



## EDITORIAL: THE HINDU

**GENERAL STUDIES 3: ENVIRONMENT**

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**TOPIC: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.**

### India's Role as a Bridge Between the Global North and South

#### Understanding the Global North and Global South

- **Global North:** Developed nations like the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Australia with high GDP, industrialization, and technological leadership.
- **Global South:** Developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America facing challenges like poverty, infrastructure gaps, and climate vulnerability.
- **Interdependence:** The North depends on the South for resources, labor, and markets, while the South benefits from investment, trade, and technology transfer.

#### India's Engagement with the Global North

1. **Strategic Partnerships** – Strong ties with the US, EU, and Japan in defense, economy, and technology.
2. **Multilateral Participation** – Active role in G20, BRICS, and UN to shape global policies.
3. **Climate Leadership** – Initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
4. **Economic Diplomacy** – Promoting digital infrastructure (UPI, Aadhaar) to attract global interest.
5. **Support for Expatriates** – Addressing employment, visa, and welfare concerns of Indians abroad.
6. **Cultural & Educational Exchanges** – Student programs, cultural festivals, and academic collaborations.

#### India's Engagement with the Global South

1. **South-South Cooperation** – Trade, development aid, and bilateral agreements with Africa, Latin America, and Asia.
2. **Voice of the Global South Summits** – Forum for developing nations to discuss global challenges.
3. **BRICS & G77 Leadership** – Advocating for fair global governance and reforms.
4. **Vaccine Diplomacy** – COVID-19 vaccine assistance to developing nations.
5. **Peacekeeping Contributions** – Significant troop deployments in UN missions.



6. **Economic & Technological Assistance** – Infrastructure projects, capacity-building, and humanitarian aid.

## Challenges in India's Role as a Bridge

1. **Dominance of Western-led Institutions** – Limits India's influence in global reforms.
2. **Geopolitical Rivalries** – Balancing competition with China in Asia and Africa.
3. **Divergent Priorities** – The Global North focuses on climate & technology, while the Global South prioritizes poverty reduction & infrastructure.
4. **Economic Constraints** – Debt burdens and funding limitations for developing countries.
5. **Institutional Resistance** – Difficulty in securing UNSC reforms and inclusive decision-making.
6. **Resource Limitations** – Balancing domestic development with international commitments.

## Strategic Positioning & Global Outlook

1. **Geopolitical Balancing (Non-Alignment 2.0)** – Maintaining ties with the US and Russia while engaging in QUAD, BRICS, and SCO.
2. **Independent Emerging Power** – Competing with China while pursuing its own strategic interests.
3. **Africa's Development Focus** – Competing with China in investment while fostering sustainable partnerships.

## Conclusion & Way Forward

- India's growing global role enhances its influence while ensuring inclusive governance.
- A balanced approach between the Global North and South will help India shape global policies and support equitable development.
- Strategic engagement will strengthen India's position as a global leader and advocate for a fairer world order.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/india-as-a-bridge-between-the-global-north-and-south/article69203944.ece>