

## A Brief Study on the Emerging Nature of India's Foreign Policy

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### ABSTRACT

As was said, the government of the day should base its diplomatic and international policy decisions on the nation's best interests, which should also be the primary element in making such decisions. However, while being open to a variety of perspectives and interpretations, India has been unable to make the most of the chances that are now accessible to it. India's democracy is strong and contentious. In this article, scholar plans to provide his personal evaluation on India's significant foreign policy movements throughout the years, including how some of them have failed us down while others have helped us accomplish our national objectives in more effective ways. He will also discuss how some of these efforts have helped them accomplish country's goals in more efficient methods.

**Keywords-** India's Foreign Policy, Phases of India's Foreign Policy, Prospects of India's Foreign Policy.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Indian foreign policy has been through a significant transformation ever since the administration of Narendra Modi assumed office in May of 2014. This transformation is evident in the recent intellectual and political discussions that have taken place. In a very short period of time, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been successful in establishing a unique legacy that helps achieve the aim of elevating India to a key global player<sup>[1]</sup>.

### *Changes in India's Foreign Policy throughout Time*

Speaking during the 2019 edition of the 4th Ramnath Goenka Lecture, the Honourable Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, roughly categorised foreign policy of India into six phases.

- **1st Phase (year 1946 to 62)**

India strengthened its economy and sovereignty throughout the Cold War and Independence to prevent losing its choices and sovereignty. As the first decolonized country, it helped Asia and Africa find a fairer international order<sup>[2]</sup>.

Diplomacy of India from Korea and Vietnam to Hungary and the Suez was at its peak during Third World unity. India's international status was steady for a

time. The 1962 China conflict ended this time span while harming India's reputation.

- **2nd Phase (year 1962 to 71)**

In spite of the fact that it had limited resources, India took a pragmatic approach to addressing political and security challenges. It went beyond non-alignment in the sake of national security and signed a defence deal with the US in 1964 that is now mostly overlooked about. This was done in the purpose of protecting the country. During this particularly vulnerable period, pressure from outside sources grew on Kashmir. Despite the fact that the global environment continued to be split, there was occasional US-USSR collaboration here and there. Because of the physical proximity of South Asia's various countries<sup>[3]</sup>, India's diplomacy had to engage the world's two most powerful nations at the same time, as it did in Tashkent in 1965. In addition to this, it was a period when issues at home, such as political upheaval and economic hardship, were at a point where they were particularly severe.

- **3rd Phase (year 1971 to 91)**

The phase started with the establishment of Bangladesh, which successfully demolished an Indo-Pak equivalency, but it came to an end with the Indian and Pakistani Kuffar Force's misadventure in Sri Lanka. The

Sino-American reconciliation of 1971 had a huge impact on the geopolitical landscape, and as a result, the larger environment had experienced a substantial transformation by this time. The Indo-Soviet Treaty and India's adoption of more pro-Soviet attitudes on global problems were India's responses to the threat posed by the Soviet Union. It was a particularly problematic moment because of the axis that was building at the time between the United States of America, China, and Pakistan, which presented a significant danger to the future of India<sup>[4-5]</sup>. The shift in India's position was mainly the result of other variables, despite the fact that this axis was responsible for a number of long-term impacts. Following the disintegration of a close ally, the Soviet Union, and the accompanying global financial crisis in 1991, India was compelled to conduct a comprehensive re-examination of the principles of both its domestic and international policy.

- **4th Phase (year 1991 to 99)**

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the beginning of a "unipolar" era are the defining characteristics of the fourth phase. It prompted a significant re-evaluation of many different subjects in India as a result of this event. After that, it shifted its focus to ensuring that it retained its strategic autonomy. New diplomatic aims and methods were implemented as a direct result of India's greater economic openness to the rest of the world<sup>[6]</sup>. The novel Indian line to global matters, which comprised modifications to its stance towards Israel, was summed up in the Look East policy. These changes were made in response to India's growing economic and political ties with neighbouring countries. During this period, India made efforts to deepen its engagement with the United States while simultaneously protecting its vital interests in several domains. This goal of strategic sovereignty was primarily concentrated on keeping its nuclear weapon choice, despite the fact that it was also visible in talks pertaining to the economy. At the turn of the century, sufficient time had passed for India to make the necessary adjustments and advance to the next level. It acquired nuclear weapons after 1998, successfully defeated Pakistan's military adventurism in Kargil in the year 1999, generated enough economic growth to be interesting to everyone<sup>[7]</sup>, and handled the US well even though that nation was more concerned with events in Asia and the effects of Islamic fundamentalism.

