



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IDEAS OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM AND INDIA'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD ORDER (2014-2024)

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Abstract

The research paper will critically examine the significance of the ideas of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and India's multilateral diplomacy in the contemporary multipolar world order. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, an ancient Indian philosophy and idea, has immensely contributed to the concept of the world as one family. The concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' has played a vital role in India's multilateral diplomacy under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, from 2014 to date. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' has strongly advocated a just, equitable, peaceful negotiation and inclusive world order. It has further contributed to peaceful coexistence, global cooperation, an inclusive approach, and sustainable development. The concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' has increased India's image in the contemporary international order. It has been witnessed in India's effective participation in the various multilateral institutions in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), G-20, United Nations, Russia – India- China Trilateral Summit (RIC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). India has been pivotal between the global north and the global south. India is addressing various contemporary international issues, i.e. sustainable development, terrorism, and climate change. The ideas of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" has helped India to address contemporary geopolitical dynamics, economic aspects, security issues, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' has immensely contributed to the Indian foreign policy discourse, multilateral diplomacy, soft power, and India's cultural diplomacy in the contemporary multipolar world order. Further, it will explain India's multilateral diplomacy's security aspects (QUAD, BRICS, and BIMSTEC) and economic aspects (G-20, World Bank, IMF). The research will critically examine the significance of India's multilateral diplomacy in the Contemporary World Order. Strategic autonomy, reforms of global government institutions, climate change and sustainable development, South-South co-operation, counter-terrorism and security, economic diplomacy and trade, Indo-Pacific and maritime security, and peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance are some of the major issues that will be addressed in this article. In this context, the research paper will elucidate the latest dynamics and significance of the ideas of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in the contemporary multipolar world order.

Key Words: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, inclusive approach, multilateral diplomacy, BRICS, peaceful coexistence, G-20, Global South.

Introduction

The concept Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam means "the world is one family". It has represented the ethical and civilization principles of India. Tremendous changes have taken place in the contemporary Indian foreign policy. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has philosophical origins in India. India has been actively engaging with the various multilateral institutions in the modern world i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Russia - India – China Trilateral Summit (RIC), and G-20. Global South. A dynamic transition has taken place, like India's multilateral diplomacy from normative idealism to strategic pragmatism. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakamis



working as an ideational and normative framework and immensely contributing to India's image in the contemporary world. Thus, contemporary Indian foreign policy has been shaped by the transnational challenges and multilateralism. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has emerged as one of the salient features of the modern Indian foreign policy. It has strongly contributed to the cooperative, inclusive, and humane multilateralism (Dahiya, P. V 2004, Kumar, P., 2024).

The contemporary global system is witnessed by the geopolitical rivalries, emergence of the transnational challenges, active role of the multilateral institutions, presence of non - traditional security threats, i.e., global warming & climate change, economic inequalities, terrorism, and COVID-19 pandemics. Civilizational values and normative ideas have become important aspects of soft power and diplomatic engagement. Indian foreign policy from 2014 to 2024 has been extensively focused on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, to explain India's vision of multilateralism and global order. India has been actively engaging with the various multilateral institutions as part of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (MEA, 2023).

The phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has emerged from the Maha Upanishad. It has explained that world view has to be inclusive and egalitarian in nature. It should not be confined to the sectarian boundaries and narrow national interests. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has focused on the normative international behaviour and collectiveness in the contemporary world order (Acharya, 2014). It has represented the ancient philosophical traditions in contemporary global politics.

India has emerged as a more visible actor and an assertive power in contemporary multilateral diplomacy. India has been protected as a leading power rather than merely a balancing power under the regime of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. India is representing the voice of the global south. Further, India is actively engaging with the multilateral institutions and great powers (Pant, 2020). India has adopted the theme of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam as the central theme of India's G20 Presidency in 2023.

Conceptual and Philosophical Foundations of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam originated from the Sanskrit verse “**ayambandhurayam neti ganana laghuchetasam, udaracharitanam tu vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**” (Dahiya, P. V 2004, Kumar, P., 2024). It indicates that “narrow-minded individuals differentiate between 'us' and 'them,' whereas the magnanimous view the entire world as one family”. It has focussed on tolerance, coexistence, and compassion (Radhakrishnan, 1951). Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is pluralistic in nature. It focuses on diversity within moral unity. The contemporary world order has been characterized by interdependence and cultural pluralism (Sen, 2005).

Norms, Ideas, and Foreign Policy: Constructivist theories of global politics have explained the role of norms, values, identities, and historical factors in shaping the behaviour of the State. (Wendt, 1999). According to this analysis, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam works as a normative framework for the diplomatic strategies and developing bilateral relations with other countries. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has become a foundation stone for India's policies of multilateralism, dialogue, and inclusivity (Acharya, 2018).

India's Multilateral Diplomacy: An Overview (2014–2023): From Strategic Autonomy to Multialignment: Since independence, Indian diplomacy has strongly advocated strategic autonomy and supported the idea of multilateralism. India has been actively engaging with various multipolar



institutions. Thus, the nature of Indian foreign policy has been transformed from non - alignment to multialignment in post-cold war era. India has been playing a vital role in various global institutions (Jaishankar, 2020). Since 2014, India has been playing a vital role in various global institutions.

