



CUTS International *Global Affairs*

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Western Intervention During the Indian Elections

Elections!! A hot topic for all days and seasons even though elections are normally a national and local opinionated piece, the year 2024 is a bit different, because most western eyes are on the Indian election. The fact of the matter is that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's democracies have elections this year but still ignoring their own issues. The West keeps on hosting all sorts of webinars events and sessions focusing on the Indian elections.

Even External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar criticised western media for their "negative" coverage of Indian elections, suggesting countries that "need courts to decide election results" should not be lecturing others on how to conduct polls.

Jaishankar claimed that western media desire a specific "class of people" to govern India and feel "disturbed" when the Indian electorate chooses otherwise. He was responding to allegations from Canada and the U.S. about India's poll interference and foreign operations.

"Why is the western media so negative on India? Because they see an India that doesn't fit their image. They want a certain class, ideology, or lifestyle to dominate, and they are unsettled when Indians disagree," Jaishankar said.

He also accused western media of openly endorsing candidates and political parties, saying, "They don't hide their preferences. They are experienced and clever, having played this domination game for 300 years."

The minister's remarks come in the wake of Russia's bold accusation that the U.S. is meddling in the Indian elections. Condemning the U.S.'s "neocolonial" mentality, Russia charged that the U.S. is deliberately trying to destabilise India's internal political landscape to complicate the upcoming general parliamentary elections, which they deem as blatant interference in India's sovereign affairs. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova robustly dismissed the U.S.'s allegations of Indian agents being involved in the assassination plot of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, branding them as unfounded and provocative.

The scrutiny of India's elections by western media and foreign governments underscores complex geopolitical tensions, with accusations of interference revealing deep-seated biases and strategic interests, highlighting the global significance of India's democratic processes and sovereign decision-making. However, all exit polls show that Modi will be back with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the majority.

Pradeep S. Mehta
Editor

P.S.: *We suppose the U.S. government realises that India's cooperation with Iran is helpful for the region.*

Message for our Readers

This is the seventy-fourth edition of the Monthly Brief from the Centre, which carries select published news or comments on a relevant issue. There are equally important issues which may have been missed out to keep the Monthly Brief short and swiftly readable.

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Readers are encouraged to send their own views and suggestions at: cutsglobal@cuts.org



China overtakes US as India's top trading partner in FY24: GTRI

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative, China has reclaimed its position as India's top trading partner in FY24, with bilateral trade reaching US\$118.4 bn. India's trade with the US slightly declined to US\$118.3 bn.



- [US tariff hike on Chinese goods: Experts fear China may dump EV, batteries.](#) | Business Standard (Paywall)
- [Maldives Gets IMF Debt Warning as More Chinese Loans Loom](#) | China Global South Project
- [India could be the third largest economy by 2026-27, says Arvind Panagariya](#) | Business Standard
- [BlackRock's \\$20 Billion ETF Is Now the World's Largest Bitcoin Fund](#) | Bloomberg
- [Washington ready to discuss preferential trade deal with India: US Ambassador](#) | Livemint

Strategic Issues

Norway, Ireland, Spain say they are recognising a Palestinian state

Norway, Ireland, and Spain recognised a Palestinian state, prompting Israeli condemnation and ambassador recalls. This move, supporting a two-state solution amid Gaza's humanitarian crisis, aims to bolster Palestinian dignity and hope, despite likely diplomatic tensions.



- [DRDO, HAL all set to collaborate on radar integration for Dornier transport aircraft](#) | Tribune India
- [Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin](#) | CGTN
- [India: 2nd Consultations on Security and Defence with the European Union takes place in New Delhi](#) | Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan
- [India seeks to extend influence in Middle East, Africa: Jaishankar](#) | Nikkei Asia
- [India inks 10-year deal to operate Iran's Chabahar port](#) | Al Arabia

Energy and Climate

More than 30% of world's electricity now comes from renewables, report reveals

A report by Ember finds that over 30 percent of global electricity now comes from renewables, with the EU generating 44 percent. Rapid solar and wind growth signals an inevitable decline in fossil fuel power, with emissions expected to drop further.



