



Introductory study of Indian foreign policy and current priorities

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Abstract

From independence to the present time, India's foreign policy has been one of friendship and cooperation with all countries. Fair and respectful relations with sovereign nations are reflected in India's foreign dealings, based on a desire to protect national interests, respect for international law and a sense of responsibility.

Given the changing global circumstances, there has been continuity and change in India's foreign policy, which is natural. With this, global challenges have also been adequately addressed.

Given the difficult situation in its neighbourhood, India considers stability and economic security as its top priority.

Keywords: Indian foreign policy, friendship and cooperation, national interests, economic security

Introduction

Introduction to Indian foreign policy

India's first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru had said in the Constituent Assembly, "The cornerstone of any foreign policy is the protection of its national interest and this is also the aim of India's foreign policy".

The first guide in determining the foreign policy is its There are national interests.

The nature of leadership certainly has an impact. At the end of the twentieth century, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the world becoming unipolar led to important global changes, which had an impact on other countries of the world including India and many countries also made policy changes related to foreign policy.

India's foreign policy has also been influenced by the general principles of foreign policy formulation.

The main factors playing a role in determining its goals are geography, historical, economic, ideological along with national interest.

Many elements play a central role in foreign policy making. Every element playing a role in foreign policy making collectively influences every decision.

There are some principles of foreign policy of any country, on which the overall foreign policy of that country rests. Usually, nations announce these so that their foreign behavior can be justified. These are the rules that the present or future governments of a country try to follow.

Panchsheel, non-alignment, world peace, faith in the United Nations, opposition to apartheid, disarmament are the main principles of Indian foreign policy.

Indian foreign policy is known by the name of non-alignment. Non-alignment does not mean isolation from world problems, but is a policy of active support or opposition in global affairs on the basis of merits and demerits. This is also the essence of Indian foreign policy.

India's nuclear policy is based on sovereignty, minimal deterrence and peaceful use of nuclear technology for development. Due to the nuclear research programs of neighboring countries like China and Pakistan being a concern for India's security, India also had to conduct nuclear tests.

India has been a believer in the United Nations since its inception. It has played an important role in strengthening

the basic foundations of peace such as participation in direct action, human rights protection, structural reform etc.

India fully supports disarmament, but Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty etc. should be non-discriminatory.

India and Pakistan are two neighboring nations, which were once one. History drew a dividing line between them and created two separate nations.

With the partition, these nations inherited the problems of Kashmir, Siachen, Sircreek and other such problems, due to which their relations could not be normalized. After momentary signs, all efforts for peace faded away. Even in this era of globalization, India-Pakistan relations are full of mutual distrust and hatred.

India and China have cultural relations dating back more than a thousand years. There is a difference of only 2 years between India's independence and China's communist revolution.

In view of these circumstances, India and China expanded their diplomatic relations. If we leave aside the 60s, India-China relations have never been very bad. Due to conflict of mutual interests, there is a difference in the principles of foreign policy between the two, but some points of harmony have also been emerging such as the Indo-China problem, Iraq war, increasing trade, role of India and China in the World Trade Organization.

The world conditions that emerged after 1990 worked to bring progress in relations as both countries were being affected by American unipolarity.

In this period, India-China relations are starting from decline and developing towards a new partnership, but for better relations in the future, it is necessary that both the countries try to resolve the border dispute honestly.

Despite many differences like border dispute, Tibet problem and trade imbalance, there is still vast scope for cooperation between the two.

India Nepal relations are religious, historical and strategic, which

It has been based on the 'Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950'. Despite establishing multi-party democracy from monarchy, Nepal's efforts have mostly been to balance its relations with China and India. Still, India has contributed significantly in Nepal's economic development. Not only showed commitment but also provided every possible help.

Both India and Sri Lanka are neighboring countries which gained independence almost simultaneously.

