

Examining the Relevance of Chanakya's Rajmandala Theory in Contemporary Geopolitics and Statecraft

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Abstract

This research explores the timeless relevance of Kautilya's Arthashastra and its Mandala Theory in contemporary diplomacy and statecraft tackling three main questions. Drawing from ancient texts, modern interpretations, and innovative frameworks, the study bridges historical wisdom with present-day geopolitics. By introducing original mathematical formulas and family-based analogies, it simplifies the Mandala Theory to demonstrate its adaptability across diverse contexts. Integrating insights from extensive scholarly resources and creative interpretations, this work sheds light on Kautilya's enduring principles, offering a fresh perspective on strategic planning, governance, and international relations. Through this thesis, ancient strategies are reimagined to inspire solutions for modern global challenges.

Keywords: Kautilya, Arthashastra, Mandala Theory, Diplomacy, Statecraft, Geopolitics, Strategic Planning, Mathematical Framework, Family-Based Analogy, International Relations, Governance, Ancient Wisdom, Contemporary Relevance.

1. INTRODUCTION

Kautilya or Chanakya was a shrewd politician and an excellent strategist, who lived during the 350BCE - 283BCE in Bharat. Interestingly, his real name was "*Vishnugupta*" while "*Chanak*" referred to his *Gotra*. Hence, he was named "**Chanakya**". But ironically, the author of the seminal text, *Arthashastra*, the focus of this paper, was referred to as "**Kautilya**". The name "Kautilya" is derived from the Sanskrit word *Kutil*, meaning [*shrewd*], reflecting his astute and strategic nature. This nuanced naming perfectly encapsulates his reputation and legacy.

His legacy, contains the concept of "*Civil War*", "*Saptanga Theory of State*", "*Arthashastra*", "*Importance of Education*", "*Chancy Neeti*", etc. The Arthashastra, is not only an economic doctrine but the complete guide to lead a sovereign state/country, politically.

On a symbolic level, the Arthashastra can be likened to the "*Bhagwat Geeta*" for leaders/rulers. While the Bhagavad Geeta serves as a guide for individuals seeking solutions to life's challenges, The Arthashastra, provides a comprehensive framework for kings and leaders to address the complexities of governance and statecraft. Though the theories written in the book were taught to the young prince "*Chandragupta*" but unfortunately, it did not have a formal shape in both traditional and new India.

The title "*Arthashastra*", originally in Sanskrit can be translated as "*The Science of Material Gain*" Although, researchers, often translate it as "*Science of Politics or Science of Political Economy*" for their convenience. The book mainly focuses on summarizing the political thoughts of Chanakya. Even though,

the book was lost for many centuries, a copy of it, which was written in palm leaves was later rediscovered in 1904 CE, India.

The book advocates for an autocratic system of governance with a sharp focus on managing an efficient and stable economy for the state. It delves into the ethics of economics and outlines the responsibilities and duties of a king. Beyond statecraft, its scope encompasses the entire legal and administrative framework required to govern a kingdom. It provides extensive details on various cultural and practical aspects, including mineralogy, mining, agriculture, animal husbandry, and medicine. And most importantly deals with modern society issues like- *Duty of a Wife, Duty of Marriage, Cruelty to Woman, Her kindness to Another and Forbidden Transactions, Division of Inheritance, Assault*. Providing remedies to problems like- *National Calamities, Death with or Without Torture and even Sexual Intercourse with Immature Girls*.

This paper will examine the ongoing wars of the 20th century, aiming to demonstrate the continued relevance of the Rajmandala Theory in modern times. It will analyze various aspects of wars and internal conflicts between states, drawing comparisons and insights that extend beyond Bharat's historical or contemporary context.

2. UNDERSTANDING THEORY

Before we further delve into the research, let us understand what is Rajmandala Theory and why it is still relevant in the 20th century even though it was written thousands of years ago.

What is Rajmandala Theory?

The Mandala or Rajmandala theory, denotes "circle" of Kings/Kingdom which were close to each other. The theory defines a abstract system or concept based on premises of natural ambitions, natural enemies, and natural friends. It prescribes foreign policies and diplomatic strategies to the Kings in the "circle" to become the conqueror of all other Kings in the "circle".

In easier terms, this theory generalizes the concept of conquering other smaller kingdoms by the king, to make his kingdom grow and flourish. Chanakya believed that there is no concept of stagnant growth. Either your power will grow or shrink. It won't remain stationary. Hence, he proposed the expansion of territories through conquest, emphasizing that such growth would ultimately ensure the prosperity and satisfaction of both the king and the citizens of the state. This theory was also exercised by the political thinkers of the Nazi Germany, which lead to a devastating result in the 19th century.

What are the pillars/premises of the Mandala Theory?