- **5th Phase (year 2000 to 13)**

India was able to access new avenues of possibility as a direct consequence of the competitive climate that followed liberalisation. This was especially true given the fact that the United States failed to sustain the same degree of unipolarity throughout this time. As a consequence of this, India gained an appreciation for the value of cooperating with several powers to address a variety of difficulties. During this fifth phase of its development, India progressively gained the traits of a balancing power. India additionally strengthened

relationships with Russia and discovered areas of agreement with China about trade and environmental issues,<sup>[8]</sup> while simultaneously helping the BRICS organisation grow into a powerful force. India moved to a new position because it saw this moment as a window of opportunity and wanted to take advantage of it.

- **6th Phase (2014 till Present)**

By the year 2014, an amalgamation of circumstances had led to the modification of calculations and the beginning of the sixth phase. China's terms of engagement with the rest of the world became ever more stringent as the country accelerated its pace of development. Following the conclusion of the Iraq war, the American trumpet sounded more uncertain. The European Union failed to realise the consequences involved with political agnosticism, which led to an increasing inward focus among its members<sup>[9-10]</sup>. The efforts made by Japan to have a more prominent voice in international affairs have been moving along rather slowly.

The globe was seeing a broader spread of power and more localised equations when all of a sudden, multi-polarity was thrust upon us. In light of all of these developments, and after conducting an analysis of the current state of international regimes and alliances, India made the decision to participate in more active diplomacy. India has emerged as one of the leading economies in the world and is anticipated to play an even more significant role in the future as a result of its competence in developing technology<sup>[11]</sup>. In a time when everyone else is being more cautious, it is also assumed that you will take on more responsibilities. The scope of India's diplomatic goals has substantially broadened, and the concept that a multi-polar world should be centred on a multi-polar Asia is now held in common by all of the other nations of the world.

To achieve this goal, India has to develop a plan that involves collaborating with a large number of partners on a variety of projects. Those governments who have the finest mix of skills, connections, and placement are the ones that have the most potential to aim to occupy one of the different poles in the new global demand<sup>[12]</sup>.

#### ***Influence of domestic political leadership in shifting foreign policy trends***

Former Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs M. Ganapathy was quoted as saying that the internal politics and administration of a country are closely tied to that country's foreign policy since both of these factors have an effect on one another<sup>[13]</sup>. The Freedom Movement and the ideals of India's forefathers had a significant effect on the independent Indian government's approach to international relations. Non-alignment, together with India's support for movements against racism, colonialism, and apartheid, were the pillars on which India's government based its approach to foreign policy<sup>[14]</sup>. Ahimsa and Satyagraha were two of Mahatma Gandhi's guiding principles in the

development of India's foreign policy, which was also influenced by the reverberations of India's fight against colonialism. India came to the forefront of international attention as a leading advocate for the principle of non-discriminatory nuclear weapons. It came to the conclusion that it would be best to create its own way independently and not join any post-War coalitions. It was completely unthinkable to foresee that sophisticated India would join the camp of camp followers.

A lot of India's post-independence diplomatic initiatives and concepts that were subsequently regarded as the foundation of its foreign policy were not formed from a national consensus. Deep national divisions on foreign policy resulted from Nehru's choices to join the British Commonwealth, present the Kashmir concern before the UN Security Council, oppose the Soviet invasion of Hungary, and prioritise nuclear arms control over decolonization at the first nonaligned movement summit<sup>[15]</sup>. Nehru's views on India's Kashmir and border issues with Pakistan and China were extensively debated at this time. Ashok Mehta, a cabinet minister, resigned when Indira Gandhi refused to denounce Moscow for ending the Prague Spring in 1968. Other Indian presidents have encountered criticism to their foreign policy. Indian centrist scholars denounced her 1971 security deal with the Soviet Union as a deviation from "strict" non-alignment. There are various examples of foreign policy decisions that deeply divided India's political classes, such as:

