

# EMERGING INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

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## ABSTRACT

*The principal zone of consideration for any foreign policy is the neighbourhood, for unless a nation has a serene and prosperous periphery, it won't have the capacity to concentrate on its essential tasks of financial advancement. In this way, emerging India turned out with an intentional, result-arranged and proactive foreign policy and gave much significance to relations with its neighbours. The government of India followed the policy of developing the infrastructure for strengthening connectivity with its neighbours by upgrading infrastructure in its border areas to promote connectivity and people to people contacts. India opted to promote its political, economic and cultural relations with its neighbours on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect. The new governments carried forward the earlier policy of seeking better ties with the neighbouring countries and raising them to a new level.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Cold war, Foreign policy, India, Neighbours, Post-cold war,*

## OBJECTIVES

- i) To examine the basic tenants of India's foreign policy towards its neighbours.
- ii) To analyse the India's foreign policy towards Its Neighbours during the Cold-War and the Post-Cold War.
- iii) To examine the various initiatives taken by the India for resolving the disputes with neighbouring countries.

## METHODOLOGY

The research methods used in the study have been descriptive, analytical and historical. While pursuing the research, both primary sources and secondary sources of data have been consulted. So far as primary sources are concerned, a detailed study of Parliamentary Debates, UN Documents, Annual Reports, Texts of Treaties and Agreements, Foreign Affairs records, Statements by Indian or Foreign Leaders/Ministers and unpublished material, etc. have been consulted. For the collection of secondary data the researcher consulted published articles in journals, books, periodicals, newspapers, magazines etc. In addition to it, relevant internet websites have been consulted.

## I. PRINCIPLES OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Every sovereign nation has its foreign policy. Foreign policy alludes to the whole of standards, interests and targets which a country progresses while communicating with various countries. The thrust of foreign policy continues changing as indicated by changing global conditions. India's foreign policy is shaped by a few components, including its history, culture, topography and economy. The basic foundation of India's foreign policy was laid by Indian leaders during their struggle for independence. In real terms, Indian foreign policy

came into being with the advent of independence in 1947. Our Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, gave an unequivocal shape to the nation's foreign policy. During the first decade of India's independence, the goals of India's foreign policy were simple, clear and straight forward. Advancements of kinship, participation and goodwill with different nations of the world were center standard of India's external relations. India's message to the world depended on quiet strategies to take care of issues. Since independence, the first and foremost goal of India's foreign policy has been peace. Indian initiative detailed certain basic standards on which the structure of India's foreign policy was developed.[1] These could be named as method for India's foreign policy to achieve the goals. India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was the main planner of this system, which was a conglomeration of India's principles and concrete realities in the international arena. The principles are:-

- a) Non-Alignment
- b) Anti-Colonialism and Anti-Imperialism
- c) Opposition to Racial Discrimination
- d) Peaceful Co-existence and Panchsheel
- e) Faith in Peace and United Nations
- f) Close Relation with Commonwealth

## II. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS DURING THE COLD WAR ERA

During the cold war, India's relation with its prompt neighbours have been unduly impacted and has been involved in repeating clashes with its immediate neighbours. India's thought and resources have been composed to meet the challenges and pressures appeared in changed wars and close wars with Pakistan over Kashmir issue, a border war with China in 1962, border and water dispute with Bangladesh, strained incidental contrasts over the conduct of foreign relations with Nepal and Bhutan and a contention of world viewpoints with Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Despite India's sub-continental enthusiasm, especially with Pakistan and China, India's consideration and real assets have been administered to meet the difficulties and tensions which araised from these two neighbours. In spite of these tensions, the top priority in India's foreign policy amid this period was to construct cordial relations with neighbours. The whole approach of India towards its neighbours in the midst of cold war has tended towards being specific and this has realized a disproportionate and uneven structure of relations.[2] During the cold war, the ruling elites of India right from the time of Jawaharlal Nehru have arranged the foreign policy approach of India with certain obvious destinations such as national security, friendship, advancement and the world peace with its neighbours. Each Prime Minister of India has agreed most noteworthy need to its neighbours since Indian security interests are included in it. As far as South Asia is concerned geopolitically, it is one unit and the nations in it have a typical legacy, social proclivity and common issues. Consequently, their connections get noticeable place in bi-lateral and multi-lateral relationship of India.[3]

