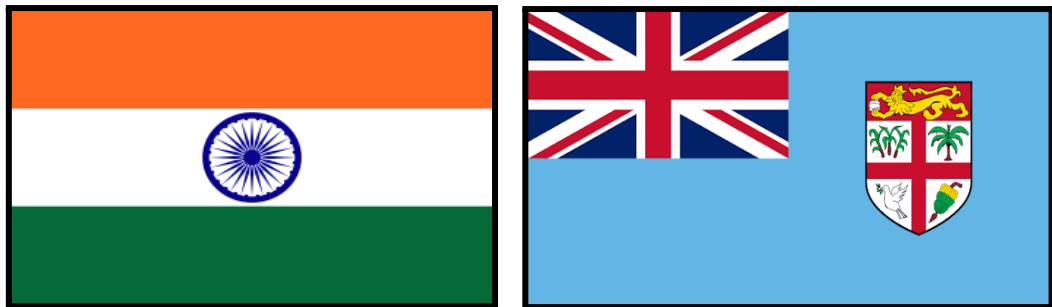




## **INDIA - FIJI BILATERAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK**

**YOUTH PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

**NEW DELHI  
AUGUST 2026**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all distinguished dignitaries, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, youth leaders, researchers, and friends associated with the Youth Peace and Development Forum. This publication presents and reflects upon the evolving relationship between the **Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji**, a partnership distinguished by its unique historical foundation, expanding development cooperation, and growing significance within the Indo-Pacific and the wider Pacific region.

India and Fiji share a relationship that extends beyond conventional diplomatic engagement. Its foundations are deeply rooted in the historic journey of the **Girmitiya**, beginning with the arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers in Fiji in 1879. Over generations, this shared history has developed into a lasting connection between the peoples of India and Fiji. Today, this relationship encompasses political and diplomatic cooperation, trade and investment, education, healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy, climate resilience, defence and security, culture, technology, youth engagement, and people-to-people relations.

The **India–Fiji Bilateral Cooperation Framework** seeks to provide a comprehensive and forward-looking structure for strengthening this relationship. The framework recognizes that a modern bilateral partnership must extend beyond individual projects and diplomatic engagements. It requires sustained institutional cooperation, meaningful people-to-people connections, economic opportunities, knowledge exchange, and collaboration in addressing common regional and global challenges.

The Youth Peace and Development Forum strongly believes that **young people are not merely the leaders of tomorrow; they are important partners in building peace and development today**. The youth of India and Fiji possess enormous potential to strengthen the relationship between our societies through education, entrepreneurship, technology, sports, culture, research, and community engagement. Greater youth-to-youth interaction can transform historical friendship into a living and continuously evolving partnership.

India and Fiji also have much to learn from one another. India's experience in digital public infrastructure, healthcare, renewable energy, agriculture, education, science and technology, entrepreneurship, disaster resilience, and development cooperation can contribute to Fiji's national priorities. At the same time, Fiji's experience as a Pacific Island nation, particularly in climate resilience, ocean governance, disaster preparedness, sustainable development, community-based resilience, and Pacific regional affairs, provides valuable opportunities for mutual learning.

The relationship between India and Fiji therefore cannot be understood solely through the traditional framework of diplomacy or economic cooperation. A genuinely comprehensive partnership must possess a strong **human, cultural, developmental, and regional dimension**. The shared historical connection created through the Girmitiya experience provides an important foundation, but the future of the relationship must be built through

contemporary cooperation that responds to the aspirations and priorities of present and future generations.

The contemporary international environment presents complex challenges, including geopolitical uncertainty, climate change, economic disruption, technological transformation, disaster risks, and questions surrounding sustainable development. No country can address these challenges in isolation. Strong bilateral, regional, and multilateral partnerships are therefore increasingly important. India and Fiji can contribute meaningfully to these efforts through cooperation based on sovereign equality, mutual respect, shared interests, and responsiveness to the developmental priorities of both countries.

The future of India–Fiji relations must therefore be shaped by both **history and vision**. The memory of the Girmitiya provides an enduring historical foundation, while the Strategic Vision 2050 provides an opportunity to translate that foundation into practical cooperation for future generations. The objective should be to ensure that the relationship remains relevant not only to governments and institutions but also to students, families, workers, entrepreneurs, researchers, communities, and young citizens.

As Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, I reaffirm our commitment to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the **Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji**. We look forward to supporting initiatives that promote mutual understanding, encourage youth participation, advance sustainable development, facilitate knowledge exchange, and contribute to deeper people-to-people connections between our two countries.

May the India–Fiji partnership continue to grow from strength to strength, building upon its remarkable historical foundations while embracing new opportunities in technology, education, sustainability, healthcare, economic development, and regional cooperation. May this partnership contribute to a peaceful, resilient, prosperous, and connected Pacific, while creating meaningful opportunities for generations to come.

With best wishes for a **stronger, deeper, more inclusive, and future-oriented India–Fiji partnership**.

**Dheeraj G N**  
**Chairman**  
**Youth Peace and Development Forum**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all distinguished dignitaries, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, researchers, youth leaders, and readers of this publication by the **Youth Peace and Development Forum**. This publication examining the relationship between the **Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji** represents an effort to understand a partnership that is deeply rooted in history while increasingly shaped by the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century.

India and Fiji share a relationship with a distinctive human foundation. The journey of the Girmitiya, beginning with the arrival of Indian indentured labourers in Fiji in 1879, created historical connections that have continued across generations. Over time, this shared history has developed into a broader relationship encompassing diplomacy, education, healthcare, agriculture, trade, culture, technology, climate resilience, development cooperation, and people-to-people engagement.

The **India–Fiji Bilateral Cooperation Framework** presented in this publication seeks to examine this relationship in a comprehensive and structured manner. Rather than viewing bilateral cooperation through a single sector, the framework brings together thirty-one interconnected pillars covering political, economic, social, technological, environmental, cultural, and human dimensions of cooperation.

A central objective of this framework is to demonstrate that successful bilateral relations require more than the signing of agreements. Agreements acquire meaning through **implementation, institutional continuity, measurable outcomes, and sustained engagement**. The framework therefore places particular emphasis on implementation mechanisms, periodic reviews, sectoral cooperation, capacity building, and long-term monitoring through its proposed Strategic Vision 2050.

The role of research is particularly important in this process. Sound bilateral policy requires a careful understanding of historical developments, existing institutional arrangements, emerging opportunities, and the practical constraints faced by both countries. This publication therefore seeks to encourage evidence-based discussion and provide a structured foundation for further academic and policy-oriented research on India–Fiji relations.

The relationship also presents significant opportunities for **youth engagement**. Young people in India and Fiji can contribute to the future of bilateral cooperation through academic exchanges, entrepreneurship, innovation, sports, cultural programmes, technology, environmental initiatives, and community development. Youth participation should not be regarded merely as an additional component of diplomacy; it can become an important mechanism through which bilateral relationships acquire long-term social continuity.

Education and knowledge exchange provide particularly strong foundations for such engagement. Scholarships, professional training, university partnerships, research collaboration, technical education, and digital learning can create networks that remain active

across generations. The expansion of these opportunities can contribute simultaneously to human-capital development and stronger people-to-people relations.

Economic cooperation likewise offers substantial scope for future development. Trade, investment, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, renewable energy, digital services, entrepreneurship, and small and medium enterprises can provide new avenues for economic engagement. At the same time, such cooperation should remain responsive to Fiji's national priorities and economic circumstances, ensuring that development partnerships are sustainable and mutually beneficial.

The future of the relationship should therefore combine the strength of its historical foundation with a clear focus on contemporary priorities. The Girmitiya legacy remains an important part of the story of India and Fiji, but the next generation of cooperation must also be built through **innovation, education, technology, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and human development.**

The Youth Peace and Development Forum considers this publication a contribution to that continuing conversation. It is intended not as a conclusion to the study of India–Fiji relations, but as a foundation for further research, dialogue, and constructive engagement. The effectiveness of any long-term bilateral vision will ultimately depend upon the ability of institutions and communities to translate broad commitments into practical and measurable outcomes.

As Vice Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, I reaffirm our commitment to encouraging research, dialogue, and youth participation in international relations. We hope that this publication will encourage students, researchers, policymakers, and young leaders to examine India–Fiji relations from new perspectives and contribute their own ideas to the future development of this important partnership.

May the friendship between India and Fiji continue to develop through mutual respect, shared learning, sustainable development, and meaningful people-to-people connections. May the coming decades witness a partnership that remains firmly connected to its history while continuously adapting to the aspirations and challenges of future generations.

With best wishes for a **stronger, more inclusive, sustainable, and future-oriented India–Fiji partnership.**

**Aravind Saj**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**Youth Peace and Development Forum**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE IN CHARGE

It is my privilege to extend my warm greetings to all distinguished dignitaries, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, researchers, youth leaders, and readers associated with this publication of the **Youth Peace and Development Forum**. This publication on **India–Fiji Relations** represents an effort to systematically examine the evolution, present scope, and future possibilities of a bilateral relationship that combines a remarkable historical foundation with an expanding contemporary partnership.

The relationship between India and Fiji is distinctive in many respects. Its roots extend to the arrival of the first Girmitiya in Fiji in 1879, while its contemporary character encompasses diplomacy, development cooperation, education, healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy, climate resilience, technology, trade, culture, youth engagement, and regional cooperation. Understanding such a multidimensional relationship requires an approach that moves beyond individual events and examines the institutional connections linking different areas of bilateral engagement.

The **India–Fiji Bilateral Cooperation Framework** has therefore been developed as a comprehensive attempt to organize these diverse areas of cooperation into a coherent long-term structure. Its thirty-one pillars cover both established areas of engagement and emerging opportunities, while the proposed **Strategic Vision 2050** provides a long-term perspective through which future cooperation can be assessed and progressively strengthened.

Research has played a fundamental role in preparing this publication. The objective has been to bring together documented developments across different sectors and examine their relevance within a broader bilateral framework. Particular attention has been given to identifying existing initiatives, recognizing areas where cooperation can be expanded, and connecting individual programmes with broader national and regional priorities.

The framework also recognizes that the future of international relations increasingly depends upon the participation of **young researchers and emerging professionals**. Young people bring new perspectives to questions of diplomacy, development, technology, sustainability, and international cooperation. Through research, academic exchange, policy discussions, entrepreneurship, and cultural engagement, they can contribute meaningfully to the continued development of India–Fiji relations.

The role of the Youth Peace and Development Forum is particularly relevant in this regard. As an organization committed to youth participation, research, peace, and development, the Forum seeks to create platforms through which young individuals can engage constructively with international affairs. This publication is part of that broader effort to encourage young researchers to study bilateral relationships with seriousness, objectivity, and a long-term perspective.

At the same time, the framework recognizes the importance of **people-to-people relations**. Scholarships, academic exchanges, cultural programmes, sports, tourism, youth initiatives, professional mobility, and heritage cooperation can create connections that extend beyond formal diplomatic institutions. The Girmitiya legacy provides a powerful historical foundation, but its continued relevance will depend upon the ability of present and future generations to transform historical connections into meaningful contemporary engagement.

Preparing this framework has also reinforced an important principle: **a long-term vision must remain adaptable**. The international environment, technological landscape, economic conditions, and national priorities of both countries will continue to evolve. The proposed periodic review mechanism is therefore intended to ensure that the framework remains a living document, capable of incorporating new developments while retaining the continuity provided by Strategic Vision 2050.

As the In-Charge associated with this publication, I would like to acknowledge the importance of the collective effort involved in developing this framework. Research of this nature requires careful examination of diverse sectors, coordination of ideas, attention to institutional developments, and a commitment to presenting a structured and forward-looking perspective. I hope this publication will serve as a useful foundation for further academic discussion, policy research, and youth-led engagement on India–Fiji relations.

Ultimately, the strength of India–Fiji relations will depend upon the ability of both countries to translate historical goodwill into **sustained, practical, inclusive, and future-oriented cooperation**. The opportunities identified in this framework provide a broad foundation, but their success will depend upon continued institutional commitment, effective implementation, mutual respect, and meaningful participation by the people of both countries.

On behalf of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, I express my sincere hope that this publication will encourage greater interest in India–Fiji relations and inspire young researchers and leaders to contribute to the development of stronger connections between the two countries.

May the India–Fiji partnership continue to evolve through friendship, knowledge-sharing, sustainable development, and meaningful cooperation, while creating new opportunities for present and future generations.

With best wishes for a **stronger, deeper, sustainable, and people-centred India–Fiji partnership**.

**Akhish**  
**In-Charge**  
**Youth Peace and Development Forum**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The India-Fiji Cooperative Framework sets out a structured, multi-decade architecture for deepening the relationship between the Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji, a partnership that stands apart within India's global diplomatic network for its unique civilizational foundation in the shared history of the Girmitiya, the Indian indentured labourers brought to Fiji's sugarcane plantations under British colonial rule. Between 1879 and 1916, approximately 60,553 Indians were transported to Fiji under this indenture system, a demographic and cultural transplantation whose descendants today constitute roughly one third of Fiji's total population according to the 2017 census, making the Indo-Fijian community one of the largest and most politically significant overseas Indian populations anywhere in the world (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This framework proceeds from the explicit recognition, voiced by Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka himself, that the descendants of the Girmitiya have developed the community and the society that Fiji is proud of today, and continue to contribute to Fiji's growth, economy, and stability (Morung Express, 2026).

The political relationship has advanced substantially through 2025 and 2026, anchored by Prime Minister Rabuka's first official visit to India, which took place from 1 to 3 August 2025 and included a historic meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that both governments described as further reaffirming the Fiji-India relationship (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). During this visit, Prime Minister Rabuka shared his Ocean of Peace vision in New Delhi, met with India's Minister for Health to advance healthcare sector collaboration, and met with members of the Fijian community resident in India, while separately recalling with appreciation Prime Minister Modi's and President Droupadi Murmu's own prior visits to Fiji, and specifically noting that Fiji considers itself fortunate to be part of India's global efforts in solarization and medicine research (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026; Morung Express, 2026). This sustained high level of engagement has continued into 2026, with Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Ditoka, officiating at the 77th Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in April 2026, and with both countries advancing trade-relations discussions in February 2026 (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

The relationship's institutional foundations have been substantially reinforced through what both governments describe as their Veilomani Dosti partnership, a framing that explicitly links the Fijian concept of compassionate care with the Hindi word for friendship, underlining what Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Ditoka, has described as a shared commitment to peace, security, and prosperity, and renewed cooperation across trade and economy, health, education, agriculture, and defence and security (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, has reciprocally affirmed India's commitment to furthering a relationship that has withstood the test of time and continues to remain steadfast and forward-looking, including through his own visit to Fiji in 2025 as Guest of Honour at the country's first official Girit Day celebrations, a commemoration that Fiji itself introduced in May each year to honour the legacy of the Girmitiya (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026; Morung Express, 2026).

Defence and security cooperation has deepened markedly in the most recent reporting period. Fiji's Defence Minister visited India in February 2025 to participate in Aero India 2025 and held a bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart, while the first Joint Working Group meeting on Defence between the two countries convened in Fiji on 18 July 2025 (India in Fiji, 2026). Naval engagement has been sustained through periodic goodwill visits, with INS Satpura calling at Suva in September 2022 and INS Kadmatt paying a further goodwill visit to Suva in September 2025 (India in Fiji, 2026). This defence relationship builds on the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation originally concluded in 2017 and substantially strengthened since, with current cooperation encompassing United Nations peacekeeping coordination, military medicine, and maritime security, alongside plans to establish a dedicated Defence Wing within India's High Commission in Suva and a Cyber Security Training Cell in Fiji (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025).

The economic relationship, while growing steadily in nominal terms, remains characterized by a pronounced and widening asymmetry overwhelmingly favouring Indian exports. According to figures maintained by India's Department of Commerce, bilateral trade for the 2025-2026 financial year reached 96.26 million dollars in Indian exports to Fiji against just 2.56 million dollars in Fijian exports to India, a trade balance of 98.82 million dollars in India's favour, continuing a trajectory that saw Indian exports grow from 46.90 million dollars in 2020-21 to 84.67 million dollars in 2024-25 before reaching their current level, even as Fijian exports to India have remained persistently below 3 million dollars across the same six year period (India in Fiji, 2026). Analysts have noted that these official bilateral trade statistics likely understate the true scale of economic exchange, given that substantial trade between the two countries continues to be routed through third countries and territories, including Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025).

New and emerging areas of cooperation have expanded substantially since 2024, including Fiji's accession to the Global Biofuels Alliance in November 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2024 on sharing India's population scale digital public infrastructure solutions, and a pharmacopoeial cooperation agreement concluded in 2025 recognizing the Indian Pharmacopoeia within Fiji, a step expected to pave the way for the establishment of Jan Aushadhi Kendras, India's affordable generic medicine outlets, within the Fijian healthcare system (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025).

Fiji occupies a position of particular strategic significance within India's broader Indo-Pacific and Act East policy architecture, serving as a central hub for India's engagement with the wider Pacific Island Countries through the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, with Fiji represented at the FIPIC meeting held on the margins of the 80th United Nations General Assembly in September 2025 (IAS Gyan, 2026; Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Youth Peace and Development (YPD) Forum expresses its deepest gratitude to all individuals, institutions, and domain experts whose dedication, geopolitical insight, and intellectual contributions made the preparation of *the India–Republic of Fiji Bilateral Cooperation Framework* possible.

We extend our profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Fiji. The enduring diplomatic, economic, and strategic initiatives undertaken by both governments provided the foundational context and historical bedrock for this comprehensive framework.

The Forum places on record its sincere appreciation to **Dheeraj GN, Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum**, for his visionary leadership and initiative in conceptualizing this vital geopolitical project. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to **Aravind Saj, Vice Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum**, for his continuous encouragement and strategic guidance throughout the execution of this comprehensive initiative.

The Forum also wishes to express its special thanks to the **Embassy of the Republic of Fiji in New Delhi** for its continuous efforts in fostering public diplomacy, cultural ties, and educational exchanges. Its work has significantly enriched the bilateral discourse and inspired the younger generation to engage deeply with India–Republic of Fiji relations.

Special appreciation is due to **Aman Chauhan** and the core research coordination team for their valuable support in streamlining the research process. The Forum further acknowledges the vital contributions of **Monish Krishna, Secretary General of the Youth Peace and Development Forum**, whose administrative leadership and organizational commitment have been instrumental in successfully navigating the complexities of bilateral policy research.

The Forum further extends its appreciation to all well-wishers, advisors, and stakeholders who encouraged this initiative. Whether through expert consultations, peer reviews, or moral support, their contributions helped strengthen the relevance and strategic accuracy of this work.

This report is a reflection of a shared commitment to building a stable, multipolar world anchored in mutual trust and cooperation. While the recommendations contained herein aim to explore new and dynamic avenues for India–Republic of Fiji cooperation in the twenty-first century, they also serve as a proud testament to the time-tested and enduring friendship between the two great nations.

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## VISION FOR THE TWO NATIONS

India and Fiji envision a partnership unlike any other in either country's diplomatic history, one rooted not in geographic proximity or conventional strategic convenience but in a shared human story that began in 1879, when the first Girmitiya arrived in Fiji under British indenture, and that has since grown into a living, multigenerational bond, with descendants of the Girmitiya today comprising roughly one third of Fiji's population (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This vision holds that a relationship carrying such profound human depth possesses an obligation and an opportunity to develop into something substantially more consequential than conventional bilateral ties, a conviction reflected in both governments' explicit framing of their relationship as a *Veilomani Dosti* partnership, uniting the Fijian value of compassionate care with the enduring Hindi concept of friendship (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). The two nations envision Fiji as India's principal partner and gateway within the wider Pacific Islands region, anchoring India's Act East policy and its vision of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, and envision India as Fiji's trusted partner in healthcare, digital transformation, defence capacity building, and climate resilience, a partner offering Fiji and the wider Pacific a credible and transparent alternative amid an increasingly contested regional environment. By 2050, this framework envisions a relationship in which bilateral trade has grown substantially and become more balanced, in which Indian healthcare, defence, and digital infrastructure cooperation has materially strengthened Fiji's national resilience and development, and in which the Girmitiya legacy, honoured annually through Girit Day and sustained through vibrant cultural and educational exchange, continues to bind the two nations together as one of the world's most distinctive and enduring bilateral friendships.

A central dimension of this envisioned partnership is the transformation of historical goodwill into sustained institutional cooperation. The Girmitiya connection provides an exceptional social foundation, but the relationship's future will increasingly depend on how effectively both countries translate this emotional and cultural affinity into practical outcomes. Education can become one of the principal bridges connecting the two societies, through expanded scholarships, university partnerships, student exchanges, research collaborations, and vocational training. Greater academic mobility could allow young people in both countries to understand not only their shared history but also the contemporary challenges confronting small island developing states, emerging economies, and the wider Indo-Pacific.

Healthcare represents another area in which India's partnership with Fiji could acquire long-term significance. India's experience in affordable medicines, telemedicine, medical education, pharmaceutical production, and digital health could contribute to strengthening healthcare accessibility across Fiji. Cooperation could extend beyond the provision of medical assistance toward building local institutional capacity, training healthcare professionals, developing digital health infrastructure, and improving preparedness for future pandemics and natural disasters. Such cooperation would reinforce the principle that development partnerships should strengthen national capabilities rather than create long-term dependency.

Climate resilience is likely to become equally important. As a Pacific island country, Fiji faces particular exposure to rising sea levels, extreme weather events, coastal erosion, and other consequences associated with climate change. India could support Fiji through renewable-energy cooperation, disaster-resilient infrastructure, early-warning systems, climate financing, and technical expertise. At the same time, Fiji's experience and diplomatic leadership on Pacific climate issues could contribute to India's understanding of the priorities of vulnerable island nations. This would make climate cooperation a two-way partnership rather than a one-directional assistance model.

Digital transformation could provide another major pillar of the relationship by the 2050 horizon. India's experience with digital public infrastructure, digital payments, identity systems, e-governance, and technology-enabled public services offers possibilities for cooperation adapted to Fiji's own national requirements. Secure and inclusive digital systems could improve access to government services, financial inclusion, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Ultimately, the durability of the India–Fiji relationship will depend on whether its historical foundation is continuously renewed by younger generations. Cultural exchanges, Girmitiya heritage programmes, tourism, language initiatives, and people-to-people contacts can ensure that the relationship remains socially rooted rather than being limited to government-to-government diplomacy. In this sense, the 2050 vision is not simply about expanding trade or strategic cooperation; it is about building a comprehensive partnership in which history provides the foundation, development creates shared interests, and people remain at the centre of bilateral relations.