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee's approach to Israel in the year 1977, his journey to China in 1978, and his election as Prime Minister of India in 1999.
- The good neighbour programme implemented by Inder Kumar Gujral (1996–1998)
- Mrs. Gandhi's decision, in 1974, to participate in the testing of a nuclear device.
- The civil nuclear effort that Primes Minister Manmohan Singh launched with the United States in 2005.
- The nuclear tests conducted by Prime Minister Vajpayee in 1998.

***In his article "Foreign Policy in India:***

Always a Leadership Job," published in 2007, K. Subramanyam stated that India's foreign policy seldom commanded a consensus among its citizens. Initiatives taken by leaders such as Indira, Nehru, Rajiv, Vajpayee, Narasimha Rao, and Dr. Singh led to the establishment of close relationship with the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the testing of nuclear weapons, the development of a strategic weapons programme, economic liberalisation and globalisation, the strategy of the balance of power, and the strategy of non-alignment as a strategy". When efforts of this kind prove to be successful, they are often adopted at the national level and formalised into policies<sup>[16]</sup>.

***The Prospects of Indian Foreign Policy After 2014***

The present approach that India takes to its foreign policy is based on the notion of Aristotle's Enlightened Self-Interest and Kautilya's Arthashastra. This approach is supported by the Enlightened National Interest framework, which was developed by India. The principles of "Vasudhaiva Kutumba am and Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" serve as the foundation for India's approach to international affairs. India's long-term objective is to establish itself as a preeminent force on the global stage and to work in conjunction with other nations to meet their mutual commitments in a variety of domains, including as energy<sup>[17]</sup>, the environment, trade, human rights, and efficient government. Pant's analysis was based on the fact that these changes have occurred during Modi's tenure as prime minister. Because India is now recognised as a credible balancer in its region in the Indo-Pacific, opportunities for Indian diplomacy have become available.

After 75 years of independence, the nation is feeling more self-assured and hopeful about putting "India First" on the global stage. This sentiment reflects the country's desire to be recognised as a world power. India's foreign policy has developed to represent the shift from a bipolar to a multipolar global order. India does not favour participating in the domestic affairs of other nations, and this change is reflected in India's foreign policy. As a consequence of receiving 184 votes out of a possible 192, India was selected to act as a "non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the years 2021 and 2022". India is able to take advantage of its expanding diplomatic strength to play a leading role in the solution of "issues without passports," like terrorism, global warming, and political instability<sup>[18]</sup>. This is made possible by India's capacity to take advantage of its growing diplomatic influence. Because it is a member of three of the most important export control agencies, India is in a position to acquire essential technology that would boost its armed forces as well as its space programme.

**II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

*Doctor Anil Roy Dube et al.*, The economy of India has quickly risen to become one of the nations with the highest rates of economic expansion. The spike in exports, the revival of the manufacturing sector, and the considerable influx of foreign direct investment that has supplemented domestic investment are the primary factors that have led to the current period of economic expansion. Because to economic changes that were implemented in the 1990s in the context of globalisation, as well as the resurrection of the Indian economy from the crisis, and confronting the difficulties of a liberalised economy, there has been a major increase in macroeconomic stability. Which is the effect of globalisation. The implementation of reforms in the

external sector in the 1990s allowed India to successfully manage both its international trade and its balance of payments. Investing, on the other hand, is likely to be the engine that drives growth in the not-too-distant future. The fact that India's international commerce has undergone a paradigm shift demonstrates the substantial influence that trade reforms have had. The purpose of this article is to investigate the developing tendencies and patterns of India's international commerce in the context of recent trade liberalisation<sup>[19]</sup>.

*Devika Sharma et al.*, The research explores current foreign policy drivers via the lens of India's obligations in five key problem areas: energy security, climate change, economic engagements, food security, and the Responsibility to Safeguard. The report begins by providing a short backdrop to India's global contacts and then moves on to investigate these modern foreign policy drivers. It also gives some thoughts on how India's interactions in pursuit of its interests in relation to these global problems could highlight the many different components, some of which are in contradiction with one another, that make up the country's complex present engagements in foreign policy<sup>[20]</sup>.