Both adopted the policy of non-alignment and are its members even today. The Tamil problem and the Kutch island dispute certainly had a negative impact on relations, but through SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and India's readiness to cooperate in the current Sri Lankan economic crisis, relations between the two countries are becoming closer.

There are economic, social and political relations between India and Bangladesh.

Along with this, India has also played a decisive role in the origin of Bangladesh.

India was the first country which gave recognition to Bangladesh even before it became a permanent member of the United Nations Organization.

The foundation of friendship and trust laid in the beginning seemed to be shaken after the death of Mujib ur Rahman, but due to your understanding and common interest, India-Bangladesh relations never became very negative.

Agreement has either been reached or is in progress on most of the issues between India and Bangladesh including Teen Bigha Corridor, border dispute, water dispute, but the Islamic element of Bangladesh sometimes spoils the relations.

Thus, the dispute between India and Bangladesh is more emotional than institutional.

Despite being democratic nations, India-America relations could not be very deep.

From 1947 till today relations have been swinging in dramatic uncertainty.

In the new world circumstances created after the Gulf War, a new vision of relations between India and America has developed. America also seemed willing to give a responsible role to India. There are still differences between the two countries on issues like nuclear non-proliferation, double standards regarding terrorism, economic aid to Pakistan, America's increasing monopoly in the world, role of the United Nations and democratization, military withdrawal in Iraq, but these the existence of differences does not lead to direct conflict or lack of communication.

Because maturity has arrived in the relationship between both of them. Pakistan is no longer important in American foreign policy. The main dispute between India and America is about each other's role, where India, being a huge country of Asia, wants an important role in world politics, United Nations Organization and Security Council. Whereas America wants to keep world politics limited to itself only. If the United Nations gives its real role to India, then most of the differences between India and America will end.

Russia and India have been historical friends, the Soviet Union was always seen standing in the difficult circumstances of India, more or less the same relations are visible even today.

Objectives of study

1. To study the goals, objectives and principles of Indian foreign policy.
2. To study the general dynamics of Indian foreign policy.
3. Study of bilateral relations with neighboring nations and other important nations.
4. Study of Indian foreign policy priorities

SAARC

India is the center of South Asia.

And it is in an important position from strategic and economic point of view in the countries of South Asia. Therefore, it is natural and necessary for India to join the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) organization.

Has been playing an important role in various activities related to SAARC.

Continuity of foreign policy

From the non-alignment and Panchsheel policy adopted by India's first Prime Minister Nehru to Shastri's efforts to improve relations with neighboring countries, it underlines the continuity of Indian foreign policy.

India's victory in the India-Pakistan war of 1971 and the consequent creation of Bangladesh, the India-Soviet Union Friendship Treaty 1971, is an important achievement of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Morarji Desai may have talked about true non-alignment but there was no change in the basic principles of foreign policy.

PV Narasimha Rao accelerated the process of improving relations with China and gave a new dimension to relations with Israel.

India-Israel diplomatic relations were established.

The Gujral Doctrine, named after Inder Kumar Gujral (first Foreign Minister and later Prime Minister), is a policy of cooperation and friendship with neighboring nations. Since India is a big country in South Asia, it is the right step to give some concessions to its smaller neighboring countries. This has also brought India a major role in South Asia.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee considered minimum nuclear weapons necessary for India's security and conducted second nuclear tests in 1998.

Emphasized on improving relations with Pakistan. Made the famous bus trip to Lahore in 1999, but Pakistan's attitude in response to this was very negative and India had to fight an unwanted war by infiltrating in Kargil, in which India won, India also got support from global countries at the diplomatic level in this war. found.

Manmohan Singh signed the India-US nuclear deal without caring about his government.

Permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council

Made organized efforts for. Reopened Nathula Pass for trade with China. Maintain progressive relations with Pakistan despite differences on terrorism.

During his visit to India in 2010, US President Barack Obama openly supported India's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council, which is a big achievement.

