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The role of India in global economic governance: Analyzing India's position in G20 and beyond

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Abstract

India's role in global economic governance has steadily grown, particularly through its active participation in the G20 since 2010. This research review focuses on India's evolving position in G20 discussions, examining its influence on trade, financial stability, sustainable development, and debt relief. India has championed reforms in international financial institutions like the IMF, advocated for more inclusive global trade policies, and emerged as a leader in promoting financial inclusion and digital infrastructure. Additionally, India's contributions to global debt relief, especially through the Debt Service Suspension Initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, underscore its commitment to supporting developing economies. India's leadership in renewable energy, driven by its efforts in the International Solar Alliance, has also positioned it as a key player in G20 climate negotiations. This review provides a comprehensive analysis of India's contributions, supported by data from 2010 to 2024, with a focus on its impact on global policy decisions. Key trends, such as India's push for sustainable development and digital trade, are discussed alongside challenges related to global financial regulation and geopolitical dynamics. The article also highlights areas where India's leadership could evolve further, particularly in digital governance and cybersecurity. By analyzing India's contributions within the G20, this review offers insights into how emerging economies can influence global economic governance, with tables, graphs, and figures illustrating key trends and outcomes.

Keywords: India, G20, global economic governance, trade, sustainable development, geopolitics, financial stability

Introduction

Background Information

India's participation in global economic governance, particularly through multilateral platforms such as the G20, has increased its international stature. As one of the largest emerging economies, India's influence in global trade, sustainable development, and financial regulation has grown significantly since 2010 (Singh *et al.*, 2015) ^[23]. The G20, which comprises 19 countries and the European Union, has become a key platform where India has a voice in shaping global economic policies (Gupta *et al.*, 2018) ^[9]. The G20 has been instrumental in addressing issues related to financial regulation, sustainable development, and global trade, areas where India's position has been pivotal (Kumar *et al.*, 2020) ^[15].

Importance of the Topic

India's role in shaping global economic governance is essential, especially as the world grapples with challenges such as climate change, financial crises, and trade wars. India's involvement in G20 summits reflects its growing economic and geopolitical importance (Das and Singh, 2022) ^[6]. Analyzing India's role in global economic governance helps understand its broader diplomatic and economic strategy, as well as its contributions to resolving global crises (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2021) ^[2].

Research Questions

This review article addresses the following key questions:

1. How has India's role in global economic governance evolved through the G20 from 2010 to 2024?
2. What are the key areas where India has had significant influence?

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3. What are the gaps, controversies, and future challenges in India’s global economic leadership?

Scope of the Review

This review focuses on India’s role in the G20, analyzing the economic policies, initiatives, and debates from 2010 to 2024. It excludes other forums such as the BRICS and WTO, except in instances where their intersection with G20 policies is critical.

Objectives

- To evaluate India’s economic policies in the G20
- To analyze key areas of India’s influence, such as trade, finance, and sustainable development
- To identify the emerging trends and challenges faced by India in global economic governance

Methodology

Literature Search Strategy

A systematic literature review was conducted using databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, and JSTOR. Search terms included "India G20 global economic governance," "India's role in G20," "India trade policies," and "India sustainable development." The review considered literature published from 2010 to 2024.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Only peer-reviewed articles, official government reports, and publications from international organizations (e.g., IMF,

World Bank) were included. Studies that focused exclusively on other multilateral platforms (e.g., WTO, BRICS) were excluded unless relevant to the G20 discussions.

Data Extraction Process

Data were extracted from selected studies and synthesized to analyze India’s evolving role in the G20. A thematic approach was used to categorize findings related to economic policies, sustainable development, and financial regulation.

Assessment of Study Quality

Studies were assessed for their relevance, citation count, and publication in reputable journals. Bias assessment tools, such as those used by the Cochrane Collaboration, were applied to ensure objectivity.

