

# India as Vishwamitra: Moral and Humanitarian Resonance

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On the occasion of 77th Independence Day from the Red Fort, PM Narendra Modi asserted that during the unprecedented global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, India emerged as a trusted global partner while skillfully managing the pandemic. The humanitarian assistance under the vaccine Maitri initiative showcases India's commitment towards global health equity and universal good. As a "Vishwamitra," India straightens its national interests with the universal good, reverberating as a humanitarian force that precedence the collective health and prosperity of all.

The very idea of 'Bharat' is rooted in its deep sense of "vasudhaiv kutumbakam"-the world is one family. It personifies a universal outlook, focuses on the unity and interconnectedness of all human beings and rises above the boundaries of nationality, race, religion, and class. This ancient Indian philosophy aligns with the modern values of global citizenship and multiculturalism, persuading nations and individuals to collaborate for the greater good. The role of Bharat on the international stage further underscores this moral and humanitarian commitment. From its support for the non-aligned movement (NAM) during the cold war to an active member nation to initiate and mediate a peace talk between the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, India embodies as modern Vishwamitra.

Today, the world is grappling with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. From the polarisation of societies to the refugee crisis caused by conflicts and climate change, countries are facing so many challenges. India as a rising global power with a rich tradition of offering aid and solidarity plays a determining role in addressing these global challenges. In the United Nations peacekeeping missions, India is one of the largest contributors and plays a crucial role in conflict resolutions in some of the world's most volatile regions, including Africa and the Middle East, while protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian aid.

Last year, in February, Turkey and Syria were hit by a devastating and deadly earthquake that left thousands dead and millions homeless. India quickly launched "Operation Dost" while responding swiftly and quickly by sending a rescue team of NDRF, medical staff, and essential relief materials. India set up a 30-bed field hospital in the affected area. Dr. Beena Tiwari, an Indian Army doctor, was praised by the Turkish people for her selfless service to the people. Apart from that, as a regional powerhouse and rising global influence, it has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting neighbouring countries during times of need. Acting as a big brother in the region while aligning with the 'Gujaral Doctrine, India offers proactive assistance and support to its neighbor. Recently, Sri Lanka witnessed its worst economic crisis of the century. Indian as a true friend extended a \$4 billion aid package, including the line of credit for importing food, fuel, and medicines. Similarly, after the August 2021 takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban. India committed to helping Afghan people by sending shipments of wheat, lifesaving medicine, and the COVID-19 vaccine. These efforts highlight India's commitment towards global good and global welfare as a true global friend. The journey of Bharat as "Vishwamitra" is marked by its unique ability to



blend ancient wisdom w i t h modern innovations. India's robust economy, advancement in technology, and humanitarian outreach enhance its soft power and geopolitical influence. India's commitment to peace, sustainable development, and inclusive growth positions it as a true global leader.

Jai Hind Jai Maa Bharati