- Geographical Determinism - *Your state's geographic location will determine your friends and enemies. Commonly, your immediate neighbors, who you share your border with, becomes your enemy. Example- Pakistan & Bangladesh.***
- Enemy of Enemy is Friend - *The enemy of your enemy will eventually, become your friend. Example - Afghanistan & Israel.***
- Friend of Friend is Friend - *The friend of your friend will be your friend as well. Example - Russia & Belarus.***
- Friend of Enemy is Enemy - *The friend of your enemy will become your enemy as well for obvious reasons. Example- Turkey & Azerbaijan.***
- Pragmatism - *There is no permanent friend or enemy in politics. Example - United States Of America.***

- Matsyanyaya - *The principle states 2 Laws- “Law of Fish” & “Law of Jungle” It is nature's rule that a big fish will devour a smaller fish. Similarly, in jungle, the stronger will always dominate the weaker one. To break this anarchy, a king is chosen. In the case of jungle, a lion, the king. But in the case of International Politics or Geopolitics, the “anarchy” or “Matsyanyaya”, remains common till date.*
- Constant Warfare - *There is no stop to warfare. You are constantly at war, preparing for war or maybe sending your diplomats or even spying with the help of your intelligence. All these are a part of war.*
- Power is the Means - *A king can go to any lengths to safeguard his kingdom and protect his citizens, often setting aside common sense, conventional methods, or even morality when necessary. This idea forms the basis of the proverb, “Everything is fair in love and war,” highlighting the justification of unconventional or extreme actions in critical situations. Example - Use of hydrogen bombs in Ukraine Russia War, Military operation in Gaza by Israel and The Rape of Belgium by the Germans in the Great War/WWI.*
- The 3 types of Power - **Prabhu Shakti** [vision, power, danda] **Mantra Shakti** [mission, intellectual] & **Utah Shakti** [motivation, enterprise]

[** All the examples are based on relation with Bharat/India]

Table 1.a Table Describing the Mandala Theory: Terminology.

Term	Meaning	Synonyms
Mandala	Circle/Ring of states	Influence, Ambitions, Diplomacy & Alliance
Vijigishu	King aspiring to conquer the world	Aspirant
Madhyama	Powerful kingdom close to Madhyama and his immediate enemy, capable of resisting either of them individually	Neutral
Udasin	Powerful kingdom outside the ring/circle	Neutral
Ari	Enemy at front	Neighbour
Parshanigraha	Enemy at back	Friend of Neighbour
Mitra	Friend at front	Enemy of Neighbour
Akranda	Friend at back	War cry
Parashanigrahasara	Friend of enemy at back	Enemy
Akranda Sara	Friend of Friend at back	Friend

Table 2.a Table Verifying the Rajmandala Theory through Mathematical equations.

Term	Equation	Meaning
	$(-3) \times (-5) = +15$	Your enemies enemy, will be your friend
- (Enemy) + (Friend)	$(-3) \times (+5) = -15$	Your enemies friend, will be your enemy
	$(+3) \times (+5) = +15$	Your friends friend is your friend

Table 3.a Table denoting the Enemy and Friend of a Kingdom, with the help of Mathematical Variables.

INTEGER	TYPE	DENOTES
1	Odd	Enemy
2	Even	Friend
3	Odd	Enemy
4	Even	Friend
5	Odd	Enemy
6	Even	Friend
7	Odd	Enemy
8	Even	Friend
9	Odd	Enemy
10	Even	Friend

Graphical Representation of Rajmandala Theory:

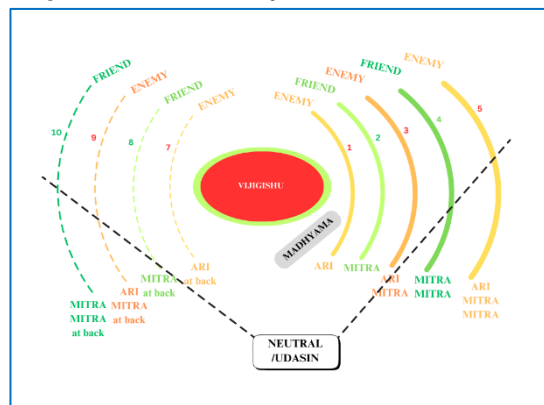


Fig 1.a Graphical Representation of Mandala Theory

In Figure 1.a, we observe the graphical representation of the Rajmandala Theory as proposed by Kautilya. Notably, the arrangement of the circles carries significant meaning. The right circles represent the front, while the left circles denote the back. At the center lies the *Vijigishu*, the primary state, from which these concentric circles originate and around which they revolve. This central position of the *Vijigishu* symbolizes its role as the nucleus of power and strategy within the geopolitical framework.

In the figure, the circles have been marked with numbers ranging from 1 to 10 which have their own significant meanings. Which are:

1,3,5,7,9 - Denotes the Enemy Kings / ARI

2,4,6,8,10 - Denotes the Friendly Kings / MITRA

Which was previously proved using mathematical variables [*odd & even*] in table 3.a.

Finally, the bold dotted lines, ranging from 10 to 5, represent the *Udasin* or *Neutral* entities. These entities maintain no direct involvement with the ongoing affairs of the *Vijigishu*. However, they hold the potential to conquer all the states represented by the surrounding circles, highlighting their latent power and strategic significance within the Rajmandala framework. Example - Russia/USA.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research which I have conducted to prove the relevance of the Mandala theory till date is through a survey. The survey asks general questions about enemies and friends of Bharat, and even questions on the ongoing geopolitics to get a favorable outcome.

The research utilized a structured survey titled “Survey on Foreign Affairs & Relationship (India/Bharat)” to gather data on public perceptions of Kautilya’s Rajmandala Theory and its relevance in contemporary geopolitics. The survey included multiple-choice, Likert scale, and open-ended questions to ensure a comprehensive understanding of participant opinions.

