



## Role of diaspora in India's Foreign Policy: A case study of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Mehnaz Kosar

Research Scholar, Department of West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

### Abstract

This paper explores the significant role of the Indian diaspora in influencing India's foreign policy towards Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With a substantial population of over 6 million Indians residing in these Gulf nations, the diaspora serves as a critical conduit for economic, political, and cultural exchanges. The study examines the historical context of Indian migration to the region, highlighting the evolution of community ties and their impact on bilateral relations. It further analyzes the economic contributions of the diaspora, particularly through remittances, and their implications for India's strategic interests in the Gulf. Additionally, the paper discusses the political and diplomatic engagements facilitated by the diaspora, which enhance India's soft power and foster a favorable image in the region. Despite the opportunities presented, challenges such as geopolitical tensions and socio-cultural integration are also addressed. By assessing these dynamics, the paper argues that the Indian diaspora is not only a key stakeholder in India's foreign policy but also a vital asset in fostering enduring relationships with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, ultimately contributing to regional stability and development.

**Keywords:** India's Foreign Policy, Gulf nations, diaspora

### Introduction

In the field of international studies, "diaspora" refers to the population of a particular nation or ethnic group living outside their native homeland, who retain connections with their home country (Brubaker, 2005) [3]. Originating from the Greek word *diaspeirein*, meaning "to scatter," the term was initially used to describe the dispersal of specific populations, most notably the Jewish, Armenian, and African diasporas (Cohen, 2008) [4]. Over time, however, its use has broadened significantly, encompassing a wide variety of migrant communities that maintain ties with their countries of origin while living abroad. Diasporas can form because of voluntary migration, economic opportunities, forced displacement, or political reasons, leading to transnational communities that uphold unique identities shaped by both their homeland and host country cultures (Safran, 1991).

In the context of foreign policy, the role of diasporas has grown increasingly significant. Many governments recognize the economic and political influence diasporic communities exert in their host countries, making diasporas valuable partners in diplomacy and international relations. Diasporas often contribute to their homeland through remittances—financial transfers made by individuals working abroad back to their country of origin. These remittances provide critical economic support, particularly for developing countries. Additionally, diasporic communities can serve as cultural ambassadors, promoting their home country's culture, values, and interests abroad, thereby strengthening soft power (Gamlen, 2019) [5].

In the case of India, its extensive diaspora is considered a vital asset in shaping its foreign relations, especially in key regions such as West Asia. India's diaspora in countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia—the subject of your case study—serves multiple roles that benefit both India and its host countries. Economically, the Indian diaspora in these nations not only bolsters India's economy through

remittances but also contributes to the economies of their host countries through skilled and unskilled labor. Politically, the diaspora can act as an informal diplomatic bridge, fostering goodwill, facilitating people-to-people ties, and supporting bilateral initiatives. The Indian government has increasingly leveraged these transnational communities to promote cultural diplomacy, enhance economic linkages, and secure strategic interests in West Asia. The impact of the Indian diaspora is evident in various aspects of India-UAE and India-Saudi Arabia relations, such as bilateral agreements on labor rights, cultural exchange programs, and even cooperation on strategic matters such as security and counterterrorism (Rana, 2016) [15].

### Significance of the diaspora in India's foreign policy

The diaspora's role in foreign policy has become increasingly significant as countries recognize the unique contributions these communities can make to international relations. Diaspora communities are not only valued for the economic support they bring to their home countries through remittances but also for their potential to shape perceptions, foster alliances, and promote cultural values abroad. The significance of the diaspora lies in its ability to bridge two worlds: they are both integral to their host countries' economies and societies and maintain strong connections to their homeland, positioning them as transnational actors with the potential to influence policies and diplomacy in both contexts (Gamlen, 2019) [5].

Economically, diasporas are a vital source of capital inflow for their home countries, as seen through remittances—monetary transfers made by migrants to support families and communities back home. For many developing countries, remittances form a substantial part of the GDP, contributing to poverty alleviation, improved living standards, and economic stability. Beyond remittances, diasporas can facilitate foreign direct investment, business ventures, and trade connections. They are often well-

positioned to create cross-border business networks that link their host and home countries, thus fostering economic cooperation. This economic role is not only significant for development but also strengthens the strategic ties between nations, as both sides benefit from increased trade, investment, and knowledge transfer (Levitt & Jaworsky, 2007)<sup>[9]</sup>.