Economic cooperation will also be essential to achieving this long-term vision. India and Fiji can explore opportunities to diversify bilateral trade beyond traditional commodities and services, particularly in information technology, tourism, agriculture, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, education, and small and medium-sized enterprises. Greater private-sector engagement, improved connectivity, and business-to-business partnerships could help create new economic opportunities while making bilateral trade more resilient and balanced. Fiji's strategic location in the Pacific can also provide Indian businesses with opportunities to develop stronger commercial links with other Pacific Island countries.

Defence and maritime cooperation may similarly become increasingly important, particularly in areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, maritime surveillance, search and rescue, and capacity building. Rather than being understood solely through a traditional military framework, such cooperation can contribute to Fiji's ability to respond effectively to natural disasters and other non-traditional security challenges. Regular diplomatic dialogue and cooperation through regional institutions can further strengthen mutual understanding. Together, these areas can ensure that the India–Fiji partnership develops as a comprehensive relationship combining historical connections with practical cooperation and shared aspirations for the future.

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

**Sovereign Equality and Mutual Respect.** Cooperation under this framework proceeds on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty and independent foreign policy choices of both nations, a principle explicitly reflected in the shared Veilomani Dosti framing both governments have adopted, uniting Fijian and Indian values of care and friendship on genuinely equal terms (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

**Honouring the Girmitiya Legacy.** This framework treats the historical and living connection between India and Fiji through the Girmitiya and their descendants, who today constitute roughly one third of Fiji's population, as the foundational and irreplaceable currency of the relationship, a legacy both nations have chosen to actively commemorate through Girit Day and related cultural initiatives (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025; Morung Express, 2026).

**Development Partnership Calibrated to Fiji's Priorities.** Cooperation is designed around Fiji's own stated national development priorities across trade and economy, health, education, agriculture, and defence and security, as explicitly articulated by Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, ensuring that Indian assistance strengthens rather than substitutes for Fijian institutional ownership (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

**Institutionalized, Not Personality Driven, Engagement.** Building on the establishment of the first Joint Working Group meeting on Defence in July 2025 and the sustained pattern of ministerial exchange documented through 2026, this framework prioritizes durable institutional mechanisms capable of sustaining cooperation between the periodic head of government visits that have punctuated the relationship, including Prime Minister Rabuka's August 2025 visit to India (India in Fiji, 2026; Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

**Diversification and Rebalancing of the Economic Relationship.** Given the current trade relationship's pronounced asymmetry, in which Fiji's exports to India totaled just 2.56 million dollars against Indian exports of 96.26 million dollars in the 2025-26 financial year (India in Fiji, 2026), this framework treats the deliberate cultivation of Fijian exports to India, and accurate accounting for trade currently routed through third countries, as a core guiding principle essential to building a genuinely balanced economic partnership.

**Pacific Regional Awareness.** Recognizing Fiji's role as a hub for India's engagement with the wider Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, this framework designs bilateral cooperation to be complementary to and reinforcing of India's broader Pacific Islands engagement, ensuring bilateral initiatives strengthen rather than duplicate regional cooperation mechanisms (IAS Gyan, 2026).

**Evidence-Based, Time-Bound Targets.** Every pillar in this framework is accompanied by measurable, time-bound targets, reflecting the same standard of accountability applied consistently across this framework's approach to the bilateral relationship, informed by the

detailed trade, defence, and development cooperation data both governments already maintain and publish.

**Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Cooperation.** Given Fiji's vulnerability to climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and rising sea levels, climate resilience should constitute a permanent dimension of bilateral cooperation. India–Fiji initiatives can focus on renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, disaster preparedness, early-warning systems, sustainable agriculture, and climate adaptation. Cooperation should be structured around Fiji's specific environmental circumstances while drawing upon India's technological and institutional capabilities.

**People-Centred Partnership.** The relationship should ultimately be measured not only through diplomatic agreements or government-level exchanges but also through tangible improvements in people's lives. Cooperation in healthcare, education, skills development, employment, tourism, culture, and mobility should therefore remain central to the framework. Scholarships, professional exchanges, youth programmes, cultural initiatives, and community-level engagement can strengthen the social foundations of bilateral relations and ensure that cooperation reaches beyond political institutions.

**Digital and Technological Inclusion.** Digital transformation should be treated as an instrument for inclusive development rather than simply technological modernization. India and Fiji can cooperate in digital governance, financial inclusion, cybersecurity, digital education, telecommunications, and public-service delivery. Such initiatives should prioritize accessibility, data protection, institutional capacity, and the development of local technical expertise so that Fiji can maintain effective ownership of its digital infrastructure.

**Resilience and Non-Traditional Security.** The framework should recognize that contemporary security challenges extend beyond conventional military threats. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime safety, cyber resilience, health emergencies, food security, and disaster-response capabilities can become important areas of cooperation. Defence engagement should therefore complement Fiji's broader national resilience objectives while respecting its sovereignty and independent policy choices.

**Youth and Intergenerational Continuity.** Finally, the partnership should deliberately involve younger generations. Youth exchanges, academic cooperation, internships, cultural programmes, and research partnerships can ensure that the historical India–Fiji connection continues to evolve rather than remaining confined to its historical foundations. This would connect the Giritiya legacy with the aspirations and challenges of future generations.

**People-to-People Connectivity.** The framework prioritizes cultural exchanges, tourism, education, youth programmes, and community-level engagement to ensure that the India–Fiji relationship remains rooted in direct human connections.

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# **31 PILLARS OF COOPERATION**

# 1. Political Cooperation

Political cooperation between India and Fiji rests on a foundation unlike that of virtually any other bilateral relationship in India's diplomatic network, anchored in India's status as one of the first countries to establish formal diplomatic relations with Fiji following the latter's 1970 independence, and reinforced by a modern political relationship whose most consequential inflection point arrived in November 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Fiji, the first visit by an Indian prime minister in 33 years, and launched the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation during a historic summit in Suva that brought together all 14 Pacific Island nations (Padhai, 2026). This visit reinvigorated India's engagement not only with Fiji but with the entire Pacific Islands region, establishing Fiji's enduring role as the anchor and gateway for India's broader Pacific diplomacy.

The political relationship has continued to deepen through sustained high-level exchange in the years since, reaching a further milestone at the third FIPIC Summit, held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 22 May 2023, where Prime Minister Rabuka, on behalf of Fijian President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, bestowed upon Prime Minister Modi the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the Republic's highest civilian honour, in recognition of India's sustained support for the Pacific region (India in Fiji, 2026). This symbolic milestone was followed by Prime Minister Rabuka's own first official visit to India, conducted from 1 to 3 August 2025, during which he shared his Ocean of Peace vision in New Delhi and held what both governments described as a historic meeting with Prime Minister Modi that further reaffirmed the Fiji-India relationship (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

Ministerial-level political engagement has continued at pace into 2026, with Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Ditoka, officiating at the 77th Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in April 2026, and India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, meeting with Prime Minister Rabuka in May 2025 and separately visiting Fiji in 2025 as Guest of Honour at the country's first official Girit Day celebrations (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). During these exchanges, both ministers have explicitly framed the relationship through the lens of *Veilomani Dosti*, a partnership concept uniting the Fijian value of compassionate care with the Hindi word for friendship, underlining a shared commitment to peace, security, and prosperity and renewed cooperation across trade and economy, health, education, agriculture, and defence and security (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

Institutionally, the political relationship is sustained through Foreign Office Consultations, with the fifth round convened in Suva on 18 July 2022 (India in Fiji, 2026), a mechanism this framework recommends be placed on a more regular, ideally annual, schedule going forward. The relationship's multilateral political dimension operates substantially through FIPIC, whose institutional evolution has proceeded through successive summits, from the inaugural FIPIC I summit in Suva in November 2014, through FIPIC II in Jaipur in August 2015, to FIPIC III in Port Moresby in May 2023, with a Foreign Ministers Meeting convened on the

sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly's High Level Week on 24 September 2025 (IMPRI, 2026; India in Kiribati, 2026).

This framework treats Fiji's strategic positioning within India's broader Indo-Pacific and Act East policy architecture as a defining feature of the political pillar, with Fiji serving as a key partner and hub for India's engagement with the wider community of Pacific Island Countries, a role that has gained additional strategic salience amid China's expanding economic and security footprint across the region, including the China-Solomon Islands Framework Agreement on Security Cooperation signed in April 2022 (IAS Gyan, 2026; IMPRI, 2026). Analysts have specifically noted that a strong India-Fiji partnership helps India and like-minded partners, including Australia, the United States, and Japan, offer a credible and transparent alternative, supporting a balanced regional order (IAS Gyan, 2026).

This framework recommends the following priorities for the political cooperation pillar. First, formalization of a biennial schedule of Foreign Office Consultations, building on the fifth round held in 2022. Second, continuation of the biennial FIPIC Summit cycle with sustained Fijian participation and leadership. Third, an annual, rather than irregular, schedule of head-of-government visits, building on the momentum of Prime Minister Rabuka's 2025 visit to India. Fourth, deeper political coordination on regional security matters relevant to the wider Pacific, given Fiji's role as India's principal interlocutor within FIPIC amid an increasingly contested regional strategic environment.

Fifth, the framework recommends strengthening parliamentary and institutional exchanges between the two countries, enabling legislators, public officials, and policy institutions to share experiences on governance, public administration, development policy, and regional affairs. Such engagement can complement executive-level diplomacy and create additional channels for sustained dialogue. Sixth, India and Fiji should strengthen coordination within multilateral institutions, particularly on issues affecting small island developing states, climate change, sustainable development, maritime security, and international peace and security. Fiji's perspectives as a Pacific Island state and India's wider diplomatic reach can provide complementary contributions to these discussions.

Finally, the political pillar should preserve the principle of strategic autonomy and mutual consultation. Cooperation should enable both countries to coordinate where their interests converge while respecting differences in national priorities and foreign-policy choices. Regular consultations, institutional mechanisms, and people-to-people engagement can therefore provide the political relationship with continuity while allowing it to adapt to changing regional circumstances. The objective is to transform high-level diplomatic goodwill into a stable, predictable, and mutually beneficial institutional partnership extending well beyond individual political leaders and diplomatic events.

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## 2. Diplomatic Cooperation

Diplomatic cooperation between India and Fiji operates through resident missions in Suva and New Delhi, an architecture substantially reinforced by the August 2024 cooperation agreement to establish an Indian High Commission Chancery in Fiji, developed alongside the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital project as one of the two flagship outcomes of that period's bilateral engagement (India in Fiji, 2026). This expanded diplomatic footprint reflects the growing scale and complexity of bilateral engagement this framework documents across its subsequent pillars, and this framework recommends that the mission be resourced commensurately with the expanded institutional architecture recommended throughout this document.

The Foreign Office Consultations mechanism, discussed under Political Cooperation above, constitutes the principal working-level diplomatic channel between the two countries, with its fifth round convened in Suva on 18 July 2022 providing the most recent documented instance of this structured exchange (India in Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that this mechanism be supplemented by more frequent virtual working-level sessions between formal in-person rounds, consistent with the hybrid diplomatic engagement model India has increasingly adopted with other strategic partners, ensuring that the relationship's growing institutional complexity, spanning defence, healthcare, digital transformation, and climate cooperation, is matched by correspondingly frequent diplomatic coordination.

Cultural and public diplomacy engagement has developed into an unusually vibrant dimension of the diplomatic relationship, reflecting the depth of the Girmitya connection discussed throughout this framework. The Indian Film Festival held in Nakasi in January 2026, opened by Indian High Commissioner Suneet Mehta, exemplified this dimension, with the High Commissioner specifically noting that Fijian communities have embraced Bollywood cinema, learning Hindi phrases and singing popular songs, and describing the Indian diaspora, tracing its roots to the Girmitya era, as continuing to play a vital role in strengthening bilateral ties, remaining an integral bridge between the two nations (Fiji Times, 2026). This framework recommends that such cultural diplomacy initiatives be formalized into a recurring annual calendar of events, ensuring sustained public engagement rather than episodic programming.

Diplomatic training and professional exchange, while not as extensively documented as in some of India's other bilateral relationships, represents an area this framework recommends be actively developed, potentially building on India's established diplomatic training partnerships with other Pacific Island nations and extended specifically to Fijian foreign service officers, given Fiji's central role within FIPIC and the correspondingly sophisticated diplomatic capacity this role demands.

Consular cooperation carries particular significance given the scale and historical depth of people-to-people ties between the two countries, and this framework recommends that consular services be strengthened to support both the modest but established Indian

community resident in Fiji, and the substantially larger Indo-Fijian population whose ancestral and cultural ties to India, discussed extensively under the Culture and Heritage Cooperation pillar later in this framework, generate significant demand for consular, visa, and related diplomatic services.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the diplomatic cooperation pillar. First, full operationalization of the new Indian High Commission Chancery in Suva, resourced to support the expanded institutional architecture recommended throughout this framework. Second, supplementation of the Foreign Office Consultations mechanism with regular virtual working-level sessions. Third, formalization of cultural diplomacy programming, including the Indian Film Festival, into a recurring annual calendar. Fourth, expanded diplomatic training exchange for Fijian foreign service officers, reflecting Fiji's central role within FIPIC.

Fifth, the framework recommends establishing a structured annual diplomatic review mechanism through which both foreign ministries can assess progress across the major areas of bilateral cooperation, identify implementation gaps, and establish priorities for the following year. Such a mechanism would provide greater coherence between political commitments and practical implementation while ensuring that emerging issues are addressed through timely diplomatic consultation.

Sixth, greater coordination between diplomatic missions and relevant ministries, development agencies, universities, businesses, and civil-society institutions should be encouraged. This would allow the diplomatic relationship to function as a coordinating platform connecting the multiple dimensions of the partnership rather than operating primarily through traditional government-to-government channels. Particular attention should be given to improving information sharing and facilitating contacts between institutions in both countries.

Finally, public diplomacy should remain an important component of India's engagement with Fiji. Regular outreach through educational programmes, cultural events, digital platforms, media engagement, and community initiatives can increase public awareness of bilateral cooperation and strengthen mutual understanding. By combining stronger institutional capacity with regular consultation, professional exchange, cultural engagement, and effective public diplomacy, the diplomatic pillar can provide the coordination necessary to sustain the wider India–Fiji partnership over the long term.

Seventh, the framework recommends strengthening digital diplomacy and information-sharing mechanisms between the two foreign ministries. Secure digital communication platforms, shared policy briefings, virtual consultations, and coordinated information channels can enable officials to respond more efficiently to emerging developments. This would be particularly useful given the geographical distance between India and Fiji and the wide range of issues covered by the bilateral relationship.

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### 3. Economic and Trade Cooperation

Economic and trade cooperation between India and Fiji presents a relationship of substantial and growing nominal volume, yet one characterized by a persistent and, in recent years, widening asymmetry overwhelmingly favouring Indian exports. According to figures maintained by India's Department of Commerce, bilateral trade across the six most recent financial years shows a consistent and accelerating pattern, with Indian exports to Fiji rising from 46.90 million dollars in 2020-21 to 57.96 million dollars in 2021-22, 80.02 million dollars in 2022-23, 76.28 million dollars in 2023-24, 84.67 million dollars in 2024-25, and reaching 96.26 million dollars in 2025-26, while Fijian exports to India across the same period have remained persistently modest, recorded at 1.33 million, 0.49 million, 0.10 million, 1.19 million, 1.54 million, and 2.56 million dollars respectively, yielding a trade balance in India's favour of 98.82 million dollars in the most recent financial year (India in Fiji, 2026).

This framework identifies this pronounced and structurally persistent asymmetry as the central challenge confronting the economic and trade cooperation pillar, while noting the important analytical caveat, raised by regional trade analysts, that official bilateral trade statistics likely understate the true scale of economic exchange between the two countries, given that substantial trade continues to be routed through third countries and territories, including Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong, rather than reflected directly in bilateral trade data (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). Notwithstanding this data limitation, the underlying pattern of Indian export dominance, driven substantially by petroleum products, machinery, and consumer goods, against a narrow and underdeveloped Fijian export base into the Indian market, mirrors patterns this framework has observed in India's economic relationships with several other smaller Indo-Pacific partner economies. Fiji's own economy remains heavily oriented toward tourism, sugar, and other agricultural exports directed primarily toward its traditional trading partners in Australia, New Zealand, and the wider Pacific region, a structural orientation that this framework identifies as a key factor underlying the modest scale of direct Fijian exports to India.

High-level political engagement on trade matters has continued into 2026, with Fiji and India specifically advancing trade relations discussions in February 2026 (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026), building on the broader economic cooperation priorities both governments identified during Prime Minister Rabuka's August 2025 visit to India, during which the two leaders committed to renewed cooperation across trade and economy alongside health, education, agriculture, and defence and security (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). Given the historical role of the FIPIC Trade Office, established at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry following the FIPIC II Summit in Jaipur in August 2015 (IMPRI, 2026), this framework recommends that this institutional mechanism be reactivated and specifically tasked with identifying and promoting Fijian export opportunities into the Indian market, complementing its historical focus on facilitating Indian business engagement with Fiji and the wider Pacific Islands region.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the economic and trade cooperation pillar through 2031. First, a joint study to accurately capture bilateral trade flows currently routed through third countries. Second, a formal, time-bound trade action plan addressing Fijian export diversification into the Indian market. Third, reactivation of the FIPIC Trade Office with an explicit mandate to promote Fijian exports. Fourth, sector-specific market access facilitation for Fijian agricultural and marine products, building on the broader agricultural cooperation priorities discussed under the Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation pillar later in this framework.

Fifth, the framework recommends expanding investment cooperation alongside merchandise trade. Greater Indian investment in Fiji's tourism, renewable energy, information technology, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and infrastructure sectors could contribute to employment generation and productive capacity, while Fijian businesses could be encouraged to explore opportunities in India's large consumer and services markets. Investment facilitation mechanisms should provide greater information, institutional support, and clarity for businesses from both countries.

Sixth, cooperation should focus on strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, which can provide a practical channel for diversifying bilateral economic relations. Business forums, trade exhibitions, entrepreneurship programmes, and digital platforms could connect Fijian producers with Indian buyers and distributors while helping Indian enterprises identify opportunities within Fiji and the wider Pacific market.

Seventh, tourism should receive greater attention as an important source of services trade and people-to-people economic connectivity. Improved air connectivity, coordinated tourism promotion, cultural tourism initiatives, and greater awareness of Fiji among Indian travellers could support increased visitor flows and generate wider economic benefits.

Eighth, Digital Trade and E-Commerce. India and Fiji should promote digital trade, e-commerce, and online business platforms to connect Fijian producers with Indian markets and expand opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Finally, the framework recommends establishing an annual India–Fiji Business and Investment Dialogue to review trade performance, identify market-access barriers, showcase investment opportunities, and track progress toward agreed targets. This mechanism could bring together government agencies, chambers of commerce, exporters, investors, and industry representatives from both countries. Such institutionalized private-sector engagement would help translate political commitments into measurable commercial outcomes and support the gradual diversification and rebalancing of the bilateral economic relationship

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## 4. Financial Cooperation

Financial cooperation between India and Fiji remains at an early stage of formal institutional development relative to the more advanced defence and healthcare pillars of the bilateral relationship, though this framework identifies clear and growing potential given the scale of concessional financing India has already extended to the wider Pacific Islands region and the specific opportunities emerging from Fiji's own renewable energy financing needs. India's 2019 commitment, announced at the India-Pacific Small Island Developing States Leaders' Meeting held on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2019, of a 150 million dollar concessional Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy, and climate-related projects across the Pacific Island Countries, provides an existing financial architecture from which Fiji specifically has already begun to benefit and which this framework recommends be substantially expanded (IMPRI, 2026; Carbon Copy, 2026).

Development finance more broadly has been a consistent feature of India's engagement with Fiji since the FIPIC framework's establishment, with India's initial FIPIC I commitments in 2014 including an increase in annual Grant-in-Aid provided to each Pacific Island Country from 125,000 to 200,000 dollars, alongside subsequent commitments including a 12 million dollar grant, at 1 million dollars per country, for high impact development projects announced at the 2019 India-PSIDS Leaders' Meeting (IMPRI, 2026). This framework recommends that Fiji's specific allocation under these regional financing mechanisms be tracked and reported transparently as part of the broader Implementation Framework's monitoring architecture discussed later in this document.

Renewable energy financing represents the most immediately significant and quantifiable financial cooperation opportunity currently available within this pillar, given that Fiji faces a documented annual investment gap of 336 million Fijian dollars for renewable energy overall, including a shortfall of more than 81 million Fijian dollars annually specifically for solar energy, a gap directly relevant to Fiji's own commitment to achieving 100 percent renewable energy targets by 2030 (Carbon Copy, 2026). This framework recommends that India's substantial experience structuring renewable energy financing domestically, including through its network of green finance institutions, be extended to Fiji through a dedicated technical assistance program, with Indian financiers sharing their solar sector risk assessment experience with Fiji's own banks and financial institutions to better mobilize local and international capital toward closing this financing gap (Carbon Copy, 2026).

Banking sector engagement, while not yet a significant feature of the bilateral relationship, offers longer-term potential as Fiji's financial system continues to develop, and this framework recommends that India's financial regulatory authorities explore an information-sharing arrangement with the Reserve Bank of Fiji, focused specifically on renewable energy project finance and, given the substantial and long-established Indo-Fijian population, on remittance channel efficiency and financial inclusion more broadly.

Digital financial infrastructure represents a further area of emerging relevance, building directly on the 2024 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries on sharing India's population-scale digital public infrastructure solutions, discussed in greater technical detail under the Digital and Cyber Security Cooperation pillar below, but carrying direct financial cooperation relevance given the centrality of digital payments infrastructure to India's own globally recognized digital public infrastructure model.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the financial cooperation pillar. First, substantial expansion of India's concessional Line of Credit facility for renewable energy and climate projects specifically benefiting Fiji. Second, a dedicated renewable energy project finance technical assistance program for Fiji's banks and financial institutions, addressing the documented 81 million Fijian dollar annual solar financing gap. Third, transparent tracking of Fiji's allocation under regional FIPIC development financing mechanisms. Fourth, exploration of digital payments infrastructure cooperation, building on the 2024 digital public infrastructure Memorandum of Understanding.

Fifth, the framework recommends strengthening cooperation on financial inclusion, particularly for rural communities, small businesses, women entrepreneurs, and other groups with limited access to formal financial services. India's experience with digital banking, mobile payments, financial identification, and technology-enabled financial services could provide useful technical knowledge for Fiji while allowing Fiji to adapt such approaches to its own institutional and geographical circumstances.

