

# CSIR- NEWS BRIEF

## July 2023

The CSIR Newsletter is the compilation of news of international affairs collected from different sources. It also includes opinions and brief news analysis. The CSIR team expresses its gratitude to all sources of information that helped compile the news and generate opinions on the subject.

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## Opinion

### **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Ubuntu: Ideational Treasures of G20**

Sandipani Dash\*

The G20 Forum comprises emerging and emerged powers, representing the active energy of the global community for humane purposes. Together, the forum accounts for almost two-thirds of the global population, 75 percent of global trade, and 85 percent of the world's GDP. Formed in 1999, the G20 entered into a crucial stage in 2022–23, when its presidency came to the world's largest democracy and the fastest-growing economy. Conveying a responsible response, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared, "India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of oneness." Hence our theme: "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

The earlier resonance of this culturally sensitive proclamation came during Modi's visit to South Africa in 2016, "Through the spirit of *Vasudaiva Kutumbakum* and *Ubuntu*...Our relationship has been a story of resolve, determination, justice, and the excellence of human endeavour." The cultural quest for globally inclusive ideas and effective humane actions inspired the Indian leadership to its recent proposal of granting full membership to the African Union (AU) at the G20 Summit, recognising Africa's significance in shaping the world's future. The AU's aspiration for a collective self-reliant Africa and Modi's identification of *Vikashit Aur Adhyatmik Bharat* (developed and spiritual India) define the cultural and civilizational milestones of the G20 Forum.

The expression *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is a family), written prominently on the entry point of Indian Parliament, comes from an illuminating Sanskrit verse of the ancient Hindu philosophical text *Mahopanishad*, saying, "Ayam nijah paroveti ganana Laghuchetasam, Udaara Charitanam tu vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." One may attribute a near meaning to the translated words, "Division between 'mine' and 'yours' is a small and narrow way of looking at reality, indulged in by people with narrow minds. For those of greater consciousness, the entire world is a family." The idea of a global community emanating from the civilisational land of India is ideationally rooted in its ancient ethos of manifested diversity and intrinsic unity. The Rig *Veda* chants, "Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti," meaning that truth is one, but the wise speak it differently. The cultural liberal tradition of India is inspired by her contemplation of the organic, integral essence of plurality. Illustratively, the Hindu text *Ishavasya Upanishad* says, "Ishavasyam idam sarvam, yat kinchit Jagtyam jagat, tena tyaktena bhunjithah maa grudhah kasya svidh dhanam," meaning: as the divine principle pervades every atom in this universe, enjoy the bliss of being a part of this universe and share the joy of living on this bountiful, beautiful earth with all your fellow beings and other objects without excessive greed and avarice. Such a holistic idea of cosmic life remains at the core of the Indian approach to the global community.

Likewise, the philosophy of *Ubuntu* remains deeply rooted in indigenous cultures of Africa and is interpreted by its many people, more specifically those of Southern Africa, as a

phenomenon of human interconnectedness. Denoting a cultural worldview of trying to capture the essence of humanity, it is found in diverse forms in many societies throughout Africa, in particular among the Bantu languages of East, Central, and Southern Africa. Clearly articulated in Southern Africa's Nguni group of languages, it reflects the African idea of community: "I am human because I belong." Pertinently, the ancient ethic of Ubuntu inspires a remarkable experiment of Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) in post-apartheid South Africa to reverse the systemically inflicted dehumanising process of racial exclusion. Manifestly, the TRC experiment has gained traction as an innovative conflict resolution approach in many countries in Africa and beyond, signifying the relevance of *Ubuntu*, an African vision of global peace, security, and prosperity.

Increasing recognition of dominant ideas and practices as inadequate for unleashing effective humane responses creates an imperative quest for globally inclusive roots of well-meaning endeavours, underscoring the exploratory worth of Indic-African templates of organic existence and integral progress, exemplified in the world views of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* and *Ubuntu*. The spatial presupposition of family is that its members stay together under the same roof, sharing their feelings with each other. The Indian wisdom of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* has enormous transformative potential in shaping a mechanically interconnected world that owes its origin to the Indian discovery of zero into a humanely shared space. Equally, the African notion of *Ubuntu* has immense actionable relevance for nurturing a mutually secure and peaceful global habitat. The subsequent integration of the ancient plural ethos underpinning *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* and *Ubuntu* philosophy into the analytical construct of the G20 Forum increases the likelihood of community actions becoming global in scope and humane in substance.

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## **Shakti Series and India's Nuclear Weapons Identity**

Rajiv Nayan\*

In May of this year, India commemorated the silver jubilee of its nuclear weapon identity. The identity came with an assertion through the 1998 nuclear tests, which signalled to the world that India is ready to be called a nuclear weapon country with the full knowledge of the cost and benefits associated with it.