Objectives: The survey aimed to:

1. Evaluate awareness and belief in Kautilya’s Rajmandala Theory.
2. Assess public opinions on India’s foreign relations with neighboring and non-neighboring states.
3. Examine perceptions of strategic partnerships, geopolitical threats, and alliances in modern times.

Participant Demographics:

Respondents were categorized based on age groups (e.g., 18–25, 26–35, etc.) to analyze variations in perspectives across generations. The survey targeted individuals with varying levels of geopolitical knowledge to ensure a diverse sample.

Data Collection:

The survey was distributed online via Google Forms, ensuring accessibility and ease of participation. Mandatory questions were included to guarantee completeness of responses.

Data Analysis:

Responses were systematically analyzed to:

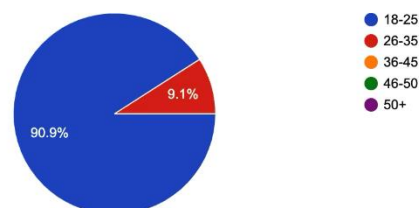
- Identify trends in public opinion regarding Kautilya’s Rajmandala Theory.
- Compare perspectives on India’s foreign policies and relationships.
- Highlight factors shaping alliances and rivalries in the 21st century.

Ethical Considerations:

Participation was voluntary, and respondents were assured of anonymity. The survey followed ethical guidelines to respect participants’ privacy and confidentiality.

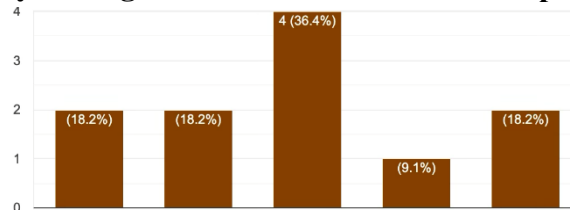
4. FINDINGS & RESULTS

1. Age Group:



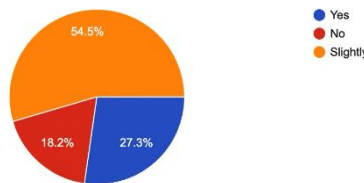
The result shows that 90.9% of the participants belong to the age group of 18-25 whereas the remaining 9.1% belong to the age group of 26-35 years.

2. Do you believe in this theory? "Neighbors can never become true partners/ally"



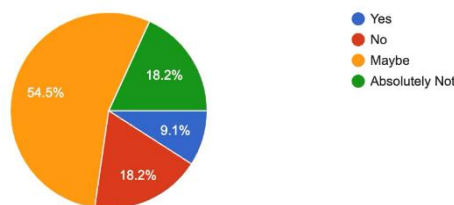
The Bar graph represents participants who had a neutral opinion on this question. The leftmost side of the table represents the answer "NO" whereas the far right, denotes the answer "Yes".

3. Do you have any knowledge about "Geopolitics"?



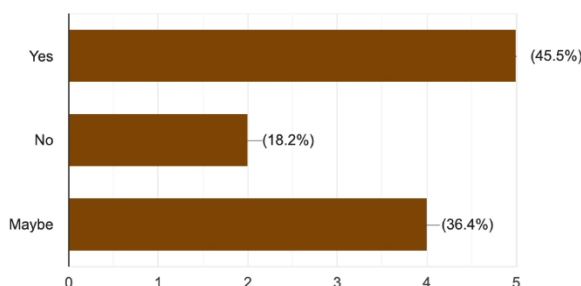
The result shows that 54.5% of the participants responded "slightly yes", 18.2% of the participants responded "No" and 27.3% of the participants responded "Yes".

4. Do you still consider Bangladesh as India's strategic partner?



The result shows that 54.5% of the participants Responded "Maybe", 18.2% of the participants responded, "Absolutely No" and 18.2% of the participants responded "No" & the remaining 9.1% responded "Yes".

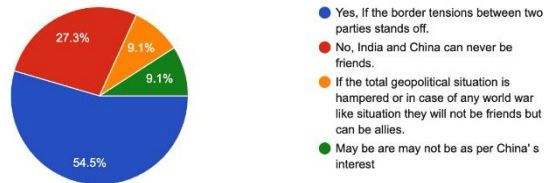
5. Do you think the demography of countries will decide their bond (enemy/friends) rather than political interests?



The result shows that 45.5% of the participants

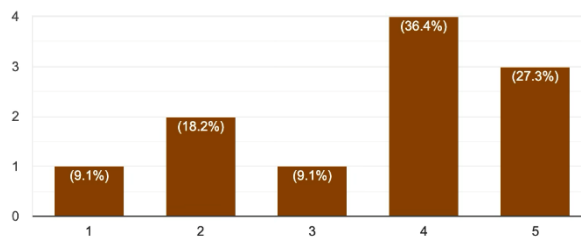
Responded “Yes”, 18.2% of the participants responded “No” & the remaining 36.4% responded “Maybe”.

6. Do you think China can become India's partner in future?



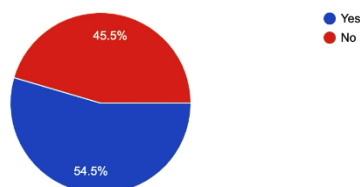
- 54.5% - Yes, if the border tension between two parties stands off.
- 27.3% - No, India and China can never become friends.
- 9.1% - Incase of World War, can become allies.
- 9.1% - Maybe / May is not as per China's Interest.

