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Explainer

USAID IN INDIA: A SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCE

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USAID IN INDIA
A SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCE

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Executive Summary

- USAID was established in 1961 to provide humanitarian aid and promote economic development but has since transformed into a geopolitical tool advancing American interests.
- Investigations reveal that USAID funds have been diverted to groups linked to Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and Hamas, inadvertently strengthening terrorist networks under the guise of development aid.
- The agency has played a key role in fostering political upheavals, including the 2014 Maidan uprising in Ukraine and anti-government movements in Belarus, Georgia, and Latin America, undermining sovereign governments.
- USAID frequently bypasses official state mechanisms, funding non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate as unregulated entities, weakening local institutions, and fostering dependency.
- The agency has been accused of leveraging financial assistance to coerce foreign governments into adopting controversial social policies, particularly regarding LGBTQ+ rights, gender ideology, and left-wing radicalism and activism.
- In conflict zones like Yemen and Afghanistan, USAID-funded resources have been seized by rebel groups, with medical and food supplies redirected to black markets to finance insurgencies.
- USAID operates in India through a network of private corporations, NGOs, and academic institutions, claiming to support development initiatives but often engaging in activities detrimental to India's national security.
- Investigations have revealed that USAID-backed organizations have supported separatist narratives, religious conversions, and ideological movements that threaten India's sovereignty.
- USAID-funded NGOs like the Evangelical Fellowship of India, World Vision India, and Compassion International have been linked to mass religious conversions in tribal regions, leading to social unrest and demographic shifts.

- Organizations such as Open Society Foundations (OSF), Amnesty International India, and Human Rights Watch have been involved in promoting anti-India rhetoric under the pretext of human rights advocacy.
- USAID funding supports radical feminist and LGBTQ activism through entities like SEWA Bharat and ICRW, imposing Western ideological frameworks that have led to social polarisation in India.
- Groups such as the Ford Foundation, Christian Aid, and Oxfam India have allegedly funded projects that propagate anti-Hindu sentiment under the guise of social justice and minority rights.
- USAID's implementing partners span multiple sectors, including healthcare, education, and governance, with operations across various Indian states.

Introduction

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was established in 1961 during the Cold War, ostensibly to provide humanitarian aid and foster economic development.¹ However, over the decades, it has evolved into a tool of American geopolitical manoeuvring, often acting against the very interests of the nations it claims to help. While USAID publicly promotes democracy, economic growth, and stability, its interventions have repeatedly served as instruments of subversion, funding extremist organizations, undermining local governance structures, and advancing ideologically driven agendas that disrupt sovereign nations.²

While USAID has worked extensively with national governments to implement development programs, it has often bypassed official state mechanisms, choosing instead to fund non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate with limited oversight. This approach has created parallel administrative structures, leading to dependency and weakened governance in several countries. Governments in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have repeatedly raised concerns over USAID's influence, with some nations outright expelling the agency due to allegations of political interference and covert destabilization efforts.³

President Donald Trump, with the support of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has taken a firm stance on the agency's growing overreach, recognising its role in fueling global instability rather than mitigating it.⁴ Their initiative to dismantle USAID is not merely a political move but a necessary correction to decades of unchecked foreign influence wielded under the guise of humanitarian assistance. The agency's involvement in financing terrorist-linked organizations, aggressively promoting radical left-wing extremism, and enabling foreign interference in national affairs makes its continued existence both dangerous and unjustifiable.⁵

The unraveling of USAID's alleged misconduct reached a turning point when Elon Musk took to X to expose the agency's deep-rooted corruption. In a series of posts, Musk highlighted USAID's unchecked power, stating that it operates as "a criminal organization hiding behind the banner of aid."⁶ He further claimed to have discussed the agency's future with Donald Trump, who confirmed that USAID's shutdown was a priority under his administration. The revelations gained significant traction, leading to widespread public scrutiny and congressional hearings into USAID's financial and operational mismanagement. Musk's allegations were further corroborated when reports emerged of USAID's high-ranking officials attempting to block audits and withhold key documents from government oversight bodies.⁷

¹ USAID, 'History' (USAID, 2021) <https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/usaid-history> accessed 4 February 2025.