Politically, diasporas can act as influential voices for their home countries in international forums. They frequently engage in lobbying efforts, advocate for policies favorable to their homeland, and mobilize support during times of crisis. For instance, during natural disasters or political instability, diasporas often play an essential role in humanitarian assistance and in swaying international opinion toward supporting their home country. Many governments, recognizing this influence, have formalized diaspora diplomacy strategies, wherein diasporas serve as informal diplomats or “citizen ambassadors.” This is particularly useful for smaller or developing countries, which may lack the diplomatic resources or networks available to more powerful nations. Diaspora diplomacy, therefore, becomes a valuable tool for advancing bilateral or multilateral cooperation and securing international support (Brinkerhoff, 2008)<sup>[2]</sup>.

Culturally, diasporas are powerful agents of soft power, promoting their homeland’s language, traditions, and values in the host country. Through cultural festivals, media, educational institutions, and religious centers, diasporas help increase awareness of their home country’s culture, fostering mutual understanding and goodwill. This cultural presence can enhance the home country’s image, create favorable conditions for diplomatic and economic relations, and counteract any negative stereotypes that may exist. As Joseph Nye (2004)<sup>[13]</sup> highlights, soft power—the ability to influence others through attraction rather than coercion—is increasingly important in global politics, and diasporas play a vital role in cultivating this positive influence. Countries like India, China, and Israel have recognized the soft power potential of their diasporas and have actively promoted cultural engagement initiatives abroad, thus positioning their diaspora communities as cultural ambassadors.

### **Historical overview of the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE**

The Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE has a long and complex history, deeply rooted in centuries-old trade routes and cultural exchanges across the Arabian Sea. Historically, trade between India and the Arabian Peninsula dates back over two millennia, with the movement of goods, people, and ideas facilitating early interactions between the Indian subcontinent and the Arab world. Spices, textiles, and gemstones from India were highly valued in the Gulf region, while Arabian horses, pearls, and dates were significant exports to India (Ghosh, 2017)<sup>[7, 8]</sup>.

In the modern era, migration from India to the Gulf region began in significant numbers in the 1970s, following the oil boom in the Arabian Peninsula. The discovery of oil in the Gulf states, particularly in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, led to an economic transformation that required a large influx of foreign labor to support infrastructure projects, construction, and development. The Indian government responded by facilitating the movement of workers to the Gulf, leading to a rapid growth of the Indian community in the region. Saudi Arabia and the UAE became major destinations for Indian

migrants, who were attracted by the employment opportunities and relatively higher wages available there (Naujoks, 2013)<sup>[12]</sup>.

In Saudi Arabia, the Indian community grew rapidly throughout the 1970s and 1980s, particularly as the Saudi government focused on infrastructure development, including highways, airports, hospitals, and other public facilities. Indian workers—many of whom came from the southern states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu—found employment primarily in low-skilled sectors such as construction and domestic work. Over time, however, Indians in Saudi Arabia diversified into other fields, including healthcare, finance, and engineering. The Saudi government continued to welcome Indian workers as a reliable and skilled workforce, and this laid the foundation for a robust relationship between India and Saudi Arabia in terms of labor exchange and economic cooperation (Vora, 2013)<sup>[16]</sup>.

In the UAE, the growth of the Indian diaspora followed a similar pattern, but the relationship was distinct due to the UAE’s unique economic and political structure. The UAE, comprising seven emirates, was quick to capitalize on the oil boom by establishing itself as a commercial and financial hub. Indian traders and entrepreneurs initially arrived in the UAE even before the oil boom, with many setting up businesses in Dubai, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi. With the discovery of oil, Indian migration increased, leading to the establishment of a significant Indian community. The UAE government actively encouraged Indian migration by creating a business-friendly environment, and many Indians who initially came for labor opportunities eventually set up businesses or joined professional sectors, such as healthcare, education, and banking (Gallo, 2020)<sup>[6]</sup>.