7. Do you agree Bangladesh is more likely to lean towards Pakistan than India in the future?



The bar graph represents participants strongly agreed to the fact with 36.4% & 27.3% towards “Strongly Agree” and the remaining 9.1% & 18.2% “Strongly Disagreeing” to this fact. The remaining 9.1% remained “Neutral”. The leftmost side of the table represents the answer “Strongly Disagree” whereas the far right, denotes the answer “Strongly Agree”.

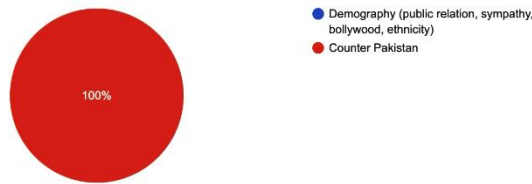
8. Do you consider Afghanistan to be India's partner?



54.5% - Yes

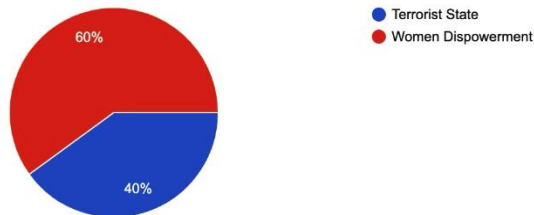
45.5% - No

9. If Yes, then why?



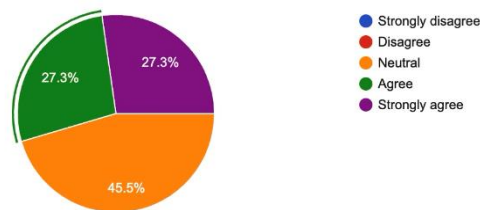
Majority of the participants responded to “Counter Pakistan”

10. If No, then why?



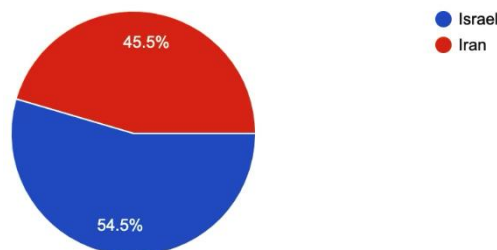
60% of the participants responded “Women Dispowerment” whereas 40% responded “Terrorist State”

11. Do you agree Japan & Taiwan are India's strategic partner to counter China's domination in the Southeast Asia?



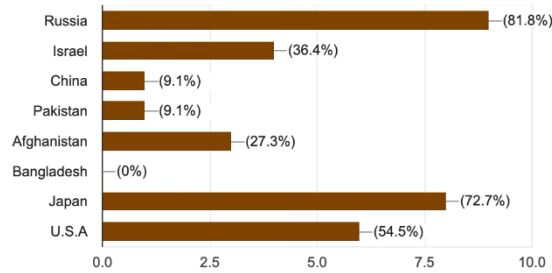
*27.3% - Agreed
27.3% Strongly Agreed
45.5% Neutral*

12. Whom are you more likely to support for?



*45.5% - Said Iran
54.5% - Said Israel*

13. Who do you consider to be India's Ally?



Russia - 81.8%

Israel - 36.4%

China & Pakistan - 9.1%

Afghanistan - 27.3%

Bangladesh - 0%

Japan - 72.7%

U.S.A - 54.5%

5. DISCUSSION & PROVING

Analyze the Data to Support Specific Aspects

Immediate Neighbors as Rivals: *The majority (e.g., “Maybe” or “No” responses) on questions regarding neighboring partnerships like Bangladesh or China reflect skepticism about true alliances with immediate neighbors. This supports the theory’s premise of rivalry or mistrust between neighboring states.*

Strategic Alliances: *Responses about Japan and Taiwan being strategic partners align with the idea of outer-circle alliances, demonstrating how India partners with distant nations to counter regional threats like China.*

Neutral States and Shifting Alliances: *Responses regarding Afghanistan or non-immediate neighbors (like Russia and the U.S.) reveal public perspectives on how neutral or distant states can play pivotal roles in shifting alliances, supporting the dynamic nature of the Rajmandala framework.*

Link Responses to Modern Contexts

China and Border Tensions: *A significant portion of respondents believe that partnerships with China are unlikely without resolving border issues, underscoring the theory’s view of neighboring states as threats unless strategically counterbalanced.*

Bangladesh and Leaning Toward Pakistan: *The belief that Bangladesh might lean toward Pakistan reflects the competitive dynamics among neighboring states as described in Rajmandala. And the responders believe it too.*

Alliances with Russia and Western Nations: *Responses highlight India’s pragmatism in aligning with Russia over Western countries, showcasing a modern interpretation of building outer-circle alliances for strategic benefit.*

Conclusion and Relevance

Support for Rajmandala: *The responses validate the theory’s principles by showing persistent mistrust of*

neighbors, reliance on distant alliances, and the importance of strategic adaptability in modern geopolitics.

Modern Application: *The theory remains relevant as a strategic framework for understanding India's foreign relations, emphasizing realpolitik and the balancing of allies and adversaries.*

6. QUESTIONS

Several questions can be raised to question the relevance of this theory in recent times. But in this paper, we will mainly focus on 3 *mainstream and 1 question* under them i.e - *Core Theoretical Questions/Methodological Questions, Questions Linking Theory to Modern Geopolitics, Questions Focused on Modern Relevance.*

Do neighboring countries still pose the greatest challenges to a nation's security and sovereignty?