The abandonment of its long-observed ambiguity presented a new set of challenges. Indian diplomacy very dexterously managed those challenges. Slowly, the international community reconciled with nuclear India and adjusted many of the regimes to find a place for India. The initial resistance in the Western capitals and their intelligentsia has almost disappeared.

Notwithstanding India's ambiguous nuclear stance, the leading global countries were frequently initiating sanctions and curbs against the Indian nuclear and space programmes. However, sanctions and curbs forced India to develop its nuclear weapons indigenously. Quite

interestingly, a delivery vehicle like the nuclear-capable aircraft was not so much under the controlling radar, but other nuclear delivery vehicles such as cruise and ballistic missiles were very much under it. India indigenized its ballistic missile development, too. The Agni series of ballistic missiles is a wonderful case of Indian scientists making the nation proud.

Today the film, Oppenheimer, is creating a new wave. It has triggered discussions on science and ethics. The quoting of the Bhagvat Gita in the Trinity Test—the test before the use of nuclear weapons always generated interest in Oppenheimer, if not in the American bomb. Unfortunately, Oppenheimer's ethics and thinking isolated him from the American establishment and the American state.

India had a greater nuclear learning experience. What scared Oppenheimer, that the world may end if science is not controlled, is innate in the Indian knowledge tradition. The nuclear bomb cannot be left uncontrolled to acquire the status of God deciding about the *kaal*. India's ethos got reflected in its nuclear doctrine, though several nomenclatures such as No First Use and deterrence were borrowed from the modern nuclear lexicon. These terms were basically borrowed to communicate the non-aggressive nature of Indian nuclear policy and doctrine.

The Indian war tradition has ideas for when and how to use a weapon that have devastating consequences. The Indian knowledge tradition recommends that a weapon like Brahmastra is to be used prudently. It is not a normal war weapon. Nuclear weapons, which are capable of having cataclysmic corollaries, cannot be allowed to end humanity and the world. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had made it very clear that he does not intend to rely on warfighting doctrine and policy. Since then, deterrence has been the policy, and breaking down the deterrent arrangement may lead to massive retaliation.

Other than doctrinal restraints, India did not abort its nuclear disarmament policy. It envisions a world without nuclear weapons. However, that does not mean that it will abandon it unilaterally. Doing so would place it at the mercy of those nuclear weapons countries that are hostile to India and have hegemonic tendencies in global affairs.

The 1998 tests were named Shakti. The Indian idea of Shakti ought not to be translated into power. It is far more comprehensive. It has several manifestations, including *Jayanti* (ever victorious), *Mangala* (the bestower of auspiciousness), *Kali* (beyond *Kal* or time), *Bhadrakali* (controller of life and death), *Shiva* (ever-auspicious), and *Dhatri* (supporter of all beings). Certainly, it is more than the contemporary concept of comprehensive power, which focuses basically on the source. The Indian idea conveys both the means and the ends.

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## Imran Khan's Arrest and Future Scenario in Pakistan

Vivek Kumar Mishra\*

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested on August 5, 2023, sentenced to three years in jail, and disqualified from politics for "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case. Toshakhana is the government department that stores official gifts given to rulers and government officials. Pakistan's election commission began investigating allegations that Khan had bought and sold several valuable gifts for undeclared profit. Since April 2022, when he lost power, Khan has been slapped with more than 150 legal cases, including several charges of corruption, terrorism, and inciting people to violence over deadly protests in May 2023 that saw his followers attack government and military property across the country.

The three-year prison sentence could bar Imran Khan from politics, as the law says people with a criminal conviction cannot hold or run for public office. Efforts to put Khan behind bars have been stepped up ahead of elections expected later this year. His popularity and large support base, combined with his ability to mobilise massive crowds, pose a threat to the ruling coalition and could potentially polarise the electorate. The basic purpose of his arrest was for the powerful military establishment to get the "desired results" in the polls because the army and ruling alliance were well aware of Imran's popularity.

Imran is the seventh former Prime Minister arrested in Pakistan. Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was arrested and hanged in 1979. Nawaz Sharif, the former Prime Minister, was arrested several times on corruption allegations. The ruling and subsequent arrest are likely to be the final nail in the coffin for Khan's chances of contesting Pakistan's upcoming general elections, which are scheduled to take place by November but could be delayed further. Many in Pakistan felt Khan's arrest was the inevitable conclusion to his attempts to go up against Pakistan's all-powerful military establishment, which has had a grip on Pakistani politics for decades. All previous prime ministers who have tried to take on the military have ended up in prison.

Pakistan is now facing a serious institutional crisis. It had multiple centres of power, such as the government, army, and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), as well as many other non-state players, especially jihadi outfits. The problem now is not an interference among these power centres but their lack of effectiveness in maintaining the Constitution and law and order in Pakistan. Though Pakistan is constitutionally a democratic parliamentary republic, the military has been in charge for half of its 74-year history. Since 1947, Pakistan has been ruled by four military rulers under three military coups. In an attempt to stop the cycle of long military rule followed by a brief stint of an elected government, the National Assembly in 2010 passed the 18th Constitutional Amendment. This amendment removed the power of the President to dissolve the Parliament unilaterally, turning Pakistan from a semi-presidential to a Parliamentary Republic. Though Pakistan has since seen fairly democratic transitions of power, the influence of the Army on the decision-making bodies has not been reduced.

