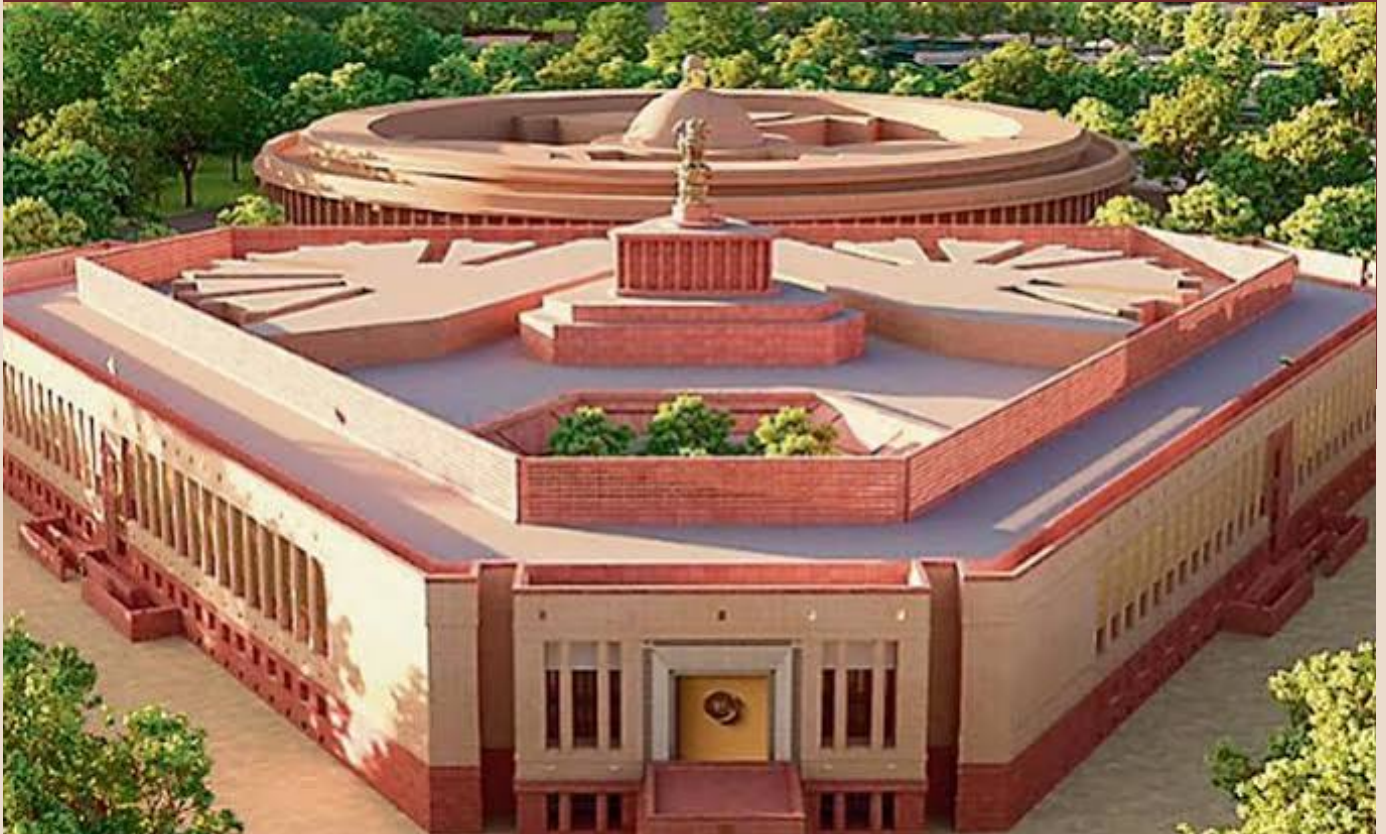


DE JURE

Political Science and Legal Studies Newsletter Sixth Edition



"The day the power of love
overrules the love of power, the
world will know peace."

-Mahatma Gandhi



"In a democracy, the
highest office is the office
of citizen."

-Justice Felix Frankfurter

In This Issue

"Democracy is not merely an institution. It is a state of mind. It is a state of dedication."

-Jawaharlal Nehru



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Editor's Message

This issue of the De Jure offers critical analysis of salient developments in contemporary global and Indian politics. The included articles examine shifting electoral behaviors, institutional responses to recent political and economic disruptions, and the evolving nature of international security alliances. Utilizing diverse methodological approaches, the contributors provide rigorous, data-driven insights into the current state relations and domestic policy challenges. We appreciate the rigorous contributions of our authors, editors and peer reviewers. This volume serves to advance empirical understanding of today's complex political landscape.

Ms. Sapna Bhalla
(PGT Political Science)

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NATO AFTER UKRAINE: STRONGER ALLIANCE OR CRACKING FOUNDATION?

-Aardhya Srivastava XII-H

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, it accidentally did what decades of diplomacy could not; it made NATO feel necessary again. An alliance that had been called “brain dead” by Emmanuel Macron suddenly had a pulse. But four years on, the real question is whether that revival is genuine or just a reaction to panic.