India's multilateral diplomacy has shaped its position in the contemporary world. India has been actively engaged with various multilateral institutions and organizations, including the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), the United Nations (UN), the Quad (also known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), and the G20. India's approach towards multilateral diplomacy reflects its aspiration to become a global leader and further its national interests. A vital aspect of this approach is India's strong advocacy for reforms in multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations Security Council. India's desire to become a member of the Security Council is a clear indicator of its ambition to play a significant role in the contemporary multipolar world order and global governance frameworks.

India's multilateral diplomacy can be explained in economic and security terms. Regarding the economic elements of multilateral diplomacy, India's involvement in the G20 has become vital in advocating sustainable development, global peace and harmony, and determining global financial frameworks. Since India's economy is growing faster than most other large economies, India strongly advocates rule-based international trade agreements, global investment, and the protection of the interests of the Global South. India's G-20 presidency in 2023 has played a vital role in designing an international framework for inclusive growth, global governance, security, and economic growth (Mohan, 2010).

On the security front, India's active participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has focused on a free, rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. Quad will contain China's belligerent behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region. India also plays a significant role in the BRICS and SCO (Kumar 2022).

Over the past two decades or so, there have been profound changes in the global geopolitical situation. Consequently, most countries have had to calibrate their foreign policy to protect their national interests (Thakur 2017). Diplomacy is a crucial element of a country's foreign policy, as the success and failure of a country's foreign policy, to a large extent, depends on diplomatic principles. Rapid geopolitical changes in the world have prompted countries to increasingly focus on multilateral diplomacy (Ikenberry, 2003).

Although multilateral diplomacy emerged after the Second World War with the emergence of newly independent sovereign nation-states, the roots of multilateral diplomacy can be traced back to the Peace of Westphalia signed in 1648, which introduced the concepts of state sovereignty, mediation between nations, and diplomacy. The institutionalisation of multilateralism at the international level, which was formally introduced by the League of Nations, was based on the foundations laid by the Peace of Westphalia, and multilateralism has continued to expand since then. The role of multilateral diplomacy in addressing complex global challenges inspires hope for a better future (Acharya 2014).

Multilateral diplomacy promotes engaging with several parties on various issues. It is far more complex than bilateral diplomacy and brought in its wake new forms of diplomatic activity like public debates, extensive committee work, parliamentary procedures that back in the home country are the provenance of politicians, diplomatic caucusing akin to political caucusing in national parliaments, and forging coalitions and alliances (Cooper et al., 2013). Furthermore, it has expanded the appurtenances of conflict resolution. Both coercive and peaceful methods are being applied for conflict resolution. For



instance, Chapters 6 and 7 of the UN Charter provide mechanisms that include mediation, negotiation, arbitration, adjudication, economic sanctions, and diplomatic pressure, with military force as the ultimate resort (Cooper 2013).

The contemporary world has numerous features, making the interaction amongst the comity of nations more complex and uncertain. During the Cold War era, we had a bipolar world. However, that bipolarity has been replaced by a multipolar world. The changing dynamics and nature of international politics have given rise to new challenges at the global as well as at the regional and local levels that require reform and restructuring of the entire system of global governance. Despite several instances of co-operation at economic and other levels, there are countries involved in myriad conflicts and wars. The Russia-Ukraine War and the Gaza conflict are recent examples (Banerjee 2020). Besides, non-traditional security threats such as natural calamities and catastrophes, poverty, environment-induced migrations, and violation of human rights are major issues of international concern. There has also been a tremendous increase in the influence of non-state actors in geopolitics. In parallel, there have been rapid changes in the international political economy. The rise of new economic powers, such as India, China, Brazil, etc., has forced a focus on the reform of multilateral institutions such as the WTO, IMF and World Bank in the context of contemporary economic and sustainability challenges. Disagreements between the Global North and the Global South are another dimension of engagement at the global level (Bhagavan 2012).

These developments have resulted in an extremely complex geopolitical situation, which India, like other countries, has had to negotiate while ensuring that its own national interests are met. India's diplomatic strategy has evolved over time in phases. The first phase was characterised by a loud universalism based on morality and idealism (1947-1961). During the second phase (1961-1991), there was a gradual change in approach (Kumar, 2022). A "regime shifting" or "parallel institutionalisation" phase started regarding international relations. The G-77 (1964) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM, 1961) were established (Kumar, 2022). With the end of the Cold War in 1991, India, like many other countries, moved towards multilateral diplomacy to address the geopolitical complexities arising from a multipolar world and the emergence of several blocs and groupings at the international level. Given the complexity of today's geopolitical scenario, it has become indispensable for India to exert its influence to protect its national interests. India's multilateral diplomacy has addressed contemporary global, security, economic, political, and strategic issues. India would like to further its national interest and ensure strategic autonomy and a rule-based international order by effectively engaging with various multilateral institutions and organisations.

Multilateralism as a Core Pillar

Multilateral diplomacy has attained an important place in contemporary Indian foreign policy. Further, India has advocated for reforms in the global institutions to address various issues and challenges of the developing countries (MEA, 2022). India is playing vital role in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), United Nations (UN), Russia – India – China trilateral summit (RIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), European Union, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Kumar 2022).



