



January 2024

India, the world's most populous country and biggest democracy, is set to become the globe's *third-largest economy* in the 2030s. A pluralistic, multi-faith, multilingual and multi-ethnic country located in south Asia, at the heart of the crucial Indo-Pacific region, India's importance is also growing at the geopolitical level.

India and the EU, both 'unions of diversity' and strategic partners since 2004, have over 60 years of bilateral diplomatic relations. EU leaders have on several occasions underlined India's *geopolitical weight* and importance as a *strategic partner*. The EU adopted a *strategy* to strengthen this partnership in 2018, and a *common roadmap* in 2020 to guide joint action until 2025. In May 2021, the EU and Indian leaders agreed to resume negotiations for a trade agreement (trade negotiations were formally *relaunched* in June 2022), and to open separate negotiations on an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications. In parallel, the partners launched a *connectivity partnership*. In April 2022, the European Commission *announced* the EU-India Trade and Technology Council, which was set up in February 2023. At its first ministerial meeting in May 2023, working groups on digital policies, green technology and trade were established. As a first result, in July 2023, the Member States' representatives gave the green light for negotiations on a *draft memorandum of understanding with India on semiconductors*. At the G20 summit in New Delhi in September 2023, a plan to build a maritime and rail corridor linking India to Europe through the Gulf, the *India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor*, was unveiled.

The European Parliament closely follows and contributes to the developments in EU-India relations. Its *Delegation for relations with India* is one of its oldest for relations with non-EU countries. With an EU-India summit due early in 2024, Parliament is expected to adopt a *report* on EU-India relations during its January I plenary session.

Legislative Trains

EU - India FTA

India and its policies

Ten issues to watch in 2024

In-depth analysis by Étienne Bassot, January 2024 – Chapter 10: India's rise: Ready to be a great power?, p. 21
As experts observe the changing nature of the international system towards a paradigm of either bipolarity (United States and China as the two major powers) or multipolarity (with multiple determinants of power), an important conversation about India's future and its role in international relations has emerged. Is India potentially a great power? The year 2024 may give some indication.

FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP_thinktank



european parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



european parliamentary research service

Mapping threats to peace and democracy worldwide: Normandy Index 2023

Study by Elena Lazarou and Branislav Stanicek, September 2023 – Chapter on India, p. 38

India ranks 112th on the Normandy Index. It is considered to be at greater risk than average for southern Asia, except for in cybersecurity and democratic processes. Unresolved territorial disputes with China and Pakistan, both of which are nuclear-armed powers, largely explain India's relatively low ranking.

Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: Major players' strategic perspectives

Briefing by Ulrich Jochheim with Rita Barbosa Lobo, July 2023

India shares a border with eight countries, and is bounded by the Indian Ocean to the south, the Arabian Sea to the southwest and the Bay of Bengal to the southeast. Owing to its location and size, India faces several geopolitical challenges. Against this backdrop, the Indian government has increasingly broadened its alliances.

India's climate change policies: State of play ahead of COP27

Briefing by Liselotte Jensen and Angelos Delivorias; Graphics: Ville Seppälä, October 2022

In 2019, India accounted for 7 % of global GHG emissions; its per capita emissions level of 2.48 tonnes CO₂ equivalent was well below the global average and only a third of the EU per capita level. The Climate Change Performance Index praises India's climate policies, but notes that some of them are disjointed and missing long-term targets and details on implementation. Meanwhile, the Climate Action Tracker rated India's climate policy as 'highly insufficient'.

India and food (in)security

'At a glance' note by Bruno Bilquin, July 2022

India, poised to become the most populous nation and the third-largest economy in the near future, faces major food security risks. In response, the country has sought to formulate a food security policy that also addresses climate change and the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine, while supporting its aspirations to be a major player in a multipolar world. Both the agricultural and farming issues India faces and the laws it adopts are relevant for global food security. India-EU relations, including in trade, also address food, climate and agricultural issues.

EU-India relations

EU-India relations

'At a glance' note by Enrico D'Ambrogio, January 2024

India and the EU, both 'unions of diversity', have been strategic partners since 2004. The EU adopted a strategy to strengthen this partnership in 2018, and a common roadmap in 2020 to guide joint action until 2025. In 2022, the two partners resumed negotiations on a free trade agreement. With an EU-India summit due early in 2024, Parliament is expected to adopt a report on EU-India relations during its January I plenary session.

EU-India Trade and Technology Council

'At a glance' note by Angelos Delivorias, January 2024

The EU-India Trade and Technology Council was announced by the European Commission in April 2022 and launched in February 2023. It is the EU's second such endeavour, and its aims are broadly similar to the first (which was made with the US). It aims to increase bilateral cooperation, to boost bilateral trade and investment (in the same context as the EU-India free trade agreement currently under negotiation) and to capitalise on both parties' strengths to ensure their technological and industrial leadership while preserving shared values.

FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP_thinktank



european parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



european parliamentary research service

International Agreements in Progress – EU-India free trade agreement

Briefing by Angelos Delivorias, January 2024

On 8 May 2021, the EU and Indian leaders agreed to resume negotiations for a 'balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial' trade agreement, and to launch separate negotiations on an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications.

India: Economic indicators and trade with EU

Infographic by Györgyi Macsai (EPRS) and Mira Manini Tiwari (EUI), June 2023

EU-India cooperation on health

'At a glance' note by Gabija Leclerc, June 2023

In line with the EU-India strategic partnership of 2004 and the EU approach to global health, the EU and India have a long tradition of cooperation on health. The focus is on health research and innovation, public health and health security, as well as regulatory convergence.

EU-India: Cooperation on climate

Briefing by Enrico D'Ambrogio, November 2020

The EU and India have assumed a leading role in fighting climate change and have been increasingly cooperating with each other in this field, at both public- and private-sector levels. They have created partnerships on sectoral issues such as clean energy, water and urban development. The EU is supporting several Indian projects on climate action, sustainability and clean energy.

EU-India: Cooperation on digitalisation

'At a glance' note by Enrico D'Ambrogio, October 2020

'Human-centric digitalisation to develop inclusive economies and societies' is the main concept behind the digital transformation of both the EU and India. During their July 2020 summit, the two agreed to promote global digitalisation standards characterised by 'safe and ethical deployment'. Their flagship initiatives – the EU digital single market and 'Digital India' – make them natural partners in promoting these global standards. Yet, if ICT cooperation is to make sound progress, some of Delhi's protectionist policies need further consideration.

Assessing the potential impact of an EU-India trade agreement – Cost of non-Europe report

Study by Cecilia Navarra, June 2020

The EU and India are major actors in the international arena and discussions over a possible free trade agreement have been ongoing for several years. This study analyses the potential effects of an FTA between EU and India from a 'cost of non-Europe' perspective. The results of a quantitative simulation of a potential FTA in goods and services indicate that welfare gains from increased trade for both sides may be between € 8 billion and € 8.5 billion.

FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP_thinktank



europaean parliamentary research service



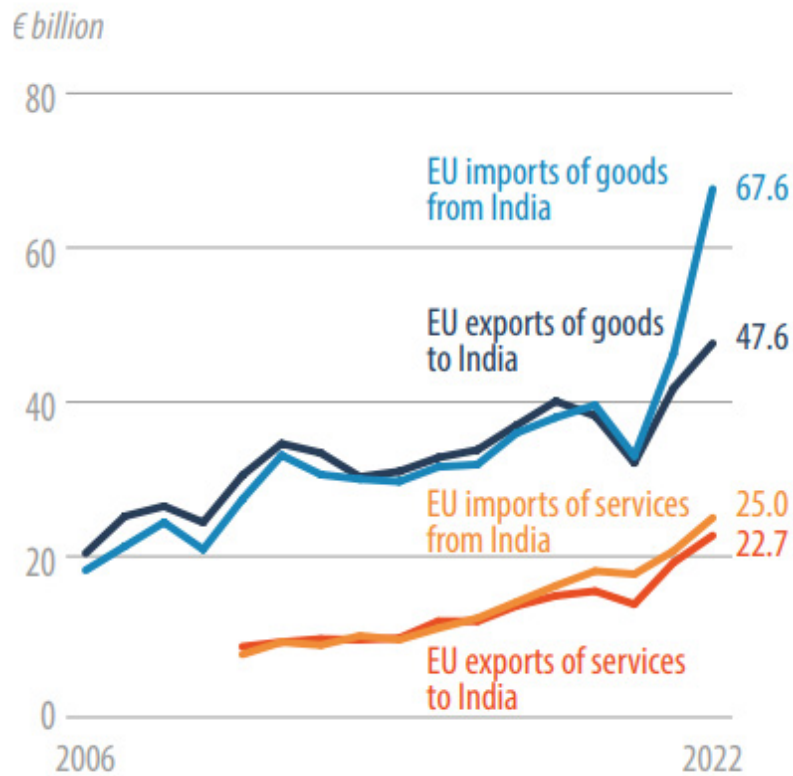
EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



europaean parliamentary research service

EPRS graphics

EU trade with India



Source: Györgyi Macsai (EPRS) and Mira Manini Tiwari (EUI), India: Economic indicators and trade with EU, June 2023.

eprs@europarl.europa.eu | www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank (Internet) |

www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu (Intranet)

You can access this Topical Digest online at the websites below,
or by scanning the QR code:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_EU-India_relations.pdf

<https://epthinktank.eu/topical-digests/>



FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP_thinktank



europaen parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



europaen parliamentary research service