Sixth, cooperation on remittances should be explored as an important component of financial connectivity between the two countries. Greater efficiency, transparency, and affordability in cross-border remittance channels could benefit individuals and families while encouraging greater use of formal financial systems. Both countries could examine opportunities to reduce transaction costs and improve accessibility through secure digital channels.

Seventh, India and Fiji could establish periodic consultations between their financial authorities on emerging areas such as green finance, climate financing, digital financial services, financial regulation, and sustainable investment. Such consultations could facilitate institutional learning and identify opportunities for joint capacity building without requiring the immediate creation of new financial institutions.

Finally, the financial cooperation pillar should adopt measurable targets covering concessional financing mobilized, renewable energy projects supported, financial institutions participating, digital payment initiatives implemented, and progress in reducing identified financing gaps. Regular monitoring would allow both governments to assess whether financial cooperation is producing tangible development outcomes and to adjust programmes according to Fiji's evolving financial and developmental requirements.

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## 5. Investment Cooperation

Investment cooperation between India and Fiji has historically remained modest in scale, consistent with the broader pattern of limited direct Indian private sector investment across much of the Pacific Islands region, though this framework identifies renewable energy as an emerging and specifically actionable investment corridor with substantial near-term potential. India's growing engagement with Fiji's solar infrastructure, channeled through the International Solar Alliance, of which Fiji was among the first Founding Members, having participated in the Alliance's Founding Conference in New Delhi on 11 March 2018 under then Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, has evolved substantially in the years since, with the two governments signing a Country Partnership Framework specifically designed to scale solar deployment across priority sectors in Fiji, alongside the upcoming establishment of a Solar Technology Application Resource Centre at Fiji National University through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the International Solar Alliance (India in Fiji, 2026; Outlook Business, 2026).

This framework identifies this renewable energy investment corridor as the clearest and most immediately actionable investment opportunity available within the bilateral relationship, given Prime Minister Modi's explicit appreciation of Fiji's membership across the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuels Alliance, and India's stated commitment to support Fiji's national resilience goals within the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure framework through technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy on global platforms (Outlook Business, 2026). This framework recommends that Indian public and private sector renewable energy investors be actively encouraged to participate in Fiji's solar deployment program, building directly on the Country Partnership Framework already signed between the two governments.

Healthcare sector investment represents a further significant dimension of this pillar, anchored in the Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a 100 bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital in Suva, described by officials as the largest Indian grant funded project undertaken anywhere in the Pacific region (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This framework recommends that this flagship healthcare investment be treated as a template for further Indian investment in Fiji's healthcare infrastructure, discussed in greater detail under the Healthcare and Public Health Cooperation pillar later in this framework.

Fiji's own government has separately taken active steps to attract foreign investment more broadly, including tax benefits and incentives specifically targeted at film producers, hospitals, and small and medium enterprises, as announced in October 2024 (India in Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that Indian investors, particularly within Fiji's growing film production sector, an area of natural complementarity given the extensive Bollywood cultural connection discussed under Diplomatic Cooperation above, and within the small and medium enterprise sector, be made aware of and encouraged to access these specific incentive structures.

Investment protection and facilitation mechanisms warrant formalization to support the growing scale of investment activity this framework anticipates across renewable energy, healthcare, and other priority sectors. This framework recommends that India and Fiji negotiate a bilateral investment protection framework, providing the legal foundation necessary to encourage the kind of sustained Indian private sector investment that Fiji's renewable energy transition and broader economic diversification require.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the investment cooperation pillar. First, active Indian public and private sector engagement with Fiji's solar deployment Country Partnership Framework, building on the International Solar Alliance partnership. Second, treatment of the 100-bed Suva hospital project as a template for further healthcare infrastructure investment. Third, targeted outreach to Indian investors regarding Fiji's film production and small and medium enterprise investment incentives. Fourth, negotiation of a formal bilateral investment protection and facilitation framework.

Fifth, an India–Fiji Investment Facilitation Dialogue could provide a regular institutional platform for bringing together investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce, financial institutions, and relevant government departments. Such a mechanism could help identify viable investment opportunities, address regulatory difficulties, connect prospective investors with local partners, and review the progress of major investment proposals. Regular institutional dialogue would also provide greater predictability for businesses considering investment in Fiji.

Sixth, investment cooperation should extend beyond major infrastructure projects and create greater opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises. Indian businesses could explore sectors including food processing, agriculture, tourism, information technology, renewable energy services, pharmaceuticals, and education, particularly where these correspond with Fiji's development priorities. Partnerships between enterprises from both countries could support technology transfer, skills development, employment creation, and participation in regional value chains.

Seventh, greater emphasis could be placed on joint ventures between Indian and Fijian enterprises. Such partnerships can combine Indian capital and technical expertise with Fijian market knowledge and local networks, thereby increasing local participation in investment projects.

Finally, both governments should regularly assess the outcomes of investment cooperation. Annual monitoring could examine investment commitments, completed projects, employment creation, local participation, technology transfer, and diversification across sectors. This would provide a clearer basis for evaluating the developmental contribution of investment while identifying additional opportunities for future cooperation.

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## 6. Energy Cooperation

Energy cooperation constitutes one of the most substantively developed and rapidly advancing pillars of the India-Fiji relationship, anchored in Fiji's status as one of the first Founding Members of the International Solar Alliance, having participated in the Alliance's Founding Conference in New Delhi on 11 March 2018 (India in Fiji, 2026), and reinforced by a series of concrete institutional developments through 2025 that this framework identifies as placing energy cooperation among the relationship's clearest success stories. During the high-level engagement surrounding Prime Minister Rabuka's 2025 visit, Prime Minister Modi specifically appreciated Fiji's membership in the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuels Alliance, welcoming growing collaboration within the International Solar Alliance framework, including the upcoming establishment of a Solar Technology Application Resource Centre at Fiji National University through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding, and the signing of a Country Partnership Framework specifically designed to scale solar deployment across priority sectors in Fiji (Outlook Business, 2026).

The scale of the opportunity this energy partnership addresses is substantial and well documented. Fiji faces a renewable energy investment gap of 336 million Fijian dollars annually, including a shortfall of more than 81 million Fijian dollars specifically for solar energy, directly relevant to the country's own binding commitment to achieve 100 percent renewable energy generation by 2030 (Carbon Copy, 2026). India's accumulated domestic experience in scaling renewable energy deployment, developed through institutions including its Centres of Excellence in solar, wind, and bioenergy, its Skill Development Training Program on Renewable Energy, and its National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, positions India to provide precisely the kind of policy, regulatory, and financial ecosystem development support that analysts have identified as necessary for Fiji to close this gap, including guidance on solar energy policy and regulation, stakeholder awareness building, and capacity building for local solar developers and operators (Carbon Copy, 2026).

India's existing financial commitment to the wider Pacific energy transition, including its 2019 pledge of a 150 million dollar concessional Line of Credit specifically for solar, renewable energy, and climate change projects across Pacific Island Countries, already provides catalytic funding supporting local micro, small, and medium enterprises in this sector, and this framework recommends that Fiji's specific drawdown against this facility be substantially expanded, given the country's advanced institutional readiness reflected in its Country Partnership Framework and Solar Technology Application Resource Centre developments (IMPRI, 2026; Carbon Copy, 2026).

Biofuels represent a further significant and newly formalized dimension of energy cooperation, following Fiji's accession to the Global Biofuels Alliance in November 2024 (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), an India-led initiative promoting the development and adoption of biofuels globally. This framework recommends that India's substantial technical expertise in biofuel production, developed through its own large-scale domestic ethanol blending

program, be extended to Fiji through a dedicated technical cooperation partnership, exploring the potential for biofuel production from Fiji's substantial sugarcane sector, a natural complementarity given sugarcane's historical centrality to the Girmitiya era economy discussed throughout this framework.

Disaster resilient energy infrastructure constitutes a final, integrative dimension of this pillar, given Fiji's membership in the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Prime Minister Modi's specific reiteration of India's commitment to support Fiji's national resilience goals within that framework through technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy on global platforms (Outlook Business, 2026), a commitment this framework recommends be applied specifically to ensuring Fiji's expanding renewable energy infrastructure is designed to withstand the cyclone and extreme weather risks discussed in greater detail under the Environmental and Climate Cooperation and Disaster Management pillars later in this framework.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the energy cooperation pillar. First, full operationalization of the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre at Fiji National University and the bilateral Country Partnership Framework. Second, substantial expansion of Fiji's drawdown against India's concessional Line of Credit facility for renewable energy. Third, establishment of a biofuels technical cooperation partnership, exploring sugarcane-based biofuel production potential. Fourth, integration of disaster resilience design standards into all Indian supported renewable energy infrastructure in Fiji, coordinated through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure framework.

Fifth, the framework recommends expanding cooperation on renewable energy skills and human-resource development. Training programmes for Fijian engineers, technicians, electricians, project managers, and energy-sector administrators could strengthen local capacity to design, install, operate, and maintain renewable energy systems. Partnerships between Indian technical institutions and Fijian universities and training centres could provide both classroom-based and practical training, ensuring that the expansion of renewable energy creates durable domestic expertise.

Sixth, India and Fiji should explore decentralized renewable energy solutions for remote and underserved communities. Solar mini-grids, rooftop solar systems, battery storage, and other distributed-energy technologies could improve electricity access while reducing dependence on centralized infrastructure.

Seventh, cooperation should also examine energy-efficiency measures alongside renewable generation. Technical exchanges on efficient public buildings, industrial processes, transportation, and energy management could help Fiji reduce overall energy consumption and improve the economic sustainability of its transition.

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## 7. Defence and Security Cooperation

Defence and security cooperation between India and Fiji has advanced substantially through 2025, building on the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation originally concluded in 2017 and significantly reinforced in the years since, with current cooperation encompassing coordination on United Nations peacekeeping operations, military medicine, and maritime security (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). Fiji's own substantial and long-standing contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations, one of the most significant per capita contributions of any nation globally, provides a natural foundation for this dimension of cooperation, given India's own status as one of history's largest cumulative troop contributors to UN peacekeeping missions.

The institutional architecture of this pillar advanced concretely in 2025, with Fiji's Defence Minister visiting India in February 2025 specifically to participate in Aero India 2025, India's premier biennial air show and defence exhibition, during which a bilateral meeting was held between the two countries' Defence Ministers (India in Fiji, 2026). This engagement was followed by the first Joint Working Group meeting on Defence between the two countries, convened in Fiji on 18 July 2025, marking the formal establishment of a dedicated institutional mechanism for defence cooperation coordination (India in Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that this Joint Working Group be placed on a regular, ideally annual, meeting schedule, building on the substantive foundation established at its inaugural session.

Naval engagement has been sustained through a consistent pattern of goodwill port visits, with INS Satpura calling at Suva in September 2022 and, most recently, INS Kadmatt paying a goodwill visit to Suva in September 2025 (India in Fiji, 2026). These visits, alongside India's gift of ambulances to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces documented during the broader 2025 diplomatic engagement (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), reflect a defence relationship encompassing both symbolic naval diplomacy and concrete capacity-building support.

Institutional infrastructure for the defence relationship has been further strengthened through plans to establish a dedicated Defence Wing within India's High Commission in Suva, a development this framework recommends be prioritized and completed, given the substantially expanded scope of defence engagement this pillar now encompasses relative to the more limited institutional footprint the relationship maintained prior to 2025 (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). Complementing this institutional development, both governments have moved to establish a Cyber Security Training Cell within Fiji, discussed in greater technical detail under the Digital and Cyber Security Cooperation pillar later in this framework but carrying direct relevance here given its dual civilian and defence sector security applications (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025).

Maritime security cooperation carries particular strategic significance given Fiji's location across vital sea lanes of communication within the Pacific, a positioning that analysts have specifically identified as making Fiji a crucial partner for maritime domain awareness and security cooperation (IAS Gyan, 2026). This framework recommends that the naval goodwill

visit program be expanded into a more structured maritime domain awareness cooperation initiative, potentially incorporating joint maritime surveillance training and information sharing arrangements, building on the trust established through the sustained pattern of naval engagement already documented.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the defence and security cooperation pillar. First, placement of the Joint Working Group on Defence on a regular annual meeting schedule, building on its inaugural July 2025 session. Second, prioritized completion of the dedicated Defence Wing within India's High Commission in Suva. Third, expansion of naval goodwill visits into a more structured maritime domain awareness cooperation initiative. Fourth, continued military medicine and United Nations peacekeeping coordination, drawing on Fiji's substantial per capita peacekeeping contribution and India's own extensive cumulative peacekeeping experience.

Fifth, the framework recommends expanding joint training and professional military education opportunities for Fijian personnel through appropriate Indian defence institutions. Training could cover areas such as logistics, engineering, communications, disaster response, peacekeeping, maritime security, and humanitarian assistance. Such programmes would strengthen professional capabilities while creating sustained institutional links between the two defence establishments.

Sixth, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief should become a central component of defence cooperation. Fiji's exposure to cyclones, flooding, and other natural disasters creates opportunities for cooperation in emergency planning, search and rescue, evacuation procedures, logistics, and rapid deployment of relief supplies. India's experience in disaster response and its geographical reach across the Indian Ocean and wider Indo-Pacific could support Fiji's preparedness for major emergencies.

Seventh, cooperation in maritime safety should be strengthened alongside broader maritime security engagement. Joint exercises and training in search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, vessel safety, and emergency response could improve Fiji's capacity to protect its extensive maritime interests while contributing to wider regional stability.

Finally, defence cooperation should maintain a strong emphasis on transparency, capacity building, and Fiji's national priorities. Regular reviews through the Joint Working Group could assess training requirements, equipment support, maritime cooperation, peacekeeping coordination, and emerging security challenges. This would allow the defence relationship to develop gradually according to mutually identified needs while ensuring that cooperation remains consistent with both countries' sovereign decision-making and broader regional interests.

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## 8. Maritime and Blue Economy Cooperation

Maritime and blue economy cooperation between India and Fiji carries substantial strategic and economic significance, given Fiji's status as an archipelagic nation of more than 330 islands whose exclusive economic zone, spanning approximately 1.3 million square kilometers, dwarfs its modest land area and positions ocean-based industries, spanning fisheries, tourism, and shipping, as central pillars of the national economy. This framework identifies maritime cooperation as a domain of natural complementarity with the naval and defence engagement already discussed under Defence and Security Cooperation above, given that the goodwill visits of INS Satpura in September 2022 and INS Kadmat in September 2025 have already established a foundation of naval trust and familiarity upon which more substantial blue economy cooperation can be built (India in Fiji, 2026).

Fisheries cooperation represents a particularly significant opportunity, given the centrality of tuna and other pelagic fisheries to Fiji's economy and export earnings, and India's own growing deep sea fishing capacity and marine resource management expertise. This framework recommends that India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying explore a dedicated technical cooperation partnership with Fiji's Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, focused on sustainable fisheries management, value addition and processing capacity, and marine resource monitoring, complementing the fisheries dimension of the broader agriculture cooperation framework discussed under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation below.

Port infrastructure and shipping connectivity constitute a further priority area, given Fiji's role as a regional transshipment hub for the wider Pacific Islands region, a positioning that carries direct relevance to India's own growing trade relationship with the wider Pacific through the FIPIC framework. This framework recommends that Indian port development expertise be offered in support of Fiji's port modernization priorities, potentially coordinated with the broader Infrastructure and Connectivity Cooperation pillar discussed later in this framework.

Maritime domain awareness and ocean governance represent a further significant dimension of this pillar, building directly on the disaster resilience and climate vulnerability priorities discussed extensively elsewhere in this framework, given that effective ocean governance and maritime surveillance capacity are directly relevant to Fiji's ability to protect its exclusive economic zone from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, a challenge shared broadly across the Pacific Islands region. This framework recommends that the maritime domain awareness cooperation recommended under Defence and Security Cooperation above be explicitly extended to encompass civilian blue economy applications, including fisheries protection and environmental monitoring.

Given Fiji's explicit national interest in blue economy development as a pillar of its broader economic diversification strategy, and India's own growing blue economy policy architecture, this framework recommends that maritime and blue economy cooperation be formalized through a dedicated bilateral working arrangement, potentially nested within the broader

FIPIC framework given the shared blue economy interests of the wider Pacific Islands membership.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the maritime and blue economy cooperation pillar. First, a dedicated fisheries management and value addition technical cooperation partnership between the two countries' fisheries ministries. Second, Indian technical support for Fiji's port modernization and regional transshipment hub development priorities. Third, extension of maritime domain awareness cooperation to encompass fisheries protection and environmental monitoring applications. Fourth, formalization of blue economy cooperation through a dedicated bilateral working arrangement, potentially coordinated with the wider FIPIC framework.

Fifth, the framework recommends cooperation in marine research and oceanographic science. Indian and Fijian research institutions could collaborate on marine ecosystems, fisheries resources, ocean pollution, coastal processes, and the effects of climate change on marine environments. Joint research programmes, scientific exchanges, and training opportunities could strengthen Fiji's capacity to generate and apply ocean-related knowledge for national development.

Sixth, sustainable aquaculture should be explored as an additional area of cooperation. Technical exchanges on fish farming, hatchery management, feed systems, disease prevention, and value-added processing could support diversification of Fiji's fisheries sector while reducing excessive pressure on wild fish stocks. Cooperation should prioritize environmentally sustainable practices and the development of local technical capacity.

Seventh, marine tourism offers opportunities to connect the blue economy with Fiji's already significant tourism sector. India and Fiji could exchange expertise on sustainable coastal tourism, marine conservation, diving and recreational activities, and protection of sensitive marine ecosystems. Such cooperation could support tourism-related employment while encouraging responsible use of ocean resources.

Finally, the framework recommends establishing measurable indicators for maritime cooperation, including fisheries value added, marine research projects, personnel trained, port connectivity improvements, and areas receiving enhanced environmental monitoring. Periodic review through the proposed bilateral working arrangement would allow both countries to assess progress and adjust priorities. This would ensure that maritime cooperation contributes simultaneously to economic diversification, environmental sustainability, maritime security, and the long-term resilience of Fiji's ocean-dependent communities.

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## 9. Water Resources Cooperation

Water resources cooperation between India and Fiji has already produced concrete, on the ground results, most visibly through the Tubalevu Ground Water Supply Project, a Quick Impact Project supported by India that provides water supply to the residents of Tubalevu. India's High Commissioner Suneet Mehta chaired the second meeting of this project's Steering Committee on 27 January 2026, with representatives from Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Public Works confirming that work on the ground had already commenced (IANS Live, 2026). This framework treats the Tubalevu project as a demonstrated proof of concept for the kind of practical, community level water infrastructure cooperation this pillar recommends be substantially expanded.

Water resources management is also formally embedded within the broader bilateral agriculture cooperation architecture, with the original India-Fiji Memorandum of Understanding on agriculture and allied sectors, signed virtually between India's then Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, and Fiji's then Minister of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr. Mahendra Reddy, explicitly encompassing water resources management alongside dairy industry development, rice industry development, root crop diversification, and coconut industry development (Agriculture Post, 2026). This framework recommends that the water resources management component of this agreement be treated as a distinct and actively pursued workstream, rather than remaining subordinate to the agreement's broader agricultural focus.

Given Fiji's own documented vulnerability to both flooding and drought, conditions this framework discusses in greater detail under the Environmental and Climate Cooperation and Disaster Management pillars later in this document, water security carries particular urgency within the broader bilateral relationship. This framework recommends that India's extensive domestic experience in groundwater management, rainwater harvesting, and drought resilient water infrastructure be systematically extended to Fiji through an expanded program of Quick Impact Projects modeled directly on the Tubalevu initiative, targeting additional communities facing documented water access challenges.

Post-disaster water infrastructure restoration represents a further relevant dimension of this pillar, given India's demonstrated responsiveness to Fiji's climate related emergencies, including the distribution of approximately seven tonnes of seeds across 14 varieties of fruits and vegetables as a grant from the Government of India to support the livelihood restoration of communities affected by Cyclone Yasa, delivered despite the operational constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic (Agriculture Post, 2026). This framework recommends that water infrastructure restoration be explicitly incorporated into any future Indian humanitarian response to cyclone or flooding events in Fiji, building on this demonstrated pattern of agricultural and community resilience support.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the water resources cooperation pillar. First, continued monitoring and expansion of the Tubalevu Ground Water Supply

Project model to additional Fijian communities. Second, treatment of water resources management as a distinct, actively pursued workstream within the broader agriculture Memorandum of Understanding. Third, integration of water infrastructure restoration into future Indian disaster response support. Fourth, structured training placements for Fijian water resource and public works officials within Indian technical institutions.

Fifth, the framework recommends expanding cooperation on rainwater harvesting and decentralized water-storage systems. Given the geographical dispersion of Fiji's islands and the differing levels of access to centralized water infrastructure, community-level rainwater harvesting can provide an additional source of water during periods of reduced rainfall. Indian technical institutions could share appropriate technologies and implementation practices while ensuring that solutions are adapted to Fiji's local climatic and geographic conditions.

Sixth, groundwater assessment and monitoring should become an important area of technical cooperation. Joint capacity-building programmes could assist Fijian authorities in mapping groundwater resources, monitoring water quality, assessing extraction levels, and identifying vulnerable aquifers. Improved data collection would support evidence-based water management and help reduce the risks associated with over-extraction and contamination.

Seventh, cooperation should incorporate water-quality management alongside water availability. Training and technical exchanges could cover basic water testing, treatment technologies, sanitation-related risks, and monitoring systems, particularly for communities dependent on groundwater and decentralized water supplies. This would help ensure that increased access to water is accompanied by improvements in its safety and reliability.

Eighth, water management should be closely integrated with climate adaptation planning. Flood-resistant infrastructure, drought preparedness, efficient irrigation, watershed management, and ecosystem-based approaches can strengthen Fiji's long-term water security. Cooperation could therefore connect water-resource programmes with India's wider experience in climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster management.

Finally, the framework recommends establishing measurable indicators for this pillar, including communities receiving improved water access, groundwater projects completed, water infrastructure restored, officials trained, and improvements in water quality and reliability. Annual monitoring would allow both governments to assess the effectiveness of individual projects and identify communities requiring additional support, ensuring that water cooperation remains practical, locally responsive, and development-oriented.

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## 10. Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation

Agriculture and food security cooperation constitutes one of the most institutionally mature and continuously active pillars of the India-Fiji relationship, anchored in a formal bilateral Memorandum of Understanding originally signed between India's then Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, and Fiji's then Minister of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr. Mahendra Reddy, and explicitly designed with a five year validity period, renewable by written agreement of both parties (Fiji Times, 2026; Agriculture Post, 2026). This agreement has proven durable and adaptive, with the two governments agreeing in January 2026 to extend the Memorandum of Understanding for a further five years and, significantly, to establish a dedicated Joint Working Group to strengthen collaboration specifically in agriculture and food security, following a meeting between India's Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Fiji's Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Tomasi Tunabuna, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi (Fiji Times, 2026; IANS Live, 2026).

