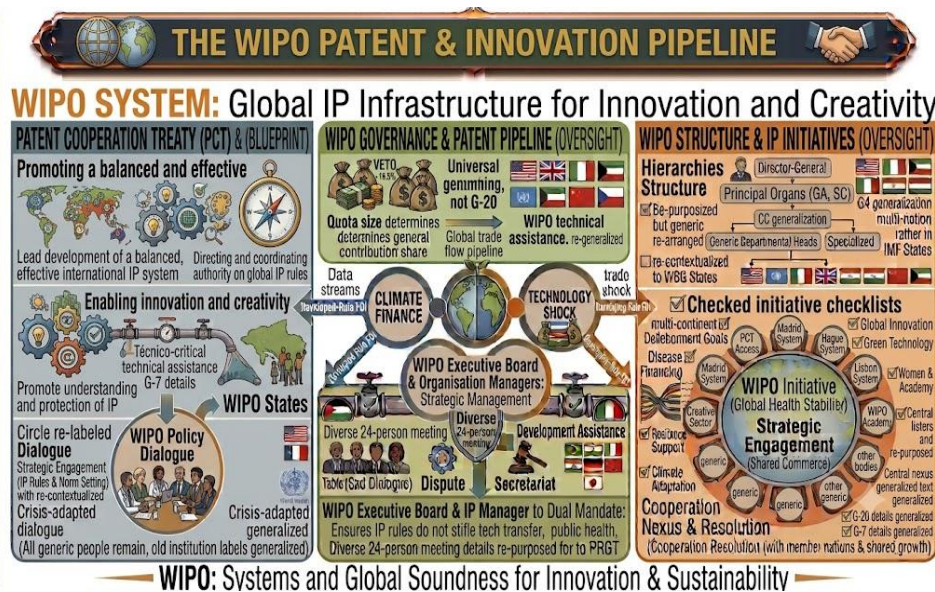
- **Sustained Institutional Presence:** India maintains a strong presence across ECOSOC, securing re-elections to major bodies—including the Statistical Commission, Commission for Social Development, CSW, and CCPCJ.
- **Combating Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs):** India leverages CCPCJ and ECOSOC platforms to demand international cooperation on recovering fugitive economic offenders, tracking cross-border tax evasion, and curbing money laundering.
- **Sharing Inclusive Governance (DPI):** India presents its digital governance platforms (Direct Benefit Transfer, GeM portal, UPI) at ECOSOC as effective, corrupt-free mechanisms for targeted social delivery.

5. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



A. The Global Patent System & The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

WIPO administers 26 international treaties that form the bedrock of global intellectual property governance.



1. **Streamlining Global Filings:** The PCT system allows innovators to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in multiple countries by filing a single "international" application.
2. **Balancing Rights and Access:** WIPO navigates the tension between protecting private commercial R&D investments and ensuring public interest access to technology, genetic resources, and green innovations in developing nations.

B. India's Role and Relations with WIPO

- **Surge in Global Innovation Index (GII):** India has risen steadily in WIPO's Global Innovation Index, climbing from 81st position in 2015 into the top 40 economies globally, driven by a surge in domestic patent filings.
- **Protecting Traditional Knowledge (TKDL):** India successfully integrated its **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** with WIPO International Patent Offices. This prevents biopiracy and invalidates improper foreign patent claims on traditional medicinal plants (e.g., neem, turmeric).
- **Historic Diplomatic Milestone (2024 Intellectual Property Treaty):** India played an instrumental role in the adoption of the historic **WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge**. This treaty mandates that patent applicants disclose the origin of genetic resources and traditional knowledge used in their inventions, safeguarding indigenous biodiversity rights worldwide.

- **Balanced IP Regime:** India maintains strict compliance with WIPO agreements while defending Section 3(d) of its domestic Patents Act to prevent the "evergreening" of pharmaceutical patents, preserving access to low-cost life-saving medicines.

6. Comprehensive Institutional Comparative Matrix

COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTIONAL MATRIX				
INSTITUTION	CORE CONTEMPORARY ISSUE	GOVERNANCE FRICTION	FUNDING/LEVERAGE	INDIA'S REFORM DEMAND
 WHO	 Pandemic response & vaccine equity	 Volatile voluntary donor funding dependence	 Member dues + donor donations	 Independent investigation powers; WHO-GCTM hub
 IMO	 Maritime decarbonization (MEPC Net-Zero GHG)	 Developing vs. developed transition cost burden	 Assessment-based maritime budget	 HKC ship recycling; Green Tug Program (GTTP)
 SCO	 Eurasian security & counter-terrorism	 Bilateral standoffs & CPEC sovereignty issues	 Member state contributions	 Firm zero-tolerance on terror; INSTC transit
 ECOSOC	 Systemic corruption & SDG 16 implementation	 Overlapping mandates & non-binding resolutions	 UN regular budget funding	 International recovery of economic offenders
 WIPO	 Genetic resources & AI patent regulation	 IP protection vs. global technology access	 Fee-financed via PCT system	 Disclosure of genetic origin; Anti-evergreening
★ India's reform agenda aims for fairness, accountability, inclusivity, and global public good. ★				

7. PYQs I Bank

MODEL QUESTION 1 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: "The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the structural limitations of global health governance." Critically examine the role played by the World Health Organization (WHO) during the pandemic and evaluate India's health diplomacy in filling leadership gaps.