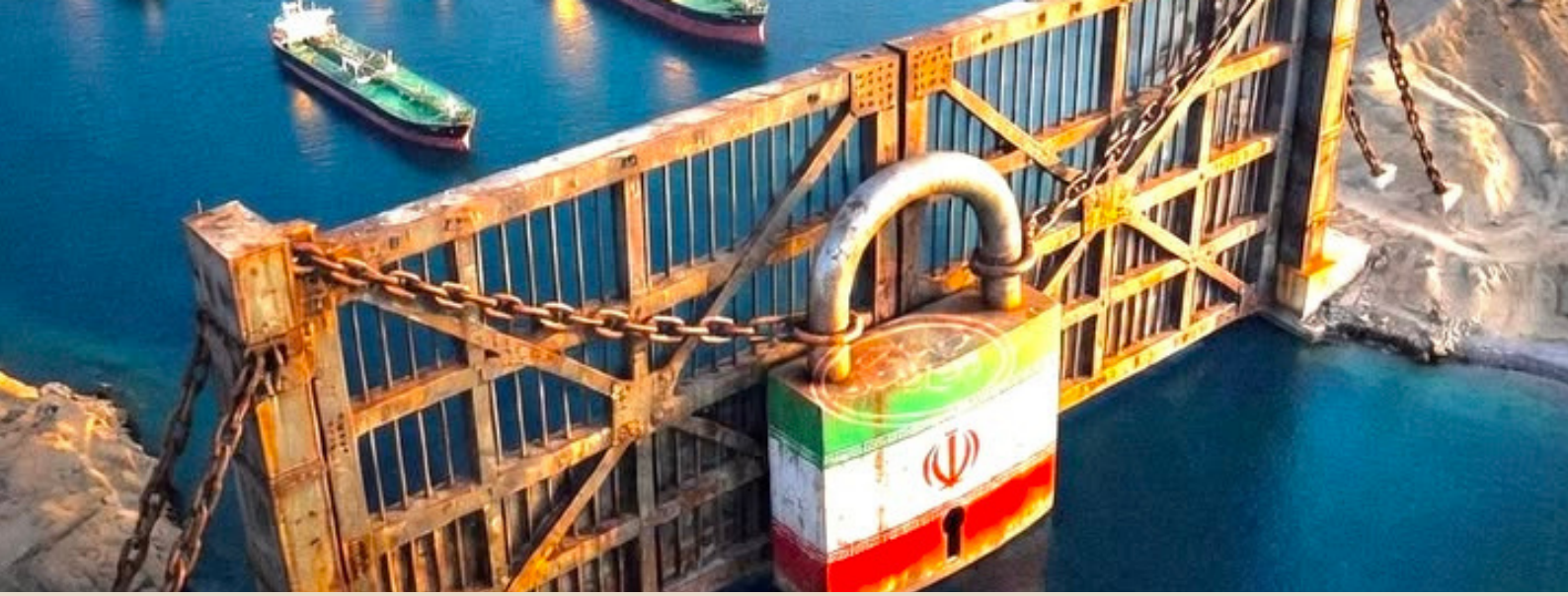
The immediate results were undeniable. Defence spending rose sharply across member states, with more countries than ever meeting NATO's long-ignored 2% GDP target. Finland and Sweden, nations that had guarded their neutrality for decades, joined the alliance, significantly strengthening NATO's northern flank. In trying to push NATO away from its borders, Russia ended up doing the opposite. At the heart of all of this sits a document signed in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty. It doesn't make for exciting reading, but Article 5 of that treaty is arguably the most important sentence in modern military history: an attack on one member is an attack on all. That single clause is what makes NATO membership worth having, and Russia's actions in Ukraine made it feel more real than it had in a generation. Article 10, which governs how new countries can join, also came into sharp focus. Finland and Sweden had to win unanimous approval from every existing member, including a reluctant Turkey, before they could come under NATO's umbrella.

Ukraine proved that NATO still matters. But relevance is not the same as resilience. Whether this renewed energy outlasts the crisis that created it remains the defining question for the alliance, and the answer will play out not in speeches, but in the choices member states make in the quieter years ahead.

They got there eventually, through patient and persistent diplomacy. These are not just procedural footnotes; they are the legal bones that hold the entire alliance together.

But the return of Donald Trump to the White House in 2024 revived questions about how committed the United States actually is to the alliance. His skepticism of NATO is well documented, and European capitals have been forced to seriously ask themselves whether they can afford to keep depending on Washington. This may ultimately push Europe toward building a more independent and self-sufficient defence identity, something it has avoided for decades. Within the alliance itself, disagreements over the pace of aid to Ukraine, the terms of any future settlement, and what membership promises can realistically be made to Kyiv all point to the same truth: NATO's unity is managed, not absolute.

Then there is India, a country that doesn't fit neatly into any of this, yet cannot be left out of the conversation. When the United Nations called votes to condemn Russia's invasion, India abstained. It didn't side with Russia, but it didn't stand with the Western bloc either. It kept buying Russian oil. It maintained its defence ties with Moscow while simultaneously deepening its relationships with the United States and European nations. This wasn't confusion; it was a very deliberate choice, rooted in India's long tradition of strategic autonomy and its Non-Aligned Movement heritage. For NATO, India is both an opportunity and a puzzle. It is a large, powerful democracy that understands the threat of authoritarian aggression, but it will not join a Western-led security alliance, and it never will on those terms. How NATO chooses to engage with a country like India, one that won't align but can't be ignored, may quietly turn out to be one of the more important questions the alliance has to answer in the years ahead.



THE OIL WAR

-Kyna Jha, XI H

The Iran-Israel conflict is now considered one of the most pressing geopolitical crises in the modern Middle East. What began as political and ideological hostility has now evolved into direct military confrontation involving missiles, drones, cyberattacks, and regional alliances. Although the conflict is deep-rooted in security concerns, its impact extends to the global oil market.