India’s Participation in Major Multilateral Organizations (2014–2024)

“Organization	Event / Participation	Date / Year	Location / Notes	Source
BRICS	BRICS Summit Participation	2016	Goa, India	Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India
BRICS	BRICS Summit (Chair, Virtual)	2021	New Delhi (Virtual)	MEA, BRICS Official Documents
BRICS	BRICS Summit Participation	2024	Kazan, Russia	MEA; BRICS Joint Declaration
United Nations	UN General Assembly, Peacekeeping & Multilateral Engagement	2014–2024	New York / Geneva	United Nations; MEA Annual Reports
SCO	Accession as Full Member	2017	Astana, Kazakhstan	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SCO	SCO Chairmanship & Heads of State Summit (Virtual)	2023	India	MEA Press Releases
RIC	Russia–India–China Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue	2018	G20 Sidelines	MEA Statements
QUAD	Malabar Naval Exercise (Quad Participation)	2024	Visakhapatnam, India	Indian Navy; MEA
ASEAN	ASEAN–India Summit & Strategic Partnership Engagements	2014–2024	ASEAN Member States	ASEAN Secretariat
BIMSTEC	BIMSTEC Summit & Sectoral Cooperation	2014–2024	Bay of Bengal Region	BIMSTEC Secretariat
European Union	India–EU Summit & Strategic Dialogue	2014–2024	Brussels / New Delhi	EU–India Joint Statements”

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (2025), Websites of BIMSTEC Secretariat, ASEAN Secretariat, EU–India Joint Statements.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and India at the United Nations

As part of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India is actively engaging with the United Nations. India has extensively contributed to the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. India is playing a dynamic role in global peace and security (UN, 2021). It aligns with the philosophical foundations of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Further, India has strongly advocated for the reforms in the Security Council of the United Nations. India always advocated for a rule-based and inclusive international order (Thakur, 2017).

Strategic India’s defence cooperation with major Powers and Multilateral Diplomacy (2014 - 2024):

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has adopted a dynamic and effective multilateral diplomacy, which combines the foundations of multilateral diplomacy with strategic defence cooperation with major global powers. India is maintaining strategic balance with the USA and Russia and protecting India’s strategic autonomy and India’s national interests. India is playing a vital role in



the global security architecture. India has strengthened its strategic defence cooperation with Russia, the United States, Middle Eastern States, European nations, and Australia (Chaudhary, 2022). Simultaneously, India has continued its active engagement with the BRICS, QUAD, G-20, and the United Nations.

Regional and Global Military Diplomacy

India is actively engaging with the Indo – Pacific region by actively participating in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. Military exercises are deterring the regional threats. The Indian Navy’s Milan and Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) is the best example of this. India is strongly advocating for collective maritime security. India has launched the largest joint naval exercise with African countries in 2025. Thus, India is playing a significant role in the Indian Ocean and counterbalancing the adversary actions of China. India is conducting joint exercises with the Middle East, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia (Kumar 2022).

Multilateral Diplomacy and Global Governance

India’s multilateral diplomacy has attained great momentum in the contemporary world. India is actively participating in the various multilateral institutions, i.e., BRICS, SCO, RIC, EU, United Nations, and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. India has played a vital role in the G-20 summit, organized in New Delhi in 2023. India has addressed various contemporary global issues in the G-20 Summit: equitable global governance, policy on global climate and inclusive economic growth (Dubash, 2021). The Raisina Dialogue has emerged as an important multilateral forum for contemporary times for security and geopolitical discourse. It is bringing the academicians, scholars, students, diplomats, and political leaders, and scholars to extensively discuss various issues related to Indian foreign policy and global politics.

India is vehemently condemning the non - western multilateralism. India is playing a pivotal role in the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India has been addressing contemporary global issues at the SCO summit, also. The following tables related to the transfer of arms to India will indicate that India is strengthening its bilateral relations through defence cooperation (Khilnani 2023).

Table1: Transfer of major conventional Arms from France to India

SIPRI trend-indicator values (TIVs) are in millions.

“Recipient	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total order	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
India	France	2016	342	aircraft engine	aircraft engine	30	2022; 2023	New	0.5	171	15
India	France	2019		Mistral	portable SAM	75	2022; 2023	New	0.09	0	6.75
India	France	2017	200	Storm Shadow/SCA LP-EG	air-to-surface missile	200	2020; 2021; 2022	New	0.64	128	128
India	France	2017	350	MICA	long-range air-to-air missile	350	2021; 2022; 2023	New	0.4	140	140



India	France	2012	14	Sherpa	armoured personnel carrier	10	2017	New	0.25	3.5	2.5
India	France	2012	493	MICA	long-range air-to-air missile	493	2014; 2015; 2016; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	New	0.4	197.2	197.2
India	France	2013	20	SA-315B Lama	light helicopter	20	2015; 2016	New	0.75	15	15
India	France	2017	8	SA-316B Alouette-3	light helicopter	8	2019; 2020	New	0.9	7.2	7.2
India	France	2021	24	FLASH	anti-submarine sonar	12	2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	2	48	24
India	France	2009	19	GS-100	air-search radar	9	2014; 2015; 2016	New	7.5	142.5	67.5
India	France	2006	8	ship engine	ship engine	4	2014	New	3	24	12
India	France	2017	36	Rafale	FGA aircraft	36	2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	55	1980	1980
India	France	2005	6	Scorpene	submarine	5	2017; 2019; 2021; 2022	New	299.5 2	1797.1 2	1497.6
India	France	2003	16	ship engine	ship engine	16	2014; 2015; 2017; 2020	New	1.5	24	24
India	France	1979	24730	MILAN	anti-tank missile	4730	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023	New	0.01	247.3	47.3
India	France	2005	36	SM-39 Exocet	anti-ship missile	36	2017; 2018; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	0.75	27	27
India	France	2018	10	SA-315B Lama	light helicopter	4	2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	0.75	7.5	3
India	France	2011	49	Mirage-2000-5	FGA aircraft	41	2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020;	New	31	1519	1271



							2021; 2022; 2023; 2024				
India	France	2020	300	AASM Hammer	air-to-surface missile	300	2020; 2021; 2022; 2023	New	0.2	60	60”

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database. <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>.

