

India's External Affairs: 2024

Why in News?

India is headed for Lok Sabha elections in 2024 and outcome of the elections will send strategic signals to the neighbourhood and the world about the direction of India's foreign policies.

What are the India's foreign policy choices for 2024?

Ties	Challenges	Opportunities
US-Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biden's unavailability for the Republic Day celebrations. • Postponement of Quad summit • Allegation of India's role in assassination of Khalistani separatist in both USA and Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both USA and India are invested heavily with each other. • Indian PM has expressed India's "commitment to the rule of law".
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional changes in Jammu and Kashmir. • India's status quo of following doctrine of indifference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election results of both nations could open avenues for restarting their relationship.
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election due in Bangladesh in 2024. • Security imperatives as Bangladesh opposition is viewed with suspicion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving connectivity between its Northeast and Bangladesh.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing deadlock due to border standoff since 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections may change the diplomacy.
West Asia and Global South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaza conflict has tested India's position. • Global South did not take India's initial support for Israel kindly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing with Palestine to call for ceasefire in last UN vote. • India's success in negotiating a joint declaration at the G20 summit.
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War in Ukraine test India's position. • Pressure from the US has kept India from giving Moscow a free hand. • Payment crisis. • 2023 is the 2nd year with no India-Russia annual summit at the level of leaders. • Russia's dependence on Beijing for its economic survival. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports of Russian oil. • Leaders' summit is possible at BRICS meet in 2024.

West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The free trade pacts with the UK and European partners are said to be at a critical stage. • Elections are due in both and this shrinks the policy space and flexibility for negotiators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dialogues with the US and EU on technology and trade, to remove the barriers for India to access high tech in AI, quantum computing, and cybersecurity.
Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Out campaign by Maldives President. • Maldives call for withdrew of Indian Military presence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombo Security Conclave for strengthening India's position in Indian Ocean.
Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afghanistan's announcement of closing the Embassy of Afghanistan in Delhi. • Removal of India's embassy from Kabul after Taliban take over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is engaging with the Taliban, a technical team has been posted at the embassy in Kabul.

To know about India's neighbourhood dilemma's click [here](#)

Reference

[The Indian Express| Strategy and Foreign Affairs of India in 2024](#)