India's policy during the cold war has been guided by the principle of peaceful co-existence and Nehru's policy of Panchsheel worked as a template for India's approach towards its neighbours. After independence, Indian policy makers comprehended the need and criticalness of neighbouring countries and at whatever point it was possible they endeavoured to set up friendly relations with them. During the cold war period, one of the primary foundations of India's foreign policy has been to produce a deliberately secure, politically steady, financially agreeable and congruous neighbourhood. During cold war each and every Prime Minister of India had given an

clear sign of India's desire to maintain a strategic distance from clashes and to look for serene settlement of debate through quiet conjunction and fabricate agreeable relations with every one of the neighbours. India's foreign policy towards her neighbours from 1947 to the late 1980s enabled India to acquire some achievement in framing India's self-governing part in the region. In the late 1980s, India's relations with its neighbours demonstrated a considerable measure of change and turned into a point of convergence in the ministry of external affairs.[4]

### III. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS DURING THE POST-COLD WAR PERIOD

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the disintegration of the USSR in December 1991 flagged the end of command of four decades long cold war. The end of the cold war and the disintegrating of the USSR procured gigantic change in all the political plan of the world. The world was going through the period of ideological, military and conservative changes. These changes brought an end to the cold war and gave birth to the new world order which resulted in far changes in the political scenario of the world.[5] The end of the cold war constrained India to modify itself in the new political circumstance and set forth another test before Indian foreign policy makers. The real difficulties before India were to get real changes in its foreign policy and bring new subjects that will help India to adjust in the contemporary global arena. The end of cold war proved to be a defining moment in the history of India's foreign policy. It provided a much wider space for India to manoeuvre at home and on the global arena. India's foreign policy moved from optimistic to a sober minded approach and looked to build up another critical relationship that profited its worldwide prevalence. India's foreign policy became result oriented and aimed at its positive leadership.[6] After the end of cold war, India trusted that an approach of non-alignment could be successfully used to kill social, monetary, fear based oppressor and natural issues and the dangers like the advanced partition.

In the post cold war, non-alignment continued to be one of the most important principles of India's foreign policy. During the 1990s, India's foreign policy witnessed a strategic shift and obtained a lot of achievements. The most strategic shift in India's foreign policy was the initiation of 'Look East Policy', the 'Gujral doctrine' was the biggest achievement of India and the 'Pokhran nuclear explosion' of 1998, changed the entire course of India's foreign policy. After the end of cold war, the foreign policy of India towards its neighbours has been designed by its normative principle of Peaceful Co-existence.[7] During cold war, Nehru's policy of Panchsheel was the core of India's foreign policy towards its neighbours and the world. In the post cold war era, India's policy towards its neighbours is guided and governed by I.K. Gujral's five point principles known as 'Gujral doctrine' in which India proposed to give conceivable support to the neighbors with no desire of correspondence. After the end of cold war, India extended its influence in South Asia, however, one major challenge remained to be unsolved that is to deal with the instabilities with its immediate neighbours. The solution to border disputes between India and its neighbours such as China, Pakistan and Bangladesh remained a major challenge to India's foreign policy. In the contemporary circumstances of progression and globalization these issues and difficulties had transformed into a hindrance to India's financial ties. Ever since independence, India's policies have been bound to ensure peaceful, secure and stable neighbourhood.[8] In the post cold war era, India is also trying to endure cordial, close and warm relations within the neighbourhood. India has constantly tried to determine the issues and clashes with its neighbours through respective arrangements without the impedance of outside forces. In the post cold war era, India has sought to continue good neighbouring policy

with all countries including Pakistan and China. India's relations with its smaller neighbours have tremendously improved in the post cold war era. In the post cold war era, each and every government of India tried to involve the neighbouring countries in the creation of peaceful neighbourhood, which is a prerequisite for India's security.

#### **IV. INDIA AND ITS NIGHBOURS DURING THE UPA GOVERNMENT**

The UPA government's foreign policy kept on lying accentuation on connecting with the universal group with the end goal of advancing fast, comprehensive and reasonable financial development in India. Manmohan Singh's UPA government conveyed forward the earlier policy of looking for better ties with the neighbouring countries and raising them to a new level. The UPA government were extremely pragmatic in their respective neighbourhood strategies towards South Asia that was reflected in cutting a big-hearted face of India in the region. The policies and activities of the UPA government reflect the India's objective of a peaceful, stable and prosperous neighbourhood and attached the highest priority to close and good neighbourly political, economic and cultural relations on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect. The UPA Government resolved to have incessant and general contacts and far reaching exchanges with the neighbouring nations at all levels to accept forward and augment open doors for common and useful participation. Thus, strengthening connectivity and people to people contact with neighbouring countries continues to be the hallmark of UPA government's neighbourhood policy.

