



India

Chicago Council on Global Affairs/GlobeScan

Globalization and Trade

A majority of Indians believe globalization benefits their country and think international trade is also generally positive. They have mixed attitudes about whether to obey adverse decisions by the World Trade Organization.

- A majority of Indians (54%) say globalization is “mostly good” for their country.
- International trade is seen as good for India’s economy (64%), Indian companies (59%), and for the environment (51%).
- Indians also believe that trade benefits “consumers like you” (61%) and “your own standard of living” (54%).
- 56% think international trade is good for creating jobs in India and about half (49%) say trade is good for Indian workers’ job security (37% say it is bad).
- Majorities in India—despite the resistance of their government—say international trade agreements should require countries to maintain minimum standards for working conditions (56%) and for protection of the environment (60%).
- Indians have mixed attitudes about whether their country should obey adverse World Trade Organization rulings: 37% believe it should comply as a general rule, 29% say it should not, and 21% feel it depends.

Climate Change

Most Indians consider global warming threatening and place a high priority on improving the international environment, but only half favor taking steps to deal with the problem. Only one in five favors steps with significant costs.

- More than three-quarters of Indian respondents (78%) say that global warming could threaten their country’s “vital interests” within the next decade, including 51% who consider it a “critical threat.”
- Half (49%) of the Indian public favors taking steps to address climate change, including 30% who favor low cost, gradual measures and 19% who believe immediate action is needed even if it involves “significant costs.” Only a quarter says that costly action should be avoided “until we are sure it is really a problem” (24%) another quarter declines to answer (26%).

- Indians tend to favor a deal (48% to 29%) that would require developing nations to limit greenhouse gas emissions if developed countries offer foreign assistance.
- 79% think “improving the global environment” should be an important foreign policy goal, including 51% who consider it very important.

Genocide and Darfur

A majority of Indians believe the United Nations has the responsibility to stop severe human rights abuses, but this majority is smaller than in most other countries polled.

- More than three out of five (63%) believe that the UN Security Council should have the right to authorize the use of military force in order to prevent massive human rights violations, such as genocide.
- A slight majority (51%) thinks the Security Council has the “responsibility” to intervene militarily in such cases.
- Asked specifically about Darfur, where militias linked to the Sudanese government are accused of slaughtering civilians, three out of five Indians (59%) say the Security Council has either the right (30%) or the responsibility (29%) to authorize military intervention. Only 20% say it does not.

Future of the United Nations

Indians favor a more powerful United Nations, including a UN Security Council with the authority to use force to address a variety of problems. Less than half of Indian respondents, however, are ready to accept UN decisions that their government does not consider its first choice.

- A very large majority of Indians (84%) believe that “strengthening the United Nations” should be an important foreign policy goal.
- Majorities favor proposals to establish “a standing UN peacekeeping force selected, trained and commanded by the United Nations” (58%), give “the UN the power to regulate the international arms trade” (57%), and give “the UN the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights” (54%)
- A plurality (47% to 37%) favors allowing the UN to impose a small tax on the international sale of arms or oil in order to fund its activities.
- Indians feel the UN Security Council should have the right to authorize the use of force in defense of a country that has been attacked (66%), to prevent genocide (63%) and to stop a country from supporting terrorist groups (60%).
- Indian support for the UN having the right to take military action against nuclear proliferation is more modest: 53% say it should have the right to prevent new countries from acquiring nuclear weapons and 50% believe it should also be able to stop countries from producing nuclear fuel that could be used for weapons.
- A slight majority (51%) supports allowing the UN to authorize the use of force to restore an overthrown democratic government to power.
- A plurality of Indian respondents (44% to 35%) believe that their government should be more willing to make decisions within the United Nations even if this means it will sometimes have to go along with a policy that is not its first choice.
- Indian sentiments toward the UN are moderately warm, registering 63 degrees on average; feelings about the World Health Organization (58°) and the World Court (54°) are a bit cooler.

US Leadership

Indians express more positive views of US world leadership than most other publics. Although a plurality of Indians believes the United States should primarily participate in multilateral efforts, a relatively large minority thinks it should remain the world's preeminent leader. And although a majority thinks the United States plays the role of world policeman too often, a majority also believes it has a responsibility to fight violations of international law.

- 42% of Indians believe the United States should work with other countries to solve international problems. But 34% think it should remain the preeminent world leader, the largest percentage taking this position among the 15 publics polled. Only 10% think the United States should withdraw from most international efforts.
- A modest majority of Indians (53%) believe the United States “has the responsibility to play the role of ‘world policeman,’” yet the same percentage (53%) agrees that the United States is playing the role of world policeman “more than it should be.”
- Although 39% feel the United States should have fewer military bases overseas, approximately the same number think it should either have more (26%) or keep the same number (13%).
- Indian views are similar about the US military presence in East Asia: 38% think it should be decreased, 30% increased and 13% maintained at current levels.
- Indians are divided about whether the US military presence in East Asia decreases (33%) or increases (31%) stability there; 16% volunteer the response that it does neither.
- A narrow majority (52%) says they do not trust the United States to “act responsibly in the world” (39% say they do trust the United States).
- Indians are divided over whether the United States considers their country's interests when making foreign policy decisions: 44% say that it does, while 46% say it does not.
- 58% say India's relations with the United States are improving—more than in any of the other 10 countries polled—while smaller numbers see Indian-US relations as worsening (18%) or staying about the same (17%).
- Indian feelings about the United States are only moderately warm, rating 57 degrees on average, though warmer than attitudes toward Germany (54°), Great Britain (53°) and France (51°).
- A majority of Indians (55%) favor a free trade agreement with the United States.

Rise of China

India is one of only two countries polled (along with the Philippines) where the most common view is that the US economy will remain larger than China's. Most have a positive view of their relations with China as well as with Japan and the United States.

- Only 22% of Indians say that China will catch up with the United States, while 36% believe the US economy will always be larger. But many respondents (42%) decline to answer.
- Indian views are mixed about whether it would be positive or negative for China to catch up with the United States: 31% say it would be mostly negative, 28% mostly positive, and 20% equally positive and negative.
- Indians lean toward the position that China cannot be trusted to act responsibly (49% to 42%). They tend to think Japan can be trusted (46% to 41%).
- Indians are divided about whether China considers their country's interests when making foreign policy:

46% say it does not, 43% say it does. But they lean toward believing that Japan does consider Indian interests: 46% to 40%.

- Indians as a whole view US influence in Asia as outweighing both China's and Japan's. They give the United States a 7.1 on a 10-point scale, Japan a 6.0 and China a 5.9.
- The Indian public considers US influence in the world (7.3) as greater than Japanese (6.2) or Chinese (6.0) influence.
- A plurality views relations with China as improving (50%) while a quarter says they are getting worse (23%) and 18% say they are staying the same. A plurality also thinks relations with Japan are getting better (47%) rather than worse (18%) or staying the same (23%).
- Indians favor free trade agreements with China and Japan, but only by pluralities: 44% want such a pact with China and 48% want one with Japan. In contrast, a majority (55%) wants a free trade agreement with the United States.
- Indian feelings about China and Japan are somewhat tepid (54° for both). Interestingly, their attitudes toward North Korea (53°) are warmer than toward South Korea (48°) on average.