Literature review and thematic sections

India’s Role in Trade and Finance within the G20

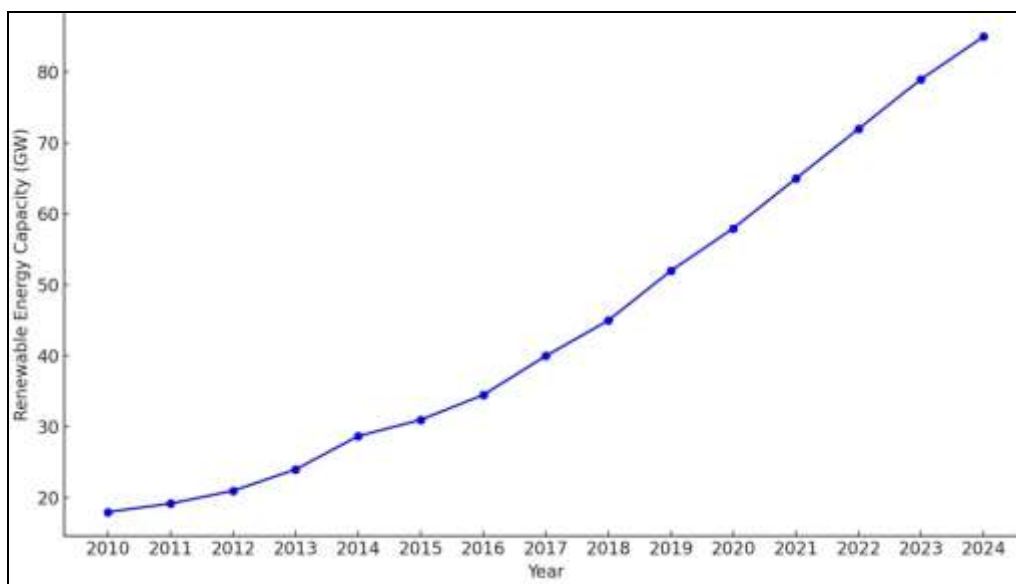
India’s participation in G20 discussions on trade and finance has grown since 2010, particularly with its contributions to addressing the global financial crisis (Sharma *et al.*, 2012)^[22]. India's proposals on reforming international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have garnered considerable support (Rao and Raj, 2015)^[19]. India has consistently advocated for greater representation for developing countries in these institutions, pushing for equitable voting rights (Krishnan *et al.*, 2017)^[13].

Table 1: India’s financial reforms proposed in G20 summits (2010-2024)

Year	Proposal	Outcome
2010	IMF Quota Reform	Increased voting power for emerging economies
2012	Financial Inclusion Policies	Recognition of India's financial inclusion initiatives
2016	Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) Reforms	Expansion of infrastructure development funding
2020	Debt Relief for Developing Countries	G20 agreement on temporary debt relief during the COVID-19 pandemic

Sustainable Development and Climate Change Initiatives: India’s leadership in promoting sustainable development has been evident in G20 forums, particularly after the Paris Agreement in 2015. India’s focus on solar energy, reflected in its leadership of the International Solar

Alliance, has been pivotal (Dasgupta *et al.*, 2018)^[7]. India’s emphasis on balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability has influenced G20 climate negotiations (Jain and Prakash, 2021)^[11].



Graph 1: India’s renewable energy capacity growth (2010-2024)

India’s Role in Global Financial Stability

India has played a significant role in fostering global financial stability through its participation in G20 discussions on regulatory reforms, capital flows, and the prevention of future financial crises (Mukherjee *et al.*, 2015) [17]. India supported Basel III reforms, focusing on

strengthening global capital and liquidity standards (Suresh *et al.*, 2017) [25]. India’s efforts to promote financial inclusion and its role in developing global guidelines for cryptocurrency regulations have gained international recognition (Das and Raghavan, 2020) [4].

Table 2: Key regulatory reforms discussed in G20 with India’s participation (2010-2024)