Iran and Israel were not always enemies. In fact, they had good relations before 1979. However, after the outbreak of the Iranian revolution, Iran became an Islamic republic under Ayatollah Khomeini. The new government declared Israel as an enemy and began supporting anti-Israel groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. Israel's speculation of Iran's attempt to build nuclear weapons further threatened their peaceful coexistence. There were major cyberattacks and assassinations before 2024 wherein Israel allegedly targeted Iranian nuclear scientists. A major escalation on the issue was witnessed in February 2026 where the U. S and Israel launched major strikes inside Iran after nuclear negotiations collapsed. Iranian military and government sites were targeted. Iran responded quickly. Missile attacks targeted Israel while drones and strikes were launched against U.S. bases across the Gulf.

Iran also retaliated by expanding military controls claims around Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil routes.

Perhaps the most far-reaching consequence of the conflict has been its impact on global energy security. Energy has been a central question because Iran holds one of the world's biggest reserves of oil and natural gas. Iran also wields significant influence over the Strait of Hormuz. Any military escalation involving Iran immediately raises concern over global crude oil supplies.

The United States has been backing Israel, while also trying to ensure that the Strait of Hormuz is open to international shipping.

Meanwhile, Russia has continued strengthening defence and economic ties with Iran, while China—one of the world's largest importers of Middle Eastern oil—has consistently called for restraint and diplomatic negotiations. The differing approaches of these major powers illustrate how energy security has become deeply intertwined with modern geopolitics. Regional diplomacy has also changed as a result of the conflict. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other Gulf states have avoided direct military action, even after being targeted by Iran, but maintain strong security links with the United States. Their main focus has been to avoid any disruption to oil production, regional stability and shipping through the Hormuz Strait.

For India, the Iran-Israel conflict is not a distant war; its effects can be felt through rising fuel prices, economic uncertainty, and challenges in foreign policy. As an effect oil prices rose as oil supply slowed and shipping insurance became expensive. It has affected the Indian economy by having its negative effects on aviation, export and import, oil marketing companies etc. Therefore, the value of Indian rupee fell leading to a fall in the stock market. Investors became cautious and many tried to pull out money from emerging markets.

The Iran-Israel conflict illustrates that modern wars are no longer fought solely over territory or ideology. They are also shaped by energy security concerns and global power politics. As long as the stability of global oil supplies depends heavily on West Asia, conflicts in the region will continue to influence international diplomacy and the world order.



THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF BRICS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

-Advik Sharma XII H

The recent expansion of BRICS is one of the most noteworthy developments in global politics. What started as a relatively straightforward club of major emerging economies, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has evolved into a massive geopolitical heavyweight. With Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates officially joining the fold, the bloc has completely redefined its footprint on the world stage.

Today, BRICS isn't just a political platform; it represents nearly half of the planet's population and more than a third of global GDP (when adjusted for purchasing power). By pulling in some of the world's most critical energy giants and fastest-growing markets, the group now holds serious leverage over global trade and energy security. At its core, BRICS is motivated by a shared desire to rewrite the rules of global governance. Western powers have dominated the United Nations Security Council, the IMF, the World Bank, etc. for decades.

BRICS members argue that this is a stuck in the past arrangement. By teaming up through BRICS, they want to work together to give the Global South a stronger voice. The engine of this vehicle is economic teamwork. Back in 2014, the group created the New Development Bank (NDB) to fund infrastructure and sustainable projects without the heavy strings often attached to Western loans. More recently, there has been a major push to trade in local currencies. This is a strategic move designed to chip away at the global dominance of the U.S. dollar.

For India, BRICS serves as an important platform to promote the interests of developing countries, strengthen trade and accelerate economic cooperation. At the same time, India continues to engage with other forums such as the Quad and the G20. This reflects its approach of building partnerships with a wide range of countries while safeguarding its national interests. However, the expansion of BRICS also presents new challenges. The new, expanded BRICS brings together countries with strikingly different political systems and regional rivalries. Reaching consensus on sensitive issues is bound to become much harder, and internal disagreements could easily slow down decision-making.

The expansion of BRICS does not mean that the existing international order will be replaced overnight. Instead, it reflects the gradual shift towards a more multipolar world, where influence is shared among a larger number of countries. At the same time, the bloc's growing diversity may make it more difficult to reach consensus on key issues. Even so, with its expanding membership, economic strength, and global influence, BRICS is likely to remain an important force in international affairs in the years ahead.



THE QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE

- Annpurna Antal XII H

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly known as QUAD 4, comprising of Australia, India, Japan and the United States, is an informal security group which works with the goal to “support an open, free, and inclusive Indo-Pacific” (a region which is of great geopolitical importance to India). The group has adopted a positive and practical agenda which focuses on contemporary issues and challenges such as health security, climate change, critical and emerging technologies and other subjects lying in the security domain. It is an informal organization and therefore has no formal institutions, structures, or a permanent headquarters. The Quad partners engage regularly through leaders, foreign ministers, Quad Sherpas, senior officials and experts.

The creation of this dialogue can be traced back to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The four countries (which now form the Quad) created the Tsunami Core Group in order to facilitate quick delivery of aid to affected communities.

The success of this short-lived coalition encouraged them to dive further into the possibilities of cooperation. The grouping of quad was initiated by then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with the support of Indian PM Dr. Manmohan Singh, US Vice President Dick Cheney and Australian PM John Howard, in 2007. In May 2007, the first meeting of the group took place on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum in Manila, Philippines.

In the same year Japan and Australia took part in the Malabar Naval Exercise which had traditionally been a bilateral drill between India and the US. However, much to everyone's dismay the group ceased to exist in 2008 – with the start of Kevin Rudd's tenure as Australian Prime Minister. Some scholars suggest the possibility of disrupting relations with China being the main factor that drove away the Australian government from the dialogue.

