

The New Template of India's Foreign Policy in the Multi-polar World

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Abstract

International relations are dynamic and are changing with human knowledge. When conditions change globally, state actors must update their power equations globally. There is no chance to stick with outdated norms and traditions, especially regarding global politics and foreign policy. Now India is in the exact situation. India is a rising international power in terms of economic, military, GDP and international trade. India doesn't want to be a passive actor in global politics. Now India wants to raise her voice for global interests and to play a leadership role in international platforms by promoting its rich and splendid culture and World contributions. The vital interest of India is to take her global interest forward along with her close partners and neighbours. The power formulas and economic strategies keep changing day by day. It is alarming for India to change its global agenda and must go strategically for its autonomy in international relations. This is what India is trying to do and struggling through dynamic foreign policy.

Keywords: Foreign policy, Diplomacy, Multipolar world, Global power

History of India's foreign policy

No one can deny Indian foreign policy since independence. It is unavoidable that Indian foreign policy was in the hands of superpowers and their strategic moves. It was completely passive. Even though it has vast demography, rich culture and international Diaspora, it could not play that much role in global politics until 2014. This passive move has several reasons and challenges, either internally or externally. According to Machiavelli, international relations and autonomy in foreign policy should not depend on or influence by external factors and internal anti-state forces. A nation must remember one thing" keep the government secure internally and making the nation powerful externally is crucial. It must be realised by all the countries as soon as possible... It is what exactly is going on in international politics. And we can see the same method India initiated in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi era.

As the World has been changing drastically since the 1960s, India also must change its traditional norms in the global market if it wants to become a superpower. India must follow a new and dynamic strategy for its foreign policy. India must expand its international outreach. There is no doubt that India is a rising power now. India wants to rise as global Power and remain an autonomous power globally. It wants to spread its wings to all the strategic areas like global trade economy, environmental and multipolar issues. But, it takes a lot of work for India as several challenges await internally and externally. India needs to counter all these problems immediately. For this, India needs not only strategic foreign policy but also dynamic leadership.,

After the 2014 election, India has got a leader like this in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is the only Prime Minister who has visited near to 70 countries, either big or small and powerful or developing, as an ambassador of India, expanding International Relations and enhancing our ties with the multipolar World. In simple terms, he sleeps more on Air India flights than in luxurious hotels. This is for expanding Indian foreign relations in this multipolar dynamic World by changing India's traditional foreign policy. Narendra Modi's foreign policy could remain a milestone in the Indian foreign policy era. His strategy with Superpowers and enhancing relations with south Asian neighbours is for the promotion of India's interests in the Indian Ocean Middle East and Central Asia.

MODI ERA;

Narendra Modi doesn't want to keep the limit to any particular block or area and wants to make India a key partner in every global issue. In other words, the Indian foreign policy is prudent to spread India's global role. Narendra Modi has become the first prime minister who made a bilateral visit to Israel and Portugal in seven decades. This is an excellent example of India's move from a traditional foreign policy to a dynamic strategy. It is the biggest challenge that India must rise as a global power simultaneously without compromising her interests in the security agenda. According to foreign relations experts, Narendra Modi's foreign policy agenda would meet India's worldwide security and power agenda. The main focus of Modi's foreign policy is to create good relations with the multipolar World and create India's brand in the World through its soft Power. There indeed is a significant priority to save our regional culture and customs. At the same time, we must accept the reality which has been taking place internationally.

The unavoidable fact in foreign policy is that "Countries are engaging with another nation with what suits them best". Indian diplomacy has now taken the shape of a realistic approach, and our foreign diplomacy is upgrading to face these challenges and to maintain new strategic partners. India must keep strategic autonomy and power interest in her foreign policy approach because India is not only surrounded by its beautiful natural borders but also by cunning and aggressive neighbours nations. Indian foreign policy must be dynamic in the system and realistic in implementation. Delhi must take decisive and bold steps without compromising our national interest. Why? Because national interest means nothing but national security.

Rebalance of the global economy and power politics simultaneously sharpening inconsistency between China and America is the prime characteristic of world politics. They are both rising and engaging very differently from their past. This is India must be sorted out in her International diplomacy. India must go strategically as a counter-power to China while engaging with the United States of America. This seems too difficult and far to reach, but we could do it by taking strategic and bold decisions and strengthening our domestic muscular. In simple words, India should adopt a new approach to global affairs. India must take another country on its way to international platforms.

After 2014, the government of Narendra Modi realised one truth a self-centered worldview does not serve the immediate goals of any nation. The World is multidimensional, and helping each other. Several challenges are that India needs to counter, like maritime security, non-proliferation, climate change and counter-terrorism etc. In the multipolar World, Indian foreign policy must be careful at every step. All the coalitions being formed now are about an alliance of convenience but not the coalition of will. There are no formalities among the nations and alliances. So India must be aware of this bounding.

