

## Changing Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy

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### Abstract

As a need of an hour which travelled to years, decades and centuries in between nation to nations; kept them in continuous changing mode. But this doesn't mean the basic structure of the foreign policy be scarifies. They were being safeguarded through extent of existence. India being experienced in Diplomatic immunity performed pro to both Bipolar and Unipolar system across the world as a Nehruvian realistic approach in his era and under the image of cultural power, soft power pace to a multialignment approach to foreign policy dimensions were mainframe to the different political parties as being in the government machinery. These policies related with external affairs bring many forms of development and progressive tendencies to the new scientific and the neo liberal economic changes as a performer in the third world nations.

**Keywords:** Third world; Sovereignty; Nonalignment; Indian diplomacy; Multialigning policy

### Historically Summarized

As India does mattered approach towards the international system, more study of its foreign policy and its dealing with the world should broadly discuss crucial journey within international relations. Foreign Policy of any nation had highly multi facial aspects that are many changes were recognized from the Decolonial process in 1947 to an independent nation. Policies adopt according to the need of situations which vary subjected to the national favour, domestic view points, traditional, and customary line up which had a strong historical base. "There is an integral relationship between domestic politics and foreign affairs of a country" [1]. The flow of ideas apart from any particular or rigid formulas the foreign policy tends to keep it alive and base convinces that foreign policy had their value based formulas in which new diplomacy can fit accordingly. On the other hand the external factor appeared on international arena crop major dimensions to the exiting functional approach to it. Likewise we had some strong witnesses in past that "the Labour Party victory in British polls and was a significant coincidence that the change in Moscow should be followed by the nuclear blast by China the next day" [2].

It was structure of power on world arena in 1964. India was treated and feels behavioural approach that searched multi-dimensional task must get added to us in our diplomatic immunity to the geopolitical world. The Golden Sparrow in the eyes of the world were transmitting itself as being colony of major Monarchies and afterward the end of Cold War era commence to end which invites many nations as well as India to think within more frames in external matters or policies as being independent nation. "The jubilation of the cold war conquest was vitiated by the cry of a newly emerging cultural adversary" [3]. Some structural decade of 1970s shows some sort of changing issues in foreign policy of India. And world had witnessed the socialistic pattern and its development. During India had remarkable up lift through becoming socialist republic a considerable pace of growth and proving the might in scientific technological development through Pokhran I.

"A country which faces tunnoil in domestic politics cannot withstand the turbulence of world politics" [4]. As being a standup democracy of third world nation in every field to base India a major power in front of the second and first world countries. Whereas Chinese foreign policy saw profound changes in late 1970s by Deng Xiaoping.

India's foreign affairs saw some categorical changes up to the 70s. End of the decade of 80s and beginning of 90s brought pivotal changes to economic system run under the liberal setup of governance around the world. An emergence of open/free market economy become a core factor to the socio-liberal-economic democracies of earth destined. The French industrial revolution had its peak to express and the consumer oriented democracies were following the path of new order which the foreign policies of sovereigns. In 1990s as compare to other Asian countries and particularly with China; an economic development of India was not up to that mark.

Liberal economy of world market convinced many nations as well as to India diplomacy to facilitate self with neo charting governance for external matters. Indian has practically abandoned its old active role in political developments and in favour of a higher priority for promoting international economic cooperation and consequently economic diplomacy [5]. India was opened to foreign direct investment, and access to markets in the developed world. The slow but successful economic reforms unleashed the potential of the nation. Generated rapid economic growth provided a basis to transform its relations with great powers, regional rivals Pakistan and China, and the neighbourhood as a whole. An another transition in Indian foreign policy is about the shift from being a great power of the third world to the recognition of the potential that India could emerge as a major power even though a soft power journey of worthwhile as being in its own right to prove. Economically among one of the big powers historically India as being a pre-colonial nation and proves a class of its own economic reforms in 1990s one amongst the several dimensions to the foreign policy. An adoption of new policies wide to anti west approaches and shades.