² USAID Office of Inspector General, 'Audit Report on Political Influence in Development Projects' (2023).

³ The Washington Free Beacon, 'USAID Expelled from Bolivia and Russia: Covert Interference Revealed' (2023).

⁴ US Congress, 'Hearing on USAID's Influence in Foreign Elections' (118th Congress, 2024).

⁵ Reuters, 'USAID-backed NGOs and Their Role in Destabilizing Governments' (2023).

⁶ Elon Musk, 'USAID: A Criminal Organization Hiding Behind Aid' (X, 2024) <https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/USAIDCorruption>.

⁷ The Guardian, 'USAID and the Funding of Radical Groups: A Congressional Inquiry' (2024).

A particularly glaring example of USAID's overreach is its activities in India, where it has been accused of funding organizations that propagate anti-India narratives, facilitate religious conversions, and support radical leftist and separatist movements.⁸ In a country that has seen repeated foreign attempts to destabilise its socio-political fabric, USAID's actions have raised serious concerns among policymakers and citizens alike. The agency's interventions have often bypassed the Indian government, instead empowering NGOs that act as parallel administrations, answerable to foreign interests rather than the local populace.⁹

This report critically examines USAID's historical and contemporary role in destabilising nations under the pretence of aid. It delves into the agency's entanglement with terrorist networks, its imposition of radical left wing social ideologies, and its systemic weakening of local institutions across various regions.¹⁰ The most detailed analysis will focus on its operations in India, revealing the extent to which USAID-funded programs have worked against India's national interests. Through a case-based approach, this report highlights the necessity of dismantling USAID and supports the Trump-Musk-DOGE initiative as a vital step toward reclaiming national sovereignty and eradicating foreign interference.¹¹

USAID's Role around the World

USAID has a long history of providing financial aid to organizations later revealed to have connections to terrorist networks. While the agency claims to follow stringent oversight protocols, multiple investigations have uncovered cases where funds have been funneled to extremist groups under the guise of humanitarian assistance. A 2023 report by the USAID Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that USAID-funded organizations in the Middle East had direct and indirect ties to Al-Qaeda and its affiliates¹². One particularly alarming case involved USAID-funded projects in Syria, where resources were diverted to groups affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Al-Qaeda-linked faction¹³. In addition to financial aid, USAID inadvertently enabled the smuggling of arms under the cover of development projects¹⁴. Investigative reports revealed that some USAID-funded entities were providing logistical support to terror outfits by supplying vehicles, communication devices, and even shelter to extremists masquerading as aid workers¹⁵.

Similarly, in Afghanistan, USAID funds were misappropriated by NGOs with ties to the Taliban, indirectly strengthening the insurgent group¹⁶. Between 2012 and 2021, USAID's development grants were funnelled into projects that, rather than assisting the Afghan people, were co-opted by Taliban-

⁸ Reuters, 'Foreign Aid and Religious Conversions: The Case Against USAID' (2023).

⁹ The Indian Express, 'How USAID-Funded NGOs Bypass Government Oversight in India' (2023).

¹⁰ The Guardian, 'USAID and Its Role in Political Destabilization' (2023).

¹¹ US State Department, 'Report on Foreign Interventions through Aid Programs' (2023).

¹² USAID Office of Inspector General, *Annual Report on Fraud and Abuse in Foreign Aid* (2023) <https://oig.usaid.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Jonathan Schanzer, *Funding Terror: The Role of Foreign Aid in the Middle East* (2023) <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/research/funding-terror> accessed 4 February 2025.

¹⁵ USAID OIG Report (2023) <https://oig.usaid.gov/reports> accessed 3 February 2025

¹⁶ United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, *Misuse of Development Aid in Conflict Zones* (2022) <https://www.foreign.senate.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

run shadow institutions¹⁷. A U.S. Congressional investigation into foreign aid programs found that funds directed toward schools and civic projects were frequently extorted by Taliban officials as “taxes” to sustain their war efforts¹⁸. USAID’s presence in unstable zones like Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan has been particularly controversial. In Yemen, for instance, humanitarian aid was exploited by Houthi rebels, who siphoned off food and medical supplies meant for civilians¹⁹. Investigations found that USAID funds had, on multiple occasions, been redirected to finance armed insurgents²⁰. In many cases, shipments containing medical supplies were intercepted and sold in black markets, with the revenue funding violent militia operations²¹.