*Shivshankar Menon et al.*, India has been placed in a globe that is becoming an increasingly hazardous one, as well as one that is becoming economically stagnant. India's opponents, whether they are states, outsiders, or both (as is the case with Pakistan), are becoming stronger in this world, which is in the midst of a period of transformation. Even as the world outside is getting more unpredictable and uncertain, the politics and security inside most of the world's powers are also growing more unstable. These are difficulties that conventional institutions and the established structures of states are not suited to deal with, ameliorate, or overcome. What are some of the fundamental and long-term drivers of India's foreign policy, which dictate the ultimate aim, in a world that is always changing. How does India plan to accomplish such objectives in the future? What is it that India ought to be doing?<sup>[21]</sup>

*Takenori Horimoto et al.*, It would seem that Asia is seeing a shift in the balance of power as a direct result of the fast rise of China and the relative weakening of the influence of the United States. India has been looking for a strategy to adjust to this newly developed circumstance. Since 1990s, India has been steadily climbing the global significance ranks, notably since it began conducting nuclear weapon tests in 1998 and continuing ahead. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, India has been seen as the nation that would attempt to follow in China's footsteps and become a great power after China. India has a history of being secretive about its ambitions to become a great power; but, in 2015, the country announced its determination to pursue this goal. This transition is shed light on by this article via the lens of India's policy orientation on the local, regional, and global levels as well as its critical

ties with Russia and Japan. The development of India has significant repercussions for the shifting of power in Asian countries<sup>[22]</sup>.

*Amit Ranjan*, Since India's independence in 1947, the country's foreign policy has undergone a process of development that can be compared to that of every other major nation. The fundamental foundations of non-alignment and Panchsheel have also been altered, and the national interest of the country, as interpreted by the administration in power at the time, has emerged as the most important consideration. Until the nineties, it was mostly dictated and controlled by staunch politicians; but, since then, a significant amount of professional experience in the field has become an essential component of the central decision-making process in South Block. In this area, there have been recent developments that have brought forth both new problems and new possibilities for us to pursue our national interests and our developmental goals. In order for us to make use of the new chances presented within the framework of such problems, we need to be dynamic, adaptable, and firmly rooted in reality<sup>[23]</sup>.

### III. METHODOLOGY

In my role as an avid watcher of international politics as well as Indian diplomatic and military manoeuvres, I have tried to depend mostly on my own reading and comprehension of the topic at hand. In addition to that, I have spent a significant period of time reading articles and other resources that can be found online in order to get a deeper understanding of the topic. The study is based on secondary data in which following steps have been followed:

- **Selection of articles**

Based on a comprehensive literature assessment, the researchers picked the database to use for their Systematic Literature review (SLR) as well as the keywords to be utilised. Research papers were given by Scopus and WoS, and a significant number of documents were obtained. Following the application of the filters "English," "article only," and "Management, Business Finance, accounting, and Business," a total of 56 papers were identified. PRISMA, the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, was used in this study so that a standardised methodology could be followed and data monitoring could take place throughout the SLR stages. During the course of the analysis, each of the articles received a one-of-a-kind ID number that served to differentiate them from one another.

The following papers were not considered for inclusion in the review: a) any documents in the dataset that were recopies were deleted; b) any publications that were not found in ABDC journals were not considered for inclusion in the review in order to maintain a certain level of quality; and c) any articles that included AI

technical computation were not considered. 45 different papers were selected for the study.

- **Thematic analysis**

Thematic analysis is a method for organizing research topics as well as discovering, analyzing, and reporting data patterns. Using Chatha and Butt's (2015) framework, manually classifying the articles into overarching themes and more specific subthemes. Second, Leximancer aided in the process of manually categorizing data. These two approaches improve the quality of the study's outcomes. A programme called Leximancer, which mines text for information, looks for concepts and co-occurrences to provide both intellectual and relational insight. After sending in all 45 papers to Leximancer, scholar added "English" to the stop list in order to filter out phrases such as "or/and/like" that were not pertinent to the themes that were forming. The words "pp.," "Figure," and "re" were each removed by hand. In the end, scholar was able to construct two maps: one was a conceptual map that emphasised significant themes and ideas, and the other was a relational cloud map that related notions.