The Quad was revived in 2017 and continues to function till date. The most recent meeting was on 26 May 2026 (the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting). It was hosted by Indian External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar and attended by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi. The member nations announced new maritime and energy-security initiatives amidst escalating geopolitical tensions in the Strait of Hormuz and the South China Sea. For India, the 2026 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting restated the importance of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Two of the initiatives introduced, the Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network and enhanced cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness, support maritime and supply chain security in ways that serve India's interests.

India's geographic and political positioning makes it the anchor for Indo-Pacific security, as the only Quad member located within the region. India's proximity to critical maritime choke points such as the Strait of Malacca gives it an considerable political advantage. India offers the Quad a formidable partner in countering China's naval presence, with its extensive defense network in the sea.



CHANGING MIGRATION TRENDS: THE FALL IN INDIAN IMMIGRATION TO THE UK

- Ramneek Jaswani XI H

Migration has long shaped the relationship between the United Kingdom and India. For decades, people from India travelled to the UK for all kinds of reasons — tourism, work, education, or simply the hope of a better life. But recently, something has shifted. The numbers are falling, and the reasons are not hard to find: stricter visa policies, higher fees, tightened regulations, and a global economic climate that is pushing people to rethink their options. This article explores why this decline is happening, what it means for both countries, and how it could reshape the future of global mobility.

The numbers tell a striking story. According to the ONS, UK net migration nearly halved to 171,000 in the year ending December 2025, down dramatically from the record 944,000 seen in 2023. Around 51,000 Indians who had originally moved to Britain for studies left the country last year, along with another 21,000 who had arrived for work and 3,000 under other categories. That made Indians the single largest nationality group leaving the UK, ahead of Chinese nationals, Pakistanis, Nigerians, and Ukrainians.

What makes this particularly striking is that Indians still dominate almost every major UK visa category. Indians received the highest number of Sponsored Study Visas, topped Graduate Route visa extensions, and remained Britain's largest overseas workforce category, receiving over one lakh Health and Care Worker visa extensions. In other words, the UK still needs Indian talent — and yet the political mood around immigration has hardened significantly. Many voters believe that high levels of immigration put pressure on public services, housing, and wages. The UK government has introduced stricter checks for visa holders, restricted dependent visas for students, and raised the skilled worker salary threshold. The impact falls on both sides — for India, it means fewer educational and employment opportunities abroad and a drop in remittances that many families rely on.

Global mobility refers to the movement of people across countries for work, education, business, or permanent settlement. The decline in Indian immigration to the UK is reshaping that movement — redirecting students and skilled workers toward other destinations, intensifying international competition for talent, and pushing governments to design more selective immigration systems. It is not reducing global mobility altogether; it is changing where people choose to go and how governments manage that flow. What this tells us is that migration today is shaped not just by opportunity, but by policy, economics, and the often complicated gap between what a country needs and what its voters will accept.

The decline in Indian immigration to the UK is ultimately the story of two countries that genuinely need each other, trying to navigate that need under political pressure. Stricter rules have closed doors that were once open, but the underlying ties in trade, education, culture, and history remain strong. Moving forward, both countries would do well to work together toward immigration policies that are fair, that support legal migration, that benefit their economies, and that honour a partnership too valuable to be reduced to a footnote in a domestic political debate.



THE ROOM THAT IS EVER-CHANGING: THE IMPACT OF MODEL UNITED NATIONS ON AN INDIVIDUAL

-Advik Swamy XI A1

There is a certain kind of nervousness that comes over a delegate right before they stand up to speak at a Model U.N. conference. The room is full of strangers playing diplomats, their notes suddenly feel inadequate, and somewhere in the back of their mind they're wondering whether they actually know what they're talking about. They still get up. That moment when a delegate decides to speak, even though everything inside them is telling them to sit down – that's when the real education starts. It's worth knowing that this exact feeling has been around for over a hundred years.

Model UN actually started as a League of Nations simulation, with the very first one held at Oxford in 1921, long before any of today's delegates were born. Today it engages hundreds of thousands of students across the world. So that nervous pause before speaking isn't a personal failing. People have been feeling it since the very beginning.

MUN doesn't give delegates a script. They get a country, they get a topic, they get a room full of people who will challenge them on everything they say. Delegates soon learn that preparation matters less than flexibility because the debate will go somewhere they didn't expect and they'll have to follow. This builds up an intellectual flexibility that is rarely asked for in the classroom. They stop waiting for the right time to talk, and they start learning to make the time right.

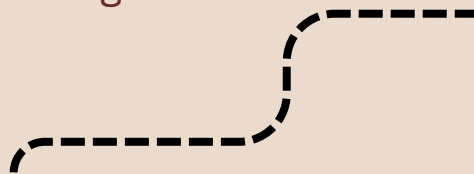
In a committee room, it's a game of reading people to get a resolution negotiated. Delegates have to learn when to push and when to give, when someone's opposition is principled and when it's posturing. They learn to disagree without burning a relationship, to find common ground between positions that seem incompatible, and to persuade without making the other person feel defeated. These are not skills picked up from a textbook. They emerge from dozens of small, high-stakes interactions over the course of a conference.

The confidence MUN builds isn't performative. It doesn't come from being told a delegate did well. It comes from surviving the moment when they didn't know the answer and figured it out anyway, from getting shouted down in a debate and coming back with a stronger argument, from realizing that the intimidating delegate across the room is just as nervous as they are. That kind of confidence is harder to shake because it was earned under pressure. Model UN isn't a competition, it is a symbiotic being that helps a person become better every day, teaching the skills required to prevail in these uncertain times.