India's vision of South Asia amid the UPA government has been an incorporated substance in which there is free stream of products, peoples and thoughts, liberated by limits and gives a genuine chance to shared thriving amongst India and her neighbours. India's vision of South Asia is unshackled from the recorded divisions and is bound together, for the total journey for peace and thriving. Amidst high growth rates in the region, India is in a position to progress together through trade, open borders, and regional economic integration. Under the UPA government, India attempted to build strong and enduring associations with every one of its neighbours and to make a typical space of thriving in view of upgraded monetary exchange, speculation linkages and reasonable social and financial improvement. India took functional measures to make the boundary superfluous by re-coordinating with the neighbouring countries through the railway and road links.[9] During UPA government, the South Asian region obtained a fuller regional identity when Afghanistan joined the SAARC, India views the SAARC as a perspective to strengthen economic inter-linkages, through initiatives such as the South Asia Free Trade Agreement. In this point of view, a financially dynamic India is an advantage and open door for all SAARC members. India attached the highest importance to bilateral relations with the People's Republic of China with whom India have a strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity. India is also committed to peace, friendship and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan and has accordingly proceeded with the institutional dialogue with Pakistan. As for the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka, UPA government trusted that there is no military solution and that it is important to discover a calmly arranged political settlement, satisfactory to all groups, inside the system of a united Sri Lanka. India under the UPA government extended its support to the people of Nepal in their political transition to a new democratic order and continued to work for Bhutan's economic development and political stability. As a close and friendly neighbour, India also supported the restoration of full democracy in Bangladesh.[10] In short, India's active engagement with its neighbours is

reflected through a steady exchange of high-level visits, close consultations and a further expansion of her assistance programmes and capacity building initiatives in the neighbouring countries.

During its ten years, the neighbourhood policy of the UPA government was average, its policy towards Pakistan remained to be moderate and slow and failed to resolve its past differences with the Pakistan, on the other hand it figured out how to stay away from another war, however couldn't gain any ground in determining the Kashmir issue and the border dispute with Pakistan. The UPA government fail to stand firm on the cross-border terrorism based oppression and surrendered it which thusly expanded the terrorist demonstrations in India. The UPA government neglected to check the entrance and unlawful development from Bangladesh. The UPA government was unable to initiate policy measures to deal with the Bangladesh government, which exports terrorists into India and shelter Indian terrorists on its soil. The UPA government remained insensitive to Bangladesh's strategic significance for India, however, amid its second term, it took intense measures to beat the past-contrasts and shape the great bilateral relationship yet tragically it couldn't gain much ground because of the opposition from its alliance partners. The UPA government was also not able to stand firm against the Maoist revolt in Nepal due to the sensitivity from its left union accomplices towards the Maoists. The UPA government failed to make any progress to resolve the long-standing border disputes with China.[11] Yet India's initiatives amid the UPA government were not noteworthy in many regards, however, India concentrated on the prerequisite for making more grounded monetary ties with its neighbouring countries and figured out how to achieve this. The UPA Government endeavoured its best to take up security issues, issues related to its economic advancement and supporting the position of India at regional and overall level, however, it didn't gain much ground which it had ensured to its people. In spite of the fact that the time of the UPA Government was neither outstandingly becoming flushed nor had a dull shade. It continued with its voyage on a cover plain and offered up to the successor Government with a trust of a more strong, viable and prosperous nation.

## **V. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS DURING THE NDA-II GOVERNMENT**

Presently the NDA government under the Prime Ministership of Narendra Modi is ruling in India and it has shown to grow more cheerful and friendly relationship with neighbours. At the swearing in ceremony, Narendra Modi had invited the heads of all the neighbouring countries which demonstrate its need of building more grounded linkages with the prompt neighbourhood. This move was exceptionally welcomed and is viewed as a start of another time in India's neighbourhood policy.[12] Inside the brief span, the Modi government has highlighted the need to progress vital engagements with neighbours and it is the significant concentration of his administration's policy approach. Within the initial days after taking his office of the Prime Minister, Modi made his first bilateral foreign visit to the neighbouring countries of Bhutan and Nepal.[ The foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj of Modi government had also visited several neighbouring countries within a short time after attaining the office. She made bilateral visits to Thimpu, Bhutan, Dhaka and Kathmandu.[13] With these visits, it is relied upon that peace and tranquillity would prevail in the region. However, it is too early to make any prediction about the destiny of India's neighbourhood strategy under the Narendra Modi government.

