

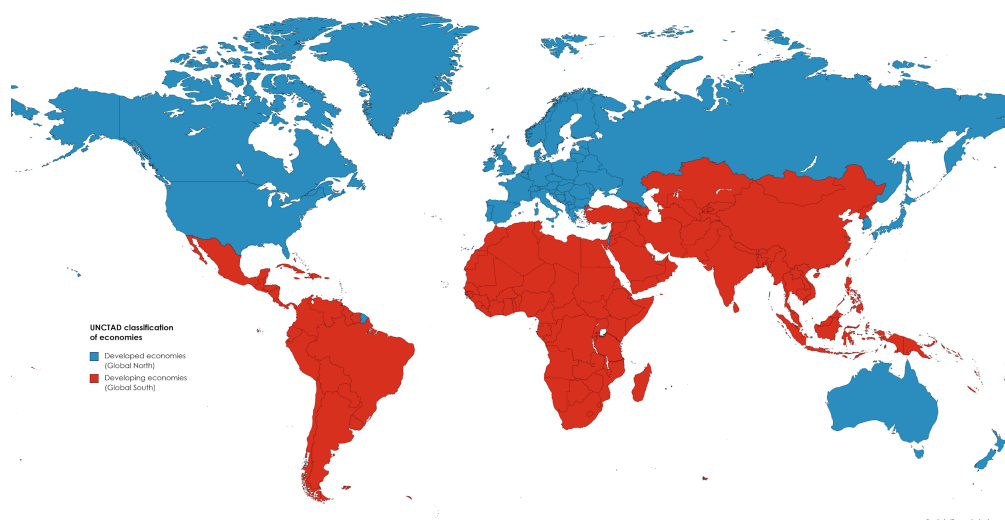
## India as a Global North-South Bridge

### Why in the news?

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi while addressing the 18<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention stated that “today’s India not only firmly asserts its own point but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South”.

### What is Global North-South divide?

- The **Global North-South divide** refers to the economic and political differences between developed nations (Global North) and developing nations (Global South).
- The **Global North** consists of **wealthier, industrialized nations** (e.g., USA, Europe, Japan, Australia), while the **Global South** comprises **developing and least developed countries** (e.g., India, Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia).
- India aspires to bridge this gap by **representing the interests of the Global South** while maintaining strategic partnerships with the Global North.



### What are the Causes for the Divide?

- **Colonial Legacy** - European colonialism extracted resources from the Global South, leaving these nations underdeveloped.
- **Economic Inequality** - The **Global North controls most global wealth, trade, and technology**, while the South lags in industrialization.
- **Institutional Disparities** - **Global financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO)** favor the North, imposing stringent conditions on the South.
- **Climate Change Responsibility** - Developed countries **historically contributed more to carbon emissions**, but developing nations bear the brunt of climate disasters.

### What are the Current Issues that Widen the Divide?

- **Unfair Trade Practices** - Developed countries impose **protectionist measures (tariffs, subsidies, WTO disputes)** against Global South exports.

- **Technology and Digital Divide** - AI, cybersecurity, and digital infrastructure are **dominated by Western corporations**, leaving developing countries behind.
- **Debt Crisis in Developing Nations** - Many Global South nations face **unsustainable debt** due to high-interest loans from global institutions.