The Pakistan army has failed to maintain its neutrality from politics and with the political parties, and it always tries to become a "kingmaker.". The Army uses political leaders as tools

for lodging and unlodging them from the seat of power. The army often hatches conspiracies against governments, which have lost confidence in the military establishment and ISI. This has brought a bad reputation to Pakistan and pulled down the earlier elected governments before they completed their full terms. None of the nation's 31 Prime Ministers has completed a full five-year tenure. Since independence, Pakistan's Generals have become ever more involved in running the country, and its civilian leaders have become ever more dependent on their backing. Politicians survive in office only if they do as the Army tells them.

In Pakistan, the Army generally enjoys high respect and public praise, which sometimes generates a self-righteous attitude among army officers. In the Pakistani political system, deep mistrust between civilian and military leaders confirms a permanent dysfunctional state. It is unrealistic to expect the Army to withdraw from the political sphere in Pakistan completely. The ongoing military establishment-led political manoeuvring is the reason for political instability in Pakistan. Pakistan has been unable to establish a stable democratic political system due to institutional conflicts and its influence on the defence establishment despite seven decades of democratic governance. The Army has played an influential role in government, positioning itself as a parallel power. Pakistan would be better served by having armed forces that are the military arm of the civilian government rather than a government that is the civilian arm of the military.

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## India's Cultural Connect with SCO

Kota Mallikarjun Gupta\*

India completed its chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2022–23 after hosting the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in virtual format on July 4, 2023. Most of the analysis on India's chairmanship of the SCO Summit focused on geopolitical and economic issues, which include terrorism. However, the Indian chairmanship of the SCO had strong cultural themes and agendas. Many cultural events on the SCO platform were held in both physical and virtual formats.

Cultural connections between India and SCO countries were mentioned in the speeches of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during SCO Summits in 2018 in Qingdao (China), 2019 in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), 2020 in Russia, 2021 in Tajikistan, and 2023 Virtual Summit in New Delhi (India). Overall, cultural ties between India and SCO countries were highlighted in PM Modi's speeches for five times during 2017–2023.

In this backdrop, India's chairmanship of SCO held many cultural events on the SCO platform during 2022–23. The list of cultural events includes the Ramnagar Ramlila festival, which highlights Lord Rama's story through music and songs; the Dev Deepavali festival of lights, celebrated through lighting diyas in the River Ganges; the International Handicraft Conclave

in Uttar Pradesh, All India Boat Race, Varanasi Hot Air Ballon Festival, SCO Film Festival—Cinescope; the SCO cultural showcase at Suraj Kund Mela, Travel Writer's conclave, SCO Tourism Mart, Kashi Photography and Painting festival, Mahashivratri, International festivals for Fusion Music and Literature.

Most of these cultural events were held in the city of Kashi/ Varanasi, which was declared as the first Tourist and Cultural Capital of SCO (2022–23). The Indian chairmanship of SCO also included the International Conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage with a focus on India's civilisational connection with SCO countries, held on March 14, 2023, in New Delhi.

Traditional medicine and shared Buddhist heritage are two of the five new pillars and focus areas of cooperation in the SCO, created by India during its chairmanship. Additionally, the Experts Working Group on Traditional Medicine at SCO was created at India's initiative. There was also a SCO millet food festival held in India.

India hosted the SCO Tourism Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi on March 17–18, 2023, where the Tourism Joint Action Plan on the Development of Cooperation in the Tourism Sector among SCO countries was adopted. The Joint Action Plan includes actions to promote the SCO tourism brand, the cultural heritage of SCO member states in tourism, the exchange of information and digital technology in tourism, and cooperation in medical and health tourism.

SCO countries will also participate in the upcoming event, The Festival of Libraries, scheduled to be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, in August, 2023, organised by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. India's emphasis on cultural ties with SCO countries focused on people-to-people relationships should foster its strategic and economic interests in the Central Asia/ Eurasian region in the long term. India's foreign policy has placed a cultural dimension while hosting a multilateral summit of the SCO. Indian foreign policy should continue its cultural dimension as part of its multilateralism towards various global institutions like the SCO.

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## China on Mind: India US Head Towards Stronger Partnership

Tilak Jha\*

Twenty-five years after India conducted its most significant assertion of military power and technology in Pokhran, New Delhi's claim to a key global role came full circle with Washington announcing an all-round bilateral partnership spanning "the seas to stars".