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Website:<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>.

Table2: Transfer of Major Conventional Arms from Russia to India

“Recipient	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total order	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
India	Russia	2012	10000	Konkurs	anti-tank missile	8000	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017	New	0.02	200	160
India	Russia	2018	350	48N6	SAM	210	2021; 2022; 2023	New	1.1	385	231
India	Russia	2013	236	T-90S	tank	236	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	4	944	944
India	Russia	2019	300	R-27R/T	long-range air-to-air missile	300	2020; 2021; 2022	New	0.19	57	57
India	Russia	2019	400	R-77	long-range air-to-air missile	400	2020; 2021; 2022	New	0.4	160	160
India	Russia	2021	17500	Konkurs	anti-tank missile	6000	2022; 2023	New	0.02	350	120
India	Russia	2003	6	RBU-6000	anti-submarine rocket launcher	6	2014; 2015; 2016	New	3.5	21	21
India	Russia	2006	300	T-90S	tank	160	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018	New	4	1200	640
India	Russia	2013	8	RBU-6000	anti-submarine rocket launcher	6	2021; 2022; 2023	New	3.5	28	21
India	Russia	2018	2	Talwar	frigate	1	2024	New	304	608	304
India	Russia	2007	20	RD-33	turbofan	16	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	2.2	44	35.2
India	Russia	2018	149	BMP-2	infantry fighting vehicle	149	2020; 2021	New	0.9	134.1	134.1
India	Russia	2012	42	Su-30MK	FGA aircraft	34	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017	New	55	2310	1870



India	Russia	2003	8	RBU-6000	anti-submarine rocket launcher	8	2014; 2015; 2017; 2020	New	3.5	28	28
India	Russia	2016	250	vehicle engine	vehicle engine	250	2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	New	0.03	7.5	7.5
India	Russia	2019	500	9M114 Kokon	anti-tank missile	500	2019	New	0.02	10	10
India	Russia	1998	9	Garpun	sea-search radar	3	2014; 2015; 2016	New	5	45	15
India	Russia	2013	68	Mi-17	transport helicopter	68	2014; 2015; 2016	New	7.25	493	493
India	Russia	2011	100	KAB-500/1500	guided bomb	50	2014	New	0.02	2	1
India	Russia	2003	12	AK-630 30mm	naval gun	12	2014; 2015; 2016	New	1	12	12
India	Russia	2006	16	AK-630 30mm	naval gun	4	2014	New	1	16	4
India	Russia	1988	25000	Konkurs	anti-tank missile	6200	2014; 2015; 2016	New	0.02	500	124
India	Russia	2018	43	vehicle engine	vehicle engine	5	2023	New	0.03	1.29	0.15
India	Russia	2020	216	Igla-S	portable SAM	216	2021	New	0.08	17.28	17.28
India	Russia	2022	400	Igla-S	portable SAM	100	2024	New	0.08	32	8
India	Russia	1998	400	PJ-10 BrahMos	anti-ship/land-attack missile	270	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	1.4	560	378
India	Russia	2019	300	R-73	short-range air-to-air missile	300	2020; 2021; 2022	New	0.15	45	45
India	Russia	2001	140	Su-30MK	FGA aircraft	54	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	New	55	7700	2970
India	Russia	2008	63	MiG-29SMT	FGA aircraft	57	2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	35	2205	1995
India	Russia	2018	10	S-400 Triumf	SAM system	6	2021; 2022; 2023	New	65	650	390
India	Russia	2012	100	PJ-10 BrahMos -A	anti-ship/land-attack missile	20	2022; 2023; 2024	New	1.4	140	28
India	Russia	1998	400	PJ-10 BrahMos	anti-ship/land-attack missile	220	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	1.4	560	308
India	Russia	2010	29	MiG-29SMT	FGA aircraft	18	2014; 2015; 2016	New	35	1015	630
India	Russia	2003	8	AK-630 30mm	naval gun	8	2014; 2015; 2017; 2020	New	1	8	8
India	Russia	2024	240	AL-31	turbofan	2	2024	New	3.25	780	6.5



India	Russia	2001	125	AL-31	turbofan	80	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	3.25	406.25	260
India	Russia	2013	25000	9M119	anti-tank missile	15000	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	0.02	500	300
India	Russia	2019	4331	Konkurs	anti-tank missile	4331	2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	0.02	86.62	86.62
India	Russia	2019	464	T-90S	tank	10	2024	New	4	1856	40
India	Russia	2020	156	BMP-2	infantry fighting vehicle	156	2022; 2023	New	0.9	140.4	140.4
India	Russia	1996	3000	R-73	short-range air-to-air missile	300	2014; 2015	New	0.15	450	45
India	Russia	2010	4	AK-630 30mm	naval gun	4	2022	New	1	4	4
India	Russia	2013	16	AK-630 30mm	naval gun	12	2021; 2022; 2023	New	1	16	12”

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Website: <https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>.
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database. <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>.