The substantive scope of this agricultural partnership is unusually comprehensive relative to many of India's other bilateral agricultural cooperation frameworks, encompassing dairy industry development, rice industry development, root crop diversification, water resources management, coconut industry development, food processing industry development, agriculture mechanisation, horticulture industry development, agricultural research, animal husbandry, pest and disease management, cultivation, value addition and marketing, and post harvest handling (Agriculture Post, 2026). This framework recommends that the newly established Joint Working Group, meeting alternately in India and Fiji on a biennial basis consistent with the original Memorandum of Understanding's institutional design (Fiji Times, 2026), be tasked with prioritizing implementation across this full scope rather than allowing the partnership's breadth to dilute its practical impact.

Sugar sector cooperation carries particular historical and economic resonance within this pillar, given sugarcane's centrality to the Girmitya era economy that first brought Indian indentured labourers to Fiji, and India's continued, tangible investment in modernizing Fiji's sugar industry. India extended a 70 million dollar Line of Credit for the establishment of a co-generation power plant at Rarawai Sugar Mills, a project designed to expand the scope of bilateral cooperation in the sugar sector by enhancing value addition and addressing climate change concerns, building on India's earlier assistance for the upgradation and product development at three of Fiji's major sugar mills (India in Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that this sugar sector partnership be actively sustained and, where appropriate, extended to additional value addition opportunities, including the biofuels cooperation discussed under the Energy Cooperation pillar above.

Recent developments have further deepened the practical, on the ground impact of this pillar. India provided a grant of 5 metric tonnes of high quality cowpea seeds to support food security and agricultural resilience in Fiji, for which Prime Minister Rabuka expressed direct thanks to Prime Minister Modi, and separately committed to gift 12 agricultural drones and

two mobile soil testing laboratories to Fiji (Business Standard, 2026), concrete technology transfers that this framework identifies as precisely the kind of practical agricultural modernization support most likely to produce measurable food security benefits. This builds on India's earlier grant of approximately seven tonnes of seeds across 14 varieties of fruits and vegetables to support livelihood restoration for communities affected by Cyclone Yasa (Agriculture Post, 2026).

Discussions at the January 2026 ministerial meeting also identified expanded student exchange programmes, strengthened capacity building initiatives, and enhanced technology and knowledge sharing, including small scale mechanisation and digital agriculture tools, alongside research infrastructure development, genetic exchange initiatives, and joint efforts to reduce food loss and waste, as specific priority areas for the extended partnership (IANS Live, 2026).

This framework recommends the following priorities for the agriculture and food security cooperation pillar. First, full activation of the newly established Joint Working Group, with a biennial meeting schedule alternating between India and Fiji. Second, continued sugar sector value addition support, building on the Rarawai co-generation plant model and extending toward biofuels cooperation. Third, sustained technology transfer, including agricultural drones, soil testing laboratories, and digital agriculture tools, building on deliveries already completed in 2025 and 2026. Fourth, expanded student exchange and agricultural research collaboration, including genetic exchange initiatives and food loss reduction programming.

Fifth, the framework recommends strengthening climate-resilient agriculture as a dedicated component of the bilateral partnership. Fiji's exposure to cyclones, flooding, drought, and changing weather patterns creates a need for agricultural systems capable of maintaining productivity under increasingly variable conditions. India and Fiji could cooperate on drought-resistant crops, climate-smart farming techniques, resilient irrigation systems, soil conservation, and improved agricultural forecasting.

Sixth, cooperation in horticulture and root-crop development should receive greater practical attention. Technical exchanges, improved planting materials, extension services, and post-harvest technologies could support diversification of Fiji's agricultural production while improving food availability and farmer incomes. Particular emphasis could be placed on reducing dependence on imported food products through increased domestic production where economically and environmentally appropriate.

Seventh, the framework recommends expanding agricultural value chains and food-processing capacity. Cooperation in storage, packaging, cold-chain infrastructure, processing technologies, quality standards, and agricultural marketing could reduce post-harvest losses and increase the value generated from locally produced agricultural commodities. Indian expertise and private-sector participation could complement Fiji's existing agricultural institutions and producer networks.

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## 11. Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation

Science, technology, and innovation cooperation between India and Fiji has developed a growing institutional foundation, most concretely evidenced through Fiji National University's role as host institution for the upcoming Solar Technology Application Resource Centre, established through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding involving the International Solar Alliance, discussed in greater technical detail under the Energy Cooperation pillar above but carrying direct relevance here as an example of institutionalized research and technical training cooperation anchored within Fiji's premier national university (Outlook Business, 2026).

This framework recommends that the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre model be treated as a template for extending scientific and technological cooperation into additional domains beyond renewable energy, building on the broader pattern of technical training and capacity building already identified as a priority within the agriculture cooperation framework discussed above, which specifically references technology and knowledge sharing covering small scale machinery and digital agriculture tools (IANS Live, 2026).

Agricultural research collaboration, formally embedded within the extended agriculture Memorandum of Understanding and its newly established Joint Working Group, represents a particularly relevant near term focus for this pillar, given the explicit reference to strengthening research infrastructure and genetic exchange initiatives among the priority areas identified during the January 2026 ministerial discussions (IANS Live, 2026). This framework recommends that India's extensive network of agricultural research institutions, including those operating under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, be formally linked with Fiji's own agricultural research institutions to support this genetic exchange and research infrastructure development agenda.

Researcher and student exchange more broadly is supported through India's established Know India Programme, whose alumni network in Fiji was specifically honoured at a cultural evening organized jointly by the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Suva on 11 December 2025, during which alumni shared their experiences from visits to India (IANS Live, 2026). This framework recommends that this Know India Programme engagement be extended and formalized into a more structured researcher and scientist exchange mechanism, building on the existing alumni network's demonstrated enthusiasm and engagement.

Given the specific institutional foundation already established through the Fiji National University partnership, this framework recommends that science and technology cooperation prioritize the expansion of joint research and training activities hosted at this institution, extending beyond solar energy into agricultural science, marine science relevant to the blue economy priorities discussed above, and climate science relevant to the environmental and disaster resilience priorities discussed later in this framework.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the science, technology, and innovation cooperation pillar. First, extension of the Fiji National University Solar Technology Application Resource Centre model into additional research domains, including agricultural and marine science. Second, formal linkage between Indian agricultural research institutions and their Fijian counterparts, supporting the genetic exchange and research infrastructure priorities identified within the agriculture cooperation framework. Third, formalization of the Know India Programme alumni network into a structured researcher and scientist exchange mechanism. Fourth, identification of specific, achievable joint technical projects building on Fiji National University's expanding role as a hub for bilateral scientific cooperation.

Fifth, the framework recommends strengthening cooperation in digital technologies and emerging technological fields. India and Fiji could explore joint initiatives in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital governance, geospatial technologies, and data management, with particular emphasis on applications relevant to public services and national development. Technical training programmes could help strengthen Fiji's local expertise while creating opportunities for institutional collaboration between universities and technology organizations.

Sixth, climate and environmental science should constitute another important area of joint research. Collaborative studies on climate adaptation, coastal ecosystems, disaster forecasting, renewable energy systems, and environmental monitoring could generate knowledge directly relevant to Fiji's development challenges. Partnerships between Indian research institutions and Fijian universities could support joint publications, research projects, technical workshops, and scientific exchanges.

Seventh, the framework recommends creating greater opportunities for young researchers and innovators through fellowships, internships, innovation challenges, and university partnerships. Such programmes could encourage students and early-career researchers to work on practical challenges relating to agriculture, healthcare, energy, water management, maritime affairs, and climate resilience.

Finally, science and technology cooperation should include mechanisms for translating research into practical applications. Joint research should wherever possible lead to pilot projects, technology demonstrations, policy recommendations, or locally adaptable solutions. Annual reviews could assess research projects completed, researchers and students exchanged, technologies tested, and institutions participating. This would help ensure that scientific cooperation produces tangible developmental outcomes while strengthening the long-term research and innovation capacities of both countries.

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## 12. Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Cooperation

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies cooperation between India and Fiji builds directly on the substantial digital infrastructure partnership the two countries have established, anchored in the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation, signed on 12 November 2024 by India's High Commissioner P.S. Karthigeyan and Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica (High Commission of India, Suva, 2024). This agreement specifically encompasses the sharing of India's comprehensive digital public infrastructure, including Aadhaar, India's biometric based digital identity system, the Unified Payments Interface for secure digital transactions, and DigiLocker for secure document storage, technologies High Commissioner Karthigeyan described as having revolutionized India's digital landscape by driving financial inclusion, enabling efficient public service delivery, and fostering a cashless economy (High Commission of India, Suva, 2024).

This digital partnership reached a further significant milestone when Prime Minister Rabuka personally visited the headquarters of India's Unique Identification Authority of India in New Delhi on 26 August 2025, where he was briefed on India's pioneering digital identity system that forms the foundational layer of India's digital public infrastructure, welcomed by UIDAI Chief Executive Officer Bhuvnesh Kumar alongside senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Business Standard, 2026). This high level, hands-on engagement underlines India's commitment to sharing its digital public infrastructure expertise with global partners and signals the seriousness with which Fiji's own leadership regards this dimension of cooperation.

This framework recommends that the digital solutions partnership be translated from its current framework agreement stage into concrete implementation, with Fiji's government identifying specific priority applications, whether digital identity, digital payments, or secure document management, for pilot deployment drawing on India's demonstrated technical architecture. Given the direct relevance of digital identity infrastructure to financial inclusion, discussed under the Financial Cooperation pillar above, this framework recommends that digital payments infrastructure be prioritized as an initial implementation focus, given its potential to meaningfully improve financial access for Fiji's population.

Artificial intelligence applications specifically, while not yet a distinct feature of documented bilateral cooperation, represent a natural extension of the existing digital infrastructure partnership as Fiji's digital economy matures. This framework recommends that India's substantial and globally significant artificial intelligence research and application ecosystem be positioned as a longer term extension of the current digital public infrastructure cooperation, with artificial intelligence applications in areas such as agricultural technology, discussed under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation above, and disaster prediction

and response, discussed under Disaster Management and Humanitarian Cooperation later in this framework, identified as particularly relevant near term application areas once foundational digital infrastructure is established.

Continued high level political engagement on digital infrastructure cooperation was reaffirmed as recently as February 2026, when India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, met with Fiji's Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development, Esrom Immanuel, in New Delhi, discussing shared priorities including development partnership, capacity building, and possibilities for cooperation in digital infrastructure, including ongoing collaboration and the way ahead (IANS Live, 2026).

This framework recommends the following priorities for the artificial intelligence and emerging technologies cooperation pillar. First, translation of the 2024 digital solutions Memorandum of Understanding into concrete pilot implementation, prioritizing digital payments infrastructure. Second, structured technical training for Fijian officials at India's Unique Identification Authority and related digital infrastructure institutions, building on Prime Minister Rabuka's own 2025 visit. Third, longer term positioning of artificial intelligence cooperation as a natural extension of the digital public infrastructure partnership, with agricultural and disaster management applications identified as priority use cases. Fourth, continued ministerial level review of digital infrastructure cooperation progress, building on the February 2026 New Delhi meeting.

Fifth, the framework recommends establishing a dedicated India–Fiji Digital Transformation Working Group to coordinate implementation of the existing digital cooperation framework. The group could bring together officials responsible for digital governance, finance, communications, cybersecurity, and public services to identify priority projects, coordinate technical assistance, and monitor implementation. Regular meetings would help ensure that digital cooperation progresses from broad commitments toward clearly defined and measurable outcomes.

Sixth, cybersecurity should be integrated into all emerging technology cooperation. As Fiji expands its digital public infrastructure, strengthening cyber resilience, data protection, secure authentication, and institutional cybersecurity capacity will become increasingly important. India could provide technical training and capacity-building programmes for Fijian officials and institutions responsible for protecting critical digital systems.

Seventh, artificial intelligence cooperation should emphasize responsible and inclusive applications. Potential areas include agricultural forecasting, healthcare support, disaster early-warning systems, education, public administration, and climate monitoring. Pilot projects should be designed around clearly identified Fijian needs and accompanied by appropriate safeguards concerning privacy, data security, transparency, and human oversight.

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### 13. Digital and Cyber Security Cooperation

Digital and cyber security cooperation between India and Fiji has advanced concretely through the establishment of a dedicated Cyber Security Training Cell within Fiji, a joint initiative this framework identifies as directly complementing both the broader digital public infrastructure partnership discussed under the Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies pillar above and the defence sector cybersecurity applications discussed under the Defence and Security Cooperation pillar earlier in this framework (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This dual civilian and defence relevance positions cybersecurity as a genuinely cross cutting pillar within the broader bilateral relationship, appropriately reflecting the interconnected nature of digital infrastructure security across government, financial, and defence applications.

Given that the 2024 digital solutions Memorandum of Understanding specifically encompasses India's Unified Payments Interface and Aadhaar digital identity system, both of which handle sensitive personal and financial data at national population scale, cybersecurity cooperation takes on particular urgency as a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the broader digital public infrastructure partnership. This framework recommends that the Cyber Security Training Cell's mandate be explicitly linked to supporting the secure implementation of any digital identity or payments infrastructure deployed under the broader bilateral digital cooperation framework, ensuring that security considerations are embedded from the outset rather than addressed only after deployment.

India's own experience operating its Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, and more broadly its experience securing its own large scale digital public infrastructure as it has scaled to serve over a billion people, offers directly relevant and hard won lessons for Fiji's own developing digital governance institutions. This framework recommends that India's relevant cybersecurity agencies provide sustained technical advisory support to the Cyber Security Training Cell, encompassing both foundational institutional capacity building and more advanced technical training as Fiji's digital economy and government digital services continue to expand.

Given Fiji's role as a regional hub within the wider FIPIC framework, this framework recommends that any cybersecurity capacity building support extended to Fiji be designed with an eye toward eventual replication or extension across the wider Pacific Island Countries membership, positioning Fiji's Cyber Security Training Cell as a potential regional training resource rather than a purely bilateral facility, consistent with Fiji's broader role as an anchor for India's Pacific Islands engagement discussed throughout this framework.

Critical infrastructure protection represents a further relevant dimension of this pillar, particularly given the renewable energy infrastructure investment priorities discussed under the Energy Cooperation pillar above. As Fiji's energy infrastructure becomes increasingly digitized through smart grid and renewable energy management systems developed in

partnership with India, this framework recommends that cybersecurity considerations be explicitly incorporated into the technical design of any such infrastructure from the outset.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the digital and cyber security cooperation pillar. First, explicit linkage of the Cyber Security Training Cell's mandate to the secure implementation of digital identity and payments infrastructure under the broader digital solutions partnership. Second, sustained Indian technical advisory support for the Cyber Security Training Cell, encompassing both foundational and advanced capacity building. Third, positioning of Fiji's Cyber Security Training Cell as a potential regional training resource for the wider FIPIC membership. Fourth, incorporation of cybersecurity design standards into any Indian supported energy infrastructure digitization in Fiji.

Fifth, the framework recommends strengthening cooperation on cyber incident response and information sharing. Establishing secure channels through which relevant authorities can exchange information about emerging cyber threats, vulnerabilities, and major incidents would improve both countries' ability to identify and respond to digital security risks. Regular simulation exercises could further strengthen institutional preparedness and coordination during significant cyber incidents.

Sixth, data protection and privacy should form an integral component of digital security cooperation. As Fiji expands digital identity, electronic payments, e-governance, and other data-intensive services, appropriate institutional safeguards will become increasingly important. India and Fiji could exchange regulatory and technical experience concerning data governance, secure storage, authentication, access controls, and responsible handling of personal information.

Seventh, cybersecurity awareness should extend beyond government institutions to businesses, educational institutions, financial organizations, and the wider public. Training programmes could address phishing, identity theft, online fraud, password security, and responsible digital practices. Strengthening public awareness would complement institutional cybersecurity measures and reduce vulnerabilities arising from human error.

Finally, the framework recommends annual assessments of cybersecurity cooperation covering personnel trained, exercises conducted, incidents addressed, institutions supported, and critical systems receiving enhanced protection. These assessments could be undertaken through the proposed bilateral cybersecurity mechanism and linked to the wider digital cooperation review process. This would ensure that cybersecurity capacity develops alongside Fiji's digital transformation rather than remaining a separate technical activity, while allowing both countries to respond to emerging technologies and evolving cyber threats in a timely manner.

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## 14. Space Cooperation

Space cooperation between India and Fiji carries a distinctive historical foundation extending back to the earliest days of the FIPIC framework, with space cooperation explicitly announced as a specific area of collaboration at the very first FIPIC Summit held in Suva in November 2014, alongside the launch of the Pan Pacific Islands e-network and visa on arrival arrangements for Pacific Island Countries nationals (IMPRI, 2026). This framework treats space cooperation's inclusion from the outset of the FIPIC framework as evidence of the strategic importance both governments have long attached to this dimension of the relationship, even as concrete bilateral implementation has remained more modest than in some of the relationship's other, more rapidly developed pillars.

India's Space Research Organisation has developed extensive space diplomacy experience with other small developing nations lacking independent space programs, encompassing satellite based earth observation data sharing, ground station cooperation, and training and capacity building for engineers and scientists from partner countries. This framework recommends that this established template be actively extended to Fiji, building on the specific 2014 FIPIC commitment to space cooperation and translating this longstanding but still largely aspirational commitment into concrete technical collaboration.

Earth observation applications offer the most immediately relevant and actionable entry point for space cooperation given Fiji's specific developmental priorities, including satellite based cyclone tracking and early warning capability directly relevant to the disaster management priorities discussed later in this framework, satellite based agricultural monitoring relevant to the agriculture cooperation priorities discussed above, and satellite based marine and fisheries monitoring relevant to the blue economy priorities discussed under Maritime and Blue Economy Cooperation. This framework recommends that India's Department of Space explore providing satellite derived data products and technical analysis support to Fiji's meteorological and disaster management authorities, building directly on India's own substantial domestic capability in cyclone tracking and early warning systems.

Training and capacity building represents a further achievable near term priority, consistent with India's standing practice of providing space science and satellite technology training to space aspiring countries across the developing world. This framework recommends that a defined cohort of Fijian meteorological, agricultural, and disaster management officials be offered structured exposure to India's space technology training programs, building human capital that could support the more substantial earth observation data sharing partnership recommended above.

Given Fiji's role as India's principal anchor within the wider FIPIC framework, and the original 2014 commitment to space cooperation being extended to all 14 Pacific Island Countries collectively rather than to Fiji alone, this framework recommends that any bilateral space cooperation initiative developed with Fiji specifically be designed with an eye toward

eventual extension across the wider FIPIC membership, consistent with Fiji's broader regional hub role discussed throughout this document.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the space cooperation pillar. First, translation of the 2014 FIPIC space cooperation commitment into concrete bilateral technical collaboration, prioritizing earth observation data sharing. Second, provision of Indian satellite derived cyclone tracking and early warning data to Fiji's meteorological and disaster management authorities. Third, structured training placements for Fijian officials within India's space technology training programs. Fourth, design of bilateral space cooperation initiatives with explicit consideration for eventual extension across the wider FIPIC Pacific Island Countries membership.

Fifth, the framework recommends expanding the use of satellite-based applications for climate and environmental monitoring. Satellite imagery can support the assessment of coastal erosion, changes in land use, forest cover, agricultural conditions, and the impacts of extreme weather events. Regular access to relevant earth observation data could strengthen Fiji's capacity to monitor environmental changes across its geographically dispersed islands and support evidence-based planning.

Sixth, satellite applications could be integrated more closely with Fiji's maritime and fisheries management systems. Earth observation and satellite-derived information can assist in monitoring ocean conditions, identifying changes in marine environments, and supporting fisheries management. Cooperation in this area would create a direct technological link between the space, blue economy, environmental, and maritime cooperation pillars.

Seventh, the framework recommends exploring satellite-enabled connectivity and communication applications for remote communities. Fiji's dispersed island geography creates challenges for providing reliable communication and public services to isolated populations. Where technically and economically appropriate, India's experience with satellite-enabled communications could support improved connectivity for education, healthcare, emergency response, and government services.

Finally, the framework recommends establishing a regular India–Fiji space dialogue involving relevant space, meteorological, environmental, agricultural, maritime, and disaster-management institutions. The dialogue could identify priority applications, coordinate data requirements, review training programmes, and evaluate pilot projects. Annual assessments should measure the number of officials trained, datasets shared, applications developed, and institutions benefiting from cooperation. This would transform the longstanding space cooperation commitment into a practical development-oriented partnership while providing a potential foundation for wider Pacific cooperation through FIPIC.

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## 15. Environmental and Climate Cooperation

Environmental and climate cooperation between India and Fiji addresses one of the most acute and existential challenges facing Fiji as a nation, given that international assessments consistently identify Fiji among the world's most climate vulnerable countries, exposed to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, coastal flooding, tropical cyclones, and wildfire, with World Bank data on natural hazard occurrence between 1980 and 2020 showing that storms alone account for almost two thirds of all disaster events, followed by floods, drought, earthquakes, and epidemics (IFRC, 2025). This vulnerability is starkly quantified in current economic projections, which indicate that an average of 25,700 Fijians are pushed into hardship due to tropical cyclones and floods each year, a figure projected to rise to 32,400 annually by 2050 under a high emissions scenario (GFDRR, n.d.).

The scale of this vulnerability was catastrophically illustrated by Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016, the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, which cost Fiji 2 billion Fijian dollars, equivalent to approximately 993 million United States dollars, and impacted 62 percent of the country's total population (GFDRR, n.d.). Cyclone Yasa followed in December 2020 as the second strongest cyclone on record to make landfall in Fiji, prompting India to deliver substantial humanitarian assistance, including relief materials, school renovations, seeds, and a contribution of 1 million dollars to Fiji's relief fund (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025).

India's response to Fiji's climate vulnerability has extended beyond emergency humanitarian assistance into structural climate adaptation and renewable energy investment, discussed in greater technical detail under the Energy Cooperation pillar above but carrying direct relevance here given the explicit linkage both governments have drawn between renewable energy deployment and broader climate resilience. India co-funded the solarisation of the Fijian State House and traditional sites in 2023 (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), a symbolically significant project demonstrating renewable energy's role not merely as an economic development tool but as a tangible expression of climate partnership at the highest level of Fijian national symbolism.