The 21st century has brought new dynamics to the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. With globalization and policy shifts in both the Gulf countries and India, the nature of migration has evolved. The UAE has actively encouraged greater integration of the Indian diaspora into its society, even providing long-term visas and introducing investment-friendly policies. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 policy has introduced reforms aimed at reducing the dependency on foreign labor, which has impacted Indian workers. However, the Saudi government continues to value skilled Indian professionals, and the bilateral relationship remains strong due to shared economic and strategic interests (Al-Khoury, 2021)<sup>[1]</sup>.

Today, the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE is multifaceted, comprising both low-skilled laborers and highly skilled professionals across various sectors. The diaspora is characterized by its economic contribution, cultural influence, and role in strengthening India’s diplomatic ties with the Gulf. Remittances from Indian workers in Saudi Arabia and the UAE contribute significantly to the Indian economy, while the diaspora acts as a bridge between India and these Gulf states, enhancing bilateral relations. The Indian communities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE continue to grow, evolve, and adapt, demonstrating the resilience and versatility of the Indian diaspora in the Gulf (Nanda, 2022)<sup>[11]</sup>.

### **The Role of the Indian Diaspora in Shaping India’s Relation with Saudi Arabia and UAE**

The Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in shaping and strengthening India’s relationships with Saudi Arabia and

the UAE, serving as a bridge that facilitates economic, political, and cultural exchanges between India and these Gulf nations. As one of the largest expatriate communities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the Indian diaspora contributes significantly to these countries' economies, and its presence has become a strategic asset in India's foreign policy approach toward the Gulf region. With a population of more than 2.5 million Indians in Saudi Arabia and around 3.5 million in the UAE, the diaspora's influence is evident in various sectors, from labor and remittances to diplomatic engagements and cultural ties (Nanda, 2022)<sup>[11]</sup>.

**Economic Influence:** The economic relationship between India and the Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, has been bolstered significantly by the Indian diaspora's contribution to labor, trade, remittances, and investments. This relationship has evolved from an initial dependence on low-skilled labor migration to a more diversified partnership that includes significant involvement in business, trade, and finance. The economic ties between India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE underscore the strategic importance of the Indian diaspora as an economic link and as an invaluable resource for both countries in terms of labor, remittances, and investments (Mukherjee, 2020)<sup>[10]</sup>.

The economic foundation of this relationship was established in the 1970s, following the discovery of oil in the Gulf and the subsequent economic boom in the region. Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE experienced rapid development during this period, transforming their economies and embarking on large-scale infrastructure projects. To meet the demand for labor, both countries turned to India, among other nations, as a source of reliable and skilled workers. Indian migrants, primarily from states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, initially moved to Saudi Arabia and the UAE to take up jobs in construction, oil, and domestic sectors. This migration has grown steadily over the years, with Indians now constituting one of the largest expatriate communities in both countries (Vora, 2013)<sup>[16]</sup>.

One of the most tangible economic impacts of the Indian diaspora is through remittances. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are among the largest sources of remittances to India, contributing billions of dollars annually to the Indian economy. Remittances sent by Indian workers help to alleviate poverty, improve household incomes, and stimulate economic growth in India. They play a critical role in supporting local economies, particularly in the southern states where most Gulf-bound migrants originate. For the Indian government, remittances also provide a stable source of foreign exchange, helping to stabilize India's balance of payments and bolstering foreign reserves. In 2022, for example, remittances from the Gulf countries accounted for nearly half of India's total remittances, underscoring the economic dependence on the Indian diaspora in the Gulf (Nanda, 2022)<sup>[11]</sup>.

In addition to remittances, Indian entrepreneurs and businesses in the UAE have contributed to strengthening economic ties between India and the Gulf region. The UAE, and Dubai especially, has positioned itself as a commercial and re-export hub, attracting Indian traders, professionals, and businesspeople. Indian businesses have established a significant presence in sectors such as finance, retail, technology, and hospitality. The UAE's investment-friendly policies, tax incentives, and ease of doing business have

encouraged many Indian companies to set up their regional headquarters in Dubai or Abu Dhabi. Indian businesses play a key role in UAE's commercial sector, contributing to its economy and promoting bilateral trade with India. Indian businesses in the UAE also re-export goods to Africa, Europe, and other parts of the Middle East, further enhancing India-UAE trade links (Gallo, 2020)<sup>[6]</sup>.