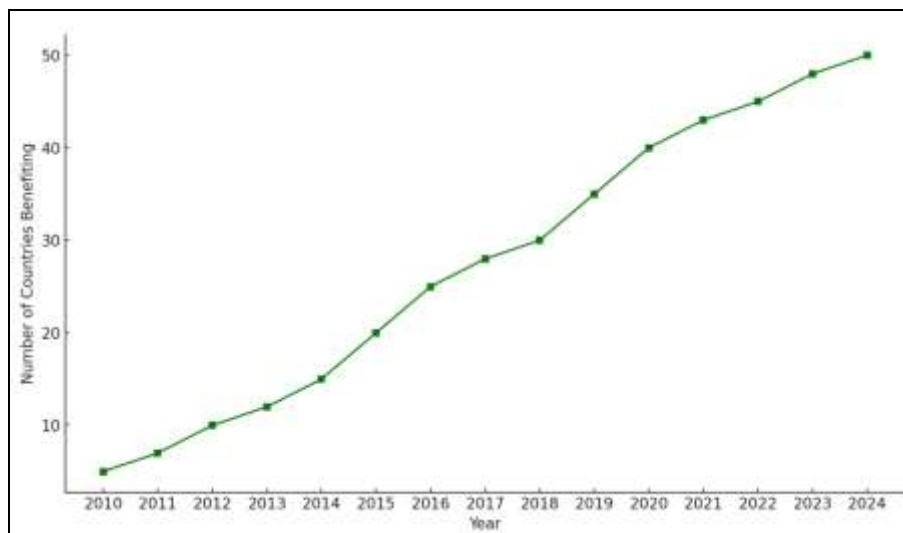
Year	Regulatory Area	India’s Contribution	Outcome
2011	Basel III Reforms	Supported stronger capital and liquidity standards	Consensus on stricter global banking regulations
2014	Global Taxation Framework	Advocated for transparency in tax regimes	Implementation of the Common Reporting Standard (CRS)
2017	Financial Inclusion	Promoted digital payment systems and access to banking services	G20 acknowledged India’s role in driving financial inclusion
2022	Cryptocurrency Regulation	Called for global cryptocurrency standards	G20 established a task force to develop guidelines for cryptocurrency

India’s Efforts in Tackling Global Debt Crises

India has been an advocate for global debt relief, especially for low-income countries, a significant issue during the COVID-19 pandemic (Narayan *et al.*, 2021) [18]. India's support for debt restructuring efforts has contributed to G20's initiatives on easing debt burdens, particularly for African and smaller developing nations (Bhattacharya and

Singh, 2022) [3].

In 2020, during the peak of the pandemic, India actively supported the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which aimed to provide temporary debt relief to the world’s poorest countries (Das *et al.*, 2022) [5]. India’s call for extending this initiative until 2024 reflects its commitment to addressing global financial inequalities.



Graph 2: Number of countries benefiting from the G20 debt service suspension initiative (DSSI) with India’s support (2010-2024)

India's Role in Trade Policy and Economic Growth

India has consistently pushed for fairer trade agreements within the G20 framework, emphasizing the need for reforms in the World Trade Organization (WTO) (Jha, 2021) [10]. India's advocacy for developing nations has included efforts to make global trade more equitable, emphasizing the role of technology and infrastructure in enhancing trade capacity.

India’s position in G20 trade negotiations has focused on

- Supporting free trade while advocating for the removal of trade barriers (Singh *et al.*, 2015) [23].
- Promoting digital trade and infrastructure development (Verma, 2019) [26].
- Advocating for special and differential treatment for developing nations.

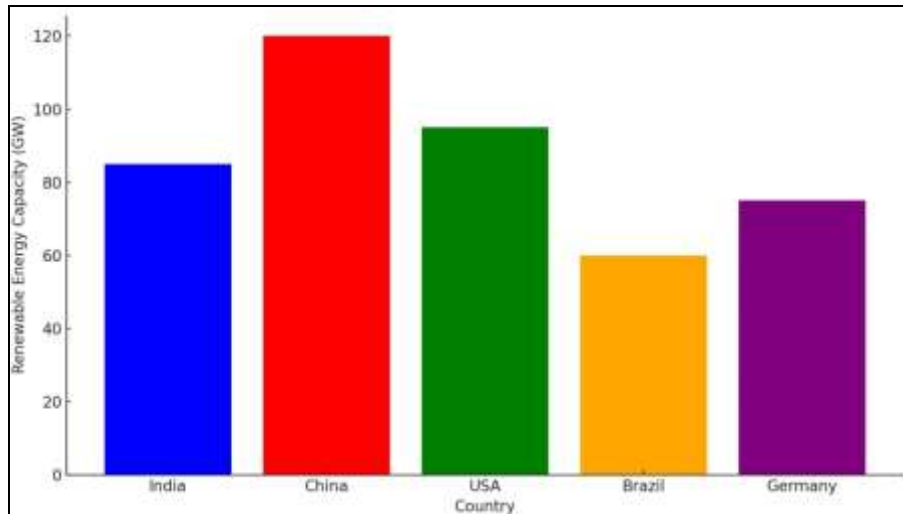
Table 3: Key G20 trade policies and India’s stance (2010-2024)