Fiji's membership in the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, discussed under Energy Cooperation above, provides the primary institutional mechanism through which India's broader climate resilience expertise is channeled to Fiji, with Prime Minister Modi specifically reiterating India's commitment to support Fiji's national resilience goals within the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure framework through technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy on global platforms (Outlook Business, 2026). This framework recommends that this commitment be translated into a specific, time bound technical assistance program addressing Fiji's most acute infrastructure vulnerabilities, particularly given that Fiji's own National Adaptation Plan and National Disaster Risk Reduction policy have specifically identified tropical cyclones as a major climate hazard the country will continue to face with increasing intensity (IFRC, 2025).

Parametric insurance schemes represent a further concrete and innovative dimension of climate cooperation already underway between the two countries, with India supporting the development of parametric insurance mechanisms in Fiji as part of its broader development partnership (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), an innovative financial instrument that provides rapid, pre-agreed payouts following defined disaster triggers rather than requiring lengthy post disaster damage assessment, directly relevant to the urgent post-cyclone recovery needs documented throughout this pillar.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the environmental and climate cooperation pillar. First, translation of India's Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure commitment into a specific, time bound technical assistance program targeting Fiji's most cyclone vulnerable infrastructure. Second, expansion of the parametric insurance partnership to cover a broader range of climate hazards and a larger proportion of Fiji's vulnerable population. Third, continued and expanded renewable energy and solarisation projects, building on the State House and traditional sites precedent. Fourth, formal integration of Indian climate cooperation with Fiji's own National Adaptation Plan and National Disaster Risk Reduction policy frameworks.

Fifth, the framework recommends strengthening cooperation on climate-resilient agriculture and food systems. India's experience with drought-resistant crops, climate-smart farming, efficient irrigation, and agricultural forecasting could support Fiji's efforts to protect food production from increasingly variable weather conditions. Such cooperation should be coordinated with the Agriculture and Food Security pillar to ensure that climate adaptation is incorporated directly into agricultural planning and investment.

Sixth, coastal and marine ecosystem protection should become a dedicated area of cooperation. Given Fiji's extensive coastline and dependence on ocean resources, joint initiatives could address coastal erosion, mangrove restoration, coral-reef conservation, marine pollution, and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems. Indian scientific and technical institutions could support research, monitoring, and capacity building in partnership with Fijian institutions.

Seventh, climate data and early-warning systems should be strengthened through cooperation involving India's meteorological and space institutions. Improved forecasting of cyclones, floods, droughts, and other extreme events could allow communities and government agencies to undertake earlier preparedness measures. Satellite-based earth observation, discussed under the Space Cooperation pillar, could provide an important technological foundation for this effort.

Finally, the framework recommends establishing measurable climate-cooperation indicators covering resilient infrastructure supported, renewable-energy capacity added, communities benefiting from adaptation measures, disaster-finance mechanisms developed, and technical personnel trained.

## 16. Disaster Management and Humanitarian Cooperation

Disaster management and humanitarian cooperation between India and Fiji has developed a well documented and consistently reliable track record, anchored in India's demonstrated pattern of rapid response to Fiji's recurring cyclone emergencies. Since 1969, 33 tropical cyclones of Category 1 or higher have passed within 10 kilometers of Fiji, with 16 making direct landfall, including the catastrophic Cyclone Winston in February 2016, the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, and Cyclone Yasa in December 2020, the second strongest cyclone on record to make landfall in the country, alongside Cyclone Harold later that same year (IFRC, 2025). This recurring and intensifying pattern of disaster exposure has positioned humanitarian response cooperation as one of the most consistently active pillars of the bilateral relationship.

Following Cyclone Yasa in December 2020, India provided a comprehensive package of humanitarian assistance encompassing relief materials, renovation of damaged schools, grants of seeds for agricultural recovery, and a direct contribution of 1 million dollars to Fiji's relief fund (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), building on the broader agricultural livelihood restoration grant of approximately seven tonnes of seeds across 14 varieties of fruits and vegetables discussed under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation above. This framework identifies this comprehensive, multi sectoral response, spanning immediate relief through to agricultural livelihood restoration, as a model this framework recommends be formalized into a standing rapid response protocol rather than being assembled anew following each disaster event.

India's humanitarian engagement with Fiji has extended beyond cyclone response into broader public health emergency support, with India recognized as one of the first countries to provide Fiji with vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, support that Fijian officials have specifically credited as critical for the country's post pandemic reopening (FBC News, 2026). This framework recommends that this demonstrated pandemic response partnership be formalized into a standing public health emergency preparedness arrangement, coordinated with the broader Healthcare and Public Health Cooperation pillar discussed below.

Community level resilience building represents a further significant dimension of this pillar, exemplified by India's support for Jaipur Foot Camps in Fiji, which have benefited approximately 600 recipients with prosthetic limbs, alongside support for a Youth Farm Initiative promoting agricultural livelihood resilience among younger Fijians (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This framework recommends that these community level humanitarian and resilience building initiatives be sustained and, where demand warrants, expanded, given their direct and measurable impact on individual Fijian beneficiaries.

Given the World Bank's projection that the number of Fijians pushed into hardship annually by tropical cyclones and floods will rise from 25,700 to 32,400 by 2050 under a high emissions scenario (GFDRR, n.d.), this framework recommends that disaster management cooperation be treated as a permanently escalating, rather than static, priority within the

bilateral relationship, with India's rapid response capacity, demonstrated through its regular supply of medical kits, vehicles, and election materials following disaster events (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), formalized into a standing, pre-positioned humanitarian assistance arrangement specifically calibrated to Fiji's documented and intensifying cyclone risk profile.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the disaster management and humanitarian cooperation pillar. First, formalization of India's comprehensive post cyclone response model, spanning relief materials through agricultural livelihood restoration, into a standing rapid response protocol. Second, establishment of a formal public health emergency preparedness arrangement, building on the demonstrated COVID-19 vaccine assistance partnership. Third, continued and expanded support for community resilience initiatives, including Jaipur Foot Camps and the Youth Farm Initiative. Fourth, pre-positioning of standing humanitarian assistance stocks specifically calibrated to Fiji's documented and intensifying cyclone risk profile.

Fifth, this framework recommends strengthening **joint disaster preparedness, training, and simulation exercises** between relevant Indian and Fijian institutions. Regular table-top exercises, emergency coordination drills, and technical training programmes could improve interoperability between disaster management authorities, health agencies, military and civil defence institutions, and local authorities. Such cooperation would enable both countries to identify logistical gaps, clarify institutional responsibilities, and establish communication procedures before a major disaster occurs.

Sixth, cooperation should incorporate **disaster-resilient infrastructure and resilient public services** as a long-term component of humanitarian partnership. Technical exchanges on cyclone-resistant schools, health facilities, emergency shelters, water systems, and decentralized energy infrastructure could reduce the disruption of essential services following extreme weather events. Indian expertise and appropriate technologies could be adapted to Fiji's island geography and local construction conditions rather than transferred through a uniform model.

Seventh, the partnership should strengthen **early-warning systems and anticipatory action** by linking meteorological information, satellite-based observations, risk mapping, and community-level warning mechanisms. Where reliable forecasts indicate a high probability of a severe cyclone or flood, pre-agreed humanitarian measures could be activated before landfall, including movement of relief supplies, protection of vulnerable populations, and preparation of medical facilities.

Finally, India and Fiji should establish **measurable disaster-cooperation indicators**, including response time, relief-stock availability, number of personnel trained, simulation exercises conducted, beneficiaries reached, and agricultural livelihoods restored. Annual reviews could use these indicators to assess preparedness and update the bilateral humanitarian response framework according to Fiji's evolving disaster-risk profile.

## 17. Infrastructure and Connectivity Cooperation

Infrastructure and connectivity cooperation between India and Fiji encompasses a growing portfolio of concrete physical infrastructure investment, most prominently anchored in the Regional 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre, announced by Prime Minister Modi at the third FIPIC Summit held in Papua New Guinea in May 2023 and subsequently advanced through the formal handing over of project site documentation by President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Rabuka during President Murmu's three day state visit to Fiji in August 2024, alongside parallel documentation for the new Indian High Commission Chancery and Cultural Centre complex in Suva (News on Air, 2026; Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). This framework treats the hospital project, to be constructed in Nasinu and described by Fijian officials as the most extensive project by the Government of India in Fiji and the Pacific region, as the flagship infrastructure undertaking anchoring this pillar (FBC News, 2026).

Diplomatic and cultural infrastructure represents a further significant, if less publicly prominent, dimension of this pillar, building on the November 2014 Memorandum of Understanding confirming the earmarking of plots of land in both New Delhi and Suva for the construction of respective diplomatic missions, cultural centres, and residences, a foundational agreement this framework identifies as having enabled the subsequent 2024 progress on both the hospital and Chancery projects (India in Fiji, 2026).

Energy infrastructure constitutes a third significant component of this pillar, anchored in India's 70 million dollar Line of Credit for establishing a co-generation power plant at Rarawai Sugar Mills, discussed in greater detail under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation above, a project this framework identifies as demonstrating India's capacity to deliver complex, capital intensive infrastructure projects in Fiji beyond the healthcare and diplomatic domains (India in Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that the engineering, project management, and financing lessons learned through the Rarawai co-generation project be systematically applied to future Indian infrastructure investment in Fiji, including the renewable energy infrastructure priorities discussed under Energy Cooperation above.

Water infrastructure, discussed in greater detail under the Water Resources Cooperation pillar earlier in this framework, represents a further, more localized but rapidly expanding dimension of infrastructure cooperation, exemplified by the Tubalevu Ground Water Supply Project currently under active implementation with oversight from a dedicated Project Steering Committee chaired by India's High Commissioner (IANS Live, 2026).

Given the substantial capital intensity of the flagship hospital and energy infrastructure projects discussed above, this framework recommends that infrastructure cooperation going forward be explicitly designed with climate resilience considerations incorporated from the outset, consistent with the broader disaster resilience priorities discussed under the Environmental and Climate Cooperation and Disaster Management pillars above, ensuring that major Indian funded infrastructure investments in Fiji are engineered to withstand the

cyclone and seismic risks that have repeatedly damaged the country's existing infrastructure base.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the infrastructure and connectivity cooperation pillar. First, timely completion of the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre in Nasinu, alongside the Indian High Commission Chancery and Cultural Centre complex in Suva. Second, application of engineering and project management lessons from the Rarawai co-generation plant to future energy infrastructure investment. Third, replication of the Tubalevu Ground Water Supply Project Quick Impact Project model across additional communities. Fourth, mandatory incorporation of climate and seismic resilience design standards into all major Indian funded infrastructure projects in Fiji.

Fifth, this framework recommends expanding cooperation into **transport and logistical connectivity**, particularly through technical exchanges concerning roads, ports, inter-island transport systems, and resilient supply-chain infrastructure. Given Fiji's dispersed island geography, connectivity investments should prioritize reliable movement of people, food, medical supplies, and emergency materials between urban centres and outer islands. Indian technical expertise could support feasibility studies and project planning while ensuring that infrastructure choices remain consistent with Fiji's national development priorities.

Sixth, **digital connectivity infrastructure** should be incorporated as an integral component of this pillar. Cooperation could support expansion of secure broadband access, digital public-service infrastructure, telecommunications resilience, and connectivity for geographically isolated communities. Greater integration with the Digital and Cyber Security Cooperation pillar would ensure that new digital infrastructure incorporates appropriate cybersecurity, data protection, and continuity-of-service standards from the planning stage.

Seventh, this framework recommends establishing a **bilateral infrastructure project-development mechanism** bringing together relevant ministries, financing institutions, technical agencies, and private-sector stakeholders. Such a mechanism could identify priority projects, assess feasibility, coordinate financing, monitor implementation, and address administrative bottlenecks. It would also help distinguish projects suitable for grants, concessional financing, public-private partnerships, or private investment.

Finally, major infrastructure projects should incorporate **local employment, skills development, technology transfer, and maintenance planning** into their implementation frameworks. Indian-supported projects should therefore include structured training for Fijian engineers, technicians, healthcare professionals, and infrastructure managers wherever appropriate. Annual infrastructure reviews could assess project completion, financing utilization, local participation, maintenance readiness, resilience standards, and community-level benefits, ensuring that infrastructure cooperation produces durable development outcomes beyond the construction phase.

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## 18. Industrial and Manufacturing Cooperation

Industrial and manufacturing cooperation between India and Fiji remains modest relative to Fiji's own narrow industrial base, an economy historically oriented toward sugar processing, tourism, and light manufacturing rather than large scale industrial production, but this framework identifies clear and specific opportunities building directly on the sugar sector partnership already well established through the Rarawai Sugar Mills co-generation project and India's earlier assistance for the upgradation and product development at three of Fiji's major sugar mills, discussed under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation above (India in Fiji, 2026).

Sugar industry value addition represents the most institutionally developed and immediately actionable near term focus for this pillar, given the demonstrated success of the Rarawai co-generation model in expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation in the sugar sector by enhancing value addition and addressing climate change concerns simultaneously (India in Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that this value addition model be extended to Fiji's remaining sugar mills, potentially incorporating the biofuels production opportunities discussed under the Energy Cooperation pillar above, given the natural technical complementarity between sugar processing byproducts and biofuel feedstock production.

Fiji's government has separately introduced targeted investment incentives for its film production, hospitals, and small and medium enterprise sectors, announced in October 2024 (India in Fiji, 2026), and this framework recommends, consistent with the recommendations articulated under Investment Cooperation earlier in this framework, that Indian manufacturers and processors specifically in the food processing and pharmaceutical sectors be made aware of and encouraged to access these incentive structures, given the natural complementarity between India's globally competitive pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and Fiji's healthcare infrastructure development priorities discussed under Healthcare and Public Health Cooperation below.

Small and medium enterprise development capacity building constitutes a further relevant dimension of this pillar, given Fiji's broader need to diversify its economic base and India's own extensive domestic experience supporting small scale industrial development. This framework recommends that India's relevant small and medium enterprise development institutions establish a technical cooperation partnership with Fiji's corresponding agencies, potentially coordinated with the youth entrepreneurship priorities discussed under the Youth Cooperation pillar below.

Renewable energy manufacturing represents a longer term but potentially significant opportunity within this pillar, given Fiji's substantial and growing solar energy deployment ambitions discussed extensively under Energy Cooperation above. This framework recommends that India's solar manufacturing sector explore the feasibility of establishing regional assembly or component manufacturing capacity in Fiji, potentially serving not only Fiji's own domestic solar deployment needs but the wider Pacific Island Countries market

through the FIPIC framework, consistent with Fiji's broader positioning as a regional hub for India's Pacific engagement.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the industrial and manufacturing cooperation pillar. First, extension of the sugar sector value addition model, building on the Rarawai co-generation precedent, to Fiji's remaining sugar mills. Second, targeted outreach to Indian food processing and pharmaceutical manufacturers regarding Fiji's investment incentive structures. Third, a small and medium enterprise development capacity building partnership, coordinated with the broader youth entrepreneurship priorities discussed elsewhere in this framework. Fourth, longer term feasibility assessment of regional solar component manufacturing capacity in Fiji, serving both domestic and wider Pacific Island Countries markets.

Fifth, this framework recommends strengthening **industrial skills and technical workforce development** through partnerships between Indian technical institutions, manufacturing enterprises, and relevant Fijian vocational and higher-education institutions. Training could focus on food processing, industrial maintenance, quality control, packaging, renewable-energy equipment, pharmaceutical production, and modern manufacturing practices. Such cooperation would strengthen Fiji's domestic technical capacity while supporting the sustainability of future industrial investments.

Sixth, **technology transfer and industrial knowledge exchange** should form an explicit component of major manufacturing partnerships. Indian enterprises participating in Fiji's industrial development could be encouraged to establish structured arrangements for technical training, operational knowledge sharing, equipment maintenance, and managerial capacity building. This would enable cooperation to generate longer-term domestic capabilities rather than remaining limited to capital investment or individual projects.

Seventh, this framework recommends developing **MSME-oriented industrial clusters and value chains**, particularly in food processing, agricultural products, handicrafts, packaging, and light manufacturing. Linking Fijian producers with Indian suppliers, distributors, technology providers, and markets could help small enterprises move from primary production toward higher-value processing and finished products. Digital commerce platforms could further support market access and business-to-business connectivity.

Finally, industrial cooperation should incorporate **resource efficiency, waste reduction, and circular-economy principles** from the planning stage. Sugar-processing residues, agricultural waste, and other industrial byproducts could be assessed for productive secondary uses, including energy generation, composting, and bio-based products. An annual India–Fiji Industrial Cooperation Review could monitor investment, enterprises supported, workers trained, technology-transfer activities, value-added production, and new industrial projects, providing measurable benchmarks for the progressive diversification of Fiji's manufacturing base.

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## 19. Academic and Educational Cooperation

Academic and educational cooperation constitutes one of the most substantively developed and rapidly expanding pillars of the India-Fiji relationship, anchored in the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation scholarship program, whose annual slots allocated to Fiji have been substantially increased from 55 to 110 (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), a doubling that this framework identifies as among the clearest quantifiable indicators of the relationship's deepening across the most recent reporting period. Complementing this expansion, India has established the Sagar Amrut Scholarship scheme, offering 1,000 scholarships across the wider Pacific Island Countries region, with 100 slots specifically allocated to Fiji on an annual basis (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), providing a substantial and sustained pathway for Fijian students to pursue tertiary education in India.

Institutional educational infrastructure has been further strengthened through the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology at Fiji National University in 2021 (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), an institution this framework identifies as complementary to the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre discussed under Energy Cooperation and Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation above, together positioning Fiji National University as an increasingly significant hub for Indian supported technical education within Fiji.

Cultural and educational exchange beyond formal degree granting programs has also developed a substantial track record, most visibly through the Know India Programme, whose Fijian alumni network was specifically honoured at a cultural evening jointly organized by the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Suva on 11 December 2025, during which alumni shared their experiences from their visits to India (IANS Live, 2026).

Fijian officials have publicly and specifically welcomed India's redoubled commitment to tailor made ITEC training programs for every civil servant and Fijian who aspires to reach their full potential in life, a commitment articulated by Fiji's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, in response to Indian High Commissioner P.S. Karthigeyan's outreach following the FIPIC III Summit commitments (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that this civil service training partnership be formalized into a structured, needs assessed program, ensuring that ITEC placements are systematically aligned with Fiji's own identified capacity building priorities across government ministries.

Given the agriculture cooperation framework's own explicit reference to expanding student exchange programmes as a priority area identified during the January 2026 ministerial discussions (IANS Live, 2026), this framework recommends that academic and educational cooperation be treated as a genuinely cross cutting priority, with dedicated scholarship allocations tied specifically to the sector priorities articulated throughout this framework's other pillars, including agriculture, renewable energy, healthcare, and digital infrastructure.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the academic and educational cooperation pillar. First, continued expansion of ITEC scholarship slots beyond the current 110 annual allocation, tracking growth in Fiji's own identified capacity building needs. Second, coordinated operation of Fiji National University's Centre of Excellence in Information Technology and Solar Technology Application Resource Centre. Third, formalization of the Know India Programme Alumni Association as a structured mentorship and cultural exchange body. Fourth, systematic alignment of ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship placements with the specific sector priorities articulated throughout this framework's other pillars.

Fifth, this framework recommends strengthening **faculty, researcher, and academic institution exchanges** between Indian and Fijian universities. Beyond student scholarships, structured faculty mobility programmes could facilitate joint teaching, curriculum development, research supervision, and institutional partnerships in areas corresponding to the priorities identified across this framework. Such exchanges would allow academic cooperation to develop from individual scholarship opportunities into sustained institutional relationships.

Sixth, **vocational, technical, and skills-based education** should receive greater emphasis, particularly in sectors where Fiji has identified workforce development requirements. Indian technical institutions could support training programmes in renewable energy, healthcare technologies, agricultural mechanisation, information technology, construction, disaster management, and industrial maintenance. Short-term certification programmes could complement longer ITEC placements and provide opportunities for working professionals who cannot undertake extended study abroad.

Seventh, this framework recommends developing **digital education and distance-learning partnerships** to extend the benefits of Indian educational cooperation to students and professionals located outside Fiji's principal urban centres. Online courses, virtual classrooms, digital libraries, and jointly delivered training programmes could increase accessibility while reducing the geographical and financial constraints associated with international mobility.

Finally, an **India–Fiji Academic Cooperation Review** should be conducted annually to assess scholarships awarded, completion rates, faculty exchanges, joint research initiatives, technical trainees supported, alumni engagement, and post-training outcomes. Particular attention should be given to whether scholarship and training beneficiaries subsequently contribute to Fiji's priority sectors. This would enable both governments to periodically adjust educational programmes according to emerging skills requirements and ensure that expanded academic cooperation produces measurable institutional and human-capital outcomes over the long term.

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## 20. Healthcare and Public Health Cooperation

Healthcare and public health cooperation between India and Fiji is anchored in what officials on both sides describe as the most extensive Indian development project ever undertaken in Fiji or the wider Pacific region, the Regional 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre, announced by Prime Minister Modi at the third FIPIC Summit in Papua New Guinea in May 2023 and advanced through the formal site handover presided over by President Murmu and Prime Minister Rabuka during President Murmu's August 2024 state visit (FBC News, 2026; News on Air, 2026). To be constructed in Nasinu, this hospital is explicitly designed to alleviate the burden of non-communicable diseases through the provision of advanced medical facilities and infrastructure serving not only Fiji but the wider Pacific region, with President Murmu specifically expressing confidence that the project would help meet the priority needs of the people of Fiji and the wider Pacific (FBC News, 2026). The Indian government has committed to provide both equipment and human resources for the hospital's operation, reflecting a comprehensive, rather than purely infrastructural, approach to this flagship project (FBC News, 2026).

Fijian officials have specifically credited India with providing critical support during the COVID-19 pandemic, with India recognized as being among the first countries to supply Fiji with vaccines, support that officials have described as critical for the country's post pandemic reopening (FBC News, 2026). This demonstrated pandemic response partnership, discussed further under Disaster Management and Humanitarian Cooperation above, provides an important precedent this framework recommends be formalized into standing public health emergency preparedness arrangements between the two countries' health ministries.

Pharmaceutical access cooperation has advanced substantially through the pharmacopoeial cooperation agreement concluded in 2025 recognizing the Indian Pharmacopoeia within Fiji, a regulatory harmonization step expected to pave the way for the establishment of Jan Aushadhi Kendras, India's network of affordable generic medicine outlets, within the Fijian healthcare system (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This framework identifies this pharmacopoeial recognition as a foundational regulatory achievement that this framework recommends be rapidly followed by concrete implementation, given the direct and immediate benefit affordable generic medicine access would provide to Fijian healthcare consumers.