Since 2014, Narendra Modi has been leading the government with the clear majority achieved by any single political party since 1984, whose clarity and firmness is visible in foreign policy decisions. India is now adopting an aggressive foreign policy instead of a defensive foreign policy.

Actions like air strike, surgical strike were taken to protest against terrorist attacks.

China's retaliatory action in Doklam and Ladakh is evidence of the aggressiveness of Indian foreign policy.

Following the policy of balance, India reduced the side effects caused by the 'Russia Ukraine War' through diplomacy. G20 was organized successfully. During this

period, the maturity and progressiveness of Indian foreign policy was visible in diplomatic relations with neighbours, Arab countries, Western countries as well as Russia and Israel.

Current priorities

1. Even today India has not given up the policy of non-alignment but now it believes in the policy of multiple discussions. Does not believe in operating relationships with one at the expense of the other.
2. India's 'Neighborhood First Policy' includes confidence building, friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Relations with Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Maldives are getting stronger. However, relations with Afghanistan and Maldives are becoming a bit fluctuating with the change of power. Relations with Pakistan have reached the lowest level, the same old attitude of Pakistan on terrorism is mainly responsible for this.

3. India is committed to the integration of South Asia. However, SAARC has not been as successful as expected. India-Pakistan relations are a big obstacle in its path. While remaining committed to SAARC, India is now focusing on BIMSTEC (Bengal-based Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Economic and Technical Cooperation).
4. The importance of 10 countries of South East Asia has increased in the context of India's 'extended neighbourhood'. In 2014, the Look East Policy was replaced by the Act East Policy. Since then the government has been adopting a dynamic work-centric approach.

An important demonstration of this was the presence of heads of state and government at the 2018 Republic Day celebrations.

5. India-South Asia is emphasizing physical and digital connectivity to integrate and connect it with other regions such as Southeast Asia and Central Asia.
6. Action is being taken at the global level against terrorism, corruption, black money, money laundering and fugitive economic criminals.
7. Dedicated to reducing climate change and greenhouse emissions.
8. Not only wants change at the level of representation in global institutions like the World Bank, United Nations, and International Monetary Fund but also supports other reforms.
9. India's bilateral relations with some major selected countries are in priority as follows-

India has now adopted a strong policy with Pakistan that "terror and talks cannot go together" and has shown firmness. India now clearly believes that no progressive action will be taken unless there is verifiable evidence to stop Pakistan's "state sponsored terrorism, targeting against India and interference in Kashmir".

India does not support China's "One Belt One Road" project because it passes through Kashmir. China does not support India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Along with this, it also wants permanent membership in the UN Security Council. Doesn't even support.

China develops tense relations on issues like support to Pakistan, trade balance, border disputes. Dealing with these challenges is a priority for Indian foreign policy.

In view of these circumstances, India's relations with America have become important.

America has made India a defense partner. America wants India to act as a counter weight to China. Russia-India relations are reflected in India's role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which is a direct example.

Russia is India's major defense partner.

Research methodology

Data for research work has been taken from secondary sources. An attempt has been made to gather information based on personal experience and knowledge by observing history and current circumstances. Historical, descriptive and analytical research methods were used.

The research material was compiled from well-known books, magazines and scientific articles.

Conclusion

Like any other country, Indian foreign policy aims to protect its national interests. At present, the areas of national interests include territorial integrity, border security, international terrorism, energy security, food security, cyber security etc. Furthermore, we need to create an external environment that can support comprehensive internal growth.

The nature of Indian foreign policy has changed in the global context. The biggest challenge of India's foreign policy is to ensure progressiveness by maintaining harmony with its neighbours, ASEAN countries, West Asia and other countries.

China is creating obstacles and influencing neighboring countries with its strategic and economic power. Keeping these circumstances in mind, India has included important transformative elements like clarity, toughness and aggression in its foreign policy, which has strengthened India's global presence.

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