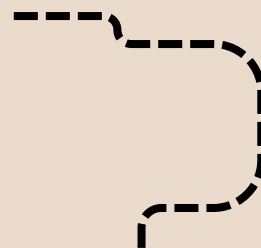


WHERE DIPLOMACY MEETS LEADERSHIP: MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Our star Goenkan, Agata Sangwan of Class IX shone brightly at the Eklavya MUN 2025, hosted at Basava International School. She earned a Special Mention and third prize as the delegate of the United Kingdom.



At the K.R. Mangalam VikasPuri MUN Competition held on July 18 & 19, 2025. Rushil Anand of Class IX truly excelled, securing an impressive 2nd Position. Advik Swamy of Class X, demonstrated his diplomatic prowess, earning the 3rd Position.





Maxmun Award Winners:

Naisha Mehta and Samaira Uniyal of Class IX, took home the top prize, winning Best Delegate for their double delegation. They were each awarded a cash prize of ₹2,000.

Rishav Kumar of Class VIII earned the second position as a High Commendation, along with a ₹1,500 cash prize.

Rushil Anand, was recognized with a Special Mention, securing the second position.

Aanahita Nagpal and Kushagra Srivastava of class VIII were all recognized with a Special Mention, securing the third position.

Congratulations to Arnav Chauhan and Aarush Sonker of Class 9-F for their well-deserved Verbal Mentions at the MUN hosted by Mount Carmel School Anand Niketan.



INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY: AN ASSESSMENT

- Bhoomi Dhama XII H

A country can choose its allies, but it cannot choose its neighbours. This reality has long shaped India's foreign policy. For India, a nation surrounded by diverse neighbours with varying political and economic interests, managing regional relationships has always been a tightrope walk. Recognising that India's rise as a global power begins in its own backyard, the government adopted the Neighbourhood First Policy in 2008. While the concept first emerged that year, it gained real momentum only in 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The policy aims to foster strong and friendly relations with neighbouring countries on a consultative, outcome-oriented, and non-reciprocal basis. It focuses on infrastructure development, economic cooperation, and enhancing trade and people-to-people connectivity across the region. But who exactly are these neighbours we speak of? They include immediate neighbours such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, as well as extended neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region, Southeast Asia, and West Asia.

The true test of the Neighbourhood First Policy lies in how effectively India has been able to translate its intentions into meaningful cooperation. Over the past decade, the policy has produced several notable achievements across areas ranging from connectivity and

regional engagement to economic assistance and crisis management. India has actively participated in and invested through SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) as a vehicle for regional development, entering into Memorandums of Understanding with its member states. These agreements ensure a smoother flow of resources, energy, goods, labour, and information across borders. One such example is the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping, which focuses on energy development, motor vehicle agreements, water management, and inter-grid connectivity. India has also supported several major infrastructure projects in neighbouring countries. Since the policy came into effect, high-level political engagements have been strengthened. People-to-people ties have grown as well through tourism, medical travel, and cultural connections. India has also consistently acted as a first responder in times of crisis and disaster relief.

While these achievements highlight the positive impact of the policy, they do not tell the complete story. Several challenges continue to hinder its long-term success. India's relationship with Afghanistan deteriorated significantly after the Taliban takeover in 2021. Illegal migration from Bangladesh into India has emerged as another point of tension. Political instability in Myanmar and Sri Lanka has further complicated regional relations. The long-standing issues with Pakistan and China's growing influence in the internal and political affairs of neighbouring countries continue to pose serious challenges to Indian interests and sovereignty.

The Neighbourhood First Policy reflects India's understanding that its own growth and stability are deeply connected to the health of its immediate neighbourhood. It has produced meaningful results, but its record remains mixed. While India has strengthened regional engagement, persistent political, security, and strategic challenges continue to limit the policy from reaching its full potential.



ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION: REFORM OR RISK?

-Ushria Kashayap XI H

Elections are the bedrock of democracy. Every month, in some corner of India, campaign season is revived. There are rallies, officials are assigned election duties, and the Model Code of Conduct restricts the announcement of new policies for some time to come. Since elections are conducted so often, people have started pondering the following question: Will India function more effectively if all elections are conducted together?

This proposal, known as One Nation, One Election, implies that elections to the Lok Sabha and all the State Legislative Assemblies are supposed to be held simultaneously after every five years. This is not a new idea. Between 1951 and 1967, elections to the Lok Sabha and several State Assemblies were conducted.

However, some state governments were dissolved before completing their five-year terms, while the Fourth Lok Sabha itself was dissolved in 1970. As a result, elections are now conducted somewhere in the country almost every year.

Opinions on One Nation, One Election are divided. Some support it for its ability to reduce costs and administrative burden. Others argue that democracy should not be judged solely by efficiency, as it also enables citizens to hold their governments accountable. If all elections are conducted at one time, then the government may enjoy some level of stability in the long run. On the other hand, holding all elections simultaneously may reduce democratic accountability.

Frequent elections give voters the opportunity to observe the performance of governments in other states and use those experiences to make informed choices in their own state. Simultaneous polls could also shift voters' focus to national leaders and issues, and reduce attention on state-specific problems. That could mean less attention to regional issues or the performance of state governments.

One Nation, One Election is neither entirely good nor bad. The key issue here is whether the Indian administration can become more efficient without undermining its system, accountability, or the constitutional balance. Any reform should take into consideration the importance of both governance and representation. Regardless of whether One Nation One Election is realised or not, it has definitely sparked a debate about the Indian electoral system. In a country as diverse as India, deliberation is not an impediment to reform but an integral part of the process.