India is a Rising power with dynamic development: As we know that India has a vast population and rich culture.

Moreover, India has the World's largest Diaspora, as it has the 4th strongest military, followed by China, Russia and America and the 5th largest economy with 2.69 billion dollars. It remains a middle power with a rising mindset. There are several domestic and international challenges behind it. Though India has battle missiles and multinuclear alliance weapons, it still did not attain superpower status. Since independence, there have never been any more moves towards superpower status. Narendra Modi government is making efforts deliberately to achieve this place by using its ancient, most prosperous cultural heritage. Narendra Modi is trying to site India's home among the superpowers by raising India's position politically and economically by submitting its Power. India is not a significant power, but at the same time, it is not a neglected Power in world politics. Up to now, India has wanted to rise as a regional superpower. Now foreign policy has been changed completely. Delhi wants to remain a superpower by investing its most significant population in the largest Diaspora and size. In a word, it is the new strategic policy towards superpowers to be a superpower.

Power as a critical element of foreign diplomacy: In this 21st century World is no more unipolar or bipolar, and there is no chance to come back. Now the World is multipolar, where everyone has the opportunity to rise as a global power. In practice, Power is a vital element of every foreign policy. The growing World Power like China wants to be strongest and trying to spread her interest globally. If any nation wants to achieve fame internationally, the Power should remain as bedrock in foreign policy. A rising global power like China wants to expand its global domination through muscle power.

Simply put, China has adopted the thirst for Power and battle lust policy. It is clear that to enter an international market, and Power is the Master key. The vital challenge before Indian foreign policy is to equalise India's power formula with a superpower. Even though America is a superpower, there is only a thin gap between China and America, and there is a huge gap between India and China regarding many sectors.

India as a Rising Power and Challenges in the Multipolar World: Emerging powers like India have to face several challenges that need to solve through its dynamic and strategic foreign diplomacy. Why? Because if India wants to be a global power, it needs to be played a vital role in the international platforms in countering the global challenges. There is no doubt that our border countries like China and Pakistan and other state-sponsored terrorist and expansionist ideology could be a big challenge in front of India. And one more challenge is controlling the superpowers like America and Russian pressure on Indian independent foreign diplomacy. India is emerging as the rise of the east when it faces pressure from the west. Indian diplomacy knows that the contemporary multipolar World is not only designed with strategic superpowers and their alliances but also several regional powers, one of the most and prime challenges to any emerging power that economic interdependence in the multipolar World. Before India raises its position in the multipolar World, our foreign diplomacy must handle all these challenges strategically. Global politics are dynamic and keep changing, and geopolitical equations are also changing daily based on national interests. One of the biggest challenges before India and its strategic foreign policy is tackling china near the borders and international forums.

India will face challenges with neighbours and emerging powers like Russia and America. No doubt, India's relations with the United States of America are growing gradually. But this is not stable, and there are many track fiction between these two countries. Foremost, India must face two challenges from America. Firstly, there are many inconsistencies that the United States of America is trying to pull back the GSP benefits of India. Secondly, the U.S. foreign policy always expects their alliances to follow their line when making certain decisions. Due to India's new foreign policy outlook, India is unwilling to follow this suit. One more challenge that India must be faced in the form of Russia, the great powers in the multipolar World and India's traditional and historical military and defence partner. Directly or indirectly, we have 60% of defence deals of Russian origin. This is an unavoidable history for both countries. But, now Russia is enhancing its strategic, economic and military relationship with China and probably with Pakistan. Selling weapons to Pakistan and the statement given by Russia when the Pulwama attack happened did not position along with India. These two situations indicate that Russia is going away from India. This is a significant dimension that Indian foreign policy must deal with.

Thirdly, the massive challenge before India's foreign policy is that China is growing multidimensional Global Power in the 21st century. With 14.72 trillion dollars, china is the second-largest world economy and five times more extensive than India, where china's military expenditure of 252 US billion dollars is four times bigger than India at the same time second highest in the World. More seriously, China's adversarial relationships increasing China's presence in South Asia with different economic and military engagements and power politics on china are immediate challenges before India's foreign policy. India needs to sort out all these challenges as possible as soon as with dynamic diplomacy. For all this, Indian foreign policy requires a lot of flexibility in its diplomacy to counter all these challenges. In the changing global order, the prime task before India's foreign strategy is that India has to address critical takeaways on international platforms. For this, India follows not only diplomacy but also a radical approach to counter the challenges like global terrorism and climate challenge.