As being world largest democracy a mix blend of idealism towards realism proven by policies towards the realistic per view of the worldly

governance. The 19th century West and European world tendering their own vicinity India proves itself in front of the world with Nehruvian realistic approach to the world relations on politico-diplomatic arena. Nehru advised the Indians to identify themselves with the local community, adopt a more positive attitude towards the political aspirations of the people of their adopted countries. In economic matters he advised them not to seek any special privileges at the cost of equal opportunities for the struggle" [6]. "During the Nehru years of India's policy, the basics of dismantling colonial mould were worked out" [7]. Contemporary international context is become picturesque to some elements which can be can be responsible for changes viz; cold war get ended, globalization in process and Westphalia state system facing challenge.

### Base of Theory

Whenever the dealing with the topic is concern some basic factors occurred to explain within a broad vicinity of Sovereignty which cover, explain, expand and provide broader development to any of the nation around the world. And connotes in the manner that "Sovereignty is an international institution, meaning a set of rules that states play by. The rules constitute and regulate the external independence and the domestic authority of states" [8].

Sovereign confers the highest and absolute power of any nation with an obvious no limitations to supremacy provide a sense of security and futuristic elaboration in different dimensions in favour of nation state. Foreign Policy of Indira Gandhi is a sort of continuation to Nehruvian era with major attribution to some steps which proves the meth of Indian Foreign Policy as far as futuristic course were concern. "Indira Gandhi's foreign policy illustrates realist theory in being more attuned to power relations and pragmatic solutions than to moral principles or liberal institutions" [9]. Her foreign policy success chart had big contribution of Bangladesh crisis resolution. And very strong form of collaborative picture was on the world sites that India was run on the grounds of Non-Align as well as its strength through the development in the field of science and technology. This progress travel under the proving process that later governments helped its pace for the sake of better Sovereign conditions to the India as long as possible to empower the largest democracy. "Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, faced with the task of securing his own political position while bringing domestic stability to the country, has also inherited some formidable foreign policy problems" [10]. Rajiv Gandhi accepted the responsibility of guiding the Indian ship to the right destiny after his mother. Rajiv Gandhi with his charismatic leadership and multi faceted personality greatly influenced not only the domestic policy but also the foreign policy decisions. "The first condition of a good foreign policy is a good domestic policy" [11].

Rajiv Gandhi had strong experience that formerly his mother and grandfather were great leaders of India. He tries his best for new avenues to resolving domestic and international issues. P. Shivashankar the External Affairs Minister in Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet made it clear that "External Affairs claims a good deal of attention from the Prime Minister who chalks out the policies. The Ministry implements them" [12]. Rajiv Gandhi's Leadership in 1986. India contribute a huge fund was contributed by India for "the fund rendered valuable assistance to the frontline states and the liberation movements in South Africa" [13].

Rajiv Gandhi, as a key foreign policy maker made substantial contributions to the field of India's foreign policy. He committed

himself with a foreign policy that to maintain friendly relations with worldly nations. Such as immediate neighbours. Rajiv Gandhi during address to the nation which was his first ever broad cast on 31st October, 1984 as a Prime Minister said that, "India's traditional foreign policy with its commitments to non-alignment, co-existence and friendly relations with all, will remain unchanged" [14]. However "few African nations gave diplomatic support to India, bilaterally or at multilateral for a like NAM" [15]. NAM not only acquired a political dimension but also strong economic content over a period of time, the Group of 77 which consist mostly of the non-align countries became an important instrument of negotiation and articulation of views of the developing countries in all for a where economic issues were discussed. India played an active role in strengthening the movement and making it an effective voice in representing the collective aspirations and interests of the developing countries on such vital issues as development, peace and stability [16].

P.V. Narshimha Rao was become the head of the Indian government when world faces some crucial problems of polarisation and depolarisation's Soviet Union collapse and USA become the singular Unipolar Nation as a super power before the world. Than Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, inculcate needed understanding to get supported on international affairs ground and to avail the requirement adopting the liberal economy for the nation build an image on internal and external matters. And these particular years witnessed the completion of the Cold-War era as its ending were start in 1970s. Rao regime was discussed under new free market or open economic policy issues related with trade, investment and the grounds of technological developments: destination Europe attract Indian policy affairs. He came in power after the short span of governments under the leadership of V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar. As V.P. Singh had strong colleague in his cabinet, I.K. Gujral for Indian Foreign Affairs. Gujral's Doctrine was an immense sought of intellect uproots to the Indian diplomatic immunity before the Sovereign World particularly the changing international environment post-cold war world. It set some important principal of India's foreign policy which provides a great and heuristic impact on many other powers around the world like USA, Russia, Germany, China, Iran, Brazil and Saudi Arabia. A proctor to foreign policy doctrine Inder Kumar Gujral become nonaligned policy of India that couldn't be unnecessarily in repetition apart from other avenues plat formed and no one against the movement. With the end of nonalignment for all practical purposes, India's foreign policy was suddenly bereft of a grand strategic vision.

