



CHALLENGES OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN PRESENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

The rising interconnectedness and globalization of the world's economy have contributed to an increase in the significance of strong diplomatic connections among all countries over the course of the last several decades. It is necessary to have a well- thought-out foreign policy in today's world to be heard on global stages, to make excellent investments and trades, and to create consistent progress at home. India's foreign policy saw a dramatic transformation for the better after the country gained its independence. Global interaction policies shifted from being principled to being goal- driven and objective-oriented during the course of their evolution. Within the current context of the world, it is challenging to do business. For the first time since the end of World War II, this global system is experiencing a profound upheaval. An economic shock, a social crisis of unprecedented scope, and a geopolitical crisis have all evolved from what began as a health disaster. All of these crises have sprung from the same source. The manner in which we respond to these great difficulties and the extent to which we are able to transform some of them into opportunities will decide the course of our nation's evolution. It is a common misconception that the notion of foreign policy is one that is constantly evolving and growing. It is necessary for a nation's foreign policy, which is directed by the nation's interests, to be refined and generally flexible to accommodate the shifting global equations and situational circumstances. This is the overriding objective of foreign policy, which is to enhance the nation's interests. In this research, an attempt is made to investigate India's foreign policy from this perspective. Around the course of the 21st century, there has been a significant change in the events that have occurred all around the world. This research investigates the potential developments and challenges that could influence India's foreign policy.

Keyword: - globalization, geopolitics, foreign policy, strategic partnership, non- alignment .

INTRODUCTION

Many different types of people, including academics, researchers, and politicians, have used phrases like "emerging India" and "global power" in their conversations. When it comes to foreign policy, every country bases its decisions on what it considers to be its own national interest. This approach is reflected in India's foreign policy, which places a higher priority on the interests of the nation than those of the state. Following the turbulent decade of the 1990s, India's foreign policy saw significant adjustments

as a result of the introduction of economic reforms, such as privatization and liberalization, as well as the transition from the previous paradigm to the new one. India's foreign policy altered when the world went through a time of upheaval, and the nation was freed from its constraints of non-alignment, socialism, and Third World solidarity. This occurred within the context of global transformation. India had to reevaluate its foreign policy in light of the changing circumstances that were occurring during this period of transition. As a result of the pragmatics of international politics, India was compelled to search for new partners and alliances. Academics and intellectuals have various perspectives about the changes that have occurred in India's foreign policy. C. Raja Mohan is quoted as saying that:

"After almost fifty years of a sham start in the world's power dynamics. It will have the chance to influence results on the three most important 21st-century issues: managing globalization, Asian stability, and the political modernization of the wider Middle East in the next years. Mohan (2006)

These are the three pillars that have historically served as the foundation for India's foreign policy. The first domain in which India has attempted to strengthen its position of preeminence is in the realm of its foreign policy towards its immediate neighbors. To compound the issue, India's stance on South Asian foreign policy has been to safeguard the Indian Ocean from external intervention and to uphold regional peace. The third facet pertains to India's global foreign policy, which has been established with the objective of enhancing the nation's standing as a global force. Due to the fact that time and circumstance were the only things that counted for these components, it was impossible to describe them as effective. For India, the objective of becoming a "global power" is still a very long way off until it is achieved. It is imperative that India's foreign policy be well thought out and strategic in order for it to avoid being a political pariah.

OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate the dynamics of India's foreign policy after the tumultuous 1990s decade
2. To assess India's prospects and problems in the twenty-first century.

Changing paradigms

There is little doubt that the shifts that took place between the years 1989 and 1991 had an international scope. There was a period when the globe was going through a period of significant ideological, military, and economic revolution. A conclusion had been reached on the Soviet Union and the Cold War. India had a great deal of difficulty in coordinating its actions with the global situation under these circumstances. India did not consider economic liberalization to be a need; rather, it became a necessity for the country. Due to the fact that the concerns that were significant in the process of defining India's foreign policy in the period after the country's independence are no longer relevant, the most significant challenge that the nation has in terms of its foreign

policy is the process of developing a new set of priorities in light of the shifting global environment. As a result of the conclusion of the Cold War, India's foreign policy turned from idealism to pragmatism. This occurred as the nation sought to establish new and substantial links in order to assist its subsequent ascent to global importance. As a result of the end of the Cold War, India's foreign policy became more realistic, goal-oriented, and positive towards the future.