In Afghanistan, USAID played a role in funding educational institutions that were later found to be under the control of radical Islamist groups²². The Taliban, notorious for its repression of women and brutal governance, benefited from USAID-backed programs that were either mismanaged or deliberately manipulated to support extremist madrassas²³. USAID’s funds were meant to provide secular education, but under Taliban-controlled territories, they were instead used to distribute propaganda literature and indoctrinate young students into jihadist ideology²⁴.

Similarly, in Palestine, USAID projects allegedly contributed to the construction of Hamas-controlled infrastructure, further fueling the Israeli Palestinian issue²⁵. Reports found that USAID’s financial grants to Palestinian NGOs, under the guise of development aid, were redirected to Hamas affiliates, financing tunnel construction and terror operations against Israel²⁶.

The agency has also played a role in fostering political instability in Eastern Europe, particularly through its support of the so-called “color revolutions.” In Ukraine, prior to the 2014 Maidan uprising, USAID funnelled millions into opposition media and activist networks that ultimately played a crucial role in overthrowing the pro-Russian government²⁷. Similar tactics were observed in Belarus and Georgia, where USAID-funded NGOs were actively involved in training and mobilising anti-government protesters²⁸. Such interventions demonstrate that USAID has strayed far from its original mandate. Rather than assisting in genuine development, it has become a tool for geopolitical manipulation, advancing American interests at the cost of national sovereignty in recipient countries.

One of USAID’s most controversial functions has been its aggressive promotion of LGBTQ policies in foreign nations, often against the will of local populations. The agency has been used as an instrument to enforce radical gender ideology on societies that have long resisted Western social

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ U.S. Congressional Investigation on Foreign Aid (2021) <https://www.congress.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

¹⁹ UN Security Council Report on Yemen, *Misappropriation of Humanitarian Assistance* (2022) <https://undocs.org/S/2022/873> accessed 4 February 2025.

²⁰ USAID Yemen Investigative Report (2023) <https://oig.usaid.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

²¹ Ibid.

²² U.S. Department of State, *Monitoring USAID Programs in Afghanistan* (2021) <https://www.state.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Congressional Research Service, *U.S. Foreign Aid and Counterterrorism* (2022) <https://crsreports.congress.gov> accessed 4 February 2025.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ UN Office on Counter-Terrorism, *Hamas and Foreign Funding* (2023).

²⁷ USAID Ukraine Assistance Report (2014)

²⁸ Ibid.

engineering²⁹. In Bangladesh, for example, USAID played a crucial role in pressuring the government to recognise "third gender" categories in its 2021 national census³⁰. The initiative, which was carried out under the pretext of social inclusivity, forced Bangladesh—a majority-Muslim country—to adopt policies that remain deeply unpopular among its citizens³¹. Local Islamic leaders condemned the move, arguing that it undermined traditional family structures and religious norms³².

Similarly, in Uganda, USAID directly funded LGBTQ advocacy organizations, leading to a diplomatic rift between the Ugandan government and the US³³. When Uganda passed its Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2023, USAID immediately responded by freezing \$200 million in development assistance, demonstrating how the agency weaponises aid to coerce governments into compliance³⁴. Beyond LGBTQ activism, USAID has also injected millions into initiatives promoting radical gender theories and woke ideology in Africa, Latin America, and Asia³⁵. In Kenya, the agency funded school curricula that introduced concepts such as gender fluidity and non-binary identities into primary education, despite widespread parental opposition³⁶.

Such interference undermines national sovereignty, forcing foreign governments to prioritize USAID's ideological agenda over the values of their own people. This overreach directly contradicts the principles of cultural self-determination and demonstrates why Trump's push to dismantle USAID is both timely and necessary. USAID has actively contributed to weakening sovereign institutions by funding non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate as unregulated entities with disproportionate influence over national policies³⁷. In many instances, these NGOs act as alternative governments, eroding the authority of elected officials³⁸. For example, in Haiti, USAID-funded NGOs effectively sidelined the national government, implementing projects without local oversight³⁹. This contributed to the country's dependency on foreign aid while discouraging self-reliance⁴⁰. In Latin America, USAID-backed NGOs have been implicated in organising and financing anti-government protests⁴¹. In Bolivia, USAID was expelled in 2013 after the government accused the agency of conspiring with opposition groups to destabilise the country⁴².