Community level medical assistance has been sustained through targeted programs including Jaipur Foot Camps, which have provided prosthetic limbs to approximately 600 Fijian beneficiaries (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), a program this framework recommends be continued and, where demand warrants, expanded given its demonstrated and measurable impact on individual recipients' quality of life. India has additionally maintained a regular supply of medical kits to Fiji as part of its broader development partnership (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), a practice this framework recommends be formalized into a standing medical supply arrangement rather than an ad hoc response mechanism.

High level political attention to healthcare cooperation has been sustained through 2025, with Prime Minister Rabuka specifically meeting with India's Minister for Health during his August 2025 visit to New Delhi to advance healthcare sector collaboration (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that this ministerial engagement be placed on a regular schedule, coordinated with the broader construction and operationalization timeline of the Nasinu hospital project.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the healthcare and public health cooperation pillar. First, timely construction and operationalization of the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre in Nasinu, including the committed Indian provision of equipment and human resources. Second, rapid implementation of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Fiji, building on the 2025 pharmacopoeial recognition agreement. Third, formalization of standing public health emergency preparedness and medical supply arrangements, building on the demonstrated COVID-19 response partnership. Fourth, continuation and expansion of community level medical assistance programs, including Jaipur Foot Camps.

Fifth, this framework recommends establishing a structured **healthcare workforce development partnership** alongside the Nasinu hospital project. Indian medical institutions could support specialized training, continuing medical education, nursing development, biomedical equipment maintenance, and hospital-management capacity building for Fijian healthcare professionals. Where appropriate, exchange programmes could enable Fijian doctors, nurses, technicians, and administrators to undertake short-term training in Indian institutions, while Indian specialists could provide technical support in Fiji.

Sixth, cooperation should expand into **telemedicine and digital health**, particularly to improve access to specialist services for communities located outside Fiji's principal urban centres and on remote islands. Secure teleconsultation platforms, electronic health information systems, remote diagnostics, and digital medical training could complement physical healthcare infrastructure and reduce geographical barriers to specialist care.

Seventh, given the importance of non-communicable diseases to Fiji's healthcare requirements, India and Fiji should strengthen **preventive healthcare and public-health research cooperation**. Joint programmes could focus on cardiovascular disease prevention, diabetes, hypertension, nutrition, screening, rehabilitation, and community health awareness. Academic partnerships between Indian and Fijian medical institutions could support evidence-based approaches adapted to Fiji's specific demographic and epidemiological conditions.

Finally, this framework recommends an **annual India–Fiji Health Cooperation Review** covering hospital construction and operational milestones, healthcare personnel trained, specialist services delivered, medicines distributed, telemedicine consultations, community beneficiaries, and public-health programmes implemented.

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## 21. Youth Cooperation

Youth cooperation between India and Fiji draws on a substantial and growing base of youth focused engagement already documented across this framework's other pillars, including the Youth Farm Initiative supported by India as part of its broader humanitarian and agricultural resilience partnership discussed under Disaster Management and Humanitarian Cooperation above (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), and the substantially expanded ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship programs discussed under Academic and Educational Cooperation, which together provide 210 annual scholarship and training placements specifically benefiting young Fijians (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025).

The Youth Farm Initiative represents a particularly concrete and replicable model within this pillar, combining agricultural livelihood development with youth engagement in a manner directly relevant to Fiji's own economic diversification and food security priorities discussed under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation above. This framework recommends that this initiative be substantially expanded, potentially incorporating the agricultural technology transfers, including drones and mobile soil testing laboratories, discussed under that same pillar, ensuring that Fiji's youth agricultural workforce has direct access to the most current technology India has committed to providing.

Given the substantial scale of Indo-Fijian community engagement with India through cultural and educational channels, discussed extensively under the Culture and Heritage Cooperation pillar later in this framework, this framework identifies youth cultural exchange as a particularly significant, if less formally documented, dimension of this pillar, building on the demonstrated enthusiasm Fijian communities have shown for Indian cultural content, including Bollywood cinema, documented through events such as the Indian Film Festival held in Nakasi in January 2026 (Fiji Times, 2026).

Sports and recreational youth engagement, discussed in greater detail under the Sports Cooperation pillar later in this framework, also intersects meaningfully with this pillar, particularly given cricket's substantial popularity within both India and the wider Pacific Islands region, offering a natural avenue for structured youth sporting exchange and development programming.

Given Fiji's own youthful demographic profile and the substantial scale of educational and training opportunities already available through the ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship programs, this framework recommends that youth cooperation be designed as an explicit, cross cutting priority coordinating the various youth relevant elements already embedded across this framework's agricultural, educational, cultural, and sporting pillars, rather than treating youth engagement as a narrow, standalone program disconnected from these broader initiatives.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the youth cooperation pillar. First, substantial expansion of the Youth Farm Initiative, incorporating agricultural technology transfers discussed under the Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation pillar. Second,

formalization of youth cultural exchange programming, building on the demonstrated popularity of events such as the Indian Film Festival. Third, structured youth sporting exchange, particularly in cricket, coordinated with the Sports Cooperation pillar discussed later in this framework. Fourth, explicit cross pillar coordination ensuring the youth relevant elements of this framework's agricultural, educational, cultural, and sporting pillars reinforce rather than operate in isolation from one another.

Fifth, this framework recommends establishing an **India–Fiji Youth Leadership and Public Service Programme** providing structured opportunities for young people to participate in leadership training, policy discussions, community development projects, and public-service learning. Exchanges between youth organizations, universities, civil society institutions, and relevant government agencies could strengthen leadership capabilities while creating sustained networks between emerging Indian and Fijian professionals.

Sixth, **youth entrepreneurship and employment-oriented cooperation** should constitute an important component of this pillar. Indian entrepreneurship development institutions, incubators, and technology platforms could support Fijian youth through business-development training, mentorship, financial-literacy programmes, and digital entrepreneurship initiatives. Particular attention could be given to agriculture, tourism, creative industries, renewable energy, information technology, and small-scale manufacturing, thereby linking youth employment opportunities with the economic priorities identified elsewhere in this framework.

Seventh, this framework recommends expanding **digital skills and innovation programmes for young Fijians**, including training in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, coding, digital commerce, data literacy, and emerging technologies. Such initiatives could be connected with the Centre of Excellence in Information Technology at Fiji National University and India's wider digital cooperation initiatives, creating pathways between education, technological skills, and employment.

Finally, youth cooperation should incorporate **community volunteering and climate-resilience activities**, enabling young people to participate in disaster preparedness, environmental restoration, public-health awareness, and community-development initiatives. An annual India–Fiji Youth Forum could bring together youth representatives from both countries to review ongoing programmes, identify emerging priorities, and develop new collaborative initiatives. Participation, training completion, entrepreneurship outcomes, exchange opportunities, and community projects could serve as measurable indicators of progress.

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## 22. Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Cooperation

Women empowerment and gender equality cooperation between India and Fiji remains an emerging pillar within the broader bilateral relationship, with substantial potential to draw on both countries' domestic policy experience in advancing female economic participation, education, and health outcomes, particularly given the demonstrated resilience and leadership role women have played within Fiji's own disaster recovery experience, discussed extensively under the Environmental and Climate Cooperation and Disaster Management pillars above, where cyclone and flood recovery efforts have repeatedly placed significant burdens on women as primary caregivers and household managers within affected communities.

Healthcare access for women represents a particularly relevant entry point for gender focused cooperation, given the broader healthcare infrastructure investment discussed under Healthcare and Public Health Cooperation above, and this framework recommends that the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre currently under development in Nasinu incorporate specific attention to women's cardiovascular and broader health needs within its clinical programming, given documented global evidence that non-communicable disease burden, the hospital's explicitly stated clinical focus, affects women and men differently and often receives less clinical attention in the specific context of women's presentations.

Women's economic participation and entrepreneurship constitute a further priority area, building on the youth entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprise development cooperation discussed under the Youth Cooperation and Industrial and Manufacturing Cooperation pillars above. This framework recommends that any Indian supported entrepreneurship or vocational training initiative in Fiji, including the small and medium enterprise development partnership recommended under Industrial and Manufacturing Cooperation, incorporate a dedicated women's participation component, ensuring that Fiji's substantial and economically active Indo-Fijian and indigenous Fijian women's business community is deliberately included within program design.

Education access for girls and women, supported through the substantially expanded ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship programs discussed under Academic and Educational Cooperation above, represents a further relevant dimension of this pillar, and this framework recommends that both scholarship programs specifically track and report gender balanced participation data, ensuring that the doubling of ITEC slots from 55 to 110 annually translates into meaningfully expanded educational opportunity for young Fijian women alongside their male counterparts.

Given the comparatively early stage of formal bilateral engagement specifically focused on gender equality, this framework recommends that near term priorities center on institutional dialogue building and the systematic incorporation of gender considerations across this framework's other pillars, particularly healthcare, education, and agriculture, rather than treating gender equality cooperation as an entirely separate, standalone program disconnected

from the practical, sector specific cooperation already well established between the two countries.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the women empowerment and gender equality cooperation pillar. First, explicit incorporation of women's health considerations within the clinical programming of the Nasinu Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital. Second, a dedicated women's participation component within any Indian supported entrepreneurship or small and medium enterprise development initiative. Third, systematic tracking and reporting of gender balanced participation within the ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship programs. Fourth, integration of gender considerations across this framework's healthcare, education, and agriculture pillars, rather than treatment of gender equality as an isolated cooperation track.

Fifth, this framework recommends developing **women's leadership and public participation programmes** through exchanges between Indian and Fijian institutions, civil society organizations, universities, and community organizations. Training in leadership, public administration, community governance, negotiation, and policy development could strengthen women's participation in decision-making at local and national levels. Such programmes should be designed to reflect Fiji's own institutional and community priorities while drawing on relevant Indian experiences.

Sixth, **women's financial and digital inclusion** should form an important component of bilateral cooperation. Capacity-building programmes could provide women entrepreneurs and workers with training in financial literacy, digital payments, e-commerce, online business management, and access to formal financial services. This could be coordinated with the Digital, Financial, Youth, and MSME cooperation pillars to ensure that women benefit directly from expanding economic and technological opportunities.

Seventh, this framework recommends integrating **women-centred climate and disaster resilience measures** into humanitarian and environmental cooperation. Training women in disaster preparedness, emergency response, food-security planning, community health, and climate-resilient livelihoods could strengthen household and community resilience while recognizing the important roles women frequently perform during disaster recovery.

Finally, India and Fiji should establish an **annual Women and Gender Cooperation Dialogue** to review progress across relevant bilateral programmes. Indicators could include women's participation in scholarships and vocational training, women-owned enterprises supported, healthcare beneficiaries, leadership programmes completed, access to digital and financial services, and participation in climate-resilience initiatives. Gender-disaggregated data should be incorporated into relevant bilateral programmes wherever practicable, enabling both governments to identify participation gaps and adjust programme design accordingly.

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## 23. Labour, Employment and Migration Cooperation

Labour, employment, and migration cooperation between India and Fiji reached a landmark institutional milestone on 25 August 2025, when the two countries signed a Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility during Prime Minister Rabuka's visit to New Delhi, explicitly recognizing people to people ties as a natural foundation for the relationship, with identified potential across several sectors including agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism (Tribune India, 2026). India's Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (South), Neena Malhotra, specifically highlighted agriculture as an area of immense cooperative potential, noting the historical irony that while Indians originally arrived in Fiji as indentured labour for sugar plantations, Fiji's sugar industry itself has since declined, a pattern Malhotra noted is occurring across many small island developing states (Tribune India, 2026).

This framework identifies the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility as a foundational instrument establishing the institutional basis for the more detailed, sector specific labour mobility arrangements this pillar recommends be developed in subsequent implementation phases. Given the Declaration's explicit identification of agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism as priority sectors, this framework recommends that dedicated bilateral working arrangements be established for each sector, defining specific visa categories, skills recognition frameworks, and worker protection standards appropriate to the distinct nature of labour mobility in each domain.

Skilled labour mobility discussions have already progressed at the working level, with India's High Commissioner Suneet Mehta specifically meeting with Fiji's Minister for Immigration, Viliame B. Naupoto, in late 2025 to discuss matters of mutual interest including skilled mobility, people to people ties, and further strengthening of bilateral ties (IANS Live, 2026). This framework recommends that these working level discussions be formalized into a dedicated Skilled Mobility Working Group, tasked with translating the broader Declaration of Intent into concrete, implementable visa and work permit arrangements.

Given the historical and demographic depth of Indo-Fijian connections to India discussed extensively throughout this framework, this framework recommends that labour mobility arrangements developed under this pillar give particular attention to facilitating movement for descendants of the Girmitiya who may seek professional, educational, or family reunification pathways to India, an interest this framework recommends be balanced against India's own broader immigration policy framework applicable to overseas Indian communities more generally.

Remittance and diaspora economic linkage considerations, while not yet a prominent feature of documented bilateral cooperation, represent a further relevant dimension of this pillar, particularly given the substantial and economically established Indo-Fijian population whose historical ties to India create natural, if currently underdeveloped, economic linkage opportunities that this framework recommends be explored as labour mobility arrangements under the Declaration of Intent mature.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the labour, employment, and migration cooperation pillar. First, full operationalization of the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility through sector specific working arrangements for agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism. Second, formalization of the Skilled Mobility Working Group, building on the High Commissioner's direct engagement with Fiji's Immigration Minister. Third, development of streamlined mobility pathways giving due consideration to the historical Girmitiya connection. Fourth, exploratory work on remittance and diaspora economic linkage opportunities as labour mobility arrangements mature.

Fifth, this framework recommends establishing **mutual recognition and verification mechanisms for professional and technical qualifications** relevant to agreed labour-mobility sectors. Clear procedures for verifying educational credentials, occupational skills, professional licences, and prior work experience could reduce administrative barriers while ensuring that workers meet the standards applicable in the receiving country. Sector-specific recognition arrangements could initially focus on occupations where identified labour shortages and mobility opportunities are most clearly established.

Sixth, bilateral labour mobility arrangements should incorporate **strong worker-protection and ethical recruitment standards** from the outset. India and Fiji could establish common guidelines concerning recruitment fees, employment contracts, wages, working conditions, grievance mechanisms, access to consular assistance, and protection against exploitation or fraudulent recruitment practices. Pre-departure orientation programmes could provide workers with information on employment rights, local regulations, workplace safety, and available support mechanisms.

Seventh, this framework recommends developing **skills-transfer and return pathways** so that temporary labour mobility contributes to long-term human-capital development in Fiji. Workers returning after employment or training in India could be supported through entrepreneurship assistance, recognition of acquired skills, and reintegration programmes. Similar mechanisms could encourage the circulation of expertise rather than treating migration solely as a one-way movement of labour.

Finally, an **India–Fiji Labour Mobility Review** should monitor recruitment numbers, visa processing times, skills recognition, worker grievances, employment outcomes, return rates, and compliance with agreed standards. Regular consultations between immigration, labour, foreign-affairs, and sectoral authorities would allow emerging problems to be addressed and enable mobility arrangements to expand or adjust according to verified labour-market requirements.

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## 24. Tourism Cooperation

Tourism cooperation between India and Fiji addresses a sector of central importance to Fiji's national economy and one explicitly identified as a priority area within the August 2025 Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility, alongside agriculture, fisheries, and construction (Tribune India, 2026). Fiji's tourism industry, historically oriented toward traditional source markets in Australia, New Zealand, and North America, represents a substantially underdeveloped market for Indian outbound tourism relative to India's large and rapidly growing base of international leisure travelers, creating clear scope for expanded bilateral tourism cooperation.

Given the extraordinary depth of India's historical and cultural connection to Fiji through the Girmitiya legacy, discussed extensively under the Culture and Heritage Cooperation pillar below, this framework identifies heritage and ancestral tourism as a particularly distinctive and compelling market segment for Indian visitors to Fiji, offering Indian travelers, and particularly members of the global Girmitiya diaspora community documented as maintaining active remembrance organizations as far afield as New Zealand, the opportunity to trace and connect with this shared history directly (Indian Newslink, 2026).

Cricket tourism represents a further specific and emerging opportunity, building directly on the deepening cricket cooperation discussed under Sports Cooperation below, given the substantial enthusiasm cricket generates among both Indian and Indo-Fijian communities, and the potential for cricket related events and tours to drive dedicated Indian visitor traffic to Fiji, complementing the country's more traditional beach and resort tourism offerings.

This framework recommends that Fiji's tourism promotion authorities and India's tourism industry, including its major outbound tour operators, jointly develop dedicated Fiji itineraries specifically marketed toward the Indian and Indo-Fijian diaspora traveler segments, potentially anchored around Girit Day commemorations each May and coordinated with the broader cultural exchange programming discussed under Culture and Heritage Cooperation below. Aviation connectivity between India and Fiji, while currently limited and typically requiring connections through Australia or other regional hubs, represents a constraining factor this framework recommends both governments monitor closely, with a view toward exploring improved connectivity arrangements as bilateral tourism demand grows.

Given the Declaration of Intent's explicit identification of tourism as a priority sector for expanded people to people mobility, this framework recommends that any visa facilitation measures developed under the Labour, Employment and Migration Cooperation pillar above give specific consideration to easing tourist travel between the two countries, recognizing that simplified visa processes for genuine tourism purposes can meaningfully expand bilateral visitor flows without the more complex considerations attached to labour mobility more broadly.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the tourism cooperation pillar. First, joint development of heritage and ancestral tourism itineraries specifically marketed to Indian and Indo-Fijian diaspora travelers. Second, development of cricket tourism packages, coordinated with the Sports Cooperation pillar below. Third, monitoring and, where feasible, improvement of aviation connectivity between the two countries. Fourth, tourist visa facilitation measures, coordinated with the broader mobility arrangements developed under the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility.

Fifth, this framework recommends developing **wellness, medical, and educational tourism linkages** between India and Fiji. India's established healthcare and wellness ecosystem could provide opportunities for specialized medical and wellness travel, while Fiji's natural environment could support complementary wellness and rehabilitation-oriented tourism. Educational and institutional exchanges could also encourage university-linked study tours and short-term cultural immersion programmes for Indian students.

Sixth, **sustainable and community-based tourism** should constitute an important component of expanded bilateral tourism cooperation. Tourism development in Fiji should seek to generate income for local communities while protecting marine ecosystems, cultural heritage sites, and environmentally sensitive areas. Indian tourism institutions could facilitate knowledge exchanges on digital tourism management, destination marketing, heritage conservation, and responsible tourism practices.

Seventh, this framework recommends creating a **joint digital tourism promotion initiative** using tourism websites, social-media campaigns, travel platforms, cultural festivals, and targeted promotional content to increase awareness of Fiji among Indian travelers and India among Fijian visitors. Dedicated campaigns could highlight Fiji's cultural heritage, Indo-Fijian history, marine attractions, adventure tourism, sporting events, and community-based experiences rather than relying exclusively on conventional resort marketing.

Finally, an **India–Fiji Tourism Cooperation Review** should track visitor arrivals, tourism expenditure, heritage-tourism participation, tourism packages developed, promotional campaigns conducted, and aviation connectivity developments. Tourism authorities and private-sector stakeholders could use these indicators to identify emerging market opportunities and adjust promotional strategies. Particular attention should be given to ensuring that increased tourism generates employment and income for local communities while remaining consistent with Fiji's environmental sustainability and cultural-heritage priorities.

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## 25. Sports Cooperation

Sports cooperation between India and Fiji has advanced substantially through 2025, anchored in a distinctive and mutually reinforcing exchange explicitly highlighted by Prime Minister Modi during Prime Minister Rabuka's August 2025 visit to New Delhi, who noted that sports connects people from the ground to the mind, citing rugby in Fiji and cricket in India as complementary examples of this connection, and specifically noting that Waisale Serevi, celebrated as the Star of Rugby Sevens, had coached the Indian rugby team, while an Indian coach was, at the time of the visit, set to take the Fiji cricket team to new heights (PMO India, 2026).

This framework identifies this reciprocal coaching exchange, rugby expertise flowing from Fiji to India and cricket expertise flowing from India to Fiji, as a genuinely distinctive and mutually respectful model of sports cooperation, one this framework recommends be formalized into a standing bilateral sports coaching exchange program rather than remaining dependent on individually arranged coaching appointments. Given Fiji's globally recognized excellence in rugby sevens, including Olympic gold medal success, and India's own deep cricketing infrastructure and talent development systems, this framework recommends that both countries' national sports federations establish a structured, multi year coaching and talent development partnership building directly on this demonstrated exchange.

Cricket development in Fiji carries particular resonance given the sport's historical connection to the Indo-Fijian community and its potential to serve as a further point of cultural and sporting connection between the two nations. This framework recommends that the Indian cricket coaching appointment discussed above be supported by broader institutional cooperation between India's Board of Control for Cricket and Fiji's national cricket association, encompassing infrastructure development, youth talent identification, and structured competition opportunities for promising Fijian cricketers, potentially including exposure to Indian domestic cricket competitions.

Rugby cooperation, flowing in the complementary direction from Fiji to India, represents a further significant opportunity given rugby's growing profile within India's own sporting landscape. This framework recommends that Fiji's world renowned rugby sevens expertise, exemplified by Waisale Serevi's own coaching engagement with the Indian national team, be extended through a more structured, sustained coaching and training partnership, potentially encompassing youth rugby development programming in India modeled on Fiji's own highly successful grassroots rugby development system.

Given the broader tourism cooperation priorities discussed above, this framework recommends that sports cooperation be explicitly linked to tourism promotion, with cricket and rugby exhibition matches, training camps, and related events positioned as opportunities to drive dedicated sports tourism traffic between the two countries, complementing the heritage and ancestral tourism opportunities discussed under Tourism Cooperation above.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the sports cooperation pillar. First, formalization of the reciprocal cricket and rugby coaching exchange into a standing, multi year bilateral sports coaching program. Second, institutional cooperation between India's Board of Control for Cricket and Fiji's national cricket association on infrastructure and talent development. Third, structured rugby coaching and youth development cooperation, building on Fiji's world renowned expertise. Fourth, explicit linkage of sports cooperation programming with tourism promotion initiatives.

Fifth, this framework recommends establishing **bilateral youth sports development programmes** providing structured opportunities for young athletes from both countries to participate in training camps, coaching clinics, competitions, and talent-identification programmes. Particular emphasis could be placed on rugby, cricket, athletics, and other sports where institutional partnerships can generate sustained opportunities for young athletes and coaches.

Sixth, cooperation should extend to **sports science, sports medicine, and athlete performance management**. Indian and Fijian sports institutions could exchange expertise in injury prevention, nutrition, physical conditioning, rehabilitation, sports psychology, performance analytics, and athlete monitoring. Such cooperation would complement coaching exchanges by strengthening the wider professional infrastructure supporting high-performance athletes.