The procedure of the Modi administration of developing closer and pleasant relationship within the neighbourhood needs the support of persisting exercises of shared favourable circumstances to both India and its neighbours. Doubtlessly, for India, finishing the objective of getting the chance to be one of the key powers in Asia depends absolutely on India's ability to manage its prompt neighbourhood. India can transform into a

legitimate constrain on the overall stage entirely when accomplishing persisting supermacy in its own specific neighbourhood. The Modi government has shown from the most punctual beginning stage that it will take another route in its neighbourhood procedure, yet Modi ought to run down this course with persevering exercises that are of shared favourable position to both India and its neighbours.[14] Today, gradually the focus has shifted towards improving regional and sub-regional cooperation especially on the economic front. These co-operations would prompt encouraging genial political relations and finding friendly answers for the bilateral disputes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi keeps on focusing more noteworthy collaboration and better ties with India's neighbourhood right around two and half years into his tenure. The formula of B2B in (Bhutan to Bharat and Bharat to Bhutan) and affirmations to Nepal on India's regard for its sway as likewise India's eagerness to participate in Nepal's formative endeavours, by offering a soft loan of US\$100 billion, enormously satisfied his hosts in these nations. Modi's powerful verbalization of India's arrangement towards these nations and his moment compatibility with the general population there went far in spanning the correspondence and certainty hole that had inched in for as far back as couple of years in shared relations. Foreign Minister Swaraj's visit to Bangladesh was also undertaken to bridge the mutual confidence gap existing on the pending issues like the Teesta Water Sharing Treaty and the Land Boundary Agreement.[15]

In carrying forward its South Asian regional policy, India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, faces challenges from three sources, namely, China, Pakistan and other neighbours. The challenge of dealing with China's developing presence in South Asia gets to be distinctly impressive in perspective of China's profound pockets and proficient conveyance on guarantees made toward the South Asian nations. India will also be called upon to work out a watchful procedure about the degree, and the ranges in which it can coordinate with China in South Asia and furthermore contend with it. The challenge from Pakistan is rooted more in its domestic policy where greater civilian control of its India policy may facilitate better regional responses. India should enhance its development direction to put more monetary assets in its regional policy. As respects different neighbours, India needs to address the topic of their distance truly, which gives China or whatever other power a chance to endeavor India's burden and infringe upon its vital turf.[16] Modi's recent moves reflect sensitivity in this respect and he has tried to employ his personal charm to put many of the unnecessary concerns of the smaller neighbours to rest. But India needs to buckle down in enhancing its conveyance shortage the crevice amongst guarantee and execution in its neighbourhood approach. Indian tact at all levels, will likewise must be more receptive to the smaller neighbours desires and concerns. Any distinction between India's neighbourhood approach and its inside socio-political progression will be counter-gainful.

## VI. FINDINGS

- i) Each and every Prime Minister of India had given a reasonable sign of India's longing to stay away from clashes and to look for serene settlement of disputes through tranquil conjunction and fabricate benevolent relations with every one of the neighbours. India's foreign strategy towards her neighbours empowered India to gain some accomplishment in forming India's autonomous part in the region.
- ii) In the post cold war period, however, the traditional security concerns persist, there is a weakening of anti-India rhetoric and more prominent eagerness to participate in dialogue to address all areas of dispute. India looked to determine the issues and clashes with its neighbours through bilateral negotiations without the obstruction of external powers.

- iii) India's relations with its smaller neighbours witnessed tremendous improvement. India's policy towards its neighbours is guided and governed by I.K. Gujral's five point principles known as 'Gujral doctrine' in which India proposed to give conceivable backing to the neighbours with no desire of correspondence.
- iv) India, augmented its impact in South Asia, however, one major challenge remained to be unsolved that is to manage the insecurities with its immediate neighbours. The solution to border disputes between India and its neighbours such as China, Pakistan and Bangladesh remained a major challenge to India's foreign policy.