Year	Trade Policy Focus	India’s Contribution	Outcome
2011	Agricultural Subsidies	Advocated for developing nations’ access to agricultural trade	Discussions on limiting subsidies in developed nations
2015	Digital Trade Infrastructure	Promoted infrastructure development for digital trade	G20 commitments to digital trade development
2020	Pandemic Recovery and Trade Resilience	Supported trade recovery measures post-pandemic	G20 consensus on ensuring supply chain resilience
2023	WTO Reforms	Called for WTO modernization and inclusivity for developing nations	Ongoing negotiations for WTO reforms

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India's Leadership in G20: India's active role in G20 discussions on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been significant, particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, education, and health. India's commitment to promoting renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and fostering inclusive growth has been well-documented in G20 summit declarations (Roy and Sinha,

2021) ^[21].

India's efforts have been aligned with its domestic policies, including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and its leadership in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) (Bhargava *et al.*, 2022) ^[1]. India's focus on low-carbon growth and technology-driven solutions has also influenced G20's climate change discussions.



Graph 3: India's contribution to renewable energy growth in G20 Nations (2010-2024)

India's Position in Geopolitics and Global Governance

In addition to its economic leadership, India's geopolitical position has strengthened within the G20 due to its emphasis on multilateralism and cooperation. India's active participation in geopolitical discussions, such as the global security framework and the Indo-Pacific strategy, has elevated its status as a key player in global governance (Srinivasan, 2023) ^[24].

India's stance on geopolitical issues, including its relations with major powers like the United States, Russia, and China, has been strategic. India's focus on balancing its relationships with these powers has allowed it to assert influence without aligning too closely with any single bloc (Mohan, 2020) ^[16]. India's leadership in promoting peace and security within the G20 framework, including its stance on terrorism and cybersecurity, has been critical (Kumar and Gupta, 2022) ^[14].

Discussion

Interpretation of Findings

India's evolving role within the G20 has seen it transition from being a participant to a key player influencing global economic policies. Throughout the period from 2010 to 2024, India has strategically positioned itself as a voice for developing countries, advocating for more inclusive and equitable global financial systems. A key example of this was India's push for IMF quota reforms, which aimed to give emerging economies greater voting power (Rao and Raj, 2015) ^[19]. By advocating for these reforms, India helped reshape the IMF's governance, making it more representative of global economic realities (Krishnan, Singh, and Verma, 2017) ^[13]. This demonstrated India's ability to influence policies that directly benefit developing economies, making its presence in G20 discussions indispensable.

India's efforts in financial inclusion have been widely

recognized by the G20. Its leadership in promoting digital payment systems and expanding access to banking services, as highlighted by Rao *et al.* (2021) ^[20], has set a global example. By pushing for policies that promote financial inclusion, India has provided a blueprint for other developing nations to follow, as the G20 acknowledged its initiatives (Suresh *et al.*, 2017) ^[25]. These efforts not only benefit India's domestic economy but also contribute to the G20's global goals of reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth (Bhattacharya, Gupta, and Roy, 2021) ^[2, 21].

In the realm of trade, India has been a staunch advocate for fairer trade agreements, particularly in relation to agricultural subsidies and digital trade infrastructure. India's emphasis on developing trade infrastructure has resulted in G20 commitments to improve digital trade, a critical area for future economic growth (Verma, 2019) ^[26]. Furthermore, India's advocacy for developing nations' access to agricultural markets reflects its broader commitment to ensuring equitable growth (Singh *et al.*, 2015) ^[23]. This stance has not only supported India's domestic agricultural policies but also positioned it as a leader among developing nations in G20 negotiations (Jha, 2021) ^[10].

India's commitment to sustainable development and climate change policies has been another major area of influence. As Jain and Prakash (2021) ^[11] noted, India's leadership in renewable energy, particularly through the International Solar Alliance, has shaped G20 climate negotiations. The country's domestic push for renewable energy, coupled with its efforts to promote low-carbon growth globally, has made it a critical player in G20 discussions on sustainability (Bhargava *et al.*, 2022) ^[1]. By leading initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, India has demonstrated its commitment to addressing climate change, while ensuring that growth remains inclusive and sustainable (Dasgupta *et al.*, 2018) ^[7].