Seventh, this framework recommends incorporating **women's sports and para-sports** into bilateral sporting programmes from the outset. Joint training camps, coaching exchanges, technical workshops, and competitive opportunities could support greater participation among female and para-athletes while allowing both countries to exchange practical approaches to inclusive sports development.

Eighth, **promotion of inclusive and grassroots sports development**, with greater opportunities for women, youth, and para-athletes through joint training programmes, coaching clinics, and community-level sporting initiatives.

Finally, an **India–Fiji Sports Cooperation Dialogue** should be established to coordinate national sports federations, coaching institutions, educational bodies, and relevant government agencies. Annual reviews could assess athletes and coaches exchanged, training programmes conducted, youth participants supported, competitions organized, women's and para-sports participation, and sports-tourism outcomes. This institutional mechanism would help ensure that bilateral sports cooperation develops beyond individual coaching appointments into a sustained programme covering grassroots participation, elite performance, professional training, and people-to-people connectivity.

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## 26. Culture and Heritage Cooperation

Culture and heritage cooperation between India and Fiji rests on a foundation unlike that shared with virtually any other nation in India's diplomatic network, rooted in the arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers, the Girmitiya, in Fiji aboard the ship *Leonidas* on 14 May 1879, the beginning of a period that would see more than 60,000 Indians brought to Fiji under the British indenture system to work Fiji's sugarcane plantations before the system's end around 1920 (Indian Newslink, 2026). Fiji's own government has formally recognized this history's centrality to national identity, declaring Girmit Day a national public holiday, commemorated each year on 14 May, with the 146th anniversary of the first Girmitiya arrival marked in 2025 (Indian Newslink, 2026; RNZ, 2026). Prime Minister Rabuka himself has described this commemoration as a day to honour the many sacrifices made by the Girmitiya in Fiji, forever cherishing their immense contributions to Fiji's nation building (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026).

India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, attended Fiji's official Girmit Day celebrations as Guest of Honour, using the occasion to note with particular appreciation that Hindi has been recognized as one of Fiji's three official languages and, significantly, has been reinstated as a parliamentary language in Fiji (Fiji Times, 2026). This framework identifies this linguistic recognition as a profoundly significant marker of the depth of cultural integration the Girmitiya legacy has achieved within Fiji's national institutions, one that distinguishes the India-Fiji relationship from India's other overseas diaspora relationships in its degree of formal linguistic institutionalization.

Language and educational cultural exchange has been substantially formalized through the deployment of Indian teachers to instruct Hindi and Sanskrit at the University of Fiji, alongside reciprocal arrangements bringing Fijian Pandits to India for religious and cultural learning, including participation in the Gita Mahotsav (PMO India, 2026). This framework recommends that this teacher exchange program be expanded and placed on a permanent, sustained institutional footing, given its direct relevance to preserving the Hindi language capacity that Girmitiya descendants themselves have identified as at risk of erosion, particularly among diaspora communities that have subsequently migrated onward from Fiji to countries including New Zealand, Australia, and the United States (Manukau Indian FM, 2026).

Fiji has demonstrated a sustained and active interest in hosting major Indian cultural and linguistic events, having hosted the 12th World Hindi Conference, an occasion India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar specifically noted demonstrated Fiji's appreciation for Hindi culture and language, marking his first visit to the country and the first foreign ministerial delegation to visit Fiji following the formation of its new coalition government (FBC News, 2026). Prime Minister Rabuka has separately expressed Fiji's keenness to host similar high level conferences and events in the future (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026), a standing invitation this framework recommends India actively take up.

Contemporary popular cultural exchange has flourished through India's cinema and entertainment industry, exemplified by the Indian Film Festival held in Nakasi in January 2026, opened by India's High Commissioner, who specifically noted that Fijian communities have embraced Bollywood cinema, learning Hindi phrases and singing popular songs, describing the diaspora as an integral bridge between the two nations (Fiji Times, 2026).

This framework recommends the following priorities for the culture and heritage cooperation pillar. First, expansion and permanent institutionalization of the Hindi and Sanskrit teacher exchange program with the University of Fiji, alongside the reciprocal Fijian Pandit learning exchange. Second, active Indian response to Fiji's standing invitation to host future major Hindi language and cultural conferences. Third, formalized annual commemoration and cultural programming around Girmit Day, coordinated between both governments. Fourth, continued support for popular cultural exchange, including expanded Indian Film Festival programming across additional Fijian locations.

Fifth, this framework recommends strengthening **Girmitiya heritage preservation and archival cooperation** through partnerships between Indian and Fijian museums, libraries, universities, and historical institutions. Digitization of indenture records, photographs, oral histories, personal correspondence, and other archival materials could help preserve the historical experiences of the Girmitiya generation and make these resources accessible to researchers, students, and younger generations in both countries.

Sixth, cooperation should support the development of **heritage sites and cultural institutions associated with the Girmitiya experience**. India could provide technical expertise in archival preservation, museum management, exhibition design, and digital interpretation, while Fijian institutions would retain primary responsibility for presenting the history within its local and national context. Such cooperation could also complement the heritage-tourism initiatives proposed under the Tourism Cooperation pillar.

Seventh, this framework recommends expanding **performing arts and creative exchanges**, including music, dance, theatre, literature, film, and traditional cultural practices. Regular cultural residencies, artist exchanges, workshops, and joint festivals could provide opportunities for Indian and Fijian artists to collaborate while introducing audiences in both countries to each other's contemporary and traditional cultural expressions.

Finally, **youth participation and digital cultural preservation** should be incorporated into bilateral cultural programmes. Online exhibitions, oral-history projects, educational resources, documentary initiatives, and student cultural competitions could encourage younger generations to engage with the shared history of India and Fiji. An annual India–Fiji Cultural Cooperation Review could monitor cultural exchanges, heritage projects, language programmes, archival initiatives, artistic collaborations, and youth participation, ensuring that the partnership's historical foundation remains relevant to future generations.

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## 27. Parliamentary and Governance Cooperation

Parliamentary and governance cooperation between India and Fiji addresses a domain of particular significance given the remarkable institutional development documented under Culture and Heritage Cooperation above, namely Hindi's reinstatement as a parliamentary language in Fiji, a development India's Minister of State for External Affairs specifically welcomed as heartening during his 2025 visit to Fiji for Girmit Day (Fiji Times, 2026). This framework identifies this linguistic institutionalization within Fiji's own Parliament as a distinctive foundation for deeper parliamentary exchange between the two nations.

Parliamentary level engagement has already been documented at the working level, with India's High Commissioner Suneet Mehta calling on the Speaker of the Fiji Parliament, Filimone Jitoko, in February 2026, holding productive discussions that reaffirmed strong parliamentary ties and identified avenues to further advance bilateral cooperation (IANS Live, 2026). This framework recommends that this engagement be formalized into a standing Parliamentary Friendship Group linking India's Parliament and Fiji's Parliament, providing a durable institutional channel for legislative exchange that would complement the more frequently documented executive branch engagement discussed throughout this framework's other pillars.

Governance capacity building, discussed briefly under Academic and Educational Cooperation above through the ITEC civil servant training commitment, carries direct relevance to this pillar as well, given Fiji's explicit interest, articulated by its Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, in India's redoubled commitment to tailor made training programs for every civil servant and Fijian who aspires to reach their full potential (Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that a specific proportion of the expanded ITEC scholarship allocation, discussed under Academic and Educational Cooperation above, be explicitly reserved for governance and public administration training, building Fiji's institutional civil service capacity.

Election administration and democratic institution building represent a further, more specialized dimension of governance cooperation, particularly relevant given Fiji's own experience navigating periods of political transition, including the formation of its coalition government referenced in the context of Dr. Jaishankar's 2023 World Hindi Conference visit as the first foreign ministerial delegation to engage with the new government (FBC News, 2026). This framework recommends that any governance cooperation in this specific area be structured as strictly technical exchange focused on electoral administration logistics and democratic institutional strengthening, consistent with the guiding principle of sovereign equality and mutual respect articulated at the outset of this framework.

Local governance cooperation constitutes a final dimension of this pillar, and this framework recommends that India and Fiji explore sister city or sister province arrangements linking Indian states with significant historical Girmitiya emigration origins to specific Fijian

provinces, providing a symbolically resonant complement to the national level governance cooperation discussed above.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the parliamentary and governance cooperation pillar. First, formalization of a standing Parliamentary Friendship Group, building on the February 2026 Speaker level engagement. Second, dedicated allocation of ITEC scholarship slots specifically for governance and public administration training. Third, strictly technical electoral administration and democratic institution building exchange. Fourth, exploration of sister city or sister province arrangements linking Indian states of Girmitiya origin with Fijian provinces.

Fifth, this framework recommends establishing **legislative research and parliamentary capacity-building exchanges** between relevant institutions in India and Fiji. Parliamentary officials and legislative researchers could participate in programmes covering legislative drafting, committee procedures, parliamentary research, budget scrutiny, public consultation, and digital parliamentary systems. Such exchanges would strengthen institutional knowledge while maintaining full respect for each country's constitutional and legislative arrangements.

Sixth, **public administration and civil-service modernization** should form a practical component of governance cooperation. ITEC-supported training could include public-sector digitalization, service delivery, policy implementation, project management, financial administration, and evidence-based policy development. Training priorities should be identified jointly with Fijian institutions so that capacity-building programmes respond to locally identified administrative requirements.

Seventh, this framework recommends expanding cooperation in **local governance and community-level service delivery**. Exchanges between Indian local government institutions and corresponding Fijian authorities could examine approaches to municipal administration, sanitation, water management, digital services, disaster preparedness, and participatory community development. Any sister-city or sister-province arrangements could provide an institutional platform for these practical exchanges rather than functioning solely as symbolic partnerships.

Finally, **digital governance and institutional accountability** should be incorporated into the bilateral governance agenda. India and Fiji could exchange technical experiences concerning digital public services, secure government platforms, records management, citizen-service delivery, and administrative transparency. An annual India–Fiji Parliamentary and Governance Dialogue could review parliamentary exchanges, officials trained, institutional partnerships, local-government initiatives, and digital-governance projects, providing measurable indicators for assessing the development of long-term institutional cooperation.

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## 28. Legal and Judicial Cooperation

Legal and judicial cooperation between India and Fiji provides the essential regulatory foundation supporting the more substantive economic, mobility, and healthcare priorities articulated elsewhere in this framework, with the most concrete recent legal achievement being the pharmacopoeial cooperation agreement concluded in 2025 recognizing the Indian Pharmacopoeia within Fiji, discussed in greater detail under Healthcare and Public Health Cooperation above (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This framework identifies this regulatory harmonization achievement as a template for the kind of practical, sector specific legal cooperation this pillar recommends be pursued across additional domains.

Migration and mobility legal frameworks, anchored in the August 2025 Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility discussed under Labour, Employment and Migration Cooperation above, represent the most immediately significant near term legal priority within this pillar, given the Declaration's explicit function as establishing the legal and institutional basis for expanded sector specific labour mobility across agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism (Tribune India, 2026). This framework recommends that the detailed bilateral agreements required to operationalize this Declaration, including specific visa categories, work permit procedures, and worker protection standards, be negotiated as a matter of priority.

Investment protection legal frameworks, discussed under the Investment Cooperation pillar earlier in this framework, represent a further significant near term priority, given the current absence of a comprehensive bilateral investment treaty and the growing scale of Indian investment activity anticipated across the renewable energy, healthcare, and sugar sector value addition priorities discussed throughout this framework.

Land tenure and property rights considerations carry particular sensitivity within the Fijian legal context, given documented historical complexities surrounding land ownership rights for the Indo-Fijian community specifically, an issue this framework notes with appropriate sensitivity as falling squarely within Fiji's own sovereign domestic legal and constitutional arrangements, consistent with this framework's foundational guiding principle of sovereign equality and mutual respect, and one this framework accordingly does not seek to prescribe recommendations on, beyond noting its relevance to the broader historical context underlying the bilateral relationship discussed throughout this document.

Commercial dispute resolution mechanisms constitute a further relevant priority, given the growing scale of bilateral commercial activity anticipated across the sugar, renewable energy, and healthcare infrastructure sectors discussed throughout this framework. This framework recommends that both governments identify or establish a mutually recognized commercial arbitration mechanism appropriate to the current and anticipated scale of bilateral commerce, providing predictability for the growing number of Indian and Fijian businesses engaging in cross border commercial activity.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the legal and judicial cooperation pillar. First, negotiation of the detailed bilateral agreements required to fully operationalize the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility. Second, negotiation of a comprehensive bilateral investment protection framework. Third, establishment of a commercial arbitration mechanism appropriate to the growing scale of bilateral commerce. Fourth, continued regulatory harmonization following the pharmacopoeial cooperation model in additional relevant technical domains.

Fifth, this framework recommends developing **judicial and legal professional exchanges** between India and Fiji, including programmes for judges, prosecutors, legal officers, court administrators, and other relevant professionals. Areas of exchange could include commercial law, administrative law, arbitration, cyber law, intellectual property, environmental regulation, and emerging legal issues associated with digital technologies. Such programmes would strengthen professional knowledge while preserving the independence of each country's judicial institutions.

Sixth, **digital justice and court administration** should constitute an emerging area of technical cooperation. Indian and Fijian institutions could exchange experiences concerning electronic case management, digital filing systems, virtual hearings, judicial records management, and secure legal information systems. Particular attention should be given to cybersecurity, data protection, and accessibility so that digitalization strengthens rather than restricts access to justice.

Seventh, this framework recommends exploring cooperation in **consumer protection and commercial regulatory frameworks**, particularly as bilateral trade, digital commerce, investment, and tourism expand. Exchanges between relevant regulatory authorities could address consumer rights, product standards, business compliance, cross-border transactions, and mechanisms for resolving commercial complaints.

Eighth, **cooperation on emerging legal issues**, including cyber law, digital commerce, intellectual property, and data protection, to ensure that bilateral cooperation keeps pace with technological and economic developments.

Finally, an **India–Fiji Legal and Judicial Cooperation Dialogue** could bring together justice ministries, courts, regulatory institutions, legal professionals, and relevant technical agencies on a regular basis. Annual reviews could monitor agreements concluded, legal professionals trained, regulatory harmonization initiatives, arbitration mechanisms utilized, and digital-justice projects implemented. This would provide an institutional mechanism for identifying emerging legal requirements and ensuring that the regulatory architecture supporting bilateral economic, social, and people-to-people cooperation develops alongside the broader partnership.

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## 29. Multilateral and Regional Cooperation

Multilateral and regional cooperation between India and Fiji operates through an unusually rich and long standing institutional architecture, anchored above all in the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, which India launched during Prime Minister Modi's historic November 2014 visit to Suva, the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Fiji in 33 years, bringing together India and all 14 Pacific Island Countries in a summit driven development partnership functioning without a permanent secretariat, sustained instead through periodic leaders' summits, foreign ministers' meetings on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, and project level implementation through India's development cooperation instruments (IMPRI, 2026). Fiji's role as FIPIC's founding host nation positions it as the anchor of this entire regional architecture, a status this framework identifies as carrying continuing strategic significance for India's broader Indo-Pacific engagement.

FIPIC's institutional evolution across three successive summits, from FIPIC I in Suva in November 2014, through FIPIC II in Jaipur in August 2015, to FIPIC III in Port Moresby in May 2023, where a 12 point action plan spanning health, education, technology, renewable energy, and small enterprise development was announced, and where Fiji, alongside Papua New Guinea, conferred its highest civilian honour on Prime Minister Modi (IMPRI, 2026; India in Fiji, 2026), reflects a sustained and deepening multilateral commitment this framework recommends continue on its established roughly biennial cycle. This framework notes with analytical interest that India's FIPIC III summit occurred on the same day the United States held its own high level engagement with Pacific leaders in the same city, underlining that India's Pacific outreach unfolds within a wider strategic contest for regional influence, a dynamic intensified by developments including the China-Solomon Islands Framework Agreement on Security Cooperation signed in April 2022 (IMPRI, 2026).

Commonwealth cooperation represents a further significant multilateral dimension of the relationship, given both India and Fiji's shared membership in the Commonwealth of Nations, providing an additional standing forum for coordination on shared priorities including democratic governance, sustainable development, and climate resilience, themes discussed extensively throughout this framework's other pillars.

United Nations cooperation, including coordination within the UN General Assembly's High Level Week, where the FIPIC Foreign Ministers Meeting was convened on 24 September 2025 (India in Kiribati, 2026), provides a further recurring institutional touchpoint for multilateral coordination, and this framework recommends that both countries continue to use this annual UN General Assembly window as a reliable, recurring venue for ministerial level review of FIPIC and broader bilateral priorities between full leaders' summits.

Given Fiji's explicit and repeated role as host and anchor for major India-Pacific institutional milestones, from the founding FIPIC Summit to its status as a Founding Member of the International Solar Alliance, this framework recommends that India's broader Indo-Pacific and Pacific Islands engagement strategy continue to treat Fiji as its primary regional

coordination hub, consistent with the strategic positioning discussed extensively under Political Cooperation earlier in this framework.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the multilateral and regional cooperation pillar. First, continuation of the FIPIC Summit cycle on its established roughly biennial schedule, with Fiji continuing to play a leading role. Second, active use of the annual UN General Assembly High Level Week as a recurring venue for FIPIC Foreign Ministers coordination. Third, expanded Commonwealth level cooperation on shared democratic governance and climate resilience priorities. Fourth, continued positioning of Fiji as India's primary coordination hub for its broader Pacific Islands regional engagement strategy.

Fifth, this framework recommends strengthening **coordination between India, Fiji, and Pacific regional institutions**, including the Pacific Islands Forum and other relevant regional mechanisms, while fully respecting their respective mandates and decision-making processes. Regular diplomatic consultations could identify areas where India's technical and development cooperation can complement Pacific-led priorities, particularly in climate resilience, disaster management, health, agriculture, and renewable energy.

Sixth, **climate diplomacy and the interests of Small Island Developing States** should remain a central component of India–Fiji multilateral coordination. The two countries could coordinate positions and exchange expertise in relevant United Nations negotiations concerning climate finance, disaster resilience, ocean governance, and sustainable development, with Fiji providing perspectives derived from its Pacific island context and India contributing its wider development and technological experience.

Seventh, this framework recommends greater **coordination of development cooperation projects across the Pacific** through Fiji-based regional platforms where appropriate. Training programmes, technical assistance, renewable-energy initiatives, healthcare cooperation, and disaster-response capabilities developed through FIPIC could be designed to generate transferable models for other Pacific Island Countries while retaining Fiji's role as an important implementation and coordination partner.

Finally, India and Fiji should establish **measurable indicators for multilateral cooperation**, including joint initiatives launched, regional training programmes conducted, Pacific countries benefiting from shared projects, coordinated multilateral positions, and development commitments implemented. An annual India–Fiji Multilateral Cooperation Review, aligned where practical with the UN General Assembly cycle, could assess progress and identify priorities for the subsequent FIPIC and Commonwealth engagements, ensuring that regional diplomacy produces concrete institutional and development outcomes.

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### 30. Sustainable Development Cooperation

Sustainable development cooperation between India and Fiji functions as an integrative pillar within this framework, drawing together and reinforcing the energy, environmental, agricultural, healthcare, and economic diversification priorities discussed in earlier sections, with Fiji's explicit membership across India's three major global sustainability platforms, the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuels Alliance, providing an unusually comprehensive institutional foundation for this pillar relative to many of India's other bilateral relationships (Outlook Business, 2026).

Prime Minister Modi's explicit appreciation of Fiji's membership across all three of these platforms, articulated during the 2025 high level engagement surrounding Prime Minister Rabuka's visit, alongside India's reiterated commitment to support Fiji's national resilience goals within the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure framework through technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy on global platforms (Outlook Business, 2026), positions sustainable development cooperation as a pillar this framework recommends be explicitly tracked against internationally comparable Sustainable Development Goal benchmarks, given both countries' shared commitment to this framework as United Nations member states.

The 12 point action plan announced by Prime Minister Modi at the FIPIC III Summit in May 2023, spanning health, education, technology, renewable energy, and small enterprise development (IMPRI, 2026), provides a comprehensive template this framework recommends be treated as the organizing framework for sustainable development cooperation specifically with Fiji, given its direct relevance to nearly every other pillar discussed throughout this document.

Financial mechanisms for sustainable development cooperation, discussed under Financial Cooperation earlier in this framework, remain centrally important given the documented 336 million Fijian dollar annual renewable energy investment gap discussed under Energy Cooperation above, and this framework recommends that India's concessional Line of Credit facility for Pacific climate and renewable energy projects be substantially expanded and specifically earmarked for Fiji's documented sustainable development financing needs.

Given Fiji's own sophisticated engagement with international sustainable development architecture, exemplified by its National Adaptation Plan and National Disaster Risk Reduction policy discussed under Environmental and Climate Cooperation above, this framework recommends that Indian sustainable development cooperation be explicitly designed to support and reinforce these existing, government led planning frameworks rather than introducing parallel or potentially duplicative initiatives.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the sustainable development cooperation pillar. First, explicit tracking of India-Fiji cooperation across the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and Global Biofuels Alliance against Sustainable Development Goal benchmarks. Second, treatment of the FIPIC III 12

point action plan as the organizing framework for sustainable development cooperation. Third, substantial expansion of concessional financing specifically earmarked for Fiji's sustainable development priorities. Fourth, explicit alignment of Indian cooperation with Fiji's own National Adaptation Plan and National Disaster Risk Reduction policy frameworks.

Fifth, this framework recommends developing **green skills and sustainable employment programmes** through cooperation between Indian and Fijian educational, vocational, and technical institutions. Training could focus on renewable-energy installation and maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainable construction, waste management, climate-resilient agriculture, and environmental monitoring. Linking these programmes with the Academic, Youth, and Industrial Cooperation pillars would help ensure that sustainable development generates practical employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Sixth, **circular economy and resource-efficiency cooperation** should be incorporated into bilateral development initiatives. India and Fiji could exchange technical expertise on waste reduction, recycling, agricultural by-product utilization, wastewater management, sustainable packaging, and resource-efficient industrial processes. Particular attention could be given to developing commercially viable uses for agricultural residues, including those generated by Fiji's sugar industry.

Seventh, this framework recommends strengthening **community-centred sustainable development**, particularly for rural, coastal, and geographically isolated communities. Renewable-energy access, climate-resilient agriculture, water security, sustainable livelihoods, and community disaster preparedness could be developed through integrated local projects rather than isolated sectoral interventions. Such projects should incorporate community consultation and locally appropriate technologies.