The musical words were carved into history in the joint statement issued during PM Narendra Modi's second State Visit to the US on June 22, 2023. There was another unheralded history made this June: the two top leaders of India and the US were clearly in agreement on China. None of them used the C-word explicitly. However, the references in the joint statement, from critical minerals to supply chains, and the emphasis on "empowering Quad...for global

good", among multiple others, left no doubt that the China challenge is a serious, shared concern.

The importance of the consensus can be gauged from the fact that, 25 years ago, after then-PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee mentioned the threat from China in his confidential missive to President Bill Clinton, the White House leaked it to the media within hours. To make matters worse, Clinton issued a stand-alone joint statement with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, on June 27, 1998, as if giving China a central role in maintaining peace and stability in South Asia.

Four foundational agreements on defence and military exchanges, three American presidents, two Indian PMs, and an Indo-US nuclear deal apart, Washington brought New Delhi on board the Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET). A wide-ranging high-technology exchange framework in six core areas such as defence, space, and semiconductor technologies, with the promise of access and joint-development privileges reserved for America's allies.

And, by inviting Modi as the first Indian PM to speak to the US Congress on a State visit and recommitting to build a strategic technology partnership, Washington has come the closest to recognising that the Indian century is here. It would be fair to say that in its scope and substance, this joint statement is the most crucial tech-driven promise of bilateral diplomacy, which could potentially shape the direction of geopolitics along the lines of the Marshal Plan and China-US rapprochement.

The statement left no doubt about its substantiveness by promising to build a partnership that left "no corner of human enterprise" untouched between India and America. The two democracies are willing to come together as "trusted partners" to "contribute towards a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific."

With or without China or the US, India never had any doubt about its role in shaping an inclusive world. However, New Delhi was unwilling to play ally or enemy to any power or power bloc, a nuance that took Washington decades to accept and espouse. Reasonably, if there was one country that should have understood India better than any Western power, it was China. A fellow civilisational state with a shared past from colonialism to Buddhism, Beijing had insurmountable advantages in embracing India.

However, while the US evolved its understanding of the nuances involved in engaging India, China stuck to the myopic policy of curb, contain, and control. It is another testimony that, while keeping the border issue alive, taking India for granted in the name of autonomy or non-alignment is over.

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## **News Brief**

### **India and the World**

#### **Russia proposes joint research module on space station for partners in the BRICS group – Brazil, India, China and South Africa**

According to a report from Russian state media, the head of Russia's space agency has invited the BRICS nations of Brazil, India, China, and South Africa to take part in building a cooperative module for the country's upcoming orbiting space station. The projected space station will be built in response to Moscow's decision to undo its decades-long alliance with NASA and withdraw from the ailing International Space Station, one of the few remaining conduits of cooperation between Russia and the United States. "I would like to propose that our partners in BRICS consider the opportunity to take part in this project and create a full-fledged module through joint efforts," state media quoted Yuri Borisov as telling the meeting.

Source: Russia proposes joint research module on space station for China, India, Brazil and South Africa, <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/07/25/europe/russia-space-station-module-for-brics-intl-scn-hnk/index.html>, July 25, 2023

#### **India's first foreign IIT campus in Tanzania**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled the first Indian Institute of Technology campus outside of India in Zanzibar during a recent four-day visit to Tanzania. The Memorandum of Understanding signed with the government of Tanzania is a new historical high for India's knowledge diplomacy with Africa. The opening of a new overseas campus of IIT in Tanzania demonstrates India's commitment to fostering educational links as part of its initiative to work with emerging economies. And, it also signifies a critical turning point in the country's Global South Initiative.

Source: Bridging Continents: India's first foreign IIT campus in Tanzania to empower education and foster African development, <https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-bridging-continents-indias-first-foreign-iit-campus-in-tanzania-to-empower-education-and-foster-african-development-3151702/>, July 6, 2006, 2023, And, See also, IIT, IIM is key to India's knowledge diplomacy with Africa, <https://theprint.in/opinion/iit-iim-is-key-to-indias-knowledge-diplomacy-with-africa/1668996/> July 14, 2023.

#### **India-France ties strong, look forward to roadmap for next 25 years: PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on July 13 that the two nations are now at a "turning point" as they complete 25 years of strategic partnership. He praised the bilateral ties between India and France as being "strong, trusted, and consistent" and expressed excitement about working on a roadmap for the following 25 years of the strategic partnership. Underlining that the India-France relationship is in "excellent shape", PM Modi, during the recently conclude France visit, said it "has been steady and resilient in the darkest storms".

Source: India-France ties strong, look forward to roadmap for next 25 years: PM Modi, The Indian Express, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-france-ties-strong-look-forward-to-roadmap-for-next-25-years-pm-modi-8834937/>, July 14, 2023.