Energy cooperation, especially in oil imports, is another critical aspect of the economic relationship. India is one of the world's largest oil consumers, and both Saudi Arabia and the UAE are major suppliers of crude oil to India. This energy relationship is strategically important for India as it seeks to secure stable energy supplies to fuel its growing economy. The Indian government has sought to deepen its ties with both countries to ensure long-term energy security, resulting in agreements on energy investments, oil storage, and joint ventures in refining and petrochemicals. For instance, in 2019, Saudi Aramco, in partnership with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), signed an agreement to invest in a massive oil refinery project in Maharashtra, India, further strengthening energy cooperation. This joint venture demonstrates the depth of economic collaboration, where the Indian diaspora often acts as a facilitator in connecting business interests on both sides (Pant, 2019)<sup>[14]</sup>.

Lastly, tourism and aviation are rapidly growing sectors that strengthen economic ties between India and the Gulf. The large Indian diaspora in the Gulf has spurred a significant flow of travelers between the regions, creating robust demand for air travel and tourism. UAE-based airlines such as Emirates and Etihad, as well as Indian carriers, operate numerous flights connecting Indian cities with the Gulf. Tourism from India to the UAE, especially Dubai, has also increased, with Indian tourists making up one of the largest visitor groups. This exchange has encouraged tourism investments, such as Indian-owned hotels, restaurants, and travel agencies in the Gulf, which cater to Indian visitors and residents alike (Rana, 2016)<sup>[15]</sup>.

**Political influence:** The Indian diaspora plays an essential role in shaping the political and diplomatic relations between India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. With a substantial population residing in these Gulf countries, the Indian community acts as a crucial link that fosters bilateral relations through engagement in various political and diplomatic initiatives. The diaspora not only contributes to the host nations' economies but also influences political discourse, labor policies, and security arrangements, thus becoming an integral part of India's foreign policy in the Gulf region.

Historically, the political relationship between India and the Gulf states has been characterized by mutual interests in trade, security, and regional stability. As India's economy has grown, so has its need to engage with Gulf countries, which are rich in oil and have strategic geopolitical significance. The Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE serves as a conduit for facilitating these political engagements. With over 2.5 million Indians in Saudi Arabia and around 3.5 million in the UAE, the diaspora forms one of the largest expatriate communities in the region, amplifying India's voice and presence in diplomatic circles (Ghosh, 2017)<sup>[7, 8]</sup>.

The political influence of the Indian diaspora is evident in its ability to shape labor policies and workers' rights in the

Gulf. Many Indian workers are employed in sectors that require substantial labor, including construction, healthcare, and domestic work. As a result, the diaspora has become a focal point for India's diplomatic efforts in advocating for better labor rights and protections for Indian workers abroad. The Indian government has actively engaged with the Gulf states to negotiate labor agreements that ensure fair treatment, proper wages, and safe working conditions for its citizens. For instance, bilateral agreements on labor welfare have been signed between India and the UAE to address issues concerning recruitment practices and the welfare of Indian workers, showcasing how the diaspora influences policy decisions at the highest levels (Mukherjee, 2020)<sup>[10]</sup>. Additionally, the diaspora has been instrumental in facilitating high-level diplomatic engagements between India and the Gulf states. Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have made it a priority to connect with the Indian community during their visits to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. These interactions not only highlight the importance of the diaspora in India's foreign policy but also serve to reinforce the political ties between the countries. During Modi's visits to the UAE, significant agreements on trade, investment, and security have been signed, underscoring the role of the Indian diaspora in facilitating these diplomatic discussions. For example, the establishment of the India-UAE Strategic Partnership was significantly influenced by the diaspora's contributions to building trust and cooperation between the two nations (Pant, 2019)<sup>[14]</sup>.