To find an answer to this question, let us dig into the relation between India and its neighboring countries like- Pakistan, Bangladesh & China with respect to the Mandala theory.

Pakistan- The relationship between India and Pakistan has been marked by persistent conflict and rivalry since the partition of "*Akhand Bharat*" in 1947, which created two separate nations amidst widespread violence and displacement. Over the years, the two countries have fought several wars, including the 1947–1948 *Indo-Pak War over Kashmir*, the 1965 War, the 1971 War that led to the creation of *Bangladesh*, the 1999 *Kargil War*, and various skirmishes and cross-border tensions. Beyond military conflicts, their relationship has been shaped by mutual distrust, border disputes, and divergent political ideologies. Despite moments of dialogue and peace initiatives, such as the *Simla Agreement and the Agra Summit*, these efforts have often been *derailed by terrorist activities, border clashes, and differing strategic interests*. Over time, both nations have pursued distinct paths—India focusing on economic and technological growth, while Pakistan has grappled with political instability and economic challenges—yet their relationship continues to be influenced by historical animosities and unresolved issues like Kashmir.

Shadguna Used- Yana, Samasraya & Dvaidibhava

China - Before the annexation of Tibet in 1950, China was neither an enemy nor an immediate neighbor of Bharat (India). The geographical buffer provided by *Tibet* ensured that both civilizations coexisted without significant conflict. However, with the annexation of Tibet, China became India's immediate neighbor, altering the geopolitical landscape and setting the stage for tension and rivalry. The relationship quickly deteriorated, culminating in the 1962 *Indo-China War*, which resulted from unresolved border disputes and differing political ideologies. Since then, both nations have experienced continued friction, marked by skirmishes such as the 1967 *Nathu La and Cho La clashes*, the *Doklam standoff in 2017*, and the ongoing border confrontations in regions like *Ladakh*. This shift underscores the principle of immediate neighbors often becoming adversaries, as described in the Rajmandala Theory. Despite economic partnerships and diplomatic engagements, the India-China relationship remains strained due to border disputes, China's growing regional influence, and its strategic ties with Pakistan.

Shadguna Used - Yana, Asana & Dvaidibhava

Bangladesh- Bangladesh, once considered a close ally of India since its independence in 1971, is now showing signs of shifting its allegiance, reflecting the relevance of the Rajmandala Theory in 2024 and 2025. According to the theory, immediate neighbors often transition into adversaries, and this shift is becoming evident in Bangladesh's growing alignment with Pakistan. Recent political developments and

demographic factors in Bangladesh, including the rise of Islamist parties and increasing anti-India sentiment among certain groups, have further strained bilateral relations.

Economic policies favoring China's Belt and Road Initiative, coupled with Pakistan's diplomatic outreach, indicate a gradual shift in Bangladesh's focus toward Pakistan, illustrating the principle that "an enemy's enemy is a friend." Before 2024, incidents such as border tensions over illegal migration and disagreements over water-sharing treaties like the Teesta River have also strained the relationship. Furthermore, Bangladesh's criticism of India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 reflected underlying tensions.

These developments reaffirm the relevance of the Rajmandala Theory, as they demonstrate the fluid and often adversarial nature of relationships between immediate neighbors, shaped by shifting strategic and political interests.

Shadguna Used - Samasraya & Asana

What role do public perceptions and attitudes play in validating Rajmandala's principles?

Public perceptions and attitudes play a critical role in validating the relevance of the Rajmandala Theory, as they reflect contemporary geopolitical realities and alignments. By analyzing survey data, we can uncover how the public views neighboring nations and strategic alliances, thereby demonstrating the theory's practical application.

Distrust of Immediate Neighbors: A significant portion of respondents expressed skepticism about neighboring countries being reliable partners. For example, in the survey, *54.5% of participants responded with "Maybe" when asked if neighbors could become true allies, while 36.4% chose "No" or "Absolutely No."* This aligns with the Rajmandala Theory's assertion that immediate neighbors are often rivals.

Preference for Distant Allies: Questions about strategic partnerships with non-neighboring countries like Japan, Taiwan, and the U.S. received largely positive responses, *highlighting public support for forming alliances with distant states to counterbalance threats from neighbors like China and Pakistan.* This demonstrates the theory's principle of leveraging outer-circle states for strategic advantage.

Shifting Alliances and Neutral States: When asked about Afghanistan, *responses revealed mixed opinions, with many recognizing its potential as a strategic partner depending on the governing regime.* This reflects the theory's emphasis on dynamic relationships, where neutral states can shift toward ally or adversary status based on circumstances.

Bangladesh and Pakistan Dynamics: Public opinion indicated growing concern over Bangladesh's alignment with Pakistan, suggesting that the principle of "*an enemy's enemy is a friend*" remains relevant. Respondents highlighted demography, political shifts, and economic factors as drivers of this shift, validating Rajmandala's perspective on fluid alliances.

In conclusion, the survey data underscores that public perceptions are not only reflective of current geopolitical realities but also consistent with the principles outlined in the Rajmandala Theory. The public's attitudes towards neighbors and distant allies validate the theory's core tenets, proving its enduring relevance in explaining and predicting the dynamics of modern diplomacy and statecraft.

How do internal conflicts and domestic policies impact a nation's ability to implement Rajmandala strategies?