Apart from the South Asian regional affection and domination of the policy it has been sever on the grounds of anti-terrorist campaign and the policy was heavily criticised after Mumbai terror attack which were the violation of the policy that Gujral framed by saying "it can act in good faith and trust". He also argued that no country in South Asia should allow its territory to be used to harm another. 1990's era were dedicated to huge discussion on the world faces major changes to all that is a Bipolar World change to Unipolar power which concentrate to USA after collapse of Russia. And at another level India faced some fiscal crises due to the oil prices because of Gulf War in 1991 that Iraq invaded Kuwait which affects the prices of petroleum and crude oil. Countries purchase that get drained their economy for the exchange of foreign currency, India was amongst them. And almost all worldly governments had the comparative look up to their Foreign Policies which had new focuses of interdependency factors to new avenues.

## Foreign Policy and Interdependence

Whenever human race begin to civilise itself they get educated with the terms of self-reliance under the roof of interdependence social strata. Earlier monarchial form proves the might of one and the libertine democratic vicinity elaborate the each one fruitful dependence for natural resources in particular facing realism of materialistic world emergence. The Nation state theory in essence of futuristic back scores of City state commemoration by greats like Aristotle, Plato and the Athenic nostalgia. Some issue arises in their own under the Sovereign Nation State that increase interdependence amongst the nation around the globe, distinct role of the Multilateral Trade Agreements, problems like extremism and terrorism, better way to handle the human civilised societies through worldly good governance and the prominent role of non-state actors in nations. Viz the role of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), are play major role in today's digitised data oriented world; communication transfers to instant mode and the transition of information text obviously in digitized manner. Marshall McLuhan's concept of world village or global village is in needing full theory of realism. Now a day's sovereignty relies on the mercy of increasing interdependence of states on each other. Interdependency prolonged partnerships in prosperity as well as to the diversity. In the destine of time India establishing itself with the neo-economic order of free market culture in the worldly trade affairs.

After tentative disturbances in world economic order due many reasons which one is the decline of Soviet Union, the era saw the end of cold war and Indian version of foreign policy to somewhat recalculate on these grounds a changed internal preferences and the external imperatives were pivotal to new economic overlook through Manmohan Singh with his primer Narsimha Rao and afterward I.K. Gujral and Atal Bihari Vajpayee boldly out sketch the external policy for India. A. B Vajpayee were taller leader as far as foreign policy portfolio were concern with an outlined pervious trajectory facing perpetual cannonade from colleagues in the BJP and the sartorial along with regional priorities from the partner sin coalition, Vajpayee had prove himself with the tactics in Indian diplomacy along with pressure politics on domestic including regional embargo and confronted circumferences to relations on grounds to any leader under such situation, Vajpayee had success to developed new options for India when he was one of the senior leader to his party said that "history can be changes but not the geography" [17]. "The Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) believes firmly that the peace, security and progress of this region lies in friendship with India and Pakistan" [18]. Moreover to this a peace in the subcontinent apart from particularly China's neighbouring prolonged issues the border conflicts with India already had sound strategic sense. The singed agreement during visits of Indian Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi, Narshimha Rao and A.B. Vajpayee not only helps the border issues in common but also go ahead to resolve these issues and set a criteria to the economic exchange across the land borders. India were passed through a safest and smooth proclamation under the Manmohan Singh's regime, once mentioned that the Civil Nuclear deal with the US in 2008 become one of his best achievement feathered to Indian foreign policy as a Prime Minister. "The India-U.S. nuclear deal is historic" [19]. "As it has profound implications upon two areas of vital importance for India: the energy deficit and the overarching issue of national security" [20]. In addition to this Moscow and Beijing were also worried about the growing strategic ties between India and the West [21]. A segment of the domestic opinion in India is concerned about the preservation of an independent foreign policy and the ability of the policy makers not to

buckle down under U.S. ressure in the conduct of international affairs. L.K. Advani, commented that "The Hyde Act passed by the U.S. congress may emerge as an instrument to subvert India's foreign policy decision in such a way as to favour its grand strategy of global hegemony" [22].