#### **India gifts 84 vehicles to schools and hospitals in Nepal**

India on Sunday gifted 84 vehicles to various organisations working in health and education sectors across Nepal, the Indian Embassy in Nepal said. The keys of 34 ambulances and 50 school buses were handed over by Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava in the presence of Ashok Kumar Rai, the

Minister of Education, Science and Technology, to representative organisations. Gifting of the vehicles has been one of the long-standing traditions of the government of India under the Nepal-India Development Partnership Programme to bolster the efforts of the government of Nepal to strengthen its infrastructure in health and education sectors, Ambassador Srivastava said.

Source: India gifts 84 vehicles to hospitals and schools, <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/world/india-gifts-84-vehicles-to-hospitals-and-schools-in-nepal-10967901.html>, July 16, 2023.

### **Nepal to export 370 MW extra power using low-capacity transmission lines**

In addition to the 400kV Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur line, Nepal intends to export 370 megawatts (MW) of power to India via low-capacity transmission lines because other high-capacity transmission lines that are still under construction have not yet been finished. The Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur Cross-Border Transmission allows Nepal to export up to 1,000 MW, and at the Secretary-level Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting held in February in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, the two nations agreed to send no more than 800 MW. However, India has only permitted Nepal to export up to 452.6 MW of power from its 10 hydroelectric projects thus far.

Source: Nepal to export 370 MW extra power using low-capacity transmission lines <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2023/07/31/nepal-to-export-370-mw-extra-power-using-low-capacity-transmission-lines>, July 31, 2023

### **US imposes sanctions on terror sympathisers in Maldives**

New sanctions have been put in place by the US against people and organisations helping terrorist organisations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda in the Maldives. The restrictions were put in place to prevent money from going to the two deadly terrorist organisations. According to PTI, the US has placed sanctions on 20 people and 29 entities for funding the operations of the terrorist organisations ISIS and al-Qaeda in the Maldives. According to the report's citation of State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller, the actions are aimed to discourage and disrupt financial and other types of support for terrorist activities in the Maldives.

Source: US Imposes Sanctions On Terror Sympathisers In Maldives, <https://www.outlookindia.com/international/us-imposes-sanctions-on-terror-sympathisers-in-maldives-news-307214>

### **After France and Singapore, India's UPI payment model reaches Sri Lanka**

Now, Sri Lanka will accept payments made via India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system. In addition to UPI's approval, a number of agreements were also exchanged between India and Sri Lanka on in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on July 21, 2023. In February 2023, an agreement was made between Singapore and India to link their respective payment systems. As a result, users in both countries will be able to conduct cross-border transactions. People in both nations will be able to transmit money instantly by scanning QR codes or by simply inputting mobile phone numbers that are connected to the bank account.

Source: After France and Singapore, India's UPI payment model reaches Sri Lanka <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/after-france-and-singapore-indias-upi-payment-model-reaches-sri-lanka-11689926531015.html>, Mint, 21 July 2023.

### **Sri Lanka, Maldives see Japan wade into Indian Ocean contest**

A Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi's visits to Sri Lanka and the Maldives over the weekend underscore Tokyo's resolve to expanded involvement in the Indian Ocean, where its key partner India

is competing with China for influence. A six-nation tour of underdeveloped nations in South Asia and Africa will include a stay by Hayashi in Colombo from Friday through Saturday, followed by a journey to Male on Sunday. His voyage, which began in India and culminated with stops in South Africa, Uganda, and Ethiopia, highlights Japan's recent diplomatic effort in the so-called Global South.

Source: Sri Lanka, Maldives see Japan wade into Indian Ocean contest <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Sri-Lanka-Maldives-see-Japan-wade-into-Indian-Ocean-contest>, July 28, 2023

### **Terrorism by night, trade by day': S Jaishankar rips into Pakistan**

As long as one member state continues to support terrorism, India cannot host a SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) meeting, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on June 28, 2023 in a dig at Pakistan. India won't put up with a situation where "trade happens by day and terrorism happens by night," he continued. "You have not heard very much about SAARC because, in the last few years, there isn't very much to hear about. We have not had meetings because you have a member of SAARC who doesn't conform to all the basic requirements of what a good membership is, and that is today an obstacle reality of SAARC to meet. You know I said we cannot continue with acts of terrorism and say the cooperation will continue to happen nevertheless," Jaishankar said, when asked why there had been no talk about SAARC in recent times, during an interactive session at an event in New Delhi.

Source: Terrorism by night, trade by day': S Jaishankar rips into Pakistan  
<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/eam-jaishankar-saarc-pakistan-cross-border-terrorism-india-china-ladakh-standoff-khalistan-issue-2399391-2023-06-29>, June 29 2023

### **Pakistan & China ink six agreements to expedite cooperation under 2nd phase of CPEC**

On July 30, 2023, Pakistan and China signed six important papers that will assist carry out the second phase of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects using a new model, to further solidifying their all-weather strategic ties as the "iron brothers." The signing ceremony conducted in Islamabad to commemorate the CPEC's tenth anniversary. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier He Lifeng of China. India opposes the CPEC because it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Vice Premier He communicated President Xi Jinping's message that China would firmly support Pakistan's prosperity and development. He emphasised that Pakistan-China friendship was exceptional and endured the vicissitudes of time because of the strong fraternal links between the peoples of the two countries. He is a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party.