Internal conflicts and domestic policies play a pivotal role in shaping a nation's ability to effectively implement Rajmandala strategies. According to the theory, a stable and well-governed core (*Vijigishu*) is crucial for projecting power outward and managing relationships with neighboring and distant states. Challenges such as governance issues, internal strife, and socioeconomic disparities can significantly

undermine a nation's strategic capabilities. If we do a case study on India's border regions, here are the details, which generally comes forward.

1. Governance in Border Areas: Regions like **Jammu & Kashmir, the Northeast, and Ladakh have been hotspots of internal conflict**, stemming from *separatist movements, ethnic tensions, and governance challenges*. These issues divert resources and attention, weakening India's capacity to engage assertively with neighbors like Pakistan and China.

For example, unrest in Kashmir provides Pakistan with a narrative to intervene diplomatically and support insurgent activities, complicating India's ability to adopt a proactive Rajmandala approach in the region.

2. Impact of Domestic Policies: Policies such as the abrogation of **Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir in 2019** have had mixed effects. While aimed at asserting stronger control, such measures have intensified international scrutiny and heightened tensions with Pakistan and China, showcasing how domestic actions can influence external relations.

Similarly, border management policies and infrastructural development in *Arunachal Pradesh have drawn reactions from China, demonstrating the interplay between internal governance and external strategy*.

3. Economic and Social Stability: Internal economic disparities and social unrest can weaken a nation's position in diplomacy. For instance, protests the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 not only created internal strife but also led to criticism from Bangladesh**, affecting *bilateral relations and challenging India's ability to maintain an ally* in its Rajmandala circle.

Implications for Rajmandala Strategies

Erosion of Core Stability: Internal instability undermines the Vijigishu's authority and ability to project influence outward. *A nation embroiled in domestic issues struggles to form strong alliances or counter adversaries effectively.*

Strengthening Rivals' Influence: Internal conflicts provide opportunities for adversaries to exploit vulnerabilities, *as seen in Pakistan's use of cross-border terrorism and China's assertiveness in disputed regions.*

Focus on Border Areas: Effective governance in border regions, such as enhancing infrastructure, fostering local trust, and ensuring security, is critical for maintaining stability and projecting power in line with Rajmandala principles

In conclusion, internal conflicts and domestic policies significantly impact a nation's ability to implement Rajmandala strategies. A stable core is essential for maintaining effective diplomacy, forming alliances, and countering adversaries. For India, addressing governance challenges in border regions and ensuring internal cohesion are vital for leveraging the strategic insights of the Rajmandala Theory in modern geopolitics.

Can the principle of "no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests" still be observed in modern diplomacy?

The principle of "*no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests*," rooted in realist political theory and epitomized by Kautilya's **Mandala Theory**, remains highly relevant in modern diplomacy. This principle underscores the pragmatism inherent in international relations, where states prioritize their strategic and economic interests over ideological or historical alignments. India's evolving foreign policies offer a compelling case study of this principle in action.

India's foreign policy has evolved significantly since independence, adapting to changing global dynamics. The nation exemplifies the principle of pursuing permanent interests by balancing its relationships with competing powers like the United States and Russia.

1. India's Historical Alignment with Russia (Soviet Union)

- During the Cold War, India leaned toward the Soviet Union due to shared strategic interests, including defense cooperation, economic support, and opposition to Western dominance.
- The Soviet Union supported India on key issues, such as Kashmir in the United Nations, which strengthened the relationship
- Even post-Cold War, India remains one of Russia's largest arms importers, reflecting the enduring importance of defense collaboration.

2. India's Contemporary Engagement with the (United States)

- In recent decades, India has strengthened ties with the U.S., particularly after the liberalization of its economy in 1991. The U.S. has become a key partner in trade, technology, and security.
- Shared concerns over China's rise have further aligned U.S. and Indian interests, as seen in initiatives like the **Quad** (India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia) and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India has also leveraged U.S. ties to enhance its position in global organizations, such as its push for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

3. Balancing U.S.-Russia Relations

- India's purchase of Russia's S-400 missile defense systems despite U.S. sanctions under the **CAATSA** (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) demonstrates its pursuit of strategic autonomy.
- India's cautious stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, refraining from outright condemnation while calling for dialogue, reflects its effort to balance relations without alienating either side.
- This approach ensures India retains access to Russian defense technology while fostering growing economic and strategic ties with the U.S.

In short, India's foreign policy pragmatism aligns with the Mandala Theory. Over the years, India has expanded partnerships beyond traditional allies, engaging with countries like Israel, Japan, and Gulf nations. Maintaining independence in its decisions, resisting alignment with any single bloc. And prioritizing economic development, as seen in its participation in multilateral forums like the G20 and BRICS.

Hence, we can conclude that India's foreign policy exemplifies the principle of "*no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests*," as articulated in Kautilya's Mandala Theory. By skillfully balancing relations with major powers like the U.S. and Russia while pursuing its strategic, economic, and security interests, India demonstrates the enduring relevance of this principle in modern diplomacy.

7. ADVANTAGES & LIMITATIONS

Pluses Include:

- First Model of an international system.
- High degree of sophistication and detailing
- Value free realist International Model [IR] model more than 1500 years before *Machiavelli* or any *western scholar* of his type did.
- Relevant: most of the aspects of the Kautilyan diplomacy- Realism, pragmatism is also found in modern day diplomacy in some way or the other. *Kautilya lives through political actions, strategy, and today's geopolitics.*
- Nuanced concept of state power ['Saptanga'] and National interest.