#### **IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

An examination of Indian foreign policy and diplomacy over the last 73 years reveals a number of significant turning points in the country's history. The nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998, the incorporation of Sikkim into India (1974), the launch of Operation Meghdoot (Siachen Glacier), Operation Pawan (IPKF Operations in Sri Lanka), Operation Cactus (Maldives), and the Doklam stand-off with China (2017) are all clear evidence that India is abandoning, just for a while, the impractical Panchsheel that does not serve India's national interests. The recent constitutional amendments in Kashmir and the public position of obtaining the entirety of Kashmir back, including Aksai Chin, which is presently under Chinese control are highly likely to be the major reason for recent Chinese aggressive posture on various borders against India. This is because China views India as a threat to its own territorial integrity. In spite of this, the Indian military is now working on new tactics and doctrines, such as the Cold Start and Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs), owing to the initiative of the late General K Sunderji. Without a question, the accomplishment of these diplomatic and strategic goals has rendered India more significant than it was in its first fifty years of independence.

It is anticipated that Modi's personal relationships and chemistry with important heads of state from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Australia, the United States of America, Russia, China, and Brazil would further redefine India's diplomatic ambitions in the short to medium term. This has been an essential component of Modi's approach. The pursuit of economic and strategic benefits has emerged as the primary motivation behind Modi's New India

Diplomacy, which is now being shaped by the incumbent EMA Jaishankar and NSA Doval, who are both playing an important part.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

Over the years, Indian foreign policy has been marked by consistent periods of ideation, innovation, and cooperative endeavours. The "India First" doctrine, which is part of Indian foreign policy, has been formalised in a large number of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and treaties with a wide range of countries and international organisations. India's ascent to the status of a superpower was made possible, in no little part, by the country's dramatic rise in foreign exchange reserves. Therefore, right from the start, India has embraced a strategy that prioritises inclusion, openness, and centrality when it comes to dealing with issues pertaining to the world as a whole.

When it comes to international relations, the management of foreign policy is likewise strategic and multi-dimensional. The ideas presented in PODSCORB may be used to a great extent in this area of research as well. It is very essential, in order to successfully execute a nation's diplomatic prowess and worldwide perception, to have proper planning, excellent organisation, and the optimal use of available resources while staying within the budget that has been allotted. In a similar vein, a government's ability to accomplish its diplomatic goals, safeguard and advance its national interests, and make the most of its human resources will be significantly improved if it is able to effectively put the appropriate individuals in the appropriate positions and ensure that these individuals work in coordination with all of the relevant departments and divisions. Dealing with internal disputes, such as the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 and the demonstrations against the CAA that took place all throughout the nation, and obtaining worldwide attention have surely influenced the country's image in other countries. Moreover, the control of public perception in this day and age of information warfare is of the utmost importance.

On the external front, it is possible that keeping SAARC in the cold storage for a prolonged period of time at the expense of BIMSTEC is not a sustainable alternative. Dealing with a Communist governing regime in Nepal that is supported by China while keeping a watchful eye on Chinese military actions near to Bhutan's borders is very important. India's status in the international community will be in a significant way determined by its ability to strike a balance between sustaining peace and territorial integrity while keeping strategic parity with an openly assertive China. India's own role in the South China Sea with China flexing its muscles against smaller nations of the region and its likely aggression against Taiwan are also areas where India's role as an inactive onlooker or a key player will mark an important development similar to one that took

place in the case of Tibet in the 1950s. Finally, in order for India to achieve its diplomatic and strategic goals, maintaining political stability and internal harmony would be very necessary. Rapid economic growth may assist India in expanding its economic and commercial reach to Africa, South America, Asia, and Europe; it may also help India emerge as an attractive alternative to China's debt diplomacy; and it may enable India to use the quad to reinforce its strategic and political goals in relation to China, which may well decide India's path of move on the global platform in the future.

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