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Highlight the WHO's core mandate as the global health directing authority and state that the COVID-19 pandemic tested its institutional limits.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Role and Structural Limitations of the WHO**
 - *Normative Role:* Declaring PHEIC, issuing treatment guidelines, and setting up the COVAX facility.
 - *Structural Limits:* Lack of enforcement power to conduct independent state inspections; heavy dependence on voluntary donor funding.
- **Body Paragraph 2: India's Health Diplomacy & Global Contribution**
 - *Vaccine Maitri:* Distributing affordable vaccines to over 90 developing nations.
 - *TRIPS Waiver Push:* Spearheading international efforts for affordable diagnostic and vaccine access.
 - *Traditional Medicine Integration:* Hosting the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM).
- **Conclusion:** Conclude that reforming the WHO's funding and enforcement mandates—alongside integrating India's manufacturing and traditional health models—is essential for resilient global health security.

MODEL QUESTION 2 (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Question: *"Decarbonization of maritime shipping is central to global climate goals."*

Discuss the role of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in environmental protection and analyze India's readiness to align with global green shipping standards.

Model Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:** Mention that international shipping handles over 80% of global trade and highlight the IMO's role in driving maritime sustainability under the MARPOL framework.
- **Body Paragraph 1: Role of IMO in Environmental Protection**
 - Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) targets for Net-Zero GHG shipping emissions by or near 2050.
 - Implementation of energy efficiency indices (EEXI, CII) and strict fuel sulfur caps.
- **Body Paragraph 2: India's Alignment & Maritime Leadership**
 - *Green Shipping:* Launch of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) and developing green hydrogen bunkering at major ports.

- *Ship Recycling*: Ratification of the Hong Kong Convention (HKC) and upgrading the Alang yard into a sustainable recycling hub.
- *Active Governance*: Continuous Category 'B' Council presence at the IMO.
- **Conclusion**: Emphasize that proactive alignment with IMO environmental standards strengthens India's maritime economy while serving global climate commitments.

CHAPTER SUMMARY & REVISION CHEAT-SHEET

Institution	Primary Function	Key Recent Development	India's Strategic Focus
WHO	Global health security	Pandemic Agreement deliberations	Vaccine Maitri, TRIPS Waiver, WHO-GCTM
IMO	Maritime safety & environmental rules	MEPC Net-Zero 2050 GHG Targets	Green Tug Transition, HKC Ship Recycling
SCO	Eurasian security & counter-terror	SCO-RATS anti-terror operationalization	Countering terror, INSTC, Chabahar Port
ECOSOC	Socio-economic coordination	CCPCJ & CSW functional commission work	Combating fugitive economic offenders, DPI
WIPO	Intellectual property administration	Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) surge	Genetic resource disclosure treaty, TKDL

PYQs

Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests, Indian Diaspora

A. Effect of Policies & Politics on India's Interests

- **2025**

- *"With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism."* Elucidate. (10 Marks / 150 Words)
- *"Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India's foreign policy, and is linked with India's overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries."* How would you integrate energy security with India's foreign policy trajectories in the coming years? (15 Marks / 250 Words)

- **2024**

- *"The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance."* Explain this statement with examples. (10 Marks / 150 Words)

- **2023**

- *"The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India."* What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. (15 Marks / 250 Words)

- **2021**

- *“The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union.” Explain. (15 Marks / 250 Words)*
- **2019**
 - *“The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its newfound role in the emerging global order.” Elaborate. (15 Marks / 250 Words)*
- **2018**
 - In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation? (15 Marks / 250 Words)
- **2014**
 - Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (12.5 Marks / 200 Words)

B. Indian Diaspora

- **2023**
 - Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (10 Marks / 150 Words)
- **2020**
 - *“Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries.” Comment with examples. (15 Marks / 250 Words)*
- **2017**

- Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South-East Asia in this context. (15 Marks / 250 Words)

Topic 2: Important International Institutions, Agencies and Fora — Their Structure, Mandate

- **2024**

- *"Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security."* Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (15 Marks / 250 Words)

- **2023**

- *"Sea is an important component of the Cosmos."* Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (15 Marks / 250 Words)
- *"Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO."* In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems. (10 Marks / 150 Words)

- **2020**

- Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. (10 Marks / 150 Words)

- **2019**

- *"Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life."* Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. (10 Marks / 150 Words)

- **2018**

- What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? *(15 Marks / 250 Words)*

- **2017**

- What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. *(10 Marks / 150 Words)*

- **2016**

- *"The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries."* Discuss in the Indian perspective. *(12.5 Marks / 200 Words)*
- What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these? *(12.5 Marks / 200 Words)*

- **2015**

- Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council. *(12.5 Marks / 200 Words)*

- **2014**

- WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. *(12.5 Marks / 200 Words)*

- **2013**

- The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the

structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. *(10 Marks / 200 Words)*

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