As a result of the conclusion of the Cold War, Indian foreign policymakers were presented with new possibilities as well as new problems. When there were no two big superpowers in the globe, those in charge of foreign affairs had a great deal of difficulty. The maintenance of a healthy equilibrium in relations with global powers, the formation of new alliances with regional organizations, the expansion of influence in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the adaptation of the NAM to changing circumstances, the strengthening of India's energy and economic security, the addressing of threats to human and environmental security, the pursuit of a multipolar world, and the implementation of reforms at the United Nations and the status of a permanent member of the Security Council were all challenges.

India and its relationship with power block:

The collapse of the Soviet Union, which had been India's close friend during the duration of the cold war, was one of the most significant challenges that India faced in its efforts to achieve a balance in its ties with the superpowers. The United States of America, China, Russia, Japan, and the European Union were all important players for India to consider when determining how it would engage with them as a global power. India's foremost objective in terms of its foreign policy is to establish itself as a major force on the global stage. The way India engages with the other five major countries will determine the trajectory of its position as a key player on the international stage. In the twenty-first century, India had a tough challenge when it came to creating its new foreign policy while keeping the United States (US) as its primary focus. The delegates from India underlined that following the end of the Cold War, their nation was keen to diversify its economy and enhance its relations to the United States in the fields of technology, culture, education, and economics. They also stressed that their country was ready to be a part of the United States. Strengthening connections with the United States will indicate to the rest of the world that India is a real challenger on the international scene. This is the most essential component that will be demonstrated. In recent times, the United States of America and India have been collaborating in a wide variety of fields, including defence and technology, to name just two of those fields. The culmination of the two countries' collaboration is the recent signing of a civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement, which signifies the culmination of their alliance. It was a pivotal time in the process of creating mutual confidence between the two countries when the 123 nuclear accord was completed.

After the conclusion of the cold war, it became abundantly evident that ties between the United States and India had substantially improved. Following the terrorist events that occurred on September 11, 2001, the general public started to assume that the

United States of America and India had broader political and strategic interests than they had anticipated. There are more pull elements that bring India and the United States exceedingly near to one another. These pull factors include a belief in democracy and democratic values, the establishment of peace, and collaboration with the United Nations. The United States of America and China are both examples of global powerhouses that have a substantial influence on the affairs of the area and the world, particularly in Asia. China's rise poses a danger to India's foreign policy objectives, which ought to be pursued. Both India and China were rivals, competitors, and partners in the twenty-first century. India and China were all three different things. In terms of strategic alliances, India counts Russia and Japan among its most critical allies. The Russian Federation has been and will continue to be an essential partner for India because of its role as a source of defence technology and equipment. At the same time, relations with Russia continued to develop and included a long-term comprehensive strategy that included economic, military, and security links. Increasing engagement with the European Union (EU) is another area in which Indian foreign policy has the potential to achieve significant progress. India relies heavily on the European Union as a partnership partner. The most significant aspect of this collaboration is the fact that India is the fifth nation, after the United States of America, Canada, Russia, and China, with whom the European Union has established such an equation.

Challenges to foreign policy from third world countries

India saw a revitalized look around the turn of the century as a result of its dynamic economy and its geopolitical status. India has emerged as a significant economic and strategic partner because of the development of superpowers. At the same time, India's geopolitical and economic ties to Latin America, Africa, and Asia were growing more significant. The relationships that India has with each of Asia's many regions serve as the foundation for India's foreign policy. India is still confronted with a tough challenge when it comes to easing worries of confrontation with its closest neighbors, even though its influence in South Asia is expanding. The Indian government's foreign policy has a big challenge when it comes to settling boundary disputes with its neighbors, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, and China. In recent years, democracy has extended across South Asian nations such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nepal. As a result, the international community is looking to India as a model for how to establish democracy throughout the region. There is a rising amount of uncertainty over the long-term survival of SAARC, which stands for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The other countries in South Asia are concerned that India would become economically dominant in the region as a result of its larger economy and its control over their own economic system. When it comes to dealing with countries in South Asia, India's foreign policy needs to be more aggressive and imaginative, making use of economic diplomacy and soft power. The diplomatic position that India takes towards the countries of Southeast Asia is a direct consequence of the Look East Policy that India implemented in 1991. The Look East Policy, in its present iteration, serves as the guiding principle for India's approach to

diplomacy in East Asia. India's relationship with ASEAN states is highlighted by the Look East Policy, which places a focus on the economic, security, and political cooperation that exists between the countries. As a result of the success of the Look East Policy, India has made the decision to establish connections with the countries of West Asia via the Look West Policy. By putting into effect the Focus Africa Policy, India was able to engage in conversation with African nations. Beneficiaries of Indian economic development aid in Africa will be used by the Indian government in order to get access to vital oil and gas deposits across the continent. While India is investigating the possibility of establishing business connections with Brazil, it will also keep a close watch on Latin American areas that may be able to provide it with essential resources.