Neighbourhood First: Neighbourhood First is always the Cornerstone of Indian foreign policy: After the re-election of the BJP government, neighbourhood first policy became the priority of the Indian foreign policy and, in fact, became the critical element of Modi's foreign diplomacy. By making neighbourhood first, India's voice is apparent and loud. India wants to keep its relations solid and healthy with its neighbours. It is a new turn to India's foreign policy to promote its domestic security and superpower strategy. It is a basic fact that India is emerging as a regional power. India looks to change her position and preparation for regional dealing. India wants to play a dignified role with neighbours without interfering with domestic issues.

Act East policy is the prime example of neighbourhood first policy. Putting neighbours first is India's Key foreign policy diplomacy is the beginning of the new chapter of ties with Sri Lanka growing convergence against terrorism. Tri-lateral cooperation between India, Japan and Srilanka. Rajendra Rajapaksa's first visit to India indicates new worth in both relations. India's first visits to solids government, integration of first cross borders petroleum pipeline between Nepal and India from the military in India to Allerganji in Nepal, relations with Bangladesh like high-level exchanges, mutual trust and enhanced cooperation on security matters Engaging with Bhutan, projects like Mandechha (759mw) and introducing Rupay card in Bhutan, security cooperation with Myanmar and adapted relations with Afghanistan are the best prime examples of India's neighbourhood policy. India's prime foreign policy

concern is to secure our position and the strategic position we have lost. The tremendous challenge to India's neighbourhood policy is like Pakistan's anti-India propaganda and extremist activities. Up to now, India's role in this strategic area is deficient where it should have played more. India is begging to emerge as a power for growing its interests. India must consistently take her neighbour along with her to counter this power race in this region. Doing so could be a tremendous shift in India's foreign policy.

China's world Domination Plan and India's Strategy: The vital challenge to India's contemporary diplomacy China's aggressive expansion policy. According to several other exports, china was an excellent ally to India 40 years ago, but foreign exports have done this ultimate misinterpretation. China has never maintained any close relation from her core of the heart from Mao to Xi Jinping. It has always been playing the power game with India; with time, aggressive Chinese policies and south Asian domination plan and India's neighbour policy have as harmful to India's security. It's a crucial challenge to India's diplomacy to counter and stop china's expansionist policies on India and the South- Asian region. China has always been cunning in its global trade and economy. China's global strategy is always different from India's. China's present policy of extreme nationalism is a prominent example of this. China President Xi jumping said that China would never seek hegemony. Never expand, and never go for an arms race. One of the prime challenges from China is the BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE. In China, it is called YI DAI YI L.U. The Belt and Road initiative is the Brainchild of Xi Jinping. It's the road to China's superpower dreams, but to India, it's a roadblock to her global economic autonomy and regional security. It covers 40% of the global GDP, 65% of the worldwide population, and 75% of energy reserves. This could impact massively multiplayer India superpower efforts. Through this initiative, China is looking to construct the port city of Colombo, the Karakoram highway in Pakistan and so on and so. It could be dangerous and a hurdle to our border security. BRI is not only extensive but also an expansive project in the World. According to expectations, this project cost 1 trillion dollars, equal to 16 countries like India. India needs to take counter ideology to stop China's expansion ideology. It's a new form of colonialism, and its death traps India's neighbours and impacts India's security.

India's Strategic shift to BIMSTEC: The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation, also known as BIMSTEC, 's a strategic organisation more than a regional one. In simple and strategic language, BIMSTEC is a rebound relationship when things do not work with Pakistan. Even though it's not visible that BIMSTEC is a strategic regional relationship with neighbours against Pakistan, the intention is loud and clear. BIMSTEC is standing in the approach of one Bay, one Belt, and shared prosperity. When Pakistan keep playing the power game along with India's opposite Powers, India should check them with a reverse strategy. Pakistan is very aggressive and busy defaming India. So it's a compulsory change to be loved by India. BIMSTEC is such a regional organisation that counters Pakistan regionally. India's foreign policy must give enormous prosperity to this organisation and need to be sent political signs from this strategic organisation. BIMSTEC is not an ultimate alternative to SAARC BIMSTEC is a unique organisation that creates a bridge between south Asia and south-east Asia. A regional power like India must take this unique organisation towards a vast initiative, regional strategy, and prosperity. BIMSTEC could be the vital organisation that protects humanity, security and prosperity in the Bay of Bengal region. This organisation is strategically significant to India. BIMSTEC provide special significance for a strategic shift to its members. The main objectives of BIMSTIC are better connectivity of the people in the region, integration and prosperity, countering the traditional and non-

traditional threats, counter-terrorism sharing of intelligence, cyber security combating international terrorism, and transnational organised crime drug trafficking. Disaster management is a significant one of BIMSTEC.