Source: Pakistan & China ink six agreements to expedite cooperation under 2nd phase of CPEC  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/pakistan-china-ink-six-agreements-under-2nd-phase-of-cpec-8869848/>, Indian Express, July 31, 2023

### **India, Iran set to ink long-term deal on Chabahar port**

Before the Global Maritime India Summit 2023, which is set to take place in New Delhi in October, India and Iran are anticipated to sign a long-term agreement for the development of Iran's Chabahar Port by September, according to two persons familiar with the situation. Delhi and Tehran are anticipated to sign a multi-year agreement after years of discussions, allowing India to develop the Shahid Beheshti Terminal in the Chabahar port. Arya Banader of Iran and India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) secured a deal to build the port in 2016. India and Iran are currently signing one-year contract renewals to continue building and operating the Chabahar Port terminal. Nevertheless, India has been pressuring Tehran to sign a longer-term agreement in order to provide security for investment and

growth plans for the port that India planned. It's possible for a 10-year contract to automatically renege.

Source: India, Iran set to ink long-term deal on Chabahar port, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-iran-set-to-ink-long-term-deal-on-chabahar-port-11690482752365.html>, Mint, July 28, 2023.

### **India refuses to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative at SCO summit**

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, India was the only country to decline to sign an agreement supporting China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. In a unified statement, all members, with the exception of India, supported China's BRI. The declaration issued after the Summit said Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan had reiterated their support for the BRI.

Source: India refuses to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative at SCO summit, <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/sco-summit-india-reiterates-opposition-to-china-belt-and-road-initiative-2401933-2023-07-04>, India Today, July 5, 2023

### **Another Indian-American launches US Presidential bid**

Hirsh Vardhan Singh, an Indian-American engineer, declared his candidature for the Republican Party on 28 July. He is the third person of Indian ancestry to run for president of the United States in 2024. Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy, both members of the same party, are the other two candidates from the community. In a three-minute video post on X, a platform that was previously known as Twitter, Singh discussed Republican talking themes that have gained traction recently, including questions about "experimental" immunisations, risks to America's "free" ethos, and "schools being controlled by the government." He himself identified as a "lifelong Republican" and a fervent supporter of the "America First" conservative doctrine.

Source: Another Indian-American launches US Presidential bid: Who is Hirsh Vardhan Singh, <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/indian-american-2024-us-elections-hirsh-vardhan-singh-8867618/>, Indian Express, July 31, 2023

### **Saudi Arabia invests USD 10 billion to build Pakistan's largest oil refinery in Gwadar**

According to a media report published on July 28, four state-owned petroleum corporations in Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia to construct Pakistan's largest oil refinery with a \$10 billion investment in the important Gwadar Port. The state-owned Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL), and Government Holdings Private Ltd (GHPL) signed the MoU on Thursday to work together and give comfort to the Saudi company to enter Pakistan with a significant investment. The facility will have a production capacity of 300,000 barrels per day.

Source: Saudi Arabia invests USD 10 billion to build Pakistan's largest oil refinery in Gwadar, <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/saudi-arabia-invest-build-pakistan-largest-oil-refinery-gwadar-8865130/>, Indian Express, July 28, 2023

### **India, Japan sign MoU on semiconductor development**

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on semiconductor development was signed by Japan and India. This agreement will cover talent development as well as design, production, and equipment research. According to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, "The MoU focuses on five areas, including semiconductor design, production, equipment research, talent development, and strengthening the semiconductor supply chain. He continued by saying that agreements like the one with Japan and the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) offered clear directed support when

industries from the respective countries held negotiations. He claimed that the government's approach is now clearly centred on assisting Indian firms, whether they work in tandem with the US or Japan.

Source: India, Japan sign MoU on semiconductor development,

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/manufacturing/india-japan-sign-mou-on-semiconductor-development-11689881033865.html>, Mint, July 21, 2023

### **Colonial Mindset: India slams European Parliament's Manipur resolution**

India rejected the European Parliament's adoption of a resolution on India's human rights situation on Thursday, calling it "unacceptable" and indicative of a "colonial mindset" and making specific mention of the recent skirmishes in Manipur. When asked about the development by the media, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi stated that "such interference in India's internal affairs is unacceptable, and reflects a colonial mindset." "We have seen that the European parliament held a discussion on developments in Manipur and adopted a so-called Urgency resolution," he stated.

