

BOOK REVIEW

**NEETA INAMDAR, PRIYA VIJAYKUMAR POOJARY, AND
PRAVEEN SHETTY, *CONTOURS OF INDIA-EU ENGAGEMENTS:
MULTIPLICITY OF EXPERIENCES*, MANIPAL: MANIPAL
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India is becoming a major player on the international stage, with a very ambitious political agenda and ambitious plans for changing the course of world affairs. Its significance increased due to its relationships with other key players in the international arena as well as the acknowledgment of its impact on current international relations, not just because it was economically relevant. Thus, as a result, the European Union was one of the first to deepen and widen its collaboration with India since 2000, with the beginning of a series of summits between India and the EU.

The book "Contours of India-EU Engagement: Multiplicity of Experiences" offers a thorough examination of the interactions between the two key players, with a focus on their advancements in politics, education, and culture. Even while the economic sector, as in the case of the Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), continues to be the most difficult area of negotiation, this work provides us with an insightful look at how India and the European Union are forging an ongoing partnership.

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This research project of the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, edited by Neeta Inamdar, Priya Vijaykumar Poojary, and Praveen Shetty, brings together 19 articles written by various scholars focusing on the three main points presented at the beginning of this paragraph: the advancement in important political, educational, and cultural areas between India and the EU.

The first part of the book looks at political engagements, and there are seven chapters that discuss important topics in the political relations between the EU and India as well as their biggest obstacles going forward.

The first chapter, "Constructive Engagements in Times of Strategic Confusion: Mapping India-EU Relations," by Priya Vijaykumar Poojary, provides a thorough analysis of each summit, from the first in 2000 to the last in 2020, as well as the main challenges and advancements that have occurred at these political gatherings between the representatives of India and the EU.

The second chapter, "EU Trade Policies in Times of Global Protectionism: The Case of EU and India" by Kurt Hübner, examines how the pandemic affected the growth of protectionism and how both parties attempted to preserve their economic alliance despite a worldwide challenge.

Ankita Dutta's third chapter, "Ready for a Breakthrough: Prospects of India-EU Maritime Cooperation," outlines the primary security concerns of both parties in the Indo-Pacific region and suggests ways that their approach might be strengthened to better address emerging threats.

The fourth chapter, "India-EU Cooperation on Climate Change: Converging or Diverging Interests?" by Alyssa Martins, offers a unique examination of how each actor approaches the problem of climate change because it explains the differences in their discourse and how they should cooperate with one another to develop a more internationalised approach to this pressing issue.

Due to its cultural perspective and the distinctions between collective rights in India and individual rights in the European Union, the fifth chapter, "Data Protection and Regulations: New Avenues for India-EU

Cooperation," by Arundhati MA, provides a crucial analysis of the field of data protection.

Sushmita Roy's sixth chapter, "Towards Sustainable Connectivity: India-EU Cooperation in Sustainable Development Goals," offers a very interesting understanding of the commitments made by both India and the EU to work together for the SDGs, particularly in the areas of education, climate change, and innovation.

The seventh and final chapter of the political engagements section, "India-EU Cooperation in Commercial Aircraft Manufacturing," by Aayush Mohanty and Yatharth Kachiar, raises crucial issues for the European aircraft industry, which must choose whether India will become a very significant competitor or a strategically important ally from an economic standpoint.

The book's second part, which is devoted to educational engagements, has seven more chapters that provide an extremely in-depth perspective on educational initiatives between India and the European Union as well as a crucial illustration of the influence of education on international relations.

Neeta Inamdar and Medini Hegde's "Knowledge Diplomacy in Action: Delineating Educational Connect in India-EU Engagements," the first chapter of this section, is a crucial illustration of the development of a knowledge society between the two major actors based on standards like research or technology.

Because it emphasises the lack of policy coordination in education between India and the EU, the following chapter, "Role of IHE in Knowledge Diplomacy: Challenges to Building Bridges between Universities in India and Europe," by Pranjali Kirloskar and Neeta Inamdar, could be seen as a direct development of the previous chapter. In order to create a fairly descriptive comparative perspective, this chapter is based on information gathered from conducting interviews with a number of representatives from higher education institutions in Europe and India.