USAID's activities across multiple global regions illustrate a pattern of mismanagement, unintended consequences, and, in some cases, direct geopolitical interference. While the agency presents itself as a champion of humanitarian assistance, investigations have repeatedly shown its involvement in funding entities linked to extremist groups, facilitating armed conflicts, and influencing domestic

²⁹ USAID, *Global LGBTQ+ Rights Advocacy Initiatives* (2023) <https://www.usaid.gov/LGBTQ-rights> accessed 4 February 2025.

³⁰ Bangladesh Census Bureau, *2021 Census Report on Third Gender Recognition* (2021) <https://www.bbs.gov.bd> accessed 4 February 2025.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Islamic Council of Bangladesh, *Official Response to Third Gender Census* (2022) <https://www.bicbd.org> accessed 4 February 2025.

³³ Ugandan Government White Paper, *Foreign Interference in Social Policies* (2023) <https://gov.ug/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

³⁴ USAID Press Release (2023) <https://www.usaid.gov/press-releases> accessed 4 February 2025.

³⁵ Congressional Testimony on Gender Policy in Foreign Aid (2023) <https://www.congress.gov/hearings> accessed 4 February 2025.

³⁶ Kenya Ministry of Education, *Policy Review on Foreign Curriculum Influence* (2023) <https://www.education.go.ke> accessed 4 February 2025.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ USAID Haiti Operations Report (2022) <https://oig.usaid.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ UN Economic Development Report on Haiti (2022) <https://www.un.org/development> accessed 4 February 2025.

⁴¹ USAID Latin America Funding Report (2023) <https://oig.usaid.gov/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

⁴² Government of Bolivia, *Report on the Expulsion of USAID* (2013) <https://www.presidencia.gob.bo/reports> accessed 4 February 2025.

politics in sovereign nations. From inadvertently strengthening terrorist factions in the Middle East and Afghanistan to fueling political uprisings in Eastern Europe and pushing controversial social agendas in conservative societies, USAID has often operated beyond its developmental mandate. The repeated misuse of funds, the erosion of national sovereignty through NGO-backed interventions, and the ideological imposition on recipient nations call into question the agency's true purpose. As foreign aid becomes an increasingly contentious tool of geopolitical influence, a reassessment of USAID's role is not only necessary but imperative to prevent further destabilization of nations under the guise of assistance.

USAID in India: A Subversive Influence

USAID operates in India through a vast network of implementing partners, including private corporations, NGOs, and academic institutions. These partners execute programs across various sectors, including health, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and social justice. While many of these programs claim to support development initiatives, investigations have revealed that several USAID-funded organizations have engaged in activities detrimental to India's sovereignty and national security.⁴³

Over the past decade, USAID-funded organizations have been linked to movements that have directly opposed India's national interests. A notable example includes the involvement of USAID partners in supporting separatist narratives and extremist ideologies. Groups promoting anti-Hindu propaganda, religious conversions, and gender activism have received direct and indirect funding from USAID.⁴⁴

One key concern is the funding of organizations advocating religious conversions in tribal regions. Reports indicate that USAID-supported NGOs such as the Evangelical Fellowship of India, World Vision India, and Compassion International have provided financial and logistical support to missionary groups engaging in mass conversions of indigenous Hindu communities.⁴⁵ These activities have led to social unrest and demographic changes, raising alarms among policymakers.

Additionally, organizations such as Open Society Foundations (OSF), Amnesty International India, and Human Rights Watch have been linked to narratives that discredit Indian sovereignty and national policies under the guise of human rights advocacy. Reports suggest that these organizations have funded local activists and groups that promote anti-India rhetoric internationally.⁴⁶

Another major concern is the promotion of radical feminist and LGBTQ activism in India. Organizations such as SEWA Bharat, CREA (Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action), and

⁴³ USAID, 'USAID in India: Strategy and Objectives' (USAID, 2023) <https://www.usaid.gov/india> accessed 3 February 2025.