India's efforts to be a permanent member of Sc and un reforms

"Maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace" were the proclaimed aims of the United States of America when it was at the time of its founding. India was one of the countries that first joined the United Nations. The possibility that the United Nations may operate independently is a challenge for governments. It was India's finest effort to accomplish this goal. Within the context of India's foreign policy in the twenty-first century, one of the most important objectives has been to reform and reorganize the United Nations. During the period after the end of the Cold War, India, along with other nations, particularly the P5 states, was successful in advocating for the decentralization and democratization of the United States. Obtaining a permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council is another challenge that India has in terms of its foreign policy. A group known as "G- 4," which consisted of India, Japan, and Brazil, was officially established. In their efforts for developing nations to have a larger voice in the United Nations Security Council, all four countries were vociferous in their support, and they were genuine contenders for consideration for permanent membership.

Challenge to keep NAM relevant

India's approach to foreign affairs is based on the principle of non-alignment as its intellectual foundation. India has been forced to adjust its foreign policy because of the unipolar world politics that have formed because of the conclusion of the cold war. It is no longer relevant to pursue a non-alignment policy since the bipolar international order has been brought to its knees. It is the responsibility of India's foreign policy planner to make the NAM more relevant than it has ever been before. India became a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which is the second-largest organization in the world, after realizing that it has the potential to play a creative role in international affairs. The National Action Movement (NAM) is now facing fundamental challenges and impediments; nevertheless, these issues may be resolved if the movement's objectives and functionality are rethought and altered.

Three e-concerns of India's foreign policy

In the realm of electronic concerns, India is attempting to solve three issues: economic security, energy security, and environmental security. These assurances are an absolute need if one wishes to achieve the status of a great power. The following are the aspects of India's foreign policy that will need to be addressed in the 21st century if the country wishes to improve its status in the international community and guarantee the safety of its population. While the focus shifts from military competition to economic competition, countries are discovering that strong economic links are vital in order to maintain their advantage. Currently, commerce serves as the foundation for India's relationships with both existing and growing global powers. There are significant economic ties that exist between India and the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, China, Japan, and the European Union. According to the study on Integrated Energy Policy that was compiled by the Planning Commission, India must keep its economic growth rate between 8 and 10 percent for the next quarter of a century in order to accomplish its human development objectives and put an end to poverty. For this to be possible, the power production would need to grow from 1,60,000 MW to around 8,000 MW by the year 2030–31, and the supply of primary energy would need to increase by almost fourfold. Another evident factor that influences India's foreign policy is energy security. This is due to the fact that energy is essential to the growth of the economy. An additional essential aspect of contemporary foreign policy is the protection of the environment. The degradation of the environment poses a genuine risk to the continued existence of human beings. India is aware of the importance of protecting the environment. In order to prevent climate change and global warming, all countries and civilizations need to work together. India and other developing countries are facing the brunt of the impacts of the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, despite the fact that developed nations are mostly to fault for the problem. When it comes to climate change and environmental degradation on a global scale, India has aligned itself with the concept of "common but differentiated responsibilities" that is outlined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

When it comes to India's overall development, the most important thing for the nation to focus on is making the external environment more beneficial. The formation of India's foreign policy, which is impacted by its aims, allows the country to address a variety of challenges, including but not limited to poverty, terrorism, climate change, and unemployment-related difficulties. When we take a step back and look at the wider picture, we can see that there are a lot of other problems that need to be solved. These difficulties include ensuring that the edges of the globe remain quiet, maintaining positive relationships with the most powerful nations in the world, and dealing with several problems all at once, such as poverty, terrorism, climate change, water and health issues. It should be India's top foreign policy objective and first hurdle to ensure that it has amicable relations with its neighbours who are located in its immediate vicinity. Over the course of its lengthy history, India has made it a top priority to maintain cordial and secure relationships with the nations that are in its immediate

vicinity. These countries include Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, China, and Pakistan. Over the course of many decades, India has been working towards the goal of resolving the continuing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and finding a solution that is equitable for the Tamil minority and would be acceptable to all Sri Lankans. For India, a rising power in south Asia, the countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Afghanistan have been their top goals. These countries are democratic, peaceful, and stable. Since India's independence, relations between the two countries have gone through an ups and downs. In almost every gathering or conversation, the issues of terrorism and the strife in Kashmir usually seize the spotlight as the primary themes of discussion. The countries who are India's neighbors are exerting pressure on the country to expand its dependency to promote economic unity, subcontinental riches, and prosperity. In terms of economic development and chances for commerce, India is considered as a godsend by the states that are located in its close proximity.