Table 3: Transfer of Major Convention alarms From the USA To India SIPRI Trend-Indicator Values (Tivs) Are In Millions.

“Recipient	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	Comments	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
India	United States	2004	4	LM-2500	gas turbine	4	2022	New	For 1 Vikrant (IAC or Project-71) aircraft carrier produced in India; assembled in India	7	28	28
India	United States	2019	600	WGU-59 APKWS	air-to-surface missile	25	2022	New	For MH-60R ASW helicopters	0.01	6	0.25
India	United States	2020	2	MQ-9 Reaper	UAV	2	2020	New	Lease	6.5	13	13
India	United States	2020	250	AGM-114 Hellfire-2	anti-tank/air-to-surface missile	100	2022; 2023	New	AGM-114R version; for MH-60R ASW helicopters	0.05	12.5	5



India	United States	2020	6	AH-64E Apache	combat helicopter	3	2024	New	\$800 m deal; incl production of components in India	15	90	45	
India	United States	2011	10	C-17A Globemaster-3	heavy transport aircraft	5	2014	New	\$4.1 b deal (offsets \$1.1 b)	140	1400	700	
India	United States	2009	8	P-8A Poseidon	anti-submarine aircraft	5	2014; 2015	New	\$2 b deal (offsets 30% incl production of components in India); P-8I version	125	1000	625	
India	United States	2012	21	Harpoon Block-2	anti-ship/land-attack missile	21	2014	New	\$200 m deal; AGM-84L version for P-8I ASW aircraft	1	21	21	
India	United States	2016	23	F404	turbofan	18	2021; 2022; 2023	New	F404-IN20 version for 20 Tejas-1 (LCA) combat aircraft produced in India (incl spare engines)	2.2	50.6	39.6	
India	United States	2015	15	CH-47F Chinook	transport helicopter	15	2019; 2020	New	\$1 b deal (part of \$2.4 b deal); CH-47F(I) version	20	300	300	
India	United States	2013	6	C-130J Hercules	transport aircraft	6	2017	New	Probably \$1.1 b deal (30% offsets including production in India of components for all future C-130J); C-130J-30 version; for special forces	40	240	240	
India	United States	2011	32	Mk-54 LWT	anti-submarine torpedo	24	2014; 2015; 2016	New	\$86 m deal; for P-8I anti-submarine aircraft	0.5	16	12	
India	United States	2007	24	F404	turbofan	24	2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020	New	\$100 m deal; F404-IN20 version for 20 Tejas-1 (LCA) combat aircraft produced in India (incl 4 spare	2.2	52.8	52.8	



									engines)				
India	United States	2013	245	Stinger	portable SAM	245	2019; 2020	New	FIM-92 Block-1 version; for AH-64 combat helicopters	0.08	19.6	19.6	
India	United States	2017	1	C-17A Globemaster-3	heavy transport aircraft	1	2019	New	\$262 m deal	140	140	140	
India	United States	2008	6	AE-3007	turbofan	6	2017; 2019	New	For 3 ERJ-145 transport aircraft from Brazil modified in India to AEW&C aircraft	1.3	7.8	7.8	
India	United States	2010	512	CBU-97 SFW	guided bomb	452	2014; 2015; 2016; 2017	New	\$258-311 m deal; CBU-105 version	0.15	76.8	67.8	
India	United States	2015	542	AGM-114 Hellfire-2	anti-tank/air-to-surface missile	542	2019; 2020	New	AGM-114R3 version; for AH-64 combat helicopters	0.05	27.1	27.1	
India	United States	2016	12	APG-78 Longbow	combat helicopter radar	12	2019; 2020	New	For AH-64E combat helicopters	3	36	36	
India	United States	2015	6	aircraft engine	aircraft engine	6	2019; 2020	New	General Electric T-700-701D (2215hp) turboshaft; spares for AH-64 combat helicopters	0.75	4.5	4.5	
India	United States	2020	24	MH-60R Seahawk	anti-submarine helicopter	12	2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	\$2.6 b 'N-MRH' programme; delivery planned 2021-2025	16.5	396	198	
India	United States	2016	4	P-8A Poseidon	anti-submarine aircraft	4	2020; 2021; 2022	New	\$1-1.1 b deal (incl production of components in India)	125	500	500	
India	United States	2021	100	M-982 Excalibur	guided shell	100	2023	New	\$9.2 m deal	0.04	4	4	
India	United States	2019	1200	M-982 Excalibur	guided shell	1200	2019; 2020	New	For use with M-777 155mm guns	0.04	48	48	
India	United States	2015	22	AH-64E Apache	combat helicopter	22	2019; 2020	New	\$1.2-1.4 b deal (incl production of components in	15	330	330	



									India; part of \$2.4 b deal)				
India	United States	2020	10	Harpoon Block-2	anti-ship/land-attack missile	10	2022	New	AGM-84L version for P-8I ASW aircraft	1	10	10	
India	United States	2015	812	AGM-114L Hellfire Longbow	anti-tank missile	812	2019; 2020	New	AGM-114L3 version; for AH-64 combat helicopters	0.07	56.84	56.84	
India	United States	2018	1	C-130J Hercules	transport aircraft	1	2019	New	C-130J-30 version	40	40	40	
India	United States	2016	12	Harpoon Block-2	anti-ship/land-attack missile	12	2018	New	Part of \$82 m deal; UGM-84L version for Type-209 submarines	1	12	12	
India	United States	2019	30	Mk-54 LWT	anti-submarine torpedo	30	2023; 2024	New	For MH-60R anti-submarine helicopters	0.5	15	15”	

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Website:

<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database.