WOMEN IN THE ARMY: A BIG CHANGE TOWARDS EVERYONE DOING EVERYTHING

- Prachi XI H

In ancient times, the positions for the women in the army were restricted. The most common activities for the women in those times were nursing, working in the hospitals, or doing administrative activities. Those activities were extremely important as they were helping the soldiers in their job and keeping the functioning of the army. However, women were not permitted to be on the frontline, participate in any military activities, fly planes, drive tanks, etc. It was the case due to the fact that in the past people used to think that such jobs could be performed by men only.

Gradually, these perceptions changed. People started to understand that talent is independent of gender. Nowadays, women in many countries can perform all kinds of jobs in the army. They may become infantry soldiers, participate in combat next to men, pilot fighter planes and helicopters, drive tanks, control artillery guns, and even become special forces in certain countries. This is a truly revolutionary achievement because it proves that women can perform all types of work just like men provided that they get proper training and equal opportunities. This fact demonstrates that courage, determination, and intellect are not restricted to any gender.

This development did not occur organically but was propelled by legislation and politics. For instance, the Supreme Court of India delivered its decision in the case of Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya in 2020, which established that the Indian Army could give women army officers permanent commission just as male army officers could. The ruling held that withholding permanent service from women violated their right to equality under Article 14.

There are many reasons for the change. The armed forces recognized the need for selection to be on the basis of competence and not gender. In modern warfare, intellectual capability, rapid decision making, teamwork, leadership and poise are valued. All these attributes have been consistently demonstrated by women soldiers. Lastly, societies have demanded equality.

There are many ways in which incorporating women into the armed forces has helped the military. Increased diversity ensures a larger pool from which to select the most qualified individual for the job, and there are new ideas and improved problem-solving skills as a result of diversity.

Difficulties are still present. The possibility of being discriminated against by some exists, along with having the wrong equipment or uniforms made for them. Some personnel cling to stereotypes and refuse to accept the presence of women in combat roles. The military forces are striving to remedy these difficulties little by little.

"Bullets do not know the difference between men and women."

— Major Priya Jhingan, the first woman cadet to join the Indian Army.



HUMANITY STILL AWAITS

-Hansika Narula XI-A2

Article 19, the freedom to speak,

Yet so many voices still sound so weak....

“Express yourself,” “raise your concerns,” they say,

Still so many protests and voices are denied at the end of the day.

Some voices disappear before they are even heard,

What are we even fighting for, if all the lines of communication are blurred?

Article 21, is it made to protect our life?

Or to heal generations of women from their struggle and strife?

Yes, rights exist legally, but not always socially,

It is us who create disparities,

Not everything can be blamed blindly.

It indeed was us who failed this law,

Perhaps the right was never the flaw...

Article 21, is it made to protect our life?
Or to heal generations of women from their struggle and strife?
Yes, rights exist legally, but not always socially,
It is us who create disparities,
Not everything can be blamed blindly.
It indeed was us who failed this law,
Perhaps the right was never the flaw...

Article 21(A), Right to Education,
It's guaranteed to all, but often feels like an illusion.
Books in the hands of some, while others stand and stare,
With a shovel in their hands, wondering if this life is even fair.
With more than 19% illiteracy rate, do they even know their rights?
It's time we question the system, or continue this silent fight.

Article 24, was made to transform factories into classrooms,
It was made to encourage children, to help their future bloom.
Yet we see tiny hands carrying tools instead of books,
From a young thriving soul, their identity is what we took.
Did the Constitution fail society, or did society fail its role?
Perhaps the rights were always present, but humanity lost its soul.



BEYOND THE TABOO: MENSTRUAL HEALTH AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

-Anayasha Singh XI H

“A period should end a sentence – not a girl’s education.”

For many of us, “that time of the month” brings more than just cramps. It also comes with whispers, hidden pads, and the fear of a visible stain. Why should a natural process of life feel like a secret we have to hide? Studies supported by UNICEF India have found that many schoolgirls in India miss school during menstruation because of inadequate toilet facilities, lack of sanitary products, or fear of embarrassment.

For generations, periods were shunted into the shadows of silence and shame. Our grandmothers and mothers grew up in a world where periods were whispered about, where girls were told to hide pads and sometimes even miss school during their periods. This natural biological process became a source of embarrassment and exclusion in many places.

But that story is gradually changing. There's more openness and acceptance around conversations on menstruation. More girls are finding out that there's nothing "impure" or shameful about periods, they're natural. Generations of silence are being broken by awareness campaigns, better education and the voices of students themselves.

This shift has also been reinforced by the Indian judiciary. In *Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Government of India*, the Supreme Court of India recognised menstrual health as part of the Fundamental Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court observed that a person's dignity, equality, health and education are connected to access to safe and dignified menstrual hygiene. Governments have been directed by the Supreme Court to ensure proper menstrual hygiene management in schools. This includes providing access to free sanitary products, clean and functional gender-segregated toilets, water facilities and awareness programmes. The judgement observed that lack of menstrual facilities can be a barrier to girls' education and can cause stigma, humiliation and inequality. The ruling sends a strong message that menstrual health is not just a women's private issue — it is a matter of basic rights. Every girl must be able to go to school confidently, use clean facilities without stress, and speak freely about her health without fear or embarrassment.

Maybe the worst thing about menstruation is that so many girls are raised to believe they have to hide it: hide the pain, the pads, the stains, even themselves. No one should be ashamed of something that is a natural sign of life. Every girl should be able to walk into her classroom without fear, speak freely and live without shame attached to her body. The law has taken an important step, but society must continue the journey. If we replace judgment with understanding and silence with support, future generations of girls will grow up seeing periods not as a burden to hide, but as a completely normal part of life.



