

Burmese Challenges, Indian Solutions: Forwarding Peace and Reconciliation in Burma

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Overview

- **Our Client:** Burma (Myanmar) Desk at the U.S. State Department
- **Desired End State:** Reconciliation between the military regime and civilian opposition.
- **Statement of Purpose:** How can the U.S. encourage India to pressure the Burmese military junta to enter into discussions with civilian opposition for peace negotiations?
- **Multi-Layered Project:**

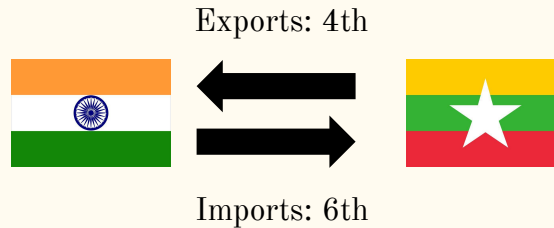


Assumptions

- The U.S. wants a more stable Burma.
- The U.S. cannot forward a Burmese reconciliation process unilaterally.
- A country with better relations with the Burmese military will have more influence on the process.

Why India?

- Diplomatic Relations with Burma
- Security Interests
- Economic Ties



Policy Assessment

- Current Policy
 - U.N. Security Council Arms Embargo
 - Russia and China abstained
 - U.S. Sanctions and BURMA Act
- Stakeholders
 - Regional Powers (India & China)
 - Internal Actors
 - U.S.



Why now?



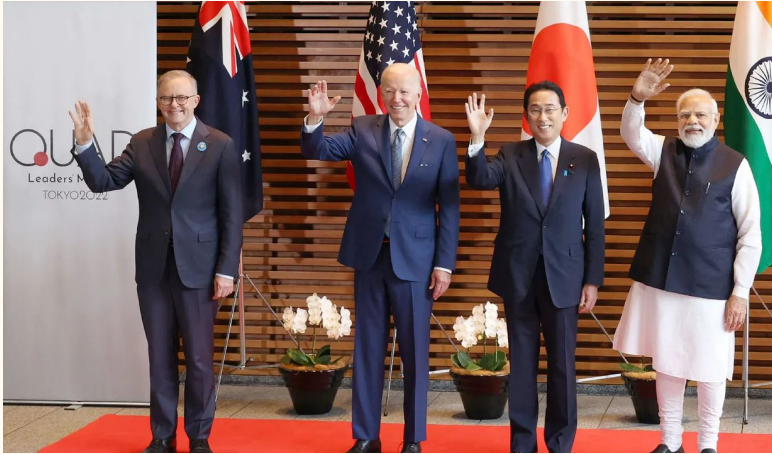
Trump and PM Modi at 'Howdy, Modi!' rally in Texas, 2019.

- **Great Power Competition**
 - Mitigating China as rising global power.
 - Partnership with U.S. more feasible for India.
- **Fraudulent elections** scheduled for later this year.

Policy Options

- Option 1: Multilateral:
Leverage India to pressure the Burmese military government to enter talks for a joint peace agreement via the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**.
- Option 2: Institutional:
Leverage **ASEAN** to pressure India to get the Burmese military government to enter talks for a joint peace agreement.
- Option 3: Bilateral:
Encourage India to pressure the Burmese military government to enter talks for a joint peace agreement with bilateral support.

Option 1: Multilateral



- Leverage India to pressure the Burmese military government to enter talks for a joint peace agreement using **security incentives** via the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**.
 - Secure the Bay of Bengal



Option 1: Multilateral

Pros	Cons
Directly relates to India's priority of containing China	India resistant to "following" major powers
Pressure from Japan - FDIs	
Pressure from Australia - strong diplomatic ties	

Option 2: Institutional



- Propose **ASEAN** as a platform to get India on board to persuade the Burmese military government to enter talks for a joint peace agreement by using **diplomatic incentives**.
 - New Committee dedicated to Burmese conflict
 - 2021 Five Point Consensus

Option 2: Institutional

Pros	Cons
ASEAN's political and geographic proximity to Burma	Neither the U.S. nor India are members of ASEAN
Continuation of low-level U.S. engagement with Burma conflict	Continuation of low-level U.S. engagement with Burma conflict
<i>Already</i> engaged in conflict resolution process of Burma	Low success rate in influencing Burma thus far/ ineffective

Option 3: Bilateral

- Encourage India to pressure the Burmese military government to enter talks for a joint peace agreement with bilateral support by using **diplomatic and economic incentives**.
 - Diplomatic training, then Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 and North Eastern Provinces Development



Option 3: Bilateral

Pros	Cons
No need for third party buy-in	U.S. has limited influence over India
Aligns with India's national strategy and future vision	
Strengthen bilateral relations	

Recommendation(s)

Recommendation: Combination of Option 1 and Option 3

- A mix of India's priorities to contain China and strengthen relations with the U.S./West

Why Not Option 2? ASEAN does not present enough leverage.



Implementation: Diplomatic Outreach to India

- Stage 1: U.S. offers diplomatic and good governance training
- Stage 2: Quad Peacebuilding and Good Governance Working Group
 - Increase India's diplomatic training and capabilities for influencing good governance in the region.



Implementation: Indian Pressure on Burma

Stage 3

- U.S. offers development in India's Northeastern Provinces
 - Economic exchange and access
- India pressures the Burmese military junta to request the UN's or India's assistance on reconciliation talks.
 - Talks between the Burmese military government and NUG begin.



Thank you

Implementation: Overcoming a Negative Reaction from China

Stage 4 (if necessary)

- Quad offers India joint military, naval exercises, and training of personnel
 - Key Actors: Japan, Australia, Indo-Pacific Command under DOD.