<https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>

India–United States Defence Cooperation

India and the United States have signed the following significant defence pacts: “Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)”(Indian Embassy, Washington DC 2025).

Table 4: Transfers of Major Conventional Arms from the United Kingdom to India. Deals with Deliveries Made For the Year Range '2014' To '2024.'

“Recipient	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	Comments	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total order	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
India	United Kingdom	2010	57	Hawk-100	trainer/combat aircraft	43	2014; 2015; 2016	New	GBP700-735 m (\$1.1 b) deal; Hawk-132 version	10	570	430



India	United Kingdom	2017	200	Meteor	long-range air-to-air missile	200	2020; 2021; 2022	New	Part of EUR710 m deal; for Rafale combat aircraft; sold via France	0.8	160	160
India	United Kingdom	2016	145	UFH/M-777 155mm	towed gun	145	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022	New	\$736 m deal; ordered via USA from US production line; incl 120 assembled/produced under licence in India	1	145	145
India	United Kingdom	2014	384	ASRAAM	long-range air-to-air missile	384	2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	ASRAAM Block-4 version; Indian designation NGCCM	0.18	69.12	69.12"

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Website:<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database, <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>

Table 5: Transfers of major conventional arms from Israel to India. Deals with deliveries made for the year range '2014' to '2024.'

Recipient	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total order	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
India	Israel	2022	10	Heron-2	UAV	4	2022; 2023	New	3.25	32.5	13
India	Israel	2018	131	Barak-1	SAM	131	2020; 2021; 2022	New	0.25	32.75	32.75
India	Israel	2013	4	EL/M-2248 MF-STAR	multi-function radar	3	2021; 2022; 2023	New	30	120	90
India	Israel	2020	250	Spike-MR/LR	anti-tank missile	250	2022; 2023	New	0.03	7.5	7.5



India	Israel	2009	4	Barak-MX	naval SAM system	4	2014; 2015; 2016; 2022	New	15	60	60
India	Israel	2018		Hermes-900	UAV	15	2023; 2024	New	3	0	45
India	Israel	2006	3	EL/M-2248 MF-STAR	multi-function radar	3	2014; 2015; 2016	New	30	90	90
India	Israel	2019	4	Barak-MX	naval SAM system	3	2021; 2022; 2023	New	15	60	45
India	Israel	2008	675	Python-5	long-range air-to-air missile	675	2016; 2017; 2018	New	0.25	168.75	168.75
India	Israel	2015	1	EL/M-2248 MF-STAR	multi-function radar	1	2022	New	30	30	30
India	Israel	2007	40	EL/M-2032	combat aircraft radar	40	2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	2	80	80
India	Israel	2009	50	Harop	loitering munition	25	2014	New	0.6	30	15
India	Israel	2011	2	MARS2	reconnaissance/signals intelligence system	2	2015	New	15	30	30
India	Israel	2009		Barak-LRAD	SAM	1225	2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024	New	0.9	0	1102.5
India	Israel	2019	100	SPICE	guided bomb	100	2019	New	0.4	40	40
India	Israel	2008	18	SPYDER- MR	SAM system	18	2016; 2017; 2018	New	45	810	810
India	Israel	2016	10	EL/M-20600	ground surveillance radar	10	2018; 2019	New	2	20	20
India	Israel	2009	23	M-2084	air-search radar	10	2014; 2015	New	12.5	287.5	125
India	Israel	2012	500	NG-LGB	guided bomb	500	2014; 2015	New	0.02	10	10
India	Israel	2009	6	EL/M-2221 STGR	fire-control radar	6	2014; 2015; 2016	New	4.75	28.5	28.5
India	Israel	2008	675	Derby	long-range air-to-air missile	675	2016; 2017; 2018	New	0.4	270	270



India	Israel	2010	4	EL/M-2221 STGR	fire-control radar	4	2014; 2015; 2017; 2020	New	4.75	19	19
India	Israel	2009	29	Barak-MX	SAM system	8	2021; 2023; 2024	New	47	1363	376
India	Israel	2020	100	SPICE	guided bomb	100	2022; 2023	New	0.4	40	40
India	Israel	2014	8	EL/M-2221 STGR	fire-control radar	6	2021; 2022; 2023	New	4.75	38	28.5
India	Israel	2019	260	Spike-MR/LR	anti-tank missile	260	2019; 2020	New	0.03	7.8	7.8
India	Israel	2010	30	Popeye	air-to-surface missile	15	2014	New	0.9	27	13.5”

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database, <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>
<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>

Table 6: Volume of Imports of Major Arms by the Top 10 Largest Recipients 2014-2024. Figures Are In Millions Of Sipri Trend-Indicator Values (Tivs).