## VII. THE WAY AHEAD

The neighbourhood policy of the Modi government has given rise to many expectations to the India's policy of promoting cordial and friendly relations within the neighbourhood. Keeping in mind the end goal to accomplish these desires the Modi government needs to take sincere driving forward and formed attempts with the specialists and accomplices of its neighbouring countries and it must, develop more optional and political imperativeness towards propelling India's relations with the immediate neighbours. Obviously every country has its own specific interests and it tries to look for after the strategy which serves its interests. Regardless, with respect to the matter of an unfaltering relationship between any two countries, both need to find converging of interests. A few suggestions for enhancing the relationship, which will likewise help in tending to the primary issues being analysed in this section, are recorded beneath:

- i) The neighbourhood policy of India in the last decades was not well-defined, however, in the recent years, it has changed significantly and has begun to give priority to its neighbours. So far as India's neighbourhood policy is concerned, the Modi government must effectively communicate a India's vision of regional integration to its neighbouring countries and convenience them to participate and invest profitably in India's growing economy, spell-out the non-negotiable matters concerning the security and national interest of India. The Modi government must advance India's linkages with its immediate neighbours at the most astounding political level, it must open numerous tracks of correspondence and take a leadership role in multilateral forums like SAARC and BIMSTEC in order to bring peace and success in the region through more noteworthy participation.
- ii) India must develop harmonious and cooperative relations within the immediate neighbourhood in order to emerge as an influential and regional global player. India ought to change its policy approach towards them on the grounds that throughout the most recent seven decades its methodology has not made much progress. India needs to develop self interest, fresh thinking and accord highest priority to its neighbours. It must comprehend that it can't get to be prosperous if its neighbours keep on mulling. In this setting, India must receive more organized and intelligent methodology towards its prompt neighbourhood.
- iii) India needs to handle its relationship with the neighbours with great care and delicacy, mindful of their sensitivities, aspirations and dignity. India can't see itself as the normal pioneer of South Asia unless these nations acknowledge it. Keeping in mind the end goal to procure the initiative of the region, India must set up an example by demonstrating generosity and effectively deal with the difficulties and disagreements of

the region. This strategy, methodology of India will gain regard and profound respect from these neighbouring nations and India will have the capacity to approach towards the region all the more steadily and effectively.

- iv) India needs to attach the highest priority to its neighbourhood and develop closer economic, political and cultural ties with them in order to build a stronger and enduring partnership for a stable backyard. India must take SAARC as a genuine stage to wipe out the exchange obstructions and go for constructive and aid oriented arrangements in the region. The greatest test for India in its neighbourhood is to manufacture interdependencies which coordinate economies as well as make interests in the stability and prosperity of the sub-continent. In this context, India must factorise its huge markets and offer opportunities to its neighbours to get engaged in it.
- v) Being a bigger country in the region, India's responsibility is more than any other country for working with the neighbours. In this context, India must reach a common understanding and find new ways of cooperation and demonstrate flexibility and leadership in the neighbourhood, otherwise the region might lack behind than other parts of the world.
- vi) The government of India must animate to track-II diplomacy, people to people contacts and give substantially more time with its neighbours. India needs to forge greater mutual confidence and trust within the neighbourhood through more interactions at all levels, regular formal and informal level contacts and start a dialogue on regional and global issues. India must devote more diplomatic and political energy towards developing its relationship with its neighbours which in turn will build their confidence on India and they will not feel ignored or marginalised by India.
- vii) India must go for determining exceptional issues and strains in the immediate neighbourhood and help other neighbouring nations to take care of their significant issues. In its exchanges with each of its neighbours, India should not hesitate in spelling out its expectations and laying down the red lines that should never be crossed in relation to core interests.
- viii) The government of India must center its attention on determining the ongoing resources of contention within the neighbourhood and attempt to end up more proactive in its military and financial engagement with its neighbours. India must convey more supports for framework improvement in the neighbouring nations and accelerate the usage of the undertakings which it has focused on its neighbours.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

To sum up, it can be said that each and every country of the world, including the region's waste a lot of their vital assets in the negative calculation. They neglect that if the same essential resources will be used for a positive reason or rivalry, it can be much beneficial. Similarly, if India and its neighbours will change their standpoints of the nineteenth century and the twentieth century and look for the necessities of the twenty first century there will be no space for conflicts and disputes, but an option to work together, if the India and its neighbours cooperate for their flourishing and improvement, there is sufficiently much space for their advancement in light of the geopolitical area and geo-financial and human resources.



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