India's Diplomatic move between two cold war powers: In the meantime, India, in a testing time, regards it as the foreign policy towards it is foreign policy. It's a strategic challenge to India's global role and foreign policy. The cold blocks remained as India's diplomatic dilemma in international politics. India is in a diplomatic spot between Washington and Russia. Russia is the most prominent security and defence partner, and hand America is crucial in the Indi-pacific. So far, India could maintain a balanced relationship with the two powers, but due to growing fixation in the White House, India is now in a diplomatic dilemma. Indian diplomacy needs to be taken a crucial step, like in the cheeseboard.

One is a cold war friend, and another one is Indi pacific partner. Up to now, India has had independent relations with both countries. But now, U.S. and Russia's acrimony has changed completely. The words are flying like missiles between both nations. Now, indeed, it's the biggest test for rising countries like India. India's close side with Russia could be caused to American economic sanctions on India. India is gradually enhancing its relations with America. Simultaneously, Russia proposed new regional security ties with China. This seems to get the water hit. So it's a very crucial period for Delhi to make her foreign policy safe as well as strategic. India must move its steps dynamically on both sides.

The history of India and America started in 2010, and it is now the most comprehensive security partner. America is also a complete economic partner. India and U.S. also cooperate reasonably in cyber security, education, space exploration, and maritime health security. India has signed many agreements with America. No doubt those, India-American relations are multi-sectorial. These both are being called natural allies. Since 2017 defence partnership with the U.S. made this relationship very close and strong. Arriving of the U.S. defence secretary to India has given a new phase to India and America relations. So it is in our diplomacy hands that protect links with the oldest democracy and at the same time with the oldest friend, but both are strategically important.

India's demand for Permanent membership in UNSC: It is a fact India has advanced economically and politically, and India has been demanding permanent membership in the U.N. Security Council; approximately 120 nations keep on asking for UNSC reforms, but there is no step towards this side. India is a substantial global growth driver now. Yet, membership in UNSC has eluded India. Membership in the U.N. Security Council could be essential to India as it has already met the criteria declared by the United Nations. India is the 4th largest economy and plays a crucial role in global trade. India is one of the largest donors to the United Nations. India does not maintain any border disputes with any of its neighbours intentionally. India has the second-largest population in the World and is one of the biggest democracies in the World. India is a Nuclear Power country too. All of the above, India is the fourth troop contributor in the United Nations. 6500 Indian army soldiers are working under the U.N. peacekeeping missions all over the World. Nearly 200 Indian soldiers have lost their lives under these operations. India has always worked with great principles like Saman, Samvadh, Sayog, Samriti and Shanthi, meaning Respect, dialogue, cooperation, prosperity and peace. With these great ideas, India is working as a mediating force where frictions arise among the countries. India still needs to get permanent membership even though India plays a significant role and has all the qualities which the United Nations have given.

Soft Power and Diaspora as a Strategic element of foreign diplomacy:

There is no doubt that India's Diaspora is one of the richest and influential groups in the World. It is true regarding developed nations like America, England's face, Canada and UAE. More than 4 million Indian Americans are staying in America. One of the most significant positives to India is that India's Diaspora is the most valuable vote bank and key representative in every major institution across Europe and the rest of the World. The key things are 5% of U.S. lawmakers are of Indian origin, 36% of employees are working at NASA, and 38% of Doctors are Indians. Indians are CEOs in major World dominated companies like Google, Microsoft and MasterCard. They all contribute to more than 2 trillion dollars in the U.S. economy. India's Diaspora is a rich and influential group all over the World, especially superpowers like America, England, France and UAE. Up to now, the Indian government has kept security an essential element of India's Diaspora. But, it needs to be changed. India should use all possible angles to spread her wings in the multipolar. Using India's Diaspora as a weapon, India must apply its soft....example, Yoga.

Conclusions: Modi's foreign policy is a mirror of soft nationalism. It is a new turning point in this dynamic World. Dealing with the economy is a strategy of Modi's new foreign policy. A new approach like BIMSTEC reflects the importance of neighbours and regional systems.

Modi's foreign policy is entirely realistic in approach and economical in interest. All of these changes are for branding India's role in world politics.

Modi's foreign policy is wholly based on pragmatism. His turn from non-alignment to multi-alignment is for strategic autonomy. The Howdy Modi event marked India's rise in global status and position. India must change it is the game plan by changing world conditions. It is what exact present foreign diplomacy.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, or the most intelligent that stays. It is the one that is most adaptable to change"..... Charles Darwin.

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