Strategically, the Indian diaspora's presence in Saudi Arabia and the UAE also plays a critical role in enhancing security cooperation. Both Gulf nations face security challenges, including terrorism and regional instability, which necessitate collaboration with countries like India that have a vested interest in maintaining peace and security in the region. The Indian government has proactively engaged with the UAE and Saudi Arabia on counter-terrorism initiatives, intelligence sharing, and defense cooperation. The diaspora serves as a vital link in this strategic partnership, as many Indians work in sectors that contribute to national security, such as information technology and infrastructure. This relationship has led to joint security exercises and training programs between India and the Gulf states, reinforcing the strategic importance of the diaspora in fostering regional stability (Al-Khouri, 2021)<sup>[11]</sup>.

**Cultural influence and soft power:** The Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE exerts considerable cultural influence, which plays a vital role in enhancing India's soft power in the Gulf region. With millions of Indians residing in these countries, the diaspora acts as a cultural ambassador, promoting Indian traditions, values, and practices. This cultural engagement not only fosters goodwill between India and the Gulf states but also strengthens diplomatic relations and enhances India's global image. The importance of cultural influence and soft power in shaping international relations has become increasingly recognized, especially as countries seek to build ties based on mutual understanding and respect.

Culturally, the Indian diaspora has established a vibrant presence in both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, significantly influencing the local culture and societal dynamics. Indian festivals such as Diwali, Eid, and Holi are celebrated with enthusiasm, often attracting participation from local

populations. These celebrations provide an opportunity for cultural exchange and interaction, fostering a sense of community and mutual respect. Such events are instrumental in showcasing the richness of Indian culture, including music, dance, cuisine, and art, thereby enhancing India's cultural footprint in the region (Nanda, 2022)<sup>[11]</sup>.

In the UAE, the Indian community is notably involved in various cultural initiatives that promote Indian heritage and traditions. The establishment of Indian cultural centers and organizations plays a crucial role in facilitating cultural exchange and fostering understanding between communities. For instance, the Indian Community Welfare Committee (ICWC) and the Indian Association in Dubai organize cultural events, art exhibitions, and educational programs that highlight India's diverse cultural heritage. These initiatives not only reinforce the cultural ties between India and the UAE but also contribute to the broader narrative of coexistence and multiculturalism within the region (Vora, 2013)<sup>[16]</sup>.

The media and entertainment industry further exemplifies the Indian diaspora's cultural influence in the Gulf region. Bollywood films, Indian television shows, and music are widely consumed in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, transcending cultural boundaries and appealing to diverse audiences. The success of Bollywood in the Gulf not only entertains but also serves as a cultural bridge, promoting Indian narratives and perspectives. Events such as film festivals featuring Indian cinema in the Gulf attract significant attention, highlighting the diaspora's role in creating cultural connections and enhancing India's soft power in the region (Pant, 2019)<sup>[14]</sup>.

Soft power, defined as the ability to influence others through attraction and persuasion rather than coercion, is a critical component of India's foreign policy in the Gulf. The Indian diaspora serves as a vital conduit for projecting India's soft power, enabling the country to enhance its influence in a region where cultural ties are paramount. Through cultural diplomacy, India has sought to foster relationships built on shared values and mutual respect. Initiatives such as cultural exchanges, educational partnerships, and collaborative projects in the arts and culture have been pivotal in reinforcing India's image as a culturally rich and diverse nation (Mukherjee, 2020)<sup>[10]</sup>.

Educational institutions also play a significant role in India's soft power strategy. The establishment of Indian schools and universities in the Gulf has provided educational opportunities for Indian expatriates while promoting Indian culture and values among local populations. These institutions serve as platforms for cultural exchange, fostering an appreciation for Indian traditions among diverse student bodies. Furthermore, collaborations between Indian and Gulf educational institutions have facilitated academic exchanges, research partnerships, and joint programs, enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation (Rana, 2016)<sup>[15]</sup>.

### Opportunities and challenges

India's engagement with the diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE presents both significant opportunities and challenges that influence the broader context of its foreign policy and bilateral relations with these Gulf nations. The Indian diaspora, comprising millions of individuals, plays a crucial role in economic, cultural, and diplomatic exchanges, yet navigating this relationship involves addressing various complexities.