Source: 'Should utilise time on...': India slams European Parliament's Manipur resolution

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-on-european-parliaments-human-rights-resolution-on-manipur-colonial-mindset-2406266-2023-07-13>, India Today, June 14, 2023

### **India, France have special responsibility for peace in Indo-Pacific: PM Modi**

India and France have decided to further up their maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and increase naval visits as they work to establish a balanced and stable order in the strategically significant region while respecting each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The 'India-France Indo-Pacific Roadmap', which was released following the bilateral talks between the two leaders here on Friday, stated that the goals of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and President Emmanuel Macron's Indo-Pacific Strategy are strikingly similar in terms of security and cooperation.

Source: India, France have special responsibility for peace in Indo-Pacific: PM Modi,

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/world/india-france-to-intensify-maritime-cooperation-in-indo-pacific/cid/1952284>,

Telegraph, July 15, 2023

### **India's Culture Minister Meenakshi Lekhi leads yoga session in S Africa**

Meenakshi Lekhi, the Union Minister for External Affairs and Culture, led a yoga class on Thursday before she met with her counterparts from the BRICS countries in the South African province of Mpumalanga. In-depth discussions about measures to promote the cultural and creative sectors, the sharing of best practises, and the promotion of cultural diversity are among the main topics on the agenda, according to the session's organisers. Lekhi reminded the yogis present that one of the first resolutions Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought to the UN was for the declaration of the International Day of Yoga to be celebrated on June 21 each year.

Source: India's Culture Minister Meenakshi Lekhi Leads Yoga Session In S Africa Ahead Of BRICS Meeting,

<https://theprint.in/world/indias-culture-minister-meenakshi-lekhi-leads-yoga-session-in-s-africa-ahead-of-brics-meeting/1679338/>, July 21, 2023

## Statistics Corner

By Dr. Smita Tiwary

### Population of Overseas Indians

Overseas Indian- 32100340

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)- 13459195

Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)- 18683645

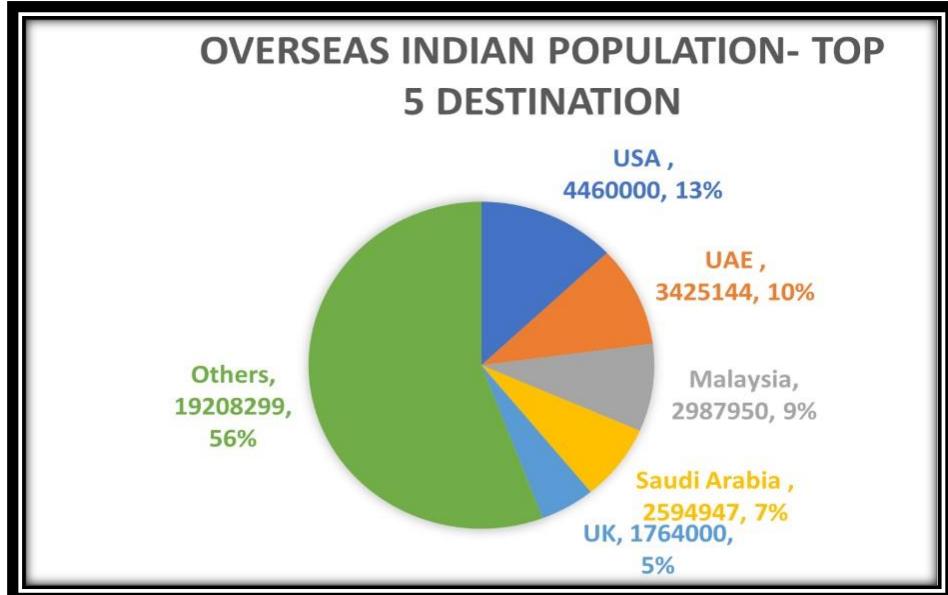
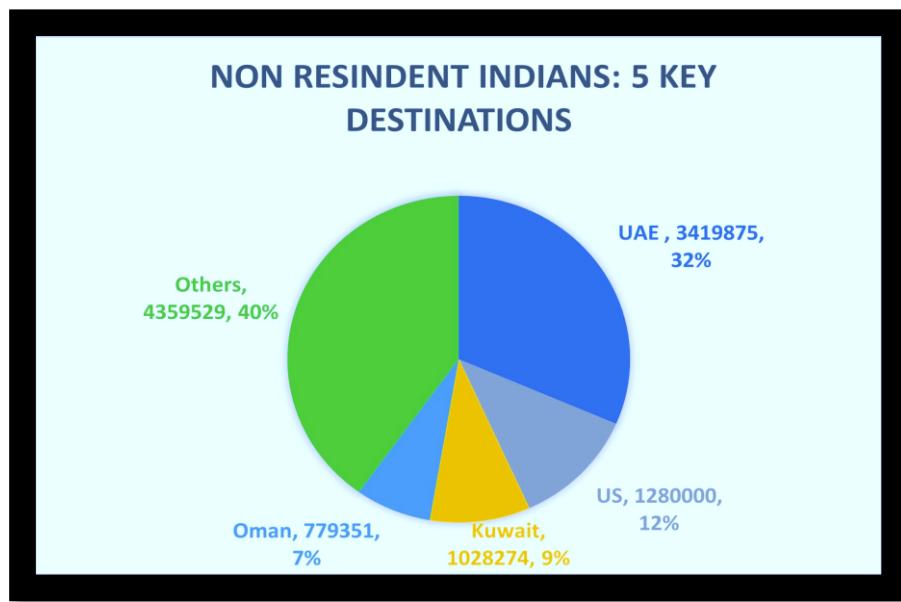
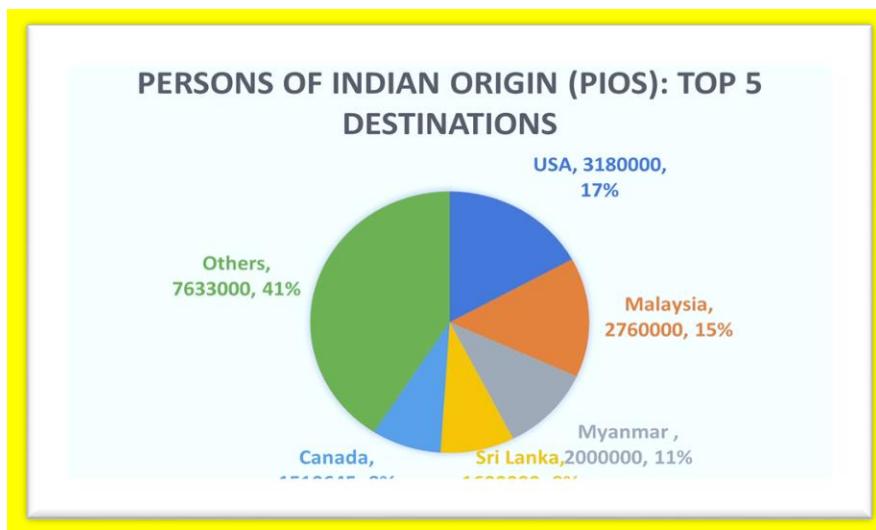