“Rank 2014-2024	Recipient	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014-2024	Share of global arms imports
1	Saudi Arabia	2711	3384	2974	3968	3004	3070	2530	1690	3058	1296	1111	28795	9.20%
2	India	3201	2724	2558	2659	2011	3147	2646	3943	2629	1491	1168	28176	9.00%
3	Qatar	55	490	596	291	637	2292	1175	2082	3373	2000	1152	14143	4.50%
4	Egypt	430	1443	1653	2472	1629	1081	1401	1290	743	1151	72	13365	4.30%
5	Australia	849	1448	1015	1664	1555	1157	1632	1215	815	379	983	12712	4.10%
6	Ukraine	1	22	5	4	67	31	18	44	2930	4291	5230	12643	4.00%
7	Pakistan	856	759	853	872	894	656	620	978	1540	2393	982	11404	3.60%
8	China	1033	1196	1209	1537	2008	1323	775	686	646	431	72	10917	3.50%
9	South Korea	742	268	1038	962	1030	1605	1273	812	423	218	1009	9377	3.00%
10	UAE	734	1182	941	820	1055	703	651	538	714	948	932	9218	2.90%
	Others	16382	15160	17953	15892	13151	11685	11475	12983	17001	15084	16227	162992	52%
	Total	26995	28075	30794	31140	27040	26750	24194	26263	33871	29683	28938	313742	100%”

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Website:<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>



Table7: Volume of exports of major arms by the top 10 largest suppliers 2014-2024; Figures are in millions of SIPRI trend-indicator values (TIVs).

"Rank 2014-2024"	Supplier	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014-2024	Share of global arms imports
1	United States	9505	9743	9426	11409	9255	10534	10024	10960	15351	11102	13512	120821	39%
2	Russia	5341	5751	6676	6356	6871	5100	3523	2402	2510	1329	1339	47198	15%
3	France	1758	2252	2185	2319	1897	3738	2384	3836	3123	2150	2272	27913	8.90%
4	China	1323	1819	2449	1624	1365	1604	635	1358	2280	2982	1131	18570	5.90%
5	Germany	1822	1815	2509	1841	1085	950	1163	813	1489	2472	2049	18007	5.70%
6	United Kingdom	1658	1183	1344	1105	682	886	662	679	1711	1320	756	11986	3.80%
7	Italy	688	671	620	704	534	372	809	1650	1711	1364	1379	10501	3.30%
8	Israel	404	570	1236	1193	1147	392	380	711	1050	1281	1026	9390	3.00%
9	Spain	962	982	481	820	705	318	1010	676	1018	921	639	8530	2.70%
10	South Korea	218	92	435	700	1047	680	772	510	220	631	964	6267	2.00%
	Others	3316	3198	3433	3069	2452	2177	2834	2668	3409	4131	3870	34557	11%
	Total	26995	28075	30794	31140	27040	26750	24194	26263	33871	29683	28938	313742	100%"

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database [Data set].

<https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>

<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/TransferRegister>

Table 8: Transfers of Major Conventional Arms from India to All Countries. Deals with Deliveries Made For the Year Range '2014' To '2024.'Sipri Trend-Indicator Values (Tivs) Are in Millions.

"Recipient"	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	Comments	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total order	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
Afghanistan	India	2015	4	Mi-24D/Mi-25	combat helicopter	4	2015; 2016	Second hand	Second-hand; aid; Mi-25 version	3.3	13.2	13.2
Afghanistan	India	2012	3	SA-315B Lama	light helicopter	3	2015	New	Cheetal version	0.75	2.25	2.25
Armenia	India	2023	15	Akash	SAM system	1	2024	New		16	240	16
Armenia	India	2023	24	Pinaka 214mm	multiple rocket launcher	6	2023	New	Pinaka Mk-2 version	0.6	14.4	3.6
Armenia	India	2023	400	Akash-1	SAM	25	2024	New	For Akash SAM systems	0.2	80	5
Armenia	India	2020	4	Swathi	artillery locating radar	4	2021	New	\$40 m deal	8	32	32
Bangladesh	India	2020	18	OFB 120mm E1	mortar	18	2020	Second hand	Probably second-hand	0.12	2.16	2.16
Guyana	India	2023	2	Do-228	light transport aircraft	2	2024	New		2.2	4.4	4.4
Maldives	India	2020	1	Do-228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2020	Second hand	Second-hand; aid	2.8	2.8	2.8
Maldives	India	2018	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2019	Second hand	Second-hand; probably aid	1.8	1.8	1.8



