

India's Foreign Policy in Modi Era

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Abstract

The development of foreign policy of any country is influenced by domestic politics, policies or behavior of other countries and specific geopolitical scenario. At present, India has come-out of the past of Non-alignment. India is building relationships with other countries of the world in view of its interests today. In its initial phase, the Modi government had tried to increase coordination with Pakistan, but when nothing was gained from it, the government started giving preference to BIMSTEC. Modi's foreign policy is taking shape at a time when the growing tension between the US and China is creating an imbalance in the world system. India-US relations can also go through a bad phase due to disagreements on business issues. In this way, the Modi government has tried to revamp India's strategic periphery and define India's neighbourhood on more favorable terms. This study tries to explore the Modi's government foreign policy in current context.

Key Words: Foreign Policy, Government, Dynamic, Modi.

Introduction

By the way, foreign policy is believed to be almost permanent because its nature is decided keeping national interests in mind. It is also believed that foreign policy often does not change with changing governments, but the possibility of partial change in foreign policies cannot be ruled out due to changes in global geopolitical conditions and internal politics. During the Cold War, India was referred to as Reluctant Power. This implies that it was believed that India had resources available but it did not take any action or manage the proceedings for their use. India has followed the "New Neighborhood Policy" to meet the need for regional integration in South Asia in this era of globalization. This policy is related to development of border areas, good connectivity in the area and promoting cultural connectivity.

In his first term, Modi has argued for a long time that in the global system, India has actively acted as a balancing force instead of the rule-making power of the world. In the last five years, Modi has tried to change India's role in the global system. He has indicated that India has the will and ability to define the priorities of the international system. Modi has stopped hesitating about the role India wants for himself in the world. The Modi government considers China's growing relationship with neighbouring countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka to be only a trade relationship. The most striking feature of India's current foreign policy is that it has the highest risk-taking tendency over all previous policies.

India does not believe in interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, but if a country inadvertently or intentionally affects India's national interests, India will not hesitate to intervene without wasting time. India emphasizes constructivism rather than aggression. India believes that war is not the solution to the problem, but the beginning of a new problem. But the policy of patience cannot be considered a weakness of India. It can be said that under the foreign policy of the present government, India's role abroad was more expanded than ever before. In addition, the role of cultural diplomacy grew and India showed greater proactivity in using common interests to its advantage. India's foreign policy did not lag behind in taking steps with changes in geopolitical dynamics. Ease of relations with Russia and America is a direct example of this.

The biggest challenge to India's foreign policy has been from its neighbors. Therefore, India has to shape its foreign policy by placing 'India First' and its 'neighbourhood' at the center. Here for some years, the Government of India has made India First a pivotal object of foreign policy in a pithy manner. India's biggest challenge in terms of foreign policy is not only how to maintain harmony with its neighbors and other countries including ASEAN and West Asia, but also to enhance its relations with the world's major powers. There is no doubt that China, through its financial and military strength and by investing huge amounts, has strengthened its influence in India's neighborhood, which can become a global superpower and a hindrance to our foreign policy objectives. But despite China's opposition to the international arena due to its large

geographical area, economic and military power, human resources and strategic advantage, India has come into a role where the formality of accepting it as a global superpower remains.

Dynamic Foreign Policy of Modi Government

When Modi first came to power in 2014, he surprised many by showing a keen interest in international relations. His frequent foreign trips were a source of political risk. But Modi had a narrative answer: the BJP, RSS and WhatsApp let everyone know that Modi was 'raising India's stature on the world stage'. We were told that the world had no respect for India before Modi arrived on the scene. Indian foreign policy is a legatee of that vision, and Modi will use his powerful office to change it. His decision to skip the Non-Aligned Meeting in 2016, and to will the "Indo-Pacific" as a geopolitical construct into existence are all attempts at this disruption. What aids his cause is the dysfunction, described above, that has crept into the international system. The world is not quite at the same crossroads today as it was at the end of the second world war.

The last four years of the Modi government's foreign policy will be remembered because of its enthusiasm for an expanded Indian role abroad, the role of cultural diplomacy increased, Modi's personal friendship with world leaders and his common interests with partners in his own interests. In the field of foreign policy, it could mean continuity in strengthening relations with the great power and focusing on the neighborhood extending beyond the fifth year of the Modi government.

The Modi government's cynical use of foreign policy and domestic politics has also resulted in India losing the South Asian influence to Chinese expansionism. The need to use Pakistan in BJP's domestic politics has meant India gave up on any possibility of a nuanced engagement with Islamabad. The idea of 'isolating' Pakistan has resulted in India isolating itself as it gets encircled by Chinese allies. Nepal has fallen, how long will Bhutan last? And we're anyway pushing Dhaka towards Beijing with Amit Shah's need to win West Bengal by whipping up the fake narrative of 'illegal Bangladeshi immigrants'. An Indian prime minister's key foreign policy priority is

managing relations with China and the US, where Modi has weathered inevitable challenges. The main problems concern the immediate neighbourhood.

Conclusion

It is very difficult to completely change any of these mentioned factors, but the fundamental facts of geography and shared culture in South Asia cannot be ignored. Therefore, India must pay attention to its efforts to make Neighborhood First strong again. It has been seen that whenever India has adopted the policy of soft power, it has benefited there. It can be said that soft power policy is a powerful diplomatic weapon. For example, in Bhutan and Afghanistan, there has been more success due to the assistance given for development than the defense assistance given by India. In view of this, after the decline of two years, there has been a 6% increase in the allocation made by India to South Asia in 2018. Modi's ability to jumpstart this transformation, while avoiding enmeshment in the current intra-Gulf rivalries and while preserving good relations with Iran, demonstrates an agility that has eluded even the United States.

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