Illustration 1



**Illustration 2**



**Illustration 3**

**Note:** Source of the data for all illustrations- Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, <https://www.meaindia.gov.in/population-of-overseas-indians.htm>

## Key Speeches and Statements

### PM's address at Indian Community programme in Paris

- Today, the world is moving towards a new world order. India's strength and role are rapidly changing. India is currently the President of the G-20. It is the first time that a country's presidency is witnessing over 200 meetings taking place in every corner of that country. The entire G-20 group is observing India's potential and is mesmerized by it.
- Now the world is also enjoying the diversity of Indian languages. Just a few days ago, you might have seen tennis legend Roger Federer being called "Thalaiva" by Wimbledon. This diversity is the greatest strength of our democracy. Today, driven by this strength, every Indian is fulfilling his dreams and taking the country and the world forward. Who wouldn't swell with pride upon hearing that India has become the fifth largest economy in the world from 10th in ten years? This pride is not just felt by Indians alone; today, the entire world has started to believe that it won't take long for India to become a \$5 trillion economy.
- India says, 'Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti', which means 'Truth is one, but the ways of expressing it may be different'. India says, 'Atmavat Sarva Bhuteshu', which means 'we should demonstrate the compassion and camaraderie that we show for ourselves to others as well'. India says, 'Samgacchadhvam Samvadadhvam Sam Vo Manansi Janatam', which means 'let us walk together, let us speak together, let our minds be united'. And India says, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which means 'the whole world is one family'. With this sentiment, we can build a better society, a better world. It is in this spirit that India and France are tackling the many challenges of the 21st century.
- People-to-people connect is the strongest foundation of the India-France partnership. India and France are tackling many challenges of the 21st century. Therefore, at this crucial time, the importance of the strategic partnership between our countries has increased even more

Source: [https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-address-at-indian-community-programme-in-paris/?comment=disable](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-indian-community-programme-in-paris/?comment=disable), The Print, July 14, 2023

### PM on Sri Lankan President's visit to India

- Our ties are as ancient and extensive as our civilisations. Sri Lanka has an important place in both, India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and "SAGAR" vision. Today we shared our views on bilateral, regional and international issues. We believe that the security interests and development of India and Sri Lanka are intertwined. And therefore, it is essential that we work together keeping in mind each other's safety and sensitivities.

- This year holds special significance for our bilateral relations. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. Also, the Tamil community of Indian origin is completing 200 years of their arrival in Sri Lanka. I am happy to say, that on this occasion, various projects worth Rs 75 crore will be implemented for Indian origin Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. In addition, India will also contribute to the development programs in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka.

Source: [https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/press-statement-by-pm-on-sri-lankan-presidents-visit-to-india/?tag\\_term=pmspeech&comment=disable](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/press-statement-by-pm-on-sri-lankan-presidents-visit-to-india/?tag_term=pmspeech&comment=disable) , July 21, 2023