THE ALGORITHMIC PIVOT

- Arnavi Singh XI A1

Artificial Intelligence isn't just about tweaking code or generating digital art anymore. It has become a massive force in global politics. Because software doesn't care about physical borders, AI is changing how countries project power and protect their independence. It's a huge double-edged sword. While it opens up incredible new ways to run things smoothly, it also creates a strange new world where tech billionaires hold just as much leverage as elected world leaders.

For generations, international diplomacy was an exclusive club run strictly by governments and groups like the United Nations. But building cutting-edge AI is incredibly expensive, requiring billions of dollars for microchips, data centers, and top-tier talent. This high barrier to entry has quietly shifted power away from traditional capitals and into the hands of a few tech giants.

Today, these companies own the digital infrastructure that keeps our economies running, making them major geopolitical players that presidents and prime ministers now have to negotiate with just to keep their countries secure.

People are deeply divided on what this means for our future. Some are optimistic, seeing AI as an incredible tool for good, something that can track climate change, speed up disaster relief, and help smaller nations understand complex international treaties. Others carry a lot of well-justified worry. Generative AI makes it incredibly easy for bad actors to flood the internet with hyper-targeted misinformation to sway elections, while authoritarian regimes are already using facial recognition to track and silence dissent.

To fight this, we are seeing a messy scramble for regulation, from Europe's strict new AI Act to calls for a global, collaborative research hub, similar to how scientists share resources at CERN, so developing nations aren't left in the dark.

In the end, AI in global governance is going to give us exactly what we put into it. It has the raw power to help us tackle massive problems like poverty and climate change, but if we leave it unchecked, it will only widen the gap between the powerful and the powerless. The real bottleneck of the AI era isn't how fast our computers can think. It's whether we can trust what they show us. The true test for modern diplomacy won't be who builds the smartest algorithm, but whether we can actually work together to keep that tech serving humanity.

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POLITICAL CORRECTNESS: A MYTH OR A REALITY?

- Samudra Ashim Das XII H

As an avid student of Political Science and a keen observer of political theory, I have always questioned whether “being correct” is objective or subjective. This question, when thrown into the political spectrum, can create chaos due to the sheer number of people who hold differing views. I have always believed that nobody is inherently correct, and have always viewed morality within politics as a subjective phenomenon. But something becomes objective when it cannot be disagreed with — because the objective data classifies as fact, proven through statistics, occurrence, and many other factors that cannot be altered by opinion.

The data bears this out. A 2017 Cato Institute survey of 2,300 U.S. adults found that 71% of Americans believe political correctness has silenced important discussions that society needs to have, while 58% say the political climate prevents them from openly sharing their own views.

Within the political arena, we have seen countless examples of opinions being thrown around, but whether something is correct is rarely objective. The Left, in the 21st century, has been seen as harmful by many due to its extremist agenda of political correctness, social justice activism, and an ambition to bring humanity to an ideal state of being — without realising that that “ideal state” is merely their own, an opinion the Right or centrists may not share.

A 2025 NBC News poll of 1,000 registered voters captured this divide sharply: 51% of voters said there is too much political correctness and pressure to limit speech, while 45% said there is too much prejudice and people need to be more respectful. The partisan gap is even starker — 80% of Republicans believe there is too much political correctness, while 77% of Democrats say there is too much prejudice. Independents are nearly evenly split at 46% vs. 43% respectively.

The Right, in the 21st century, has also been seen as harmful due to its own forms of extremism — including fascist radicalism, the rejection of modern medicine (vaccines have been frequently rejected by the Right, particularly in the United States, due to the anti-vaccination agenda), and a resistance to progressiveness. The data on political violence underscores this concern: according to University of Maryland researchers cited by PBS NewsHour, right-wing extremist violence has been responsible for approximately 75–80% of U.S. domestic terrorism deaths since 2001. Separately, a UN report found that between 2015 and 2020, the number of far-right attacks tripled globally.

The objective fact we can gather from these two perspectives is that extremism is the problem, not ideology. Both ideologies are needed in unity to achieve stability in society, rather than solely the Left or the Right. The Right brings faith in religion for the welfare of people, a proven capitalist framework, a sense of patriotism, and the protection of a state's own population by preventing illegal immigration — which some may consider discrimination, but there is no question of discrimination when legal boundaries have not been followed.

The Left brings about progressive policies targeting the socioeconomically weaker sections of society and minorities. Demographics like the LGBTQIA+ community benefit from leftist governance. Women have benefitted from the Left through feminism, and many vulnerable demographics benefit from leftist representation.

To me, the debate will never be of Left against Right, or Right against Left — it will be about whether people of both persuasions will cooperate to create an extremism-free, well-knit society.



JUSTICE, LIBERTY AND EQUALITY

-Ushria Kahsyap XI H

Justice, liberty and equality,
sovereignty in our democracy.

No citizens left unheard,
freedom is our right from birth.
The pillars of democracy shall stand tall,
as they provide justice for all.

Four pillars, one promise,
let the truth be the witness.
Rule of law, not rule of power,
to guard each right in every hour.

Justice, liberty and equality,
who must face the accountability?

When freedom's voice begins to fade,
Habeas corpus comes to aid.
Writs like Certiorari and Mandamus,
who shall be the one to save us.

A petition is the voice, justice is the answer,
stand with the truth, not every chancer.
The Constitution stands our guardian,
remembered by every historian.