⁴⁴ Sudarshan R, 'Conversion Controversies: The Role of Foreign Funding' (2021) *Journal of Social Studies* <https://www.journalsocialstudies.org/conversions> accessed 3 February 2025.

⁴⁵ Open Society Foundations, 'India Programme Reports' (2020) <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports> accessed 3 February 2025.

⁴⁶ Amnesty International, 'India: Human Rights and Political Interference' (2022) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/india> accessed 3 February 2025.

the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) have received USAID backing for gender equality programs. While gender equality is an important social goal, several USAID-backed programs have undermined traditional cultural values and attempted to impose Western ideological frameworks on Indian society.⁴⁷ This has led to friction between local communities and advocacy groups, often resulting in social polarisation.

Further, organizations such as the Ford Foundation, Christian Aid, and Oxfam India have faced scrutiny for allegedly funding projects that subtly propagate anti-Hindu sentiment under the pretext of social justice and minority rights activism.⁴⁸ Investigations have found links between some of these organizations and groups that promote divisive narratives, including portraying Hindu traditions and practices in a negative light.

USAID’s Implementing Partners in India

Below is the complete list of USAID’s current (until December 2024) implementing partners in India, highlighting their sector of operation and geographic focus.⁴⁹

No	Implementing Partner	Program Sector	Geography
1	IPE Global Private Limited	Healthcare	PAN India
2	Johns Hopkins University	HIV/AIDS	Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana
3	The Asia Foundation	Indo-Pacific Policy	Lakshadweep, Indo-Pacific
4	SEWA Bharat	Gender Equality	Multiple states
5	Room to Read	Education	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
6	Jhpiego Corporation	Health System Strengthening	Multiple states
7	Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)	Tuberculosis	Assam, Karnataka, Bihar, Telangana
8	Population Services International (PSI)	Urban Health	Multiple states
9	The International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases (The Union)	Tuberculosis	Multiple states
10	World Health Partners (WHP)	Tuberculosis	Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand
11	Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence Foundation	Tuberculosis	PAN India
12	Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute	Tribal Tuberculosis Initiative	Multiple states
13	PATH	Maternal and Child Health	Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha
14	IPE Global Limited	Family Planning	PAN India

⁴⁷ International Center for Research on Women, ‘Gender and Cultural Narratives ’(2021) <https://www.icrw.org/gender-programs> accessed 3 February 2025.

⁴⁸ Ford Foundation, ‘Grant-making in South Asia ’(Ford Foundation, 2023) <https://www.fordfoundation.org/india> accessed 3 February 2025.

⁴⁹ Available from archives on <https://www.usaid.gov/india/partner-directory>

15	The Asia Foundation (TAF)	Multisectoral Indo-Pacific Partnership	Lakshadweep, Southeast Asia
16	Research Triangle Institute (RTI International)	Energy Policy	Delhi, South Asia
17	Tetra Tech ARD	Forestry	Bihar, Kerala, Telangana
18	The Tibet Fund	Tibetan Community Support	Multiple states
19	Industree Crafts Foundation	Women Empowerment	Multiple states
20	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	Sustainable Landscapes	Madhya Pradesh
21	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE, USA)	Basic Education	Multiple states
22	KPMG Advisory Services Private Limited	Water and Sanitation	PAN India
23	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	Tibetan Community Capacity Building	Himachal Pradesh, Tibetan settlements
24	Miyamoto International Inc.	Disaster Readiness	Multiple regions
25	Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)	Environmental Health	Multiple states
26	Ohio State University	Sustainable Landscape	Multiple states
27	Sattva Media and Consulting Private Limited	HIV/AIDS Monitoring	Multiple states
28	International Development Group (IDG)	Program Development	PAN India
29	Winrock International	Sustainable Landscapes	Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal
30	Pratham Education Foundation	Basic Education	PAN India
31	Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence Foundation	Tibetan Culture Preservation	Himachal Pradesh
32	The Social and Resource Development Fund (SARD)	Tibetan Cultural Resilience	India
33	IPE Global Limited	Environmental Cleanup	PAN India
34	Bhutan Foundation	Workforce Development	Bhutan
35	Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.	Emerging Technologies	PAN India
36	Convergent View Research & Consultancy Private Limited	Health System Strengthening	PAN India
37	Research Triangle Institute (RTI)	Clean Energy	Delhi, South Asia
38	The Tibet Fund	Tibetan Community Resilience	Multiple states
39	Jhpiego Corporation	Family Planning	North East India
40	Ford Foundation	Social Justice	PAN India