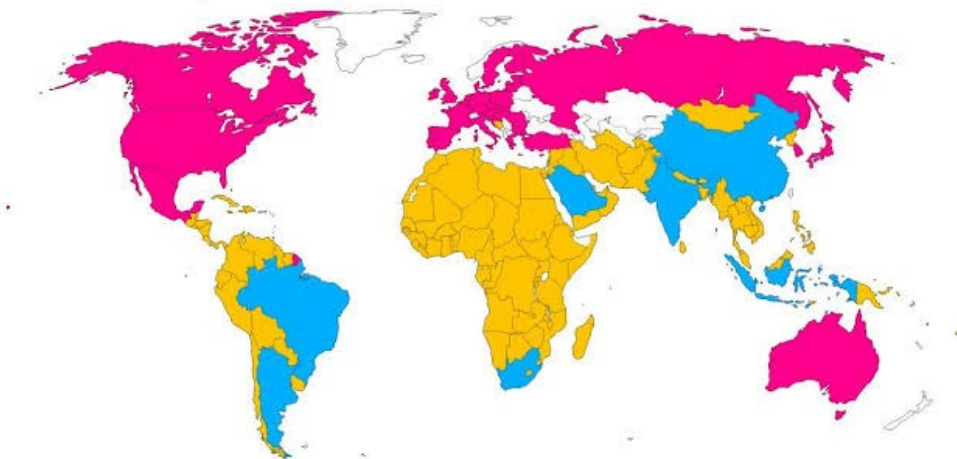
India aims to be the **voice of the Global South** and Focus on **economic challenges, debt, and global influence** while strengthening **diplomatic ties with both blocs**.

## What is India's Role in Bridging the Divide?

### G-20 and the Global South

India is one of seven economies in the Group of 20 and the Global South

■ Global South only ■ G-20 only ■ Both Global South and G-20



Sources: Finance Center for South-South Cooperation; Bloomberg  
 Notes: Mapped data show the 78 economies defined by the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation and UN-led efforts as the Global South, and the G-20, which counts the European Union as a member.

Bloomberg

## Geopolitical Leadership

- **G20 Presidency (2023)** - India prioritized **Global South concerns**, pushing for debt relief, food security, and digital inclusion.
- Hosted the '**Voice of Global South**' Summit, amplifying Southern nations' voices in global governance.
- **BRICS & SCO Engagement** - Promotes **multi-polarity**, advocating for reforms in global governance institutions (UN, IMF, WTO).
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Legacy** - India continues its NAM stance by **engaging both the West and emerging economies strategically**.

## Economic and Trade Partnerships

- **South-South Cooperation** - India strengthens ties with **Africa, Latin America, and ASEAN** through trade, infrastructure projects, and technology sharing.
- Example: **India-Africa Forum Summit** focuses on healthcare, agriculture, and skill development.
- **WTO & Trade Reform Advocacy** - India opposes **Western agricultural subsidies** that distort trade.
- Advocates for **TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines** to ensure equitable access for developing nations.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat & Global Trade** - India's self-reliance **strategy** aims to boost domestic manufacturing while integrating with global markets.

## Climate & Energy Leadership

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** - Launched by India to promote **solar energy cooperation** among developing countries.
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** - Aims to **climate-proof infrastructure** in vulnerable nations.
- **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Initiative** - Advocates **sustainable lifestyles** to counter excessive consumption patterns of the Global North.

## Technology & Development Partnerships

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** - India promotes **UPI, Aadhaar, and CoWIN models** for developing countries to adopt.
- **Vaccine Diplomacy (Vaccine Maitri)** - Supplied **COVID-19 vaccines to over 100 countries**, strengthening South-South cooperation.
- **Space Collaboration with Global South** - ISRO provides **satellite technology and remote sensing data** for African and Asian nations.

## What are the Challenges in India's Role?

- **Economic Limitations** - India itself faces domestic **challenges (poverty, infrastructure gaps, fiscal constraints)** while aiding others.
- **Balancing Strategic Interests** - Managing ties with **China (BRICS partner)** while **countering its influence in Global South**.
- Maintaining good relations with **Western allies (US, EU)** without **alienating developing nations**.
- **Institutional Resistance** - Western-led financial institutions resist **India's push for governance reforms**.

## Way Forward

- **India's Unique Position** - As a developing **economy strategically with global influence**, India can act as a mediator.
- **Strengthening Partnerships** - Expand **South-South cooperation, regional connectivity, and development financing**.
- **Leading Global Governance Reforms** - Continue pushing for **UNSC expansion, WTO reforms, and fair financial systems**.
- **Promoting Climate Justice & Sustainable Growth** - Advocate for **equitable green finance and technology transfer**.
- **Significance** - India's leadership in bridging the Global North-South divide is **crucial for a fair, inclusive, and multipolar world order**.

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## Reference

[The Hindu - India as a Global North-South Bridge](#)



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