In the last decade India's economy gets rapidly developed and the scenario of foreign policy also changes their dimensions in the character. Some indifferent changes as far as the emergence of pressure groups play canvassing part for lobbying in between India and US for the sake of strategic partnership; during UPA-I period prime minister, Manmohan Singh get supported by these groups for India US strategic partnership. But as came near to 2012 these groups however created distance from Manmohan Singh who rooted him well and many turned unfriendly with an unrealistic approach to US India relationship under the realm of nuclear deal. Typical thinking to provide chances of rotation the UPA tenure came to end in 2014 general elections in India. And BJP came in power. On the foreign affairs ground Some of the last years witnessed relations between India and China had trust building phase which was cumulative due to the strategic cooperation and partnership for resolving border issue, people-to-people exchange, economic cooperation and defence deals. These ties and particularly the economic chapter flourish growth in bilateral trade during the years of 1998 and 2012. BJP's tough stances against China in a different spectrum and the Manmohan Singh showed strategically some soft skills between relations create favourable conditions of world diplomatic immunity towards India. A big sign of bold steps in foreign policy were glimpses after Modi take as the Premier ship of India the first change in foreign policy relates availing new objectives to development of economy. India adopted the new technological development around of 1960's The NDA II showed their a sign of newness in comparison to the policies of predecors A cleanliness drive knowing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and campaign to make India more digitalised, both of which involve the use of appropriate technology. "Modi's decision to hark back to Vajpayee's legacy, one hope, is also about restoring the relative autonomy of the government in the making of India's foreign policy and its diplomatic execution" [23]. "The NDA II government is clearly defining Indian interests 'India First' in terms of technological and economic development with a greater focus on these goals in foreign policy" [24]. Modi as a initiators to Communications, Water and Energy, as a prime minister, taking attempts of leaps from the previous NDA, the party BJP and the parent organisation in support known as RSS. A multi aligning policy by Narendra Modi inculcating the existence as strategic tools of the previous one. An assessment of multialignment to strategic base, some futuristic prospect obviously paving ways for the expectations of elite of Indian foreign policy.

## Conclusion

Apart from above write up the theory, practice and many dimensions of foreign policy of India in particular is very vast to cover. A successful mileage of NAM within bipolar world maintaining and proving self before the unipolar power is an applaud situation to India. A third world soft power nation to great/proving power before world with a multicultural aspects is like carrying bundles of thronged hard woods on hand and lap. Not only in the case of India but there are all most all nations of the world had to melt down, curved in realm of dimensions. Foreign Policy is an important subject matter in the study of Political Science in general and International relations in particular. Especially India has developed its foreign policy based on its history,

culture and tradition. The foreign Policy of India is based on Mahatma Gandhi's principles and philosophy of Panchsheel Doctrine. It is interesting to note that Indian foreign Policy has rightly protected national interests in all its spheres; emerged as powerful IT based nation in 21st century. The role relevance and affectivity of foreign policy is strengthening the power of India. The progress of Science, Technology and Culture is new dimension of Indian foreign policy. It would be quite interesting to study how national interest has been influenced on the principles of Foreign Policy of India and these aspects can be carefully studied here. Foreign Policy changes as per economic development, trade and commerce of a nation. It sustain from modes to modern information technology based mechanism. Indian Foreign Policy has thus undergone through many changes from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to P.M. Narendra Modi. India was founder of philosophy of Nonalign Movement and during Narendra Modi's period this Nonalign Movement has become active. India is emerging role as a mega power in the new world is a significant phenomenon. India will clearly perform well in all developing of South Asian countries in the tune of Sab ka Saath and Sab ka Vikas.

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