The next chapter by Eeshani Kochhar, "Exploring the Potential of India-EU Cooperation in Education: Erasmus+ and More," established a strong foundation for the significance of academic exchange and its effects on the practise of cultural diplomacy, with the project Erasmus+ serving as the primary variable of analysis.

The eleventh chapter of this book, "Cultural Diplomacy and the Dynamics of Cultural Institutes in India and Europe," by Amrutha Yathish, examines the dynamics of cultural institutes and their impact on cultural diplomacy between the actors. It also highlights a significant distinction between the two by highlighting the significance of language learning in European cultural institutions and the externalisation of language issues in India.

The chapter by Chetan Singai and Rajashree K titled "India-EU Relations and the National Education Policy 2020: Internationalization at Home" takes a very analytical approach towards the new National Education Policy of India and focuses on the internationalisation variable in order to explain the main challenges.

The implementation of Jean Monnet activities is examined in Zane Šime thirteenth chapter, "The Ripple Effect of the EU Science Diplomacy towards India," to ascertain their impact on higher education, research facilitation, and bilateral cooperation.

The last chapter of this second part, "On Crossing Borders and Climbing the Ladder: Universities and their Struggle for Existence," by Pushkarni Panchamukhi, takes a qualitative approach to the statistics of global rankings in order to further understand the association with the internationalisation of higher education and its benefits for the relations between the European Union and India.

The third and last section of the book is on the cultural interactions between the two key actors, and the final five articles focus mostly on analysing how the two important actors engage with issues related to religion, cultural heritage, and citizenship.

In order to better comprehend the "familiarity," the first chapter, "Challenges of Familiarity: Nuances of Perceptions in India-Europe Cultural Engagements" by Praveen Shetty, examines the power relationships between the two parts. It also recounts their cultural interactions since 1500.

The next chapter, "Europe, Christendom, and its Encounter in India: The Missionary Experiences in Karnataka," by Sharal T. Correa and Denis Fernandes, examines the element of Christianity and its roots in order to explain Christian missionaries' historical development in India and the current state of the cultural encounter.

The seventeenth chapter by Chloe Charlene Fernandes, "Portuguese Citizenship to Goans and the Postcolonial Predicament in the Goan Response," examines the two extremely difficult ideas of identity and citizenship. The author examines a case study using Goans' Portuguese citizenship and a postcolonial literary critique.

Inayat Naomi Ramdas' chapter "Shared Ties, Lasting Legacies: Cultural and Heritage Diplomacy and India-EU Relations" examines the development of collaboration through looking at the development of the EU's heritage diplomacy and many case studies on both state and non-state actors.

The crucial security aspect of migration in the global arena, and particularly in the European Union, is covered in the concluding chapter of this part as well as the book, "Strengthening the India-EU Migration Corridor: The Way Forward," by Divya Balan. In order to provide policy recommendations, Divya Balan gives the Indian viewpoint on the challenges by taking into account crucial elements including the historical evolution of migratory patterns.

For comprehending India-EU relations and the suggested future actions for bolstering such ties, the 19 chapters together form a very complex and significant framework, according to the researchers who worked on this research project. It offers a very unique approach to the relations by looking into factors of political, educational, and cultural engagements as key points for the diplomatic ties, and in order to define in

the end the importance of this factor and the current position of both, we can look into the definition of *strategic partnership* defined by P.V. Poojary in the first chapter: "The strategic partnership is used by the EU as a tool to secure free trade agreements and greater market access for European Firms.

Many assert that this instrument is used to forge stronger ties with emerging powers to tackle multipolarity. It does so, by projecting its normative power, while at the same time protecting its interests."

Economically, the European Union and India are at a standstill, but the development of the three key elements discussed in this book's three sections will undoubtedly determine whether they succeed or fail.