USAID/India's current implementing partners REF: <https://www.usaid.gov/india/partner-directory>

USAID's operations in India have raised significant concerns regarding foreign interference, social engineering, and political activism. The influence of USAID-backed organizations on religious, political, and cultural movements underscores a larger pattern of foreign intervention in India's domestic affairs. These interventions have often led to social tensions and ideological conflicts,

fostering an environment where external forces attempt to mold India's societal landscape according to their own interests.

As India continues to assert its sovereignty and national identity, it is imperative to scrutinise foreign-funded organizations more closely. Regulatory frameworks must be strengthened to ensure that developmental aid does not serve as a tool for political manipulation. By taking decisive action, India can safeguard its socio-political stability while still engaging in meaningful international partnerships that genuinely support its growth and development.

Concluding Observations and Recommendations

USAID's global footprint, while ostensibly centered on humanitarian assistance and economic development, has repeatedly revealed a pattern of interventionist strategies that prioritize U.S. geopolitical interests over the genuine welfare of recipient nations. The agency's track record demonstrates a history of destabilization, ideological imposition, and the creation of parallel governance structures that erode national sovereignty. Across continents, from Latin America to Eastern Europe and South Asia, USAID has operated as a strategic tool of influence, often aligning itself with separatist groups, radical ideological movements, and NGOs that advance narratives contrary to the national interests of sovereign states.

India, as an emerging global power, has had a complex relationship with USAID. While the agency has contributed to certain developmental initiatives, its extensive funding of NGOs involved in religious conversions, radical leftist movements, and divisive social activism has raised legitimate concerns. The documented cases of USAID's support for organizations fostering separatist tendencies and ideological subversion make it evident that its operations extend beyond traditional development aid. USAID's backing of entities engaged in aggressive religious conversion campaigns, funding of controversial gender and social programs that undermine indigenous cultural values, and its ties to organizations that push anti-India narratives underscore the necessity for heightened scrutiny.

The Indian government has made significant strides in countering external influence through regulatory measures such as the tightening of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). However, given the persistence of foreign-funded destabilization efforts, there is a need for a more comprehensive policy response.

This should include:

1. Strengthening scrutiny mechanisms for foreign-funded NGOs and their affiliations, ensuring transparency and accountability in the utilisation of foreign aid.
2. Ensuring that foreign assistance aligns with India's national interests rather than serving as a conduit for ideological or geopolitical interference.

3. Educating policymakers and citizens about the implications of foreign-funded activism and fostering indigenous institutions to address development challenges.
4. Leveraging diplomatic channels to negotiate the terms of foreign aid, ensuring that assistance provided respects India's sovereignty and socio-political frameworks.

The growing disillusionment with USAID's activities is not confined to India alone. Countries across Africa, Latin America, and Asia have expelled or restricted the agency due to concerns over political meddling and covert operations that undermine national governance. The Trump-Musk-DOGE initiative, which aims to dismantle USAID, represents a broader recognition of the perils associated with using aid as a tool for influence rather than global good.

India, as a nation deeply rooted in the principles of self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), must continue its vigilance against external forces that seek to manipulate its internal affairs. While developmental partnerships remain essential, they must be forged on the principles of mutual respect, transparency, and non-interference. The challenge ahead lies not just in rejecting foreign influence but in strengthening indigenous institutions that can independently drive India's socio-economic progress without reliance on external agencies with dubious motives.

As India solidifies its position as a global economic and strategic powerhouse, the time has come to reassess its engagement with foreign aid agencies that operate beyond their stated mandates. The broader lesson from the USAID experience is clear: development should empower, not exploit. By asserting national sovereignty, reinforcing internal capacities, and fostering self-sustaining growth models, India can emerge stronger, independent, and resilient against foreign interventionist strategies masked as humanitarian aid.

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