Minuses:

- **Geographic determinism:** Neighbours to be natural enemies- questionable.
- Assume many small kingdoms sharing borders in plains of Northern India are mostly redundant in today’s world.
- **Ambiguous role** of the ‘*Madhyama*’ and ‘*Udasina*’ kings.
- **Highly unstable**, lacks stabilizing force, and in the long run, a self-destructing system.
- Does not pass the test of the **theory of evolutionary survival**.
- **No prescription for balance of power;** or relation between equal powers.

8. CONCLUSION

The Rajmandala theory, when adapted to modern contexts such as family dynamics, provides a strategic framework to understand and navigate relationships. By categorizing connections into allies (Mitra), rivals (Ari), and neutral parties (Udasin) across different levels of proximity, families can make informed decisions to strengthen alliances, manage conflicts, and leverage external networks. The integration of probability and permutation-based models further enhances the predictive power of this approach, offering a structured method to evaluate and optimize relational dynamics. This thesis bridges ancient wisdom with contemporary relational strategies, creating a comprehensive tool for personal and strategic growth.

Assumptions for Probability and Combinations:

1. A family (Vijigishu) interacts with 4 levels of rings: Mitra (friend), Ari (enemy), Neutral/Udasin, and combinations of relationships (e.g., Mitra at the back, Ari at the back).
2. Total interactions in the Mandala system are determined by relationships (Mitra, Ari) and their placements in rings.
3. Let $P(\text{Mitra}) = 0.5$, $P(\text{Ari}) = 0.4$, and $P(\text{Neutral}) = 0.1$, based on likelihood assumptions.

Table 4.a Probability Table: Friend vs Enemy Dynamics

RING	TYPE	PROBABILITY	MEANING
1 (Closest Ring)	Mitra	0.5	Closest friends/allies
1	Ari	0.4	Immediate threats/rivals
1	Udasin (Neutral)	0.1	Indifferent parties.
2	Mitra (at back)	0.5	Allies, but less involved.
2	Ari (at back)	0.4	Rival families with indirect conflicts.
2	Neutral	0.1	Passive neutral entities.
3	Parshnigraha (Ari at back)	0.4	Strategic enemies of neighboring allies.
4	Akranda (Friend at back)	0.5	Distant friends/allies
5 (Outermost Ring)	Akranda Sara (Friend of Friend)	0.6	Allies of allies.

Combinations of Relationships (Using Permutation Formula):

Given $n = 4$ rings and $r = 2$ levels of interaction (friend/enemy):

1. Total possible combinations: $P(n, r) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} = \frac{4!}{(4-2)!} = 12.$

2. Example combinations:

- Ring 1 Mitra, Ring 2 Ari
- Ring 1 Ari, Ring 3 Neutral
- Ring 2 Mitra, Ring 4 Akranda Sara

1. Relationship Dynamics Are Multi-Faceted: The formula highlights that even with a limited number of rings ($n = 4$) and levels of interaction ($n = 2$), there are 12 unique combinations of relationships possible. This proves that interactions in a network (such as a family or diplomacy) are highly diverse and interdependent.
2. Strategic Placement Matters: The different combinations of **Mitra (Friend)**, **Ari (Enemy)**, and **Neutral** relationships across rings emphasize that the placement of individuals (or entities) in specific rings affects their role and influence. For example, a **Mitra in Ring 1** has a stronger and more immediate impact than a **Mitra in Ring 2**.
3. Predictability in Relationship Dynamics: Using permutations to enumerate the possibilities makes it easier to anticipate the range of relational outcomes. This structured method provides a systematic way to identify potential allies, threats, and neutral parties within a network.
4. Applicability Beyond Families: While derived from a family context, the same logic can be applied to any relational network—diplomacy, organizational hierarchies, or social groups. The framework proves that interactions can be analyzed mathematically, lending precision to otherwise subjective assessments.

In essence, this calculation demonstrates the structured and strategic nature of relationship management, affirming that even complex social systems can be broken into logical, actionable combinations for better decision-making.

Table 5.a Expanded Chart for Family Dynamics

Ring	Placement	Relation	Family Example	Potential Outcome
1	Front (Immediate)	Mitra (Friend)	Parents, Spouse, or Siblings with shared goals	Likely strong allies; immediate support.
1	Front (Immediate)	Ari (Rival)	Sibling with a history of competition or disputes	Likely strong allies; immediate support.
1	Front (Immediate)	Neutral (Udasin)	Indifferent cousin or distant sibling	Likely strong allies; immediate support.
2	Back (Support)	Mitra at Back (Strategic Ally)	Close cousin who helps during external disputes	Likely strong allies; immediate support.
2	Back (Support)	Ari at Back (Indirect Threat)	Rival extended family who competes in the same field	Likely strong allies; immediate support.

3	Distant	Parshnigraha (Distant Rival)	Family friend who aligns with your rival sibling	Likely strong allies; immediate support.
4	Outermost	Akranda (Passive Ally)	Friendly in-law who supports indirectly	Likely strong allies; immediate support.
5	Outermost-Indirect	Akranda Sara (Friend of Ally)	Friend of a supportive sibling	Likely strong allies; immediate support.

Case Study:

To better understand the scenario, let us look into a case study which revolves around a *Vijigishu Family*.