## Opportunities

1. **Economic Contributions:** The Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the UAE significantly contributes to the economies of both countries through remittances and participation in key sectors. In 2022, Indians in the UAE sent home approximately \$18 billion, making it one of the largest sources of remittances to India (World Bank, 2023) <sup>[18]</sup>. This inflow of capital not only bolsters the Indian economy but also fosters economic ties between India and the Gulf states, enhancing trade relations and investment opportunities.
2. **Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power:** The Indian diaspora serves as a vital vehicle for cultural diplomacy. By promoting Indian culture, festivals, and traditions, the diaspora strengthens India's soft power in the region. Events celebrating Indian culture, such as Diwali and Eid, attract participation from diverse communities and foster goodwill. This cultural engagement helps build a positive narrative about India in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, enhancing diplomatic relations (Mukherjee, 2020) <sup>[10]</sup>.
3. **Strategic Partnerships:** The Indian diaspora can facilitate strategic partnerships in areas such as trade, security, and counterterrorism. As both Saudi Arabia and the UAE seek to diversify their economies and enhance security cooperation, the diaspora can play a role in creating business networks and fostering collaboration in sectors like technology, energy, and defense. High-level visits by Indian leaders often include engagement with the diaspora, highlighting its importance in shaping strategic dialogues (Pant, 2019) <sup>[14]</sup>.
4. **Influencing Policy:** The diaspora has the potential to influence labor policies and the welfare of Indian workers in the Gulf. Through diplomatic engagement, the Indian government can advocate for the rights and protection of its citizens abroad, which can lead to improved labor agreements and working conditions. This advocacy reinforces India's commitment to its diaspora, enhancing bilateral relations (Ghosh, 2017) <sup>[7-8]</sup>.

## Challenges

1. **Political Sensitivities:** The political landscape in Saudi Arabia and the UAE can be sensitive, particularly concerning issues related to labor rights, human rights, and freedom of expression. The Indian government must navigate these complexities while advocating for its diaspora, which may lead to tensions if not managed carefully. Balancing diplomatic relations with domestic pressures can be challenging (Al-Khouri, 2021) <sup>[11]</sup>.
2. **Integration Issues:** While the Indian diaspora has established a vibrant community in the Gulf, integration can sometimes be problematic. Issues related to cultural differences, discrimination, and social acceptance can hinder the diaspora's ability to fully participate in the host countries. These challenges can strain relations between India and the Gulf states, as the Indian government seeks to protect the interests of its citizens (Vora, 2013) <sup>[16]</sup>.

3. **Dependence on Oil Economies:** The economies of Saudi Arabia and the UAE are heavily dependent on oil revenues, which can lead to economic volatility. A downturn in oil prices can adversely affect job opportunities for the Indian diaspora, leading to increased economic insecurity and potential repatriation. This dependence poses risks for India, as fluctuations in remittances can impact its economy (Gallo, 2020) <sup>[6]</sup>.
4. **Regional Geopolitical Tensions:** The geopolitical dynamics in the Gulf region, including tensions between various countries, can complicate India's engagement with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The Indian diaspora may become embroiled in these tensions, potentially affecting bilateral relations. India must tread carefully to maintain positive ties while addressing the interests of its diaspora (Mukherjee, 2020) <sup>[10]</sup>.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in shaping India's foreign policy towards Saudi Arabia and the UAE, serving as a vital bridge for economic, political, and cultural engagement. With a significant presence in these Gulf nations, the diaspora contributes to local economies through remittances and labor, while also promoting Indian culture and values. This community enhances India's soft power and strengthens bilateral ties through cultural diplomacy and educational exchanges.

Despite the opportunities presented by the diaspora, challenges such as political sensitivities, integration issues, and regional geopolitical dynamics must be carefully managed. By leveraging the strengths of its diaspora and addressing these challenges, India can effectively advance its national interests and enhance its influence in the Gulf region. Ultimately, the Indian diaspora is an invaluable asset that fosters mutual understanding and cooperation, contributing to a shared narrative of development and prosperity between India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

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