Maintaining cordial relationships with the most powerful nations in the world is the second challenge that India's foreign policy must overcome. India's foreign policy must consider a broad variety of social, economic, and political factors to be effective in this age of soft power. In the absence of cordial relationships with major nations like the United States of America, Russia, China, France, and Japan, India's long-term objective of becoming a "global power" would continue to constitute nothing more than a pipe dream. The relationship between India and the United States has seen a substantial transformation over the course of the last twenty years at this point. Following the end of the cold war, India established relations with the United States in a variety of fields, including defence, healthcare, science and technology, commerce and infrastructure, agriculture, counterterrorism, and environmental protection. [Information obtained from the website of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2017] An important indication of the transformation that has taken place in this partnership is the decision that was reached on July 18, 2005, to work together on the development of civil nuclear energy. Long-standing and cooperative ties between India and the European Union (EU) have been maintained in a variety of fields, including healthcare, investment, culture, trade, and infrastructure, amongst others. The relationship between Russia and India has been one of amiable relations ever since India attained its independence, and the two nations have been close allies ever since. Additionally, India's relations with Japan have been significantly strengthened because of several high-level visits that have been exchanged. For India to achieve its goal of becoming a global power, it is necessary for the country to reassess its foreign policy and to expand its political, economic, and defense relations with its neighbors as well as with other major nations. It is very necessary for India to work together with its neighbors and the rest of the globe in order to be successful in overcoming its difficulties, which include issues such as poverty, famine, unemployment, security concerns, and climate change. The Department of State of the United States of America

Finally, there are a variety of issues that are intertwined with one another, including global warming, starvation, terrorism, water management, food production, and environmental degradation. There are a few of these problems that are more related

to the house and might be addressed there. These concerns are addressed there. However, in order to handle some global difficulties, such as those pertaining to the environment, terrorism, and international security, international cooperation is required. The problem of maintaining food security falls on India's shoulders. Agriculture is the primary means of subsistence for almost two-thirds of the population in India. Assuming an economic growth rate of between 7 and 8 percent, we will need 340 million metric tonnes of grain by the year 2020 in order to feed the whole globe. This presents a significant challenge for those who are responsible for agricultural research and management. In addition, we need cutting-edge agricultural technology to enhance our food production, which requires us to build links with countries that are now at the forefront of agricultural innovation. For India's economy to continue growing, there has to be an increase in the availability of energy sources that are both more economical and less harmful to the environment. India's gross domestic product (GDP) has stayed unchanged around 6-8%, and the nation's per capita income has remained low, even though 70% of India's oil originates from sources outside the country and that 1/6 of its electricity comes from the combustion of fossil fuels. It is imperative that we establish collaborative relationships with nations that possess an abundance of energy resources if we want to fulfil our future energy requirements. It is also necessary for India to improve its capacity to generate energy from sources other than fossil fuels. The most effective method for India to accomplish this objective is to make use of cutting-edge technology that it may purchase from other countries.

CONCLUSION

There is a possibility that the objectives and strategies of a nation's foreign policy may change throughout the course of time. The end of the Cold War marked the beginning of a new era in global politics, which presented new challenges for nation-states to overcome in their efforts to engage in effective diplomatic relations. The Indian government's policymaker made certain adjustments to the country's foreign policy to accommodate the changing circumstances on a worldwide scale. When India strikes a balance between its long-term and short-term national interests, it is getting closer to adopting a foreign policy approach that is more realistic. Since the conclusion of the cold war, India's relations with the world's most powerful nations have been progressively becoming stronger. In recent years, India's foreign policy has focused its attention to the United States. As a consequence of the end of the Cold War and the growing consequences of globalization, India is reevaluating its position in the globe as well as its position in the region. Since the 1990s, when India's economy began to become more open, the globe has seen India's expanding impact. This has resulted in the current growth rates of 8 to 9 percent per year, which are consistent with the current situation. In order to foster economic expansion, it is essential to provide dependable access to power. Improving energy security and conservation should be among India's top priorities when it comes to meeting the environmental safety net responsibilities. There have been several shifts in India's foreign policy since the end of the cold war period, and the country is now dealing with a great deal of challenges. India's fundamental ambition, on the other hand, is to establish itself as a

global power and a prominent role in international affairs. The designers of foreign policy made a great deal of adjustments in order to get to their destination.

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