Scenario 1: Vijigishu Family (Central Family Unit)

Immediate Family (Ring 1):

Mitra: Parents and siblings sharing mutual financial or emotional goals (e.g., siblings pooling resources for a business).

Ari: Competitive sibling vying for inheritance or recognition.

Close Relatives (Ring 2):

Mitra at Back: Cousin who mediates disputes between siblings and supports the family during external challenges.

Ari at Back: An uncle competing for family leadership or business dominance.

Extended Relations (Ring 3 and 4):

Parshnigraha: A family friend who sides with a rival sibling or criticizes family decisions.

Akranda: Distant relative who occasionally provides moral or minor financial support.

Allied Networks (Ring 5):

Akranda Sara: A spouse’s friend or colleague who indirectly facilitates family goals (e.g., introducing career opportunities).

Understanding relationships as per Mandala rings allows families to identify rivals and allies and strategize interactions. Leveraging relationships with *Mitra* at back and *Akranda Sara* can yield long-term benefits. And Neutral (*Udasin*) individuals are essential in ensuring stability and preventing escalations.

Family Scenario: The Sharma Family and Their Extended Network

The Sharma family is a middle-class family running a textile business. The members include parents (Mr. and Mrs. Sharma), two adult children (Raj and Priya), extended relatives, and friends connected through various levels of proximity and influence.

Table: 5.a Example Filled Table for Sharma Family

FAMILY MEMBER/RELATION	MANDALA ROLE	REASON
Mr. Sharma (Father)	Vijigishu	Central figure balancing the family’s relationships and ensuring overall harmony.
Raj (Brother)	Mitra	Actively helps with family matters and provides consistent support.

Aman (Rival Cousin)	Ari	Competes with the Sharma family in business and spreads rivalry.
Aman’s Mother	Parshnigraha	Indirectly aids Aman by fostering division and spreading negative opinions about the Sharma family
Neha (Priya’s Freind)	Akranda Sara	A mentor who indirectly helps the Sharma family by assisting Priya in her career.
Maternal Uncle	Madhyama	Acts as a neutral figure, resolving disputes during family conflicts.
Distant Aunt	Udasin	Remains indifferent to family politics and avoids taking sides.
Aman's Competitor	Parshnigraha Sara	Opposes Aman’s business, indirectly benefiting the Sharma family’s goals.

Finally, to sum it all up, below is the final comprehensive table that a family (e.g., the Sharma family) can use to determine the placement of extended relatives, immediate family, and friends into the Mandala framework. This table categorizes each relation based on their proximity, level of interaction, and potential role as a friend (Mitra), enemy (Ari), or neutral party (Udasin).

RING	PLACEMENT	RELATION	EXAMPLE RELATION	POTENTIAL ROLE	OUTCOME
1	Front (Immediate)	Father	Immediate family head	Mitra (Friend)	Strong ally; key emotional and financial support.
1	Front (Immediate)	Sibling	Close sibling working together	Mitra (Friend)	Core collaborator; shares mutual goals.
1	Front (Immediate)	Rival Cousin	Cousin competing in the same domain	Ari (Enemy)	Direct rival; potential disruptor.
2	Front (Immediate)	Indifferent Aunt	Distant, uninvolved aunt	Udasin (Neutral)	Passive; no direct influence.
2	Back (Support)	Maternal Uncle	Occasionally provides	Mitra (Friend at Back)	Indirect but reliable ally during conflicts.

			advice or support		
2	Back (Support)	Rival Cousin's Parent	Supports their child's rivalry with your family	Ari (Enemy at Back)	Indirect threat; fuels competition.
2	Back (Support)	Extended Family Friend	Friend who advises a rival cousin	Udasin (Neutral)	Neutral, but context-dependent.
3	Distant	In-Law Who Favors a Rival	Relative-in-law who aligns with family rivals	Parshnigraha (Distant Enemy)	Distant rival; may intervene opportunistically.
3	Distant	Maternal Aunt	Occasionally supportive but distant	Udasin (Neutral)	Indifferent, with minimal involvement.
4	Outermost	Mentor of a Family Member	Mentor supporting personal or business growth	Akranda (Passive Ally)	Indirect support for growth and development.
5	Outermost indirect	Friend of a Close Cousin (Supportive)	Indirect ally helping through other connections	Akranda Sara (Ally of Ally)	Expands networks and influence.

Practical Application of the Table

Immediate Family (Ring 1):

Role: Core support and most direct influence on daily decisions.

Example: Parents and siblings are generally **Mitra (Friends)** unless strained by competition.

Extended Family (Rings 2 & 3):

Role: Influence is less direct but can be strategic in disputes or alliances.

Example: A maternal uncle might be a **Mitra at Back**, helping during conflicts, while a rival cousin's parent is an **Ari at Back**.

Distant Relations and Networks (Rings 4 & 5):

Role: Indirectly affect reputation, resources, or long-term opportunities.

Example: A family mentor or distant ally helps in expanding business or personal networks.

Neutral Parties (Udasin) :

Role: Maintain stability by staying uninvolved. Can become allies or rivals depending on shifting dynamics.

Example: Distant aunts or family friends.

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10. *The mathematical formulas, charts, and the family-based adaptation of the Mandala Theory presented in this research are original contributions developed independently to demonstrate the theory’s continued relevance in contemporary contexts.*