Eighth, **promotion of sustainable and climate-resilient urban development**, including green infrastructure, efficient public transport, renewable-energy integration, waste management, and resilient public services in Fiji's growing urban centres.

Finally, an **India–Fiji Sustainable Development Review** should annually assess bilateral cooperation against relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators and Fiji's national development priorities. Indicators could include renewable-energy capacity supported, communities benefiting from resilience projects, agricultural livelihoods strengthened, green jobs created, emissions or resource-use reductions achieved, and climate-finance mobilized. This monitoring mechanism would provide a common evidence base for adjusting bilateral programmes and ensuring that sustainable development cooperation remains measurable, locally relevant, and aligned with Fiji's long-term national objectives.

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### **31. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cooperation**

Innovation and entrepreneurship cooperation serves as the final pillar of this framework, drawing together the technology, digital infrastructure, agricultural, and youth priorities discussed throughout the preceding thirty pillars into a forward looking focus on building an entrepreneurial ecosystem within Fiji appropriate to its position as a small but strategically significant Pacific Island economy. The Centre of Excellence in Information Technology established at Fiji National University in 2021, discussed under Academic and Educational Cooperation above, provides the most concrete existing institutional foundation for this pillar (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025), and this framework recommends that this centre's mandate be explicitly expanded to incorporate structured entrepreneurship training and incubation support, building on the broader digital public infrastructure partnership discussed under Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Cooperation earlier in this framework.

Small and medium enterprise entrepreneurship represents a particularly relevant near term focus, building directly on Fiji's own investment incentive structures specifically targeting small and medium enterprises, announced in October 2024 (India in Fiji, 2026), discussed under Investment Cooperation and Industrial and Manufacturing Cooperation earlier in this framework. This framework recommends that India's extensive domestic entrepreneurship support infrastructure be extended to Fiji through a dedicated technical cooperation partnership, focused on practical business skills development appropriate to Fiji's specific economic context and priority sectors.

Agricultural entrepreneurship offers a further significant and directly actionable opportunity, building on the Youth Farm Initiative discussed under Youth Cooperation earlier in this framework and the broader agricultural technology transfers, including drones and mobile soil testing laboratories, discussed under Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation. This framework recommends that Indian entrepreneurship support institutions extend targeted support to young Fijian agricultural entrepreneurs, encompassing business planning, technology adoption, and market access strategy support specifically oriented toward Fiji's agricultural diversification priorities as the country's traditional sugar industry continues its documented decline.

Renewable energy entrepreneurship represents a longer term but potentially significant focus, given the substantial solar deployment ambitions discussed extensively under Energy Cooperation above, and this framework recommends that any entrepreneurship support initiative extended to Fiji specifically include a track focused on local solar installation, operation, and maintenance micro-enterprise development, building local capacity to sustain and expand the renewable energy infrastructure this framework recommends be substantially scaled up across its Energy Cooperation and Investment Cooperation pillars.

Given the appropriately calibrated scale of Fiji's economy relative to some of India's larger strategic partnerships, this framework recommends that innovation and entrepreneurship cooperation be understood as a practical, sector focused complement to the broader capacity

building, educational, and technology transfer priorities articulated throughout this framework's other thirty pillars, rather than as an isolated, standalone initiative.

This framework recommends the following priorities for the innovation and entrepreneurship cooperation pillar, the final of the thirty one pillars comprising this document. First, expansion of Fiji National University's Centre of Excellence in Information Technology to incorporate structured entrepreneurship training and incubation support. Second, a small and medium enterprise entrepreneurship partnership, coordinated with Fiji's own investment incentive structures. Third, targeted entrepreneurship support for young Fijian agricultural entrepreneurs, building on the Youth Farm Initiative. Fourth, a renewable energy micro-enterprise development track, building local capacity to sustain Fiji's expanding solar infrastructure.

Fifth, this framework recommends establishing an **India–Fiji Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network** connecting universities, incubators, investors, technology companies, government agencies, and entrepreneurs from both countries. Such a network could facilitate mentorship, technical exchanges, business matchmaking, and collaborative development of solutions addressing Fiji's specific challenges in agriculture, climate resilience, healthcare, tourism, and digital services.

Sixth, **startup financing and investment readiness** should form an important component of this cooperation. Indian entrepreneurship institutions and financial-sector stakeholders could provide training in business planning, financial management, investment proposals, intellectual property, and access to appropriate sources of capital. This could help promising Fijian enterprises progress from early-stage ideas toward commercially sustainable businesses.

Seventh, this framework recommends developing **cross-border market-access and innovation programmes** allowing suitable Fijian startups and SMEs to connect with Indian companies, technology providers, distributors, and digital marketplaces. Conversely, Indian enterprises could use Fiji as a potential platform for understanding Pacific markets and developing solutions adapted to small-island economies. Particular attention could be given to locally relevant innovations in renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, healthcare, and climate adaptation.

Finally, **inclusive entrepreneurship and measurable outcomes** should remain central to this pillar, with dedicated opportunities for young people and women entrepreneurs. An annual India–Fiji Innovation and Entrepreneurship Review could assess enterprises supported, entrepreneurs trained, startups incubated, investment mobilized, cross-border partnerships established, and businesses sustained beyond incubation. This would provide a practical mechanism for evaluating whether bilateral innovation cooperation is generating durable enterprises, employment opportunities, technological capabilities, and locally relevant solutions within Fiji's evolving economic ecosystem.

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# IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

## Institutional Mechanisms

The effective implementation of the thirty one pillars outlined in this framework depends on a coherent architecture of institutional mechanisms building on the unusually dense and well developed foundation already established between India and Fiji relative to many of India's other bilateral partnerships. At the apex of this architecture sits head of state and head of government level engagement, exemplified by Prime Minister Modi's historic 2014 visit that launched FIPIC, President Murmu's August 2024 state visit during which the flagship hospital and Chancery projects were formally advanced, and Prime Minister Rabuka's landmark August 2025 visit to New Delhi, during which the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility was signed and his Ocean of Peace vision was shared (India in Fiji, 2026; Foreign Affairs Fiji, 2026). This framework recommends that such visits be placed on a more regularized, ideally biennial, schedule, ensuring the substantial political momentum generated across 2024 and 2025 is sustained rather than allowed to lapse into the kind of multi year gaps that historically separated high level engagement prior to 2014.

The Foreign Office Consultations mechanism, with its fifth round convened in Suva in July 2022, constitutes the primary standing institutional channel for working level diplomatic coordination, and this framework recommends this mechanism be placed on an annual schedule, supplemented by more frequent virtual sessions consistent with the hybrid engagement model increasingly favoured across the relationship's other pillars (India in Fiji, 2026).

Beneath this apex, the relationship already benefits from an unusually well developed set of sector specific institutional mechanisms, including the Joint Working Group on Defence, whose inaugural session convened in Fiji in July 2025, and the newly established Joint Working Group on Agriculture and Food Security, agreed in January 2026 to meet biennially alternating between India and Fiji, building on the original agriculture Memorandum of Understanding's own institutional design (India in Fiji, 2026; Fiji Times, 2026). This framework recommends that comparable Joint Working Groups be established for the pillars discussed throughout this framework that do not yet have dedicated institutional mechanisms, particularly Energy Cooperation, given the substantial scale of solar deployment activity already underway, and Migration and Mobility, given the need to operationalize the 2025 Declaration of Intent into concrete sector specific agreements.

The Indian High Commission in Suva, soon to be housed in the new Chancery and Cultural Centre complex whose site documentation was formally handed over in August 2024, functions as the operational hub for the substantial majority of the institutional mechanisms recommended throughout this framework, and this framework recommends the mission be resourced commensurately with the expanded scope of activity this framework envisions across its thirty one pillars.

## **Joint Working Groups**

This framework recommends the establishment or continuation of the following specific Joint Working Groups, each assigned clear, time bound mandates drawn from the priorities articulated within the corresponding pillars of this framework. The Joint Working Group on Defence, having convened its inaugural session in July 2025, should be placed on an annual meeting schedule, tasked with operationalizing maritime security training and equipment cooperation, cyber security and data protection sharing, and counter terrorism coordination priorities discussed under Defence and Security Cooperation above.

The Joint Working Group on Agriculture and Food Security, established in January 2026 with a biennial meeting schedule alternating between India and Fiji, should be tasked with implementing the comprehensive scope of the extended agriculture Memorandum of Understanding, encompassing dairy, rice, root crop, coconut, and food processing industry development, alongside the water resources management priorities discussed under the Water Resources Cooperation pillar above.

An Energy Working Group, recommended for establishment given the substantial scale of activity already underway through the International Solar Alliance partnership, the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre, and the Country Partnership Framework, should be tasked specifically with mobilizing the concessional financing necessary to close Fiji's documented 336 million Fijian dollar annual renewable energy investment gap. A Migration and Mobility Working Group, building on the August 2025 Declaration of Intent, should be tasked with negotiating the sector specific agreements for agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism labour mobility discussed under the Labour, Employment and Migration Cooperation pillar above.

Each Joint Working Group is recommended to operate on at minimum an annual meeting cadence, alternating between India and Fiji where feasible, with the Indian High Commission in Suva and Fiji's High Commission in New Delhi providing continuity of institutional memory and implementation tracking between formal sessions.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

Effective implementation of this framework requires a rigorous monitoring and evaluation architecture capable of tracking progress against the specific, quantified targets articulated throughout its thirty one pillars, building on the detailed bilateral trade statistics, ITEC scholarship allocation figures, and other quantifiable metrics both governments already maintain and have made publicly available (India in Fiji, 2026; Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). This framework recommends that the Foreign Office Consultations mechanism be tasked with producing an annual Implementation Scorecard, tracking progress against key milestones including the bilateral trade balance and its trajectory toward greater reciprocity, ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship placement numbers, progress on the flagship hospital and Chancery construction projects, and renewable energy deployment metrics under the Country

Partnership Framework, published jointly by both governments to ensure transparency and mutual accountability.

Given the exceptional depth of documentation already available regarding this relationship's institutional activities, from detailed six year trade balance figures to specific ITEC slot allocations, this framework recommends that the annual Implementation Scorecard build directly on this existing reporting infrastructure rather than establishing an entirely new monitoring architecture, ensuring continuity with the transparent reporting practices both governments have already demonstrated.

Independent monitoring inputs, drawn from Fiji's own active academic and civil society engagement with the bilateral relationship, including organizations such as the Fiji Girmit Foundation and the broader global network of Girmitiya remembrance organizations documented as active in New Zealand and elsewhere, should supplement the official government led Scorecard process, providing an additional, community grounded perspective on the relationship's progress, particularly regarding the cultural and heritage dimensions of the partnership that resist purely quantitative measurement.

### **Periodic Review Mechanism**

This framework recommends that the document itself, and the specific targets and priorities articulated within each of its thirty one pillars, be subject to formal periodic review, ensuring the framework remains responsive to the rapidly evolving character of the relationship, particularly given the substantial institutional developments documented across 2024, 2025, and 2026 alone. A comprehensive review is recommended to be conducted every five years, timed to align with the Short-Term Priorities horizon articulated in the Roadmap for Future Cooperation below, conducted jointly through the Foreign Office Consultations mechanism, drawing on the annual Implementation Scorecards produced in the intervening years.

Each five year review should result in a formally adopted, updated version of this framework, retaining its overall thirty one pillar structure and multi decade Strategic Vision 2050 while revising specific short and medium term targets in light of demonstrated progress, such as the completion of the Nasinu hospital project or the full operationalization of the Migration and Mobility Declaration of Intent, either of which would necessitate substantial revision of the priorities articulated under this framework's relevant pillars.

The review process should also incorporate **structured stakeholder consultation**, including relevant ministries, public institutions, private-sector representatives, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and other appropriate stakeholders from both countries. Each five-year review should assess not only the completion of individual projects but also their effectiveness, sustainability, financial performance, and alignment with changing national priorities. Where targets have been completed, they should be replaced with higher-value or emerging priorities rather than simply removed.

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# ROADMAP FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

## Strategic Vision 2050

By 2050, this framework envisions the India-Fiji relationship as a fully matured, comprehensive strategic partnership, in which the currently pronounced bilateral trade asymmetry, with Indian exports of 96.26 million dollars against Fijian exports of just 2.56 million dollars in the 2025-26 financial year (India in Fiji, 2026), has been substantially rebalanced through the market access, agricultural value chain, and manufacturing initiatives recommended throughout this framework's economic pillars, while accounting more accurately for the substantial trade volumes currently routed through third countries and territories. This expanded and rebalanced trade relationship is envisioned as underpinned by mature, institutionalized mechanisms across each of this framework's thirty one pillars, with the Joint Working Groups recommended throughout this document functioning as well established, routine institutions rather than newly formed bodies.

By 2050, Fiji's renewable energy transition, anchored in the International Solar Alliance partnership and Country Partnership Framework discussed under Energy Cooperation, is envisioned to have achieved and surpassed the country's 100 percent renewable energy target, with the documented 336 million Fijian dollar annual investment gap fully closed through the combination of Indian concessional financing, technical assistance, and private sector investment recommended throughout this framework. The Nasinu hospital, having opened and operated for more than two decades by this horizon, is envisioned to have become a well established and central pillar of healthcare provision not only for Fiji but for the wider Pacific region, exactly as originally envisioned at its announcement.

The people to people relationship envisioned by 2050 builds on the already exceptional depth of connection between the two countries, with the Girmitiya legacy continuing to be actively commemorated through Girmit Day and sustained cultural exchange, Hindi language instruction firmly institutionalized within Fiji's educational system, and a substantially expanded, genuinely reciprocal flow of students, professionals, and tourists moving between the two countries, building on the foundation established through the 2025 Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility.

Institutionally, by 2050 this framework envisions the full architecture described in the Implementation Framework above functioning at a scale and sophistication reflecting three decades of sustained, mutually reinforcing engagement, with Fiji continuing to serve as India's primary hub and anchor for its broader engagement with the Pacific Island Countries through a matured FIPIC framework, and the India-Fiji relationship standing as perhaps the most historically and culturally distinctive of all India's global bilateral partnerships.

## Short-Term Priorities (1-5 Years)

Within the first five years of this framework's implementation, extending through approximately 2031, priority should be given to the timely completion of the Nasinu 100 Bed

Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre and the Indian High Commission Chancery and Cultural Centre complex in Suva, both flagship projects whose site documentation was formally handed over in August 2024. This period should also see full operationalization of the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre at Fiji National University and substantial progress on Fiji's solar deployment under the Country Partnership Framework, alongside implementation of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Fiji following the 2025 pharmacopoeial recognition agreement.

Within this same five year window, this framework prioritizes negotiation of the detailed sector specific agreements required to fully operationalize the August 2025 Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility across agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism, and continued expansion of the ITEC and Sagar Amrut Scholarship programs beyond their current combined 210 annual allocation. The short term window should also see formalization of the Parliamentary Friendship Group and continued annual convening of the Joint Working Groups on Defence and Agriculture and Food Security.

On the people centered dimension of the relationship, short term priorities include expansion of the Hindi and Sanskrit teacher exchange program with the University of Fiji, formalization of a standing bilateral sports coaching exchange program building on the current cricket and rugby coaching arrangements, and development of dedicated heritage and ancestral tourism itineraries for the Indian and Indo-Fijian diaspora market, potentially anchored around future Girmit Day commemorations.

### **Medium-Term Priorities (5-15 Years)**

The medium term horizon, extending from approximately 2031 through 2041, is envisioned as the period in which the institutional foundations established during the short term phase mature into substantial, measurable outcomes across the bilateral relationship. This framework envisions bilateral trade having grown substantially beyond its current base, with a meaningfully improved balance reflecting the market access and value chain development initiatives recommended throughout this framework's economic pillars, and with Fiji's renewable energy sector having achieved a substantial majority of its 100 percent renewable energy target with material Indian financing and technical support.

During this medium term period, this framework envisions the Nasinu hospital to have established itself as a recognized regional healthcare hub serving the wider Pacific region as originally envisioned, and the Migration and Mobility Declaration of Intent to have matured into a fully functioning system of sector specific labour mobility supporting substantial two way movement of skilled workers across agriculture, fisheries, construction, and tourism. The sugar sector value addition initiatives, including expanded biofuels production, are envisioned to have provided a meaningful economic diversification pathway for Fiji's historically sugar dependent regions.

On the institutional dimension, the medium term period should see all Joint Working Groups recommended throughout this framework functioning as well established, routine institutions,

with the periodic review mechanism having completed at least two full five year review cycles, allowing the framework's specific targets to have been revised and updated in response to demonstrated progress across the relationship's now unusually broad and deep institutional architecture.

### **Long-Term Strategic Goals (15-30 Years)**

The long term horizon of this framework, extending from approximately 2041 through 2050, encompasses the full realization of the Strategic Vision 2050 articulated above. Within this period, this framework envisions India to be firmly established as one of Fiji's most trusted and comprehensive development and strategic partners, its role having grown from the already substantial engagement documented as of 2026 into a fully mature, multifaceted partnership spanning renewable energy, healthcare, agriculture, defence, and sustained human capital development support across the wider Pacific region.

By the end of this long term period, this framework envisions the connectivity, institutional, and people to people architecture built up over the preceding three decades of implementation to have produced a relationship of demonstrated and sustained mutual benefit, one in which the profound historical bond first forged through the arrival of the Girmitya in 1879 continues to animate a living, multigenerational partnership between two nations, one of the world's largest democracies and one of the Pacific's most consequential small island states, united by shared history, shared values, and a demonstrated, decades long record of substantive cooperation across virtually every domain of national life.

By 2050, this framework further envisions the partnership having developed into a **self-sustaining institutional ecosystem**, in which bilateral cooperation no longer depends primarily on individual political initiatives or individual projects but is embedded across government institutions, universities, businesses, civil society organizations, and professional networks in both countries. Long-term cooperation should generate durable Fijian institutional capacity, with Indian technical assistance progressively complemented by locally developed expertise and leadership.

The economic relationship should, over this period, evolve beyond traditional areas of cooperation toward **higher-value, technology-enabled and sustainable economic activity**, including renewable energy, digital services, advanced agriculture, healthcare technologies, tourism, blue economy activities, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Increased connectivity and investment should facilitate greater participation by Fijian enterprises in regional and international markets while creating opportunities for Indian enterprises to engage responsibly with Fiji and the wider Pacific.

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## END NOTE

This framework has set out a comprehensive, thirty one pillar architecture for the India-Fiji relationship, a partnership that stands apart within India's global diplomatic network for the sheer depth and distinctiveness of its human foundation. Unlike many of India's other bilateral relationships, this document has been able to draw on an unusually rich body of concrete, recently documented institutional activity, from the August 2025 Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility to the ongoing construction of the Nasinu Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital, from the doubling of ITEC scholarship slots to the formal recognition of Hindi as a reinstated parliamentary language in Fiji, evidence that this relationship has moved decisively beyond symbolic goodwill into a genuinely substantive, multi sectoral partnership.

That substance, however, coexists with a persistent and honestly acknowledged economic asymmetry, reflected starkly in a trade balance of 98.82 million dollars in India's favour as of the 2025-26 financial year, even as officials on both sides recognize that this figure likely understates the true scale of economic exchange given trade routed through third countries.

What distinguishes the India-Fiji relationship above all else, and what this framework has sought to honour throughout, is the living legacy of the Giritiya, the more than 60,000 Indians who arrived in Fiji between 1879 and 1916 under conditions of indenture, whose descendants today constitute roughly one third of Fiji's population and whose endurance, in the words of Fiji Girit Foundation President Krish Naidu, carried within it a fierce determination to survive, preserve their culture, and carve out a future for those who would come after them. That determination has been honoured by Fiji's own government through the establishment of Girit Day as a national public holiday, through the reinstatement of Hindi as a parliamentary language, and through the sustained, warm, and substantive engagement both governments have demonstrated across the pillars documented throughout this framework.

As India continues to deepen its engagement with the Indo-Pacific and the wider Pacific Islands region, and as Fiji continues to navigate its own path of economic diversification, climate resilience, and democratic consolidation, this framework is offered as a structured roadmap through which a relationship already unique in its depth can be translated into a partnership of even greater substance and mutual benefit over the three decades to come, one worthy of the Giritiya legacy that continues to bind these two nations together across oceans, generations, and the full sweep of modern history.

Over the long-term horizon, this framework further envisions the establishment of a **deeply institutionalized India–Fiji strategic partnership** supported by regular leadership consultations, ministerial dialogues, parliamentary exchanges, sectoral working groups, academic networks, and private-sector partnerships. By this stage, the bilateral relationship should possess sufficient institutional depth to maintain continuity across changes in governments, leadership, and policy priorities, with the Strategic Vision 2050 providing a

stable long-term reference point while remaining adaptable through its periodic review mechanism.

The framework also envisions substantial progress toward **Fiji's energy transition and climate resilience objectives**, with Indian cooperation contributing to expanded renewable-energy generation, decentralized energy systems, resilient infrastructure, sustainable transport, climate-smart agriculture, and improved disaster preparedness. Cooperation under the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and Global Biofuels Alliance could provide platforms for continued technical exchange and regional collaboration, while Fiji's experience could contribute to broader Pacific approaches to climate adaptation and resilience.

Healthcare cooperation should mature beyond the establishment of individual facilities into a **comprehensive health partnership**, encompassing specialist medical services, healthcare workforce development, telemedicine, pharmaceutical access, medical research, preventive healthcare, and public-health emergency preparedness. Similarly, educational cooperation should evolve from scholarship-based engagement toward long-term institutional partnerships involving joint research, advanced technical education, vocational training, innovation, and professional mobility.

By 2050, the framework further envisages an increasingly **diversified and interconnected economic relationship**, with bilateral trade and investment extending beyond traditional sectors into digital services, renewable energy, sustainable tourism, blue economy activities, food processing, healthcare technologies, and knowledge-intensive industries. Indian and Fijian enterprises, particularly SMEs and emerging entrepreneurs, should have greater opportunities to establish partnerships, access markets, exchange technology, and participate in regional value chains.

The long-term partnership should also maintain a strong **human and cultural dimension**. Expanded academic exchanges, youth programmes, sports cooperation, cultural festivals, language initiatives, Girmitiya heritage preservation, and professional networks should ensure that people-to-people relations remain an active foundation of the relationship. By 2050, successive generations of Fijian and Indian citizens should have opportunities to participate in these networks, creating a broader social foundation for bilateral cooperation beyond formal government-to-government relations.

Finally, this framework envisions India and Fiji contributing jointly to a **more resilient and cooperative Pacific regional environment**. Their partnership should support Pacific-led development priorities while facilitating cooperation on climate change, disaster management, ocean governance, sustainable development, digital transformation, maritime safety, and other shared challenges.

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