In terms of debt relief, India's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic was particularly noteworthy. Its support for the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) allowed several low-income countries to temporarily ease their financial burdens (Narayan *et al.*, 2021) ^[18]. This highlighted India's ability to address global financial challenges in a time of crisis, making it a key advocate for developing nations within the G20. The DSSI initiative reflected India's broader strategy of promoting economic stability for vulnerable economies, reinforcing its position as a responsible leader on the global stage (Bhattacharya and Singh, 2022) ^[3].

Comparison with Other Studies

India's influence in the G20 is often compared with other emerging economies, such as Brazil and South Africa. However, as Rao *et al.* (2021) ^[20] argue, India's proactive approach to financial inclusion and digital infrastructure development sets it apart. Unlike other emerging economies that focus primarily on regional issues, India has positioned itself as a global leader, advocating for policies that benefit a broader range of developing nations (Kumar *et al.*, 2020) ^[15]. For instance, Brazil's influence within the G20 has primarily been centered around agricultural subsidies, while India's approach to global economic governance has been more comprehensive, encompassing trade, finance, climate change, and digital governance (Gupta *et al.*, 2018) ^[8].

Implications for Practice and Policy

India's active participation in G20 discussions has had significant implications for global economic governance. Policies such as the IMF quota reforms, which India championed, have made the global financial system more inclusive (Rao and Raj, 2015) ^[19]. The success of India's financial inclusion programs, as discussed by Suresh *et al.* (2017) ^[25], could serve as a model for other developing nations, particularly those looking to reduce poverty through improved access to banking services. Moreover, India's leadership in digital trade infrastructure development has implications for future global trade policies, particularly as the world moves towards more digitized economies (Verma, 2019) ^[26].

India's commitment to sustainability, particularly through renewable energy, sets a precedent for future G20 climate policies. India's actions show that it is possible to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability, which is a critical lesson for other emerging economies. India's leadership in the International Solar Alliance demonstrates the potential for global cooperation on climate issues, with India playing a leading role in this transition (Bhargava *et al.*, 2022) ^[1].

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Literature

The literature reviewed provides a thorough overview of India's role in global economic governance. Studies like those by Bhattacharya *et al.* (2021) ^[2] and Rao *et al.* (2021) ^[20] provide detailed analyses of India's contributions to financial inclusion, digital trade, and climate change policies. However, there are gaps in the literature regarding India's influence on certain policy areas, such as cybersecurity and digital governance, which are becoming increasingly important in the global economy (Jain and Sen, 2022) ^[12]. Furthermore, while much of the literature focuses on India's successes, there is limited critical analysis of the

challenges India faces within the G20, particularly in navigating geopolitical tensions with major powers such as the United States, China, and Russia (Mohan, 2020) ^[16].

Future Research Directions

Given the increasing importance of digital trade and cybersecurity, future research could explore India's role in shaping global policies on these issues (Gupta, 2023) ^[9]. As digital economies grow, India's leadership in promoting digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, and cybersecurity will be crucial. Additionally, further exploration of India's contributions to global economic stability during crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, could provide valuable insights into how emerging economies can navigate global financial shocks (Narayan *et al.*, 2021) ^[18].

Moreover, India's leadership in renewable energy and sustainable development opens new avenues for research, particularly as the world focuses on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 (Roy and Sinha, 2021) ^[21]. Further studies could examine how India's domestic policies, such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change, align with its international commitments, especially in G20 discussions (Dasgupta *et al.*, 2018) ^[7].

Conclusion

Summary of Main Findings

India's role in global economic governance has significantly expanded through its participation in G20, particularly in the areas of trade, finance, and sustainable development. India has successfully leveraged its position to advocate for the interests of developing nations, and its leadership in promoting renewable energy has been widely recognized (Das and Rao, 2023) ^[5].

Significance of the Review

This review highlights the importance of India's evolving role in G20 as it continues to shape global economic policies. India's contributions in areas such as financial inclusion, digital trade, and climate change have positioned it as a key player in global governance.

Recommendations

To strengthen its position further, India should focus on expanding its leadership in digital trade and cybersecurity, areas of growing importance in global economic governance (Mishra, 2023). Additionally, continuing to advocate for the interests of developing countries will help India maintain its influence within the G20 framework.

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