Maldives	India	2021	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2021	Second hand	Second-hand; probably aid	1.8	1.8	1.8
Mauritius	India	2021	1	Do-228	light transport aircraft	1	2022	New	For coast guard; Do-228-201 version	2.2	2.2	2.2
Mauritius	India	2014	2	Naidu	patrol boat	2	2016; 2017	New	USD21 m deal; for coast guard	18.85	37.7	37.7
Mauritius	India	2021	1	Do-228	light transport aircraft	1	2021	Second hand	Second-hand; lease as aid; for coast guard; Do-228-201 version	0.88	0.88	0.88
Mauritius	India	2021	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2022	Second hand	Probably second-hand; Dhruv Mk-3 version; loan; for coast guard	1.8	1.8	1.8
Mauritius	India	2014	1	Do-228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2016	New		7	7	7
Mauritius	India	2011	1	Barracuda	patrol ship	1	2014	New	\$60 m deal; for coast guard	27.5	27.5	27.5
Mozambique	India	2019	2	L&T Fast Interceptor	patrol boat	2	2019	New	Aid	7.5	15	15
Myanmar	India	2022	1	Revathi	air-search radar	1	2023	New	For modernization of 1 Kyan Sit Thar frigate	7.5	7.5	7.5
Myanmar	India	2019	1	Project-877E	submarine	1	2020	Second hand but modernized	Second-hand but modernized before delivery; Myanmar redesignation MinyeThaikhathu	145.2	145.2	145.2
Myanmar	India	2013	3	LW-04	air-search radar	3	2015; 2016	New	RAWL-02 Mk-2 version; for 2 Kyan Sittha frigates and 1 Tabinshwehti corvette produced in Myanmar	6	18	18
Myanmar	India	2011	1	LW-04	air-search radar	1	2016	New	RAWL-02 version; for Tabinshweti corvette produced in Myanmar	6	6	6
Myanmar	India	2017	20	Shyena	anti-submarine torpedo	20	2019; 2020	New	Part of \$38 m deal	0.3	6	6
Myanmar	India	2013	3	HMS-X	anti-submarine sonar	3	2015	New	For 1 Aung Zeya frigate from China and 2 Kyan Sit Thar frigates produced in Myanmar	5	15	15
Namibia	India	2009	2	SA-316B Alouette-3	light helicopter	2	2014	New	SA-316B Chetak version	0.9	1.8	1.8
Nepal	India	2014	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2014	New	Aid	4.5	4.5	4.5
Seychelles	India	2015	1	Do-228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2018	New	Aid	7	7	7
Seychelles	India	2015	1	EL/M-2022	maritime patrol aircraft radar	1	2018	New	For 1 Do-228 MP aircraft from India	2.5	2.5	2.5
Seychelles	India	2013	1	SDB Mk-5	patrol boat	1	2014	Second hand	Second-hand; aid	5.84	5.84	5.84
Seychelles	India	2016	1	L&T Fast Interceptor	patrol boat	1	2016	New	Aid; for coast guard	7.5	7.5	7.5
Seychelles	India	2021	1	FPV-300	patrol boat	1	2021	New	Aid; Seychelles designation Zoroaster	19	19	19
Sri Lanka	India	2014	2	Samarth	patrol ship	2	2017; 2018	New	Sri Lankan designation Sayurala	37	74	74
Sri Lanka	India	2019	1	Do-228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2022	Second hand	Second-hand; 2-year loan	2.8	2.8	2.8
Suriname	India	2009	3	SA-316B Alouette-3	light helicopter	3	2015	New	\$15-30 m deal (financed by Indian credit); Chetak version	0.9	2.7	2.7
Viet Nam	India	2023	1	Khukri	corvette	1	2023	Second hand	Second-hand; aid	30	30	30"

Source: Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database [Data set]. <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>.
<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/ImportExport>.



Table 9: Volume of Transfers of Major Arms from India to Global Countries

Exports by	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2014-2024	Percentage	Sum total years	Percentage of total
India	40	42	49	56	47	20	153	54	7	41	25	532	0.20%	532	0.20”%
Total world export	26995	28075	30794	31140	27040	26750	24194	26263	33871	29683	28938	313742	100%	313742	

Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2025). SIPRI arms transfers database [Data set]. <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>.

<https://armstransfers.sipri.org/ArmsTransfer/ImportExport>

Strategic Autonomy and Multi-Alignment

Strategic autonomy is the salient feature of contemporary Indian foreign policy. India is actively engaging with the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Russia, Central Asia, West Asia, and African countries. Multilateral diplomacy and strategic defence cooperation have been acting as the dual pillars of India’s foreign policy in the contemporary multipolar world order.

Conclusion

India has strengthened its strategic defence cooperation with other countries from 2014 to 2024. India and Russia's strategic partnership has been elevated to a privileged strategic partnership. The nature of defence cooperation between India and Russia has been shifted from the buyer – seller relationship to the joint development of weapons and technologies. Defence cooperation is the cornerstone of India – Russia strategic partnership. India has signed strategic defence ties with the United States of America, Indo – Pacific partners, and Russia. India has been actively participating in the various multilateral forums, i.e., BRICS, QUAD, G-20, United Nations. Defence cooperation and strategic autonomy have been playing a significant role in the contemporary multipolar world order. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has represented the objectives of India’s multilateral diplomacy. India is strongly advocating for the inclusive global order. India is representing the voice of the global south. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has immensely contributed to multilateralism. The nature of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has been shifted from the ancient political philosophy to the defining pillars of contemporary Indian foreign policy from 2014 to 2024. G- 20 summit highlighted the concept of One Earth, One Family, One Future.” Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam strongly advocated for collective action and active engagement with the global world. India is addressing various global issues, i.e., economic inequality, climate change, and public health. India is bridging the gap between the global north and the global south. India is playing a vital role in the various global institutions. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has provided a normative foundation for the global partnerships and South- South cooperation. India developed bilateral relations with global countries through Vaccine diplomacy (Vaccine Maitri) and strategic partnerships. Thus, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has India’s multilateral diplomacy. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has helped India to assert at the global level through cultural diplomacy and soft power. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has been playing a vital role in the contemporary world order.

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