- [Global temperature record streak continues, as climate change makes heatwaves more extreme](#) | WMO
 - [G7 Ministers Reaffirm Commitment to Address Triple Planetary Crisis](#) | IISD
 - [Google signs Japan solar farm deals to power data centres](#) | Nikkei Asia (Paywall)
 - ['A great sadness': Venezuela is first Andean country to lose all of its glaciers](#) | NBC
 - [Japan and Brazil agree to protect Amazon rainforest together](#) | Al Bawaba
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UN head calls for greater African role in global peace and security

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasised the need for peace to unlock Africa's potential and strengthen its global influence. He called for African-led solutions, structural reforms at the UN, and better global financial support for African development.



- [Global order under stress; choices by India will have increasingly important consequences: Jaishankar](#) | Press Trust of India
 - [G7 will try to use frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine](#) | Rappler
 - [How President Raisi's death will impact Iran's foreign policy amid wars in Gaza and Ukraine](#) | FirstPost
 - [Russia-India ties will expand not with standing Delhi's growing ties with other powers: Experts](#) | The Economic Times (Paywall)
 - [ASEAN needs stronger home-grown institutions to lock in regional unity](#) | East Asia Forum
 - [India big gainer from China plus one strategy! 'Exports to almost double to \\$835 billion'](#) | Times of India
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India, US to expand naval ship repair network

The US and India are negotiating a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) for Kolkata port, aiming to enhance India as a maintenance hub for US Navy ships in the Indo-Pacific, reflecting deepening defence ties between the nations.



- [India and Australia to work closely for collaborative projects](#) | Press Information Bureau
- [The world's economic order is breaking down](#) | The Economist (Paywall)
- [AI is like a 'tsunami' hitting the labour force, IMF chief says](#) | Fox Business
- [Right Word | Wake Up, Dhaka! China's 'Help' Comes at a Steep Price](#) | News18
- [Biden's Tech Diplomacy With Kenya Overlooks Workers' Conditions](#) | Bloomberg



After two decades of negotiations... a historic agreement at the United Nations to combat biopiracy

More than 190 countries reached a landmark treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge, ending 25 years of negotiations. The agreement mandates patent applicants disclose sources of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.



- [Gaza: World court orders Israel to halt military operations in Rafah](#) | UN News
- [China Condemns Blinken Over Taiwan, Sanctions Ex-US Lawmaker](#) | Bloomberg

CUTS Publications

- Briefing Paper on 'Empowering Consumers for Sustainable Development: Exploring the Link Between UNGCP and SDG' (<https://cuts-cart.org/pdf/bp-empowering-consumers-for-sustainable-development-exploring-the-link-between-ungcp-and-sdgs.pdf>)

CUTS Media Campaign

- **G20 in the Context of Consumer Protection**

As part of the advocacy efforts for the Consumer Summit in Brazil for bringing consumer protection as part of the main agenda of G20, continuous messaging was tailored to resonate across various online platforms. Alongside, appropriate image posts were created to complement each message. These posts were then diligently shared across all of our social media handles (Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn) and to ensure maximum visibility and impact, relevant organisations and individuals were tagged in each post.

Articles of the Month

- [Oz one out for students](#) | Amit Dasgupta and Pradeep S Mehta
- [India's Soft Push for Power in South Asia](#) | Mihir Shekhar Bhonsale
- [Strengthening Ties in Turquoise Waters: India's South Pacific Affair](#) | Purushendra Singh and Dhruv Bansal
- [AI Fighter Jets: Skynet or Strategic Supremacy?](#) | Dhruv Bansal
- [Unmanned Surface Vehicles: The Tides of Change in Naval Warfare](#) | Dhruv Bansal