A visit was organised to National Law University on August 22, 2025 as a part of continuous, comprehensive and experiential learning. The main aim of this visit was to expose students to university life, academic programs, and campus facilities, helping them make informed decisions about higher education and various opportunities for students pursuing law as a career.

Students were impressed by the modern classrooms and extensive library. The university also showcased its innovation hub and research centres.

The visit was both informative and inspiring. It gave students a glimpse into the dynamic world of legal education and encouraged them to think critically about their future paths. Many expressed newfound motivation to pursue their goals with clarity and confidence.



BEYOND THE COLONIAL GRAVE

- Isha Dey XI C2

The Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA) were retired, giving way to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). This transition marks a fundamental rewiring of definitions, policing, and trial procedures for the digital era.

The transition shifts India's statutory philosophy from colonial penal control to a modern, citizen-centric vision of justice (Nyaya) and security (Suraksha). At the most visible level, this meant a sweeping restructuring of the statute books. The IPC's 511 sections have been condensed into 358 sections under the BNS — a rationalisation that also repositions iconic provisions. Murder, long defined under Section 302 of the IPC, now sits at Section 103 of the BNS. Minor offences attract a new remedy entirely: community service.

The BNSS expands on the old CrPC's 484 sections, stretching to 531 sections, reflecting a more prescriptive and timeline-driven approach to criminal process. Magistrates are now bound by strict judgment deadlines of 30 to 45 days. Zero FIRs — which allow a complaint to be lodged at any police station regardless of jurisdiction — have been codified nationwide. Police custody rules have also been enhanced, with detention periods extended to 40 or 60 days in certain categories of cases.

On the evidentiary side, the BSA replaces the 150-year-old Indian Evidence Act and formally recognises electronic and digital records as primary evidence, on par with paper documents. Beyond these structural changes, the new codes also bring previously scattered offences — organised crime, petty organised crime and snatching, and terrorism — directly into the core penal text under Sections 111, 112, and 113 of the BNS, rather than leaving them scattered across special statutes.

Since the BSA now governs evidence, its rules on digital signatures, electronic filings, and server logs apply universally — in civil trials under the CPC just as much as in criminal trials under the BNSS. Additionally, matters that straddle the civil-criminal divide — cheque bounce cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, fraud disputes, and property conflicts — are increasingly shaped by strategic choices under the BNSS, such as pre-cognizance hearings, which in turn alter how parallel civil litigations are managed.

The real contours of the new codes are being defined not in Parliament but in the courtroom. A series of rulings from the High Courts and the Supreme Court have begun to settle the most contested questions arising from the transition.

In *Dr. Rita Bakshi v. Seema Bajaj & Anr* (Delhi High Court, March 2026), the court analysed the new proviso under Section 223 of the BNSS, which requires a Magistrate to afford the proposed accused an opportunity of being heard before taking cognizance of a private complaint. The High Court confirmed this as a mandatory substantive procedural safeguard — a protection that had no equivalent under the old CrPC regime.



JUVENILE JUSTICE IN INDIA: BALANCING ACCOUNTABILITY WITH A SECOND CHANCE

-Advik Sharma XII H

Can a child who commits a serious crime be treated like an adult? It's not an easy question, and it sits right at the heart of India's juvenile justice system — a legal framework built around the idea that public safety matters, but so does the belief that children are capable of change. Rather than focusing purely on punishment, the law recognises something important: many juveniles end up in the criminal justice system not because they are inherently dangerous, but because of poverty, abuse, neglect, lack of education, or the pressure of bad company. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which came into force in January 2016, is the primary law governing children in conflict with the law, as well as those in need of care and protection. It replaced the earlier Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 and brought in stronger child protection measures, simpler adoption procedures, and clearer roles for institutions like Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs). One of the Act's most debated provisions concerns children between the ages of 16 and 18 who are accused of heinous offences — crimes that carry a minimum punishment of seven years or more. In these cases, the Juvenile Justice Board first conducts a preliminary assessment,

looking at the child's mental and physical capacity, their ability to understand the consequences of what they did, and the circumstances surrounding the offence. Only if the Board is satisfied that the case warrants it can it be transferred to a Children's In these cases, the Juvenile Justice Board first conducts a preliminary assessment, looking at the child's mental and physical capacity, their ability to understand the consequences of what they did, and the circumstances surrounding the offence. Only if the Board is satisfied that the case warrants it can it be transferred to a Children's to understand the consequences of what they did, and the circumstances surrounding the offence. Only if the Board is satisfied that the case warrants it can it be transferred to a Children's Court for trial as an adult. This provision did not appear out of nowhere — it was introduced following the nationwide outrage that followed the 2012 Delhi gang rape case, in which one of the accused was a juvenile, and which forced the country to confront uncomfortable questions about age, accountability, and justice. The Act sorts offences into three categories — petty, serious, and heinous — to ensure that the response matches the nature of the crime rather than treating every case the same way. It also places a strong emphasis on rehabilitation over incarceration. Instead of being sent to ordinary prisons, children are placed in observation homes, special homes, or places of safety, where they have access to education, vocational training, counselling, and psychological support. The underlying goal is simple but important: to help these children grow into responsible citizens, not to push them further into a cycle of crime

Despite its progressive framework, implementation remains a challenge. Many juvenile homes face overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of trained counsellors and social workers.

Juvenile justice is ultimately about recognising that while children must be held accountable for their actions, they should not be denied the opportunity to rebuild their lives. By combining legal responsibility with rehabilitation, India's juvenile justice system reflects a simple but powerful principle: justice is most effective when it protects society while giving young lives the chance to change.

